Chatham Schools: More students to return under Plan B, PAGE B4

Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | NOVEMBER 12-18, 2020 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

A new president has been elected, but a divided nation rages on

'It's a totally divided electorate, and the why isn't simple.'

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

Chatham County, uniquely nestled between North Carolina's Democrat-dominant Triangle and Republican-heavy western rural areas, is a telling microcosm of political strife

and value-based disagreement that represents a larger political divide which is casting the nation into turmoil.

Just north of Chatham, Durham County was by far new president-elect Joe Biden's strongest N.C. supporter in this year's election. It voted 81% for

the former vice president in his race against Donald Trump. In contrast, Randolph Coun-

ANALYSIS

ty, immediately west of Chatham,

went 78% for Trump. Chatham's voting pattern in the presidential election, almost evenly divided between candidates, demonstrates its residents' political discontinu-

But numbers tell only a frac-

tion of the story. Comparing this year's election with 2016's would seem to indicate little change in voter perspective.

Four years ago, Chatham County voted 53% for Hillary Clinton and 43% for Donald Trump, who ended up winning North Carolina and the presidency. This year, it voted 55% for Biden and 44% for Trump. A strict comparison of figures would indicate no aberration over time — the county still

breaks almost down the middle, with Democrats taking a slight upper hand.

In fact, national voting figures depict a similar election. Biden eked out the win, but not decidedly — not like the polls predicted. Both campaigns, Biden's and Trump's, anticipated landslide victories. Pollsters sided with the former, but all parties were wrong.

See **DIVIDED**, page A6

St. Bart's hosts bishop at community lunch



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

A volunteer hands out extra food in addition to the day's meal.

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Two days after the most contentious Election Day of modern times, Chatham County community members converged on Pittsboro's St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church with a markedly different tone — embracing their differences and working together to assist the less fortunate.

Episcopalians and guests convened at the church's W. Salisbury Street location, just west of downtown Pittsboro, as they do every Thursday for St. Bart's community lunch — a free lunch program that has been running for almost 12 years. After the pandemic briefly stifled the service, church organizers regrouped and adjusted their model to align with current health guidelines and restarted the program in July.

"We used to have everyone seated inside to eat together," said Terry Transue, a church attendee and the event's director. "Now we check people in, they come up and give us their

name and go on through." To keep attendees and organizers safe, the community lunch has evolved into a drivethrough meal service. Anyone looking for a meal — not just church members — is encouraged to register in advance by calling the church, but the request is not enforced. Transue



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church has converted its community lunch into a drive-thru meal service during the pandemic.

and other volunteers prepare meals in the church's kitchen, then package and dispense them with minimal contact. Recipients are asked not to exit their vehicles to mitigate potential spread of the disease.

"We've been averaging about 115 to 135 meals each week, Transue said. That accounts for about 70

cars. Each vehicle is welcome to claim more than one meal. 'We have one lady who picks

up meals for several families who really need help," Transue said, "so she gets 10."

Last week's menu was a veritable smorgasbord of mostly donated foodstuffs professionally prepared by the church's cooks.

"We've got sliced ham," Transue said, "sweet potatoes with honey butter, corn pudding and apple blueberry crumble top for dessert."

But he was quick to point out meals vary from week to week and they cannot always put together something as special as that day's selection. They pulled out all the stops, though, to commemorate a special guest's visit: Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman, XII Bishop of the Episcopal

Diocese of North Carolina. "To me it's a big deal," Terry said of Rodman's attendance. "He's the bishop from Charlotte to

In fact, Rodman's diocese

See BISHOP, page A7

'TAKE THAT LEAP OF FAITH'



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham County Commissioner-elect Franklin Gomez

Franklin Gomez Flores could make history as Chatham's first Latino commissioner

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Franklin Gomez Flores has been climbing over obstacles and breaking bar-

riers since he was 5 years old. Now 26, he's just broken through a major one: he's set to become Chatham County's first Latino commissioner after defeating incumbent Andy Wilkie by just 322 votes in last Tuesday's election — a

margin of 50.36% to 49.64%. "I want to provide my Latino community a voice on the county board," he said. "We've never had one.

In addition to making Chatham County history, Gomez Flores is also the first in his family to be elected to office — another in a long line of firsts for him.

"None of my family members are politicians or have been in government, so I'd be the first one in my family to serve (in) government," Gomez Flores told the News + Record. "So, in essence, I'm a first-generation immigrant, first-generation college graduate and a to-be first-generation elected official."

Wilkie, who was appointed in May 2019 to fill the unexpired term of former commissioner Walter Petty, has not publicly said whether he'll ask for a recount. He has not

See COMMISSIONER, page A11

Wondering why N.C. hasn't finalized election results? Here's the deal

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

North Carolina will probably be the last state in the country to release its final election tallies. By then, its verdict on the presidential election will be a moot point. The once-pivotal swing state will ultimately make no difference in selecting this country's next leader; Joe Biden earned more than enough electoral college votes elsewhere in the country to project him as president-elect. Still, while the presidential

race may not be on the line, several key state and local elections hang in the balance as we await final vote tallies. So, what's the deal? Why don't we

As usual, blame COVID-19

It probably comes as little surprise to learn the coronavirus pandemic is (indirectly) to blame for our delay in election results. Anticipating record numbers of absentee-by-mail ballots to be cast by voters wary of traditional Election Day

crowds and queues, the North Carolina Board of Elections approved a request back in late summer to extend the deadline by which county boards could receive absentee ballots.

To be clear, the modification did not permit votes to be cast after Election Day on Nov. 3. To ensure the integrity of the voting system, the NCSBE stipulated that mailed-in ballots must have their postmarks verified before they are counted.

Still, the pandemic measure, which extended the deadline to Nov. 12 — six days beyond the

limit traditionally imposed by state legislature — met with heavy opposition from Republicans who argued the relaxation in rules would introduce opportunities for abuse and fraud. So began a controversial succession of legal hearings that culminated at the U.S. Supreme Court.

The ruling first made its way before a judge after a Democratic-backed alliance of retired North Carolinians filed a lawsuit in August arguing that NCSBE rules stifled their constitutional right to safely

cast a vote. Given the extraordinary circumstances of a global pandemic, and their heightened vulnerability to its contraction, the retirees requested the board receive ballots up to nine days post-election.

A Wake County Superior Court judge, Bryan Collins, issued a settlement approving the group's demands. All five NCSBE members accepted the amendment, but its two Republican members later resigned in

See **RESULTS**, page A7





COMMUNITY **CALENDAR**

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

CANCELLATIONS

 Chatham County Council on Aging: both centers are closed at this time until further notice. If you need to pick up supplies, call the Siler City or Pittsboro location or check our website at chathamcoa.org.

ON THE AGENDA

 The Chatham County **Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 16, for their regular session meeting at the Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro.

• The Siler City Board of Commissioners will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 16, at Town Hall in Siler

· Central Carolina Community College: Whether you are looking for flexible course choices to meet your personal schedule or starting a new program of study, CCCC's 8-week term allows you to find courses that fit your academic and career goals. To register for courses, contact your advisor or

the admissions office at 919-718-7300 (Lee Main Campus), 919-545-8025 (Chatham Main Campus). and 910-814-8827 or 910-814-8867 (Harnett Main Campus). See www.cccc. edu/12and8 for a list of

THURSDAY

• The Chatham Historical Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Fridays from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Masks required and groups will be distanced. Adult and kid friendly; with no admission fee. The current special exhibit is vintage toys. Don't miss it! Our permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history. The Museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the circle at Pittsboro. More info: https://chathamhistory.

org • The Pittsboro Farmers Market is open with seasonable items yearround from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. It is 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.

MONDAY

 Thanksgiving Food Drive! Non-perishable food items will be collected from Monday through Friday, November 16 through 20. Drop off items during regular business hours at Smith and Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. 2nd Ave., Siler City.

TUESDAY

 Chatham Community Library is offering free classes on digital genealogy and Microsoft Power-Point in November. While the library is closed, all classes will be presented virtually. Register online to receive a meeting link. A description of each class, including topics covered and prerequisites for attending, can be found at www.chathamnc. org/ComputerClasses. - Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 2: November 17, Tuesday, 3 p.m. and - Going Digital with Genealogy, Part 2: November 19, Thursday, 3 p.m. 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.

 Supper with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be held on Friday, Dec. 4, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Paul Braxton Gymnasium, where the

facility will be turned into a winter wonderland. This is a floating event and pre-registered tickets are required to enter as space is limited. Event tickets are available online at www.silercity. org or in City Hall, 311 North Second Ave., Siler City. Adult tickets are \$10 and tickets for children age 12 and younger are \$5. The deadline to register is Nov. 27 or until full. No tickets will be available on the day of the event. For more information, contact Daniel Spivey with the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at (919) 742-2699, email recreation@silercity.org, or visit us online at www. silercity.org

 With COVID-19 sweeping the country, artists' livelihoods are being challenged like never before. The Chatham Arts Council has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called **CAARE:** Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief **Effort.** For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit ChathamArtsCouncil.org. JMArts hosted a

JMACoronaConcert via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @ JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMACoronaConcert performances

and #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 proj ects, ffice work, and care for animals. Chatham Connecting website lists many volunteer opportunities for youth. See where you are needed to help in the community: www.chathamconnecting. org.

 Foster and/or adoptive information: Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more.

 Alcoholics Anonymous – North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.

 Motorcycle Association — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.

 Narcotics Anonymous - For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing

of local meetings.

Scout News

 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.

Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information. Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on

• Boy Scout Troop 93 in

from 7 to 8:30 p.m Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts. · Pack 900 in Bear Creek

meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See http://pack900. com for more informa-

County making 'progress' on cyber incident

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Chatham officials say the "cyber incident" which affected the county government's network on Oct. 28 is still under investigation.

'Chatham County's Management and Information Systems (MIS) Department, along with federal, state, and local partners continue working to restore the affected systems," said County Manager Dan LaMontagne. "A timeline has not been established for full service restoration; however we continue to make progress in our ability to communicate with the

In an update provided Tuesday afternoon, LaMontage said:

• "Many Chatham County office phones are operating again, and we are working to get all phones back online; however, the voicemail system is still being repaired and expected to be restored in the coming days.

Chatham County will soon move to a .gov email domain for county employee email addresses. As we make the move to the .gov domain, emails sent to the previous .org domain will continue to

be forwarded for a period of time."

More information will be forthcoming, he said. In addition:

 Alternative contact methods have been established, such as temporary email addresses and phone numbers for the public to reach county

· A new web page has been created at chathamnc.org/cyberincident which includes a central directory for departments' contact information as well as Frequently Asked Questions. More specific details can be found under each department's individual web page. The cyber incident web page is also available en Español at chathamnc.org/incidenteciber.

The community is chathamnc.org, particularly the web pages mentioned above, and the county's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor) for updates.

'Updates on the restoration of services/systems will continue to be provided," he said. "We appreciate the community's continued and support and patience as we

this situation."

County officials would not confirm a report that the FBI was involved in the investigation of the

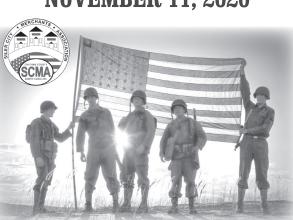
incident, nor address questions about whether that incident involved a request for a ransom or a payment of any kind.

Chatham County Council on Aging WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: What town was the western terminus of the Bonlee and Western Railway?

Find the answer in this issue for your chance to win a \$25 Visa Gift Card!

ETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11, 2020



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CHATHAM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Blue tide in Chatham votes out sole Republican

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN AND JAMES KIEFER News + Record Staff

After a general election in which nearly every race went blue in Chatham, Chatham County's Board of Commissioners will now be completely represented

by Democrats. Incumbents Karen Howard and Mike Dasher held onto their seats as commissioners in Dist. 1 and 2 on Election Day, while Dist. 5 challenger Franklin Gomez Flores edged out the sole Republican incumbent, Andy Wilkie — with a margin of only 322 votes, according to unofficial results from the Chatham County Board of Elections.

A week after the election, Wilkie had not conceded, and it was not yet clear whether he would ask for a recount.

The Chatham Board of Commissioners is made up of five members, each representing a district in the county while being elected at-large. The board's other members, Jim Crawford and Diana Hales — both Democrats — were not up for reelection this year.

Prior to Election Day, a few largely conservative Facebook groups criticized the three Democratic candidates, baselessly claiming their policies were selfishly motivated or advocated for selfish spending.

"I will say that there is, in my mind, a stark difference between the candidates

the Democratic candidates that are running for election, re-election and the Republican candidates, Howard told the News + Record in October, regarding such social media posts. "If their view of local government is that it is meant to hoard our tax money and sit on it and use it for some purpose that does not touch the people, that does not benefit and uplift our community, then I think that government would be very misguided, that government would be callous, and that government would be irresponsible.'

Howard has served as a county commissioner since 2014 after winning the Dist. 1 seat in an election for an unexpired term and keeping the seat in 2016, when she also beat Stobbs. She currently serves as the board's chairperson. She kept her seat with 25,315 votes — about 54% of total votes cast in that race — defeating Republican opponent Jay Stobbs, who

received 21,377 votes. Commissioner Mike Dasher also defeated his Republican challenger with a little over 54% of the vote. The Dist. 2 incumbent

gathered 25,325 votes while opponent Jimmy Pharr collected 21,230 ballots. With only 322 votes

separating the two candidates in initial results, Gomez Flores appeared to take the Dist. 5 seat with a slim margin, collecting 22,624 votes or 50.36% of ballots cast. The 26-year-old Siler City native is the first Latino elected to the board; he'll also be the first commissioner from Siler City in nearly 20 years.

His family immigrated from Guatemala to Chatham County when he was 5 years old; he's lived in Chatham since then and graduated from Chatham County Schools, (You can learn more about Gomez Flores and his path to the BOC in this edition's La Voz

de Chatham coverage.) Commissioner Wilkie, who was appointed to the board in 2019, accrued 22,302 votes. If the vote stands, there will be five Democratic commissioners on the board; each serves a four-year term.

Technically, election results from the county board of elections are not official until canvassing in North Carolina is completed on Friday, Nov. 13, which could include any absentee ballots postmarked by Election Day and received by Nov. 12.

Concerning the election results, Pharr said he is thinking about the more than 21,000 people who voted for Republican candidates in Chatham County. He said he worries those voters, many of which live in rural areas, may feel left out or unrepresented.

While Pharr hopes the new board considers those voters when it makes decisions, he said he doesn't think Wilkie's defeat as the single Republican incumbent will be a real shake up to the BOC

"Many would very likely disagree with me, but l don't think it will make any difference at all," he wrote in an email. "Five-to-zero is no different than 4-to-1. Even if that lone (commissioner) were more of a talker like myself, that 'talk' would fall on deaf ears."

Reached by telephone last Thursday, Stobbs told the News + Record he was "too busy" to make a comment. Wilkie, who had previously instructed his fellow Republican candidates not to speak to the News + Record, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

'Pleased with the direction the county has been moving in'

Democrats swept partisan offices at the county level. Chairwoman Howard said that although she's happy with the outcome of the election, she didn't expect much of a fight for her and the other Democrat incumbent's seats.

"I think that the general sentiment in Chatham County has been satisfaction and approval of the current board and the things that we're doing," she said.

Before becoming a commissioner in 2014, Howard previously served on the Chatham County Board of Education from 2012 to 2014. She said her prior involvement in local politics aided her as a candidate.

Howard has said that two measurable goals for another term would be to work toward county-wide access to affordable, reliable broadband service and increased options for safe, affordable housing for Chatham residents across the income spectrum.

"One of the things I stress when I'm running for office is that you're choosing a person," she said. Whatever they're doing in their lives outside of being County Commissioner, or a board member of any board, matters. So if you see someone who's doing nothing, chances are they're not going to do much when they're on the board. If you see someone who's doing a lot, is already deeply committed (to the community) and involved in finding the time because it's important. they're probably going to continue to do that.'

Dasher, first elected in 2016, has also served as the board chairperson and also acted as the board liaison to eight county boards and committees, including the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization, Board of Social Services and Board of Elections.

A 14-year resident of Chatham, Dasher is a managing member of Orange Communities LLC, a property development and construction company. He has said he hopes to work toward the board's adoption of a unified development ordinance and ensuring broadband access in the county during another term.

Following his reelection last Tuesday, Dasher said that voters seem to resonate with his administrative style.

'People recognize I have a pretty practical approach to leadership," Dasher said. "I think for the most part Chatham County residents are pleased with the direction the county has been moving in and want to see more of the same.'

Gomez Flores made a bid in 2017 for the Siler City Town Commissioner and lost, but was later named to the Chatham County Planning Board. On election night, he said he had "much respect and admiration for Chatham County voters for leading in voter turnout.

"This is not my first election," he said, "but it is the first election in which I got a lot of support. I am humbled and excited.

"Of course, I was just trying to get a voice for my community, have a Latino Commissioner there," he added. "I want to provide my Latino community a voice on the county board. We've never had one. And unfortunately for my gain, it was the loss for a lot of native or generational individuals who have been here in Chatham County for generations.

He emphasized his hope that individuals who feel he doesn't represent them will give him a chance.

'Let's be respectful," Gomez Flores said. "I believe respect is bi-directional. It is true that I didn't engage with a lot of native individuals who've been here for generations, but I did get a lot of disrespect from that community. I'm not going to return that disrespect at all. I want to earn their respect, provide them my respect, and try to bring a positive election cycle, positive term, for our district. I really do want to engage with them and hear their thoughts, suggestions, concerns, (and) desires so that I'm able to make the best decisions possible for our district."

'Seek a seat at the table'

Moving forward, both Gomez Flores and Howard emphasized the importance of addressing Chatham County's lack of affordable housing, with Howard labeling it the "bane of our existence."

"We have continued to be a bedroom communi-







HOWARD 54.22%

STOÉBS

45.78%



Chatham News + Record





DASHER 45.6% 54.4%

CHATHAM COUNTY COUNTY COMMISSIONE **R District 5** 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Chatham News + Record





49.64%

ty," she said. "But we are "I realized that if I do not a bedroom community that many members of the community can't afford the table where one has a sleeping bed in. That is make the change. something that requires investment, but it certainly Both Gomez Flores and requires intention to create housing that fits across the

income spectrum. She added it was important to not think about the need for affordable housing as something only the poorest people in the county require. Gomez Flores echoed that by saying he planned to explore areas that can help community members become first-time homeowners

In terms of economics, Gomez Flores said he hopes to find ways to make Chatham County more appealing to businesses, and that he hopes to partner with Chatham County Schools so students can learn skills from local entrepreneurs. He also aims to work toward providing a high-quality public education and employment opportunities that pay a living wage.

"I have a genuine desire to serve my community. I am not here to 'fill a slot," Gomez Flores told the News + Record in October. like the way things are run, then I must seek a seat at the power and influence to

Howard said that finding solutions to environmental issues in Chatham County should be something the **Board of Commissioners** tackles. Dasher said goals for his next term are expanding access to broadband and completing a unified development ordinance.

In his September News + Record questionnaire, Dasher acknowledged what he called a "justifiable skepticism" toward public service, but said he still thinks serving as a commissioner is worth it.

"I encourage people to get involved whenever, wherever, and in whatever capacity they're able to," he wrote at the time. 'Democracy is a participatory sport. Run for office. Show up, be heard. Not because you always win, but because that's the only way you ever will.

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

weeks, later extending that time frame to the first nine weeks of the semester.

CHATHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION

Incumbents Hlavac and Hamm win, current board stays in place under Plan C for the first four

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN AND JAMES KIEFER

News + Record Staff

The faces on the Chatham County Schools Board of Education will stay the same after incumbent candidates Melissa Hlavac and David Hamm comfortably maintained their seats on election night - Hlavac with a 25 percentage-point gap over her closest opponent and Hamm with a 23-point gap from his, according to unofficial results from last Tuesday's general election.

In Dist. 1, Hlavac won with 56.25% of votes, compared to opponent Ryan Armstrong's 30.64% and Timothy Winters' 12.53%. Hamm won with 61.36% of votes for the Dist. 2 seat, with opponent Dennis Lewis receiving 37.96% of

During their campaigns, Hlavac and Hamm each emphasized their ability to provide stability and consistency as experienced board members.

Hamm, a former educator with nearly 40 years logged working in Chatham County Schools, kept the Dist. 2 seat he's held since 2008, winning his last two terms without opposition. The morning after Election Day, he told the News + Record that the election results matched what he'd expected. As a product of CCS, as a student, employee and board member, Hamm said he felt he'd shown voters he had a valuable perspective to offer as a candidate.

"I'm thankful to all those who voted for me and continue to have confidence in my abilities to help lead CCS," Hamm said. "Î am also thankful that Melissa (Hlavac) won her race and the board stays in place for at









least another two years." Consisting of five members, the board's members serve staggered four-year terms. All elections are non-partisan — candidates Armstrong and Lewis chose to run together on the Chatham GOP's ticket and take place during the November general election in

even-numbered years. Hlavac has served on the board since 2016 and also works as an associate dean of MBA programs at UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School. A parent of CCS students herself, she has consistently emphasized both equity and parent concerns during her board tenure. Hlavac, who received 21,517 votes, did not respond to News + Record requests for an interview

following her reelection. "I'm seeking reelection to continue the momentum that the board has had over the past four years," she wrote in a News + Record questionnaire response in September. "Given my background, l see issues through a kaleidoscope of lenses: equity, excellence, safety, parental and business. We've made progress on a plethora of critical issues including educator pay, new schools, achievement gaps, and equity. While as board members we might

not always agree, we respect

one another and collaborate effectively to make progress on behalf of the students/ educators in the county - a fragmented board is one that does not advance.

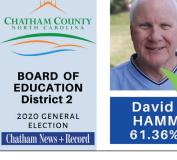
Armstrong, the runner-up with 11,721 votes, congratulated Hlavac in an email statement to the News + Record, saying he expects she will continue to represent her district well. Prior to Election Day, Armstrong stressed that his campaign was focused on education and not politics, but affirmed that he and Lewis had the right backgrounds for the job.

