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Chatham's David Warren leads effort for N.C. Freedom Park, PAGE B7

Chatham News + Record

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'REACHING THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US' Another mass vaccination event complete for Chatham County

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Council on Aging Director Dennis Streets and his team are among a large swath of Chathamites who have been laboring to serve county residents in new ways during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Monday, it was Street's turn to roll up his sleeves again – literally, this time — during a mass vaccination event at the Chatham County Agriculture & Convention Center. As a WRAL-TV cameraman recorded the event, Streets received his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

'Despite the fact that it's overcast outside today," he said, "it's a very bright day, not just for me, but for all the others who are coming to get the vaccine.'

It has been almost a year since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Chatham. Now that a vaccine is available, to Streets it seems the pandemic's end may finally be in sight.

With the leadership of public health, and the collaboration of emergency management, Chatham Hospital, the Sheriff's Office, Chatham Transit and all the others you'll see today," he said, "...



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Dennis Streets, executive director of the Chatham Council on Aging, was the first to roll up his sleeve for a shot at Monday's mass vaccination event.

we've been working very hard to keep people informed, educate them about the three Ws, and just make sure that we're reaching particularly the most vulnerable among us.³

Under the state's prioritization guidelines, "anyone 65 years or older, regardless of health status or living situation" now qualifies for the COVID-19 vaccine. Many in

that age-range have mobility challenges which inhibit their access to vaccine centers, Streets said, and limited internet connectivity makes scheduling appointments nearly impossible for some.

COA facilities aren't open these days, but his organization and his staff have directed

See EVENT, page A9

Blessed to have received my COVID-19 shot

BY DENNIS STREETS Chatham County Council on Aging



I had the good fortune to start the month of February by receiving my first shot of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center at 10:01 a.m. Monday.

I am being very precise as it was a very momentous moment with this. I encountered no pain with this shot, but clearly feel I gained a great deal some protection from COVID-19 (even more on March 1st when I get my second shot) and a tremendous sense of emotional relief.

Still, as thankful as I was and still am, my excitement was exceeded when in my rear view mirror I saw the Chatham Transit bus. I knew that we at the Council on Aging had worked with Chatham Transit and the Chatham County Public Health Department to arrange for homebound seniors to receive their vaccine.

CDC report urges school re-openings, with some caveats

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN News + Record Staff

Research published by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last Tuesday urged schools to reopen, saying "the preponderance of available evidence" indicated schools could carry out in-person learning safely as long as mask-wearing and social distancing are maintained.

That report, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, found "little evidence that schools have contributed meaningfully to increased community spread," but made a noteworthy caveat: local officials must "interrupt transmission" in surrounding communities by imposing limits in other settings, like indoor dining or gyms.

Researchers said other recommended mitigation measures - hybrid attendance models, increased room air ventilation, expanded screen testing and online options also "must continue."

CDC's findings give further legitimacy to many public health experts who've presented similar findings, and support both President Joe Biden and N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper's efforts to push for school reopenings.

"Our priority is to get our children back into schools physically," Gov. Cooper said at last Wednesday's news confer-

See CDC, page A3



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Frozen in time

for me. One of the Public Health nurses administered it as I sat in my car.

Often fitness enthusiasts claim, "no pain, no gain." That was certainly not the case

Some were in the bus in wheelchairs and scooters. I am sure people could not see the big

See BLESSED, page A9

Last Thursday's snow didn't stick around long, but before it melted CN+R photographer Kim Hawks captured this closeup view of a budding native deciduous azalea topped with the white stuff.

Duke Energy opens new coal ash recycling facility

BY D. LARS DOLDER

News + Record Staff

MONCURE - Duke Energy has unveiled a new coal ash recycling plant in Moncure, the third of such facilities around the state to open within the past few months.

The Cape Fear Plant notified the state last month that it was officially operational. It will join similar recycling centers in

Salisbury and Goldsboro in processing a combined 1.2 million tons of coal ash per year until the facilities have exhausted coal ash deposits from nearby basins.

Each location operates according to the "STAR process," a series of steps which "change the chemical composition of the ash so that it's suitable for use in concrete-based construction materials," according to Duke Energy's website.

Over the next several years, a total of up to 5.7 million tons of coal ash in the Cape Fear depository will be excavated and processed at the new plant. After excavation, the ash will be dried and filtered before it is finally transported to concrete manufacturers within about a 250-mile radius.

The plant's opening marks a pivotal shift in

See FACILITY, page A3

IN THE KNOW

Cooper 'strongly urges' N.C. schools to offer inperson learning. PAGE A2

Proposed highway faces pushback from North Woods community. PAGE B6

ALSO INSIDE: La Voz report: Your vaccine questions answered; Vaccination frustration: one woman's story. PAGE A9



'STRONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THE TRUTH' Revisions to social studies standards launch debate

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN

News + Record Staff

The State Board of Education heard revisions to recommended K-12 social studies standards last Wednesday, with some Republican board members saying the "anti-Amer ican" standards will teach public school students that the nation is racist.

The board is set to vote on the proposed changes and implementation of the standards at its meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, which include new State Superintendent Catherine Truitt's amended language — removing "systemic racism," "gender identity," and "systemic discrimination" from the standards and replacing the words with racism, discrimination and identity.

Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson, like Truitt, a Republican, likened the standards to "leftist dogma" and said the three changes made were unsatisfactory.

"The system of government that we have in this nation is not systematically racist," Robinson said of the standards. "In fact, it is not racist at all.'

Robinson, the state's first Black Lieutenant Governor, pointed to his election to the state's second-highest post as evidence against the existence of systemic racism.

The process for the Draft 4 standards began in April 2019, when the board voted to proceed with the revision of the standards. From September 2019 through May 2020, the board's presentation slides said, writing

See REVISIONS, page A7

In Siler City, two shootings in two weeks

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Town leaders say they're concerned after two shootings damaged Siler City's perception as a safe community.

At about 2 p.m. last Thursday, Siler City police responded to reports of a vehicle crash at the intersection of E. 11th Street and E. Raleigh Street, near downtown. They found Margaret Phillips, 87, dead at the scene.

Phillips had been driving a 2000 Chevrolet Impala when the car was struck by a 2010 Chevrolet Malibu. Occupants of the latter vehicle were allegedly fleeing the scene of a separate incident in the 1000 block of 15th Street, where it was reported that someone had been shot, according to a statement provided to the News

+ Record from the Siler City Police Department. The SCPD have not released the victim's identity in that shooting.

After colliding with Phillips' car, the Malibu's driver and passengers left the scene on foot.

Four days later, on Monday, police again were notified of gunfire. Upon arriving at the 1100 block of 13th Street, they found Dashon McNeill, 26, with multiple gunshot wounds.

McNeill was transported to UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill for treatment. The severity of his condition was unknown.

Both incidents are still under investigation by the SCPD. The police have identified a person of interest in McNeill's shooting with pending charges to include one count of assault with a

See SHOOTINGS, page A7

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

• The Friends of the Chatham Community Library

has cancelled its Spring Book Sale, due to the continued lockdown of government offices and businesses, ordered by federal, state, and local government. More information can be found on the website: friendsccl. org.

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

ON THE AGENDA. • The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District board meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m., via teleconference. Anyone needing more information may call 919-545-8440 and speak with Brandy Oldham.

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: 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.

-- Available in February: Finding Reliable Health Information Online: February 9, Tuesday, at 3 p.m.; Microsoft Excel Basic, Part 1: February 16, Tuesday, 3 p.m.; and Microsoft Excel Basics, Park 2: February 23, Tuesday, 3 p.m.

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

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

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

Narcotics Anonymous

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

• 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.

Cooper 'strongly urges' North Carolina public schools to offer in-person learning

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN News + Record Staff

Gov. Roy Cooper "strongly urged" North Carolina public school districts to offer in-person instruction at a press conference on Tuesday, as the legislature and state superintendent discussed the need to return to the classroom.

Earlier in the day, Department of Public Instruction Superintendent Catherine Truitt said she and Cooper would "sing from the same songbook" and push local school districts to reopen schools, the News & Observer reported.

"Learning has continued. Educators, parents and students have persevered," Gov. Cooper said at the conference. "We have learned much more about this virus. and now it is time to get our children back in the classroom.' Just the day before, Republicans filed a bill in the N.C. Senate to require K-12 public schools in the state to give students the option of in-person learning. The Senate Education Committee heard the Senate Bill Tuesday at 1 p.m.; it was given a favorable report and moved to the Rule Committee for a vote at the time of Cooper's conference. The bill is on Wednesday's Rules Committee agenda, where, if passed, it would go to a floor vote before the House. If it passes, it would go into effect the first weekday, 15 days after the bill passes. The legislation requires school districts to provide a daily in-person instruction option to EC (special needs) students, the News & Observer reported Monday night, and would also mandate other students be offered daily in-person classes or a hybrid plan. In other words, districts currently in

fully remote plans — such as Durham County Schools or Wake County Schools would have to, at least, offer hybrid instruction, though districts would still continue providing a remote learning option for families opting out of in-person learning.

When asked whether he would support the bill, Cooper expressed having concerns with the legislation, particularly with the "stripping out" of certain health protocols. He said he would not mandate school boards to provide in-person instruction, but rather encourage them to take this action because "it's the right thing to do." He said at least 90 of the state's 115 school districts are currently providing in-person instruction for some or all of their students.

"I'm joined by state education leaders to strongly teachers should get vaccinated in the next weeks to months.

In Chatham, all the district's students were offered the option of hybrid in-person learning since Monday, when high schools began Plan B. On Oct. 19, Pre-K, K-2 and Extended Content Standard EC students had the option to return to hybrid learning. Students in 3rd through 5th grade were able to return Nov. 19; 6th through 8th graders could on Dec. 7.

Chatham teachers and community members have expressed concern with data from the ABC Science Collaborative — also cited at the governor's Tuesday conference — saving that it doesn't provide much data specific to the safety of high school in-person instruction, learning under Plan A or now nigher rates of community spread impact secondary transmission in schools. As the legislature was discussing the filed bill, the ABC's Danny Benjamin said the group has much less data for high schools and that he was less confident in Plan A, particularly for grades 6-12 where data reflects much lower community spread. As of Tuesday, there were 51 clusters associated with K-12 schools in the state, or 1,160 cases. In Chatham, there have been 68 total student cases reported, 69 total employee cases reported and one cluster. Currently, the state only allows Plan A (fully in-person for all students) for elementary schools, while individual districts can opt for Plan B or fully remote Plan C. It appears the option for fully remote instruction is still possible, though discouraged by the governor. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy Cohen said N.C. school districts aren't able to use Plan A for grades 6-12

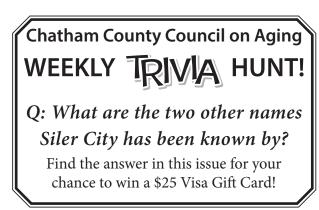
due to the higher COVID-19 transmission rates among older children compared to younger ones. Still, she said Plan B could allow school districts to offer daily-in person learning while providing the required 6 feet of social distancing between students.

A joint letter was signed today by Cooper, Cohen, Truitt and State Board of Education Chairman Eric Davis and sent to school districts encouraging them to offer in-person instruction.

"Thank you to Gov. Cooper and Secretary Cohen, for your clear statement today on the need to send children back to school," Truitt said at the conference, adding that remote learning had created or exacerbated challenges for the state's "most vulnerable students." "I understand that for many schools, the logistics of returning to in-person instruction five days per week may be a challenge, but this is absolutely a challenge we must face head on," she said. "We hope that today's DHHS guidance empowers local school districts to require students and teachers to

return to their classrooms while also offering a choice of remote instruction for those teachers and students who are at high risk from COVID-19. Our students cannot lose any more time."

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



urge that all schools provide in-person learning for students," Cooper said. "It's important schools follow the safety protocols laid out by the N.C. Department of Public Health. That guidance reinforces in-person learning while maintaining strong public health measures."

Tuesday's conference follows debates - often, but not always, existing along partisan lines - surrounding the safety of returning to school buildings. Providing in-person instruction is often framed as reopening schools, but many teachers have pointed out that schools are still open and providing instruction, even if they're doing so remotely. Many teachers and education advocates have urged teacher vaccinations to take place before returning to in-person learning. Cooper said teachers are up next along with other essential workers for COVID-19 vaccinations, but will not be accelerated on the list. County and state officials have previously said

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NEWSROOM

HANNAH MCCLELLAN, Reporter hannah@chathamnr.com VICTORIA JOHNSON, Reporter victoria@chathamnr.com PATSY MONTESINOS, Reporter pmontes2@chathamnr.com LARS DOLDER, Reporter dldolder@chathamnr.com VICTOR HENSLEY, Sports Editor vhensley@chathamnr.com OLIVIA ROJAS, News Intern olivia@chathamnr.com KIM HAWKS, Staff Photographer khawksnest53@gmail.com PEYTON SICKLES, Staff Photographer peyton@sickles.org

Newsroom Inquiries, Press Releases and Website Questions news@chathamnr.com

ADVERTISING

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

OFFICE

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

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FACILITY

Continued from page A1

Duke Energy's waste management practices. For decades, the company deposited much of its coal ash — a byproduct of coal-based energy production — in coal ash basins located around the state.

Last January, however, the company agreed to permanently close its remaining nine basins in a settlement with state regulators and environmental groups. Operations at the Cape Fear basin stopped in August following a closure plan Duke Energy and the Department of Environmental Quality created, which the state called "protective of public health and the environment."

"And one thing that the settlement called for was recycling as much as possible," said Duke Energy Senior Communications consultant Bill Norton.

The facility has been years in the making, Norton said, in keeping with Duke Energy's commitment to sustainable energy.

"We're really pushing forward toward net zero emissions from our power facilities," he said.

So far, the company is on track to meet that goal by 2050.

"The beauty of recycling is it permanently removes it from the environment," Norton said. "After it goes through this reprocessing facility, it is brought to concrete manufacturers and they encapsulate it into



Courtesy of Duke Energy

The new Cape Fear Plant will recycle 5.7 million tons of coal ash to be used in concrete manufacturing.

concrete, so it's fully bound into that product. It's out of the environment entirely.'

But some locals are wary of Duke Energy's apparent shift toward environmental friendliness.

Therese Vick, N.C. Sustainable Economic Development Coordinator for the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL), suggests the recycling facility has substituted one form of pollution for another. Her organization has worked extensively to combat coal ash depositing in Chatham and neighboring counties, recently settling a years-long dispute with a Kentucky-based coal ash management company, which planned to dump 12 million tons of coal ash in Brickhaven, southeast of Moncure. That company, Charah Industries, had originally been contracted by Duke Energy to manage its coal waste.

"BREDL does not support transferring the risks and health impacts of coal ash disposal from one community to another or trading one failed practice for an alternative method that is equally or more dangerous," Vick wrote in a letter of protest to the DEQ at the project's commencement in 2019. "Re-burning coal ash in what is essentially an incinerator is not protective of public health

or the environment - exchanging water contamination for air emissions is a false choice."

According to Norton, however, the ash reprocessing operations have 93% lower nitrogen oxide emissions and 99% lower sulfur dioxide emissions compared to the retired coal plant.

"Unlike an incinerator, which burns waste to be discarded, nothing is discarded in the STAR process," he said. "The finished product is an ideal ingredient for ready mixed concrete, and for every ton of coal ash recycled into concrete, about one ton of greenhouse gas emissions is avoided.'

While Duke Energy representatives contend the new plant will do little to negatively impact its surroundings. Vick argues that Moncure residents have reason to be suspicious.

'The Moncure community has been impacted by coal burning, leaking coal ash impoundments, the forced siting of a commercial coal ash landfill and problems with other industries," Vick said in her letter to DEQ. "They do not trust Duke Energy to be 'good neighbors'. The STAR facility is another coal ash injustice being visited upon nearby residents."

Now, more than a year since her petitions went unheeded, Vick and her associates are dismayed and disappointed.

"The Moncure community deserves better, they have endured decades of air pollution from the old Cape Fear plant and pollution from the leaking impoundments, and were forced to take millions of tons of Duke Energy's coal ash from Wilmington and Charlotte," Vick told the News + Record. "The North Carolina Dept. of Environmental Quality issued permits for a coal ash incinerator there, exchanging groundwater contamination for air pollution, and transferring Duke Energy's liability all over the country with every single cement block made with coal ash."

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



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Students in a 1st and 2nd grade classroom at Bonlee School, pictured here during the second week of hybrid learning at the end of October. Last Tuesday, the CDC urged schools to reopen and said it was safe to do so with proper protocol.

Financial Gifts for Your Valentine

Valentine's Day is almost here. This year, besides the flowers or chocolate hearts, why not consider making some financial gifts to your loved ones?

For starters, you could write a check for loved ones to put toward their IRAs. As long as they have earned income, they're eligible to contribute. Keep in mind, though, that recipients can use your gift for any purpose. You could also give stocks. Many people enjoy owning shares of companies that make the products they use. If your valentine is also your spouse, you can help provide financial security by protecting his or her ability to keep paying the bills if something were to happen to you. A financial professional can help you find the right protection package, which may also include a defense against the potentially enormous costs of long-term care. And you can make a Valentine's gift to all your family members by ensuring your estate plans are up to date. Financial gifts can help you make a lasting impact on your loved ones' lives. So, be generous and thoughtful as you plan your Valentine's Day gift-giving.

CDC Continued from page A1

ence regarding the new CDC guidance. "I'm going to ask local school boards and superintendents to study this data that has just come out. I know that our team is going to study the data and work with the State Board of Education."

At a press conference on Tuesday, Cooper "strongly urged" public school districts to offer in-person instruction, but said he would not mandate that. He emphasized that data reflects in-person learning can be done safely if health protocol is followed.

In Chatham, The ABC Science Collaborative, a project that analyzes COVID-19-related data in partnership with Duke, UNC and surrounding school districts, has consistently advised the **Chatham County Schools** Board of Education that in-person learning is sale — going as lar at one meeting to say "schools are the safest place to be." While the group has expressed confidence in the safety of in-person learning at all schools, presenter Michael Smith said at the board's Jan. 11 meeting the group did not have data specific to high school at that time.

Association of Educators partnered with several signers of that letter to create an online campaign calling for CCS to "reopen safely." Northwood High School teacher Eliza Brinkley told the News + Record the campaign was meant to "delay the transition of high schools to Plan B and bring elementary and middle school students back to Plan C until all educators can get both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine." As of Tuesday, 415 people had signed that campaign. Data from the ABC Science Collaborative currently tracks cases in 11 districts following Plan B from August to October, and six districts following Plan A from early October to winter break. Under Plan B, there were 773 community cases documented (from more than 90,000 staff and students in those districts) and 32 cases of secondary transmission — and no instances of child-to-

a class — went up nearly 74% from last year, from 12.56% to nearly 22%. That's the difference of about 800 students, according to the district's enrollment data.

Still, as the debate on school learning plans continue, experts are warning that staying open safely requires adherence to strict protocol a potentially expensive task.

Ron Klain, the White House chief of staff in the new Biden administration, told CNN on Tuesday that a lack of funding explains why so many public schools are closed, particularly in places where private schools are open. When asked about teaching unions that have opposed reopening plans, Klain cited the necessity of financial resources.

"I don't think the unions are overruling the studies," Klain said. "I think what you're seeing is schools that haven't made the investments to keep the students safe." Even though the study setting in the CDC report was rural and received a \$150,000 grant to purchase masks for all students, the students ate and attended classes indoors and were in small groupings (11 to 20 students), similarly to most proposed hybrid plans. In Chatham, COVID-19 safety protocol includes rigorous cleaning before, during and after classes, universal masking, symp tom-screening checks, socially distanced spaces and a hybrid learning schedule to de-densify school spaces and allow for a cleaning day halfway through the week. The district also invested in electrostatic sprayers, which generate charged droplets that repel one another and coat all sides of an environmental surface to clean it. The majority of CCS high school teachers who've expressed concerns about Plan B to the News + Record have not cast doubt on the district's protocol efforts, but instead with the lack of data and challenges of effectively teaching students remotely and in person. "If we were at a corporate company or another profession," Northwood's Brinkley previously told the News + Record, "I don't know that we necessarily would be asked to risk our health, possibly."

Pittsboro

Penguin Place

919-542-3020

Siler Citv

Eric C Williams, AAMS®

Laura M Clapp, CFP®

301 E Raleigh St

919-663-1051

114 Russet Run Suite 120

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

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

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Call for high school specific data

That lack of specific analysis worries some high school staff in Chatham, 51 of whom signed a letter sent to the board on Jan. 19 calling for CCS to remain in Plan C. In addition to being older, and potentially more susceptible to COVID-19, high school students also typically change classes more throughout the day, staff wrote, perhaps increasing exposure periods.

High schools in Chatham started in-person learning under Plan B on Monday

"Teachers are particularly concerned about big differences between high school students and elementary students," that 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.'

The board did not respond to that letter, as of Tuesday. Last week, the Chatham County

adult spread. Under Plan A, there were 14 additional cases of secondary spread, out of more than 40,000 staff and students. The presented Plan A data did not indicate how many total cases there were.

The research from the CDC similarly found little evidence of secondary spread in schools, examining 17 elementary and secondary schools in rural Wisconsin where mask-wearing was standard and the rate of infection was lower in schools than the larger community.

On some Chatham-focused pages on Facebook, many people pointed out that the ABC data was collected before the surge in COVID-19 cases that occurred during the holidays. Teachers - particularly those at high schools - questioned why high schools would transition to Plan B before teachers are vaccinated. County and state health officials have previously said school employees should get vaccinated in the next weeks to months.

Other community members pushed for in-person instruction, referencing declining mental health among students and increased failure rates. In January, the New York Times reported that rising mental health emergencies and suicide rates "point to the roll the pandemic lockdown is taking." In Chatham County Schools last semester, failure/ at-risk rates — students who received a D or F in

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

edwardjones.com Member SPIC Edward **Jones** MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | BOB PHILLIPS, COMMON CAUSE A few New Year's resolutions for N.C. politics

A new year has arrived, and with it new hopes and resolutions.

On the po-

here are

litical front,

some goals

lawmakers

return to Ra-

leigh for the

2021 legisla-

tive session.

for North

Carolina

as state



вов PHILLIPS Guest Columnist

Ensure fair redistricting

This year our state will draw new congressional and legislative districts intended to be in place for the next decade. The redistricting process has long been controlled by the legislature, and the result has often been gerrymandered maps that deprive voters of a real voice in our elections.

Fortunately, landmark state court rulings in recent vears have made clear that gerrymandering is unconstitutional in North Carolina. But the temptation to manipulate voting districts remains a siren song for partisan politicians. In order to avoid illegal map-rigging, the redistricting process in 2021 must be nonpartisan, with robust public input and full transparency.

