

Chatham News + Record

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Stolen county data posted online

Personnel files, other sensitive documents included

BY BILL HORNER III, HANNAH MCCLELLAN & D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Sensitive data files stolen following Chatham County's Oct. 28 governmental "cyber incident" have been posted online by the criminal enterprise responsible, the News + Record has learned.

The files include such things as personnel records of some county employees, medical evaluations of children who are

the subjects of neglect cases, eviction notices and documents related to ongoing investigations within the Chatham County Sheriff's office.

The News + Record obtained access to websites containing the digital files using information provided by a source on the condition of anonymity. County officials later confirmed to the newspaper that sensitive data had been released by the ransomware group known as DoppelPaymer. The international criminal organi-

zation has carried out similar attacks on government and health care organizations worldwide, typically asking the victims to pay ransom or risk the release of sensitive information.

DoppelPaymer uploaded at least two batches of Chatham County's data on both the "dark web" — encrypted online sites not found via conventional search engines — and the "light" web, making them

See **STOLEN**, page A11

THE REPUBLICAN EXODUS



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Kimrey Rhinehardt spent much of her professional life working for Republican interests on Capitol Hill. But the events of Jan. 6 shook her confidence in the party's future.

When your political party lets you down

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Kimrey Rhinehardt was a young girl when a News-week cover story changed her life.

"There was this article that came out," recalled the Chatham County business owner, "and it said that women over 40 are more likely to be killed by terrorists than to become married."

As a 12-year-old, Rhinehardt misunderstood the article's point — that middle-aged women had slim chances at finding love (a since thoroughly debunked statistic). Instead, it sparked in her a feminist indignation. She had to stave off the impending storm of sexist terrorists.

"I marched myself

See **RHINEHARDT**, page A6

IN THE KNOW

Siler City talks downtown revitalization, development goals. **PAGE B4**

Pittsboro pushes ahead with PFAS filtration system. **PAGE B6**

School board to meet again to discuss changes to learning plan. **PAGE B7**

Q&A: Chatham's NAACP leaders speak out on history, change. **PAGE B9**



COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

Chatham CIS' Perla Ayala set to take dream job

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — When Siler City resident Perla Ayala was younger, her family often encouraged her to consider three specific careers. Her older sister suggested nursing or cosmetology, while her father suggested law.

Ayala rejected each option every time.

"I didn't want to do anything that was related to nursing or cosmetology," she said. "I felt like that was not me. That was not my personality. I'm like, '... I want to dress nice. I want to dress like an executive.'"

Neither, she added, did she want to "defend people who have done bad things." Instead, Ayala wanted to be an accountant — just like her father had studied to be in Mexico before coming to the U.S.

"I feel like I got it from him. I mean, I love numbers. I'm good at math," she said, adding, "I just fell in love with accounting."

Now, Ayala has just about



A diamond couple

Dave Walker chuckles while sharing a story about meeting Dot. Although their first date didn't go as planned, the couple just celebrated their 75th anniversary.

Staff photo by James Kiefer

'IT FEELS LIKE A NORMAL SCHOOL DAY'

First week of Plan B at CCS high schools: Many glad to be back, some concerns

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — During a fire drill on the first day of the second week of in-person hybrid learning at Chatham Central High School, civics teacher Aedrin Albright playfully reminded students to remain six feet apart using quite the innovative apparatus: two yard sticks secured with silver duct tape.

"This cohort was one second slower than the last cohort," said Assistant Principal Matthew Wilkins while feigning a stern expression and looking at his stopwatch.

Donning masks and spread across the front lawn of the school building, students and staff waited for their cue to return back inside. When it was time, the yard-stick contraption re-emerged, serving as both a limbo

stick and a reminder to students to socially distance.

Only the second week of Plan B for high schools in Chatham County Schools — and the third day of in-person learning for the Group A cohort of students — such reminders are important as students and staff alike keep adjusting to the district's COVID-19 protocol. That protocol includes rigorous cleaning before, during and after classes, universal masking, symptom-screenings, socially distanced spaces enforced with signage and stickers and a hybrid learning schedule to de-densify school spaces and allow for a cleaning day halfway through the week. Many students, parents and teachers are thrilled

See **PLAN B**, page A12

See **AYALA**, page A12

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

• **The Friends of the Chatham Community Library** has cancelled its Spring Book Sale, due to the continued lockdown of government offices and businesses, ordered by federal, state, and local government. More information can be found on the website: friendscccl.org.

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

ON THE AGENDA.

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

• The **Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will have regular and work sessions beginning at

2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 15, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

• The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 15, at the Siler City town hall..

THURSDAY

• The **Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open with seasonable items year-round from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. It is located at 287 East St., Pittsboro.

• **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** provides a healthy, meal at no cost to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.

OTHER

• The **Chatham Hospital Board of Trustees** meeting will be held virtually at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16. The public is invited to attend. If interested, please contact Angela Hurt in advance at 919-799-4012 for the access information.

• **SMITH & BUCKNER FOOD DRIVE:** February 15 - 19; drop off non-perishable items during regular business hours to their

facilities at 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City.

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

• **Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop** has made the move to Chatham Commons, at 630 E. St., Pittsboro, in the Food Lion shopping center. We will be accepting donations when we reopen. Our hours are Tuesday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

• **Chatham Community Library:** While the library is closed, all classes will be offered online. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found at www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. -- Available in February: Finding Reliable Health

Information Online: February 9, Tuesday, at 3 p.m.; Microsoft Excel Basic, Part 1: February 16, Tuesday, 3 p.m.; and Microsoft Excel Basics, Part 2: February 23, Tuesday, 3 p.m.

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

• JMarts hosted a **JMACoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMarts and by using the hashtags #JMA-CoronaConcert performances and #JMACoronaConcert program.

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

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

this area.

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

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

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

• **Scout News**

- Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information.
- Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.
- Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham 250 committee seeks church histories

The Chatham 250 Historical Content group, which is part of the larger effort to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Chatham's founding, is seeking histories of Chatham's churches and faith communities.

Chatham 250 has more than 70 volunteers involved, representing folks and organizations from various professions and life experiences to showcase Chatham's unique and inspiring history, focusing on the last 50 years. Their virtual 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.

The "Churches and Communities Project" is inviting Chatham's churches and other places of worship to share their church and community histories. 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

Hispanic Liaison's Valentine's Day fundraiser enters its final stretch

SILER CITY — The Hispanic Liaison seeks to raise \$14,000 by Valentine's Day to continue supporting the Hispanic communities across Chatham, Alamance, Randolph and Lee counties. The fundraiser, which began Feb. 1, has raised more than \$9,200 so far, according to its Facebook page, and the Liaison needs just under \$4,500 to reach its goal. The fund-

raiser ends Feb. 14.

"Our Latinx community has been severely affected by COVID-19," said the Hispanic Liaison's press release about the fundraiser. "Many families have lost work, are facing food insecurity, prolonged illness and are having a hard time making ends meet. The Hispanic Liaison is here to offer solace amid grief and help in times of adversity."

Among other programs and operations, the funds raised will help the Liaison defend immigrant workers' rights, fund the opening of the nonprofit's first satellite office in Lee County and support the Liaison's youth program, Orgullo Latinx Pride (OLP).

OLP, created in late 2017, supports 30 Latinx youth in Siler City and provides them with the necessary tools and assistance to pursue higher education. So far, 100% of OLP youth have gone on to college, many of them the first in their families to do so. During the pandemic, the program has provided emotional and academic support.

Anyone can donate through the Liaison's Facebook, by mailing a check or money order to their office at 200 N. Chatham Avenue or by going to secure.actblue.com/donate/showthelove2021.

"It is only thanks to our generous donors that the Hispanic Liaison can be a beacon of hope for our community," the Liaison's staff members wrote on the organization's Facebook page. "Please join us in protecting the health and safety of immigrant families."

CCCC Accounting program recognized

SANFORD — The Central Carolina Community College Accounting program has been recognized by Intelligent.com as having one of The Best Accounting Certificate Degree Programs for 2021.

CCCC was ranked No. 25 — Best For AIPB (American Institute of

Professional Bookkeepers) Certification. See rankings at www.intelligent.com/best-accounting-certificate-degree-program/.

Intelligent.com provides unbiased research to help students make informed decisions about higher education programs. The website offers curated guides, which include the best degree programs as well as information about financial aid, internships and even study strategies.

"Our program is designed and taught based on industry needs. Our students learn the concepts needed on the job. They graduate with practice with real world applications and knowledge of tax, bookkeeping and payroll software," said Martin C. Haley Jr., CCCC Lead Accounting Instructor. "It is nice to get recognition for our program. We have heard over the years how impressed businesses are with our students and their ability to hit the ground running because they know how to use the software."

"I am happy to hear about the recent honor of receiving the AIPB Certification. It is a reflection on how well our students do in the profession once leaving our program," said Erynn Stainback, CCCC Accounting Instructor.

The Accounting instructional program at CCCC focuses on many business functions and emphasizes learning Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Courses/subject matter in the Accounting program include: Financial and Managerial Accounting, Income Taxes (Individual and Business), Payroll and Accounting Software, Economics and Financial Markets, Management and Business Law and Ethics.

"Maintaining relationships and connections make our program special. We believe it is important to establish good relationships with our community partners in order to provide our students with solid employment options after

graduation," said Stainback. "In addition, we communicate with N.C. State University on an informal and regular basis about opportunities such as the Student Networking Night and the NCACPA (North Carolina Association of CPAs) Summer Leadership Conference, which we have had CCCC students attend in the past."

"Our program is tailored to give students practice and real world applications that are needed on the job day one of their career. They will be able to interview and convey to their future employers that they have the skills necessary to be successful," said Haley.

Learn more about the CCCC Accounting program at www.cccc.edu/curriculum/majors/accounting/.

School board seeks input on superintendent hiring

PITTSBORO — The

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

Survey responses are due by Feb. 19. The North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) will compile and present the results at a March 8 board meeting. The NCSBA is helping to facilitate the Board of Education's superintendent

search process.

Chatham County Schools employees will receive a separate survey.

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

— CN + R staff reports

Chatham County Council on Aging

WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: What town in Chatham County was once considered for the site of UNC?

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A DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

For the Walkers, the key to marriage is loving — and liking — each other

BY BOB WACHS
News + Record
Correspondent

Editor’s note: Dave and Dot Walker of Chatham County celebrated their 75th anniversary on January 19th. Bob Wachs, the News + Record’s retired managing editor, visited the couple at their home in northern Chatham to share their story in honor of Valentine’s Day.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Dave caresses Dot’s hand as the couple talks about their marriage.

PITTSBORO — For Chatham County’s Dave and Dot Walker, it wasn’t exactly love at first sight. But when love did strike, it was obviously made to last — 75 years of marriage and counting. Their first meeting didn’t suggest a lasting marriage to follow, at least not to Dot. Dave and his family lived in one side of a duplex in Wilkinsburg Township, in the suburbs of Pittsburgh. Dot’s aunt lived in the other. Dave developed

an early interest in Dot’s cousin, but that relationship fizzled. A day after their break-up, Dot and her mother came from their home in nearby Plum Township to visit Dot’s aunt. That’s when Cupid’s arrow struck. “I had heard a lot about Dot,” Dave remembers, “and had seen a picture of her once. That day, I was walking up the street

and saw Dot and her mother. And I know this is the old saying, but I got the feeling right then: I’m going to marry that girl.” Dot wasn’t so sure. She was wary of the her cousin’s former boyfriend before even meeting him. “I talked with my cousin about him and when I saw him, I said to my mother, ‘See that fellow? He’s the fellow who went with Helen. She said he had a big ego.’” Dot’s mom scolded her, saying: “You don’t know that.” You shouldn’t say things about him, her mom continued, “until you know it.” As the two debated the issue — unbeknownst to him — Dave acted on his instinct. “I just went into her aunt’s house,” he recalled, “and asked her right then and there if she wanted to go out on a date, and she said ‘Yes.’ So, I said how about a movie tonight?” Later that evening,

Dave went to Dot’s home — where things didn’t go as planned. “I got there later and said, ‘I’m here to pick up Dot,’ and her mom said, ‘She’s not here, but come on in.’” Thinking he’d “been stood up,” Dave remained at the house anyway, talking with Dot’s mom for about an hour. And where was Dot? At home — listening to the conversation from the safety of her room. “And the more I listened,” Dot says, “the more I thought he’s got to be a pretty good guy to talk with my mom this long.” Dave left without knowing the he’d left a good impression on Dot, who called Dave the following day to apologize. Feeling renewed optimism, Dave asked Dot out again. She said yes, and about a year later, the two 17-year-olds married. “I found out later after we were married that she had been at home that day,” Dave says, “but we hit it good right off the bat.

Early struggles

Before marrying, Dot dropped out of school to work to help support her family while Dave remained to graduate. During his lunch period, Dave would run the six or so blocks to the Murphy Five & Dime, where Dot toiled, to take her lunch. “I found out all she’d been having for lunch was a pack of crackers and a Coke and I thought she deserved more,” he said. After his graduation, the couple married. Dave worked as a carpenter alongside his father. When his parents moved to Kane, in the heart of Pennsylvania’s Allegheny Mountains, Dave and Dot followed — even though that area of the state was economically depressed. “There wasn’t much work,” Dave says. “And we were poor, so poor we were living in a condemned apartment building, us and another family. They were on the second floor; we were on the first and got our electricity from them.” In time, though, things began to improve for the Walkers, who had a son a year after their marriage; another child followed.

“I got a good job with a contractor and became a foreman when I was 21,” Dave remembers. “He had an apartment and found out where we were living. He said the first floor was going to become vacant soon and asked if we wanted it.” The family stayed in Kane until 1953 when Dave’s work took him to Erie. Two more children arrived, and in 1964 the family moved again — this time to Chapel Hill after Dave became a partner in a development company, which did work all over the country. That hectic work schedule took its toll on Dave and Dot, however. “I was working day and night seven days a week,” he says, “and in 1970 had a heart attack.” That made Dave slow down and change direction. He formed a small company specializing in building custom houses in the Chapel Hill area. It thrived, and when he retired at age 62 — Dot served as secretary and bookkeeper for a time — one of their sons took over the business. Another son remained in Pennsylvania; one daughter moved to Florida to work for Disney, and then Federal Express, but is now back in North Carolina. Dave and Dot built a home next door to their other daughter’s home, but she succumbed to a heart attack in 2010 and her husband died a year later. “So, the best-laid plans do go astray...” Dave says. Today, Dot and Dave are still in that house. They deal with aging issues — including Dot’s recent fall, which broke some ribs and resulted in a hospital stay and the rehabilitation. But even in the age of COVID, they remain active, including working jigsaw puzzles together. Through all the years, they say, they’ve had both ups and downs. “We had some difficult times,” Dave says, “starting out in poverty with two children and very little money. Sometimes the grandparents would come to the door and say, ‘We’ve got some food for the dogs but we can’t stay.’ Then we’d take the lid off the pot and there’d be pork chops and potatoes.” In the 30 years since

their retirement, Dot and Dave have filled their lives with many activities. “We’ve traveled,” he says, “and we both love to fish — she has more patience than I do.” Fishing trips to nearby lakes led the couple in 1971 to build a house on Hyco Lake, in Person and Caswell counties. They traveled there with friends as often as they could. “I’d come home from work and Dot would have the car packed and off we’d go,” he said. He played golf and worked as a Boy Scout leader and they both sang in their church choir. On their golden anniversary, their 50th, they had a big celebration, including renewing their wedding vows. Their diamond anniversary this year was a more quiet affair. What have been the keys to those 75 years? “One thing we’ve always told couples at weddings,” Dave says, “is don’t go to bed mad. No matter how mad you may be, talk it out. If you don’t, it just festers. And honor your spouse — and like them. Don’t just love them but like them. And we like each other.” He credits their success to Dot. “She’s so easy-going,” he said. “We’ve gone camping, fishing, traveling, she’s slept on the ground and never complained. “Sometimes, people have asked us if 17 is too young to marry. It is young but it can be right if you’re mature. It was right for us. Sometimes today, I think, if you wait until you’re in your 30s there’s so much pressure. Each one has habits, their own way and one or the other often has to give up so much it can be hard.” Starting from scratch, with nothing, Dave said, meant they started *together*. “We also try to have fun,” she says, “to laugh a lot.” And when things get rough? Talk things out. “After you talk it out,” Dave says, “then kiss.” That’s a time-tested formula that still works, he says. “We kiss and say ‘good-night’ every night.”

