

Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | FEBRUARY 4-10, 2021 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

'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."

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

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 lim-

its 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

Blessed to have received my COVID-19 shot

BY DENNIS STREETS

Chatham County Council on Aging



Streets

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 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

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

See **BLESSED**, page A9



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Frozen in time

Last Thursday's snow didn't stick around long, but before it melted CN+R photographer Kim Hawks captured this close-up 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 in-person 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-American" 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

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 manage-

ment 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 ddolder@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.

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 safe — going as far 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.

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 Association of Edu-

cators 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-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

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, symptom-screening checks, socially distanced spaces and a hybrid learning schedule to de-densify school spaces and allow for a cleaning day half-way 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.”

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @HannerMcClellan.

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.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Pittsboro
Chad Virgil, CFP® ChFC®, CLU®
630 East St Suite 2
919-545-5669</p> | <p>Governors Club
Sharon A Dickens, AAMS®
50101 Governors Dr Suite 118
919-967-9968</p> | <p>Pittsboro
Lee Shanklin, AAMS®
120 Lowes Drive Suite 107
919-545-0125</p> |
| <p>Penguin Place
Eric C Williams, AAMS®
114 Russet Run Suite 120
919-542-3020</p> | <p>Pittsboro
Kevin C Maley
984 Thompson St Suite E2
919-444-2961</p> | <p>Chapel Hill
Jessica L Villagrana
180 Providence Rd
Suite 1c
984-219-6635</p> |
| <p>Siler City
Laura M Clapp, CFP®
301 E Raleigh St
919-663-1051</p> | <p>Fearrington
Kathy Brommage, CFP®
190 Chatham Downs Drive
Suite 103
919-960-6119</p> | |

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 an exclusive interview 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 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, he 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 de-

fendants 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.

Chatham Middle School Principal Chad Morgan told the News + Record he thinks it's important the standards clearly define terms and concepts teachers are expected to teach in the classroom. Morgan, 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

classroom and clearly defined standards ensure different points of view of our history are taught," Morgan said. "It is important in today's global society that students are able to see themselves in the curriculum and the approach to 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

about North Carolina's 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."

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 McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com.

Advertisement for Cambridge Hills & Twin Rivers Assisted Living. Includes address: 140 Brookstone Lane • Pittsboro, phone: 919.545.9573 and 25 S. Rectory Street • Pittsboro, phone: 919-545-0149.

Advertisement for Silver Thread Senior Living Community. Includes website: www.silver-thread.com and logo.

Table titled 'Refinement of Terms' comparing Current Draft 4 Term, Proposed Changes, and How the change will be addressed. Includes terms like Systemic Racism, Gender Identity, and Systemic Discrimination.

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.

HONOR LISTS

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

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

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



Submitted photo by Mary Wyatt Tiger

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 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 it's 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.



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."

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."

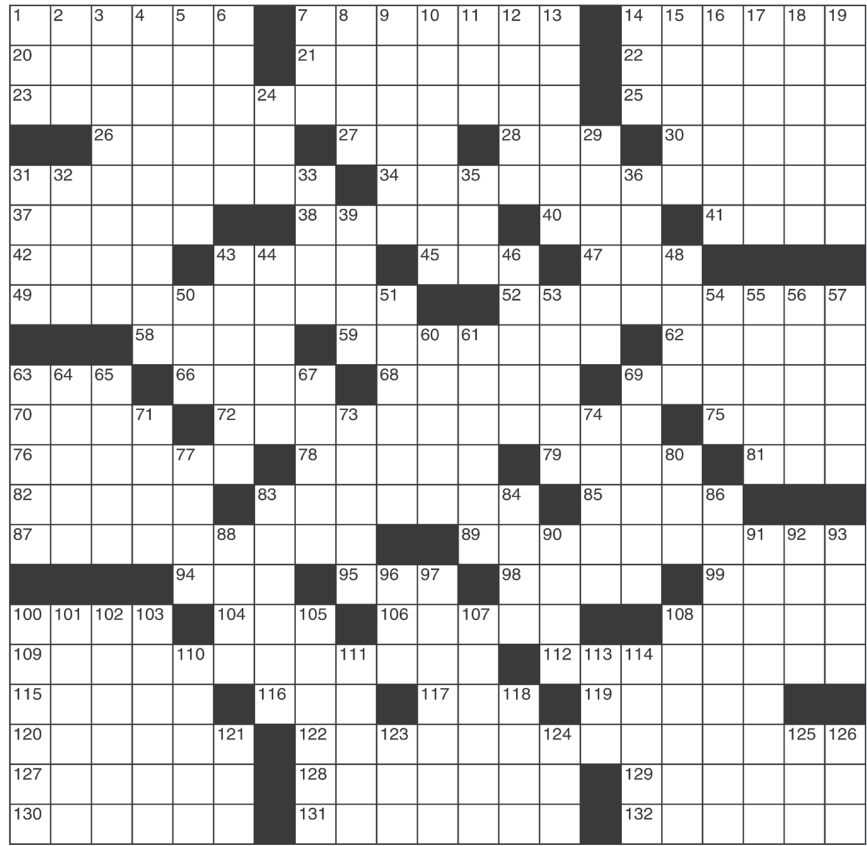
Durham County Schools, which has virtual classes the rest of the year, and Orange County Schools both opted for remote learning days.

