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Which Chatham businesses got the biggest Round 1 PPP loans?, PAGE A7

Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 2021 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

HEAVY, BUT NOT A BURDEN?

County's debt level keeps rising. A 'debt model' keeps it manageable, officials say

'We have the fiscal wherewithal to handle it well in advance'

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

Chatham County government's debt, when measured on a per-capita basis, is among the highest in the state — worsened by an almost-year-long pandemic.

But those debt figures unfairly misrepresent the county's overall fiscal health, according to county officials, who say it's both manageable and under



LaMontagne

property taxes, an income source that has not substantially changed

control. COVID-19 has strained local governments nationwide. Most countv revenue comes from



Thompson

programs shuttered and construction slowed.

since the pan-

demic erupt-

ed. But other

tax and local

fees — took a

nosedive when

in-person shop-

ping dwindled,

community

monies — sales

"How has the pandemic affected the county? It'd be easier to list out the ways that it hasn't," says assistant county manager Bryan Thompson. "In most ways, normal things are no longer normal ... The pandemic has forced us to look at how we do business and try different things that we might

See DEBT, page A3

COVID-19 'outbreak' at Siler City Post Office causes staffing shortages, mail delays

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Following weeks of mail delays related to the holidays, a COVID-19 outbreak at the Siler City Post Office is causing major staffing shortages and mailing delays, according to employees and customers.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Postal Service declined to comment on specific COVID-19 case counts at the office, citing privacy law, but sources — including employees of the Siler City office — told the News + Record that 75% of staff have tested positive with COVID-19.

USPS Strategic Communication Specialist Philip Bogenberger, of the mid-Carolinas and Greensboro districts, told the News + Record in an email on Tuesday that the Siler City office "remains open" and that though it's unlikely for COVID-19 to spread from domestic or international mail, the office "will enhance and



U.S. Postal Service officials wouldn't confirm, but sources - including employees of the Siler City office — say 75% of staff have tested positive with COVID-19.

ee medical information must

further specifics of their med-

guidance and strategies from

Teachers call for Plan C

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN News + Record Staff

A letter signed by more than 51 high school staff members and sent to the Chatham County Schools Board of Education members expresses "grave" concerns over the safety of hybrid in-person learning and calls for the board to return to the fully remote Plan C.

The letter — a copy of which was given to the News + Record — was emailed to board members on Jan. 19. Composed by several CCS high school employees, it was updated from a previous version of the letter following the BOE's Jan. 11 decision to delay the start of hybrid learning from Jan. 21 to Feb. 1. At the time of that decision, the board cited the desire to give teachers and staff more time to prepare for Plan B.

supplement current cleaning protocols using disinfectants across the facility."

"As you may know, under the Rehabilitation Act and the Privacy Act, specific employbe kept confidential and may only be shared in very limited circumstances. Therefore, the Postal Service cannot share the names of the employees who tested positive for COVID-19 or

ical condition," Bogenberger said. "The safety and well-being of our employees is our highest priority. To ensure the health of our employees, we are continuing to follow recommended

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)."

When asked for clarification on case counts and a timeline

See OUTBREAK, page A12

See PLAN C, page A9

IN THE **KNOW**

Chatham guidance counselor says stoppage of SAT test 'makes sense.' PAGE A6

Sen. Foushee, N.C. legislators push for passage of 28th amendment. PAGE A7

Northwood's Faucette doesn't let her disability define her. PAGE B1

Review: 'One Night in Miami' a fictionalized overview of a real divide. **PAGE B12**



CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS



Photo courtesy of Chatham County Schools

Jordan-Matthews High School Principal Tripp Crayton (left) pictured with Chatham County Schools former Superintendent Dr. Derrick D. Jordan, pre-pandemic. Crayton was announced as the first principal of Seaforth High School last Wednesday.

J-M's Crayton named first principal at new Seaforth High School

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN built in the district since 1972, News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Schools Board of Education named Tripp Crayton as the first principal of Seaforth High School last Wednesday, effective Feb. 15.

Seaforth, set to open this fall to 9th and 10th graders, is 98% complete, according to CCS administration. The \$74.8 million project is the first high school

CCS said in a release announcing the move last Wednesday, with plans to eventually support 1,200 students. The new high school is located off of U.S. Hwy. 64 near Jordan Lake, and configured its attendance zone from the existing Northwood High School attendance zone.

Crayton is the principal at

See CRAYTON, page A9

THE CN+R Q&A: MIKE ZELEK, CCPHD Health Department's director talks vaccination frustrations, successes

Mike Zelek, the director of Chatham County's Public



Health Department, and his staff have been working nonstop to provide information to county resi-

Zelek

dents about the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. In this exclusive

Q&A with the News + Record, Zelek addressed mass vaccination events, vaccine appointments and more.

Where do things stand today in Chatham County with the COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout?

So far, 5,491 Chatham County residents have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, according to the NC DHHS COVID-19 vaccination dashboard. Vaccinations are currently being given by Chatham Hospital (UNC Health), the Chatham County Public Health Department (CCPHD), and Piedmont Health Services, but vaccine supplies are very limited.

The CCPHD held its second mass vaccination clinic on Monday at the Chatham County Agricultural and Conference Center, during which 410 adults ages 65 and older and healthcare workers with in-person patient contact were scheduled to be vaccinated. After this event, the CCPHD will have given out all of the 1,500 first doses of vaccine it has received to date.

No doses of vaccine allocated to the CCPHD have gone to waste.

Providers learn each Thursday night how many doses of vaccine they will receive the following week. For example, the CCPHD learned last Thursday that it would only receive 200 first doses of vaccine next week. Providers across the state, including many local health departments like the CCPHD, were disappointed with the number of doses they are slated to receive, which is currently the limiting factor in vaccinating those in the eligible groups. We have tentative plans to host mass vaccination events multiple times per week, but those plans depend on allocation.

In Chatham County, there are approximately 20,000 residents who are eligible to receive the

See ZELEK, page A12

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events are subject to change based on closures related to the coronavirus pandemic. Verify with organizers prior to events.

 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 Siler City Board of **Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb 1, in the town hall courtroom in Siler City. The Chatham County Board of Education will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 8, in the multipurpose room of Horton Middle School in Pittsboro. A livestream can be viewed at https:// bit.ly/CCBOElivestream The Pittsboro Board of **Commissioners** will meet virtually at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 8. A zoom

link to attend can be accessed via the town's website.

 The Chatham County **Board of Commissioners** will have regular and work sessions beginning at 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 15, at the Chatham County Agriculture & **Conference** Center

THURSDAY

• 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, 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.

OTHER

• The Chatham Historical Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Masks required and groups will be distanced. Adult and kid friendly; no admission fee.

Our 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. More info: https:// chathamhistory.org

 Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop has made the move to Chatham Commons, at 630 E. St., Pittsboro, in the Food Lion shopping center. We will be accepting donations when we reopen. Our hours are Tuesday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County. Chatham Community **Library** is offering free classes on internet skills and NC LIVE resources in January. While the library is closed, all classes will be offered online. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found at www. chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. --

• 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 projects, office work, and care for animals. Chatham Connecting website lists many volunteer opportunities for youth. See where you are needed to help in the community: www. chathamconnecting.org. Foster and/or adoptive information: Give chil-

dren a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more.

Alcoholics Anony-

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

 Motorcycle Association — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham. Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro

and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www. chathamCBA.com.

Narcotics Anonymous

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

Al-Anon Meeting

 Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill. Pittsboro.

Scout News

 Boy Scout Troop 93 in 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 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 information.

PITTSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Pittsboro commissioners recognize \$50K donation for Kiwanis Park

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The town's board of commissioners entertained a series of discussion points in its Monday night meeting, but made no major decisions in the absence of Mayor Jim Nass and Commissioner Jay Farrell, both of whom could not attend due to family business.

The town began with a resolution to recognize Patricia L. Johnson, a 19year Chatham resident, for her "benevolent donation" of \$50,000 to be used on the Town of Pittsboro Kiwanis Park at 309 Credle St.

The park, according to Pittsboro's resolution, "has received national attention for its innovative natural playground elements for park features catered to ages two to five...

In 2019, though, the town identified a need for new installations designed for older children, ages 6 to 12. Johnson's donation was gifted to "further boost this project towards reality, the resolution said. For Johnson, the contribution was an homage to her late husband's legacy. "I knew about the park and I thought that would be a good place to put a donation in Ron's name," she said. Ronald D. Singleton was a long-time North Carolina engineer, spending most of his career with the town of Cary before a brief stint with Chatham County preceding his retirement. He served as Cary's town engineer during development and construction of its water treatment plant at Jordan Lake.

Land development

The commissioners considered two zoning-related requests, both of which they passed along to the town's planning board for further review.

• Rezoning request from Eco Northwood MUPD, LLC

"Eco Northwood MUPD is proposing an amendment to the rezoning approved April 9, 2018, by the board of commissioners," said Kayleigh Mielenz, a town planner.

Almost three years ago, the board approved 91.36 acres of land between U.S. Hwy 64 and Northwood High School Road for a multi-use planned development (MUPD). A sliver of land south of the parcel was omitted from consideration at the time, and remains zoned for rural agricultural use.

Development has not begun on the land. Eco Northwood originally proposed an 18-lot community with a maximum of 21 lots. They have amended their proposal to include 26 lots.

less than 15,000 barrels per year, on premises for either consumption on premises or sold directly to the consumer. Accessory uses include a restaurant, a public tasting room, and the retail sales of ale or beer, or related products."

Approval of the request would introduce new business opportunities in Pittsboro, but the same adjustments will already be included in the town's amended unified development ordinance (UDO).

"The definition is very similar and it's the same proposed permitted-by-right for microbrewery," Thompson said. "And the proposed UDO is also recommending that breweries be permitted-by-right in the same districts. So it is pretty much the same as what is already being proposed in the UDO."

Town hall construction

Taylor Hobbs and Chevon Moore of Hobbs Architects attended Monday night's meeting to update the board with the latest on its town hall development project, eventually to be built near downtown on Salisbury Street. "I believe the last time we were in front of you," Hobbs said, "was (with) the design development drawings, getting approval to go into the construction documents. We are now through construction documents.' Moore presented an estimated project budget to be approved or adjusted at a future commissioners meeting. Total construction excluding on-site alternates comes to about \$15.8 million, she said, with bid alternates adding about \$1 million in additional expense. But site "alternates," she acknowledged, are not always synonymous with optional features. "The building will only really be operational for the town and the county if it has (some alternates)," she said, which include such features as an A/V system, council chamber public seating

and even an "underground storm water detention/treatment" without which the building cannot function.

But listing as many features as possible in the "alternates" category permits the town more leverage in negotiations with contractors.

"Having a number associated with them on bid day," Moore said, "we can more easily negotiate if it costs more than what the town would like to pay.'

Unified development ordinance

The board did not make any decisions with respect to its unified development ordinance, which must be amended by July 1, 2021, in keeping with modified state law. But town staff outlined five discussion points that may direct future policy amendments.

1. Zoning Districts The commissioners will have the option to adopt new zoning districts with the revised UDO, or "wait to replace the existing zoning district and reevaluate concurrent with the Land Use Plan update," according to Thompson's presentation.

apply to combined floor area of all structures.

Commissioners will have the option to adjust the size limits, as well, but did not come to consensus during Monday's meeting. 5. Accessory dwelling

units

Just as with non-habitable accessory structures, the commissioners may adjust the sizing limits of accessory dwelling units in the amended UDO. Existing ordinance caps floor space at 50% of the primary dwelling's size or 800 square feet, whichever is lesser. A proposed amendment increases the latter requirement to 1,200 square feet.

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

Chatham County Council on Aging WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT! Q: Why is Chicken Bridge Road

A story in last week's edition, "Chatham leaders reflect on Capitol attack, impeachment," incorrectly placed the British attack on Washington,

D.C., in the 1840s. The British set fire to the U.S. Capitol in 1814 as part of the War of 1812. The News + Record regrets the error.

CORRECTION



"I guess that was his claim to fame," Johnson said. "That was his biggest project."

The upgraded Kiwanis Park is soon to host more children than ever with the Kiwanis Club set to host Pittsboro's developing Boys & Girls Club.

The applicant understands that if the MUPD gets approved the lot line and street revisions will still require an amendment to the preliminary plat," Mielenz said.

· Zoning text amendment request from Red Moose Brewing

"Red Moose Brewing company is requesting to add the use 'micro-brewery' as a permitted use," said Senior Planner Theresa Thompson, to the Pittsboro Zoning Ordinance.

The language amendment would permit micro-breweries to operate in several district types: neighborhood business, highway commercial, downtown and heavy industrial.

The company also proposed a new definition be added in Pittsboro's ordinance for the term micro-brewery: "An establishment primarily engaged in the brewing of ale, beer, malt liquors, and nonalcoholic beer ... with a capacity

Some current districts may also remain in the UDO after amendment as "floating" districts to be used as the commissioners see fit. 2. Lot widths/Lot frontage

The proposed UDO will

remove "lot frontage" standards from zoning ordinance and replace them with "lot width." 3. Heights

Pittsboro building heights are capped at 50 feet in the existing UDO. Proposed amendments will allow up to 90 feet.

All building heights will still be subject to commissioner approval, Thompson pointed out.

4. Non-habitable accessory structures

Town staff recommended a clarifying amendment to UDO language on maximum size allowances for non-habitable accessory structures to indicate that regulations

named Chicken Bridge Road?

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

Public Notice

TOWN OF SILER CITY LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Loose leaf pick up is coming to an end. Please have your loose leaves out by January 30, 2021. As we will be making our final round the following week. Thank you for your understanding as we

finish up this leaf season.

La recolección de hojas sueltas está llegando a su fin. Por favor, colocar sus hojas sueltas al borde de la calle antes del 30 de Enero de 2021. Haremos nuestra ronda final la semana siguiente. Gracias por su comprensión mientras terminamos esta temporada de hojas.

Chatham News + Record

www.chathamnewsrecord.com

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Siler City churches restart weekly food bank

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — After a month-long break, three Siler City churches' weekly food bank started back up Tuesday morning in First Missionary Baptist Church's parking lot — all thanks to a fresh infusion of federal dollars into the program that funded it.

Last spring, First Missionary Baptist, Holy Trinity United Holy Church and Moon's Chapel Baptist Church partnered with Baptists on Mission — an auxiliary organization of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in Cary — to distribute thousands of food boxes across North Carolina every week. At first, they'd started out distributing between 50 to 75 boxes, but that number kept growing and growing; in October, Baptists on Mission designated them as a food hub and began sending them over 1,200 boxes a week.

"It's unreal how big the need is," said First Missionary Baptist's associate minister, the Rev. Donald Matthews, who originally reached out to Baptists on Mission. "We're just really happy to be able to serve."

It's all possible through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers to Families Food Box program, a federal program created last year under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to feed families and provide a market for struggling food producers. Baptists on Mission was one among hundreds of organizations across the country to participate in the program.

The program underwent four rounds in 2020. The fourth round officially ended on Dec. 31, but in Siler City, the last distribution was Dec. 18. At the time, no one knew whether the program would return in 2021, and while the program ground to a halt, the need hadn't.

"We've been receiving calls ever since the program has been down," Matthews



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Volunteers load several food boxes into the back of a vehicle on Tuesday. This food bank serves over 30 churches and organizations across Central North Carolina.

said, remembering the pains an 84-year old woman took to find out when the food bank would resume distribution. "... She asked one person who called another person, who called another person who got my number, and then it went back down the chain to her and she called me."

On Jan. 4, the USDA announced a fifth round after Congress allocated an additional \$1.5 billion for the program as part of the COVID-19 relief package passed on Dec. 21 and signed into law a week later. According to the USDA's press release, the fifth round will continue through the end of April.

Each food box holds about \$50 worth of fresh produce, dairy products and meats, and all three churches will be distributing them out in First Missionary Baptist's parking lot every Tuesday morning until federal funding runs out.

"We have always alternated between Thursday and Friday," Matthews said. "This will be the first Tuesday ... we've ever done, but that's all good."

That's not the only change, though. In the fall, First Missionary Baptist had received about 1,248 boxes every week; now, Matthews said, they'll be receiving about 1,092 boxes after at least one group dropped out or changed pickup locations.

They've also picked up some "new people," Matthews said, including Love's Creek, two churches from Troy in Montgomery County and another church from Carthage in Moore County.

"So that's an expansion," he said, adding, "They are actually coming to us to pick up and take it back to their respective areas. So that gives you a wider territory to cover, plus people they may not have ever received it before, so that's just great."

From late March to mid-December, First Missionary Baptist, Holy Trinity and Moon's Chapel distributed tens of thousands of food boxes to over 30 organizations and churches. Matthews estimated that their food hub serves between six and eight counties, not just Chatham.

COVID-19's economic fallout has hurt everyone, he said, whether Black or white, old or young. He thinks it's been especially hard on Siler City, particularly since the economic Tier system — which the state uses to award counties grants and funding programs — often prevents Siler City and other pockets of Chatham from getting the help residents need.

"That means that Siler City suffers because the other side of the county is prospering," he said, adding: "So that means we have to pay special attention to our own neighborhood ... I do believe if we work at it, we could make a difference here, and this food bank has definitely made a difference. These food boxes have made a difference."

To pick up food boxes, individuals only need to show up early on Tuesday mornings and get in line behind other cars at First Missionary Baptist. Individuals may collect up to 12 boxes, according to Matthews. Organizations, however, need to sign up.

"We have to know ahead of time because when we get our numbers, it immediately starts to be distributed on a spreadsheet, so we'll know exactly what we're doing with what we got — except for the general public," Matthews said. "We just put (those boxes) to the side."

Interested organizations can call Baptists on Mission directly at (919) 365-5606 or call Melinda Walden, First Missionary Baptist's secretary, at (919) 742-4614.

"(The food bank) has been a phenomenal blessing across the board, and I'm just so happy to be a part of it," Matthews said. "Thank God for it."

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

DEBT

Continued from page A1

not have otherwise — different solutions, different applications."

Coronavirus-related revenue shortages have only compounded what was already a significant debt level for Chatham County. For fiscal year 2021, which will end in June, projections indicate a debt ratio of 2.19% of the county's assessed value. That would make Chatham the second-most indebted county in North Carolina within its population group — 50,000 to 99,999.

State law permits counties to shoulder a debt load as much as 8%, but none approach that maximum.

"No county in N.C. is anywhere near the legal

Ranked #1 houzz CHAPEL HILL BOLD BOLD debt limit," county manager Dan LaMontagne said. "The highest in the state is 2.606%."

In Chatham's population group, the highest is 2.254%.

Other debt indicators cast Chatham higher on the list of N.C.'s most debt-ridden counties.

"The projected high of \$2,845 (per capita) in fiscal year 2021," LaMontagne said, "may give Chatham County the highest per capita debt in its population group."

Debt as a percent of the county's operating budget is, ostensibly, its most troubling metric, pushing Chatham toward regulatory trouble with the N.C. Local Government Commission, which monitors debt levels around the state. "Staff projects that, depending on decisions made in the operating budget, debt service may exceed the 15% maximum recommended by the LGC," LaMontagne said.

AA+ county according to S&P, and Aa2 on Moody's scale.

Chatham's creditworthiness is especially impressive given its size. It "is by far the smallest county" in North Carolina to achieve such investment grades, LaMontagne said.

"With a population more than twice as big as Chatham's, Orange County is the next largest county to hold a AAA," he said. "Of the surrounding counties, Chatham's combined rating is higher than Alamance, Lee, Harnett, Moore and Randolph."

According to county finance specialists, Chatham's unprecedented investment grades are thanks to a unique modeling tool. "The only reason that we are so well rated is because we have the debt reserve and the debt model," said Finance Director Vicki McConnell, who also serves as Chatham County's deputy town manager. "We follow that religiously.' In 2006, the county hired financial consultants to develop a long-term management tool for Chatham's fiscal health. The final product was akin to what individuals might get from a financial adviser, but scaled to accommodate hundreds of millions of dollars in annual funds. It was a game-changer, county officials agree. The debt model — a carefully-constructed, data-driven payback plan created for any county project which adds indebtedness — has largely contributed to Chatham's success in achieving quick and manageable development. Town management consults the model before any debt-incurring projects are submitted for approval to the county's board of commissioners.

county circumstances adjust, the model is tweaked and projections are run anew.

If a project satisfies debt model requirements, it moves into the funding process.

"Once approved, funds to cover the payment of future debt are set aside through the county's debt reserve," Thompson said.

A project does not commence without total guarantee of fiscal backing.

"Every time we decide to borrow money, we model that out and see exactly how much money it will take to pay the debt," McConnell said, adding, "it automatically goes into a debt reserve

... We always have the revenue ahead of time for

CONSTRUCTION



Your **home** has never been more **important**.

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But he warned against making hasty conclusions from debt indicators.

"While this is an issue, please note that the county differs from other counties in that funds for debt service have been set aside in a reserve account," LaMontagne said. "Therefore, increases in debt service do not decrease Chatham County's flexibility to manage the operating budget, the primary concern of the LGC's maximum."

Proof that debt metrics represent a fraction of cumulative fiscal health is embodied in Chatham's bond ratings. Despite state-high debt levels, the county is well regarded by credit-rating agencies.

"Chatham's ratings are exceptional," LaMontagne said. "Chatham is one of only nine other counties in North Carolina to hold a AAA rating from Standard and Poor's "

Moody's, another of the world's most esteemed credit raters, gaves Chatham an Aa1 investment grade — the second-highest option out of 21 levels.

The county's ratings have increased even with mounting debt. Prior to 2014, Chatham was a "(It) factors in several assumptions when determining the solvency of the county in issuing new/additional debt," Thompson said.

Current factors include a 2% annual growth rate in property tax revenue, a 3% annual growth rate in school impact fees, projected investment returns, project inflationary costs per year, lottery proceeds and more. As that."

While county debt represents borrowed money, it is never beyond what the county can afford outof-pocket.

"In advance of issuing, we ensure that we have the fiscal wherewithal to handle it well in advance ..." Thompson said. "We actually have the money on hand to cover debt."

Chatham's debt management system is not unusual for N.C. counties, but it is often associated with Chatham's bigger neighbors like Wake and Orange.

"It think it is more common with larger counties," said county budget director Darrell Butts. "... One thing we tell the board a lot is if the big counties are like adults and the small counties are like children, we're sort of in that awkward teenage phase, where we are rapidly becoming a larger county."

But it was from Chatham that larger counties learned the value of sophisticated debt modeling.

"If I'm not mistaken," Butts said, "Chatham was the first to use any sort of debt model like this ... Other, larger counties have since used something similar, and their scale is much, much larger because they're larger counties. But they use a similar model now, and it all started here in Chatham."

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

VIEWPOINTS

If you #FOMO, then be cautious about #TL;DR

Being insatiably curious has its drawbacks. Toss in a wavward



BILL HORNER III which are Publisher + Editor my wont

— and sometimes, trying to get things done can seem like one long snipe hunt.

I'm not sure which came first, my innate curiosity about so many things or my love of reading. One has certainly always fed the other. In college it led me to subscribing to and reading seven daily newspapers each morning and, many nights, absentmindedly wandering the stacks of my university's massive library (instead of studying) — overwhelmed by the sheer volume of volumes on the most obscure of topics.

These days, wonder and wander (as well as an occasional weakness for clickbait) manifest in similar ways, only on my laptop. Like you may do, I can get lost roaming the digital "stacks" from a comfy recliner.

On my computer, I typically have 20 or more tabs open to stories and articles I want to read. The subjects can vary widely. A sample inventory would indicate that I'm a late-stage Baby Boomer who's curious about (narrowing it down to just a few heavily-traveled roads) sports, '80s music and movies, European travel, history, questions about life on other planets, watercolor painting, wine, sociology and, quite naturally, the two most common dinner-table topics in our house, religion and politics.

And the bedevilment of reading something online, of course, is the scourge of the hyperlink — footnotes, asides, backstories and related articles that, with the click of a mouse, are delivered up immediately, complementing your knowledge base in an instant.

That turns two dozen open tabs to three-score in a hurry.

Which is why my digital rabbit trail from a single Google fact-check query might take me to far-flung questions like these in a matter of minutes: Why did the band Lynyrd

Skynyrd have two drummers? What does Marcia from the

Brady Bunch look like now? What is the optimum tem-

perature for pan-grilled salmon? What are the five best British crime dramas streaming on

Netflix? What is actor James Coon'd

What is actor James Caan's net worth?

How will ocean cruising be different post-pandemic?

And whatever happened to Ed Marinaro, the former Minnesota Vikings running back who later starred in the TV crime drama Hill Street Blues?

It never seems to end. The worst part of an intense curiosity is when enjoyment of a thing is interrupted. I'm quick to pull out my phone, for example, while watching a movie with my wife to Google that actor I *know* I've seen somewhere before. Or to check the historical accuracy of a storyline, or to pull up that theme song on Spotify and add it to a playlist.

It drives her crazy, but I can't seem to help it.

Intense curiosity also leads me to a strange kind of fear of missing out — #FOMO, in modern parlance. But it also delivers me too often to the road of #TL;DR, also known as "too long; didn't read." As in: I'm very interested in it, but once I'm "there," I'm not totally sure I'm committed enough to investing the time to deconstruct the details.

Drinking from a firehose of

information doesn't satiate curiosity; it drenches and drowns you instead.

Living in the "executive summary" of life, though, is also unfulfilling. It might make you good at games of trivia and keen at Scrabble, but it keeps you from exploring the depths of a thing.

Thankfully, we can make use of tools like browser bookmarks and web clipping apps and "READ LATER" electronic files. "LONG READS" is another I've filled. Believe me, they work much better than a large cardboard box, which used to serve as my "read later" repository.

And my laptop's "delete" key and browsers' "close out" functions?

Equally handy. "Everything in moderation, including moderation," said Oscar Wilde.

Or, as I remind myself: #EIMIM.

'Good to the last drop' fitting for drinks and life

A few days ago, I opened our refrigerator door to see what was hiding in there that I could turn into a snack. Since I've gone



BOB WACHS

Movin' Around

through a cardiac rehab program some time ago and try to watch how much sugar I take in, I've started to pay attention to what foods to eat and what not to devour. Sometimes, the choices are more limiting than they once were.

For instance: I've learned a plate of cold fried fatback is not recommended by my nurses, but 64 ounces of water are right on target, as is a bushel basket of fresh lettuce. So, needless to say, some of this has been a learning experience.