Armstrong and Winters were both critical of the board's decisions regarding the coronavirus and in-person instruction throughout their campaigns, with Winters describing its decision-making process as being "painful to watch," and Armstrong claiming the board "lacked communication and preparedness" at previous meetings.

Armstrong echoed that criticism after his loss.

"I'm concerned that the current board lacks the leadership, and decision making that is required at this level, he said. "I hope they can turn it around; however, I'm not convinced."

Winters, who received 4,793 votes, said while he was



disappointed with the results,

it was reassuring to see some-

children in Chatham County

Schools — representing Dist.

1. He added that he still views

execution of various learning

options during the pandemic

clarity in the board's commu-

'I hope the board will work

the board's planning and

as a "major concern" and

nications with parents and

harder to obtain more local

funding from our County

Commissioners," Winters

investment. I also hope the

board will place a real focus

on reducing classroom sizes

During his campaign

for a seat in Dist. 2, Lewis

emphasized wanting to serve

as "the voice of the parents"

if elected, particularly by

re-assessing the Seaforth

attendance zone decision.

Though he is not a career ed-

ucator or parent of CCS stu-

dents like other candidates,

he previously told the News

him a unique perspective to

approach decisions without

Moving forward, Lewis

hopes the board will take

more of a "ground-up"

approach.

any "fixed agendas."

+ Record this would help give

and improving literacy in our

said. "Our kids are worth the

school staff.

schools.

that he'd like to see more

– who has

one like Hlavac -



HAMM



Dennis LEWIS

37.96%

"What I'd like to see them do is to focus more on the basic, fundamental skills that students need to continue progress throughout their life whether they go on to college or not," he said.

Getting back to the classroom

Over the last seven months, the CCS Board of Education's decisions regarding the district's plan for returning to school during the COVID-19 pandemic have been controversial — with teachers, parents, students. faculty and staff alike.

The task to transition Chatham County Schools back to in-person learning safely will continue to be a large one for board members. While the election is over, community members are certainly still paying attention to the deci-

sions being made. Gov. Roy Cooper, who also won re-election last Tuesday, closed North Carolina public schools in March to limit the spread of the coronavirus. On July 14, the governor said that schools would open under the hybrid learning Plan B, stating at the time that individual school systems could opt for the fully remote Plan C option. The CCS Board of Education voted at its July 16 meeting that CCS would start

On Sept. 23, the BOE doubled down on that decision with a 4-1 vote to extend remote learning through the semester, which ends Jan. 15. Less than one week after that decision, the board unanimously decided for Extended Content Standard E.C. students, PreK students and K-2 students to return under Plan B. Last night, the board voted for more students to return under Plan B: students in 3rd-5th grades on Nov. 19 and students in 6th-8th on Dec. 7.

Both Hamm and Hlavac pushed for the return of additional students under Plan B at Monday's meeting. Hamm originally made a motion for students in grades 3-8 to return Nov. 19, and then dissented when the motion was adjusted to what ended up being passed. While he had made three of the board's motions for remote learning at previous meetings, he's emphasized getting students back into the classroom safely, and as soon as possible.

Still, making such a decision is difficult with so many shareholders—and often fiercely divided opinions involved.

"You know, for every email we get saying that we are the most wonderful people in the world for sending kids back, we get an email saying that we're the most dangerous people in the world for sending kids back," he told the News + Record in October. 'So you know, that just comes with the territory."

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

VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | MIKE ZELEK, CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Urging precautions for COVID-19 ahead of the holidays

Across North Carolina and around the country, cases of



MIKE ZELEK Guest

COVID-19 have increased sharply over the past several weeks. In North Carolina. we have set new record daily highs

in confirmed Columnist cases each of the past four weeks, including just under

3,000 cases reported Nov. 6. One day later, Chatham County recorded its highest daily case total since mid-July. COVID-19 hospitalizations are high across the state, and the percentage of tests that come back positive remains above 6%. Since March, 63 people who called Chatham home have

passed away from COVID-19. While these numbers are troubling, the reality is that

we expect them to get worse. As the weather gets colder and with upcoming holidays where people often gather together inside with others, we worry that the COVID-19 pandemic will hit us harder than ever.

But it doesn't have to. In the more than eight months since the pandemic reached Chatham County, we have learned a lot about how the virus spreads and what we can do to stop it. We know that the greatest risk of infection occurs when you are near someone (within 6 feet) who is infectious, even if they don't know it or feel sick. The closer you are together, the greater the amount of time you spend with them, and being indoors all increase this risk. We know that wearing a face covering when you are around others who don't live with you greatly reduces the risk of infection both for you and those around you. But for this to work best, we all must wear them consistently and correctly. We also know that regularly washing your hands can reduce the spread of the virus. as it does with other respiratory viruses like the flu (reminder: If you haven't already, please get your flu shot!). These are the 3 Ws, and they are more important than ever.

As you plan for the holiday season, keep these things in mind: Limit contact with those outside of your household. If you are planning to attend a gathering, start limiting contact with others beginning 14 days before the gathering. Keep guest lists small and avoid crowded spaces, especially indoors. If you are around others, practice the 3 Ws, spend as much time outdoors or at least six feet apart as possible. Wear a mask.

Also, consider getting a COVID-19 test before you attend any gathering. Testing options in Chatham County can be found at chathamnc.org/ coronavirustesting. Remember though, tests only apply to that

'As the weather gets colder and with upcoming holidays where people often gather together inside with others, we worry that the COVID-19 pandemic will hit us harder than ever.'

MIKE ZELEK, Chatham County interim public health director

point in time (and results take a few days to get back), so it remains critically important that you follow the 3 Ws and limit contact even if you test negative. If you have even the slightest symptom that could be from COVID-19, don't put others at risk.

We have heard from many over the last several months who attributed symptoms to a cold or sinuses and found out

they had COVID-19 only after being around others, once the virus had already spread. If vou are at higher risk of more severe illness, such as an adult over 65 years old or someone with a chronic condition like heart disease or COPD, be especially vigilant and consider staying home or attending virtually.

Thank you for doing your part to slow the spread of the virus, to keep yourself, your loved ones, and the Chatham community healthy, and to enjoy the holiday season as safely as possible.

Mike Zelek has been the Interim Public Health Director for Chatham County since June. He previously served in the department as the director of the Health Promotion & Policy Division. Zelek, who has been with CCPHD for eight years, has played a significant role in Chatham County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Technology has some good points, but it still requires us humans

Long-time readers of this column, if there are any, may remember that from time to time I have moaned or even fussed about

BOB WACHS Movin' Around

and April.

technology and how it impacts Much of that, I confess, has

been because I'm a dinosaur when it comes to communications technology. For me, "Facebook' means you read a lot, as in "she keeps her face in a book all the time." By the same token, "tweet" or "twitter" is what birds do, especially the robins in March

And I won't even touch "TikTok," which everyone knows is the sound clocks make, or a "tablet," that thing the doctor tells you to take two of and call in the morning.

Now granted, lest you think I'm a complete caveman, I know I've benefited from some technology. For instance, the heart doctors who hauled me into the operating room a couple of years ago made good use for my benefit of the tools at their disposal and I'm forever grateful.

But still, I don't understand it. From the benefit of a few dozen birthdays, I can remember when we were told that technology was the most wonderful thing since sliced bread and indoor plumbing, kind of like Chatham County folks years ago were told Jordan Lake would be an economic bonanza and we'd wonder how we ever got along without it. Technology would revolutionize our world — and has it ever. It would speed up things, always be accurate and, thus, infallible and we would find we could not and cannot live without it.

Some of that has come to pass but I'm not so sure we and our bodies are created to always be in fourth gear or overdrive. Think hypertension, high blood pressure, cardiac disease. And always accurate? You know the answer there. Ditto for infallible. Some programs that are designed to check spelling and grammar don't.

But we have just about gotten to the point as a society that we cannot do without it. And to quote Robert Kennedy, who quoted George Bernard Shaw: "I dream things that never were and ask 'Why not?"

This question of the advance of technology, large and small, on our lives isn't a new one. In England in the 19th century, there arose a movement among textile workers to protest increasing technology of that day. Known as Luddites, these folks destroyed textile machinery as a form of protest against manufacturers who used machines to get around standard labor practices. The Luddites feared that the time spent learning their craft and developing their skills would be replaced by machines, which, in fact, happened.

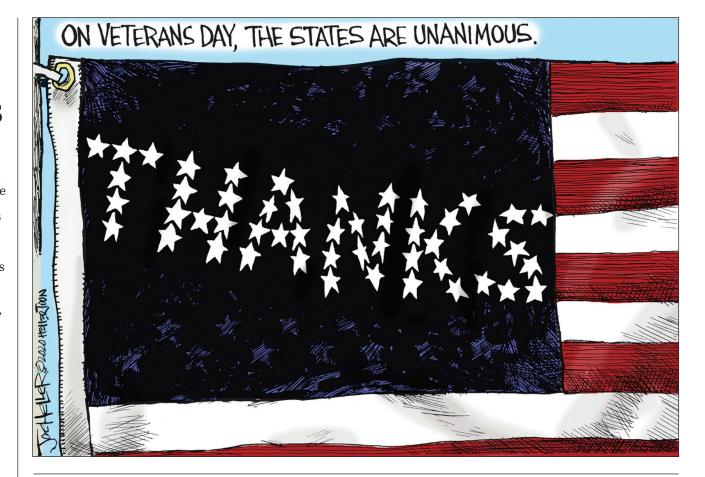
As a result, fewer workers were needed, unemployment skyrocketed and anger rose. Eventually, the military and regulations ended the protests but over time, the word has come to mean someone opposed to industrialization, the rise of computers and new technologies in general.

I've thought about the connection between history (which so many seem intent on destroying so we can't learn or remember where we were or came from so we don't repeat the negatives) and today, to me there's a conclusion.

We can all be grateful for medical advances and such but the total dependence on technology seems a bit frightening. We sometimes can go so far down a road we can't come back if we need or want to, and I'm pretty sure the old fairy tale about Pandora said she didn't go back into her box. Somehow the rush for artificial intelligence pales in comparison to the need for human intelligence.

There's a bit of that in the case of our recent elections. In them, there's good news and bad news. The bad news for some is their candidates didn't win. The good news is that the ads are off television and the 14 pieces of junk mail will no longer show up in your mail. But I still don't understand how someone in Houston can push a button and a cart on Mars will back up or turn right, but here in our land, it takes a month of Sundays to tabulate votes, even with all the computers and technologies. Apparently, "glitch" now has a special and unique meaning all its own.

Bob Wachs is a native of Chatham County and retired long-time managing editor of the Chatham News/Chatham Record, having written a weekly column for more than 30 years. During most of his time with the newspapers, he was also a bi-vocational pastor and today serves Bear Creek Baptist Church for the second time as pastor.



Woody Guthrie and the Magic Word

Woody Guthrie's song "This Land Is Your Land" is recognizable to



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN Hope Matters

millions by the This land was made for you and

This folk classic celebrates the gift of America. The verses are filled with the beauty of the country and a love for its best ideals. The song

also insists on inclusion — you and me. "And" is the magic word.

Our country has had two political parties from its inception, and citizens have been bitterly divided in the past. This is especially true today after our most recent presidential election. The election map shows the geographical splits. Blue America and Red America are further divided over cultural, racial and socio-economic differences. The problem is not that these differences exist but that too many people are unwilling to work to overcome

We settle for you or me. For many of us, the challenge is more than the fact that we do not understand the other side. We do not wish to learn about those folks because we do not trust

Therefore, we need a focus that can unite us — help us to see our

Guthrie was born in Oklahoma in the early part of the 20th century. He experienced firsthand the poverty of the Dust Bowl era as well as the Great Depression. As a child, he also suffered the personal tragedies of the loss of his home in a fire and the death of his mother.

country as both/and, not either/or. Guthrie offered such words.

Guthrie was born in Oklahoma in the early part of the 20th century. He experienced firsthand the poverty of the Dust Bowl era as well as the Great Depression. As a child, he also suffered the personal tragedies of the loss of his home in a fire and the death of his mother.

These experiences shaped Guthrie's vision of America as much as the natural beauty of the environment. He identified with people who were hungry, poor and down-trodden. While "This Land Is Your Land" is best known by its chorus, a verse includes these lines: *In* the shadow of the steeple I saw my people, by the relief office I seen my people.

Notice how Guthrie stressed that the people in need were "my people." He not only cared for them, he identified with them. This calls to mind another man who roamed and rambled even longer ago:

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of those among you, you did it to me (Matthew

This is one of the more famous teachings of Jesus. Yet, the mandate to care for those in need is by no means limited to Christianity. At a time when millions of Americans suffer from the great recession caused by the coronavirus, the need is now. Service to others could unite us across our religious differences as well as our politics. People of good faith could reach out in kindness, care and what the New Testament terms "brotherly love"

My 5-year-old son thinks his big brother hung the moon and stars. He wants to do everything like his hero. Recently, his big brother decided to teach him how to read. The first lesson involved a certain conjunction. I heard them reading together on the couch, the older one pausing when he reached that magic word in the text so that the younger could chime in: "And ... and ... and ... If we would learn to work together, that one-word chorus could unite our country.

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

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VIEWPOINTS

Eight factors shaped N.C. elections

Over the course of 34 years penning a column on North



JOHN HOOD John Locke **Foundation**

Carolina politics and public policy, I've seen it all. Or so I thought. Until

2020 came along. It's not that I proffered a passel of bad predictions

for which I

must now do penance. After pegging many races wrong in 2016, I was more guarded in my prognostications this year. And the picks I offered — that Donald Trump would win North Carolina but not re-election, that U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis would secure a second term and North Carolina Republicans would retain their General Assembly and Council of State majorities — proved to

be pleasingly precise.
Rather, I just think we have never before seen so many fascinating trends come together

in such a compelling electoral

Speaking of performance, perhaps you've noticed that I peppered the first few para-graphs of this column with words beginning with "p." That's p for politics, of course. And after pondering the election results a bit more, I have prepared a list of eight factors, each beginning with the same letter, that helped shape the

• Polarized. Like much of the country, North Carolina has a polarized electorate. Generations ago, somewhere between a fifth and a quarter of voters were willing to split their tickets between the two major parties. Today, that share is in the single digits.

Parity. That doesn't mean ticket-splitters are irrelevant. Polarization is present in places like California and Mississippi, too. But parity isn't. The Democratic base is so large in the former, and the GOP base so large in the latter, that a few percentage points of swing

voters can't swing the result. In North Carolina, however, the two partisan coalitions are nearly even (by behavior, not registration). So when a few Tar Heel voters — disproportionately older voters in rural areas, according to my analysis of county returns and exit polls - decided to split their tickets, voting Trump and Tillis for federal office and Roy Cooper for governor, their choices were

· Process. Before the election, Democrats went to court to challenge election rules the General Assembly had previously enacted by bipartisan votes. Democratic plaintiffs won an extension of the absentee-ballot deadline but little else. If those late-arriving ballots flip any outcomes, you can expect the issue to be re-litigated.

 Pandemic. Not only was COVID-19 a big issue in federal and state races, but the pandemic also affected how campaigns were run. Crucially, Republican-leaning groups

started canvassing for votes door-to-door during the summer, while Democratic-leaning groups shied away from this time-tested tactic until the final weeks. Given that canvassing is an outdoor, low-risk activity, the Democrats blew this call, as candid Dems now admit.

· Polling. Not to beat the nearly-decayed corpse of a long-dead horse, but pollsters got it very wrong this year. Clearest example: while Cooper won reelection by 4.4 points, the polling average going into Election Day was +11 Cooper.

 Press. At the risk of abusing another cadaverous equine, much of the media abandoned all pretense of fairness and actively rooted — in news stories — for Republicans to lose. While Trump did indeed fall short, I think attempts to suppress anti-Biden stories or cheerlead for Democrats ended up harming the media's already battered reputation.

 Platitudes. At least two bits of "conventional wisdom" ought to be retired after the

2020 elections. One is that politics is largely about money. Democrats vastly outspent Republicans in North Carolina this year -2:1, 3:1 or more, depending on the race — but almost always fell short. Another familiar myth is that low-turnout elections favor Republicans and high-turnout elections favor Democrats. There was no such historical pattern in North Carolina elections going into 2020. And that's not how it turned out this year, either.

• Public Safety. As I observed in a prior column, Republican candidates tilted some votes by speaking strongly against the looting and rioting that followed some Black Lives Matter protests this summer.

And there you have it: my eight p-factors that mattered in 2020. Are you persuaded?

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

Waking up as a Republican

"Why so glum?" I asked a sullen group of Democrats who were expressing despair as they reviewed the results of the



D.G. MARTIN One on One

Nov. 3 elections. They explained their gloom-

iness. Democrats had lost seats in the N.C. House and Senate, losing any chance to expand Medicaid or have a hand in the redistricting of seats in the state legislature and the state's congressional delegation.

They continued. Republican candidates beat Democrats, appearing to win the chief

justice's seat and other positions on the state's Supreme Court and all the open seats on the Council of State, including the lieutenant governor's race — in which an unknown and far-out Republican candidate beat an attractive, well-liked and experienced woman state

What about Biden's victory over Donald Trump? Surely this should have made my Democratic friends happy. No, they responded. It was supposed to be "a blue wave." But it was not a blowout, not even close, they said, noting that they did not even win control of the U.S. Senate and lost seats in the U.S. House.

I confess that I lost my cool. I asked whether they would choose to be Republicans today rather than gloomy Democrats? Would you really like to go to bed tonight and wake up as a Republican? Maybe you could help bring that party back to its historic principles, which its current leadership has abandoned. More likely, you would have to carry the burdens of being a member of today's Republican Party, tied as it is tightly to Donald Trump and his loyal backers, dependent on all those people's support to win primaries and elections as a Republican. Like other present-day Republicans you would be so dependent that, you would have to subordinate your principles and good sense to a cult figure and his other followers, to their alarmist conspiracy stories, and the inaccurate "alternate facts" that they propound.

If you woke up as a Republican, I said, you would be tied to a party of aging white people in a state and nation that are rapidly diversifying. You would be stuck with a vision of our country that rejects the multi-ethnic American traditions of equality and fairness for everyone, regardless of gender, racial and ethnic background, or sexual orientation. You would have to reject the American commitment of true religious liberty and respect for differing religious views. You would have to reject the true patriotism that includes respect for our history of painful battles to expand equality and opportunity without covering up our country's imperfections. You would have to put aside any continuing commitment to expanding opportunities for every citizen.

Our great country, I said, was not served up on a platter to or by our forebears. Every battle, including its war for independence, the end of slavery, the expansion of the right to vote, the opening of public schools to people of all races, the opening of public facilities to those of all different races and other battles for equality and fairness are battles that continue today.

You can be happy now, I told the group, that you are free to work for a better country, supported by high ideals and carefully discovered scientific facts rather than being bound to the inconsistent and deadly poisons prescribed by a haughty autocrat and his inconsistent dogma.

More than that, I said, you should be happy that your party's candidates for president and vice president are on the verge of a momentous victory, and North Carolina will soon be joining its neighbors Virginia and Georgia in becoming a place where both Democrats and Republicans have a fair chance to win political contests.

After my passionate ramblings, my friends nodded, smiled, and continued their gloomy conversations.

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.

Nonpartisan for a day: A note on poll workers

"There is plenty of work to be done to make sure everyone's voice is heard."— Damon



RACHEL HOROWITZ Millennial Musings

Circosta, N.C. Board of Elections chairperson (during a Nov. 4 conversation with UNC's Hussman School of Journalism and Media).

On Election Day, I arose at 5 a.m., grabbed a snack and my "VOTE" necklace and walked to my

neighborhood precinct to serve as a poll worker. Nervous about remembering my training, I stuck by experienced board of elections employees as we opened the building.

At the early fall trainings, county staff drilled the voter rules into us: electioneers must stay outside of the 50-foot buffer. Voter intimidation is not allowed. Voters can be asked to wear a mask, but not forced to do so. Photo identification is not required. We cautiously surveyed the room as people asked these questions, trying to guess one another's political leanings. Poll workers are meant to stay nonpartisan, from our Election Day clothes to the questions we can and cannot answer.

I started my workday sitting next to the Republican judge (each precinct has an appointed Republican judge, Democrat judge and chief judge). She had been a poll worker for 40 years and witnessed many new changes in the voting process. She made sure to carefully wipe down the plexiglass shield and adjust her face mask, ensuring that voters had a safe and pleasant experience. The Democrat judge assisted me with translations for Spanish-speaking voters and made certain that both political party tents were staying respectful of voters' space.

We were truly nonpartisan for the day, our top priority being that every voter who walked into the precinct received clear and appropriate information. We did our best to make voters feel welcome at the check-in table, and we met a number of first-time voters who were nervous but excited. As the first few voters trickled in, we realized that the printers were not yet connected, which delayed operations for a half hour. Luckily, the voters who left fulfilled their promise to return. The day otherwise went quickly and smoothly, even though fewer than 200 people walked through our doors (likely due to the high percentage of absentee and early

My sister was a first-time voter, as well as a Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) fellow at her college campus. Many of the voters she helped register and inform were outspoken about candidates that she personally did not support. However, her team views each new registered voter as a victory, because it means they helped someone carry out his or her civic duty.

We will hear a lot of noise across the country in the coming weeks calls that the election was rigged or corrupt, and questions about why the process takes so long. According to Snopes fact checkers, the president's supporters assert that every vote must be counted — or the count must stop — depending on the state. I encourage you to learn about the actions of elections officials behind the scenes, who are ensuring that your vote counts and your voice is heard. I hope each of us continue to speak against injustice and do our part to respect one another's human

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 and can be reached at millennialmusings.nc@gmail.com.