Estate Planning for Blended Families

If you’re in a blended family, you’re already aware of the emotional and financial issues involved in your daily life. But what about the future? When it’s time to do your estate planning — and it’s never too soon for that — you’ll need to be aware of the entanglements and complexities that can get in the way of your vision for leaving the legacy you desire. You can take comfort in knowing that you’re far from alone. More than half of married or cohabiting couples with at least one living parent, or parent-in-law, and at least one adult child, have a “step-kin” relationship, according to a study from researchers at the University of Massachusetts and other schools. That’s a lot of estate-planning issues. Nonetheless, the task does not have to be overwhelming — as long as you put sufficient time and thought into it. Here are some ideas that may help:

- *Seek fairness — but be flexible.* Even in a nonblended family, it’s not always easy to be as equitable as you’d like in your estate plans — too often, someone feels they have been treated unfairly. In a blended family, these problems can be exacerbated: Will biological children feel cheated? Will stepchildren? Keep this in mind: Fair is not always equal — and equal is not always fair. When deciding how to divide your assets, you’ll need to make some judgment calls after carefully evaluating the needs of all your family members. There’s no guarantee that everyone will be satisfied, but you’ll have done your best.
- *Communicate your wishes clearly.* When it comes to estate planning, the best surprise is no surprise — and that’s especially true in a blended family. Even if you’re the one creating your estate plans,

try to involve other family members — and make your wishes and goals clear. You don’t have to be specific down to the last dollar, but you should provide a pretty good overall outline.

- *Consider establishing a revocable living trust.* Everyone’s situation is different, but many blended families find that, when making estate plans, a simple will is not enough. Consequently, you may want to establish a revocable living trust, which gives you much more control than a will when it comes to carrying out your wishes. Plus, because you have transferred your assets to the trust, you are no longer technically the owner of these assets, so there’s no reason for a court to get involved, which means your estate can likely avoid the time-consuming, expensive and very public process of probate.
- *Choose the right trustee.* If you do set up a living trust, you’ll also need to name a trustee — someone who manages the assets in the trust. Married couples often serve as co-trustees, but this can result in tensions and disagreements. As an alternative, you can hire a professional trustee — someone with the time, experience and neutrality to make appropriate decisions and who can bring new ideas to the process.

Above all else, make sure you have the right estate-planning team in place. You’ll certainly need to work with an attorney, and you may also want to bring in your tax advisor and financial professional. Estate planning can be complex — especially with a blended family — and you’ll want to make the right moves, right from the start.

LEGACY

Continued from page A1

“Horton School” for Black Children in the 1930s, in Pittsboro. “What white people and Black people know about history is two different things,” Hudson said at that event. For Toomer, who left Horton Middle last year to found The School of the Arts for Boys Academy (SABA), ensuring the school community and larger Chatham community not only knew about Horton’s life, but celebrated it, was extremely important. The inaugural event featured Dan Tate’s “Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton,” a children’s book illustrating Horton’s life. Toomer said the school invited Tate, Horton’s alumni and CCS central services and administration. Leading up to that first event, Toomer said students read Tate’s book, competed in door-decorating contests, poetry slams and more. “The halls were just filled with moments of saying, ‘Hey, who is our namesake? And why is he important?’” Toomer said. This year is set to be the fifth celebration of George Moses Horton Day on Feb. 26 at the school, said Principal Bradyn Robinson, but the school has really been celebrating all month. This year, due to COVID-19 protocol, Robinson said community members aren’t able to attend, which is much different than in years past. “So it’s different because of Covid, but we are still celebrating,” he said. “On the 26th, it’ll still be ingrained in the day, it just looks different this year.” Robinson said plans to have students meet Horton alumni to learn about the history of the school have been pushed to next year. Toomer emphasized that

alumni from Horton were crucial in pulling initial celebration efforts together and keeping it up year after year. She’s thankful to the community too, “because so many people showed up.” “I did not realize that many people just didn’t know this. They didn’t — I was shocked,” Toomer said. “But I was thankful that it was placed on my heart to do it, and now it has the opportunity to be ingrained as a forever tradition of Horton Middle School.” At the Chatham County Board of Education’s regular session meeting Monday night, Chatham Community NAACP Branch President Mary Nettles asked the board during public comments to formally rename the school “George Moses Horton Middle School” to more explicitly honor his legacy. Nettles attended the school in the 1960s, when it was still a high school. Her branch, in partnership with the Chatham Remembrance Coalition, started an online petition on Jan. 25 requesting the name change, and had nearly 250 signatures by the time of publication. Nettles cited the fact that CCS already had schools in the district with full names, including Perry W. Harrison Elementary, Margaret B. Pollard Middle and more. “Chatham County will be 250 years old in April 2021. What a wonderful start for justice this would be for residents living in Chatham County for the name change to take place,” Nettles said. “The renaming will grant this world-class poet, Mr. George Moses Horton, the true recognition, dignity and remembrance deserved of a man in whose honor the school was named.”

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

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | ELIZA BRINKLEY, CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

Teachers are essential. It's time to start treating us like it.

Last week, I learned that North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper had issued a statement encouraging schools to reopen. He was joined in that sentiment by the Department of Public Instruction Superintendent Catherine Truitt, who co-signed a letter with Cooper that was sent to school boards across the state “strongly urging” them to consider reopening school buildings for those students who wanted to return. Truitt rightly commented at a follow-up press conference that returning to in-person learning was “incredibly important for kids.”

Neither Cooper nor Truitt mentioned any efforts by the state to vaccinate teachers like me, even though we are supposedly “essential.” Cooper’s letter also cited research supporting the notion that schools could return to in-person learning safely, “even during periods of high community transmission” as long as they followed certain safety protocols. According to the N.C. Strong Schools Public Health Tool Kit, these protocols include maintaining six feet of distance between individuals at all times in classrooms and

hallways, wearing masks, and limiting too much “mixing” between students, guidelines that are nearly impossible to comply with fully at schools where hallways aren’t wide enough and classrooms aren’t big enough to maintain proper distancing, or where students switch classes.

But the discrepancy between the expectations versus reality when it comes to preventing the spread of the virus in schools has been and will continue to be expounded, and I’m not really here to talk about that.

What I am here to talk about is a warning that we have been repeatedly told for years now, but that we have mostly ignored – the effects of which are starting to show in a big way with reports of teachers resigning from school systems across the country: the longer teachers in America are forced to work for inadequate compensation, for little appreciation and in potentially unsafe conditions, the more highly-qualified teachers will abandon the profession, leading our children to suffer significant setbacks in their learning,

their physical and mental health, their social skills and in their overall ability to navigate the challenges of life.

My colleagues and I have gone to great lengths to teach our students as effectively as possible, even during remote learning. It would be easy — and one could argue, justifiable, considering what we’re given in return — to stop trying so much and to let us just be what many incorrectly believe us to be: babysitters.

But we choose the higher road. We choose to work overtime, to stretch our resources as much as they can possibly be stretched to give our students the education they deserve. And it’s this kind of selfless, martyr-like mindset that has simultaneously made our public schools, as former superintendent of Chatham County Schools Dr. Derrick Jordan once said, “the best hope many of our students have” and that has led to the warped idea of teachers as inexhaustible robots—people who can be tasked with one of the most important jobs in the world, but in whom we don’t need to bother seriously invest-

ing or recognizing as having the same level of professionalism and importance as those in other lines of work.

I speak for a number of Chatham County Schools educators who I know are incredibly frustrated. We’re frustrated by the fact that we’ve been asked to reinvent how we teach twice in less than a year. We’re frustrated and anxious that we’re expected to supervise students in our classrooms while they eat lunch maskless. We’re downright enraged by ignorant comments from people who have no idea how schools or remote learning works like, “Teachers have been getting paid for not working for nine months.” And we’re extremely frustrated that we’re deemed essential workers, and yet the state still hasn’t gotten us vaccinated.

If the above grievances were expressed by someone of the same level of education and who worked the same, if not fewer, number of hours, people wouldn’t be surprised that they were demanding more resources from their employers before returning to work in person. But for some reason, because

we’re teachers, people are shocked that we’re not willing to just “take one for the team” like we always do and continue to meekly comply, as if nothing is wrong.

Had our state and our nation invested more in teachers and staff before and during the pandemic, we probably would have had the resources to be able to return to in-person learning safely by now. The controversy we’re seeing instead is partly karma for how we’ve treated and continue to treat our educators. It’s the historic, systemic under-appreciation, distrust and lack of investment in teachers and schools combined with the chaos of the pandemic that is stretching many of us to our wit’s end. Everyone is desperate to get kids back in the classroom.

Fine. Provide the funding for school buildings to be truly safe, vaccinate teachers and make a serious pledge to pay us what we’re worth.

Then we can talk.

Eliza Brinkley is a Pittsboro resident and high school English teacher at Chatham County Schools.

Most all folks understand universal language

The most pressing issue on the minds and hearts of many folks for the next few days — other than wondering about how much longer the virus is going to be around and will we get some snow this winter — is the upcoming Valentine’s Day.

And the question of, “What do I get my Sweet Patootie for the occasion?”

Years ago Johnny Cash told us in song that love is “a burning thing and it makes a fiery ring.” That’s probably true; many of us can attest to that since some time or another we’ve fallen into that fiery ring, sometimes more than once.

But love is also a funny thing. Not funny “ha ha,” but funny in how it happens and works ... or doesn’t.

Long ago when dinosaurs roamed the earth, my tender young mind was exposed to learning, as a part of my school career, the French language.

Since then I have learned that both those languages have some common ancestors and that much of our English-speak comes from those tongues, and others, known as “romance languages.” And maybe it’s appropriate that that’s the word used to describe the vocabulary we use when speaking of certain things such as love.

But I’ve also come to know that when it comes to certain words and an understanding of what they all mean, sometimes my English words fall short in that area.

Take the word “love,” for instance; not the emotion or action but the word. In English we have only that one word to convey all kinds of feelings ... from I “love” pizza to I “love” my dog to I “love” my family and so on. They all have different meanings (at least they’d better). It could be rough on the home front if the feeling I have for cheeseburgers is the same one I have in mind when speaking of, to, or about, my better half.

So in that regard the Greek folks have it over us. Some seminary studies years back and subsequent reading since then have told me that the word we translate “love” when we read The Book often has various meanings. There is, for instance, the Greek word “eros,” which we translate as “love” sometimes. It is the mother of our word “erotic” and since this is a family publication, I feel it prudent not to go any further with an explanation of what that word means.

I will say it has something to do with how the sparks fly when chemistry is at work between Bubba and Clementine. At this stage if you’re not familiar with what I mean and need more information, ask *your* mother.

Then there are such words for love as “philia,” meaning a kind of “brotherly” love and is found in the name of that city in Pennsylvania where the Eagles and Phillies play that’s known as “the city of brotherly love.”

There are other words and uses in other languages, of course, and all those have a place. But there’s also the one we don’t use much in our language and culture except in and around church that may be the most complete definition and meaning of the word.

In English, we spell it “agape” and pronounce it “ah-ga-pay” and not “a-gape.” It’s the best way we mortals have to talk about God’s love for humanity and perhaps our most common use of it has to do with how we treat other folks and whether we keep score in the game of life.

That word sort of has the same thing going for it that I encountered one day when the oldest of our two 40-somethings who used to be teenagers one day asked me — out of the clear blue, mind you — this question: “Could I ever do anything that would make you stop loving me?”

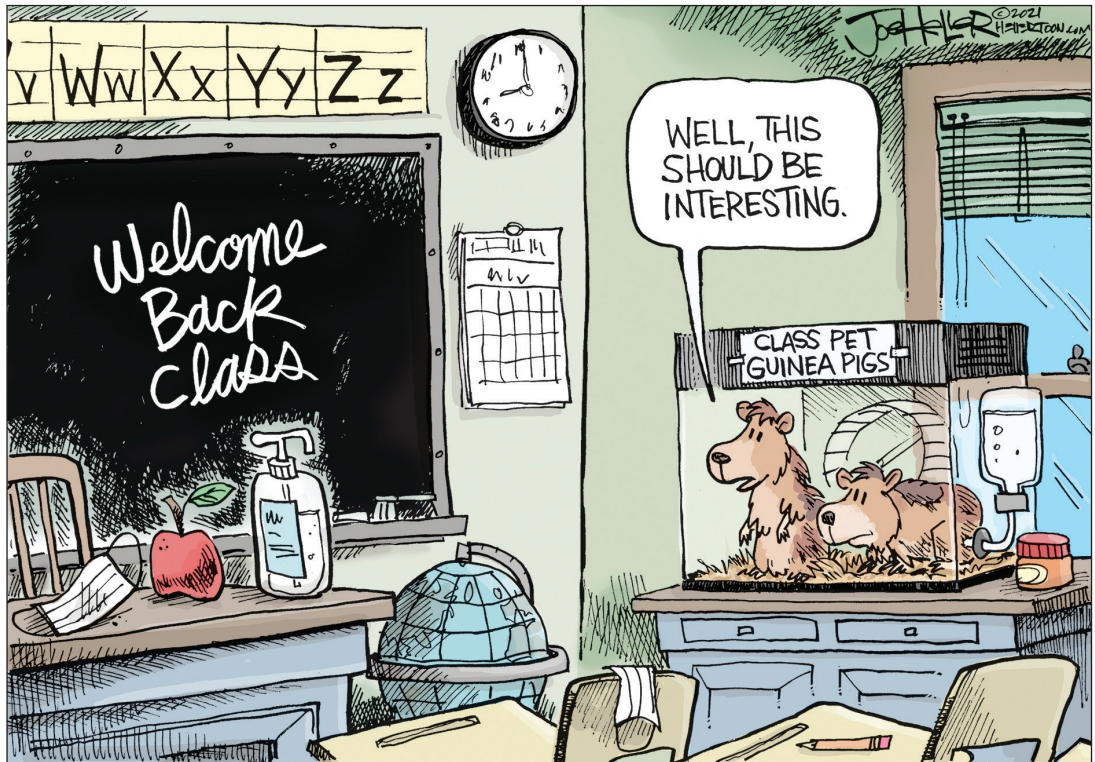
After pondering on that for what seemed a couple of hours, I said to her, “Uhhh ... what have you got in mind?”

The reality was she had nothing in mind; what she was doing was asking me another question, namely, “Is your love for me conditional?” The answer to that, of course, is “no” and that’s sort of what agape means.

This Valentine’s Day, as you shop for your Sweet Patootie, try to include some of all those types of love where appropriate. But mostly remember a few things: 1) “love” doesn’t keep score; 2) “love” isn’t love until you give it away; and 3) “love” means if you want good things for yourself, then you’re supposed to want good things for other folks, too.

And it’s also OK if you want to eat some of the chocolate this year.

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



Tell me about when you got it

Our firstborn was only 3 years old and happily racing toy cars across our front porch when



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

he received his first bee sting. His mother rocked him in her lap until he had calmed down. Then, in her wisdom, she told him the story of her first sting as a little girl when she had walked barefoot in the backyard grass.

For months afterward, our son would ask friends and strangers, “Have you been stung by a bee? Tell me about when you got it.”

It is hard for me to wrap my head around the 26.9 million people infected with the coronavirus in the United States. The 791,000 in North Carolina is overwhelming enough.

But I know the stories of friends, family and parishioners who got it. The rattling, aching cough. The muscles spasms traveling from the neck down to the feet. The dizziness at the slightest physical effort. Feeling like they had been run over by a truck or train. The fear that they would get worse.

I also hear stories from people who have gotten either one or both COVID-19 vaccinations. Many of them report no difficulties. Some experience soreness in their arms. A few have had flu-like symptoms for 24 to 48 hours such as a low-grade fever, muscle aches and fatigue.

No one, though, has ever told me that suffering the vaccine is as terrible as the actual coronavirus. It seems obvious that everyone should be vaccinated as soon as possible.

But last week, I was part of a video conference call led by Dr. Sharon Reilly, the medical director of Piedmont Health. She called out several myths that are circulating in our community and nationwide: that the vaccine will alter your DNA and that the shot introduces a tracer microchip into your body.

I cannot take such ridiculous and debunked conspiracy theories seriously; however, the consequences of such misinformation are deadly serious. If the coronavirus remains active, infecting non-vaccinated people, the chances increase that it will mutate, possibly into forms that resist the vaccine. These new strains of COVID-19 could be even more deadly.