That day as I scanned the refrigerator shelves, I noticed a number of items. There was half a jar of salsa, a container of tomato juice (my favorite), some hoop cheese I bought at Farmers Alliance long ago before it closed (and which I have kept so long that it's hard as a rock) and half a container of yogurt in which one of the little princesses who call me "Granddaddy" had lost interest.

There were also some items I couldn't identify. Some were wrapped in seasoned aluminum foil, meaning the wrinkles outnumbered the flat places. Others were in plastic containers, clear and otherwise; I thought I recognized a couple of them but wasn't sure. Others were in plastic containers which previously had housed ingredients other than what they were then holding — for instance, half an onion was living in the container which earlier had been home to deli sandwich meat.

I can't remember what I had for a snack but I'm pretty sure I had something. It may have been popcorn, which I know doesn't live in the refrigerator. But it was something else that caught my eye.

Sitting on the shelf next to the tomato juice and the milk was a plastic Coke bottle: the individual size, not the two-liter. While that's something that happens often at our place, it was the amount of product in the bottle that caught my eye. There may have been two to three drops of beverage left. I'm not going to call any names here, but it was put into there by someone who lives daily at my place who isn't me. Now, that doesn't bother me; that's why we have refrigerators. My better half knows that; she saves items so there's very little waste at our house. My mother, however, somehow seemingly was opposed to that practice since often when, as a child, we had finished a meal and I had gorged myself, she would come back around with what was left over of something and put it onto my plate.



Our Consoler-in-Chief

President Joseph Biden has used his Constitutional



authority to issue executive actions

designed

to revamp

the federal

response to

pandemic,

bolster our

struggling

nation's

the COVID-19

cated to those who have died from COVID-19, Biden offered illuminating words as well: "To heal, we must remember.' Our larger culture expects us to move on quickly after our loved ones have died. Many people do not even say the word "dead" but use euphemisms like "passed away" or "gone home." It is painful to remember a loved one's death. But undertaker and poet Thomas Lynch says that, even more than our fear of death. we fear that "our stories will die with us, and won't be told or will be told incorrectly." We are most afraid we will be forgotten. With this ultimate fear in mind, we should consider the connection our Consoler-in-Chief drew between healing and remembering. Perhaps lost in the sheer enormity of a number like 400,000 is that each death has ended a personal relationship - a son or daughter, mother or father, spouse or grandparent, neighbor or friend. Biden can relate to such heartbreaking loss. He sought to remember our nation's dead and thereby shine a light upon our collective grief. By acknowledging the pain, we may yet regroup and move forward together. Biden directed those luminaries to be lit outside of the Lincoln Memorial, which is named for another president who oversaw another time in our nation's history of great suffering, loss and polarization. In our day, we must reunify our country after election controversy and the

(Biden) sought to remember our nation's dead and thereby shine a light upon

"Eat this," she'd say. "I want to wash the dish and there's not enough to save."

"But Mama," I'd respond, "I'm about to pop."

"Eat it anyway. I don't want to have to save it."

"Isn't that why we have a refrigerator?"

"Be quiet and eat it anyway."

That sort of routine through the years is one thing that helped me develop the physique I have today.

So, seeing the one swallow of Coke in the fridge was no big deal food-wise but it did jog my memory to a childhood ritual. When I was a mere lad, there were few drinks like Gatorade or Propel or whatever around. As a matter of fact, there were none of those. We did have Kool-Aid and we had our share of Cokes or Pepsi but mostly we drank water and we kept it cold in a glass jar Mama sat on the top shelf in the fridge.

The way it worked with my two brothers and me was that whoever emptied the jar — as in whoever drank the last of the cold water — was required to refill it. And since none of us really wanted to stand at the kitchen sink to fill up the gallon jug, we developed the ability not to empty the jar completely after taking a big pull. Obviously, that meant that someone would often get stuck with about 14 drops of cold water after slaving over a 4-hour yard mowing but it was the principle of the thing.

"Let somebody else fill it up" became our style. When I saw that Coke bottle the other day, my mind went back to that youthful water jar. Now, I know in this day and age we don't refill soft-drink bottles, although sometimes I use them for water but another thought came to mind.

This one was staged from my advancing years and had nothing to do with who fills up the jar. Instead, I thought, it's a lesson in life, namely how often do we do as little as we can just to get by hoping someone else will pick up the slack? Don't empty the jar or bottle and then no one can say you took the last morsel or drop but what does that do to benefit our fellow human?

I think, if memory serves me correctly, I took that last swallow of Coke to down the handful of pills that is my lot today. But I did put two, or maybe it was three, bottles of Coke in the fridge. Life lesson learned. I hope.

Bob Wachs is a native of Chatham County and retired longtime 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.

ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN Hope Matters

Hope Matters economy, overhaul immigration legislation and restore international treaties to curb climate change.

Readers of the News + Record will have differing opinions about these actions, for they are in large part a repudiation of the previous administration's own executive orders.

But though there is disagreement about policy matters, I believe this president can inspire unity among residents of this land. Before his inauguration, Biden led a remembrance ceremony for the 400,000 Americans who have died from COVID-19.

He is our Consoler-in-Chief.

While Biden is not known for his oratorical brilliance, he is well-acquainted with grief. When he was only 30 years old, he lost his wife and daughter in a car accident the week before Christmas. Later in life, he lost another child to cancer.

Our president's history of personal tragedies allows him to speak directly and profoundly to our country's woes in the pandemic. While it was moving to see the luminaries dedi-

our collective grief. By acknowledging the pain, we may yet regroup and move forward together.

mob violence at the Capitol Building. Our nation is split along partisan lines as well as fractured by geographic, economic and racial differences.

Our Consoler-in-Chief understands the challenges we face. Once again, it is Biden's personal story that offers further illumination. And hope.

In 1977, he became engaged to Jill Jacobs. He wondered how she could agree to marry a man who admittedly was heartbroken over the death of his first wife. She replied, "Anybody who can love that deeply once can do it again."

Granted, a robust democracy is characterized by peaceful dissent. We will have our differences about policies and legislation. People will disagree with Biden's decisions. Like all of us, he will make mistakes.

Yet, his heart is in the right place. May the same be true of all of us who love our United States.

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

What's on your mind?

The Chatham News + Record welcomes letters from its readers on topics of local and public interest, as well as thoughtful and informative guest columns.

At our discretion, we may edit letters for clarity. We reserve the right to refuse letters and other submissions that promote a commercial product, contain either libelous material, personal attacks on individuals or vulgar language. Consumer complaints and letters containing unverifiable factual claims are ineligible for publication.

Each letter must contain the writer's full name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. Letters should be no more than 400 words in length. Letter-writers are limited to two published letters per month. Letters selected for publication may be edited and all letters become property of the Chatham News + Record.

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

VIEWPOINTS Federal bailout will punish our state

Now that Democrats control the White House and both chambers

of Congress

(however

they will

probably

approve a

of federal

and local

new round

borrowing to

bail out state

narrowly),



JOHN HOOD John Locke Foundation

governments with shaky finances.

In other words, Washington will punish North Carolina and other prudently governed states by saddling us with the cost of other states' mistakes.

This is an old story. Shortly after the American Revolution, some of the newly created states made great sacrifices to pay down their war-related debts, North Carolina among them. Other states didn't.

Then Alexander Hamilton concocted a plan for the federal government to nationalize the debts of the profligate states.

That angered voters in places such as North Carolina. Many switched their allegiances, joining Thomas Jefferson's new political faction. Party competition was born.

Will this same old story have the same political effect today? I'm not sure. Voters don't seem up-in-arms about the federal government's irresponsible, debt-financed spending spree during the Obama and Trump administrations. And I can understand the need to prioritize combating COVID-19 and reopening the economy during the current pandemic.

But facts are facts. Math is math. Federal debt held by the public is now around 100% of gross domestic product. Only during World War II has the federal government been so much in debt. If present trends continue, we'll surpass even that previous peak. And if we counted as debt the trillions of dollars in unfunded liabilities for Social Security, Medicare, and other entitlements - and we should — the wartime debt

of the 1940s would already be an increasingly distant second.

States and localities have debts of their own, albeit much smaller because of constraints on their ability to borrow for operating expenses. Most of them have promised pension and health benefits to retirees that they can't finance without large tax increases or cuts in current services. Some have issued bonds to finance poorly planned and underutilized transportation assets.

North Carolina shares some of these woes, to be sure, but compares favorably to most states. While our pension fund needs strengthening, it is better funded than most. Our unfunded liability for retiree health benefits, while large, is shrinking because of legislation and administrative reforms. Our on-the-books debt load is low by national standards.

When the pandemic struck, North Carolina was better prepared for the fiscal consequences. Since 2010, the Republican-led General Assembly

had made it a priority to build up savings reserves and keep annual spending increases moderate rather than budgeting too narrow a margin between expected revenues and expected spending.

As of December, the state has about \$1.1 billion in its Rainy-Day Fund, \$700 million in other reserves, and \$4.2 billion in unspent money sitting in its General Fund. Some of this money will be spent this year, and should be, on needs related to the COVID crisis and its consequences. That will still leave plenty of capacity to fund core public services while protecting North Carolinians from economically destructive tax hikes.

Other jurisdictions could have prepared themselves for this emergency, too. They didn't. They spent virtually every dollar they collected. They created new programs and expanded existing ones so much that even a normal rate of revenue growth would have proved inadequate to finance

them over time. When COVID slammed their tax collections, small structural deficits became immediate, enormous deficits.

For the federal government to swoop in and bail these governments out — using current or future revenue collected from Americans as a whole — is essentially to tell all other governments not to be responsible. It is to tell North Carolinians that they've been suckers all along, that their politicians should have spent with reckless abandon to buy votes, secure in the knowledge that if things went awry they'd get a bailout.

In the aftermath of the Great Recession, we learned it was both unfair and dangerous to let bankers take big risks backed by explicit or implicit promises of bailouts. That same lesson ought to apply to state and local politicians.

John Hood (@JohnHoodNC) is chairman of the John Locke Foundation.

Three new North Carolina-connected congresswomen

Three North Carolina-connected women Democrats broke the mold in the recent congressional elections. The "mold" was Democrats losing con-



D.G. MARTIN One on One

by Republican men. All three are the sorts of smart, experienced, hard-working people who have the potential to be leaders in Congress. All three have come back strong from devastating

gressional seats to Republicans. These three

women won seats that were previously held

political losses, regrouped, and used losing experiences to build winning campaigns. I first saw Deborah Ross in action in the

1990s while I was working in the legislature for the UNC System and she was state director of the American Civil Liberties Union. Her lawyering skills, charm and toughness made her an effective lobbyist. In 2004, she won a seat in the North Carolina House, where she served until 2013.

In 2016, she ran an impressive campaign for the U.S. Senate seat held by Richard Burr. She raised millions of dollars and gained favorable national attention, but Burr won re-election with 51% of the vote.

When her Raleigh area congressional district was redrawn to give Democrats an edge, the incumbent George Holding decided not to run. Ross was ready and won the seat handily.

Frightened, frustrated and irritated

The great gift this Christmas was that help was on the way.



The vaccine was a welcome gift 10 months into the pandemic. It is no exaggeration that North Carolina's vaccination rollout start-

CAMPBELL N.C. Spin

DHHS Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen described our current status as "the most dangerous time yet," with as many as 10,000 new cases in 24 hours and hospital beds nearing capacity. Many are frightened; most have family or friends who have had COVID.

"You've got a spot, take the shot," was the catchy slogan encouraging people to be vaccinated when it was their turn. North Carolina is allocated 120,000 doses of vaccine, enough to vaccinate about 1 percent of our 10 million population each week. But the vaccines weren't getting into enough people's arms. In mid-January the Centers for Disease Control estimated only 32 percent of our supply had been used for shots. North Carolina adopted a delivery system that involved county health departments and hospitals as vaccinators. In an effort to equitably distribute the vaccine, all 100 counties received some. When the announcement was made that those 75 and older could get shots, it was like dropping the starting flag at the Charlotte 600 race. The numbers multiplied even more after the age was dropped to 65 plus. What ensued was frustration as those eligible sought an appointment. The DHHS dashboard announcing who was going to vaccinate in each county involved some computer literacy to wade through the maze of providers in each county. Messaging from those providers was less than satisfactory. From Sunday through Thursday, I visited all sites in my county two or three times per day, only to get messages saying no appointments were available or none were being scheduled. I finally got an appointment offered in Flat Rock, about five hours from my home. Badly as I wanted the vaccine, I wasn't willing to drive 10 hours to get the first dose, then repeat the exercise for the second one.

Phone calls were equally frustrating. Either the number rang and rang (after 45 minutes my patience ran out), was busy or there was an automated response that no appointments were available and to call back later.

That's when the irritation set

well, but perhaps the biggest problem was that our state has a decentralized healthcare system and every county approached vaccinations a little differently. Neither the governor, the secretary nor anyone can dictate what must be done and when.

Wake County's website crashed from the demand just hours after it went live on Tuesday and phone lines were quickly overwhelmed. They weren't alone. DHHS got the message, but the old proverb about the difficulty in trying to change horses in the middle of a stream was once again true. Health leaders and government officials heard the irritation and anger and changes resulted.

The governor called out the National Guard to help and 10 high-throughput sites have been established throughout the state to get shots moving faster and the urgency of stepping up the pace was given all providers. There was a dramatic turnaround. By mid-week, almost 500.000 vaccinations had been achieved. The best recommendation is to have patience and persevere in attempts to get an appointment. Things are getting better. Good thing, because it won't be long before the larger population under 65 will have their turn. The help on the way must be timely and efficient.

ed poorly.

Similarly, Greensboro's Kathy Manning, a Harvard graduate and University of Michigan-trained lawyer, mounted a campaign for Congress in 2018 and ran a spirited race but lost to incumbent Republican Ted Budd. In 2019, redistricting put her in a new district represented by Republican Mark Walker.

The reconfigured district favored Democrats, and Walker did not run. Manning was ready and won the seat with 62% of the vote.

The third North Carolina-connected woman Democrat to win a congressional seat previously held by Republicans is Carolyn Bourdeaux, formerly a professor at the Andrew Young School of Public Policy at Georgia State University.

In 2018, Bourdeaux mounted a strong campaign in Georgia's seventh district against incumbent Rob Woodall, losing by only 433 votes. As Bourdeaux prepared to run again, Woodall announced he would not run in 2020. Bourdeaux beat the Republican candidate, Rich McCormick, by more than 10,000 votes.

So, you ask, what is her North Carolina connection? This is where it gets personal.

Her late father, Robert Bourdeaux, grew up in my hometown of Davidson. Bob's family lived in a neighborhood a block away from Davidson College, not far from where future congressman and governor Jim Martin and basketball coach Lefty Driesell would live.

At North Mecklenburg High, Bob and I played together on the school's football, basketball and tennis teams. He was a good teammate to have: smart, cheerful and enterprising. He went on to a successful career as a professor at Hollins University in Virginia, a not-so-successful experience in business, and then more service in education.

Carolyn's mother, Jerry, met Bob met at UNC-Chapel Hill. Both were committed to education and progressive causes.

They retired to Chatham County, where they died in 2017.

When we were growing up, Bob's father, though in terrible health, was active in community and political affairs. Carolyn's grandmother, for whom she is named, was a bulwark in the college treasurer's office where she worked with my father.

The Bourdeaux family, including Bob's siblings John and Margaret, was an important part of life in Davidson.

Her aunt, Margaret Bourdeaux Arbuckle, took her family's spirit to Greensboro where she served as the long-time executive director of Guilford Education Alliance until her retirement in 2013. She served as a Guilford County commissioner from 1992 to 1996. Still active in political and community life, she helped raise thousands of North Carolina dollars for her niece's campaign, helping to seal our state's connection to the new Georgia congresswoman.

Deborah Ross, Kathy Manning, and Carolyn Bourdeaux were the only Democrats to flip congressional seats previously held by Republicans in the 2020 elections.

Keep an eye on all three.

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.

in. What was the problem? was our vaccine plan inadequate? Did we not have enough doses? Were our health departments and hospitals not properly prepared?

Admitting it had not taken off well, Secretary Cohen told me, "It was like a perfect storm" of problems. The feds weren't providing timely information on deliveries, some vaccinators went to work to immediately get vaccines in arms while others were less aggressive. Providers didn't have enough people to answer phones, process patients or give shots. Some weren't open enough hours. The state computer program didn't work

Tom Campbell is a former assistant N.C. State Treasurer and was the creator/host of N.C. SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of N.C. issues that aired on UNC-TV until 2020. Contact him at tomcamp@carolinabroadcasting. com.

LETTERS

Socialism: The Santa of all governments

TO THE EDITOR:

I have always loved Christmas. As a small kid, I couldn't wait for it to come. I loved the lights and all the Christmas goodies, but what I looked forward to the most was getting the Sears catalog to make my wish list — and then the BIG event, my annual visit to see Santa!

Regardless of the line, it was worth it; I could just climb into the big guy's lap and get his ear for a few minutes and all my dreams would come true! From G.I. Joes to Hot Wheels, Nintendo to a 10-speed bike, making my request would get it done. The best part was this: other than being nice, and making my demands known, it would require no time, no requirement, and no investment for me! Essentially it was free!

As time went on, my world got rocked. I remember going into my dad's little work area and seeing the box from where my new bike had obviously been put together. As I begin to recount this I realized several things. First, though Santa was a fun idea, it wasn't reality. It also began to make sense why mom and dad were tight on money and worked so hard every year heading into the Christmas season. In that moment I realized all the things I wanted and had gladly taken for free weren't free at all. There was somebody, whether I saw it or not, sacrificing and, more importantly, paying for mv wish list

In a day where the dreams of socialism seem to be running rampant through our country, I'm afraid there will come a day when those who champion this cause will come to the same realization that I did about Santa. Though it is a fun idea in fantasy, it is just not real or practical in the real world.

Those who believe in socialism continue to have an ever-growing list of free wants as well. From college to housing, health insurance to medicine, all of these things cost somebody something. Just because the government, for example, might make college tuition free, professors still need to get paid, light bills still have to be paid, insurance for the college is still due, and yes, taxes will still be due.

So who pays for all the "free" stuff? Just as I found two hard-working parents sacrificing and paying for my wish list, if socialism takes the reins of our great country, we'll find that every taxpayer, every business and business owner, will be required to make sacrifices to pay for all the free stuff. Once we see the empty boxes of socialism, we realize somewhere in the shadows Americans, not the government, were footing the bill.

Josh Smith Siler City

The SAT discontinues essay, subject tests as part of pandemic adaptations

'A fantastic move that makes sense,' says *Chatham guidance counselor*

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN News + Record Staff

As students and colleges alike adapt to a college admissions process in the wake of a global pandemic, the organization that produces the SAT announced last Tuesday it would no longer offer subject tests or the optional essay section.

College Board characterized this change as one accelerated by the pandemic and made to "reduce and simplify demands on students."

The move follows financial challenges faced by the testing industry during the COVID-19 pandemic, in which most colleges waived standardized testing requirements for applicants and the majority of spring testing dates were canceled. Even before the pandemic, subject tests and essays weren't prioritized by most colleges or students.

Canceling the subject tests and essay, then, seemed like a "decision long in the making," said Chatham Central school

counselor Sandra Young. "I think this is a fantastic move that makes sense for many reasons," she said in an email to the News + Record, adding that the essay portion was never something colleges really focused on during the admissions process. SAT essay topics didn't tell colleges anything about the student, and most colleges started adding their own essay questions to their applications, according to Young.

"Because of the pandemic, I personally think this brought their decision long in the making to end the essay portion of the SAT sooner than later," she said. "With testing challenges and lack of space for large group testing sites, you sometimes have to make decisions in the best interest of the student. Then you ask yourself, does it make sense to have fewer spots for the SAT & the SAT subject tests, or do you only offer the SAT?"

Taking the essay portion of the SAT was also more expensive, Young added, and not registering for it cut testing time down from 230 minutes to 180. Opening all testing spots for the main SAT exam, rather than holding some for the less popular subject tests, she said, also better accommodated testing challenges brought on by the pandemic.

Other examples in the state, she said, included offering credentials in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses instead of state exams to show course knowledge, as well as ending North Carolina State Final Exams for many high school courses.

Still, some critics saw the changes to the SAT as a means of placing greater importance on Advanced Placement tests, which the board also produces — rather than to streamline the process for students, as College Board portrayed the decision.

The main SAT consists of two sections, one for math and the other for reading and writing. Students have also been able to take subject tests to show specific mastery of other subjects — a testing option the College Board says has been overshadowed by the popularity of A.P. exams.

"The expanded reach of AP and its widespread availability for low-income students and students of color means the Subject Tests are no longer necessary for students to show what they know," the College Board said last week.

In addition to logistical challenges faced during the pandemic, the move also follows years of emerging evidence that standardized college placement exams exacerbate socioeconomic and racial inequities.

In May, after a lawsuit from a group of Black and Hispanic students claimed the SAT discriminated against them, the University of California system decided to phase out the standardized SAT and ACT test requirements for its 10 schools, the New York Times reported.

"The SAT and the subject exams are dying products on their last breaths, and I'm sure the costs of administering them are substantial," Jon Boeckenstedt, the vice provost for enrollment management at Oregon State University,

told the Times.

In Chatham, Young said credits earned by high school students for college-level classes essentially serve the same purpose as subject tests. Still, she did say that some ESL students took subject tests in math and science, since those exams did not focus on English language mastery (as the main SAT does).

"This would be a disadvantage for this population," she said.

This year, most colleges waived their standardized testing requirements - namely the ACT and SAT — as many students had not yet taken the tests before the coronavirus struck in March, canceling the remaining scheduled tests that semester. In December, CCS high school seniors told the News + Record this move was a relief to them, though it placed more emphasis on their essays.

"Most of us weren't able to take the ACT or the SAT, which I guess helped our admissions a lot," Jordan-Matthews senior Kevin Manzanarez said. "Most of the focus was on our essays — we really had to focus on the essays more than anything this year, to give it

all we had to show who we really are."

In its Tuesday announcement, the College Board said it was investing in a "streamlined, digitally delivered test" to adapt to testing limits brought by the pandemic. The College Board did not specify a timeline to implement such a test.

As the pandemic continues. Young said she predicts colleges will still encourage students to take placement exams if possible, though many stopped using them as part of their admissions criteria.

"For admittance, colleges will focus more on the essay questions on the applications and the student's transcript," she said. "It will be important for students to continue to take rigorous courses in high school and find creative ways to serve in their local community and school during a time that is unique. I think this will be a better way for colleges to look at the whole student, than just a test score and class rank."

Reporter Hannah Mc-Clellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr. com or on Twitter at @ HannerMcClellan.

SILER CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC FIVE-YEAR PLAN Survey: Siler City residents unhappy with town's economic development

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — At least half of Siler City residents are unhappy with the town's economic development, according to survey results from the N.C. Main Street & Rural Planning Center, a subset of the N.C. Dept. of Commerce.

Survey data was presented last Thursday to the Siler City economic development strategic five-year plan steering committee, an 11-person

team of local leaders

issues the town should focus on.

"Community appearance everybody said that was the top issue," Naegelen said.

Nearly everyone, 94%, also agreed that "downtown revitalization" was the town's second-most pressing economic development issue. "Small business development" was ranked third by 71%, followed by "industrial recruitment" and "broadband/internet."

As for the top five general issues in Siler City, residents were again sur prisingly unanimous. "Job creation and business was 100%," Naegelen said. "Everybody agreed with that one." Most felt that "appearance-aesthetics" should come next before "adequate housing," "public safety" and "maintenance of streets,' which Naegelen said are "important for economic development but not the big issues that we need to be worrying about for this project at this point." But survey respondents did not as strongly agree on the type of growth that would address the town's issues. "Retail business growth was 75%,' Naegelen said. "They want to see that increase greatly. The next five growth sectors, however - service business, residential, industrial, agricultural and healthcare each received about 50% support. "So I just bring this up to show what some of the responses were," Naegelen said. "We almost have some strategies that we can refer to and look at here." Members of the economic development strategic five-year plan steering committee hope the survey data will inform their decision-making process as they plot out Siler City's future growth.

economic positioning statement."

On Thursday, the group deliberated over its vision statement to refine and direct its objective. Key words and topics emphasized the town's diverse population, its rich agricultural and industrial heritage, a distinct and vibrant arts scene and its strategic location between the Triangle and the Triad.

After synthesizing its economic vision statement - hopefully by the group's next meeting, Naegelen sald – the committee will begin development of an implementation plan to include no more than four strategies with successive goals. For example, "we'll probably have a strategy for downtown development," Naegelen said. "So, we're going to come up with some goals, a big goal — a broad kind of thing — and then we come up with some objectives to achieve the goal, and actions to (refine the strategy)." If the committee were to select downtown development as one of its strategies, a goal might read, "create a successful and vibrant downtown district," according to Naegelen's presentation. An objective could be to "develop a framework for a sustainable, non-profit, tax-exempt downtown development organization based on successful downtown revitalization models.' An action to achieve that result might include researching "mission/ purpose statements and bylaws from no more than 3 successful downtown organizations of similar size towns ... Then develop draft organizational bylaws and mission/purpose statement based on these." Once strategies have been selected and actions developed, the committee will present its implementation plan to the Siler City board of commissioners for approval. That meeting is tentatively scheduled for April.

The Siler City economic development strategic 4. five-year plan steering committee will meet

again on Thursday, Feb.

Reporter D. Lars Dolder

can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr. com and on Twitter @ dldolder.

FINANCIAL FOCUS Remote Work May Offer Financial Benefits

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have been forced to work from home. But once we've moved past the virus, many workers may continue working from home. More than one-third of companies with employees who started working from home now think that remote work will stay more common post-pandemic, according to a Harvard Business School study. This shift

much you could reduce this bill by eating lunch at home during your remote workday. • Lower clothing costs – Despite the rise in "casual dress" days, plenty of workers still need to maintain appropriate office attire. By working from home, you can "dress down," reducing your clothing costs and dry-cleaning bills.