The irony is that much of the current legislative leadership on both sides of the aisle have supported redistricting reform at some point. Democrats have been on board for reform ever since they lost power a decade ago. The top Republican leaders in the legislature, House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger, are both on record as sponsoring comprehensive redistricting reform, albeit when their party was out of power. Common Cause will be reminding all that their push for ending gerrymandering was a good idea then, now and always. We will invite lawmakers to be bold and give the people of North Carolina what they want: fair voting maps.

Protect voting rights

turnout in North Carolina, made possible in large part due to a variety of options for voters, including absentee voting by mail, early voting and same-day registration. This unprecedented voter participation shows that both sides of the aisle can do well when more people cast a ballot. Lawmakers should work in a bipartisan way to strengthen access to the polls, and not return to the ugly attempts at voter suppression that marred our state's reputation in the past. This session should not be about making voting harder.

Seek racial justice

Last year, our nation reignited a long overdue reckoning for racial injustice. It's crucial for this work to continue in 2021. Equal access to the ballot box and fairly drawn voting districts are important parts of this process. There are many other key policies to pursue as well. From addressing inequalities in criminal justice and po-The 2020 election saw record licing, to ensuring equitable

support for communities of color and funding for North Carolina's Historically Black Colleges and Universities, our state must take meaningful steps forward. Clearly, we cannot have a democracy that is of, by and for all people until our nation's shameful legacy of white supremacy is defeated and true equity is achieved.

Combat big money in politics

The influence of big money continues to pervade American politics. North Carolina was once a beacon for common-sense campaign finance reform, with a successful program of public funding for statewide judicial races that helped protect the integrity of our courts. In a wrongheaded move, the legislature gutted that program in 2013. It's time to restore public financing for our judicial elections and enact additional reforms so North Carolinians can have complete confidence that our government serves all people, and not just wealthy special

interests.

Bridge the broadband gap

The COVID-19 crisis has brought into focus a digital divide in North Carolina as schools moved to online instruction amid the pandemic. Some areas of North Carolina continue to suffer from poor internet connectivity. A lack of affordable, high-speed internet affects everything from educational and employment opportunities, to accessing telemedicine and participating in our democratic society. We need to close the broadband gap so communities aren't left behind.

These are just some of a long list of to-do items this year. But each will help us build a thriving and inclusive democracy in North Carolina. Let's get to work.

Bob Phillips is executive director of Common Cause NC, a nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy.

Some things pass on; others still in style

Some time ago while going through a personal treasure chest. I ran across some

items — three, to

be exact — that

I'd saved for use

Only problem

at a later date.

is that I have

the world has

saved them so long that



BOB WACHS Movin' Around

passed them by and I can't find a use for them and apparently no one else can either. I've asked.

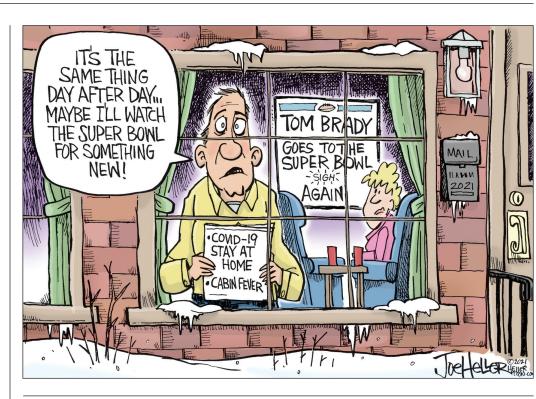
The items in question are three rolls of 400-speed 35mm color film. I have no idea where or when they came to live with me. I'd forgotten I had them since they were out of sight for so long, living in a drawer under some socks that

seldom see the light of day. I guess I got the nim during that period of time when I took lots of pictures, both personally and professionally. Now I don't do that anymore. Shoot, I can't even find the old 35mm camera with the 135mm lens I used. And since photography today has gone the digital route, apparently nobody uses film anymore, either. Add to that the number of folks who take pictures with their phones and you can see how things have changed. I know I'm a dinosaur but the phone I have in my pocket is mainly a phone. It does have the capability to take pictures; it's just that I don't. That little event put me to thinking about similar items, things that once were in great demand but which now seem to have gone the way of the American buffalo. Among those items are the manual typewriter, both the desk model and the portable. I learned to type in a high school class we knew as "Typing." My teacher at the time was lots older than me, four years to be exact; today I've caught up to her. In those days we called her "Mrs." Now I use her first name. She doesn't seem to mind. Anyway, we had those big of honking typewriters that could double as a boat anchor. We learned things like keeping our fingers on the home row and how to fling the return carriage back to start another line. Good stuff like that. At some point the portable version of that machine came into being. Same principle except you could carry it around. I had a job once that required a great deal of travel to do writing assignments. I was super cool, checking into the Holiday Inn with my luggage and portable typewriter. Today "typing" as a high school - or even lower grade — subject has been replaced by "keyboarding" or "computer somethingoranother" and typewriters have gone away. You just don't see them in airport waiting areas anymore, not that you see me there either. There are other similar products — reel-to-reel tape recorders,

8mm movie cameras, the old Beta recorder/players. For awhile we had a VHS camera in our family, weighed about two tons and wore out your shoulder carrying it around. They're also gone now, replaced by something about the size of half a package of cigarettes. And, of course, the VHS cassette is now a relic. Makes me wonder what I should do with the collection of 657 titles I have in that format.

Slide rules are another item you just don't find anymore. Of course, the reality is that, even though I had one in high school and wore it on my belt I had no idea what to do with it. It made me look cool, I reasoned. And I could find pi, even though I wasn't sure what I'd ever need to do with 3.1417 since calculus was the second foreign language I was taking (French being the other).

Other items have also found themselves on the "endangered species



Velvet hooks: guys hanging out with guys

or "extinct" list. During my college career, that period of time in which I managed to cram a four-year course into seven years, Right Guard deodorant was the manly choice. And it had to be in an aerosol spray can. Made the ol' dorm smell like Right Guard and smelly sweat socks but I loved it. The other day, just for the pleasure of it, I tried to find some Right Guard in a spray can. Either I was looking in the chewing gum section or someone else had beaten me to it but I couldn't find any.

Then I remembered that spray cans fell into disfavor some years back because they destroy the ozone and let all those bad sun rays filter in.

Some of that changing is likely ingrained in our national culture. For vears I've believed Detroit in general, and General Motors and Ford in particular, practiced "planned obsolescence"-the art of making sure products, in this case cars and trucks, wear out over a specific period of time so we'll have to buy new ones. If it weren't so, why would they make new models each year?

And others - like those mentioned earlier — just sort of happened as time and technology went along.

That may be a reality of life we have to live with but another reality is that some things don't wear out or go out of style — a kind word, a pat on the back, a smile, a strong shoulder to lean on, a helping hand. Maybe one day COVID will let us do those things again when we don't have to stand six feet apart.

So try those as you go along as best you can. And if you want to capture it on film — and have a 35 mm camera — I've got something for you ... if I can find it again.

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

I mentioned to my wife that my New Year's resolution was to hang out with more guy friends. She

that."

and I have two churches

and three kids between

us, so free time is rare.

supportive: "You need

But she was immediately

I knew two guys who

of Frisbee or, more accu-

rately, disc golf. I hadn't

played since my under-

played a weekly round



ANDREW TAYLOR-**TROUTMAN Hope Matters**

graduate days, but this seemed like a good opportunity to spend time with them. When I wondered if I could tag along, they graciously agreed. I bought a couple of discs and met them at Rock Ridge Park just outside of Pittsboro.

This 18-hole course winding through the woods is a pleasure to walk, even on a gray morning in January. Most of my throws ended up among the trees and underbrush off the well-maintained path. We had no problem maintaining our social distance.

But we grew closer as friends.

There were no tearful confessions or dramatic declarations. But between the groans of wavward Frisbees and the occasional hurrah of a well-thrown disc, we talked about stuff that matters: our families, childhoods and church.

After a few holes, I smiled and told them that I was enjoying this. I had just chucked yet another disc off a large oak, but they knew I wasn't talking about the game itself. I was hooked on hanging out together.

One of them shared that, on the drive to the park that very morning, he'd heard Billy Baker of The Boston Globe interviewed about his new memoir about friendships between guys. The book is titled "We Need to Hang Out." What a coincidence!

Baker's premise is that American men have difficulties building and maintaining friendships. Women talk face-to-face,

In the pandemic, any human connection is more complicated. But velvet hooks can be safe, especially if the activity is outside.

but men talk shoulder-to-shoulder. In order to form bonds, men need a shared activity like ball golf or disc golf. Baker called this a "velvet hook" — something fun that makes a connection between people.

I played disc golf back in college, but hanging out was never a problem in those days. There were intramural sports, parties and guys just lounging around the dorm playing video games like Mario Kart. Marriage, parenthood, career - what's popularly called "adulting" — have brought many beautiful and rewarding aspects to my life. But it's also true that now I need to make much more of an effort to hang out with other guys.

In the pandemic, any human connection is more complicated. But velvet hooks can be safe, especially if the activity is outside. Men can talk shoulder-to-shoulder if they wear facemasks and keep their distance. For only \$20, you can buy a decent set of discs. And it's free to play at Rock Ridge Park — a local treasure for friends to share.

I played nine holes that morning before I needed to get back home to the laptop, cell phone and family. In the parking lot, I made a joke that I'd love to play next week, if I could still move my throwing arm!

But I'd already resolved to play again with them. Even if my arm was so sore that I had to throw left-handed.

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

VIEWPOINTS

I owe Tom Brady for making sure I didn't get fired

Super Bowl Sunday is near, and since I cannot root for the Panthers I will

root for the

Buccaneers

I used to live

in Clearwater,

St. Petersburg,

Tampa's older,

seedier, sister

city across

the big bay.

I partied in

just north of



DWAYNE WALLS JR. The Roundabout

Ybor City, Tampa's historic district of old cigar factories re-purposed into stylish boutiques, restaurants, nightclubs and bars. My friends and I went swimming at Indian Rocks Beach on weekends. My only connection to Kansas City is a distant cousin, and she hates football.

In truth, I care for neither the Bucs or the Chiefs; I will be rooting for Tom Brady. I always root for him, not because he is over 40 and an inspiration to gray haired men everywhere. Nor do I not care about the record books. I will not be cheering for him because he turned the hapless Bucs into winners or left Bill Belichick a loser.

No, I always root for Tom Brady because I owe him. I owe him big-time.

Tom hosted Saturday Night Live after winning the Super Bowl in 2005. The load-in was brutal; SNL employs about a hundred cast and crew members, from the painters to the cue card writers, and we routinely work on top of each other during rehearsals. Most guys were able to grab something to eat from the craft services table set up across from the room labeled HMUW, short for Hair, Make-Up, and Wardrobe. NBC fed the whole company to keep us in the building and working, but on this day I was needed in the Today Show studio across the street during the dinner hour, so I missed that meal. It was good chow, too, prepared by the chefs in the kitchen of the commissary a couple of floors down.

As a freelance stagehand I had learned that the quality

and quantity of catered food available backstage was determined by the type of production; for example, corporate video shoots usually meant salads and sandwiches. Rock shows meant burgers and fries, or pizza. Fashion shows were the worst: nothing but bottled water and energy drinks. Surprisingly, WWE chow was restaurant-quality, including an omelet station. Writing about it now is making me hungry. But nothing like the gnawing, ravenous hunger I felt late that night on SNL.

At midnight my foreman cut us loose to feed ourselves as best we could. I staggered through the double doors to the crafts area and to my horror found only rows of empty platters and chafing dishes of cold water. There was nothing to eat but plastic wrapped pairs of saltine crackers and squeeze packets of spicy Chinese mustard. I totally lost it.

"Look at this spread!" I yelled in mock admiration. "Are these people good to us or what?" My couvertary upon achaet

My coworkers were aghast.

Everyone looked at me like I was out of my mind.

"I don't know where to begin!" I raved sarcastically. "Should I start with the mustard or the crackers? Maybe I can go through the garbage!"

My fellow crew members told me in no uncertain terms that I needed to calm down and shut up before I got fired. A couple of guys grabbed my arms to restrain me.

That was when Tom Brady walked out of HMUW. We all froze in place with a collective gasp. We must have made quite the tableau. You could have heard a pin drop.

"Hey Guys," he said, taking us in with a glance. "Whatcha got?"

No one said a word. As we were unresponsive, Tom craned his neck to look at the food table. Seeing it empty, disappointment registered visibly on his face. In that instant I knew that he was hungry, too, and had come out only to get something eat. That hunger drained out through the hole in the pit of my empty stomach. People have been fired from SNL for less than this breach of etiquette.

"Tom," I said to get his attention before continuing with genuine contrition. "Tom, I'm sorry. I haven't had anything to eat all day and all night, and I lost it. I'm sorry." It was time to take my medicine like a big boy.

"Meh, OK," he said, shrugging his shoulders. Then he turned and disappeared back into HMUW. My coworkers dragged me onto the nearest folding chair and ran away from me as quickly as possible.

Tom Brady never registered a complaint that I heard about, so I got to keep my job. This is why I will be rooting for the Tom Brady to win the Super Bowl. Thanks for not getting me fired, Tom!

Dwayne Walls Jr. has previously written a story about his late father's battle with Alzheimer's disease and a first-person recollection of 9/11 for the newspaper. Walls is the author of the book "Backstage at the Lost Colony." He and his wife Elizabeth live in Pittsboro.

Will we return to farm life?

One of my most enduring memories as a small child was the weekly shopping trip



MIKE WALDEN You Decide

four Decide farm. The nearest town with any reasonable amount of shopping was five miles away. Today that's not very far, but my mom didn't have a car. My father used the only vehicle we had for his daily trips to work.

the road from my

grandparents'

So on Thursdays — which was shopping day — my mom would put me in a little red wagon and pull it the half mile to Carsh's grocery store. Carsh's was a typical "mom and pop" store so prevalent in those days. Not only did Carsh's sell food products like meat, eggs, bread and cereal, but if you needed some fabric, nails or stationary, Carsh's had those too. On the way back home, the groceries took my place in the wagon.

Buying groceries has undergone many changes during the last seven decades, and stores like Carsh's, which was family owned and run, are harder to find. They've been replaced by supermarket chains or rolled into "big box" stores which sell everything. At the same time there's been the rise of specialty stores that cater to particular products and tastes. Yet there's no doubt the most revolutionary recent change in retailing has been cyber-buying. The U.S. Department of Commerce defines cyber-buying, or as some call it, e-commerce, as "sales of goods and services where the buyer places an order, or the price and terms of the sale are negotiated, over an internet, mobile device, electronic network, electronic mail or comparable online system." Translated, we use one of our tech devices to buy something. Cyber-buying was almost non-existent a decade ago, accounting for only 4.5 percent of retail sales. The latest data for 2020 show it now accounts for 16.5 percent of retail sales in 2020. That's an amazing almost four-fold increase within a decade. It may surprise you that cyber-buying "only" accounts for 16.5 percent of all retail sales. This relatively low rate has two implications. First, it means consumers still buy most of their products and services in the traditional way, by visiting stores and shops. This is a big reason why there's been so much concern about brick and mortar stores during the COVID-19 recession, because those stores are still the main way consumers make purchases. Second, the fact that cyber-buying accounts for a seemingly low 16.5 percent of retail sales means it has plenty of running-room to grow. In fact, if cyber-buying expands in the next decade at the same rate it has grown in the last decade, by 2031 it will be the way 60 percent of retail sales are accomplished. Cyber-buying will also be strengthened by the fact

that as time marches on, more individuals will have grown-up using computers, smartphones and other modern tech devices. Cyber-buying will be as natural to them as rotary phones were to me.

As cyber-buying grows, it will also change. Shoppers will still be able to visit a website, compare products and services, then click and buy as they do today. But there will be three big enhancements to cyber-buying that will be applauded by some, however received skeptically by others.

The first is drone delivery. Cyber-buying often comes with delivery. Most such delivery today is done using vehicles on the roads. Drones are small, light-weight machines capable of flying short distances. They avoid congested roads and are perfect for delivering packages. At the end of 2020 the Federal Aviation Administration finalized new rules regulating the flights of drones. Experts think these rules will allow drone delivery to quickly expand and add a new dimension to the advantages of cyber-buying.

The second enhancement will be use of AI, short for artificial intelligence, by cyber-buying companies. One of the aspects of the technology revolution is the ability of companies to collect all kinds of data from people buying their products and services. The companies know what we buy, when we buy and how often we buy. The development of AI, which is just a fancy term for programs predicting behavior, will increasingly allow cyber companies to anticipate our shopping needs. For example, a cyber supermarket will know the kinds of cereal the Walden's buy, the size of the box and how many times a month we purchase it. Expanded to all of the Walden's grocery purchases, a cyber supermarket could fill our weekly shopping cart and have the products delivered to our door. The Walden's wouldn't have to take the time and thought to fill out weekly grocery lists, nor would we need to drive to the store to purchase them. In the future, the delivery may even be met by the Walden's robot, which accepts the groceries and puts them away! The third new development for cyber shopping will be virtualization. Virtualization allows a person to stay where they are, but have all the sensory (sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell) experiences of being somewhere else. Think about how this could be used with vehicle shopping: I stay in my home but "test drive" vehicles virtually; the one I pick is then delivered to my home. I know much of these predicted developments, like AI and virtualization, sound like science fiction. But I remember when Dick Tracy's wrist watch with audio and video capabilities seemed far-fetched, but now we have them. I'm not sure I'm ready for the new retailing world, but do I have a choice? You decide!



LETTERS

An open letter to Sen. Thom Tillis TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Senator Tillis,

At the top of your web page this morning there are two banners that say you crazy conspiracy theory; I'm saying that Darwinism rules. When an elected representative, like you, does little positive YOU are actively working to create negative outcomes.

DO GOOD THINGS!!!

Craig Witter Pittsboro

Michael Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook and public policy. division of our great country. Our country became great by working together. Your marketing messages should be designed to get your supporters to cease to be inflamed at their perceived enemies.

By using the word "Fight" repeatedly, YOU are pouring gas on a fire that MUST be quenched with bipartisan LEADER-SHIP!

Please do the right things to heal our country.

• Call out anyone and everyone who fed into the CRAZY conspiracy theory of "Stop The Steal"

• LEAD or at least join a truly moral campaign to ostracize GOP factions and persons who are taking steps to stop impeachment of our Traitor in Chief, Donald Trump, including Sen. Ted Cruz, Rep. Kevin McCarthy and others

• Actively LEAD or join and verbally support efforts to call out those who engage in CRAZY conspiracy theories, such as Marjorie Taylor Green

It is up to you and those you interact with (in government and citizens in North Carolina) to recognize that using bold words to do nothing but gain and keep political power is counterproductive to stopping the slide of weak government. If you and we do not start DOING THINGS that actually and actively heal and build, our country will continue to wane.

The world is competitive and the U.S.A. will soon be overtaken fair and square by countries that actually work together for THEIR success. I'm not talking about some

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Hannah McClellan | Victoria Johnson | Lars Dolder, *Reporters*

OLIVIA ROJAS, News Intern

VICTOR HENSLEY, Sports Editor

KIM HAWKS | PEYTON SICKLES, Staff Photographers

Senator Foushee seeks to protect our rights

TO THE EDITOR:

D. Lars Dolder reported in last week's edition, "N.C. legislators push for 28th Constitution amendment" (News + Record, Jan. 28-Feb. 3) that Sen. Valerie Foushee (D-Dist. 23) will push for the N.C. General Assembly to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution.

She argues that equality must be indelibly protected in the nation's most 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, 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," said Foushee.

I write not to dispute efforts to ratify the ERA, but to ask that Senator Foushee not support bills that change, weaken, or repeal our ability to keep and bear arms. The Second Amendment has no expiration date and is already "indelibly protected in the nation's most powerful document," our Constitution.

Thank you, Senator, for that important reminder.

Cathy Wright Chapel Hill

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 States can limit regulatory damage

Shortly after taking office, President Joe Biden began revving up the federal



government's regulatory engine. He's already run over the Keystone Pipeline. We can expect a pileup of other rules that will increase the cost of energy, food, and many other goods and services across our economy.

John Locke Foundation

Fortunately, there's something North Carolina lawmakers can do to

lessen the damage. They can ramp up their own efforts to reform state regulation and promote economic freedom more generally.

No, I'm not saying state governments can nullify federal laws. But the same households and businesses that the Biden administration is about to sock with costly federal rules are also subject to state taxes and regulation. As a new empirical study shows, states that embrace economic freedom tend to suffer less when Washington's regulators go too far.

David Lucas of Syracuse University

and Christopher Boudreaux of Florida Atlantic University used 12 years of data on rulemaking, economic freedom, and job creation to explore the relationship between state and federal policy choices.

"Because state-level institutions characterized by low tax and labor freedom are unlikely to buffer the costs associated with compliance and regulatory capture, national regulation should negatively affect net job creation in these regions," they predicted. "By contrast, regions with high tax and labor freedom are likely to buffer the costs of regulation and yield more net job creation."

The results of the study Lucas and Boudreaux conducted, published last year in the academic journal Research Policy, were in line with their prediction. In states such as Florida, Texas, and North Carolina with better-than-average freedom scores, the economic burden of federal regulation was lower or even fully offset. In states such as New York, New Mexico, and California with worse-than-average freedom scores, federal rules produced lower net job creation.

So, in addition to arguing against unwise Biden administration policies, North Carolina leaders should use the state tools they have at their disposal to promote entrepreneurship and job creation, especially with respect to the labor market.

We are a right-to-work state, meaning we don't require our workers to join labor cartels as a condition for getting a job. Our legislature has also wisely chosen not to set wage floors higher than the national floor. After all, mandating that employees receive \$12 or even \$15 an hour, regardless of their productivity, has the inevitable effect of giving a pay raise to higher-skilled workers and a pink slip to lower-skilled ones.

But North Carolina's labor market is still more rigid than it needs to be. Far too many occupations require a license to enter, for example. My John Locke Foundation colleague Jon Sanders has spent years quantifying the very real costs that occupational licensing imposes on both workers and consumers.

Sanders also has a good solution to offer. In 2013, North Carolina instituted "periodic review and sunset" of state regulations. Every 10 years, state agencies must review each rule on the books. If the expected benefits of the rule no longer exceed the expected costs, or the rule fails to get a review at all, it automatically disappears. It's a great idea. It's already done away with many outdated or counterproductive regulations. Unfortunately, the process doesn't yet apply to occupational licensing. Sanders would subject all licensing boards and their licenses to periodic review and sunset, as part of a package of other reforms to make it easier for North Carolinians to enter new occupations.

For example, if a newcomer was previously licensed in other state, it ought to be very easy to get licensed here. And for many occupations, why not let providers obtain voluntary certification, not mandatory licensure, and then let consumers decide how much they value that certifica tion through their own choices?