On the road again

Back in March and April, when we were being asked to stay home,



CAMPBELL N.C. Spin

streets and four lanes were eerily bereft of traffic. It felt like driving on Christmas morning. But as restrictions have relaxed the traffic has come back with a

vengeance. North Carolina drivers appear to want to make up for lost mileage

as they pour onto our city streets and interstates. Not only are vehicles back in record numbers, their drivers seem to have lost any remembrance of road regulations and courtesy, leading us to ponder whether we are safer going to a super-spreader event or taking our

chances on the roads? No longer is the unwritten "9 and under" etiquette followed. You know, the mantra that so long as you are driving 9 miles an hour or less over the posted speed, you won't get stopped. These days, on roads where the speed limit is 70, it isn't uncommon to get passed by not one but many driving 80, 85 or higher. And let me ask this: Did auto manufacturers stop putting turn signal indicators on vehicles, you know those long sticks on the left-hand side of the steering wheel? Nobody

uses them anymore. It gets testy when a car suddenly decides to pull into your lane at 70 mph without any signal.

And some of these daredevils learned driving training at bumper car rides. With little more than a car length's separation, they merge. It feels like parallel parking at 70 miles an hour. Many then cross over two or three lanes of traffic, only to dart suddenly off the exit ramp they were alerted about two miles ago. Recently I saw a car exit too fast, lose control trying to correct, cut dangerously in front of me and speed off the shoulder into the woods. It must be pretty common — nobody stopped.

Is there some great pleasure driving in the passing lane 10 miles an hour slower than everyone else? Don't try flashing your headlights or blowing your horn; they only slow down more or shoot you the bird. And many are obviously oblivious of the law that requires they turn on their headlights while operating their windshield wipers. That may explain why manufacturers just automatically turn on the lights when wipers are being used.

While we are picking scabs, let's acknowledge that you can't travel on a four-lane without experiencing road construction and those tall orange cones blocking one lane of traffic, while simultaneously lowering the speed limit by 15 mph. I get it, some drivers threaten the

safety of road workers. But four miles of cones? It is more the rule than the exception to have three. four or five miles of cones, only to encounter one vehicle with two or three guys working over an expanse of 100 yards. Couldn't they just cone off 1 mile or so at a time (like they used to) and, when they finish one section, move the cones to block off another section? This practice only heightens driver anxiety and God knows we don't need more driver angst.

Last, but not least, we have to comment on the garbage along our roads. We've seen couches, mattresses, appliances, bumpers and car parts, construction materials, coolers and all manner of items. Everyone knows you won't get cited for littering so why not just roll down the window and throw the McDonald's bag out? Wouldn't want to dirty up your vehicle. Volunteers can't keep up picking up the trash.

Sadly, these and other signals point to the incivility evident today. It is literally "my way or the high-

And to think North Carolina used to boast we were "The Good Roads

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

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DIVIDED

Continued from page A1

The problem lay in an antiquated system of political evaluation, one which continues to undersell the widening political divide overtaking this country. Yes, the numbers breakdown looks much like it always has. But figures misrepresent the deepening allegiance to contrasting values of national consequence, and the chasm developing between two versions of the American people.

Pollsters and political scientists measure and predict opinions and behavior based on a bygone interpretation of the political scene. Their system is breaking as American politics shifts.

"If pollsters are still measuring issues the way they always have, they'll miss things. said Chatham's Dr. Ronald H. Hinckley, a retired pollster. "It's a totally divided electorate, and the why isn't simple.'

Hinckley knows a thing or two about politics and its evaluation. His celebrated career as a political scientist and adviser took him around the world before he finally settled in Chatham County. Among a long list of career accomplishments, Hinckley was a White House pollster for Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and George H. W. Bush, eventually serving as director of the office of research for the United States Information Agency where he advised the U.S. executive branch on international public opinion.

"Pollsters all have algorithms that translate what people say into an action," Hinckley said. "They have different variables."

In the past, simple variables were reliable metrics to predict voter trends and propensities. For example, income, education and proximity to major cities have all been used to predict voter behavior. But they are failing now with enough regularity to render much polling data unreliable.

"They got it wrong in 2016 in a very big way," said Mike Rusher, a former Republican campaign adviser who is now the vice president of The Results Company, a public affairs



Photo courtesy of Indy Week

Randy Voller, Pittsboro's former mayor, also served as chairman of the N.C. **Democratic Party.**

agency in Raleigh. "It was kind of all eyes on 2020 to see if they actually fixed their errors of the last cycle. And the answer to that is no, obviously.

As Hinckley identifies it, classical metrics fail to quantify ideological values, and those values figured more heavily into this year's presidential election than any before. They mattered more to many voters

"You elect a senator for what he does in your state," Hinckley said, "congressmen for what they do in your district. But president? You elect a president based on your values.

Hinckley's evaluation explains how the country could elect a Democrat as president, while many of the same voters supported Republicans for state and local offices. It's how N.C. could elect to keep Gov. Roy Cooper at the helm, but also

vote for Trump as president. Yeah, President Trump is going to win the state of North Carolina," Rusher said, "but he was not the top vote-getter here. He actually was not even in the top five, which tells me his coattails were not what people thought they would be.

The number one vote-getter in N.C. was, in fact, Cooper. "I really think what carried the day for Cooper," Rusher said, "was that for the last eight months, he's been on TV once a week telling the state that he's



Photo courtesy of The Results Company

Mike Rusher, vice president of The Results Company, is a former adviser for the state Republican Party.

trying to keep them safe. And yeah, you have a large number of people who were and still are tired of the restrictions ... But at the end of the day, they saw a governor that they thought was doing the best he could to keep the state safe.

The apparent dissonance in vote tallies represents a conundrum in how voters interpret candidates. Policy preference is not the end-all. Where a candidate stands on fundamental issues of human rights matters more.

Of course, voter opinion of candidates' beliefs and values have always figured into politics. But President Trump's behavior in his nearly four years in office, coupled with a global pandemic unlike anything the world had seen in over 100 years, amplified and distorted value-based decision making in a way that changed the scope of this political season, and maybe future election cycles.

"The game, I think, changed in 2020," Rusher said.

Shifting values

"Political parties should be affiliated with certain values, said Randy Voller, former N.C. Democratic party chairman who also served as mayor of Pittsboro, "and then your policies are derived from the values, right?'

cy, though, the parties have become synonymous with new and controversial values that overreach politics, and many members of each can no longer oblige the shifting tides.

"That probably explains why Cooper managed to win the state," Voller said. "He has a certain group of values that get him Democrats and even some Republicans.'

On the other hand, some voters strongly identify with Trump's attitude and ideals.

"To be crude," Hinckley said, "there's 50% of us that like what Trump says — because of his machismo, his bravado even if it's lies.'

Trump's response to the coronavirus illustrates that fact, according the Hinckley, Often science has said one thing and Trump another. Despite the facts, his supporters doggedly promote untruths because they come from him, and they fervently believe it to be true.

"Really, if you have a belief." Hinckley said, "it is as true to you as fact.

The coronavirus pandemic is not the only demonstration of such behavior. Holding beliefs above evidence is typical human nature.

"For example, look at anti-vaxxers," Hinckley said. "Anti-vaxxers are not necessarily anti-science. They agree with and benefit from science in other ways. But in that one thing, their values just conflict.'

Race has also distanced parts of the electorate from their opposition, and it has bucked the norm according to traditional polling standards.

"The other thing within the vote pattern is racism," Hinckley said. "It's hard to detect because no one wants to admit they carry racism.'

In recent months, race relations have soared to the forefront of news coverage around the country as protests continue to erupt nationwide in the wake of George Floyd's wrongful death at policemen's hands in Minneapolis.

"Ninety-four percent of those were peaceful," Hinckley said. "Six percent had violence. Out of 10,000 protests across the country, 60 had shooting

In other words, many reports of protester violence exagger ated the relative frequency of incidents compared to the majority peaceful events that define much of the movement.

"And," Hinckley said, "twothirds of those shooting incidents were targeting BLM. But

who gets blamed for it?' The question was rhetorical. "I think all that plays on people," Hinckley said, "I only understand it because I worked

Is amelioration possible?

in it for years.'

The deepening polarization of political ideology which has come to define this country and this state — and which Chatham County uniquely typifies is what News & Observer reporter Andrew Carter recently described as "the two versions of North Carolina.

"It is a divide built upon myriad socioeconomic factors, some easily quantifiable and some not," he wrote. "Poverty rates and education levels and population changes tell part of the story. The success or failure of local economies tells another. And yet it is more difficult to put numbers to the cultural differences and conflicting worldviews that define the two North Carolinas."

President Trump may be leaving office, but his term has awakened two movements that transcend politics: his detractors call for nationwide reform and his supporters entrench themselves in the country's historical ideals.

Carter offered little hope of reconciliation. But Rusher is more optimistic.

"I don't think we'll have lasting political damages," he said of strife that has become characteristic of this election season. "We have a good track record as a state of pulling together, and in times when it matters. I think we largely did that this cycle when it counted. And I think we'll do it again."

How we get there, however, remains unknown.

Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @

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RESULTS

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Collins' decision was appealed, and two weeks before Election Day, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, after considering the decision, voted 12-3 also in favor of upholding the amendment to election procedure.

"All ballots must still be mailed on or before Election Day," Judge James A. Wynn Jr. wrote. "The change is simply an extension from three to nine days after Election Day for a timely ballot to be received and counted. That is all.

The three dissenting judges, J. Harvie Wilkinson, G. Steven Agee and Paul V. Niemeyer, felt differently. They encouraged the plaintiffs, which included the N.C. GOP and President Trump's campaign, to appeal the decision again.

'We urge the plaintiffs to take this case up to the Supreme Court immediately," they wrote. "Not tomorrow. Not the next day. Now.'

Nine days later, the nation's highest court of law sat to consider the case before it, too, chose to uphold the original decision.

But the deadline extension to receive ballots is not by itself the reason we don't know final results in North Carolina's state and local elections. Many states, notably Pennsylvania, also extended their deadlines but have still released enough voting data to call most elections. So. what's the difference

Unlike Pennsylvania, NCSBE rules forbid county boards of election to tally mail-in ballots arriving after Election Day until the deadline.

"We won't start that process until our meeting on (Thursday) the 12th," said Pandora Paschal, director of the Chatham County board of election. "At that point, we'll look at the additional absentee ballots that come in postmarked, you know from Election Day — we'll take a look at them starting at 5 o'clock on the 12th.

On the following day, Nov. 13, after all valid absentee ballots have been collected, the board will meet again for its canvass meeting

"So, what will happen there is provisional ballots and absentee ballots that came either on Election Day, or post-Election Day until November 12, will be counted," said Noah Grant, the election communications specialist at the NCSBE

Provisional ballots, which are cast when a voter's eligibility is in question, have not made substantial differences in past election results. Most are discarded after eligibility cannot be verified, and the rest are typically divided between candidates. Chatham has 156 provisional ballots for this election season.

Absentee ballots, on the other hand, have already swung elections this year, including the presidency. Chatham had just 211 outstanding mail-in ballots as of the start of this week, but more could be arriving in the days before Nov. 12. Some state candidates. including incumbent Republican Chatham Commissioner Andy Wilkie (who trailed by 322 votes out of nearly 45,000 cast) and Democrat candidate for U.S. Senate, Cal Cunningham, will be hoping for a statewide surge in mail-in ballots from voters to push them into the lead in their races

The process for boards of election doesn't end once all votes are in, though. They must complete an audit process and address any calls for

"The day after election, we randomly selected precincts," Grant said. Throughout the state, the board selects precincts from each county where ballots will be used for the audit."

In Chatham County,

the West Siler City and East Williams precincts were selected.

"So, for the audit," Grant said, "they take certain ballots — not every single ballot; for example, in one precinct it may be the by-mail ballots or one might be the early votes — and then what's done is just a simple hand-eye count. They'll take all those ballots, and they will actually look at them and compare that they match up to the election day results and what was reported."

Once final votes have been tallied, some losing candidates may be entitled to a recount.

According to a press release from the NCSBE, "a demand for recount must be made in writing to the county board of elections by 5 p.m. Monday, November 16.

In Chatham, current vote disparities suggest only one race will qualify: the Dist. 5 commissioner contest between incumbent Wilkie and challenger Franklin Gomez Flores. The 322vote difference is well within the 1% maximum required by state law to demand a recount.

But recounts almost never change the results of an election.

'(Ballots) are just counted by the tabulator like they were before, Grant said. "Really, nothing's going to change for the most part. All the same ballots go in. And I guess there is the opportunity for machine error, but obviously, that's not likely ... The thing to stress is that it's not likely at all, especially in a recount where it's hundreds and hundreds of votes."

After recounts have been settled, a record of voting data goes to the NCSBE on Nov. 24 where it is reviewed and certified. Only then are election results official.

Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr. com and on Twitter @ dldolder.

BISHOP

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includes 38 counties in the central part of N.C., spanning from Charlotte past Raleigh to the Rocky Mount area. It is the largest of North Carolina's three Episcopal dioceses, including most of its major metropolitan areas and comprising more than 49,000 members from about 120 congregations and campus ministries.

Rodman has overseen the area since 2017 when he was ordained and consecrated as a bishop, having previously served as a special projects officer for the church in Massachusetts.

It is Rodman's habit to associate with the congregations under his purview, but his activity has been limited in recent months. Thursday was the first time he visited Pittsboro's church since the pandemic began.

"During the whole time of pandemic, we continued our direct service to the community," Rodman said, "but we had to come up with protocols that we felt would be safe and test those ... We've had good success. But we've had to keep adjusting. When we got different information from the public health experts, we would change the protocols accordingly, and we've been fortunate so far.'

Pandemic restrictions have posed a vexing quandary for the church. Many of its most vital services, including food distributions at various locations around the state, have a higher demand than usual even as the threat of disease limits church activity.

"The volume and the places where we had offered food before has since the pandemic gone up dramatically," Rodman said. "In the Charlotte distribution area, for example, it has almost doubled.

To address the critical need, the Episcopal Church partnered with other religious groups and organizations to pool resources. One of its longest standing relationships is with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Steven Bodhaine, the president of the Apex N.C. Stake of LDS, who oversees 12 local Mormon congregations, attended Thursday's lunch program along with Rodman

'We're thrilled to link arms with St. Bartholomew's," Bodhaine said. "This is a group of people who have been anonymous disciples of Jesus, working quietly in the shadows feeding hungry people. You know, that's pure religion. And it's wonderful during a pandemic for people of faith to simply link arms to go about doing good.

The Mormon church has been involved with St. Bart's food distribution almost since its inception. Donated goods from its members make up much of the offered meals, typically the meat selection.

Across North Carolina, the Church of Latter-day Saints has about 80,000 members in close to 130 congregations. In Greensboro, they have what Mormons call a "Bishop's storehouse"—a pantry from which the organization distributes foodstuffs statewide.

"Once a month, members of the church engage in a fast," Bodhaine said. "We go without food and drink for 24 hours and we

make a financial contribution. That Bishop storehouse distributes food across the state of North Carolina. And it's in part the contribution from that Bishop storehouse that helps provide food to help support the great work that St. Bartholomew's have been doing for 12 years in feeding the hungry.'

The community lunch started in 2008, when church member Karen Ladd set out to address a need she identified in the area. The lunch was not strictly about feeding the poor and hungry; it had a broader purpose at its core.

"It was a way to build bridges in the community." Ladd said. "Unlike many church food justice projects whose purpose is to feed folks who are poor, our community lunch strives to bring people from all walks of life together, both the guests and the volunteers.'

Her mission was, according to Rodman and Bodhaine, the very essence of Christianity. 'If you want to define what a Christian is," Bodhaine said, "go take a good look at Karen. She just selflessly has gone about doing good for so many years.

Ladd's efforts have yielded the results she envisioned. She is not directly involved with the program anymore, but is pleased with its ongoing success and how the lunch has endured in spite of pandemic setbacks.

"The thing about the lunch that is so profound to me," Ladd said, "is that people from all walks of life — homeless, hairdressers, farmers, artists, office workers, retired people, community college students, clergy, atheists and people on both sides of the political divide — all get to enjoy a delicious meal and time together. That doesn't happen in many places these days.

To Rodman and Bodhaine, last week's lunch — two days after the controversial election that left much of the nation in rancor — perfectly exemplified the unity Ladd had sought to instill in her community.

"I think there's a hope that goes with the actual distribution of the food," Rodman said. "It's the hope that you see embodied when folks from different backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, whether it's political or religious, say what really matters is God's call to serve each other. And that breaks down those barriers. While we're still waiting for the results of the election, we're here, we're focused on our neighbors, our brothers and sisters, and that's what matters. And that's what binds us. That's what gives us the strength to keep going when we get tired, because we've all gotten tired.

While the pandemic has claimed more than 200,000 lives in this country and racked the economy, Rodman and Bodaine agree that it has accomplished at least one good thing: it has reminded the world of what really matters.

'You know, when all is said and done, what motivates this effort?" Bodhaine said. "It's love — love of God and love of our fellow man. That sounds so simple. And yet it seems to have escaped society for a bit too long. The pandemic, I think offers us an invitation to reflect on the things that matter most.

Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @dldolder.



I am honored to serve you in the N.C. General Assembly. Thank you for your support as we continue to work together to build on our successes and move our district forward. This is your win. Thank you.

OBITUARIES

MARGARET HOLT DOWD



Margaret Holt Dowd, 92, of Siler City passed away on Monday, November 9, 2020, surrounded by loved ones at her home in Siler City.

Mrs. Dowd was born January 11, 1928, a Chatham County native, the daughter of Newby and Carrie Lee Johnson Holt. Margaret was a member of Rives Chapel Baptist Church. She loved traveling, tending to her beautiful garden and enjoying time with her family. In addition to her parents, Margaret was preceded in death by a sister, Thelma H. Pickard; brothers, Mack, Robert

"Kitten," Larry "Pinto," David, Lewis, Jack and Carl T. Holt. She is survived by her husband of 29 years, Clyde A. Dowd Sr.; son, Tim Johnson and wife Katherine of Asheboro; stepson, Clyde A. (Buddy) Dowd Jr. and wife Sharon of Siler City; grandchildren, Kaysi, Lynsi and Jared Johnson; great-grandson, Canaan Covington; step grandchildren, Ryan Dowd and wife Yasmin of Holly Springs and Phillip Dowd and wife Maria of Siler City; step great-grandchildren, Fynley, Bryer, Baylor and Cambry; sisters, Jeannie H. Lainer and husband Jerry of Emerald Isle, Carol H. Burke and husband Wilson of Asheboro, Eleanor H. Hawkins of Asheboro; and brother, Bryce Holt of Siler City.

The family would like to give thanks to a special niece,

Deneese Hinkle, and the UNC Hospice team.

Memorials may be made to The Rives Chapel Baptist Cemetery
Fund, 4338 Rives Chapel Church Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, November 12, 2020, from 1 to 2 p.m. in the church at Rives Chapel Baptist Church, 4338 Rives Chapel Church Road, Siler City.

A graveside service will be Thursday at 2 p.m. at Rives Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery, with Dr. Tripp Foltz officiating. Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Dowd family. Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneralhome.com.

BRADLEY DAVID PAGE



August 1, 1940 – September 30, 2020 Brad Page, 80, of Pittsboro, passed away peacefully at home on September 30, 2020, from a long battle with congestive heart failure and cancer.

A beloved friend, brother, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Brad is survived by his daughter, Angel Page-Fritchman of Pearlington, Mississippi; sons, Sean Vetter, Cedar Rapids, IA and John Russell Page of Madison, Wisconsin. He had one nephew, two nieces, five grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Brad is also

survived by his half-sister, Stephanie Christopher Johnson, Travelers Rest, S.C.; and half-brother, Gregory James Swetak, Charlotte, N.C. Brad was born to Gwendolyn Dotts and Joe Benjamin Page in Glendale, California. He lived in California as a young child until his Mother remarried (Robin James Swetak) and they relocated to Williams, Arizona. Brad loved Williams

The Gateway to the Grand Canyon — and even wrote a short story about his memories while living there.

He attended a prep school in New Hampshire where his father lived. After graduating, Brad joined the Navy and served for 10 years. Following an honorable discharge, he returned to Charlotte, N.C., to be with his family, graduated from UNCC with a degree in Economics and worked for the local - The Charlotte Observer. But it wasn't long before he found his true love: carpentry. Brad began by working for a few remodeling companies and then eventually started his own business. By retirement, he had worked 47 years as a Master carpenter, performing high-quality carpentry work in upscale homes throughout the Charlotte area.

When Brad retired, he relocated to the N.C. Zen Center in Pittsboro, N.C., where he helped build structures on the site as well as the cabin he lived in for 13 years with his faithful cat, Whiplash. Brad was a lifelong believer in the benefits of meditation which led him to become a Zen Buddhist in the Rinzai Zen tradition. He participated in retreats as a student but he also helped lead many of the retreat sessions. Brad even spoke about Zen Buddhism at a local Episcopal church where a workshop was offered for attendees to learn about the different religious traditions.

He was an avid reader and an excellent writer. Brad especially loved writing poetry, which was published in the Chatham Chatlist in Pittsboro. He also loved music and playing the guitar. In one of his writings he said, "Oh what music does...I often begin mornings with coffee and Chopin, tears and love.

In his retirement years, Brad volunteered for the Chatham County Council on Aging using his carpentry and handyman skills to help low income seniors with repair projects. He also volunteered with the Chatham Literacy Council where he taught English to adult Latinos.

Brad lived his last years in a wonderful senior community in Pittsboro — the Walnut Grove Apartments — where he was surrounded by many dear friends. His contagious laugh, quick wit and big, generous heart will be greatly missed by Brad's family and friends.

In closing, here's a quote from one of Brad's journal entries: 'To all of you — good cheer, good luck and give 'em hell.' Memorial to be held to celebrate Brad's life on Sunday, November 15th at 2 p.m. at 324 Oakwood Drive in Pittsboro. Masks must be worn.

ROBERT LEE PATTERSON

Robert Lee Patterson, 54, of Siler City, passed away Friday, October 30, 2020.

Services are entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

ELIZABETH BEATRICE (COE) JOHNSON

Elizabeth (Liz) Coe Johnson, 63, of Sanford, passed away Thursday, November 5, 2020, at Harnett Health Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

LESSIE (GOLDSTON) STATON Lessie G. Staton, 79, of Bear

Creek, passed away on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill. Graveside services were held

Sunday, November 8, 2020, at 11 a.m. at Taylors Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Sanford.