Why do these conspiracy theories about the vaccine and the virus itself remain active among a significant percentage of our population?

I can’t help but wonder how many of those who believe this misinformation have actually known someone who has suffered or died from the infection. This is the reason why I began with bee stings and stories.

Tell me about when you got it. My young son learned that asking for a story can open up a conversation with a complete stranger. Granted, a child’s innocence encourages many of us to lower our defenses. But a story itself has the power to create empathy and unite the storyteller with the listener.

It is this power of story that causes me to believe that stories are prayers. A genuine curiosity about someone’s experience with COVID-19 not only implies that you take the virus seriously, but that you take that particular person seriously — you value that individual’s experience. If we seek the stories of our friends, neighbors and even strangers, we will feel less alone and perhaps less afraid. We will be less likely to believe conspiracy theories and more likely to care for one another.

Tell me about when you got it. And I shall listen while silently giving thanks that we are together.

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

What’s on your mind?

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

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

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

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

VIEWPOINTS

Eating like a king, but shopping like a local



DWAYNE WALLS JR.
The Roundabout flopped on the dock.

We buy our fish fresh at the Thursday afternoon Pittsboro farmer’s market. Thanks to James and Marcey Clark and their business, Hook & Larder, we need no longer brave traffic and drive to Carrboro for what’s been flopped on the dock. James buys fresh from the big ocean-going boats that run out of Oregon Inlet as well as small craft plying the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds. Being from Elizabeth City gives him top notch local connections, but he tells me he also buys from boats that tie up down in Wanchese. Do not look for them at the Saturday farmer’s market; Hook & Larder travels from Carrboro to Hillsborough to Durham to Pinehurst, so peachy little Pittsboro earns only a weekday time slot. Have fish. Will travel.

I see more of James than of Marcey these days. She recently became manager of the Inn at Celebrity Dairy out in Silk Hope, bucolic home to over 100 Alpine and Saanen goats. You should try their cheese. You can buy that at the Thursday market, too.

I think it fitting to hold the market on the asphalt parking lot of that hardened artery of progress referred to as the Pittsboro train depot. Re-purposed rail beds are relevant rail beds. The Pittsboro spur terminated a few hundred feet north of what is now called Country Farm and Home, and when I was a boy, trains stopped automobile traffic three blocks east of the courthouse on a regular schedule.

I remember my father cursing the sight of boxcars blocking our way as we topped the hill at Small Street. Even a single empty flatcar barring only part of one lane invariably meant the brakeman stopped traffic going both directions. I almost felt sorry for the brakeman having so many of

my father’s cuss words hurled in his general direction, but the old man’s fury was soon spent, replaced by the mumbled and murmured profanity accompanying every attempt at a U-turn in our old pick-up.

The truck was not equipped with power steering or power brakes or power windows or power anything as I recall, and with its lousy turn radius every three-point turn became a nine-point regimen of arm exercises. But it was sturdy and reliable, its best feature being that when you popped the hood you could see and reach everything you might need to repair or replace. The starter was a button on the floor. The windshield wipers slowed or just plain stopped when you accelerated. The sheet metal was so thick that when my father hit a deer it bounced off without leaving a dent.

The old truck and the railroad tracks are long gone now, and laughing children play where there were once stacks of steel rails rusting and wooden crossties reeking of

creosote. They run around in the bright sunlight or splash in puddles of standing water when it rains while adults like me stand in line for the bounty of the county. We wear our masks and keep our distance but I still get to see a friend or two here for fresh vegetables, mushrooms, eggs, chicken, pork or beef. I can buy my wife a well-deserved bouquet of fresh cut flowers. I can buy myself some cookies from Annie at Sweet Little Something. With notable Chatham County farms like Granite Springs and In Good Heart participating, this is that grass-roots crop sharing called Community-Supported Agriculture at its finest. We know what we buy, from potatoes to pastry, is locally raised or grown or made. And we know our farmers personally, just as our farmers know their produce.

We buy all our meats from Tucker and Mackenzie Withington who own LillyDen Farms down in Goldston. Farmer Tucker jokingly tells me that he knows every animal my wife

cooks by its first name. Tucker even looks the part of a farmer: big but not fat, with a full beard that makes him look burly in an outdoorsy way. He and his lovely wife, Mackenzie, have four super kids. They are a delight to be around, and we never pass up a chance to go to any of their BBQs. We dearly missed visiting with them over the holidays this past year, but these are trying times for everyone.

And now we have Hook & Larder bringing fresh seafood to landlocked little Pittsboro every Thursday afternoon. Last week their battered chalkboard advertised filets of monkfish, black bass, snapper, trout and my favorite: yellow-fin tuna.

I eat like a king.

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

Build on North Carolina’s strengths

When will North Carolina’s economy return to normal, or at least to a “new normal”? Unfortunately, that destination is many months away, if not years. Still, we’ll know we’re making progress when we can see the most damaging events of 2020 only in our rear-view mirrors.

For example, entrepreneurs, investors and consumers won’t return to “normal” economic activity until the worst excesses of our radicalized politics are a bad memory instead of an immediate worry. That means no more mobs employing trespass, vandalism or violence to pursue their ends, whatever those ends may be.

And North Carolina’s economy won’t return to some semblance of normalcy until the COVID-19 pandemic is significantly suppressed, an outcome possible only when a critical mass of the population has either been vaccinated against the virus or already contracted it.

As dark as the past few months have been — many North Carolinians have lost jobs, incomes, family, friends, social networks and even their lives — we need to keep reminding ourselves that it will get better. We will recover. We will rebuild. As we do, let’s capitalize on our state’s preexisting strengths.

North Carolina remains a great place to live, work, visit and do business. On that latter point, I have been studying a recent piece by a research team from Arizona State University. Their Doing Business North America 2020 report gathered a range of data for 130 cities spanning the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Would you care to guess which North American city ranked #1 in ease of doing business? Believe it or not, it was our capital city, Raleigh. The other two North Carolina cities included in the study also ranked above the U.S. average and significantly above the continental average: Charlotte (#38) and Greensboro (#35).

The rankings reflect scores in six different categories: starting a business, employing workers, getting electricity, land and space use, paying taxes and resolving insolvency. North Carolina’s largest cities didn’t rank well in all categories. But as a whole, they fared better than cities with higher permitting requirements, labor-market rigidity, tax burdens and electric rates.

Of course, what is good can always be better. Business owners in North Carolina will tell you it takes too long to get permits approved and to resolve disputes in our courts. Resurgent crime rates are making some neighborhoods unattractive places to build or expand businesses. Traffic congestion is a major problem in some areas, while poor-quality roads and bridges are a major problem in others. Disparities in educational opportunity and skills development remain far too wide.

As an advocate of economical government, the rule of law and choice and competition in public services, I think there are practical ways to address these long-standing challenges. In regulatory policy, for example, North Carolina’s state agencies and local governments should pay more attention to the needs of new and small businesses, which often lack the compliance staff and experience that more-established firms possess.

Although I remain optimistic about our state’s economic future, I’m also a realist. Indeed, I think optimism and realism are natural companions. Some of the barriers that keep North Carolinians from pursuing their dreams and realizing their potential cannot be removed or surmounted by government action alone. They are the results of family breakdown, drug addiction and other social maladies. They are largely affairs of the heart and soul, not social-engineering problems for which there is a technocratic fix.

As North Carolina policymakers focus on the tasks for which they are best suited, I’d urge them — and all of us, really — to be grateful for the blessings we have, even as we strive to grow and improve. We live in a beautiful state full of natural resources and strong institutions. As Americans rethink where they want to live, work and retire in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, North Carolina will be a net importer, not exporter, of the ultimate resource: human beings.

Let’s make our “new normal” a better version of the great state we already are.

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

When do we change names and history?

Last week the Raleigh City Council removed the historic designation of Wakestone, the former home of Josephus Daniels.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

That action is just one more reminder of North Carolina’s and the nation’s struggle to find agreement on what people should be honored and what versions of history should be taught in our schools.

The unanimous action of the council was prompted by the property’s current owner, who wanted the historic designation removed because it restricted plans for intensive development. But the owner’s representative explained its request as follows: “Daniels’ legacy in white supremacy is certainly now having its reckoning as a tragic episode. But this site, and this designation, does not stand in the same way as a memorial of hallowed ground, to teach us lessons. It is a celebration of accomplishment. Is white supremacy the kind of accomplishment upon which the City of Raleigh wishes to officially confer recognition? What lesson does that convey?”

Last year’s book, “Wilmington’s Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy” by David Zucchino, highlighted the role Daniels and his newspaper, The News & Observer, played in fanning the flames the led to that tragedy.

What is often left aside are the

progressive battles that Daniels and his paper fought and often won in a deeply conservative state during the last century.

How could one of North Carolina’s most important political leaders be both a progressive champion for education and economic development and, at the same time, the leader of the white supremacy movement in our state? N.C. State Professor Lee Craig wrestled with this challenging question in his book, “Josephus Daniels: His Life and Times” (UNC Press, 2013).

Professor Craig struggled with this seeming contradiction: “I had to confront the fact that the most consistently progressive American political leader between the Civil War and the Cold War was also the father of Jim Crow.”

The hard fact is that Daniels was an enthusiastic supporter of the white supremacy movement in the elections of 1898 and 1900.

Craig explained how he came to terms with the different aspects of Daniels’ public life: “In researching Daniels’ life and times, I’ve become comfortable with the contradictions of the man. He was a progressive, a warm-hearted family man, a man who genuinely cared about the country’s less-fortunate and down-trodden, at least as he defined them. Yet at the same time, he was a white supremacist, who used the coercive powers of the state to keep blacks in a socially and economically inferior state for generations. He was a near-pacifist who tried to keep the United States out of the world’s worst war to date; yet, he

was a gunboat diplomatist. He was a capitalist who sought government regulation of capital.”

Craig’s book describes Daniels’ business genius as a newspaper publisher, his support for public education and other progressive policies in North Carolina, as well as his important public service as Woodrow Wilson’s Secretary of the Navy and Franklin Roosevelt’s Ambassador to Mexico.

But today’s leaders, taking into account the continuing stain of widespread white supremacist views, have been unwilling to measure Daniels’ many progressive accomplishments against his white supremacist actions.

Last summer, notwithstanding Daniels’ many accomplishments but rather citing his white supremacist views and actions, the Wake County School System changed the name of Daniels Middle School, N.C. State University removed the name from its Daniels Hall, and UNC Chapel Hill removed the Daniels name from its student stores building.

How far can we go on this track?

What will happen to names of buildings, monuments, and buildings named for Washington, Jefferson, and other national heroes when their accomplishments are similarly evaluated against their white supremacist views and slave-holding records?

D.G. Martin hosts “North Carolina Bookwatch,” at 11 a.m. Sundays and 5 p.m. Tuesdays on UNC-TV. The program also airs on the North Carolina Channel at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and other times.

LETTERS

Once upon a time...

TO THE EDITOR:

Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream was for all Americans to share the power and control of our nation. MLK was a great man with a dream to promote love, unite Americans, and he worked toward ALL Americans sharing the same freedoms and Civil Rights.

Never in his entire life did this man of God promote vandalism.

There are those who

say they share Martin Luther King’s dream, but in reality they are just using his name to gain prestige and power. Once they gain prestige and power they show no sign of trying to stop Americans from killing Americans and neither are they trying to put a stop to vandalism. If they really shared Martin Luther King’s dream instead of trying to divide Americans. they would be promoting love and unity.

These people are not worthy to shine Dr.

King’s shoes!

There are those who say they share Martin Luther King’s dream but instead of trying to unite Americans with love and “liberty for all,” they are breaking into buildings, stealing, burning buildings, and working to divide Americans and promote hate. They are hoping their actions will provide the opportunity for them to gain power and line their deep pockets with coins.

These people are not worthy to shine Dr.

King’s shoes!

Should these people be successful in destroying Martin Lutheran King’s dream and America lies in ruins at China’s feet, how much will those deep pocket coins be worth? Has it occurred to anyone that if we Americans don’t unite and our government fails our dollars will only be good for use of wall paper or toilet tissue?? And then there will be the question of food...

Carol Gene Good
Conover

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CCS launches student art website

Chatham County Schools has new website to showcase student art projects.

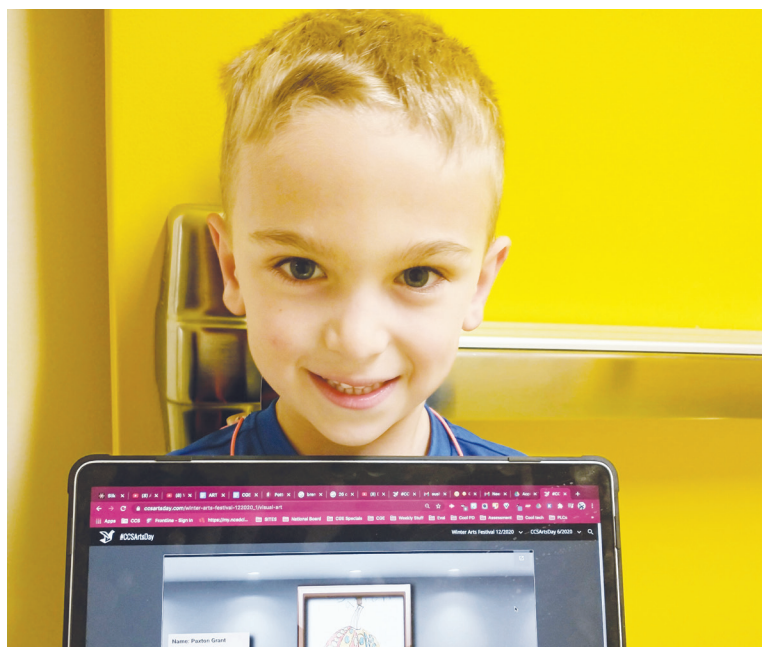
The website includes work by all Chatham County Schools students — from kindergartners to high-school seniors.

Features include performances, exhibitions, dances, music and visual arts.

The body of work was compiled online by Chatham Grove Elementary teacher Victoria Sylvestre to display 2020's end-of-year projects and entries from the 2021 Winter Arts Festival.

"This website was created by me as a response to COVID taking away the opportunity for Chatham county students to achieve their National Art Standards of performing and exhibiting their work," she said. "COVID shut us down before the end of the year, so we couldn't have our end of the year exhibitions and performances, involving the families and community."

To see last year's exhibition plus a 2021 winter installment, visit www.ccsartsday.com



Chatham Grove Elementary student Paxton Grant shows off his artwork.

Submitted photo

RHINEHARDT

Continued from page A1

into school the next day and said, 'I'm going to Washington because I have to save all those women from these terrorists that are coming!'" she said.

About 10 years later, she followed through on her mission. By then, Rhinehardt's understanding of socio-economic issues, political discourse and hyperbolic headlines had matured, but her zeal to affect positive change had not dwindled. After graduating from Appalachian State with a degree in political science, she left for D.C. where she found the Republican party's tenets aligned with her vision for America's improvement.

She began her career as a congressional staffer to North Carolina Senator Lauch Faircloth, with whom she firmly agreed on deregulation policy. After Faircloth lost his reelection bid, Rhinehardt worked briefly for the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee before rounding out her D.C. tenure with then-Representative Richard Burr.

After seven years working in the Capital, Rhinehardt accepted a position with the UNC system as a federal lobbyist and eventually settled in Chatham County, where she has been for the past 15 years. Four years ago, she founded Gray Zone Strategies LLC, a consulting firm she still operates.

Throughout her decades in politics, Rhinehardt always supported the Republican party, even, she said, when its ideals began to shift.

"There's certainly been a tremendous amount of change in the 20-plus years that I've worked in politics," she said. "It's been very incremental, very slight movement. But I would say over the last five, four years, when Trump represented the Republican Party, that the more unpleasant side became visible."

Still, like most longtime political advocates — from either side of the aisle — she gave her party a chance to readjust. She was willing to "hold my nose a bit," Rhinehardt said, and give Trump a chance.

"With my background, having worked in government for almost all of my career, I have such a respect for people who work in government and the offices they hold, either appointed or elected," she said. "I have a responsibility as a citizen to respect the office."

But what are American citizens to do when the office itself changes?