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @HannerMcClellan.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

OBJECTS OF DEVOTION

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN | 32 Funny Sahl | 83 Pea or lentil |
| 1 Serengeti trek | 1 Chevy director Lee | 33 Wound cover | 84 Sandy hill |
| 7 Freeway exit | 2 "Rules — rules!" | 35 U-Haul rental | 86 Tiny blood vessel |
| 14 Calm assurance | 3 Spanish dance in triple time | 36 Tableland | 88 Actress Swenson |
| 20 Neighbor of Saturn | 4 Lobbies | 39 Be up against | 90 Ring out |
| 21 Sun porches | 5 That which destroys | 43 Confront | 91 Big pet food brand |
| 22 Deli machine | 6 Long Island airport town | 44 Rush after | 92 Mucho |
| 23 Aficionado of air ducts? | 7 Opposite of west, in Germany | 46 Cut-rate, in brand names | 93 Painter Paul |
| 25 Capital of Cuba | 8 Chocolate kiss wrapper | 48 "Easy A" star | 96 Aykroyd of "Soul Man" |
| 26 Jean jacket | 9 Elevator stops | 50 Likely | 97 Up a tree |
| 27 Email chuckle | 10 Went longer than expected | 51 Model Bündchen | 100 Blue toons of the 1980s |
| 28 Soccer player Hamm | 11 Dog noise | 53 Actor Christopher | 101 Aquaeous |
| 30 Citrus peels in recipes | 12 Florida's "Magic City" | 54 Mexican peninsula | 102 Deliverers of frozen blocks |
| 31 "House" actor | 13 Grilled Italian sandwiches | 55 Road reversal | 103 The Red Foxes' college |
| 34 Aficionado of wild, irrational talk? | 14 Silvery-gray plaster | 56 Trespassing deterrent | 105 Macho |
| 37 Contributor | 15 Town square | 57 Dancer Bob | 107 TV sleuth Remington |
| 38 — spell over | 16 Energizes | 60 Flying Pan | 108 "The Taking of — 123" (2009 thriller) |
| 40 State of fury | 17 Congress' Alexandria — Cortez | 61 Spanish squiggles | 110 Last — effort |
| 41 Fly with no co-pilot | 18 Cerebral | 63 Vintage tune | 111 Brand of cellulose fiber |
| 42 Thus | 19 "Donnie —" (1997 Johnny Depp film) | 64 Premium channels | 113 NYSE debut |
| 43 Hail — (yell "Taxi!") | 24 Current unit | 65 Mideastern peninsula | 114 Fish piercers |
| 45 Las Vegas-to-Denver dir. | 29 Assented | 67 "Danke —" yellers | 118 Big PC brand |
| 47 Ending for Japan | 31 Laudatory poems | 69 "Hear ye!" yellers | 121 "Rescue us!" Order: — |
| 49 Aficionado of bellies? | | 71 Like most NBA players | 123 "Law & Order: —" |
| 52 Aficionado of sweet fillings? | | 73 Boisterous | 124 NFL stats |
| | | 74 "That's somebody — problem!" | 125 Neither hide — hair |
| | | 77 Couch | 126 Week division |
| | | 80 Pixie | |