MRS. EVA M. LEE

Mrs. Eva M. Lee, 91, of Moncure, passed away on Saturday, October 31, 2020, in Greensboro. Services are entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

RUBY DELORIS (POWELL) THOMPSON

Ruby Deloris (Powell) Thompson, 87, of Sanford passed away Thursday, November 5, 2020, at her residence.

Graveside services were held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at Lee Memory Garden.

BEULAH RAY (HEADEN) MCCRIMMON

Beulah Ray (Headen) Mc-Crimmon, 93, of Goldston, passed away on Sunday, November 1, 2020, at Moore Regional Hospital.

Funeral service was held at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

WILLIAM OUGHTOBE BUTLER

William Oughtobe Butler, 90, of Sanford passed away on Saturday, October 31, 2020. at Central Carolina Hospital.

Funeral service was held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 7, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home.

JANICE GERALDINE **STREET**

Janice Geraldine Street, 69, of Cameron passed away on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at her residence.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at Restoration Through Christ Ministries in Sanford. Burial followed at Johnsonville Community Cemetery in Cameron.

REV. FRANK IRWIN LLOYD JR.

Frank Irwin Lloyd Jr. 88, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, November 2, 2020, at Liberty Commons.

CLIFTON RILEY DUNN



Clifton Riley Dunn, 87, of Siler City passed away surrounded by family on Friday, November 6, 2020, at his home.

Mr. Dunn was born May 25, 1933, a Chatham County native, and the son of Nusem V. and Annie Moody Dunn. In his younger days, he worked for Bish Enterprises. He loved to spend time hunting, fishing and traveling. He had a love of cooking and building porch swings. You could find him in front of the television watching NASCAR races. In addition to his par-

ents, Clifton was preceded in death by brothers, William H., James Lester, and Virgil Dunn, sister, Elizabeth Dean, and a grandson, Joshua Riley Dunn.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ann Maness Dunn; daughter, Jackie Renee Dunn of Siler City; son, Phillip Berry Dunn of Siler City; sisters, Lou Tuttle of Julian, Lillie Mae Ingram of Walkertown; granddaughter, Nicole Mabry and great granddaughter, Aubrey Ryan Shoemaker.

Memorials may be made to the Community Hospice of Sanford., 1836 Doctors Drive, Sanford, N.C. 27330.

The family received friends on Monday, November 9, 2020, from 2 to 3 p.m. with the funeral services following at 3 at Faith Baptist Church, 303 Hillbrook Blvd., Siler City, with Rev. Bobby Shutt officiating. Burial followed in the church

Smith & Buckner funeral home assisted the Dunn family. Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneralhome.com.

DAVID EDWARD BROOKS



August 18, 1942 - October 30, 2020 David Edward Brooks, 78, of Elk Grove, California and native of Chatham County, N.C., a 1960 graduate of Pittsboro High School, Pittsboro, a proud retired United States Air Force Veteran, son of Edward N. and Jewel J. Brooks, passed away on Friday, October 30, 2020, after declining health in the Windsor Care Center of Sacramento, California.
David is survived by his loving wife,

Cathy; stepsons, Anthony (Tina) and Leigh Elrod; step-grandchildren, Austin and Kaitlyn of Elk Grove, California; his beloved sisters,

Etta B. Thomas (Earl) and Trudy B. Studivant, Pittsboro; along with many nieces and nephews. David was predeceased by his parents and brothers, Donald P. Brooks and Tommie W. Brooks.

Private military rites will be held Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at 2 p.m. in the National Veterans Cemetery in Dixon, California.

WILLIE MADISON HART JR.

Willie Madison "Jimmie" "Nub" Hart Jr., 86, of Siler City died Saturday, November 7, 2020, at Coventry House of Siler City. Mr. Hart was born February 19, 1934, the son of Willie Madison and Eula Mae Fields Hart.

Jimmie was an active member of Moon's Chapel Baptist Church, the Adult Sunday school class, and served as a Deacon at Moon's Chapel and Rives Chapel Baptist Churches. He loved coaching baseball, softball and basketball, gardening and tending to his cows. Jimmie was an avid UNC Tar Heel fan and enjoyed watching his grandsons play sports. Mr. Hart was retired from N & S Vending Company. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Doris Buckner Hart; brothers Rudy and Earl Hart; sisters Betty Jean Hicks and infant Mary Hattie Hart.

Survivors include daughters, Sharon Hart Baird and husband, Dr. Bruce Baird of Kinston, Julie Hart Beal and special friend, Steven Everwine of Siler City; sister, Brenda Hart Giammarco and husband, Tony of Staley, brothers, Jake Hart of Staley, Charlie Hart and wife, Pam of Siler City; grandsons, Joshua Baird and wife, Ruthanne, Ethan Baird, Luke Baird and wife, Anna, Caleb Baird, Jacob Baird, and Dustin Beal; great-granddaughters, Emma and Kinsley Baird.

Jimmie laid in repose Sunday, November 8, 2020, from 12 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City. A funeral service followed on Monday, November 9, 2020,

at 2 p.m. at Moon's Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery, with Dr. Patrick Fuller officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to

Moon's Chapel Baptist Church, 175 Moon's Chapel Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344. Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneral-

home.com.

A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, November 7, 2020, at 11 a.m. at St. Luke United Methodist Church, Sanford.

He was born in New Jersey on March 24, 1932, to the late Frank Irwin Lloyd Sr. and Hazel Borse Lloyd. Rev. Lloyd served as a minister in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for 62 years, beginning in 1958. He was a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and Duke University Divinity School.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Dorothy Kaser Llovd: son, Timothy Lloyd formerly of Fayetteville; daughter, Deborah Lloyd Jones of Suffolk, Virginia; three granddaughters, and three great-granddaughters.

In lieu of flowers, consider donations to St. Luke United Methodist Church, 2916 Wicker Street, Sanford, NC 27330.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

TERESA MURPHY CORDEVANT

Teresa Murphy Cordevant, 61, of Sanford, died Friday, November 6, 2020, at her home. A graveside service was held

Monday, November 9, 2020, at 11 a.m. at Lee Memory Gardens with Rev. Robert Thomas officiating. She was born in Lee County,

on March 13, 1959, to the late John Cecil and Shelby Marsh Murphy. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers Michael, Danny and Timothy Murphy. Teresa had worked for Magneti Marelli.

Teresa is survived by her brother, Glenn Turner of Alabama; sister, Rhonda Murphy of Cameron; and three grandchildren.

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

LENNON JUNIOR JUDD Lennon Junior Judd, 68,

of Carthage, passed away on Wednesday, November 4, 2020. at Moore Regional Hospital.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. November 10, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford, with burial following at Holly Spring Community Cemetery in Holly Springs.

AARON STANLEY HAGANS

Aaron Stanley Hagans, 33, of Waterbury, Connecticut, passed away on Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

Services are entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

KATHY LYNN AYERS **PAXSON**

Kathy Lynn Ayers Paxson, 66, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at her home.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 1 p.m. at Lemon Springs United Methodist Church Cemetery with Pastor John Sauls officiating.

She was born in Lee County on August 3, 1954, to the late Willie Harden Ayers and Flora McGhee Ayers. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers, Johnny Ayers, Willie Ray Ayers, Earl Wayne Ayers; and sister, Gladvs Jones. Kathy retired from Lee County School system as Cafeteria Manager. She also worked at GKN.

She is survived by her husband, Rod Paxson; son, Ray Collins of Sanford; daughter, Tiare Williams of Sanford; brother, Bobby Ayers of Sanford; sister, Jean Harris; five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please

consider donations to Crossroads Ministry, 107 Milton Ave., Broadway, N.C. 27505 or a charity of one's choice.

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

PEGGY BEASLEY NORRIS

Peggy Beasley Norris, 79, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, November 7, 2020, at her home.

Graveside funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at the Shallow Well Church Cemetery with Pastor John Sauls III officiating.

Mrs. Norris was born on November 7, 1941, in Lee County, daughter of the late Johnny Monroe and Alma Goins Beasley. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Willie Norris and son, Tillman Norris.

Surviving are sons, Billy Norris of Lillington, Michael Norris of Broadway, Kenneth "Buddy" Norris of Santee, S.C.; eight grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Condolences can be made at: www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com

KENNETH HALDER COTTEN

Kenneth Halder Cotten, 79, of Sanford, died Monday, November 9, 2020, at his home.

He was born in Chatham County on February 18, 1941, son of Halder Morris and Virginia Markham Cotten. He was preceded in death by his parents. Kenny owned and operated Cotten's Garage for many years and was a member of Shallow Well Church.

Graveside memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, November 14, 2020 at Shallow Well Church Cemetery with Rev. Donald Thompson officiating.

Surviving is his wife, Sandra Watson Cotten of the home; a son, Kenneth Scott Cotten of Sanford; sisters, Faye Cotten Cameron of Sanford, Barbara Cotten McCoy of New Hill; and four grandchildren.

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

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

THOMAS LEE COLEMAN

Thomas Lee Coleman, 87, of Olivia, died Sunday, November 8, 2020, at his home.

A funeral service was held at Olivia Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at 2 p.m. with Rev. George Walton presiding. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was born in Lee County on December 4, 1933, to the late Arthur John Coleman Sr. and Daisie Graham Coleman. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers Charles and A. J. Coleman Jr. of Olivia; and a sister, Daphene Thomas of Olivia. He was part owner of Green Valley Florist for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Eva Sloan Coleman of the home; sons, Tim Coleman of Sanford, Percy Coleman of Smithfield; five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one stepgreat-grandchild; and a brother,

Larry Coleman of Olivia. Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

NELSON LEE BREWER

Nelson Lee Brewer, 65, of Siler City passed away on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at his home in Siler City.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Mr. Brewer was born February 19, 1955, a native of Chatham County, and the son of Huey and Barbara Brewer. Nelson spent his working years as a truck driver. He loved to spend his time hunting, four-wheeling, and spending quality time with his family. In addition to his parents, Nelson was preceded in death by his brother, Joseph Brewer.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Sharon Ellis Brewer; children. Pamela Snider and Deanna Brewer, both of Mt Airy, Ashley James of Creedmoor, Benjamin Sharpe and Lindsey Sharpe, both of Siler City; and seven grandchildren. Memorials may be made to

UNC Hospice, PO Box 1077, Pittsboro, NC 27312 Smith & Buckner Ftuneral home

is assisting the Brewer family. Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneral-

CLARETTA (MCIVER)

home.com.

NCMILLAN Claretta McMillan, 90, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, at Kellers Oak Haven Retirement

A public viewing was held from 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home. Funeral servicer will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, November 12, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home, vith burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

Here's how Chatham County voted

BY D. LARS DOLDER Chatham County.

News + Record Staff

An historic election season is drawing to a close in Chatham County as unofficial results countywide suggest a Democratic sweep in contested races.

Democratic candidates in every major category beat out their opponents, though often by slim margins. And while the final vote count will not come in until Friday at the earliest (and will not be made official until Nov. 24), it seems unlikely for any of these results to change.

The following results do not account for outstanding mail-in absentee ballots which may still be counted if they arrive by Nov. 12. The anticipated number, however — little more than 200 ballots in Chatham County — are unlikely to make the difference in any race.

Neither do the figures below include provisional ballots, but they are even less influential than mail-ins. While absentee-by-mail ballots have favored Democratic candidates in this election. provisionals — which are cast when voter eligibility must be later verified almost always break down the middle. And most of them are ultimately thrown out.

So, without further ado. here is how you voted,

President

More than 100,000 absentee ballots may still make a difference in the statewide presidential race, but probably not. North Carolina will likely go for President Donald Trump, Chatham County, however, felt differently.

 26,642 Chathamites voted for Joe Biden • 21,055 voted for Donald Trump

The breakdown — 55% for Biden versus 44% for Trump — is remarkably similar to 2016's pattern. In that year, 53% voted for Hillary Clinton and 43%

for Trump. But numbers tell an incomplete story. Chatham may have voted along similar party lines as four years ago, but the electorate has evolved. For a better understanding of Chatham County's political divide, and how it is tellingly representative of the country at large, check out our voter breakdown story in this week's edition, which starts on page A1

U.S. Senate

There were four candidates on the ballot for U.S. Senate this year, but only two stood a real chance: incumbent Sen. Thom Tillis (R) and challenger Cal Cunningham (D). As the vote stands now, Tillis is the statewide victor; Cunningham conceded on Tuesday. Pollsters predicted a comfortable win for Cunningham, but a lurid scandal late in the campaign season undermined his credibility among moderate Republican voters and women across the board.

But in Chatham County, the Democratic bent still won out.

• 25,563 voted for Cunningham

• 20,906 voted for Tillis Cunningham and Tillis thus earned 55% and 44% of the county's electorate, respectively.

Governor

Roy Cooper's victory in the gubernatorial race is the most interesting of any in this year's election. The Democratic governor has been under nationwide spotlight as he directed N.C.'s pandemic navigation differently than his peers in adjacent states. His efforts saved many lives by comparison, but also stifled the economy.

In a state where the majority appear to have voted for the Republican Trump for president who has downplayed the pandemic's severity from the beginning — Cooper won his contest as the number one vote-getter in the N.C. His opponent, Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, also downplayed the virus and said he would end mask mandates.

It's no surprise, then. that Cooper was also the No. 1 vote-getter in Chatham County.

• 27,970 voted for Cooper • 19,815 voted for Lt. Gov. Dan Forest

N.C. Lieutenant Governor

Here again, Chatham diverged from the state at large. Republican Mark Robinson is the projected winner of N.C.'s lieutenant governor race, but Chatham preferred Yvonne Lewis Holley with Reives II (D) took 55.78% 54% of the vote versus 46% for Robinson.

• 25,814 voted for Holley • 21,664 voted for Rob-

U.S. House of Representatives

There were two districts on Chatham's ballot, representing the western and eastern sections of the county. The incumbent Ted Budd, whose district will oversee West Chatham, was the only Republican candidate in the county to win a majority.

• District 13: Ted Budd (R) won 5,750 votes versus Scott Huffman (D), who

• District 4: David E. Price (D) won 23,027 votes versus Robert Thomas (R), who won 15,333

N.C. State Senate District 23

Incumbent Valerie P. Foushee (D) won her reelection effort with 56% voter support in Chatham County. Republican challenger Tom Glendinning earned 44%.

• 26,104 voted for Valerie Foushee

• 20,546 voted for Tom Glendinning

N.C. House of Representatives **District 54**

Incumbent Robert T. of Chatham's vote to win another term. George T. Gilson Jr. (R), Reives' opposition, got 44.22%.

26,145 voted for Reives • 20,727 voted for Gilson

Chatham **County Board of**

Commissioners

Three seats out of five on the county board of commissioners were up for grabs in this year's election. The two incumbent Democrats succeeded in retaining their positions while the board's only Republican representative, Andy Wilkie, appears to have lost out to young challenger Frank-

lin Gomez Flores. Gomez Flores ran unaffiliated but shared his platform with the two veteran Democratic

candidates. Of all Chatham County's races, the contest between Wilkie and Gomez Flores is the only one that may yet swing. Gomez Flores is currently in the lead, but his 322 extra votes afford Wilkie the right to demand a recount and remaining mail-in absentee ballots could possibly make a difference. But probably not.

• District 1: 25,315 voted for Karen Howard (D), 21,377 voted for Jay Stobbs (R)

• District 2: 25,325 voted for Mike Dasher (D), 21,230 voted for Jimmy Pharr (R)

• District 5: 22,624 voted for Franklin Gomez Flores (U), 22,302 voted for Andy Wilkie (R)

Chatham County Board of Education

• District 1: 21,517 voted for Melissa Hlavac, 11,721 voted for Ryan Armstrong and 4,793 voted for Timothy Winters

• District 2: 23,250 voted for David M. Hamm, 14,382 voted for Dennis R. Lewis

For a more detailed breakdown of the Chatham County board of commissioners and board of education races, be sure to read our coverage in this edition.

Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @dldolder.

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham County 4-H members finish strong in virtual Farm Credit **Showmanship Circuit**

The annual 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit, sponsored by Carolina Farm Credit and Cape Fear Farm Credit, provides youth ages 5 to 19 an opportunity to compete against other youth from across the region. This year, because of COVID-19, the circuit became virtual with youth participants from the following counties: Randolph, Guilford, Stanly,

Montgomery, Cumberland, Richmond, Lee, Chatham, Union, Anson, Moore, Rockingham, Person, Cabarrus, Franklin, Hoke and Robeson. Points were accumulated at each show, and placings are determined by total points received.

The Showmanship classes are designed to gauge the 4-H participant's knowledge and skill with the animal. By participating in the 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit, youth learn leadership skills, record keeping, communication and responsibility, while increasing their self-esteem.

Chatham had no Cloverbuds to contend this year. The Cloverbud division is a

non-competitive division with the sole purpose of allowing the youngest 4-H participant's to gain beneficial experience.

In this year's circuit, Chatham County had six 4-H participants: Elise Overton, Intermediate, Goat: Addison Daniels, Junior, Goat; Heidi Spainhour, Junior, Cattle; Hunter Batchelor, Senior, Cattle; Faith Mallard, Senior, Cattle; Lindsay Seitz, Senior, Cattle.

Two of the Chatham County 4-H participant's received awards Oct. 29 at the virtual 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit Awards Banquet: Lindsay Seitz, Grand Champion, Senior, Cattle; and

Heidi Spainhour, Third, Junior, Cattle.

Election signs must be removed

The N.C. Dept. of Transportation reminds North Carolinians that election signs in the right of way of state-maintained roads must be removed by Nov. 13, 10 days after the election. NCDOT can remove and dispose of any election signs still in the right of way after the deadline.

— CN+R staff reports



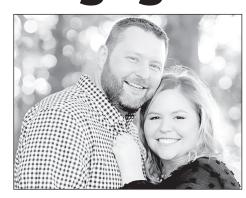
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Burriss -Vaughn engagement



Bethany Karen Burriss of Raleigh and Kevin Alexander Vaughn, also of Raleigh, announce their engagement and upcoming

The bride-elect is the daughter of Greg and Vicky Burriss of Siler City. She is the granddaughter of Mary Burriss Ratliff of Sanford, the late Wayne Burriss, also the late Thomas Ratliff, and the late Dot Anderson and the late Chester Holder. A 2005 graduate of Jordan-Matthews High School, Bethany graduated from Meredith College in 2009, and is employed by Chatham County.

The groom-elect is the son of Joe and Jeanne Vaughn of Bear Creek, the grandson of the late Jimmie and Helen Wilson and the late Henry and Magdalene Vaughn. A 1999 graduate of Chatham Central High School and a 2008 graduate of N.C. State University, he is employed by Crossroads of Apex.

A private wedding will be held in Siler City at 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 5, 2020.

CHURCH

MERONEY UMM

There will be a fundraiser barbecue prepared by the Methodist Men on Saturday, November 21 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Meroney U.M.C. Boston Butt Roasts, Hams, Turkey Breasts — all fully cooked — will be available. For ordering information, contact Michael Dowdy at 919-548-3993, Eric Shaw at 919-548-1268, Justin Shaw at 919-548-2406, Jeff Wilson at 919-548-2131, or any Meroney U.M.M. member.

Proceeds will support UMM Bus Maintenance Fund, the Playground Fund, and other ministry projects.

RED HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Revival serices rescheduled at Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church to Dec. 7 through 9 at 7 p.m. Pastor Tyler Gaulden of Church Street Baptist Church, Greensboro will be the guest speaker.

Everyone is welcome. The church is located on Highway 42, Goldston.

JMArts receives grant for 'Gotta Dance' spring theater dance workshop

From JMArts Foundation

SILER CITY — JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation, plans to offer an after-school dance workshop for student actors this spring thanks to a Grassroots Grant announced last month by the Chatham Arts Council.

"Gotta Dance! Dancing for Musical Theatre' will be the first formal dance class offered at Jordan-Matthews High School for at least four decades. The six-hour class scheduled over two sessions will teach dance terminology and basic steps, help students understand what to expect at a dance audition and work through choreography.

While the pandemic could still change any plans, the workshop was originally created as part of student actors' preparation for the Broadway musical "Oklahoma!" in a local production scheduled for late March.

The grant will help fund a residency for Peggy Taphorn to teach classes. Taphorn has directed, choreographed and performed across the world, including numerous productions on



Photo courtesy of Temple

Peggy Taphorn, producing Artistic **Director for Temple** Theatre in Sanford, plans to teach an afterschool dance workshop for student actors at **Jordan-Matthews High** School.

Broadway, London's West End, touring the United States, Canada, South America and Asia. She is in her 14th season as the Producing Artistic Director at Temple Theatre in Sanford.

"I'm excited to share knowledge of the theater and particularly dance and choreography with the Jordan-Matthews students in this upcoming collaboration," Taphorn said. "After an introduc-

tion to dance, we hope the workshops will culminate in choreographing 'Kansas City,' a dynamic and classic number from 'Oklahoma!'

JMArts President Rose Pate said she's still not sure how the workshop will need to be altered during the pandemic. "But we are very pleased to offer this new opportunity for arts education to Jordan-Matthews students, either this spring or soon after that," she said. "We're grateful to Peggy and the Chatham Arts Council for helping us offer such a wonderful experience for our stu-dents and community."

The Grassroots Grant Program is made possible by individual contributions to the Chatham Arts Council's general operating fund — and by the Grassroots Arts Program of the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts

More information about JMArts, including a schedule of upcoming arts events and information on membership, is available online at JMArts.org.

SIGN

LANGUAGE

78 "Qué —?"

NEWS BRIEFS

How to know your vote counted in North Carolina

RALEIGH — North Carolina elections officials wish to remind Election Day voters that it may take a few weeks before their "voter history" is updated to reflect their recent vote in their voter record available through the State Board of Elections' Voter Search tool.

"If you voted in person and inserted your ballot into a tabulator, your selections were immediately recorded on a memory card, and your votes were reported on election night as part of the unofficial results," said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the State Board of Elections. 'We respectfully ask that voters trust their bipartisan boards of elections across North Carolina. We are here to make sure your votes count, and they will.