"There came this point where, you know, yes, I still respect the presidency," Rhinehardt said, "but the presidency was starting to not resemble anything that I understood the presidency to be. And so it's tough when you're an individual, even someone like me, who understands how things work. Where does my voice fit? How can I affect change? How can I make things better? I was coming up empty."

She was confused and dismayed, but Rhinehardt maintained that Republicanism was the country's more effective political ideology. Trump's presidency was ending and the party could begin its recovery, she thought.

Then, on Jan. 6, thousands of rioters stormed the Capitol building, and her hopes were shattered.

Insurrection at the Capitol

It was a Wednesday, and Congress had assembled to formally count the Electoral College votes. Former Vice President Joe Biden had won the election with 306 votes to President Trump's 232.

But a contingent of pro-Trump agitators felt differently.

"I was at home working with my daughter; she was finishing up her schoolwork," Rhinehardt said. "As soon as I saw things starting to flash on the screen, I thought it was some sort of — I don't know — that someone had made a terrible parody and what I was watching wasn't real."

Her disdain for the uncouth satire turned to horror as she recognized the seriousness of what she saw.

"I immediately called my daughter

'I just could never have thought that to get what it wanted the Republican Party would have to compromise its soul, which is exactly what has happened.'

KIMREY RHINEHARDT

down the hall and said, 'You must watch this, you have to see this, you need to witness this — this is history,'" Rhinehardt said. "I mean, I knew instantly what was happening."

Her childhood nightmare had been realized; "terrorists", as Rhinehardt calls them, were storming the capitol. But one fact may have surprised her younger self — the invaders were American citizens.

"What we witnessed was a domestic terrorism event," she said.

Rhinehardt knows from whence she speaks. She is a part-time faculty member at UNC-Wilmington in the conflict management program where she has taught and studied terrorism for years. But her dossier includes a more personal brush with terrorism. She was in the Capitol complex on Sept. 11, 2001.

"We knew planes were heading either to the White House or to the Capitol Building," Rhinehardt said of the attack that racked the nation almost 20 years ago. "... Watching what was happening (on Jan. 6) brought me right back to that day and the fear that I felt. I remember walking in the hall in the Longworth building and I was able to snag a police officer. And I said, 'Sir, what's the plan? Where do we go?' He just looked at me and said, 'Ma'am, there is no plan. It's every man for himself.' And that was what I was watching again."

Soon, Rhinehardt's horror gave way to anger "on a couple of different levels." How could this have happened again? Why wasn't the Capitol better prepared? And how could the president sit idly by and watch?

"I mean, he told the rioters that he loved them," she said. "Yeah, that doesn't sound like a full-throated indictment of their actions to me."

To Rhinehardt, Trump crossed the Rubicon and he took the Republican Party with him. After a lifetime fighting for Republican interests, she could no longer bear to represent the party. A few days later she would formalize her decision and refile with the Board of Elections as an unaffiliated voter.

"I just could never have thought that to get what it wanted the Republican Party would have to compromise its soul," Rhinehardt said, "which is exactly what has happened."

Abandoning ship

In the two weeks following the attempted Capitol coup, almost 6,000 Republicans in North Carolina changed their party affiliation, according to election board data first reported by the News & Observer. In the same time, only 210 Democrats left their party.

In Chatham, the shift has been less dramatic, but it paints the same picture: Republicans whose allegiance teetered in recent years made their stand after the events of Jan. 6.

Between the insurrection and Feb. 9, 118 Chatham Republicans left the party. Most of them, 100, became unaffiliated. A handful, just 11, joined the Democratic Party. Five became Libertarian, and two moved to the Constitution Party, which N.C. no longer officially recognizes.

Some Democrats moved, too: 11 became unaffiliated, and three became Republican.

Big party shifts are not totally unprecedented. During primary elections, when only unaffiliated voters have the liberty to cast their ballots for either Republican or Democratic candidates, it's typical for party-members to temporarily change their registrations. In 2018, during the Democratic primaries, almost 600 Chatham voters switched parties — most of them Republicans switching to unaffiliated, "probably so they could vote for the sheriff," said Pan-

dora Paschal, director of Chatham County's board of elections.

Mike Roberson and Percy Crutchfield, both Democrats, were the only candidates for Chatham County Sheriff that year; the election was effectively won in the primaries.

But this year's party exodus was different.

"Usually that doesn't happen directly after an election," Paschal said.

Her office is strictly non-partisan, Paschal emphasized, and her staff does not speak to subjects that might suggest a political bent, lest it erode voter confidence in the integrity of their election system.

"I don't like to speculate, but obviously there is something that drove them to change the party. I mean, it was after that happened," she said of the Capitol debacle. "So obviously there's something they don't agree with, or they're just tired of."

BOE staff never inquire as to why voters change party. But often, registrants offer unsolicited explanations.

"There have been rumblings," Paschal said, laughing. "Most of the time when they're making comments, they're just spilling their guts. But we don't engage."

Often the magnitude of their decision to change parties manifests in emotional outbursts.

"One lady the other day who changed parties, she was very upset," Paschal said. "She was crying, but, you know, we just listened. That's all we can do."

A moral issue

Lucy Grist, of Pittsboro, is another Chathamite who left the Republican Party, citing displeasure with Trump's leadership.

"It was unbearable," she the retired senior district executive for the Boy Scouts of America's Occaneechee Council. "He is unbearable."

But her protest is not against traditional Republican ideals, especially fiscal management. It is in defiance of a man and the qualities he provokes in the Republican Party.

"And yet, where do the Democrats think the money comes from?" she said in frustration.

Balancing a commitment to Republican policy with a moral compass that could no longer endorse Trump's behavior cast many Republicans into a quandary, including Dr. John Dykers, a longtime Chatham family physician, and lifelong Republican.

He hasn't left the party yet, but he's close.

"Only if Republican senators vote to convict Trump of inciting to riot for insurrection," will Dykers stay with the party, he said. "And I don't mean just Romney, Murkowski, Collins — but enough to repudiate

him thoroughly and help the party to rebuild. Keep Trump from walking away with tax-paid \$200,000 a year for life, \$1 million a year travel allowance and Secret Service protection. ... If Senate Republicans don't vote to convict, I will become unaffiliated."

Dykers has held out longer than many of his contemporaries, but he cannot abide anything short of Trump's denunciation.

"Many of us have clung to hope that viable policy initiatives would make up for a loudmouth, lying, demagogue who incited his most loyal to riot and abandoned them to the safety of his bunker," he said. "No self-respecting Republican could ever trust him. Only fools would do so ..."

Rhinehardt wants her Republican Party back, but in the meantime, she will fight to prevent Trump or his supporters from achieving more leverage in the ever-evolving political scene.

"I will do everything within my power to stop him," she said about Trump. "... Everything legal, obviously. The time for silence and inaction is over."

To win her back, the party will need to make substantial changes, Rhinehardt said. Until it does, it will have lost one of its most fervent devotees.

"I am not afraid to say I'm wrong when I learn new information," she said. "And believe me, that's happened quite a bit in the last couple of years, for sure. There needs to be more of that."

Polarity in the political world has intensified in recent years like never before as party affiliates entrenched themselves in one-dimensional ideologies.

"I think it's very important that before we can get on to so-called unity, that there must be some sort of accountability applied," Rhinehardt said.

That started, she said, with Trump's second impeachment, though she's uncertain the Senate will convict the former president. But more effective would be individual accountability from all American citizens, Rhinehardt said. "We have to be willing to cast aside our biases, and be willing to stand with another person and say, 'OK, I respect you as a human being.'"

Only then does she think the political maelstrom will abate and comity will ensue.

"I'm so ready. I'm ready for the circus to end," Rhinehardt said. "I'm ready to have constructive conversations with my friends about policy issues, not about personalities."

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

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COVID-19 VACCINE

Walgreens emerges as new player in the vaccine game

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Walgreens is set to become the county’s newest vaccine distributor, but it’s unclear when doses will arrive, according to the chain’s Chatham employees.

The pharmacy titan — the nation’s second-largest drugstore chain, behind CVS — was introduced last week as North Carolina’s selection for the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination. The program is “a collaboration between the federal government, states and territories, and 21 national pharmacy partners and independent pharmacy networks to increase access to COVID-19 vaccination across the United States,”

according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Walgreens’ vaccine allocation will come directly from the Federal government, according to N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen.

“In the coming week — I don’t know if it’s going to be next week or at the end of the week — they will be getting a very small amount of vaccine at a few of their locations,” she said during a press conference on Tuesday.

Statewide, Walgreens expects to receive 31,200 vaccine doses to be spread across 300 of its 356 N.C. locations, as first reported by the Raleigh News & Observer.

A company spokesperson declined to identify which N.C. locations will

be among the 300, but stores are being chosen based on the communities they serve, according to the CDC’s social vulnerability index. The index, according to the CDC, uses 15 U.S. Census variables to help local officials “identify communities that may need support before, during, or after disasters.”

Vaccinations are anticipated to begin on Feb. 12, as per a Walgreens press release, but store employees told the News + Record they were unsure whether doses would arrive on schedule.

Two employees of Walgreens locations in Chatham County — speaking on the condition of anonymity — confirmed Siler City’s store, located on U.S Hwy. 64, was among those selected



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Walgreens employees did not confirm if Pittsboro’s location (pictured) will receive doses of the vaccine, but Siler City’s will.

to receive vaccine doses. But staff have been told to expect the shipment sometime after Feb. 12, they said.

“In about two to three weeks we’ll start to see them,” one employee said. “At least no more than a month and we’ll have them here.”

If the process goes smoothly, however, vaccine could arrive earlier. “There’s a chance by next week they’ll be here,” the second employee said.

It was unclear whether the Pittsboro store, located on East Street, would be receiving doses.

Walgreens’ vaccine allocation will come in addition to those already prescribed for use by North Carolina’s county

health departments and the UNC Health system, Chatham County Public Health Department Communications Specialist Zachary Horner confirmed for the News + Record.

“It is my understanding that it is a totally separate thing; it’s going straight from the federal level right to the pharmacies,” he said. “... It’s being allocated straight to them.”

Stores will adhere to the state’s prioritization guidelines in determining vaccine eligibility. Currently, any resident 65 and older can schedule a vaccine appointment, along with all residents of long term care facilities and skilled nursing facilities, workers and

contractors at long term care facilities and skilled nursing facilities, frontline health workers with high-risk of COVID exposure and others who fall within groups one and two. A more detailed list of qualifications is available on Walgreens’ website or from NCDHHS at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>.

To schedule a vaccination appointment at Walgreens, visit <https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19>. You will need to set up a Walgreens account and complete an eligibility screening.

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

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SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

LOOKING AT COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT, 2019-2021

November 2019

Nov. 17: A March 2020 article from the South China Morning Post used Chinese government data to trace the first known case of COVID-19 in China back to this date.

January 2020

Jan. 7: Chinese authorities identify the virus behind the mysterious illness as a new, or “novel,” type of coronavirus.

Jan. 13: Moderna announces plans to develop a COVID-19 vaccine.

Jan. 21: The CDC confirmed the United States’ first confirmed case of COVID-19.

May 2020

May 5: The first U.S. participant receives a dose of Pfizer and BioNTech’s vaccine in a Phase 1 trial.

June 2020

June 10: Johnson & Johnson announced it would begin COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials in July.

July 2020

July 22: The U.S. agrees to pay Pfizer and BioNTech \$1.95 billion for 100 million vaccine doses, with an option to buy 500 million more.

July 27: Pfizer and Moderna begin their Phase 3 clinical trials for their COVID-19 vaccines.

August 2020

Aug. 5: The U.S. agrees to pay Johnson & Johnson over \$1 billion for 100 million doses of its vaccine, with an option to buy 200 million more.

Aug. 11: The U.S. agrees to pay Moderna over \$1.5 billion to acquire 100 million doses of its vaccine, with an option to buy an additional 400 million.

December 2020

Dec. 11: Pfizer’s vaccine becomes the first COVID-19 vaccine authorized in the U.S. after the FDA granted it Emergency Use Authorization.

Dec. 14: The U.S. begins to distribute Pfizer vaccine doses to health care workers. North Carolina health care workers receive their first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Dec. 16: Chatham Hospitals’ Dr. Jesus Ruiz receives the first COVID-19 vaccine dose in Chatham County. In total, 25 medical workers in Chatham County received shots.

Dec. 18: The FDA grants Emergency Use Authorization for Moderna’s vaccine.

Dec. 30: More than 63,000 people had received their first COVID-19 vaccine doses in North Carolina. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) updated its vaccine prioritization data in response to new CDC recommendations.

February 2021

Feb. 2: Chatham County has had 3,751 cases of COVID-19 and 70 deaths, according to the state’s COVID-19 dashboard. As of Jan. 31, North Carolina has distributed over 1 million vaccine doses, both first and second doses; just over 11,000 Chatham residents have been vaccinated against COVID-19, a number that includes both first and second doses.

Feb. 4: Johnson & Johnson applied for Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA for its single-dose coronavirus vaccine.

Feb. 5: The CCPHD and other community agencies partnered with Roberts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church to vaccinate 210 people against COVID-19 via a drive-thru event in Goldston. More than 20,000 people have registered with the CCPHD to get vaccinated, including over 15,000 people eligible to receive it.

Feb. 8: As of this date, 13,927 Chatham County residents have been vaccinated (at least with their first doses), and 1,390,947 North Carolinians have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

December 2019:

Dec. 31: Chinese health officials inform the World Health Organization of more than 40 patients with a mysterious pneumonia-like illness; most are connected to Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, China.

March 2020

March 6: Chatham County announces its first case of coronavirus, which is also the state’s second confirmed case — the first appearing in Wake County on March 3.

March 10: Gov. Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency in North Carolina in response to increasing numbers of coronavirus cases.

March 11: The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

March 13: The United States declared a national emergency.

March 16: Phase 1 clinical trials of Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine begin.

March 17: Pfizer and BioNTech announced they had partnered to develop a COVID-19 vaccine using BioNTech’s technology. Testing began in Germany. The same day, Chatham County declared its own State of Emergency.

March 30: Johnson & Johnson announces a lead COVID-19 vaccine candidate, which they planned to develop in partnership with Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA).

September 2020

Sept. 23: Johnson & Johnson announces the start of a Phase 3 trial for its single-dose COVID-19 vaccine.

November 2020

Nov. 9: Pfizer reports that its preliminary Phase 3 trial data shows that its COVID-19 vaccine is more than 90% effective — which later increases to 95%.

Nov. 16: Initial data from Moderna’s Phase 3 trial shows its vaccine is 94.5% effective.

January 2021

Jan. 5: CDC data ranked North Carolina as 44th in the nation for vaccines administered per capita.

Jan. 11: More than 1,500 individuals had registered with CCPHD to receive the vaccine.

Jan. 12: Nearly 1,600 Chatham County residents overall had received their first vaccine dose; likewise, nearly 174,000 North Carolinians had received their first doses and over 20,000 had received both, per the state’s dashboard. The Trump administration issued new guidelines expanding vaccine eligibility to all Americans aged 65 and older. Before, only those aged 75 and older or those in Phase 1a were eligible.

Jan. 14: North Carolina and Chatham County followed suit, changing its prioritization guidelines to match.

Jan. 18: The CCPHD and partners vaccinated 400 people against COVID-19 in Pittsboro — Chatham’s largest mass vaccination clinic up to this date. Chatham Hospital had vaccinated 1,250 people the week before, per Dr. Andrew Hannapel.

Jan. 22: More than 15,000 people had signed up to get vaccinated in Chatham County, far outstripping its supply. Per the CDC, NC ranked 43rd out of 50 states for vaccines administered per capita.

Jan. 25: CCPHD and others carried out another mass vaccination clinic in Pittsboro, vaccinating another 407 people. As of this date, CCPHD had received nearly 17,000 vaccination requests and distributed more than 1,300 vaccine doses.

Jan. 27: Per the NCDHHS vaccination dashboard, 8,575 Chatham residents had received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. More than 822,000 North Carolinians had received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Jan. 28: The CDC ranked North Carolina 12th in the U.S. in the rate of first doses administered.

Jan. 29: The CCPHD reported that it had begun administering second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. J & J announced that its COVID-19 vaccine is 66% effective in preventing infections and 85% effective in preventing severe illness, based on trial data.

OBITUARIES

HILDA H. BURGESS



Hilda Mae Hargrove Burgess, 95, of Ramseur, died Friday, February 5, 2021, at Universal Health Care in Ramseur.