Conservatives are bracing for years of bad news from Washington. We know the progressives who will staff the Biden administration have very different preferences from ours. Fortunately, government power in America is still decentralized to a significant degree. Conservative leaders need not just complain. They can act.

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

John Hart's grim return

"People in publishing have always known that John Hart can flat-out write," says bestselling author David Baldacci.



D.G. MARTIN One on One

Hart proves it again with his latest, "The Unwilling," 150,000 copies of which have been printed to be ready for release this week. It's been almost 15 years since

former North Carolina lawyer John Hart hit the big time in the writing world with his bestselling debut novel set in Salisbury, where he grew up. "The King of Lies," introduced us to a struggling,

troubled lawyer in dark circumstances. His next books, "Down River" and "The Last Child," earned Hart two Edgar Awards for best mystery novel. More successes came with "Iron House," "Redemption Road," and "The Hush."

These books, wrote author Corban Addison, "raised the bar for commercial fiction, deftly blending the tension, pacing, and suspense of the classic thriller with characters so richly drawn and prose so elegant that his stories are worthy of being called literature."

"The Unwilling" holds to Hart's successful formula. But there is a difference, Hart says, because the new book is set in the past, in the Vietnam era, rather than the present day. The action takes place in Charlotte and the surrounding area, not on the military front. But because the impact of the war is pronounced and devastating, the book can be characterized as "anti-war."

Hart explains, "I've always wanted to set a novel in the past — an entirely unique challenge — and to recreate the world I remember from childhood — no cellphones or computers. It made sense, too, to set this book at a time when our country felt equally torn, partly because tension like that makes for good storytelling, but also to celebrate that we've lived through hard times before — been equally divided and that brighter days come when people act in good faith. "More profoundly, I wanted to speak to the unchanging nature of humanity, the good and bad of us all. People often mistake my intent, believing I write dark. when that's not entirely true. Instead, I write about the search for light in dark places. That means building rich, flawed characters and then turning up the heat to see what choices they'll make as the softness around them cooks awav. "Wartime or peace, at home or on the dim streets of a midnight city, it's what humanity is about, how we handle love and hope, fear and loss, the enduring questions that confront us each generation, to do the right thing or the wrong, rise or fall, sacrifice or surrender." The new book's action revolves around the family of police detective Bill French and his wife Gabriel. Their youngest son, Gibby, is a high school senior. Their two older sons, twins, fought in Vietnam. One was killed in action. The other, Jason, came back from the war wounded in body and mind. As the book opens, Jason returns to Charlotte after serving time in prison for a series of crimes. He wants to bond with Gibby, the only family member to whom he can relate. Grieving for her dead son, Gabriel wishes Jason had died instead and wants Gibby to have nothing to do with him. Bill's position as a detective complicates the conflicts Jason and Gibby will have with the law, drug gangs, illegal weapons trade and sex activities that lead to both brothers being suspected of murder. When Jason goes back to prison, he is greeted by a death row inmate whose great wealth has enabled him to live in luxury and control an outside criminal operation. This prisoner, "X," is one of Hart's darkest characters and certainly one that will both repel and seduce the reader. A host of other horrible people and scenes makes for a grim read, but the heart of the story is a family struggling with the damage done by a war that has taken two sons and threatens to take a third. The title of the book comes from a quote Hart attributes to an unknown soldier and which sums up the book's theme.

Sitting on a high horse

Our mother died last year before reaching her 86th birthday. She didn't die from COVID-19, but the awful avalanche of complications that arose while trying



ED BRONSON Guest Columnist

to arrange medical care during the pandemic definitely crushed her (and our family) mercilessly. An affliction novelty that makes it impossible to breathe on your own, our most rudimentary life instinct, becomes instead a prisoner's hard labor. Inspiration normally has so many

Inspiration normally has so many wonderful meanings. Suffering lurks around it now, though, like a smirking opportunist. The kind of wretch that

coldly loots one's homestead while the mourning family huddles together graveside. Remember when burials were possible? Still, harsh skeptics have a matter-of-fact attitude about keeping a national tally of the smothered. That it is, and always was, inevitable collateral damage. Blank faces and odd shoulder shrugs during another's terrible distress; the same sort of disinterest one might convey about yet another goldfish floating upside down.

A cousin recently sent me a picture taken when I was only 3. There I am, sitting high on a wooden horse while mom carefully guards me. She steadied me a lot over the decades of brambles, bumbles, and braggadocio that I expected her to follow. In innocence we posed by a Merry-Go-Round carving because that's where parents love to take their kids. Up high then gliding lower, playfulness is abundant within such boisterous circles as calliope music joyfully drowns out what an admission ticket actually costs. Giggling children don't notice and adults don't care that progress can be very imaginary. Entertainment for its own sake cutely obscures the oscillations benind the endless chase. Sally bounces on an ostrich. Billy soars atop a camel. Freddie straddles a tiger just like the stuffed one that guards the dreams of his pillowed bed. I pretend to gallop on a white stallion with scant physical evidence except my childish neighs. Nobody worries about who's the farthest ahead when the delights of a timeless ride enthrall everyone so much they don't care about getting to a firm spot. I stood alongside an enchanted grandchild at the Burlington City Park Carousel two years ago and still smiled plenty. It unexpectedly reminded me of a magazine cartoon with two men looking at a map while



Photo courtesy of Ed Bronson

The author, photographed with his mother.

traveling on a destitute back road. The bubble caption from inside the vehicle said, "I don't know exactly where we are but we seem to be making good time."

Mister Ed was a naughty talking horse on a TV sitcom during the 1960s. The show's catchy theme song, "A horse is a horse, of course, of course," was the tease behind the tormenting of owner Wilbur that the audience sang along with. Getting up on your high horse, however, trespasses far beyond silly comedy with its glaring arrogance. Excessive grandeur is initially ridiculous and eventually atrocious. Derogatory judgment tends to ensnare the same person that tries to lasso someone else with it. No person and no group is strengthened by a propaganda of contempt that trivializes another person's struggles. Some things may never make sense to us but neither does mocking elevate a pompous taunter. Self-righteousness is a giddy feeling that evidently is contagious. Maybe we act mean to others as a way to ward off what secretly terrifies us? Anaïs Nin wrote, "We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are." Eulogies of great people confirm the worth of their heart insights, not their haughtiness.

"We the unwilling, led by the unqualified to kill the unfortunate, die for the ungrateful."

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.

Who, how much and how long?

Nobody runs for governor hoping he (the governor) has the authority or she will be confronted with a major to administer those laws through

disaster while in

office. At least we

hope not. But it's

As the corona-

rages into a second

being raised about

who should make

part of the job.

virus pandemic

year, legitimate

questions are



TOM CAMPBELL N.C. Spin

decisions in times of emergency, what authorities should be granted, for how long a period should these powers last and what should be done if the authorized time expires before the emergency ends.

The National Conference of State Legislatures reports our state isn't alone in asking. Unfortunately, the current health issue has become partisan and political. Don't believe it? Just look at how the pandemic has been managed in so-called "red" states versus "blue" states. There is growing opposition between legislatures and governors and, in most cases, those states have governors of one party and a legislature controlled by the other.

Healthcare shouldn't be political. The goal should be to ensure the right people have the right authority for the right period of time in order to help the most people.

Most state constitutions give power to enact laws to the state legislature, while the chief executive officer (the governor) has the authority to administer those laws through various agencies. The deliberative nature of our 170 legislators ensures they can't and won't act quickly in emergencies. Our Council of State, consisting of statewide elected officials with narrow scopes of expertise, is neither qualified nor able to make informed emergency decisions quickly. Further, neither group has a record of non-partisan decision-making. Some governors don't either, but as the state's highest ranking elected officer the governor usually has more statewide perspective.

It is an awesome responsibility to task one person with managing a crisis and I suspect most governors, including Roy Cooper, would welcome help during crises, but with three major caveats.

First, the helpers need expertise dealing with the emergency at hand. Hurricanes, floods, snowstorms, rockslides, terrorist acts and health emergencies require different skillsets. Second, advisers must not become a burdensome hindrance and must act in a timely manner. It is bad enough to work through the federal bureaucracies, like FEMA, without having hands unnecessarily tied further. But the third and top prerequisite is advisers must put aside their personal, professional, economic or political interests to provide advice most beneficial to the most people.

The legislature could provide more clear guidelines for emergency powers, abiding by the above standards. The governor needs broad authority because emergencies are different and conditions change rapidly.

It might sound tidy to draw a line saying emergency powers are only in force for 60, 90 or a certain number of days, but emergencies don't follow deadlines. We are now 12 months into this pandemic and it remains an emergency. It would be reasonable to set a six-month time limit for emergency power, with the governor coming back to the legislature to ask for renewals. But again, only if legislation stipulates that considerations will not be partisan or political. Fair is fair.

All this ultimately comes down to the old question of responsibility and authority. Whoever has the authority to make emergency decisions must be held responsible for outcomes.

However, a second axiom trumps the first: where everybody is in charge, nobody is in charge. That means if 170 legislators are making those decisions no one person can be held responsible — for good or bad. In emergencies that's not OK. Currently the governor is responsible. Our voters must believe Governor Cooper has done a good job of managing COVID-19, judging by November's election results. He was one of few statewide Democrats to win in a year of sweeping Republican victories.

The bottom line is we would be willing to see changes made to emergency powers if we could be confident they weren't partisan and political. We don't have that confidence.

JUDGE ALLEN BADDOUR

Chatham's presiding judge explains how Chatham courts are operating

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

Chatham County courts will remain under tight COVID-19 restrictions



despite state Supreme **Court Chief Justice** Paul Newby's loosening of statewide emergency directives earlier this month, Resident Superior Court Judge Allen Baddour said in view with the News +

Record.

What's not changed: still no jury trials, which have been deferred for several months.

In practice, Chatham courts, under Baddour's supervision, are still functioning as they did when former Chief Justice Cheri Beasley presided over North Carolina's judicial system.

"At this point, nothing has changed under (Chief Justice) Newby's most recent emergency directives," Baddour said. "The difference in the two, functionally, is that the statewide freeze on jury trials has ended and that decision is now a local decision."

Under Beasley's administration, suspension of jury trials was mandated statewide — for each of North Carolina's

43 district court districts — in a series of emergency directives issued around Thanksgiving.

Soon thereafter, Beasley, a Democrat, conceded the chief justice race to Newby, a Republican, by just 401 votes out of nearly 5.4 million ballots cast in the November election. (News reports said this week Beasley is mulling a run for the seat Sen. Richard Burr will vacate in 2022.)

In one of his first major decisions as chief justice, Newby rescinded many of his predecessor's orders. In doing so, he cited what he interpreted as a violation of the state's constitution which states that "the courts shall be open, and that justice shall be administered without favor, denial or delay." That would apply to Chatham's district and superior courts, and the district civil court, all of which convene in Pittsboro's Justice Center.

"That is the constitutional requirement that the courts shall be open," Newby said at the N.C. State Supreme Court ceremonial investitures for all newly-elected members. "Open courts available for all the citizens is not a luxury, it is a mandate."

But Newby did not require N.C. courts to resume jury trials. Instead, be delegated responsibility to the superior court judge in each district to make that decision. For Chatham, that means Baddour. In concert with the Judicial District

Executive Council — a group that "was formed over 10 years ago to work together to address the needs of the district," he said — Baddour elected to further postpone resumption of jury trials. The JDEC's members include Baddour, Chief District Court Judge Samantha Cabe, Chatham and Orange counties' District Attorney Jim Woodall, Interim Public Defender Woodrena Baker-Harrell. Chatham County Clerk of Court Dana Hackney and Orange County Clerk of Court Mark Kleinschmidt.

"Luckily for Chatham and Orange, our JDEC is a great team, works well together, and is on the same page about resumption of jury trials," Baddour said. "... We will also keep an eye on the age of cases and the need for justice for those charged with crimes, victims and the community."

Jury trials are scheduled to resume on March 29 for the Civil Superior Court and on April 19 for Criminal Superior Court.

"We will, of course, continue to monitor the pandemic, vaccine distribution, and infection rates," Baddour said, "and may modify that schedule if it becomes necessary.'

Tight restrictions on court activity are designed to stifle coronavirus spread, but they complicate legal proceedings, especially in criminal cases where defendants have been jailed awaiting their trials.

"It is really tough when you've got some of those cases that just can't be resolved without a jury trial," Chatham's Rep. Robert Reives II (D - Dist. 54), who is also a partner at the law offices of Wilson, Reives & Silverman in Sanford, previously told the News + Record. "Having those clients sitting (in jail) really what is an extra year, at least, past where they should have been, that's tough."

To minimize long jail stays, however, Baddour and his staff have adjusted their practices.

"In Chatham, we have moved away from pre-trial detention for low level offenses, and are taking a much closer look at everyone who is in custody before trial," he said. "We have definitely trended away from pre-trial detention for all but the most serious situations."

Even before the pandemic began, Baddour was interested in modifying detention procedures, but the last year has accelerated his plans.

"We are learning a lot and making changes to the way we do business," he said, "and I expect many of those changes to be permanent."

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

REVISIONS

Continued from page A1

and review teams worked on three different drafts of the standards, holding public feedback periods and collecting more than 7,000 survey responses. After voting in July to delay approval time to add language which would reflect "a more inclusive approach," the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction team worked until last month to complete the fourth draft.

Eighty-five percent of the public who submitted feedback were in support of the standards,

the board's presentation said.

classroom and clearly defined standards Chatham Middle ensure different points School Principal Chad of view of our history Morgan told the News are taught," Morgan + Record he thinks it's said. "It is important in important the standards today's global society that clearly define terms students are able to see and concepts teachers themselves in the curricare expected to teach in ulum and the approach to the classroom. Morgan, teaching is not from one cultural perspective." At Chatham Middle,

Morgan said, teachers are trained in Culturally Responsive Teaching, with the goal that teachers understand the importance of students' cultural backgrounds and references in their teaching and planning. He said teaching "from

a culture of power" will prevent some families from investing in the educational experience. Teachers don't have to be experts on all cultures, he said, but should be willing to "recognize, embrace and enhance" different backgrounds.

During the state board's meeting, Truitt, Robinson and other **Republican members** debated the historical reality of systemic racism — wanting to make revisions to standards that explicitly used that language or referred to systemic structures of racism more widely.

Board member James Ford, who is Black and was appointed by Gov. Roy Cooper, addressed other members and said there are "hundreds of years-plus legacy" of laws and policies that uphold the present systems of racism.

"That racism lives not just from person to person but lives within those systems, in those laws, in those customs, norms,

practices etc.," he said. "I just want to know if that's truly up for debate here.'

Chatham resident Bob Pearson, chairperson of the education committee for NAACP's Chatham Community East Branch drafted a statement on Friday with N.C. NAACP President Anthony Spearman condemning Lt. Gov. Robinson's remarks and supporting the proposed standards. In the email in which he sent the drafted statement, Pearson thanked Spearman for his support. The statement was released by the NAACP on Saturday.

That statement said the proposed new standards are "comprehensive and fair," and said that "instructing teachers to hide facts and to teach instead a politically driven view of history is a threat to all that makes America great." The country is great, the statement said, but racism and injustice are also prevalent.

"Learning the truth

history — the good truth and bad truth — is the only way to make good citizens of our children. It is also the only way to make our democracy work," the statement said. "We need our children to know the truth, the whole truth. Equal justice and true freedom will come only when that full truth is told. We are strong enough to know the truth. Let our children hear it and learn it.'

about North Carolina's

Chatham Middle's Morgan echoed this sentiment, saying it's important that history is not "whitewashed" through the learning process.

"It is important that students understand the past, which includes the good, bad and ugly, so our students are better-informed decision-makers in the future," he said. "All students deserve an education that is inclusive and diverse."

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

who's been an educator for 20 years, previously worked as a middle school social studies teacher and said he's spent the last five years invested in educating himself in equity in public education. "Teachers bring their

own thoughts, beliefs, and backgrounds into the

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Refinement of Terms:

Current Draft 4 Term:	Proposed Changes:	How the change will be addressed:
Systemic Racism	Racism	Glossary definition to include multiple types/forms/etc. of racism; Term included on unpacking document.
Gender Identity	Identity	Glossary definition to include multiple types/forms/etc. of identity; Term included on unpacking document.
Systemic Discrimination	Discrimination	Glossary definition to include multiple types/forms/etc. of discrimination; Term included on unpacking document.

류 정주 Public Schools of North Carolina

Screenshot from NCDPI's State 'Content Standards Revision:, K-12 Social Studies' presentation

SHOOTINGS

Continued from page A1

deadly weapon with intent to kill, two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and one count of discharging a firearm inside city limits.

"We're working both cases diligently," said Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner, "and we're committed to bringing justice to our victims."

Less than two months ago, another Siler City resident, Jose "Ramon" Hernandez was murdered in a yet-unsolved shooting incident. Police found him on Waterford Street, off of Fairfax Street, with shots to the torso. He later succumbed to his wounds at UNC-Chapel Hill Medical Center.

The primary suspect in Hernandez's murder, Sergio "Yovani" Rodriguez brother of Hernandez's partner — is still at large, with the Chatham County Sheriff's Office leading the search.

At a meeting of the Siler City board of commissioners on Monday, Commissioner Lewis Fadely drew attention to the recent shootings and warned that

'We're working both cases diligently, and we're committed to bringing justice to our victims.'

MIKE WAGNER, Siler City Police Chief

Siler City will not achieve its ambitious goals for revitalization until safety has been guaranteed.

It's "ironic," he said, that in Siler City's mission statement, the first town descriptor is "safe."

"Now that's being called into question because of increased gun violence, increased drug activity, increased gang activity," Fadely said. "... We've got to protect our citizens, because if we can't, nothing else we want to achieve is going to happen."

The News + Record will provide updates to this story online at www. chathamnewsrecord.com as more details become available.

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

OBITUARIES

CAROLYN FAYE ELLIS



Carolyn Faye Ellis, 80, of Siler City passed away on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Wilmington. Mrs. Ellis was born in Chatham County on October 3, 1940, the daughter of James Thomas Elixson and Fronnie Eubanks Wilson. Carolyn enjoyed fishing, cooking and she loved to travel. Most of all, she

enjoyed spending time with family

and friends. Quoted from a friend

who stated this week, "She was a woman who created a legacy of love for her children." In addition to her parents, Carolyn was preceded in death by her son, Jason Ellis, brothers, Jimmy and Kenneth Elixson, and step-father, Ronnie Wilson.

She is survived by her daughter, Debbie Brooks (Phil) of Siler City; sons, Mike Ellis (Frances) of Siler City, Donnie Ellis (Nancy) of Siler City, Timmie Ellis, Johnnie Ellis (Sissy) of Ramseur, and Justin Ellis (Joe) of Wilmington; sisters, Ann Harrison (Joe) of Siler City, Mary Sparks (Ralph) of Sanfor; and brother, Henry Elixson (Faye) of Pittsboro.

Carolyn will lie in repose from 12 to 5 p.m. on Friday, February 5, 2021, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City. A graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 6, 2021, at Hickory Mountain United Methodist Cemetery, with Rev. Robert Lovett officiating.

Memorials may be made to Hickory Mountain United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, 201 Hadley Mill Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Ellis family.

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

GARY T. SMITH



Gary Thomas Smith, 76, of Cornelius was called Home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at Novant Regional Medical Center in Huntersville.

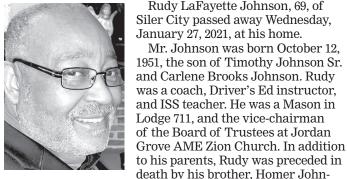
Graveside services will be held on Friday, February 5, 2021, at 3 p.m. at Brush Creek Baptist Church, Airport Road, Bear Creek, with Pastor Tim Strider officiating. Note: CDC guidelines will be followed and mask will be required for attendance to the service.

Gary, a native of Randolph County, was born October 5, 1944, to the late Willie and Mabel Cox Smith. Gary spent many years working in Tractor Parts & Repair, most notably at Clapp Brothers Tractor in Siler City. He served as a Deacon at Brush Creek Baptist Church and was Brotherhood Director. He also served on the Harborgate Yacht Club Board of Directors as vice president and treasurer for several years. He enjoyed all things outdoors including hunting, fishing, boating as well as rooting for his favorite NASCAR driver. He was known for his quick wit, his infectious smile,

humorous chuckle, and his kind and compassionate spirit. Gary is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Jimmy Smith.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; four daughters, Sherry Phillips, Emily Smith, Susan Ferguson and Wendy Choquette and husband Neal; his brother, Melvin Smith and wife Gail; sister-in-law, Bonnie Smith; grandchildren, Shawn Smith and wife Hannah, Annette Kidd, Lisa Holder and husband Ricky, Megan Johnson and husband Dan, Hannah Cochran and husband Jeffrey, Amber Ferguson and Amy Mauck and husband Bradye, Julia Baxter and Payne Choquette; great-grandchildren Bryant, Dawson, Lincoln, Gracie, Brooklyn, Ryan, Brayden and Zac; and numerous nieces and nephews including Greg, Benny, Randy, Stephen and Michelle. He is also survived by his most cherished best friend, Daisy

RUDY LAFAYETTE JOHNSON



death by his brother, Homer Johnson, and sister; Annie Williams.

Survivors include his daughter, Keisha Brown and husband Bobby of Greensboro; son, Ryan Johnson and wife Melissa of Burlington; sisters, Janie Jordan and husband Adrean, and Everleen Russell; brother, Timothy Johnson Jr. and wife Edna; grandchildren, Jayden and Payten Johnson, Mackenzie Brown and Haylee Dunn; special friend, Rev. Judy C. Bowden; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Johnson laid in repose on Monday, February 1, 2021, from 12 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Chapel, Siler City.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at 1 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Chapel with Rev. Ronald Thomas officiating. Burial followed at Jordan Grove AME Zion Church Cemetery.

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

HELEN MOODY BUCKNER



Helen Moody Buckner died January 30, 2021, at home after a brief illness.

Rudy LaFayette Johnson, 69, of

Mr. Johnson was born October 12,

1951, the son of Timothy Johnson Sr.

was a coach, Driver's Ed instructor,

She was born Helen Jean Moody on May 29, 1927, in Chatham County to the late June S. and Lacy Watkins Moody. She graduated from Woman's College (now UNCG) with a degree in English, where she was a member of the Golden Chain Honor Society, served as a House President, a representative to Student Government and was elected to the

May Court. Helen taught English and Spanish in Chatham County schools.

After her husband Dalton's death in 1980, she took over as owner and operator of Smith & Buckner Funeral Home in Siler City. Helen was the first woman elected to the Siler City Town Board and served as Mayor Pro Tem and Commissioner for 21 years. She was recognized for protecting and expanding public parks, ensuring that town residents had safe places to walk, run and bike. The board renamed Boling Lane Park's walking trail the "Helen M. Buckner Walking Track."

