



Chatham News + Record

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N.C.’S MASK MANDATE

Sheriff’s Office prioritizing explanation and education during enforcement

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff
When it comes to enforcing Gov. Roy Cooper’s statewide mask mandate, Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson is prioritizing transparency and education.
In a statement after Cooper’s executive order and in an interview with the News + Record, Roberson made clear what he and his office can and cannot do under the executive order, while also complimenting it as “an attempt to save lives by preventing the spread” of coronavirus.
Executive Order No. 147 doesn’t allow the sheriff’s office to arrest an individual for not wearing a mask — it can only issue citations to businesses for failing to comply. Roberson said such enforcement would be a “last resort” if a business, given multiple opportunities to correct its behavior, still did not comply.

“I know that the businesses we have here in Chatham County really care about their employees and customers and want to keep people safe just as much as we do,” Roberson said in an email. “So I don’t think this is going to be a problem for us.”
The office emphasized that it’s “always available” to public concerns about violations of the order by people or businesses. For individuals, who can’t be cited or arrested for not wearing a mask, that might mean a brief conversation or distribution of further information.
“‘Enforcement’ is just a small part of what we do at the sheriff’s office,” Roberson said. “We do a lot more than write tickets and take people to jail. We want to be able to help educate people as to what the order requires in order to save lives.”
Roberson, a Democrat who was appointed sheriff in 2016 and won re-election in 2018,

struck that tone in his statement and follow-up email interview, both of which were issued through office spokesperson Rik Stevens. Roberson acknowledged an ongoing mix of statewide and local orders can “get confusing for people who want to follow the rules, but don’t know exactly which rules to follow.”
Alongside his clearing up of enforcement — it was the first item in his statement — Roberson also highlighted how masks “are not required at all times in public.” Cooper’s executive order spelled out 10 settings where masks are required, most notably retail businesses, restaurants and “certain high-density occupational settings where social distancing is difficult.” But, as Roberson noted, there are no mentioned requirements for masks in private workplaces, homes or outside public places
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Staff photo by Kim Hawks
Maria Soto, Shirille Lee and Jazmin Mendoza Sosa of Communities In Schools of Chatham County show off their masks in the organization’s office in Siler City.

For Chatham’s computer repair experts, COVID-19 brings challenges and changes
BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff
SILER CITY — In his store on West Raleigh Street, Jeff Edmisten has sold and repaired computers for nearly 30 years.
That’s given him a front-row seat to the highs and lows of the webcam industry.
He recalled how the device burst onto the scene in the late ‘90s and became a mainstay on every desktop before ultimately losing steam as the same camera technology became readily available on every new smartphone and laptop on the market.
“Nobody needed a webcam,” Edmisten said. “Nobody wanted a webcam.”
But this spring, as everything from office meetings to lectures to yoga classes rapidly transitioned to online in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, that changed — at Edmisten’s business, Creative Computers, and everywhere else, too.
“You would not believe it,” he said. “You couldn’t find a webcam anywhere. They went with the toilet paper.”
That webcam shortage — albeit a good problem to have — is one of a few tangible changes COVID-19 has caused in Chatham County’s computer repair industry.
Edmisten, 55, said 60 to 70% of his clients are businesses; on-site services are part of his routine. So the last few months have been a double-edged sword: fewer clients, more demand.
“The ones that were closed down, that impacted us, obviously, because they didn’t need us anymore,” he said. “But then on the flip side, the ones that were still open, they needed us more.”
Edmisten has continued to work out of his office while taking in a lot more drop-off orders and using a lot more Clorox wipes. His store’s retail arm has helped offset some of the repair-related losses; in late March and
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COVID-19 GOT YOU DOWN?
Mindfulness just one tool to help manage your stress
BY CAROLINE WATKINS AND OLIVIA ROJAS
News + Record Staff
Editor’s note: This is the first in a series of stories about how stress is impacting Chatham County during COVID-19.
It’s no secret that many people have been feeling additional stress lately. Whether it’s related to issues occurring in personal lives or the world engaging in protests and facing a pandemic, 2020 has seen its fair share of tumultuous moments, to say the least.
Pittsboro-based psychological associate Kristin Krippa said that the events of the past three months, compounded by other personal struggles in our day-to-day lives, could easily send one’s stress and anxiety levels into overdrive.
“Obviously, one of the major problems is isolation,” she said. “People are at home and feeling stressed out about that because they are not getting their normal stress relievers by going out.”
In fact, North Carolinians are particularly stressed, according to research conducted by BodyNutrition.org. The study showed that North Carolina is the third-most stressed state in the country, follow-
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AN ACT OF EMANCIPATION
In 1855, Chatham’s Marium Alston set her slaves free. What happened next?
BY STEVEN E. BROOKS & BEVERLY B. WIGGINS
Special to the News + Record
Editor’s note: In 1855, one Chatham resident emancipated 28 slaves she owned, provisioning in her will that they be freed. Local historians Steven E. Brooks and Beverly Wiggins, members of the Chatham County Historical Association, recently researched and wrote an academic paper on this piece of Chatham County’s history. Here’s the story of Marium Alston. Second in a series.
Getting the Slaves to Freedom
Marium Alston apparently intended to free her slaves for several years before her death in 1855, as evidenced by her petition for the dower share and her subsequent actions, which resulted in her acquisition of additional slaves and kept a large number of the enslaved family members together. Marium’s will indicates an understanding of the legal situation of her slaves and provides clearly and adequately for a legal process to free
See ALSTON, page A10

2nd arrest made in Batsche murder
BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff
BEAR CREEK — The Chatham County Sheriff’s Office has announced a second arrest in the May 20 killing of a Bear Creek man.
Tyree Allsbrook, 19, whose residence is listed as 164 Alston Rd. in Apex, in Chatham County, was arrested Thursday and charged with felony first-degree murder in connection with the murder of Emerson Batsche, 20, of Bear Creek.
Allsbrook faces multiple felony charges in addition to first-degree murder, including robbery with a dangerous weapon, conspiracy to sell and deliver a schedule VI drug, possession with intent to sell and deliver a schedule VI drug and possession of a firearm with a defaced serial number. Schedule VI drugs include marijuana and marijuana derivatives.
Batsche died as the result of a gunshot wound to his chest while at his residence off Pittsboro-Goldston Road in Bear Creek.
The shooting occurred in the early morning hours of May 20. On June 8, the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office issued second-degree murder arrest warrants for Kenneth Joseph Bass Jr., 18, and Shyquale Javon Fisher, 25 in the connection to the case. Bass was soon apprehended by the Orange County Sheriff’s Office, but Fisher remains at large.
Allsbrook is being held at the Chatham County Detention Center with no bond.
Casey Mann can be reached at Casey-Mann@Chathamnr.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ON THE AGENDA

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.

THURSDAY

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

• St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church provides 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.

FRIDAY

• The **Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop** reopened for shopping. Face coverings will be required. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm. We have a

store full of adult summer clothing and accessories! Donations NOT accepted at this time. We are located in Pittsboro, on the Courthouse Circle, beside the Roadhouse. All proceeds support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

UPCOMING

• **Chatham Community Library** will offer free classes on Microsoft PowerPoint, online privacy and security, and resume writing in July. 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.

• Online Privacy & Security: 3 p.m., Tuesday, July 7

• Resume Writing: 3 p.m., Monday, July 20

• Microsoft PowerPoint Basics: Part 1: 3 p.m., Wednesday, July 27

• Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 2: 3 p.m., Friday, July 29

• For more information, call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org. A full list of upcoming programs can be found on the library's events calendar.

• From 10-11:30 a.m., Friday, July 10, the **Racial Justice Task Force** of the 18th Judicial District (Chatham/Orange) of the NC State Bar will host a community conversation for all Chatham residents. The topic is "Racial Justice in Chatham's Criminal Justice System." Numerous public officials and nonprofit leaders will speak to this topic from their perspectives. Facilitators will then invite all Chatham residents to join the discussion of those and other topics.

• Created in 2015, the RJTF has a broad mission to serve the State Bar and the Judicial District, including to "facilitate collaboration among criminal justice stakeholders, organizations within the district, and citizens on issues of racial and ethnic justice" and "ensure that addressing racial inequities is a priority for judges, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and other stakeholders including witnesses, jurors, and crime victims."

• **Carolina Farm Credit** is now accepting applications for the 12th year of the Ag Biz Planner program and the 5th year

of the Ag Biz Basics program. These e-learning courses teach financial and business planning, budgeting, and other farm management topics that are essential to a farm's success. Carolina Farm Credit will accept up to five participants for each program. All applications are due July 15. The program will begin with a kickoff webinar on September 21. The course will conclude with a conference in Raleigh, on January 6&7, 2021. Applications, a course outline, and program information are available at carolinafarmcredit.com/about/resources/educational-programs. Individuals selected for the program will be notified after August 15.

• 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.

• **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

• Girl Scouts offers **Virtual Summer Activities to Girls** in Central and Eastern North Carolina with Virtual Day Camps and other events and activities available for girls to partake in safely, both indoors and outside. Girls and parents can learn more about the GS-NCCP Beyond Summer Program by visiting the Girl Scouting at Home page on nccoastalpines.org. In addition to GS-NC-CP offerings, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has launched the Girl Scout

Camp Adventures at Home Marketplace with even more opportunities for girls to get outdoors from home, and families are encouraged to explore those as well. These opportunities are available to all girls, not just Girl Scouts, and financial assistance is available to those with a need so that all girls are able to benefit from outdoor experiences this summer.

• 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 **JMA-CoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by Jordan-Matthews students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMA-CoronaConcert 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 application, a criminal background

check, an orientation and have documentation of required immunizations. To learn more go to: www.chathamhospital.org/ch/about-us/volunteer.

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

• **Foster and/or adoptive information** — Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a foster and/or adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 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 m

• **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.

• **Scout News** Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information.

• Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5.

• Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.





Karaoke Dance Party & Evening Market

Saturday, July 11, 2020 at 5 PM – 10 PM

VENDORS WANTED, register online or contact the market by July 10 to reserve your FREE space! Regular hours (Tuesday-Saturday 11a-3p) resume July 7 with a 50% OFF SALE on most retail items including dry goods & freezer meats, sale ends July 10. Hours on Saturday, July 11 will be 5p-10p.

Who said you can't mix 80s, 90s, with some beach music?? Also, maybe some country? Well, we can!

Wrist bands for 21+ \$30 • Below 21 or non drinkers \$15
Wrist bands includes meal with a dessert, deep discounts on beverages all night • \$2 draft beers and \$3 glasses of wine • Plan on safe distance practices • Masks inside the market mandatory • No Coolers

Vendors must register online at oasisopenairmarket.com
Set up by 4:30pm

May bring chairs and blankets to sit in your own group and 6-10 ft apart on the lawn

Family friendly • Safe fun • All vendors 10 feet apart

Chris Langley DJ and EmCee
Watch for guest musician to fill in!

MENU

On salad, with sides, or on a French roll or Brioche bun
Optional: lettuce, tomato, mayo, mustard, red pepper relish
Optional Cheeses: cheddar, provolone

Brisket n sauce with shredded Cheese • Turkey breast hand carved with Swiss • Authentic Italian sub, provolone • Chicken salad - Oasis made
Shrimp salad - Oasis made • Mediterranean plate with feta
Roasted red pepper and black bean burger with hummus

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EXPERTS

Continued from page A1

early April, Edmisten said his customers were “buying laptops like they were candy apples.”

John Roach, a repairman who specializes in Apple products, has been working out of his home in Pittsboro since 2004, when he seriously injured his spinal cord.

So he’s already well equipped for the remote work that all of his customers, most of them elderly, now utilize. Using a built-in Mac “screen-sharing” function, Roach can access clients’ screens remotely from his home desktop. Then, he can walk them through whatever tech issues they have as he would on an in-person visit.

“There were a lot of questions on webcam stuff, a lot of concerns with Zoom security,” Roach said. “FaceTime, too.”

Other clients simply hadn’t used their computers in months, so they needed help

‘You couldn’t find a webcam anywhere.’

JEFF EDMISTEN, owner of Creative Computers



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The Creative Computers storefront at 502 West Raleigh St. in Siler City.

updating their operating systems to use such features in the first place.

Roach, whose business is named “Roach Ranch,” used to employ a technician to help him out. But he gave her “an indefinite amount of time off,” he said, for the safety of both of them, since he’s in his late 60s and more susceptible to COVID-19.

Since the pandemic, he’s only had one client visit: a close

friend, who wore a mask as Roach made a quick fix on his struggling iPhone (It was the SIM card.)

It’s all a shift for an industry that lends itself to hands-on work. But Edmisten and Roach both said their day-to-day routines haven’t changed too much.

Gov. Roy Cooper’s original stay-at-home order included a caveat for computer repair businesses, which fell under



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Edmisten has run his computer repair/retail shop for almost 30 years.

the “Supplies for COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations” exemption. So Creative Computers wasn’t under the same restrictions as, say, nearby local restaurants.

Roach and Edmisten, who have a 60 years of combined experience, saw an uptick in customers in the first month or so before business settled into a steadier crawl.

They’re grateful they can

still answer tech questions and tinker with hardware during a pandemic — even if it’s with more separation than they’re accustomed to.

“We all need to help each other,” Roach said, “any way we can.”

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

STRESS

Continued from page A1

ing Texas and Hawaii, respectively.

In the study, researchers tracked geotagged Twitter data over the course of three months. They tracked phrases such as “I’m stressed out” and “too much stress,” and hashtags including #stressed and #stressed-out. Between March 1 and June 1 of this year, the study tracked over 300,000 tweets.

Overall, many Americans have been stressed during the coronavirus crisis and have reported “higher levels of general stress in recent years,” according to the American Psychological Association (APA)’s website. So much so that the APA has adapted its annual Stress in America



Submitted photo

Practicing yoga and meditation can reduce stress.

survey into a monthly analysis of stress levels and stressors in order to better examine how individuals are coping with

the significant stress of the pandemic.

The Harris Poll, which conducted a survey on behalf of the APA between

April 24 to May 4 of this year, collected responses from 3,013 U.S. adults who were 18 or older.

U.S. adults were asked to rank their stress levels on a scale from 1-10, with 1 meaning “little or no stress” and 10 representing “a great deal of stress.”

When U.S. adults were asked about their stress levels related to COVID-19, the average reported stress level was a 5.9. When adults were asked to rate their general stress levels, the average was still a 5.4; these numbers are significantly higher than 2019’s Annual Stress in America survey, where U.S. adults had an average stress level of 4.9 out of 10.

With no vaccine for COVID-19 in sight and a recent surge of new cases throughout the country, it is likely that Americans will continue to experience higher stress levels until further notice.

Searching for solutions

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, people have been looking for answers on how to better manage their stress levels. In times like these, medical professionals, mental health

advocates and others are underscoring the importance of self-care and monitoring one’s mental health. Krippa emphasized that even simply exercising outdoors can play a major role in mitigating daily stress.

“Get outside as much as possible and exercise; doing those two things together is critical,” she said. “It’s remarkable how much it can reduce stress. Mindfulness and meditation can also bring our stress levels down.”

Lexie Wolf, the owner of Yoga Garden Pittsboro, is inviting local residents to do just that.

During COVID-19, Yoga Garden Pittsboro has begun offering a range of online yoga classes via Zoom, for both members of the yoga studio and first-time visitors. Although the studio is accepting memberships, class passes and donations as a form of payment, classes are also available for free during this time.

If you’re new to yoga, Wolf suggested trying the child’s pose, downward dog or the easy pose, which typically consists of sitting cross-legged; it’s also the starting pose in many yoga classes.

“I would recommend you see what your ‘easy pose’ is and what you need to sit comfortably as a sort of yoga foundation and a meditation foundation,” Wolf said.

Even if someone doesn’t have time for a full yoga class, Wolf said that even acknowledging breathing patterns can help a stressed or anxious person recenter themselves.

“You don’t have to use any fancy techniques,” she said. “But if you notice your breath, it’s a shortcut to the present moment. Because you’re not breathing in the past, you’re not breathing in the future — you’re breathing in the present.”

This simple exercise

can start the beginning of one’s mindfulness journey, too, she said.

“If you can get yourself in the moment, you can sometimes begin to relax that stress,” Wolf said. “And if you’re so anxious and stressed that your breath is actually elevated or fast, just mindfully flowing that breath, taking deep inhales and exhales, can get you to begin to relax.”

Local organizations such as Abundance NC are also responding to the additional stress that Chatham is facing during COVID-19.

In a recent newsletter, Abundance NC Associate Director Allison DeJong shared ways that Chatham residents can help their community during this time and how they can receive help. DeJong also outlined ways that a person can improve his/her mind, body and spirit in the newsletter.

Some of the tips in the newsletter included creating a gratitude list, detoxing from technology, referring to virus anxiety resources and trying simple workouts at home.

“If you just feel yourself getting into kind of like a slump, the quickest way to reset that is to do something like 10 jumping jacks,” DeJong said.

Even including a short routine into your schedule can “change how you’re feeling” and shift your perspective on things, she said.

When it comes to COVID-19, the foreseeable future remains uncertain. However, incorporating mindfulness and self-care into a daily routine can help keep stress levels under control, experts said.

In the coming weeks, the News + Record will continue to report on stress and its impact on people and organizations across the county during this unprecedented time. In addition, watch for an interactive digital project on the topic.

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VIEWPOINTS

We bought it on our honeymoon. On the eve of our 30th anniversary, we tossed it.

“Move,” as my pal Jock Lauterer reminded me recently, is a four-letter word. We just finished with one. I’m using the word “finished” very loosely because, as you no doubt have experienced, truly finishing a move is like fully finishing a jar of peanut butter. Some determined souls, with the proper cutlery, can do it; most of us mortals call the job “done” even when there’s still peanut butter residue in the tossed-away container.

For my wife Lee Ann and me, it’s our second move in three years. This one was much easier than the last, but still tough: the mind-numbing and back-breaking prospect of dealing with and moving the big stuff. Decisions. Packing. Painting. Details. The heat. Where’s my phone charger? Endless cleaning. Arranging

and coordinating. I still can’t locate a recently-purchased pair of dress shoes or my Fitbit charger, but like a few other elusive things, I know they’re here, somewhere, because the old house is totally empty. This move was sudden — a house we absolutely loved came on the market, and it was a perfect fit for us — and God bless my wife, the timing meant she did the lion’s share of the work. I helped, and spent most of five straight Saturdays hauling boxes, but the suddenness of it put the moving burden on her. She pulled it off like a pro. We actually moved into the new house four weeks ago and put our old house, which we’d built three years ago, on the market last week, where it lasted (thankfully) only about 20 hours before we got a full-price offer. With two moves in three years, we’ve gotten a little better at cutting ties with “things.” We haven’t gone full Marie Kondo yet — keeping only possessions that “spark joy” — but we’re trying.