As you can see, it may be possible for you to at-home work can affect people's lives in to save quite a bit of money by working from home. How can you use your savings to help meet your long-term financial goals, such as achieving a comfortable retirement? For one thing, you could boost your investments. Let's suppose that you can save \$2,500 each year by working remotely. If you were to invest this amount in a tax-deferred account, such as an IRA or your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan and earned a hypothetical 6% annual return for 20 years, you'd accumulate more than \$97,000 – and if you kept going for an additional 10 years, you'd have nearly \$210,000. You'd eventually pay taxes on the amount you withdrew from these accounts (and withdrawals prior to age 591/2 may be subject to a 10% IRS penalty), but you'd still end up pretty far ahead of where vou'd be otherwise.)

including Siler City Commissioner Lewis Fadely, EDC Project Manager Sam Rauf and CAM site owner Tim Booras — whose goal is to evaluate Siler City's economic needs and develop a short-term plan of corrective action. Town Planner Jack Meadows presides over the committee's activities.

Preliminary results were shared with the committee in August when virtual meetings first began after COVID-19 forced the group into hiatus for several months. But a clear breakdown of data was never compiled into a formal report, according to Bruce Naegelen, MS&RP economic development planner, who oversees 15 counties in the Piedmont including Chatham.

"I had kind of put it aside, it was kind of below the radar and we haven't talked about it, haven't seen it, since," Naegelen said.

The survey featured a 77-person representative sample of Siler City residents. To Naegelen's surprise, many respondents indicated strong dissatisfaction with the town's economic development.

In answer to the prompt, "I'm pleased with the overall direction the town is taking," 50% of survey-takers either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Another question asked respondents to rank the top five economic development

"There's some really helpful stuff," Naegelen said, "in terms of what we're working on tonight, trying to get an many ways – and it may end up providing workers with some long-term financial advantages.

If you're one of those who will continue working remotely, either full time or at least a few days a week, how might you benefit? Here are a few possibilities:

• Reduced transportation costs - Over time, you can spend a lot of money commuting to and from work. The average commuter spends \$2,000 to \$5,000 per year on transportation costs, including gas, car maintenance, public transportation and other expenses, depending on where they live, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau. If you are going to work primarily from home, you should be able to greatly reduce these costs.

• Potentially lower car insurance premiums - Your auto insurance premiums are partially based on how many miles you drive each year. So, if you were to significantly reduce these miles by working from home, you might qualify for lower rates.

• Lower expenditures on lunches - If you typically eat lunch in restaurants or get takeout while at work, you could easily be spending \$50 or more per week – even more if you regularly get coffee drinks to go. By these figures, you could end up spending around \$3,000 a year. Think how

Pittsboro

Chad Virgil, CFP^{®,} ChFC[®], CLU[®] 630 East St Suite 2 919-545-5669

Penguin Place

Eric C Williams, AAMS® 114 Russet Run Suite 120 919-542-3020

Siler City

Laura M Clapp, CFP® 301 E Raleigh St 919-663-1051

You also might use part of your savings generated by remote work to help build an emergency fund containing a few months? worth of living expenses. Without this fund, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts to pay for something like a major home repair.

Becoming an at-home worker will no doubt require some adjustments on your part but, in strictly financial terms, it could lead to some positive results.

Pittsboro

919-545-0125

Chapel Hill

984-219-6635

Suite 1c

Lee Shanklin, AAMS®

Jessica L Villagrana

180 Providence Rd

120 Lowes Drive Suite 107

Governors Club

Sharon A Dickens, AAMS® 50101 Governors Dr Suite 118 919-967-9968

Pittsboro

Kevin C Maley 984 Thompson St Suite E2 919-444-2961

Fearrington Kathy Brommage, CFP®

190 Chatham Downs Drive Suite 103 919-960-6119

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Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

U.S. CONSTITUTION N.C. legislators push for 28th Constitution amendment

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

A group of North Carolina lawmakers, led



Foushee

bly to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution during the 2021 session.

Assem-

Foushee (D-Dist. 23) whose district includes Chatham and Orange counties — plans to sponsor a bill in the N.C. Senate to ratify the ERA as she has in previous sessions. She hosted a press conference last Thursday, along with other legislators and ERA supporters, to promote their objective.

Last year, the proposal was submitted as SB184 which would have "ratifie(d) the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution," according to the bill's digest. It further required "that the Governor forward certified copies of the act and its preamble to the Administrator of General Services, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of the US Congress.'

Bills which have not been passed into law expire at the end of legislative sessions, but this year's version is likely to reflect the same or similar language.

In past years, the Republican-dominant General Assembly has rejected calls for ratification. But Foushee hopes events of recent months will inspire a new

support of the ERA. "I am excited to be

here with my colleagues and other advocates," Foushee said, "hoping that the third time, at least in my tenure, is the charm."

The ERA has been under consideration much longer than any current legislator has served, though. The amendment was first introduced to Congress in 1923 by suffragists eager to legalize equal rights for all U.S. citizens regardless of sex. It would take almost 50 years for Congress to pass the ERA, thereby submitting it for the next step in the amendment process ratification by states.

At least three-fourths of the country's states, or 38, must ratify a proposed amendment for it to be adopted into the U.S. Constitution. Congress twice provided deadlines by which the states could ratify the amendment, 1979 and 1982, but only 35 supported the ERA within the time limit.

Under Republican-led Congresses, the ERA has faced regular opposition.

"Now that we have Democratic control of the White House and Congress," Foushee said, "I am even more sure that we will make really significant progress on the ERA this year. It's really exciting.

Passage of the ERA, Foushee said, would "guarantee equal pay, equal access and equal opportunity to everyone."

"Our nation was founded on the principle that all, not just men, are created equal," she added.

Opposers to ratification of the ERA argue that laws have already been created to ensure equal

bipartisan contingency in rights between men and women, thereby rendering a constitutional amendment redundant and unnecessary.

In response, Foushee argues that equality must be indelibly protected in the nation's post powerful document — its Constitution — to guarantee that future lawmakers are unable to revise the country's stance.

"We know that laws can be subject to political whims," Foushee said, "that they can be changed, weakened or repealed. It is imperative at this time that these rights are enshrined without expiration dates, that (they) don't have to be reauthorized annually. Now is the time for our state and federal constitution to reflect and protect the rights of women."

Events of the past summer. when equal-rights advocates demanded nationwide reckoning, have spotlighted legislative efforts to adopt the ERA, and Kamala Harris' inauguration as vice president last week has signaled to ERA-advocates that the country's political bent may finally be amendable to change.

"(Last Wednesday's) inauguration was historic on several fronts. Of paramount importance was the swearing in of the nation's first woman vice president," Foushee said, "evidence that women are breaking barriers and cracking ceilings glass and otherwise - contributing to the progress, prosperity and the preservation of the principles that make this a great nation, that our faces are more present in more spaces and places than ever before.

But such progress,

Foushee and her colleagues argue, only emphasizes a glaring lack of protection under law.

"We recently made history when we inaugurated the first female vice president of the United States, a momentous occasion, but also an ironic one," Lori Bunton, co-president of the ERA-NC Alliance, said at the press conference. "The person holding the second-highest office in the land is not fully represented in our country's most sacred document, the U.S. Constitution."

Whether it is of legal consequence for states such as North Carolina to ratify the ERA, though, is the subject of some debate.

Since the Equal Rights Amendment failed to meet Congress' 1982 deadline extension, three additional states have ratified the ERA, ostensibly fulfilling the 38-state minimum requirement. Opposers, however, argue that passed-deadline ratifications are ineligible for consideration in Congress.

Also, five states — Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, Tennessee, and South Dakota — originally voted to ratify the ERA, but have since revoked their ratifications. It remains legally unclear, though, whether states have the autonomy to rescind ratifications.

To Foushee, such arguments are moot. She believes Congress has the necessary support to move forward with the ERA's adoption into the Constitution. Still, it's important to her that North Carolina continuing with ratification of the amendment. "For me," she said,

"passage of this proposed

What is the ERA?

The Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was first introduced to Congress in 1923, three years after women achieved the right to vote. Suffragists, encouraged by their recent success, hoped for the proposed amendment's quick passage. Nearly half a century later, it was still unapproved.

In 1971, revitalized by the women's movement of the 1960s, the ERA garnered fresh attention. By 1972, both the House and Senate had approved the proposal and ushered in the next step state ratification.

For a proposed amendment to take effect, at least three-quarters of the country's states must ratify it. Congress originally allowed seven years for the states to consider the ERA. Wide bipartisan support forecast the amendment's imminent ratification until a counter movement, spurred on by conservative Missourian Phyllis Schlafly, derailed progress. Only 35 states out of the required 38 ratified by 1979. Congress extended the deadline to 1982, but no additional states ratified.

Nevada, Illinois and Virginia have ratified the ERA in recent months, bringing the total to 38, but experts disagree as to whether the ratifications are valid having come after Congress' deadline.

- D. Lars Dolder

legislation and the subsequent ratification of this amendment will signal bipartisan agreement that as North Carolinians and as Americans we believe in equal rights for all."

If the ERA is adopted, it will be the 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It states: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Congress shall have the power to enforce, by

appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article," it continues. Upon adoption, "this amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.'

"Truly it is time," Foushee said, "I would say past time, to move forward in ensuring equal rights for women in this great state and in our nation."

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

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM What Chatham County businesses got the biggest payments in Round 1?

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

With a recently announced extension of the Paycheck Protection Program to roll out \$284 billion in relief funds to businesses hard hit by the ongoing pandemic, the News + Record is looking back at the county's biggest recipients from round one. Through the summer months, North Carolina received about \$17 billion through the forgivable loan program established by the CARES Act — the largest economic stimulus package in U.S. history. Of that, more than \$55 million went to Chatham

County businesses. But much of the program's distribution was shrouded in mystery. The federal government sparked outcry from

loan amounts for the program's largest beneficiaries and the names of companies that received \$150,000 or less.

Since then, organi-

Siler City

Siler City businesses received \$16.99 million from the first round of PPP. Out of 440 recipients, the aver-

Inc. - \$233,000

10. Chaudhry Meat Company Inc. — \$223,130

Chatham Media Group LLC, the owner of the Chatham News + ReGoldston

\$2.88 million was distributed to 46 Goldston businesses. Recipients averaged \$62,714 in relief funds.

media outlets nation wide when a limited public data set chronicling dispensation of PPP funds was incomplete and riddled with errors.

In December, following a successful Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by a coalition of media organizations including The Washington Post, the U.S. Small Business Administration released nationwide data on the PPP including exact



For a complete list of available records, visit the SBA's website or https://covidbailouttracker.com/.

Here are Chatham County's biggest recipients, sorted by town, according to the website data:

age payment was \$38,618. 1. Brookwood Farms Inc.

- \$1.3 million 2. Lazar Industries LLC

\$634,200

3. Basic Machinery Company Inc. - \$528,600 4. Carolina Wood Enterprises Inc. — \$385,700 5. Sunrise Home Care Inc. - \$368,930 6. Caniness Farms Grading Inc. — \$326,000 7. International Precast Inc. — \$322,740 8. Eric Pugh Concrete LLC - \$257,400 9. Boyd Manufacturing

cord, based in Siler City, received \$60,713.81.

Pittsboro

In Pittsboro, 933 PPP applicants received a total of \$29.37 million. The average payment was \$31,484. 1. Fitch Creations Inc. \$1.37 million 2. Purdy LLC \$939,400 3. Fleece Performance Engineering Inc. -\$445,200 4. CBGP Sub LLC -\$417,805 \$385,975 6. Reme LLC — \$378,300 7. I & CMS LLC -\$370,485 8. Quantum General Contractors Inc. \$353.187 9. Ye Olde Meat Shoppe LLC — \$262,197 10. L & AMP; L Erectors Inc. — \$232,058

Moncure

An average of \$46,190 was distributed between 86 recipients in Moncure \$3.97 million total. 1. Southern Veneer Specialty Products LLC \$1.42 million 2. Elkins Sawmill Inc. \$426,600 3. Cade Inc. — \$261,000 4. Chimneys Plus Inc. \$223,000 5. A Fair Service Company - \$150,000 6. Dennis Services Inc. \$150,000 7. William R. Foushee \$110,300 8. A Fair Service Company - \$106,400 9. Chatham RV Park Inc. — \$104,300 10. Cabinet Creations Inc. \$82,700

1. INO-VATE Group $\rm LLC \,{--}\,\$1.48\,million$ 2. Gaines Oil Co. \$275,329 3. Sanford Steel Corporation - \$255,100 4. INO-VATE Group LLC — \$150,000 5. GP Mechanical Contractors Inc. \$126,203 6. Shri Umiyamataji Inc. -- \$83,500 7. United Fire & Safety Equipment Co. Inc. \$66,100 8. Kristy Oldham — \$47,200 9. Goldston Lumber Inc. — \$46,200 10. Tree of Knowledge Daycare Center LLC -\$30,600

Bear Creek

Between 56 recipients in Bear Creek, \$2.68 million was dispensed, averaging \$47,863 per business. 1. Wilson Brothers Mill Co. Inc. — \$817,300 2. J-Rod Rebar LLC \$420,062 3. Bear Creek Fabrication LLC — \$254,100 4. Scott & Associates Inc. — \$189,800 5. Wilson Poultry LLC - \$150,000 6. T&L Transportation - \$132,500 7. Earthtec of N.C. Inc. - \$114,000 8. Campbell Paint & Body Inc. — \$61,900 9. Camco Transport Inc. - \$51,700 10. Brewers Grocery Inc. -- \$48,400 Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at

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dldolder.



This Community ROCKS!

Abundance NC is matching folks in need during this Covid-19 period with volunteers and locals that have time and resources. Here is a recap of what **YOU** have accomplished since the pandemic started:



To DONATE:





• Approximately 100 able + generous community members have bought & delivered groceries and paid utility bills directly for about 100 families in need, sometimes repeatedly. \sim \$20,000

- Abundance NC has raised \$16,000 and paid \$11,000 worth of utility bills.
- You have avoided evictions several times by pooling in money to cover unpaid rent due to lack of work or reduced hours due to the pandemic.
- You have avoided disconnection of utilities and helped people get their utilities reinstated for about half a dozen families.
- We have connected approximately 50 families with other community resources available.
- We have been able to cover Abundance NC staff time to run this Neighbor2Neighbor program! !!

Thank YOU!

Much LOVE and BLESSINGS from the families YOU help! This is community resilience! !!

OBITUARIES

LARRY BROOKS COLEMAN

Larry Brooks Coleman, 82, of Sanford, died Friday, January 22, 2021, at First Health Moore Regional in Pinehurst.

A funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at Olivia Presbyterian Church with Rev. George Walton presiding. The family received friends from 2 p.m, until the funeral hour prior to the service at the church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Larry was born in Lee County, to the late Arthur John and Daisy Graham Coleman. He was the retired owner and operator of Green Valley Florist for several years. Larry was preceded in death by his sister, Daphene Thomas; brothers, Thomas Lee, A. J., and Charles Coleman.

He is survived by his wife Barbara O'Quinn Coleman of the home.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

ALVAH MELVIN UPCHURCH

Alvah Melvin Upchurch, 86, passed away at his home on Thursday, January 21, 2021.

Melvin will lie-in-state for friends to pay their respects, at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home on Saturday, January 23, 2021, from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. A visitation will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. at Lemon Springs Baptist Church Cemetery with the graveside service following at 2 with Rev. Andy Foley officiating.

He was born in Lee County to K.U. and Sulu Campbell Upchurch on February 10, 1934. Both parents are deceased. Melvin went to Greenwood School. He served in the U.S. Army where he was stationed in Alaska during the Korean Conflict. Melvin was a member of Lemon Springs Baptist Church and worked in Lee County law enforcement where he served as Police Sergeant, Lee County Deputy and Sergeant for many years. He was preceded in death by his adult sons, Travis Michael and Alvah Mark, a grandson; infants, Lisa and Scott Upchurch; brothers, Ireland, Waylon, Wyatt, Arliss and sister, Doris Sanders.

He is survived by his wife, Meta Morgan Upchurch of 63 years; two granddaughters, two great-grandsons; and a brother, Avron Upchurch of Sanford.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

FLOYD JACKSON 'JACK' BOLING, JR.



Floyd Jackson "Jack" Boling Jr. died January 21, 2021. He fought bravely to survive until his family was all able to say goodbye. He was 88 years old and had a long, happy life.

Jack was born in Chatham County, N.C., on August 20, 1932, and raised in Siler City, N.C., to parents, Emily Jennings and Floyd Jackson Boling Sr. and has two sisters, Emily Grace White and Elizabeth Strand. He attended Siler City High School

and graduated from Fishburne Military School. He received a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Duke University and returned to Siler City to work tirelessly at the Boling Chair Company, becoming President at age 33. With company plant locations in Siler City, Liberty and Mt. Olive, N.C., Jack enjoyed exercising his private pilot's license to visit the operations and employees in each town.

Jack lived by the Golden Rule and applied its principle in life and all business dealings at the Boling Chair Company — with suppliers, with employees, and with customers.

He was active in his community as a volunteer fireman and was a member of several organizations including the Rotary Club of Siler City, serving as past president and becoming a Paul Harris Fellow; and Siler City Chamber of Commerce, serving as past president. He was a member of the Siler City Masonic Lodge #403 and also a member of the Scottish Rite, and was a Shriner. He was a member of several boards: Siler City Library, Siler City Airport, former First Union Bank, Chatham Hospital Board of Trustees executive committee and Sprint Mid-Atlantic. He was named Small Businessman of the Year in N.C. by the North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry. He was also past president of the Government in Business Council of North Carolina.

After years of living in Siler City, Jack moved to Uwharrie Point and lived on Badin Lake. He continued being active in the community serving on boards at Uwharrie Point and was the past president of the UPCA. He contributed to various agencies such as Hospice of Montgomery County.

Jack was also proud to have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. In 1947 he attended the 6th World Scout Jamboree held in Moisson, France — the first after World War II. He also served honorably in the United States Army, achieving the rank of Corporal. He was stationed at White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico, working on the initial phases of the Military Missile Projects.

In addition to loving his community and family, he loved grilling his famous "FJB burgers" and watching Duke sports — especially when Duke beat Carolina. He was a loyal Duke fan.

Jack enjoyed several hobbies, many of which centered around family and friends. He loved growing many varieties of roses and sharing them with friends. His love of golf earned him two holes-in-one. Most of all he loved antiquing with his wife, Joan.

Jack is survived by his wife of 66 years, Joan; his four children, son Jackie Boling (Wanda) of Siler City, Susan Reece (Buddy) of Uwharrie Point, Ann Langer (Steve) of Lafayette, Colorado, and Sarah Bouchelle (Dave) of Suwanee, Georgia; his six grandchildren, Gardner Reece (Angela) of Winston-Salem, Miles Boling (Miranda) of Siler City, Jamie Safulko (Andy) of Englewood, Colorado, Ian Langer of Seattle, Washington, and Anna and Mia Bouchelle of Suwanee, Georgia; and his three great-grandchildren, Clara and Evan Jackson Reece, Merritt Boling, and Baby Boy Boling due in February, who will carry on the Boling family name.

He loved his grandchildren and great-grandchildren more than anything. He was very proud of his family as they were of him. He will be missed by all who loved and knew him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 1578, Albemarle, N.C. 28002 or a charity of one's choice.

Smith & Buckner funeral home is assisting the Boling family.

CAROLINE BOYD STOTT



Caroline Boyd Stott, 83, of the Twin Lakes Retirement Community, Burlington, N.C., claimed her citizenship in heaven on January 20, 2021. She was the daughter of Albert Clinton Boyd and Helen Bobbitt Boyd, both deceased.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Elbert Russell Stott of the home; her daughter, Sandra Stott Benavides of Durham; her son, David Dawson Stott (wife Carol) of Lexington; grandchildren, Daniel Antonio

Benavides of Cary, Nicolas Cyrus Benavides of New Haven, CT, Ashley Stott Streich (husband Eric) of High Point, David Dawson Stott Jr. of Memphis, Tennessee; and niece, Gretchen Marie Boyd of Charlotte.

She was a graduate of Rock Hill High School, Rock Hill, S.C., and Pfeiffer College, Misenheimer, N.C. She spent her professional life in education, 32 years in N.C., in exceptional children services, the last 26 years in Chatham County, N.C. During her husband's graduate studies, she worked as a para-medical, and earned her own PHT degree, Putting Hubby Through. She was very active in the United Methodist Churches served by her husband, and notably supportive of his ministry. For the past eight plus years she was active in First UMC Elon.

She was a devoted wife, a loving and wise mother and grandmother. She cared for the wellbeing of all she knew, writing many letters, specially known for her thank you, congratulatory and sympathy notes. She was particularly fond of organizing, being prepared for whatever was on the horizon. She wrote part of this piece a year ago.

Final plans for her belated birthday party and going home service cannot be completed at this time, but will be announced later.

Any memorial gifts can be sent to the Residents' Assistance Fund, Twin Lakes Community, 3815 Wade Coble Drive, Burlington, N.C. 27215, or to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, First UMC Elon, 1630 Westbrook Ave., Elon, N.C. 27244.

Condolences may be shared at CremationSocietyNC.com.

KATHRYN WILSON CREASON



Kathryn Wilson Creason of Pittsboro, N.C. died peacefully at home on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at the age of 74.

Kathryn was born in Miami, Florida, on September 2, 1946, to the late Paul Wilson and Katherine Wilson. She received her bachelor's degree at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and master's degree in library science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her love of books led to a long-time

career with Wake County Public Libraries as a reference librarian with exceptional knowledge of Southern fiction.

Following retirement, she became an active volunteer with the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, publishing their newsletter until her decline. She also became a passionate quilter, forming close friendships and loving memories with her circle of quilters and providing family with treasured keepsakes. Surviving family includes her husband, John Paul Creason; two daughters, Jennifer Doggett and husband Martin Doggett III of Greensboro, Jennifer Creason of Jacksonville, Florida; one son, John Kyle Creason and wife Maria Hummel of Burlington, Vermont; and five grandchildren, Olivia Creason, Yakez Doggett, Jasmine Doggett, Bowie Creason, and Bruce Creason.

No formal memorial service is planned at this time due to COVID-19. We know friends will keep her in their thoughts and prayers.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for memorial contributions be made in Kathryn's memory to the Chatham Community Library, 197 N.C. Hwy. 87 North, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312. Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com. Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Creason family.

www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

PAULINE MARIE BLALOCK

Pauline Marie Blalock, 74, passed away on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at Westfield Rehabilitation and Health Center in Sanford.

There was a private memorial service on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at Smith-Buckner Funeral Home with Rev. David Hicks officiating

Mrs. Blalock was born November 23, 1946, in Chatham County. A member of Rock Hill Friends Church, she enjoyed teaching Sunday school, Bible school and youth group. In later years, she attended the Church of God of Prophecy in Sanford. She was a Certified Nursing Assistant. Pauline was preceded in death by her mother, Frances Blalock Oldham

She is survived by her children, David Boone of Randleman and Tammy Cockman of Camden, S.C.; two grandchildren; siblings, Larry Blalock of Biscoe, Marie Vasgar of Troy, Janice Cox of Bear Creek, Donna Caviness of Robbins, Donald Oldham of Robbins, and Martha Kidd of Bennett.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Rock Hill Friends Church, 148 Rock Hill Church Road, Eagle Springs, N.C. 27242.

Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneralhome.com.

FREDEMAN ANDERSON MENDOZA RODRIGUEZ

Fredeman Anderson Mendoza Rodriguez, 53, of Raleigh passed away on Sunday, January 17, 2021, at SECU Jim Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC in Pittsboro.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Chapel Hill. home.com.

SHIRLEY JEAN PITTMAN MOSLEY

Shirley Jean Pittman Mosley, 85, of Siler City passed away on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at Genesis Healthcare, Siler City.

Mrs. Mosley was born in Lumberton, N.C., on May 24, 1935, the daughter of Leroy Pittman Sr. and Elizabeth Caviness. Shirley attended the First United Methodist Church in her earlier years, later attending Hickory Mountain Baptist Church. She loved spending her time reading and watching soap operas. Shirley was always laughing. She worked as an LPN at Chatham Hospital in the ma-

ternity unit, High Point Hospital and Siler City Center. Shirley was a believer of God and family. She cherished her time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Shirley loved her dog "Scooter." In addition to her parents, Shirley was preceded in death by her husband, Richard D. Johnson, infant son, Richard Keith Johnson and her brother, Leroy Pittman Jr.

She is survived by her daughter, Beth Johnson Overman and husband Chuck of Siler City; sister, Patsy Pittman of Hope Mills; grandchildren, Chuck Overman and wife Courtney, Angel Marsh and husband Jon; great grandchildren, Ava and Piper Overman, Layla, Gabriel and Lily Marsh.

A graveside service was held on Friday, January 22, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Oakwood Cemetery, N. Chatham Ave., Siler City with Rev. Val Chadwick officiating.

Memorials may be made to Hickory Mountain Baptist Church Fuel Up Program, 1094 Mt. Vernon-Hickory Mountain Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Mosley family. Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneralhome.com.

OTTAWAY CARROLL 'O. CARROLL' BUCKNER



Ottaway Carroll Buckner, "O. Carroll," 84, of Siler City passed away on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at his home in Siler City.

Mr. Buckner was born in Chatham County on Sepember 20, 1936, the son of Zeno Ottaway and Lillian Pegg Buckner. He was a member of Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church, and he spent his working years as a truck driver. An assistant Fire Chief from 1974 to 1981, he retired from the Silk Hope Fire Department. He enjoyed going to the

beach, fishing, gardening and working in the yard. O. Carroll enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, O. Carroll is preceded in death by his brother Robert Earl Buckner.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carolyn Clark Buckner; daughter, Kim Campbell and husband Scott of Apex; son, Danny Buckner and wife Cindy of Thomasville; grandchildren, Brandon Buckner and wife Ashley of Thomasville, Adam Buckner and wife Natalie of High Point, Austin Campbell of Morrisville; and four great-grandchildren, Olivia, Kaylee, Zane and Jolene.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, January 23, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church Cemetery, 3631 Mt. Vernon Hickory Mountain Rd., Siler City, with Rev. Jerry Johnson and Ricky Lindley officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Silk Hope Fire Department or the Mt. Vernon UMC Cemetery Fund.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Buckner family. Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneralhome.com.

CECIL WOODARD, JR. Cecil Woodard Jr. 68, of JESSIE BERNADINE CARROLL DAVIS

Broadway, passed away on Thursday, January 14, 2020, at UNC Hospital in Chapel HIII. He graduated from the former Benhaven High School.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, January 22, 2021, at Cameron Grove A.M.E. Zion Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Jessie Bernadine Carroll Davis, 92, passed away on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at Community Hospice in Lillington.

Funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at First Calvary Baptist Church, with burial following inn Lee Memory Garden.

See OBITUARIES, page A11



CRAYTON

Continued from page A1

Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City, a position he's held since 2015. Over the last 10 months, he's headed the school's efforts to adapt to challenges brought by remote learning — particularly the number of J-M students without reliable broadband. He was named the CCS 2020 Principal of the Year and is in his 26th year as an educator.

"After much reflection and thought, I sought the opportunity to become principal of the new high school to fulfill a goal I have desired over time," Crayton said, quoted in the district's release. "My experiences prior to coming to Jordan-Matthews, as well as my experiences there, will help guide me in building the foundation of the new school. It has been an honor working at Jordan-Matthews.'

Construction on the new school began about two years ago, with the design beginning another two years before that. On a tour of the nearly completed school, CCS Chief Operations Officer Chris Blice told the News + Record furniture deliveries will start happening in April or May, to open to students for the fall 2021 semester.

"I remember when it was literally just dirt," said CCS Public Relations Coordinator John McCann on that tour.

This past fall, there was some public controversy regarding Seaforth's attendance zone, with parents and community members worried the Scenario 3 attendance zone chosen by the CCS Board of Education clustered affluence at Seaforth The board and district have both maintained that it paid close attention to demographic balancing and income distribution when creating the new zone - something Blice emphasized on the tour as well. He stressed that while Seaforth is a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility, the district is committed to updating and investing in all of its buildings. The only feature Seaforth has that the other



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Seaforth High School is set to open next fall to 9th and 10th graders and is 98% complete. The \$74.8 million project is the first high school built in the district since 1972. Pictured here is the front of the school.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Construction is still taking place outside the building, on the school's retention pond.

high schools don't have, he said, is an auxillary gym.

"This is going to be a really good school," he said. "We're going to have four great schools, but we already have three, and they're in great shape and they're beautiful and constantly renovated ... if you looked at Northwood in 1972, and look at Northwood today, you'd swear they were two different buildings — you really would."

As Crayton's Feb. 15 start date approaches, he'll begin making decisions regarding staffing and building usage, even before it's completely finished.

On social media, several people congratulated Crayton on

the move from J-M to Seaforth. 'The JM family bids a warm

farewell to Principal Crayton," the Jordan-Matthews HS account tweeted last Thursday. "Thanks for piloting us to new heights and safe landings, and we wish you all the best in your new adventure!"

"We know it's hard for Principal Crayton to leave and just as difficult for us to say goodbye," the J-M Arts account added. "He has been a champion of the arts and completely supportive of our work. We know he's looking forward to the challenge of opening a new school and wish him the very best.' The interim principal at

The school's gvm will seat the entire student body and goals



The school is set to eventually support 1,200 students,

courtyard, with a large red and silver "S" built into the concrete. All the windows facing the courtyard are sound

resistant with curtains - to prevent distractions during

classes — and are reflective from the outside looking in

with a 1,400 core capacity. Pictured here is the school's

Staff photo by Kim Hawk

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

more, and features push-button bleachers and basketball



The auditorium seats 1/3 of the student body, and features an upper-floor tech space, as well as a handicap elevator and professional stage flooring for dancing and production.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Feb. 1 — stepping inside the building for a regular school day for the first time since last March. The second semester of classes began last Thursday.

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

PLAN C

Continued from page A1

"We thank you for pushing back the start of Plan B for high school during this dangerous time of the COVID pandemic. And we thank the school board for taking into account the concerns of teachers," the letter said. "But we are still gravely concerned about the safety of our communities and would like to reiterate our support for a return to Plan C.' CCS board members had not replied to the letter at the time of publication, but board chairperson Gary Leonard told the News + Record that administration was working through some of the questions mentioned in it. He said he holds CCS staff "in the highest regard," particularly as a retired teacher. "I know how hard their jobs are, and with COVID it's even harder, and I understand the angst that's involved," he said. "When I say that, it sounds like I don't care. No. I want everybody to know that we're trying to do our best to provide the safest atmosphere, for our students and our staff, as possible."

percent said K-5 should continue Plan B, grades 6-8 should return to Plan C and grades 9-12 should remain in Plan C. Another 12.7% said the district should continue its transition to Plan B.

Several CCS employees told the News + Record they were concerned about the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the state and county, the lack of data on high schools operating under Plan B and returning before receiving their vaccinations. County and state health officials have previously said school employees should get their vaccine over the next weeks to months. "Teachers are ready to come back when it's safe, and we want to come back when it's safe," said Northwood science teacher Edward Walgate, who spearheaded the writing of the letter. "After talking to a lot of elementary and middle school teachers and parents who have kids in Plan B, it seems like a really stripped down version of classroom learning, missing out on all the good stuff — the one-on-one over-the shoulder-help, the group work, the hands-on stuff and large classroom discussions. "So we're getting two days a week of very austere learning for a lot of risk," he added. "For me, and for a lot of teachers, it seems like the risk-benefit-ratio is a little high.' Of the staff surveyed for the letter, 35 respondents said they were like ly or very likely to "take medical leave, resign, or retire early and no longer report to the building daily" if the district continued the transition to Plan B. Already, the letter said 54 CCS staff members have retired or resigned since September 2020, according to personnel info released in school board minutes. Leonard said the CCS

human resources staff has worked hard to balance giving staff options with providing "the best possible education."

"Unfortunately, this stuff is just so hard," he said. "We've had teachers who have come back to us after each grade span, after 3rd-5th and 6th-8th, and when (staff) saw the protocols going on, they left that the safety protocols helped them and reassured them. But I do understand that we do have people that do not feel reassured. We're trying everything we possibly can to provide a quality education for our students.² At the BOE's Sept. 23 meeting, concern over CCS employees' feelings of readiness to return to in-person instruction was discussed by the board, where they referenced a district-wide survey from that month. Results showed nearly 30% of respondents felt comfortable returning to in-person learning; 41% did not feel comfortable and 30% said they were unsure. That survey had about 1,050 responses, the district said at the time, or an 80% participation rate.

with Duke, UNC and surrounding school districts, including CCS.

Michael Smith, who presented ABC Science Collaborative's findings at the January meeting, emphasized that the group found schools are safe to remain open when the three W's are followed, under Plan B and Plan A. However, ne did say the group had less data for Plan A, and he said he could not speak to what the data showed specific to high schools without further review. "Teachers are particularly concerned about big differences between high school students and elementary students," the letter said, referencing the ABC Collaborative's data. "The study did not break down infection rates of different age children. We are highly anxious about the movement of high schoolers in the building, their socializing outside of school, and their compliance with safety procedures." Several teachers the News + Record spoke with expressed concern about eating lunch with their students in their classrooms, including Walgate, who added that several factors of the high school schedule caused safety concerns. "A lot of it does, because it's just so untested," he said of his concerns. "I've got faith in my school, my administration here at school, they're putting a lot of plans in place. But again, it's untested with high schoolers — that's my main concern.' The main concerns regarding Plan B among staff surveyed for the letter included sharing a room with students while they were eating, staffing shortages, personal safety and enforcing mask-wearing and social distancing. And while returning to in-person learning to improve outcomes for

students has been a driver of COVID-19 discussions, many teachers worried about meeting the needs of students at home — saying that helping and teaching remote students would be nearly impossible with in-person students in front of them, too.

Walgate said he plans to keep teaching, even if Plan B continues as scheduled. Still, he said it's been painful to see and hear of other teachers leaving. Just the week before, he'd watched a "really good teacher" and colleague wheel her personal belongings out of the building after resigning for health reasons. At neighboring Wake County Schools, a staffing shortage led its BOE to implement a two-week pause on in-person learning, extended to at least mid-February on Jan. 14. The CCS staff letter expressed concern over the district's position vacancies, substitute shortages and "higher likelihood of staff calling out sick," saying staffing issues would be inevitable if Plan B is implemented. Eliza Brinkley, a Northwood English teacher who signed the letter, said she thinks much of the frustration she and her colleagues feel goes back to the "systemic underappreciation of teachers.' "Trying to figure out yet again another completely new platform of teaching within one year is just daunting," she said. "And if we weren't so concerned about the spread and the rising cases, and this new variant that's on the horizon, I think then we would do it, right, because we'll do what we have to do for our students. Our main point is: this is our workplace. If we were at a corporate company or another profession, I don't know that we necessarily would be asked to risk our health, possibly.'

WHAT DO THE **PLANS MEAN?**

PLAN C: fully remote, at-home model

PLAN B: hybrid remote/in-person model which typically involves



Jordan-Matthews will be

Donna Barger, an educator for

pals for the past five and a half

years. That transition will take

weeks after students return to

in-person hybrid learning on

24 years, who has been one of

the school's assistant princi-

place a little more than two

'The risk-benefit-ratio is a little high'

The staff letter included data and comments from a survey conducted by the letter's organizers the previous week - completed by more than 140 county staff at the time of publication, with respondents from all of the district's high schools.

Out of those who responded, 46.5% of staff members said CCS should proceed by moving all schools back to Plan C, while another 21.8% said K-8 should continue on Plan B and 9th-12th grades should remain in Plan C. Twelve

'I think those numbers are really glaring," board member David Hamm said at the meeting.

As of Tuesday, the district reported 55 total positive COVID-19 cases among students and 55 among staff since the partial return to Plan B on Oct. 19. There have been 67 total cases among staff since Aug. 17, the first day of school. No clusters have been identified within the district.

'It's just so untested'

During the board's Jan. 11 meeting, board members queried the ABC Science Collaborative on its data specific to high school students, a move staff commended in its letter. ABC Science Collaborative is a project that analyzes COVID-19-related data in partnership

two groups of students rotating between inperson and remote learning

PLAN A: all

students are inperson (this plan is currently only available to N.C. elementary public schools)

When the News + Record posted its update of the BOE's decision to move the in-person start date for high schools to Feb. 1 on Facebook, some commenters suggested teachers were lazy or pampered for not wishing to return.

Walgate and Brinkley both referenced such hurtful comments which they've both seen and heard in the community — saying people don't understand all the work that goes into teaching, particularly during a pandemic. Teachers and administrators have previously told the News + Record their workload has increased dramatical ly during remote learning, which will continue even as hybrid learning is implemented.

Walgate added that teachers bear a lot of the brunt of the myriad services schools provide for students and families.

"And we ask that our health and safety concerns, not just of us but of our households, would be respected," he said.

Reporter Hannah Mc-Clellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com.

CHURCH NEWS

MARTHA'S CHAPEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH - CANCELATION

Martha's Chapel Christian Church has cancelled its Gospel Singing set for the evening of Saturday, January 30 due to the ongoing risks of COVID-19 exposures.

Our next scheduled Gospel Singing will be on May 29 at 7 p.m., if all goes well. If you have questions, contact the church at 919-363-1000.

HOLLAND CHAPEL CHURCH

Continue to watch Holland Chapel AME Zion Church services by way of YouTube, Facebook and church website: https://hollandchapelamez.org, Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. For more information, call the church office at 919-362-7831.

MAYS CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

A new sermon series, "God Wins," a line-by-line explanatory look at the book of Revelation, will be held at Mays Chapel Baptist Church each Sunday at 10 a.m. with an outdoor drive-in service. Social distancing and mask-wearing practiced. Pastor Gregory Lamb preaches from the porch of the church with services transmitted over the radio so you can hear the service while running the car's heater as needed.

The church is located at 24 Rosser Rd. in Bear Creek, 8 miles from the Pittsboro traffic circle.

CARD OF THANKS

The family of William "Bud" Price wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the numerous expressions of love, concerns and kindness

shown to them during this time of bereavement. Callie Price and The Price Family

NEWS BREIFS

School board seeks input on superintendent hiring

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Education has launched a survey seeking input on the characteristics, experience and skills desired in the district's next superintendent. Board members want to hear from students, parents and community members. The survey is available in English and Spanish.

Survey responses are due by Feb. 19. The North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) will compile and present the results March 8 during the 5:30 p.m. Board of Education meeting. The NCSBA is helping to facilitate the Board of Education's superintendent search process.

Chatham County Schools employees will receive a separate survey.

Local groups and organizations may submit written statements regarding the leadership qualities they would like to see in the next superintendent. Those statements should be mailed to: NCSBA, Attn: CCS Superintendent Search, 7208 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 301, Raleigh, NC 27615; or emailed to jorourke@ncsba.org. The deadline to submit statements is Feb. 19.

The board of education invites community members and staff to participate in sessions for public comment during its 5:30 p.m. meetings on Feb. 8 and March 8. More information about the location of those sessions will be available on the Board of Education's webpage. All individuals and groups must sign up to speak before the meeting begins and must otherwise comply with applicable board policy.

Hispanic nonprofit offers free business seminar in Spanish to N.C.'s Hispanic business owners

entrepreneurs looking to establish or expand their businesses.

"In the last five years, Prospera has managed more than \$19 million in loans, invested more than \$600,000 in grants, trained more than 21,000 entrepreneurs and helped clients create or retain more than 8,000 jobs," the press release said in Spanish. "Its offices are located in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Central, South, and West Coast regions of Florida."

Prospera first expanded to North Carolina in 2017, when they established an office in Charlotte; since then, they've begun serving Hispanic entrepreneurs in Wake County and rural areas across the state.

More information can be found on Prospera's website at www.prosperausa.org.

Chatham Commissioners proclaim February 'We Love Seniors Month'

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners recognized the county's recent retirees and adopted a resolution proclaiming February 2021 as "We Love Seniors Month" at its regular session meeting last Tuesday.

"To all our employees: Chatham County would not be what it is without all of you," Chairperson Mike Dasher said after recognizing the retirees.

Vice Chairperson Diana Hales then read the board's resolution regarding seniors, which honored the work of the Chatham County Council on Aging and the perseverance of Chatham's older population — people 60 and older making up about a third of Chatham residents — in the face of COVID-19.

"February has traditionally been the month when the Chatham County Board of Commissioners has pro-

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



Prospera, a Florida-based Hispanic nonprofit, will offer a free, Spanish-language seminar about business grant programs to North Carolina's Hispanic small business owners on Feb. 4, according to a news release.

The hour-long seminar, which will start at 6 p.m., will discuss two grant programs offered by NC IDEA, a private, Durham-based foundation dedicated to supporting North Carolina's entrepreneurs and economic development. NC IDEA MICRO offers a \$10,000 project-based grant to entrepreneurs in the process of starting their businesses, while NC IDEA SEED offers a \$50,000 grant to young, existing startups looking to speed up their growth.

According to Prospera's press release, the seminar will outline the application process as well as the documents business owners need to apply to both programs; presenters will also highlight Prospera's own programs and services for Hispanic business owners. Interested business owners can access the seminar at https://buff. ly/39QNrkH. To register, business owners must call 980-729-8273 or send an email to contactNC@prosperausa.org.

Founded in 1991, Prospera is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing bilingual assistance to Hispanic claimed clearly and profoundly 'We Love Seniors,'" Hales read. "The year 2021 is no exception. In fact, this year we wish to say it even more emphatically."

Central Carolina Community College's Mark Hall, Chatham County provost, then provided an update on Chatham Promise, which provides two years of free tuition and required fees at CCCC to all eligible Chatham residents who graduate from a public high school, private school or home school 2019-22. Hall asked the board to accept the proposed changes to the MOU, two of which clarified changes in approach and one which was for administration purposes.

The board approved those changes, which clarified a two-year eligibility window and removed references allowing summer classes. Hall said last year Chatham Promise served 160 students, 140 of which completed their first year and around 60 returned — with others transferring.

The board also approved a consistency statement regarding a legislative request by 919 Storage LLC on Parcel No. 3080, located at 72 Marvin Edwards Lane, from R-2 Residential to Conditional Regional Business District (on approximately 7.93 acres out of the 17.64 acre tract) for self storage mini warehouse facility, William's Township.

-CN+R staff reports

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due to COVID-19?Have you been told to quarantine by a medical professional/job/school
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It your quarantine is over, you can apply at the following location.Fire Chosen Ministries
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10am-1pmPlease bring proof of address, positive test results or a medical/job/school
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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A8

FLETA ALSTON PRICE



Fleta Alston Price, 88, of Siler City, passed away on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at UNC, Hillsborough.

Mrs. Price was born in Chatham County on May 28, 1932, the daughter of Norman James and Fleta Scotton Alston. Fleta was a member of the Corinth AME Zion Church. She spent her working years as a school teacher. She loved her Parker. Fleta enjoyed sitting outside on her front porch and tending to the flowers in her garden. She loved getting to

spend time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. In addition to her parents, Fleta was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Parker Gene Price, and her nine brothers and sisters.

Mrs. Price is survived by her daughters, Fleta Knight of Sanford, Phyllis A. Martin of Silk Hope, Carrie Eaves of Siler City; sons, Torris Price Sr. of Siler City, and Eric Price of Fayetteville; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Fleta laid in repose from 12 to 5 p.m. on Friday, January 22, 2021, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. A graveside service was held on Saturday, January 23, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Corinth AME Zion Church Cemetery, Ross Ave., Siler City with Rev. Verlon O. Anderson, officiating.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Price family.

Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneralhome.com.

BOBBY GERALD PETTY

Bobby Gerald Petty, 61, passed away on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Funeral service was held at 11:30 a.m. at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

ROBERT BAUCOM

Robert Baucom, 78, of Sanford passed away on Monday, January 25, 2021, at his home.

Funeral services are entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

ERNEST MCLEAN

Ernest McLean, 71, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

MILDRED REBECCA (DOUGLAS) HILL

Mildred Rebecca (Douglas) Hill, 93, of Moncure, passed away on Monday, January 11, 2021, at her home.

Funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 23, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford with burial following a Liberty Chapel Church Cemetery.

DORIS BROWN LESLIE

Doris Brown Leslie, 84 of Broadway, passed away on Friday, January 21, 2021, at her home.

Graveside services were conducted at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Leaflet Presbyterian Church Cemetery with Rev. David Priddy officiating

She was born in Harnett County, daughter of the late Robert Lee Brown and Malynda Olive Thomas Brown, who preceded her in death, also, sisters, Peggy Matthews and Frances Sloan, her son, Vernon Gray Leslie Jr. and an infant son. Doris was a member of Leaflet Presbyterian Church and she was a member of the Boone Trail Auxiliary. She worked at Peggy's Seafood, Eagle Electric and for many years at Howard's BBQ in Lillington.

Survivors include her daughter, Frances Jackson of Broadway; a son, Richard Leslie of Broadway; and one grandson.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Boone Trail Auxiliary, c/o Shirley Bullard, 2370 Adcock Road, Lillington, N.C. 27546. Online condolences can be

made at www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com

LUCILLE WHITE PENNELL



Lucille White Pennell, 95, of Siler City passed away surrounded by loved ones on Friday, January 22, 2021, at her home.

Mrs. Pennell was born in Chatham County on April 28, 1925, the daughter of Atlas and Grace Harper White. Lucille was a member of Bonlee Baptist Church. She loved to walk and enjoyed spending as much time as she could with her family. Her favorite past time was watching game shows on the television. In addition

to her parents, Lucille is preceded in death by her husband, Coy Lee Pennell, son, Roy Lee Pennell, brothers, Layton and K.C. White, sister, Lidia "Pie" Malone and half-sister, Arburtis Page.

She is survived by her daughters, Regina P. VonCannon and Gloria Pennell; son, Ronnie Pennell; grandchildren, Shannon VonCannon and wife Karen, and Amber Gaines; half-brother, Nathaniel Murray Jr. and wife Betty; and her special friend, Bobbie Jo Dwiggins.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at Hope Cemetery at Bonlee Baptist Church, with Rev. David Hicks and Rev. Bob Lovette officiating. The family requests that you wear a mask if you are in attendance for the service.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Pennell family. Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneralhome.com.

ROSILIND VANESSA (GATTIS) HEADEN

Mrs. Rosilind Vanessa Headen. 61, of Hillsboro, passed away Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at her home.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Monday, January 25, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Pittsboro with burial following at Alston Chapel United Holy Church.

A former resident of Pitttboro, she leaves survivors, her father, Rev. Melvin W. Gattis of Raleigh; a brother, Pastor Kim L. Gattis of Wake Forest; sons, Nicholas DaTanion Headen of Raleigh, Quentin Thoms Headen of Hillsborough; a daughter, Karyn Trinnette Headen of Hillsboro; and three grandchildren.

HARRIET BRITNEY TAYLOR

Harriet Britney Taylor, 40, of Cameron, passed away on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. Services entrusted to Knotts

Funeral Home, Sanford.

JOSHUA MICHAEL TRACEY

Funeral Home

Joshua Michael Tracey, 40, of Sanford passed away Monday, January 18, 2021, at his home. Services entrusted to Knotts

BETTY MARGARET (DOUGLAS) LEWIS

Mrs. Betty Margaret (Douglas) Lewis, 82, of Sanford passed away on Friday, January 22, 2021, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

JULIA VICTORIA (SPRUIELL) GOLDSTON

Julia Victoria (Spruiell) Goldston. 71. passed away Wednesday. January 20, 2021, at her home.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Monday, January 25, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Pittsboro with burial following at Alston Chapel United Holy Church.

CALLIE BERNICE REIVES

Mrs. Callie Bernice Reives, 90, of Siler City passed away on Friday, January 22, 2021, at Genesis, Siler City Center.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

MARGARET VIRGINIA (HECK) MCGEE

Margaret Virginia (Heck) McGee, 88, passed away on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

Graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at Lee Memory Garden in Sanford.

ANNIE WILMER (JOHNSON) BENNETT

Mrs. Annie Wilmer Johnson Bennett, 93, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at her home.

Graveside services were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, January 23, 2021, at McQueen **Chapel United Methodist** Church.

JANICE RUTH HUSSEY COX

Janice Ruth Hussey Cox, 81, of Bennett, passed away on January 21, 2021, at Randolph Hospice House.

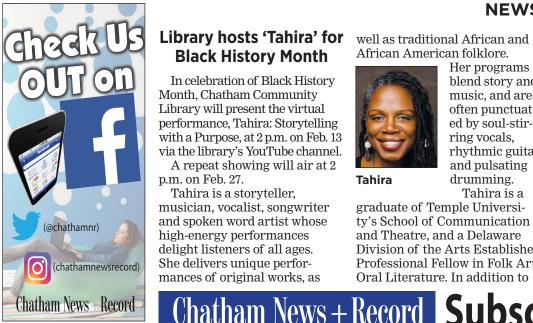
The graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at Bennett Baptist Church, with Rev. Adam Beddingfield presiding. Attendees were asked to wear masks and practice social distancing. The family is not receiving visitors at home.

Janice was born in Moore County on January 10, 1940, to Eldridge and Edith Sanders Hussey. She was a member of Bennett Baptist Church. She was the first female fixer at Ramseur Interlock, where she worked as a knitter/fixer for 30 years. In addition to her parents, Janice was preceded in death by husbands, Pete Thomas Beane and Robert F. Cox; sister, Kitty Ann; and one grandson.

She is survived by daughters, Jennie Beane Caviness of Bennett, Phyllis Beane Simmons of Coleridge, Beatrice Cox Kennedy of Bennett and Lisa Cox Jones; son, Toby Franklin Cox of Bennett; sisters, Bernice Reeder of Troy, Estelle Leach of Gold Hill, Judy Routh of Asheboro, and Dorothy Sibbett of Randleman; brothers, Harold Hussey of Robbins, Johnny Hussey of Eagle Springs, Danny Hussey of Indiana and Tim Hussey of Asheboro; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Randolph Hospice House, 446 Vision Drive, Asheboro, N.C. 27203

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



NEWS BRIEFS

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schools, libraries, and community organizations, Tanira has performed at World Café Live, the National Association of Black Storytellers Festival and Conference, and the internationally acclaimed festival, PANAFEST. An advocate of using the arts to bring about social change, Tahira believes that storytelling should inspire and educate. Her mission as an artist is "...to shed light in dark places to reveal the brilliance of the human spirit." Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is

also known as African-Amer-

Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, Chatham Community Library will present the virtual performance, Tahira: Storytelling with a Purpose, at 2 p.m. on Feb. 13 via the library's YouTube channel. A repeat showing will air at 2 p.m. on Feb. 27.

Tahira is a storyteller, musician, vocalist, songwriter and spoken word artist whose high-energy performances delight listeners of all ages. She delivers unique performances of original works, as

African American folklore.



Tahira

Her programs blend story and music, and are often punctuated by soul-stirring vocals, rhythmic guitar and pulsating drumming.

Tahira is a

graduate of Temple University's School of Communication and Theatre, and a Delaware Division of the Arts Established Professional Fellow in Folk Art: Oral Literature. In addition to

ican History Month. The celebration began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora.

Please contact the library at chathamlibrariesnc@gmail.com for additional information and to obtain a link to the performances.

This program is free and open to the public and is made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the Chatham Community Library.

-CN+R staff reports

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County vaccinates more than 400 against COVID-19 at drive-thru event

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Public Health Department (CCPHD) and several community partners worked together to vaccinate 407 individuals against COVID-19 on Monday at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro. The drive-thru mass vaccination clinic was the largest to date led by the Public Health Department, surpassing the 400 doses administered at a January 18th event in the same location.

Those served at the appointment-only event — healthcare personnel who have in-person patient contact and adults ages 65 and older, Groups 1 and 2 of North Carolina's vaccination prioritization guidance — received their first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine administered by CCPHD nurses. CCPHD staff, community volunteers and representatives from Chatham County Emergency Management, the Chatham County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, and Chatham County Sheriff's Office worked all day to set up the event, vaccinate residents and ensure everyone's safety.

The clinic involved a group of six different nurses administering the vaccine to individuals in their cars. All who received the vaccine had scheduled appointments at specific times, as is necessary given the limited number of doses available. Medical professionals were on hand to monitor individuals after they received the vaccine. Support staff and volunteers registered individuals, managed traffic, drew vaccine, and organized refreshments for workers.

"Staff and volunteers continue to work so hard together to get the Chatham community vaccinated against COVID-19," said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek. "Today's mass vaccination clinic was a success because of them, with clients getting in and out in around 30 minutes, even with the 15 minutes for medical monitoring after receiving the vaccine."

Individuals who received their first dose of the vaccine at this event were scheduled to receive their second dose in four weeks. Plans for future events are tentative depending on vaccine supply. The department has given more than 1,500 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with no doses wasted, by utilizing the available vaccine and drawing extra doses from vials when possible. CCPHD is expected to receive 200 first doses of the vaccine this week, while there are currently approximately 20,000 Chatham residents who are eligible to receive the vaccine.

