

Chatham News + Record

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CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS BOE extends Plan C to nine weeks

Votes Scenario 3 for Seaforth

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Board of Education unanimously passed two highly anticipated motions at its regular meeting Monday: to extend Plan C at the county’s public schools from four weeks to nine weeks and to approve Scenario Three for Seaforth High School’s attendance zone.

These decisions follow the board’s last regular session meeting on July 16, when after a long back-and-forth discussion on reopening school strategies, it voted to go the fully remote learning option for four weeks in the fall. Later in that meeting, the board pushed the final decision on the Seaforth attendance zone to Monday’s meeting.

Due to meeting size limitations to slow the spread of COVID-19, the board’s meeting was livestreamed through You-

Tube. The public chat feature adjacent to the live stream — which was very active at last month’s meeting and featured criticism of the board — was disabled at Monday’s meeting.

Extention of Plan C

Prior to the board’s motion to extend Plan C to nine weeks, proposed by board member Melissa Hlavac, CCS Superintendent Derrick Jordan and Interim Health Director Mike Zelek gave brief remarks regarding the decision making process for both CCS and the county, in regards to slowing the spread of the coronavirus.

Amanda Hartness, the CCS assistance superintendent for academic services and instructional support, also provided updates on Chatham County Schools Virtual Academy (CCSVA), which she said had

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Chatham domestic abuse hotline sees first year of use

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

July 1 marked the first full year of existence for Chatham County’s domestic violence and abuse 24-hour hotline, and while there hasn’t necessarily been a surge in calls since the coronavirus pandemic started, domestic violence advocates still think there’s cause for heightened concern.

“We know that domestic violence is happening every day,” said Renita Foxx, the director of Chatham County Court Programs, which includes the county’s Family Violence Services division. “When I say it’s not active — I don’t know of anyone’s hotline or any agency’s hotlines that are reflecting the actual number of acts that are actually being (done) against women.”

Since stay-at-home orders were put in place across the country to prevent the spread of COVID-19, multiple media outlets have written about a potential rise in incidents of domestic violence during COVID-19. Victims and survivors of abuse are more likely to be left with their abusers all day and with less chance for a way out, advocates say.

“Any reprieve with an abuser at work, and possibly children at school, is most likely not available,” Tamsey Hill, program director of Second Bloom of Chatham, told the News + Record in April. “Also, tensions can intensify with the uncertainty, loss of power and control, and anxiety of living through a pandemic, and the repercussions a pandemic can have financially and socially on a family. As tensions increase, so does the possibility of abuse.”

Though there hasn’t necessarily been an upward trend in calls locally since the



Submitted photo

Renita Foxx, the director of Chatham County Court Programs.

pandemic started, Foxx said the hotline has seen more calls in recent months. Because it is the hotline’s first full year of operation,

See **DOMESTIC**, page A3



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham Grove Elementary opens

Nearly four years after its land purchase and two years since construction began, the \$33 million Chatham Grove Elementary School is set to open Aug. 17 for Chatham County Schools’ first day of classes. ‘It’s been an interesting time to open a school,’ Chatham Grove Principal Larry Savage said. ‘More than anything it’s a hard time for parents.’ See story, additional photos, page B7.



Submitted photo

Inside the Chatham Community Library, which remains closed during the pandemic — although curbside service and online resources are available.

Chatham’s libraries waive late fees, adjust practices

\$20K in revenues forfeited; library not wanting to burden borrowers

BY LARS DOLDER
News + Record Correspondent

In a bid to promote responsible pandemic behavior and foster a welcoming environment, Chatham County Public Libraries is waiving overdue fines and adjusting book-handling practices.

“The purpose of charging late fees is to encourage borrowers to return books in a timely manner so that

others may read these same books,” said Linda Clarke, the system’s director. “We waived fines because initially we were not checking out anything, so we did not need them returned.”

Even after libraries opened for curbside service on June 22, new coronavirus policies made it difficult to ascertain and enforce a book’s returned date.

See **LIBRARIES**, page A3

Mailers cause concern as absentee requests surge

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to grip the country and the 2020 election moves closer, the demand for absentee ballots is surging in the state — and in Chatham.

A recent tweet by Gerry Cohen, a member of the Wake County Board of Elections, notes, for example, that Chatham County is in the top 15 of North Carolina counties for absentee ballot requests, which he estimates is more than double than those requested in 2016, the last Presidential election year.

According to Chatham County Board of Elections Executive Director Pandora Paschal, the total count of absentee ballot requests is approaching 4,500. Paschal said that she doesn’t have the capability to determine exactly how many requested ballots in 2016, but she did confirm that a little more than 2,000 Chatham voters voted using absentee ballots that year, similar to the estimates Cohen used.

At the same time, advocacy groups are



sending unsolicited mailers to voters across the state, urging voters to apply for their absentee ballot. So many, in fact, that the N.C. State Board of Elections’ Public Information Officer Pat Gannon sent out a statement to all its county directors who are “getting bombarded by calls,” according to the email communication obtained by the News + Record.

Gannon’s communique said that there were “many ongoing outreach efforts by third

See **VOTES**, page A6

Williams Corner applicant postpones BOC hearings

Developer asks for pause following Briar Chapel sewage spill

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

After months of delays related to the coronavirus pandemic, the developer of Williams Corner — a 118-acre mixed use walkable community that its website says will provide “a lasting legacy for Chatham” — has requested that its two public hearings, which had been re-scheduled for Aug. 17, be indefinitely postponed.

This announcement came Monday from Chatham County staff, one week before the county’s board of commissioners was set to finally hold the already-delayed public hearings on the project.

“If the public hearings are eventually placed back on the calendar, residents will need to sign up to speak again,” the county’s email notice said. “Staff is not able to move the speakers to a future meeting.

See **HEARINGS**, page A3

IN THE KNOW

Tax man cometh:

Chatham property owners to get bills soon. **PAGE A10**

Siler City: \$15 million Bray

Park Plan gets approval from town. **PAGE A11**

Connecting communities, world through the CN+R’s art contest. **PAGE B5**

Ch@t: Pepperfest – yep, it’s on, but it’ll look different in 2020. **PAGE B9**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ON THE AGENDA

- **The Siler City Board of Commissioners** will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 17 from the courtroom in the Siler City town Hall. This is a virtual meeting. For more information, contact Siler City Town Clerk Jennifer Johnson at jjohnson@silercity.org.
- **The Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6 p.m. on Aug. 17 for its regular session meeting at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center. Citizens can attend in-person or online through Go-To Webinar platform. Anyone with questions about the meeting may contact Clerk to the Board Lindsay Ray at Lindsay.ray@chathamnc.org or 919-545-8302
- **The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 24 from the Pittsboro Town Hall. This is a virtual meeting. For more information, contact Pittsboro Interim Town Clerk Cassandra Bullock at cbullock@pittsboronc.gov.

CANCELLATIONS

- **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 seasonable items year-round from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. They are located at 287 East St., Pittsboro.
- St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church 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.

UPCOMING

- The next virtual **Wake Up Wednesday** networking meeting will take place at 8:30 a.m. on August

19 with 35-40 business leaders from around the area making themselves known at each virtual meeting. This month’s speakers are Kim Bennett with WordJack Media and Heather Johnson, owner of Chatham Business Services. You may start logging on at 8am to take care of any technical issues you may encounter. Please make sure your camera/audio works. Zoom meeting ID: 82606470013.

• Chatham Community Library is offering **free classes on Microsoft Word, genealogy basics, and job interview skills** in August. 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. Genealogy 101: 3 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25; Job Interview Skills: 3 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26; 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.

• Central Carolina Community College will offer the **Teacher Preparation degrees** this fall. To register for the programs, visit www.cccc.edu/apply-register/ or call CCCC Student Services at 919-718-7300. Students can earn an Associate in Science - Teacher Preparation degree or Associate in Arts - Teacher Preparation degree in only two years, and then transfer to a four-year institution and enter as

a junior. These degrees allow students to pursue a teaching degree in the K-12 field of education.

ALSO HAPPENING

- **Second Bloom of Chatham** is accepting Fall/Winter donations during regular store hours, Tues. - Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Due to space limitations, a two bag/boxes maximum. We accept clean, new and gently used men and women’s clothing, shoes, accessories and jewelry. We accept credit cards. We are located on the Courthouse circle at 10 Sanford Rd., Pittsboro. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.
- 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 JM 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 642-6956 to learn more.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous** — North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meet-

- ing schedule for this area.
- **Motorcycle Association** — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.
- **Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps! Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings!
- **Al-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays, at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro.
- **Scout News**
 - Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets Wednesday at 7 p.m. 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 on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.
 - Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at Meroney’s U.M.C., following the school calendar. See http://pack900.com for more information.

Pittsboro seeks ideas for new park name

BY CASEY MANN News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro’s Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) is looking for citizen suggestions for the new name for the Pittsboro park under construction at the Vineyard Park community off Thompson Street.

The town has asked PARAB to have its recommendations in by August 18. At the same time PARAB Chairman Stephanie Bass said she and the board have been working with civic organizations and the Chatham Historical Association to come up with a list that falls under guidelines set by the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners.

Bass is also urging residents to email PARAB at parksinfo@pittsboronc.gov with possible names, history on insights that may influence the name recommendations.

At the commissioners’ July 27 meeting, the board approved a policy for naming parks. The policy was developed and quickly passed as a result of the approval of the first of seven parks to be built by Chatham Park; those parks will eventually be turned over to the town to be used as public parks. With the first park at the Vineyard Park community set to be complete within the next couple of months, the board is moving quickly to decide on a name so that signage will be ready for the parks opening.

The policy’s four criteria for naming include:

- based on historical significance of the area
- based on the natural significance of the area
- a deceased person of great character and significance to the area



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.

• a living person of exceptional character and significance of the area

The policy notes that in the case of a person, the full name of the person will be the official name though it may be referred to casually as only the last name. The policy also says that while “philanthropic gifts are appreciated” they should not be considered for naming.

The top two or three suggestions of PARAB will be presented to the town board, which will ultimately decide on the final name. In addition, the town reserves the right to rename or remove a name of a facility “at its discretion.”

Though PARAB is working with organizations and the Chatham Historical Association, Bass wants to make sure the public is aware it is working on recommendations for the park.

“This is their park, not just for that neighborhood,” Bass said. “It’s for everyone in Pittsboro.”

Bass said her board is looking for suggestions that “connect to Chatham or Pittsboro in some way” or of “someone of accomplishment here.”

“It’ll say this belongs to

us,” she said.

The Chatham Historical Association has been culling through research that’s already been done on the property and the knowledge of its members to make recommendations about names.

“Some members are very familiar with site and families that lived there and geographical features that were there,” Bass said.

With all the work the group has already put into the process, they are still hoping to hear more from the general public.

“We would really like to get a sense of the connection to that specific site, but we’ve also been given very good names that are not connected to that site,” Bass said. “We want to be sure people have chance to tell what they know and bring out the history they are aware of. But we need them to do it as soon as possible.”

Pittsboro residents can send their comments, suggestions and questions to PARAB via its email parksinfo@pittsboronc.gov.

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

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¹Lifeline is a government assistance program, the service is nontransferable, only eligible consumers may enroll in the program, and the program is limited to one discount per household consisting of either wireline or wireless service.

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LIBRARIES

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“We began quarantining books for several days,” Clarke said, “and we would not have the space to do this if all the books were brought back at the same time.”

After sequestering books for at least 96 hours, library staff disinfect and return them to shelves.

The decision to waive late fees was made also to acknowledge the financial toll many have borne in recent months.

“The pandemic has contributed to severe economic problems,” Clarke said. “The library did not want to further burden library users with late fees during this very stressful time period.”

For individual book borrowers, however, late

fees cost next to nothing. The daily rate for most books comes to just 20 cents with a maximum fine of \$5 (the equivalent of 25 days overdue). The county library system, on the other hand, stands to lose upwards of \$20,000 in annual revenue. Coronavirus measures are not entirely to blame, though.

The library system has been losing income from fines since before the pandemic began. In the fall of 2019, Chatham County Public Libraries launched Chatham PASS (Public Library Access for Student Success) in partnership with Chatham County Schools. PASS “is a game changer for students,” former CCS Chief Information and Technology Officer Keith Medlin told the News + Record in September. But it means less revenue for the library. Chatham PASS uses

school ID numbers as library card numbers for all students in Chatham County Public Schools. An important feature of the program is that student accounts do not incur late fees. The library hoped to quantify the fiscal impact of the PASS program on libraries in its first year of existence, but the pandemic has immeasurably skewed data.

“We wanted to be able to track the change of revenue for the entire school year,” Clarke said. “Since schools closed except for online learning and libraries closed to the public in March, it is not representational of a normal period of time.”

Still, conservative estimates indicate a considerable loss in revenue from students, a demographic prone to returning books late. The sacrificed money

does not bother Clarke. Forfeiting overdue fees will hardly break Chatham County Public Libraries’ total budget, she said. More important than lost revenue is that Chatham County residents have convenient access to a vital public service.

Despite the proliferation of online information sources, libraries still serve an important function in the community. Especially in small towns and neighborhoods, libraries are an essential fixture. The Chatham County Public Library mission statement promises the institution will always serve as “an integral part of the community by encouraging reading, lifelong learning and community engagement, and by providing opportunities for people to connect, learn and grow.”

To fulfill its avowal,

the library has embraced online operations. Several staff members, including Youth Services Librarian Katy Henderson and Branch Manager Rita Van Duinen, have spearheaded expansion into online services. These include online story times with Henderson and online bilingual craft activities with Library Assistant Juana Gomez.

“Some of the virtual content we should have probably been providing pre-COVID,” Van Duinen said. “Much of it we will continue to do post-COVID, whenever that is, especially programs like our bilingual Arts & Crafts.” Gomez’s crafts program is livestreamed on Facebook and then posted to YouTube. Other virtual content is delivered via Zoom or GoToMeeting.

The programs have been met with over-

whelming participation. Since March, there have been more than 500 new library card applications processed.

“The library has received only positive comments,” Clarke said. “One mom sent a wonderful thank you note telling us about her child who was shy but remembered parts of Katy’s story time and sang during the remainder of the day. He pointed to his computer screen and said, ‘Where’s Katy?’ Even during these difficult times, the library made a connection with this family.”

To Clarke, such experiences are what make the library irreplaceable: “It doesn’t get more impactful than that.”

To access Chatham County Public Libraries new online services or to apply for a library card, visit their website at chathamlibraries.org.

HEARINGS

Continued from page A1

The applicant retains the right to request to have the matter placed back on a future public hearing calendar of the Board of Commissioners.”

Bold Development, which has been planning Williams Corner, gave notice to the county on Monday of its desire to postpone the public hearing after recent operational issues with the Old North State Water Company at Briar Chapel.

“In light of the recent sewage spill that happened in Briar Chapel on July 26th, we believe we need to wait for that

situation to achieve a higher degree of resolution before we proceed further,” said the letter to commissioners from Bold Development requesting the delay. “As a developer, we rely on utility partnerships and have faith in local providers to hold up their end of the bargain and adequately perform the services for which we engage them. Bold is not willing to gamble with the health of our surrounding community.”

Bold’s Chris Ehrenfeld — a partner in Chatham Media Group, which owns the News + Record — wrote in the letter that the Williams Corner project “has been a challenging process for all involved.” “This project has high-

lighted how much civic involvement we have in the county,” he said. “Your voices have guided our decisions and outlook for the project every step of the way. I sincerely thank you for all of your time in the matter. I truly believe we all want what’s best for Chatham.”

Ehrenfeld said his company hoped to resume the project “once the available sewage processing option(s) are more reliable,” noting that the situation highlights the county’s dependence on private sewage solutions.

“To meet the challenges of affordable housing and workforce housing along with historic growth in the Triangle, NE Chatham must be willing to invest in itself at some point,” he said in the letter. “Developers, local governing members, and citizens must work together to build a better Chatham.”

The raw sewage spill to which Ehrenfeld referred was the Old North State Water Company’s discharge of an estimated 8,400 gallons of untreated wastewater on July 26 near Great Ridge Parkway in the Briar Chapel Community. According to Envirolink Inc., the

discharge occurred from the result of a split in the force main pipe. The untreated wastewater entered an unnamed tributary to Pokeberry Creek which is in the Cape Fear River Basin.

The N.C. Division of Water Resources is reviewing the spill.

Concerns about Williams Corner

Even before the spill, the Williams Corner development has proved to be controversial — concerns have been cited about the project’s environmental and residential impact on neighboring communities — and as a result, even prior to this week’s announced postponement, many residents have asked the board to further delay action until the public hearing could occur in person.

Originally scheduled for the board’s March 16 meeting, the hearings were postponed at that time in an effort to shorten the meeting to avoid large gatherings, due to the emergence of COVID-19. At subsequent meetings, the Williams Corner hearings were delayed again — along with all other hearing items — as county staff worked to find the most accessible way to hold public hearings under the board’s hybrid-meeting model.

“Please wait and revisit land management concerns once our county has rebounded and give developers the opportunity to revisit their economic studies,” Chatham resident Anthony Curtis said at the board’s first hybrid meeting May 18. “Now is not the time to push the growth on our citizens. Now is the time to be conservative and take care of those more impacted (by COVID-19).”

During the board’s discussion July 20 on scheduling those backlogged public hearings, county staff said Williams Corner had been on the docket since January and needed to be addressed; it was eventually scheduled for the Aug. 17 meeting. The public hearings for Williams Corner would have

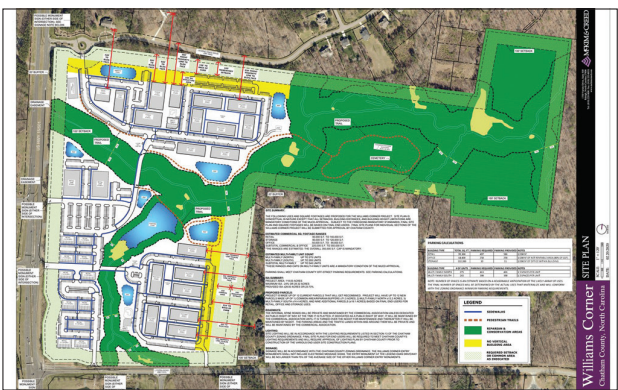


Photo courtesy of Williams Corner/Bold Commercial Real Estate

The site plan for Williams Corner, a proposed new multiuse development to be built off of U.S. Hwy. 15-501 N. between Lystra Road to the south and Legend Oaks Drive to the north.

allowed for community input on various zoning changes and text amendments. The two hearings regarding requests for a conditional use permit by Chatham County Emergency Management will still take place as scheduled.

Williams Corner was expected to be built in three phases over seven years, beginning with apartments and retail at the Lystra Road intersection. When built, Phase 2 will feature offices and storage space and Phase 3 will see the construction of more apartments.

Williams Corner history

The first iteration of plans for Williams Corner were proposed in 2006, but various delays kept the plan from moving forward until recently. Prior to being “indefinitely postponed,” the current rezoning requests were on file since January of this year, which is longer than any other pending legislative item. During a public input session last month, developer Ehrenfeld acknowledged the controversy of the project while saying the hearing should not be delayed for “even another day” in favor of other hearing items.

“This project has undoubtedly caused a divide among neighboring residents, as the as it is the first major project that brings light to the comprehensive land use plan,” Ehrenfeld said then. “The

next step for Williams Corner is for the public hearing to occur.”

At the time, he added that the project would create an opportunity to fund schools, create jobs, improve roads and reduce the affordability housing gap. In regards to those asking to delay the hearing until it can be held in-person, Ehrenfeld said “it only makes sense” that government meetings would be handled similarly to other meetings now being held virtually due to COVID-19.

“There have been challenges but staff has done an excellent job of navigating those challenges. I think the system you have in place now is a great way to move forward,” he said, adding that Williams Corner should be given priority over other legislative public hearings, since it has been on file the longest. “Together, we can make progress and a positive change for our community.”

As for the project’s future, Ehrenfeld told commissioners he’d like to continue the conversation once there is more known about the spill.

“I would like to continue a dialogue with each one of you to address your concerns and keep you up to date about the future of this project,” Ehrenfeld said to the board members. “Thanks for your patience and understanding.”

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

DOMESTIC

Continued from page A1

though, she said that increase could also be related to increased awareness of the service.

The hotline was started by Chatham Family Violence Prevention Services and Second Bloom, a nonprofit organization focused on domestic violence and sexual assault awareness and services in the county. Currently, Foxx said the two organizations are working to more widely promote the joint hotline within the community.

As one of the Family Violence Services division’s primary partners, Second Bloom has “been filling in the holes with service” over the last few months, Foxx said. The nonprofit fundraised to provide new and donated cell phones for abuse victims and survivors in the community and followed guidelines set by the state government and the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence to continue helping survivors, even with new socially distances policies.

During this time, Foxx said community relationships are especially important for the work she and her staff does.

“The last month has challenged many agencies, and has challenged our staff and volunteers in numerous ways, but we’ve also learned how valuable community partnerships can be,” she said. “What we’ve learned over the past couple months is that one agency cannot provide all the services needed to help individuals overcome hardships and struggles. So being able to form those community bonds in partnership is very crucial to helping individuals recover.”

For Foxx’s team and other Chatham resources, remaining accessible and flexible throughout the coronavirus pandemic has been a big goal. Not only do some of their policies and guidelines look very different under new COVID-19 health and safety codes, but the behavior of victims could also potentially look different — some will call at different times of night, appear in different areas or struggle to articulate their stories.

“Sometimes agencies can get stuck in patterns,” Foxx said. “But if we can provide patience and just guidance, hopefully we can get some support that they need. We’re just trying our best to make sure that we’re still present, even though we can’t physically stand side-by-side.”

Moving forward, the county will continue to increase advertising efforts for the hotline and hopes to host volunteer trainings in September; Foxx said anyone interested in volunteering can reach out through the hotline number as well. And as restrictions in North Carolina continue to be let up, Foxx said there should still be heightened concern for those living in situations of abuse.

“I want to make sure and reiterate to anyone who may be reading this article who is seeing violence at home, or if you have a loved one or a friend who is experiencing violence, that they’re not alone, and help is available,” she said. “They can call us up at any point in time and it’s confidential — we’ll do our best to provide them with the resources and the support that they need.”

The county’s hotline is available 24/7 at 919-545-STOP (7867).

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

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VIEWPOINTS

The absolute last word on wearing a mask



BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

Gather 'round, folks. Pull up a chair. Let's get settled in and talk about a subject on which we can all finally agree.

Masks.

Who wants to start?

I'm kidding, of course. *I'll* start because I just happen to have masks on my mind (and on my face, in my pocket, my shoulder bag, my glove compartment ...) after returning from a short vacation in Colorado. It was a challenge because the air is thin there, especially where we were — hobknobbing in rarified elevations ranging from 9,173 feet in Keystone (our home base for five nights) to 10,151 feet in Leadville (even higher if you stop in one of tiny town's famous "dispensaries," which dole out THC-laced gummies and chocolates) to 12,183 feet on Trail Ridge Road, the highest paved road in the state.