She was past president of The Chatham Hospital Executive Board of Trustees and served on the Siler City Advisory Board of Directors of RBC Bank. Helen was the first woman president of the Siler City Chamber of Commerce and was honored with its Distinguished Citizen Award in 1988. In 1990, she received the Siler City Business and Professional Women's Clubs Woman of the Year Award. In 2005, then-Commissioner Buckner received the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award. Helen was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church in Siler City and served for many years as its assistant treasurer, not just because of her trustworthiness but also because the funeral home was located beside First Baptist.

Helen was active in many worthy organizations, including the Chatham County Library Board, the N.C. Regional Library Board, the Executive Board of the Occoneechee Council of Boys Scouts of America, the N.C. Museum of History Associates, the Siler City Garden Club and the Community Penalties Programs for Orange and Chatham counties. Helen advocated for the emerging N.C. Arts Incubator and was excited about its impact on the revitalization of downtown Siler City. Helen was a valued civic servant, but more important, a beloved wife, sister, mother, grandmother and mother-inlaw. She was preceded in death by the love of her life, Dalton Keith Buckner Sr., her sisters, Sylvia Doris Moody, Lydia Ann Moody, and her parents. Surviving are her son, Dalton Keith Buckner Jr., wife, Gwen Hunnicutt of Summerfield, N.C., and his daughters Kathryn Grainger Buckner of Charlotte and Anna Dalton Buckner of Valle Crucis and fiancé Anders Ethan Sjöstrand; son, Joseph Moody Buckner, wife Julia, and their children, Eva Helen Buckner, Zane Dalton Buckner and Nell Rose Buckner of Chapel Hill; her daughter, Sylvia Buckner Ramer, husband Kevin of Chapel Hill, and their sons, John Dalton Ramer of Arlington, Virginia, and Keith Talbott Ramer of Chapel Hill; and special niece, Cindy Vestal Belton of Greensboro. She dearly valued her friends from her personal and professional life. Due to COVID-19, the family will hold a private burial. They plan to honor her life at a future date. The family extends deep gratitude to Dr. Whitman Reardon, UNC Hospice and the loving medical staff who helped care for her at home in her final days. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Helen's memory can be made to First Baptist Church, 314 N. Second Ave., Siler City, N.C. 27344, or the Food Bank of North Carolina.

REBA WALKER TORBERT

Reba Walker Torbert, 95. of Pittsboro, died Thursday, January 28, 2021, at Parkview Health & Rehabilitation in Chapel Hill.

A private graveside service will be held due to the circumstances of COVID-19.

Reba was born in Chatham County on June 1, 1925, to the late Colbert William Walker and Pallie Parrish Walker. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Tankard Torbert and two sisters, Hilda Estella and Gladys Jane.

Surviving relatives include her two sons, Arnold Torbert of Holly Springs, Rick Torbet of Pittsboro; and two grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made in Reba's memory to Pittsboro United Methodist Church Cemetery General Fund, P.O. Box 716, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Torbert family.

SYLVIA GREEN EDWARDS

Sylvia Green Edwards, 78, of Raleigh passed away on Monday, January 25, 2021, at home with her family.

A graveside service was held at 1 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2021, at Collins Grove Cemetery with the Rev. Douglas Currin officiating.

She was born in Columbus County on July 18, 1942, to the late Johnnie Franklin and Alice Thompson Green. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Thomas Edwards and sisters, Joyce Lookabill and Elizabeth Blackwell. Sylvia retired after 40-years with N.C.S.U. as an Administrative Assistant for the N.C. Cooperative Extension. She has attended St. John's Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Sylvia is survived by her son, Rev. Michael Edwards of Sanford; her daughter, Melissa Edwards of Sanford; a brother, Lester Green of Shalotte; and four grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

WANDA SUE HICKS

Wanda Sue Hicks, 66, of Siler City, died Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at FirstHealth Hospice in Pinehurst.

- In accordance with her wishes, no services are planned.
- Wanda was born in Dillon

Condolences may be made online at www.loflinfuneralservice.com.

Arrangements by Loflin Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Ramseur.

Memorials may be made to Brush Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, c/o Judy Lane, 45 John Lane Rd., Bear Creek, N.C. 27207.

WILLIAM SCOTT CAMPBELL



William Scott Campbell passed away suddenly on Friday, January 29, 2021.

Scott was an avid fisherman and hunter who loved the outdoors in general. He attended Jordan-Matthews High School and was active in sports in his younger years. Scott was born on May 20, 1964, in Greensboro and moved to Siler City in 1972. He was a member of Loves Creek Baptist Church in Siler City, N.C. He is survived by his parents, Den-

nis and Joan Campbell of Greenville, N.C.; his sister, Tracie C. Meeks of Fountain, N.C.; a daughter, Michele Campbell, Williamston, N.C.; two sons, Christopher Campbell of Winston Salem, N.C., and Johnathan Overacre of Siler City. He leaves behind six grandchildren, Jayden and Kayla Pinnix of Williamston, Camrie, Alyssa, Johnathan Jr., and Kayden Overacre of Siler City; his aunts, Ellen Pearson of Greensboro and Faye Batts Crumby Hudgins of Julian; nephews, Matthew Campbell, Michael Meeks, Jared Meeks; niece, Brittany Meeks Jefferson, all of Greenville; and two special companions, Blue and RJ.

Memorial services will be conducted at Wilkerson Funeral Home Chapel in Greenville, Thursday, February 4, at 4 p.m. The family will receive friends at 3 p.m., prior to the service.

SANDRA KAYE TYSOR

Sandra Kaye Tysor, 69, of Bear Creek passed away on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill. Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, February 2, 2012 at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford, with burial in the Mt. Herman AME Zion Church Cemetery following.

JEANETTE (WASHINGTON) GOODING

Jeanette (Washington) Gooding, passed away on Monday, January 25, 2021, at her home

Funeral services were held at 3:30 p.m., February 1, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford

BETTY MARGARET (DOUGLAS) LEWIS

Betty Margaret (Douglas) Lewis

Ms. Betty Lewis, 82, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, January 22, 2021, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 30, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home with burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

JUAN DANIEL GONZALEZ SANCHEZ

Juan Daniel Gonzalez Sanchez, 32, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at First Health Moore Regional Hospital, Pinehurst.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

ROBERT BAUCOM

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

Memorial service was held Monday, February 1, 2021 at 1 p.m. at Knotts Funeral Home

ERNEST (BIG E) MCLEAN

Ernest (Big E) McLean, 71, of Sanford passed away Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at his home.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Friday, January 29, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home with burial following in Lee Memory Gardens.

Mr. McLean was born July 25, 1949, to the late Sylvester McLean and Minnie Lee Smith

County, S.C., on February 15, 1954, to Willie and Lucille Clark Hyatt, who preceded her in death. She attended New Beginnings Church of God. She was a contact lens technician at Vision Care at Battleground Eye.

She is survived by her husband, Danny Hicks of the home; son, James Robert Southard Jr. of Morganton; daughter, Michelle Wilson of Thomasville; step-daughter, Rachel Morris of Bennett; sister, Lisa Morgan of Fayetteville; brother, Richard Morgan of Fayetteville; and two grandchildren.

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

Joyce-Brady Chapel of Bennett is honored to serve the Hicks family.

FLORENCE MAE WIDENER YETSCONISH

Florence Mae Widener Yetsconish, 86, of Sanford, N.C., passed away on Friday, January 29, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

She was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, on March 10, 1934, to the late Henry Clay Widener and Anna Mae Swink Widener. Mrs. Yetsconish worked in the manufacturing of glass. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Yetsconish and brothers, Grover, Frank, and Michael Widener.

Surviving relatives include her daughter, Terry Ann Clay of Sanford; a sister, Shirley Wingrove of Spring Lake; two granddaughters and one great grandchild.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

See OBITUARIES, page A11

COVID-19 VACCINE Vaccine frustrations continue, but distribution is accelerating

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

Shelby Kreidick, 74, has been trying to get her coronavirus vaccine for weeks.

The first calls she made were to UNC Health in Siler City, but she gave up when the UNC system's automated prompts confused her.

Next, she tried the county health department.

"I pulled out my phone book and the number I found was for Pittsboro," Kreidick said. "So, I called that number, and some lady — I don't know who she was — she took my information. I explained that me and my husband are both in our 70s, and so we would like to get the COVID shot."

The staffer told Kreidick about a mass vaccination clinic on the following Monday and said a health department representative would call back soon to schedule the couple's appointments.

But that Monday came and went, and Kreidick says she never heard back.

"I thought, I guess I'll call again to make sure I didn't miss a call or anything," Kreidick said. "So, I talked to a different lady and she said they don't make appointments out of Pittsboro, I had to call Siler City, and she gave me a different number to call.

To Kreidick's dismay, the health department staffer who picked up the phone in Siler City informed her there was no record of Kreidicks in the system — they were not on the list to get a vaccine.

"But I could go to 'www-dot-whatever" and get on the list," Kreidick said. "Well, I've already been on every website I can find trying to register and making all the calls I possibly can call to find out when we can get on there to get our shot ... At this point I'm just kind of frustrated and I don't know what to do, but I know a lot of people are."

Kreidick is not alone. Many Chathamites have expressed similar difficulties amid the rush to schedule vaccinations, Chatham County Public Health Department representatives say.

"Our contact list has grown to more than 10,000 names, and we understand it is frustrating for folks wondering when they will be able to get the vaccine," CCPHD Director Mike Zelek told the News + Record on Friday. "... Our staff has been very hard at work responding to these questions, and we receive many, many calls each day."

Since then, the list has grown to more than 17.000.

Part of the challenge is inherent to the system. Scheduling appointments via phone means some people are temporarily passed over if they miss a return call.

"An issue we have run into is when we call to schedule appointments, not everyone answers the phone," Zelek said. "We understand many do not answer calls from unknown numbers, but this can make it difficult to schedule appointments with those who have reached out to us."

CCPHD will not strike people's names from the list of interested persons should they neglect to pick up the phone. But Chatham residents' chances of scheduling an appointment will be delayed.

of local news and issues. "... Vaccine supplies are very limited, and at UNC Health our appointments are scheduled each week based on the vaccine received from the state.

Unlike the county health department, which keeps a master list of interested people, UNC does not offer a wait list. People interested in getting the vaccine must keep calling back or schedule an appointment online.

"We urge anyone who is eligible to continue checking back on our vaccine website, YourShot.org," Wolf said. "As we get additional allocations of vaccines, we post appointments there. We ask for patience as we are receiving a very high number of phone calls and emails.'

Experiences like Kreidick's have been exacerbated by a shortage of vaccines in Chatham County and statewide. For many weeks, North Carolina was rated among the least efficient vaccine distributors in the country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This week, UNC Health will have fewer than 8.000 available doses. "far fewer than we expected," Wolf said.

But North Carolina has improved its standing among the 50 states. As of Thursday, North Carolina had risen to number 12 in the country for vaccines administered per 100,000 residents from number 40 a week earlier, as first reported by The Charlotte Observer. The state had fallen to number 20 as of Tuesday.

While UNC Heath has not received as many shots as anticipated, CCPHD is seeing an uptick in its allotment.

"Through January 25th, the CCPHD had administered more than 1,300 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine through appointments at its Siler City clinic, multiple mobile clinics and two mass vaccination events at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro," a CCPHD press release announced on Friday.

In the next three weeks, the county expects to administer nearly as many doses - at least 1,000 — following assurances from the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services that vaccines will arrive with more frequency moving forward.

"This week, NCDHHS informed providers of base allocations they will receive each week for the next three weeks," the press release said. "The CCPHD is slated to receive a weekly base allocation of 200 first doses over the next three weeks."

An additional 200 are expected to arrive next week as part of a NCDHHS program "to promote equitable access to vaccines across the state, including among historically-marginalized populations."

To distribute those vaccines, a special event in partnership with a faith community will be scheduled. CCPHD is expected to release more details next week.

On Monday, the county administered 210 shots during a third mass vaccination event at the Agriculture & Conference Center. Vaccinations are by appointment only and were given between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

To schedule an appointment with CCPHD, visit www.chathamnc.org/vaccinetool or call 919-545-8323.

UNC Health is offering COVID-19 vaccination at locations around the state including a site behind Chatham Hospital in Siler City and nearby in Chapel Hill. Interested individuals can 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-19-update/covid-19-vaccine-update or call (919) 385-0429.

LA VOZ DE CHATHAM Q&A | THE VACCINE Vaccine questions answered: No vaccine cost, no ID required, and more

You asked; we found answers. Last week, the News + Record fielded questions and concerns from Chatham's Hispanic community members about the COVID-19 vaccines and the county's distribution

process. Reporter

Victoria Johnson then posed these questions to Chatham County Public Health Director, Mike Zelek. Here are his answers below, edited for clarity and brevity.

What fee, if any, will people have to pay to receive the vaccine, and can I still receive the vaccine if I don't have health insurance?

The vaccine has no cost to the individual getting it. Some providers may bill insurance. We, the health department, are not currently billing insurance for the administration of the vaccine, but providers are allowed to do that. But that would be a fee to the insurer.

If the individual is uninsured, they could be covered at the federal level by HRSA (U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration). So all that to say, the individual should not be billed for the vaccine; they should not be charged. ... It would only be the potential for some providers to bill the insurance company for the administration fee, similar to how some would do the flu vaccine or other vaccines. ... Even if the provider is collecting insurance information, you say, "I'm uninsured," they won't turn you away.

Can undocumented immigrants receive the vaccine? What identification or information — if any — do sites vaccinating people require to get the shot?

Yes. Providers do not require identification, so that is not a limiting factor in getting the vaccine. For example, for us, if somebody came and met the eligibility criteria, say they were 65 and older, they can get the vaccine, period, end of story. That shouldn't be a limiting factor; they shouldn't be concerned about sharing their information. They'll be asked to fill out a form with their name, date of birth, things like that, and that goes into the state CVMS sys-

tem — COVID Vaccine Management System. ... So name, address, date of birth. It (also) asks

about demographics, and the bigger form for the data asks for prioritization, so if they work

in a certain CHATHAM setting that would put Chatham News + Record them in a Group Three or whatever. It also asks

information about what arm the vaccine goes in, who administered it, things like that, but not documentation status. We want everybody to get vaccinated because ultimately, that's what we believe in as a public health department (and as a) public health system. We all benefit when more and more people are vaccinated.

There are a lot of vaccines - Moderna, Pfizer, and others coming in. Are some vaccines better than others, and how do people choose between them, if we can choose?

I'd start by speaking to the two with Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA. That's the Moderna vaccine and the Pfizer vaccine. They differ from the others, especially in the point that they have Emergency Use Authorization, which means that they can be administered. Right now in the U.S., Moderna and Pfizer are the vaccines being administered. They are very comparable. The efficacy is very comparable. The way they work is very comparable; they're both mRNA vaccines. They're both very effective. Both have really high safety profiles as well ... It just depends on the provider, what they are allocated from the state. So we are getting the Moderna vaccine, and some other providers are getting the Pfizer vaccine. ...

For the two that have gotten Emergency Use Authorization, both twodose vaccine, efficacy both right around 94% or 95%, safety profile very similar, technology very similar — I wouldn't tell you one versus the other, other than where you're able to get it because, of course, supply versus demand. Supply is very low versus the demand, which is very high. So I would encourage folks if they are eligible and interested in the vaccine, if they have the opportunity to get it, to take advantage.

The CCPHD is currently receiving the Moderna vaccine. Might that change in the coming months?

It may. With the pandemic, it's hard to predict anything in the coming months, but right now, we're getting Moderna. That's all we've gotten to date, and I haven't gotten any indication that that will change. Now, there are some vaccines that are out for Emergency Use Authorization, so if they do get approved, that could change. I don't know what that will look like, but for now, all we have gotten to date, and all we are told we're getting, is Moderna.

Should people still get vaccinated if they've already had COVID-19?

Yes. They should not get vaccinated if they are currently symptomatic with COVID, or in their isolation period. They should also not leave the house, so that's the big thing.

But yes, it is recommended. They're still eligible. When you get the virus, you develop the antibodies, and the vaccine also leads you to develop antibodies that help your body respond if you are infected. There the thought is that the vaccine would have longer protection, a bigger antibody response, than just a virus. So it is encouraged to do so, and if folks have any questions about that, they could certainly talk with their medical providers.

The coronavirus has mutated and continues to mutate. How long can we expect vaccines to work against the virus and its variants?

Those studies are ongoing. You may have heard about that UK (United Kingdom) variant. The vaccines that we currently have are anticipated to have strong efficacy against that variant. The studies are ongoing about other variants for the different vaccines and responses. Companies are working on booster shots in the iuture as well, so those are the things that we're going to learn over time. I wouldn't say that folks should say, "I'm not going to get the vaccine now because of it," because there's still very high efficacy, and there's reason to believe that it is still quite effective against some of these variants, and maybe the others as well. The studies are ongoing, and scientists will keep working on that.

we will make every attempt to reach people on our list," said CCPHD Communications Specialist Zachary Horner. "If they do not pick up when we call, we will come back to them until they schedule an appointment with us or tell us they've received the vaccine elsewhere. However, we will continue to call people to fill up our vaccination clinic schedules.'

UNC Health representatives are also aware of the difficulties many face in the wait for their shots, but they urge the public to endure.

"We recognize the frustration and confusion the process is causing people who want to get vaccinated but can't get an appointment," said Alan Wolf, UNC Health's director

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

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

EVENT

Continued from page A1

many of the agency's resources toward helping "people who are homebound, sheltering in place, anxious — obviously — and eager" to get the vaccine.

"We identified those and worked back with public health and then back with Chatham Transit," Streets said. "So, you'll see vans today of people who are on it with wheelchairs and scooters, people ... just very excited to be here today."

At 68, Streets also qualified for the vaccine, and was the first on Monday to receive a dose.

"So, I'm in that group," he said. "I'm really excited about getting my vaccine.'

In total, 214 inoculations were performed during the mass vaccination event, the third in three weeks to be hosted by Chatham County's health department at the Pittsboro Agriculture & Convention Center. This was the second week that it has been organized as a drive-thru event.

"Drive-thru offers a number of advantages," said CCPHD Director Mike Zelek. "... Logistically, it's very easy to maintain flow, speed — people get in and out faster.'

With rare exception, attendees depart within 30 minutes of their arrival, Zelek said, "so, we're pretty proud of that. I'm sure you've seen places where it's been longer, so that's really a testament to our team." And drive-thrus minimize poten-

tial spread of the coronavirus as compared to indoor alternatives.

"Of course, we're in a pandemic right now," Zelek said, "the more we can do to keep people spaced out and outside, the better.'

Despite logistical success, though, county representatives were disappointed to have received fewer vaccines than in previous shipments.

"People in the community are so frustrated, I'm sure," said Chatham **County Public Information Officer** Kara Dudley. "We have 17,000 people on our contact list right now."

Of those, about 11,000 are currently eligible for vaccines.

"But we're only getting 400 one week, 200 on another," Dudley said, "that's not even scratching the surface."

North Carolina topped one million vaccine doses administered on Monday — a momentous achievement

 but far fewer than necessary to meet the state's demand. The vaccine shortage has caused widespread consternation, but Chatham's health department and independent providers are powerless to supply more shots. The county's allocation is subject to state-level decision making.

"The state says they get 120,000 each week," said CCPHD Communications Specialist Zachary Horner, "so they divide that among the counties and among the providers. They're working with what they have, so we're working with what we have.'

Local health are not responsible for the bottleneck, but still they regret the delay in vaccine dispensation.

"We're sorry that this effort takes so much time," Zelek said. "We've been saying to folks over the last several weeks, 'We appreciate your patience, this just takes time because the supply is limited right now.' ... The supply just doesn't meet demand, and that's just the reality."

For both those who have and have not received vaccinations, the recommendations - besides patience are the same: mask up.

"The CDC recommendation is still to wear your mask," Horner said. "There haven't been studies yet that say one way or the other, whether you can still pass the virus on to someone else if you've been vaccinated. So, right now, yes, the guidance is still to keep wearing a face covering after you get the vaccine because yes, now you've received that protection. But we don't know how long it lasts yet, we don't know if you can pass the virus on to someone else. So, continue to wear your face covering."

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

BLESSED

Continued from page A1

smile under my mask, but it was there.

It has been nearly a year since Chatham County reported its first COVID-19 case (the second in North Carolina). Many of our most vulnerable residents have remained sheltering in place. Our Council on Aging has provided meals, supplies, telephone reassurance, in-home personal care, virtual programming, transportation to medical visits and grocery shopping and many other forms of assistance — but there is no question the extended pandemic has taken a toll.

Many of our seniors live alone and do not have access to the Internet. I appreciate the commitment of Chatham County to work especially hard to reach those who are isolated and especially vulnerable. It has been a collaborative effort — symbolic

of Public Health's campaign of "Share Love, Not COVID."

We are certainly not at the point we can relax. We are only at the beginning stages of assuring that all people who want the vaccine can get the vaccine. Even for those who receive the vaccine, we must continue the 3 W's wearing a mask, waiting a safe distance from others, and washing our hands frequently. There is no substitute, no other option for community patriots concerned about our fellow residents.

I want to say a special thanks to Chatham County Public Health, Chatham County Emergency Management and Chatham Hospital for their leadership and professionalism throughout this COVID-19 period. We are blessed to live in a county that is so capable and caring. This has been a great way to start "We Love Seniors" month, as proclaimed by the Chatham County Board of County Commissioners.

HONOR LISTS

ANDERSON NIVERSITY

The following local students have been named to the 2020 Fall Semester Dean's List at Anderson University:

Bryson Saunders of Bennett

Alyssa Gaines of Siler City

COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Stevieleigh Snavey has been named to the Dean's List at Coastal Carolina University for the 2020 Fall Semester.

CHURCH NEWS

MAYS CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

A sermon series, "God Wins," a lineby-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.



If there's a will, there's a way!

Snow days look different for some Chatham students this year

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN News + Record Staff

A light dusting of snow brought about the first snow day of 2021 last Thursday, but most Chatham students still went to school, albeit remotely. In a world using many

more remote learning tools and platforms this year than last winter, it seems traditional snow days could become be a thing of the past. Chatham County Schools announced on Wednesday night that Thursday would be a remote learning day for all students, citing forecasts calling for accumulating snow and hazardous driving conditions.