Graveside memorial services were held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at Moon’s Chapel Baptist Church, Siler City, with Rev. Patrick Fuller officiating.

Hilda Mae was born to Mary Freda Fox Hargrove and Joseph (Joe) Henry Hargrove, May 14, 1925. She enjoyed a happy childhood on the

family farm located in the Rocky River Baptist Church Community, north of Siler City, and where she was surrounded by the love of her parents and her great-grandfather, Zeno Columbus (Z.C.) Johnson who she simply called “Grandpa.”

Hilda Mae was a graduate of Silk Hope High School and Greensboro Commercial College. She was employed by Chatham Bank in Siler City and Bank of Coleridge in Ramseur as a bookkeeper.

Hilda Mae’s first marriage at age 18 was to Ralph Lee Lindley, a dairy farmer in the Snow Camp community of Alamance County. Ralph was killed in a farming accident, after which Hilda Mae and their two young children, Diane and Ralph Jr., moved back to her family home. Three years later Hilda Mae married Causey Harris (C.H.) Burgess and Diane and Ralph became C.H.’s children also. Their family was completed with the births of children Sybil and Wayne.

Hilda Mae and C.H. lived a life of affection and mutual respect for 48 years on their tobacco farm in the Brown’s Crossroads Community of Randolph County. She was a faithful member of Moon’s Chapel Baptist Church for over 65 years. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Ralph Lee Lindley Sr. and second husband, Causey Harris (C.H.) Burgess, her parents, Joe and Freda Fox Hargrove, daughter, Sylvia Diane Lindley Hicks, son, Ralph Lee Lindley Jr., and son-in-law, Billy Murray Sr.

Survivors include daughter, Sybil Burgess Murray of Ramseur; son, Wayne Ray Burgess and wife Linda of Whitsett; grandchildren, Shannon Lindley, Brandy Kramer, Stan Hicks, Mike Hicks, Mary Miller Jordan and Alli Marie Burgess, 12 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild; daughters-in-law, Gilda Buckner, Linda Burgess; sons-in-law, Tony Hicks and Lindsay Miller, III; and many cousins, nieces and nephews from all sides of her family.

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

JUDY LEE ALLEN PICK



Judy Lee Allen Pick went to help care for God’s gardens and creatures on February 6, 2021. Judy was born to her loving parents, Charles M. Allen and Kathleen Pugh Allen on November 19, 1941, in Greensboro. She grew up in Charlotte and completed her secondary education there. She graduated in 1963 with a B.A. in Biology with the last class from Women’s College before it was renamed UNC Greensboro.

Her 30-year professional career was spent entirely with UNC-Chapel Hill, where she met and married James R. Pick, her devoted husband of 48 years. She worked in a laboratory studying blood coagulation and then transferred to the Medical Sciences Teaching Laboratories where she supported efforts to train physicians, dentists, nurses and medical technologists. Judy loved improving her knowledge of the natural world’s plants and animals and was actively involved in numerous conservation activities. She supported the effort to develop the permanent honeybee exhibit at the North Carolina State Zoo in Asheboro. She managed the volunteer program for that exhibit for many years. This, plus her participation with the NC Beekeepers Association and many of its chapters resulted in her receiving the McIver-Haas Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015. She also received numerous awards recognizing her volunteer service to the Zoo.

She believed in and supported the mission of N.C. Cooperative Extension for many years which resulted in her being recognized as an Outstanding Friend of Extension in 2009. She was also one of the founding members of the Chatham Conservation Partnership. Judy’s love of our natural world prompted her to travel extensively on birding and nature study tours to many parts of the United States as well as to 14 other countries. Although she recorded more than 40 species of birds in her own back yard, the bird she loved the most was our native Ruby Throated Hummingbird. Her multiple feeders attracted as many as 40 birds at a time during the height of their migrations. Preparing their artificial nectar and filling and cleaning their feeders kept her busy. Judy also helped to establish a number of endowments at local institutions to support graduate education and research and these plus her conservation efforts provide her a lasting legacy.

She is survived by her husband and his daughter, Deborah Pick Conway and her husband, John; her sister, Susan Kay Allen Cox and her sons, Sammy Cox and his wife Donna and their son Briley, Mark Cox and his wife Tammy and their daughter Kelsey; and brother Gary Wesley Allen and his son Brandon Allen and his wife Allison and their daughter Addy and son Max; and his daughter Brooke Allen Perkins and her husband Justin and their sons, Aidan and Tristan and daughter Kaelynn.

The family will hold a memorial service at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please contribute to the conservation efforts of the North Carolina Botanical Garden or one or more of the State’s Land Trusts.

LUVENIA ODESSA (TUCK) MCNEILL

Ms. Luvenia McNeill, 98, of Cary, passed away Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at Chatham Com-

mons Assisted Living Facility.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, February 8, 2021, in Lee Memory Garden in Sanford.

STEVE WILEY



Following a quietly courageous three-year battle with a rare cancer, Stephen Robert (Steve) Wiley, age 65, peacefully passed away in the early hours of February 3, 2021. He was Capitol Broadcasting Company and WRAL-TV’s Sky5 chief pilot, and Helicopter Operations Manager for Flight Group Corporation.

Born in England to Canadian

parents, he was schooled there until age 12 when his family moved back to Canada — his father was a senior executive with Air Canada. After high school and college in the Toronto area he developed an affinity for helicopters. He completed flight training, received helicopter pilot certification and never looked back.

Steve was a pioneer in establishing helicopter news operations in New York City, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh prior to joining WRAL-TV in Raleigh in 1988. Starting out with the station’s Hughes 500 aircraft (he referred to it as “the sports car”), he soon saw the need for upgrade in order to meet the demands of television news coverage. He oversaw the purchase and outfitting of the Bell 407 (the “Cadillac.”) Due in large part to his eye toward the future, it remains in use today as one of the finest in electronic news gathering.

Whether Steve was flying a reporter, photographer or dignitary, his primary concern was safety first, news story second. As a result, his 30-plus years safety record was unblemished. His mission — bring each person safely back to the ground. From hurricane and tornado damages to massive fires to horrendous crashes to police chases to sporting events, Steve calmly and without incident flew staff to give eyewitness aerial live news accounts of the events.

Even as his illness progressed, he continued managing day to day operations, hiring and training two skilled pilots to carry on the Sky 5 legacy of safety and news excellence.

In addition to his wife of 30 years Kevin Rebecca Adkins Wiley, he is survived by his mother-in-law Page Worthington; brothers-in-law Jeff Adkins and Miles Huggins; sisters-in-law Debbie A. Huggins, Meredith A. Proctor and Jamie G. Adkins.

Condolences may be sent to Sky 5 at WRAL-TV, P.O. Box 12000, Raleigh, N.C. 27605. Memorials may be sent to Carolina Tiger Rescue, 1940 Hanks Chapel Rd, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312 or online at carolinatigerrescue.org. Due to COVID restrictions, plans for a memorial service are not yet finalized.

JOYCE ANN (JOHNSON) JOHNSTON



Joyce Ann (Johnson) Johnston of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, a native of Siler City, passed away at St. Thomas, Rutherford Hospital in Murfreesboro, on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, after an extended illness.

Joyce was born May 31, 1943, in Siler City, N.C. She graduated from Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City in 1961. After high school, she joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed at the U.S. Naval Photographic Interpretation Center in Suitland,

Maryland, from 1961 to 1965. There she met and married James L. “Buzzy” Johnston of Lawrenceburg. After serving four years in the Navy, she was employed as a long-distance operator with the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company in Washington, D.C. In 1973, she moved with her husband to Lawrenceburg. There she was employed for several years as an assistant manager at Kmart.

Joyce was preceded in death by her father, Fred Walsie Johnson and mother, Alene Louise (Lopossay) Johnson of Siler City, infant sister, Edna Earlene Johnson, sister, Mary Margaret Johnson, two brothers, Robert and James Johnson, all of Siler City.

Joyce is survived by one daughter, Margaret Louise (Marty) Johnston of Lawrenceburg; two sons, Joseph (Joey) Johnston of Nashville and David Johnston (Jessica); granddaughter, Bailey-Ann Johnston, granddaughter, Brianna Edwards and grandson, Bryce Edwards, all of Murfreesboro; and several nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were handled by Neal Funeral Home, 231 N. Military Avenue, Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.

The family received friends from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, February 6, 2021, at Neal Funeral Home, with funeral services following at 1 p.m. with Marty Frakes officiating.

Interment followed at Lawrence County Memorial Gardens in Lawrenceburg, with full military honors.

Condolences may be sent by way of the website www.nealfuneralhome.net.

SHELBY (PERRY) HARRINGTON

Shelby Harrington, 76, passed away on Thursday, February 4, 2021, at the Health and Rehabilitation Center in Sanford.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

BETTY HORTON FOXX

Mrs. Betty Horton Foxx, 89, of Siler City, passed away Thursday, February 4, 2021, at UNC Hospice in Durham.

Services entrusted to Knotts & Son.

LEVON MARSHALL (LAWS) WINSTON

Levon Marshall Winston, 49, of Carrboro, passed away Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

WILLIAM JOSEPH ‘BILLY JOE’ HERNDON

William Joseph “Billy Joe” Herndon, 80, of Pittsboro passed away on Monday, February 2, 2021, at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan UNC Hospice Home.

No services will be held at this time.

He was born in Chatham County on January 24,1941, son of Benjamin Layton and Christine Riggsbee Herndon. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Kay Herndon Haines.

Survivors include one son, Thomas “Tony” A. Herndon of Eli Whitney; a daughter, Robin H. Smith of Bear Creek; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Moncure.

CLAYRON BRYAN MCCAIN

Clayron Bryan McCain, 71, of Cameron passed away on Saturday, January 30, 2021, at his home.

A private graveside service will be held.

He was born in Deridder, Louisiana, on December 15, 1949, to the late Olin Bryan McCain and Audrey Fay Nichols McCain. He was preceded in death by his parents. Clay retired as a Major in the U.S. Army after 21 years of service to his country. After his retirement, he worked as an IT Director at Lee-Harnett and Alamance-Caswell Mental Health Authority.

Clay is survived by his wife of 48 years, Kathryn Holt McCain; daughters, Lisa McCain of Cameron and Rebecca McCain Mabe of Cameron; siblings, Brenda Crow of Florida, Everette McCain and Alton McCain, both of Louisiana; six grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Clay’s memory may be made to The Alzheimer’s Association - Eastern North Carolina Chapter, 5171 Glenwood Ave., Suite 101, Raleigh, N.C. 27612.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

REV. JAMES HAYWOOD BOWDEN

Rev. James Haywood Bowden, 91, of Lillington, passed away Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at Universal Healthcare of Lillington.

A private graveside service will be held.

He was born in Harnett County on January 20, 1930, to the late Keet N. Bowden and Lonie Mae Wiggins. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sisters, Mildred Lockamy, Frances Matthews, Judy Graham, Mary Norton, Gladys Dupree and brothers, Roger Bowden, Billy Ray Bowden, Herman Bowden and Thurman Bowden. James served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and owned and operated a plumbing and HVAC company for many years. He formerly served as pastor at Lee’s Chapel Christian Church.

Survivors include his wife of 71 years, Pearlle Holder Bowden; son, Charles Robert Bowden of Sanford; sister, Peggy Stone of Tennessee; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

For those people wanting to send condolences, send cards to Pearlle Bowden, Green Leaf Assisted Living Center, 2041 NC 210 North, Lillington, N.C. 27546.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

DONNA GRACE DAWSON

Donna Grace Dawson, 63, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at Cape Fear Valley Hospital.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, February 8, 2021, with Rev. Andrew Sharem officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

She was born in Welch, W.V., on November 3, 1957, to the late Lee Dawson and Vernie Gibson Dawson Moore. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Donald Dawson and sister, Laura Bell Dawson.

Donna is survived by her step-father, Walter Moore of Cameron; brother, Danny Dawson of Cameron; and step-brother, Junior Walter Moore of Cameron.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

See **OBITUARIES**, page A9

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A8

CLYDE EDWARD CLARK

Clyde Edward Clark, 90, of Siler City passed away on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at Universal Healthcare in Ramseur.

Clyde was well known for his sausage and barbeque and his wonderful sense of humor.

A graveside funeral service was held on Saturday, February 6, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Rocky River Friends Meeting Cemetery, 1795 Staley-Snow Camp Road, Siler City, N.C. He laid in repose for friends to come by and pay their respects on Friday, February 5, 2021, from 1 until 5 p.m. at Loflin Funeral Home of Liberty.

Clyde was the son of the late Vet and Mary Newlin Clark and was also preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Jessie Mae Sands Clark; son, Eddie Clark; sisters, Eunice Phillips, Kathleen York, Josie Hinshaw, and Alma Teague; and brothers, Jerome Clark, Ben Clark, Frank Clark and Paul Clark.

Surviving is his son, Mark Clark and his wife, Candice of Siler City; grandchildren, Logan, Rhen, Mason, and Chad Clark, and Tonya Williams; great-grandchildren, Reid and Eliza Williams and Kayla Clark; sister, Frances Allen, brother, Ralph Clark; and daughter-in-law, Teresa Clark.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Rocky River Friends Meeting, House and Grounds Fund or Cemetery Fund, 8217 Silk Hope-Liberty Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Please share your thoughts and memories with the family at www.LoflinFH.com.

Loflin Funeral Home of Liberty is honored to serve the Clark family.

REV. ROBERT ‘MACK’ BECK

Rev. Robert “Mack” Beck, 92, of Robbins passed away Sunday, February 7, 2021, at Randolph Hospice House.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, February 11, 2021, at Bethel Church of God in Seagrove, with Bishop Larry May and Rev. Colton Moore officiating.

Mack, a military veteran, worked at the Milliken plant in Robbins while fulfilling his pastoral calling of ministering to prisoners. Once retired, he built Waddell Memorial Chapel. Mack was born on August 3, 1928 to Robert and Bertha Ritter Beck. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Shirley Nichols Beck, his brothers, William, Fred, Jack, Jimmy and sister, Mildred.

He is survived by his children, Peggy Seawell of Asheboro, Vance Beck and Tim Beck, both of Seagrove, Vickie Jackson of Robbins and Nathan Beck of High-falls; 18 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Waddell Memorial Cemetery Fund, 7932 Howard Mill Road, Bennett, N.C. 27208.

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

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

death by sisters, Marie Poole, Jane King, and Ann Byrd; brothers, Lee Grant Allison and Ervin Allison.

David is survived by his wife of 48 years, Brenda Kaye Cheek Allison of the home; sons, Justin Allison and Andrew Allison, both of the home; and brother, Fred Allison of Durham.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Fall Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 1745 Fall Creek Church Rd., Bennett, N.C. 27208 or to the charity of your choice.

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

LUCILLE TILLEY DELLINGER

Lucille Tilley Dellinger, 91, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, February 7, 2021, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation.

Graveside funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at the Haywood Bible Church Cemetery with Rev. Greg Little officiating.

She was born in Surry County, daughter of the late Dewitt Napoleon Tilley and Donnie Elizabeth Simmons Tilley. She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters, Levia Harrington and Pearl Tew, brothers, Jack Tilley and Leo Tilley, and her husband, Guy Luther Dellinger Jr. Lucille was a member of the Haywood Bible Church.

Surviving is her daughter, Judy Dellinger Thomas of Broadway; one grandson, two great-grandchildren, and several great-great grandchildren.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

GORDON N. KELLY

Gordon N. Kelly, 84, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, February 6, 2021, at his home.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at 1 p.m. at the Sanford Church of God with Rev. Mike Horton and Rev. Curtis Norris

officiating.

He was born in Lee County on October 8, 1936, son of the late Labon and Lula Neal Kelly. Gordon was preceded in death by his daughters, Holly Eileen Kelly, Sherry Kelly Dowdy and Cynthia Marie McNeill, granddaughter, Amy Lynne Hart; brother, L.B. Kelly Jr. and sister, Catherine Kelly Godfrey.

He is survived by his wife, Doris Parrish Kelly; children, Kathy Tobias, Victor Tobias and Raymond McDowel; eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He worked at Whitin Roberts, Lee Brick, and ended his career at Magneti Marelli, managing the repair department.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

CLARA SUE BROOKS

Clara Sue Brooks, 93, of Siler City passed away at the Laurels of Chatham in Pittsboro on Thursday, February 4, 2021.

Graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at Jordan Grove AME Zion Church Cemetery with Pastor Ronald Thomas officiating.

Mrs. Brooks was born November 1, 1927, to Clay Brooks and Lola Siler Brooks. She attended Chatham County Training School. She was a member of Jordan Grove AME Zion Church where she was a member of Sunday School and the Usher Board. She was preceded in death by her parents, 14 siblings, and one granddaughter.

Survivors include daughters, Madeline Perkins of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Patricia Peoples of Siler City; sister, Swannie Durant of Siler City; 17 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

LONNIE JAMES BLUE

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

A memorial service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 6, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

Chatham resident Andrew Sescilla accepted into Yale program

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Caring for people around him has always been a top priority for Andrew Sescilla.

Now, the former Central Carolina Community College student will make that pursuit his life’s work as he begins study in the prestigious physician assistant program offered by the Yale School of Medicine.

Not long ago, the University of Pittsburgh graduate in business administration was thinking about anything but medicine, serving as Director of Army Engineer operations, where he provided assistance to people facing crisis situations across the United States and in other locations around the globe. But that experience sparked an interest in healthcare, a path he decided to pursue after leaving the U.S. Army — first as a paramedic in Chatham County, where he has lived for the last decade, and soon as a physician

assistant.

Sescilla will be studying in an online master’s degree program that prepares graduates to seek licensure as physician assistants. While courses are delivered online, the 28-month, full-time program requires some in-person instruction, as well, with clinical rotations near students’ home communities and three weeklong, hands-on “immersions” in New Haven, Connecticut, on the Yale University campus.

Pursuing an online degree program, even with plenty of in-person instruction, wouldn’t have seemed like a viable option a few years ago. Sescilla admits that it took him a while to adapt to online instruction, though he eventually discovered during his return to college that the online format actually did fit his



Sescilla

learning style.

Another challenge: juggling his new academic pursuits with family obligations, though the devoted father learned a lot about how to make it work during his return to the classroom at CCCC.

Part of that lesson came from his own experience — squeezing study into short breaks in his EMS work schedule and taking long walks with class notes in hand. Oddly enough, the walks gave him the time and mental refreshment needed to memorize the massive amount of information covered in his anatomy and physiology classes.

Then, he learned a lot from his fellow students, many of whom were facing some of the same challenges.

“I met more students than I expected that were like me,” he says. “These students were either changing or advancing careers later in their life. It was also a great experience to share having to do school work with my kids.”

When the first year of study begins with online classes in topics as diverse as human anatomy, patient assessment, pharmacology and behavioral medicine, it won’t be easy. But CCCC Biology instructor Dr. Amy Kennedy has no doubt her former student is up to the challenge.

“He is an exceptional worker,” Kennedy says. “He seemed to juggle a lot of balls, yet managed to fulfill his varying roles well.”

Sescilla is confident, too. He says the CCCC faculty has prepared him to reach his professional goals, even in a medical field that he would never have considered just 10 years ago. And he carries with him one important lesson that he offers for current CCCC students and that should serve him well as he launches into study in one of the nation’s most respected universities.

“Something that took me a long time to learn in life,” he says, “is that asking for help is a sign of strength, not a weakness.”

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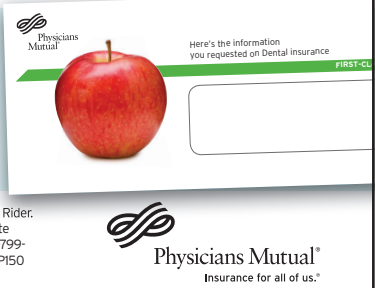
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BURRISS-VAUGHN WEDDING

The wedding of Bethany Karen Burriss and Kevin Alexander Vaughn took place Saturday, December 5, 2020, at Rocky River Baptist Church with the bride's uncle, Reverend Tim Burriss officiating.

The bride, the daughter of Reverend Greg and Vicky Burriss, is a graduate of Jordan-Matthews High School and Meredith College. She is employed by Chatham County.

The groom, the son of Joe and Jeanne Vaughn, graduated from Chatham Central High School and N.C. State University. He is employed by Crossroads Ford of Apex.

Courtney Williams served as Matron of Honor. Bridesmaids were Lindsay Barringer, Brittany Childress, Jodi Dimond, Jennifer Baker and Michelle Mueller. Flower girl was Lottie Barringer with Rowan Wilson serving as ringbearer. Joe Vaughn served as best man, while groomsmen were Alex Wilson, Brooks Williams, Zac Scott, Todd Baker and Daniel Burriss.

A reception was held at the Whispering Oaks.

After a honeymoon in Mexico, the



Mrs. Vaughn

couple will make their home in Raleigh.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Bluejays, gray day

These bluejays are looking eagerly for spring on a recent cold, rainy day. CN+R photographer Kim Hawks captured this pair on her property in Chatham County.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

A bit squirrely

This nervous squirrel eyes Kim Hawks, who also took this photo on her property last week.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Her majesty

The lovely markings on this female cardinal add color to a cold, gray day.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

WHAT IN THE WHAT?

ACROSS

1 "Pet" annoyances
7 Dance click
13 Extreme right-wing doctrine
20 Polio vaccine developer
21 2008 presidential campaign coinage
22 Caine/Ustinov adventure film
23 SKILglintLET
25 Scorn
26 Poem with six stanzas
27 PUSmackSS
29 Boob tubes
31 Born, to Luc
32 Arab ruler
33 COSimianRE
44 "Certainly"
45 Open with a click
46 "Star Trek" crew woman
47 43rd U.S. pres.
49 Prairie preyer
50 FORchildEST
57 Pursues prey
58 ISP with a butterfly logo
59 Be in the hole
60 Like wickerwork

61 Hobbit enemy
62 Actress Lupino
64 Tabriz native
68 Thin iPod
69 LAcobraWN
73 — California (Mexican peninsula)
76 The Jordan River flows into it
77 CPR expert
78 Pas' counterparts
81 Kafka or Liszt
83 Freezer cubes
84 "I'm freezing!"
86 Fully grown
88 TUBlazeMMY
93 Napoli's land
94 Retrovirus material
95 On — to nowhere
96 Member of a sorority
97 Kenan's sitcom mate
100 DEVspiritICE
105 "— to laugh!"
107 German cry of vexation
108 Column's counterpart
109 NiblastGHT
116 Caribbean island nation

122 Afternoon show
123 GRcreaseIT
125 One going in
126 "Hakuna —" ("The Lion King" song)
127 Vindicate
128 Little puzzles
129 Stage whispers
130 Neatens up

DOWN

1 Shareable PC files
2 Writer — Stanley Gardner
3 Those, to Juanita
4 Enormous
5 For grades 1-12, in brief
6 Factor influencing a dermatologic treatment
7 Blaster's stuff
8 Circusgoers' cries
9 Swiss watch brand
10 Spanish appetizer
11 "Do I need to draw you —?"
12 Grilled sandwiches

13 Went without food
14 Novelist Sholem
15 Oxford, e.g.
16 — latte (espresso variety)
17 Extreme disrepute
18 Doll who is Barbie's 96-Across
19 Bishops' headwear
24 Peaceful "Avatar" race
28 Outlaw Kelly
30 Gives the cold shoulder
33 Many, informally
34 "Time is — side"
35 "Girlfriend" boy band
36 Lace snarl
37 Has dinner at home
38 Less — stellar
39 Central area
40 Prior to, in poetry
41 — tai
42 Size above med.
43 "How icky!"
48 Helpful things
51 Nada

52 Little branch
53 One listening
54 Reproductive gametes
55 Wildcat's lair
56 Lead-in to cone or Caps
58 Reach a goal
63 Pappy
64 Elected group
65 U.S. Hwy., e.g.
66 "Caught you!"
67 "Rambo" setting, for short
69 More reasonable
70 Per person
71 Concept, in Cannes
72 Crackling radio noise
73 Very close pal, for short
74 Onassis or Fleischer
75 Jam holder
78 Prefix with task
79 Non-earthling
80 Gawk rudely
82 Pizazz
84 Unexciting
85 Winona of "Stranger Things"
87 Quick sprint
89 Casual refusal

90 "Anna and the King" actress — Ling
91 Suffix with southeast
92 Fate
93 "Caught you!"
97 Fate
98 Gas in fuel
99 Ray of "GoodFellas"
101 Westerns, in old slang
102 Univ., e.g.
103 Louise's film cohort
104 Over 50%
106 Hogs' homes
110 Concerning
111 — -do-well
112 "Buenos —" ("Good day," in Granada)
113 Prefix with tank
114 Enjoy a novel
115 Toy flown on a windy day
117 — Strauss
118 Exercised
119 Child's plea
120 "Bus Stop" playwright William
121 Fruit-flavored drinks
124 "One Mic" rapper

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Edward Jones named ‘Most Admired’

Financial services firm Edward Jones has been named to Fortune magazine’s list of the World’s Most Admired Companies, a recognition of the most respected and reputable companies. The firm ranked No. 4 in the Securities/Asset Management industry category.

Of note was the firm’s industry rank in social responsibility (2) and people management, financial soundness and quality of management (3) categories.

“We’re proud to be recognized for the work we do every single day on behalf of our 7 million clients,” said Ken Cella, principal leading Edward Jones Client Strategies Group. “We’re driven by our sense of purpose, which is to partner for positive impact to improve the wellbeing of our clients and colleagues, and to work together to better our communities and society. Everything we do comes back to that clear purpose, and that’s what helps us perform better, earn deeper trust and confidence

from our stakeholders, and have associates who are deeply committed to our work. We strive to help our clients realize opportunities in their own lives that go beyond what they thought was possible.”

For nearly a century, Edward Jones associates have been recognized for helping individual investors and families accomplish their financial goals, championing associates’ unique contributions and strengthening communities throughout North America.

COA present ‘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 Memoir 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 was to have been held March 25- 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.

— CN + R staff reports

STOLEN

Continued from page A11

accessible via certain key search criteria.

A post on the Doppel-Paymer site gives the URL for the county’s website and a one-sentence history of Chatham — “The county was named for the Earl of Chatham in England, who was William Pitt ... now you know how Pittsboro got its name.” It also provides links to “example files” uploaded to the site as a result of the theft. The file links contain names such as “deceased,” “insurance,” “Sheriff,” “Finance,” “other” and “HR.”

The folders under the link labeled “Sheriff” include folders labeled applications, benefits, disciplinary documents, personnel actions, employee evaluations and more.

The first data upload was made Nov. 4, a week after Chatham County officials announced the breach; it contained “mostly innocuous” files, Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne, told the News + Record on Monday, including files that fall under North Carolina’s public records laws.

But a second upload in late January contained more sensitive data, as evidenced by screenshots obtained by the newspaper and confirmed by LaMontagne. The page containing the files has been viewed more than 30,000 times, according to a counter on the site.

LaMontagne plans to release a summary report about the incident at the Chatham County Board of Commissioners’ regularly-scheduled meeting on Monday, as well as to the public. But on Tuesday, he acknowledged the county was working to address the is-

sue of the public posting of files.

“Chatham County staff has been engaged with staff from the N.C. Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) and the N.C. Attorney General’s Office (AG) to ensure we meet the reporting requirements as it relates to protected health information (PHI) and/or personally identifiable information (PII) data,” LaMontagne told the News + Record. “We will continue to engage in these conversations with our cyber insurance attorney(s), DHHS, and the AG to ensure we respond in the most appropriate manner possible as it relates to the data accessed from our network during the event.

“Currently we are going through the files on the server that was encrypted to collect the names and addresses of individuals whose PII or PHI may be at risk of exposure,” LaMontagne said. “Those individuals will be notified of the situation and a call center will be available to those individuals for questions.”

LaMontagne would not comment on the specifics of a ransom or ransom amount — including the conjecture by at least one person claiming knowledge of the attack that culprits asked for a \$500,000 Bitcoin payment — but said more information would be available in his report to commissioners.

“They don’t know what they’re talking about,” LaMontagne said last Friday in response to the Bitcoin ransom claim during an interview for a story published on the News + Record’s website over the weekend. “They were speculating if they did say that, because there’s some inaccuracy there for sure. But you

know, this has happened in other places. You’ve seen similar situations in other places. It’ll be shared on the 15th exactly what it was. I really don’t want to talk about it until I let the board know.”

Ransomware is the deployment of malicious software — often through an email attachment opened by an unsuspecting recipient — to infect and lock computer networks or files until a ransom is paid. Upon payment, the victimized entity typically receives a decryption key to unlock its data. Those who don’t pay risk having sensitive information published, as happened in Chatham County’s case.

An accelerating trend

Chatham County’s network security breach is not an anomaly, Brett Callow, a threat analyst at Emsisoft — a company which creates software to protect clients from malicious websites and malware — told the News + Record.

In October, a computer hacker hijacked government networks in Hall County, Georgia. When county officials refused to pay ransom, the hacker released election-related files online and escalated demands.

That same month, a cyberattack derailed operations at the University of Vermont’s medical center. Most hospital services shut down, and stayed down for weeks.

In March, Durham County’s government was blindsided by a malware attack. It was the second time in four years that the county’s network behaved suspiciously, the first coming on Election Day in 2016.

Each attack confirmed a troubling pattern: Cyber “incidents” are be-

coming commonplace in local governments, which make easy pickings for cyber criminals.

“Serious barriers to their practice of cybersecurity include a lack of cybersecurity preparedness within these governments ...,” said a 2019 study by the University of Maryland, which Callow referenced on Emsisoft’s website. “Local governments as a whole do a poor job of managing their cybersecurity.”

The study cited data from a nationwide survey of local governments which had succumbed to cyberattacks. Almost two-thirds didn’t know how their networks were breached, and few had prevention systems in place to deter criminals.

“The fact that governments are failing to implement basic and well-established best practices ... can only be described as grossly negligent,” Emsisoft’s website says.

In most ransomware cases, files obtained by hackers are posted online after the victim entity refuses to pay a ransom. For those breached, Callow estimated that between 25% and 33% pay the ransom.

He said a well-designed computer network is segmented.

“In simple terms, that’s like having locks on the interior doors of a building,” Callow said. “It makes it much harder for an intruder. So, while somebody may be able to get into Fort Knox and perhaps even steal some toilet paper from a washroom, they’re probably not going to be able to get the gold, let alone walk away with it.”

Unfortunately, he said, studies and audits have demonstrated that local governments practice cybersecurity poorly.

He cited a report issued by the State Auditor of Mississippi in October 2019 that stated there was a “disregard for cybersecurity in state government,” that “many state entities are operating like state and federal cybersecurity laws do not apply to them,” and identified problems including:

- Not having a security policy plan or disaster recovery plan in place.
- Not performing legally mandated risk assessments.
- Not encrypting sensitive information.

“To be clear, that’s not necessarily entirely their fault,” Callow said. “Local government insecurity is, at least in part, likely due to a lack of funding. They practice security poorly because they don’t have the budgets to practice it better. And this is why more than 200 local governments have been impacted by ransomware in the last two years. It’s a big problem and, unfortunately, one that is only likely to get worse unless strong action is taken.”

Emsisoft’s own survey of cyber attacks estimated that at least 2,354 US governments, healthcare facilities and schools were impacted by cyber events in 2020, including 113 federal, state and municipal governments and agencies. The company estimated the cost of those attacks on governments at \$915 million.

Chatham working on recovery

Before learning about the worst of the stolen files, the damage was daunting enough, but LaMontagne says the county is “pretty close” to a full recovery.

Despite having previously discussed the possibility of a security breach, the county could never have fully anticipated one’s extent, or the work it would take to recover.

Now, the hard drives of nearly all of the county’s desktop and laptop computers — more than 500 of them — have been wiped clean, stripped down and reimaged, and are back working. Phones and voicemail are functioning. Employees, who improvised for weeks with hastily-created gmail.com email addresses,

es, and worked from their own personal computers and tablets and cell phones, have working email accounts using the county’s new “chatham-countync.gov” domain extension. Servers have been rebuilt. Fewer and fewer work tasks are being performed “by hand” or using what LaMontagne described as “‘80s technology.”

The source of the breach, LaMontagne told the News + Record, wasn’t “super-secret” information. He just wanted the commissioners to hear it first.

What will remain secretive is how the county is ensuring such breaches don’t occur again.

“We did quite a bit to enhance security,” LaMontagne said.