In North Carolina, there's a mask mandate. In the Rocky

Mountain state, there's a MAN-DATE. Masks are REQUIRED. See the signs? Just in case you didn't, someone will quickly point them out. Pull yours down for a brief second to gulp some oxygen (which we did a lot, acclimating from our lowly home elevation of 354 feet) and you'll quickly get chided, reprimanded, chastised, rebuked or berated. And, for good measure, occasionally castigated.

I enjoyed the cooler air (morning lows in the 40s, afternoon highs in the mid-70s) and low humidity and the bear cub that kept raiding our trash receptacle, but with as much moving around as we did, we and our Kansas travel companions spent a lot more time in masks than we've been used to. Five straight hours on the trip over to Denver (two combined hours in the RDU and Denver airports, three hours in the air). Walking into the Starbucks that didn't have a drive-thru. Loitering over wildlife art in cool gift shops. Waiting at a restaurant bar for take-out food. Riding alone with my wife Lee Ann inside a ski-lift gondola a thousand feet from the nearest people. Checking out

the gummies at the dispensary (just kidding).

We pretty much stayed masked up in public, which is another way of saying Lee Ann and I really didn't catch our breath until we got back home.

I'm not telling you anything you don't know, of course. You also know there are two primary schools of thought on masks as a COVID-19 preventative measure. They are:

- Wear a mask, dummy. It's not complicated. It protects you, it protects me. Slow the spread. Just do it.
- If *you're* wearing a mask, why do *I* need one? They do more harm than good. If you want to wear one, by all means, knock yourself out. But you can't steal my liberties by making me wear one.

I'm totally fine, actually, with the mask mandate, but it doesn't mean I enjoy wearing them. Earlier on during the pandemic, I was, in turns, both the "one guy" in the store wearing one and the "one guy" in the store without one. I got nervous sweats both times.

Nowadays, I don't much notice. In Colorado, though, *every-one* wears a mask, all the time.

Which was interesting, because while there, my own personal physician — a man I respect incredibly, who's been taking care of me for about 35 years but lives squarely in the no-mask camp — shared a story on Facebook that called mask-wearing policies "balderdash," crude science not supported by data. The article — authored by an attorney and a journalist (I mean, who could trust THEM?) — said mask-wearing as a way to protect yourself from the "COVERT-19" coronavirus was "a narrow-sighted fantasy" that ignores real and potential harms, including "mask-induced dry coughing, allergies, and a sore throat from the micro-mold in your mask."

Yeah, I get that. I sneezed in my mask while on the plane. Yuck!

One reader of the article wrote this early in the comments section: "If you want to kill brain cells, wear a mask. Then you will have an excuse to vote for a Democrat."

You saw that coming.

Another countered by saying: "Your science may say masks don't work, but practical experience says different. China's

neighbors, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore, all caught the virus early but nipped it in the bud because they masked up right away. They had masks available. America and Europe did not. They also were not too proud to wear masks."

While away, I also read several stories citing scientific studies showing the efficacy and effectiveness of masks, including one about a University of Washington report that said North Carolina would have 10,000 coronavirus deaths if we all stopped wearing them, and then another claiming that if everyone masked up for just six weeks, the pandemic would shudder to a stop.

Who knows.

I also had a ski-lift operator tell me it didn't matter. COVID-19 cases, he said, would "all disappear" the day after the November election.

He was from Connecticut and didn't have a law or journalism degree (or medicine, for that matter), so I think I'll just believe him.

If you can't put your hope in a mask, you gotta put it somewhere.

Life can get complicated when word meanings change



BOB WACH'S
Movin' Around

For practically all my adult life, I've made my living by using words.

It's either been on the pages of this newspaper, or another one or two from time to time, or in magazines, or in corporate communications and public relations. When that wasn't the case, it was behind the pulpits of various churches scattered across Virginia or North Carolina. And sometimes, both of those things were going on at the same time.

Never in all those years did I claim to be the all-knowing, end-all and do-all of the English language and its usage. But as the late Sen. Sam Ervin of North Carolina said during the Watergate hearings of ancient history — when pressed by a member of President Nixon's team as to "how do you know that's what the Constitution says?" — Senator Sam told the young fellow, "Because it's in English and that's my mother tongue."

That's pretty much how I felt about my understanding and usage of the language. In the interest of complete transparency here, I can't take all the credit for what I did come to know. Instead, I've got to acknowledge some great English teachers with whom I walked the halls of Pittsboro High School years ago who not only taught the subject but made it fun to learn. My hat is off and always will be to the late Annie May and to Mary Riggsbee. I hope somewhere along the line I did not disappoint or let down these two stellar ladies.

There are several reasons words are so important to me. One is because I can't and couldn't do much with science and math in high school, college or life. That's not a whine but rather a statement of fact. By the same token, history and civics and English were my stronger points and they were topped off by learning to type so I could benefit from those subjects. Actually, I had other strong points — lunch, for one, in high school and while in college, I learned early on how to cut class and flunk out several times, a feat that enabled me to cram a four-year course into seven calendar years.

I don't recommend that to today's youth as a way to get ahead.

Another reason I like words is because they are a primary way we share news, information and ideas with other folks. Now granted, there are other ways to get your message across and I always say that to couples whose wedding I'm to perform. One of those ways is body language. If, for instance, your true love wants to say something important about her day and you'd rather watch the football game, you've conveyed a message without ever saying a word. And when you combine words and body language, well, sometimes that's a deal-breaker...or home run, depending.

As long as words mean what they're supposed to mean, I can do pretty well with understanding. It's when the meanings and/or usage changes that I get confused.

Case in point: Years ago, when the two 40-somethings who used to be teenagers who lived at my house were spreading their wings, certain words underwent a change in meaning. I remember one in particular: "bad."

Now to me and my generation, "bad" was when your behavior wasn't up to what it should be or referred to the grade I made on an 11th grade chemistry test when we were required to balance 25 equations. Obviously, that meant each answer was worth four points apiece. The fact I answered two right out of the 25 meant I scored an 8 on that test, a "bad" grade any way you looked at it. That was about the time I came to realize science and math were not going to be my strong points, that and the "bad" grades I was making on trigonometry and calculus.

One day, however, in the life of my teenagers' generation, that learned English scholar Dr. Michael Jackson coined a new meaning for "bad." It came to mean "good." I remember how I was introduced to that fact.

One weekend night, those two aforementioned youngsters went with their group to the movie at, I think, Randolph Mall back when that was a happening place. When they got home, the conversation went something like this:

Me: How was the movie?

Them: It was so bad. We sat through it twice.

Me: Well, if it was so bad, why did you watch it again?

Them: Oh, Daddy ...

That last bit of communication I clearly understood from their tone of voice and body language. It meant, "Daddy, you are a feeble-minded pea-brained dinosaur who isn't capable of coming out of the rain."

That, of course, is the same idea I had about my folks when they could not appreciate the finer points of The Four Tops' rendition of "Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch" and "Baby, I Need Your Loving."

I thought I had come to grips with much of the changing nature of language today, but I must confess there is one usage in today's society I do not get. I understand what it means to protest; I did some of that when my teachers assigned what I thought was too much homework or when my mama made me pick up rocks in her vegetable garden. But when the major news networks of today refer to what has been and is going on in cities across our country as "peaceful protests," I'm lost.

To me, peaceful protests are what the folks in Chapel Hill, students and townspeople alike, did every Wednesday at noon on Franklin Street to protest the Vietnam War during the 1960s and 70s. I don't ever remember any of them tossing rocks, bricks or cinder blocks through the windows of The Hub and stealing the clothes or burning and ransacking The Record Bar and making off with LPs or shooting and killing any of the Flower Ladies in broad daylight because they didn't like their daisies or roses.

Is there a new meaning of "peaceful" and I just happened to have missed it?



An open letter to parents and caregivers



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

First of all, I have no advice. We are starting school in the throes of a pandemic. We have no recipe to follow. You don't need a lecture from me.

What you really need is chocolate!

But since I am able to serve up only words to you, what I would offer is an invitation:

Feel all the feels.

That's right. The beautiful and brutal — the brutiful. The ups and downs, the contradictions, multitudes and paradoxes. The "hues and blues in equal measure," as singer-songwriter Alanis Morissette put it.

The loneliness from not being alone.

The weariness from not getting things done.

The fear and love so close and heavy that it can hurt to breathe.

I invite you to feel all the feels, raw though they may be. After all, cooking begins with raw ingredients.

Then, I would offer two specific hopes.

Number one: I hope you have another adult in your life who will listen to you express your feelings with

compassion and without judgment.

I'm as guilty as the next person of rushing to "fix things" for someone else, telling that person exactly what do as if I (in all my wisdom) know all the answers. Under the pretext of giving advice, that behavior is really self-serving. I'm uncomfortable that you are uncomfortable; and so, I want to change how you feel so that I feel better about myself.

Instead, I hope you have someone to bear witness to your story — not to try and change it into his or her own story. Someone who will sit down with you at a table. If that person were to bring chocolate, so much the better.

(Chocolate, by the way, qualifies as a vitamin in a pandemic. I should know. I personally know several doctors.)

My second hope is that, after sharing your feelings, you will look inward at yourself. The truth is that we cannot change this situation — now there is a larger life lesson! Coronavirus or not, there is much in the world that is beyond our control.

But if we give ourselves permission to feel our feelings and then share them openly and honestly, we can change our outlook — the way we see the world.

A friend (after first listen-

The truth is that we cannot change this situation — now there is a larger life lesson! Coronavirus or not, there is much in the world that is beyond our control.

ing to my ranting and raving) shared an image with me of looking into the mirror and seeing a smudge. You could scrub and polish that mirror with every cleaning spray under your sink. Or, you could realize that the chocolate stain is actually on your own cheek! You could gently wash your face with some sweet-smelling soap. That's not advice. It is an invitation to care for yourself. I hope you will, dear parent and caregiver.

You are doing the best you can. The problems are complex. The struggle is real.

So, for God's sake, eat your chocolate vitamins! (Maybe I do have a bit of advice after all.)

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.

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VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS

Letter ignores economic lessons of socialism

TO THE EDITOR:

Frank Dunphy's letter ("Socialism and progressivism spread poverty," Aug. 6-12 edition) requires a response. It was a pedantically written argument against two authori-

tarian "socialist" governments currently suffering economic distress (certainly not models for the USA) but ignoring successful democratic socialism in other countries, particularly Northern Europe, that hold positive economic lessons for all democracies. To quote George Bernard Shaw, "There is only one genuine socialism, the democratic sort, by which I

mean the organization of society for the benefit of the whole people." Dunphy instead posits a utopian version of Adam Smith's advocacy for an entrepreneurial system based on individual self interest that would be led "by an invisible hand" to the greatest good for all (that is, only for those who are lucky to not

suffer failure and systemically lose out on the "greatest good"). Now we realize that modern capitalism enriches many Horatio Algiers but leaves too many behind. The problem with both socialism and capitalism is that they can be gamed by strongmen to distort the laudable goals of each, resulting in poverty for multitudes. In these

stressful times, we are seeing those opportunistic authoritarian rulers arise in too many countries — from China, Venezuela and Russia to the Philippines, Turkey and, yes, perhaps even in America. **David Warren**
Governors Village

The writer is professor emeritus at Duke University.

Carolinian led women into medicine



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

Excluding people based on their race, sex or other characteristics doesn't just keep those individuals from pursuing their dreams. And it doesn't just violate moral principles of human dignity and equality. It does great harm to others.

Think of it this way: among every human population that has ever existed, there is a wide range of skills, aptitudes and personal preferences. Some are good at talking, others at counting. Some thrive in large teams and crowds, others in small groups or solitary ventures. Healthy communities allow people to find their best "fit," the best possible way to apply their distinctive combinations of talents to serve others.

Because some goods and services are particularly challenging to produce, requiring either special gifts or lengthy study to master, only some of us will be able to do such jobs really well. That's why casting the largest net we can makes us all better off. It makes it more likely we will get what we need or want.

And that's why discrimination, in addition to being wrong, is so foolishly self-destructive. It keeps companies from hiring the best people and serving the most customers. It throttles innovation. It makes our families and communities poorer.

When only white men were allowed to become doctors, for example, that artificially restricted the quantity and quality of medical care. One reason we are, on average, much healthier than our grandparents and great-grandparents is that healers of great skill, daring and determination smashed through that barrier.

One of them was Annie Alexander. She was the first woman to become a licensed physician in the American South. As I continue my survey of pathbreaking North Carolinians who deserve greater acclaim, and commemoration in the form of statues and other monuments, the case for Annie Alexander seems irrefutable.

The daughter of prominent Charlotte physician John Brevard Alexander and his wife, the original Annie Alexander, the young Annie was only 14 years old when a horrifying event prompted her to choose her path in life. It was 1878, and medical care for women was hampered by both law and custom. Out of modesty, a female patient of her father's refused to allow him to conduct a full examination. The patient died.

Young Annie's horror hardened into determination. After beginning her training under her father's tutelage, Annie went off to medical school in Philadelphia, ultimately moving to Baltimore to practice and teach medicine. When she and 99 men took Maryland's licensing exam in 1885, Annie Alexander earned the highest score.

A bout of tuberculosis took her to Florida, then home to North Carolina, where she began a solo practice. It was revolutionary for women in the Charlotte area to be able to see a female doctor, although her practice wasn't limited to women. And as it grew, Annie Alexander attracted both acclaim and opprobrium.

Some of her own relatives refused to have anything to do with her. Accepting whoever was willing to seek treatment, Annie struggled at first to pay her bills. She was "received with cold indifference by the professions and open curiosity by the laity," she later wrote.

But Annie Alexander persevered. She joined the North Carolina Medical Society. In 1903, she co-founded the Mecklenburg County Medical Society, serving as its first secretary-treasurer and as its first female president a few years later. She cared for patients in local hospitals and for 23 years served what is now Queens University as its physician.

During World War I, Doctor Annie Alexander became Lieutenant Annie Alexander, treating soldiers at Camp Greene and helping to lead Charlotte's fight against the Spanish Flu epidemic. She served on dozens of boards and commissions. She championed freedom and equality. "Women nowadays," she wrote, "can no more be withheld from her public duty than she can be exempt from taxes."

Annie Alexander is commemorated by a historical marker on Charlotte's Tryon Street. She deserves a great deal more than that, I think. Her influence extended statewide and beyond. Let's honor her accordingly.

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

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Can Ron Rash's new book help save the Great Smoky Mountains National Park?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Can North Carolina's beloved author Ron Rash protect the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and other environmental treasures from commercial exploitation?

Can he do it by resurrecting the evil, enticing central character of his 2008 best-selling novel, "Serena"?

Serena, you might remember, was ambitious and dramatically attractive, riding a white horse and displaying her well-trained eagle. In the early 1930s, she and her husband were determined to get rich by clear-cutting thousand acres of North Carolina mountain forestlands, destroying a rich, stable, and precious environment.

Rash made Serena a symbol of corporate greed and anti-environmentalism.

Serena was also driven by personal passions. She was determined to eliminate her husband's illegitimate son and the child's mother. This assignment went to Galloway, a one-armed employee utterly devoted to Serena. Galloway's effort, chronicled in the original book's dramatic last pages, was nevertheless a failure. The boy and mother were safe, and Serena was off to exploit the forests of Brazil.

A novella that is part of Rash's new book, "In the Valley," brings Serena back to North Carolina to take charge of a logging project to meet a hard deadline. Galloway also returns to take on Serena's

murderous assignments, including the search for the mother and her son.

Readers will again be impressed and horrified at Serena's determined and brutal efforts that destroy more of the environment and decimate the crews.

What is the connection to Rash's worries about the environment? In an interview last week with Mountain Times Executive Editor Tom Mayer, Rash explained, "I'm seeing now this peril for the national parks. There's a lot of push to change what is considered wilderness that can be mined or timbered. My hope is that this (story) would remind us how hard won these national parks were and what they were fighting against."

The new book has a bonus for fans of Rash's short fiction. There are nine finely tuned short stories. All deal with mountain people like those he knows from growing up in or near the mountains or from his long years teaching at Western Carolina University. These are folks that Rash clearly cares for and worries about. But the time settings vary, giving readers a look at mountain life over hundreds of years.

In the opener, "Neighbors" set during the Civil War in the Shelton Laurel community, a Confederate foraging and raiding party targets the farm of a young widow and her two young children.

"When All the Stars Fall" deals with a poignant breakup of a father's and son's construction business because their value systems are different.

In "Sad Man in the Sky," a he-

licopter pilot who sells 30-minute rides takes on a troubled but inspiring passenger.

In "L'Homme Blessé," a mountain college art professor explores the connection between the artwork of a Normandy invasion veteran and the images on the walls of ancient caves in France.

"The Baptism" is the story of a country minister and a wife abuser who wants to be baptized. The story has a satisfying surprise ending.

A young female probationary park ranger in "Flight" encounters a bully who lacks a fishing license and breaks all the rules. Her daring retort is illegal but satisfying.

A struggling late-night storekeeper in "Last Bridge Burned" helps a troubled woman who stumbles into his store. Years later he reaps an interesting reward.

In "Ransom," a wealthy college student survives a lengthy kidnapping only to face another set of challenges.

Set 60 years after the Battle of Chickamauga, "The Belt" tells how a belt and its buckle that saved a Confederate soldier's life now saves the life of his great grandson.

Any one of these stories would be worth the price of the book, but getting all of them plus the new Serena installment makes "In the Valley" the literary bargain of the year.

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.

During an apocalypse, hide from the food: Lessons from my quarantine dog



RACHEL HOROWITZ
Millennial Musings

I recently became a first-time dog owner by entering a golden retriever rescue and leaving with a Chabrador. That sounds like a terrifying Pokémon character, but I promise she is a very sweet dog. I'm letting Sheba take over the column this week, as she has offered to share a few lessons.

Lesson #1: How to train your human

My masked rescuers whisked me away from the hospital and lured me into their home with various kinds of treats. I recommend that you just ignore the treats and start chewing on a notecard. (What? It's tastier than plain kibble.) If your humans bring you to a dog park, start a revolution by chewing on grass. The other dogs will soon follow, and the humans will go crazy and start clapping to get your attention. This means you can train your humans to reward you every time they want to leave a place or reclaim their sleeping space. This brings me to my next point.

Lesson #2: Any dog can be a lap dog

I am 50 pounds, and I will still insist on climbing onto the couch arm or over my unsuspecting humans. You may ask why I would

lie precariously on top of a person when there is plenty of space on the other end of the couch. Or perhaps why I would lie on my humans' feet instead of the expensive looking dog bed. It's so they can recognize my dominance while also giving me a belly rub. Don't knock it 'til you try it.

Lesson #3: If you lay near the office printer, you'll get the most pats

It's super important to be strategic about where you lie down. For example, I know that if the super terrifying Toshiba XPS starts making noises, a new human is going to emerge and give me lots of pats. If they ignore you, follow them into their office and stare at them with huge round eyes. Since you are not their dog, they will feel obligated to give you attention, and maybe some lunch too.

Lesson #4: During an apocalypse, hide near the food

On my third birthday, my humans decided to give me a thunderstorm. Now usually at the first flash of lightning, I run to the bathroom where the thunder can't reach through the windows and get me. On this particular day, my humans opened the pantry, the crème de la crème of hiding spots. I quickly jumped in and used a giant bag of rice as a pillow. Don't rely on thundershirts to protect you. Instead, make sure you can access the Cheez-



Sheba the Chabrador.

Its before your humans can. I will survive.

Lesson #5: Rescue dogs deserve a second (or third) chance

My humans don't really know what my life was like from 2017 to 2018. I came into one rescue as a stray and a second rescue after my first adopter died. This all happened in the span of a year. The second rescue told potential fosters that I was pretty scared and timid. My new humans expected me to hide in the corner

for the first day or two, but I walked right up to them and snuggled on the couch. Hence my Instagram name, @snuggle_bug_sheba. Like and subscribe.

Finally, if you're thinking about adopting a dog, be like Nike and "Just Chew It!"

Wait ... that's not their slogan?

Rachel Horowitz resides in Chatham County and works in Pittsboro. She is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill's Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

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Celebrate the sizzle of summer while curbing the spread of COVID-19

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Summer is the season of cookouts, hanging out poolside and other fun outdoor activities. However, this summer is unlike any other as the Chatham County community, like others around the globe, continues to battle COVID-19. Public health officials remind residents that while they enjoy the pleasures of summer, there are ways to do so safely to slow the spread of the virus.

Wear a face covering

As North Carolina remains in Safer At Home Phase 2, face coverings are still required in many public settings where maintaining distance from others is difficult as part of the governor’s executive order. As a part of the overall effort to stop the community spread of COVID-19, everyone is encouraged to wear a face covering or mask whenever they are within six feet of others not in their household in both public or private places. Here are some examples of where

to wear face coverings:

- Restaurants: Customers should keep their distance from others and wear face coverings even when dining outdoors; face coverings should be removed only when eating and drinking.
- Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Centers: Residents should be respectful of others by maintaining physical distance and wearing face coverings.
- Parks and trails: Individuals are encouraged to exercise but should still maintain physical distance with those not in their household. If they are somewhere that social distancing cannot be maintained, they should wear face coverings.

New face covering video

The Chatham County Public Health Department created a video to answer common questions about face coverings. Check out “Face Coverings: When, Where and How to Wear Them,” at this link: <https://www.chathamnc.org/services/>

health/coronavirus/coronavirus-face-coverings

“The evidence is becoming clearer and clearer that face coverings are an important and effective tool in preventing the spread of the virus,” said Chatham County Interim Public Health Director Mike Zelek. “While social distancing remains the best way to stop COVID-19, face coverings add another layer of protection, especially when social distancing is not possible. Remember: My mask protects you. Your mask protects me. Let’s all do our part to beat COVID-19 and stay #ChathamTogether.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidelines on how to safely enjoy some of summer’s most enjoyable experiences while combatting the coronavirus:

Play it safe at swimming pools

There is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to people through the use of recreational waters like pools. Follow

safe swimming practices along with social distancing and everyday preventative actions to protect yourself, which include the following measures:

- Swimmers should stay home if they are not feeling well.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from those not in the same household.
- Wear a face covering when entering/exiting the facility and using the restroom.
- Follow good hygiene such as showering and washing hands frequently.

For more information about swimming safety, visit the CDC’s Considerations for Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs and Water Playgrounds during COVID-19.

Cook up a safe time at the grill

Arrange tables and chairs to allow for social distancing. People from the same household can be in groups together and don’t need to be six feet apart unless someone is ill — just six feet away from other households. If planning activities

for adults and/or kids, consider those where social distancing can be maintained, like sidewalk chalk art or frisbee.

When guests arrive, minimize gestures that promote close contact. For example, don’t shake hands or give hugs. Instead wave and verbally greet them.

Consider providing face coverings for guests or asking them to bring their own.

Consider providing hand sanitizer in addition to hand washing areas.

Avoid larger gatherings, especially if people are likely to come into close contact with those from other households.

For more information about safety for cookouts and other summer activities, visit the CDC’s Personal and Social Activities page.