In this move, though, we did part company with one item that sparked a lot of joy, as well as memories. We celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary Tuesday this week and on our honeymoon in the first week of July in 1990 we spent a week at a country inn in the mountains of Vermont. It was a wonderful and memorable time — among other things, we discovered Ben & Jerry’s ice cream and visited the site of the famous duo’s first ice cream shop, then worked off the calories canoeing down the Battenkill river, snapping photos of covered bridges and fly fishermen. Somewhere along the way we thought it would be a good idea to acquire some souvenirs to remember our time there (including a Ben & Jerry’s ice cream “cook book,” which we still have); enough t-shirts and books and other trinkets that we had to, in fact, buy an extra piece of luggage. We happened upon an Orvis outfitter store while there and picked up, after debating about the cost — we were young and

poor — a nice “drop bottom” duffle bag. A similar Orvis bag goes for about \$300 today, but if I recall this one was around \$125 or \$150, a small ransom back then, given you could buy some similar-looking bag at a discount store for \$30 or less. But this one was obviously well made, and I convinced my bride we’d get a lot of use out of it. It was an investment, not an expenditure. Over three decades, we indeed got our money’s worth. It was my go-to bag for years of traveling. It stood up to trips all over the country by plane and car, and after kids came along it eventually became the catch-all bag for jaunts with them to see grandparents, to the beach, to the mountains. It then transitioned to become a storage bag, filled with important stuff we needed kept safe. Then it became home to things less important, making its home in either a garage or an attic. A couple of Saturdays ago, it showed up, empty, in one of those last-trip piles of things I was tasked to take from the

old house to the new place, just two miles down the road. It was stained and scuffed up, but the strong fabric was mostly intact. It could have been useful with a really thorough cleaning, but it was clear its best days were behind it. Given that we were in a “get rid of” mode I made the suggestion we finally toss it away. Reluctantly, Lee Ann agreed. Before putting it in a trash container, we took a picture of it for posterity. Marie Kondo, in her “life-changing magic of tidying up” teaching, says to treasure what you have. We treasured that bag. But these days we treasure fewer tangible possessions and, as Marie would approve, put more stock in what really sparks joy in our lives. That includes each other. After 30 years together, Lee Ann and I have days where we feel a bit scuffed-up. But unlike the Orvis bag, despite wonderful memories, I think our best days are ahead of us. The fabric of love is strong; that’s one 30-year-old acquisition that we’ll never put aside.

Bless your heart ... really

There have been summer days so humid that it seems like I have to swim to the mailbox in the evening. Recently, I passed a neighbor walking her dog and — as I was raised to do here in the South — I greeted her with a comment about the weather: “Sure is a hot one.” “Oh, yes!” she replied enthusiastically. “I just love the heat!” Really? It was hot as all get out (as my grandmother would have said). While the weather is a matter of opinion, we can agree that this summer has been full of the heat of protests regarding Confederate flags and statues. This caused me to think of another saying I learned back in the day: heritage, not hate.

My maternal grandmother came from a large farm family in Granville County. As the older generation of great-aunts and uncles passed away, I would attend the funerals in the little Baptist Church with my parents. But the real event was after the service. The elders gathered in the cemetery and shared stories. I made sure to stay within earshot. Stories are some of the best prayers. My favorite family story involved my great-great-grandmother chasing none other than Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman off her dirt yard ... with a broomstick! Really?!?! As an adult, I’ve come to doubt the historical accuracy of that tale. Yet, the lesson remains as clear to me now as when I was a child: When the going gets tough, the tough get goin’! That story about my great-great-grandmother, though historically dubious, is part of my heritage. One day, I hope to pass the larger truth of it along to my children.

And I want to teach my children the whole story about the history of the Confederacy. Not only our family’s personal involvement. My children need to know that Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, was crystal clear that the South went to a battle to preserve both an economic system and a way of life — slavery. The South fought for the right to own human beings based on the color of their skin. In terms of the statues, my children need to know that the vast majority of Confederate statues were erected in the early 20th century — decades after the Civil War. The main point was not to mark the past but to terrorize and to traumatize the Black community. Such hate is as inseparable from the heritage as the humidity in the summer air. As my friend from Alabama told me, one can argue that one’s ancestors went to battle for individual reasons. But the larger truth is that the South fought to maintain slavery. This is like the fact that there’s humidity in the air whether you see it or not. Or, whether you’re shielded from it or not. I’ve come to think of the “heritage, not hate” argument in this way: How many people who say they “love the heat” go home and relax in the air conditioning? As a white person, I have the ability to be selective about Southern history. I could focus only upon my personal history. Black people do not have that luxury. They remember the heat of persecution from slavery and segregation. Therefore, all symbols of the Confederacy should be restricted to private museums — places you can choose to patronize. Or not. I recognize that removing certain statues does not make peace and justice a sudden reality in our society. But our public spaces should be free of divisive symbols in the name of a larger truth: Love thy neighbor. I think that love commandment — which is found in religions and cultures across history and around the world — is the larger truth taught at my family’s Baptist Church and many others across the South. The story of love is the best prayer. To put it another way, we should teach our children to say “bless your heart” — and really mean it.

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



Lessons learned from the storms of summer

It’s been said that people have several layers of conversation topics, some safer than others, and that the one(s) we go to when it’s time to talk are determined by our level of relationship with those folks we’re talking with. For instance, we’re not going to tell a total

stranger we’ve just met — at least I don’t think we are — that Uncle Fred has skipped bail again or that Aunt Freda is suspected of swiping several thousands of dollars from the local PTA while she was treasurer. On the other hand, though, we’ll talk all day long with that same stranger about sports or the current state of America — the virus and unrest in the streets, the movies (if you can name any or been to any lately) or the weather. “Weather” is a good topic, whether we like it or not. The next time you find yourself in an elevator going up to the 14th floor and you don’t want to stare at the ceiling or your feet, see if you don’t say to your riding companion something like, “Sure has been hot lately, hasn’t it?” Will Rogers used to say, among other things, “Everyone talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it.” I would like to report here that I

have done much about the recent string of temps in the 90s that are looking toward triple digits...you know, the ones accompanied by similarly high humidity, thereby producing North Carolina’s familiar summertime muggy weather. For instance, I don’t go out any more than I have to. I have also almost single-handedly caused a rise in the stock value of Lipton ice tea and Gatorade. Recently, I have been burning stumps in my yard in an open-ended barrel and have been accompanied by a very large insulated mug of ice, tea and water. Has it been hot? Well, does a wild bear sleep in the woods? I’m not sure how global warming is faring these days and if any of these temps owe their origins to that. Haven’t heard much about it lately; it has sort of fallen behind the virus in publicity lately. Sometimes I think it’s really for real and then someone tells us another study has disproved that, sort of like the conversation about the virus. All I know is the globe has been pretty warm lately. I remember as a youngster that in the summer, so it seemed, almost daily we would have what the TV weather geeks like to call “pop-up” (not “Popeye”) showers. I would be outside deep in the seventh or even ninth inning of the seventh game of the World Series, bases loaded, two outs, me at bat with a count of 3 and 2 and then...“crack”! No, that wasn’t my Louisville Slugger making contact with a

95-mph fastball. Instead it was the collision of a cold front with a warm front — producing thunder — and Mama’s ironclad no-questions-asked rule was, “When you hear it, get in the house.” I think that’s where my one-time favorite television weather celebrity Greg Fishel, when he was on Channel 5, used to quote the proverb: “If you can hear it, fear it; if you can see it, flee it.” I just didn’t know he knew my mama. It wasn’t all bad though, those ballgame interruptions of my summer youth. For when they came, I knew a quilt was waiting for me on the floor along with a stack of comic books and a cold bellywasher and plate of cookies, although multiple exposure to those last two items has contributed to the physical specimen I am today. Mama didn’t care how long we rolled around on the quilt; we were just to stay away from doors and windows and, Heaven forbid, do not turn on the water to wash your hands or get a drink from the frig or get near a door or window or pretty much anything else you could think of. Lightning might strike you. It never did, thank goodness, but sometimes when it’s late at night, bedtime even, and I need a shower and outside it’s raining cats and dogs and thundering to beat the band, I’m still hearing my mama and listening to her. I do what she told me. No point in running the risk of breaking my perfect string. It’s just that I don’t have any comic books anymore.

What’s on your mind?

The Chatham News + Record welcomes letters from its readers on topics of local and public interest, as well as thoughtful and informative guest columns. At our discretion, we may edit letters for clarity. We reserve the right to refuse letters and other submissions that promote a commercial product, contain either libelous material, personal attacks on individuals or vulgar language. Consumer complaints and letters containing unverifiable factual claims are ineligible for publication. Each letter must contain the writer’s full name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. Letters should be no more than 400 words in length. Letters selected for publication may be edited and all letters become property of the Chatham News + Record. To submit a letter: Mail it to the News + Record at P.O. Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344; or email to bhorner3@chathamnr.com; or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS

Voted for Reagan. Voted for Romney. Can't vote for Trump

TO THE EDITOR:

I proudly voted for Republican presidential candidates from Reagan through Romney. But I cannot vote for President Trump. I believe that he is a danger to our democracy.

President Trump calls for the imprisonment of his critics and political opponents. He seeks to undermine the independence of the Department of

Justice, the military and other crucial American institutions. He endangers our nation by mocking our allies and embracing dictators from Russia, China and North Korea. He uses American generals for photo-ops, but he won't listen to them. He has replaced the free market with trade wars and with handouts to farmers who are hurt by those trade wars. He added to the national debt even in times of high employment and prosperity by cutting taxes, mostly for the wealthy. These are not Republican principles.

He has ignored science and shown no leadership in dealing with COVID-19. He has divided — rather than unified — America as we confront a crisis of racial injustice.

Our country can't take four more years of this. Please join me in removing an unfit president from office in November.

Mark A. Barton
Cary

Treason in America

TO THE EDITOR:

Hitler's first moves were to

divide the nation, disarm the citizens, get rid of local law enforcement and burn books to eliminate history when he implemented his plan to overthrow government. With the exception of monuments replacing books, do these actions sound familiar?

Someone or some group has implemented the "Hitler Plan" in America.

Since everyone is a descendant from Noah and we are one race ranging from light beige to dark brown, we should stand together as Americans and refuse to let a saboteur divide us.

We should never permit a saboteur to disarm American citizens.

Americans should never let anyone sabotage their local law enforcement. America should respect and protect local law enforcement.

Sabotaging someone's history by removing monuments is as appalling as Hitler's burning of books.

The person or group who implemented "Hitler's Plan" in America should be identified and arrested for treason.

Carol Good
Conover

Cooper commits monumental error

As soon as he heard the news that a mob had torn down statues on the grounds of North



JOHN HOOD
John Locke
Foundation

Carolina's State Capitol on the evening of June 19, Gov. Roy Cooper realized his mistake. He had not been clear enough in instructing his aides, including Secretary of Public Safety Eric Hooks. He knew he'd have to take decisive action.

Hours before, the State Capitol Police and other law enforcement had already effectively diverted and defeated an earlier attempt to pull down statues honoring Confederate soldiers and their families. But a new mob was gathering, intent on criminal mischief.

Everyone knew the governor's policy preference: North Carolina should no longer devote scarce space at the State Capitol, or other public squares around the state, to statues and other public art memorializing the Confederacy.

"We cannot continue to glorify a war against the United States of America fought in the defense of slavery," Cooper had argued in 2017. "These monuments should come down. Our Civil War history is important, but it belongs in textbooks and museums — not a place of allegiance on our Capitol grounds."

But the governor had also made it clear that the ends don't justify the means. A 2015 law enacted by bipartisan majorities in the General Assembly had forbidden state or local officials from removing public monuments except under limited circumstances. And, of course, preexisting state law made it a crime for private citizens, acting individually or as part of a mob, to deface, damage, or remove a public monument whatever their feelings about it might be.

"I understand the frustration of those fed up with the pace of change," Cooper had said in his 2017 statement. But tearing down statues is not a permissible way to act on such frustrations. It's not only illegal but also itself a threat to public safety. "We must do what we know is right, and we must do it the right way," the governor had concluded.

So, he'd urged the state legislature to repeal the law that prevented him from legally moving the statues. He also tried to convince the North Carolina Historical Commission to approve relocating the statues to the Civil War battlefield at Bentonville, arguing that it would be a place of comparable prominence. Cooper knew his argument was a stretch and wasn't surprised when the commission concluded his proposal didn't comply with the law.

Alas, on the night of June 19, Secretary Hooks affirmed a decision by the State Capitol Police to withdraw. The mob took over. Violently shoving aside peaceful protesters who tried to stop them, a cadre of leftist activists pulled the heavy statues down, dragged them through the streets, and even hung them from overhead wires.

Cooper knew immediately his aides had miscalculated — imperiling public safety, weakening his credibility and inviting still more criminal activity. In communities across the country, mobs weren't stopping at Confederate monuments. They were attacking images of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, even Frances Scott Key and Ulysses S. Grant. Anarcho-communists had defaced a World War II memorial in Charlotte.

The governor had to consider what might happen next. He knew state law didn't allow officers to protect some public art while allowing others to be attacked. He had to set a consistent precedent. He had to restore order. He had to defend basic principles of representative government and the rule of law.

So, Cooper ordered the statues to be taken to a secure location temporarily for repairs and then returned to their original places. He even ordered the assembly of a massive crane on the Capitol grounds in case it was needed to repair or restore monuments. Then he called a full press conference to explain what went wrong, how he was addressing it and why he still felt strongly the statues should be relocated — but only in a lawful manner.

At which point I woke up, realized I'd been dreaming, and marveled at how low Roy Cooper had sunk in a few short years.

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

Do college sports programs represent a racist oppression of black student-athletes?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

And is it racist of me to believe it would be a mistake to allow collegiate athletes to sell rights to their images?

Two people I admire say yes to both questions.

John Shoop and Marcia Mount Shoop are powerful advocates for fair and respectful treatment of black college athletes.

John was a football coach for the Carolina Panthers, UNC-Chapel Hill, and other college programs. While John was at Chapel Hill, I admired his inventive and risky play calling at Tar Heel football games.

His wife, Marcia, is a respected Presbyterian preacher in Asheville.

Both are strong advocates for black student-athletes.

Marcia's hard-hitting preaching is always moving and provocative.

Even more than their inspirational work on the field and in the pulpit has been their caring friendship and mentoring of many black athletes that John coached.

Nevertheless, I take issue with their views as they expressed them in a recent column in The (Raleigh) News & Observer.

In part, this is what they wrote: *"The place where white supremacy culture and racism are the most evident in our institutions of higher learning is in athletic departments at*

schools like UNC-Chapel Hill, where the majority of revenue generating athletes are black. Those same athletes are generating profit for everyone else in the system except themselves. Not allowing them to benefit from their athletic capital at what will prove to be the peak of their market value for most collegiate athletes is the opposite of anti-racist. It is a tool deployed to keep white wealth and power concentrated where it has been in America since enslaved people built the economy that created this country's wealth."

The Shoops aimed their criticism at UNC-Chapel Hill athletic director Bubba Cunningham, who, like many other college athletic administrators, opposes proposals to allow college athletes to be compensated for use of their name, image, or likeness (NIL).

Jay Bilas, a basketball analyst and former Duke basketball player, agrees with the Shoops. Commenting on a proposed NCAA change that would allow such compensation, he recently wrote, "The ability of every person in the college space to profit off their NIL is a right that is not restricted in any way, with the exception of the collegiate athlete."

On the other hand, Cunningham is concerned that college athletes would be professionals if they are allowed to sell their NIL. In a letter to the NCAA, he urged it not "to abandon a model that has provided educational and athletic opportunities for hundreds of thousands of student-athletes."

Maybe it is too late to worry. College sports are already so gorged

with money that a little bit more directed at a limited number of star players may not lead to any noticeable further corruption.

But when I played college basketball 60 years ago, the best part of the experience was the camaraderie with my teammates. Those of us who were not so good made just as little money as the great players — a few dollars for meals on the road.

If players are allowed to sell their NILs, they will have to get help from agents or business advisors, who will open doors to time-consuming and borderline opportunities that take time and involve risk.

Colleges in the big cities or those with rich alumni supporters will turn those assets into guarantees of large NIL contracts for their recruits.

Paying some, but not all, college players takes away the core of an equal and special experience for the large majority of college athletes who are not big-time stars.

Maybe this change would be just one more step towards full professionalization of college programs. Maybe it's too late to stop the trend.

I respect the Shoops, and, while I agree that racism affects many of our decisions, I do not think that opposition to NIL payments for college athletes is racist and I still oppose the change.

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

Is the coronavirus a Republican or Democrat?

There was a time in March when it felt like we were all united in attacking COVID-19, but that honeymoon was short lived. By the end of April, the virus had become partisan.



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

If you listen to some voices you would believe the coronavirus and its disastrous repercussions are the fault of

one man: N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper. That's the narrative increasingly coming from Republicans and those on the right. They ask, "Why does one man have so much power to make decisions that affect us all?" Or, "Why won't he listen to the legislature when they dictate the opening of bars, gyms, bowling alleys and nightclubs?" They generally conclude with, "Doesn't he know he has wrecked the economy of our state, that there are more than a million people out of work?" Those and other questions will only be intensified after the governor's announcement keeping phase two restrictions in force.

Democrats are equally emphatic things would not have gotten so bad had President Trump not initially refused to recognize the pandemic, been willing to develop a coherent and consistent national strategy and accepted any accountability.

Here's my spin: COVID-19 doesn't care to which political party you belong, where you live or anything

else. While it might be easy to place blame on a governor or even the president let's put the blame where it belongs — on the virus.

The biggest criticism of Gov. Cooper centers around his singular power in making decisions. People forget we elected him to be governor, the chief executive officer of our state. Our statutes grant the executive extraordinary powers during times of emergency. Gov. Cooper could blunt some of the criticisms if he would tell us who he consults, give their names and say how often he does so. I could perhaps agree that the governor should consult with and seek consensus from the Council of State with two reservations. First, I have watched committees deliberate decisions and the process does not lend itself to timely and decisive action in times of crisis. At least now we have one person to hold accountable.

Further, I could be more supportive if there was some confidence those statewide elected officials would give nonpartisan advice. This Council of State already proved they wouldn't do so when Republican members signed a petition attempting to force Cooper to consult with them. No Democrats signed that petition.