Currently, all K-8 CCS students have the option of going to in-person hybrid learning; high school students were completely virtual until they started Plan B Monday. The district said it hoped to return to normal operations on Friday. Students still found time to enjoy the snow and even a few snowballs – before turning to their computers for remote learning. People who commented on the News + Record's Facebook post asking Chatham families to share pictures from their snow day said they tried to enjoy the day before starting class time. "Out early to enjoy the snow before it melts and they have Zoom meetings!" Kristin Straughn Elsenbeck said. Another commenter posted a video of the snow falling at 3 a.m., "long before teaching remotely" on Thursday. Some people expressed disappointment with Zoom classes taking away time from enjoying the snow. "Anyone else think its a shame to lose snow days for kids?" One poster asked. "They are taking the fun of snow days away...' Another commenter agreed, adding, "Sadly by the time Zooms were over, the snow was gone, so no pics here.' Willow Oak Montessori Charter School, located in northern Chatham, was also in fully remote instruction on Thursday. Still, some schools opted to provide a more traditional snow day experience. Chatham Charter, a public K-12 charter school located in Siler



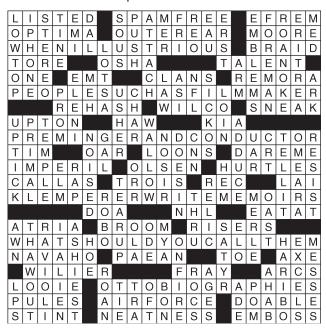
Submitted by Kristin Straughn Elsenbeck

'Out early to enjoy the snow before it melts and they have Zoom meetings!' Elsenbeck captioned this photo.



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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



Submitted photo by Katie Landolt

This is sledding, right?

City, said that "out of an abundance of caution" and "strong desire for everyone to fully enjoy any beautiful snow," the school would be closed to students and staff Thursday.

"Enjoy your free day with no live instruction or new assignments!" the school posted on its website.

In neighboring Wake County Schools, where students are receiving online-only instruction through at least mid-February, the district said Thursday would be an asynchronous learning day, meaning no live instruction would take place and teachers would communicate assignments to students to do on their own time.

"Schools will take into consideration that winter weather and snow days are a time-honored celebration in our community and assign work accordingly," the district said on its website in a Jan. 7 update. "While there will be requirements for work, families should expect to also have time to celebrate their own traditions." orth knowing

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Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools said all school buildings would be closed Thursday to students and staff.

"That's right. Closed. It's a snow day, so please unplug, get away from your computers and enjoy your time," the district's website says. "Please enjoy your time, stay safe and we'll look forward to seeing you soon."

Durham County Schools, which has virtual classes the rest of the year, and Orange County Schools both opted for remote learning days.

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





Happy Birthday to our Beautiful Angel Ashley Nicole Pyrtle

February 4, 1990 - April 26, 2008

Our hearts are broken but we will see our Angel again in Heaven one day! We love you, Daddy, Mama, Caroline & Lauren

The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of God stands forever. -Isaiah 40:8

Submitted photo by Mary Wyatt Tiger

OBITUARIES

Continued from page A8

MARGARET HILLIARD PHILLIPS

Margaret Hilliard Phillips, 86, of Siler City passed away on Thursday, January 28, 2021, in Siler City.

Mrs. Phillips was born in Chatham County on September 27, 1934, the daughter of John Gordon and Ethel Dunlap Hilliard.

Margaret was a member of Edward Hill Friends Meeting Church. She was very family orientated and a devoted friend. Margaret was a great mother and very loving grandmother. She was a hard worker and loved spending her Sunday family days in the kitchen, cooking a large meal. Margaret was a blessing to all she met and will be missed by so many whose lives she touched. In addition to her parents, Margaret was preceded in death by her daughter, Sue Wall Humes, grandson, Aaron Paul Lee Brady, sister, Ruby Fesmire, brother, Howard Hilliard and wife Rachel, nephew, Lynn Hilliard, and a dear brother-in-law, Paul Fesmire.

She is survived by her daughter, Lorrie Wall of Bear Creek; sons, Danny Wall and wife Becky of Durham, Jimmy Wall of Siler City; grandchildren, Maggi, Luke and Matthew Brady, great grandchildren, James Fulford, Maddie Phillips and Katy Brady; sister, Kathleen Burke; nephews and nieces, Jerry, Johnny, and Billy Hilliard, Dennis and Bonnie Burke, and Sue Martin.

Margaret laid in repose on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, from 12 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City. A graveside service was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Edward Hill Friends Meeting Cemetery, 92 Ed Leonard Road, Bonlee with Josh Conrad officiating.

Memorials may be made to Edward Hill Friends Meeting Cemetery Fund, 92 Ed Leonard Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

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

CHARLES HOOKER BUTLER

Charles Hooker Butler, 84, of Pittsboro, died Sunday, January 31, 2021, at Duke Regional Hospital.

There are no services planned at this time. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Charles was born in Orange County on March 14, 1936, to the late Ernis Homer Butler and Annie Lee Perkins Butler. He was also preceded in death by one granddaughter, Elizabeth Rachel Partin, one grandson, Charles Franklin Partin, and brothers, Ernest Homer Butler, William "Bill" A. Butler, Jameson Grannis 'Grant" Butler, and Robert "Bobby" Horace Butler.

Surviving relatives include

his wife, Sylvia Bailey Butler; daughter, Laura Butler Partin of Pittsboro; two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for memorial contributions to be made in Charles' memory to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Butler family.

LONNIE BLUE

Lonnie Blue, 63, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, January 29, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

ROBERT P. BROOKS

Robert Parker Brooks, 89, of Ramseur, died Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at Randolph Hospice House in Asheboro.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Friday, January 29, 2021, at Parks Crossroads Christian Church, Ramseur with military honors by the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Honor Guard, with Rev. Bryan Rush officiating.

Robert was a native of Randolph County, a cattle and poultry farmer and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force where he served in the Korean War as a jet engine mechanic. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Garland and Pansy Wood Brooks, and his sisters, Edith Burgess and Hilda Coble.

Survivors include a daughter, Tammy Brooks of Green Mountain; son, Mark Brooks of Ramseur; brother, Sam Brooks of Ramseur; two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made online at www.loflinfuneralservice.com

Memorials may be made to Mt. Pleasant Community Church, 2415 Hoover Hill, Trinity, NC 27370.

JOHNNY MACK BROWN

Johnny Mack Brown, 74, of Sanford, passed away Thursday, January 28, 2021, at his home.

Graveside funeral services were conducted at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Doug Western officiating.

He was born in Lee County, son of the late Byrdene Herman and Louise Morrison Brown. He worked for **Roberts Company for 25** years and retired from Parker Hannifin.

Surviving is his wife, Frances Brown of the home; daughter, Wendy Brown Williams of Broadway; son, Robbie Brown of Sanford; sister, Pat Garrett of Johnsonville; brother, Charlie Brown of Sanford; three grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

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

IRETHA BOLTON

Iretha Bolton, 85, passed away January 25, 2021, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Pineywood Baptist Church, 545 Pineywood Church Road, Cameron, N.C. 28326

She was born in Rockingham County on July 12, 1935, to the late Gernie and Ella Mae Coe Marion. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands, Cecil Strickland, Mitchell Mullins and brothers, William, Wayne and Alfred Marion. Iretha was a beautician and shop owner.

Survivors include her sister, Virginia Blackman of Burgaw; children, Bruce Strickland of Port Orange, Florida, Donnie Strickland of Broadway, Michael Mullins of Sanford and Blair Thompson of Spring Hill; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

ALBERT CHARLES PARISI JR.

Albert Charles Parisi Jr., 31, of Sanford passed away on Sunday, January 24, 2021.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

He was born on March 30, 1989, son of Albert Parisi Sr. and Pauline Antoniette Tolbert Parisi. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Sam and Katherine Parisi. He was a Veteran of the United States Army.

Surviving are his parents;

son, Albert Charles Parisi III of Spartanburg, S.C.; brothers, Paul Alan Parisi of Calabash, N.C., Blake Alexander Parisi and Sam Albert Parisi, both of Sanford; grandparents, Paul and Linda Tolbert of Enoree, S.C.

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

CECIL BUREN 'BUDDY' FULMER JR.

Cecil Buren "Buddy" Fulmer Jr., 80, of Broadway, died Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at Emerald Health and Rehabilitation in Lillington.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

He was born in Logan, West Virginia, son of the late Cecil Buren Fulmer and Mary Fulmer. He was a member of Salem Presbyterian Church, and a graduate of Virginia Tech.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda Cobb Fulmer of the home; sons, Buren Fulmer of Broadway, Brian Fuller of Columbus, N.C; sister, Debbie Thomas of Nashville, Tennessee; brother, Tom Fulmer of Abington, Virginia; and two grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials made to Salem Presbyterian Church, c/o Debbye Sloan, 8304 Hillcrest Farm Road, Sanford, N.C. 27330.

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

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway

HARRIET BRITNEY TAYLOR

Ms. Harriet Britney Taylor, 40, passed away on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Saturday, January 30, 2021, at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center. Burial followed at Minter Cemetery.

Kiwanis Park enhancement project will emphasize universal access

BY D. LARS DOLDER is Club with us in the News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro's Kiwanis Park, located on Credle Street. will be getting a makeover thanks to longtime Chatham resident Patricia L. Johnson.

town," Town Manager Chris Kennedy told the News + Record. "We're excited about it and look forward to seeing the project come to fruition."

An expansion of the Kiwanis park has been in concept for years, club representatives said, but funds have been short until now.

past presidents, "to incorporate some of that in its design.'

The Kiwanis Club's commitment to universal access is what first compelled Johnson to donate

"That was one thing that attracted me when I first read about the plan and it talked about that," she said. "My late husband's grandson is autistic, so that is very special to me." Ronald D. Singleton was a long-time North Carolina engineer who retired from Chatham County as public works director. Most of his career was spent in Cary as town engineer. For his lifetime commitment to public service, his widow felt a donation to upgrade the Kiwanis park was a fitting tribute to his legacy.



Johnson was recog nized last week by the town's board of commissioners for a \$50,000 donation to fund park enhancements that will "create an inclusive playground that goes beyond the minimal requirements of universal access and encourages children of all abilities to interact and play with each other," a town resolution said.

"We're just really privileged and fortunate to have Ms. Johnson's donation and to have the support of the Kiwan-

"This donation means that we've now got a real chance at doing what we've wanted to do for a good while," said John Justice, a past president of Pittsboro's Kiwanis Club.

The club's primary goal will be to include more accessible features in the modified park.

"We want to do something for special needs kids," said Bill Baker, another of the club's

Staff photo by Kim Hawk

Town Manager Chris Kennedy, John Justice, Commissioner Jay Farrell, Patricia L. Johnson and Bill Baker, left to right.

"I knew about the park and I thought that would be a good place to

put a donation in Ron's name," she said.

In addition to Johnson's donation, a recently approved reimbursement grant from Chatham County will further contribute to the park's redevelopment.

"So, between the two," Kennedy said, "we're \$73,025 better off than we were a few weeks ago."

Besides play features, the park will require significant infrastructure modifications, such as "comfort stations," which Kennedy says will cost about \$100,000 alone.

"And that's just a fancy term for restrooms," Kennedy said. "In parks they call them comfort stations for whatever reason, but I guess when you need them they are comforting."

It may seem standard for parks to include on site restrooms, he added, but it's a rarity in Pittsboro.

"That's an exciting project for us," he said, "because anyone who's been here long enough knows we don't have bathrooms in our parks."

Right now, the Kiwanis park is served by a porta-potty.

"It works," Kennedy said, "but it's not the most ideal situation.'

The town and the Kiwanis Club have not yet worked out a timeline for the project, Kennedy said, but they "won't sit on it forever" — it's integral to a bigger vision of Pittsboro's expansion.

"You're going to have a lot of new developments with newer park features and recreation amenities within their subdivisions," Kennedy said. "But from a town perspective, looking at the more historic parks like this one that have been around for a while, we want those to be revamped — we want to keep those current. We can't just let those rust away. So, we certainly will keep investing in those things."

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





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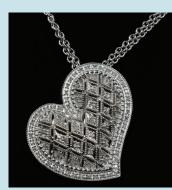
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SALE \$598





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Chatham News + Record SPORTS NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS **FEBRUARY 4-10, 2021** | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports SECTION B

NORTHWOOD 55, CEDAR RIDGE 34

Chargers' mix of rookies, veterans leads them to 21-point win over Cedar Ridge

BY VICTOR HENSLEY News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Last Friday was evidence that it's not time for the Northwood men to pass the torch just yet.

The youthful Chargers have relied heavily on their freshmen this season, but it was senior guard Colby Burleson, with 14 points on four three-pointers, who led the stampede against conference foe Cedar Ridge in a 55-34 Northwood victory.

After a couple of weeks of halted comebacks, single-digit wins and heartbreaking buzzer-beaters, the Chargers' 21-point win on Friday was their largest of the season, proving Northwood still has what it takes to be a conference threat.

"I'm feeling great. This was one of our best games," Burleson said after the win. "We have a history of coming out flat in the third quarter, but tonight, we played our best basketball in the third, so that's a great improvement and I'm really proud of all of the guys.'

Burleson, one of just two starting seniors against the Red Wolves, provided Northwood with the spark it needed to pull away from Cedar Ridge in the first half.

The start of the second quarter was sloppy for both teams, including lost ball turnovers,



jump out to a double-digit lead in the second quarter. Once the Chargers had a 10-point advantage, the Red Wolves never got their deficit back to single digits.

Two of the primary culprits for Northwood, freshman guard Drake Powell - who earned his third double-double on Friday with 13 points and 10 rebounds — and freshman forward Jarin Stevenson disrupted Cedar Ridge's offensive flow whenever possible.

They batted away inbound passes. They interrupted passing lanes. They picked the Red Wolves' pockets. They blocked shots. They did it all.

At 6'5" and 6'8" respectively, Northwood's defensive core is a force to be reckoned with for opposing offenses. And what makes them even more frightening is that they can block your shot in the paint, hit a mid-range jumper on the other end, then steal the ball from right under your nose next time down the floor.

"I want to use my length to my advantage: blocking shots, getting steals, being in the right spot at the right time, maybe getting a hand in where I can," said Powell, who isn't quite sure what his wingspan is. "... I just try to have fun with it."

See CHARGERS, page B2

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood Head Coach Matt Brown (blue) draws up a play in the huddle during the team's 55-34 win over Cedar Ridge. The victory was the Chargers' largest of the season.

a backcourt violation and plenty of missed shots. But with 4:40 remaining in the half — and during a four-minute Northwood scoring drought

– Burleson hit a left-corner three to put his team up 12-4. He followed it up with another a few minutes later to give the Chargers a 13-point halftime lead.

They'd never look back.

"Colby came ready to play," said Northwood Head Coach Matt Brown. "He usually doesn't start, he comes off of the bench, but he really opened it up for us tonight by shooting really well.'

Defensive triumphs

As important as offensive efficiency is, Northwood's success boils down to one primary fundamental: defense.

The Chargers forced a season-high 19 turnovers against Cedar Ridge — while also having 19 themselves — as the team's length gave the Red Wolves trouble all night. Less than six minutes into the game, Cedar Ridge had seven turnovers — and just two points.

Cedar Ridge scored just nine points in the entire first half, which allowed Northwood to

CHATHAM CHARTER 87, WOODS CHARTER 37 Knights' offensive prowess, suffocating defense stifles Woods Charter, 87-37

BY VICTOR HENSLEY News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — If the clock continues to run while free throws are being snot, it means one team's having a good night. The other? Not so much. Such was the case for the Chatham Charter men's basketball team on Saturday evening, which kept its perfect season alive (8-0) during a 50-point thumping of conference and Chatham-area rival Woods Charter, 87-37. Leading the charge for the Knights was the duo of sophomore forward Adam Harvey (24 points, 14 rebounds, six assists) and senior forward Trevor Golden (21 points, six rebounds), who, combined, outscored the entire Wolves' team by eight points. "Adam and Trevor are two of my captains, two of the leaders of this team. We challenge them every day to lead by example and these other guys will follow them, and these other guys do," said Chatham Charter Head Coach Jason Messier. "These guys play team basketball and I couldn't be more proud of them for that.' The Knights hopped out to an early 10-0 lead, with all scoring courtesy of Harvey and Golden, both of whom used their size to bully their way into the paint to get a couple of hard-fought buckets. Wolves junior Nate Crump would then make a free throw with 5:31 left in the first quarter to make





Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Wolves junior Nate Crump (14) receives a pass to break the Knights' press. Crump was Woods Charter's leading scorer (14 points), but Chatham Charter's defense was suffocating all night.

the score 10-1. That nine-point difference was the closest the game would be for the remainder of the night.

After the game, Messier chalked up the team's first half — after which they held a 42-23 lead be largely experimental.

'Early on in the first half, we tried a couple of different things, just so maybe we can use them later on," said Messier, "but then in that second half, we just got back to what we typically do.'

The second half featured a better showing than the still-dominant first. For the Knights, that meant

tighter defense, better offensive efficiency and the institution of the running clock.

In 2014, the NCHSAA's board of directors approved a "mercy rule" for football and basketball — the running clock. In the latter sport, there has to be a point differential of 40 in the second half for the rule to go into effect. The clock runs through free throws and all other dead-ball situations, aside from timeouts called by coaches, to move the game along.

On Saturday, the running clock

See KNIGHTS, page B3

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Knights' Adam Harvey (32) scores a layup in the third quarter of Chatham Charter's blowout win over Woods Charter. 'I'd rather have a good layup than a good jump shot,' said Harvey after the game.

Hensley joins staff of News + Record

Enterprise and at UNC

produced stories for

the Durham VOICE

and The Greensboro

News & Record. He's

spondent for the News

+ Record over the last

worked as a corre-

CN+R Staff Report

Victor Hensley has joined the News + Record's staff as sports editor, Publisher Bill Horner III has announced.

Hensley, 23, replaces Chapel Fowler, who has taken a position at another newspaper. Both Hensley and Fowler were 2020 graduates of the Hussman School of Journalism and Media at UNC-Chapel Hill.

A native of Trinity, Hensley has covered sports for The High Point



Hensley

few months. "I'm thrilled to be with talent, promise and a few good jump shots. This newspaper has a reputation for being one of the top-tier community newspapers in North Carolina and I can't wait to contribute to that success.'

Hensley said he developed a love for sports writing after not making his school's basketball team.

"I realized that since I clearly can't shoot a basketball correctly, maybe I can write about people who can," he said.

Horner said Fowler's new position will also include covering prep recruiting for the on a regional basis for a number of newspapers.

'Chapel did incredible work for us, but Victor has a similar sports pedigree and readers will already be familiar with his byline," Horner said. "Our goal is to build on the work we've done so far to continue to make our sports coverage essential reading in Chatham County. Victor will lead that effort."

Hensley can be reached at vhensley@ chathamnr.com and followed on Twitter @Frezeal33.

joining the News + Record and to cover all things Chatham County sports, Hensley said. "Chatham is an area rich

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY News + Record Staff

Men's and women's basketball and lacrosse, along with men's soccer, continue across Chatham County. Lacrosse and soccer — traditional fall sports — will likely continue to be subject to cancellations/postponements that come with unusual weather for their seasons. Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, Feb. 3

Lacrosse: Northwood men vs. Carrboro, 6 p.m. Lacrosse: Northwood women

at Chapel Hill, 6 p.m. Soccer: Jordan-Matthews

men at Trinity, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 4

Basketball: Chatham Charter women at Research Triangle, 5 p.m.

Basketball: Chatham Charter men vs. Clover Garden, 6 p.m.

Basketball: Woods Charter men vs. Southern Wake, 6 p.m. Soccer: Northwood men at Orange, 6:45 p.m.

Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men at Eastern Randolph, 6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 5

Basketball: Northwood at

Chapel Hill (women 5:30 p.m., men 7 p.m.)

Basketball: Jordan-Matthews at Randleman (women 6 p.m., men 7:30 p.m.)

Soccer: Woods Charter men vs. Carrboro, 6 p.m.

LAST WEEK

Monday, Jan. 25

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men defeated the Burlington Christian Academy Royals, 75-69, led by senior forward Trevor Golden (32 points) and sophomore forward Adam Harvey (21 points, 10 rebounds). The win kept the Knights' perfect season intact at 6-0.

Basketball: The Northwood women came out on top against the Chapel Hill Tigers, 48-36, remaining undefeated (6-0) on the season. The Chargers' scoring effort was led by sophomore Te'Keyah Bland (15 points) and Mckenna Snively (14 points).

Lacrosse: The Northwood women fell to the East Chapel Hill Tigers in their season opener, 14-6. The Chargers went down 10-1 in the first half and were unable to complete any sort of comeback, despite outscoring the Tigers down the stretch. Northwood was led by junior Kendall Laberge (4 points) and freshman Ryan Tinervin (2 points).

Tuesday, Jan. 26

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men lost a lopsided road game to the Providence Grove Patriots, 66-36. The Jets mustered just seven total points in the first and third quarters, with the loss putting them at 4-3 overall.

Soccer: The Northwood men opened their season with a victory after beating the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 2-0, at home. Scoring for the Chargers were senior Burke Waudby and junior Walker Johnson.

Wednesday, Jan. 27

Lacrosse: The Northwood women had a dominating road win against the Rolesville Rams, shutting them out, 16-0. The Chargers were led by junior Julia Colen (5 points; 4 goals, 1 assist) and sophomore Sophia Cremeans (5 points; 4 goals, 1 assist). This was Northwood's first win of the season, improving the team's record to 1-1.

Thursday, Jan. 28

Basketball: The Woods Charter men fell to the Clover Garden Grizzlies in a close one at home, 53-47, keeping the Wolves winless on the year at 0-2.

Friday, Jan. 29

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men continued their perfect season with a 32-point thumping of the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 72-40, to improve their record to 7-0. After hopping out to a 34-16 halftime lead, the game was never in doubt for the Knights, who were led by sophomore Adam Harvey (17 points) and senior Trevor Golden (14 points).

Basketball: The Chatham Charter women dominated the Southern Wake Academy Lions by 43 points, 68-25, to improve their record to 3-2 on the season. The Knights held the Lions to under five points in three different quarters, earning one of their most convincing wins of the year.

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men fell in a close one to the T.W. Andrews Red Raiders, 61-55, to drop their record to 4-4 on the season.

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women lost to the T.W. Andrews Red Raiders, 59-34, in their season-opener, bringing the Jets to 0-1 to start the year.

Basketball: The Northwood men handled the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 55-34, in their most complete game of the season. The Chargers' 21-point win was their largest of the year so far, fueled by the performances of senior Colby Burleson (14 points, four three-pointers) and freshman Drake Powell (13 points, 10 rebounds). Northwood now sits at 5-2 on the season, a major victory for a program that lost eight seniors coming into this year.

Lacrosse: The Northwood men fell in their season-opener to the Chapel Hill Tigers, 6-3, to drop the Chargers' record to 0-1 on the year.

Saturday, Jan. 30

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women fell to the Trinity Bulldogs, 46-40, after being tied, 19-19, at the half. In the third, the Jets were outscored by 10 and were never able to overcome the deficit. The loss pushed J-M to 0-2 on the season.