Travel with safety top of mind

Use options for hotel online reservation and check-in, mobile room key and contactless payment.

Call ahead and ask if all staff are wearing face

coverings at work.

Look for any extra prevention practices being implemented by the hotel, such as plexiglass barriers at check-in counters, and physical distancing signs in the lobby.

Ask if the hotel has updated policies about cleaning and disinfecting or removing frequently touched surfaces and items (such as pens, room keys, tables, phones, remote controls, doorknobs, light switches, elevator buttons and ice/vending machines).

For more information about safely planning travel during the COVID-19 outbreak, visit the CDC’s Considerations for Travel in the US.

“We want folks to have a fun time and make great memories this summer, but we also need everyone to remember that making smart choices will keep people healthy and safe throughout the season,” added Zelek.

For more information on COVID-19 and Chatham County’s efforts to slow the spread, visit chathamnc.org/coronavirus.

NEWS BRIEFS

CCCC announces BLET graduates

SANFORD — Thirteen Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training Cadets have graduated from the Spring 2020 Day Class or

the Fall 2019-2020 Night Class.

Spring 2020 Day Class graduates, with their respective agencies, were:

- Thomas Robert Byrd (Chatham County Sheriff’s Office)
- Noah Paul Gill (Chatham County Sheriff’s

Office)

- Caleb Toby Henrickson (Harnett County Sheriff’s Office)
- Madison Elizabeth Jordan (Broadway Police Dept.)
- Cameron Matthew Lynn (Fuquay-Varina Police Dept.)

- Remington Chase Mangum (Lillington Police Dept.)
- George Austin Moody (Lee County Sheriff’s Office)
- James Steven Yates (North Carolina Parks and Recreation)
- Michael Todd Young

(Broadway Police Dept.)

Fall 2019-2020 Night Class graduates, with their respective agencies, were:

- Stephen Edward Hubbard (Sanford Police Dept.)
- Johntavius DaReece

King (Lillington Police Dept.)

- Krystallynn Michelle Robertson (Harnett County Sheriff’s Office)
- Martin Lucio Segovia (Angier Police Dept.)

— CN+R staff reports

VOTES

Continued from page A1

parties urge residents to request absentee by-mail ballots or register to vote,” with some mailings including “voter registration applications or absentee ballot request forms.” Gannon noted that while these efforts typically are legal as long as they are not pre-filled, the mailer can be “confusing or frustrating for voters and erode confidence in elections, especially when they are unsolicited.”

“The State and County Boards of Elections encourage third-party groups to consider the overwhelming toll that misleading or confusing mailings and other outreach efforts take on elections resources and the damage they cause to voters’ confidence in elections,” said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the State Board of Elections in the statement. “We need our elections officials to be focused on serving more than 7 million voters during a pandemic.”

The state elections board has suggested

several tips for voters in dealing with the “onslaught of mail, phone calls and text messages.” They include:

- Rely on official sources. This means using forms and information directly from the state or county board of elections offices and officials.
- Check you voter registration in advance of the start of early voting using the state board’s “voter search” tool. If you are not registered or need to update your registration, you can complete a form to mail into your local office. There will also be same-day registration available during early voting.
- If you want to request an absentee ballot, use the official form that is available on both the state’s and the Chatham County Board of Elections’ websites. If you request a ballot, that information is confidential until the marked ballot is returned to the local election office. Ballots will be sent out beginning Sept. 4.
- If you have concerns about a mailing, the state board suggest contacting the group who sent the mailing since election officials do not have the

authority to stop such efforts if they comply with state law.

- State and Chatham County elections offices and officials are not associated with the groups that are sending out the mass mailings and will not randomly call or text residents encouraging them to register to vote or to request an absentee ballot.
- Elections officials also “do not verify the accuracy of data, such as voter record data,” that may appear in the mailings and elections officials will not go door-to-door.
- Request the information, identities and organizations of those who come to your door. If they refuse to provide you with that information, contact the N.C. Board of Elections office at 919-814-0700 and ask for the Investigations Division.

“We know these groups are often well intended and we certainly do not want to discourage folks from being active participants in our democracy,” Brinson Bell said, “but we must make sure that these actions do not prohibit, impair, or cause voters not to be active participants in democracy.”

Perhaps the best bet for Chatham residents who find unsolicited mail that raises concern is to contact the Chatham County Board of

Elections office to verify your registration, request an absentee ballot if you choose to and find out the latest on where early voting and precinct

locations will be for in-person voting.

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

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NC REOPENING PLANS

Gov. Roy Cooper extends Phase Two for five more weeks

BY CAROLINE WATKINS & HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

North Carolina will remain in the “Safer at Home” Phase 2 of reopening until 5 p.m. on Sept. 11, Gov. Roy Cooper announced last Wednesday — the second extension of Phase 2 in North Carolina, following Cooper’s July 16 announcement stating restrictions would remain in effect in the state until at least Aug. 7.

“In keeping with our dimmer-switch approach with schools opening, and in order to push for decreasing numbers which will keep people healthier and boost our economy, North Carolina will remain paused in Safer At Home Phase 2 for five weeks,” he said at the news conference. “While we’re seeing stabilization of our numbers, that doesn’t mean we can let up. We know the stability is fragile and these trends can change quickly if we let down our guards.”

Gov. Cooper emphasized the importance of

not overwhelming hospitals, saying some other states that opened up more quickly than North Carolina are now experiencing overcrowded facilities. As of Aug. 10, there were 1,109 people hospitalized in North Carolina for the virus, but Cooper warned those numbers could easily go up.

In North Carolina, also as of Aug. 10, there were at least 136,218 lab-confirmed cases of patients with COVID-19 and 2,168 North Carolinians who have died from the virus, according to North Carolina’s COVID-19 dashboard.

“Every single one of them represents someone in mourning and a community grieving their loss,” Cooper said. “They are more than numbers on a chart — they are North Carolinians who are missed dearly.”

In Chatham, there are 1,300 cases and 52 deaths from COVID-19 as of Aug. 10. Nearly 70% of deaths from the virus in Chatham were in residents 75 years and older, while 40% of the cases in Chatham were found in

residents ages 25 to 49.

‘Subtle signs of progress’

The Phase 2 extension keeps bars, gyms, and entertainment venues closed and also limits the size of indoor and outdoor gatherings in retail stores, restaurants and other businesses. Under Phase 2, restaurant dining rooms are allowed to have 50% occupancy, as are “personal care businesses” like salons, barbershops and tattoo parlors. Educational institutions and government operations are exempt from statewide prohibitions on mass gatherings.

According to Dr. Mandy Cohen, the director of the state’s Department of Health and Human Services, the metrics that the state uses to analyze the spread of the virus have stabilized. Still, stabilized numbers do not mean the state is in the clear, according to the governor.

The metrics that the state considers when moving to a new phase include COVID-like

syndromic cases, laboratory-confirmed cases, positive tests as a percentage of total tests and hospitalizations. The state also looks at statewide capacity for testing, tracing and personal protective equipment. The combination of these metrics were analyzed over the 14-day period prior to Wednesday’s news conference.

“My glimmer of hope remains as we see subtle signs of progress,” Cohen said. “Overall, we are seeing signs of stability, but we still have much work to do.”

While the turnaround for testing times have improved, fewer tests have been conducted over the past week, Cohen said. She added that “anyone who needs a test” should get one, particularly those who have recently attended a large gathering or work in a higher-risk job.

In Chatham County, six medical providers are offering COVID-19 tests, according to a chart released by the Chatham County Public Health Department in early July.

Besides Chatham Hospi-

tal and Piedmont Health’s Siler City and Moncure clinics, four other centers are accepting appointments: Avance Care in South Chapel Hill, Central Piedmont Urgent Care in Siler City, Pine Ridge Urgent Care in Pittsboro and the CVS on U.S. Hwy. 15-501.

Decision made with return-to-school in mind

Cooper and Cohen both said that the decision to extend Phase 2 for five weeks, rather than by two or three, was made with the reopening of public schools in mind. The governor announced on July 14 that schools would open under the hybrid learning Plan B, stating that “there are no decisions more important than our children in our schools.” At the time, he said individual school systems could opt for the fully remote Plan C option. The Chatham County Schools Board of Education announced at their July 16 meeting that CCS would start under Plan C for the first four

weeks of school and then re-evaluate. On Aug. 10, the board unanimously extended that timeframe to the first nine weeks of the semester.

Half of North Carolina’s K-12 school districts will be offering a form of in-person learning this fall, Cohen said. At this time, fully in-person learning — Plan A — is not an option for any district in North Carolina.

Cohen said the state will continue to closely monitor COVID-19 trends and commended North Carolinians following recommended health protocols. The governor emphasized the importance of continuing to wear face coverings in public, staying home when possible and washing hands frequently.

“Whether it’s a storm or pandemic, that kind of hope and our shared commitment to a stronger future will keep us going,” Cooper said. “Hold onto that hope. Keep wearing your mask. And know that these difficult times won’t last forever, but our strength and resilience will.”

CCS UPDATES

What school re-opening means for EC students

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

When Gov. Roy Cooper ordered North Carolina public schools to close for at least two weeks on March 14 in order to spread the slow of the coronavirus, teachers and students across the state struggled to adjust.

For students with disabilities — as well as their parents and teachers — remote learning presented additional obstacles. At Chatham County Schools, the Exceptional Children (EC) Department worked to make the difficult transition easier.

Now, with less than a week before the first day of classes, CCS is continuing to plan how to best serve students under the state’s fully remote Plan C option. The district released a resource for parents regarding academic instruction pathways for the year on July 30, linking also in that google document to a resource specifically on EC options for school re-openings.

The document, titled “EC Options Menu,” says: “As schools reopen, the Chatham County Schools’ (CCS) EC Department recognizes the need to bring clarity and understanding to school administrators, teachers, related services providers, and necessary support staff regarding changes and considerations in the different plans and/or options that may be implemented. The following menu has been developed to help summarize what basic services and supports for EC students, staff, and families are available as we continue to educate in an environment in which COVID-19 exists.”

The document is broken down into

several areas of service, with each area organized by what it looks like under Plans A, B and C: EC evaluations and referrals, service delivery (for teachers and services providers), EC Pre-K, IEP meetings and homebound and transportation services. The page also includes information on the Extended Content Standard (ECS), Occupational Course of Study (OCS) and instructional practices across the board.

“All Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities are to be adhered to regardless of what plan or option CCS implements during the school year,” the document says, linking to a 2018 policy report from North Carolina Public Schools.

EC evaluations and services

Under Plan C, no in-person evaluations will be conducted, including both EC evaluations and referrals. The need for virtual evaluations must be given in prior written notices (PWN) during the referral for current year evaluations. All IEP meetings will take place virtually or on the phone, with all elements of the meeting checklist followed.

All services — including Pre-K and early care students — will be rendered virtually and/or through paper options under Plan C, with IEPs updated to reflect how services and goals will or will not be provided remotely. When Plan B goes into effect, EC students identified as not having internet access as home will be prioritized for in-person school attendance, the document says.

Though protocol for how determination of homebound services has not

changed, the document says, homebound services will also be rendered remotely under Plan C.

Instructional practices

All instruction will be provided remotely under Plan C, with progress monitoring to continue to be shared with parents during quarterly IEP progress reports. Instruction will primarily be provided online in small groups, under a combination of scheduled “virtual sessions,” pre-recorded instruction and follow-up activities.

“Students whose IEPs designate instruction via inclusion will receive services within the remote inclusion setting through collaboration between the EC and general education teacher,” the document says. “Additional sessions may be scheduled with the EC teacher prior to or after inclusion lessons for priming or checks for understanding.”

Student progress will also be communicated to parents and students through comments and grades on assignments, progress reports and direct communication.

Occupational courses of study (OCS) will also be rendered virtually or through paper options, but once Plan B is implemented, the document says if students are “significantly behind in schools hours” due to COVID-19, certain assignments will be utilized and noted in a student’s PWN.

‘We’re going to do the best we can’

Chatham County Schools had 1,197 EC students last December, according

to a report from the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction, making up about 13% of the district’s student population.

In May, the News + Record shared findings from a report titled, “Supporting Individuals with Autism Through Uncertain Times,” from the UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute Autism Team. Released at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the report said children and young adults with autism — a common disability among EC students — “may need additional support to process the news and adapt to the many changes.”

“This population may face additional challenges related to comprehension, communication, difficulty understanding abstract language, an insistence on sameness, and a greater likelihood of anxiety and depression,” the report stated, “all of which may be exacerbated during this stressful period.”

The EC document tries to anticipate some of these additional challenges, as well as solutions.

“What this season requires us to do is to double-down on our commitment to see us educating our students any way we can,” Melvin Diggs, CCS’ executive director of EC and AIG, told the News + Record in May. “When things get a little tough, we have to get tough. We’re going to do the best we can with what we know and what we have.”

The full EC options resource can be accessed here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/115TXtLUel-FYyThWuiZaUpTje0_HH5aF331m76k5Z-Jys/edit

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

BOE

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received 2,140 applications — with 241 of those coming in after the district’s Aug. 3 soft deadline for applications. Due to the complexities of planning for both remote learning and CCSVA, Hartness said the district was considering starting all K-8 grade students remotely at their base schools, while high school students could start through CCSVA. The demand for virtual academy would create challenges in staffing elementary schools otherwise, she said.

Jordan added that though face-to-face instruction is ideal, the

district is much better prepared to provide remote instruction this semester than they were in March.

“Folks should expect it to be absolutely better than what it was,” Jordan said, adding that additional structure to remote learning this semester — attendance and grading policies, for example — were a big part of that. “It won’t be perfect. There will still be hiccups. But I see that folks will be better positioned to navigate given the lessons that we were able to learn as a result of the quick pivot last semester.”

Following this discussion, Hlavac made a motion to extending the district’s Plan C time period beyond four weeks. Board member

David Hamm seconded the motion, suggesting the adopted time period should be nine weeks, in line with the school’s grading periods.

“I wish I didn’t have to say this, but unfortunately, we will probably be going to the full semester, but this buys us a little more time and I think going full semester at this juncture in time might be a little premature,” Hamm said.

Board member Jane Allen Wilson agreed but encouraged the board to make a decision regarding the remainder of the semester as soon as possible for the sake of parents and students.

Scenario 3 for Seaforth zone

The attendance zoning decision for Seaforth has been controversial, with many parents and community members expressing concern about the poten-

tial loss of resources at Northwood based on certain scenarios. During the meeting’s public comment session, citizens echoed the sentiment of prior input sessions by overwhelmingly supporting Scenario Two, stating significant concern about other options that would “cluster affluence” at Seaforth.

CCS partnered with N.C. State’s Operations Research and Education Laboratory (ORED), a third-party evaluation research group that assists with school planning processes, to gather data to help make the rezoning decision. The district also hosted four community input sessions in January and February for parents of current pre-kindergarten through ninth grade students.

Prior to the board’s discussion, Jordan emphasized his desire to come to the most equitable zoning decision.

“Zoning, as you well know, is one of the most potentially most divisive topics a board can undertake,” he said, adding that is why the board took “more runway than is normally the case” to come to a decision. “I echo the sentiments we have heard, as I know you do, too, that your desire to not in any way create segregated schools and/or schools that are not balanced to the extent reasonable.”

After the July 16 meeting and before Monday’s meeting, an additional scenario was added for the board’s consideration — Scenario Six. Scenario Two zones Briar Chapel to Northwood and all of Chatham Park

to Seaforth, and based on demographic data provided by ORED, would yield slightly more racial and socioeconomic diversity than the other scenarios; under Scenario Two, ORED projected 60.7% white students at Seaforth and 65% at Northwood, while under Scenario Three there would be 64.2% white students at Seaforth 62.3% at Northwood. In regards to socioeconomic diversity, Scenario Two would have 34.5% of Seaforth students receiving free and reduced lunch and 24% of Northwood students. Under Scenario Three, those trends are flipped, with 24.9% of Seaforth students receiving free and reduced lunch and 34.5% of Northwood students.

Scenario Three zones Briar Chapel to Seaforth and Chatham Park splits between Northwood and Seaforth. During the presentation, ORED Project Manager Thomas Dudley said Scenario Six was the same as Scenario Three but with Briar Chapel added to Northwood and the southern part of Chatham zoned to Seaforth.

During the public input session, several residents expressed doubts with the data provided by ORED, and said more information about how the numbers would play out in five to 10 years should’ve been included. Prior to making the motion to pass Scenario 3, Hamm said he didn’t see much difference between the remaining scenarios.

“I really wrestled over how and why Scenario 2

takes away and fixes all racial situations,” he said. “I don’t see it.”

Hamm then made the motion to adopt Scenario Three; board member Del Turner seconded it. Hlavac proposed eventually discussing implementing a grandfathering plan “like we’ve done in the past.” Before casting her vote, Wilson referenced the public’s disapproval of Scenario 3.

“I know this board has been deeply concerned and interested in equity issues and in working on equity issues,” she said. “So it’s very difficult when when there’s a public perception that we’re trying to marry with researchers’ perceptions and looking at all these numbers — I just hope the conversation can be ongoing about some of the equity matters after the vote.”

Turner added: “I did make the comment before the last meeting that it was logistically impossible to achieve racial equity in Chatham County because of the populations and because of the geographical dispersion. So that is what it is. It’s not going to change, and there’s nothing that can stretch it to make it different.”

The board did not explicitly discuss why they were choosing Scenario Three over Scenario Two, even with Scenario Two having slightly more diverse demographic projections.

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

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OBITUARIES

MARGARET LOUISE ‘MARLEY’ ATAMANCHUK



Margaret Louise (“Marley”) Atamanchuk passed away on August 6, 2020, at the age of 33 at Wake Med Hospital in Raleigh, NC.

For more than twelve years, Marley had fought the disease of addiction and earlier this week, God gave her freedom from the pain and struggle and simply called her home. Marley is now free of the chains that held her hostage for so long. Her family and those who loved her are devastated and left to mourn the loss of a truly unique and beautiful soul.

Marley leaves behind her son Gregory Thomas Heyes, 10, and her daughter, Annabelle Lee Heyes, 8, of Palos Verdes Estates, California. Her children were Marley’s driving force and it was for them that she fought her disease for so many years. She was able to spend several happy, relaxed summer days with her children in the weeks just before she passed away. Other family members who loved and supported Marley include her brothers, Daniel Atamanchuk and Jonathan Atamanchuk; her aunts Tammie Hope, Kari Crow and Bonnie Hope; her uncles, Bud Hope, Jerry Hope and the late Bob Hope; her step-sisters, Cassie McGuirk and Catherine Sweeney; her beloved pups, Gracie and Carmine, and her cat Basil; Marley’s grandmother, whom she held in special regard and loved so dearly, Louise Hope, passed away just 14 days before Marley. Marley also leaves behind her step-dad, Dr. Mark Bezzek, and her mother, Cindy Hope Bezzek.

Cindy offers the following statement regarding her daughter’s tenacious battle with addiction: “In my text exchange with Marley on the night of her overdose, we said the following: Marley said “I love you so much mama. I will never stop fighting the good fight. Or is it the hard fight? Either way, I’m a fighter. Love you.” I replied: “Just realize what is at stake. It’s YOU. It’s everything. Please try to understand this from the view of those who love you. Your chances will run out at some point. And I will wonder did I say everything I could have said? I love you SO MUCH Marley. Please don’t die. Please please stop. Realize how close you are to being dead and not in existence. And please take this seriously and please try to live. Good night my sweet and only daughter. I pray a prayer of thanks that you are still here. Tell me that you understand.” She replied, “I do mama – so much so. Love you unconditionally.” Those were her last words to me. In less than one hour she snorted heroin laced with fentanyl and her heart stopped. Rescue workers got a pulse back but she had been too long without oxygen. She spent the next three days on life support where it was determined there was no brain activity and she was pronounced dead. Today, my precious daughter gave her heart, her liver and each of her kidneys to save four lives.

To say that we are devastated at the loss of Marley is an understatement. In fact, there is no statement big enough to convey what has been lost now that she is no longer in this world. Her light, her love, her sense of humor, her unfiltered authenticity and her intense care for what others were suffering are only a few of things we will miss. As her mother, I have stood by Marley as she fought. With each and every relapse, she fought. She attended 12 inpatient programs to battle this demon, the most recent in Tennessee in May. At every rehab and every recovery meeting she attended, Marley touched lives. She felt the pain of others and sought to help – usually through laughter and fun. She loved animals and pets, and if it had a llama on it she fell in love. She tried so hard. She really did. But she took one last chance, she took one step too far and it was her last step. How many times did we talk about that? When her friends would die of overdose and she would cry and mourn the insanity of their passing, I held her in my arms and begged her not to go there herself. I begged her to keep fighting and she promised she would. With her last words to me, she promised she would. And she tried. But the disease was too powerful. People who look down on addicts as weak and powerless have no idea how hard these people work to try and climb out of the holes they have dug for themselves. With her first use Marley likely altered her brain chemistry just enough that she kept going back and with every use she dug her hole deeper and damaged the delicate circuitry of her brain more and more and more. Marley was a good and kind woman, a loving mother and a dear, sweet, fun daughter. She was also a drug addict who made horrendous decisions and broke the hearts of all those who loved her over and over and over again. She is now at peace with God. She is with her two grandmothers in heaven having fun and making everyone laugh. Life will never be the same without her.

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

DONALD RAY THOMAS

Donald Ray Thomas, 67, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at his home.

He was born in Lee County to the late Billy Jones Thomas and Mildred Mason Wicker. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Beth Williams and brother, Michael Thomas. He worked as a crane operator at Sanford Contractors.

Donald is survived by his wife, Karen Cain Thomas; son, Donald Ray Thomas, Jr of Sanford; and brother, Charles L. Thomas of Sanford.

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

MICHAEL DAVID STEVENS

Michael David Stevens, 44, of Spring Lake, passed away Monday, August 3, 2020 at Betsy Johnson Hospital in Dunn.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, August 15, 2020 at Beaver Creek Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, Cameron.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

REVERIA LEE (TINA) STOKES

Reveria “Tina” Lee Stokes, 67, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, July 31, 2020 at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

FRANK N. TRAGANOS



Frank N. Traganos of Pittsboro, North Carolina, passed away on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at the age of 74.

Dr. Traganos was born on June 2, 1946 in Long Island, New York, to Frank and Gloria Traganos. He is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Jennifer Hertslet Traganos, and by his four siblings (Bob Traganos, John Traganos, Lisa Traganos, and Patty Alberto).

After graduating from City College of New York with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, Dr. Traganos went on to receive his PhD in Cell Biology from Cornell University. He worked at Sloan-Kettering Institute in Manhattan for two decades, in the field of cytometry and its application to cancer research. After that, he helped found and served as the Associate Director of the Brander Cancer Research Institute in Valhalla, New York, under the auspices of New York Medical College. In addition, he spent nearly 23 years as a professor in that institution’s departments of pathology, immunology and medicine.