Yes, there is a statute which says the governor should get concurrence from the Council of State in some instances; however, it is so vague and poorly written that a former Supreme Court justice said a case could be made for requiring concurrence, but could just as equally support the position the

The virus doesn't care about any of this, but we should. I hope you agree we are weary of the partisan bickering at a time when we should be uniting to fight this virus. The health of our people and our economy are more important than partisan infighting.

governor didn't have to do so. The legislature is attempting to change that statute but would do well to consider setting a precedent they may someday regret. One day there will be another Republican governor perhaps forced to face an unfriendly Democratic majority in the Council of State.

The virus doesn't care about any of this, but we should. I hope you agree we are weary of the partisan bickering at a time when we should be uniting to fight this virus. The health of our people and our economy are more important than partisan infighting. We are better than this.

Tom Campbell is former assistant N.C. State Treasurer and is creator/host of NC SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of N.C. issues that airs on UNC-TV's main channel at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and 12:30 p.m. Sundays, and on the UNC North Carolina Channel at 10 p.m. Fridays, 4 p.m. Saturdays and at 10 a.m. Sundays. Contact him at www.ncspin.com.

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ENFORCING THE MASK ORDER

Here’s what Chatham’s sheriff plans to do

In this exclusive interview, Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson discusses the latest state executive order regarding the wearing of masks and face coverings. The order, which took effect at 5 p.m. Friday, requires face coverings or masks in some settings; the Chatham Sheriff’s Office released a statement on Thursday addressing it. In this Q&A, the News + Record queried the sheriff about the issue of enforcement, the public response to the sheriff’s statement, and more.



Roberson

QUESTION: There’s a lot of discussion around the issue of enforcement of Gov. Cooper’s order. Next door, for example, in Lee County, the Sheriff Tracy Carter expressly said he’s not going to enforce the order, while the Sanford Police Department announced it was — which could send a mixed signal to businesses. What’s the official position of your office when it comes to the question of enforcement?

SHERIFF MIKE ROBERSON: The Order is an attempt to save lives by preventing the spread of the virus. The virus is real and is killing people. While most deaths we have seen so far have been of older people, the carriers seem more likely to be younger people who may not be showing symptoms. It is difficult for some to believe what they can’t see.

The most recent efforts appear to be an attempt, albeit an imperfect one, to strike a balance between slowing down the spread of COVID-19 that is evident by the latest hospitalizations and allowing people more freedom to be outside their homes. It is based on an honor system for individuals, but holds retail establishments and businesses accountable for their employees and patrons. Our Office will seek to educate people and help them mitigate the risks of infection in conjunction with the help of the Chatham Public Health Department. Enforcement action based on the Order would be a last resort for us, and would only be taken if a business

refused to comply after many attempts to correct behavior.

The new executive order addresses specifics about who can be cited for a violation (businesses only) and that masks are not required at all times when in public. Your office released a statement shortly after the Governor’s announcement. What’s generally been the response to your office’s statement?

ROBERSON: Our attempt was to simplify and summarize the most recent order and let the public know what it actually says, not what many people think it says.

With several orders being issued, not just by the Governor, but also by surrounding local governments, it can get confusing for people who want to follow the rules, but don’t know exactly which rules to follow. The response so far has been very positive. The Order seems to get that everyone can’t wear a mask all the time and there are plenty of exceptions built in to protect people for whom wearing a mask might make things worse. We understand that too and we want to be sensitive to people with special needs.

In the department’s statement, it says: “If any person believes that a person is violating some element of the new requirement to wear a face covering in some settings, they are encouraged to contact law enforcement here in Chatham County at 919-542-2911.” Can you give some specific advice about that? When should someone call law enforcement, and when should someone NOT call?

ROBERSON: We want the public to know that we are always available to respond if they have a concern that someone is violating the law. The Order doesn’t allow us to arrest any individual person just because they’re not wearing a mask and we don’t want to do that. “Enforcement” is just a small part of what we do at the Sheriff’s Office. We do a lot more than write tickets and take people to jail. We want to be able to help educate people as to what the Order requires in order to save lives.

If anyone sees a way that we can help with that effort, especially if a business is not trying to keep its patrons or employ-

ees safe, we are here to help do that. I know that the businesses we have here in Chatham County really care about their employees and customers and want to keep people safe just as much as we do, so I don’t think this is going to be a problem for us. Overcoming this virus will take a team effort by everyone in the community and we are, first and foremost, community members.

Unfortunately, for many, mask-wearing is a political issue. A recent poll illustrated a clear and growing political divide between Democrats and Republicans on mask-wearing habits. Nationally, the percentage of Democrats who reported wearing a mask all the time when leaving home rose from 49% between April 10 and May 4 to 65% between May 8 and June 22. During the same time period, the percentage of Republicans who reported constant mask-wearing rose from 29% to just 35%. As Chatham County’s highest elected office-holder, what’s your reaction – and what’s your department’s official position or advice on wearing masks? And what do you say to those who flatly refused, saying being asked to wear a mask is a violation of their rights?

ROBERSON: The virus is real. Real people have died right here in Chatham County, people I personally know, and families I know have lost loved ones. People may think this is a political issue because of what they’re seeing on TV, but anyone who works at a hospital will tell you that it’s a very real health crisis and it’s not going away. I have experience as a paramedic and I’ve learned firsthand from that experience to take the medical advice we read seriously.

Our younger residents are eager to do life “like normal” and, in many cases, are not seeing the effects of illness. I understand the frustration they feel, but every person I know who has lost a loved one or has suffered through the virus will tell you not to take it lightly. At the same time, I know people need to work. People want to get out of the house. They need to be able to get out to take care of their mental health and spiritual health, too. So there needs to be a balance. I think this





WHERE TO WEAR

Face Coverings to Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19

Per Gov. Cooper’s Order

- Retail businesses
- Restaurants
- Personal care, grooming and tattoo businesses
- Child care facilities, day camps and overnight camps
- State government agencies like the DMV
- Public and private transportation (except people traveling alone with household members or friends in personal vehicles)
- Manufacturing, construction and agricultural settings
- Meat and poultry processing plants
- Long-term care facilities
- Other health care settings

For more information, go to chathamnc.org/coronavirus. And remember, we are better when we are **#ChathamTogether.**

most-recent Order attempts to help people find a way to gain that balance while we are still in a state of pandemic.

The mask question is a particularly interesting one given large-scale protests that are taking place across the country, related both to the George Floyd death and the “re-open” movement. Given the recent resurgence in demonstrations related to the Confederate monument in Pittsboro, how has all this made your job and the job of your staff more difficult?

ROBERSON: We all swore an oath to uphold the Constitution and the rights we enjoy. We also understand the fear, frustration, and confusion our community feels. We want to protect the right for everyone to be able to protest peacefully. The few times protests here in Chatham have not been peaceful have been troubling for me personally, because I don’t enjoy watching anyone get hurt, or having to ask our staff to enforce the law in situa-

tions where people are trying to communicate feelings that are dear to them. I know also that many businesses have suffered, not only from COVID-19, but also from the negative attention that criminal acts bring to our community.

The protests we have had over the past year have been a lot of work on our staff. We have had 35 protests in Chatham County in the past year and a half. Even if they are not working on the day of a protest event, many of our staff are on standby to respond. This means they are losing time with their families and that has taken its toll on each of us. The majority of these protests have also been unannounced and that gives us very little opportunity to meaningfully prepare. Despite all of that, I could not be more proud of how our staff members have responded appropriately to some very difficult situations and retained their composure and professionalism throughout.

DOCTOR’S ORDERS

There’s no real treatment against this virus. Put on your mask.

BY DR. JOHN DYKERS
Retired Siler City physician

We have no cure for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Dykers

This virus can sneak in, make a home in our airways, multiply rapidly, sneak out and infect bystanders without even making some ill enough to know it is there.

Or it can cause COVID-19 that hurts like h***, relapsing fevers to 106 degrees, like malaria. It can make us so sick that we can’t breathe, so sick that for weeks or months you might wish you were dead. It can damage your liver, your heart, your arteries.

COVID-19 can kill anyone — more easily those with COPD, smokers, and those with diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity, and older patients or those with immune systems damaged by other illness. COVID-19 can kill healthy 20-year-olds with a stroke or heart attack. It can kill our sense of taste or smell, or cause Kawasaki syndrome in children.

There are medications to help the very sick but no cures. Prospects for an effective vaccine are precarious. When

we consider all that we have to gain by wearing a mask and the little that we have to lose, this is a no brainer.

A pleasant COVID-19 surprise: Thailand was the first place outside China with a reported case of the coronavirus. Photographer Sirachai Arunrugstichai thought the nation was done for. It didn’t have the money for mass screening. The public health minister was inexperienced, but he did turn over the effort to experts. It was ordinary citizens who rallied to protect themselves — and stop a major outbreak. “The public is strict about mask wearing,” Arunrugstichai told National Geographic. “If I forget to wear one, the ‘aunties’ on the streets glare at me intensely, making me run back home in shame to grab a mask.” As restrictions are easing, masked crowds are filling Bangkok’s Chatuchak Market, one of the largest in Southeast Asia.

Please stay home or wear your mask covering your mouth and nose. UNC has Tar Heel masks if you want to be fashionable. Others advertise one for \$6.99 with an eye shield.

Test how far away from a cake candle you can be and still blow it out. That is minimum distance you should keep away from others. Put your mask on. If you can still blow out the candle, you need a better

mask. If you can’t blow out the candle, the mask slows the spread of the virus.

N95 masks with valves are for medical personnel to protect them when treating patients with COVID-19. Other N95 masks are all material and filter both ways; they are a little harder to breathe in and out and are not as easy for the wearer to tolerate for as long.

Surgical masks are for the OR, but OK for trips to the grocery store etc. They do the same as cloth masks: slow down the exhaled air. Any retained CO2 is minimal and has not been found to impair the surgeons, nurses, techs, who wear them. Surgical masks have been well-documented to minimize exhaled pathogens, avoiding infecting surgical wounds and sickening other persons in the OR.

Don’t you dare go into the grocery store where MY Sweetie is shopping and breathe your breath into her air without slowing your germs down with a mask!

We have three grocery stores in Siler City. My bet is that business will be best in the store that insists customers wear masks, maybe even supply one and have a charmer to offer help for those who don’t know how and are starting to enter. No shirt, no shoes, no mask, no service.

The uninfected have as much responsibility to remain uninfected as the

infected have to avoid infecting anyone else. Make a statement: shop at those stores that require masks.

This is a nasty bug. Wash your hands again, wear a mask in public (the Town of Siler City took delivery of cloth masks they can rewash), avoid infecting ourselves by touching our eyes, picking our nose, touching lips or mouth; maintain physical distance in public, be sociable to other people wearing masks in public and express appreciation. Keep six feet of physical distance.

Keep doing all the things we can to make our world a hard place for the virus to make a living. Avoid allowing the virus to make this a hard place for us to make a living.

Or you can leave off your mask and make life easier for the virus and harder for humans. It won’t sneak as far if we wear a mask.

What would Jesus do? Jesus would wear a mask.

Dr. John Dykers was a family practitioner in Siler City from 1964 until 2010. In addition to making house calls and delivering babies, he served as chairman of Chatham Hospital’s continuing education program for 35 years. Find out more at dykers.com.

MASKS

Continued from page A1

such as parks.

The executive order also lists exemptions for wearing masks, including children under 11 years old, people who are “actively eating or drinking” or “strenuously exercising” and anyone whose medical/behavioral condition or disability would be inhibited by wearing a mask. (Listed examples: someone who has trouble breathing or cannot put on/remove a mask without assistance.)

“The order seems to get that everyone can’t wear a mask all the time and there are plenty of exceptions built in to protect people for whom wearing a mask might make things worse,” Roberson said. “We understand that, too, and we want to be sensitive to people with special needs.”

Chatham County took a similar explanatory tone in a statement released Wednesday. The county board of health had unanimously passed a motion

last Monday urging the county board of commissioners to require masks in government buildings while “strongly encouraging them” in public settings. Cooper’s executive order last Wednesday, of course, trumped that.

In its statement, the county said COVID-19 “continues to be a public health crisis” and highlighted mask-wearing as a way to combat it. As of Tuesday, both the county and the state’s coronavirus dashboards listed Chatham County as having 947 confirmed coronavirus cases and 42 deaths.

“Wearing a face covering is important when coming into close contact with others, because COVID-19 can be transmitted even before symptoms develop,” interim public health director Mike Zelek said in the release. “Remember, my mask protects you. Your mask protects me. Face coverings are a critical piece in preventing the virus from spreading.”

Chatham County’s public health department will continue to work with numerous agencies — among them the

Chatham Health Alliance, Chatham County Schools and nonprofits — to collect and distribute face coverings. It highlighted Masks for Many, a community drive gathering masks and other PPE for front-line workers and “vulnerable populations” in the county.

Mike Wiley, a Pittsboro-based author, playwright and activist who helped create the project (chathamartscouncil.org/masks-for-many), said the effort has led to the donation of more than 1,500 masks to organizations all over Chatham County, including 500 to Chatham County Schools and 200 to the Hispanic Liaison.

“We still need to raise \$5,000 to cover those costs,” Wiley said in an interview, “but if we are able to raise more than that, we will make as many more as we can.”

Roberson said recent efforts, including the mask mandate and Cooper’s extension of Phase 2 to at least July 17, are “an attempt, albeit an imperfect one, to strike a balance” between curbing the spread of COVID-19 and giving people more freedom to be outside

‘Enforcement is just a small part of what we do.’

MIKE ROBERSON, Chatham County Sheriff

their homes.

As a former paramedic, Roberson said he takes medical advice seriously and recognizes COVID-19 as a “very real health crisis.” People he’s personally known have died from coronavirus in the county, and families he has known have lost loved ones.

“At the same time, I know people need to work,” he said. “People want to get out of the house. They need to be able to get out to take care of their mental health and spiritual health, too. So there needs to be a balance. I think this most recent order attempts to help people find a way to gain that balance while we are still in a state of pandemic.”

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

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Julie Wilkerson shows off some of the masks the Chatham Health Alliance made through the Masks for Many program.

OBITUARIES

DEBRA SMITH COBLE



Debra Smith Coble, aged 59, was called home and left this life to join her Lord on Tuesday, the 23rd of June, 2020, at Moses Cone Memorial Hospital. She was born on April 8th, 1961, in Greensboro, North Carolina to Leonard and Doris Smith. She was married to the love of her life, Jerry Coble on August 22nd, 1981.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry Coble of the home; her daughter, Kaitlin (James) Wymer of Albuquerque, New Mexico; her father, Leonard (Glenda) Smith of Silk Hope; her brother, Alan Smith of Knightdale; and a large extended family of relatives. She was preceded in death by her mother, Doris Smith.

Debra was born and raised in Greensboro and lived her married life in Guilford County. She was a loving wife and mother, a dedicated public servant and a supportive friend. Debra served her community in many ways. She grew up as a member of Northside Baptist Church. She spent her adult life as a member of Calvary Baptist Church where she served on many committees and was a children's Sunday school teacher. She was a health care professional for the Cone Health Care System where she worked for 41 years. She cared deeply for her many coworkers and friends. She was a Radiologic Technologist and was certified in Radiology and Mammography. She was also System Wide Quality Coordinator for Imaging Services for Cone Health. Debra's attention to detail made her the steady rock that everyone relied upon when it mattered most that it was done right. She was a graduate of the Moses Cone Radiologic Technology Program and a member of The American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

As a child, Debra enjoyed roller skating at the local roller rink where she worked growing up. She remembered fondly her time practicing spins and acrobatics. Debra also enjoyed editing for others as well as reading and writing. Among the thousands of books she enjoyed, her favorites were biographies and cookbooks as she loved learning about other peoples' lives and cooking for her family. Debra also enjoyed buying and selling antiques, and traveling. Debra's empathy and genuine interest in people from all walks of life is what made her such a sympathetic caregiver.

Debra's greatest passion was spending time with her husband, daughter and family. Whether watching the latest crime drama or planning for the upcoming holiday celebration, Debra's excitement was infectious. She loved decorating for holidays and planning events that brought her family together. Her warm generosity made everyone feel at home and loved.

With Debra's passing, she leaves behind a legacy of caring and a deep well of unforgettable memories.

The funeral service was held Sunday, June 28, 2020, at 1 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church in McLeansville. Interment followed at Lakeview Memorial Park. Mrs. Coble laid in state at Forbis & Dick, North Elm Chapel.

To honor Debra's passion for learning, a scholarship fund is being set up in her name. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to a 501(c)(3) public charity, The Rady Lady Foundation Inc. in Debra's name, at www.RadyLady.com or mailed to 1484 Allen Ct, Asheboro, N.C. 27205. The Foundation is creating a memorial fund for graduating students of an accredited radiography program and meeting specific criteria to apply.

Forbis & Dick, North Elm Street is serving the Coble Family.

Online condolences can be made at www.forbisanddick.com.

WALTER LEE EDWARD TURNER



Walter Lee Edward Turner, age 85, of Siler City died Sunday, June 28, 2020, at Siler City Center.

Mr. Turner was born March 23, 1935, in Johnson County, the son of Samuel Edward and Beulah Mae Jackson Turner. He was retired from Selig Mfg. as an Upholsterer. He was a member of the Siler City Church of God, and a Sunday School Class there.

Walter was a joker, always playing tricks on others. He was a very giving person and he loved to order things. In his early years, bowling was his favorite hobby and also playing the guitar.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Annie Mae Johnston Turner, and three brothers and two sisters. Survivors include his sister, Rachel Turner Brady and husband Roger of Siler City; brother, Charles L. Turner and wife Florence of Siler City; and a niece, Crystal Hughes and husband "Bo" of Lexington.

A private graveside ceremony was held at Oakwood Cemetery.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family.

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

ETHEL MAE SHAW MINTON



Ethel Mae Shaw Minton, age 77, of Bear Creek died Thursday, June 25, 2020, at her home.

Mrs. Minton was born August 28, 1942, in Chatham County, N.C., the daughter of Henry Howard and Ethel Hedrick Shaw.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Ray Minton; her three daughters, Mistie Minton Phillips and husband Jerry, Wendi Minton Staley and Dawn Minton Robinson; sisters, Mary Alice Causey and husband Gene, Louise Dark and husband

Wayne, Brenda Hudson and husband Tommy and Linda Hudson; sister-in-law, Nancy Shaw; grandchildren, Chastity Ryser, Shane Staley, Caleb Phillips, Lindsey Weir, Seth Phillips and Brandon Weir and great grandchildren, Caesin Ryser and Abigail Staley; and many nieces and nephews.