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

L I S T E D S P A M F R E E E F R E M
 O P T I M A O U T E R E A R M O O R E
 W H E N I L L U S T R I O U S B R A I D
 T O R E O S H A T A L E N T
 O N E E M T C L A N S R E M O R A
 P E O P L E S U C H A S F I L M M A K E R
 R E H A S H W I L C O S N E A K
 U P T O N H A W K I A
 P R E M I N G E R A N D C O N D U C T O R
 T I M O A R L O O N S D A R E M E
 I M P E R I L O L S E N H U R T L E S
 C A L L A S T R O I S R E C L A I
 K L E M P E R E R W R I T E M E M O I R S
 D O A N H L E A T A T
 A T R I A B R O O M R I S E R S
 W H A T S H O U L D Y O U C A L L T H E M
 N A V A H O P A E A N T O E A X E
 W I L L I E R F R A Y A R C S
 L O O I E O T T O B I O G R A P H I E S
 P U L E S A I R F O R C E D O A B L E
 S T I N T N E A T N E S S E M B O S S

Worth knowing.
Worth reading.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

ONE YEAR FOR ONLY \$45 in county \$50 outside county

call (919) 663-3232 or go to chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/

SUBSCRIBE

www.chathamnewsrecord.com

Now Open
DAK Income Tax Service
 (formerly Daphne King Income Tax Service)

221 E. Raleigh St, Siler City • 919-742-5778 or 919-898-4526

Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Saturday 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Brenda Nall • Andrew Nall

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

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.pughfuneral-home.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 Gar-

rett of Johnsonville; brother, Charlie Brown of Sanford; three grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.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.bridgescameronfuneral-home.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.smithfuneral-homebroadway.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.smithfuneral-homebroadway.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
News + Record Staff

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

Johnson was recognized 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-

is Club with us in the 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.

"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

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.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks
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 Pitts-

boro. "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:

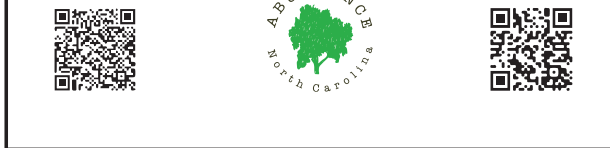
- Approximately 100 able + generous community members have bought & delivered groceries and paid utility bills directly for about 100 families in need, sometimes repeatedly. ~\$20,000
- Abundance NC has raised \$16,000 and paid \$11,000 worth of utility bills.
- You have avoided evictions several times 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!!

To DONATE:

For help or to help:



EVERY Engagement Ring In Store, 40%-60% OFF!

SOUTHERN JEWELERS

143 S Steele St
Historic Downtown Sanford

Since 1991

All February birthstone jewelry 50-60% Off!

Valentine's Special

EVERYTHING in store is 40-60% OFF until February 12!



Black and White Diamond "I Love You Night & Day" heart pendant, **SALE \$399.98**



Past, Present & Future Diamond heart pendant, **SALE \$219.95**



1/4 carat diamond earrings, **SALE \$199.95**



Half carat TDW Rose Gold Diamond heart shaped earrings, **SALE \$333**



1/4 carat Sterling Silver tennis bracelet, **SALE \$199.95**



1/4 carat fancy designed Sterling Silver bracelet, **SALE \$288**



1/4 carat heart-shaped Sterling Silver pendant on double chain, **SALE \$199.95**



1/3 carat Diamond bar necklace in Sterling Silver, **SALE \$199.95**



"Love" filigree Sterling Silver necklace, **SALE \$39.95**



Square top halo White Gold split shank engagement ring, **SALE \$598**



Half carat pear-shaped double halo engagement ring, **SALE \$785.95**



Rose Gold Diamond swirl ring, **SALE \$328.88**



Stunning! Baguette and Round Diamond engagement ring, 1.39 carats of diamonds! **SALE \$3,300**