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men outscored the Woods Charter Wolves, 45-14, in the second half of a 50-point rout of their conference rivals, 87-37. The Knights, who remain perfect on the season at 8-0, were led by the duo of sophomore Adam Harvey (24 points, 14 rebounds) and senior Trevor Golden (21 points, 6 rebounds), who wreaked havoc on both ends of the floor. For the Wolves, who fall to 0-3 with the loss, the team's bright spots came at the hands of junior Nate Crump (14 points) and sophomore Noah Hyman (9 points).

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @ Frezeal33.

Chatham Home School Thunder inch closer to postseason with blowout victory over Durham Flight

BY BRENNAN DOHERTY News + Record Correspondent

DURHAM — Throughout the state, many high school athletes have needed to adjust to not seeing their teammates in-person at school, thanks to virtual learning.

But when you're a group of homeschoolers like the Chatham Thunder women's basketball team, that's one thing that *isn't* new in a season full of adjustments.

The Thunder are members of the North Carolinians for Home Education Athletic Commission (NCHEAC) and compete against teams in and around the Triangle in the commission's Eastern region. And like last year's squad which won 21 games, the current version of the Thunder have encountered much more success than failure in a season affected by obstacles created by the coronavirus pandemic. With a dominant 67-21 road win versus the Durham Flight on Satur-



together."

Brooks is in his sixth season coaching the Thunder and said he has a great deal of familiarity with many of his players. The group's on-court chemistry was evident in its 46-point win in Durham, where the Thunder raced out to a 20-4 lead by the end of the first quarter and were powered by strong individual efforts from senior small forward Jenna Brooks (19 points) and sophomore point guard Kimberley Cunningham (17 points).

Together, the duo accounted for 28 of the Thunder's opening 34 points and illustrated a clear understanding of where one another was at all times. Both Jenna Brooks — the daughter of Justin Brooks - and Cunningham showed an ability to score in a variety of ways, whether with dribble drives to the basket in transition or spot-up opportunities from three-point range. During the second quarter, two consecutive possessions in particular summed up the pair's importance to their

team. Passing from the perimeter, Jenna Brooks fed Cunningham with a high-low pass that led to an easy look close to the basket. Seconds later, an empty Durham possession turned into a transition kick-out from Cunningham to Jenna Brooks for a three-pointer on the wing, which forced a Durham timeout and capped an 18-0 run by the Thunder to put them ahead, 29-4.

"I think we both see the court really well," said Cunningham.

Getting their teammates good looks was also a point of emphasis for Jenna Brooks and Cunningham, as senior center Halle Ritter (10 points) and guard Jordan Poindexter (eight points) both showed their importance to the group's overall scoring depth as the game went on. "I like assists just as much as scoring, so it's nice to get your teammates and everyone involved," said Jenna Brooks. "That's kind of how the game goes for me."

Jenna put past injuries behind her and excel as a senior has been special.

"She's had a really good year this year," said Coach Brooks. "She's been healthy, so we've been fortunate for that. She's battled some different things in the past that have kind of hindered her. But so far this year, she's had a really good year. She's been training really hard and putting in the time at home."

That last part is applicable to his team as a whole, according to Coach Brooks. With big road games approaching against conference mates North Wake and South wake — the only team that defeated the Thunder this season — and the postseason inching closer, he knows he'll need contributions from everyone. "They've been working really hard at home trying to get better," said Coach Brooks, "and I think that's where we've seen the biggest improvement. These girls are really trying to focus on getting better at home, too."

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Thunder sophomore Jordan Poindexter shoots a long jumper in Chatham HomeSchool's 46-point win over the Durham Flight last Saturday. Poindexter had eight points on the day.

day at Braggtown Baptist Church, the Thunder improved to 17-1 and are now looking to take advantage of a string of important conference games over the next few weeks.

"They've done really well with it," said Thunder Head Coach Justin Brooks. "We've had some players that have had to miss for different COVID reasons. We've got one that's been out indefinitely and hopefully we can get her back, but they've handled the situation really well and stuck

For Coach Brooks, watching his daughter

CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

Leaders of the new school

In the entirety of the Big Eight 3A Conference, there are just six total freshmen on varsity rosters. Northwood has four of them. And three are starters.

This season, a freshman leads the Chargers in every major statistical category.

Powell is the team's leader in points per game (12.8), rebounds per game (7.6), steals per game (2.7) and blocks per game (1.0), while freshman guard Frederico Whitaker is the leader in assists per game (3.7).

"They're a special group already. They buy in, they work hard, they're very unselfish and very coachable," said Brown. "They want to win."

In the offseason, Northwood lost eight seniors from last year's Final Four team, including the team's top six scorers, who combined for 58 points per game. They had to replace that production somehow. Enter Powell, Stevenson and Whitaker.

The three freshmen are the driving force behind Northwood's 5-2 start. Despite having a less-than-ideal offseason, where in-person workouts weren't available because of the coronavirus pandemic, they haven't missed a beat and continue to rapidly grow in their first season with the Chargers.

Throughout the summer, players would attend film sessions over Zoom and even set up cameras and video themselves during individual workouts so the coaching staff could critique them.

"I was very confident with the freshmen coming in, as well as my seniors," said Brown. "I knew we were going to be successful because, during our offseason, they worked hard. They could have sat around, played video games and felt sorry for themselves, but they didn't. They went out and they worked



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood Head Coach Matt Brown (blue) draws up a play in the huddle during the team's 55-34 win over Cedar Ridge. The victory was the Chargers' largest of the season.

because they wanted to do something this year."

Friday night was a showcase for how well the rookies mix with the veterans. In arguably their most complete win of the season, the Chargers showed that the program is trending in the right direction with the future shining bright.

But Burleson is an indicator that if you focus too much on the young guys, the ones who have been with the team for years will make you pay for it.

"(The freshmen bring) energy and excitement and it gives the seniors someone to mentor and show around," said Burleson. "It's great to know we have a strong foundation in the hands of our younger players."

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Frezeal33



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KNIGHTS

Continued from page B1

started a short time after Chatham Charter sat its starters around the six-minute mark in the fourth quarter, up 75-34.

Chatham Charter outscored Woods Charter, 45-14, in the second half, which included the Knights holding the Wolves to just three points in the fourth quarter. The defense — especially both the full- and half-court presses — was suffocating, to say the least.

"We had a goal coming into this game to hold them below 40 points as a team and we did that," said Messier. "We look at that press as sometimes it's good for us to speed up the game, sometimes we use it to slow down the game and just get teams uncomfortable ...

6154-0120

We practice it every day." Knights sophomore forward Aamir Mapp (two blocks, two steals) was one of the game's premier defenders, occasionally upsetting his opponents. Early in the fourth quarter, Mapp blocked a shot by Wolves sophomore Noah Hyman, who fell to the ground and ended up earning a technical foul out of frustration.

Offensively, the Knights are one of the Central Tar Heel conference's powerhouses, as illustrated by their performance against the Wolves. This season, they've been proof that you don't have to be flashy to win games. Many of Chatham Charter's offensive possessions emphasize two things: ball movement and attacking the rim.

With 3:13 left in the first quarter, the Knights

pushed down the floor after a missed three-pointer by the Wolves, but slowed it down as they approached the top of the key. Here, three passes were made behind the arc as the guards waited, patiently, for Harvey to pause and slide underneath a defender to receive a pass, make a quick post-move and get an easy shot in the paint. This is Messier's offense in a nutshell.

Despite being, by far, the highest-scoring team in their conference, the Knights have made just 15 three-pointers all season — including zero on Saturday during their 87-point performance. It's not their style.

"I'd rather have a good layup than a good jump shot," said Harvey.

Toward the end of the game, after Chatham Charter brought in its second unit, Knights freshman forward Jonah Ridgill — who had scored just two points on the year entering Saturday — exploded for eight straight points, 10 total, including a steal that led to a fast break layup. His teammates seemed to love every second of it.

"I feel like they deserve just as much cheering on as they give us because they give us a good three quarters," said Golden. "So I'm trying to cheer them on as much as I can because they work just as hard as we do in practice."

Saturday's game was only Woods Charter's third of the season, now 0-4 after a loss to Southern Wake on Monday, after a couple-of-weeks hiatus earlier this month. While it wasn't the result they'd hoped for, there were some bright spots.

Crump (14 points) pre-



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Knights sophomore forward Adam Harvey (32) puts up a shot over two defenders in the 50-point win over Woods Charter. Harvey was Chatham Charter's leading scorer with 24 points.

sented a major problem for the Knights, especially in the middle of the lane, as his relentlessness to get to the basket and grab his missed shots led him to 11 points in the first half alone.

The Wolves' top three scorers rounded out with

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Hyman (nine points) and junior Emi Hutter-Demarco (seven points), who wowed the crowd on multiple occasions.

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Frezeal33.

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SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Board hears crime concerns, talks development

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town board of commissioners stepped through a series of resolutions and amendments in its regular meeting on Monday, which also saw public comments from a disgruntled resident and a preview of downtown improvement options.

Siler City crime appears to have intensified in recent months according to town residents and commissioners alike.

"The community to me, looking at what I can make out, is going downhill pretty quickly," said Donald Matthews, a Siler City resident who attended Monday's meeting and spoke during the public comment section.

Matthews cited two shootings in Siler City in the last few days — a troubling start to the new year.

"It's time for us to go to work and clean up,[‡] he said of town residents who are responsible for their neighborhoods. "But we are wanting the city to do their part. I think jointly we can have a great community if we work together.'

He implored the board to "really look at the communities, what is needed in the community, and

take care of them." Matthews' entreaty did not fall on deaf ears. Commissioner Lewis Fadely, in particular, was prepared with his own a address to the board.

Before delivering his thoughts, Fadely asked Major James Underwood — the only police department representative present at the meeting in person — to step forward.

"We all get some calls that stick with us," Fadely said, "and I got one today from the District Attorney's office in light of the two shootings that we've had over the weekend and the traffic fatality."

The DA expressed concern, Fadely said, that Siler City is law enforcement staffing shortages are inhibiting the town's ability to care for its residents' well-being.

"It's not a phone call you want to get," he said. "... Evidently, they're getting calls from our citizens expressing concerns for their safety. So, that's a problem."

During last years budget meetings, town staff and the commissioners investigated ways to shore of the police department, but the pandemic's onset forced a redirection of funds. "When you get a call

from another law enforce-

ment agency concerned about our ability to protect our citizens," Fadely said, "it's very ironic given that the first thing in our mission statement is that we are a safe town, and now that's being called into question because of increased gun violence, increased drug activity, increased gang activity."

The commissioners will have their annual budget retreat on Feb. 6 and will discuss allocation of funds to support the police department and other town entities.

"We've got to protect our citizens," Fadely said, 'because if we can't, nothing else we want to achieve is going to happen."

Fund balance policy

The commissioners approved a proposed fund balance policy from town staff that will cap the unassigned balance at 30% of the town's general fund, not to fall below 25%.

The unassigned fund balance, according to **Finance Director Tina** Stroupe, "refers to funds that remain available for appropriation by the board of commissioners after all commitments for future expenditures, required reserves and previous board of commissioners designation

have (been) calculated." At the town's last audit, the unassigned fund balance constituted 43%

of the general fund, or \$3,186,056. After the new fund policy is enacted, that number will drop to \$2,252,378.

Loves Creek Watershed Stewards

Grace Messinger of the Loves Creek Watershed Stewards presented some of the team's latest accomplishments as part of its Paper Alley Floodplain restoration project.

The initiative spanned four years, concluding in December. In total, LCWS and its contributors restored 400 linear feet of the Loves Creek tributary 1, removed 648 tons of debris and garbage and treated 5.3 acres of land for invasive management, according to Messinger's presentation.

The group also performed extensive wetland planting to enhance the riparian buffer, "the area along the stream that is composed of vegetation," Messinger said. That natural protective border contributes to the local ecology's health and helps to minimize flooding.

The project in total required about six acres

falling last Thursday, it had melted — but

Hawks captured these

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

pictures in her Chatham

not before CN+R photographer Kim

County garden.

of downtown land which had formerly been owned by four families and their heirs. In recognition of their contribution to the project, the town passed a resolution of gratitude honoring the "outstanding former Landowners and Volunteers" who "distinguished themselves by their remarkable sustained commitment of time, talent, and good will for the betterment of Siler City."

Downtown development

Under advisement by the Development Finance Initiative, a non-profit program from UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Government, the town of Siler City is actively pursuing downtown development opportunities.

DFI studied conditions in Siler City to evaluate market indicators of demand for market-rate multifamily housing, retail and office development. Of the three categories. DFI determined that demand is highest for multifamily residences. Its analysis identified a need for about 60 to 70 units over the next five vears.

"We see this as a tremendous opportunity," said DFI representative Eric Thomas. "We hear

from the developers and brokers downtown that the demand for downtown residential spaces — there's a waiting list for the limited product that currently exists.'

Thomas presented three sites for potential development: Boling Chair, Siler City Mill and the Pilgrims Pride property. Each had advantages, but the Siler City Mill offered the most realistic opportunity for development in the near future.

In other downtown development news, the board approved a request by the Wren Family Estate for a proposed encroachment into the alley behind the buildings at 101-143 N. Chatham Ave. The alley will be modified to support "a mostly and primarily pedestrian use," said Town Manager Roy Lynch, as part of larger development project to improve downtown Siler City's aesthetic and functionality.

"I'd just like to say that I'm glad to see downtown being revitalized," said Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Bray.

"Yes, yes," said the chorus of commissioners, "amen."

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



A: Siler Station and Matthews Corner. The first because it's where the train stopped and the

second because of the intersection of 64 and 421.

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

February's winner will be drawn from eligible entries provided by 3/2/2021. The February winner will be announced in a March issue of the Chatham News + Record. One entry per household, per week. Employees of the COA and their dependents not eligible.

Chatham COA **Events & Announcements** February 4th – February 10th

Thursday, February 4th

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



Snow scenes, briefly This garden art doesn't seem to be bothered by a crown of snow. Less than two hours after

temperatures rose and the snow and ice began to melt, this blossom wore a sparkling crown.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks





Iced holly berries, anyone? The remnants of the brief winter storm didn't seem to bother this plant.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Loving Yourself Through Positive Self-Care at 11:15 AM ²

Friday, February 5th

- <u>Strong & Fit with Jackie</u> at 9:00 AM
- Weekly Call with Director, Dennis Streets at 10:15 AM 📞

Monday, February 8th

- 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 9th

- Strong & Fit with Jackie at 9:00 AM
- Chatham Striders at 11:15 AM ᅙ

Wednesday, February 10th

- <u>Diabetic Discussion Group</u> at 10:00 AM
- Short Stories with Chris at 12:30 PM

ᅙ 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.

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.

The Chatham COA is Here for You!

For more information on our ongoing programs & services visit our website at chathamcoa.org or call our centers, Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

Eastern Chatham Senior Center 365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512

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

County committee seeking church histories

BY ANNIE TAYLOR MCCRIMMON Special to the News

+ Record

Editor's note: Annie Taylor McCrimmon is the co-chairperson of the Chatham 250 Historical Content group, which is part of the larger effort to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Chatham's founding. In this story, she shares the committee's need to collect histories of Chatham's churches and faith communities and the story of her own church's founding.

Chatham County is celebrating 250 years of history this year. Over the last several months, a community-led planning effort has been under way to prepare a year of celebrations to commemorate this exciting occasion for the past, present and future residents of Chatham County.

Chatham 250 has more than 70 volunteers involved, representing folks and organizations from various professions and life experiences to showcase Chatham's unique and

inspiring

history,

focusing

on the

last 50

years.

Their

virtual



McCrimmon

collaborations over the last several months have led to an offering of Chatham's best historical recounting in the areas of Agriculture, Creative Arts, Diversity and Community, Growth and Change, Natural Environment and Historical Content.

I chose to participate in the area of Historical Content because my interest lies in highlighting the history of Chatham's churches and communities.

For many years, in every arena I find myself, I am encouraging folks to make sure they have written down their histories. Our lives consist of any number of memories and experiences we should chronicle. I encouraged our church, Taylors Chapel Missionary Baptist (Rev. Wm. Eugene Staton, pastor) to celebrate the history of our annual homecoming and revival services this past August. The pandemic, which has instructed us all in how to live differently, was preventing us from having the traditional program. We agreed to incorporate a commemorative program containing the history of how we went from hosting an annual revival to hosting an annual homecoming and revival. The focus was on the history of the northern migrations of African Americans and how this history led us to host an annual homecoming at our church. Our church anniversa-

ry is celebrated annually the second Sunday in November. However, the pandemic still had us holding drive-up and live-streaming worship. We agreed to prepare another commemorative booklet. This booklet commemorated our 141st year of existence, but it featured memories of church members who have passed away since our last church anniversary. Family members provided photos of their deceased loved ones with a sharing of how this loss has affected them. They included words of comfort to others. These booklets are just further presentations of our history.

Church and Community history is the story of the people. It tells what we did, when we did it and how our today is a testament of how well we did in our church and community building. Many of Chatham's leaders grew up in these churches and communities.

These histories tell such important stories, so we have created the "Churches and Communities Project" as part of the Chatham 250 celebrations to do our best effort to collect these histories.

Over the next few weeks, we are inviting Chatham's churches and other places of worship to share their church and community histories with us. We are excited about the prospect of being able to share with each other, as churches and communities, who we are, where we are and who we have become.

If you'd like to share your church and community's history to this project, please either:

• Complete this brief online survey: https:// bit.ly/churchandcommunity

• Email chatham250thanniversary@gmail.com • Call Hilary Pollan, Chatham 250 Project Manager, at 919-545-8408 for more information

I'd like to share some of the history of my church — Taylors Chapel Missionary Baptist with all of you. I hope you'll see that these are the stories of Chatham people and Chatham communities.

In the early 1800s, Blacks in North Carolina were forbidden to preach, exhort, or teach in any prayer meeting or other association for worship where slaves of different families were gathered together. The congregation of Taylors Chapel Missionary Baptist Church began its worship as most Blacks did in the 1800s, secretly meeting wherever they could congregate



Photo courtesy of Annie McCrimmon

A page from the program of Taylors Chapel Missionary Baptist Church's centennial celebration, held in November 1979.

and worship and praise in peace. Later, they were permitted to worship from the balcony of the all-white Mays Chapel Church located in our community.

In 1879, Jack and Margaret Taylor took a very bold step when they bargained, sold, and conveyed three quarters of an acre of land to the trustees of Taylors Chapel Church for the construction of a church house. Their signatures were witnessed by Henry Dowd(y) and Charles Watson, because they could not sign their names. (For many years it was illegal to teach Blacks to read or write.)

The original Taylors Chapel Church, located on Taylors Chapel Road, was a one-room building without any modern amenities. It had a very small pastor's office located to the right of the pulpit. The church was heated by a wood-burning stove. It had no indoor plumbing; the bathroom was an outhouse, out back. The church originally faced the woods: however, in the 1940s it was turned to face the roadway to make it more accessible.

Taylors Chapel Missionary Baptist Church spearheaded the acquisition of an additional five acres of land, on which the current church sits. Rev. Willie Barton and his lovely wife, Lillian would see this vision to fruition. Rev. Terry Jones, who was being mentored by Rev. Barton, and his lovely wife, Vondra and daughters would share this ministry.

Rev. Headen led Taylors Chapel Church in a Centennial celebration in 1979. The two-day affair started on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 3, 1979, at J.S. Waters School with a banquet in the cafeteria and the second part of the celebration was held on Sunday, Nov. 11, at the church.

Rev. Headen would become Chatham County's first black school board member. He also spent part of his career as Chatham County's Housing Authority manager.

That's part of our history. We hope you will accept our invitation to share your history with the rest of Chatham County.

Annie Taylor McCrimmon serves as co-chairperson of the Chatham 250 Historical Content Committee and Churches ana Communities Project. with Ernest Dollar serving as the other co-chairperson. Other committee members include Cicily McCrimmon, Delphine Taylor Womack, Quentin Murray, Jane Wrenn, Maria Soto, Cindy Schmidt, Madison Fragnito and Hilary Pollan.

COVIDCHATHAMRELIEF PROGRAMCOUNTY

Have you been told to quarantine by a medical professional/job/school due to COVID-19?

If you are currently in quarantine, call to apply at (743) 239-4310. For Spanish call 336-523-8237. If your quarantine is over, you can apply at the following location.

Fire Chosen MinistriesThursday190 Sanford Road, Pittsboro, NC10am-1pm

Please bring proof of address, positive test results or a medical/job/school note instructing you to quarantine.

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CONSTRUCTION



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

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has had 14 pastors over its life of 141 years. Rev. Dr. Gregory T. Headen was called to pastor in 1971. He was 19 years old and a student at Pembroke University. It was under his leadership that plans for a new edifice were made and construction started. Rev. Headen

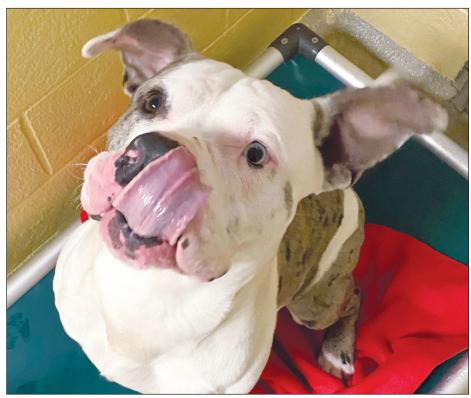


Photo courtesy of Chatham Sheriff's Office

Pet of the Week: BLUE

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Blue. He is a delightful, 2-year-old, mixed-breed canine who is ready to go home with his best friend! Blue is white with blue merle spots — hence his name — and has heterochromia, meaning he has two different-colored eyes (one brown and one blue). Blue is neutered and is up-to-date on all of his shots, so he is ready to be adopted TODAY! He loves playing ball, running and bounding through nature, and giving sloppy doggy kisses to his humans. Blue would be a great addition to a family that enjoys an active lifestyle and desires a loyal pet. For more information on how to meet or adopt Blue 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 Dr. in Pittsboro.

POLICE REPORTS

Proposed highway faces community pushback

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

Residents of Pittsboro's North Woods community are petitioning the North Carolina Dept. of Transportation to amend its plans for the proposed North Chatham Park Way, which threatens to bisect their neighborhood.

The project is under development by NCDOT in partnership with the town of Pittsboro and Chatham Park Investors, the group developing Chatham Park.

Plans for the 2.7-mile road have been coming together for years. Potential for the entire Chatham Park Way was considered as early as 1994 in a NCDOT feasibility study and in 2015 and 2019 as part of Pittsboro's comprehensive transportation plan and a second NCDOT investigation.

Already, a section of the road has been constructed between U.S. Hwy. 64 and Suttles Road, but North Chatham Park Way would extend the highway to U.S. Hwy. 15-501.