For Mrs. Minton, family always came first in everything. She came from a large family of 10 children, where she learned to be mothering and nurturing. She continued that love by being very giving and caring for her own three daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Ethel was fun loving and always had a smile on her face and a laugh in her heart. She had a wonderful sense of humor. She was an extremely giving and loving lady who had an impeccable eye for detail, and it showed in her neat appearance. She was a wonderful cook and had several famous dishes. When she wasn't taking care of her family she worked as a seamstress for many years. Ethel was a member of Meroney United Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Margaret Shaw Cook and brothers, Howard Eugene Shaw, Marvin Hedrick Shaw, and James Henry Shaw.

The family received friends Sunday, June 28, 2020, from 4-4:45 p.m. in the sanctuary of Meroney United Methodist Church. A graveside service followed in the church cemetery at 5 p.m. with Rev. Jim Whittaker officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Meroney United Methodist Church, 10568 NC Hwy 902, Bear Creek, N.C.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Minton Family.

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

ANN SCOTT

Ann Scott, age 75, of Siler City died Friday, June 26, 2020, at her home.

Mrs. Scott was born June 27, 1944 in Hoke County to Herbert and Iola Carlisle Thames. She was a School Administrator for Auldren Academy in Bear Creek.

Ann is survived by one daughter, Tracey S. Wilkie and husband Tim of Goldston; and one grandson, Charles Alexander "Alex" Moody. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles S. Scott.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family.

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

SANDRA FAYE KING CARROLL

Sandra Faye King Carroll, age 57, of Pittsboro, died Friday, June 26, 2020, at UNC Hospital.

Sandra was born in Randolph County, N.C. on January 2, 1963, to the late Cecil Paul King and Billie Lankford King. She was also preceded in death by one sister, Robin Simpkins.

Surviving relatives include her husband, Steve Carroll of Pittsboro; two daughters, Tabitha Branson of Pittsboro, Stephanie Branson of Sanford; two sons, Josh Carroll of Pittsboro, Bobby Austin and wife Kelly of Timberlake, N.C.; one brother, Larry Williams and wife Shirley of Liberty; two sisters, Diane Hinshaw and husband Glen of Liberty, Linda Hannan of Kentucky; and four grandchildren, Caidance Collins, Riley Carroll, Hunter Austin, and Cade Austin.

A graveside service will be held Wednesday, July 1, 2020, at 11 a.m. at Chatham United Methodist Church with Rev. Ray Gooch presiding.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial contributions to be made in Sandra's memory to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73123.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com. Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Carroll family.

TERESA KELLY PHILLIPS FERGUSON

Teresa Kelly Phillips Ferguson, 57, of Siler City died Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at Chatham Hospital.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Ferguson was born February 15, 1963, in Chatham County, the daughter of Clayborn Kelly and Lucille Clark Phillips. She was preceded in death by her father and her husband David Ronald Ferguson. She was a member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church. Teresa, a graduate of Chatham Central and received her nursing degree at Alamance Community College. She spent 20 years working at the Bryan Center in Asheboro.

She is survived by her mother, daughters, Amanda Kelly Ferguson of Bear Creek and Alecia Dawn Ferguson of Wilson; and brother, Mark Phillips of Siler City.

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

KOY EDWARD MCNEILL

Koy Edward McNeill, 59, of Broadway, passed on Friday, June 26, 2020, at his residence.

Funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford, with burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

JOYCE MARIE THOMAS THOMAS

Joyce Marie Thomas Thomas, 88, of Sanford, passed away Thursday, June 25, 2020, at her home.

A funeral service was held at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 28, 2020, at Olivia Presbyterian Church with Rev. Bob Johnson and Rev. George Walton presiding.

She was born in Harnett County on March 9, 1932, to the late Harvey Thomas and Annie Lee Seawell Thomas. She graduated from Benhaven High School and was a member of Olivia Presbyterian Church. She was an owner and operator of a Happy Day Nursery. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Clyde Lester Thomas; sons, Danny and Ricky Thomas; a set of twin boys and a set of twin girls; and a brother, Harvey Thomas Jr.

She is survived by a son, David Scott Thomas of Broadway; a daughter, Diane Williams of Sanford; brothers, Jerry Thomas of Marners and Jimmy Thomas of Richmond; sisters, Joanne Kelly of York Town, Va. and Jeanette Fields of Asheboro; four grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

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

RUTH HAZEL BAKER DONATHAN

Ruth Hazel Baker Donathan, 89, of Sanford, died Saturday, June 27, 2020, at her home.

A private funeral service was held Monday, June 29, 2020, at Full Gospel Assembly with Pastor Ralph Baker and Travis Corley presiding. Burial followed at White Hill Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Donathan was born in Harnett County on December 26, 1930, to the late Burtis and Nannie Thomas Baker. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Calvin Coolidge Donathan; a daughter, Gaynelle Donathan; an infant daughter and several brothers and sisters.

Mrs. Donathan is survived by her son Michael Donathan of Sanford; daughters, Diane Tillman, Debbie Cox, Bonnie Davis, and Tammy Baker, all of Sanford; a brother, Pastor Ralph Baker of Sanford; sisters, Irela Love and Marie Cox, all of Sanford; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105, or Full Gospel Assembly Church, 5905 McDaniel Dr., Sanford, N.C. 27332.

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

JAMES LOUIS ISREAL, JR.

James Louis Isreal, Jr., age 74, of Siler City, died Friday, June 26, 2020, at UNC Hospitals in Hillsboro.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, July 3, 2020, at Oakwood Cemetery.

Mr. Isreal was born July 30, 1945, in Philadelphia, the son of the late James Louis and Claudia Andrews Isreal. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Charlene Govan Isreal, his son, Jamine Lewis Isreal; and a grandson. He was a member of Christian Fellowship Church. A Marine veteran of the Vietnam War, he worked at the Budd Automotive plant in Philadelphia as an assembler.

Survivors include a daughter, Juanita M. Isreal, and son, Cristen Isreal, both of Siler City; sister, Irma Isreal; brothers, Jeffrey Isreal, Michael Isreal, all of Philadelphia; three grandchildren and one great grandson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, 4A Oak Branch Dr., Greensboro, N.C. 27407.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Isreal family.

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

ANNIE JORDAN FOXF

Mrs. Annie Jordan Foxf, 83, of Siler City, passed away Sunday, June 28, 2020, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

TOMMY MAURICE BARROW

Tommy Maurice Barrow, 31 of Apex, passed away Friday, June 19, 2020, at his residence.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 27, 2020, at Body of Christ Church in Sanford, with burial in Lee Memory Garden.

RHONDA DIANE KINTON

Rhonda Diane Kinton, 61, of Siler City, died Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at her residence.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Rhonda was a native of Chatham County and formerly employed as Site Manager for Greenway Protective Services.

Survivors include a daughter, Kendra Glosson of Siler City; son, Britton Smith of Siler City; sisters, Brenda Hadley of Silk Hope, Linda Williams of Bonlee, Margaret Johnson of Snow Camp, Glenda Branson of Siler City, Linda Critzer of Moorehead, Billie Jean Lowe Williams of Lupton City, Tenn.; and brothers, Willie Pugh of Snow Camp, Mark Johnson of Asheboro; and two grandchildren.

Condolences may be made online at: www.lofflinfuneralservice.com.

Arrangements by Lofflin Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Ramseur.

See **OBITUARIES**, page A9

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Charles
Campbell



Greg
Campbell

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Candidates for associate degrees

Bear Creek: Cassey Alexis Pool
Bennett: Gina Renee Davis, Dakota Austin Green
Franklinville: Bethany Michelle Walker, Betty Sue Ellis, Roman Miguel Ferrer-Diaz, Ana Deniss Tadeo Morales, Israel Vernon Ferrer-Diaz, Danielle Rebecca Handley, Mickaela Toomes Perez, Cody O'Neal Allred, Dalton Lee Sides, Ashley Ann Lowe
Liberty: Erika Alejo Pacheco, Ryan Gates Egarter, Jacqueline Vera Raya, Kendall Leigh Mauldin, Jodie Caviness Smith, Emily Reyes Castro, Yasmin Carolina Cervantes Servin, Saray Esmeralda Morales, Makayla Jolie Perry, Nicole Michelle Badeaux, Rhonda Simpson Hargis, Erich Chase Hartman, Destiny Rae Gooch, Katie Simmons Rose
Ramseur: Antonio DeJesus Garcia, Courtney Leeann Phillips, Kiersten Amber Brower, Creath Jackson Brown, Rachel Hawks, Yesenia Lopez, Jackson Kyle Richardson, Brttany Anne Sykes, Amber Jade Adams, Cody Joseph Badeaux, Clayton Dean Flinchum, Cameron Nicole Frye, Yesenia Marceleno, Ramon Adolfo Ortiz, Lauren Danielle Stanley, Sara M. Tomlinson, Jessica Jackie Cardin, Taylor Shaina Locklear, Zuleima Avalos Chacon
Seagrove: Shelley Denise Evans, Lindsay Joyce Castlebury, Taya Chanell White, Taylor Mabe Wirt, Taylor Greeson, Macie

RCC GRADUATES

Elizabeth McRae, Braydan Ryan Reeder, Michael Thomas Aamlund, Carla Lee Brown, Kayla Seagraves Williamson, Chassity Marie Worcesster, Victoria Lynn Hoover-Siler City: Brandon Scott Frye, Wesley Robert Shelton, Charlie Vicente, Rachel Neve Shaw, Matt Heath Clark, Pamela Alejandra Lopez Ulloa, Richard Anthony Diaz, Flavio Efrain Sabaleta, Arlette Hernandez-Jimenez, Tina Katrina Spinks
Snow Camp: Elizabeth Nicole Byrd
Staley: Gladis Anahi Vera-Raya, Jessica R. Waite, Elizabeth R. Pate

Candidates for diplomas

Asheboro: Kelly Yvette Ratliff, Albert Gutierrez, Timothy Lee Ratliff, Amanda Leigh Adams, Megan Elizabeth Higgins, Ami Michelle Nelms, Jamie Michele Perkins, Randy Lee Tedder, Justin Lee Lamb, Trew Barrett Williamson, Sequoia Fayth Cheek, Natasha Michelle Martin, Brian Alfonsin Gines, Ana Lizbeth Galicia, Marsha Catina Isley, Patrick Jacob Dawes, Trevor Ray Maness, Coren Bryce McCranie, Sean Michael Price
Franklinville: Daniel John Kaminski
Graham: Kemp Augusta Kimrey
Liberty: Kristan N. Kirkman
Randleman: Robin Michelle Lockamy, Michael Shawn Whyte, Diego Argomaniz, Dustin Timothy

Kirkman, Zuleyma Avila Vega, Brenden Michael Kratzenberg
Seagrove: Braydan Ryan Reeder, Dillon Seth McNeill, Victoria Lynn Hoover

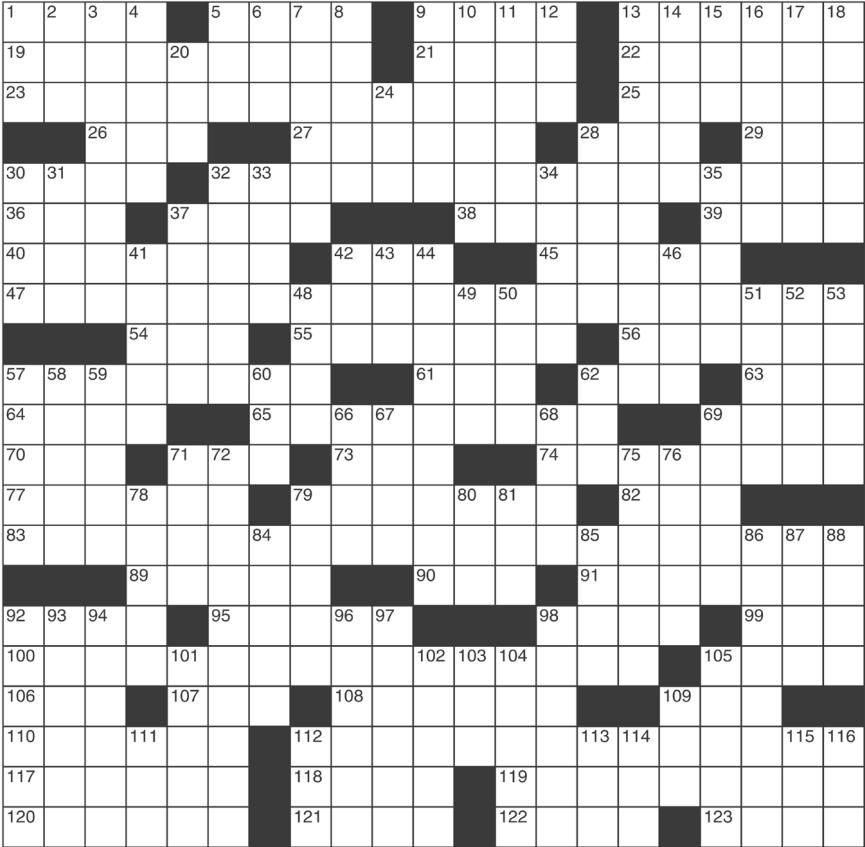
Candidates for certificates

Asheboro: Harrison Griffin Clement, Tonya Williams Finnegan, Trew Barrett Williamson, Justin Lee Lamb, Cathy Dawn Baldwin, Elisabeth Maria Guzman, Megan Elizabeth Higgins, Amanda Leigh Adams, Ami Michelle Nelms, Makayla Lynn Robinette, Sequoia Fayth Cheek, Yoana Hernandez, Patricia Ann McCoy Sullivan, Shatara Delvonia Ross, Brian Alfonsin Gines, Kenny Stevens Andrews, Ingrid Vanessa Alvarez Salas, Vanessa Dawn Perry, Arionna Lashae Tiller, Angela Freeman Davis, Crystal Stephanie Gallegos, Clarys Canuto, Elizabeth Martinez-Lopez, Noemi Vazquez Herrera, Jocelyn Velazquez-Luna, Shawn D. Parsons Jr., Esmeralda Vences Santos.
Franklinville: Hannah Moriah Shore, Kayli Samantha Vaughan, Makayla Diane Hill, Curtis Edwin Belvins
Liberty: Kristan N. Kirkman, Jacqueline Vera Rayaa, Dawanna Cheyenne Smith
Seagrove: Justin A. Ingold, Tammy Alexandria Sims, Tyler Jacob McNeill, Anna Lauren Beck, Victoria Lynn Hoover
Siler City: Aldo Josue Ocampo-Munoz

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ACROSS
1 Binary
5 GPS guesses
9 White stuff that falls
13 Gum rub-on for toothaches
19 "One-l lama" poet
21 Sported
22 Nullify
23 Start of a riddle
25 Noteworthy periods
26 Crony
27 Fisher of "Star Wars"
28 U.N. medical agcy. based in Geneva
29 Words before roll or tear
30 Hockey glove
32 Riddle, part 2
36 "Washboard" muscles
37 Cut of beef
38 2001 bankruptcy company
39 Sushi bed
40 Squalid room
42 4.0 is a good one, for short
45 Golden ager
47 Riddle, part 3
54 Tom, Dick and Harry, maybe
55 Puzzles
56 Not abridged
57 Spares no expense
61 Hack off
62 Prez after HST
63 See 42-Down
64 Noteworthy periods
65 Riddle, part 4
69 Bakery buy
70 Luau
71 Prevarication
73 Flier of myth
74 Bogs, e.g.
77 Ice homes
79 Tel Avivian, for one
82 Used to be
83 Riddle, part 5
89 Skylit lobbies
90 Put turf on
91 Give a new hue to
92 2004-11 Laker Lamar
95 Place to "dry out"
98 Be a sign of
99 Small, as Abner
100 End of the riddle
105 Guy
106 Give a new hue to
107 Rock producer Brian
108 Hit the sack
109 Affront, to a hip-hopper
110 Java is one
112 Fiddle's answer
117 Money in the form of coins
118 Author Wiesel
119 Player of multiple records, of sorts
120 "Mad" one in Wonderland
121 Star studier's sci.
122 Figure skater
123 Leisure tops
DOWN
1 Wall Street index
2 "Yecchl"
3 Gradually accepts
4 Release upon to attack
5 Lieut.'s subordinate
6 Bit of body art, in brief
7 Waste barrel
8 Wheat bundle
9 Move as an eddy does
10 "Sorry, I'm in a hurry"
11 "The Orchid Thief" novelist Susan
12 Pint-size
13 Ten squared
14 Transplant, as a perennial
15 Of yore
16 Knighted actor Derek
17 Of national origins
18 Alain-René — ("Gil Blas" author)
20 None at all
24 Lead-in to lateral
28 "Orlando" novelist Virginia
30 Actress Helgenberger
31 Certain steel girder
32 Taiwan tea
33 Feudal estate
34 2010 Super Bowl MVP
35 French for "stop"
37 Horse, when running
41 Organic part of soil
42 With
63 Across, boomer's kid
43 Mile High Center architect
44 Some Christians
46 Austrian "a"
48 New Age pianist John
49 In a frenzy
50 Stare stupidly
51 37th president
52 Abject fear
53 Feudal laborers
57 Former baseball boss
58 Brand of pasta sauce
59 One of the boxing Alis
60 Meadow
62 Meadow mother
66 Guess
67 Petty of "Tank Girl"
68 Cookie bar from Mars
69 Lariat
71 Pillage
72 "Uncle!"
75 Collegately stylish
76 Tilt weapon
78 44th president
79 Pocatello's
80 Psyche
81 Went first
84 Have a link with
85 Horse's gait
86 Mistreatment
87 Nullify
88 — Stanley Gardner
92 A bit weird
93 Place to be pampered
94 Egg-based dish
96 They follow
97 Subject of a 2016 U.K. referendum
98 With 115-Down, she sang "All Alone Am I"
101 Lamp spirit
102 Frisky water animal
103 Bakery buy
104 Put up, as a tent
105 "I — think so!"
109 Cloning stuff
111 Make believe
112 Briny deep state
113 Outmoded
114 TV accessory
115 See 98-Down
116 Soon-to-be grads: Abbr.