Did he want to say specifically what those changes were?

“No.”

“I’m not going to tell you,” he said, “where the alarms are set.”

What LaMontagne did reveal, though, is the value he placed on seeing his staff persevere throughout the last few months in extraordinary circumstances.

“That’s why I said our ‘Employee of the Year’ was every single, solitary employee we have,” he said. “You can’t pick one. There’s too many good people. And everybody went through a lot of tough things. Each individual, each individual department and each individual employee in those departments just stepped up in the way they needed to, and has been through a lot of adversity with the pandemic and this event. It’s been a big challenge.”

The work related to repairing the intangible costs of the breach will also pose a challenge — possibly for some time to come.

In the meantime, Callow and other experts said the only answer to ransomware was simple: never, ever pay the ransom.

“It’s always the wrong decision,” he said. “It simply incentivizes the criminals and in no way guarantees that you will get your data back. The only way to stop this is to make it unprofitable. It’s going to continue to be a problem as long as it’s profitable.”



This Community ROCKS!

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



To DONATE:

For help or to help:



• 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! !!



PLAN B

Continued from page A1

to be back, after being on a remote-learning track since last March. Still, with all the unknowns of the pandemic, some safety concerns remain. Karla Eanes, principal at Chatham Central, said while the first week went smoothly, she can tell it's been an adjustment for students especially.

"For the most part, students were glad to get back. They need and look forward to that true face-to-face guidance," she said. "Even though they're not always particularly happy about some of the restriction pieces — it's brand new, but after a while it won't even faze them, it'll just kind of like, 'Oh, yeah, this is just what we do.' It is different, but I think they're glad to be back."

Eanes said changes made to lunch were particularly difficult for students, as they're no longer able to socialize with friends and the time is very structured for safety purposes. Still, she felt her school was prepared to open safely.

"I knew I missed them, I didn't realize how much," she said of seeing students. "You're accustomed in the summertime to seeing those growth and height changes from June to August, but oh my goodness, from March to February, it was like, 'You're really so grown up.'"

'For the most part it feels like a normal school day'

Grace Leonard, a junior at Northwood High school, told the News + Record that even though students were split into two cohorts, it still felt like there were a lot of people in the building.

"Coming back to school was very nerve-wracking on the first day," Leonard said. Still, she said she's benefited from a more personal learning experience due to her highly reduced class sizes.

"For the most part it feels like a normal school day," she said, "excluding the masks and class sizes. I do still worry if coming back so soon was the right decision as case numbers continue to rise."

In Chatham, there have been 3,918 cases of COVID-19 as of Tuesday, and 70 deaths. At CCS, there have been 76 total student cases reported, 71 staff cases and one cluster, according to the district's tracking dashboard. State health officials have said this low rate of secondary spread is consistent with studies that suggest in-person learning is safe when mask-wearing and social distancing are followed.

Some teachers, mostly at the high school level, have raised



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Laurie Paige teaches students both in-person and virtually on Monday at Chatham Central High School. Hybrid learning started for high schoolers in Chatham County Schools Feb. 1.

questions about whether older students will spread COVID-19 at higher rates. The ABC Science Collaborative, a project partnering with 54 districts across the state including CCS, told the Board of Education on Monday that they found no discernible differences among age groups, and that the three W's guard against threats of spread.

Still, some high school teachers have told the News + Record they're concerned about not yet being vaccinated, along with parts of the school day that could violate CDC guidelines, such as eating indoors with others or trying to keep students distanced in crowded hallways.

"Keep in mind that teachers want to get all students back to school as much as anyone in the community," Northwood teacher Edward Walgate told the board on Monday during public comments, "but it must be done with safety first in mind."

Chatham School of Science and Engineering Principal Bobby Dixon said students followed protocols, making for a smooth return to school. At the School of Science and Engineering, only 9th and 10th graders returned, as upperclassmen are full-time at Central Carolina Community College's campus or 100% online.

"Our planning consisted of tweaking our schedule a bit to minimize the movement in the building and arranging lunch to be eaten in their classrooms," Dixon said, adding that the school's goal is to teach and engage students in creative and safe ways.

"I really have not had any concerns that might be out of the ordinary," Dixon said of the return to Plan B. "Students are thrilled to be back, as well as the staff. However, there still exists some concern with the unknown."

"Our district has done an excellent job in preparing us," he added.

Moving to Plan A?

Twin brothers Anthony and Andrew Trotter, juniors at Northwood, said they were glad to be back at school and look forward to continuing in-person instruction. For now, they agreed phasing back into in-person learning would be helpful to adjust to protocol and being at school all day.

"It was just different than normal school," Andrew said, "but it was better than being at home — for me to see friends, other than at the grocery store."

Their mother, Tammy Trotter, who is an elementary school teacher at CCS, said her own experience seeing the district's safety protocol gave her confidence in sending her sons back to in-person learning.

"I felt like it went great," she said of the first week. "They went to school very excited and they came home very excited." "I had no concerns going into it, because my mother's school was doing fine," Anthony added.

The brothers attend on the same hybrid schedule. That's because CCS organized hybrid schedules alphabetically across all school levels so that siblings would go to in-person learning on the same days.

In Chatham, it's unlikely high school students will have full in-person learning for a while. In N.C., elementary schools are the only public schools currently allowed to opt for Plan A, but state health officials have recently said the Plan B model could allow in-person learning if six feet of distance is maintained. At Monday's BOE meeting, district administration said maintaining that distance would not be probable at most of its high schools.

"I like the plan we're on now," Andrew said of Plan B. "I do want us to try to move forward. It doesn't have to be this semester, but I definitely want to be on a track to Plan A by next semester, hopefully, if we can."

Northwood sophomore Olivia McMurray said she was glad



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Chatham Central student Austin Hanood, senior, types notes during history class. CCS began Plan B last Monday, making today Hanood's third in-person day since last spring.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Students re-enter Chatham Central High School after a fire drill on Monday, with administrators reminding them to remain six feet apart.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

A greeting for students hangs in the doorway of Jose Cerna's classroom at Chatham Central High School.

to be inside the school building again, and that she felt safe and like her classes ran smoothly. Wearing a mask for six hours straight, she said, "was a bit tough, though."

"It was really nice to see actual human beings in-person again, even people that I didn't know, and it made class a lot more interesting," she said, adding that in-person instruction has improved her motivation to work, even if only twice a week. "Being in school again after

almost a full year will definitely take some getting-used-to," she said. "I have no doubt that schools will be able to adjust yet again and make our experience the best possible. I really appreciate all the planning and work teachers have put into making learning during a pandemic possible."

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

AYALA

Continued from page A1

fulfilled her childhood dream: this summer, she's set to become the chief operations officer (COO) of Communities In Schools of Chatham County.

"I'll be doing the accounts and their office work," she said. "Basically, we're in charge of payroll and benefits and of obtaining the grants."

Ayala, 28, was born in Othello County in Washington State, but grew up in Siler City.

In Washington, her father had worked in agriculture, picking apples and grapes, among other things. Though he'd studied business administration in accounting, he ultimately decided not to pursue it after immigrating to the U.S., Ayala said; he didn't speak English and needed money to support himself and his family. In 1994, two years after Ayala was born, he and his wife moved to Siler City, looking for better jobs and better pay.

Ayala's parents, both from Veracruz, soon found work in the Townsend chicken plant. After it closed about a

decade ago, they moved over to Pilgrim's Pride in Sanford.

"My parents said it was rough growing up," Ayala said. "They didn't want us to work in a chicken plant. That's what they told us. They were like, 'Obtain your education.' My mom would say, 'Follow your dreams and go to school, so you don't have to work at a chicken plant and one day (you can) be somebody.'"

That's what she did: Ayala attended Siler City Elementary and Chatham Middle School and in 2010, she graduated from Jordan-Matthews High School. There, she found and cultivated her passion for accounting.

In middle school, Ayala took a career aptitude test, which indicated her skills fit a certain range of careers based on her personality — a range that included accounting. That stuck with her, and in high school, she found herself taking an online accounting course.

"It was interesting," she said. "They told me about accounting, their debits and credits, and then accounts and how business works. I was like, 'I really like this.'"

A mentor also encouraged her to obtain her Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation, which is a license that would allow her to work in public accounting, such as tax preparation. It's not required to work for private companies, but it "comes in handy here in my position," Ayala said. It's her "last goal" and one she plans to tackle in the future.

In 2015, Ayala graduated from Central Carolina Community College with an associate degree in accounting.

It was hard to achieve, she remembered, but several counselors helped her fill out the required forms to attend. To help pay tuition, she went to school (at CCCC's Sanford campus) in the morning from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., completed what homework she could and then worked part time at a gas station from 4 p.m. until midnight.

After a year's break, she signed up for online classes with Strayer University and graduated in December 2019 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and concentrating in accounting.

She was the first person in her family to graduate from college, which she said made her and her family proud.

Ayala was working as a manager at Kimbrell's Furniture when she decided to jump-start her

accounting career with the support of her husband, Dennys Enrique Ayala Jimenez, whom she'd married shortly after graduating from high school.

"My husband encouraged me to proceed (with my dream in accounting)," she said. "He'd be like, 'You're already graduated. What are you waiting for?'"

Ayala worked long hours at Kimbrell's, often until 8 p.m., and had little time to do the kinds of things she wanted to do — such as volunteer in the community, as she'd done with the Hispanic Liaison and Chatham Together (the predecessor of Chatham's Communities In Schools) in her teenage years. It was time to leave, she decided.

A friend told her about a new accounting position with CIS, but she hesitated initially. She thought she'd begin her career in a bigger city, like Greensboro. After learning more about the position and the organization it served, however, she was sold — and promptly applied.

"They're passionate about kids, and I like that. I was a kid once," she said. "It would be a great thing to be a great model for these kids, and to see them go to school, finish high school and then obtain their college degrees."

After all, that's what she wants to provide her

own two young children — her son Lenny and daughter Karlette — more than anything: a great role model who's always pushing them to reach higher.

"I just want my son and my daughter to be better than I am," she said. "I just want to make it as high as I can so they can 'over-achieve' that, and I am hopeful that when they grow up, they will become better than I am."

That, she said, was what her own mother always told her.

After an interview, Ayala landed that position at CIS and left Kimbrell's on Jan. 8.

CIS' outgoing COO, Pam Johnson, said she's excited that Ayala will succeed her. The COO's role is "to be the servant leader of the program staff," Johnson said, and Ayala has all the necessary skills.

"What I'm most excited about with Perla is that she is a young person from this community, who as an adult wants to give back to the community," Johnson said, adding, "For a person in my age range, who was in this county when this agency was founded ... to see the young people that are interested in keeping this going, it's deep in my heart. It means so much that that's happening."

Crucially, she added, Ayala has children of her own in the county school system. (Her son

Lenny attends Siler City Elementary.)

"That is such an important connection in this work because when you're out there talking to friends and moms at your gatherings and things, you bring some of that knowledge into this position," she said, "and you can be a stronger staff person because of it."

Right now, Ayala's training for her new role with Johnson, who's retiring after the end of CIS' fiscal year on June 30. Johnson will remain on staff part-time after July to help Ayala out.

"Every quarter changes, so she's trying to prepare me for this half of the fiscal year, which was from January to June," Ayala explained, "and then she's going to stay a month to help me and transfer the books from July to December."

So far, working with CIS, Ayala said, doesn't even feel like working at all; rather it feels like she's volunteering her time for a cause she supports. There's a saying, she said: Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never have to work a day in your life.

"That's how you know you have your perfect job," Ayala said. Then she smiled. "I think I'm there."

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Submitted photo
Northwood's Aidan Laros practices kicking field goals at Top 40 Camp in Florida on June 26, 2020. Laros' teammate, Jake Mann, helped get him into Top 40, the only kicking camp Laros attended.

From South Africa to Miami: Northwood's Laros commits to FIU

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — His journey took him nearly 8,000 miles from South Africa to Pittsboro. Now, he's headed an extra 800 to Miami. Northwood senior place-kicker/punter/linebacker Aidan Laros has committed to Florida International University, where he'll compete for the starting kicking — and possibly punting — duties for the Golden Panthers next season. "I'm extremely excited. It's

taken a huge weight off of my shoulders," said Laros with a sense of relief. "I started kicking my freshman year, but I never really knew that I could go to college for it until about a year ago."

'Rugby was always my way of going to college'

Laros' father hails from South Africa and his mother from the United States. Laros was born and raised in South Africa until he was 14 years old, when his family moved to

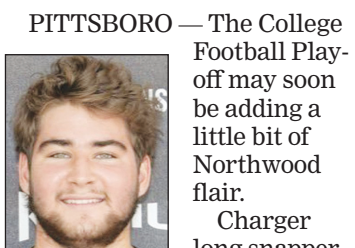
North Carolina and he prepared to attend Northwood for his first year of high school. Growing up, Laros played rugby his entire life. Rugby is one of the most popular sports in South Africa — along with cricket and soccer — and Laros felt it would one day be his way of attending a good school. "Rugby was always my way of going to college, I always wanted to go D-I for rugby," said Laros.

See **LAROS**, page B2

Northwood's Jake Mann, the nation's top long snapper, commits to Oklahoma

Flips to Sooners after previous pledge to Florida State

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff



Mann

PITTSBORO — The College Football Playoff may soon be adding a little bit of Northwood flair. Charger long snapper and all-conference linebacker Jake Mann, originally committed to Florida State, flipped his commitment to the University of Oklahoma on Feb. 3. He'll compete for the Sooners' starting long snapper position over the next few seasons. Mann, who has snapped for the Northwood Chargers for two of his three seasons, is ranked as the number one long snapper in the 2021 recruiting class (five stars) by Kohl's Professional Camps, one of the most respected specialist training organizations in the country. "Within those camps, they rank people and I'm fortunate enough to be ranked number one," said Mann. "It was exciting when things started to

show up, offers and things, but there were times when it was a little overwhelming. It's just good to get it over with." No stranger to specialist camps — including Kohl's, Rubio Long Snapping (which ranked Mann ninth in the 2021 class), One-on-One Kicking, among others — Mann has used these opportunities to both hone his talents and showcase his abilities over the last couple of years. "We have a lot of talent (at our camps), so what helps all of them out is that they're constantly pushing each other," said Worth Gregory, former all-conference punter at East Carolina and coach at One-on-One Kicking Camp in Raleigh. Gregory, who met Mann while coaching special teams at N.C. State a couple of years ago, was coached by now-Oklahoma head coach Lincoln Riley while he was the offensive coordinator at ECU, along with Ryan Dougherty, who is now also on the Sooners' coaching staff. Gregory said he made some calls to Dougherty and put in a good word for Mann, but Mann's skill is what earned



Submitted photo

Northwood's Jake Mann prepares to snap a football at a Kohl's camp.

him offers from Oklahoma, Florida State, Arizona State and a few other major programs. "I had a connection enough to where I gave (Oklahoma) a call and helped push them, but at the end of the day, they

watched his film for three seconds and they were like 'We'll take him,'" said Gregory. "Showing a coach three clips of him snapping the ball is like showing a receiver running a 4.3(-second 40-yard dash). They don't need to see much more."

If a Division I coach made a list of what they wanted in their ideal starting long snapper, Mann would check every box. A 2019 all-conference player

See **MANN**, page B2

WOODS CHARTER 57, SOUTHERN WAKE 51

Woods Charter practices resilience, earns first win of season against Southern Wake

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — Sometimes, all it takes is a little practice. Allen Iverson might not care to talk about it, but Taij Cotten doesn't shy away. The Woods Charter Wolves earned their first win of the season last Thursday night after defeating the Southern Wake Academy Lions in a close one, 57-51. After the game, Cotten — the Wolves' head coach — credited the success to the team's recent practices. "They've really dug down and we figured out what our issues were, and last night, that was probably one of the best practices I've had since I've been here," said Cotten. "And I always say, 'Take a good practice and let it turn over into a good game.'" The Wolves, now sitting at 1-5 on the season at time of publication, had lost the two previous contests — road games versus Chatham Charter (now 10-0) and Southern Wake (2-8) — by a combined total of 70 points. After their first game against Southern Wake, the Wolves' loss pushed them to a 0-4 record and a point differential of -124 in just four games.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Woods Charter junior Nate Crump (14) shoots a layup against Southern Wake's Isaiah Robertson (3) in the Wolves' victory over Southern Wake. Crump (28 points, 10 rebounds) and Robertson (29 points) were the game's leading scorers.