Yellow Gold Ruby and Diamond heart pendant, **SALE \$499.99**



Sterling floral filigree Black Onyx pendant, **SALE \$119.95**



Tri-Color woven Diamond heart pendant, **SALE \$435.95**



Round center Diamond surrounded by three halos, encased sides of baguettes & rounds, 1.25 carats of Diamonds, **SALE \$1,586.99**



Double Heart Diamond necklace set in Sterling Silver, **SALE \$199.95**

Shop Southern Jewelers & SAVE



Ways to Shop...



Lora Wright

Accredited Jewelry Professional by the Gemological Institute of America. Past President of N.C. Jewelers Association, Graduate Diamond Diploma from GIA. Certified by Jewelers of America.



Tracey Dinkens Schoolcraft Sales Associate



Adrian Smith Master Jeweler

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,



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.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

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

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

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 shot, 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



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.

Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

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 — to 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



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.

Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

Hensley joins staff of News + Record

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

Enterprise and at UNC produced stories for the Durham VOICE and The Greensboro News & Record. He's worked as a correspondent for the News + Record over the last few months.

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

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 recruit-

ing 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.

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

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 half-time 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](https://twitter.com/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 (NCHAEAC) 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-



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Thunder sophomore Jordan Poindexter shoots a long jumper in Chatham Home School'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 Thun-

der 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

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 Hallie 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."

For Coach Brooks, watching his daughter

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."

CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

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](https://twitter.com/Frezeal33)

CENTRAL PIEDMONT URGENT CARE

101 Walmart Supercenter • Siler City, NC 27344
919-663-3911

1011 High Point Street • Randleman, NC 27317
336-498-0226

www.central piedmonturgentcare.com

Animal Resources

Low Cost Spay / Neuter - Only \$20

Qualified applicants may purchase vouchers to use at participating pet clinics. Submit applications to:

Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center
725 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312
Phone: 919-542-7203 facebook.com/chathamsoar

Hours: MTWF 11a-5p • TH 11a-7p • SA 10a-2p

For a printable application, visit:
www.chathamsheriff.com

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 ...

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 Suckles

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

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.

Dental Insurance

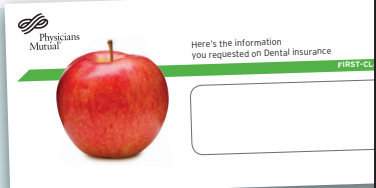
Get the dental care you deserve with dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It can help cover the services you’re most likely to use -



- ◆ Preventive care starts right away
- ◆ Helps cover over 350 services
- ◆ Go to any dentist you want - but save more with one in our network
- ◆ No deductible, no annual maximum

Call today for all the details.
844-903-1784

Call now to get this **FREE** Information Kit!
dental50plus.com/chatham



Physicians Mutual
Insurance for all of us.™

Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY, call 1-888-799-4433 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID, C250E, PA, C250O); Insurance Policy P150 (GA, P150GA; NY, P150NY; OK, P150OK; TN, P150TN). Rider kinds B43B/B439. 6154-0120

DON'T JUST KINDA TV. DIRECTV.



Get the 2020 NFL SUNDAY TICKET season included at no extra cost.

*\$19.95 ACTIVATION. EARLY TERMINATION FEE OF \$20/MO. FOR EACH MONTH REMAINING ON AGMT. EQUIPMENT NON-RETURN & ADD'L FEES APPLY. Price incl. CHOICE All Included Pkg., monthly service and equip. fees for 1 HD DVR & is alt or \$5/mo. autpay & paperless bill and \$10/mo. bundle discounts for up to 12 mos each. Pay \$74.99/mo. + taxes until discount starts w/in 3 bills. New approved residential customers only (equipment lease req'd). Credit card req'd (except MA & PA). Restr's apply.