The State Board of Elections and county boards of elections are inundated with questions from voters about whether their ballot was counted in the 2020 general election. In almost every single case, the answer will be yes.

However, if you voted on Election Day, it will take time for your voter history to reflect the fact that you voted, as county boards of elections must first complete post-election processes.

Voters may confirm the status of their ballot through the State Board of Elections' Voter Search tool at https:// vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/. Simply enter your first and last names and county (if desired) and follow the instructions below based on your voting method.

Chatham sets public hearing on proposed 2022-28 Capital **Improvement Plan**

PITTSBORO — On Nov. 2, the Chatham County Manager's Office presented the

proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) covering fiscal years 2022-2028 to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. The seven-year CIP is updated every year as a process to plan for and fund major capital needs costing more than \$100,000.

A public hearing on the proposed CIP is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Nov. 16 as a part of the board of commissioners' regular session at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro. The entire proposed CIP will be available on the county website at chathamnc.org/CIP at such time that county data is available again.

Three new projects are recommended in the proposed CIP:

Athletic field lighting at Northeast Park
Complete final cell blocks in the Cha-

tham County Detention Center Capital Maintenance & Replacement The proposed CIP includes recommended revisions to projects already in the current

- CIP, based on changing needs or conditions: New Central Services building
 - Shift funding for mobile classrooms
- Emergency Operations Center Shift funding for Chatham County **Detention Center generator**

The CIP also looks forward by including future projects that are not yet funded. This forethought helps Chatham County keep these needs in mind, even if a funding source has not yet been secured. Two new unfunded future projects expected to be added this year are:

- Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Northeast Substation
- Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Boat Storage Facility

To sign up in advance to speak at the public hearing on the CIP, residents may complete the online form for public input and hearings or email chathamncclerk@ gmail.com. Speakers also may sign up on site at the meeting.

— *CN+R* staff reports

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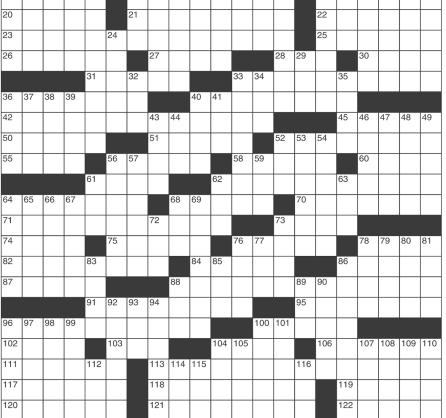
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68 Sloppy Joe **107** "How awful!" 108 Cardinals, e.g. holder **69** Hug 109 Office fill-in 72 Defective 110 Corrida calls 73 Pakistani 112 Sooner than 114 Big bush bird language

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Solution for the nuzzle in last week's edition

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.																				
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BBQ PLATE BENEFIT

FOR

Tyler & Jennifer Bridges

To Help with Medical Expenses



Siler City Moose Lodge 721 Alston Bridge Rd. Siler City

November 14 from 11-6

Take out ONLY - Drive Thru line \$10 Per Plate

Raffle Tickets will be available

Drawings will be at 6, you DO NOT have to be present to win

COMMISSIONER

Continued from page A1

responded to numerous requests for

comment from the News + Record. Asked why he thought he received more votes, Gomez Flores said more Chatham voters preferred his platform.

"We also reflect different communities," he said. "I'm an immigrant; his family has been here for generations. I'm younger, and he is older than me. Many individuals want to see what a Latino can bring to the table. Many individuals also want to see the younger generations engaging and contributing to society.

Gomez Flores was born in 1994 in Santa Lucía Cotzumalguapa, located in the "department," or county, of Escuintla, Guate-

He was born during the Guatemalan Civil War — the same civil war, he added, into which his parents had been born. From 1960 to 1996, left-wing guerrilla forces fought military-backed government forces, killing about 200,000 people and impoverishing countless others. Soon after, he and his family fled post-war poverty and violence.

They arrived in Siler City in 1999. "I was enrolled almost immediately (in Siler City Elementary)," he said. "I didn't even have time to adjust (to) what life was like in Siler City.

His early years were his toughest: he had to adjust to different food, a different environment and a different language - all while getting used to leaving his parents every day for school. Gradually, though, things got better, and school began to feel like a "safe space."

The older I got, I started seeing more people that looked like me, more Latinos, mainly because of the immigration waves during that period into Siler City," Gomez Flores said. "And so, I started realizing that I wasn't the only one who was an immigrant. I started feeling a lot safer, or more comfortable in Siler City.

His family invested in Siler City rental properties, and he began helping his dad out when he was about 7 years old.

"I knew that money was a big issue for my family," he said. "And that's kind of the mentality a lot of children — at least in Guatemala, where I was born have, and I'm pretty sure a lot of other nations have experienced similar things where children feel like a responsibility to help the family with some income.

Go to school, do his homework and help out his family. That was his life when he was younger, he said, and it left him very little free time.

'I didn't have any room to mess around or to cut up in class or in general," he said. "Homework was always a priority. School was always a priority.

Helping family was always a priority."

That included guiding his sister, Maria Gomez Flores, who said he always helped her out with any troubles she had, from elementary school all the way to college.

"He's always been a very good older brother," she said, later adding: "He's always been very reliable, and that's what I see him being in this office — of being someone who's reliable and willing to listen to the concerns of the people.

Gomez Flores attended Chatham Middle School and then Jordan-Matthews High School, where he played varsity soccer for Los Jets and ran track for all four years. Around this time, he became a citizen as well.

"And the biggest challenge for me was really navigating the educational system," he said. "Neither of my parents are college graduates. My dad

has a GED, and so that's the highest education from both my parents." That's why he's grateful for the Scholars' Latino Initiative, which paired him with a mentor who guided him through

the college application process. It paid off: in 2016, he graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a degree in biology. Gomez Flores originally hadn't planned to go into politics. Initially, he wanted to play soc-

cer professionally, even though, as he said, he wasn't "your most skilled player out there." Going into college, he thought he wanted to be a doctor — and then he discovered that he really loathed the medical system. "I kind of took a different approach

and started looking into more of policy," he said. "So, I started looking into the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). But when I graduated, that was a very competitive field. Biology, the sciences were very saturated in the job market.

So that's when he took a leap of faith. In 2017, he ran for an at-large seat on Siler City's board of commissioners against Cindy Bray and Louis P. Forrisi Jr.; Bray won, and Gomez Flores received just 9.81% of the vote.

"I lost, of course," he said with a laugh. "But I was able to get my name out there and pretty much got invited to apply to be a member to Chatham County's Planning Board, and I've been on the planning board probably since for a year and a half, a little more. And that's been a very humbling experience.

Last year, he decided to try again, but this time as a county commissioner representing District 5, which includes part of Siler City, a town that Gomez Flores previously told the News + Record hadn't had a voice on the county board in nearly 20 years. Siler City's Hispanic population

which makes up nearly half of the town - had never before had a voice on the board either, he added.

But he ran into a few snags along the way. He was considered an "unaffiliated" candidate and had been since he'd registered to vote at age 18, but state law required unaffiliated candidates to procure a certain number of signatures — in Gomez Flores'

case, 2,148 — and file a petition by the primary election to appear on the general election

He ultimately registered as a Democrat in December.

'But I wouldn't be able to run with that affiliation, because I was supposed to have been affiliated in 90 days prior to the party," he said. "And so, that's where I was caught. In reality, my deadline to affiliate to the party or any party was sometime in September, and I started contemplating the idea of running in October, so I was already late.

He received approval to petition and organized his campaign in early Janu-– which didn't leave much time to get the required signatures.

"So (I had) about two months to get 2,000 signatures, 1,000 signatures per month, and so I quickly knew I needed some help,' he said, laughing. "And here in Siler City, or in the western part, everything is very spread apart, housing very spread apart. There's no really compact or a dense residential area like we have in the northeast."

That's why he focused a large part of his efforts there.

'Just because everything was so close together, that was the most feasible time for me in regard to being time efficient,' he said. "Instead of driving through house to house to house, I could just walk from house to house to house.'

Maria, his sister, also served as his campaign manager. She helped him go around Chatham, especially Siler City, to collect signatures, though she quipped that the effort "was all Franklin.

"We would stop people that we knew, just talk about (how) he's interested in (running), and it would be a great help," she said. "I know we were very kind of shy at the beginning, when we went to a Walmart and just started asking people that we knew, but you know, it's something that we have to get over with, and Franklin did a good job of overcoming that initial shyness at the beginning and just talking to as much people as he could to get those signatures so that he could be on the ballot.

Ultimately, Gomez Flores obtained more signatures than he needed — over 3,500 — and that's when he began his campaign in earnest. He campaigned on four issues: ensure quality education, create more affordable housing, bring more jobs to Chatham and emphasize eco-consciousness in county development.

But there's one thing above all that he said he hopes to accomplish before the end of his term.

'I want to make it easy for families to build their own homes," he said, adding, 'I'd definitely love to have more first-time homeowners or buyers in Chatham County (and) make it easier for families to pass inheritance to their children. Yeah, I think that's very important to me.'

He's also well positioned for it, he said, since he and his family work in real estate and are familiar with many obstacles facing first-time home buyers. Moreover, as part of his purpose to give voice to Chatham's Hispanic population, he also

said he hopes to ensure that his community receives necessary information often co-opted by language barriers.

Some Spanish-speaking immigrants don't understand how county government works, he said: some come from remote areas where government didn't much touch their lives and others have never really had a say in politics.

"They don't really know that in Chatham County we have procedures," he said. "For example, as simple as selling food, you got to get a permit, and if you don't have the permit, you get shut down. Some people don't understand or know that procedure exists. ... And then their mentality is: 'Why are you shutting me down?

By teaching and engaging his community members, he hopes to prevent misunderstanding and provide a bridge between local government and his community. That, Maria said, is crucial.

"If he's confirmed ... he will be someone who is part of the community and therefore knows a lot of the worries and the concerns that Latinx individuals in the community have to live through, she said. "It will be the opportunity to amplify the voices of Latinx people in Siler City and Chatham. It'll bring those issues to the minds of other commissioners and to other local government officials. So it's very important because (there will) be finally someone who understands and is able ... to hear the voices of people who live in town and also are

not familiar with the English language. More than a path to achieve policy goals or representation, Gomez Flores said his victory would also provide hope.

'It is possible for even immigrants to have a positive impact on government, to change how a lot of people see my community normally," he said, "...whether they say we're thieves, rapists, murderers, whatever. I believe this opportunity presents itself to my community members to show that we can be positive contributors to our community.'

Some may not understand the importance of getting involved in government, he said, while others may stop themselves from running out of fear that no one will support them.

But you got to take that leap of faith," he added. "I'm not a very social person. I'm not a social butterfly. Politics and me, talking to people — it's completely out of my comfort zone, but that's growth right there.

Put yourself out there and seize the moment despite your fear — that's the example he hopes to impart to his community, especially youth who may share his experiences.

"I hope that I provide a positive image or a positive role model for them that I didn't have, that I would have liked when I was younger, that little sense of encouragement or motivation," he said. "I hope I (show) the younger generations, independent of the background, just like, 'Hey, somebody from Siler City, or somebody who grew up here, is able to do great things. So can I.'

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at victoria@chathamnr.com.



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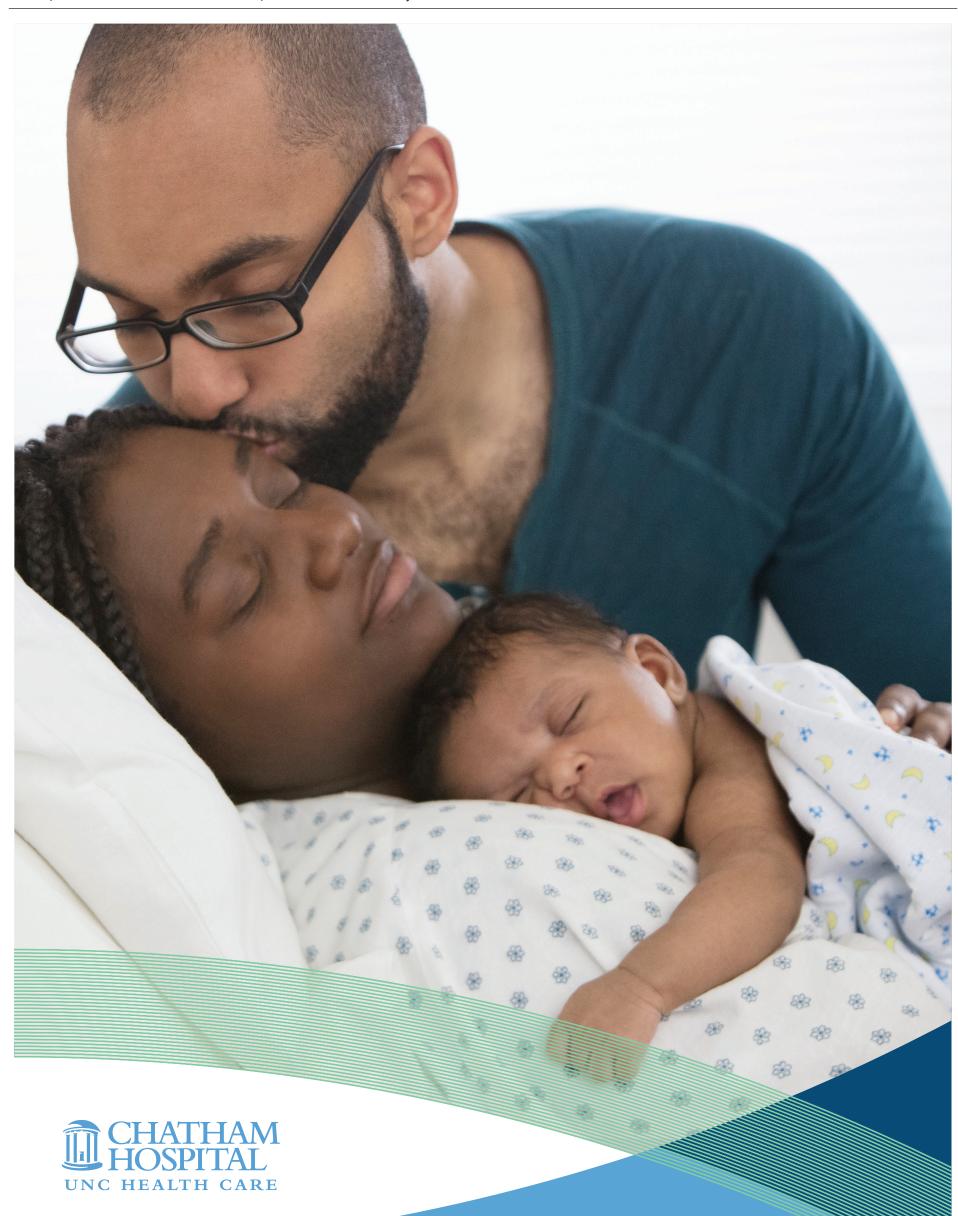
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Chatham News + Record SPORTS NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS

NOVEMBER 12-18, 2020 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

Sports are almost here. Let's do our part to keep them going.

A little extra legwork. A lot more normalcy.

CHAPEL FOWLER Sports Editor

When Chatham County high school sports officially return next Monday after an eight-month hiatus, that's an adjustment I'm more than willing to make. And I hope you feel the same way.

It's been a long and winding road for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and its member

schools since mid-March, when commissioner Que Tucker and company made the initial call to suspend all athletic activities in reaction to a very new, very confusing and very frightening coronavirus pandemic.

Since then, the association has been listening, learning and reacting on the fly with a steady stream of safety guidelines, skill sessions, revamped schedules and lots and lots of Zoom meetings.

And after (gulp) 248 days, it'll all come to fruition on Monday, Nov. 16: the day that we — a state's worth of high school administrators, coaches, athletes, parents and media — take a deep breath, buckle down, mask up and try, once and for all, to get this train back on track and out of the station.

Personally, I can't wait.

It will, of course, be a massive undertaking, with 100-plus school districts and 400-plus member schools all navigating the quirks and qualms that come with a COVID-19-altered athletic year, which kicks off with two low-contact sports, volleyball and cross country, next week and swimming early next month.

If this summer and fall have taught me anything, though, it's that the high schools here in Chatham — and, I'm sure, everywhere else from Murphy to Manteo — are going to give it their best shot.

Since June, I've seen plenty across the county to lead me to that conclusion: 90-minute basketball workouts conducted without a single pass, some wonky volleyball drills and early-morning socially distanced football conditioning conducted without a single ball in sight, just to name a few.

The NCHSAA's preseason safety protocols — a logical set of guidelines that have loosened as we approach the regular season — didn't make for the smoothest offseason anywhere, whether it was Northwood, Jordan-Matthews, Chatham Central, Woods Charter or Chatham Charter.

But for months, the message from those schools' athletic directors, coaches and athletes has been a consistent one: we want to play, so we'll do whatever it takes to make it happen.

Now, they're on the cusp of it.
Be warned: the 2020-21 athletic year is going to be flat-out unpredictable. Expect a steady stream of questions, frustra-

See **SPORTS**, page B2

'A PEOPLE PERSON'

How did Mack Brown turn UNC around so quickly? Joey Walden has thoughts

BY CHAPEL FOWLER News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Joey Walden remembers Judg-



day.
The buildup. The buzz
on campus
before-

Walden hand. And the people filling every nook and cranny of Kenan Stadium on Nov. 8, 1997, to watch No.

ment Day

like yester-

on Nov. 8, 1997, to watch No. 5 North Carolina host No. 3 Florida State.
So. Many. People.

"The tension for that game was amazing," Walden, a former Jordan-Matthews and UNC defensive lineman, said in a recent interview.
"We were both undefeated. I mean, it's hard to describe. It was so exciting. We lost, but ..." — he paused here, searching for the right words — "it was just incredible."

A redshirt freshman, Walden never saw the field that night as the Seminoles beat the Tar Heels, 20-3. But the atmosphere alone told him one thing: this is what it's like to be atop the college football world.

"That Florida State game? That was the game," he said. For the next 23 years,

North Carolina football never again reached the top of that proverbial mountain despite five coaches (most notably, Butch Davis and Larry Fedora) giving it their best shot.

This fall, things changed.
Last month, the Tar Heels rose as high as fifth in the AP Top 25 Poll — their highest ranking since before the 1997 FSU game — before falling back to earth with two bad road losses to unranked teams. Entering Saturday's home game against Wake Forest, they're 5-2 with one of the nation's best offenses.

The one constant in those two peaks? Head coach Mack Brown. Walden's plenty familiar with him.

"He's got some special sauce," Walden said, laughing. "I don't know what it is, but it's a special sauce."

To figure out why Brown, in his second stint at the

school, has so rapidly flipped the switch on UNC's struggling program in under two years, the News + Record checked in with

Walden, 42, who works as an I.T. technician for Chatham County Schools and also owns a recording studio.

Back in the late 1990s, though, he was a lineman who saw firsthand how Brown built North Carolina into a football team to be reckoned with — especially so in 1997, when the team went 11-1.

Walden, who grew up in Siler City, said his path to North Carolina began with Terrence Newby. By high school, Walden's longtime friend and classmate had blossomed into a two-sport phenom, spending his falls on the football field for Phil Senter and winters on the basketball court for John Phillips.

Power Five schools arrived en masse to check out Newby and became a staple at J-M practices. Soon enough, UNC's recruiters starting noticing another player, too. Walden was a freaky-athletic defensive lineman who made the jump to Senter's varsity squad halfway through his sophomore season, in 1993.

He had a tantalizing skillset: plenty of strength, enough speed for a 4.6/4.7-second 40-yard dash and natural footwork that served him well in basketball, where he was a productive and versatile forward.

"Junior year, you start getting letters from different colleges," Walden said, "and you start to think, 'Oh, OK, this is actually a possibility."

ty."

Walden had interest from across the state and beyond, but UNC remained among his top schools: he grew up a Tar Heel fan, his cousin, Eddie Mason, played linebacker at the school and he was — like so many others — drawn to Brown, a coach he described as "a people person" in every sense of the

"If you weren't doing your job, don't get me wrong, he'd get in your face and

See **BROWN,** page B2



Submitted photo

Joey Walden played defensive tackle for some of Phil Senter's best Jordan-Matthews Jets football teams in the '90s.



Submitted photo ordan-

Joey Walden also played basketball for Jordan-Matthews; he was on the Jets' 1995 NCHSAA 1A state championship team.

'AN EVENT THAT GIVES BACK'

For the first time ever, Chatham County's Reindeer Run will be virtual

BY CHAPEL FOWLER News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The coronavirus pandemic wasn't going to stop the Reindeer Run.

But the Chatham County Partnership for Children did have to get a little creative for the 16th iteration of its holiday race, which doubles as a fundraiser for local organizations that promote healthy lifestyles.

"We had to create a new race within our own longstanding race," race director Jerry Lux said, adding that, at least for him, "this huge change was fun."

This month, his team announced plans for the first ever virtual Reindeer Run, which will take place from Friday, Dec. 4, to Saturday, Dec. 12, with participants logging their times on Strava,

a running app.
As per usual, it's a five-kilometer race (just over three miles) that's available to individuals, groups, school teams and families. And the standard course, which spans Central Carolina Community College's Pittsboro campus, will be available for runners.

To avoid large gatherings, though, Lux and company are also setting up trails at four Chatham County Parks and





Submitted photos by Anna-Rhesa Versola

Last year's Chatham County Reindeer Run hosted around 500 runners. The Reindeer Run often features costumes.

Recreation Department venues: The Park at Briar Chapel in Pittsboro, Northeast Park in Chapel Hill, Northwest Park in Siler City and Southwest Park in Bear Creek. Runners can complete their 5Ks there, too.

"The thought of staggering start times didn't seem manageable or safe," Lux said. "Last year, we had over 500 runners. To properly stagger them in intervals (at the same location) was a lot of logistics."

He's been thinking over such logistics for months. Since the Reindeer Run is usually held on CCCC's campus, Lux and other Chatham County Partnership for Children leaders found themselves in frequent conversation with Mark Hall, the community college's Chatham County propost.