Upon retirement in 2014, the Traganoses moved from Katonah, New York, to Fearrington Village in Pittsboro, North Carolina. During the past three years, Frank and his wife Jennifer worked side by side as volunteers for Fearrington Friends.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no memorial service will be held.

Memorial contributions may be made to the election campaigns of Joe Biden, Governor Roy Cooper or Cal Cunningham, or to CORA Food Pantry in Pittsboro.

ANNIE LOUISE MCLAURIN PERRELL

Annie Louise McLaurin Perrell, 74, of Bear Creek, passed away on Monday, August 3, 2020 at UNC Hospice House in Pittsboro.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. at Sandy Branch Baptist Church on Friday, August 7, 2020 with Rev. Mark Richardson presiding.

Louise was born in Chatham County, on October 10, 1945 to Alice Francis Hicks McLaurin and Van Birch McLaurin. She was a retired USDA Inspector. She attended the Journey Church. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers, Henry McLaurin and Lonnie McLaurin.

She is survived by her daughter, Joyce Webster of Bear Creek; son, Melvin Perrell, Jr. of Bear Creek; sister, Ellen Stevens of Chapel Hill; brother, Charles McLaurin of Siler City; three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

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

RANDALL ‘RANDY’ KEVIN RIDDLE

Randall “Randy” Kevin Riddle, 57, of Dunn, passed away on Friday, July 31, 2020 at SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC Health Care in Pittsboro.

A graveside service was held at 12 p.m. at Jones Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery on Saturday, August 8 with Rev. Thomas Allen officiating.

He was born in Lee County on February 24, 1963 to the late Roy L. and D. Annette Spencer Riddle. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by brothers, Richard “Ricky” Riddle and Rodney Bruce Riddle. Randy worked in furniture manufacturing for many years.

Surviving is his brother, Ronald “Ronnie” Riddle of Fuquay Varina.

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

DOROTHY MAE CRUTCHFIELD

Mrs. Dorothy Mae Crutchfield, 92, of Siler City passed away on Friday, August 7, 2020 at UNC Hospice House in Pittsboro.

Services entrusted to: Knotts & Son in Siler City.

MARIO ELAUDRO ELLERBY

Mario Elaundro Ellerby, 47, of Sanford passed away on Monday, August 3, 2020 at Wake Med in Raleigh.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

MS. JIMMIE L. BYNUM

Ms. Jimmie L. Bynum, 96 of Chapel Hill passed away on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at her residence.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, August 8, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home in Pittsboro, with burial in Westwood Cemetery in Carrboro.

Jimmie Lee was one of the oldest active members of the Stewardess Board and an elder at St. Joseph’s CME Church of Chapel Hill.

Survivors include sons, Roy Bynum of Chesapeake, VA, Theodore “Buddy” Bynum III, and Anthony Bynum, both of Pittsboro; daughters, Ethel Bynum Carver of Chapel Hill, Brenda Jackson of Pittsboro, and Marguerite “Margo” Nickerson of Chapel Hill.

HELEN EDWARDS WILSON

Helen Edwards Wilson, 84, of Bear Creek, passed away on Saturday, August 8, 2020 at her home.

A private graveside service will be held at Prosperity Friends Church, where she was a member, at 2 p.m. on August 12, 2020 with Pastor Val Chadwick and Rev. Robert Kidd presiding.

Helen was born in Moore County on September 3, 1935 to Samuel J. and Hazel Mae Wallace Edwards. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Jimmie Ray Wilson; son, Mike Wilson; one grandson, Steven Lee Vaughn; three brothers and one sister.

She is survived by her daughters, Jeanne W. Vaughn and Rebekah Wilson, both of Bear Creek; five grandchildren, three grandchildren; brother, Robert Lee Edwards of Moore County.

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

Joyce-Brady Chapel is honored to serve the Wilson Family.

SHARON DENISE NEAL

Sharon Denise Neal, 59, of Sanford passed away on Monday, August 10, 2020 at her residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

MARTHENIA FEARRINGTON

Ms. Marthenia Fearrington, 88, of Chapel Hill, passed away on Sunday, August 9, 2020 at UNC Hospitals.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

JUDY FIELDS

Judy Fields, 78, Sanford, passed away August 7, 2020 at Westfield Rehabilitation and Health Center.

Judy did not want a service, she just wanted her friends to remember her as she was.

She worked at Pentair until her retirement.

BARBARA AILEEN (ARRINGTON) THOMAS

Barbara Aileen Arrington Thomas, 48, passed away Sunday, August 9, at her home in Pittsboro.

No services are planned at this time.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Charlie and Annie Hackney, and Al and Amy Arrington.

Survivors include her husband, Herbert Thomas of Pittsboro; parents, Bobby and Vergie Arrington of Pittsboro, sons, Blake and Blair Schemmer of Pittsboro; step-children, Sacoya and Marissa Thomas, both of Apex; two grandchildren; and sisters, Lee Ann Churchill of Carrboro, and Amy Elizabeth Arrington Williams of Pittsboro.

Memorial contributions may be made to: Lighthouse Baptist Church, 12063 US Hwy 15-501 North, Chapel Hill, NC 27517.

JAMES ‘JIM’ K. PHILLIPS

Chief James “Jim” K. Phillips, 59, passed away Saturday, August 8, 2020.

A police processional will depart from Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2020 with a graveside service following at 11 a.m., at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church Cemetery.

Jim was born in Panama City, Fla. on September 6, 1960. He was currently serving as the Chief of Police for Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC), a board member of the N.C. International Association of Campus Law Association (IACLEA), and a member of The American Society for Industrial Security and the NC Law Enforcement Officers Association (NCLEOA).

He was preceded in death by his parents, James “Jimmy” Eudon Phillips and Mildred Stephens Phillips.

Survivors include his wife, Robbin Burnette Phillips; step-children, Alisha Taylor-Fetzer, Justin Taylor; and three grandchildren.

The family requests memorial contributions in Jim’s memory to the GTCC Foundation - Campus Police or Campus Police Scholarship designation at The GTCC Foundation, P.O. Box 309, Jamestown, NC 27282.

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family.

WAYNE RONALD CHESNEY

Wayne R. Chesney, 68 of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, August 1, 2020, at Liberty Commons Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Sanford.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

TYLISHER DENISE BROWN

Tylisher Denise Brown, 27 of Sanford, passed away on Monday, August 3, 2020, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

CHERYL LYNN (MYERS) CHERTEINY

Cheryl Lynn “Myers” Cherteiny, 64, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, August 3, 2020 at her home.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

NEWS BRIEFS

97.9 The Hill and Chapelboro.com establish advertising fund

CHAPEL HILL — In September, 97.9 The Hill WCHL and Chapelboro.com will establish its “Campaign for Local Community Nonprofit Advertising Fund.”

Through this initiative, 10 local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations will be awarded advertising credit that can be used to promote the organization’s services in our community, fundraise, find volunteers, advertise events and more.

Each nonprofit’s advertising through the program will be customized based on the marketing needs of each organization — and promotion will be placed

across the local media platforms of 97.9 The Hill, Chapelboro.com and its supporting social media outlets.

The nonprofit organizations will be chosen based on a community vote, which will take place between Sept. 9-25. To be included on the ballot, each organization must complete the Community Nonprofit Advertising Fund application on Chapelboro.com by Sept. 4.

Eligible organizations include those that are located in Alamance, Chatham, Durham, or Orange counties and are registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Religious organizations are ineligible for the award, as are political causes, candidates or

campaigns.

The amount of advertising awarded to each nonprofit organization will be based entirely on the amount of funds raised through 97.9 The Hill and Chapelboro.com’s Campaign for Local. For example, if \$100,000 is raised for 97.9 The Hill and Chapelboro.com through the Campaign for Local, then each nonprofit organization would receive \$10,000 in advertising credit.

Visit Chapelboro.com/CampaignForLocal for full details, or contact Jada Jarillo at jada@wchl.com or 919-240-6026 with further questions.

— CN+R staff reports

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MY STORY: NOT GIVING UP

I didn't suffer like my family did to come to the U.S. But like my mom, I'm working for my daughter.

BY LENDY CERNA CARIAS
Special to the News + Record

Editor's note: Lendy Cerna Carias is an aide at Telamon Head Start, an early education and family support program in Siler City. She's also a part of the SEJ (Southeast Jurisdiction) of MARCHA, an advocacy organization that seeks to make Hispanic voices heard inside and outside of the Methodist Church. A large part of their work goes toward supporting immigrants. This piece is the first in a series of Latinx community spotlights for La Voz de Chatham, a project supported by a Facebook Journalism Grant to the News + Record.

My name is Lendy A. Cerna Carias. I am 26 years old. I was born in Guatemala on October 4, 1993. My mom moved to the U.S. in 1994. It was extremely difficult for her because she left me with her sister, which was hard for both of us. I had to learn to live my life without my mom. My mother decided to leave because she wanted a better life for me. She wanted to provide me with the things she could not afford during my first year of life.

It took my mother almost two months to get to the United States. She had to walk from Guatemala to the Arizona border. She walked two days in the desert without any food or water. The only thing she ate was peanut butter crackers. She told me she had to drink water from a puddle of muddy water, and it was disgusting because the water was stinky and smelled like a "skunk."

My mother swam across a river along the border called "Bravo." After she made it to the border, she

got into a big truck that was transporting a lot of people and rode with 30 men, women and children. My mom said it was difficult to breathe, but they made it to Arizona. After that, they were inside an abandoned house where they hid for weeks until it was safe. She was transferred into a van with the rest of the men, women and children. They rode for five days, and as they traveled, they stopped in each state to drop people off. My mother, who was the last to leave, was dropped off in Greensboro, and my dad picked her up.

Once my mother made it to North Carolina, she called me every day. My mother would send me all kinds of "goodies" such as clothes, toys, chocolates and money. My mother wanted to let me know she had not forgotten about me and that she wanted to make me happy. She worked hard to send me those things, and I appreciated everything she did for me.

When I was a toddler, I grew up with my aunt's daughters. I used to hear them calling my aunt "mom," and so I would do it, too. When I lived with my aunt, she would always make sure I was happy. My aunt would do more for me than her children because she felt sorry for me since I was alone. Growing up was hard. Every time there was an activity going on at my school, I was sad because I would look around and see all the parents at the school supporting their children while I did not have a mother or father to show up for me. The only support I had from my mother was

money. She would send me money for school expenses and personal needs.

In Guatemala, you have to pay to go to school. If you cannot afford school expenses, you simply do not get an education. This is why many parents migrate with their children to the United States.

They want to provide a better life for their children and families. In the United States, there are more opportunities and more jobs.

This is why I cherish the education that I received here and the job opportunities that I have been given. People who migrate do not just move to the United States because they want to; they do it because they want a better future for their children.

My grandmother became a single parent of 10 kids when my grandfather committed suicide. My mother started working when she was 10 years old to support my grandmother and siblings. When my mother had me, she realized that she wanted a better life for me, which is why she decided to move to the United States when I was 1. Some people do not realize how hard it can be to leave your loved ones behind and not know if you will ever see them again. A lot of people lose their lives trying to come to this country.

Immigrants sacrifice a lot to try to give their families a better quality of life. A perfect example: in June of 2019, the border patrol found the lifeless bodies of a Salvadoran father and his daughter in the Rio Grande river. They had drowned as they attempted to cross

the river into Texas. Father and child were embracing each other in the water. They died terrified of losing each other.

My mother wanted to bring me the same way, but due to the dangers she encountered in migrating, my parents decided to apply for my residency. It took me years to finally be with them again, but I did not suffer like my mother and other immigrants did. In May 2011, my parents finally brought me to the United States. I experienced what flying in an airplane felt like for the first time; I was so scared thinking that I was so many miles off the ground and that I would experience a whole different world in the United States. It was hard for me to get used to a new life. I had to start all over again — starting with learning the language, culture, different foods, laws, education, environment and even siblings. Everything was different compared to my home culture.

The most difficult part for me was getting used to going to school and learning how to live with my new family. My siblings were not used to me being around; there were a lot of differences between us. We were raised by different people and grew up in different cultures. We had to learn to understand and live with each other. I had a lot of things to get used to.

When summer was coming to an end, my mother encouraged me to enroll in high school. I was very scared of starting school because I did not know what to expect. I wanted to just work instead, but my mother had different plans for me. I enrolled in ESL classes while attending high school, and after two years, I received my high school diploma.

In July 2013, I left my



Submitted photo

Lendy Cerna Carias and her daughter Faith.

parents' house and moved in with my boyfriend, who is now my husband. We started a family. In May 2014, my life changed: I became the mother of a beautiful little girl. I was full of mixed emotions. In 2017, I worked for Duke Energy in Charlotte. I used to drive for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. I was a scaffold builder, and I would also translate for coworkers. At that moment, I thought money was everything. I thought all I wanted was to be able to give my daughter a better life, but I was wrong. I was very close to losing my family because I would not spend time with them. Issues arose due to my lack of attention. I was always too tired to spend quality time with my family or take care of my daily responsibilities because I worked all seven days of the week for long hours. In January of 2019, I

started working at Telamon Head Start as a center aide, and everything changed. I realized that it's not all about money; it's about spending time with my family and doing something that I enjoy. I may not make a lot of money, but I love coming to work every morning, seeing all those little smiling faces and knowing that I am impacting lives.

My goal is to be an example for my family. I want to show them that hard work pays off — that you should never give up on your dreams and keep pushing because one day you will accomplish them. I have a lot of people pushing me to go back to school and further my education. My daughter is my biggest motivation, and I want to be a good role model for her. One day I hope to hear her say, "I want to be just like my mommy," just like what I say about my mother.



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CHURCH NEWS

PLEASANT GROVE
WESLEYAN CHURCH

There will be a Community Giveaway Event from 9 a.m. to noon on Satur-

day, August 15 at Pleasant Grove Wesleyan Church. Clothing, household goods, and boxes of non-perishable foods will be given away. The events

will include music, prayer booths, and games (plus free water bottles). The church is located at 3275 Piney Grove Church Rd., Siler City.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Rustin Jubal Tysor was born August 7, 2020 to Daniel Tysor and Kallie Gen-try of Rupert, Idaho. The baby was 9

pounds, 5 ounces and 22 inches long. The grandparents are Joanna and Michael Tysor of Bear Creek.

TAX BILLS OUT SOON

Chatham property owners to get 2020 bills in late August

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Chatham County property owners will receive their 2020 property tax bills by late August, according to Chatham County Tax Administrator Jenny Williams. The deadline to pay 2020 property taxes without penalty is January 5, 2021. Taxes received after January 5, 2021, and not postmarked will accrue interest at the rate of 2% for January and .75% each following month.

The fiscal year 2020-2021 county tax rate is \$0.67 per \$100 of value. The Moncure Fire Department received a \$0.125 fire district increase to \$0.1375 per \$100 valuation. The Town of Goldston increased its tax rate to \$0.22 per \$100 of value.

Williams emphasized the importance of taxpayers to carefully review their tax bills after receiving them. If they identify problems or do not receive their tax bills by August 30th, they should contact the Chatham County Tax Office as soon as possible at 919-542-8250 or 919-542-8260.

In some cases, taxpayers will receive one bill covering both real estate and personal property (such as a boat or mobile home), while some will receive separate bills for different types of properties. The bill will not include motor vehicles, which are billed separately by the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles as part of vehicle registration renewals.

For residents living out-

side incorporated towns that offer municipal waste collection, the county property tax bill includes the county's annual Solid Waste Fee. The county allows an exemption from the fee when a residence is not habitable or it has been vacant for more than two years. To be eligible for the solid waste fee exemption, taxpayers must file an application with Chatham County Solid Waste and Recycling by January 5, 2021. Waste fees will not be waived if applications are received after this date.

Residents may contact Solid Waste and Recycling at 919-542-5516.

The deadline to appeal real estate property tax values has already passed, but taxpayers may appeal the value, location or taxability of personal property within 30 days of the date posted on the tax bill. Personal property includes airplanes, boats and motors, mobile homes, unlicensed vehicles, or business personal property.

"Residents should know that deadlines to appeal real and personal property values are set by state law and are not negotiable at the county level," Williams said.

Taxpayers are billed for any personal property they owned as of January 1, 2020. "For example, if you owned a boat on January 1st of this year and sold it the next month, you still owe the full year of personal property taxes for that boat," she said.

Real estate proper-

ty taxes also are billed based on January 1, 2020, ownership. However, if the property is sold a few months later, the attorney handling the closing usually requires the seller to pay a prorated share of taxes, with the buyer paying the remaining balance. "We strongly encourage the seller to send the property's 2020 tax bill to the new owners immediately to avoid problems with delinquent taxes," Williams said.

The Tax Office offers several methods to pay taxes, including the chance to pay in installments. The public can pay taxes in partial payments by either mailing them to P.O. Box 697, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or by visiting the Tax Office in Pittsboro in the Court-house Annex. If making a partial payment, residents should include their tax ID account number found on their tax bill on all payments.

"It is very important for customers wishing to pay in installments to begin as soon as they receive their tax bill and not wait until December or when the bill becomes past due," added Williams. The Tax Collector's staff will begin reviewing accounts in January and will begin enforcement procedures at that time.

For more information on tax payment options, including payment by credit card, e-check or bank draft, contact the Tax Collections Office at 919-542-8260 or visit: chathamnc.org/TaxPaymentMethods.

NEWS BRIEFS

Siler City Parks to host drive-in movie

Siler City Parks and Recreation announces the August 2020 Friday Night Flick will be offered as a Drive-In Movie.

Friday Night Flicks events — a popular movie in the park series — are traditionally organized by the department in the park each year. Out of an abundance of caution, and to ensure compliance with both state and federal COVID-19 guidelines, the 2020 series of events will be modified to offer a family-friendly event for the community to enjoy.

Events will take place on the fourth Friday night of August, September and October at the Bray Park Sports Complex in Siler City. The first event will premier "The Lion King," a 2019 photorealistic animated film. "The Lion King" will premier on the big screen on Aug. 28 and begin at dusk (movie will start between 8:15-8:30 p.m.) and gates will open at 7 p.m. for ticket-holders to enter. Tickets for the event are free, but pre-registration is required since space is limited. Tickets will become available two weeks prior to the event and can be reserved online at www.silercity.org or at the Water and Billing Department on the 1st floor of City Hall. (Tickets are 1 per vehicle, not per person). No tickets will be available on the day of the event. Tickets must be presented when entering the park to attend.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the safety of park patrons and community members is a top priority. Space is limited and a parking space will remain open between each vehicle to encourage social distancing. Families are asked to remain in their vehicles and in their reserved parking spaces. Ticket holders will enjoy the movie from the comfort of their car and listen to the premier through a car radio, battery powered radio, or broadcast from speakers. Guests are encouraged to bring their own refreshments

since concessions will not be available. Alcohol is not permitted in the park.

The Friday Night Flicks series will also include the premiere of the 2020 animated film "Onward" on Sept. 25 and the premiere of the 2019 animated film "The Addams Family" on Oct. 23. Operations of the September and October event will be announced at a later date and are subject to modifications to comply with future guidelines.

Friday Night Flicks is made possible by several

local sponsors which will be highlighted the night of each event. These community events bring families, friends and neighbors together for a fun evening, watching their favorite movies on the big screen under the stars at a safe social distance.

For more information, please contact the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at 919-742-2699, email recreation@silercity.org, or visit online at www.silercity.org.

— CN+R staff reports

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

EVASIVE
STATEMENT

ACROSS	52 Humane U.S. org.	104 End of the riddle	6 Looks upon	42 Bake-off entry	84 Routines to determine
1 Capital of Kenya	54 Riddle, part 3	110 "Wolf" cable channel	7 Suffix with cyan-	43 That, in Oviedo	85 Append
8 Cleared up some space	59 Routine-bound	112 Followers: Suffix	8 Lawn-Boy products	45 Small iPod	87 Snaky letters
16 Link up	61 Tic-tac-toe winning row	113 "You beat me"	9 Orbital point farthest from Earth	46 Big name in waffles	88 Be snaky
20 Brought into harmony	62 Waikiki souvenir	114 Gum globs	10 C-H linkup	51 Jewish deli treat	91 Mishmash
21 Sign of a warm welcome	63 Rejoinder to "Not so!"	115 Facility with hot tubs	11 Suffix with butyl	53 Rugged cliff	93 76" cager Ming
22 Meara of comedy	64 Capital of Qatar	117 Gamble	12 Jogged	55 Zero	94 "Witness" actor Lukas
23 Start of a riddle	65 In Minnesota or Montana	119 Subpoena, e.g.	13 Hobbit's foe	56 Way in or out	95 Novelist Tan
26 Cock-a-doodle- —	69 Extra NHL periods	120 Go fast, quaintly	14 Brunch staple	57 Most awful	96 Dits' partners, in Morse code
27 Safecracker, informally	71 Riddle, part 4	122 Riddle's answer	15 Abbr. on a new car's sticker	58 New York county whose seat is Owego	101 Biofuel option
28 Vinyl albums, for short	78 Supersecret govt. group	131 Atoll unit	16 Face part	60 Syllables of rebuke	105 Birdbrain
29 Chose, as on a survey	79 Tetley tidbit	132 Trip in a "stretch" car	17 Being displayed	66 Lunar stage	106 Fiery
30 Batman player West	80 Quite a long time	133 Stacked messily	18 Pertaining to	67 — kwon do	107 Antipasto morsels
33 Peter of "Casablanca"	82 Fine violin, informally	134 It may grow on a rock	19 Require	68 Hilton rival	108 Carry
35 Stare in disbelief	86 Stage design	135 Reduces to a fine mist	24 Novice	70 Texter's "Catch ya later"	109 Annoying sorts
38 Baby's cry	89 New Year in Hanoi	136 Capable of being stretched out	25 Chicago-to-Memphis dir.	72 Not finish later than	111 Pistons' org.
40 Riddle, part 2	92 Riddle, part 5		30 Frightened	73 — Three Lives"	115 Be fishy?
44 Filmdom, in France	97 Allow entry	DOWN	31 Fails to	74 — pot (sinus clearer)	116 Coin of Cali
47 Stephen of "Utopia"	98 "Ha! I was right!"	1 Rural refusal	32 Plains tribe	75 Roof feature	118 Fitzgerald of song
48 Old Russ. state	99 Thailand, formerly	2 Sports-related: Abbr. name	34 — vez (again, in Spain)	76 "Yeah, understood"	119 Phenom
49 Spring flower	100 Pal, in Caen	3 Suffix with Seattle	35 Teri of "Tootsie"	77 Turned in	121 Tehran's land
50 Downhill's gear holder	102 — Magnon	4 "Walk This Way" rap trio	36 Disney mermaid name	81 Spanish men	122 French article
	103 French WWII battle city	5 Aware of	37 Old hat	82 Some NCOs	124 Spanish for "I love"
			39 Etchers' liquids	83 Hit the horn	125 — Kippur
			41 Jacob's twin		126 — Lanka
					127 Plum center
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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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\$15M Bray Park plan gets final approval

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Bray Park Master Plan, a 15-year, five-phase \$15 million project unanimously approved by the Siler City Board of Commissioners last week, will give the town new and renovated sports fields, playgrounds and a recreation/community center.