COMING-OF-RAGE MOVIES



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

A FEW MOAB ABBAS COSTA
FIVE ANNE LOATH INTEL
CLEARHEAD COREASTONY
ANKARA SLOTTAMA HIES
EMT DELEETEALLSUSPECTS
MEIN DEMEYECLASSA
UNDOTHE DAMAGE YOUR
STEREOS DEIGETSMART
AWLS RVERS MIA
MADAMS CUTMESOMESLACK
AVENUE ONEONTA POUNCE
COPYPROTECTION INVAIN
AWE ITSSO SILO
USWEEKLY RAW ROMULUS
VEES PASTEMAGAZINE
APIARY SAT BAA IPSE
FINDOUTTHEHARDWAY LED
INGA PRECITI ARABIC
RAMBO AVERS EDITMENUS
STALK PECOS SUVS NERO
TARES SNOWY THEY TREX

Fireworks safety top of mind especially this July Fourth holiday

PITTSBORO — With many Fourth of July public fireworks displays canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chatham County Fire Marshal is reminding families to keep safety first when celebrating the holiday at home.
“We want all Chatham County residents to have a fun and safe Fourth of July, but fireworks are dangerous to both adults and children if not handled properly,” Chatham County Fire Marshal Billy Judson said. “We know the safest way to enjoy fireworks is to visit public fireworks displays conducted by trained professionals; however, with many of these community events not occurring this year, we are concerned about more people using fireworks at home.”
The Chatham County Fire Marshal offers the following fireworks safety tips:

- If you plan to use fireworks, make sure they are legal in your area.
- Be extra careful with sparklers: Little arms are too short to hold sparklers, which can heat up to 1,200 degrees. Let young children use glow sticks instead. They can be just as fun but don't burn at a temperature hot enough to melt glass.
- Closely supervise children around fireworks at all times.
- Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks.
- Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
- Point fireworks away from homes and keep away from brush, leaves and flammable substances.

Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it.

• Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.

• If a child is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If an eye injury occurs, don't allow your child to touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage.

Judson reminded residents that many fireworks are illegal to use in the state of North Carolina, including but not limited to, exploding or flying fireworks such as bottle rockets, firecrackers, roman candles and large propelled display

NEWS BRIEFS

bursts.
The Chatham County Fire Marshal's Office will be traveling throughout the county over July Fourth weekend to monitor fireworks activity.

Chatham County man buys ticket 'loaded' with \$4 million prize

SILER CITY — Leonard Bowers' \$10,000 Loaded ticket won him a \$4 million top prize.
Bowers purchased his lucky \$20 scratch-off ticket at the Murphy Express on New Chatham Road in Siler City.
He claimed his prize last Wednesday at lottery headquarters in Raleigh.
Bowers had the choice of taking the \$4 million as an annuity of \$200,000 a year over 20 years, or a lump sum of \$2.4 million. He chose the lump sum and took home \$1,698,006 after federal and state tax withholdings.
The \$10,000 Loaded game started in October 2019 with three top prizes of \$4 million and three \$100,000 prizes. One \$4 million prize and one \$100,000 prize remain to be won.

Drivers asked to join #KeysFreeNC movement to curb impaired driving

RALEIGH — The governor's Highway Safety Program and more than 500 law enforcement agencies has kicked off the state's annual 4th of July anti-drunk driving campaign, "Operation Firecracker," with increased enforcement patrols.
Operation Firecracker runs through July 5. This year, the governor's Highway Safety Program is soliciting motorists to encourage everyone to support sober driving by adorning their vehicles with messages in window chalk that read #Keys-FreeNC.
On June 29, NCGHSP kicked off this year's holiday enforcement campaign at the main entrance of Marine Corp Air Station Cherry Point with a community drive-through event.
NCGHSP has recruited area law enforcement agencies, military, state highway patrol, Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) mobile workers and firefighters to flank the entrance to the installation in a show of support for the cause.
"MCASCP is ground zero of this year's campaign and Monday's kick-off event was the kindling

we hope will catch fire everywhere," said Mikel Huber, the base commander for Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. "We want to see every motorist that's committed to driving sober encouraging others to do the same."

The NCGHSP will also use social media to encourage everyone to drive sober during the holiday week and release a YouTube video that will include messaging from law enforcement, clergy, military and the governor's office.

For those who have a social media platform, show NCGHSP how you are celebrating safely. Mention @NCGHSP on Facebook and tag @NC_GHSP on Twitter and Instagram with #Keys-FreeNC and #NCGHSP to show that you are celebrating safely. For media inquiries, contact The Governor's Highway Safety Program Communications Specialist Miracle King at 919-814-3657 or miracleking@ncdot.gov

— CN+R staff reports



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50 Year Anniversary




Larry and June Easter of Siler City reached a milestone in their life by celebrating 50 years of marriage on June 27th, 2020. They were married in 1970 by the late Rev. C. M. Leviner, former pastor of the Siler City Pentecostal Holiness Church. They have three children and three grand children. Angela Easter Weeks and husband Rev. Shelton Weeks Jr. and son Caleb Weeks of Elizabeth City, NC. Kevin Easter of Sanford, NC who was born on Easter Sunday in 1974, has two boys Noah and Silas Easter of Maxton, NC. Stephen Easter of Siler City, NC.



Saharan dust sunset

News + Record Photographer Peyton Sickles captured this photo of a Chatham County sunset made spectacular by the presence of Saharan dust in the atmosphere. The dust is lifted by wind and storms in Africa and travels 5,000 miles each year to the U.S. and Caribbean. This year’s dust is among the worst in decades, but a byproduct is gorgeous sunsets. Staff photo by Peyton Sickles.

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A7

JULIA MAE (WATSON) HECK

Ms. Julia Mae Heck, 82, of Sanford, passed away Saturday, June 27, 2020, at her residence.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 2, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home, with burial following in Lee Memory Gardens.

HENRY MARSHALL GLOVER

Henry Marshall Glover, 79, of Siler City passed away Wednes-

day, June 24, 2020, at his home. Services are entrusted to Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

SHAWNNA RENEE O'BRIAN HOWELL

Shawna Renee O'Brian Howell, 19, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services are entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

LOUVINA (ROBINSON) BURNETTE

Mrs. Louvina Robinson Burnette, 68, of Chapel Hill, passed away Friday, June 19, 2020, at UNC Hospitals.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

Chatham County Schools hires Horton Middle principal

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Bradyn Robinson has been named the new principal of Horton Middle School in Pittsboro. Robinson, who has been Horton's assistant principal since August 2017, was chosen after interviews with a group that included Horton teachers, PTA and alumni, as well as district administrators. In a press release, district Superintendent Derrick Jordan said Robinson's experience would "serve him well in his new role."

"He is fully committed to the Wildcat Family," Jordan said, "and already has some solid ideas about how best to ensure the school's work toward con-

tinuous improvement."

Robinson, who will begin work at the end of this week, said it was a "privilege" to be appointed to the role.

"I look forward to building on the school's proud and historic past and moving forward to continue to create a school that prepares students to be strong independent learners and leaders in the 21st century," Robinson said. "I am a firm believer that each of our students should be afforded the opportunity to grow as an individual in a school that celebrates their gifts, supports them through adversity and provides them with the skills necessary to be successful in an ever-changing society."



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ALSTON

Continued from page A6

them. It puts great trust in her executor and agent, Jesse Marley, to carry out that plan. Marley had a longstanding relationship with the Alston family, as he witnessed the will of her husband Oroon in May 1851. He arranged, after Marium's death and the probate of her will, for his son, Dr. Henry B. Marley, to transport the enslaved people to Ohio and then free them. This step was important and clearly planned — emancipating slaves was illegal in North Carolina absent the posting of large bond to ensure their positive behavior while in the state. If the slaves somehow had been legally freed in North Carolina they would have been required to leave the state within ninety days and subject to capture by slave catchers as they made their way north. This was the era of the Fugitive Slave Act and of great unrest across the nation. It was also the era in which the Dred Scott case was proceeding in federal court (decided in 1857 in the infamous ruling that black people were not citizens and “had no rights which the white man was bound to respect”). By planing to hold them as slaves during the transportation to Ohio, Marium Alston increased the chances that these people could travel untested by slave catchers. As the trusted agent of Alston, Jesse Marley complied with her wishes even though he himself was a slaveowner, and during a period in which the political discussion was ever more intense as the Union came apart.

Indeed, within only five years of her death, the General Assembly of North Carolina outlawed the practice of manumission, freeing people from slavery, by will. The situation surrounding slave ownership was politically fraught during this time of Fugitive Slave Act consternation, North and

South, and it would have been practically impossible for Marium to free her slaves in North Carolina and then arrange for them to be transported and settled in a free state. It is unlikely that Marium found any support for her intention to free her slaves within her marital family. Marium, as the widow of Oroondates Alston, was part of a family that included several of the largest landowners and slaveowners in Chatham County. Oroon was a grandson of Captain Joseph John Alston of Halifax County. Two of his grandfather's many children had moved to Chatham County: Joseph John Alston (“Chatham Jack”), a prominent land and slaveholder who owned land from Pittsboro to what is now Siler City, and William Alston, who served as the Clerk of Court for Chatham County during the American Revolution. Oroon, born in 1780, was a son of William Alston and a nephew of Chatham Jack Alston. He was the brother of Nancy Ann Alston, born 1780 and of Mary Ann Alston, born in 1785, both of whom also lived and were married into influential families in Chatham County.

The heirs of Oroondates, besides Marium, were the sons of Nancy Ann Alston (Joseph Palmer and Oran A. Palmer) and the sons of Mary Ann Alston (William Alston Rives and Robert E. Rives). The practice of the Alston family was to marry cousins, so the relationships were intertwined and represented several prominent Chatham County names by 1851 — Alston, Rives, Palmer, and others. There is no evidence that anyone in the family was an abolitionist or anti-slavery. The only known possible exception relates to the son of Oroondates' heir Robert E. Rives, Dr. Oran Alston Rives, who defied the wishes of his father and joined the Union Army. Even in his case there is no known evidence that his views were antislavery as opposed to pro-union. With

this exception, Marium's actions appear totally contrary to the political views of her husband's extensive family, which is likely an additional explanation of why she waited until her death to provide for the emancipation of her slaves.

What motivated Marium's plan to free these people? She was, as we know from her tombstone and obituary, a devoted Baptist. Yet that denomination was not known to be opposed to slavery, as were the Quakers who lived nearby her home. She was a part of the Sandy Creek Association of Baptists, and that group had been long on record as desirous of ameliorating the conditions of slavery but not necessarily opposing the institution of slavery itself. As historian Guion Griffis Johnson documented, the Sandy Creek Association had adopted as early as 1815 a policy condemning the buying or selling of slaves for profit. However, by 1845, the Association joined fellow Baptists in the South in splitting the denomination from their northern associates and forming the Southern Baptist Convention. Still, Bassett explains that some antislavery impulse existed with Baptists despite the hardening social context, citing as evidence of that impulse and of that context that:

In 1835 the Sandy Creek Association spoke still more emphatically. It said: “WHEREAS, We believe it inconsistent with the spirit of the gospel of Christ for a Christian to buy or sell negroes for the purpose of speculation or merchandise for gain. Resolved, therefore, that this association advise the churches of which it is composed to exclude members who will not abandon the practice after the first and second admonition.”

When in 1847 the Association was asked if it was agreeable to the gospel for Baptists to buy and sell human beings or to keep them in bondage for life, the only answer

vouchsafed was to refer the interrogators to the minutes of 1835. The slavery dispute was then well-nigh in its stage of highest passion, and it is likely that the Church authorities did not like to take a more definite position on either the first or second part of the query.

Marium's home in western Chatham County (and other plantation property in eastern Randolph County) was in territory adjacent to a large Quaker population, however, and as historians have documented, the area had both an antislavery bent (largely out of sympathy for white labor rather than based on empathy for the plight of the slave) and, within a few short years, was the site of numerous efforts by the Confederate state government to root out deserters from the Southern army and to punish “disloyalists” to the Confederate war on the United States. Though there is no direct evidence of Marium's motivations, it is likely that her religious beliefs and her location proximate to sentiments against slavery may have influenced her decision to set the families under her control free of bondage, to finance and legally secure their transportation to Ohio, and to there provide them with some financial support for their futures.

That decision required careful planning and attention to detail. After Marium's death in September 1855, it took Marley, as her executor, forty-four long and arduous months to collect on debts and pay creditors, the accounting of which effort required estate papers some 154 pages long, and to make the other arrangements necessary to carry out Marium's wishes. To assure that other potential heirs of Marium Alston did not attempt to invalidate or make claims against her will, Marley filed and advertised in local papers a “bill of complaint against” multiple poten-

tial claimants “praying for a construction of the Will of Miriam P. Alston, and an account and settlement of the plaintiff's administration of her will as her testator.” The law at the time made slaves emancipated by will subject to claims of creditors and executors were prohibited from emancipating any enslaved person under the directions of a last will and testament before the expiration of two years from and after the probate of the will.

Per Marium's wishes, Marley hired out the to-be-freed people, paid for their clothing and board, and accounted for their earnings and expenses as part of the estate. Eventually, he had made all the legal arrangements, including getting court permission to take the slaves north.

He purchased the supplies and wagons needed for transportation, and on April 23, 1859, probably in frail health himself, Marley drew up a power of attorney and entrusted the supervision of the slaves' arduous journey to Ohio to his son, Dr. Henry B. Marley, who freed them there on May 31, 1859. Within six months Jesse Marley was dead. While it fell to the son to accompany the slaves legally owned by his father to Ohio, Jesse Marley had worked diligently to fulfill the wishes of Marium Alston.

The area of Ohio to which the Alston slaves traveled was an important Underground Railroad station, through which it is said that many runaway slaves made their way to Canada to freedom. However, it must have been somewhat unusual for a large group of slaves to be brought to the area to be freed, as the Alston slaves' journey attracted some press attention in Ohio. The Columbus Citizens Journal, May 20, 1859, reported: “On Tuesday last, thirty negroes from North Carolina, who had lately been emancipated by their master, passed through this city, on their way, as

they said, to the northern part of this county, where they intend settling... In our humble opinion the county is none the gainer by this increase in the population.”

The story concludes next week.

About the authors

Steve Brooks is a native of Siler City, where he lived until age 18, when he went to college in Chapel Hill. He now lives in Durham. He has maintained an interest in Chatham history and people and is a member of the Chatham County Historical Association. He holds a Masters degree in American History, and his specialty was race relations both before and after the Civil War. Bev Wiggins contacted him about the Marium Alston story, and together they began a lengthy process of piecing together the details of what happened.

Wiggins has lived in Chatham County, near Bynum, since 1978. Before her retirement she worked at UNC's Odum Institute for Research in Social Science. She has been involved for many years in the Chatham County Historical Association (CCHA) and currently serves as the website coordinator and maintains the Association's Facebook page. She became intrigued by the story of Marium Alston, having seen a posting about the Ohio marker by Sue Ashby. That story, especially in these times of renewed focus on racial justice, is a relevant and important piece of Chatham County history. But it has remained obscure until now. The authors hope that the people of Chatham will be inspired by reading this previously unknown episode of our past and that telling Marium's story will help her take a deserved place among historical Chatham County figures.

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Kristian Eanes' 'crazy' summer as a basketball player turned frontline caregiver

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Kristian Eanes was in a unique situation this spring.

Her classes at Queens University of Charlotte went on-line. Her in-person duties as a residential adviser evaporated. And the sport that first brought her to the school — basketball — was a no-go. Eanes, the Royals' 5-foot-7 starting point guard and leading scorer at 16.8 points per game, was without a hoop and didn't shoot for a month and a half.

But as a nursing major, her new obligations were only beginning.

Eanes, a 2017 Northwood graduate, landed a job in April with the North Carolina branch of Home Instead Senior Care, which provides services to senior facilities across the state.

With an official title of caregiver, Eanes has alternated work at two senior facilities near her home in Pittsboro during the coronavirus pandemic. Add in her Queens-related duties — online classes, final exams, make-do workouts and summer school — and it's made for a busy few months.

"Crazy," she said.

Eanes, 21, started out on a 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. shift and worked four days a week, sometimes on weekends. She remembers her first month as especially hectic — temperature checks, a constant flow of hand sanitizer and getting asked what felt like "a million questions every day" by screeners. Before stepping foot in her home after shifts, she'd change clothes entirely and toss her scrubs in the washer.

An adjustment, sure, but one she was happy to make. To Eanes, helping others has never been a chore.

Growing up in Pittsboro, she watched her mother, Karla, now the principal at Chatham Central, act as a "natural caregiver" to older relatives who lived nearby. Once she was a teenager, Eanes started tagging along more and more. Her older sister, Cierra McEachern, is also a registered nurse.



Submitted photo

Kristian Eanes, 21, said her two main duties as a caregiver are 'personal daily care and companionship.'

"I kind of grew a passion for it: helping others in their most vulnerable times," Eanes said.

In her current role, it didn't take long to realize how the coronavirus pandemic had affected residents. Alongside her standard duties of daily personal care, Eanes said she's also relied on for "companionship." Her interpersonal skills as an RA at Queens didn't hurt there.

She'd check in on residents whose family members could no longer visit and offer a sympathetic ear to people who, just like her and everyone else, were scared. One resident liked to stay informed — "What did the news say today? Are we still in Phase One?" — so Eanes made sure she was always up to date on the latest state and national guidelines.

"Most of us could still go to the grocery stores — simple things," she said. "It wasn't in their best interest to do so. Things that we didn't really have to worry about, they did. Being that companion and reassurer for them was important."

As for her stance on masks, which Gov. Roy Cooper mandated across the state last week? Proudly non-negotiable. It's a "respect thing," she said, and a simple way to help curb the spread of COVID-19 while looking out for at-risk groups, such as the elderly/geriatric



Cory Guinn/Queens University Athletics

Eanes averaged a team-high 16.8 points for Queens as a junior.

and immuno-compromised.

"My first shift, I had to wear a mask seven hours straight," Eanes said. "Think about the nurses and the doctors in the hospital who are working 12-hour shifts. If you can't wear a mask for 30 minutes to go into the grocery store or wherever you need to go, then you really need to take a look at your inner self."

Eanes, a rising senior, has worked fewer hours in recent weeks — 11 a.m. to 3 or 4 p.m., still four days a week — and recently finished her summer school classes. So she's using her extra free time to get into more of a rhythm workout-wise. If this were a normal year, she'd be back at Queens for summer conditioning now, with ample gym and weight room space at her disposal.

Here in Pittsboro, neither she nor her longtime friend/neighbor Jazmie Atkins, another Northwood alum who played at the University of Mobile in Alabama, has a basketball hoop at their house. They've been relegated to nearby goals at a local park, which recently reopened. With no free weights, they've focused on body-weight exercises and done a lot of running.



Cory Guinn/Queens University Athletics

At Northwood, Eanes was a two-time all-conference selection and also played volleyball and ran track.

"You just have to get it how you get it," Eanes said.