The Public Health Department has received nearly 17,000 re-

quests from the public, including almost 11,000 from individuals in Groups 1 and 2, for the vaccine through its Vaccine Information Tool (www.chathamnc.org/vaccinetool). Those who have signed up will be contacted by email and/ or phone as appointments become available, but the CCPHD asks residents to please be patient due to the extremely limited supply of vaccine relative to the number who are eligible and to reach out to other options, including:

• UNC Health is offering the COVID-19 vaccination for individuals ages 65 and older, including at its site behind Chatham Hospital in Siler City (Medical Office Building) and nearby options such as Chapel Hill. Interested individuals should visit www. unchealthcare.org/schedule or call (984) 215-5485 to schedule an appointment when available.

• Duke Health, based in Durham, is also scheduling vaccinations when available. To learn more, visit https:// www.dukehealth.org/covid-19update/covid-19-vaccine-update or call (919) 385-0429.

For a full list of options in North Carolina, visit https:// covid19.ncdhhs.gov/findyourspot.

Residents should be aware that vaccine providers have limited supply and may not have appointments available.

"We will continue to work with our partners to get the vaccine to the Chatham community," added Zelek. "We are sorry that limited vaccine supply makes this process slower than we would all like, but we will continue to host these clinics as allocations allow and connect residents to additional options in and around Chatham County."

To learn more about how Chatham County is distributing the COVID-19 vaccine, visit chathamnc. org/coronavirusvaccine. The Chatham County Public Health Department can be found online at chathamnc.org/publichealth and facebook.com/chathamhealth.

ZELEK

Continued from page A1

vaccine as the NC DHHS prioritization criteria expanded to include adults ages 65 and older. We are unable to say at this time how long it will take to get through the current groups, as this will depend on our allocations, which vary from week to week. We know many are eager to get the vaccine, and we are eager to provide it to them. We are very sorry that the limited number of doses, as well as the uncertainty of allocations, causes frustration and confusion. That is why we are encouraging residents in the eligible groups to pursue all options for vaccination, including:

• UNC Health is offering the COVID-19 vaccination for individuals ages 65 and older, including at its site behind Chatham Hospital in Siler City (Medical Office Building) and nearby options such as Chapel Hill. Interested individuals can visit unchealthcare. org/schedule or call (984) 215-5485 to schedule an appointment when available.

• Duke Health, based in Durham, is also scheduling vaccinations when available. To learn more, visit dukehealth.org/ covid-19-update/covid-19-vaccine-update or call as smooth, effective and equitable as possible. Our Health Promotion & Policy team has been coordinating the COVID-19 Vaccine Infoline and call center, along with leading

center, along with leading communications efforts and reaching out to diverse Chatham communities to increase uptake and access across the county. Environmental Health staff have helped to plan the mass vaccination clinics, ensure the clinics are conducted as safely as possible with social distancing in place, and check in staff and volunteers. Our Clinical and Community Health Services team not only administers doses of the vaccine but has scheduled appointments and managed shipments of the vaccine. Our Administration team has been responsible for the overall coordination of vaccination efforts, including financial management, and has provided support for many of the tasks necessary to carry out these events. Volunteers have managed traffic control and staffed the medical observation station, and **Emergency Management** has overseen the logistics of these mass vaccination events. These are just a few examples of how staff and the Chatham community are working together to

carry out this process I am so proud of and grateful to all involved for This is an unprecedented event and the greatest public health intervention we have faced. Much goes into getting vaccination efforts up and running before the events take place.

This includes responding to the hundreds of requests from the public we receive each day, and establishing an Info Line, a call center, online scheduling, and contact list for those interested in getting vaccinated. Staff have worked diligently over the past several weeks to get these systems online, which has been a major undertaking, especially taking into account a recent cyber incident affecting county departments that knocked out our network, phones, and computers until late December. We are grateful for the support we have received from Emergency Management, the County Manager's Office, and the Management Information Systems department.

We are now capable of hosting multiple mass vaccination clinics each week, but this depends on allocation. We, along with providers across Chatham County and North Carolina, hope that allocations will increase in the weeks ahead so that we can get our communities vaccinated against COVID-19 as quickly as possible. Availability of COVID-19 vaccine, like the supply of testing kits and personal protective equipment early in the pandemic, remains limited. This is why NC DHHS has established prioritization criteria for the vaccine that all providers are required to follow, but the current supply of vaccine is not enough to get to all in the eligible groups as quickly as we would like. Because of this point in particular, we are asking people who have reached out to us through our online vaccine tool or by phone to please be patient. If you have done so, you are already being added to our list to contact as appointments become available. This list has grown to several thousand people, and it will take time to reach everyone on it, especially given the limited number of doses we are receiving. We continue to encourage our residents to pursue the other local vaccine providers listed above.

We are also working to reach communities that may be missed through traditional communication channels. We know that some are hesitant to get the vaccine, so we are sharing information through presentations, outreach, and our website to address these concerns. We also know that some communities, including historically marginalized populations, are more likely to distrust the medical system due to historical injustices and systemic racism, and will continue efforts to reach these communities throughout this process.

How have changes in the prioritization guidance — North Carolina is currently on its third iteration — affected vaccination efforts?

When the state updates vaccine prioritization criteria, we update ours accordingly. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have learned to be flexible and adapt to changes that come our way. We will continue to follow the state's guidance and work with our partners to get shots in

vaccination efforts and how are they holding up?

Like the pandemic itself, the process of vaccine distribution has been a complex endeavor. But I can't say enough about our staff, our partners, and volunteers. Staff have put other projects on hold or added this to their plates to make this a success, and I could not be prouder. We have many excellent partners who have been working with us on vaccine planning for months. Without these partners, we couldn't take on such an historic effort.

They include Chatham County Emergency Management, the Chatham County Manager's Office, Chatham County CERT, Chatham Hospital, UNC Health, Piedmont Health Services, the Chatham County Council on Aging, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and many others

Throughout the pandemic, we have relied on many in the Chatham community to support response efforts. The vaccine rollout has been no different. We're seeing the best of Chatham County in this very challenging time, and that is why we remain optimistic and confident that this will be a success despite these challenges.

What's the best way for

ly limited. Staff are currently adding information from hundreds of voicemails to the list that were left on the Info Line as well. We must work through these voicemails before we can accept new phone messages.

Chatham County residents can also get the COVID-19 vaccine through UNC Health, including locations in Siler City and Chapel Hill. To make an appointment with UNC Health, visitunchealthcare.org/ schedule or call (984) 215-5485. For a full list of options in North Carolina, visit covid19.ncdhhs. gov/findyourspot.

Is Chatham County only giving vaccine doses to Chatham County residents?

No. Since the vaccine is federally-funded, all COVID-19 vaccine providers must administer to individuals living outside their jurisdictions. We're focusing our outreach and communications efforts on the Chatham community, but we encourage residents to consider all options available to them.

Is there anything else you would like the Chatham community to know?

We would like to thank the Chatham community for its support, understanding, and patience. So many have offered to volunteer and help to make this a success, and we have relied on many of these volunteers to carry out mass vaccination clinics. We are so grateful to our volunteers and partners, without whom this would not be possible. While the vaccination process will take time, we will continue to work diligently, alongside our partners, to make it as efficient and equitable as possible. Thank you for your support, and please remember that COVID-19 remains as much of a threat as ever. Keep practicing the 3 Ws, wearing your masks, and avoiding gatherings beyond your household. The pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, but the Chatham community will get through it together.

(919) 385-0429. • For a full list of op-

tions in North Carolina, visit covid19.ncdhhs.gov/ findyourspot.

What does it take to host mass vaccination clinics?

Mass vaccination clinics are truly a team effort, with many staff from the Public Health Department, Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office, County Manager's Office and Chatham County Agricultural and Conference Center working with volunteers from the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), other county departments, and the Chatham community to carry them out. We are utilizing staff from across the department in new roles to make vaccine distribution

their public service. Many have worked weekends and late into the night to respond to this pandemic. We know this is taxing on our team that has taken on so much over the past year, and we are also emphasizing the importance of staff taking care of themselves and each other. One of my messages to our staff at our first clinic was to look out for each other. This has been a stressful time for many, and we are not immune to this stress. We do our best to take care of each other, support one another, and encourage all to reach out for help when it is needed.

How has the process evolved over the past few weeks?

ly and equitably as possible.

That said, changes to the prioritization criteria that lead to more residents becoming eligible for the vaccine, such as expanding eligibility from adults ages 75 and older to ages 65 and older, are not necessarily accompanied by increases in the number of vaccine doses available. Since January 15th, when adults ages 65 and older became eligible to receive the vaccine, our contact list has grown from a little over 1,000 to close to 10,000 people. This is why we are asking residents to be patient and continue to share information of additional vaccine providers as well.

Who is involved in the Public Health Department's someone in Chatham County who meets the eligibility criteria to make a COVID-19 vaccine appointment?

Both the CCPHD and UNC Health, including locations in Siler City and Chapel Hill, are providing the vaccine.

For the CCPHD, the easiest and most efficient way to be added to our list is to fill out our online Vaccine Information Tool at chathamnc.org/ vaccinetool. Those who register will be contacted by email or phone when appointment slots open up, and also informed of other vaccination options in the community. They do not need to follow up by phone or email to confirm. We appreciate their patience as vaccine supply remains extreme-

OUTBREAK

Continued from page A1

of the outbreak by the News + Record, Bogenberger declined to comment, and copy and pasted his previous answer about the Rehabilitation Act and Privacy Act.

Bogenberger was the first USPS official who's commented publicly about the situation. Multiple calls made to the Siler City office during working hours by The News + Record were unanswered; emails sent to Siler City Postmaster Darin Shamberger regarding the alleged outbreak weren't returned by the time of publication Tuesday. After being unable to reach any USPS officials, the News + Record went to the office on Monday and was given Bogenberger's contact information by an employee.

Postal customers told the News + Record in recent days about mail collection boxes slammed full with uncollected mail and routes not being delivered, or deliveries occurring after 5 p.m. On Friday night, a Siler City postal carrier posted in a Chatham Facebook group about the outbreak, asking residents to not take their frustrations with delays out on postal workers still working.

"There has been a Covid outbreak so please be patient with whomever is working," the post, which was later deleted, said. "We know everyone isn't getting their mail, but people from other (post offices) are trying their best to help out."

Before the post was deleted, it was shared widely among various Chatham community pages on Facebook. In the comments on that post, the poster said they would likely be out for another week. The author of the post declined to speak with the News + Record and then deleted the post.

"I think we all just had minor symptoms," the poster said. "Most will start returning to work on Monday or Tuesday."

Several commenters said it would be another week before most employees were able to return. The News + Record received multiple tips from employees or family of employees saying the entire staff either tested positive or was quarantining. Customers and workers told the News + Record and posted on Facebook that the post office was currently being staffed by workers coming in from Fayetteville and elsewhere in the state.

One employee, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said there was no shutdown of operations to clean or sanitize the office, and that carriers working within a 40-mile radius of their home office were staffing the Siler City office. The employee expressed concern with this, saying not all employees were notified why they were being sent to the office and that they could face consequences for refusing.

A few days after first reaching out to the News + Record, this employee said Sunday that the outbreak had "gotten worse," and that they were concerned by the "lack of public health infection control practices within the USPS."

"Most carriers won't talk to you for

fear of termination or retribution. We have been told repeatedly NOT to speak with the media by our supervisors and union representatives," the employee said in an email. "The USPS is more concerned about 'bad' media and focusing on distribution and operations."

Communications Specialist Zachary Horner, with the Chatham County Public Health Department, said Sunday that the department does not track cases by employer, and referred all questions about those reports to the post office. The NC Department of Health and Human Services tracks workplace clusters in the state, but does not break down clusters into specific workplaces in its Clusters in NC report, unlike how clusters among schools or nursing homes are reported. Updated every Monday by 4 p.m., that report currently lists 93 reported COVID-19 clusters for government services, or 698 cases (up by 2 since last week), and three deaths.

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

Chatham News + Record SPORTS NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 2021 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

'THE BIGGEST HEART ON THE TEAM'

Northwood basketball's Faucette doesn't let her disability define her





Staff photo by James Kiefer

From left, Northwood women's basketball seniors Jamaria Faucette, Jillian McNaught and Rae McClarty were honored ahead of a Jan. 15 home game against Orange.

BY CHAPEL FOWLER News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Four years ago, Jamaria Faucette took a leap of faith when she joined the Northwood JV women's basketball team as a freshman. And early on, she regretted it.

When Faucette subbed into games, opposing teams' fans latched onto her. More specifically, they latched onto belittling her amniotic band syndrome, a rare disability that affects her fingers and toes

"When I got to high school, it really got worse for me," Faucette said. "I became depressed Record. "You can't let your

about it. Parents would call out stuff about me: 'She can't dribble!' 'Look at her hands!' It would affect me."

It doesn't anymore. Faucette, 17, is now a senior reserve on the Northwood varsity roster. She speaks comfortably about those tough days in 2017 and what they taught her: about herself, about her disability and about what really mattered in the long run.

Spoiler alert: the nagging naysayers did not.

"All you have to do is put your mind to it," Faucette said last week in a phone interview with the News +

pride get to you. You can't let what other people say about you get you down. You've got to use the negativity to push harder to do what you want to do — and be great at it."

And Faucette's positive mindset has proved infectious for the Chargers, who are a perfect 6-0 in the Big 83A Conference play this season after a 48-36 home win over second-place Chapel Hill on Monday.

"She doesn't play a whole lot, but she has the biggest heart on the team," North-wood head coach Cameron Vernon said. "The kids have voted her best teammate the Faucette, a 5-foot-3 reserve forward for the undefeated

Chargers, prides herself on rebounding, defense and hustle.

past two years. She's the one who's vocal and getting everyone amped up on the bench. She's really important for our success."

Faucette is equally open about her amniotic band syndrome, which was diagnosed at birth and "makes it look like I have rubber bands around my hands," as she put it. Faucette has 10 fingers and nine toes, and she had multiple surgeries as a child to separate fingers that were initially stuck together.

"It hasn't stopped me at all," she said. "It's frustrating at some points, but I just push through it."

When it comes to basketball,

for example, Faucette has a firm grasp on her strengths and weaknesses.

She can't shoot lefty layups, but she's got a dependable right-handed jump hook. She'll occasionally struggle to catch a fast or off-target pass, but she's a strong rebounder on the offensive and defensive glass alike. With a bit of extra focus every now and then, she's a reliable dribbler.

"Sometimes, I'll struggle, but I try not to let it get to me,' Faucette said. "I just say: 'OK, that's something I need to work on and try to get better

See FAUCETTE, page B3

NCHSAA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS Three all-state runners highlight Chatham's performance at state meets

'JUST AN AMAZING COMEBACK' Jordan-Matthews men get the best of Southwestern Randolph



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Woods Charter freshman Ellie Poitras (front) crosses the finish line in first place during the first heat of the 1A women's state meet. She would finish fourth overall, earning all-state honors.

BY VICTOR HENSLEY News + Record Staff

KERNERSVILLE — It may have been cold at this year's cross country state championships, but Chatham County runners provided their own fire

The NCHSAA wrapped up its unprecedented 2020-21 cross country season last weekend during a chilly two-day championship event at Ivey M. Redmon Sports Complex in Kernersville, which featured four Chatham schools represented by 15 athletes.

After a successful batch of regional meets that catapulted Chatham Charter, Jordan-Matthews, Northwood and Woods Charter to the biggest stage, each program strove to make the most of the opportunity.

Most notably, three individual runners — Woods Charter freshman Ellie Poitras, Chatham Charter junior Brandon McKoy and Northwood junior Caroline Murrell — earned all-state

honors by finishing in the top 10 of their respective classifications.

The Northwood men's team, in its fourth consecutive 3A state meet appearance, finished eighth for the second straight year. The Woods Charter women's team, in its first 1A state meet since 2015, finished sixth.

In the early session on Saturday, Northwood's duo of junior Colin Henry (27th place, 16:53.99) and senior Malachi Levy (33rd place, 17:07.67) led the team to its eighthplace finish (204 points, 1:28:03.52 total time).

After the two of them finished the first heat at eighth and ninth, respectively, the second heat "blew it open," Northwood head coach Cameron Isenhour said. That pushed Henry and Levy's times outside the top 25.

Levy, who is the only Charger that has qualified for the state meet each of

See **RUNNERS**, page B2



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Jordan-Matthews junior guard Rayshaun Alston (4) and senior guard Jayden Davis (12) were the Jets' top two scorers in a win last Tuesday over Southwestern Randolph.

BY CHAPEL FOWLER

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY - Rodney Wiley looked around the Jordan-Matthews men's basketball team huddle late in last Tuesday's home game and saw one thing on the face of his players: defeat.

After a solid first half, the Jets now trailed Southwestern Randolph by 14 points early in the fourth quarter. They weren't communicating. They weren't energetic. They couldn't buy a bucket.

"They kind of quit a little bit," Wiley said.

But the head coach held strong. He addressed the team's body language. He called for a full-court press against the Cougars. He reminded the Jets: "It takes just one guy to light a fire.'

"And we did that," Wiley said, grinning behind a blue and gold face covering.

In an ending you'd have to see to believe, Jordan-Matthews rallied from down 58-44 to force overtime against Southwestern Randolph at 60-60 and left its home gym with an improbable 70-67 victory.

Senior guard Jayden Davis had 26 points and junior guard Rayshaun Alston had 24 to lead the Jets, who are now 4-2 in the PAC 7 2A Conference ahead of a Tuesday night road game at Providence Grove.

"Just a comeback, man," Davis said. "Just an amazing comeback."

"It started with defense," Alston added.

He was right. Although Davis and Alston alone put up 50 of J-M's 70 points, they never would've gotten the chance if it wasn't for the Jets' relentless full-court defense, which they call the 11 press.

Assistant coach Ricky Woods was the first to suggest the 11 in Jordan-Matthews' fateful fourth-quarter huddle. The Jets had practiced it minimally this season, Wiley said. They'd held off on it earlier in last Tuesday's game, too, since they were down two players and working with a limited rotation.

At this point, though, what did they have to lose?

With two J-M guards swarming Southwestern Randolph's ball handlers for a double team and another guard operating like a free safety, surveying any potential passing lanes, it was an immediate success.

The Cougars were flummoxed, rare-

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY CHAPEL FOWLER Friday, Jan. 29

News + Record Staff

Men's and women's basketball continues across Chatham County while men's soccer and men's lacrosse — traditional fall and spring sports, respectively — get started this week in wintry weather. Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, Jan. 27 Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men at Eastern Randolph, 6 p.m. Lacrosse: Northwood women at Rolesville

Thursday, Jan. 28 Basketball: Woods Charter men at Clover Garden, 6 p.m. Soccer: Northwood men at Southern Durham, 6 p.m.

Basketball: Jordan-Matthews women at Providence Grove, 6 p.m.

Basketball: Uwharrie Charter at Chatham Central (women's 6 p.m., men's 7:30 p.m.) Basketball: Chatham Charter at Southern Wake Academy (women's 6 p.m., men's 7:30 p.m.)

Basketball: South Davidson at Chatham Central (women's 6 p.m., men's 7:30 p.m.) Basketball: Jordan-Matthews at T.W. Andrews (women's 6 p.m., men's 7:30 p.m.) Basketball: Cedar Ridge at Northwood (women's 6 p.m., men's

7:30 p.m.) Lacrosse: Chapel Hill at Northwood men, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 30

Basketball: Jordan-Matthews women at Trinity, 3 p.m. Basketball: Woods Charter men at Chatham Charter, 5 p.m.

LAST WEEK

Tuesday, Jan. 19

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews rallied from 14 down in the fourth quarter to beat Southwestern Randolph, 70-67, in overtime. Guards Jayden Davis (26 points) and Rayshaun Alston (24 points) were the top scorers for the Jets, who moved to 3-1 on the season.

Basketball: Chatham Central's men took care of business against North Rowan, cruising past the Cavaliers, 65-47, at home to move to 3-0. Earlier, the Chatham Central women took North Rowan to overtime at 48-48 but were outscored 8-0 in the extra period of a 56-48 loss.

Basketball: Chatham Charter's men moved to 4-0 after a 64-43 win over Clover Garden in which the Knights outscored the Grizzlies in every quarter. Earlier, the Chatham Charter women came up just short against Clover Garden, losing 58-57 despite 18 points and 12 rebounds from Alexis Baldwin. Morgan Lineberry (17 points, 16 rebounds) and Tamaya Walden (12 points, five assists) were also contributors.

Wednesday, Jan. 20 Basketball: The Jor-

dan-Matthews men fell

to 3-2 after a tight 51-48 overtime loss at Eastern Randolph. Basketball: Te'Kevah

Bland (14 points), McKenna Snively (12) and Skylar Adams (11) led eight scorers for the Northwood women, who led wire to wire in a 64-26 rout of Northern Durham and moved to 4-0. Later, the Charger men outlasted the Knights, 57-50, to move to 4-1 this season. Freshman Drake Powell had 19 points, and senior Colby Burleson had 13.

Thursday, Jan. 21

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men moved to 5-0 with a 61-42 non-conference win over Faith Christian; Trevor Golden and Adam Harvey had 16 points each, while Jackson Brown added 13.

Friday, Jan. 22

Cross country: In the final race of his Jordan-Matthews career, Robert Train placed 81st out of 100 runners with a time of 19:58.52 in the NCHSAA 2A state championship men's race. Basketball: Playing

in their third overtime game of the week, the Jordan-Matthews men edged Wheatmore, 57-53, at home to move to 4-2. The Jets outscored the Warriors 8-4 in the extra period after the teams were tied 49-49 through four quarters.

Basketball: The Northwood men dropped a close road game to East Chapel Hill, 41-40, and fell to 4-2 Freshmen Drake Powell (13 points) and Frederico Whitaker Jr. (11) were the team's top scorers. Earlier, the Northwood women routed East Chapel, 51-29, behind a dominant performance on the offensive glass and double digits from sophomore Te'Keyah Bland (17 points) and freshman Skylar Adams (15).

Basketball: Chatham Central notched two blowout wins on the road against Gray Stone Day, as the men's team moved to 4-0 with a 61-21 win and the women's team moved to 2-2 with a 63-20 win.

Saturday, Jan. 23

Cross country: Woods Charter freshman Ellie Poitras excelled in her first ever NCHSAA 1A state championship meet, placing fourth in the women's race with a time of 20:16.03. Her time led the Wolves, who finished sixth overall as a team. In the 1A men's race, Chatham Charter junior Brandon McKoy finished eighth overall with a time of 17:40.42.

Cross country: Northwood capped off a successful season with a second consecutive eight-place team finish in the NCHSAA 3A state championship men's race. Junior Colin Henry (27th place, 16:53.99) was the Chargers' top runner. Junior Caroline Murrell, running as an individual, also shone with a 10th place finish of 19:09.39 in the women's championship race.

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

RUNNERS

Continued from page B1

the last four years, has acted as one of the team's primary leaders during his time at Northwood.

"He's meant everything," Isenhour said. "He's been our captain. He's been our leader. He's usually in the front. He's just a kind-hearted person, but you wouldn't know by the way he races because he runs mad, I like to say. We're definitely going to miss him."

In the women's 3A championship, Northwood junior Murrell, racing individually for the second year in a row, finished in 10th place with a time of 19:09.39 and became the first Charger in seven years to earn all-state honors.

"I call her Mighty Murrell because she's as tough as nails," Isenhour said. "She's the best distance girl I ve ever coached. She has the mentality that she's going to do the best she can, and she's not afraid of being uncomfortable in a race." Despite the abnormality of the season which featured atypical cross country temperatures and weather, at-home workout programs and a plethora of coronavirus-related guidelines and protocols — runners across the county seemed pleased with the way it all turned out. "It's been a little bit chaotic compared to all of the other seasons that I've had during my high school career,' Chatham Charter's McKoy said. "It really has shown me the mental aspect that I need to keep a positive attitude because keeping a negative attitude isn't helping anyone." Saturday was McKoy's third consecutive 1A state meet in Kernersville. The previous two seasons, he had top 10 finishes in the 1A mideast regional meets — including a runner-up performance in 2019 — with times well under 18 minutes. But he continuously found himself underperforming at the state championships: finishing 37th in 2018 and 41st in 2019, unable to crack the 18:19 mark. In the final moments of Saturday's race, McKoy sprinted past Research Triangle's Liam Johnston — a runner he's battled in the Central Tar Heel 1A Conference all season



Woods Charter and the rest of the field takes off in the first race of the 1A women's state meet. The Wolves would finish sixth overall as a team.

Northwood junior Colin Henry (489)



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Chatham Charter junior Brandon McKoy (590) narrowly slips by Research Triangle's Liam Johnston in the final stretch of the 1A men's state meet. McKoy would finish just 0.05 seconds ahead of his conference rival.

to solidify the sixth spot in the second heat. It was good for eighth overall, with a time of 17:40.42. He bested Johnston by just 0.05 seconds.

His past struggles are what makes Saturday's successes much sweeter for McKoy and his head coach, Gary Oakley.

"We don't want to talk about last year too much, but we were all disappointed, so I just kept my expectations low, but my goals high," Oakley said. "I'm so excited for him. It's almost a weight off of our shoulders because he really deserved to have a good race. He's been so consistent and works so hard, so he deserved this today."

Later in the day, Woods Charter freshman Ellie Poitras (fourth place, 20:16.03) had a shot at a state title after winning the first heat by a narrow margin. Entering the final 100 meters, Poitras turned on the jets, just passing Emily Myers of Frankin Academy to finish first. In the second heat, however, three runners bested Poitras' time, bumping her to fourth overall.

Poitras became the only freshman runner of the weekend to finish in fourth place or higher, a major accomplishment for the star of a youthful Woods Charter program.

"During the race, I just kept telling myself little things like 'You got this' and just kept pushing myself to go harder," Poitras said. "I knew people were watching me from all over."

As a team, the Wolves finished the day in sixth place (162 points, 1:54:58.28 total time), led by Poitras, sophomore Maddie Sparrow (24th place, 21:43.95) and senior Ember Penney (46th place, 23:59.30).

With a head coach in her first year at Woods Charter, Karen Hawkins, and a roster with years of eligibility left, Poitras



said they haven't yet hit their ceiling.