Withers Ravenel, a civil and environmental engineering firm based in Cary, was contracted by Siler City last year to facilitate and create the plan to improve Bray Park, located on Alston Bridge Road, at a cost of about \$39,700. While the park already houses several athletic fields, the plan includes the development of about 50 additional acres with the hopes the turning the park into a sports complex that will be able to host tournaments and provide recreation for residents, as well as house the Bray Park Aquatic Center.

The company, in conjunction with the town's Parks and Recreation Department, held a series of open houses throughout the process to receive input on what residents would like to see at site. According to the presentation before the town board last week, nearly 200 residents participated in "citizen input" sessions and online surveys. Out of those discussions, Withers Ravel identified five priorities for residents: playgrounds, soccer fields, paved multi-use trails, natural areas and a recreation/commu-

nity center. The plan also includes renovations to the parking lot, tennis courts, ballfields and concession stands that already exist at the park.

Phase 1

The first phase includes the new community center and a new access drive into the park. The center was suggested as part of the first phase as it would be the "gateway to the park" by Withers Ravenel. Though the specifics of the interior are still up for discussion, the facility would be more than 7,000 square feet and would have three open spaces for recreation activities hosted by the town's Parks and Recreation Department as well as offices for staff. It will also have several restrooms and changing areas. The cost for the first phase is about \$3.3 million; as with the other phases, no target completion date has been set.

Phase 2

The next phase focuses on adding sports capacity to the park and improving access for residents. It includes additional baseball and soccer fields, improvements to the parking and "circulation" within the park, renovations to the tennis courts, multi-use trails and stormwater improvements. This phase is expected to cost about \$2.5 million.

Phase 3

The third phase is nearly the most expen-

sive at \$3.5 million, but will provide the "greatest use," according to Withers Ravenel. This phase includes two more new baseball fields and a multi-use field, new parking lots, additional multi-use trails, a playground and additional stormwater controls.

Phase 4

In this phase, the existing facilities, including the park's current baseball fields, will be renovated to bring them up to the same standards as the amenities installed during earlier phases. In addition, a basketball court and outdoor fitness area will also be added. There will also be additional trails and the completion of the concession area. This phase will cost approximately \$2.4 million.

Phase 5

The final phase will cost about \$3.6 million and will finalize the master plan. The phase includes improving the pool complex and parking lot, converting all fields to turf and completing the fishing pond amenity with trails.

Though the board approved the master plan, they reserved the right to consider varying the phases of implementation based on needs and funding. In addition, the plan is laid out in consideration of 15 years to develop, but the town can also vary that timeframe as well. The plan does allow the town's Parks



A rendering of the final concept for the recreation/community center by Withers Ravenel. The construction of a community center is included in Phase 1 of the Bray Park Master Plan.



A rendering of the final concept of Bray Park in Siler City as included in the Bray Park Master Plan which was passed unanimously by the Siler City Board of Commissioners on Aug. 3

and Recreation staff to begin researching grant opportunities for funding the work. The next step is up to the town board to decide. Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com.

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Pittsboro, county and schools to hash out agreement on redevelopment

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The town of Pittsboro, Chatham County and Chatham County Schools will enter into an agreement by the end of the year for the redevelopment of the school system's new Central Services building located on West Street in Pittsboro.

In exchange, the town will supply the facility with sewer allocation.

The project is outside of the town's extraterritorial jurisdiction and puts the property under the zoning and responsibility of the county. But when the county constructed the Chatham County Detention Center years earlier, Pittsboro agreed to provide sewer to that building since the land has challenges with installing septic. Because the town already has services in the area, the county requested the town provide the 3,100 gallons per day allocation for the central services building and an additional 1,200 for the animal shelter expansion at Pittsboro's regular board of commissioners meeting on Monday.

Commissioner Michael Fiocco raised concerns about the county's decision to move the Chatham County Schools Central Services building several miles out of town, combined with the additional strain the sewer allocation will place on the already strapped wastewater system.

"Three thousand gallons may seem like not a lot, but when compared to other uses, it's

a 75-seat restaurant, a 40,000-square foot shopping center," Fiocco said. "It's an allocation that would not be available for businesses in town."

"And I think the school central services is a fabulous use to have in town," Fiocco continued. "That's 120 employees that would come to town, plus visitors, clients, consultants and parents — folks that would come to town. It's another piece of the fabric that we consider the county seat, the fabric of Pittsboro and a mix to the economy of Pittsboro."

Mayor Pro-Tem Pam Baldwin echoed Fiocco's concerns about the building moving out of town, saying she would "prefer for it to stay," and asked whether the town had considered renovating the current building. County Manager Dan LaMontagne said the building, which was formerly a high school, was "not suitable" for its offices.

Fiocco also raised concerns about the future of the property where the current schools central services building is. He noted the county had suggested the site be used for mixed-use redevelopment and while open, Fiocco hoped that it would include affordable housing as well. He asked that the town, county and the school system to enter into a memo of understanding to make sure the property gets developed in a way that was "beneficial to the town" after losing this "very good office user."

LaMontagne said that working with the town in

redevelopment had "been the intention all along" and was concerned that delays in coordinating an agreement would take time and delay the construction timeline of the new building. LaMontagne asked that "in good faith" the town permit the sewer allocation and discussions on a agreement can continue without making it a contingency for the allocation.

Commissioner Kyle Shipp asked if the board would be able to approve the allocation with the caveat that an agreement be in place after a set period of time, rather than wait for the agreement before allocation. Commissioner Jay Farrell concurred with Shipp, saying he felt "strongly that we should move with the sewer allocation but also that we need something in writing."

"Let's motivate ourselves to do this," Fiocco said. "Let's get this done in two months or three months. We make it a priority, I think it's a priority. It's a loss for the town so let's make it a win. We are all interested in affordable housing and I think we need a way to motivate them."

Eventually, Shipp made a motion for the town to allocate the 3,000 gallons for the central service building contingent on having an agreement in place between Pittsboro, Chatham County and Chatham County Schools by Dec. 31. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Pittsboro's pilot test, addressing chemicals in water, extended

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A pilot test of various combinations of equipment to remove unregulated chemicals from the water at the town of Pittsboro's water treatment facility will likely be extended about six months to gather more data.

Studies over the past five years have shown the presence of unregulated chemicals — such as 1,4 Dioxane and PFAS, or Perfluoroalkyl substances — in the Haw River at levels beyond state and federal recommendations. The chemicals flow into the Haw from dischargers upstream, and Pittsboro officials have been working to put pressure on state regulators to reduce the flow from dischargers while focusing on ways to lower the levels of the chemicals in its drinking water.

Pittsboro contracted with CDM Smith, an engineering and construction company which provides solutions in water and other arenas for government and private clients, two years ago to come up with recommendations for both expansion of the water treatment plant as well as options for new equipment that may reduce the amount of unregulated chemicals in the water.

CDM's testing of four different equipment configurations at the town's water plant has been ongoing for the past six months. But at a presentation to the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners on Monday, the CDM team requested an additional six months to collect additional data. Part of the reason for the extension is the CDM has



been finding information in the data that is new.

"Some of the data coming out of here is showing real advancements in this technology," Reed Barton, an associate with CDM Smith, told commissioners. "The science behind PFAS is very new and the data is showing things that people across the country in water treatment should be seeing."

Barton believes that the use of ultraviolet rays or UV in combination with other technologies is having a significant impact. He said the use of UV prior to entering the other pieces of equipment may improve the amount of time the mediums — the different substances in the equipment that cleans the chemicals — can be used, possibly reducing the cost for annual upkeep of the equipment. But Barton said that is why he wants to continue with the study to be sure.

"The new knowledge is that UV oxidizes PFAS and is likely oxidizing other items," Barton said. "We're definitely speculating here, but it's a good thing because it lowers your cost of operating. It's very hard for us to predict what the

data is going to do. That's why we need to let the pilot run, so we can identify which (combination of equipment) would be best for Pittsboro."

The board also suggested having a work session to dive into the data in depth and review the draft report when it's available. The date of that session has not yet been determined.

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



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‘A KID I COULD RELY ON’

Former Chatham Central athlete Micah Gurley, as remembered by coaches and teammates

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — You didn’t have to worry about Micah Gurley.

He didn’t get in trouble. He got good grades. Plug him into any position on the football or baseball field — designated hitter, closing pitcher, tight end, emergency quarterback — and he’d find a way to deliver.

That’s how Chatham Central baseball coach Brett Walden and football coach Sherman Howze will remember Gurley, 18, a 2020 graduate of the high school who died last month in a head-on car collision.

Mitchell Gurley, 58, Micah’s father, also died in the crash, which occurred on Friday, July 24, around 5:55 p.m. According to a crash report from the N.C. Dept. of Public Safety, the Gurleys were traveling south on State Route 1006 in a 2001 Jeep Wrangler near Siler City when 19-year-old Noe Pulido Jr., traveling north, drove into oncoming traffic and hit them head on with his 2008 H3 Hummer.

After the collision, the Jeep turned on its side, slide off the road and came to rest in a small ditch, the report said. State Highway Patrol Sgt. Zeb Stroup said last week both Gurleys died at the scene.

According to the crash report, Pulido later said at the hospital “he was sleepy on his way home from work and was having a hard time staying awake.” He has been charged with two counts of misdemeanor death by vehicle, the report said.

News of the accident left Gurley’s former teammates and coaches, like Walden and Howze, in shock.

“He just did what he was supposed to do,” Walden said. “He was a model student and a model citizen.”

“He was my All American,” Howze added. “The definition of a captain was Micah Gurley. He did all the extra things, all the good things to make somebody’s day. That was him. He was always there. How do you do not miss a kid like that?”

‘The power to light up the room’

Gurley, who was also a member of Emmaus Baptist Church, a longtime disc golf player and four-year basketball player for Chatham Central, had a productive athletic career for the Bears. And in four years of coaching him, Walden and Howze got a view of both his on-field talent and the attributes off it that made him a beloved teammate.

“I don’t know any other way to put than just good,” Walden said. “Just a good person.”

A 6-foot-4 righty, Gurley earned six saves for Chatham Central as a sophomore closer and became a lock in Walden’s pitching rotation. He ended his career with 32 total appearances for the Bears, who made the NCHSAA 1A baseball playoffs in 2018 and 2019 under Walden and were gearing up to do so in 2020.

“I think he would have had a good year,” Walden said. “I just hate we didn’t get to play

it out.”

Caleb Staley, a 2019 Chatham Central graduate who now pitches for Queens University of Charlotte, called Gurley “the most genuine young man and ballplayer I’ve ever been blessed with.”

Gurley closed out many a baseball game that Staley started, and they’d played plenty of summer ball and fall ball before they were teammates for three years. They also talked daily at lunch and throughout the agriculture class they took together.

“I praise God that I was able to be close friends with him as long as I did,” Staley said. “And I know he trusted in Jesus for his salvation, so he’s in a better place than we all are now.”

On the football field, Howze watched Gurley steadily progress from a freshman who appeared in one game to a steady contributor at tight end/wide receiver for Chatham Central. His final season was his best: as a senior, Gurley caught 17 passes for 263 yards and three touchdowns.

Michael Moore, Chatham Central’s starting quarterback of the last three years, threw him most of those passes — just as he’d done since they were kids. He and Gurley were friends since childhood, and they played on the same youth teams through elementary and middle school.

“He always had the power to light up the room with his funny personality,” Moore, a current senior, said. “We all miss him, but it’s a whole lot easier knowing he’s in a

See GURLEY, page B2



Submitted photo

Micah Joel Gurley, 18, was a 2020 graduate of Chatham Central High School.

‘COOL TO SEE THAT STUFF PAY OFF’

Brice’s first MLB start brings memories, pride for his former Northwood coach

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — It’s not every day you have your son stream an MLB game on your phone and feed you pitch-by-pitch updates from the backseat on your family’s drive back home from Emerald Isle Beach.

But when one of your former players gets his first ever start on the mound in a primetime game between two of baseball’s biggest rivals, you have to improvise.

“I got a notification on my phone that morning at 5, 6 a.m.: ‘Austin Brice is going to start,’” said Rick Parks, Northwood’s former baseball coach. “I woke up, and I was like, ‘Oh my god. Austin’s going to start tonight against the Yankees.’”

So on the night of Sunday, August 2, as Brice threw a scoreless first inning (three strikeouts, two walks, 29 pitches) for the Boston Red Sox against the New York Yankees in The Bronx, Parks was cruising through eastern North Carolina on I-40 while his 11-year-old son, Campbell, gave him a play-by-play from the WatchESPN app.

As Brice’s coach at Northwood from 2007 to 2010, and a friend ever since, Parks wasn’t too surprised. He’s seen Brice’s arm talent and competitive drive and work ethic up close for over a decade now.

Still, the confluence of events — Parks is a Red Sox fan, his son is a Yankees fan and they’d seen Brice around just a month earlier in Chatham County — made for a fun moment.

“It’s just cool to see that stuff pay off,” Parks said.

Brice, 28, logged that first MLB start with 110 previous pitching appearances and 10 total season of pro baseball under his belt. It was quite the contrast to his first start at Northwood, when first-year coach Parks plugged the freshman in at shortstop in the Chargers’ 2007 season opener.

“He was as green as can be,” Parks said with a laugh.

It didn’t take long for Brice to settle in, though. He was a “freak athlete,” Parks said, playing all over — center field, second base — and moonlighting as a defender for the Chargers’ men’s soccer team, which was a goal away from winning the 2009 NCHSAA 2A state championship. But pitching was his niche.

“What was always special about Austin was his arm strength,” Parks said. “I mean, it’s something like you’ve never seen before, the way he would throw it across the diamond.”

It led to one of Parks’ favorite stories, too. In 2008, Appalachian State head coach Chris Pollard (now at Duke)

swung by a Northwood game to scout Brice. The Chargers were playing at Cardinal Gibbons in Raleigh, and Brice, a sophomore, was pitching lights out. Northwood led 7-1 after two innings.

As Parks recalled: “Pollard walks up to me between the second and third innings and says, ‘Hey, Coach, he looks great. I love him. I’ll call you tomorrow, and we’ll talk more about him. But he’s definitely one of our guys.’ As soon as Pollard left, I’ll never forget, Austin couldn’t throw a strike to save his life.”

Brice, a 6-foot-4 righty, committed to App State but entered pro baseball directly out of high school after the then-Florida Marlins selected him in the ninth round of the 2010 MLB Draft.

Whatever the distance was, Parks still found ways to keep in touch with his former pitcher.

When Brice was playing for the Greensboro Grasshoppers, a Marlins affiliate, Parks was a short drive away. When Brice was on the Cincinnati Reds, the family took a road trip to watch a home series.

And when Brice was first called up to the Marlins’ roster, in 2016, Parks arranged a quick drive to Washington, D.C., where the Marlins were playing the Nationals. Brice told him the team was staying in a Ritz-Carlton hotel — which, in the nation’s capital, still leaves you with three or four options.

Parks chose one at random.

“And damned if we didn’t pick the right one,” he said. “They get back from their game that night, and Austin hadn’t pitched or anything but he was going through the rookie hazing. He was dressed like Lance Armstrong, standing down there in the bar with a bike.”

Most recently, they bumped into each other in Chatham County, where Brice lived with his wife, Krystin, 4-year-old son, Bear, and new daughter, Noa, this spring. Parks and Brice played a round of golf in late June, soon before Brice headed off to train with the Red Sox ahead of the MLB’s restart.

And at the start of the month, Parks, the former Northwood coach, watched Brice, the former Northwood pitcher, make his first MLB start. (As of Tuesday afternoon, Brice also led all Red Sox pitchers with eight appearances; he has a 4.00 ERA and 12 strikeouts against four earned runs and four walks in nine total innings.)

“I was really happy for him,” Parks said. “I know he’s put a lot of work in over the past few years, just always looking for a chance. I was happy to see him get one.”

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

EXCLUSIVE Q&A WITH CHRIS BLICE

CCS district athletic director speaks on high school sports and coronavirus

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

Editor’s note: This interview was conducted before the Chatham County Board of Education voted unanimously Monday night to extend remote learning through the first nine weeks of the 2020-21 academic year for public schools.

Last month, Chatham County Schools suspended all summer workouts and athletic activities indefinitely.

And, if current plans hold, athletes and coaches won’t take the field again in an official capacity until at least mid-September, CCS district athletic director Chris Blice told the News + Record last week.

Starting July 6, member high schools Northwood, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central held two weeks of workouts under the NCHSAA’s Phase One guidelines, which limited outdoor workouts to 25 total people (and indoor workouts to 10) while banning contact or sharing of equipment.

But the district suspended those workouts “until further notice” on July 17, a day after the Chatham County Board of Education unanimously passed a motion for public schools to begin the 2020-21 academic year, which starts next Monday, with four weeks of remote, at-home learning.

“Because we’re starting with four weeks of at-home learning, that (athletics) suspension, unless there’s some reason to change it, will go through the end of those four weeks,” Blice said.

Near the end of those four weeks — Friday, Sept. 11 is the last school day in the set timeframe — the board will re-evaluate whether CCS can transition into a hybrid mix of in-person and remote learning.

Blice said that decision will inform the next step for athletics at the county’s three public high schools. As long as education remains fully remote, though, he doesn’t see workouts returning.

“In our conversations, it’s a bit difficult to say, ‘OK, we don’t feel that it’s safe to bring kids into school for instruction, but we think it’s fine to bring them in for athletics,’” Blice said. “It feels a little contradictory. I think (consistency) is key, because we call our students student-athletes. I think the order of that is really important. I can just say that here in Chatham, we always want athletics to be in line with the school and with academics and those kind of things.”

Here’s the rest of the News + Record’s exclusive interview with Blice, a former Northwood principal who works as the CCS chief operations officer alongside



Submitted photo

Chatham County Schools district athletic director Chris Blice

his district athletic director duties. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

How do you think the two weeks of workouts at CCS schools went?

Well, I think we had a really good plan. The high school ADs, the principals, the coaches, myself, the local health department, the guidance that we have from the NCHSAA, the other documents we’re receiving from the DHHS — it was a hugely group effort to create the plan. And I believe that our student-athletes and our coaches and everyone who was involved or on campus followed the guidelines with fidelity. What we did realize, though, as we were coming through that second week, was that the world around us was becoming much more concerning in regard to COVID-19.

We reached the point where the majority of the districts around us either had canceled workouts or had changed their plans and never started them... We realized that we were part of the very small group (of districts allowing workouts), and that we needed to sort of reflect on that. It doesn’t mean that you’re wrong. It just means that there’s something there that you should at least be thinking about. We as a group came to the conclusion that the world around us was becoming more concerning, and that we probably needed to go ahead and stop and just let this settle down a bit before we get back into this.

See BLICE, page B2

NCHSAA again delays fall sports season

The NCHSAA will delay the 2020 fall sports season beyond its planned Sept. 1 start date for member schools, the association said in a news release last Thursday.

The announcement came the morning after Gov. Roy Cooper, in a news conference last Wednesday, extended North Carolina’s Phase Two guidelines five more weeks through at least 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 11.

“Unfortunately, this announcement means that the start of sports for the 2020-2021 school year will be delayed beyond September 1 for NCHSAA member schools,” commissioner Que Tucker said in the release.

She said the NCHSAA staff and board of directors will “review all available options” and seek input from its Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction and a sports ad hoc committee as it works to “announce a calendar for playing sports during the upcoming school year.”

The NCHSAA said it hopes to announce that next plan of action by Aug. 17.

Three local on HSOT All-East baseball team

Northwood’s Tyler Johnson, Jordan-Matthews’ Sam Murchison and Chatham Charter’s Connor Murphy were named to HighSchoolOT’s 2020 All-East senior baseball team, the website announced on Aug. 5.

HSOT usually opens the teams to all players, but it converted to an “all-senior” format to honor graduating athletes whose 2020 spring sports seasons were cut short by the coronavirus pandemic. For baseball, it selected 50 players from each half of the state.

Johnson, a pitcher who committed to Methodist University in Fayetteville this spring, finished his Charger career 14-4, with a 1.89 ERA and 83 strikeouts in 100 innings pitched. Murchison, who will walk onto N.C. Central’s base-

SPORTS BRIEFS

ball team as a pitcher, had a career 2.86 ERA for the Jets. He also logged 116 strikeouts in 102 innings pitched, and batted .326 with 43 hits, 30 runs batted in and 10 doubles. (Only freshman and sophomore year stats were available.)

Murphy, who played shortstop and outfield for the Knights, hit .425 for his career with 82 hits, 52 runs batted in, 16 doubles and six triples. He scored 80 runs, stole 39 bases and also made 18 appearances on the mound.

CCCC’s Reid commits to Mars Hill

Jackson Reid, a prolific scorer for the Central Carolina Community College men’s basketball team the last two seasons, will continue his career at Mars Hill University, the school announced in a Monday news release. Reid, who played at Panther Creek High in Cary, averaged 18.1 points in 45 career games with

the Cougars.

A rangy 6-foot-4 guard, Reid averaged 15.9 points as a freshman for CCCC and was named 2018-19 NJCAA Region X Player of the Year. As a sophomore, he averaged 22.2 points, 4.5 rebounds and two assists in 16 games before an injury ended his season early in January. He made the All-Region X Team both seasons at CCCC.

“Jackson Reid has successfully completed his goals while here at CCCC,” head coach Brad McDougald said in the release. “We had a talk before he started his first semester as a freshman, and we discussed what goals I had for him and what he wanted to get out of this experience. He completed everything he intended for himself, as well as the goals for him I put into place ... I couldn’t be happier for Jackson and I wish him all the success possible.”

Reid, who graduated with an associate in arts degree from CCCC in April, will have two years of eligibility remaining at Mars Hill, a private Division II school in western North Carolina. The Lions compete in the South Atlantic Conference and went 12-17 in 2019-20.

Youth football and cheer canceled in Siler City

The Siler City Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the QUAD County Football League, has canceled its fall youth football and cheer seasons in reaction to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The seasons, originally set to begin Aug. 1, were postponed July 20 before being canceled in full Aug. 7.

“The health and safety of our players, coaches, staff, and officials will remain our No. 1 priority,” the department said on its website, “and while we are sad to see the 2020 football season go, staff will continue to plan for upcoming athletic leagues and programs as things improve.”

The town will issue registration fee refunds via check, and its staff will be reaching out to participants to verify addresses. If you need to update your address or have any other questions, you can get in touch with the department by phone at (919) 742-2699 or by email at recreation@silercity.org.

— CN+R staff reports

GURLEY

Continued from page B1

better place.”

‘A great teammate’

Tyler Oldham, another senior at Chatham Central, has known Gurley since they were 9 or 10 years old and called him “one of my closest friends.”

They played sports together year-round over the last three years and, this spring, both had online class during fourth period, the last of the day, so they’d often do the work at one or the other’s house.

“But it was more than just hanging out with him all the time,” Oldham said.