Earlier renderings of the road from 2016 appear to show North Chatham Park Way passing east of the North Woods community through Chatham Park-owned land. At a public hearing for the road's impending development, however, new drawings depicted a different trajectory.

"The public hearing was the first time that we all became aware that this road was for real," said North Woods property owner Mark Pavao, "and they had shifted the alignment from Chatham Park land onto our land. So, Jan. 7 was a watershed moment for



Courtesy of Mark Pavao

North Woods property owners propose NCDOT adjust the projected North Chatham Park Way to travel around their neighborhood, as represented by the dotted line. Its current rendering (solid line) would run through North Woods.

can't complain about that, we know that's happening," she said. "But there are issues we want to bring up that we feel are not fair and not responsible."

Pavao, likewise, acknowledged that Chatham Park is destined to revise the Pittsboro he has known for decades.

"All the neighbors, in fact, feel the same way, that we're not fighting Chatham Park," he said. "We're not saying that it shouldn't be here, and we're also not saying that this road shouldn't happen."

They just don't want it running through their land, he said, especially when it can so easily pass alongside it.

"My perspective is that eminent domain should be the solution of last resort, the option that the state resorts to after they have looked for every other possible alternative before they start taking private landowners' land," Pavao said. "There's a very obvious and simple solution, which is to shift the road by a couple hundred yards and to use land that is already owned by the developer for whom this road is being developed." What would be a simple adjustment for NCDOT, the landowners say, would make an immeasurable difference to them. It would keep their quiet neighborhood whole and untarnished by a four-lane highway. "It'll tear the neighborhood apart," Dalsimer said, "and these small rural neighborhoods — I call them hamlets they are becoming more and more rare ... Once they're gone, they're gone." Ducka Kelly, who bought her North Wood plot 23 years ago, suggests that Chatham Park Investors have ulterior motives for backing a road that passes through her neighborhood. "It really feels like there's something kind of underhanded about

it," she said. The road will devalue North Woods properties and may force some owners to sell "at rock bottom prices."

Building the road through North Woods instead of on Chatham Park-owned property would also afford the company more space to expand housing development, Pavao said.

"So, I suspect that there are two objectives at play here. One is, 'Let's preserve our land so we can build more houses,'" he said, "and the other is, 'If this neighborhood becomes less desirable for these neighbors, maybe they will sell their land.'"

Chatham Park representatives did not respond to the News + Record's request for comment by press time.

Two weeks ago, the North Woods neighbors launched a petition on change.org called "Save North Woods Neighborhood."

"I thought, well,

For information on the North Woods neighbors' campaign, visit their website, https:// savenorthwoodsneighborhood.com/.

NCDOT will be accepting public comments until Feb. 7 via phone: 984-205-6615, code 8027, or by email at North-Chatham-Park-Way@publicinput.com or mail, to 421 Fayetteville Street, Suite 600, Raleigh, NC 27601.

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

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On January 23, Jordan Hamilton Bryarley, 34, of 5421 Piney Grove Church Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy **Brandal Harrington** for failure to appear on charges of simple assault and misdemeanor probation violation. Bryarley was issued a \$1,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on February 10.

On January 23, Jordan Hamilton Bryarley, 34, of 5421 Piney Grove Church Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy **Brandal Harrington** for failure to appear on charges of driving while impaired, no operators license, speeding, expired/no inspection, expired registration card/tag, fictitious/ altered title/registration card/tag, driving while license revoked — impaired revocation.

Bryarley was issued a \$2,500.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on February 11.

On January 23, Jeffrey Arthur Cooper, 57, of 3066 US Hwy 15-501 North, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for violation of GPS monitoring conditions. Cooper was issued a \$25,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on February 3.

On January 25, Glen Todd Smith Jr., 34, of 420 South Second Avenue, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Phillip Hanson for pre-trial violation related to charges of assault on female and communicating threats. Smith was issued a \$5,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 26.





us."

Pavao, one of 17 landowners in the North Woods community, is spearheading the group's efforts to prevent state seizure of their land. He owns 46 acres between two lots, one of which sits directly in the proposed road's path.

"They're going to carve it up," Diana Dalsimer, another North Woods landowner, told the News + Record. "It's not going to be a neighborhood."

She and her fellow North Woods property owners are not fighting the North Chatham Park Way's construction, Dalsimer pointed out, nor are they opposed to Chatham Park's development, which will almost encircle the private community upon completion. When she and her husband moved to North Woods from Chapel Hill seven years ago, they already knew that Chatham Park and its infrastructure would eventually arrive.

"So, you know, we

maybe we can get 100 signatures," Pavao said. "And I thought that would be great."

As of Tuesday, more than 2,100 had signed. "It tells me that we're telling a story that people understand," Pavao said. "It's not fair for big, rich, real estate developers to come in and take land from private homeowners."

To make the biggest difference, though, Chatham residents must submit their protestations directly to the NCDOT, Pavao said.

"The only reason they'll make a change is if it becomes just too politically uncomfortable for them to go forward with the plan," he said. ... The primary objective that we have right now is to get people to submit comments to the public comment box that the NCDOT set up on this road alignment. That seems to be the one concrete avenue that we have for DOT to get the message that this alignment isn't fair and doesn't make sense."





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CHATHAM CHAT | DAVID WARREN, N.C. FREEDOM PARK

A way to recognize the struggle of slavery, Jim Crow and discrimination in N.C.

During Black History Month, the News + Record will

> feature issues related to the African American experi-



Warren

ence in our Chatham Chats. This week, we speak with Chatham County resident David Warren, who serves as co-chairperson for the N.C. Freedom Park project.

North Carolina is one of only a few states which has yet to honor the African American struggle for freedom from slavery, Jim Crow segregation and racial discrimination with a monument. N.C. Freedom Park, which will be constructed on a one-acre site between the state legislature and the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh, and will offer a place for school children, visitors, residents, citizens and policymakers to learn about the contributions of African Americans toward a better society.

A native of Chicago, Warren is a graduate of Miami University and Duke University. A former U.S. Naval supply officer, he had professorships at the UNC School of Government (1964-1974) and Duke (1975-2000), and was named professor emeritus for Duke's Family Medicine and Community Health program in 2001.

Warren served as director of the Governor's Institute on Alcohol and Substance Abuse from 1990-1997 and was a Fulbright Lecturer in China in 1998, 1999 and 2001.

What is the North Carolina Freedom Park and how did it come about?

Recognizing the lack of public monuments



Courtesy of N.C. Freedom Park

An artist's rendering of what N.C. Freedom Park will look like from the air.

for African Americans, the Paul Green Foundation conducted in 2001 a series of town hall meetings across the state to explore ideas to honor the African American struggle for freedom. The result was support for a public park to be built in the state's capital city of Raleigh that would be both commemorative and educational. A biracial statewide group was incorporated in 2004 with support from the Paul Green Foundation and the State Arts Council to pursue planning and funding for this monumental project.

Initial fundraising efforts coincided with a recession. Did you have other difficulties getting the project off the ground?

Over several years of both encouragement and disappointment, an initial design failed to draw financial support and determining a site for the park was delayed. Finally, in 2012 the governor and Council of State granted a lease for a one-acre space for the park across from the State Legislative Building and near downtown Raleigh's museums — a prime location. Then the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation provided a series

of grants to restructure the project and give it new energy.

The next step was a smaller and more active board of directors and, fortuitously, a new design for the park created by the renowned architect Phil Freelon.

He had just completed his work as lead architect on the new National Museum of African American History and Culture on the Mall. Now we had an inspiring design that we felt would gain financial support. In addition, an influential business leader joined our cause and was able to find major donors to make substantial pledges for the project.

What is the park's status now?

The fundraising for the park was boosted by a \$500,000 challenge grant from the State Employees Credit Union and a similar pledge from the Local **Government Federal** Credit Union. That attracted enthusiastic support from nearly all the banks in the state plus large corporations such as Duke Energy. Crucial were grants from several of the large foundations in the state, including the A. J. Fletcher Foundation and the Kenan Charitable



A rendering of N.C. Freedom Park, which will be built in downtown Raleigh.

Trust.

Notably, two individuals generously wrote checks for \$100,000 each. Then some supportive leaders in the General Assembly in June 2020 were instrumental in adopting a \$1.5 million grant to enable the project to meet the threshold for starting construction. Thus, a ceremonial groundbreaking event was held last October and Gov. Cooper gave the park a big sendoff. Actual construction of the \$4.5 million project will begin sometime this spring and be completed in a year.

The goal of the park is to honor the African American experience and contributions toward the promotion of freedom for all peoples. How will the park be used?

Upon completion of the park, the state lease agreement requires that it be transferred to the state for maintenance and programming. We are in continuous conversation with the N.C. Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources about the development of the park and how it can be used to have an immediate and dramatic impact as a place for education and racial reconciliation.

The director of the department's African American Heritage Commission is an ex-officio member of our board of directors and supports our proposal for a Friends of the Park organization to raise supplemental funds and provide expertise for programming in the Park. We anticipate thousands of school kids

coming in buses from all parts of the state to Raleigh as part of their N.C. history curriculum to visit the park and learn more about the African American story. Within the walkways in the park will be numerous quotations from North Carolina African Americans about various perspectives of freedom. For example, Ella Baker, the civil rights leader, says, "Remember, we are not fighting for the freedom of the Negro alone, but for the freedom of the human spirit, a larger freedom that encompasses all mankind."

Besides the quotations on the park's walkways, what other features of the park will attract visitors?

The central architectural feature of the park will be the gleaming 40-feet tall Beacon of Freedom. It will be a golden torch-like tower that will be symbolic of another quote, "My father passed the torch to me, which I have never let go out," by Lyda Moore Merrick, an editor and advocate for the blind who was also the daughter of the founder of M&F Bank. (By the way, the quotations will all have electronic chips that will tell a backstory on smartphones.)

At the base of the beacon will be a gathering area for lectures, musical and dramatic perfor-

Courtesy of N.C. Freedom Park

tional impact of the park, docents will be available to interpret and elaborate on the message of the park.

How did you get involved in the project, and are you the chief spokesman?

I am certainly an advocate but others on our talented board can better speak for the park. On our website (www. ncfmp.org) are videos of Freelon (our acclaimed architect, now departed), Reg Hildebrand (former UNC African American history professor) and others who tell the story. My job as co-chair, along with Goldie Frinks Wells (who currently serves on the Greensboro City Council) is to coordinate the enthusiasm that this project has generated. That means accompanying board members on donor visits, keeping legislative leaders well informed, doing some of the legal work behind the scenes and following up with news media on inquiries about the progress of the park.

In the early days, my wife Marsha — as director of the Paul Green Foundation was pushing the project and needed a lawyer to incorporate the effort. She volunteered me and I found myself caught up in what I now know will become an iconic landmark in these times of heightened sensitivity to Airican American justice.

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mances, and, hopefully, conversations among visitors about the importance of the concepts of freedom, namely, justice, equity and opportunity. To facilitate the educa-

How can we find out more?

https://ncfmp.nationbuilder.com/

NEWS BRIEFS

COA presents 'Memoir Scribes'

All our life stories deserve to be told. written, and remembered. Now, Memoir Scribes will help you write yours.

The Chatham Council on Aging's new program will use Memoir Scribes young volunteers ready to get to know you and help write about your life — to put your story on paper. Talking about the events, challenges and best moments of your life can be a meaningful way to recall all you have experienced.

How does it work? A meeting will be set with a scribe to have a conversation about your life. The scribe will then create a written booklet of your words for you to keep. There is no cost to participate and your conversation will not be shared with others.

Interested? Call the COA's Senior Center to learn more and schedule your time with a memoir scribe. Please contact Jackie Green for more information at 919-542-4512 (ext. #227) or email her at Jackie.Green@chathamcoa.org.

Friends of the Chatham Community Library cancels spring book sale

The Friends of the Chatham Community Library has canceled its spring book sale, which would have been held from March 25 to 27 at the library.

The reason for the cancellation is the continuing lockdown of government offices and businesses ordered by federal, state and local governments, which at this writing is expected to continue at least through the spring.

Each sale at the library raises nearly \$20,000 for the benefit of the library and its operations.

Despite the cancellation of the spring book sale and the loss of additional revenue provided by it, the Chatham Community Library is making every effort to continue serving the citizens of Chatham County.

For example, in the last six months, the library staff has provided the community with curbside take-out and return service, plus reference and research services via phone and computer, and virtual educational and entertainment classes for all ages.

The Friends is planning to resume the spring and fall book sales when the pandemic is officially declared ended. Until that time, the organization continues to welcome cash, check or similar donations, plus new membership applications.

More information may be found on its website at friendsccl.org.

Tri-County 4-H announces chicken chain interest meeting

PITTSBORO — The Alamance, Guilford and Chatham County 4-H offices are looking for individuals between the ages of 5 and 18 who would be interested in raising chickens through the 4-H's "chicken chain" program.

Chicken chain participants will get day-old chicks, raise them to maturity, and then show them at a special event in October. While raising the chickens, young people learn about life cycles, animal husbandry, money management and more.

Potential participants are invited to a virtual interest meeting at 6 p.m. on February 3, 2021. Individuals may register by visiting https://go.ncsu.edu/chickenchain21.

- CN+R staff reports

CHATHAM PROMISE MOU

Updates allow some requirement exemptions, required summer costs extended, and more

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners has approved two items to the memorandum of understanding for Chatham Promise, allowing for some credit requirement exemptions in the case of COVID-19-related issues and for required summer courses costs to be covered. Chatham Promise is one part of

Central Carolina Promise," a program offering free Central Carolina Community College tuition for qualifying high school graduates and supported by Chatham, Harnett and Lee County governments. The Chatham program 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. Textbooks, supplemental materials and summer terms are not included, the Central Carolina Promise website says, though costs associated with required summer terms will now be covered thanks to the approved MOU changes.

CCCC's Mark Hall, Chatham County provost, presented the proposed changes on Jan. 19 to the board, which clarified changes in approach and one which was for administration purposes. The board approved those changes in two separate motions.

"This is absolutely in concert, or keeping with, the intention of Chatham Promise," Commissioner Karen Howard said of the changes after making a motion to accept them.

The credit requirement exceptions for 2021 and 2022 graduating students will be extended on a case-by-case basis, Hall said, for students whose academic records demonstrate they were on track to complete their credit and hours-earned requirements prior to any impediments caused by the pandemic.

The second approved change, in addition to allowing required summer courses costs to be covered, allowed for part-time students and the opportunity for eligible students to participate in the program at any time up until two years after their high school graduation. No extensions beyond the two years will be granted, Hall said.

PRIVATE

COUNTRY

In order to be eligible, applicants must be a resident of Chatham, Harnett or Lee County, graduate from homeschool or public/private school, complete the FAF-SA and the Career and College Promise program, with at least four high school dual-enrollment courses or 12 credit hours. The priority deadline is July 23. You can learn more about the program and how to apply at cccc.edu/promise/.

During his presentation to the board, Hall said that last year Chatham Promise served 160 students, 140 of which completed their first year, with 60 of those students returning and others transferring to other colleges or receiving degrees.

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



Kid Scoop regularly features topics related to money and financial literacy. Financial literacy means knowing how to spend, invest and save your money carefully. It also includes donating your time and treasure to make your community a better place. This is called philanthropy.

Read the article about a six-year old girl who became a philanthropist and helped her local zoo!

FORWARDED

COVID Project: Save a Zoo! Replace the missing words in this article. SALES PAINT According to the Oakland Zoo, Andy's

\$25 or

n March of 2020, California's Oakland Zoo had to close its gates because of the coronavirus. By July, the zoo was still closed and it was in trouble.

Philanth

Giving of one's time, talent or treasure for the common good

A Castro Valley six-year-old named Andy learned that the Oakland Zoo was running out of and might have to shut its doors forever. It made Andy sad, but it also made her think. An idea came to her.

How a little "My brain just told it to girl raised big bucks Z00.

me," said Andy. "I thought I could make and give bead bracelets to help save to people who her favorite more. My goal was to raise \$200."

Andy and her mother, Kelly, sent messages to friends and family who quickly donated and asked for bracelets.

hank

Big Idea Gets Bigger

heir friends and family did more than donate. They Andy's

project information to their friends and families. Those people sent the message to their friends and families. And so on, and so on until more than 4,000 people sent in donations.



mmms For helping to save the Oakland Zoo, Andy got thank you notes from a tiger and a grizzly bear

Big Thanks Andy got to see a new baby giraffe named Kijii and a huge tortoise. She got to pick out

BOTTLF

fundraiser helped feed and care for the

animals. Because the Zoo was closed from

were no ticket _____ or other ways to raise money. The animals still needed food and

care, so Andy's fundraiser was VERY helpful

mid-March through the end of July, there

VISITORS

The Oakland Zoo

and the animals

wanted to show

of the Zoo.

their appreciation.

Andy was given a

tour

for a grizzly bear to make a painting, just for her. She also got to _ of goat milk!

feed a tiger a _

Andy was also interviewed by Kelly Clarkson for her TV show!

> What is Andy's advice for other kids who want to help? "All you need to do is have an idea and

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For more information about our literacy non-profit, visit kidscoopnews.org



Are there ways you can help in your community? Work with a family member to complete the following:

My Time I have time during the week when I could do something kind for another person or help out the community. Check the boxes to show when you might have time to help.

- RecessBefore School
- After School
 Saturday Mornings
- Saturday Afternoons
 Sunday Mornings
- Sunday Afternoons

My Talent

What is your talent? Can you play a musical instrument? Can you sing or dance? Paint? Do you enjoy talking to people? There are many kinds of talents that help others. Make a list of your talents.

My Treasure	

In six short weeks, more than 4,000 people from all over the _ made donations. About 900 of them wanted bracelets.

Fortunately, Andy's friends wanted to help. Andy made 500 bracelets and her friends made another 700.

How much did Andy's project raise? It raised a whopping \$226,558!!!



Look through the newspaper for people who are working hard to care for others in your community. Write a letter to the editor thanking them.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple, written directions

PUZZ Gľ



just start helping

Andy and her family enjoying a bird's-eye view aboard the Oakland Zoo's gondola ride.

1. What is the name of the zoo helped by Andy's money?

2. In which city does Andy live?

3. What did Andy charge for her bracelets?

4. How did the zoo use the money Andy raised?

5. What kind of animal did Andy feed with a bottle of goat milk?

BR.

Can you find the tiger that's different?

Jounie	b	ŀ	W				56	H	Π	en
BRACELETS DONATED			ow r	nan	y of	the	the em o pag	:an		
ANIMALS HELPFUL	s	L	U	F	Р	L	Е	Н	Н	0
PROJECT	L	Т	E	V	А	S	W	S	D	Т
TROUBLE	A	Н	Е	0	0	Ζ	Е	S	0	R
THANKS	M	А	V	L	А	Y	S	Е	Ν	0
MONEY	I	D	С	Е	Е	D	K	Ν	А	U
CLOSE BRAIN	N	Y	D	Ν	А	С	N	Ι	Т	В
ANDY	A	Ι	0	Е	А	Ζ	А	А	Е	L
IDEA	0	М	В	Е	А	R	Н	R	D	E
SAVE	P	R	0	J	Е	С	Т	В	В	0
BEAD										
	Stand words									ntical tterns.

oney. You might hav asure isn't only n books or clothing you have that are in good condition and that you don't want anymore. Someone else may really treasure those! Make a list of items that you can donate.

🗈 Write On! 📣 **Start a New Business**

If you could start a business, what would it be? How do you know if people need what your business offers? Explain why you would start this business.



Chatham YMCA

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CELEBRATIONS ARE ABOUT BELONGING

Chatham 250 to offer soccer tournament, create dedicated Latino history archive

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON

News + Record Staff

Chatham County's 250th anniversary celebration is set to kick off in early spring, and for its planners, it's not just a birthday party it's an oppor-Chatham News + Record

tunity

to celebrate and recognize the county's growing diversity.

"What we're trying to do in Chatham 250 is celebrate all of Chatham County, and Chatham County is a diverse place," said Project Manager Hilary Pollan, adding, "There's a lot of different ethnic and racial cultures in Chatham County ... and our hope with Chatham 250 is to celebrate all of those and to create a celebration where everyone feels like they belong."

Chatham 250 planners especially seek to celebrate and engage the Hispanic community, said Pollan, who's also the county's community partners analyst. That's why this year's celebration won't just offer Spanish-language translation and interpretation for its events and projects; it'll also offer events specifically designed for the county's Hispanic community with the help of several Chatham Latino residents.

"The celebrations are about belonging," Pollan said. "They're about helping people feel like they belong in this county and belong in terms of their voice and being able to share what's important to them and be listened to and heard and have it shape the way we make decisions."

Lendy Carias, a Guatemalan immigrant, is one of three Chatham 250 co-chairpersons. Since last year, she and Pollan have been working to engage the county's Hispanic community and to plan events catered specifically to the county's Latino residents. "One thing about the Chatham 250 is that we want the community to feel comfortable because, if there is no Hispanic person representing the community, they're probably going to think, 'Oh,

we don't want to go to the events,' or 'We don't want

CHATHAM HOSPITAL UNC HEALTH CARE

UNC HEALTH CARE ebration,' because they won't feel part of it,'' Carias said. "So having a person

"So having a person who's representing them, they're gonna feel maybe more comfortable going there."

Together, the pair have come up with plans for a fall soccer tournament, or "campeonato" in Spanish, a "caravana," or drive-thru parade, and several history projects to tell the community's stories.

"A lot of Hispanic people like soccer, so we tried to do like — we call it 'La Liga,' where there's going to be a lot of teams," Carias said. "The community can be involved, and they can create their own futbol teams. And then we're going to have two days of play."

"My hope with the campeonato is that it is just mostly a Spanish-speaking event," added Pollan, "(and) that it kind of exists in that bilingual space because that event is really for the Hispanic/ Latinx community."

In October, the Chatham 250 plans to host a drive-thru parade ("caravana") to close out the celebrations. The pandemic prevents them from throwing a big festival, Pollan said, so instead, they plan to invite people to decorate their cars, perhaps with their country flags, and drive through Siler City celebrating safely together.

"I used to live in a very Puerto Rican community, and there was a big thing around caravanas, where everybody gets in their car, and they decorate their car, and they honk their horns and they drive around togeth-



er," Pollan said. "And I checked with Lendy if that happens in Guatemala, and if that felt like it resonated with her, and she was like, 'Heck, yes."

Maria Soto of Communities In Schools of Chatham County has also been involved in the celebration's steering committee, and the Chatham 250 planners have also partnered with the Hispanic Liaison to promote the yearlong celebration, which will kick off in early April and end in late October.

Other Chatham 250 events and projects for the entire community will also be accessible to the county's Spanish-speaking community, Pollan said.

"We have budgeted for a significant amount of funds for translation," she said, adding, "That's a commitment we've made — authentic, equitable engagement. We want everybody who wants to participate to be able to participate."