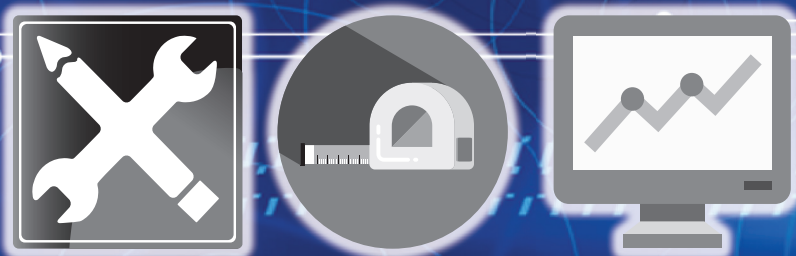
Don't settle for cable. Call now!

iv Support Holdings LLC
855-653-2438



2020 NFL SUNDAY TICKET OFFER: Subject to change. Package consists of all live out-of-market NFL games (based on customer's service address) broadcast on FOX and CBS. However, games broadcast by your local FOX or CBS affiliate will not be available in NFL SUNDAY TICKET. Games available via remote viewing based on device location. Other conditions apply. 2020 NFL SUNDAY TICKET regular full-season retail price is \$293.94. 2020 NFL SUNDAY TICKET MAX regular full-season retail price is \$395.94. Customers activating CHOICE Package or above or MAS ULTRA Package or above will be eligible to receive the 2020 season of NFL SUNDAY TICKET MAX at no additional cost. NFL SUNDAY TICKET subscription will not automatically renew. Only one game may be accessed remotely at any given time. Compatible device/operating system required for online/mobile access. Additional data charges may apply. Visit directv.com/nfl for a list of compatible devices/system requirements. For full HD Channel and interactive functionality, HD equipment (model HVR 21 or later) is required. NFL, the NFL Shield design and the NFL SUNDAY TICKET name and logo are registered trademarks of the NFL, and its affiliate. NFL team names and uniform designs are registered trademarks of the teams indicated. ©2020 AT&T Intellectual Property. All Rights Reserved. AT&T, Globe logo, DIRECTV, and all other DIRECTV marks contained herein are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

BUSINESSES & SERVICES



DIRECTORY

CROSSROADS BACKHOE SERVICE

- Install and Repair Septic Systems
- Pump Existing Septic Tanks
- All Sorts of Backhoe Work
- Specializing in Bush Hogging
- Ponds, Ditches & Driveways

Call Monty Justice
@ (919) 545-4107

See Us For:
Commercial Refrigeration
Heating & Air Conditioning
Sales & Service

LANGLEY
Refrigeration Company
Ph: 742-2777

FOR THIS SPOT CALL
(919) 663-3232

ASHEBORO TIE YARDS, INC

Beautiful Yards Start Here!

Mushroom Compost • Shredded Hardwood Mulch
Pine Mini Nuggets • Brick Chips • Sand • Top Soil
Black, Brown & Red Mulch • White Pea Gravel • Railroad Ties

205 Hanner Town Rd. Bear Creek
(2 miles South of Bonlee on Old 421)
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 7 AM - 4 PM, Fri. 7 AM - 12 PM
(919) 837-2822 • We Deliver!

D & G PLUMBING

Plumbing Problems?
Commercial and Residential Installation and Service
Located in Siler City

Locally Owned and Operated by Greg and Donna Kennedy
Licensed and Insured
Office: 919-742-4587 Cell: 919-427-2374

Caviness Farms
GRADING AND HAULING

Siler City, NC • 919-548-3064

CHRIS CAVINESS

GRAVEL • TOPSOIL • POND • MULCH • FILL DIRT
DRIVEWAY • LAND CLEARING • SITE DEVELOPMENT

TREEMASTERS

- Brush Chipping
- Tree Climbing • Stump Removal
- Free Estimates

(919) 775-7408
Tommy Dunigan Cell: (919) 548-3542

JHJ Painting & Power Washing

"We Specialize in All Your Painting & Power Washing Needs"

Deck Washing, Renewal & Repair • Window Washing & Install
Carpentry • Door Install • Other Small Repairs

John Hayes, Jr • 919-548-0474

Bob Atkinson, GRI, CRS, E-PRO
Homes-Land-Investments
C: 919-362-6999

LearnAboutLand.com

Atkinson Properties Group
bobatkinson321@gmail.com

THIS SPOT CAN BE YOURS!