Take those online classes: after they finished their work, and before practices, Oldham and Gurley would also binge old movies: “The Breakfast Club,” “American Graffiti” and “really anything else,” Oldham said, including original episodes of “Scooby-Doo” and “Stranger Things,” a newer show they both loved.

Or they’d talk about old cars, one of Gurley’s passions. He drove a rusty 1967 Ford F100, which everyone called Old Blue. Gurley dreamed of one day owning his body shop, where he could fix up vintage Camaros and a Pontiac Trans Am just like the one in the 1977 film “Smokey and the Bandit.”

When it came to football, basketball and baseball, Gurley “always tried his hardest,” Oldham said. “He would give you everything you had.



Staff file photo

Micah Gurley, pictured here in August 2019 in the No. 9 jersey, played four years of varsity football, primarily as a wide receiver and tight end.

He was a great teammate. I really admired that.”

He laughed, recalling Chatham Central’s 2019 football season opener against Eastern Randolph. The Wildcats featured Kaemen Marley, a four-star prospect who’s since committed to Tennessee.

In a 70-13 loss, Gurley scored one of the Bears’ two touchdowns. As he caught Moore’s pass in the end zone, Marley laid him out with a clean yet jarring hit. Gurley held onto the ball but stayed on the ground. Oldham, playing wide receiver, ran to check on his teammate who’d just been decked by a Division I athlete.

“Micah, are you OK?” he asked.

Gurley looked up and smiled, the ball still cradled in his arms: “Man, I held onto that like a snack!”

‘We made it fun’

Oldham said things were “tough at first,” but

he’s been feeling better about his friend recently. He thinks, now, of the happy memories — and he has a lot.

One time, he and Gurley helped out a friend who was fixing up and flipping houses. Their jobs weren’t the most appealing, but time flew by, because they’d belt out Jim Croce songs as they worked.

When you’re shoveling dirt, a good rendition of “You Don’t Mess Around With Jim” or “Bad Bad Leroy Brown” makes the dirt pile up much quicker.

Just a few weeks before the accident, Oldham and Gurley decided to take Old Blue for one more spin. Gurley was now driving the aforementioned Jeep Wrangler, and his truck hadn’t gotten much use. So the friends planned a drive around Chatham County and, on their way out, stopped for gas.

After they filled up, the truck wouldn’t start.

“We sat there for a good hour talking until

Micah’s dad (Mitchell) came by,” Oldham said. “He tapped it with a wrench, and it came back to life. But we were out of time, so we took it right back home.”

“It was fun even then,” he added. “Whatever I did with him, we made it fun.”

Howze had bumped into Gurley around town, too, about two weeks before the July 24 accident. Walden and baseball assistant coach Joe Little had seen him in late June. It was graduation day at Chatham Central, and they’d set up down by the field in case graduating players wanted to get any photos.

“Micah was the only one who came,” Walden said. “He and Mitch came, shook our hands and thanked me and Joe for everything over four years. I told him good luck. That was the last time we talked.”

In recent weeks, Walden’s also been searching through yearbooks and Facebooks alike, trying to



Staff file photo

Jordan-Matthews’ Jayden Davis shoots past Chatham Central’s Micah Gurley in a November 2019 basketball game.

find a picture of him and Gurley together. He’s been unsuccessful so far.

But after some thought, he figured out why there weren’t any midgame shots of him and Gurley, his closer for three years. In baseball, coaches often make mound visits to struggling pitchers, chatting with them to calm their nerves or develop a new plan of attack.

“Sure, there’s some

pictures of me making a mound visit,” Walden said. “But there’s no pictures of me making a mound visit to him, because he got the job done so well. I never had to go out there.”

As they say, you didn’t have to worry about Micah Gurley.

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

BLICE

Continued from page B1

But I think the two weeks went very well; I think the schools did a great job. I went over and observed more than once myself, watched kids, watched coaches, watched the screening process. We spent a lot of time talking about the fidelity: making sure that we were following what we had set forth and really following up on that. It went really well. The kids were great, the coaches were great, and the athletic directors and everybody else was great.

What are your thoughts on the NCHSAA allowing each school district or individual charter/parochial school to make its own decisions on resuming workouts? And its communication overall?

The situation is so fluid and so different in different parts of the state. I think the flexibility that the NCHSAA has put in place was quite necessary, and I do think that they’re doing a good job of navigating through a very difficult situation. They’ve reiterated again that their hope and desire is certainly for us to play. To put it in my words: they certainly want us to play ball, but we need to be able to do it in a safe way that satisfies the requirements and keeps our kids and our staff healthy. And I think that’s key.

When you’re working through these things, everyone wants to know everything right now. They

want all the answers, and they want you to already have all the answers. And of course, if you did, when the situation changes later on, then the same folks would be somewhat critical about making that decision so quickly. It’s a no-win situation, but I do believe that the NCHSAA works hard to be responsive to the schools. I’ve been a principal or involved in administration since 1998, so I can just say that during the last 20 years, I think the organization has grown and progressed and has gone in a very positive direction. It’s a hard job, but we have to have this oversight. We have some great folks there.

What’s the game plan for CCS as we get deeper into the fall?

I think we share the desire and the vision of the NCHSAA. We’re talking a lot about high schools, but for us, it’s high school and middle school. It’s both levels. I think our goal is certainly, when we are able, to get our athletic programs going. I spent my career prior to going into administration as a high school band director — I did that for almost 20 years — and as such spent a lot of time working with our athletic programs. And of course, growing up, I played sports and was involved quite a bit as well. The value of a strong, solidly run athletic program in the life of a school and of the kids in the school is immeasurable. Clearly, I think our goal for all of this is to do whatever we can do, whenever we can do it, but at the same time doing it in a strategic fashion that aligns with the realities of the situation and

the guidance that we’re working under. The goal is always to get us back on track as quickly as we can, and do it safely and correctly. So we’re going to constantly be reviewing and watching and evaluating.

Where does these past months rank among your most unique challenges as an administrator?

Wow (laughs). Well, I’ve been in education since 1981. I started as a classroom teacher. And I have never seen anything like this ever. I lived in eastern North Carolina for years, and I rode out the floods and I rode out the hurricanes and I’ve been through a lot of natural disasters. But, you know, the solid foundation of all that, living in eastern North Carolina, was ‘We’ve got (challenges) here, but the rest of the world is pretty much OK.’ All the resources, all those things, it’s all still there.

The flipside with (the coronavirus) is that it’s not. Everyone is in the same situation, and we’re all working our way through it. I have never in my life been a part of anything that was worldwide like this. It’s been very humbling. It’s been a great opportunity to work with some really good folks and learn things. So how does this rank? It’s way up at the top of the list. But Chatham County is a great place to be in. We’ll figure it out, and we’ll work our way through it. And we’ll do what’s right for our kids and for our staffs. Absolutely.

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

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As we all keep holding on ...



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

The Kid is a beer lover. Not in a Homer Simpson, I-drink-my-weight-in-brews-kis-on-a-weekly-basis kind of way. More in a, "I will lecture you about microbreweries IPAs and stouts until you're inwardly begging for sudden onset of temporary deafness" type.

But for the duration of the pandemic and self-isolation alone at home, my little hermit is taking a beer hiatus, because self-isolation alone at home. It would be very easy to veer into Homer Simpson territory. The child does, however, drink oceans of non-alcoholic

fruit-flavored seltzer.

Every 14 days or so, the Matthews Family Band has a socially distant dinner. I make a favorite (with plenty of leftovers for The Kid to take home). And as a treat for our off-spring, I'll pick up a can or bottle of beer that's not only expensive, but so very hipster that I know who brewed it, why it's named what it's named and the breed of the first dog of the guy who designed the label.

I have never liked beer. And except for a little too much Boone's Farm Tickle Pink during college, I'm not a big drinker.

But, I do enjoy those sweet, brightly colored, highly curated cocktails at the kind of bars where bartenders wear bowties and have beards. One is almost always my limit, but every couple of months, they're a fun, relaxing diversion.

But the COVID ...To

paraphrase Khan in Star Trek: Wrath of Khan: "This world tasks me." Everything is upside down, everybody is mad about something and nothing is safe and comfortable anymore. Life has become that moment when you accidentally bite down too hard on your fork — but over and over again.

So I experimented a bit and came up with a cocktail that I can easily make at home and is sweet and tasty. To me, it also packs a bit of a wallop, so I drink it very infrequently when my day has just been the worst. The last time I had one, I had stumbled into a yellow jacket nest and been stung about 20 times. I felt very sorry for myself and decided tipsy was better than hurty.

The other two recipes I offer this week are my ultimate, self-care comfort foods. They're not good for me; I eat too much,



The makings of a 'quarantini.'

Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

I usually regret it later, but when I am preparing them, and later eating them, I am taking care of myself.

I am doing something that takes me back to a place where things made

sense, I knew what day it was without studying a calendar, I could hug my child whenever I wanted and tomorrow didn't scare the heck out of me.

And as we dwell in a period that is anything

but kind, I urge you, Gentle Reader, to steal some time this week to treat yourself with a bit of kindness.

Thanks for your time. Contact me at debbie@bullcitymom.com.

Quarantini

(If you have more than one, they become Awkwardtinis — so don't)

2 ounces Jim Beam Honey

1 ounce Cruzan 151 rum

Juice of one lemon
1 tablespoon honey
Put all ingredients into a glass. Whisk together until the honey has thoroughly dissolved. Add ice. Drink.
Lie down.

Panacea Potato Salad

5 or 6 medium-sized Yukon gold potatoes

2 tablespoons vinegar

1/2 small yellow onion, chopped

2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill

1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

3/4-1 cup Hellmann's Mayonnaise (approximately)

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

4 slices bacon, cooked very crisp (optional)

Salt and pepper

Place washed unpeeled potatoes into a large heavy saucepan. Fill with water, add 2 tablespoons kosher salt, and vinegar. Cook at just above medium for 45-55 minutes until they can be pierced easily with a knife. Drain, and let cool completely.

Peel potatoes and cut into 3/4-inch chunks. Place into a large bowl with dill, parsley, and onion. Add a couple of large spoonful of mayo and 1 tablespoon vegetable oil. Gently fold into ingredients to distribute herbs and lightly coat potatoes, adding more mayonnaise as needed. Season with salt and pepper, taste, and reseason until the seasoning's perfect and the flavors pop.

Cover and let sit at room temp for 30 minutes before service. Right before serving, gently stir in the second tablespoon of oil then crumble bacon on top.

Serves four as a side for dinner, or one for pandemic self-soothing meal.

(If you eat all of the potato salad in one sitting, you should probably go lie down).

Ridiculously Over the Top Chocolate Pudding

5-ounce box Cook and Serve Chocolate Pudding mix

3 cups heavy cream

Pour pudding mix and cream into heavy saucepan and stir. Heat, stirring continuously until it just begins to boil. Leave in pot and let cool until it's cool enough to eat. The skin is our favorite part, but if you don't like it, place a piece of plastic wrap directly onto pudding surface.

Even as an indulgence, this is way too much for one. Share it or only eat some but eat it directly out of the pot, preferably while you're wearing your pajamas and watching a wonderfully horrible movie.

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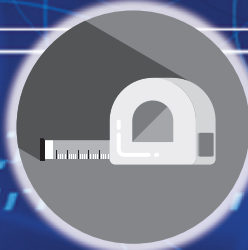
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COVID-19 lawsuits could highlight importance of judicial elections

BY KARI TRAVIS
Carolina Journal News Service

RALEIGH — On Saturday night, Jennifer Clapton stood in a brightly lit bowling alley, watching her autistic 22-year-old son laugh. He threw ball after ball down the shining wooden lane, shouting glee each time he hit the pins.

It was the last night he would bowl. For awhile, anyway.

Clapton fought back tears.

In Roanoke Rapids, a struggling small town alongside I-95 in northeastern North Carolina, there's not much to do, or so Clapton will tell you. But in March 2019, locals Elizabeth and Timothy Robinson bought Fairwood Lanes, a rundown bowling alley on Old Farm Road. The Robinsons turned it into a gathering spot for the community. They visited 65 bowling alleys around the country, gathering ideas. They handpicked every table, decoration, kitchen appliance and bowling machine. They opened a restaurant — Misfits Bar and Grill — where neighbors gather for pizza, steak tips, beer and even craft cocktails. They launched a "Superheroes Bowling League" for people with disabilities like Clapton's son, Jordan.

It brought joy to Roanoke Rapids, Clapton told CJ, turning from her son so he wouldn't see her cry. It brought friends for Jordan. It brought support for her family.

Now, with a recent order from the N.C. Supreme Court, it's all unraveling. Fairwood Lanes closed its doors at midnight on July 18. The Robinsons are uncertain when they'll reopen.



Carolina Journal photo by Kari Travis

Fairwood Lanes in Roanoke Rapids.

North Carolina bowling alleys, which sued Gov. Roy Cooper last month over his prolonged COVID-19 shutdown, won an initial victory July 7 when Judge James Gale allowed them to reopen. The Robinsons rejoiced. But one week later, the N.C. Supreme Court ordered bowling alleys to close again while it reviewed an appeal from Cooper. Democrats hold a 6-1 majority on the state's highest court, with the chief justice and one associate justice appointed by Cooper. This means the Democratic governor is unlikely to face partisan opposition from the Supreme Court.

For people like Clapton and the Robinsons — who live and work nearly 100 miles from Raleigh — the effects of that power isn't political. It's personal.

"I know there's a pandemic right now," Clapton said. "I understand that we can't just go out and do everything. But here (Fairwood Lanes), they've done everything to make this place safe. How is going to Walmart safe, but bringing my son bowling isn't?"

Carolina Journal heard that sentiment from many at the bowling alley. Frustration over closing. Frustration over lost jobs and uncertain unemployment benefits. Frustration over the governor's blanket reopening rules, and the Supreme Court's move to follow his orders.

That frustration could be turned to action in the November election, where three Supreme Court seats will be contested. Chief Justice Cheri Beasley was appointed by Cooper to fill the court's highest seat when Republican Chief Justice Mark Martin retired in February 2019. She's running against Justice Paul Newby, the only Republican currently on the high court. Two judges from the N.C. Court of Appeals, Democrat Lucy Inman and Republican Phil Berger Jr., are racing for the Supreme Court's second seat. Republican Tamara Barringer, a former state senator, is challenging appointed incumbent Justice Mark Davis.

Concerned voters should pay attention to how individual judges vote in the bowling alley case, said Jon Guze, the director of legal studies at the John Locke Foundation. The governor is trying to win the lawsuit without responding to industry safety plans. The Bowling Proprietors Association of

the Carolinas and Georgia — which brought the case against Cooper — offered a detailed, thorough proposal for ensuring safety, Guze said. But the governor didn't bother providing evidence that bowling was risky, or that safety rules wouldn't minimize that risk.

"Instead, he simply insisted that he didn't need to provide evidence or arguments because his emergency orders should be reviewed under the strict scrutiny standard and should, therefore, be presumed to be lawful," Guze said.

Review standards are important, Guze said, because, in cases where a person challenges government, courts often "presume that whatever the government does is lawful unless the citizen can show that there is no conceivable rational basis for the action."

In the bowling alley case, Cooper challenged Gale's review, asking the Supreme Court to decide whether the judge used the wrong lens to view the case, Guze said. At its core, the issue comes down to whether judges will defer to the word of the government, or the word of the North Carolinians challenging it.

"(The justices') responses to the question raised by Governor Cooper in his request for Supreme Court review will tell us something very important about their attitudes towards constitutional rights and the rule of law," Guze said. "In our free republic, everyone — not just ordinary citizens, but government agents as well — should have to obey the Constitution and the General Statutes."

Gale referred to a legal standard called "reasonable relationship," as op-

posed to "rational basis," in his opinion on bowling alleys. Simply put, it's easier for the bowling alleys to win under the reasonable relationship standard. The Supreme Court could have allowed Gale's order to stand as the case works its way through the legal process. Instead the justices accepted Cooper's request to block the trial court order. That means closing bowling alleys again. And so they did.

The next step? The justices will review Cooper's appeal of Gale's order. Cooper and the bowling alleys have until Aug. 19 to file all arguments and paperwork in the case. It's unclear whether the Supreme Court will hold a hearing, or decide the case based solely on filed arguments.

Bowling alleys were initially allowed to reopen so long as they limited risks and imposed safety measures. For business owners like the Robinsons, those measures cost thousands of dollars. They installed glass dividers and hand sanitizers between bowling lanes. Wore face masks. Cut capacity. Cleaned every surface. Again and again. Even the shoes.

But the fight with Cooper has siphoned the last of their energy. And money.

In the colored light of the arcade machines, seated at a table by the bowling lanes, the Robinsons told CJ the whole story: about buying Fairwood Lanes, restoring it, opening doors for the first time in October 2019.

"We've poured our hearts and souls into this place," Elizabeth said. It shows. The Robinsons can tell you about their search for the deep fryer in the kitchen, or how far they had to

travel — New Jersey — just to find someone to fix bowling machines. They can tell you about Elizabeth's hand-painted carousel horse decorations, or about the Tweety Bird print hanging on the wall in front of them. Most of all, they can tell you about the Superheroes League, about how many smiles it brings, and about the families it's drawn together.

A few months ago, the Robinsons thought they would survive the COVID-19 shutdown. They did everything possible to keep 20 staffers. A handful left to collect unemployment, but most stayed on, Timothy said.

The goal was never to pick a fight with the governor, Elizabeth said. She wants to remain impartial. Do her job. Keep people safe and happy. But when the rules didn't make sense, and livelihoods were at stake, a lawsuit seemed the only solution.

Now that the lawsuit looks futile, what's the next move? CJ asked.

"Shut down, send all of our employees away, and hope they come back," Timothy said.

They hope to reopen, whenever Cooper allows that. If they do, Clapton will return with her son. Until then, she'll stay home. She'll try to explain to Jordan why he can't see his friends, and she'll consider her November voting decision — one that will affect her family's future.

"I'm most frustrated with Roy Cooper," she said as the lights dimmed, the music rose and the evening crowd settled in for a final night at Fairwood Lanes. "I'm not even a Republican, and I'm afraid he's going to make me vote that way."

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Connecting communities through the News + Record's art contest

BY CAROLINE WATKINS
News + Record Staff

The News + Record officially kicked off its first-ever art contest on Aug. 3. The contest's organizers — which include two CN+R staff members, a Kentucky journalism professor and a visiting Duke University scholar from China — are calling upon Chatham residents to document this unique period in history using their artistic medium of choice, from painting to dancing.

This week, we sat down with Siqi Zhang, the president of the North Carolina Chinese Scholars Sino-US Exchange Association and a visiting scholar at Duke University, to discuss the project. Zhang is helping to promote the art contest and enlist NCCSEA members as judges along with Buck Ryan, the director of the Citizen Kentucky Project on civic engagement, and Editor Bill Horner III and Digital Intern Caroline Watkins.

Earlier in January, Zhang was at home in China, visiting her family. In fact, she made it back to the states right before the COVID-19 outbreak was announced in Wuhan.

"I got back to the US for 10 days before Trump ordered to (block) flights from China," she said.

Once Zhang got back from her trip, she continued to carefully monitor

the news in her home country about the outbreak.

"It was a really hard time, you know," Zhang said. "At the time, it was the Chinese traditional Lunar New Year, so they had to celebrate a holiday at home."

On January 23, the city of Wuhan was placed under lockdown, which left around 11 million people quarantined in the heart of the pandemic outbreak.

During that time, people were adjusting to their new normal of quarantining in their homes — a similar fate the U.S. would experience just a few months later.

When people were stuck inside and looking for ways to occupy their time, a number of Chinese outlets held art contests, including a newspaper challenge launched on China's Facebook, Weibo. The winning artwork from the contests quickly went viral online because people could relate to the scenes and sentiments depicted in the artwork.

Zhang wanted to bring the idea of an art contest to Chatham, using her network to connect the Chinese and American communities during such a difficult time.

"Art is related to human nature and emotion no matter what your (nationality) is," she said. She hopes the contest will allow the American and Chinese communities in



Siqi Zhang (center) is the president of the North Carolina Chinese Scholars Sino-U.S. Exchange Association and a visiting scholar at Duke University. Zhang is helping to promote the art contest and enlist NCCSEA members as judges along with Buck Ryan (left), director of the Citizen Kentucky Project on civic engagement, and Bill Horner III, the publisher of the Chatham News + Record.

North Carolina to foster "a good relationship with each other."

You can find more information about the contest in the "Art Contest" section of the newspaper's website, where you can also submit your entries.

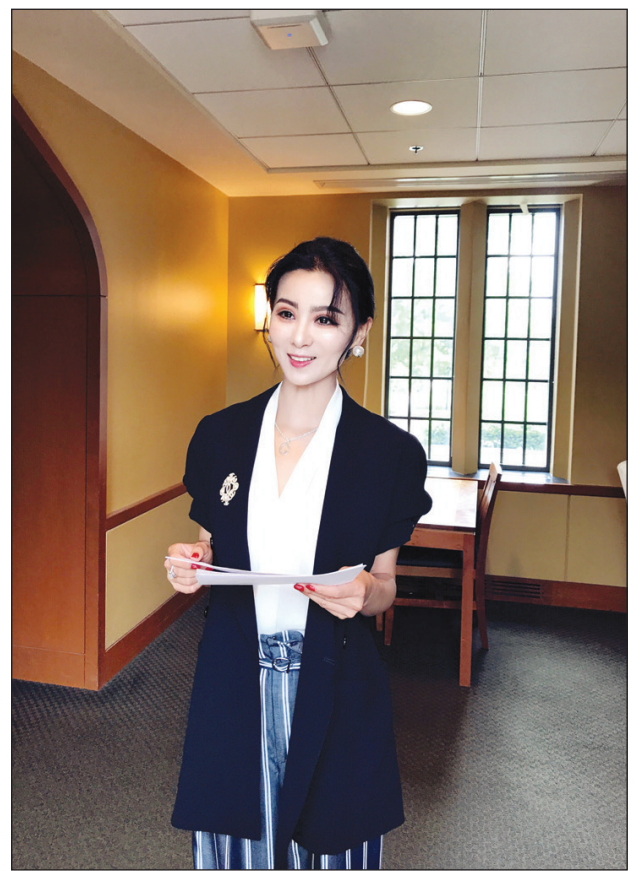
Inspired by winners' artwork in previous art contests in China, the three categories for the art contest are: food, heroes and love. Art submissions can be in a variety of forms, from traditional mediums to multimedia to even performative work.

The News + Record will be accepting submissions until Monday,

Aug. 24. The voting process will be two-fold: the newspaper's team will pick winners in each category, but we will also be inviting our readers to weigh in for the "readers' favorites" category via social media during the week of Aug. 24.

Winners will be announced on Aug. 31 and their masterpieces published in the newspaper, in print and online.

At the end of the day, Zhang hopes that this contest will help make this difficult time "much more beautiful and joyful" for all.



CN+R file photo by Peyton Sickles



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Buck Ryan (left) poses with Siqi Zhang in front of the Chatham News + Record office in Siler City. Zhang and Ryan are the organizers of the Chatham News + Record's art contest, which will run through Aug. 24.