Given that she's a dedicated planner who swore by a color-coded calendar and sticky notes to stay on top of her many obligations at Queens, a Division II private school, Eanes said she's handled her new normal pretty well.

She still uses a sticky note a night — turquoise-colored, lined like a sheet of notebook paper — to write out the tasks in front of her the next day and crosses off each one as she completes it.

"Even when I don't have anything to do," she said last Tuesday. "That's how you know it's an addiction. Today, I was like, 'OK: team meeting at 10:45, volunteer at 12, nails done at 1.'"

For a basketball player now handing out a different kind of assist, it's her way of maintaining routine in a situation that's been anything but.

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

In wake of racial injustice protests, sports offer a platform for 'tough' and necessary conversations

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — As an athletic director, Dena Floyd doesn't shy away from communication.

Calls. Texts. Board meetings. Preliminary emails. It's how she keeps the athletic department at Woods Charter School in compliance and running smoothly.

Floyd, a Black woman, is much less used to bringing that same level of communication to her personal life. But since late May, when people across the country began protesting in reaction to George Floyd's death in Minneapolis, she's found herself in conversation after conversation on police brutality, systemic injustice, white privilege and more.

"I don't call people all the time to talk about my emotions," Floyd said. "It's tiring, but at the same time, I feel like it's needed, and I'm not going to back away from it. Because this has been going on for such a long time."

Over the last month, she's touched base with teammates from the University of Florida, where she was a four-year starter in soccer; coworkers from Stanford and N.C. State, where she previously coached; and administration at Woods Charter, a predominantly white K-12 school just inside the Chatham County line.

Her Facebook page, usually filled with photos of her 5-year-old son, Jase, now includes a mix of articles and videos she's found helpful — recently, she's shared a lot of work from Emmanuel Acho, a former NFL linebacker and current TV analyst who started the YouTube series "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man."

"You might hear some people who are Black saying it's up to



Woods Charter athletic director Dena Floyd, 38, said raising her son, Jase, who's now 5 years old, has been a 'game-changer' for her in how she thinks about race, racism and implicit bias.

white people to figure it out, to do their research," Floyd said. "For me, being an educator and being an athletic director, my platform is, 'Hey here are the resources I've used' — because I don't know everything either."

Floyd, 38, isn't the only local leader who's touched on issues of race and racism in the last month, but she's quickly become a prominent one — especially in Chatham County athletics, where coaches and players have also made their voices heard.

The role of sports in all of it? It has a knack, Floyd said, for bringing people together — and that's the perfect context for initiating talks on police brutality, systemic injustice and more.

"We can have these conversations because we know each other," she said. "They might be tough conversations, but why not have them?"

'Praying for change'

In nearby Siler City, Jayden Davis is also doing his part.

The 17-year-old rising senior at Jordan-Matthews has gone to both of the area's major protests. And he's spent more time talking about race with classmates and his teammates on the football and boys basketball teams than ever before.

"Every little bit helps," Davis, who is Black, said. "I've just been praying about it, too, you know? Praying for change. Doing as much as I can."

Davis struggled through the cell phone video of George



Submitted photos

Floyd's death on May 25, in which Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin (since charged with second-degree murder) knelt on Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes. The ignorance displayed there, Davis said — especially as Floyd cried out "I can't breathe" — left him in "so much shock and disbelief." Activism was an easy decision.

"I wanted to participate because it means something," Davis said. "This is my family, my people, my culture."

Davis attended the county's two main protests: a march at noon in downtown Siler City on June 5, and an afternoon gathering at the Chatham County Justice Center in Pittsboro on June 6. Both of those protests

were noticeably diverse — something Davis saw as a good sign and a reminder to Black people that "it's not just us" fighting for change.

This month, he's also kept the conversation going on social media, where he's tried to serve as an educator and listener. When Davis sees hurtful posts from other students or community members — "Black lives don't matter," one of them read — he'll reach out.

"The most I can do is just text them, try to explain," Davis said. "But half the time, that doesn't do anything. Half the time they'll probably just leave it on read, leave the (Snapchat) open. They don't care."

See **PROTESTS**, page B2

Town approves first public park built by Chatham Park



Rendering courtesy Chatham Park Investors

A rendering of the park at The Vineyard in Pittsboro including a view of the play area for 2- to 5-year-olds and a splash pad and a play area for older

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham Park is about to break ground on the first of seven public parks it will build before handing them over to the Town of Pittsboro.

The 10-acre park is expected to cost Chatham Park’s developers about \$2 million to build and is being constructed adjacent to the Vineyards, a community off Thompson Street the company is also building.

The plan for the park, approved unanimously by the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners with some caveats on June 22, will include several individual play areas geared toward specific age groups, a dog park, a shelter, a grill area, an amphitheater and a multi-purpose play field the size of a high school soccer field. The plan also calls for a splash pad, but since the slated date for the opening of the park is this September — when those features are typically being readied for winterizing — that feature will be installed in the spring of 2021.

Chatham Park is a 7,000-acre planned development community in Pittsboro which is expected

to take 30 years to construct. As part of the agreement the developer has with the town, the company is to construct seven parks at approved locations, spending a minimum of \$500,000 each. The parks are then to be turned over to the town to be publicly owned and utilized. The first park, according to that document, was to be built within three years of the 1,500th house in the “park service planning area.”

Though Chatham Park has only broken ground on fewer than 30 homes so far, it requested building the park sooner because “buyers want to see recreational amenities now, not the promise of future amenities to come,” according to planning documents. The company, acknowledging that “revenues from Chatham Park growth have only begun to be realized,” proposed building the park and owning and maintaining it for a year while allowing it to be used for all residents.

The plans for the park were provided to the town in August 2019 to request the board of commissioners consider whether or not to approve the park. In January of this year, the board agreed to the location of the park, but the final plans were

approved two weeks ago.

The planning document included comments from staff regarding the request to build a park in advance of the previously agreed three years of the 1,500th home. Though the plan fulfilled all obligations of both town ordinances and Chatham Park elements, staff raised concerns about the town’s ability to finance maintenance of the park after Chatham Park hands over ownership a year after completion. The was also a question about what a “year” of maintenance may be, as the splash pad will not be completed until Memorial Day weekend in 2021.

During the June 22 meeting, Chuck Smith, the vice president of planning for Preston Development, the company managing the project, said the company was open to discuss ownership timelines as well as maintenance schedules, which will include a year from the opening of the splash pad.

Chatham Park had also presented the board with estimates of revenues from Chatham Park, saying the first five years were likely the most accurate. Smith believed that those estimates demonstrated that revenue would more than cover

the maintenance costs involved. In addition, Smith noted that the estimated costs for Chatham Park to maintain the park — close to \$100,000 — was much higher than the town would have to pay as the company would need to use private contractors. Doing the work “in-house,” with town staff as happens at other town facilities, should incur less of a cost. Bearing that in mind, he said the company would also be willing to review both the revenues and the expected costs of maintenance after one year, all the while having the park viewed a “public” with access for all residents.

Town staff also had concerns about the overall cost of the park as compared to the \$3.5 million cap for parks built by Chatham Park as listed. During that June meeting, Smith said Chatham Park had made a “commitment” to invest no less than \$500,000 for each park. He noted that he would be willing to work with the town for language in the elements that would make that commitment more clear.

The staff and several commissioners asked about the rules governing the park, specifically when it came to the dog park. Smith noted that those rules were up to the

town to determine. There was some discussion among the commissioners as to whether a “key fob” program should be established to ensure those who access the dog park have pets who have been properly vaccinated. That point was quickly set aside in order to ensure that all residents had access to all of the amenities of the park.

At the end of the discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve the park with the caveat that the timelines of exchange of ownership, amount of time of maintenance and rules of the park to be established by the town, be put in place while the park is under construction. In addition, the town will need to decide on an appropriate name for the park.

“The creation of the first park in Chatham Park is an investment in the town that will benefit future generations for years to come” Smith told the News + Record after the meeting. “Recreation and open space amenities that can be used by all provides a much needed community focal point and addresses our goals for social equity in an innovative way.”

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

PROTESTS

Continued from page B1

He’s quick to note that he’s only referring to “certain people” and “it’s not every cop and it’s not everybody” who’s being racist or prejudiced. Davis said his non-Black basketball and football teammates, who are “like a family,” have stood in solidarity with him and other Black players.

Still, it bugs him that he can only do so much. Racism is taught, Davis said, and the key to dismantling it is taking a serious look at life from a different perspective, such as his.

Davis, who personally has never had a police interaction, admitted he fears such moments “because you never know what’s going to happen.” He has advised his 12-year-old sister and younger cousins on how to act in public (“Don’t do anything off the wall, anything that can risk your life”) and what to do in a police interaction (“Just cooperate”).

A perspective like that, he said, is valuable. He can offer it, but the final step — actually taking it into account and learning — is something he can’t control.

“People aren’t going

to change unless they’re willing to,” Davis said. For that, he prays.

‘Felt wrong not to speak up’

At Northwood High in Pittsboro, boys basketball coach Matt Brown and baseball coach David Miller, both white men, have voiced their support for the Black Lives Matter movement on the team Twitter accounts they manage.

Miller, 46, said it was the first time he’d spoken out publicly as an ally. After George Floyd’s death, he spent a few weeks listening to Black people’s personal experiences with racism and police brutality — through articles, podcasts, tweets and more — to better inform himself.

“The more I listened and learned, it just felt wrong not to speak up,” he said in an email. “I wanted the young people that I lead to know where I stand.”

Floyd, the Woods Charter athletic director, said uncomfortable conversations — like the ones Miller is now seeking out with his family, friends, neighbors and coworkers — are necessary for growth.

In recent weeks, she’s rehashed to colleagues how implicit racism has affected her life,

detailing a lack of Black women in soccer for her to look up to as a child; micro-aggressions such as comments on her hair and body as she grew up in predominantly white Midlothian, Virginia; and the time a white person asked her father how much he was being paid to mow the large lawn of the house he’d owned for years. As a mother, she’s already starting to worry about her son, too.

“That’s what goes through the back of my mind,” Floyd said of her 5-year-old. “He has to be perfect, you know? He has to get it together ... he’s going to be considered a threat (when he’s older and taller) even if he does everything right.”

Deeply ingrained issues like that and their roots aren’t quick fixes, she said, and the last month has been a tiring one for her. But she’s also been motivated by some of the small, tangible steps made in her circles at Florida, Woods Charter and beyond.

“At the end of the day, you need to have these conversations,” Floyd said. “It’s best to be open about it.”

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@chapel_fowler](https://twitter.com/@chapel_fowler).



CN+R file photo

Jordan-Matthews' Jayden Davis, pictured here in a Jan. 28 game against Ramseur, said 'every little bit helps' in combatting racism. Davis, 17, is a rising senior.

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RACIAL JUSTICE IN CHATHAM

Task force to lead 'community conversation'

Goals: to explore disparities, eliminate gaps in equality

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN

News + Record Staff

The Racial Justice Task Force of the 18th Judicial District is partnering with Chatham government and nonprofit leaders to host a virtual community conversation on racial justice in Chatham's criminal justice system on July 10.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic and limits on gathering sizes, the event will take place over the Zoom videoconference platform from 10 a.m. to 11:30. Pre-registration for the event is required, but anyone who registers can attend.

Several public officials and community members — including state Rep. Robert Reives II, Chatham Sheriff Mike Roberson and Hispanic Liaison founder Ilana Dubester — will speak about racial justice from their perspectives. Following the speakers, facilitators will invite Chatham residents to join the discussion.

Founded in 2015, the Racial Justice Task Force works to understand how racial minorities are disproportionately represented in the criminal and juvenile justice system.

Karen Howard, chairman of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and one of the scheduled speakers at the event, said she's grateful for the opportunity to have a collaborative conversation with people involved in different racial justice efforts in the community.

"My hope is that we will hear things from each other that are helpful but that also that we will not look at this as a one-off event — that we will recognize that there's work to be done

and we probably need to keep having these kinds of conversations, and perhaps even committees arise out of those conversations that do work, research and bring information back to the groups represented by the speakers," she said.

Guided discussion in the event will include focus on:

- The causes of race-based disparities in criminal justice
- Filling systemic and institutional gaps to eliminate inequality
- Using data to understand and eliminate inequality
- Setting public goals for Chatham County to achieve.

For more information, or to participate in the event, go to:

<https://unc.zoom.us/j/6406611111>

Others scheduled to speak at the event include Stephanie Terry, Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity (C.O.R.E.); Mary Nettles, president, NAACP Chatham Community Branch in Pittsboro; Janeallen Wilson, director of training, N.C. Victim Assistance Network; and Del Turner, a member of the Chatham County Board of Education.

On July 4, the week before the Zoom event, the Rev. Curtis Everette Gatewood has planned a demonstration at Pittsboro's Justice Center. Gatewood, a former high-profile NAACP member who was suspended from the national organization after allegations of sexual misconduct, is calling his event — announced on Facebook — "Stand Against White Supremacist Terrorism." It's set to begin at 10 a.m.

Gatewood, who has led a

number of "Stop Killing Us" marches in recent weeks, wrote on his Facebook page that attendees "will exercise our 'right to peacefully assemble' near the place in Pittsboro, NC, where on 6/17/20, certain women and other attendees, were violently attacked with hockey sticks attached to large confederate flags, as they attempted to exercise their right to freely protest, and exercise their 'freedom of speech' against the injustices we blatantly see occurring throughout our nation."

"Why Pittsboro?" he wrote in the post. "Because, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said it best, 'a threat to justice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' Further, God ask that our ministries 'go ye into all the world.'"

Neither Chatham NAACP branch is affiliated with Gatewood or sponsoring the event.

"I have found no group in Chatham County who has stepped forward to say they invited Rev. Gatewood or is sponsoring any event on July 4," said Bob Pearson, a member of NAACP Chatham Community Branch who is working with the Equal Justice Initiative to memorialize Chatham's six lynching victims.

Still, Howard said she hopes the July 4 event will be a positive opportunity to inform and engage the community.

"There is absolutely every opportunity for that right now — we are in a moment we can either let slip by or we can use for the good, or we can throw something on the flames and stoke them without really addressing the matter," she said. "I hope that would not be anyone's goal."

Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com.

New equipment helps deputies find missing woman

BY CASEY MANN

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — A recent investment in handheld thermal imaging scopes to aid in search and rescue operations just paid big dividends for the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies two weeks ago used the equipment to find a woman who suffered from dementia who'd wandered away from her home.

On the evening of June 17, a 911 call came into the sheriff's office about a missing woman. The woman — whose family requested her name not be used because of her condition — had been suffering from dementia for six years. She would often walk around the yard aimlessly and walk down their driveway in the past. Her husband told the News + Record she "wanders sometimes" and as a result, he'd placed deadbolts on all the doors of the house.

On that Wednesday, the husband sat down in a chair in his living room, regrouping before heading back outside, and fell asleep.

He had forgotten to deadbolt one door, and when he woke, his wife was gone.

Living in a rural area in Siler City, the husband said he jumped into his golf cart to search for his wife, but couldn't find her. He called 911 to help. Several deputies arrived at the scene. Deputies at the scene called in additional resources, including a search dog and a request for a search helicopter from the State Highway Patrol. At the same time, two deputies began searching the area equipped with a Leupold LTO Tracker 2 HD Thermal Viewer.

The device — which cannot see through buildings, but detects heat signatures — is marketed to hunters to find deer and other game in low light. They're about 5 inches long, weigh about 7 ounces and retail for more than \$1,500 each. The sheriff's office acquired enough to provide at least one deputy on duty with a device at all times. It purchased around 10 of them in bulk for just over \$500 each. That number of imagers allows for there to be at least one patrol car equipped with the device at all times.

The husband of the missing woman described them as "flares," saying he'd used similar but more powerful thermal imagers while serving in Vietnam.

The deputies used the thermal imager to spot the missing woman's heat source on the edge of the woods behind another home about a half mile from her house.

"If it hadn't been for the flare, I don't think we would have found her," her husband said.

When found, the woman was a bit cold and had some bug bites, but was no worse for wear, according to her husband. And the deputies were able to call off the search helicopter before it even took off in Raleigh, according to the police narrative.

The woman's husband was very grateful to the Chatham County deputies for finding his wife and for "how professional" they were. He said the equipment "already paid for itself" in saving his wife's life. He also noted that with the prevalence of dementia in his and his wife's generation, he believes the thermal imager is "something I'm sure they're going to need more and more."

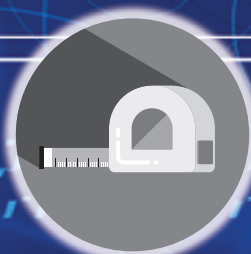
"I would hope that eventually they have one with just about every officer or maybe every group of officers, especially in certain parts of the county," he said. "That way they wouldn't have to wait for someone to come from another part of the county. And it's not that expensive compared to other equipment they have."

Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson said he was excited to be able to use the technology to locate missing people outdoors at night — when they might otherwise be impossible to find.

"Finding missing people quickly usually leads to a better outcome and fewer injuries," Roberson said. "I'm glad that we were able to get (the missing woman) home safely to her family and very grateful for the other agencies that were willing to lend us a hand in searching the woods to look for her. With this technology, we were able to keep the rescuers safe, too."

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

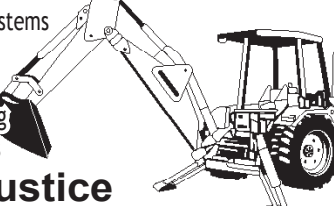
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20 questions and a corresponding number of answers, Part 1

Virginia Willis is a chef’s chef. Everyone has watched a show she had a hand in. She’s worked with names like Julia Child, Bobby Flay and Nathalie Dupree. She is the author of multiple cookbooks and the winner of a James Beard Award.

For the final chef in our “Many Questions” series, Willis agreed to an expanded 20 questions edition. They will appear next week. We’ll start with her thoughts on the Fourth.

For now, thought, an extra credit question: What’s the perfect Fourth of

Virginia Willis’ baby back ribs.

Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

July menu?
Here’s her response:
• In order of preference would be whole hog BBQ, smoked port butt, and baby back pork ribs as the meaty main.
• Grilled herbed vegetables including zucchini, squash, eggplant, and okra.
Corn on the cob with compound butters.
• Summer salads such as tomatoes, cucumbers and vidalia onions; home-made potato salad punched up with vinegar, mustard, mayonnaise, onion, and lots of herbs; and crisp green or kale salad
• Peach cobbler with homemade peach or vanilla ice cream
Thanks for your time.

Contact me at debbie@bullcity.mom.