"I think we all just push each other greatly, and our coach always tells us that we have so much more potential we haven't tapped into yet," Poitras said. "We have so much more to go."

Jordan-Matthews senior Robert Train, the only individual to qualify from the Jets programs, raced in the 2A men's state meet on Friday afternoon and finished in 81st place with a time of 19:58.52.

Despite being disappointed in the results, he took solace in the fact that he's had a great ride these last three years.

"My teammates have always been great and supportive," Train said. "Today aside, I was happy this year. This wasn't how I wanted to end the year, but that's on me. And that's fine. I'll move on and just keep running."

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and senior Malachi Levy (491) approach the halfway point of their race in the 3A men's state meet. As a team, Northwood finished in eighth place.

Staff photo by James Kiefer

BASKETBALL

Continued from page B1

ly advancing past halfcourt. The Jets, meanwhile, caught fire with consecutive 3-pointers from Davis and easy layups off live-ball turnovers. After 13 consecutive (and rapid) Jordan-Matthews points, Southwestern Randolph's lead was down to 58-57.

"Coach told us from the start to hang our hat on defense," Davis said.

The Cougars finally got back on the board with a layup, which put them ahead 60-57, but the Jets kept pestering their opponent and forcing turnovers. Jordan-Matthews dominated possession in the game's final minute, with Davis making a layup and later a free throw to tie the game at 60-60.

On the final possession of regulation, Davis also got to the rim for a soft floater, which went halfway down then rimmed out to prevent a walk-off Jordan-Matthews win at the buzzer.

"I could've sworn it was going down," Davis said, laughing.

The Jets — who outscored the Cougars 10-3 to end the overtime period after trailing 64-60 — got huge games from players outside of Davis, too. Alston, a junior reserve



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Jordan-Matthews men's basketball head coach Rodney Wiley (kneeling in center) emphasized to his team early in the fourth quarter: 'It only takes one guy to light a fire.'

who started last Tuesday, dominated in attacking the middle of Southwestern Randolph's 2-3 zone. He made a number of impressive, twisting layups and racked up 24 points, easily besting his previous

season high of 10.

"I just had to step up and fulfill what coach needed at all times," he said.

Not to be outdone by J-M's dynamic duo of Davis and Alston, senior

FAUCETTE

Continued from page B1

at.'"

And Faucette has gotten plenty of reps. She's played recreational basketball since she was 7 or 8 years old, and she played middle school basketball at Moncure School in southeastern Chatham County.

Entering high school at Northwood, though, she planned to leave the sport behind.

She was worried about how she'd shape up against taller, faster and more talented players. And once her family and friends finally convinced her to join the JV team, she endured the aforementioned taunts.

As Faucette put it: "I let my pride get to me, and I let people get to me."

On especially rough days, Faucette leaned on her legal guardian, Shuranda Smith. Smith remained a constant



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Faucette poses with her mother Myranda Crump (left) and her legal guardian Shuranda Smith (right) before being honored at Northwood's Jan. 15 senior night.

Faucette. She'd remind her of how far she'd gone in the sport already, and she'd pose always kept in my mind,"

source of encouragement for a simple question: "Why give up now?'

"That's something that I

Faucette said. "That even though I have a disability, I'm still doing a pretty darn good job at (basketball)."

Instilled with a new confidence fueled by Smith - plus other family members and friends — Faucette starting embracing basketball for what it was: a sport she loved. When fans taunted, she used it as motivation to hustle even harder for the next loose ball or play an even better defensive possession.

After two seasons on the JV roster, Faucette moved to the varsity squad as a junior and immediately emerged as the de facto team hype woman. And take it from sophomore forward Te'Keyah Bland: Faucette, whom teammates often refer to by her nickname, Mari, had an immediate impact.

"I know how bad she wants it," Bland said. "Even when she doesn't play at all, she's always going to be on the

forward Eral Jones put up 12 points, pulled down offensive rebounds by the boatload and served as the team's defensive anchor all night.

No play was more important than the charge he drew on a driving Southwestern Randolph player with 15 seconds left in overtime, which gave the ball back to Jordan-Matthews with a 68-67 lead.

"That charge at the end probably won us the game," Alston said.

Subsequent free throws by Alston and senior guard Huston Causey put the Jets up three. And senior guard Jacquez Thompson — who, fittingly, plays some linebacker and defensive back for the J-M football team — broke up a pass on the Cougars' final possession to prevent a game-tying 3-point attempt.

Alston gathered the loose ball and threw it ahead to Davis, who dribbled out the final seconds of overtime until the buzzer sounded, certifying an unbelievable fourth-quarter comeback as official.

Fifteen minutes later, Wiley was still shaking his head in awe.

"It was just a great high school basketball game on a Tuesday night," he said.

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

> bench talking and encouraging us, no matter what the score is. She's a great teammate."

Freshman guard Skylar Adams added: "She's there for us, and we've got to be there for her at all times."

Case in point: on Jan. 15, when Northwood held a senior ceremony before a home game, the loudest cheer of the night came for Faucette, who hopes to study exercise and sports science at UNC-Charlotte.

And the second loudest cheer came late in the fourth quarter, when Faucette grabbed an offensive rebound, stepped through two Orange Panther defenders and flipped in a right-handed layup.

This time, no one taunted. Not that Faucette would've cared if they did.

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





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A 'BLACKTINO' PERSPECTIVE

McMican carves out identity, niche at CCCC

BY OLIVIA ROJAS News + Record Staff

Today, Jairo McMican distinguishes himself as "Blacktino," an identity that



encompasses Black Latin Americans, but he didn't always.

Growing up, the 47-year-old McMican struggled to carve out his own identity, and that struggle has instilled in him a greater appreciation for cultur-

McMican

al differences — something he has put to good use as an educator.

"I've gotten to see so many different things in different cultures," he said. "That helped me develop a healthy appreciation for how everybody does (things). And so, you know, my mindset now is like there's more than one way to do something, and doesn't mean just the way you do it is the right way either

... just because they do something different from you doesn't make it wrong."

McMican works as the dean of student learning at CCCC, which oversees all three of CCCC's campuses — including Chatham — and as the director of equity and pathways for the North Carolina Student Success Center. His role now over-

sees student tutoring, the writing center, the academic assistance center, center for academic excellence and then also college and career readiness, which handles adult high school, ESL, and GED programs for students. His role for the North Carolina Student Success Center is a new endeavor and it fills a statewide role.

"So now at the state level, I get to facilitate trainings and help develop programs to help people better support students, no matter where they come from," McMican said. "So that includes, trying to increase our graduation rates and our community rates for our Black, Latino and other marginalized students, low income students everybody that falls into those categories."

Growing up - especially in high school - McMican faced several growing pains as he navigated his identity.

"Well, the problem was none of the students who identified as white wanted to bring me in, because I was brown and things like that," he said. "The Black students were like, 'No, you know, you got curly hair and green eyes, and you're light skinned, so no, you're not Black.' And then the Latinos would be like, 'You don't speak Spanish, so you're not Hispanic either."

McMican's mother, Norma Sumpter, was a first-generation immigrant from Panama City, Panama. Her adoptive

father brought her over to the United States when she was about 12 years old. After her own experience coming to the United States, she decided not to teach her children Spanish.

"(Her family) pretty much got picked on like, day in day out, for not knowing how to speak English," he said. "And they got called all kinds of derogatory names and things like that.'

Sumpter grew up in a military family and eventually married McMican's stepfather, who was also a military man and stationed at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia. McMican and his family moved from place to place for the majority of his childhood, so he felt he never got to settle growing up. Yet for McMican, the Mainz-Finthen Airfield base in Germany is where he felt he was able to celebrate his Latin identity — through dance.

"We were there for three years," he said. "My mom would get involved with the local community, and they would do a Hispanic Day Parade. From there we would do a festival ... so we would do performances at both bases, so everybody can see.

"It was a good time — a celebration for all the people," he added, "especially the people that identify as Latino, Latina, to express their culture and heritage and they were in the military, but then it also provided an opportunity for other people to learn about

it that didn't know anything about Hispanic culture, give them a chance to see all the different countries."

McMican said it wasn't until he "went on journey" in his 20s that he started having a solid vision of his identity and latinidad.

"I started reading more about Panama, and everything that it encompasses and all the diaspora of people that it represents," he said.

A part of that journey also occurred in his 30s with the pronunciation of his name.

"Up until the age of 35, I told everyone to call me Jairo (Jai-rrow)," he said. "My mom always told me to tell people that to make it easier on them. All of my mom's family called me 'hi-rrow."

While working at Durham Technical Community College, a work-study student offered a sentiment that he never forgot.

"She said: 'Your name is 'Hi-rrow.' That is vour name! If people don't know how to say that or can't practice it, they don't deserve your attention," he said. "After thinking about it that night, I started asking people to pronounce it 'hi-rrow' going forward.'

News + Record intern Olivia Rojas is a part of the newspaper's La Voz de Chatham reporting team. She's a sophomore at UNC-Chapel Hill and lives in Sanford.

A look at provisional ballots in North Carolina

BY BRENNAN DOHERTY

Carolina Public Press

In the 2020 election, with only a few hundred votes separating winner and loser in the race for chief justice on the state's Supreme Court between victor Paul Newby and incumbent Cheri Beasley, every one of the 5.54 million votes cast mattered in November in North Carolina.

In contests that close, provisional ballots — despite consistently making up less than 1% of the total votes in North Carolina — could sway the outcome of numerous races at the statewide and local levels.

When a person's eligibility to cast a vote isn't clear, election workers can allow them to cast a provisional. After the polls close, county election officials decide whether that person's ballot should be approved in full or only for certain contests.

Under North Carolina law, they can reject all or part of a ballot if it was not in the proper precinct, the voter was not properly registered in the county or the voter was ineligible to vote in all or some contests. In November, roughly 40% of provisional ballots cast were fully or partially approved in North Carolina. But the distribution of provisional ballot use and approval is not even across the state. Some counties consistently rank high or low in provisional ballot use. "We also tend to see consistency across counties across years," said Chris Cooper, a professor of political science at Western Carolina University. "It's clearly county-level explanations to this in addition to individual-level explanations." Cooper said a county consistently ranking one way or another doesn't mean there's necessarily anything "nefarious" going on. "A lot of it is endemic to the nature of the county," Cooper said. But provisional ballots are worth monitoring, he said, because high provisional ballot use rates can signal other issues. "It's like when your tire gauge on your car says your tire pressure's low," he said. "It may not really be that low. It may not be a problem. It may be change in the temperature. But it may actually be that you have a real flat tire. I think that what it says is, 'Hey, you should pay attention to this. You should try to figure out why we have such high rates compared to other people.' And it may come back as something you can't do anything about.'

than 90% of provisional ballots cast by North Carolina voters in November. Nearly two-thirds said no record of their registration existed.

Other reasons included being previously removed from a county's list of voters (13%); voting at the incorrect precinct (10%); and not reporting a change in address that took place 30 days or more prior to Election Day (9%).

Despite a record-setting election for North Carolina in overall ballots cast, the number of provisional ballots decreased from 60,643 to 40.767.

Voting patterns shifted in 2020, due in large part to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hesitance about in-person voting created a massive surge in absentee voting and early voting.

In 2016, in-person voting on Election Day accounted for one-third of the vote total, while in 2020, it accounted for only 16% of ballots cast. Absentee voting increased from 4% of the voting total in 2016 to 18% of total votes in 2020.

Rachel Raper, director of elections in Orange County, said her county saw early in-person voting decrease slightly this past election, but "voting by mail just went through the roof." "Absentee, I think we got back a little under 5,000 in 2016 and then 26,000 in 2020," said Raper, whose county has one of the state's lowest provisional ballot use rates. The shift away from Election Day voting may have influenced their provisional ballot use. "The vast majority of our voters voted early," Raper said. "We only had out of almost 87,000 ballots cast, only 10% of those ballots were cast on Election Day, and you get your provisional ballots on Election Day." For the second straight presidential election year, Robeson County led North Carolina in provisional ballot use rate, with only 35.51 votes for every provisional cast. Located in the southeastern part of the state along the South Carolina border, Robeson had a rate much higher than second-place Jackson County in Western North Carolina, which recorded 62.62 votes for every provisional received.

along the Virginia border.

Like the top fifth, 10 of the 20 counties in the bottom fifth in provisional use rate in 2020 were also in 2016's bottom fifth: Orange, Cherokee, Henderson, Northampton, Polk, Chatham, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Buncombe and Catawba counties.

A multifaceted issue

Some voters may be more likely to cast a provisional ballot than others. College students, for example, may register in their home counties but opt to vote in the county where their school is located.

Robeson County, which leads the state in provisional use, is home to UNC Pembroke, a UNC system university with more than 8,000 students. Other top-20 provisional use rate counties with UNC system universities include No. 2 Jackson (Western Carolina), No. 3 Pasquotank (Elizabeth City State), No. 9 Pitt (East Carolina) and No. 11 Cumberland (Fayetteville State).

Unlike some other counties with UNC system universities, Orange County's provisional use rate was not impacted by the presence of a college campus. Raper was not surprised, noting of UNC Chapel Hill, "making sure that people are registered to vote is very important on that campus." Voter turnout may also influence provisional use rates. Despite a 14% increase from 2016, Robeson still ranked second-to-last in voter turnout in 2020, suggesting a correlation between counties with low voter turnout and high provisional ballot use.

unless it's a big, controversial election — like this past presidential was," said Tina Bledsoe, the director of the Robeson County Board of Elections. "So, some people I know hadn't voted in 20 years. Of course, they were removed due to list maintenance - removed for not voting. In that case, we let them vote a provisional ballot."

But beyond county-specific reasons such as the presence of a university or fluctuations in voter turnout and voting trends, one overlooked factor in provisional use rate is "administrative capacity," Cooper said.

A 2019 study of provisional ballots in North Carolina from 2012-16 showed that "in counties with more than one polling place per precinct, the expected count of provisional ballots cast decreased by 7 percent."

An increase in provisional ballot use may show less about the demographics of voters and more about the

administrative process.

"I think it is about having fewer (election) workers," Cooper said, "and it's about list maintenance being behind. There's so much that goes into election administration."



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Chatham COA **Events & Announcements** January 28th - February 3rd

Thursday, January 28th

- Tai Chi for Arthritis at 8:45 AM 🔶
- Chair Yoga with Liz at 10:00 AM ᅙ

"A lot of people don't vote

An unusual year

When voters cast a provisional ballot, they must give a reason for the inability to cast a standard ballot. Four reasons account for more

Provisional patterns

Multiyear patterns with provisional ballot use rates are common, Cooper said. Ten of the top 20 counties in provisional use in 2020 were also in the top 20 for provisional use in 2016: Robeson, Jackson, Pasquotank, Onslow, Hoke, Harnett, Pitt, Cumberland, Richmond and Jones counties.

Burke County in Western North Carolina had the lowest use rate for provisionals, followed by Vance County, northeast of the Triangle

"I think that does make sense," Cooper said.

"Again, a part of it is just the nature of these counties. The places with lower turnout rates tend to also have a larger number of people in poverty. I don't know if it's causal, but I think the correlation is very interesting."

Robeson has the highest poverty rate in the state, according to the U.S. Census Rureau.

Voter demographics are not the only possible driver of provisional ballot use. Election issues may influence who uses a provisional ballot.

Days after pledging his support for federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina last October, President Donald Trump visited Lumberton, Robeson's county seat. The Lumbee Tribe has 55,000 members in North Carolina, with the majority based in Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland and Scotland counties.

A visit from the president and an emphasis on a potential federal recognition for the Lumbee Tribe may have contributed to higher turnout by Robesonians who voted provisionally because they were "previously removed" from the rolls.

Trivia with Faye at 11:15 AM ?

Friday, January 29th

Weekly Call with Director, Dennis Streets at 10:15 AM S

Monday, February 1st

- Tai Chi for Arthritis at 8:45 AM 🔶
- Chair Yoga with Liz at 10:00 AM 🤶 .
- Bingo with Joe at 11:15 AM 🔶 •

Tuesday, February 2nd

- Strong & Fit with Jackie at 9:00 AM
- Black History Month Celebration at 11:15 AM ᅙ

Wednesday, February 3rd

- Bible Study with Neriah at 10:00 AM 🤶
- Valentine's Fun w/ Music at 11:15 AM 🤶
- Short Stories with Chris at 12:30 PM

On Zoom **Con Conference Line:** 727-731-8717

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

Virtual VITA Income Tax Preparation Assistance



Virtual VITA is coming! NO APPOINTMENTS. Pick up your information packet at the Eastern or Western Chatham Senior Center in the VITA box, 24/7 after January 20th.

Drop-off your tax documents for processing from February 9th through April 6th. Complete info packet before dropping off your tax documents at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro on Tuesdays 1-6 PM, Thursdays 8:30 AM-2 PM or on Saturdays, February 27th and March 27th from 11 AM - 3 PM. Call 919-542-4512 for more info.

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 December winner, Bobby White!

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> 365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512

Eastern Chatham Senior Center Western Chatham Senior Center 112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975

SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Board amends UDO, evaluate renovation plans and launches police recruitment program

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — In its regular meeting last Tuesday — adjusted to accommodate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday — Siler City's board of commissioners evaluated dozens of amendments to the town's unified development ordinance before reviewing a bid for city hall's renovation and approving a new program to recruit police officers.

The town's UDO outlines most local regulations concerning land development and use, building construction, zoning, subdivision development, stormwater expansion and maintenance and natural resource conservation.

It was originally adopted in 1993; the most recent amendments were made in 2014.

This year's overhaul involved mostly clerical changes to conform local law with amendments to the state's general statute 160D — a consolidated version of development regulations previously listed under chapters 160D and 153A.

"While the new law does not make major policy changes or shifts in the scope of authority granted to local governments,' according the UNC School of Government, "it does provide many clarifying amendments and consensus reforms that will need to be incorporated into local development regulations.'

The town had until July 1, 2021, to adopt UDO amendments.

"Basically, a lot of this is

required," said Town Planner Jack Meadows, who compiled and presented the proposed amendments to the board. "There's not a lot of choice involved by the local communities.'

But town staff capitalized on the opportunity to introduce some nonessential changes, as well, all of which the board voted to adopt.

Among the noteworthy updates:

Lots divided by district lines

Previous versions of the UDO were ambiguous as to how a plot of land should be categorized when it falls within two or more zoning districts.

"This is something that's not really clear in our ordinance right now," Meadows said. "This is a clarifying piece."

The new UDO specifies that for lots of two acres or smaller, "the district regulations applicable to the district within which the larger portion of the lot lies shall apply to the entire lot."

Lots greater than two acres in size will have their constituent parts subject to the zoning regulation of the district within which it falls.

Performance guarantees

The amended UDO includes modified instructions outlining the process by which town representatives authorize use or occupancy of a building before completion of development. It assigns more authority to town staff than previous ordinance allowed.

"The bottom line," Meadows said, "is staff is going to handle the administrative part of performance guarantees."

Final approval will still fall to the board of commissioners for performance guarantee requests that accompany certain development projects such as those requiring special use permits and conditional zoning.

Expiration of permits

All development permits will expire one year after the date of issuance if work "has not been substantially commenced," according to the revised UDO.

"Right now we have a couple of scenarios," Meadows said, "zoning permits are six months, special use permits are two years ... But we're saying from now on, all permits ... are one year permits.²

 Penalties and remedies for violations

"This is the important section," Meadows said.

Violations of development regulation "including violations of any conditions and safeguards established in connection with any development approval," will subject offenders to monetary penalty.

In the past, offenders who did not pay within 10 days "of receipt" of their citation, were fined \$100.

Now, the \$100 charge will be issued after 10 days from when the violation letter was issued.

'So, we're just changing when it starts," Meadows said. "The clock starts at the date of the letter, rather than receipt."

Conditional zoning

Instead of conditional use district rezoning, a process which heavily involved the board of commissioners, town staff will now preside over conditional zoning requests for development approval.

The new ordinance requires developers to meet with a review team before submitting a formal application to "minimize development planning costs" and "avoid misunderstanding or misinterpretation."

"It's very similar (to before)," Meadows said, "it's just it's a legislative decision rather than a quasi-judicial."

The full 212-page document listing amendments to Siler City's UDO is available on the town's website here: http:// www.silercity.org/vertical/ sites/%7B3856B9B8-1C42-483B-A4CB-C0D6B1FE7142%7D/uploads/Schedule_G_UDO_160D. pdf

City hall renovation

Siler City's board of commissioners has long considered updates to the town's city hall.

On Tuesday, Taylor Hobbs of Hobbs Architects — which has been contracted to manage the site's improvement project presented a bid summary from Ellington Construction to perform substantial renovation.

The base bid would cost \$663,000 with an extra \$162,280 in alternates.

Many of the updates will be to address ADA recommendations, to meet required adjustments to the building's elevator and to fix water leakage in the basement and some offices. Heating and air conditioning systems will be replaced, as well.

The board elected to table further discussion until its next meeting on Feb. 1 when town staff will return with more details.

Police staffing

Siler City's police department is understaffed.

"Here recently, we've been in conversation about how to approach some form of recruitment for sworn staff at the police department," said Town Manager Roy Lynch, "due to the ongoing vacancies that we've had."

There are currently five open positions including a detective and sergeant.

"Thinking from a marketing mindset," said Human **Resources Director Nancy** Darden, "we feel like ... word of mouth is the most productive method of advertisement that we have.

To quicken the hiring process, Darden suggested a program by which officers would earn incentives for recruiting new department staff.

"If we have a sworn person who recommends someone for one of these positions," she said, "we get their application in, we go through the interview, background check and all those aspects, they come on board and complete their field training program and they are still with us through all that, then the person who recruited them would get a \$1,000 bonus.'

The board was impressed with town staff's creative problem solving and voted to approve the recruitment program. It will run through June 30 or until all department vacancies have been filled, whichever comes first.

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

Proposed relationship with Liberty University creates concerns among town leadership

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

SILER CITY - The possibility of establishing a memorandum of understanding with Liberty University sparked coruscating debate between Siler City commissioners and other town leaders during the board's regular meeting last Tuesday. The relationship would afford town employees the chance to continue their higher education via online programs offered by Liberty at a 15% discounted tuition rate. In return, Siler City would contractually agree to the "promotion of Liberty," which would include emailing staff three times per year with "text provided by Liberty," "placing a sourced URL, provided by Liberty" on the town's benefits website, "inviting representatives from Liberty to attend (Siler City) sponsored" education events, displaying "Liberty University posters in the break rooms" and "annually distributing Liberty marketing material to employees,' according to the proposed MOU. As per the agreement, both the Town of Siler City and Liberty University would also grant "to the other party the right to use its name, logo and other promotional materials to promote the program..." The relationship would last two years with automatic one-year renewals to continue afterward, barring objection from either party. While the program would permit discounted online enrollment to all town employees, it was designed for the police department, according to Town Manager Roy Lynch. "This was originally presented by Chief (Mike) Wagner and it's

geared toward their law enforcement courses that are available," he said at the meeting. "He felt like they would really be beneficial here for them."

Morgan and some board members expressed apprehension, however, about partnering with

marriage between a natural-born man and a natural-born woman are not permissible ... '

'What if we have an employee who is Town attorney William non-Christian, or doesn't agree with the tenets as set forth by Liberty University," said Commissioner Lewis Fadely,

that, and we are setting people up to knowingly violate an honor code which then would create sanctions on them."

Fadely went a step further. "If it's related to sex-

ual orientation, which

issues as a town.² At Morgan's request, the board tabled discus-

is a new protected class,

then we have issues as a

town," he said. "Or if it's

long-established protect-

related to sex, that's a

ed class, and we have

sion of the MOU to permit him more time to examine its legal ramifications.

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

Liberty.

"It being a religious-supported or based school, and Siler City being a town," Morgan said, raises concerns about "trying to mitigate any chance of running afoul of the establishment clause, First Amendment."

Liberty, founded in 1971 in Lynchburg, Virginia, by Jerry Falwell Sr., is one of the world's largest evangelical Christian universities. Most of its more than 100,000 students are enrolled in online courses.

The school has come under fire in recent months following former university President Jerry Falwell Jr.'s response to the coronavirus pandemic and the renewed anti-racism movement in the United States.

In May, criticizing Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam's mask mandate, Falwell tweeted a picture of a mask adorned with a photo of two men: one in blackface and another in a Ku Klux Klan outfit. The tweet was meant to mock Northam, whose medical school yearbook page featured the photo.

In response to the tweet, several Black staff-members and students left Liberty.

Falwell has since resigned, but criticism for the school persists, especially from anti-discrimination advocates who object to the school's traditional Christian code of honor which includes that "sexual relations outside of a biblically-ordained

who is also an attorney. "and then they say 'I want to take these same or similar classes at a secular institution, and we say no? Have we somehow violated either the establishment or free exercise clause? ... Could the employee argue that he or she is less compensated for their religious beliefs?

Morgan was unsure whether there would be legal repercussions, but Wagner argued that town employees did not have to capitalize on the program if it conflicted with their personal beliefs.

"I believe it's just the opposite," Wagner said, "it's an educational choice. Currently the town offers very limited supplement to our paid staff to pursue a higher education. So, in fact, it's a personal choice ... We don't force the program on any sworn member."

Commissioner Bill Haiges questioned whether a partnership with Liberty would subject the town to accusations of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and conduct.

'As a practical example, if you have an officer that is unmarried and is living with his girlfriend," he said, "and he joins this program, he is obligated to report himself for a violation of the honor code. If he gets his girlfriend pregnant, he is in violation of the honor code. And, obviously, gay and lesbian (employees) would be in violation of the honor code ... So, I'm just concerned that we have an issue with



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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Dewey Rodgers II, 23, of Sanford, was charged Jan. 15 for carrying a concealed gun, felony possession of marijuana and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. Rodgers was issued a

Rodgers

Feb. 1 court date in Pittsboro.



written promise with a Joshua Josephs, 29, of Climax, was charged Jan. 15 for true bill of indict-

ment related to charges of trafficking Verdugoin methamphetamine **Bartolon** and maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place boro.

Josephs

for a controlled substance. Josephs was issued a \$10,000 secured bond with a Feb. 1 court date

eaten

all the

flashy,

expen-



in Pittsboro.

Perez-Rodriguez

Pedro Verdugo-Bartolon, 26, of Sanford, was charged Jan. 15 for resisting public officer, reckless driving to endanger and no operator's license. Verdugo-Bartolon was issued a written promise with a Feb. 10 court date in Pitts-

Luis Perez-Rodriguez,

charged Jan. 15 for do-

mestic violence protec-

tive order violation. He

was held on a 48-hour

domestic violence hold

with a Jan. 26 court

date in Pittsboro.