Call Advertising @ 919-663-3232

Find the help you need in the *Services Directory* of **Chatham News + Record**

Advertise Your Business in the Service Directory for ONLY \$20 PER WEEK!

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 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 Messenger 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 Messenger’s presentation.

The group also performed extensive wetland planting to enhance the riparian buffer, “the area along the stream that is composed of vegetation,” Messenger 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

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 years.

“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.”

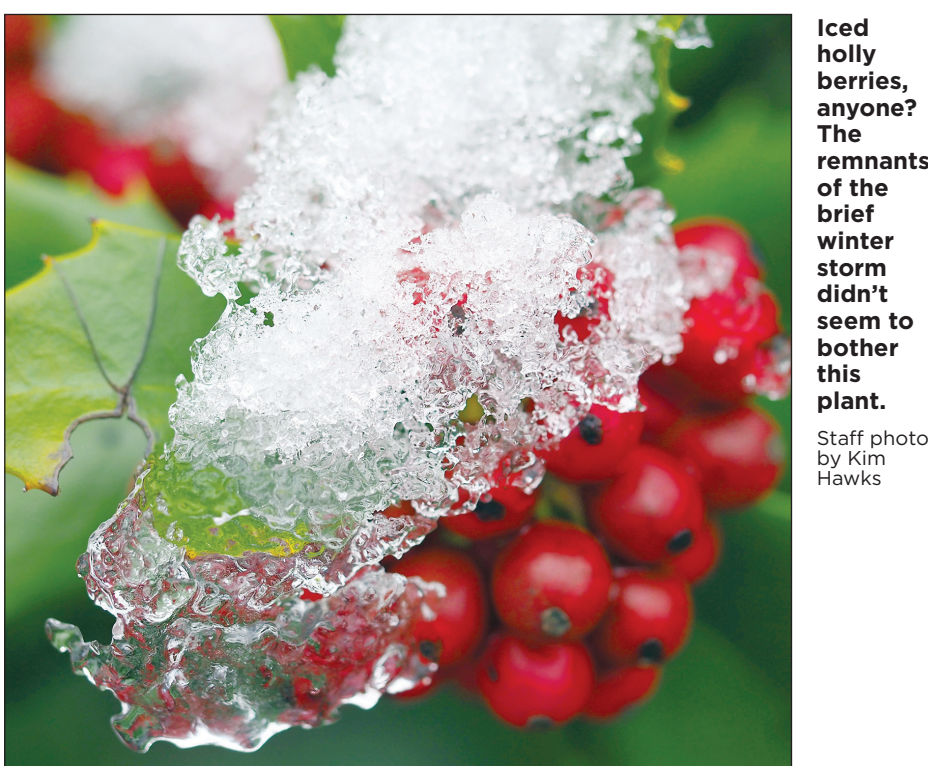
Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @dldolder.

Snow scenes, briefly



As the 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

This garden art doesn’t seem to be bothered by a crown of snow. Less than two hours after falling last Thursday, it had melted — but not before CN+R photographer Kim Hawks captured these pictures in her Chatham County garden.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Eureka! You found the answer!

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 📶
- [Loving Yourself Through Positive Self-Care](#) at 11:15 AM 📶

Friday, February 5th

- [Strong & Fit with Jackie](#) 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 📶

Wednesday, February 10th

- [Diabetic Discussion Group](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Short Stories with Chris](#) at 12:30 PM 📞

📶 On Zoom 📞 On 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
--	---

CHATHAM 250

County committee seeking church histories

BY ANNIE TAYLOR MCCRIMMON
Special to the News + Record

life experiences to showcase Chatham's unique and inspiring history, focusing on the last 50 years. Their virtual 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.

McCrimmon

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 chron-

icle. 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 anniversary 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 chatham250th-anniversary@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 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

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 and 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.

COVID RELIEF PROGRAM

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.

CHATHAM COUNTY

Fire Chosen Ministries
190 Sanford Road, Pittsboro, NC

Thursday
10am-1pm

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

Ranked #1

CHAPEL HILL

buildBOLDnc.com



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

We'll help you find it.

www.boldre.com



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 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



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, 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."