Virginia Willis’ BBQ Baby Back Ribs

Serves 4 to 6

1/4 cup packed light brown sugar	granulated garlic (garlic powder)	red pepper flakes
1/4 cup sweet paprika	1 tablespoon freshly ground black pepper	2 racks baby back ribs (23/4-3 pounds total)
2 tablespoons coarse kosher salt	1 tablespoon piment d’espelette, or Aleppo pepper or crushed	Tangy barbecue sauce (recipe follows), for serving
1 tablespoon		

Use fork to stir together brown sugar, paprika, salt, granulated garlic, black pepper, and red pepper. The yield is 3/4-cup.

Rub each set of baby back ribs with 1/2 cup rub. Set aside to come to room temperature, 30 minutes. (This can be done a day ahead for deeper flavor: rub the ribs with the rub and place in a resealable plastic container, or wrap in plastic wrap. If you use plastic wrap, make sure to place the wrapped ribs on a rimmed baking sheet to catch any seeping liquid due to salt in rub. Refrigerate overnight.)

For BBQ on Grill:

Set grill indirect cooking at 250°F using woodchips for flavor, if desired. (Apple, cherry and hickory are good, but stay away from mesquite.) For chips, soak them in water for at least an hour. Then, wrap in double layer of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Place foil-wrapped chips on coals.

Add ribs, meat side up. Close lid and cook, flipping occasionally, until meat is smoky and just tender, 1 hour. If desired, about 45 minutes into cooking, brush spareribs with tangy barbecue sauce and continue cooking until sauce is nicely caramelized and meat is completely tender, about 15 minutes. (Don’t put the sauce on too early or it will burn.)

Remove from rack to clean work surface. Let rest for a few minutes then slice and serve with lots of napkins!

Virginia Willis’ Tangy BBQ Sauce

Makes about 6 1/2 cups.

1/2 cup vegetable oil	distilled white vinegar	2 tablespoons freshly ground black pepper, or to taste
1 sweet onion, very finely chopped	1/2 cup Worcestershire sauce	1 teaspoon cayenne pepper, or to taste
2 1/2 cups ketchup	1/4 cup Dijon mustard	Coarse salt
2 cups apple cider or Juice of 2 lemons	2 tablespoons firmly packed brown sugar	

In saucepan, heat oil over medium heat; add onions and simmer until soft and melted, 5 to 7 minutes. Add ketchup, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, brown sugar, lemon juice, black pepper, and cayenne pepper.

Bring to boil, decrease heat to low, and simmer until flavors have smoothed and mellowed, at least 10, and up to 30 minutes. Taste and adjust for seasoning with salt and pepper. Store in airtight container in refrigerator. It will last for months.

County health board recognizes employee, community partners

CN + R Staff Reports

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Health recognized one individual and two community partners with its annual awards in recognition for their efforts to advance health in Chatham County.

The awards were presented by Chatham County Board of Health Chairperson Carol Reitz-Barlow during the board’s meeting on June 22.

Dorothy Rawleigh, a childcare health consultant with the Chatham County Public Health Department, was named the department’s 2020 Employee of the Year for her “tireless efforts to keep Chatham’s youngest residents healthy.” Rawleigh, who will complete her sixth year with the county in July, collaborates with child care programs and community partners

to create healthier child care environments and develop community wide policies and programs that benefit the health of young children.

The 2020 Partnership of the Year Award was shared between two community partners, both in appreciation for their work responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chatham County Emergency Management, represented by director Steve Newton, was chosen “for co-leading the COVID-19 response and continuous support of public health emergency preparedness.” Emergency Management has played a role in many aspects of the COVID-19 response, including the collection and distribution of personal protective equipment and leading weekly coordinating meetings with stakeholders.

UNC Health, repre-

sented by UNC Health Vice President Meghan McCann and Chatham Hospital CEO Jeff Strickler, was chosen “for ongoing support in Chatham County’s COVID-19 response and providing crucial services to the Chatham community.”

“Chatham Hospital and all of UNC Health are so appreciative of this recognition and would like to highlight the community partnerships that have enabled and supported these initiatives to improve the health of Chatham County residents,” Strickler said. “We look forward to continuing these valued collaborations in the months to come.”

Throughout the pandemic, UNC Health has provided critical testing capacity to the Chatham community and played a leadership role in responding to cases in long-

term care facilities. The award nomination also highlighted UNC Health’s efforts to bring labor and delivery services back to Chatham County.

“All award recipients are incredibly deserving

of recognition,” said Mike Zelek, Chatham County’s interim public health director. “UNC Health and Chatham County Emergency Management have been critical partners for many years and especial-

ly as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dorothy has worked tirelessly to promote health in early childhood and continues to be a valued resource for child care facilities across the county.”



UNC Health, including Chatham Hospital in Siler City, was one of two winners of the Partnership of the Year award from the Chatham County Board of Health presented June 22.

Submitted photo



Submitted photo

Chatham County Emergency Management was one of two winners of the Partnership of the Year award from the Chatham County Board of Health presented June 22. Pictured are Steve Newton (right), Emergency Management Director, and Colby Sawyer, Emergency Management Specialist.

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CCCC Early Childhood Education grads continue educations

CN + R Staff Reports

SANFORD — Kassandra De Jesus and Victoria Glover-Smith both know about supporting their children, working and earning an education.

Both are graduates of the Central Carolina Community College Early Childhood Education program and both recently completed their Bachelor's degrees at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Both women want to become teachers.

"As a child, I enjoyed pretending to teach my brother and sister with a board and a marker," said De Jesus, who learned about the CCCC Early Childhood Education program from Ginger Harris Bartholomew, CCCC's Education Department Chairperson. "I had just become a mother and my childhood dream became

a possibility for my future." Glover-Smith noted that when she was young, she would babysit for her cousins. "As I got older, I decided that I wanted to work with children. I feel that I can make a difference in the lives of children," she said.

Kassandra De Jesus

De Jesus, of Sanford, studied Birth through Kindergarten with teacher licensure at UNCCG.

De Jesus said her favorite part of teaching is being able to see a child's face through an "ah-ha" moment — "the moment of sudden, joyful discovery. It feels good knowing that when you come home, you've had a productive day making a positive impact in a family's life."

De Jesus noted that working and continuing

your education can be difficult and draining.



De Jesus

"You can be at work and rushing to go home for a synchronous class or stay up almost all night when you have 'free' time to ensure there's time for studying and the assignments are done thoroughly," she said. "Especially in an educator's field, work feels like it's never really done. The students in your classroom are constantly on your mind and how to improve your teaching to reach each child the next day."

De Jesus said she enjoyed how supportive the professors and the people were for the students during her educational journey at CCCC.

"The class sizes were small and communicating with advisors and professors was relaxed but prompt," she said. "My CCCC education benefited my career by preparing me for the classroom and higher education."

"I knew Kassandra was special from the first evening class I had her as a student. She is so full of life and passion for young children," said Harris Bartholomew. "Through it all, she pushed forward and excelled. I couldn't be more proud of her. She is an excellent teacher and an inspiration to so many others."

De Jesus adds: "Any step that you take into improving your life is a step in the right direction. It may take part-time hours, taking some time off and then starting again, or changing your initial path, but do not give up. Believe in yourself."

Victoria Glover-Smith

Glover-Smith, of Siler City, got her UNCCG degree in Human Development and Family Studies. Her plan includes applying for a teaching position as well as going back to school for Social Work studies.



Glover-Smith

What does she enjoy about teaching?

"Getting to know each child as an individual and using the knowledge that I have to help them develop and grow to become OUR future," she said.

Glover-Smith noted of her challenges of working while seeking a higher education, "Being a single mom, it was challenging — but I pushed through. Many long days

and nights, but I was determined to finish and provide my children with a better life."

Glover-Smith said her educational journey at CCCC was enhanced by the willingness of educators to work with her to help her be successful. "It pushed me to be a better teacher and to be willing to gain as much knowledge as I can to share with the students," she said.

"Victoria is a delightful woman dedicated to the field of education. She has worked her way through college, while raising her children. She puts others first and works to make a difference in the lives of children," said Harris Bartholomew.

Glover-Smith advises to never give up on your dreams. She adds: "Your dreams are what make you special."

To learn more about Central Carolina Community College, visit www.cccc.edu.

Fruitful vegetables

I was excited to catch up with John Davis over the week-end. He and his wife Jean live in Pittsboro, where he's a retired automation systems engineer from the pharmaceutical industry. His formative years were profound in shaping John into the renaissance man



DOLLY R. SICKLES

The Optimistic Gardener

he is today: he's a pilot, a tinkerer, an innovator... and a kindred optimistic gardener.

John got his first taste of farming through his parents, who studied agriculture at Iowa State in the early 1950s. They were lay missionaries for the United Methodist Church in Lins, Brazil from 1953 through 1970, and his father, Bob, ran a farm that fed seminary students. Though Bob wasn't ordained, he was connected to the land and the people he served. He was forward thinking and a champion of the people in his community. In

addition to supporting the seminary students, Bob ran a Methodist Institute that taught local women to farm. On Saturday mornings when the local women were working their small plots, John was working alongside them on his own plot. "He never wanted to go in as this outsider expert and change everything," John said of his father. "He always marveled at Brazilian ingenuity."

That ingenuity struck a chord with the Davis family. Bob introduced a variety of grass to Brazil that's still referred to as 'Bob Davis Grass,'



John Davis, another optimistic gardener.

Photo courtesy of Dolly Sickles

and John went on to innovate systems in the pharmaceutical industry. In retirement, John still relies on ingenuity. His mind works like an engineer, and when the he decided to start a garden here in Chatham County, John approached it like a puzzle.

"Patience is important in farming because you're not always going to be successful on your first try," said John. "I remember getting upset and dad said, 'this is how nature works.' He was a big proponent of amending the soil and composting. His gardens were never fancy—they were wild."

I'd say Bob's style of gardening was pretty much a mantra for his family. John uses the foundational knowledge of gardening he gleaned from his dad for his plot here in Chatham County. Using a combination of raised beds and in ground patches, this year's garden has kicked off with a bang.

"Stuff that needs lots of real estate—watermelon, cantaloupe, zucchini, sweet potatoes—are in the ground. I prepped the soil with a big rototiller I call the mule," John said, laughing. "It kicks my butt every time I use it." His other vegetables, like tomatoes, peppers, lettuces, and kale, are in raised beds.

John relies on organic fertilizers to give his blooms a boost. "For my raised beds, I use two different fertilizers. Before they flower, I make up a liquid solution of General

Hydroponics Fertilizer, and then after they flower I use General Hydroponics Flora Nova Bloom. For my tomatoes, specifically, I adjust the pH to 5.9," he said. "For everything in the ground, I use Espoma's Garden Tone."

To combat unwanted bugs and critters, John put up a deer fence that also keeps the rabbits out. He plants marigolds in line with his vegetables to help control bugs. "I don't think I have to eradicate everything," he said of bugs. "It's more important to control than try to annihilate. Me and aphids have this constant battle." To hold the aphids at bay, John uses Safer Brand's Insect Killing Soap; he also looks for eggs on leaves and destroys them by hand. "I squish beetles and anything I find eating my stuff." The gardener in me applauds his all-organic approach to working with Mother Nature; the girl in me leans over and gags at the thought of squishing beetles. I'd say I'm more of a swatter than a squisher.

Perhaps the best implementation of John's engineering ingenuity is his tool shed and watering system. There are no down spouts on their house, so he worked with a landscaping guy to develop scuppers to catch rainwater. He bought a 1,700-gallon underground plastic cistern and installed it inside the garden fence. Water from the scuppers travels from the house to the cistern through underground

pipings, and from there he waters the garden. He built a handmade water level with plumb bob to be able to measure the amount of water is in the cistern. It's a beautiful as it is functional. But it left a big hole in the ground that you can't drive over, so he went to talk to Charles Holland, who has a saw mill this side of Jordan Lake, to learn about pole barn buildings and using notch poles for ceiling joists to hold up the roof.

As John is fond of saying, "Jeitinho brasileiro." His little way of doing things has gotten him far in life, from the Lins of his childhood to his retirement in Pittsboro. He's never far from nature, or the people and projects he loves. You might find him around town, volunteering with Communities in Schools, or out at Charles Holland's place near Jordan Lake. But you will most certainly find him with a smile on his face, and a lightness in his heart. Optimistic gardening, man.. it's good for your soul.

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POLICE REPORTS

FISHING FOR PFAS



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Scott Belcher of SAFE Water N.C. has been fishing to find accumulations of chemicals in fish in the Cape Fear Basin. Here he's at Jordan Lake with his daughters who helped him do his field work. From left, Sarah Patisaul, Zoe Belcher and Scott Belcher

N.C. State researcher angling for answers about pollutant's impact

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

Scott Belcher is fishing to find chemicals in fish, and to help the fisherman who might eat them.

Belcher, a research professor at N.C. State, has been sampling fish in Jordan Lake, the Deep River, the Haw River and other waterways in the Cape Fear basin in order to analyze how much PFAS is in the different tissues of the fish as part of the SAFE Water N.C. program.

PFAS — per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances — have been used in a variety of industrial, agricultural, military and commercial product applications since the 1940s. The same unique properties that made them attractive in those uses, however, makes them a persistent pollutant in the environment.

According to the federal Environmental Protection Agency, PFAS chemicals “are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they don’t break down and they can accumulate over time. There is evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.”

In recent years, PFAS have been making their way into North Carolina’s water systems. The Town of Pittsboro has been working for years to find ways to clean these types of unregulated chemicals from its water system; they’re found at high levels in the Haw River, the source of the town’s drinking water.

Enter Belcher, who’s studied at the Yale University School of Medicine and received a Ph.D. from the University of Texas. He’s working in conjunction with Dr. Heather Stapleton of Duke University, who is studying the effects of these chemicals on residents who are drinking the water. Belcher is sampling fish at the same sites as Stapleton’s team to determine how PFAS bioaccumulate in the fish — not only to see the dynamics of the chemicals from water to fish, but if and how fishermen who eat them may also be affected.

“Angling is the best way to do this,” Belcher said. “We’re trying to get representative fish that anglers are catching and consuming to determine the toxic properties and how they are being consumed.”

Belcher’s goal is to “protect public health with reasonable guidelines on consumption.” This, Belcher said, is especially important for underrepresented communities who may angle and eat fish as a source of food for the home.

COVID-19 has shut down Belcher’s lab — for the moment. He has been unable to test his most

recent catches. Universities across the state have been issuing guidelines on re-opening based on the coronavirus. The N.C. State Office of Research and Innovation outlines the university’s research re-opening which limits the number of people in a lab space at a time. As a result, timelines for research studies have been extended.

But as soon as researchers were “cleared for field work,” in May, he was out catching fish and freezing them for when he has access to the labs again. Once back in the lab, his team will dissect the hundreds of fish they’ve caught from locations all along the Cape Fear Basin.

And once dissected, the fish different parts of the fish — gills, organs, eyes and fillets — will go through a process to determine the chemicals and the concentration of chemicals in the individual parts of the fish.

“We’re working really hard to understand how these toxins are getting into the fish that we are eating,” Belcher said.

Belcher’s previous research has identified high levels of PFAS and other toxins in fish and other wildlife in the food chain in the Cape Fear River Basin, particularly downstream of the Chemours plant in Wilmington — which was found to have been discharging high levels of Gen X, another unregulated chemical — into the Cape Fear River. The health effects for humans resulting



from eating fish containing high levels of these chemicals is in the early stages. Even so, Belcher, who started his science career in medicine, is among a growing number of researchers who studying the effects of these chemicals on the community. The point of which is to help influence regulations and policies that will help improve the health and lives of the communities that rely on fish as a source of food.

And Belcher wants the communities most affected by the project to get involved. As part of the study, Belcher is trying to get anglers who are living or fishing along these waters to answer survey questions about how they fish, where they fish and what type of the fish they are eating. This way, the local community is contributing to the science.

“Making the science really community-based is our goal,” Belcher said. “It’s not just being lab coat wearing academics. It’s really taking care of the communities we live in.”

If you catch or eat fish from waters in the Cape Fear River basin and are between the ages of 18 and 64, you can participate in the anonymous survey about where you fish, what fish you catch or eat and how you prepare fish to eat. This will help guide Belcher to sample for commonly consumed fish to determine PFAS levels in these fish. The survey can be found online at tinyurl.com/safewaterfish. For additional information about the survey or the research, visit the website SAFE-waterNC.org.

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

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Shaneil Taylor, 37, of Bear Creek, was charged June 22 for fail to comply with pretrial release a greement. Taylor was issued a \$1,000 secured bond with a June 22 court date in Pittsboro.

Jermond Freeman, 37, of Chapel Hill, was charged June 23 for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, battery of unborn child, communicating threats and assault on a female. Freeman was jailed on a domestic violence 48-hour hold with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

Kenneth Bass Jr., 18, of Chapel Hill, was charged June 23 for violation of pretrial release. Bass was issued a \$1,800 secured bond with a June 26 court date in Hillsborough.

Connor Cagle, 20, of Pittsboro, was charged June 23 for assault on a female. Cagle was issued a written promise with a July 22 court date in Pittsboro.

Julio Torres, 21, of Sanford, was charged June 24 for second degree kidnapping, robbery with dangerous weapon, breaking & entering and assault by pointing a gun. Torres was issued a \$50,000 secured bond with a July 20 court date in Pittsboro.

John Gardner Jr., 45, of Ramseur, was charged June 24 for obtaining property by false pretense. Gardner was issued a written promise with a June 26 court date in Pittsboro.

Luis Sesmas, 19, of Asheboro, was charged June 24 for assault physical injury on detention employee, resist, delay,

obstruct, assault government official/ employee and injury to personal property. Sesmas was issued a \$25,000 secured bond with a July 20 court date in Hillsborough.

Joshua Franks, 31, of Siler City, was charged June 24 for habitual misdemeanor assault. Franks was issued a \$10,000 secured bond with July 1 court date in Pittsboro.

Tyree Allsbrook, 19, of Apex, was charged June 25 for murder, robbery with dangerous weapon, possession with intent to sell/deliver Schedule VI, conspire to sell/deliver Schedule VI and possession of firearm with altered serial number. Allsbrook was jailed with no bond and has a July 20 court date in Pittsboro.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Baron Barker of Morrisville was cited June 22 for C&R on N.C. Hwy. 751 near Pittsboro.

Tina Beers of Bear Creek was cited June 22 for failure to reduce speed on SR 1006 in Siler City.

Ethan McNeill of Robbins was cited June 26 for yield violation on N.C. Hwy. 42 in Goldston.