37, of Siler City, was

Santiago Paulino, 20, of Siler City, was charged Jan. 16 for resisting a public



Paulino

sisting a public officer. Paulino was issued a \$500 secured bond with a Feb. 24 court date in Pittsboro.

boro.



felony probation violation out of county. Wiseman was issued a \$15,000 secured bond with a Jan. 28 court date in Pittsboro.

officer. Paulino was

bond with a Feb. 10

court date in Pitts-

Santiago Paulino,

Jordan Wiseman,

34, of Siler City, was

charged Jan. 16 for

20, of Siler City, was

Katherine Greeson, 37, of Julian, was charged Jan. 17 for breaking and entering and breaking and entering into motor vehicle. Greeson was issued a



Greeson charged Jan. 16 for re-



William Barnett III, 31, of Chapel Hill, was charged Jan. 18 for driving while impaired, displaying an expired registration plate and a failure to appear. Greeson was issued a written promise with a March 3 court date in Pittsboro. Greeson was also issued a \$700 secured bond with a Feb. 4 court date in Graham.

\$500 secured bond with

a Feb. 1 court date in

Pittsboro.

Barnett III

Debra Defeo, 37, of Pittsboro, was charged Jan. 18 for damage to property, simple assault and communicating threats. Defeo was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a Feb. 3 court date in Pittsboro.

It ain't easy eating with no green. But it can be done.

Because of the pandemic, but more compellingly,



DEBBIE **MATTHEWS** The Curious Cook

sive grub, I've taken it as a personal (and pecuniarily necessary) challenge to cook and eat my pantry and freezer.

There comes a point each month when the larder still contains food, but because I lack the patience possessed by a sugared-up 6-year-old, most of the expensive, shiny ingredients of this month's haul have been eaten earlier in the month.

There is no steak in the chill chest on the 27th of the month.

So, one needs to be creative.

When Petey and I were first married, my cooking skills were about the same as my skills as a neuroradiologist (spoiler alert: few and faulty). My mom and dad lived in town, and she never met a belly she couldn't fill, so we had that. And there was an amazing little restaurant named Copelands which used to



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Farro with broccoli cheddar sauce.

feed the mill workers and now fed their children and grandchildren. They had a "meat and three" for around \$2.

But, I thought that when I had to, I could cook well enough to keep Petey and me alive. I was especially proud of something I made when it was almost time to go grocery shopping, called desperation casserole. I would take whatever cans of stuff I found in my dwindling larder, mix them together and bake it. It was a hit-or-miss kind of thing.

Sometimes it was, if not tasty, at least edible. Sometimes, not so much.

our forks, and went out and got in the car to go to Mickey D's. At this time town was a 30-minute drive — each way, which can give you hint as to how truly, how "desperately: awful that particular fruit of my barren cupboard was.

One of my less proud moments as a budding cook: the hospital where we worked gave a turkey to each employee during the holidays. I thought I was onto something when I stuffed it with canned potatoes. Yeah, I really, really

wasn't onto anything. We ate it, but ...

always have on hand and the manipulation of them.

One day, I happened upon a recipe on the Food52 website. It was for a cheesy broccoli sauce on whole wheat Week, an independent paper in the Triangle for whom I occasionally write.

I decided to make my version of it.

I had both broccoli and cheddar, so I was good there. I tried a few wholewheat pastas in the '90s and early 2000s and found the mouthfeel dense and gritty, so I don't keep it around. And, I wanted to add some protein so it would be a snuggly onebowl meal.

I love farro and keep it in my edible inventory. Not only is it wheat in its purest, closest to the farm form, but it's also chewy, nutty and tastes great with almost anything, savory or sweet, as in hearty breakfast porridge. It's as easy to cook as rice, but it takes more time, comparable to brown or

wild rice. Nix on the whole wheat pasta, and a go for farro. And I had a package of Italian sausages in the freezer just hanging around, doing nothing. They got an invite to

the party.

I have discovered that if I'm creative, Petey and I could eat our pantry for weeks.

you know it's only a matter of time.)

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

apocalypse! (Be honest,

So, bring it on, zombie

Farro and sausage with silky broccoli cheddar sauce

11/2 cups whole, regular farro (not quick cook) 4 1/2 cups water

- 5 sausages of your choice (I use sweet Italian, but you can use anything including vegetarian)
- 2 heads broccoli, cut into smaller pieces with a couple of inches of stem left on
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- salt and pepper
- grape tomatoes for garnish

Have a large pot filled with very salty water ready for broccoli.

Slice sausages in 1 1/2-inch coins, then put into a large saucepan with a lid. Add farro, water, a big pinch of salt, and a little pinch of pepper. Bring to a boil, cover, lower heat and cook for 35-40 minutes or until sausage is cooked through, farro is tender, and the water has cooked in. Turn off heat, keep covered, and let sit while you make the sauce. When the farro has about 10 minutes left to go, turn the salted water on to boil.

When the water boils, add the broccoli, and cook for about 8 minutes. When done, the broccoli should be just tender and bright green, but not mushy. Use a slotted spoon or tongs to transfer the broccoli to a blender. Add 2/3 cups of the broccoli water to the blender and keep another cup of water for later. Add half of the cheddar. Blend on high speed until a smooth sauce forms. Season, taste, and re-season, if necessary.

Place the farro and sausage into a large bowl, add sauce, and gently toss. Add tablespoons of broccoli water until it reaches a thickness you like (keep in mind that it will thicken as it sits). Taste and adjust the salt accordingly Sprinkle each serving with more cheese and garnish with grape tomatoes.

pasta by Emma Laperruque, who incidentally used to work at INDY

One night Petey and I sat down to dinner and took a bite. Without speaking, we put down

Want to help?

Now when the pantry and chill chest are light on the easy, expensive stuff, I can usually whip up something pretty tasty. And it all comes down to the basics I

Serves 4-6.

Join your community in supporting this cause.

Since March 2020, Abundance NC's program connecting Neighbor2Neighbor/VecinoAVecino, has helped folks in need get back on track due to Covid-19 and beyond.

It is direct immediate help (3-5 days) for people in need of basic human necessities.

Some folks get help more than once.

So far, it has had amazing community support with generous donations from individuals and organizations.

These donations have paid shelter, utilities and food for 300+ families in need. .. and grows daily. It also connects families to other resources available within our community... .or pairs them with neighbors willing to buy and deliver groceries.

If you are willing and able to help but don't have time, you can scan To DONATE code or write a check to: Abundance NC mail to: Abundance NC / Neighbor2Neighbor 220 Lorax Lane / Box 5 / Pittsboro, NC 27312

Abundance NC takes 20% from all donations to cover overhead costs of the program.

Donations are tax deductible.

To sign up to help other ways, scan code:



Vecino & Vecino neighbor neig **Mutual Aid for the Piedmont**



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Chatham News + Record



CHATHAM CHAT | KATHRYN-MARIE GREGORY, GIRL SCOUTS Girl Scout Cookie program is a helpful and delicious — way to support troops

The COVID-19 pandemic hasn't stopped one annual tradition: Girl Scout Cookie season. The 2021 selling campaign has begun, so this week we speak with Kathryn-Marie D. Gregory, Girl Scouts' membership director for the North Carolina Coastal Pines area serving Chatham and Orange counties, about how the program works and how new buying options have made it even easier to get your cookie favorites in a safe, effective way.

A native of eastern N.C., Gregory has worked in youth mentorship and communications.

"As a single mom of three, the work that I do for Girl Scouts within our local communities is verv significant and meaningful to me," she said.

Gregory's career with the Girl Scouts includes serving as a New Troop Specialist before taking her current post. A former Girl Scout herself, Gregory now has a daughter in a local Brownie troop.

Reach her at kgregory@nccoastalpines.org.

The 2021 Girl Scout Cookie season has officially kicked off and goes through March 7. We all love cookies, but of course this program is more than just about that. Can you talk about why it's important for the girls and the troops?

Yes! The Girl Scout Cookie Program is integral to the success and development of our girls and troops. When you make a Girl Scout Cookie purchase, you're helping



Submitted photo

A Girl Scout Brownie delivers Girl Scout cookies safely while wearing a face mask.



Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts of America

This year's Girl Scout Cookie lineup features old favorites and one new variety — Toast-Yay!

the next generation of young female entrepreneurs get an important taste of what it takes to be successful - teamwork, planning and a positive outlook! And because proceeds

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from your purchase stay local, you help the awesome entrepreneurs who sell Girl Scout Cookies in your community power new experiences for themselves and their troop. When you support her success through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, you're narrowing the entrepreneurship gap between women and men by nurturing that go-getter spirit early on and equipping her with the confidence and know-how to dream big and do bigger.

Through the program, girls learn five essential skills: Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills and Business Ethics. Your cookie purchase is an investment in the world-changing business leaders of tomorrow!



Photo courtesy of Kathryn-Marie Gregory

Gregory's daughter Kenzi is a member of a local Brownie troop and has already begun selling this season.



Kathryn-Marie Gregory

people, but it is no match for Girl Scouts.

Our top priority during the Cookie Sale this year is the safety of our girls and volunteers and it is awesome to see all of the fun, creative and safe ways that girls are engaging this year. We now have virtual booths, limited capacity booths, contactless pickup and delivery, new direct ship options and personal

Submitted photo

'When you support her success through the Girl **Scout Cookie** Program, you're narrowing the entrepreneurship gap between women and men by nurturing that gogetter spirit early











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What else about Girl Scout membership is beneficial?

By joining Girl Scouts, girls and volunteers become a part of the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world and will have access to a global network of connections and opportunities through our organization. Through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience — a collection of engaging, challenging and fun activities like earning badges, going on awesome trips, selling cookies, exploring science, getting outdoors and doing community service projects — girls will prepare for a lifetime of leadership, success and adventure in a safe, no-limits place designed for and by girls.

Our memberships offer girls and volunteers the ability to build important skills, develop interests and participate in handson activities in four areas that form the foundation of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience: STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), Outdoors, Life Skills and Entrepreneurship.

How has COVID-19 changed the selling process this year?

The pandemic has caused many cancellations for our young

social media links for girl and troop sales.

Some of these participation options are completely online, while other options require participants to wear a mask, practice social distancing outdoors and sanitize their hands often. We have even partnered with Grub Hub to offer cookie delivery in select areas!

When it comes to Girl Scout cookies, we each have a favorite. But what's the most popular in this part of North Carolina?

Our bestsellers, we like to call them the "Trifecta," are the green, purple and red boxes: Thin Mints, Caramel Delights and Peanut Butter Patties. Of the three, Thin Mints is our top seller every year!

Tell us about the Toast-Yay! — which is new in the lineup this year...

We are so excited to introduce the newest Cookie in our lineup, the Toast-Yay! This cookie is a French-toast inspired shortbread cookie dipped in delicious icing and full of flavor in every bite! This year is also the last year for our S'mores cookie, so be sure to grab a few boxes if you're a fan of those, and be on the lookout for a new cookie in the near future!

There are lots of ways to purchase Girl Scout cookies, including some new ways. **Online ordering starts Feb.** 1...can you walk us through the purchase options?

Actually, online ordering directly from girls has already begun. Girls are sharing their person-

KATHRYN-MARIE GREGORY, membership

director, NC Local Pines

al order links to social media, which is a brand new feature for us this vear! The most traditional way for Girl Scouts to sell cookies has always been face to face. This year girls will be placing door hangers throughout their neighborhood in lieu of traditional door-to-door sales. If you don't have a girl in your neighborhood or in your social media groups to buy from, you can check out our digital Girl Scout Cookie Finder to enter your zip code and find a local booth near you! You can locate the Cookie Finder on our website or you can download the Girl Scout Cookie Finder app straight to your smartphone. What begins on February 1 is the launch of GSUSA's National Cookie Ordering platform, where anyone can place a direct ship order online without knowing a Girl Scout, and proceeds will benefit troops in your local Council.

Chatham County has several troops reaching across the county from Silk Hope to Bonlee to Pittsboro, serving girls from grades K through 12. They are actively selling cookies and open for new girls to join! Please check out our website at www.nccoastalpines.org to learn more about our Council and click on the "Cookies+" tab to find cookies near you!



Pet of the Week: ACE

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Ace. He is an energetic, 8-year-old American Bulldog mix who is excited to find his fur-ever home. Ace enjoys going on walks and playing with his human followed by a nice, long nap! Ace is neutered and is up-to-date on all of his shots, so he is ready to go home with his new family. He would do best in a home without other dogs, so he can be center of attention. For more information on how to meet or adopt Ace or another pet at the Animal Resource Center, call ahead to schedule an appointment at 919-542-7203 or call 919-542-2911 to speak with an Animal Resource Officer. The ARC is located at 725 Renaissance Drive in Pittsboro.

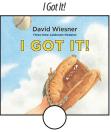
Photo courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Worth knowing.¬ Worth reading.

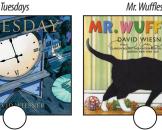
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David Wiesner has illustrated more than 20 award-winning books and has won the Caldecott Medal three times. Many of his books have no words but the highly creative illustrations spark the imagination and take readers on amazing adventures. Can you number these David Wiesner books in alphabetical order?







Did you have a cat named Hannibal?

with the adventuring nature of the kids.

my models.

Yes, Hurricane is the only one of my stories that actually

happened to me. Playing on that tree was the best! I had a cat,

but her name was Fuzzy (really). I changed the name to fit in

To make the pictures, I used old photos of my house, cat, yard,

bedroom, etc. for reference. So, what you see in the book is where I lived and grew up. The kids are not me or my brother,

although I used our names. I used the kids of some friends as

A HI INH



Q: Why do you draw fish in many of your stories? Is it your favorite animal?

- A: I don't have any fish for pets. I like the way fish look and I like to draw and paint them. They appeal to me visually. They are very strange and fantastical looking, so I use them a lot when I make pictures and stories.
- Q: How do you come up with the ideas for your picture books?
- A: Tuesday came about because I was asked to create a painting for the cover of a magazine for kids. I was told that I could do whatever I wanted, but they let me know that there were a lot of articles about frogs in this issue. Frogs are very cool looking soft, round, lumpy, and really goofy-looking. I wanted to draw them.

Wester J W LEHIE

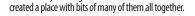
l got out my sketchbook



Flotsam

Free Fal

- Q: After reading Sector 7, I wanted to know if you grew up in New York City?
- A: I grew up in New Jersey, not too far from New York. I really enjoyed going into the city. I loved the architecture—especially the Empire State Building. It was great to be able to use it in my story. I designed the Sector 7 factory in the sky by looking at a lot of New York City buildings. I then



Q: Why do Tuesday and Sector 7 have very few words and almost all pictures?

A: A wordless book offers a different kind of an experience from one with text, for both the author and the reader. There is no author's voice telling the story. Each viewer reads the book in his or her own way. The reader is an integral part of the storytelling process. As a result, there are as many versions of *Tuesday, Sector 7, Free Fall*, and *Mr. Wuffles*, as there are readers. As the author of a wordless book, I don't have to concern myself about whether the reader's interpretation of each and every detail is the same as mine. My own view has no more, and no less, validity than that of any other viewer



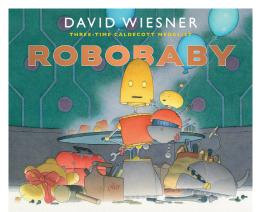
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In this hilarious gem from triple Caldecott winner David Wiesner, it's big sister to the rescue when a new baby is delivered to a family of robots and the adults are flummoxed by technical difficulties.

A new baby's arrival is a big moment in any family, even a family of robots. Award winner David Wiesner captures the excitement and fanfare when baby Flange appears—as a crate full of components. The adults bungle the process of assembling Flange, with catastrophic results. Big sister

Cathy, with her handy toolbox and advanced knowledge of robotics and IT, hasn't been allowed to help, but in the

ensuing chaos she calmly clears up the technical difficulties and bonds with her new baby brother. A shout-out for girl scientists and makers, **Robobaby** is an eye-opening and engaging blend of the familiar and the fantastic.

and began to draw frogs. I then drew one on a lily pad.

The shape they made together, the round blob of the frog on top of the circular, saucer-like bottom, made me think of something else that had the same shape—a flying saucer. And then I thought

KUL IN SHI

"why not make the frog and lily pad fly around, like a flying saucer?"

For the cover, I showed a group of frogs rising up out of a swamp, heading off to some kind of mischief. I liked the frogs as characters. They had distinct nersonalities. I wondered what happened before and after this scene. I then began to create the story that would become my book Tuesday.

In David Wiesner's book Art & Max, two lizards have a crazy adventure of drawing and painting each other. Draw a picture of your best friend in the space below, and use lots of colors to create some wild art!



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WORDS	Z	Ι	D	G	А	Ι	Н	G	R	F
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movie.

A: 2001: A Space Odyssey is my favorite movie. newspaper. Cut out It is a very complex story and it is told the photo only-no almost entirely with images. I learned a caption or words. lot about telling stories visually from that Glue the photo to a piece of paper and

Extral Extral

Picture Story

Cut out a photo

from today's

then make up and

write a story to go

with the photo.

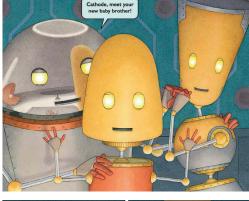
Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple, written directions.

Kid Scoop thanks David Wiesner and the students at Bahia Vista Elementary School in San Rafael, CA who came up with these great questions for Mr. Wiesner.

Q: What is your favorite movie and

what makes it your favorite?

h e Word Search





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Pittsboro church supports the community with subsidized meals, front porch food pantry

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Just off Jones Ferry Road along the outskirts of Pittsboro, a Mexican food truck served dinner right outside Cedar Grove United Methodist Church's front porch on Jan. 14 as the setting sun filtered through the trees.

A small group of people, each of them masked, stood outside the food truck's window. Some studied the menu printed to the window's left; others ordered food to-go. On any other day, arroz con pollo or a fajita quesadilla might cost \$10, but that Thursday?

It was whatever you could pay.

"We subsidize the meal," said Danny Berrier, who's pastored Cedar Grove UMC for five years. "So if someone comes in and says they can't afford a meal, we as the church family will pay for that from some of the gifts that were given to our church."

Back in August, Cedar Grove UMC partnered with Ta Contento, a Mexican food truck based in Chapel Hill, to provide free or discounted monthly meals to the community, especially those laid low financially by the pandemic. The church holds the event every second Thursday of each month between 4 and 7 p.m. The event on Jan. 14 was their sixth monthly dinner, and they will hold their next one on Feb. 11.

"I remember the first time we did this," Berrier said. "Some folks followed the food truck, obviously, because they know about Ta Contento ... so they came to our church because of them, and so, it's been a good relationship between the two groups."

Nora Anaya, a Bolivian immigrant, owns and operates Ta Contento -Spanish for "Be happy" – with her husband, Hans, a Mexican native. After the pandemic hit, she said Ta Contento had shifted to serving neighbornoods across Orange and Chatham counties. One of Cedar Grove's members, Amy Winn — Anaya's neighbor — approached her about partnering with the church to provide subsidized meals to the community last summer. On average, Anaya estimated they serve about 80 people per event, though she said it always depends. About half usually pay the meal's full price, usually about \$10, she said, while the other half "pay what they can." "And sometimes they don't pay anything at all," she said, "but we just provide the food. ... It's just beautiful to be able to serve. That is a goal for everybody here — to be able to serve and feed people." As part of that, she said Ta Contento doesn't charge the church "time," which most food trucks charge venue organizers "just to show up." It's usually a fee between \$400 and \$500 that helps a food truck cover its expenses. "We have stuff that we need to pay," Anaya said, "so sometimes I'd say if we don't achieve this amount of sales, we charge a little bit just to cover and pay the salaries basically. But in this specific event, we never charge anything at all. That's the way that we can try to help." "That's their gift to us," added Berrier, "and it allows us to be generous as a church to the community."





Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Carrboro resident Jamie Jennings and her daughter pick up dinner from Ta Contento, a Mexican food truck, in front of Cedar Grove UMC in Pittsboro on Jan. 14.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Cass Somersette regularly attends Cedar Grove UMC's 'Pay What You Can' food event, which the church holds every month.



taff photo by Kim Hawks

When Robbin Moore's work time was cut in half, the church donated food and helped her with rent. She dropped by for dinner at Thursday's 'Pay What You Can' food event before heading to work.

said the partnership with Ta Contento evolved out of a wider feeding initiative that traces its roots all the way back to late March and COVID-19.

A couple of Sundays after Berrier closed the church, a church member, Lynn Carter, approached him and suggested that the church turn its front porch into a food pantry.

"She basically approached me and said, 'Pastor Danny, you know, I feel my tithes, my regular contribution, instead of no offense — going to the church right now should go neip iamilies in our community," he said. "And so she had the idea, 'Why don't we just buy some food and put it on the porch?" After Berrier expressed his support, Carter and her son, Cass Somersette, repurposed their church tithes to buy some groceries, mostly canned products, and then stored them on the church's front porch. "The devil was saving. 'Oh, you can do this. You can do that with that,' so that money was burning a hole in our pockets," Carter said. "And I said, 'Son, we're gonna have to do something with this money.' After setting up the porch, Carter and Somersette looked to advertise it to everyone driving by the church. The only problem? It had been raining. "I said, 'Son, we've got to have something that will repel this water," Carter said, and then added with a laugh, "So we went and got a shower curtain." On the curtain, they wrote, "Church porch. Take what you need," in big, block letters. Soonafter, they draped it over the church's welcome sign near the road.

really grow and connect with our community?" Berrier said. "... We weren't quite sure how we would do some of the things, but when the inspiration came to Lynn, and others in the church adopted it, it's just taken off since then."

In late summer, another member of the church, Margaret Lawless, also spearheaded another feeding program that preceded the church's partnership with Ta Contento — take-home meal kits. Her idea, Berrier said, was to assemble a kit with everything families would need to cook a meal without shopping and which parents could pick up on the way home from work. Since starting, the church has been assembling about six different kits, including pizza and pasta kits. "Margaret really had that inspiration," Berrier said, "and then we rallied behind her organization skills for that.' But as Berrier and others repeatedly emphasized, Cedar Grove received a lot of help from the community — and their threepronged feeding initiative wouldn't have been possible without it. "Once (the front porch pantry) got up there, people just started stopping by and picking up items and then also stopping by and leaving items," Berrier said. "And that's been the blessing that I've seen. The community around here has really adopted this ministry of this church." Over three shelves' worth of food — canned goods, bread, rice, and even two boxes of cereal - sat last Thursday in the left corner of the church's front porch. Just above the food, church members had taped a homemade sign to the window, asking people only to take what they need in both English and Spanish. To the right sat a stack of miniature bibles, also both in English and Spanish. "Let the literature carry the message, too," read the stand that displayed them. There was such an outpouring from everybody in this community," Carter said, adding, "We have people wanting to



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Teri Berrier, wife of Cedar Grove UMC's pastor, Danny Berrier, sets up a diverse display of children's books, which Jaime Detzi of the Chatham Education Foundation donated.



'We want to help'

Cedar Grove UMC's efforts to serve a hurting community don't end there. In fact, Berrier "It was just a rag-tag, kind of shoestring stuck together kind of thing," she said, laughing.

Other church members quickly rallied behind the idea, and soon after a small church mobilized to make a big splash. Cedar Grove has 65 people on their membership rolls, Berrier said, but only about 20 or so regularly attend, even before COVID-19 arrived.

"And so, you know, part of the challenge, then, is how with 20 people do we

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Nora Anaya and her husband Hans own Ta Contento, a Mexican food truck based in Chapel Hill. They stop by Cedar Grove UMC in Pittsboro each month to offer subsidized meals to the community as part of the church's 'Pay What You Can' event.

meet us and (asking) 'What do we need?' It was just wonderful. So it just kind of warmed people's hearts, and they said, 'Yes, we want to help,' and so people from all over this community have come and joined in and helped."

The Inter-Faith Council (IFC) in Chapel Hill donates food, including fresh fruit, to the church's front porch pantry. A man down the road donates fresh eggs; another person dropped off 12 bags of food around Christmas time. Jaime Detzi, from the Chatham Education Foundation, donated a box of children's books, and the Chatham Health Alliance contributed vaccine information and other supplies, including homemade and commercial cloth masks. that the church then distributed out.

The church has received dozens of financial contributions, too, especially during its Thursday dinners. Berrier said they usually receive over \$100 in donations from the community, though it can range from "as low as maybe \$40 to as high as \$300." Last Thursday, they received about \$120.

"It all depends on the

crowd. We just don't know who's coming that night," Berrier said, adding, "There's a couple ladies I know who come every week and say, 'Well, here's \$100,' just to support the ministry. I don't know if they ever get any food or not, but they give us money so we can do this."

He'd often find checks in the mailbox or in the front porch's donation box for "whatever you can use it for," too. Thanks to community support, their front porch pantry has never run out of food.

"It's just been a constant thing," he said. "... We may be short of certain items at different times, but we've not run out of anything."

The church's efforts particularly mean a lot to Carrboro resident Robbin Moore, who's been part of the church for about a year. The pandemic cut her hours in half, from eight to four, and the church stepped in to help alleviate her financial burden.

"They bought my (four) grandkids a whole Christmas, presents all around my Christmas tree from this church," she said. "I have a 6-month old grandbaby (who needs) Pampers, milk, food, clothes. Oh my God, I was just so overwhelmed. This is a beautiful church."

She has attended nearly every — if not every — "Pay What You Can" event, which often provides her dinner before she goes to work.

"They always, like, want to give something, and it's so sweet," she said. "You know, you don't have too many people who just want to give you things, just give it to you. Most people who give you something (say), 'Oh, don't forget, I gave you this. I did this for you.' No, you don't hear anything back (from Cedar Grove). You just get in and get help. That's nice."

Berrier said the church plans to continue feeding and providing for those in need as long as they can — and perhaps even beyond COVID-19.

"As long as we can continue to financially support it, I think we'll keep doing it," he said. "... I feel like God's led us to this, and we continue to do what he's leading us to do."