Plus, the Reindeer Run — despite the Grinch, Santa Claus and Rudolph costumes its participants sometimes sport — is at its root a serious

event.

It's certified by USA Track & Field, which means runners can use their times from the Reindeer Run to qualify for larger national events. There's an extensive archive of race results online, dating back over a decade, and last year's top finishers included former Division 1 college and current high school runners.

Case in point: Lux, 35, was ready to adapt far in advance. "We didn't want to just jump to: 'OK, the college isn't going to let us have this race, so we're going to meet at this (random) park," he said. "It's official, and we wanted to keep that higher standard."

By his estimate, Chatham County Partnership for Children was in touch with Hall as early as late April. In August, they made the call to hold a virtual race at CCCC and the four other locations. (The county parks

See **RUN,** page B2

Tryouts, practices under way in Chatham County

BY CHAPEL FOWLER

News + Record Staff

And so the regular season begins. Last Wednesday marked the first day of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's 2020-21 sports calendar, as member schools across the state began official tryouts for their volleyball and cross country teams 12 days ahead of the first scheduled competitions on Nov. 16.

In Chatham County, the Northwood Chargers, Jordan-Matthews Jets, Chatham Central Bears and Woods Charter Wolves all kicked off workouts last Wednesday. (This week, they'll mostly

pivot to some final tune-up practices.) The Chatham Charter Knights re-

main in an athletics dead period until at least Nov. 12, after officials learned of a positive coronavirus late last month and pivoted to remote learning.

Although they're not actual games, last Wednesday's tryouts marked the first official athletic activities for NCHSAA member schools since the association suspended spring sports on March 13 — 236 days, or almost eight months ago. (Summer/offseason "skill sessions" had been going on since mid-

Last Monday, two days before tryouts began, the NCHSAA also loosened a few guidelines in its "modified sports manual," a Google Doc that'll be continuously updated with information this season. Monday marked the first changes to the document, which was initially released in mid-October.

Notably, there are no capacity limits for tryouts. Although spectators are limited to 25 people indoors and 100 people or 30% of stated fire capacity outdoors (whichever is less), the NCHSAA confirmed "players, coaches, workers, entertainers and support staff do not count toward the capacity limits" in either setting when it comes to "in-season tryouts and practices." (Spectators aren't allowed at tryouts and practices.)

From a functionality standpoint, that means a team could host tryouts with its entire roster present in the same place on the same day, rather than splitting up

tryouts for different "pods" of athletes. At those tryouts, which can also function as practices, the NCHSAA recommended schools utilize pods, small-group work and drills that allow for "cloth face coverings and social distancing." But all three of those points are only "considerations" — not requirements.

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

SPORTS

Continued from page B1

tions, last-second adjustments and, yes, positive coronavirus cases. Every sport played outside of a bubble — most notably, the NFL and college football — has made that much clear.

The keys to making this work? Flexibility. Contingency. And to borrow a phrase from Chris Blice, Chatham County Schools' district athletic director, "following the guidelines with fidelity."

In other words, loyalty. To safely host a volleyball match, for example, it'll take everyone abiding by the rulebook: the coaches, the athletes, the school officials on site and even fans, who will have to adjust to new capacity limits — 25people maximum at indoor events, 100 people maximum at outdoor events.

And that obviously extends off the court and the field, where social distancing, sanitation and masks (Sorry, Dan Forest, but they work!) remain as important as ever in curbing the spread of the coronavi-

Case in point: if we listen to the experts and all do our part, we'll get the games we've been waiting for. And isn't that what it's all about?



Chatham News + Record Sports Editor Chapel Fowler speaks with Chatham Charter Athletic Director Clint Fields at an offseason skill session in June.

I could wax poetic on high school sports for days, as I'm sure many of you all could, too. They're a training ground, a formative experience, a community staple and just flatout fun, even if you deservedly rode Reporter Chapel Fowler can be the bench for the Lincoln Charter varsity men's tennis team like me.

So, as we gear up for next week, remember what it'll take for a lot more normalcy: a little extra legwork. In 2020, that goes a long way.

reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @chapelfowler.

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BROWN

Continued from page B1

chew you out if needed," Walden said. "But he was a great motivator. And you could always talk to

On a day-to-day basis, Walden also appreciated how Brown delegated tasks to assistants. He was a "coach's coach," as Walden put it: someone who took the lead and held people accountable when necessary but also trusted the staff he'd assembled to get things done on their own.

As an example, Walden pointed to Jeff Madden, the Tar Heels' strength coach at the time. Walden worked with Madden consistently. especially during his 1996 redshirt freshman

'He was a great motivator, and you could always talk to him.'

JOEY WALDEN, former Jordan-Matthews and UNC football player

season. Brown checked in, naturally, but mostly let Madden run the show. The results didn't

disappoint. 'It was wonderful," Walden said. "He really allowed the coaches under him to coach their positions.'

Brown's style led to some remarkable highs - and as a player on UNC's 1996 and 1997 squads, when the team was a combined 21-3, Walden was right in the middle of it. He was there, too, for a tougher moment: when Brown left UNC to become the head coach at Texas in

December 1997. "That didn't really sit

well with a lot of players, but it is what it is," Walden said. "We understood why. Honestly, I think a lot of us felt like it could have been handled differently."

Ahead of the 1998 season, Walden said he sat down with UNC's new head coach, Carl Torbush, and decided "football wasn't going to be my avenue." He'd fallen behind academically, didn't feel the same drive for the sport and, despite offers from smaller schools such as N.C. A&T, was ready to move on.

Over the next two decades, Walden dove into a career of music, sound work and tech. He has worked in IT for CCS since 2012, and he also stays busy with **Dub Recording Studio** (his own business) and Walden Sound Systems (the longtime Siler City family business started by his late father, Bill).

His reaction when North Carolina fired Fedora and re-hired Brown, now 69, in late November

"Personally, I was super excited," Walden said. "I felt like he'd turn it around - and he obviously did. I just didn't think it was going to happen this quick."

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

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Questions? Call (919) 542-5516

HHW events will resume in March 2021.

RUN

Continued from page B1

and rec department held

a similar walk/run/bike challenge in September.) Since then, Lux has been working steadily to secure sponsors, figure out traffic signs and coordinate the local police presence needed for when runners have to cross U.S. Highway 87 on their Pittsboro route, among other duties. It's the first virtual race he's

ever been a part of.

'We love the Reindeer Run, and I'm so pleased that we're able to continue this great community event," CCPC executive director Genevieve Megginson said in an email. 'Jerry's put a lot of time and energy into setting up safe options.'

Runners can sign up for the event and get more information online at: chathamkids. org/5k. They can register through Dec. 11, but event T-shirts are only guaranteed for those who register (preferably online) by Nov. 20. Sign-up fees are \$30 for individuals and groups, and \$25 for school teams.

For \$5, families can also sign up for the Run Rudolph Home competition. That's a new wrinkle to the 2020 event, in



which kids and families across the county are challenged to run a net total of 3,752 miles, or the distance from North Pole to Pittsboro (where a lost Rudolph has been

"stranded"). Realistically, Lux said he's expecting a drop-off in total participants and fundraising numbers this time around. In 2019, the Reindeer Run hosted around 500 runners and raised \$7,000, which CCPC distributed in grant form to four local organizations, including a church and a Boys &

Girls Club. But he's hoping "we pick up a little bit of steam" since the 2020 Reindeer Run can be conducted from anywhere. Some of Lux's family

members back home in Michigan, for example, are planning to partici-

All you really need is the Strava app, three miles of roads or trails and pair of shoes to contribute to what Lux called a "really important" event to him, his organization and the race's beneficiaries.

"It's an event that gives back," he said. "One really cool thing about this year is that our reach is unlimited, but all those proceeds still come back to Chatham County."

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





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'IT'S NEVER TOO LATE'

Hispanic Liaison gains workers' rights program coordinator to help Siler City's poultry workers

MONTESINOS

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The



volunteer, Elena Gonzalez, just became its newest employee. former

assistant

nutritionist at Siler City Elementary, Gonzalez, 61, started on Oct. 26 as the Hispanic Liaison's new workers' rights program coordinator — though she traces her history with the organization to 1999.

Besides her volunteer work, she's the Liaison's official chef, but she said that's not why she got the

"They know I am capable of running the new program and can deliver good results," she said.

Executive Director Ilana Dubester said she's excited about adding Gonzalez to her team.

"Beyond being one of our

best and veteran volunteers, she also served on our board of directors for 10 years. she said in a Facebook press

Gonzalez' exact duties are still being developed, but they will center around helping poultry workers. She's also making connections with other organizations in the area so she can help Hispanic workers who don't work in the poultry industry. Though she's assuming more responsibility as an employee than as a volunteer, she's ready for the new challenge.

"I have a desire to help my community," she said. "The desire to see real change and to be a part of

Although Gonzalez was born in Mexico, she immigrated with her husband to California from Guatemala in 1986. But after her husband's family told them that "beautiful" Šiler City was a better economic option, they decided to move to the town in 1999.

"When I came to Siler City, I stopped worrying about going out and started to get involved," Gonzalez

said. "I came to the Hispanic Liaison because I needed

help. As time went by, volunteering became a routine and a link to the greater community. Gonzalez started to dip into many different groups, always seeking a way to make a difference. When she came across

the Coalition of Family Peace, a group of domestic violence survivors, and saw a need, she took the initiative.

"The group was like putting their fingers in the wound," she said, "and it wasn't growing from there."

Alongside Maria Pavon, the coordinator of the domestic violence program, they formed Women Improving the Future. Gonzalez became the group's president, which focused on teaching and passing along different hobbies and raising money to help anyone who needed it. As members moved to other places and time went on, the group fell apart.

Later in 2010, she worked as the breast cancer coordinator in Chatham County for El Pueblo, a Raleigh nonprofit that seeks to forge young and adult leaders in

Wake County's growing Latinx community No matter where she went or who she

worked with, her involvement with the Hispanic Liaison was always there.

"I have collaborated with the Liaison for 20 years as a client and as a volunteer," Gonzalez said. "I belonged to the board of directors for 10 years. I always work with the Liaison, but this is a new stage."

When asked what motivates her to be so present in the community, she immediately said, "My mother," with a smile on her face. When children from surrounding towns didn't have a school nearby to attend, Gonzalez's mother would allow them to stay in their home back in Chiapas, Mexico.

"Some parents paid, but others didn't," Gonzalez

said. "So my mother let them go to school, gave them their uniforms, and allowed them to eat there.

As a young girl, Gonzalez used to help her mother cook. She remembers making tortillas for 20 to 30 people every day. That was the beginning of her love for cooking.

Though a graduated chef in her home country, her certificate became invalid when she stepped on American soil. But following in her mother's footsteps, who finished elementary school at the age of 60, Gonzalez enrolled in CCCC when she was 54.

'She finished all her studies and pulled all the adults in the neighborhood to continue studying," she said.

Fearful of not knowing English, Gonzalez once again turned to the Hispanic Liaison for help. During that time, Marcia Espinola Grimes was the Liaison's interim director and accompanied Gonzalez to enroll in the Organic Chef program.

Once enrolled, she had to work twice as hard, translating everything from English to Spanish and vice versa. One day she was so overwhelmed, she emailed her teacher, saying she was ready to quit because she didn't want to delay her

classmates' learning. The teacher responded in Spanish, saying, "I want to see you until the last day of class; you are my best student.

Throughout her time at CCCC, Gonzalez learned to understand English and today she is little by, little letting go of her fear of speaking it in public. Opportunities like these are not available to people her age in her home country, so she doesn't take them for granted.

Besides, Gonzalez said she wants to keep growing
— and she added, "It's never too late.

"You have to keep looking," Gonzalez said. "So it really is a good change that I have the opportunity of this position, to continue growing and working for my community.'

Reporter Patsy Montesinos can be reached at pmontes2@ chathamnr.com.

SEASONALLY-THEMED CONTEST

Chatham Literacy announces first 'Holiday Door Decorating Event'

CN+R Staff Report

If your family and friends can't visit vou over this holiday season, then consider "opening your door" anyway by joining Chatham Literacy's "Holiday Door Decorating Event.

Here's how it works: decorate the front door of your home or business this year in celebration of any of the holidays that occur in November or December. Fashion your door to sparkle, exude elegance, make you laugh or just plain bust with holiday spirit. Then, send a good quality photo of your seasonally decorated front door to Chatham Literacy between Nov. 13th and Dec. 18. Winners receive a \$50 gift card and a picture of your festive front door published in the News + Record, not to mention bragging rights.

This is your chance to dazzle the

community with your holiday spirit," said Vicki Newell, the executive director of Chatham Literacy. "I hope you will join this feel-good event and safely open your door to your family, friends and the community.'

Submit photos of one door or multiple doors during the holidays. Registration fee is \$20 per decorated door. Share your photo of any magical, elegant, crafty or hilarious holiday-themed door decoration.

Entries include the "Best Decorated Residential Door," "Best Decorated Business Door" and "Best Neighborhood Holiday Door Spirit" (for most decorated doors in a neighborhood). Photos of the three best decorated doors will be published in the News + Record. All door photos will be posted on Chatham Literacy's website and through the News + Record's social media platforms.

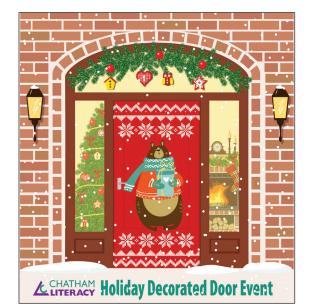
To register or get more information, call 919-742-0578 or visit www. chathamliteracy.org.

The event's sponsors are the News + Record and Chatham Homes Realty.

We can all use a little extra holiday spirit during the last part of this very difficult year, so we're thrilled to be working with Chatham Literacy to promote this," News + Record Publisher Bill Horner III said. "We strongly support the CL's literacy work in Chatham County, so this is also a great way to show your support for the work Vicki and her team do.

Be on the lookout for updates and decorated door photos in the News + Record during this event.

Register and check out the simple entry requirements and details at www.chathamliteracy.org or call 919-742-0578





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CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

More students to return Nov. 19, Dec. 7 under Plan B

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN

News + Record Staff

More students in Chatham will return to in-person learning under Plan B over the next month, the Chatham County Schools Board of Education decided at its regular meeting Monday night.

After a lengthy discussion surrounding the timing and population of such a decision, the board voted 4-1 for students in 3rd-5th grade to return Nov. 19, with students in 6th-8th to return Dec. 7. For now, high schoolers will remain in Plan C through Jan. 15 — in accordance with the board's Sept. 23 decision to extend Plan C past the original nine-week time frame to the end of the semester in January.

Since last March, most of Chatham County Schools have been in fully remote learning, but some students returned to school on Oct. 19, following the board's unanimous Sept. 29 vote to send Extended Content Standard E.C. students, Pre-K students and K-2 students to school under hybrid learning. Last month, the board decided to try to make a timeline decision for sending additional groups of students back to school at Monday's Nov. 9 meeting. At the time, the board indicated the earliest more students could move to Plan B would be Nov. 30.

"I thought things were going really well in the schools," board chairperson Gary Leonard said during the meeting, regarding his visits to the schools operating under a partial Plan B. "I still feel like we can make moves to bring (grades) 3-5 back. I think we need to."

"And when I say that," Leonard added, "I'm just thinking, taking it in steps I think allows our schools and our personnel and our children time to work through things, because anytime you add more people that changes the dynamics, and right now the dynamics seem to be working in K-2"

seem to be working in K-2."

During prior discussions, each board member has consistently prioritized student and staff safety while working to balance that with a return to face-to-face instruction, especially as the semester progressed. The board's decision to initially send back a small group of younger students was made in the hopes that the district would have qualitative and quantitative data available to discern how well cleaning and social distancing protocols were working.

According to the district's COVID-19 tracking page, there have been 16 positive COVID-19 cases among staff members and four student cases since Aug. 17 (not Oct. 19, as incorrectly stated in a News + Record article last week). It's unclear how many of those cases have been reported since the district partially reopened under Plan B, as the spreadsheet was posted last month around the same time schools reopened. At Monday's meeting, the district clarified that student data only tracks cases of students who have been in the school building, effectively meaning student data reflects cases since Oct. 19. These cases have been spread out among

the county's schools and there are no reported clusters.

Interim Health Director Mike Zelek spoke to the rising trends of COVID-19 across the state and in Chatham; there have been 2,084 cases in Chatham, with 112 cases reported since Nov. 1, according to the county's coronavirus dashboard. In North Carolina, the state has averaged more than 2,000 new COVID-19 cases per day for three weeks now.

"It is about data. But it's not just about data," Zelek said regarding how those "concerning trends" could impact the board's decision. "It's about how well schools can consistently and correctly implement the guidance that they've laid out, and I know we've been working with them for several months now to fine tune that guidance that comes from the state and the CDC."

Prior to a motion being made, some board members expressed interest in also sending 6th and 9th grade students back, along with 3rd-5th graders, in the interest of getting students who are new to a school into their buildings. After talking about potential concerns at the middle and high school level in isolating certain grade levels, the board's discussion pivoted to including entire grade-level ranges.

"I think that if the move is to bring kids back," Superintendent Derrick Jordan clarified when asked his opinion, "I think the more separations you have, the more potential for unrest and more dissatisfaction."

There were multiple motions made,

but only two were voted upon. The first, made by board member David Hamm to send students in 3rd-8th grade back on Nov. 19, did not pass. After that, board member Del Turner made the motion that would pass: sending 3rd-5th graders back to school under Plan B on Nov. 19 and 6th-8th graders on Dec. 7. Hamm was the only member to dissent.

In the last 20 minutes of its meeting, the board also approved the 2020-21 School Improvement Plans, an ESL Testing Plan and a request from Chatham County Parks and Recreation to resume use of facilities for youth basketball. The board then met in closed session to discuss personnel, emergency response and school improvement safety and crisis plans.

Reactions to the board's decision to send more students back seemed mostly positive on social media, though those critical of the school's previous reopening plans likely still view the decision as a safety threat for families and CCS employees. During the meeting, Hamm acknowledged this, emphasizing the range of conflicting opinions each board member receives surrounding its decisions.

"Great job Chatham County Schools!!!" one person commented on the News + Record's Facebook meeting update. "My kids are so glad."

The next group of students will return under Plan B next Thursday.

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

Fall beauty

News + Record photographer Kim Hawks captured these fall scenes near her home in Chatham County.

Staff photos by Kim





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Silver Thread

Board considers wastewater treatment system expansion

D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The town's board of commissioners dedicated most of its Monday meeting to a public hearing on suggested wastewater treatment system improvements from Raleigh's The Wooten Company, which the board had commissioned to compile an engineering report and environmental information document.

The project will be part of Pittsboro's larger effort to expand infrastructure in anticipation of a swelling population as Chatham Park and other builders pursue aggressive development across

Pittsboro, the population of which is now shy of 5,000, will expand many times over in the next 20 years, even by conservative estimates

Carl Scharfe, P.E., a project manager and process engineer, represented the Wooten Company on Monday to share its evaluation.

"Even without Chatham Park," Scharfe said, "a 20-year projection in Pittsboro anticipates population growth to reach

A more realistic estimate, accounting for Chatham Park's certain contribution to a population spike, puts the town at 47,642 in 20 years with continued growth likely.

To accommodate such growth, the town must expand its wastewater flow capacity to almost 5 million gallons per day. The existing wastewater treatment plant handles .75 mgd and "cannot meet future flows," Scharfe said.

According to Scharfe, were the town to decline any wastewater flow expansion efforts, Pittsboro would exceed its flow capacity in 2030 when discharge is likely to reach 3.22mgd. Chatham Park alone

is anticipated to eventually produce .499 mgd.

Scharfe outlined several options to address the need, but his company strongly recommended a two-phase plan to mitigate one-time cost of expansion.

În phase one, Pittsboro would construct a new pump station at the existing Pittsboro water treatment plant and modify its equalization tank. This would permit the town to pump up to 2 mgd of wastewater to Sanford's Big Buffalo wastewater treatment plant.

"We project the 2 mgd capacity to last an estimated eight to 10 years," Scharfe said.

Phase two would involve construction of a second wastewater treatment plant with a 1.91 mgd capacity to discharge to the Haw River.

The Wooten Company estimated the project, which Scharfe emphasized only accounts for

phase one at this point, would cost about \$19.7 million. That figure is variable, however, pending constructor bids.

The town is eligible for a loan administered by the N.C. Dept. of Water Infrastructure having been issued an "intent to fund" letter back in 2016. The loan would come with a 1.84% interest rate and a 2% origination fee to be paid by the town. The town is not obligated to the accept the loan until after the bidding process begins.

Chatham Park, as the major contributor to wastewater flow expansion need, has agreed to pay 62.5% of the loan cost, up to \$13.5 million, leaving 37.5% for the town.

Chatham Park would also contribute 25% to the Sanford agreement capacity reserve fee along with a provision to cover shortfalls.

Following construction, one or two years after the loan agreement would be-

gin, Pittsboro would owe its first payment. Considering Chatham Park's contribution, The Wooten Company estimated that Pittsboro would owe about \$686,000 annually the equivalent of 1,400

new water customers. It would likely take two or three years to reach this customer threshold, Scharfe said, so the town would have to front the cost in the meantime.

'But I understand from your town manager," Scharfe said, "that the town has about \$2 million in retained sewer fund earnings that could be used for the initial loan payments versus increasing rates."

The commissioners, in general, expressed approval of the recommendation but anxiety over the timeline.

Commissioners Kyle Shipp and Michael Fiocco pointed out there was a reason the town pursued a loan four years ago.

Already then, a need had been identified. Construction in Chatham Park is under way and population growth estimates seem reasonable and on track.

Following Monday's meeting, Scharfe said, he would add a summary of the public hearing to the engineering report as an appendix after which a 30-day public comment period could begin.

Pending no serious objections from the public, the commissioners could pursue approval of the report and design proposal and open for bids. The Dept. of Water Infrastructure has the right to approve bids and the final loan amount.

Should all go well, construction would begin immediately thereafter to last approximately 15 months.

Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @dldolder.