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.

Worth knowing.
Worth reading.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

ONE YEAR FOR ONLY \$45 in county / \$50 outside county
call (919) 663-3232 or go to chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/

Hallmark GOLD CROWN

866 Spring Lane
in the Spring Lane Galleria
kathrynshallmark.com • 919-774-8912

Open Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-9 p.m.,
Sunday 12-7 p.m.

vineryard vines, KENDRA SCOTT, spartina, PANDORA UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS, Ronalbi, joybees, Alegria, dansko, Jack Rogers, RAINBOW SANDALS, ALEX AND ANI, southern marsh, Willow Tree, SOUTHERN TIDE, simply southern COLLECTION, UGG, John Medeiros, OluKai, Life is good, crocs

CUSTOMER INFO FORM

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____
Phone Number _____

Complete form to receive special offers and promotions.

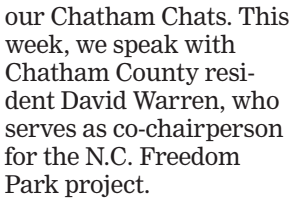
Provide your completed form to a Kathryn's staff member to receive a FREE piece of chocolate from our display case OR 20% off one regularly priced item*
(* Some exclusions apply)

Five red hearts at the bottom.

SHOP Local

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 experience 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.



Warren

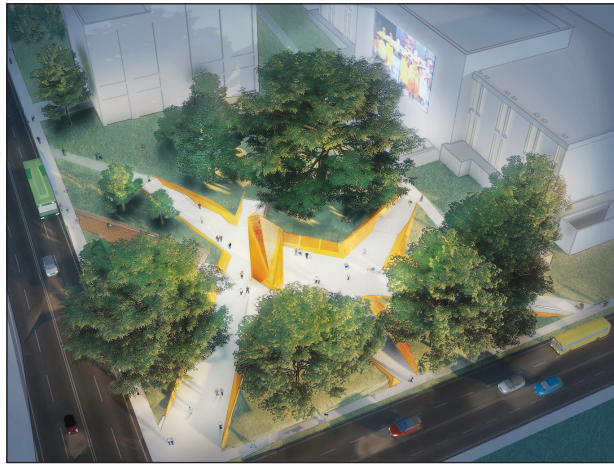
North Carolina is one of only a few states which has yet to honor the African American struggle for freedom from slavery, Jim Crow segregation and racial discrimination with a monument. N.C. Freedom Park, which will be constructed on a one-acre site between the state legislature and the Governor's Mansion 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



Courtesy of N.C. Freedom Park

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

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

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 African American justice.

How can we find out more?

<https://ncfmp.nation-builder.com/>

Chatham News + Record

would like to acknowledge & thank our **online** advertisers.

Visit (our site) to connect with them!

www.chathamnewsrecord.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>.

CHATHAM PROMISE MOU

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

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

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. CCC'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 How-

ard 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.

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 FAFSA 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 ccc.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.com

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

© 2021 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 37, No. 9

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

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!

KID SCOOP'S MISSION

Children are born curious. From their earliest days, sensory exploration brings delight and wonder. New discoveries expand their minds. When they unlock the joy of reading, their world widens further. **Magic happens.**

Kid Scoop opens the doors of discovery for elementary school children by providing interactive, engaging and relevant age-appropriate materials designed to awaken the magic of reading at school, at home, and throughout their lives.

For more information about our literacy non-profit, visit kidscoopnews.org

COVID Project: Save a Zoo!

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

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.

"My brain just told it to me," said Andy. "I thought I could make and give bead bracelets to people who _____ \$25 or 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.

Big Idea Gets Bigger

Their 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.

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!!!**



Replace the missing words in this article.

A ccording to the Oakland Zoo, Andy's fundraiser helped feed and care for the animals. Because the Zoo was closed from mid-March through the end of July, there were no ticket _____ or other ways to raise money. The animals still needed food and care, so Andy's fundraiser was VERY helpful.

The Oakland Zoo and the animals wanted to show their appreciation. Andy was given a _____ tour of the Zoo.