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

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against BEATRICE SEROTKIN, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before April 7th, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 7th day of January, 2021. Paul Serotkin, Executor Estate of Beatrice Serotkin c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514 J7, J14, J21, J28, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

20-E-590 All persons having claims against RONALD L PHILLIPS AKA RONALD LEE PHILLIPS, deceased. late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment This the 7th day of January, 2021. Joshua Keith Williams, Executor 7302 Pecan St Great Falls, MT 59405 J7,J14,J21,J28,4tp

J7,J14,J21,J28,4t NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of EILEEN P. MCENANEY,

deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 22nd day of December, 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 9th day of April, 2021, or this Notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned This 31st day of December, 2020 Bridget McEnaney, Personal Representative c/o Anthony D. Nicholson, Attorney for the Estate McPherson, Rocamora, Nich-olson, Wilson, & Hinkle, PLLC, 3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400 Durham, NC 27707 J7,J14,J21,J28,4tc make immediate payment. This the 7th day of January 2021.

Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandeveer

50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150 Chapel Hill, NC, 27517 This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1. Austin C. Vandeveer, Attorney of Record 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150 Chapel Hill, NC 27517 J7,J14,J21,J28,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM The undersigned, having heretofore qualified as Executor of the Estate of FRANKLIN DURANT BELL, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before April 7, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of any recovery thereon. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 7th day of January, 2021

David T. Bell, Executor Franklin Durant Bell, Deceased Gregory S. Williams, Esq. Carruthers & Roth, P.A. Attorneys & Counselors at Law 235 North Edgeworth Street (27401) Post Office Box 540 Greensboro, North Carolina 27402 J7,J14,J21,J28,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-F-408 All persons having claims against BARRY DEAN NEWLIN deceased. late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 7th day of January, 2021. Jacqueline Claire McDowell, Co-Executrix 165 Copperhead Lane Siler City, NC 27344 Kelly Newlin Martin, Co-Executrix 5488 Lake Juno Rd Liberty, NC 27298 J7,J14,J21,J28,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITOR

qualified on the 31th day of December, 2020, as Executrix of the Estate of MALVINA J. BRADY, Deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of April, 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 the 14th day of January, 2021. Susan M. Brady, Executrix

Estate of Malvina J. Brady c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney Walker Lambe, PLLC Post Office Box 51549 Durham, North Carolina 27717 J14,J21,J28,F4,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF RUTH L. FIELDS, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the said decedent or her estate to present them to her at 3305 Kenmore Street, Greensboro, NC 27408 on or before the 15th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All of those indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned. This the 14th day of January, 2021. Darlene F. Green, Executrix

of the Estate of Ruth L. Fields CLASSIFIED INFORMATION Line ad deadline

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3305 Kenmore Street Greensboro, NC 27408 J14,J21,J28,F4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

21-E-14 All persons having claims against FRANCIS ANTHONY MADALENA, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of

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nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. J28,1tc

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY Elizabeth Kernodle Hussey, having qualified as the Exec-utrix of the Estate of HAROLD BRADLEY HUSSEY, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on November 25, 2020, does hereby notify all persons. firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned attorney of the Personal Representative on or before April 7, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate please

20-E-547 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Ellen Larkin Willis and Don F. White Jr., having qualified as Executors of the Estate of DONNA WIL-LIS, 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 7th day of April, 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 the 7th day of January, 2021. Ellen Larkin Willis and Don F.

White, Jr. Executors for the Estate C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 J7,J14,J21,J28,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM





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Three locations in Chatham County to serve you April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 14th day of January, 2021 Elizabeth M. Turner, Executor 111 Southpointe

Pittsboro, NC 27312 J14, J21, J28, F4, 4tp

NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-648

All persons having claims against ELIZA ANN SCHAEF-FER, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate

payment. This the 14th day of January, 2021.

John Clay Schaeffer, Executor 114 Bittercress Ct. Cary, NC 27518

J14, J21, J28, F4, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-652 All persons having claims against WANDA ANN PREVOST.

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deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of April. 2021. or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 14th day of January, 2021.

Clinton Prevost, Executor 4249 Devils Tramping Ground Rd Bear Creek, NC 27207

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified on the 13th day of January, 2021 as Executrix of the Estate of ALAN W. KAPLAN A/K/A ALAN WILLIAM KAPLAN, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of April, 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 21st day of January 2021.

Barbara Kaplan, Executor of the

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J14,F21,J28,F4,4tc

Estate of Alan W. Kaplan a/k/a Alan William Kaplan PO Box 51579 Durham, NC 27717-1579 Candace B. Minjares, Esquire Kennon Craver, PLLC 4011 University Drive, Suite 300 Durham, North Carolina 27707 J21, J28, F4, F11, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The Undersigned having qual-ified as the Executor of the Estate of ALMA S. BERGMANN, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said de ceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of April, 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 the 21st day of January, 2021

Jayne Seebach vanDusen, Executor 20008 Grier Chapel Hill, NC 27517 Charles L. Steel, IV Manning Fulton & Skinner, PA Diamond View II, Ste. 130 280 S. Mangum Street Durham, NČ 27701

J21, J28, F4, F11, 4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

TOWN OF GOLDSTON The Goldston Town Board of Commissioners will hold two (2) Legislative Public Hearings on Monday, February 1 at 7:00 pm. The Public Hearings will be conducted in person and remotely via Zoom, a teleconference software, for the following items:

1. Legislative Hearing on a Proposed Annexation . Rock Hill Farms Holdings, LLC has requested a voluntary satellite annexation of its 25.56 acre tract of land at 12365 US 421 South, Goldston, NC. (Chatham County Tax Parcel 9032) The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether the property should be annexed into the Town of Goldston. 2. Legislative Public Hearing on a Rezoning Request: The Town, on its own motion, is proposing to rezone a 25.56 acre tract at 12365 US 421 South, Goldston, NC which will be unzoned if the property is annexed into the Town of Goldston to Light Industrial (IL) (Chatham County Tax Parcel 9032) SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING. The purpose of these legislative public hearings is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the requests. Pursuant to Section 2.17.5 of the Town's recently adopted Unified Development Ordinance, the second hearing will be held jointly with the Town Planning Board.

If you wish to participate in the legislative public hearing you may speak in person (subject to Covid -19 limits), via Zoom or submit written comments for consideration by the Board. The Comments will not be read, but will be provided to the Board and included in the minutes. Written comments may be sent (via email or USPS) to the Town Clerk, Annie King-Gaines at akkgaines@ americansouthgc.com. The Clerk will receive written comments to be included in the minutes for 24 hours after the meeting. Please sign up with the Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on January 29, 2021 if you wish to participate. Instructions on how to join the Meeting can be found on the Town's nage under the County Planning Department website: https://www.chathamnc.org/ government/departments-programs/ planning/town-ofgoldston

in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 21st day of January, 2021 Bonnie Jovce Losak, Executor

Estate of John George Losak c/o Kratt Dedmond & Associates. PLLC 5623 Duraleigh Road Suite 111 Raleigh, NC 27612 J21, J28, F4, F11, 4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

21-E-6 All persons having claims against JAMES DONALD THORNTON, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 21st day of January, 2021. Anne T. Wood, Administrator 958 Taylors Rd Boones Mill, VA 24065

J21, J28, F4, F11, 4tp

NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF

UNTREATED SEWAGE The Town of Gibsonville had a discharge of untreated wastewater from our wastewater collection system near a pump station on Amick Road of approximately 20,000 gallons. The discharge occurred on January 13, 2021 for approxi-mately 4 hours. The discharge occurred from a broken force main on Pitts Road near the Elon Ossipee intersection. The untreated wastewater entered into Travis Creek in the Haw River Basin. A damaged section of the force main was cut out and replaced. The pump station on Amick Road was put back into service to prevent further discharge. This notice was required by North Carolina General Statues Article 21, Chapter 143.215C. For more information on this incident contact Rob Elliott, Gibsonville Public Works Director at (336) 449-7188.

J28,1tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE OF NORTH CAROLINA

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION CHATHAM COUNTY 20SP8

IN THE MATTER OF THE FORE-CLOSURE OF A DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY DONNA JEAN DAVIS AND RICKY HUNTER DAVIS DATED JANUARY 2 2004 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 01081 AT PAGE 1086 IN THE CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC **REGISTRY, NORTH CAROLINA** NOTICE OF SALE Under and by virtue of the power and authority contained in the above-referenced deed of trust and because of default in the payment of the secured indebtedness and failure to perform the stipulation and agreements therein contained

and, pursuant to demand of the owner and holder of the secured debt, the undersigned substitute trustee will expose for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the usual place of sale at the county courthouse of said county at 10:00AM on February 8, 2021 the following described real estate and any other improvements which may be situated thereon, in Chatham County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described in that certain Deed of Trust executed Donna Jean Davis and Ricky Hunter Davis, dated January 22, 2004 to secure the original principal amount of \$86,275.00, and recorded in Book 01081 at Page 1086 of the Chatham County Public Registry. The terms of the said Deed of Trust may be modified by other instruments appearing in the public record. Additional identifying information regarding the collateral property is below and is believed to be accurate, but no representation or warranty is intended. Address of property: 1084 FOUST RD, SILER CITY, NC

law. Following the expiration of the statutory upset period, all remaining amounts are IMMEDIATELY DUE AND OW-ING. Failure to remit funds in a timely manner will result in a Declaration of Default and any deposit will be frozen pending the outcome of any re-sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason. the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, the Substitute Trustee or the attorney of any of the foregoing. SPECIAL NOTICE FOR LEASE HOLD TENANTS: If you are a tenant residing in the property, be advised that an Order for Possession of the property may be issued in favor of the purchaser. Also, if your lease began or was renewed on or after October 1, 2007, be advised that you may terminate the rental agreement upon written notice to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale. provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time notice of termination is provided. You may be liable for rent due under the agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. The date of this Notice is January 7, 2021. LLG Trustee LLC Substitute Trustee 10130 Perimeter Parkway,

Suite 400 Charlotte, NC 28216 (704) 333-8107 20-108883

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA

J28,F4,2tc

CHATHAM COUNTY

20E577 Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of JOAN E. BURTON , late of 510 S. 6th Ave., Apt. D, Siler City, NC, Chatham County, North Carolina, the un-dersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 2800 Carrington Rd., Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804 on or before the 4th day of May or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 28th day of January, Wade Burton, Executor of The Estate of Joan E. Burton

David Scott Russ Pierce Law Group 9121 Anson Way, Suite 200 Raleigh, NC 27615

Attorney of Executor J28,F4,F11,F18,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-340 All persons having claims against NANCY E. CLEMENT, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 28th day of January, 2021.

Coy L. Clement, Executor

72109 Mosley Chapel Hill, NC 27517

JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 2021 | Chatham News + Record | B11

PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312 (919) 542-5605

J28,F4,F11,F18,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of WAYNE AUSTIN SIMPSON late of Cha-tham 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 be-fore the 28th day of April, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 25th day of January, 2021.

Sydney D.F. Farrar, Executor of

The Estate of Wayne Austin Simpson Post Office Box 1806 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 1806

27312

PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

(919) 542-5605

J28,F4,F11,F18,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

21-E-20 All persons having claims against MAKE PEACE CHALMERS, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28TH day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 28th day of January, 2021.

Rashawnda Benton, Executor 1365 Glovers Church Road Bennett, NC 27208

J28,F4,F11,F18,4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

TOWN OF PITTSBORO The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021 AT 7:00 PM. The Public Hearing will be conducted remotely via Zoom, a teleconference software, for the following item: Planning Staff is requesting text amendments to the Pittsboro Zoning Ordinance concerning secondary means of vehicular access and accessory dwelling units. The purpose of the legislative public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. SUBSTANTIAL CHANG ES IN THE PROPOSED AMEND MENT MAY BE MADE FOLLOW-ING THE PUBLIC HEARING. The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. The meeting will be held via Zoom, a teleconference software. Instructions on how to join the

Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website under the BOC Agenda, Minutes, and Audio tab (pittsboronc.gov). If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov by 4 p.m. on February 8, 2021. The Clerk will receive written comments to be included in the minutes

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J21,J28,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of WLLIAM F. MILHOLEN of Chatham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before April 21, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 21st day of January, 2021. Sallie T. Milholen, Co-Executor of the Estate of William F. Milholen 79 Medinah Lane Siler City, NC 27344 Laurie M. Nunnery, Co-Executor of the Estate of William F. Milholen 207 Fairwinds Drive Cary, NC 27518 Martha T. Peddrick Johnson, Peddrick, & McDonald, P.L.L.C. 440 West Market Street, Suite 300 Greensboro, North Carolina 27401 Telephone: (336) 574-9720 J21, J28, F4, F11, 4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

20 E 535 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor or of the Estate of JOHN GEORGE LOSAK of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all creditors that they should present their claims to Bonnie Joyce Losak, Executor, c/o Kratt Dedmond & Associates, PLLC, 5623 Duraleigh Road, Suite 111, Raleigh, NC 27612 on or before April 22, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded

27344 Tax Parcel ID: 0079578 Present Record Owners: Ricky Hunter Davis and Donna Jean Davis

And Being more commonly known as: 1084 Foust Rd, Siler City, NC 27344 The record owner(s) of the property, as reflected on the records of the Register of Deeds, is/are Ricky Hunter Davis and Donna Jean Davis. 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, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or autho-rized representative of either 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. Any and all respon-sibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed. This sale is made subject to all prior liens and encumbrances, and unpaid taxes and assessments including but not limited to any transfer tax associated with the foreclosure. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid 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. This sale will be held open ten days for upset bids as required by

Meghan N. Knight Lynch & Eatman, L.L.P. PO Box 30515 Raleigh, NC 27622-0515 J28,F4,F11,F18,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 494

The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Administrators of the Estate of SALLY M. NORRIS, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at their address, 196 Jasmine Drive, Hanover, Pennsylvania. 17331. on or before the 28th day of April, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 20th day of January, 2021. Frank D. Norris, Jr., Co-Administrator 196 Jasmine Drive

Hanover, PA 17331 Leola Maria Norris Ottinger, **Co-Administrator** 221 S. Melville Street Graham, NC 27253 GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC

P. O. Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 J28,F4,F11,F18,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of THOMAS MONROE ALSTON late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery This the 25th day of January, 2021.

Margaret Alston Martin, Executor of The Estate of Thomas Monroe

Alston Post Office Box 1806

Pittsboro, North Carolina 27344

MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE, LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 1806

for 24 hours after the meeting Please sign up with the Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on February 8, 2021 if you wish to participate. J28.F4.2tc

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS -CDBG-I PROJECT TOWN OF GOLDSTON

PHASE II SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CDBG-I PROJECT NO. 18-I-3045 Separate sealed bids for the Town of Goldston Phase II Sewer System Improvements project will be received at the Goldston Town Hall, 40 Coral Ave, Goldston, NC 27252 on March 3, 2021 at 10:30 A.M. then at said office to be publicly opened and read aloud. Bidders must be licensed contractors in the state of North Carolina. The bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying his or her current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope in which the proposal is delivered.

The Project will extend sewer to a currently unsewered area by installing approximately 3,000 LF of 8-inch gravity sewer and 1,750 LF of 4-inch force main. A new 120 gpm pump station will also be constructed.

The Information for Bidders, Bid Form, Contract Plans, Specifications, Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at https:// www.guestcdn.com. You may download the digital documents for \$15 by inputting Quest project 7530638 on the Quest website's search page. All bidders must obtain bidding documents through Ouest to be a valid bidder and receive project addenda. Please contact QuestCDN at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn. com for assistance in member-ship registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held virtually on February 17, 2021 at 10:30 am. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged. Please contact Dee Ann Edwards at dedwards@withersravenel.com for meeting access information.

All project related questions are to be submitted in writing to Michael Wicker at mwicker@withersravenel.com.

This project is being funded in whole or in part by the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). All federal CDBG requirements will apply to the contract: Bidders on this work will be required to comply with Section 109 and E.O. 11246 which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin, Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Davis Bacon Act, Anti-Kickback Act, and Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. The Town is committed to and supportive of efforts to effectively maintain and/ or increase the use of Small and Minority/Women-Owned Business and Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) contract participation for Construction Projects, services (including professional and consulting services) and commodities purchases, AND increase contract participation to offer employment, training and contracting opportunities in accordance with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (24 C.F.R Part 135).

All bids must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or bid bond in the amount of 5% of the total amount bid made payable to the Town of Goldston. No bidder may withdraw their bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof. The Town of Goldston reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Michael Wicker at 919-469-3340 or at WithersRavenel, 115 MacKenan Drive, Cary, NC 27511 for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Michael Wicker al 919-469-3340 o en WithersRavenel, 115 MacKenan Drive, Cary, NC 27511 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. This municipality is an EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. Date: January 28, 2021 Authorized Representative: Timothy J Cunnup, Mayor J28,1tc

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS OBSTRUCTION CLEARING SILER CITY MUNICIPAL AIR-

PORT SILER CITY, CHATHAM COUN-TY, NORTH CAROLINA Sealed proposals will be received by the Town of Siler City in the City Hall - 2nd Floor Court Room, at 311 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, NC 27344, up to 2:00 PM Tuesday, February 23, 2021, and immediately thereafter publicly opened and read for the furnishing of labor, material and equipment for the Obstruction Clearing project.

The project will include demolition of several structures, miscellaneous demolition and debris removal, tree clearing, and fence construction.

A Pre-Bid Conference has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 10:00 AM local time in the City Hall - 2nd Floor Court Room, at 311 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, NC 27344. Attendance at this Pre-Bid Conference is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged for all bidders intending to submit a prime bid on this project. All other interested parties including, but not limited to, subcontractors, suppliers, and vendors are welcome to attend.

It is anticipated that the contract award will be made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder if an award is made.

Proposals must be submitted in sealed envelopes with the Bidder's name, full mailing address, and General Contractor

return address. Sealed envelopes shall be addressed to: Town of Siler City, Roy Lynch, Town Manager, P O Box 769, 311 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, NC 27344 Proposals submitted without the prescribed information may be rejected. All Bidders should be aware that the date, time, and location for Proposal Submittal and Opening may be modified by Addendum. Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents may be examined at: W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc. 720 Corporate Center Drive, Raleigh, NC. Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents are available for purchase by going to Plan Room at www.wkdickson.com Please note that only regis tered plan holders may bid as a General Contractor. All Contractors are hereby notified that they must have proper licenses under the state law for their trades. General Contractors are notified that applicable statues of North Carolina will be observed in receiving and awarding general contracts. The State Department of Transportation and the United States Government have agreed to reimburse the Owner for portions of the project costs. The Owner will not accept or consider proposals from any contractor whose name, at the time of opening of bids or award, appears on the current list of ineligible contractors published by the Comptroller General of the United States under Section 5.6 (b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (29) CFR nor a proposal from any firm, corporation, partnership, or proprietorship in which an ineligible contractor who, at the time of the opening of bids or the award, is removed from the North Carolina Department of Transportation's list of pregualified contractors Contractors desiring to per-

License Number shown as the

form work on NCDOT projects shall pre-qualify with the Department. Upon pre-qualification, Contractors will be placed on the Department's Pregualified Bidders List and or the Approved Subcontractors List, depending on the application submitted. The requirements for pre-qualifica tion are listed in section 102-2 of the Standard Specifications for Roads and Structures, January 2018. For more information please refer to the NCDOT website at https://connect. ncdot.gov/business/Prequal/ Pages/default.aspx Bidders must be prequalified as a "Bidder" by the NCDOT prior to submitting a bid. Subcontractors performing work on this project must be pre-qualified as "Subcontractor" or "Bidder" prior to performing any work on this project. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a cash deposit or a certified check drawn on a bank or trust company insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in an amount equal to not less than 5% of the proposal or a bid bond of 5% of the bid executed by a surety company licensed under the laws of North Carolina to execute such bonds. The deposits shall be made payable to the Owner and shall be retained by the Owner as liquidated damages in the event of the successful bidder fails to properly execute the contract within ten (10) days after award and to give satisfactory surety as required by law.

By submitting a bid the Contractor certifies that he has under his direct control or at his disposal the men, equipment, and materials required to execute this work as specified. Lack of such control or availability of men, equipment or materials shall constitute failure to properly execute the Contract. Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bonds will be required for 100% of the Contract price, with a surety or sureties legally authorized to do business in the State of North Carolina. A bid may be withdrawn only as provided by the applicable statues of North Carolina. If a bid is withdrawn within 90 days of the bid opening, the Bid Guarantee shall be forfeited; provided that, if the request to withdraw is made not later than 72 hours after the opening of bids, and if the withdrawal is allowed, the Owner may return the bid guarantee.

The project is conditioned upon the receipt of federal funding under provisions of the Airport and Airways Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1987 and most recently Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for 21st Century (AIR-21). Certain mandatory federal requirements apply to this solicitation and will be made part of any contract awarded. 1. Buy American Preference (Title 49 United States Code, Chap 501); 2. Foreign Trade Restriction (49 CFR Part 30); 3. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (49 CFR Part 26); 4. Davis-Bacon Act (29 CFR Part 5); 5. Equal Employment Opportunity (Executive Order 11246 and 41 CFR Part 60); 6. Goals for Minority and Female Participation (41 CFR Part 60-4.2); 7. Certification of Non-Segre gated Facilities (41 CFR Part 60-1.8); 8. Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion (49 CFR Part 29). 9. Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (41 USC 702-706). NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE: The Special Provisions (SPIG61) of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, apply to this contract. It is the policy of the Town of Siler City to practice nondiscrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin in the award or performance of this contract. All firms qualifying under this

solicitation are encouraged to submit bids/proposals. Award of this contract will be conditioned upon satisfying the requirements of this bid specification. These requirements apply to all bidders/offerors, including those who qualify as DBE. A DBE contract goal of XX (X%) percent has been established for this contract. The bidder/offeror shall make good faith efforts, as defined in SPIG61 to meet the contract goal by utilizing DBE's in the performance of this contract. The apparent successful bidder will be required to submit in the "Proposal" section of his bid the information concerning the DBE(s) that will participate in this contract. This information will include: the names, addresses and telephone numbers of DBE firms that will participate in the contract, and the certifying agency documentation of current status as a bona fide DBE: (2) a description of the work that each DBE firm will perform; (3) the dollar amount of the participation of each DBE firm participating (4) written documentation of the bidder/offeror's commitment to use a DBE subcontractor whose participation it submits to meet the contract goal; and (5) written confirmation from the DBE that is participating in the contract as provided in the commitment made under (4). If the bidder fails to achieve the contract goal stated herein, he will be required to provide documentation demonstrating that he made a good faith effort. The bidder's documentation shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of SPIG61. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities and minor irregularities. Town of Siler City Roy Lynch, Town Manager P O Box 769

Siler City, NC 27344 J28,1tp

'One Night in Miami' a dynamic fictionalized overview of a real divide

In playwright/screenwriter Kemp Powers' seminal



NEIL MORRIS Film Critic

winning the heavyweight boxing title, mulls his impending decision to join the Nation of Islam. He asks a young Nation bodyguard why he decided to convert. The young man recounts how he wished he had joined as a teenager, when he was

moved

from

As the film opens, Clay (Eli Goree) is being chastised for his friendship with Malcolm X despite Clay's formidable in-ring success. Malcolm X (Kingsley Ben-Adir) remains a well-known firebrand, but his conflict with the Nation of Islam and its leader, Elijah Muhammad, is placing him and his family at risk. The popular crooner Sam Cooke (Leslie Odom Jr. of "Hamilton") is fresh off getting an icy reception from the all-white audience at the Copacabana. Brown is invited to visit an old family friend in Brown's St. Simons, Georgia, hometown so

is poised to announce his conversion to Islam but privately remains apprehensive about the blowback and his ability to forego women and wine. Brown is mulling retirement from football to pursue a full-time movie acting career, but the four debate whether this would be an act of personal independence or ceding away Brown's most influential platform to trade one master for another.

Meanwhile, Cooke's success writing and singing love songs that appeal to white listeners prompts a row with Malcolm. Cooke castigates Malcolm, saying that Maicolm's view of black versus white is not as black and white as he contends, arguing that Cooke's economic success in a white world is more potent than mere preaching and protesting. Malcolm then puts on a recording of Bob Dylan's chart-topping protest song "Blowin' in the Wind," shaming Cooke with proof that the two aims are not mutually exclusive. The four principal performances are effective, although partly uneven. Goree's impersonation of Clay (later Muhammad Ali) is tenuous, but he convincingly reveals the uncertainties underneath the bravado. Conversely, Ben-Adir's Malcolm X is almost too vulnerable, too vacillating - only during his tête-à-tête

with Cooke does he flash the famous fire in Malcolm's belly. Meanwhile, Hodge accurately exudes Brown's strong but silent persona, and the talented Odom is dynamic in portraying Cooke the man and performer.

Powers' script touches on a cornucopia of topics, from religion to celebrity to colorism, all through the prism of race and racism. "One Night in Miami" is a fictionalized setting about a very real divide and the varying means to bridge it. It is a feast for the heart and mind.

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the target of builles.

"You don't need religion for that kid, you can just join a gang," says Jim Brown, the heralded football star.

"What's the damn difference?" the young man replies.

Adapted by Powers from his 2013 play of the same name and the directorial debut for actress Regina King, "One Night in Miami" has all the ingredients for a superficial, sensational, hyperbolic spectacle. What unfolds instead is one of the most thoughtful, incisive cinematic dissections of modern civil rights and racial freedom. Although based around a contrivance, the screenplay's depth of truth-telling and honesty is even-handed and bold. It is one of the best films of 2020.

the old man can heap praises on Brown for his record-breaking season with the Cleveland Browns. When Brown (Aldis Hodge) volunteers to help the man move some furniture, he thanks "Jimmy" before casually reminding him that "we don't allow n----s in the house."

After Clay defeats Sonny Liston to win the heavyweight crown in Miami, he, Malcolm, Brown, and Cooke gather at the Hampton Hotel for what everyone except Malcolm believes will be a raucous after party. Instead, they dive into the crossroads each is facing in their personal and professional lives and how their current station enhances, or conflicts, with the larger aim of African-American empowerment. Clay

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ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI

GRADE: A -

DIRECTOR: Regina King

STARRING: Kingsley Ben-Adir, Eli Goree, Aldis Hodge and Leslie Odom Jr.

MPAA RATING: R **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hr. 50 min.

STREAMING ON AMAZON PRIME VIDEO



Photo courtesy of Amazon Prime Video Lance Reddick, Eli Goree and Kingsley Ben-Adir star in 'One Night in Miami.'



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