Putting the pizza in Petey

If I had a dollar for every pizza cooking procedure I've tried, I'd have enough for a late-model, low-mileage used car

And if I had a dime for every slice of traditional pie I've ever eaten, I'd have enough for a Milky Way candy bar — fun-

Unlike seemingly every human on planet earth, I'm not a pizza fanatic. The words "Pizza Party" don't thrill me, but fill my heart with minor disappointment. Maybe it's the red sauce, but it just doesn't move me. Petey and The Kid, however, are both big fans.

When The Kid was little, I had a job at an independent bookstore. I worked weekday mornings and one Saturday a month. On the weekdays, I was home for lunch. But Saturdays I worked all day. There was a local pizza place that delivered. But, pizza. One Saturday, I was



DEBBIE MATTHEWS The Curious

and looked through their takeout menu. They had

bored

tons of toppings and cheese. But Cook what was more exciting was

they offered a few different sauces. And one of them was a basil-rosemary olive oil glaze. Not red sauce. Every

few months, I'd order a pizza with olive oil, cheese, and a ton of veggies. Sometimes I'd pick up a couple of their half-baked pizzas and take them home for the Matthews Family Band But Petey said mine

Chatham COA

Helpful Happenings

November 12th - 18th



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

A typical pizza for Petey, served up with plenty of cheese.

wasn't really pizza. Hey, at least I didn't eat pineapple on it like a husband of mine who will not be named occasionally did. I love pineapple, but that's no pizza topping, my friend.

A few years later I dis-

covered something that was pizza but with no red sauce. It was called flatbread — it was all of the bread and toppings, but none of the yucky sauce.

So, I was way ahead of the curve. I liked flatbread before flatbread was cool, and maybe even invented.

For years I tried to make pizza/flatbread at home. That way we could have exactly what we wanted on it, it would be cheaper, and we could eat in our pajamas.

But I couldn't get it right. It was never as crispy and well cooked as pizza joint pizza was. If I cooked it on a sheet pan, it was limp. If I cooked it directly on the rack, all the toppings slid off onto my oven floor.

I tinkered with temps, times and prep. Nothing worked. So I took a hiatus. Then, one day I was in Whole Foods and for some reason, picked up their pre-made dough, mozzarella, and some pizza sauce (for Petey).

When I got ready to bake the pizzas, I realized there were no instructions on the bag.

So, I went online. And somehow, stumbled onto the absolute best procedure for making pizza at home. What was once a project fraught with hope and rewarded with failure and pain has become so easy, we have homemade pizza a couple of times a



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

The finished flatbread.

month.

Petey and I usually both have bacon on ours. He always has mozzarella, sometimes I lean sideways and go goat cheese. And I always have caramelized onion jam (News + Record, Nov. 22, 2019).

But the joy of flatbread is that it has the versatility of a Vaudeville performer. It's refrigerator Velcro, any bits and pieces of leftovers are great. Meats, cheeses, and veggies. Thinly sliced pear, blue cheese and pecans are terrific. You can do scrambled eggs, cheese and country sausage. It's a canvas made of bread — make it your own creation.

So call it pizza, call it flatbread, call it Princess Poopdeck, pride of the Great Dismal Swamp if you want; but when cooked right, you can also call it delicious.

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

Since you can dress it any way you like, this week the recipe is the awesome, no-fail cooking instructions for pizza/ flatbread, and a bacon prep that a chef taught me. It makes crispy flat bacon that doesn't paint your kitchen in grease.

Pizza Cooking Instructions

Remove the dough from fridge 1 hour before bak-

NEWS BRIEFS

ing to get the chill off it. Preheat oven to 500° for at least 30 minutes before baking.

Sprinkle cornmeal generously over two baking sheets. Cut dough into two. Stretch, pat, and roll into disks about 8-10 inches (if you start with a round ball, you have a better chance of ending up with a circular pizza). Place one on each sheet pan.

Dress any way you like, don't overdo it on the liquids or cheeses or you could end up with cheese overboard and a big mess.

Bake each separately on the pan, on the center rack for 8 minutes. Then rotate the pizza 180° and bake for 8 more minutes or until browned and bubblv. Remove from oven and slide off sheet pan onto cooling rack and let rest 5-10 minutes before slicing.

Making Bacon

Place slices of bacon onto parchment-lined pan. Place into cold oven (starting in a cold oven renders the fat better, making for a much crispier product).

Turn ovén to 350°. Cook for 12 minutes and flip each slice over. Bake for an additional 8-10 minutes or until completely browned and crispy.

Remove to paper towel-lined platter and hold at room temp until service

• Jeopardy-style Quiz Game at 11:15 AM 🤶

Tuesday, November 17th

Thursday, November 12th

Friday, November 13th

Monday, November 16th

Wednesday, November 18th • Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:00 am 🤶

• Tai Chi for Arthritis at 9:00 AM 🤶

Bingo with Joe at 11:15 AM

• Healthy Living Strategies at 10:00 am 🐬

Arthritis Foundation Exercise at 10 AM

• Body Conditioning Exercise with Jackie at 9:00 AM 🤶

• Body Conditioning Exercise with Jackie at 9:00 AM 🤶

Arthritis Foundation Exercise at 10:00 AM 🛜

Weekly Call with Director Dennis Streets at 10:15 AM

• Spill the Beans with Liz at 11:15 AM 🛜

Short Stories with Chris at 12:30 pm

On Zoom

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For more information or to register for these programs, visit our website: https://chathamcouncilonaging.org/coa-virtual-activities/



Join the Trivia Hunt & Win!

Each week the COA will offer a trivia question in the Chatham News + Record. Find the correct answer in the paper and enter to win a \$25 VISA gift card in the COA's monthly trivia hunt contest drawing. Look in **Section A** for this week's question. Congratulations to our October winner, MaryLou Mackintosh!

Free Help with Your Medicare Open Enrollment Questions!

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Opportunity

available to serve on Regional Aging **Advisory Council**

The Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) has an Advisory Council on Aging that advises its Area

Agency on Aging about policies and programs that affect older persons in the seven-county region that includes Chatham.

Each of the seven counties has representatives. Chatham County is seeking to fill a vacancy. The person

EWERA! You found the answer. the answer!

A: Bennett

To enter the COA's monthly drawing for a \$25 Visa Gift Card, call the COA at 919-542-4512, extension 223 and follow the prompts on the voicemail.

November's winner will be drawn from eligible entries provided by 11/30/2020. The November winner will be announced in a December issue of the Chatham News + Record. One entry per household, per week. Employees of the COA and their dependents not eligible.

would be appointed by the Chatham County Board of County Commissioners.

While meetings of the Advisory Council are currently being held virtually because of COVID-19, the Council would normally meet on the third Tuesday of every other month at the TJCOG office in the Research Triangle Park. This is a volunteer position and there is no reimbursement of travel expenses.

Representation from western Chatham County is especially welcomed. If you are interested in being considered for an appointment to the Advisory Council, contact Dennis Streets at 919-542-4512 or email, dennis. streets@chathamcoa.org.

— *CN+R staff reports*

Health department committed to ending stigma, supporting youth with mental health issues

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

Before the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the United States and the world, the mental health of America's youth was a focal point for public health professionals, including those in Chatham

But the pandemic along with the closure of schools, cancellation of graduation ceremonies and other safety measures put into place to keep people safe brought with it a host of concerns for Chatham County teenagers and their mental health: When will they see their friends again? How do they separate fact from fiction about COVID-19? What happens when they get stressed out, and they're not at school to receive support from friends and trained mental health professionals?

With this in mind, this fall, the Chatham County Public Health Department is bringing attention and resources to support youth mental health and wellbeing.

According to the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey -- as presented in the 2018 Chatham County

Community Assessment -- more than 1 in 3 Chatham high school students surveyed said they "felt sad or hopeless every day" for more than two weeks in a row within the past year to the point where "they stopped doing some usual activities." Nearly 1 in 5 said they had seriously considered attempting suicide and slightly more than 1 in 9 reported actually attempting to take their own lives within the

prior 12 months. It's in this environment that the pandemic began. This is why the CCPHD has beefed up its resources and upped its efforts to support youth mental health, including creating a new webpage, chathamnc.org/youthmentalhealth, designed to provide resources specifically for youth and young adults during the pandemic.

"This website was an idea of a former PEPSC (Peer Education Program of Siler City) member who recognized the need to connect his fellow students to resources and talk more openly about mental health, said Anna Stormzand, CCPHD's Youth Health & Tobacco Initiatives Lead. "We are very grateful to finally have a site entirely

devoted to youth mental health resources and are looking for ways to push out this resource to young people through social media and other means.

The page includes a list of phone numbers to call or text in the midst of a mental health crisis, resources specific to helping young people cope with COVID-19 and more information on how to help teens with their mental health issues.

The webpage is just the first step. Members of PEPSC, a student club focused on health advocacy at Jordan-Matthews High School led by Stormzand, are sponsoring the first ArtSpectives Challenge, a countywide youth mental health challenge this fall. Among the goals: End the stigma.

'Stigma is one of the most crippling things to accompany mental health, particularly among teenagers," said Zachary Horner, Communications Specialist with CCPHD. "Today's teenagers have grown up in a social media-influenced world where 'putting your best foot forward' at all times is important. But that culture makes issues like anxiety and depression something to be avoided and not talked

about. What we want to do is change that culture, to make youth with these issues feel comfortable coming forward and sharing their experiences with a trusted adult or friend and finding help.

Through the ArtSpectives Challenge, middle and high school students from across the county are encouraged to submit different types of art virtually. All submissions will be judged by community members that work with youth on a regular basis. Winning submissions will be posted on social media. To find more information, including how to enter the challenge, please visit chathamnc.org/youthmentalhealth.

'Youth mental health is so important, especially during a time like this," said Maggie Thornton, a sophomore at Jordan-Matthews. "It's hard to be optimistic and positive when you feel so alone. The important thing to know is that you are not alone, that a lot of other people are feeling this way, and that there is

CHATHAM COUNTY

Chatham County residents aged 13-18 are invited to submit a piece of art about mental health, particularly related to COVID-19, remote learning and social isolation.

THREE CATEGORIES Drawing/painting photography) Written word (poetry, short

Max. one entry per person per category

THINGS TO KNOW School appropriate, electronic place in each category Winning pieces will be used in

countywide youth mental health campaign

SUBMISSIONS DUE DECEMBER 3 Visit chathamnc.org/youthmentalhealth

for more, including how to submit entries.

help available."

For more information, visit chathamnc.org/ youthmentalhealth for resources specific for youth and young adults, cha-

Christmas is only 7 weeks away!

thamnc.org/mentalhealth for countywide mental health resources for all ages and facebook.com/ chathamhealth for the latest from the CCPHD.

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CHATHAM ARTISTS GUILD 2020 Chatham Studio Tour to be held first two weekends of December

Artists following COVID-19 guidelines to protect studio visitors on self-guided tour

CN+R Staff Report

The 28th annual Chatham Artists Guild Studio Tour will welcome visitors into member artists' studios the first two weekends in December.

A total of 42 local artists will offer the opportunity to safely experience their inspirations and to purchase affordable original works of art. Paintings, sculpture, pottery, photography, glass, wood, digital and fabric art will be on display.

Artists' studios will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays (Dec. 5, 12) and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays (Dec. 6, 13).

"This enduring tradition in Chatham County will strictly follow N.C. Health and Human Services COVID-19 guidelines," said Cat Mahin, co-president of the Chatham Artists Guild (CAG). "Because the event is held at 32 artist studios throughout the county, we are able to limit the number of visitors gathered together at one time."

To ensure safety, studios will be cleaned and sanitized. Masks, social distancing and hand sanitizing will be required for all visitors and there will be limits on the number of guests in each studio at one time.

"In these challenging times, we all need this bright spot in our lives," said Lani Chaves, CAG's co-president. "The December scheduling of the 2020 Chatham Studio Tour has become an annual tradition for the entire region of North Carolina. This is a perfect chance to find a unique and



Selden Durgom Lamoureax's functional pottery was showcased in the 2019 Studio Tour.

personal gift for that special someone." The tour is self-guided, allowing for self-paced exploration. In addition, many artists are offering appointment-only visits during the week. More information about the artists, the complete brochure, and map can be found at www.chatham-

studiotour.org and in local shops. The Chatham Artists Guild (CAG) is an organization of artists whose purpose is to maintain artistic excellence among our members. Their mission is to raise awareness and appreciation for the visual arts, including the cultural and economic contribution it makes to the community, and connect member artists with art patrons. Visit www. chathamartistsguild.org to learn more.

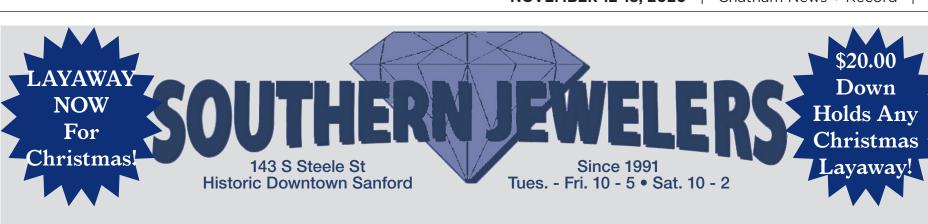


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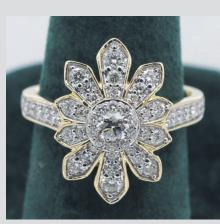






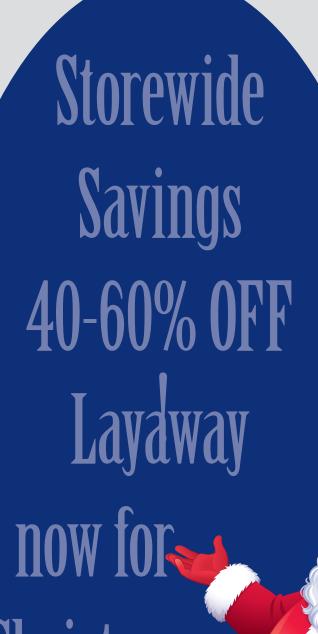










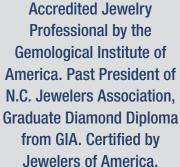






















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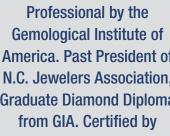














CCCC offers variety of Continuing Education classes

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Would you like to learn more about BBQ Essentials? Do you have an interest in cybersecurity? Or perhaps Skilled Trades?

Central Carolina Community College is offering numerous Continuing Education programs in the spring semester, including a variety of classes that can lead to that special career for which you've been seeking.

Here's a sample of some of the up-

coming programs:

Business & Leadership: Electronic Notary Public — The Electronic Notary (eNotary) Public course provides instruction for existing N.C. Notaries Public to become commissioned to perform electronic notarial acts. Quality Fundamentals — This course addresses philosophical and general application of quality essentials, and provides a foundation for more in-depth training in the concepts. SHRM-CP/SCP — In partnership with SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management), this course is designed by global subject matter

experts and covers the SHRM Body of Competency & Knowledge.

Computer Training: Cybersecurity - Learn to safeguard information and protect systems from impairment, or theft, which could thwart success.

Construction & Skilled Trades: Skilled Trades Academy — This program is ideal for those interested in pursuing a career in carpentry, construction, electrical, heavy equipment, HVAC, welding, or other construction and maintenance jobs. Cosmetic Arts: Barbering I — This

course is designed to provide the necessary skills to meet the instructional requirements to become a registered barber as established by the NC Board of Barber Examiners. Manicuring-Nail Tech in Spanish — This course allows students who speak fluently in Spanish to begin working toward completing 300 hours of salon theory and practical skills.

Culinary Arts & Hospitality: BBQ Essentials — Learn the fundamentals of meat cuts, classic knife cuts and skills, dry heat cooking techniques, and BBQ cooking. Catering & Food Truck Cuisine to operate a successful catering business or possible food truck operation. Healthy Cooking Essentials — Students will cover holistic education, whole food culinary techniques, fundamentals of nutrition, and the connection between food, health, and sustainability.

Government Regulations: Wastewater Operator I Training — This course provides a general knowledge of the operation of wastewater treatment systems. Wastewater Lab Analyst I Exam Prepcourse assists students in preparing for the Wastewater Laboratory Analysis Class I written examination, administered by the American Water Works Association (NC AWWA) and the North Carolina Member Association of the Water Environment Federation (NC WEA). Wastewater Operator III — This course provides a general knowledge of the operation of wastewater treatment systems.

Industrial/Manufacturing: BioWork The BioWork course can lead to an entry-level position as a process technician. Students will learn foundational principles and skills needed for a career

chemical manufacturing company. MIG Welding & AWS Qualification — Students will learn practical operations employed in the use of MIG welding methods. OSHA 30-Hr General Industry -- Certification is targeted for team leaders with responsibility for personnel safety, safe operations, and OSHA standards compliance.

Health & Medical Occupations: Cardiovascular Monitor Technician — This course is designed to prepare the student to become a certified EKG Technician and a certified Cardiovascular Monitor Technician. Introduction to Sonography — This course is designed to provide an introduction to medical sonography. Massage Therapy I — This class prepares students to administer a professional massage in a clinical environment.

Learn more about the many Continuing Education courses, programs, and seminars available through Central Carolina Community College at the college website at www.cccc.edu/ecd/find-classes.

To register or for more information, call 919-718-7080 in Chatham and Lee counties, and 910-814-8832 in Harnett

Kid Scoop Together:

Runner's Run-on Sentence

Wow! The story below is a giant run-on sentence! Work with a family member to fix it by adding

punctuation and capital letters where needed.

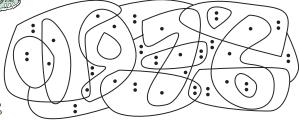


postage stamps?



the

Freedom, the highest honor a civilian can achieve. What year was that? Color the spaces with one dot red.



Jesse went on to win many more awards and he talked to people about the importance of sports, the Olympics and democracy. He never stopped working to be better in (his own life and to make lives better for others

Roger loves to go for a run every

morning he wakes up before the sun rises he always stretches his muscles first and then he heads for his favorite trail that is next to a creek as Roger runs he enjoys seeing the frogs birds and butterflies busily beginning their day on weekends Roger runs with his friend Stacy who lives down the street from Roger they both signed up for the big Midtown Park 10K Fun Run it is being held next Saturday afternoon at 1:00 which attracts thousands of runners from all over the state Stacy and Roger will train for the event while also making sure to eat healthy foods and drink plenty of water while also getting a good night's sleep every night.

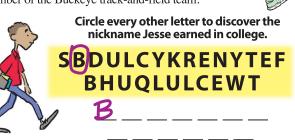




Find the words in the puzzle. **COMPETITIOR** How many of them can you

When Jesse was a child in Alabama, white children and black children were not allowed to go to the same school. When he could, Jesse would walk nine miles to and from the only school for black children. He loved school.

When Jesse was in high school, he won races and set world records for his age group. Colleges wanted him to be on their track teams. Jesse became the first person in his family to go to college. He chose Ohio State University, where he became a member of the Buckeye track-and-field team.



DEDICATION find on this page? **POVERTY** EBLYNAMREG **GERMANY** TSEBASKCOA **PARADE** MEDALS *** EKSENCLLRM **JESSE** DECEAGDEEE **OWENS** A A W R J U M P C S TRACK ROTITEPMOC **GAMES** ASLADEMNRW JUMP RACE POVERTYDDI **GOLD** DEDICATION **BEST**

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

newspaper for an

example of good sportsmanship.

Write a sentence summarizing who was a good sport,

what they did that showed good sportsmanship, where and when

this happened.

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

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What becomes a college campus when the students are missing?

BY EMMA KENFIELD UNC Media Hub

CHAPEL HILL — Sabrina Zirkle walks through a quiet and barren university campus, reminded of the energetic commotion that once was. Its emptiness overwhelms her. She writes down her feelings, for that has given her clarity in the past.

It's odd to live in a ghost town, she writes. ... In painful contrast to the space we created for ourselves, the empty shells of cafés and restaurants littering the street like the casing of bullets.

There's a certain bleakness in certain empty spaces.

Abandoned houses once considered homes. blocked-off highways once crowded with travelers and off-season stadiums once booming with fans. Now the only things that occupy them are memories.

A pandemic, which shows no signs of an end, moved classes from lecture halls to kitchen tables with a full switch to online learning in August. Fewer than 1,000 students remain on campus. Without their energy, a walk through campus is eerie.

UNC-Chapel Hill is certainly bleaker, and certainly emptier.

The Pit, 9:48 a.m.

In 1969, a man-made crater was left behind following the construction of a surrounding bookstore, student union and undergraduate library. Two trees were planted side-by-side in the center, and the basin was deemed, "The Pit."

Decades later, the redbricked Pit remains an indispensable staple on campus, its trees providing shade and shelter for students gathering for lunch, preachers waving their Bibles at passersby, and clubs recruiting future members.

It's fall. The two trees have begun to lose their leaves, blanketing the Pit in shades of yellow.

But the leaves look different this year. They are full and crisp, a rarity in a center for commotion; the usual foot traffic of 20,000 undergrads that would quickly trample them has subsided There are no students gathering, no preachers proselytizing, no clubs recruiting. No reason for the shade and shelter.

A tour guide marshals two high-school-age boys through



Submitted photo by Hanna Wondmagegn

UNC-Chapel Hill junior Sophie Therber (left) and senior Camryn Kepley sit on the steps of the Pit in the middle of campus on Oct. 16.



Submitted photo by Hanna Wondmagegn

Empty chairs and tables sit in front of the Carolina Union on UNC's campus on Oct. 16.

the space. The father of one follows closely behind.

This is the hub of campus, where Tar Heels come to study, be with friends or just sit alone on a nice day," she tells them, as they walk through the Pit. "When you're freshmen, you'll see what I mean.

The wind whips away a brochure from one of the boy's hand. It rolls along the brick like a tumbleweed; the irony is almost planned.

Empty chairs and tables sit on the path between the Carolina Union on October 16, 2020. The tables are open to anyone who wants to study, eat or relax individually, with their friends or classmates at a safe distance.

Outside the Union, 10:11 a.m.