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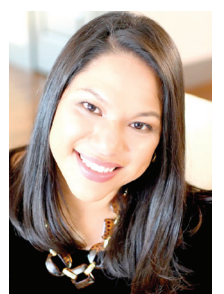
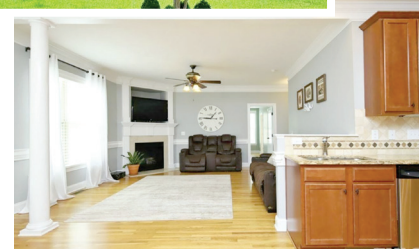
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Vernon Newby, 63, of Siler City, was charged Aug. 1 for assault on a female. Newby was jailed on a domestic violence 48-hour hold with a Aug. 19 court date in Pittsboro.

Cedric Alston, 52, of Durham, was charged Aug. 1 for failure to appear on charges of driving while impaired and resist/delay/obstructing a public officer. Alston was jailed on a \$1,000 secured bond with Aug. 5 court date in Pittsboro.

Joshua Smith, 32, of Siler City, was charged Aug. 2 for assault

with deadly weapon with intent to kill, assault with deadly weapon with the intent to kill inflicting serious injury and flee to elude arrest with motor vehicle. Smith was jailed on a \$125,000 secured bond with a Aug. 17 court date in Pittsboro.

Adam Teague, 23, of Siler City, was charged Aug. 3 for failure to appear on charges of resisting public officer and second degree trespassing. Teague was jailed on a \$500 secured bond with Aug. 19 court date in Asheboro.

Daniel Pardue, 37, of Mount Gilead, was charged Aug. 4 by for possession of methamphetamine. Pardue was issued a

written promise with a Aug. 17 court date in Pittsboro.

Daniel Pardue, 37, of Mount Gilead, was also charged Aug. 4 for failure to register as a sex offender and failure to return verification notice. Pardue was jailed on a \$25,000 secured bond with a Aug. 20 court date in Troy.

SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jhadius Person, 21, of Siler City, was charged with 10 counts of felony breaking/entering of a motor vehicle, one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, one

count of larceny of a firearm, three counts of larceny, one count of assault on a law enforcement officer, one count of communicating threats and one count of damage to government property. Person was jailed on a \$100,000 secured bond.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Tiffani Burnside of Fayetteville was cited Aug. 3 for exceeding safe speed/failure to maintain lane control on U.S. Hwy. 421 in Siler City.

Vinh Cao of Sanford was cited Aug. 3 for exceeding safe speed on U.S. Hwy. 421 in Siler City.

Devin Alley of Sanford was cited Aug. 4 for failure to reduce speed, give/lend/borrow license plate and expired registration card/tag on SR 1972 near Pittsboro.

Carlos Brena Bravo of Orlando, Florida, was cited Aug. 4 for improper turn on U.S. Hwy. 15 in Pittsboro.

Charlotte Chamberlain of Pittsboro was cited Aug. 4 for expired registration, failure to maintain lane and texting and driving on Rock Hill Drive in Pittsboro.

Frederick McRae of Fayetteville was cited Aug. 5 for failure to maintain lane on SR 1008 near Pittsboro.

NEWS BRIEFS

County receives grant to install vehicle fast charging station

PITTSBORO — The N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality selected Siler City as one of 33 locations across the state to receive grant funds to install a zero emission vehicle fast charging station.

Chatham County’s project was chosen as part of a competitive grant application process designed to install fast charging stations for electric vehicles in strategically important travel corridors throughout the state. The grant will fund up to \$82,971 (about 80% of the cost) to install a fast charging station located in the Smithfield’s Chicken ‘N Bar-B-Q parking lot at the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 64 and U.S. Hwy. 421 in Siler City.

Gov. Roy Cooper announced the grant awards on July 29 as part the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s settlement with Volkswagen for unlawfully cheating on vehicle emissions. Cooper designated NC DEQ to administer distribution of the settlement funds.

“Fast charging stations are important for zero emission vehicle adoption because they can charge a vehicle more rapidly, about 20-30 minutes, compared to a standard charger, which takes three or more hours,” said Kevin Lindley, Chatham County’s Environmental Quality Director. “This charger will be strategically placed where drivers who stop to charge their vehicle will have several restaurants, stores, and medical offices available to them within walking distance. Having fast chargers along major travel corridors reduces ‘range anxiety’ and allows ZEV owners to more easily travel longer distances.”

The charger will be available to the public 24 hours per day in a well-lit parking lot. It will have two dedicated parking spaces, and one vehicle will be able to charge at a time. The charger is internet connected, so ZEV owners will be able to download a phone app to check the station’s availability, monitor their car’s charging and to pay for a charge.

Chatham County has a Comprehensive Plan goal of becoming carbon negative, which means releasing less carbon into the atmosphere, e.g. through greenhouse gases like vehicle emissions, than can be absorbed by the environment. Based on data from two greenhouse gas inventories that were completed in 2010 and 2015, the largest greenhouse gas contributor in the county is vehicle emissions.

“One of the goals in the Comprehensive Plan is to encourage zero emission vehicles by creating a countywide network of ZEV charging stations, and the fast charging station in Siler City will bring Chatham County one step closer to achieving this goal,” Lindley said.

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“One of the goals in the Comprehensive Plan is to encourage zero emission vehicles by creating a countywide network of ZEV charging stations, and the fast charging station in Siler City will bring Chatham County one step closer to achieving this goal,” Lindley said.

NCDOL Encourages Businesses to Participate in “Safe + Sound Week”

RALEIGH — A national campaign to promote workplace safety and health has been declared in North Carolina for the week of Aug. 10-16 by Gov. Roy

Cooper and in conjunction with NCDOL, the state’s lead agency for workplace safety and health.

The federal “Safe + Sound” campaign, promoted each August, encourages every business to develop a safety and health program to ultimately eliminate hazards and prevent injuries, illnesses and fatalities in the workplace.

“We are pleased with the proclamation issued by Gov. Roy Cooper recognizing ‘Safe + Sound Week’ once again in North Carolina,” Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry said. “Given the current situation with the pandemic, safety and health has never been more important than it is today, and it must be constantly in the forefront of our minds not only in the workplace but in our daily tasks. I challenge all North Carolina businesses to register as participants in the 2020 program.”

Businesses can register for the program by visiting the OSHA website. Last year, more than 3,300 businesses across the country participated to help raise awareness. North Carolina currently has 61 businesses registered for the 2020 campaign.

“The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic highlights the critical importance for North Carolina employers to develop and implement effective safety and health programs for their workplaces,” said Kevin Beauregard, director of the state OSH Division. “This week we celebrate the successes of those businesses that have already implemented safety and health programs in the workplace and strongly encourage other businesses to do the same.”

The OSH Division has developed many tools and resources that are available for employers and employees on the NCDOL website including important guidance information associated with COVID-19 prevention measures that should be implemented.

If your organization is participating this year, be sure to use #SafeAndSoundWeek on social media. For more information on the campaign, visit OSHA’s website.

Causey urges consumers to contact their insurance agents over insurance coverage

RALEIGH — North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey, noted that the state has suffered from both an earthquake and a Category 1 hurricane within the past week, and urged the state’s consumers to check with their insurance agent to review their policies and make sure they are covered from the effects of natural disasters.

“Damage from earthquakes are generally not covered under most standard homeowners’ insurance policies,” Causey noted. “However, homeowners can talk with their agents and easily add an earthquake endorsement to their policies. I also encourage consumers to get replacement coverage on both their homeowners’ and automobile insurance policies.”

Causey also urged North Carolinians to talk to their agents about getting flood insurance coverage policies through the National Flood Insurance Program. Damage from floods is also not covered under standard homeowners’ policies.

A 5.1 magnitude earthquake, centered in Sparta, was felt across North Carolina Sunday morning. It’s the strongest earthquake to hit North Carolina since 1916.

Last week, Hurricane Isaias made landfall in southeastern North Carolina, causing loss of life and property destruction in portions of the eastern part of the state.

For most families, their home is their biggest investment. Commissioner Causey urges homeowners to protect their investment by making sure they have sufficient insurance coverage, and to make sure they review their coverage with their insurance agent at least annually.

— CN+R staff reports

Thursday, Aug. 27 | 1:30 p.m.

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CHATHAM GROVE

New elementary school set to open — albeit remotely

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Nearly four years after its land purchase and two years since construction began, the \$33 million Chatham Grove Elementary School is set to open Aug. 17 for Chatham County School's first day of classes.

Faculty and staff only, of course.

Like all other schools in the county, Chatham Grove will start the first nine weeks of the semester remotely in response to the COVID-19 pandemic — meaning it will be at least nine weeks before students and parents walk the school's newly completed halls.

"It's been an interesting time to open a school," Chatham Grove Principal Larry Savage said. "More than anything, it's a hard time for parents."

The school will serve about 640 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, though that number could change based on the number of families which choose to homeschool for safety reasons, Savage said. Located at 1301 Andrews Store Rd., across from Margaret B. Pollard Middle School on the corner of Andrews Store Road and Parker Herndon roads, the school will feature Chatham County's first joint-use recreation facility to be used by the county's recreation department. The school features a high-tech media center at the front entrance to the school and there are interactive touch-screen TVs installed in each classroom. The TVs are installed at student height, Savage said — "Let's do it for the kids" — allow classrooms to do work on them, open and close files and watch videos.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, setting up the finishing touches on the school has looked different this year. Still, everything will be ready to go on Aug. 17, even if students will not be at the school physically until much later. Teachers have been able to come to set up their classrooms after signing in at the school's front office and getting their temperatures checked.

Randy Drumheller, the district's director of



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

CCS Director of Maintenance and Construction Randy Drumheller (right, posing with Principal Larry Savage) said the building's construction was not delayed at all by the pandemic.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Nearly four years after its land purchase and two years since construction began, the \$33 million Chatham Grove Elementary School is set to open Aug. 17 for Chatham County School's first day of classes.

maintenance and construction, said the building's construction was not delayed at all by the pandemic. Currently, the school is being staged as it would be normally, but Drumheller and Savage said the school has plans for each of the state's outlined learning options.

"This school and every other school is prepared for either learning plan," Drumheller said, referring to the state-mandated reopening Plans A, B and C. "So we plan for Plan B, which is the most restrictive, and if

we get Plan A, then that's great."

Not knowing when students will be at Chatham Grove, Savage has been working to find creative ways to make students and families feel at home at their new school, even if they can't physically tour it yet. At the end of May, Savage made a video walking through the halls of the school to virtually welcome families.

"I'm worried it'll be a while before we see kids in here," he said.

"My heart goes out to the families — they're having to make really hard choices for what's best for them. It's very stressful. But we're just excited to get started. I've said once we get to the other side of this we're going to have a big party, we're still going to do our open house and welcome everybody and we're excited for that."

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



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

There are interactive touch-screen TV's in each classroom — installed at student height — which will allow classrooms to do interactive work, open and close files and watch videos.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham Grove will feature Chatham County's first joint-use recreation facility to be used by the county's recreation department.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

'It's been an interesting time to open a school,' Chatham Grove Principal Larry Savage said. 'More than anything it's a hard time for parents.'

NEIGHBOR2NEIGHBOR

Making connections, extending a hand

BY MARCELA SLADE

Abundance NC

Editor's note: this is another in a series of updates on Chatham's "Neighbor2Neighbor," a grassroots collaborative project of Abundance NC, the News + Record and the Caremongering Pittsboro Facebook group. N2N's objective is to connect those in need during the pandemic with those who have the capacity to help. Marcela Slade, an organizer for Neighbor2Neighbor, is Abundance NC's event coordinator and art director.

I finally met some of the people I have been working for these past few months. Hilary Pollan of the Chatham County Manager's Office contacted Abundance NC about produce boxes being distributed at Chatham Outreach Alliance (CORA). I was able to secure 20 boxes to distribute among the Neighbor2Neighbor / VecinoAVecino people in need. I emailed and texted my contacts and received interest. Most people were able to pick up the boxes, but there were a couple I had to deliver as well as 15 more boxes I was given during distribution.

In order to distribute the extra 15 boxes, I knocked on the doors of neighbors of the people I had already been in contact with in Siler City. People were grateful and looked at me as if I were some kind of angel. Some thought I was trying to sell them and didn't want them until I said they were free.

Since the Neighbor2Neighbor / VecinoAVecino program started in May, I have been receiving applications from people who have resources and time to help people in need and applications from the people who need help. Mostly groceries, bought and delivered, are needed, but also paying utility bills. I pair these "neighbors" together through

emails, phone calls and text messages.

I want to re-thank everyone who has been able and willing to help through donations, time, shopping, delivery, prepared foods, pointing me to other resources and more. Together, we can get through this COVID-19 period as a supportive community.

I have been blessed a thousand times over for doing this work. People are so grateful. I feel all that gratitude as the program leader. "MAY GOD BLESS YOU" is the main phrase I hear as a pairing or payment is completed.

Why did I become program leader? Well, because I am the Latina at Abundance NC and most of the people in need that we have been able to tap into are Latino. El Vinculo Hispano and News + Record have been great promoters of the program and soon we will also have ads running on WUNC, one of our sponsors. The Neighbor2Neighbor / VecinoAVecino program is open to anyone who applies or contacts me personally. There are no prerequisites other than being from Chatham County or having worked in Chatham County.

We have helped many people who used to work at the Poultry Factory in Siler City, but live in Durham, Wake, Orange, Randolph or Guilford County. We also helped a family that used to work at a Furniture Factory in Lexington, but live in Chatham.

For privacy reasons, I will refer to them as the López family. María López first contacted me when the program started. She was behind on paying her utility bills and asked for help. We were able to get a few "neighbors" to pay parts of her bills directly as a one-time payment and recently used some of the GoFundMe funds to put her back on track.

I met María in person last week when she picked up her produce box at CORA. We had spoken on the phone several times, and it was good to see her. Her whole family had been hit by COVID-19. She, her husband and one of her daughters and son-in-law normally work at a furniture factory in Lexington.

First, she and her husband got it while still working at the factory. She said she couldn't eat for three weeks because of the sickness. She couldn't breathe, wanted to keep her eyes closed, didn't want to talk and had a constant dry mouth. "It felt like someone was dragging you," she said. She drank chamomile tea and hot water with lemon to feel better.

Then her younger daughter and son-in-law got it, and she says she thought her daughter was going to die. She had no energy and couldn't breathe, let alone talk. They live in different households, but María would call her every day to encourage her to get out of bed, ventilate the house and tend to her two kids. She believes those calls saved her daughter from dying and the tea she drank, including hot ginger blends. María says her daughter was scared of going to the doctor because she didn't want to get taken away from her family due to hospitalization, but it ended up becoming a positive experience to see the doctor because he calmed her by informing her the children were less prone to getting infected.

Shortly after, her other daughter and son-in-law got sick. That daughter is pregnant and couldn't take anything but Tylenol. María says this daughter spent each day in the hot shower. It was the only way she could breathe and feel alive.

After a week of feeling better, the

furniture factory was calling people back to work and she was one of the chosen ones to return. She turned the work down because she was still weak and scared she might get infected again. The factory had to close a week after because more cases.

María is an illegal immigrant who works under a false name. When she went to the doctor, the doctor would not sign the document she needed in order to go back to work, because it was not her real name. She will now have to submit a new work application with a different name.

The psychological impact María has endured is traumatic. She says she is scared of getting sick again and thanks God for surviving such a terrible sickness. She believes the help she received from Neighbor2Neighbor / VecinoAVecino helped her take her mind off bills and concentrate on getting better. She sees people take COVID-19 lightly and says if they only knew how horrible it feels they wouldn't be taking it lightly.

If you have time and/or resources to help a neighbor or need help, please join our program by completing this form:

English version: <https://bit.ly/ChathamNeighbor2Neighbor>

Spanish version: <https://bit.ly/ChathamVecinoAVecino>

If you don't have time but would like to donate you can write a check to Abundance NC and mail to: Abundance NC / Neighbor2Neighbor 220 Lorax Lane Pittsboro, NC 27312 or use this GO-FUNDME fundraiser to donate online: gfm.me/u/x4xj2c Once we receive and process you will receive a tax deductible receipt.

Support AbundanceNC with the Neighbor2Neighbor / VecinoAVecino program, many people in your community need your help!

Discovering Daylilies, Crinum and unique art in the Massey Garden

BY KIM HAWKS
News + Record Staff

Editor's note: CN+R photographer Kim Hawks, an experienced gardener, recently visited the Jim Massey family garden in Chatham for a picture-taking session, and filed this report.

In Chatham County, we are in the thick of summer. Gardeners rise early to enjoy the work in their gardens, then most of us retreat inside until after 7 p.m. when the heat and humidity of the day starts to lift.

Did you know there are late blooming daylilies to extend your summer daylily time? Peak daylily bloom time is early/mid July. But the daylilies featured in these photos begin blooming at the end of July and into early August.

Crinum flowers are another Southern perennial that is often lacking in our Southern Gardens. Big strappy leaves push out from hefty bulbs yielding tall spikes 3-4 inches tall topped with a cluster of Crinum flowers in different stages of opening. They hunker down until a shower arrives, then they push out more flowers. They are tolerant and patient with a survivalist quality.

Do you have heavy clay or lean sandy soils? No problem. Crinum thrive in poor soils: from heavy clay to lean sandy soils



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Adding art ornaments to a garden is like adding jewelry as an accessory to an outfit.

to poorly drained areas and swampy areas. Plant them on the deep side — 12 inches. If you mix in some manure, they won't complain.

In his book "Garden Bulbs for the South," Scott Ogden describes Spider Lilies as the "Bal-

lerinas of the Garden." Flowers emerge in July summer evenings and exude exquisite fragrance. Like Crinums, these are Southern perennials who can take the heat of our hot, humid summers. With its subtropical heritage, Spider Lilies need



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Late summer blooming Crinum can add much beauty to the garden.

rich soil and boggy, wet locations. In terms of soil preferences, heavy clay or sand is fine, as long as it is wet. Suitable sites include edges of ponds, along creeks and low, poorly drained areas in light shade, or half day sun.

Your best bet for finding these perennials is to search on the internet for mail-order nurseries who offer these wonderful Southern perennials.

Gardens can be accessorized cheaply with a little imagination. An old pair of rain boots that sprung a leak can become a container for plants. A kayak damaged by too many dings can become an interesting planter. Look around. I'm sure you can find some suitable items you no longer use that can be repurposed for "plant containers."



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Late season blooming Daylilies can also come in more muted tones like this one with burnt orange on yellow.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Stretch outside the norm by using different objects to host plants. Old worn out rain boots can make great garden containers.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Bottles in trees were originally thought to trap evil spirits from getting into the home. Bottle trees are popular garden ornaments in Chatham County.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The striking Spider Lily, also known as Hymenocallis, lovely and unique blooms offer something different for late summer gardens.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Late summer blooming Daylilies come in a host of colors, like this one with plum hues highlighted by vibrant yellow.

CHATHAM CHAT | TAMI SCHWERIN ON 'PEPPERFEST'

Annual PepperFest event will be different, but it's still on for 2020

This year's PepperFest, like all other public events, has been significantly altered by the COVID-19 pandemic. This week, we speak with organizer Tami Schwerin about the annual festival will look differently this year. Schwerin founded the non-profit Abundance NC as an organization dedicated to celebrating community resilience. She also manages The Plant, the eco-industrial park and Beverage District on the edge of Pittsboro. She has been creating things in Chatham County for almost 30 years. Her fellow workers at Abundance NC describe her as a person with an "utterly contagious" vibrancy, as well as "a fearless visionary, community builder, and cartographer of the impossible," and someone who sees "in pure potential." PepperFest is one of Abundance NC's major annual events.

Let's start with the "spirit of the pepper" and the origins of PepperFest ... can you give us a brief history lesson?

Thirteen years ago, farmer Doug Jones was starting his farm at The Plant and growing more than 100 varieties of peppers. His fascination with the pepper was for the incredibly high nutritional value — it has a higher vitamin C content than a grapefruit, plus B6, A and E, and it's full of antioxidants and anti-inflammatory. Plus, they grew so well in the piedmont of North Carolina.

So Abundance NC partnered with him and held a blind pepper tasting to help him with his data. We had about 40 people in the yard.

The next year we added a band and invited chefs to make dishes with his peppers. It was a cold almost snowy October day and we had 200 people. The next year, we added pepper beer and it

was sunny and all of a sudden we had 600 people!

Briar Chapel had taken notice and started to sponsor our event and they invited us to move over to their new park. It was a big decision, and we did it. It kept growing as we moved from park to bigger park to bigger park at Briar Chapel. We had a great partnership with them, many local businesses, so many restaurants from the triangle and beyond as well as WUNC. The event started having a life of its own! It took 100 volunteers, a Spice Squad to plan it and folks started looking forward to it each year. Some people even got engaged at PepperFest.

Pre-COVID, PepperFest was going to look different this year, with a new location. Before we get to the "new" set-up, what was the 2020 version of Pepperfest supposed to look like?

Last year we moved PepperFest to downtown Pittsboro in partnership with the town, the county and Mainstreet Pittsboro. It was a huge success with more than 100 vendors, chefs, local businesses, non-profits and fantastic entertainment as well as an electric car meet-up event. We were on our way to making that happen again and improving upon the success of 2019.

So now that we're in this new reality, what's the set-up for this year?

Well, with the pandemic, obviously events all over the country and world have been canceled for the unforeseen future. Abundance NC excels at events and bringing people together. Creating connections and building resilient communities ...

We had to think about this a long time. We thought about canceling and then we thought if anyone can model how to have a COVID-safe event, it would be us! We are rising to the challenge and are creating a mini-PepperFest complete with commemorative pepper masks made from past pepper T-shirts.

We have invited only seven chefs to create pepper dishes and they will put into shelf-stable mason jars that will go into picnic baskets custom made for attendees. There will be vegan, vegetarian and omnivore choices. Fair Game Beverage and Starrlight Meadery will be open for beverages and we'll have local music as well as a farmers' market. We are limiting the size of the entire event so that people can spread out around the campus, wear their masks and enjoy each other. If there is a mandated shutdown, folks can pick up their basket and take home. We are working on a "Zine" to include with recipes and stories for each basket. Other surprises of course will be a part of the festival, but I can't discuss.

Tickets are limited, so sell us on the idea of why a ticket is such a good idea?

We only have 100 tickets this year. Each ticket is for two adults (kids are free) and they get to share the picnic basket. It's a good idea because it supports Abundance NC, local farmers, it will be an adventure, it will be historical and you don't want to miss this eclectic festival that Pittsboro is now known for.

Where can we find out more?

Tickets on sale now here: <https://ti-nryurl.com/2020PepperFest>



Submitted graphic

This year's edition of 'Pepperfest' will look different than past events.

'We had to think about this a long time. We thought about canceling and then we thought if anyone can model how to have a COVID-safe event, it would be us!'