Big Thanks

Andy got to see a new baby giraffe named Kijji and a huge tortoise. She got to pick out _____ for a grizzly bear to make a painting, just for her. She also got to _____ of goat milk!

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 just start helping!"

Andy and her family enjoying a bird's-eye view aboard the Oakland Zoo's gondola ride.

Kid Scoop Together: I'm a Philanthropist!

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.

Recess
 Before 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.

A Letter is a Gift

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.

News Quiz

- What is the name of the zoo helped by Andy's money?
- In which city does Andy live?
- What did Andy charge for her bracelets?
- How did the zoo use the money Andy raised?
- What kind of animal did Andy feed with a bottle of goat milk?

Extra! Extra!

A Letter is a Gift

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.

Double Double Word Search


Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

S	L	U	F	P	L	E	H	H	O
L	T	E	V	A	S	W	S	D	T
A	H	E	O	O	Z	E	S	O	R
M	A	V	L	A	Y	S	E	N	O
I	D	C	E	E	D	K	N	A	U
N	Y	D	N	A	C	N	I	T	B
A	I	O	E	A	Z	A	A	E	L
O	M	B	E	A	R	H	R	D	E
P	R	O	J	E	C	T	B	B	O

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Puzzler


Can you find the tiger that's different?



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

- CHATHAM YMCA SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PERRY HARRISON SCHOOL

287 East Street, Suite 412,
Pittsboro, NC 27312
More Info: 919-545-9622



Subscribe Today

919-663-3232

‘CELEBRATIONS ARE ABOUT BELONGING’

Chatham 250 to offer soccer tournament, create dedicated Latino history archive

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

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 to go to the celebration,’ because they won’t feel part of it,” Carias said. “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 together,”

‘... 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 — including Paul Cuadros, Jordan-Matthews’ men’s soccer coach and

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.

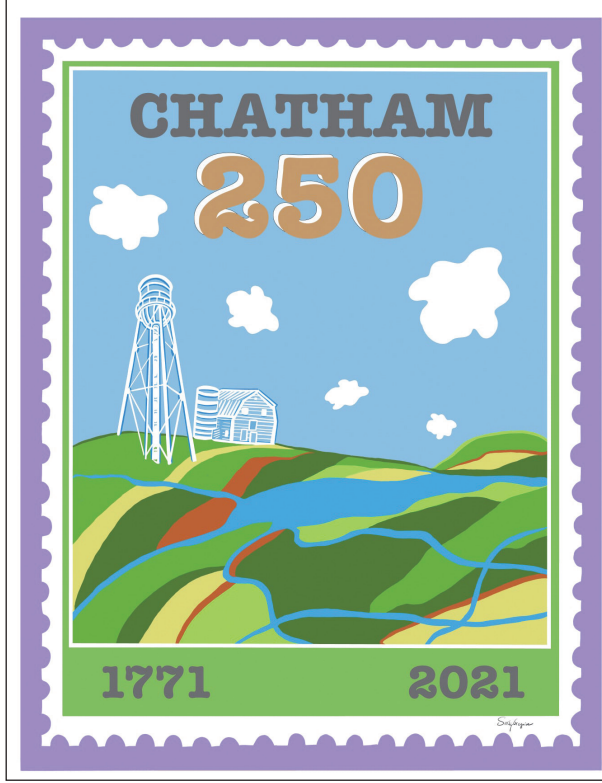
“I’m on the committee that’s looking at how things have changed in Chatham County, population-wise, and then specifically within that, how the Hispanics or Latinos have been a part of that,” Cuadros said. “So as part of that committee, I’ve been working on a Los Jets exhibit or artifacts for the history folks. So I’ve been gathering those things together, and we’ve been talking about that.”

Though it’s a well-known 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.”

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



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.”

The county will distribute printed copies of the maps to all CCS students

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,



Photo by Sebastian Smith

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

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.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

ONE YEAR FOR ONLY \$45 in county / \$50 outside county

Extraordinary coverage of Chatham County since 1878

Chatham News + Record
call (919) 663-3232 or go to chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/