Most, if not all, Chatham 250 documents, online and otherwise, will be available in Spanish, and their branded events — both in-person and virtual — will have Spanish translators available. Organizers plan to circulate flyers in both languages, and the Founding Day celebration on April 10 will have bilingual speakers.

Founding Day, or April 1, is the day the Colonial Assembly ratified Chatham's charter, establishing Chatham County.

"It's a birthday party," Pollan said. "So we'll have party hats, goodie bags, cake, a piñata raffle, art projects. It's a drive-thru event, and we'd love to see folks come out and kick off these anniversary celebrations."

The celebration's main "event" is the Chatham 250's Passport experience. Pollan described the activity as a "self-guided tour meets scavenger hunt." Participants will receive a map with a list of 15 to 20 activities under each of the five "celebration themes," which include Creative Arts, Community and Diversity, Growth and Change, Agriculture and Natural Environment.

"The idea is that it gets you to experience different parts of Chatham County," she said. "Like, we have 'Eat at a restaurant you've never been to before,' and so the way we've structured it is that it's completely accessible for wherever you live, and whatever type of resources you have, and whatever language you speak." "... our hope with Chatham 250 is to celebrate all of those and to create a celebration where everyone feels like they belong."

HILARY POLLAN, Chatham 250 Project Manager

and at key areas around Chatham; people will also be able to download the maps from the Chatham 250's website, which will also be available in Spanish.

Beyond just one-time events, the Chatham 250 will leave a lasting impact: creating a history archive dedicated to stories from the county's Hispanic community over the past 50 years.

"There is no history recorded currently of Chatham County's Hispanic and Latinx community," Pollan said. "I mean, there's little pieces, but there isn't a dedicated collection, and our ability to sort of go back and recall history is really important when we think about memory and when we think about reconciliation. If we don't have anything archived, you can't do that moving forward."

As Pollan sees it, the Chatham 250 picks up from the county's bicentennial celebrations in 1971 — when the county had no true Hispanic/ Latinx presence. Those celebrations, she said, also only truly honored "certain parts" of Chatham and left many minority communities out.

"That's not where we are, as a county, as a nation, anymore," she said. "We want everybody who lives here to see themselves in these celebrations, and so, Chatham 250 is really focusing on the last 50 years. We looked back at the last 50 years (at) what has changed (and) what defines these 50 years, and the Hispanic migration to Chatham County is a huge part of that narrative.'

To achieve this, Pollan put together a Historical Content committee, which she filled with interested county historians and residents UNC journalism professor. He wrote about Hispanic migration to Chatham County in his book, "A Home on the Field," which follows the creation of Los Jets, a predominantly Latino soccer team at Jordan-Matthews.

"I'm on the committee that's looking at how things have changed in Chatham County, population-wise, and then specifically within that, how the Hispanics or Latinos have been a part of that,' Cuadros said. "So as part of that committee, I've been working on a Los Jets exhibit or artifacts for the history folks. So I've been gathering those things together, and we've been talking about that."

Though it's a wellknown story in the county, Cuadros said he hopes that the exhibit — which had been featured in the North Carolina Museum of History — will provide context and offer a specific story beyond the overarching theme, the Hispanic migration into Chatham County, starting in the '90s. The committee also hopes to collect individual stories from others in the community.

"It's really hard to gather this stuff, and when it comes to the Latino community, there's a language barrier," Cuadros said. "... This is an important endeavor to get this into the record and to ensure that history be a part of the overarching history, and nobody is left out."

"One of my hopes for Chatham 250 is to begin to formalize a permanent location for that history," added Pollan, "so that at the tricentennial, some young people will be able to go back and look at that history and be able to know their roots and the story of this county."

The county will distribute printed copies of the maps to all CCS students — including Paul Cuadros, Jordan-Matthews' men's soccer coach and Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at victoria@chathamnr.com.

SET FOR VALENTINE'S DAY Council on Aging thanks community with virtual concert

From the Council on Aging

Grammy-winner Mike Farris will help the Chatham County Council on Aging make Valentine's Day extra special this year.

At 4 p.m. on Valentine's Day — Sunday, February 14th — the COA will offer, free of charge, a virtual concert featuring Farris, whose music has been described as rooted in early American gospel and blues.

Hailing from Nashville, Tennessee, Farris won a Grammy for his 2015 album "Shine for All the People."

"We are offering this concert to thank the community for supporting our work in serving Chatham County seniors and their families," said Dennis Streets, COA's executive director. "We all know the challenges associated with COVID-19, and we hope this event will lift people's spirits on Valentine's Day — I guess you could say it's an expression of our love for Chatham County."

Free tickets for the virtual concert, which will be hosted via Zoom, are available at https://givebutter.com/COAMikeFarris.

"While the tickets are free, we certainly welcome donations,



Grammy-winner Mike Farris.

as well, to help us further serve seniors and their families," Streets said.

The event takes place during "We Love Seniors" Month, as proclaimed by the Chatham County Board of County Commissioners (https://www.chathamnc. org/home/showpublisheddocument?id=54025).

Transitions LifeCare, formerly

Photo by Sebastian Smith

Hospice of Wake County, is sponsoring the event on behalf of the Council on Aging.

"We truly appreciate the generosity of Transitions LifeCare, which has served as a partner for a number of years," said Streets.

For more information about the work of the Council on Aging, visit www.chathamcoa.org.

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ployment and 7 paid holidays annually. Medical, dental and vision insurances are offered, as well as many voluntary insurances, deducted on a pretax basis. Qualified applicants should apply in person to 1220 Harold Andrews Rd, Siler City, NC 27344 Monday thru Friday from 8am until 5pm or submit resume by email to billy_scott@basicmachinery. - BMC IS AN EQUAL OP-PORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PARTICIPATES IN THE FEDERAL E-VERIFY PROGRAM, F4,11,2tc

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 31th day 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.

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, 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 J14,F21,J28,F4,4tc

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

Estate of Alan W. Kaplan a/k/a Alan William Kaplan PO Box 51579 Durham, NC 27717-1579

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 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 Joyce 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

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 22 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 27344

for sale. Any and all responsibilities 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 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 attor ney 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 ad-vised that you may terminate the rental agreement upon written notice to the landlord, to be effective on a date stat-

ed 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 J28,F4,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA 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

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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, 2021. 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 Meghan N. Knight

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qual-ified 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 recov

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 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 April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

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 qualified 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, NC 27701 J21, J28, F4, F11, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of WILLIAM 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.

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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

county, North Carolina, the 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

J28,F4,F11,F18,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 F 494 The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Administra-

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tors 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 ChaHAVING OUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of WAYNE AUSTIN SIMPSON late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, claims against the estate of

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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 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 PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312 (919) 542-5605

J28,F4,F11,F18,4tc

Call Bill

FREE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY firms and corporations having 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. 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 PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312 (919) 542-5605 J28,F4,F11,F18,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

21-F-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 op portunity 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 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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE A public hearing will be held

by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday. February 15, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro, North Carolina at 1192 US-64 W BUS. Due to the Governor's restrictions on mass gatherings, public seating at the meeting will be limited. There will also be an option to participate electronically for the legislative requests and for more information about the meeting you can select the meeting date at the following link: https://www. chathamnc.org/government/ commissioner-meetings/calendar-with-agenda-minutes. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www.chathamnc.org by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the Public

Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral. on the issues listed below: Legislative Request:

1. A Legislative public hearing for a general use rezoning request by Brendie Vega, on behalf of Moncure Holdings LLC & Moncure Holdings West, LLC. to rezone in full or a portion of Parcel No's. 92884, 92883, 5604, 5620, 5321, 5814, and 92449, being approximately 249.036 acres total, from R-1 Residential, to IH Heavy Industrial, located off Old US 1 Pea Ridge Rd, Christian Chapel Church Rd, and Moncure Flatwood Rd., Cape Fear Township. 2. A legislative public hearing for a request by Moncure Holdings LLC and Moncure Holdings West LLC to amend Section 302 (E)(2)(b) of the Watershed Protection Ordinance to establish an overlav district where the 10/70 rule applies in the Cape Fear WS-IV Protected Area watershed district and amend the Watershed Protection Map to establish the boundaries of the overlay district.

Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discus-



Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.

F4.F11.2tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY NOTICE **OF LIS PENDENS**

To: ALL HEIRS, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN OF HENRIETTA EMERSON. The Town has filed a Notice of LIS PENDENS with the Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court pursuant to N.C.G.S 1-120.2. The ordinance enforcement proceeding pending before the Town Ordinance Enforcement Officer is for violations of the Town Code of Ordinances under Chapter 8 Buildings, Article IV. Minimum Housing Standards. The real property affected by this ordinance enforcement proceeding is described as 1411 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. and Tax PARCEL NUM-BER 16528. The subject finding of fact order in said ordinance enforcement proceeding shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the owners of (including heirs) and the parties in interest in the subject dwelling. The Notice of Lis Pendens shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. A copy of the Finding of Fact Order and Notice of Lis Pendens can be obtained by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at 311 N. 2nd Ave., Siler City, 919-742-2323, or jmeadows@silercity.org.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

F4,1tc

20-E-646 All persons having claims against MARGARET EMMA PAULSEN, A.K.A. MARGA-RET WHITEHILL PAULSEN, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of May, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 4th day of February, 2021.

Charles Michael Paulsen, Executor

C/O Steve Lackey, Attorney 410 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Chapel Hill, NC 27514 F4,F11,F18,F25,4tp

NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE

Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. STANLEY D. LEWTER and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of STANLEY D. LEW-TER and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al. 19-CVD-524 the undersigned Commissioner will ON THE 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction at the COURTHOUSE DOOR IN CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, PITTS-BORO, NORTH CAROLINA AT 12:00 O'CLOCK, NOON, the following described real property, lying and being in Matthew Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a stake, corner of Lot #14, on the West side of Sears Street, and running thence a Westerly direction, parallel with U.S. Highway #64 150 feet to a stake, corner of Lot #21; thence a Northerly direction, with line of said lot, 75 feet to a stake, corner of Lot #18; thence with line of Lot #18, an Easterly direction, 150 feet to a stake on the West margin of Sears Street; thence with said Street, a Southerly direction, 75 feet to the beginning, and being all of Lots #15, 16 and 17 of the Wade H. Paschal property. Parcel Identification Number: #0016482 The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 25nd day of January, 2021. Mark B. Bardill, Jr., Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 F4,F11,2tc

having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before the 6th day of May, 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 4th day of February 2021. Glenn Hofsess, Personal Representative c/o Anthony D. Nicholson. Attorney for the Estate McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson, & Hinkle, PLLC 3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400 Durham, NC 27707 F4,F11,F18,F25,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

21-E-57 All persons having claims against DONALD E. WOODY, deceased, late of Chatham County. North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of May, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 4th day of February,

2021 Donald E. Woody, Jr., Executor 2705 Siler City Snow Camp Rd Siler City, NC 27344

F4,F11,F18,F25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21-E-56

All persons having claims against MOLLIE W. WOODY, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4TH day of May, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 4th day of February,

2021. Donald E. Woody, Jr., Executor 2705 Siler City Snow Camp Rd Siler City, NC 27344

F4,F11,F18,F25,4tp

CHATHAM COUNTY PARTNER-SHIP FOR CHILDREN

SEEKING APPLICATIONS: The Chatham County Partnership for Children is seeking applications from 3, 4, or 5 star centers for the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program. Services to be provided in Chatham County, NC. All applicants are required to follow DCDEE rules and regulations. Additional information is available at www.chathamkids.org or by calling (919) 542-7449 ext. 131.

F4,1tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC **HEARING NOTICE**

The Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on FEB. 15, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COURTROOM LOCATED AT 311 N. 2ND AVE. Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests: 1. Town of Siler City proposes text amendments to the following sections of the UDO: §129 Flood Districts, §131 Landfill Districts (Downtown Siler City overlay district), and §148 (multifamily downtown development); and 2. Town of Siler City proposes a map amendment by including the following blocks into the Downtown Siler City overlay district: N. Birch Ave. (100), S. Birch Ave. (100), N. Chatham Ave. (100, 200, 300), S. Chatham Ave. (100, 200), N. 2nd Ave. (100, 200, 300), S. 2nd Ave. (100, 200, 300, 5. 210 Ave. (100), Chestnut St. (100), W. Beaver St. (100), E. Beaver St. (100, 200), W. Raleigh St. (100), E. Raleigh St. (100, 200), W. 2nd St. (100), E. 2nd St. (100, 200), W. 3rd St. (100), and E. 3rd St. (100), 200) E. 3rd St. (100, 200). The proposed items are available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the application are invited to attend the public hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced items. The Planning Board will meet on Feb. 8 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. If you are interested in attending the meetings via Zoom, then contact jbridges@silercity.org for the Planning Board meeting and jjohnson@silercity.org for the Board of Commissioner meeting. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to. providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity. org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Sec-ond Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of JOHN P. HOFSESS, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 26th day of January, 2021, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations

F4,F11,2tc

CHATHAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

CEF teams with Chatham Reads for book drive

From the Chatham **Education Foundation**

During the current pandemic, there have been an unprecedented number of needs that have arisen. Unfortunately, the need for books in low-income homes is not a new thing.

The ease of students getting to the school libraries has been significantly impacted, therefore, the need for books in the home became more apparent. Even with the uncertainty of how our annual book drive would turn out due to the pandemics effect on families, we persisted with our annual tradition.

Two words to describe the book drive: abundantly successful! You all showed up during these difficult times to give back to those in our community. And to say thank you is not enough!

Thanks to your gen-



Photo courtesy of Chatham Education Foundation

CEF volunteers Dr. Jessica Burgert, Ruthie Burgert, Everett Burgert and Ryan Linkhorn help sort books.

erosity, the Chatham **Education Foundation** (CEF) and Chatham Reads distributed around 3,000 books back into our community between Thanksgiving and Christmas. These books will help to build at-home libraries for

Chatham families. We partnered with Chatham County Schools and the Chatham County Schools Nutrition Services to distribute the largest number of books to the students in need. Chatham Reads also partnered with the CORA Food Pantry

and the YMCA Scholastic Support Centers to distribute books to those in their programs. The Chatham **Reads Little Libraries** have also been refreshed and free book bins have been added to the Pittsboro Laundry Land and What-A-Wash in Siler

City. There are a couple of other partnerships that are also in the works.

A well-educated student finds gainful employment, is less likely to commit a crime, and is less likely to need public assistance. However, in order to be successful, graduate from high school on time, and find meaningful work, a student must read proficiently. Studies show that students that do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school. In order to fill jobs and be viable candidates, it all starts with reading.

Currently, in Chatham County, 61% of our 3rd graders read proficiently. If you look at our economically disadvantaged students, only 43% are reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade.

Our goal is to use

literacy interventions and access to literacy resources to increase the percentage of students reading proficiently. Thank you for being part of our initiative! You are making a difference in the lives of students in our community.

We appreciate the following amazing businesses and a personal home that hosted a donation box for us: 501 Pharmacy, The Briar Chapel Clubhouse, Opus Financial, and Peppercorn Cafe in Siler City. Also, to the awesome volunteers that helped us sort all the donations. We could not have made this significant of an impact without your support. It is amazing to see our community coming together during these difficult times to make a difference!

For more information, go to www.chathameducationfoundation.org.

'HOMEBOUND HEROES'

Council on Aging awarded \$100K grant to support veterans

From the Council on Aging

Meals on Wheels America has announced that the Chatham Council on Aging will receive a second grant to continue its work to assist older veterans with home modification and repair needs.

The COA is one of only eight local aging service agencies across the nation to be selected for the Helping Homebound Heroes project, which is funded by The Home Depot Foundation as part of its mission to improve the homes and lives of our nation's veterans.

COA was earlier awarded a grant of \$85,000; the new grant, for \$100,000, will allow the agency to continue to assist veterans needing repair assistance.

"We had great success this past summer and fall assisting 18 veteran households through the Helping Homebound Heroes project, and we welcome the opportunity to further help our county's older veterans remain living safely at home," said Dennis Streets, director of the Council on Aging. "We sincerely appreciate The Home Depot Foundation and Meals on Wheels America for making this possible."

Chatham County's Helping Homebound Heroes project is a joint endeavor among various organizations. The construction work is led by Rebuilding Together of the Triangle.

tion and repair work, the Council on Aging has also offered participating veterans other services such as delivery of Meals on Wheels, loaning of assistive equipment and transportation to grocery shopping and medical appointments.

These responses from the veterans, themselves, clearly demonstrate the value of this project.

From a local Korean War Army veteran who had fallen on his uneven brick steps: "The work team came in and went about their business (in repairing my home and steps). I couldn't have asked for a better job. Thank you so much for doing all of this.³

The Rebuilding Together of the Triangle team also repaired the veteran's kitchen cabinet, added a door threshold and made some minor electrical and plumbing repairs.

From the spouse of a Navy veteran dealing with a serious health condition: "They did an absolutely incredible job in a short period of time. I can't say enough about how blessed we are for their work.'

Rebuilding Together repaired the couple's stairs and deck railings and installed one of the biggest ramps they have ever placed on a property.

From husband and wife: "We wholeheartedly say 'thank you' for connecting us with Rebuilding Together for the



The Council on Aging's previous 'Homebound Heroes' grant paid for repairs on the homes of local veterans, like this work performed last year.

In completing the 18 projects, Rebuilding Together of the Triangle addressed a wide array of problems that included repair of flooring, roofs, siding, plumbing, electric, storm doors, railings and gutters; installation of walk-in showers, toilets, a kitchen range, insulation, vapor barriers HVAC system and ramps; and much more. To learn more about the Helping Homebound Heroes initiative and to

apply for assistance, contact either of the following individuals:

• Wynne Fields, Chatham County Council on Aging, 919-542-4512, wynne. fields@chathamcoa.org

The County's Veterans Services Officer and Register of Deeds both have been instrumental, along with others, in identifying veterans who need assistance.

In addition to the home modifica-

Homebound (Heroes) program. They did wonderful work. Not only does it look beautiful, we both feel 100% safer."

For a Marine veteran, Rebuilding Together repaired steps and constructed a sidewalk over rough terrain.

• David Kennedy, Chatham County Veterans Service Officer, David.Kennedy@chathamcountync.gov

For further information about the work of the Chatham County Council on Aging, visit www.chathamcoa.org.

Hopelessly devoted to spuds

"Warts and all."

When I write a column that's what

I give you. Good or

bad, embarrassing

On an unrelated

note, if my house

caught on fire and

I had to choose be-

tween my wedding

freshly made potato

salad, I'd be sitting

on the curb stuffing

Just sayin'.



DEBBIE MATTHEWS The Curious Cook

my face, waiting for the fire department to arrive.

I just love it. I love the taste, the smell of it, I love the way it's the perfect couch food and goes with any TV show or movie. I even love the sound it makes when you stir it.

I always thought that when I said I could live on it for the rest of my life, it was hyperbole.

But.

I have many different recipes for potato salad.

Protein? Salads with egg or bacon . or both.

Vegetables? I have recipes with veggies — and not just onion.

Bad day? Any version, the more the better.

My new recipe, the power bowl, came from recent experiments with lemon and horseradish, and a trip to the Asian grocer near me. If you've never shopped at one, go. The produce department will thrill and delight. Lots of interesting, unfamiliar veg, and all of it gorgeous, inexpensive, and fresh, fresh, fresh.

Anyway, I bought some baby bok choy that I roasted as a side dish for a meal with



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Potato salad is a treat, just about any way it's prepared.

The Kid, and some baby Chinese broccoli that inspired this new potato salad.

The other potato salad is my basic "I need some potato salad" salad.

The name comes from when I made it for our family friends, Chef Chrissie and his parents, Mama Cat and Bear. When I was putting it together, Chrissie looked over my shoulder and said, "it's kind of passive, isn't it?"

I know that by "passive" he meant boring. So, I kept quiet (I know, I was shocked too, quiet hardly ever happens with me) and let my spuds do my talking.

Everybody loved it, and Bear said it was the best potato salad he ever had. I added the aggressive in the name 'cause I think it's funny.

And I actually couldn't live on potato salad alone.

I'd need regular infusions of heavily frosted birthday cake.

Thanks for your time.

Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

*Warning: I am not a dietitian. This column is for recipe and humor purposes only. Do not take it as dietary advice, because it would probably end badly.

Potato Salad Power Bowl

Dressing: 1 cup mayonnaise Juice of 1 lemon 1-2 tablespoons horseradish Pinch of sugar Salt and pepper to

taste Salad: 3 pounds waxy potatoes, such as red skin or Yukon Gold Large bunch of baby

Chinese broccoli or broccolini 1 medium-sized shallot,

diced 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

Whisk together dressing ingredients and taste for seasoning. Re-season if necessary. Cover and refrigerate until needed.

Place unpeeled whole potatoes into a large pot filled with heavily salted water. Cook at medium until the potatoes are fork-tender (about 45 minutes). Drain into colander and allow to cool completely.

While the spuds are cooling, blanch and shock green veg. Put a large pot of heavily salted water on to boil.

Wash broc and cut into 1-1 1/2 inch pieces, discarding the very end pieces. When water comes to a boil place the veg into it, reducing heat to medium-high. Let it cook for about 4-5 minutes.

While the veg is cooking, fill a large bowl with ice water and a tablespoon of salt. Then remove the broc from the water with a slotted spoon, and immediately plunge into the ice water. This stops the cooking and sets the color. The finished product should be cooked, but still very crunchy. Drain.

When the potatoes are completely cool (cooling completely sets the starch so the dressing coats and stirring doesn't break up the spuds), peel and cut into salad-sized chunks. Place into large bowl, add a pinch of salt and a few cracks of pepper. Pour 1 tablespoon oil over potatoes and gently toss until coated.

Add veg and shallots to bowl with potatoes. Add about half the dressing and fold in, adding more dressing as needed

Cover and let sit at room temp for 30-ish minutes. Before service, pour the rest of the oil over and gently toss.

Serves four to six as a side, or me.

Passive-Aggressive Potato Salad

3 pounds waxy potatoes, boiled, peeled and cut up as before except peel and cut when they're still pretty warm, but cool enough to

2 tablespoons vegetable oil chopped

or 2 teaspoons fresh, chopped very finely 1 cup of mayonnaise, more or less Salt and pepper to taste

1/2 teaspoon dry dill,

Place the prepared potatoes into a large bowl while they're still pretty warm. Add lemon juice, 1 tablespoon oil, salt and pepper. Toss gently to coat. Let them cool completely.

When the potatoes are cool, add onions and dill. Add the mayo a bit at a time, until it's mixed and everything's coated. Check for seasoning and re-season, if needed.

Cover and let sit at room temp for 30-ish minutes. Before service, drizzle the last of the oil on and fold together.

Serves 4-6 as a side, or me.

handle Juice of half a lemon 1/2 small yellow onion,