Jared Riddle of Fayetteville was cited June 27 for driving while impaired on U.S Hwy. 15 in Pittsboro.

Christopher Dodds of Moncure was cited June 28 for improper passing on SR 1210 in Pittsboro.

Nicholas Seils of Pittsboro was cited June 28 for unsafe movement involving motorcycle/directional signal on SR 1210 in Pittsboro.

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TOWN OF SILER CITY - Treatment Plant Operator (Wastewater Plant) - Performs intermediate technical work in the operation and maintenance of a treatment plant, conducting regular plant inspections and recording readings. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Graduation from high school or high school equivalency. Possession of a valid North Carolina driver's license. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Grade I Wastewater Certification upon hire. Experience in the operation of a wastewater treatment plant including some experience in the operation and maintenance of machinery and equipment. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. - Additional Employment Requirements: Obtain Grade I Wastewater Certification within 6 months of employment. Obtain Grade II Wastewater Certification within 18 months of employment. - Hiring Salary: \$36,000 (entry level/no certification), \$38,250 Grade I Certification, \$40,500 Grade II Certification, \$42,750 Grade III Certification, \$45,000 Grade IV Certification. Please refer to our website for a full job description. -- To Apply: This posting is open until filled. A completed application is required and can be found at www.silercity.org. An application may be mailed or delivered to Debora Ritter at City Hall, 311 N Second Avenue, PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to dritter@silercity.org. Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon conditional job offer. EOE. -- The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. - Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. Jy2,1tc

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of Harold D. McCoy NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of HAROLD D. MCCOY late of 11257 US 15 501 North, Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517, on or before the 12th day of September, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 11th day of June, 2020. Teresa Lynn McCoy Crumley, Executor of the Estate of Harold D. McCoy Dori J. Dixon Schell Bray PLLC Attorney for the Estate 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271 Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517 Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,4tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified on the 3rd day of June, 2020, as Administrator of the Estate of LISA KAY MANSFIELD, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of September, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 5th day of June, 2020. David Mansfield, Administrator of the

Estate of Lisa Kay Mansfield 191 Moncure Flatwood Rd Moncure, NC 27559 Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 115 Chatham Street, Suite 302 Sanford, NC 27330 Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY William Lextor Thompson having qualified as the Administrator CTA of the Estate of JOAN CLARK THOMPSON, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on May 7, 2020, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned attorney of the Personal Representative on or before September 9, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate please make immediate payment. This the 8th day of June, 2020. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. 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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS 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 & Holit, P.A. 8889 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Suite 400 Naples, FL 34018 Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,4tc

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of RACHEL LINDA HILL, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne

Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 18th day of September, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 18th day of June, 2020. Mary Hill Mabe aka Mary Hill Farmer, Executrix, Estate of Rachel Linda Hill Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,Jy9,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons having claims against GREENE FENLEY III aka Greene Fenley aka Greene Fenley II (hereinafter "Greene Fenley III") of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 11th day of March, 2020, are notified to present them to William Greene Fenley, Executor of the Estate of Greene Fenley III in c/o David R. Frankstone, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before September 24, 2020. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Greene Fenley III. Those indebted to Greene Fenley III are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. David R. Frankstone Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,Jy9,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 271 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of PHOEBE MAY MIEDREICH, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims

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against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before September 18, 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 18th day of June, 2020. Co-Executors: 1. Lawrence S. Miedreich 340 High Ridge Lane Pittsboro, NC 27312 2. Nadine S. Miedreich 340 High Ridge Lane Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,Jy9,4tp

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS HAVING QUALIFIED as Administrator of the Estate of AMY ELIZABETH BUCKNER late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having

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claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of September, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
This the 15th day of June, 2020.
Gary Cyr, Administrator of The Estate of Amy Elizabeth Buckner
Post Office Box 1806
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
MOODY, WILLIAMS, ROPER & LEE, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
BOX 1806
PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312
(919) 542-5605
Jn18,Jn25,Jy2,Jy9,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Jane Carroll Livzey having qualified as the Executrix of the Estate of **ROY CARROLL**,

Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on June 17, 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 23, 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 17th 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

Jn25,Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,4tp
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 270
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **MICHAEL RAY KIDD**, 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 25, 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 18th day of June, 2020.
Lauren Rebecca Kidd Punch, Administrator
62 Jubilee Ct.
Clayton, NC 27527
Jn25,Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,4tp

ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law. If the Trustee or Substitute Trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey title include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the sale and reinstatement of the loan without knowledge of the Substitute Trustee(s). If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the Substitute Trustee(s), in its/their sole discretion, if it/they believe(s) the challenge to the sale to have merit, may declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Additional Notice where the Real Property is Residential with less than 15 Rental Units: An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. §45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the Clerk of Superior Court of the County in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the Notice that is at least ten (10) days, but no more than ninety (90) days, after the sale date contained in the Notice of Sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the Notice of Termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of such termination. This is a communication from a debt collector. The purpose of this Communication is to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose, except as stated below in the instance of bankruptcy protection. If you are under the protection of the bankruptcy court or have been discharged as a result of a bankruptcy proceeding, this notice is given to you pursuant to statutory requirement and for informational purposes and is not intended as an attempt to collect a debt or as an act to collect, assess, or recover all or any portion of the debt from you personally.
FN# 3051.01119
Jn25,Jy2,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITOR
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20 E 286
The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **MARY PATTISHALL ALSTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at his address, 54 Pattishall Road, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 25th 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.
This 18th day of June, 2020.
Henry R. Alston
54 Pattishall Road
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
GUNN & MESSICK, LLP
P.O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880
Jn25,Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20 E 287
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the

Estate of **HAROLD E. TRUELOVE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at his address, 2501 Dockery Lane, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27606, on or before the 25th 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.
This 19th day of June, 2020.
Dwight Jones, Executor
2501 Dockery Lane
Raleigh, North Carolina 27606
GUNN & MESSICK, LLP
P. O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880
Jn25,Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,4tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Board of Adjustment will conduct a **public hearing on July 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the City Hall Courtroom located at 311 N. 2nd Ave.** Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following request: Ernest F. Evans requests a variance from §243 to reduce the required vegetative buffer setback from 200 feet to 121.79 feet for a proposed single-family residential dwelling, access drive, and private well. The subject property is located off of Kirkmans Ford Rd & along the Rocky River. The property is identified as Lot 2 in Plat Book 2004, Page 415 & parcel # 82011. The proposed item is available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the application are invited to attend the public hearing and present evidence, arguments, and ask questions of persons who testify on the above referenced item. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such as arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or rhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al rhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.
Jy2,Jy9,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 16th day of June, 2020, as Executrix of the ESTATE OF **PHILIP H. KOHL a/k/a PHILIP HOWARD KOHL**, 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 2ND day of October, 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 2nd day of July, 2020.
MARY S. KOHL, EXECUTRIX
ESTATE OF PHILIP H. KOHL
a/k/a
PHILIP HOWARD KOHL
c/o Jennifer E. Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,4tc
CHATHAM COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
NOTICE OF SERVICE
Robert Terrell III hereby notifies **General Shale Brick Inc.**, all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate; to notice by the adjustments of the court to determine the orders and judgement of claims preceding conditions. The mandated trial merits are fulfilled formulating issues as their prerogative writs.
Robert Terrell III
126 West Presnell Street; Apt c
Asheboro, North Carolina 27203
(910) 580-9261
Robertintel.o@gmail.com
Self-Represented
Jy2-D24,25tp

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20 E 300
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **JOSHUA EDWIN MAYNOR**, deceased,late of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on June 2, 2020, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of October, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This 2nd day of July, 2020.
Virgilia Elizabeth Barber, Administrator
Manning, Fulton & Skinner, P.A.,
c/o Ansley Chapman Cella
P.O. Box 20389
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619-0389
Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 277
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **DOLORES G. BRENT**, 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 October 2, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment.
This the 29th day of June, 2020.
Alison Brent, Executrix
250 Columbine St., Unit 316
Denver, Colorado 80206
Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 299
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **MARION GUTHRIE WILLIAMS**, 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 October 2, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment.
This the 29th day of June, 2020.
Sandra W. Tysor, Administrator
PO Box 43
Goldston, NC 27252
Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,4tp

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BY PRESTON LENNON
News + Record
Correspondent

SILER CITY — To combat food insecurity and a sputtering economy, a team of Chatham County, UNC and N.C. State partners are igniting a project, the Chatham Food Hub, to feed community members and offer an outlet for food vendors to sell their products locally.

The Chatham Food Hub will open in Siler City this month as “a one-stop shop for food sales and purchasing” and will serve as a central location for vendors to put family meals on sale.

“It works on multiple levels,” said Hilary Pollan, the county’s community engagement coordinator, who is helping start the project. “This food hub really tries to help stimulate the economy. It gives an opportunity for restaurant workers and restaurants to be able to sell their product — and farmers — to sell their product in a really safe way.”

Pollan said the level of food need in Chatham County had been rising through fall and into the winter, and

CHATHAM FOOD HUB

New program’s goal is to combat food insecurity

Community members, restaurants, farmers to benefit

was then further exacerbated by pressures from the coronavirus pandemic. And although some programs have already been put into place to help feed the county, Pollan said, there have been few options for community members to receive prepared food as a part of emergency feeding measures.

“It also gives an opportunity to rehire some people who have maybe lost work during the pandemic,” Pollan said.

Eleanor Wertman works at the UNC Health Alliance, and she wanted to start a sustainable operation that would help safely combat food insecurity in the county. After being connected with the UNC School of Public Health’s Alice Ammerman, an expert on sustainable food options, the two started applying for grants to bring a food hub to Siler City.

Wertman cited the coronavirus’ toll on the area’s Latinx population as a reason to place the project in Chatham County.

“These are the folks who are working at the front lines of our meat-packing plants,” she said.

Mountaire Farms and

Brookwood Farms have continued respective operations throughout the last few months. Wertman said the Defense Production Act has been invoked to keep them running.

Wertman called the Chatham Food Hub an “opportunity to work in a rural community to put together something that, yes, is inspired and prompted by coronavirus, but really hopefully will be something that eventually the community can own and take on as a cool innovative thing that belongs to them.”

Neha Shah, the director of the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau, is working to boost community engagement and solicit vendors for the project. She said that because of grant funding, the Chatham Food Hub will not initially be charging vendors to participate. The food hub’s founders hope this will encourage local restaurants and farms to collaborate with the project, and maybe allow them to rehire personnel that have been laid off during the pandemic.

“We want to make sure we support our revenue generating businesses,” Shah said. “This project has also created more jobs, and we hope that whoever monitors this can really make it grow and thrive, and really

make it sustainable.” Wertman said small restaurants in the county have been hit hard by the pressures of the pandemic, and that not only will this project be a way of increasing the food supply to community members in need, but it will also be a way for some businesses to get back on their feet. People will be able to prepay for and then pick up their meals, which could include meats from local farms and family-style meals from restaurants.

“We knew that even as things started to reopen, some of the smaller restaurants would really struggle to adopt all of the different measures that are being recommended to keep people safe from infection,” Wertman said. “Also, not everybody’s going to want to go sit in a restaurant right now.”

Starting in July, the Chatham Food Hub will open and serve from Siler City’s Bray Park.

“I really hope this is a source of community pride and excitement for folks, and something that makes them proud to be from Siler City and share this idea with other people,” Wertman said.

For additional information, contact Wertman at eleonor.wertman@unchealth.unc.edu or by calling (984) 974-1202.

‘Solidarity Fund’ aids nearly 200 Chatham families

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY – The Chatham Solidarity Fund has finished distributing \$177,300 among 197 Chatham County families who didn’t qualify for coronavirus stimulus checks because of immigration status.

The fund, created in April by seven community organizations, began delivering the money to successful applicants on June 6, over two weeks after fund administrators stopped accepting applications. Each family received a \$900 check or money order.

“On behalf of my family, I want to thank everyone for helping us through this difficult moment,” one recipient wrote in an email to the Hispanic Liaison, the nonprofit administering the fund. “We were behind on our bills because my husband and I have been unemployed since mid-March because of COVID-19. Thank you so much for this donation to help us pay our bills.”

Federal and state laws disqualify undocumented residents from receiving coronavirus stimulus checks and unemployment benefits. To ensure “no family is left behind,”

the Solidarity Fund raised money over two months for families with mixed immigration status who were financially devastated by COVID-19.

The fund raised nearly \$200,000 and received 225 applicants. Qualified families had to meet several basic criteria: financial harm caused by COVID-19, and ineligibility for government aid because of immigration status.

Though most applicants qualified, some did not because family members submitted incomplete applications, said Anna Tuell, the development director for Chatham’s Habitat for Humanity, one of the fund’s partner organizations.

Other disqualified applicants included households where at least one person received a stimulus check or unemployment benefits. Because the fund didn’t raise enough money to serve all applicants, Tuell said the selection committee had to “put (those households) at the bottom of the list” to ensure equitable distribution.

“We wanted to help as many people as we could,” she said. “But we also didn’t want to give everyone such a small amount of money that it wasn’t go-

ing to make a difference.”

Applications also screened for Chatham County residents, but Ilana Dubester, the executive director of the Hispanic Liaison, said they recently extended the fund’s reach to surrounding counties now that applications have been closed and fundraising efforts have stopped.

“We went through all the Chathamites that were qualified plus the ones that ended up in the waiting list,” Dubester said. “Everybody that qualified from Chatham got funded, and of the 197, there is one family from Lee County.”

Some money remains, but Dubester said they will only distribute these funds to the qualifying families their partner agencies refer to the Hispanic Liaison, since not much is left.

“There’s enough funds for maybe 13 families, and there are about five on our list to call right now,” she said. “There is not an open application process, meaning the public cannot just go and apply. It’s closed. It’s by referral only and only until the money is gone.”

Dubester told the News + Record she was pleased at “the amazing amount of response from the donors.”

More than 600 donors — many from Chatham — contributed funds, and Dubester said the average donation was \$340.

“Some gave their entire stimulus check,” she said. “Many gave much more than that, and there was also a tremendous response from foundations.”

The Triangle Community Foundation — which serves four counties, Chatham included — contributed \$14,200 to the Solidarity Fund as part of its COVID-19 response funding. The foundation also spread the word to their donor families, who gave another \$20,000 through the foundation’s donor-advised funds.

Jessica Aylor, the foundation’s vice president of community engagement, said contributing to the Chatham Solidarity Fund

was “compelling” because the funds would help families directly.

“(The Solidarity Fund) was going to allow them to use the funding how they needed because it’s different for each family,” she said. “So they could determine whether they needed it for food or rent or medication or whatever.”

Beyond providing immediate relief, Aylor said she hopes funds like these will allow people to see their communities differently.

“I think COVID has just illuminated and deepened these inequities that already existed in our community,” she said. “We have a lot of work to do, but these funds are addressing an immediate need.”

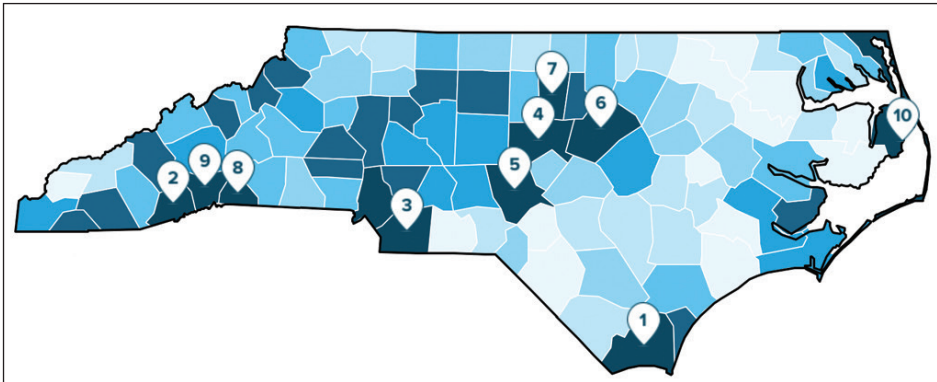
Tuell said the Solidarity Fund partners’ “pie-in-

the-sky dream” was to raise \$360,000 and provide all applicants the same amount they would have received from federal stimulus checks.

Even though they didn’t achieve that, Tuell said she was pleased with the fund’s results.

“We did a pretty good job,” she said. “We were able to give (197) families a \$900 check, and I really hope that will help people make it through. I think we did lot. We could always do more, but I think we did a lot.”

Victoria Johnson is the lead reporter for the News + Record’s Facebook Journalism Project grant and is reporting on COVID-19’s impact on Chatham’s Latinx community. She can be reached at victoria@chathamnr.com.



Screengrab from SmartAsset

Chatham County is ranked 4th in the state in amount of Social Security benefits.

Chatham ranks high in Social Security benefits

BY OLIVIA ROJAS
News + Record Staff

Chatham County is ranked fourth in the state and 100th in the nation based on the average annual social security benefit, according to SmartAsset’s Social Security calculator.

SmartAsset — a financial technology company that aims to provide personal finance advice — found that the average amount of social security for the county is \$21,752. That ranks Chatham County fourth in high annual security for the state behind Brunswick, Transylvania and Union counties, respectively.

To find this data, SmartAsset looked at the average Social Security income for each county, then calculated the taxes a typical retiree would pay on that income based on state-specific Social Security tax rules. Taxes were then subtracted from that average Social Se-

curity income to determine the net income from Social Security. Results were then indexed. SmartAsset utilized resources such as the MIT Living Wage Calculator, U.S. Census Bureau 2018 American Community Survey and Kiplinger, as well as state government websites.

Representatives from the Social Security Atlanta Public Affairs Office, which includes North Carolina, said they cannot comment on non-SSA sources.

So why is this average so high? Income history and the age of county residents is the answer.

According to an article from The Motley Fool, these factors determine social security benefit:

- Work history: The SSA takes your 35 highest-earning, inflation-adjusted years into account when calculating your monthly benefit.
- Earnings history: The more you earn each year,

the higher your eventual monthly entitlement.

- Birth year: The year you’re born determines your full retirement age.
- Claiming age: You can begin claiming benefits at age 62, however your payout will increase by up to 8% annually for every year you delay up until age 70.

Joyce Stout, 85, of Siler City retired from Glendale Hosiery Outlet Store in 1997. When discussing her Social Security benefits, she said she gets an annual amount “below” the \$21,752.

Stout said she is not satisfied with the amount she receives.

“The price of everything is so high,” she said. “Bills to pay, groceries to buy and everything keeps going up. Social security does not. If anything, it goes up a dollar or two.”

News Intern Olivia Rojas can be reached at olivia@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @oliviamrojas.

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