Michael McFee, a UNC alumnus and English professor, used to spend his days teaching in Greenlaw Hall. The last of the class buildings that line the Quad, Greenlaw is wedged between the undergraduate library and Lenoir, the cen-

tral dining hall on campus. In stark contrast to his past life in a classroom, he teaches poetry to students staring back at him through a webcam. He misses the joy and spontaneity of human interaction. He longs for that feeling again.

"I've had losses in my life," McFee said. "This is one I think I feel more than almost any other. If it's not

like death, it's being in a terminal illness. We're all sort of suspended. We're all on life support, and we're going to make it to the other side, we're going to get there, but in the meantime we're in the limbo.

'And it's not really a fun place to be. It's frustrating. It's exhausting.'

Beyond the steps of Greenlaw Hall, the walkways that were once filled with life are jarringly still.

Chairs along Lenoir are stacked atop their tables. Some have been taken away. Umbrellas remain permanently collapsed, stiff from their months of disuse.

Socially-distanced tables are scattered in front of the student union. Its intended purpose is in its name, unifying students in a central place of shared collaboration and learning. Most of these tables are vacant, except one, which sits beside a skinny tree.

Here sit roommates Maggie and Katie, masked despite no one else around. Both graduate in December, and their time on campus is dwindling.

"I like that it's a bit quiet-er," Katie said. "Sometimes the hustle and bustle of campus can get almost claustrophobic and overwhelming. But, after a while, isolation takes its toll."

They come to campus together at least once each week. Maggie longs for the way it once felt, when campus was a home and people surrounded her. Despite its post-apocalyptic feel, when the stragglers walk by and remind her of life, Katie feels a bit

of normalcy again. Just seeing that there are other people alive gets me out of the catastrophizing mindset of, 'This is

the end,"' Katie said. Ashleigh Roberson, sophomore biology major, studies outside the Carolina Union on October 16, 2020. Roberson transferred from the University of Knoxville and has struggled with adjusting to the environment at UNC. "I mean, coming to a campus that's super empty, I don't feel like you get the same experience, she said. "I think I would like it a lot more if there was people to see.

Inside the Union, 11:23 a.m.

Kelly Holloman stands behind the counter at Alpine Bagels, located on the bottom floor of the student union. She's always worked every day, but lately, she is only needed for half-days.

"I can help whoever is next," she calls out every-so-often, though there are rarely two people in line at once. A force of habit, maybe. or a sense of normalcy.



Submitted photo by Hanna Wondmagegn

UNC sophomore biology major Ashleigh Roberson studies outside the Carolina Union on Oct. 16. Roberson, a transfer student, has struggled with adjusting to UNC's virtual environment.



Submitted photo by Hanna Wondmagegn

UNC's Davis Library, which faces The Pit, was all but empty on Oct. 16.

Coming to work is different now. Before, tables would be packed from open to close, students stalking the booths like prey, for they knew if they didn't someone else would take them. Now, only five or six people come in per day. She misses her regulars.

Holloman and her coworkers mingle in front of the merchandise, the spinach-parm bagels on special growing staler. Lunchtime is coming. Maybe they'll see an order

or two. Maybe they won't. Busy days pass quickly, a blur of faces coming and almost going too quickly to remember who is who. Slow days drag you down, the minutes feeling like hours.

"I used to be more excited about coming to work because I knew I'd be busy, and I'd have a lot of people," she said. "Now it's boring, and just like, 'Eh, OK. I guess I'm coming to work anyway.'

Davis Library, 12:25 p.m.

Davis Library is always

Its usual silence provides comfort. Comfort in the centuries of knowledge stacked upon each bookshelf. Comfort in the shared experience of deadlines, exams and the panic they induce. Comfort in the silent solidarity with other students.

This kind of quiet is different.

Numbered desks and rolling chairs are placed in rows six feet apart on the ground level. \bar{S} ectioned off in zones labeled by color, the only available seating on the only available floor can be reserved online. Only three people sit in the library today, each claiming an entire

colored-zone to themselves. This kind of quiet is

just empty. There are no whispering freshmen who are only halfway studying for an intro-level drama course. There are no panicking nursing students, whose only comfort lies in the shared anxiety of their peers. No one is annoyingly smacking gum, clicking

pens or tapping feet. There is only the droned humming of fluorescent lights, occasionally interrupted by a rhythmic squeak. It's the left wheel the librarian's cart.

She's putting the books in storage.

The Quad, 1 p.m.

The bell tower tolls. Its ringing sounds closer than usual — it doesn't compete with as much noise anymore.

On this warmer-than-usual October afternoon, a slight breeze tickles the hair on your arms and whispers in your ears. The sky is free of clouds. The grass is welcoming.

It is the perfect day. There should be Frisbees flying by, dogs playing fetch and picnic blankets covering the lawn. There should be people squeezed together in groups, laughing and

enjoying the weather. And yet, the Quad is quiet.

The flagpole, where students are allowed to smoke, stands alone. It misses the colorful conversations of youth who aren't ashamed to publicly smoke cigarettes.

Every-so-often bikers and skaters fly down the bricked pathway. No students to dodge, no reason to slow down. The divots and chips in the old, red bricks are their only obstructions these days.

A group of three girls sits beside a tree, choosing one of many shaded spaces upfor-grabs, atop yellow and white blankets. One's name is Salem, a sophomore this year. She comes to the Quad with her friends to remember that life is still happening, that school still exists

despite not feeling real. When I first got here, I was like 'I'm not at school, I don't feel like I'm here,'" she said. "So, coming to campus with other people kind of motivates me and shows me like, there are still people in the same position that I am. Which makes me feel better about the situation.'

They are the only ones here today. Perhaps tomorrow they'll have company.

"I taught at Cornell for a while," Michael McFee said. "You know, pretty school. It's a very different place, because, never at Cornell ever, did I see the sort of energy and engagement in the Quad.

'Friends seeing each other, hailing each other, sitting down in the grass to talk. They didn't have a place like the Pit, which is this hub of activity. The interaction on the Quad is just different. It's heavy.'

Someday, at some time

UNC is a special space. It's a home. It's a sanctuary. Most importantly, though, it's a foundation.

It's the giver of an identity which for the first time is not defined by where you came from, but by where you're going. It's the chance to reinvent yourself, to develop lasting relationships in shared experiences, to

grow in failure and triumph. Just as it was created brick-by-brick, it builds you up piece-by-piece until you're you.

Perhaps, for now, the stillness is unnatural.

But the thing about these certain empty spaces is: they'll be filled again. Abandoned houses find new owners, blocked-off highways eventually reopen and stadiums will fill when the season comes around.

"It's like the air has been let out," McFee said.
"And I can't wait for the air to be let back into it.'

Someday, the umbrellas will open, the bagels will sell and the books will return to their shelves. When the madness subsides, normalcy will take its place. And this certain empty space will be whole and full, a world of opportunity for students to come.

Maybe in time, Sabrina Zirkle writes, something new can grow in the empty battlefield. And tendrils of life and smell and voice can climb toward the sun.

By the time this is read, the election will be over, but I want my position clear and unedited. Jimmy Pharr

ON THE MONUMENT: That is a specific type, one at every county seat courthouse in NC – a memorial to those who died, most without grave markers.

I'm against this or ANY historical ones being removed. I'm against history rewriting or erasing: including historic artwork, textbooks, building or street names changed just because they are of an era (which includes our Founders), or biased views of Columbus, sports mascot names - nearly ALL of which **COULD** fall under some PC definition nowadays.

As to promising to put it back up? I was for leaving it alone, so ideally, I want it back where it was. BUT MY **POSITION IS: 1) I want to keep promises I make in** life; 2) I honor the Rule of Law and will not casually do what those four commissioners did – I will NOT agree to something I'm legally vague on; 3) Ownership of the monument must be established. If UDC becomes the owner, I will abide by their ownership decision on what they do with it. If the county becomes the owner, then it's for the county to address.

One thing is clear: it continues to sit in storage on taxpayer money at \$3-400 a month, so whoever is elected will still have to deal with that. I make no promise because if ownership DOES need judicially established, that could take time.

They chose to remove it, with no outcry at all at that time. Perhaps for justification, petitions were accepted. While likely surprised that they were over 3 to 1 against removal, they proceeded. It created a mess far beyond just the contentious divide of "for or against" removal.

Paid for by CTE Jimmy Pharr

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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

O15,O22,O29,N5,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 506

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of MARJORIE K. STEPHENSON, 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 January 22, 2021 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 16th day of October, 2020. Bruce C. Sargent, Administra-

140 Ridge Top Drive Chapel Hill, NC 27516 O22,O29,N5,N12,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

20 E 511 The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of DELLA MARGARET FARRELL, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at the address P.O. Box 421, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312, on or before the 22nd day of January, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make

This 13th day of October, 2020. Patricia F. Batchelor, Executor Pittsboro, North Carolina

GUNN & MESSICK, LLP P.O. BOX 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880

O22.O29.N5.N12.4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 455 NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of CHERIE L. WEISS, 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 January 22, 2021 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 16th day of October, 2020.

Thomas E. Cameron, Executor 3821 Knickerbocker Pkwy.

Raleigh, NC 27612 Cameron Advisors, LLC 231 Inwood Forest Drive Raleigh, NC 27603 O22,O29,N5,N12,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 515 NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED, as Administratrix of the Estate of LAURA JANE MOSS, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before January 25, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recivery. This the 22nd day of October,

Carol Elaine Moss Johnson, Administratrix of Laura Jane Moss, Estate 955 Green Level Rd Apex, N.C. 27523 919-413-6013

O22,O29,N5,N12,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING OUALIFIED, as Administrator C.T.A. of the Estate of MICHAEL LEE LINDLEY, 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 January 25, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recivery. This the 22nd day of October,

RONALD P. COLLINS, Administrator, C.T.A. Estate of Michael Lee Lindley 117 West Raleigh Street Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2533

O22,O29,N5,N12,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of SHIO SAEKI
NORTHUP AKA SHIOKO SAEKI

NORTHUP, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corpora tions having claims against the estate

to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 22nd day of January,

or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate pay-

ment. This 22nd day of October, 2020. CHRISTOPHER KEN NORTHUP, **EXECUTOR** ESTATE OF SHIO SAEKI NORTH-

SAEKI NORTHUP Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130

UP AKA SHIOKO

Chapel Hill, NC 27514 O22,O29,N5,N12,4tc Siler City, NC 27344

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

HAVING QUALIFIED, as Administrator of the Estate of ATLAS LEE BOONE, 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 January 27, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This the 22nd day of October, RONALD P. COLLINS, Administrator

Estate of Atlas Lee Boone 117 West Raleigh Street

Siler City, N. C. 27344 919-663-2533 O22,O29,N5,N12,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **PEGGY ANN PERLMAN**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard

Ė

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& Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 22nd day of January, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 22nd day of October, 2020. MICHAEL KENNEDY SCHMITT, **EXECUTOR**

ESTATE OF PEGGY ANN PER-LMAN Tillman, Whichard & Cagle,

501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 O22,O29,N5,N12,4tc

20-E-512 NORTH CAROLINA

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of EMMALINE ROSE DOHERTY, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 24th day of March, 2020, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before the 31st day of January, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the

undersigned. This 29th day of October, 2020. Pearl Doherty, Personal Repre sentative

c/o Larry H. Rocaora Attorney for the Estate McPherson, Rocamora, Nich-Wilson & Hinkle, PLLC

3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400 Durham, NC 27707 029,N5,N12,N19,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of RICKY THOMAS BECK, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does here-by notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before January 29, 2021 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 26th day of October, 2020. Kathy Tayoada, Administrator 1105 George St

O29,N5,N12,N19,4tp

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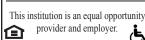
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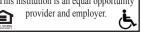
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 471

NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY** Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **GEORGE** PAIRE, 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 January 29, 2021 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 26th day of October, 2020.

711 Massey Rd Reidsville, NC 27320 O29,N5,N12,N19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Kathryn Cox, Executrix

20 C 530 **NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of RICHARD B. TABER AKA RICHARD BURT TABER, 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 January 29, 2021 or this notice

will be pleaded in bar of their

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 533 NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY** Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of JOSHUA GRANT GAINES, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does here by notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before January 29, 2021 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 26th day of October, 2020. Connie Sue Gaines, Administrator 144 Windsor St PO Box 284 Goldston, NC 27252

O29,N5,N12,N19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of WILLIAM NEWELL. 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

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exhibit them to the Members Trust Company, P.O. Box 27832. Raleigh, NC 27611 on or before January 29, 2021 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 26th day of October, 2020. Hemphill Gelder, PC. Raleigh, NC 27622

TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

O29,N5,N12,N19,4tp

The Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Nov. 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the City Hall Courtroom located at 311 N. 2nd Ave. Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following

requests: Town of Siler City proposes text amendments to §41 Definitions (minor subdivision, subdivision). 866 Minor Subdivision Approval (certificates), §137 Use of the Designations P,S,C in Table of Permissible Uses (residential, nonresidential), and §147 Table of Permissible Uses (multi-family residences)

of the UDO. The proposed items are available for review by contacting the Planning and Community **Development Director at** imeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the application are invited to attend the public hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced items. The Planning Board will meet on Nov. 9 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. If you are interested in attending the meetings via Zoom, then contact jbridges@ silercity.org for the Planning Board meeting and jjohnson@ silercity.org for the Board of Commissioner meeting. 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 Sec ond Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@ silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@ silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta

N5,N12,2tc

solicitud.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust made by Fred T. McKee, Heirs of Fred T. McKee: Wayne T. McKee. George McKee, David McKee (PRESENT RECORD OWNER(S): Fred T. McKee) to PRLAP, Inc., Trustee(s), dated January 2, 2009, and recorded in Book No. 01442, at Page 0483 in Chatham County Registry, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the promissory note secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Substitute Trustee Services, Inc. having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust by an instrument duly recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds Chatham County, North Carolina and the holder of the note evidencing said indebtedness having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door in Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina, or the customary location designated for foreclosure sales, at 1:30 PM on

November 19, 2020 and will sell

to the highest bidder for cash

the following real estate situated in New Hill in the County of Chatham, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows: All that real property situated in the County of Chatham, State of North Carolina: Being the same property conveyed to the Grantor by deed recorded 10/10/1983 in Book 464, Page 444 Chatham County Registry, to which deed reference is hereby made for a more particular description of this property. Together with improvements located thereon: said property being located at 2311 New Elam Church Road, New

Hill North Carolina Parcel ID: 0005779 Trustee may, in the Trustee's sole discretion, delay the sale for up to one hour as provided in N.C.G.S. §45-21.23. Should the property be purchased by a third party, that party must pay the excise tax, as well as the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (\$0.45) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)

required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a) The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust/security agreement, or both, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized represen tative of either the Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly dis-claimed. Also, this property is being sold subject to all taxes, special assessments, and prior liens or prior encumbrances of record and any recorded releases. Said property is also being sold subject to applicable Federal and State laws. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in its sole discretion, if it believes the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be

The purchaser will have no further remedy. Additional Notice for Residential Property with Less than 15 rental units, including Single-Family Residential Real Property An order for possession of

void and return the deposit.

the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may after receiving the notice of foreclosure sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in this notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SER-

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Firm Case No: 3595 - 10137

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday November 16, 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 for the legislative requests 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. Members of the public who wish to provide comment for the quasi-judicial request must participate in person at the Agriculture and Conference

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: Legislative public hearing for a request by K&B Investment Corp, for a general use rezoning from B-1 Business to IND-L, Light Industrial, Parcel No. 60705 being approximately 13.154 acres, located at 144 Old Lystra Rd, Williams Township. 2. A legislative public hearing for a request by CRCED Treatment LLC for a rezoning from R-1 Residential to Conditional District Office & Institutional (CD O&I) on parcel 20029 and .03 acres of parcel 93851 to expand services for a residential group home treatment facility,

acres at 7990 NC 751, Williams Township. 3. A Legislative public hearing for a request by Scott Pearce of For Garden's Sake, for a map amendment to the Chatham/ Cary Joint Land Use Plan for Parcel 62824, being about two acres, located at 9245 NC 751, previous Old Kelly Chapel Church, from Very Low Density Residential, to change to a commercial/retail designation, Williams Township.
4. A legislative public hearing

located on approximately 6.38

for a request by the Planning Department to consider amendments to the Chatham County Zoning, Subdivision, Watershed Protection, and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances required by the Chapter 160D Statutory update. Testimony is required to be given under oath during the evidentiary hearing for the following items:

Quasi-Judicial Request: ing for a request by Jennifer Miller-Farias, for a Conditional Use Permit for a Boarding Kennel, Parcel 64991 being approximately 6.75 acres, located at 5821 NC HWY 87, Hadley

Township. 2. A quasi-judicial public hearing for a request by Matthew Malone, for a Conditional Use Permit Revision for a site plan change and request additional uses, Parcel 2759 being approximately 2.29 acres, located at 9553 US 15-501 N., Baldwin Township.

N5,N12,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 545 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of CARLYLE CAS-WELL LEWTER, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does here-by notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before February 5, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their

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recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. The 5th day of November, 2020. Brenda Dail, Executrix c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC PO Box 31205 Raleigh, NC 27622

N5,N12,N19,N26,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 384

All persons having claims against RUTH ELLEN MILLER LUCIER deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of Febru ary, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment This the 5th day of November,

Stanley Miller, Administrator c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC

PO Box 31205 Raleigh, NC 27622 N5,N12,N19,N26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons having claims against MILDRED K. JOHNSON deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 5th day of November,

Lisa Renee Williams, Executrix 26 Landrum Creek Dr Siler City, NC 27344 N5,N12,N19,N26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against ELWARD ARNOLD HOR-TON of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 4th day of August, 2020, are notified to present them to Jeffrey Wayne Horton, Executor of the Estate of Elward Arnold Horton 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 Mead-owmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before February 11, 2021. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Elward Arnold Horton. Those indebted to Elward Arnold Horton 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 Meadow-

Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 N5,N12,N19,N26,4tc

PUBLIC NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

1617 MAIL SERVICE CENTER RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

27699-1617 NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ISSUE A CONSENT ORDER
Public notice of intent to issue a State Consent Order to the following: The City of Greensboro (P.O. Box 3136, Greensboro, NC 27402-3136) has requested Special Order by Consent No. S19-010 for its T.Z. Osborne WWTP, a 40.0 MGD wastewater treatment facility under the authority of discharge permit NC0047384. The T.Z. Osborne WWTP discharges treated wastewater to South

Buffalo Creek in the Cape Fear River Basin.
The Environmental Management Commission proposes to issue the Order per Article 21 of Chapter 143, N.C. General Statutes, and other regulations. Compliance with this Order requires rehabilitation of the wastewater to address elevated discharges of 1,4-di-oxane. The City of Greensboro shall comply with the NPDES permit limits with the exception of the interim limitations identified in the Order. This Order will expire two (2) years from the SOC effective date. A copy of the Order is available upon request by contacting Jenny Graznak of the Division of Water Resources at 336-776-9695, or available online at https://deq.nc.gov/about/ divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/npdes-wastewater-permits. Written comments on the draft Consent Order may be sent to the attention of Ms. Brianna Young, N.C. Division of Water Resources, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1617, or may be submitted by email to: publiccomments@ncdenr.gov. Please be sure to include Osborne WWTP SOC" in the email's subject line. Comments on the proposed Order received no later than December 9, 2020

PUBLIC HEARING - The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality will hold a public hearing to accept comments on the aforementioned Special Order by Consent from 6:00 pm until the hearing officer adjourns the meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. This public meeting will be held via Cisco's WebEx teleconferencing service instead of an in-person meeting. Speaker registration will end at 12:00 PM on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. Information on the hearing and how to register can be found online at https://deq.nc.gov/about/ divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/npdes-wastewa-

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY**

The undersigned, Jeanne Wilson Vaughn, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of JIMMIE RAY WILSON, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of February, 2021, 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 12th day of November,

Jeanne Wilson Vaughn, Admin-

238 Walter Wilson Road Bear Creek, NC 27207 W. Ben Atwater, Jr., Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2850 batwater@pinehurst.net N12,N19,N26,D3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Jeanne Wilson Vaughn, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of HELEN EDWARDS WILSON, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of February, 2021, 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 12th day of November,

Jeanne Wilson Vaughn, Admin-238 Walter Wilson Road Bear Creek, NC 27207 W. Ben Atwater, Jr., Attorney

P.O. Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2850

at Law

batwater@pinehurst.net N12,N19,N26,D3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY**

20 E 556 All persons having claims against SHERWOOD E. JOHNSON, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate

This the 12th day of November, 2020. Helon Joy Wellons, Executrix 400 Johnson Farm Rd New Hill, NC 27562

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 452 All persons having claims

N12,N19,N26,D3,4tc

against **ROBERT LEE GRAY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of February, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of November,

Jackson C. Gray, Administrator 214 Stone St.

Siler City, NC 27344 N12,N19,N26,D3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of WOODARD W. HEATH. deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to present the same to the personal representatives listed below on or before February 12, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to make immediate payment.

This 12th day of November, 2020. Co-Executors: Louise Heath Cockrell, Thomas W. Heath, III, Woodard Heath Wilder WHITE & ALLEN, P.A. 106 S. MCLEWEAN ST. KINSTON, NC 28501 N12,N19,N26,D3,4t

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY**

20 E 548All persons having claims against MARGIE COUNCIL LANEY, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 12th day of November, 2020. Mark Laney, Executor 9120 White Eagle Court

Raleigh, NC 27617 N12,N19,N26,D3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of DOROTHY O'CONNELL, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the under signed at the offices of Till-man, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Éastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 12th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 12th day of November,

MARK O'CONNELL, EXECUTOR ESTATE OF DOROTHY O'CON-

Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, **PLLC**

501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130

Chapel Hill, NC 27514 N12,N19,N26,D3,4tc

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4X4. 5.7 HEMI 8 Speed Auto SJ1469

2021 Jeep **Compass Limited**



4x4, 9 Speed Auto Sirius XM SJ1434



2020 Dodge Caravan SE

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