TAMI SCHWERIN, Abundance NC

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

HELP WANTED

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR NEEDED - Must be skilled in operating an excavator/dozer. Valid driver's license, drug free and ready to work - Must be able to communicate in English. Call 919-774-3107, Leave message. Au13-01,8tp

UTILITY MECHANIC III (Equipment Operator) - Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), Carrboro-Chapel Hill's not-for-profit public service agency delivering high-quality water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services seeks a highly responsible, detail-oriented individual to join our Water Distribution and Sewer Collection team as a Utility Mechanic III. - This position maintains,

repairs, and installs, water, sewer, reclaimed water lines, and associated infrastructure. This includes water services, meters, valves, hydrants, manholes, and maintaining easements. This position is also responsible for transporting material and equipment to job site; repairing leaks; locating underground utilities; repairing roadways and performing landscaping duties. Position uses a wide variety of equipment and tools including, but not limited to, hand tools, air compressors, jack hammers, pavement saw, dump trucks, excavators, backhoes, loaders, tractors, compact rollers and tapping machines. Other duties include performing inspections, communicating with customers, and providing lead on-call duties for after hour work on a rotating basis. In the absence of the Crew Leader, directs crew members. Must be comfortable using e-mail and computerized work order systems. - Six-months to one year of advanced study or training at a community college or technical school with one to three years of relevant experience. Position requires a valid NC Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and a Water Distribution Grade B and/or Collection System Grade II. Prior experience using City Works and a Geographic Information System (GIS) is highly preferred. Candidates must have the ability to work outdoors in all kinds of weather and respond to after-hour situations, as necessary. Position requires exerting 20 - 50 pounds constantly, 50 - 100 pounds frequently and walking/standing to a significant degree. Typical hours are Monday through Friday 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. - OWASA provides excellent benefits to include membership in the NC Local Government Employees Retirement System, employer 457 plan contribution and retirement health savings account. Paid Health, Dental, Vision and Life insurances. Additional benefits include: Paid Holidays, Vacation, Sick and Personal Leave, Bereavement and Parental Leave, Educational Reimbursement, Bonus Pay for Additional Certifications and/or Education. - Ideal candidates should be self-motivated team players with proven leadership abilities and excellent communication skills. Candidates must have an exceptional work ethic with the ability to assist the team to fulfill the mission and goals of OWASA while ensuring safe work practices are always followed. - OWASA is an Equal Opportunity Employer

committed to continuous improvement, sustainability, creativity, diversity, and inclusion. OWASA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex in administration of its programs or activities, or employment decisions. - Salary Range is \$44,962 - \$69,24, Certified Orange County Living Wage Employer - To complete an application visit www.owasa.org. - Closing date is August 24, 2020. Au13,1tc

DISTRIBUTION AND COLLECTION Systems Coordinator - (Office and Field Support) - Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), Carrboro-Chapel Hill's not-for-profit public service agency delivering high-quality water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services seeks a highly responsible individual to join our team as a Distribution and Collection Systems Coordinator. - Position provides a well-organized, planned and scheduled approach to the operating procedures for the Water Distribution and Sewer Collection Departments. This position manages the daily office operations by answering telephones, greeting/assisting visitors, handling customer inquiries related to the water distribution and sewer collection systems, creating memos, documents, reports, correspondence, and maintains calendars and filing system for the departments. - Plays a lead role in administratively organizing various programs such as the Cross-Connection, Backflow Prevention, and Advanced Meter reading system. Serves as Administrator to the computerized work order management system (Cityworks). This is accomplished by creating work orders and service requests; generating reports and dispatching crews to work sites. Position requires excellent, above average aptitude with all Microsoft Office products. Use of Cityworks is preferred as is knowledge and proficiency with GIS mapping systems. - We are seeking an excellent communicator both

in writing and verbally. Position needs to communicate successfully with the public, work crews and Town Officials. This position has rotating on-call communication duties. Typical work hours are Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - Minimum requirements include an Associate degree with three to five years of relevant administrative support experience with practical knowledge of water and sewer maintenance and infrastructure. Valid North Carolina Class C driver's license required. - OWASA provides excellent benefits to include membership in the NC Local Government Employees Retirement System, employer 457 plan contribution and retirement health savings account. Paid Health, Dental, Vision and Life insurances. Additional benefits include: Paid Holidays, Vacation, Sick, Personal, Bereavement and Parental Leave. Educational Reimbursement, Bonus Pay for Additional Certifications and/or Education and more! - The ideal candidate is a team player with excellent work ethic, adaptability, and the desire to work in a collaborative environment. Candidates must

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Line ad deadline
Tuesday — Noon

Display ad deadline
Monday — 5 p.m.

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

Blind ads
No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.

Errors
In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

HIRING CNA's
2ND & 3RD SHIFTS
CALL: 919-542-3151
Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm
for appointment to complete application and interview
Pittsboro Christian Village
1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

Beat *the* Heat



What: Interviews and Ice Cream
When: 8/22/2020 Saturday
Time: 10:00am-2:30pm
Where: Mountaire Farms, Inc
Address: 1100 E 3rd St
Siler City, NC 27344

General Labor and Salary Positions
available, bring a resume.



EOE

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Chatham County, NC
Estate Property of Late Mrs. Ethel Buckner
6424 Siler City Snow Camp Rd., Siler City, NC

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be extremely dependable, creative, and able to support a large fast-paced department. Must have a service-oriented attitude, professional demeanor and be detail oriented. - OWASA is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to continuous improvement, sus-

tainability, creativity, diversity, and inclusion. OWASA does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex in administration of its programs or activities, or employment decisions. - Salary range: \$42,419 - \$65,324 - Certified Orange County Living

Wage Employer. - To complete an application visit www.owasa.org. - Closing date is August 24, 2020. Au13,1tc

ELDERLY CARE NEEDED IN HOME - Mature woman to care for elderly female's personal needs, light housekeeping duties included. Monday - Friday, Part-time, AM. Contact Jane, 919-605-8814, Au6,13,20,27,4tp

TOWN ENGINEER - TOWN OF PITTSBORO, NC. This position will assist the Town with all aspects of municipal engineering including technical reviews of site plans and development applications, inspection of utility infrastructure construction projects, capital projects management, preparation of the annual Powell Bill Report, stormwater program administration and engineering designs on small municipal projects. Serves as the Town Stormwater Program Administrator for the administration of the Jordan Lake Watershed New Development Stormwater Ordinance for the Town of Pittsboro. Some design of small-scale Public Works/Public Utilities projects including sewer and drain installations, streets, and parking lots. Reviews the assessment of access fees and capital recovery fees for connections to the Town's water and sewer systems. Coordinates and directs land survey work and preparation of utility easements, encroachment agreements and right-of-way acquisitions with the Planning Director and Town Attorney. Prepares project plans, specifications, and cost estimates for small capital projects; manages bid process; monitors expenses against budget; negotiates change orders. For large capital projects, serves as the Town's project manager and coordinates the activities of consulting architects and engineers. Assists the Planning Director and Finance Officer with preparation of the annual Capital Improvement Plan. Reviews and comments on subdivision proposals to ensure compliance with applicable Town, state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Participates in site plan review process and in reviewing new zoning regulations. Meets with applicants regarding submissions before the Planning Board and/or Board of Commissioners and provides advice and consultation to applicants. Inspects the installation of streets, water, sewer and storm sewers constructed by

developers prior to acceptance of these facilities by the Town. Serves as the Town's representative on the Jordan Lake Partnership Technical Review Team. Prepares other engineering reports, documents and records as required. Performs traffic engineering duties such as traffic engineering studies, periodic review and revision of Town traffic regulations for approval by Town and submission to state for required permits. Attends public hearings to present technical information and to respond to citizen inquiries, requests and complaints. Assists citizens and other Town departments in resolution of engineering problems. Performs other engineering related duties as assigned. Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, registration as a Professional Engineer in North Carolina and 3-5 years of experience in municipal engineering. Salary is commensurate with training and exp. with excellent benefit package. Submit Town of Pittsboro Employment Application to Town Manager, P.O. Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Download application at: www.pittsboro-nc.org or call (919) 542-4621 ext. 1104 to ask for an application in the mail. Criminal background checks and verification of educational credentials will be done on final candidates. Pre-employment drug test req'd. EOE. Open until filled. For assured consideration apply by September 18, 2020. Au6,13,20,27,4tc

MOUNTAIRE FARMS OF SILER CITY is seeking an **OCCUPATIONAL NURSE**, Hours 4:30pm - 1:00AM, to provide first aid and emergency care for occupational injuries and illness, performing required pre-employment physicals and drug screens and record-keeping and documentation of visits to health services. Seeking an LPN or RN with 2 years of practical experience preferably in a Manufacturing environment or Emergency Care. Knowledge of case management, workers' compensation and OSHA regulations preferred. Ability to work with limited supervision and high motivation., Ability to work well under pressure, meeting multiple and sometimes conflicting deadlines. Strong computer skills (MS Word, MS Excel and HRIS system.), Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. - Job Type: Full-time. Salary: \$18.00 to \$22.00/hour - <https://mountairejobs.com>, Au6,tfnc

CHATHAM COUNTY PARTNERSHIP for Children seeks Program Director to ensure programmatic success and promote quality child care and early education through CCR&R. <http://www.capabilitycompany.com/posprofiles/posccpcpd.shtm>. Jy30,Au6,13,3tp

LEGALS

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 judgment 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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **BIANCA D. WILSON**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, are hereby notified to present them to Betty S. Wilson, Administrator of the decedent's estate, on or before October 23, 2020, in the care of the undersigned 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 23rd day of July, 2020 Betty S. Wilson, Administrator Estate of Bianca D. Wilson Wilson Reives & Silverman, PLLC Post Office Box 1653 Sanford, NC 27331 Jy23,Jy30,Au6,Au13,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 337 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **PATRICIA ANN ALEXANDER**, 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 23, 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 23rd day of July, 2020. Keith Frederick Alexander, Executor 111 Lantern Ridge Lane Cary, NC 27519 Jy23,J30,Au6,Au13,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 338 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **RUBY LYNDA KEARNEY BARKER**, 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 23, 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 23rd day of July, 2020. Rebecca Ann Barker Brocker, Executor 156 Hermitage Lane Moncure, NC 27559 Jy23,Jy30,Au6,Au13,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **GLORIA RUTH ROYS**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before October 30th, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 30th day of July, 2020. Lynda R. Heymen, Executor Estate of Gloria Ruth Roys c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Jy30,Au6,Au13,Au20,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Theresa Brooks and Veronica Brooks, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **ROBERT HEADEN**, 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 31st Day of October, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 23rd day of July, 2020. Co-Executors 1. Theresa Brooks 201 Elder Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-4503 2. Veronica Brooks 1112 Stockyard Road Staley, NC 27355 1-336-257-0431 W. Ben Atwater, Jr. Attorney at Law P.O. Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2850 batwater@pinehurst.net Jy30,Au6,Au13,Au20,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Tracey S. Wilkie, having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **SYLVIA ANN THAMES SCOTT**, 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 31st Day of October, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 23rd day of July, 2020. Tracey S. Wilkie, Administrator 204 Wall Road Goldston, NC 27252 919-548-4982 W. Ben Atwater, Jr. Attorney at Law P.O. Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2850 batwater@pinehurst.net Jy30,Au6,Au13,Au20,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 146 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of

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FTCC. Fayetteville Technical Community College is now accepting applications for the following positions: Grounds Technician Administrative Assistant I, VP for Administrative Services. For detailed information and to apply, please visit our employment portal at: <https://faytechcc.peopleadmin.com>. Human Resources OfficePhone: (910) 678-7342. Internet: <http://www.faytechcc.edu>. An Equal Opportunity Employer

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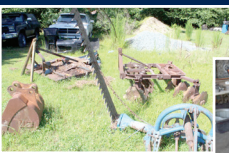
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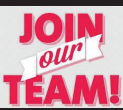


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EOE/M/F/V

the Estate of **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WOMBLE**, 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 30, 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. The 30th day of July, 2020. Sherrika Martin, Executor 710 Horton Road Goldston, NC 27252
Jy30,Au6,Au13,Au20,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 354
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **HAROLD STEVE RIGGSBEE**, late of Apex, 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 C/O Stam Law Firm, PLLC at 510 W. Williams St. Apex, North Carolina 27502, on or before the 30th day of October, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 27th day of July 2020. /s/ Vickie Riggsbee Goodwin Executor of the Estate of Harold Steve Riggsbee Lisa M. Schreiner Stam Law Firm, PLLC 510 W. Williams St. Apex, NC 27502
Jy30,Au6,Au13,Au20,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 174
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against ESTATE of **EUNICE ANN POWERS**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on March 24, 2020, are hereby notified to present their claims to **JOSEPH LUNDY POWERS & DEIDRE POWERS DEAN**, CO-ADMINISTRATORS, at the address listed below, on or before October 30, 2020 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the deceased, please make immediate payment. This 27th day of July, 2020. Co-Administrators: Joseph Lundy Powers 8551 North Douglas Hwy Juneau, AK 99801 Deirdre Powers Dean 326 Powers Country Lane Bennett, NC 27208
Jy30,Au6,Au13,Au20,4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday, August 17, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro, North Carolina at 1192 US-64 W BUS. Due to the Governor's restrictions on mass gatherings, public seating at the meeting will be limited. There will also be an option to participate electronically and for more information about the meeting you can select the meeting date at the following link: <https://www.chathamnc.org/government/commissioner-meetings/calendar-with-agenda-minutes>. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at: www.chathamnc.org by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below:
Legislative Request:
1. A legislative public hearing for a request from Bold Development Group, LLC for a conditional district rezoning on Parcels 18901, 18757, 18758, 80023, 65382, 76461, 60704, 18789, 18892, 18747, 18760, 18889, 18891, and 18748 collectively "William's Corner Commercial Development", located on US 15-501 N and Lystra Rd, being approximately 118 total acres, to rezone from Conditional Use Business (CU-B1) with a Conditional Use Permit for a Planned Unit Development and R1, Residential, to Conditional District Mixed Use (CD-MU) zoning district containing retail, commercial, office, storage, and multi-family residential.
2. A legislative public hearing for a request from Bold Development Group, LLC for a Zoning Ordinance text amendment to Section 10.12.F Exterior Boundary Setbacks for mixed use developments. Testimony is required to be given under oath during the evidentiary hearing for the following item:
Quasi-Judicial Request:
1. A quasi-judicial public hearing for a request by Chatham County Emergency Manage-

ment on a conditional use permit for a new proposed 350 foot communications tower to be located at the Moncure Volunteer Fire Department, 2389 Old US 1, Parcel 81087, being approximately 8.33 acres, Cape Fear Township.
2. A quasi-judicial public hearing for a request by Chatham County Emergency Management on a conditional use permit for a new proposed 300 foot communications tower to be located at the new proposed Emergency Operations Center, Parcel No. 12481, 188 Innovation Way, being approximately 272 acres, Hickory Mountain Township.
Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions.
Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.
Au6,Au13,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 319
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **DONALD GRAY BOYD**, 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 NOVEMBER 6, 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. The 30th day of July, 2020. Amanda Tillman Clack, Administrator 539 Ryder Lake Drive Sanford, NC 27330
Au6,Au13,Au20,Au27,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 334
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of **LARRY W. STEVENS**, 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 NOVEMBER 6, 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. The 30th day of July, 2020 Larry Dale Stevens, Limited Personal Representative 4124 Chatham St Bennett, NC 27208
Au6,Au13,Au20,Au27,4tp

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
In the District Court Division **19 CVD 943**
EDMONDS v. MCMILLAN
To: Jonathan McMillan: Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Child Custody
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than September 15, 2020 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This, the 6th day of August, 2020.
D. Melissa Averett Attorney for Plaintiff 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150 Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Au6,Au13,Au20,3tp

TOWN OF SILER CITY, PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on August 17, 2020 at 7 pm in the City Hall Courtroom located at 311 N. 2nd Ave. Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following request: Town of Siler City proposes text amendments to §23 Appointment and Terms of Planning Board Members of the UDO. The proposed items are 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 comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced items. The Planning Board will meet on August 10 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Town Board. 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 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 [919-726-8625](tel:9197268625) o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.
Au6,Au13,2tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on **Thursday, August 27, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m.** The hearing will be held at the **Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro**, North Carolina at 1192 US-64 W BUS. Due to the Governor's restrictions on mass gatherings, public seating at the meeting will be limited. There will also be an option to participate electronically and for more information about the meeting you can select the meeting date at the following link: <https://www.chathamnc.org/government/commissioner-meetings/calendar-with-agenda-minutes>. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www.chathamnc.org by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below: Legislative Request:
1. A Legislative public hearing for a request by Vickers Bennett Group, LLC to amend the language in the Zoning Ordinance, Sections 5.2, 7.2, 10.12 to accommodate language for Conditional District Mixed Use Cluster Residential (CD-MU-CR).
2. A Legislative public hearing for a request by Vickers Bennett Group, LLC to amend the language in the Subdivision Regulations, Section 7.7, to add MU-CD-CR.
3. A Legislative public hearing for a request by Vickers Bennett Group, LLC to amend the language in the Watershed Protection Ordinance, Sections 109, 302 [E] (2), 303 (A), and 303 (C), to accommodate language for Mixed-Use Development and Cluster Development.
4. A legislative rezoning public hearing for a request by 919 Storage LLC on Parcel No. 3080, located at 72 Marvin Edwards Lane, from R-2 Residential to Conditional Regional Business District (CD-RB) on approximately 7.93 acres out of the 17.64 acre tract for self-storage mini warehouse facility, William's Township. Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions.
Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.
Au13,Au20,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
HAVING QUALIFIED as Co-Executors of the Estate of **JAMES B. WEEKS, SR.**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of November, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 3rd day of August, 2020. James B. Weeks, JR. and Julia W. Greene, Co-Executors of the Estate of James B. Weeks, SR. Post Office Box 665 Siler City, North Carolina 27344 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ROPER & LEE, LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 665 SILER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 27344 (919) 742-5614
Au13,Au20,Au27,S3,4tc

ADVERTISMENT FOR SEALED PROPOSALS

Chatham County Schools RFP 2020-2021, BANKING SERVICES
Sealed Proposals titled "BANKING SERVICES" may be furnished to Chatham County Schools, 369 West Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-9573 until 12:00 pm, Monday, August 31, 2020. The intent of Chatham County Schools is to obtain Banking Services. Instructions for submitting proposals and complete specifications may be obtained at the above address during regular office hours. Chatham County Schools reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals. Please refer to our website for the complete RFP: www.chatham.k12.nc.us
Au13,Au20,Au27,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20-E-361
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Shanelle K. Edmonds, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JEFFREY D. HASSLER**, 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 13TH day of November, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 13th day of August, 2020. Shanelle K. Edmonds Administrator for the Estate Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312
Au13,Au20,Au27,S3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20-E-105
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Marie Hopper, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **DAVID PERRY MANN**, 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 13TH day of November, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 13th day of August, 2020. Marie Hopper Administrator for the Estate C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312
Au13,Au20,Au27,S3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 348
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **THERESA M. DOYLE aka THERESA MARGARET DOYLE** [hereinafter "Theresa M. Doyle"] of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 5th day of March, 2020, are notified to present them to Margaret O'Connor, Executrix of the Estate of Theresa M. Doyle in c/o Dean P. Broz, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before November 19, 2020. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executrix, and the devisees of Theresa M. Doyle. Those indebted to Theresa M. Doyle are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. Dean P. Broz Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834
Au13,Au20,Au27,S3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
HAVING QUALIFIED as Administrator of the Estate of **MICAH JOEL GURLEY**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims

against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of November, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 7th day of August, 2020. Cindy I. Gurley, Administrator of The Estate of Micah Joel Gurley 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
Au13,Au20,Au27,S3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
HAVING QUALIFIED as Administrator of the Estate of **MITCHELL JAY GURLEY** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of November, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 7th day of August, 2020. Cindy I. Gurley, Administrator of The Estate of Mitchell Jay Gurley 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
Au13,Au20,Au27,S3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 290
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **CHERYL ANN DIXON**, 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 28th, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 13th day of August, 2020. Administrator, Anthony Joseph Sanford 477 Blue Hill Avenue Boston, MA, 02121
Au13,Au20,Au27,S3,4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Chatham County Board of Health will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 24, 2020, beginning at 6 p.m. The hearing will be held via Go To Meeting. The link for the meeting can be found on the Board of Health August 24, 2020 agenda posted on the Chatham County website at www.chathamnc.org. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the proposed changes to the existing rules governing the Construction, Repair and Abandonment of Wells in Chatham County. The proposed changes include:
Removing the requirement that well liners must be pump grouted
The proposed changes if approved will take effect October 1, 2020. Additional information and the proposed rule changes are available on the County website at www.chathamnc.org/environmentalhealth. Speakers are requested to sign up prior to the hearing. Anyone wishing to speak during the public hearing should email the request to Vicky.guetgemann@chathamnc.org. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Health. Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or the Board's discussions. The Board will accept written comments up to 24 hours after the hearing is closed. Notice to people with special

needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Health Department at 919-542-8208 or write to P.O. Box 130, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.
Au13,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 383
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **JOSEPH CLAXTON HARRIS, JR.**, 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 November 13, 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. The 10th day of August, 2020 Dorothy H. King Harris, Executrix 10234 Governors Dr Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Au13,Au20,Au27,S3,4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF PITTSBORO
The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold 1 Legislative Public Hearing and 1 Evidentiary Hearing on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The Public Hearings will be conducted remotely via Zoom, a teleconference software, for the following items:
1. Legislative Public Hearing for a Rezoning Request: Luke Starit is proposing to conditionally rezone a 3.77 acre lot on Thompson Street adjacent to Pittsboro Town Hall from R-10 to O&I(CZ) (PID 8155). The purpose of the legislative public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. If you wish to participate in the legislative public hearing you may speak via Zoom or voicemail or submit written comments for consideration by the Board. The Comments will not be read, but will be provided to the Board and included in the minutes. Written comments may be sent to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock, at cbullock@pittsboronc.gov. The Clerk will receive written comments to be included in the minutes for 24 hours after the meeting. Please sign up with the Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on August 24, 2020 if you wish to participate. **SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING.**
2. Evidentiary Hearing for a Special Use Permit Request: ODG 87, LLC is proposing a 99' townhouse lot subdivision, on an approximate 16.42 acre parcel, located south of the intersection of NC 87 Bypass and Burnice Place (PID 7006). The property is located in the R-15 zoning district where townhouses are required to obtain a Special Use Permit. The purpose of the evidentiary hearing is to determine, by presentation of factual evidence, whether the specified use(s) will be allowed on the above referenced property. The complete records are on file at the office of the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. **SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PERMIT REQUEST MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING IN ITS PROPOSED LOCATION, BUT ONLY THOSE CONDITIONS MUTUALLY APPROVED BY THE TOWN AND THE PETITIONER MAY BE INCORPORATED INTO THE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.** If you have standing and wish to participate in the evidentiary public hearing you may speak under oath via Zoom video or audio. Please sign up with the Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on August 24, 2020 if you wish to participate. Instructions on how to join the Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website under the BOC Agenda, Minutes, and Audio tab (PittsboroNC.gov).
Au13,Au20,2tc

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