Instead of giving up and falling into a deeper hole, Woods Charter looked at its rematch with Southern Wake just three days later as an opportunity to prove itself; a test in resilience. And the

team passed with flying colors. "We played them Monday, they beat us by 20 and we left that game with a salty taste in our mouths," said Cotten. "Tonight, you could just feel the good

energy from everybody on the court all the way down to the end of the bench."

Bringing the energy

Two Wolves players in particular exuded that energy: junior center Nate Crump and senior forward Kyle Howarth. Crump never quit on a play. If a ball was in the air from a missed basket — whether it was shot by him, his teammates or his Lions opponents — he was fighting for it. And there's a good chance he'd come down with it. "I have a killer mindset because I'm trying to get rebounds, be physical," said Crump after the win. "If (my teammates) didn't make layups, I had to have their back, getting the board and putting it back up. As a team, we work together." A play that defined Crump's dependability came halfway through the second quarter with Woods Charter down 20-19, with the Wolves pushing the ball down the floor after a missed Lions three-pointer. Howarth took it to the basket against three defenders and just narrowly missed a layup, but Crump came down

See **WOODS**, page B3

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 to be in full-force across Chatham County. Northwood and Jordan-Matthews each have swimmers competing in the NCHSAA Swimming & Diving State Championships this week. Here is this week’s schedules and last week’s results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, Feb. 10

Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men vs. Wheatmore, 6 p.m.
Basketball: Jordan-Matthews women vs. T.W. Andrews, 6 p.m.
Lacrosse: Northwood women vs. Wakefield, 6:30 p.m.
Soccer: Woods Charter men at Uwharrie Charter, time TBA

Thursday, Feb. 11

Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men vs. Randleman, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Northwood men vs. East Chapel Hill, 6:45 p.m.
Basketball: Jordan-Matthews women vs. Wheatmore, 6 p.m.
Swimming: Northwood will compete at the NCHSAA 3A State Championships as a team in Cary; starts at 2 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 12

Basketball: Chatham Charter women vs. Clover Garden, 6 p.m.
Basketball: Jordan-Matthews men at Chatham Central, 6 p.m.
Basketball: Northwood vs. Northern Durham (women’s 6 p.m., men’s 7:30 p.m.)
Basketball: Woods Charter vs. Cornerstone, 6 p.m.
Swimming: Jordan-Matthews

will have one swimmer competing in the NCHSAA 2A State Championships in Cary (starts at 2 p.m.)

LAST WEEK

Monday, Feb. 1

Basketball: The Woods Charter men lost a road game to the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 72-52.
Lacrosse: The Northwood men fell to the East Chapel Hill Wildcats, 12-7.
Basketball: The Chatham Charter women earned a comfortable victory, 59-42, against the Lee Christian Falcons.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

Basketball: The Northwood women continued their perfect season with a 49-35 road win over the Southern Durham Spartans. The Chargers were led by sophomore Te’Keyah Bland (18 points), junior Natalie Bell (nine points) and freshman Skylar Adams (nine points).
Basketball: The Northwood men won a road game against the Southern Durham Spartans, 60-53.
Basketball: The Chatham Charter men earned yet another double-digit victory, 63-42, against the Cornerstone Charter Academy Cardinals. The Knights were led by sophomore forward Adam Harvey (18 points, 11 rebounds, five steals) and sophomore guard Darrius Taylor (15 points).
Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women lost a close one at home to the Eastern Randolph Wildcats, 57-51.
Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men suffered a narrow loss to the Eastern Randolph Wildcats, 71-70, despite leading by three at

the end of the third quarter.
Basketball: The Chatham Central men lost their first game of the season in a heart-breaker on the road to the North Stanly Comets, 52-51. Leading 44-31 after the third quarter, the Bears squandered a 13-point advantage as the Comets scored 16 unanswered points to take a 47-44 lead with 2:14 left in the game. Chatham Central fought back, reclaiming a one-point lead with 31 seconds remaining, but a pair of late free throws sealed the deal for North Stanly.
Soccer: The Northwood men were shutout in a road loss, 1-0, to the Chapel Hill Tigers. The loss brings them to 1-1 on the year.

Wednesday, Feb. 3

Lacrosse: The Northwood men earned their first win of the season against the Carrboro Jaguars, 17-4.
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men opened their season with a 4-1 victory over the Trinity Bulldogs. The Jets went up 4-0 before Trinity could muster a goal. Scoring for the Jets were Alexis Ibarra (two goals), Franco Basurto and Zander Ocampo. Jordan-Matthews keeper Ricardo Rocha had seven saves on the night.
Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women lost to the Randleman Tigers, 56-40, to remain winless on the season.

Thursday, Feb. 4

Basketball: The Chatham Charter women picked up an authoritative win against the Research Triangle Raptors, 69-44, improving to 6-2 on the season.
Basketball: The Chatham Charter men remain undefeated with a 49-38 victory over the

Clover Garden Grizzlies. Leading the Knights were sophomore forward Adam Harvey (20 points, 15 rebounds) and sophomore guard Darrius Taylor (11 points, four rebounds), as the teamed improved to 10-0.
Basketball: The Woods Charter Wolves earned their first win of the season in their rematch with the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 57-51. While the game got close at times, the Wolves remained in control for the rest of the game after taking a 21-20 second-quarter lead, primarily thanks to junior center Nate Crump (28 points, 10 rebounds) and senior forward Kyle Howarth (20 points).
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men won a road match-up against the Eastern Randolph Wildcats, 4-2. The Jets quickly took a 2-0 lead, but after the Wildcats tied it at 2-2 at the start of the second half, the defense tightened up while the offense got hot. Scoring for Jordan-Matthews was Zander Ocampo (two goals), Andy Mendoza and Brian Hernandez. The Jets, now 2-0, remain unbeaten on the young season.

winless on the season (0-6).
Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men lost a lopsided game to the conference-leading Randleman Tigers, 53-36, pushing them to 4-6 on the year.
Soccer: The Woods Charter men lost their season-opener at home to the Carrboro Jaguars, 5-0.

Saturday, Feb. 6

Swimming: Jordan-Matthews women finished 13th as a team in the NCHSAA 1A/2A Central Regionals last week (16 points). The only J-M swimmer who participated was senior Jennah Fadely, who won the Women’s 100-Yard Breaststroke (1:02.69) and took second in the Women’s 200-Yard IM (2:07.61). Fadely will swim at states this week.
Swimming: Northwood women finished third as a team in the NCHSAA 3A Central Regionals last week (79 points). As a team, Northwood won the Women’s 400-Yard Freestyle Relay (3:36.35), finished second in the Women’s 200-Yard Medley Relay (1:49.11) and finished ninth in the Women’s 200-Yard Freestyle Relay (1:53.30). Top three finishes by individual: Suzanne Earnshaw won the Women’s 100-Yard Breaststroke (1:07.94) and finished second in the Women’s 200-Yard IM (2:12.09). Mia Corrado finished second in the Women’s 200-Yard Freestyle (1:56.48) and second in the Women’s 500-Yard Freestyle (5:09.65). Julia Earnshaw finished second in the Women’s 50-Yard Freestyle (24.45) and second in the Women’s 100-Yard Freestyle (53.51).

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

MANN

Continued from page B1

in both football and lacrosse, Mann is the dictionary definition of an athlete. At 5’11” and 222 lbs, he has the size and blocking ability to not only protect his kicker or punter, but also get down the field and make tackles when necessary. “A lot of times, in games, teams don’t block the snapper because they want to worry about the other guys on the field they see as bigger threats,” said Gregory, “but if you’re able to run downfield and make a tackle, people have to worry about you now and they’ve got to start blocking you, which opens up another guy.” In addition to his athleticism, Mann’s snapping speed is another major plus in his arsenal. Snapping speed is measured by the time it takes for the ball to leave the

hands of the long snapper and enter the hands of the punter or holder. An average high school long snapper has a snapping speed between 0.90 and 0.95 seconds. For a Division II or Division III player, it’s 0.85 to 0.90 seconds. For Division I, it’s typically 0.72 to 0.77 seconds. Mann ranges from 0.66 to 0.70 seconds. According to Gregory, “That’s what you see in the NFL.” As great as athleticism and snapping speed are, arguably the most important quality to have in a long snapper is consistency. It’s another area in which Mann excels. “I would say I’m very consistent and I snap a very good spiral with good location and velocity,” said Mann. “I think I do it all pretty well, but I can definitely improve on every aspect.” Mann was originally set to attend Florida State but flipped his commitment to Oklahoma primarily because

of better scholarship opportunities. While he likely plans to redshirt his freshman year and sit behind the Sooners’ fifth-year senior starter Kasey Kelleher, he said he hopes that he can start competing for the starting role beginning in 2022, which would help him earn a scholarship earlier than he could at FSU. Oklahoma is widely known as one of the premier college football programs in the nation. Since the College Football Playoff held its inaugural season in 2014, the Sooners have been selected four times, tied for the third-most of any school with Ohio State, just behind Alabama and Clemson (six each). At Oklahoma, Mann will have a realistic shot to play in the College Football Playoff, and potentially, for a national championship. That is, if he wins the starting spot. “It’s just working hard, whether it’s in the weight room or in the classroom,”

said Mann. “I have to have the mindset like I am the starter, not, ‘Oh, this is a year I’m not going to play so I don’t need to work as hard.’ I definitely need to prove to them that I can be the guy.” Mann will have one final season at Northwood, starting later this month. He’ll have to balance both lacrosse and football because of the overlap in the two sports’ calendars. Though he’ll be moving from Pittsboro to Norman, Oklahoma, in less than six months, this upcoming season is not lost on him. Despite a 4-7 year for the Chargers in 2019, the expectations remain high. “The ultimate goal is to win a state championship,” said Mann. “We have a really good team and hopefully we can go all the way with it.” *Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Frezeal33.*

LAROS

Continued from page B1

After moving to the United States, Laros quickly realized the lack of popularity surrounding rugby, so he opted to play football as a way to make friends at Northwood. Despite this, his rugby career didn’t stop once he got to the United States. Since arriving in N.C., Laros has played rugby across the Triangle, has represented the U.S. in countries such as Ireland and Canada and has a decent shot of making the under-18 rugby national team, which often plays against the under-18 Canadian team. In short, his passion for his home country’s sport is still alive. Unlike football, however, rugby is not one of the 19 men’s NCAA-sanctioned sports and can only be played at the club level in college, governed by USA Rugby. Laros had always hoped to go to a larger school, of which many don’t have serious rugby programs. When it was time to make his college decision, choosing between pursuing rugby or football, the size of the school, along with a couple of other factors swayed his choice. “The top rugby teams are mostly smaller colleges and you don’t really get scholarships for rug-

by, it’s mostly academics, whereas, in football, I can always get a scholarship,” said Laros. “Just how you get treated as a football player at a university in America is pristine.” Thus, his commitment to FIU, which was made in late January. If Laros can win a starting spot for the Golden Panthers, he’ll likely be eligible for a scholarship in 2022, a major incentive for any student-athlete. **Making connections** Laros began kicking for Northwood’s junior varsity team his freshman year, where he also played running back. They needed a kicker, and since he had experience from rugby, he filled the void. His sophomore year, he was pulled up to varsity and kept kicking, steadily improving, but it wasn’t until the end of his junior year when he knew he could end up going Division I. One major roadblock, however, was unlike many Division I-committed specialists, he spent very little time at the nation’s major kicking camps, including Kohl’s Kicking Camp, where kickers, punters and long snappers often put themselves on the radar of larger football programs. “It’s a lot of money you have to pay,” said Laros. “And at the time, I didn’t really know about them,

I guess.” Instead, he worked with the connections he had at Northwood to draw the attention of schools like FIU. His teammate, long snapper and fellow linebacker, Jake Mann — who committed to The University of Oklahoma last Wednesday — got him into one camp in Florida, where Laros describes his performance as “OK.” While he drew some attention from attending the camp with Mann, he was also aided by the connections of Bill Renner, a former NFL kicker and longtime high school head coach, who was on Northwood’s staff last season and has helped train Laros. Renner is the father of former UNC and NFL quarterback Bryn Renner, who is now the quarterbacks coach at FIU. A reference was put in for Laros there and a relationship was born. While these connections may have helped Laros get noticed by FIU and other schools, they’re far from the sole reason why he made it to the Division I level. **Athleticism, range and leadership** If you hear Northwood head coach Cullen Homolka talk about Laros, one phrase comes out often: “natural athlete.” “He can compete at any

level, he’s just a natural athlete,” said Homolka. “I’m going to probably play him at quarterback this year, that shows you the kind of athlete he is. But he’s a good leader, he shows up and he works hard, there’s nothing to worry about.” Laros, who is capable of both kicking and punting, said, if needed, he could kick an in-game field goal of 50-plus yards. The longest field goal he’s ever made, outside of a game situation, is 63 yards. Over the last six months, Laros has been working with coaches to improve his leg even further. While he hasn’t been able to work out in person with trainers due to the coronavirus pandemic, he’s done lots of high-intensity training, kicking lots of balls and working to perfect his technique. “Now, coming into this year, I’ve kind of toned it down a bit — I mean, I still kick pretty often, but I make sure I stretch a lot, get my flexibility in and I go to the gym every day with my brother,” said Laros. “It’s more just making sure I’m consistent with it, getting my technique down, just thinking through the right things in my head.” Laros will have one final season at Northwood playing offense, defense and special teams, with games beginning Feb. 26.

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A face-off at LAX: Chargers stampede Jaguars



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

News + Record photographer Peyton Sickles spent an evening at the Northwood Chargers' 17-4 win over Carrboro on Feb. 3. Here, the team gathers in a huddle during the third quarter of the contest, which was held at Carrboro High School. Northwood led 8-1 at the half and continued their dominance throughout the game.

Northwood's William Lake (green) maneuvers around a slashing Carrboro defender.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



Northwood teammates train maneuvers along the sideline, waiting for their group's turn to be subbed in under the setting sun.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Northwood's William Lake (22, green) lobs the ball to a teammate behind the right side of the net during Northwood's dominant victory. As a team, the Chargers would attempt 41 shots on goal, connecting on 17 of them.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



WOODS

Continued from page B1

the lane seemingly at full speed and floated into the air as he tipped the ball in to give his team a one-point advantage with about four minutes left in the half.

Crump ended the night with 28 points and 10 rebounds. For a player who's nearly averaged a double-double this season, this game somehow felt like his coming-out party.

"He didn't have as good of a game (in the first one against Southern Wake) as he did tonight, and I think that resonated with him," said Cotten. "He went home, studied the game, watched the film and figured out what he needed to figure out, then came out here and got the job done. I'm super proud."

Howarth's performance (20 points) shouldn't go unnoticed. There were plenty of times it looked like the Wolves were in trouble on offense, but in the

blink of an eye, he would find a closing lane to drive through, hit a gorgeous reverse layup, then keep it moving.

Crump and Howarth contributed 25 of the Wolves' 31 first-half points as Woods Charter held a six-point lead at the midway point.

Bend, don't break

To begin both the first and third quarters, the Wolves allowed Southern Wake junior guard Isaiah Robertson (29 points) to walk all over them.

He scored the first nine points of the game for the Lions, then after the half, scored the first five of the third quarter to put his team within one of Woods Charter, 31-30. It looked like the momentum was starting to swing — and it wasn't in the Wolves' favor.

However, both times Robertson went on scoring barrages, the Wolves adjusted, closed off the middle and contained him. In both situations, he didn't score again for the remainder of the quarter.

Woods Charter would never trail after the one-point deficit in the second quarter.

Each time the game would get close, Howarth would take it to the hoop, Crump would fight for a rebound and a put-back, senior guard Jeffrey Syper would hit a much-needed three-pointer or one of the other Wolves would make a play in the right place, at the right time, putting them back in the driver's seat.

While Crump and Howarth may have combined for 48 of the team's 57 points, what made Woods Charter's first victory special is that it was truly a team effort.

If junior guard Emi Hutter-Demarco wasn't able to make a play offensively, she would help lock the Lions' guards down on defense the next time down the floor, as was the case for most of her teammates.

"I try and keep myself composed and just remind myself that I need to stay in the mental state that we're going to win," Hutter-Demarco said. "It's im-

portant to stay focused and not panic."

Even at the end of the game, when Robertson drilled two three-pointers in the final 1:03, the Wolves were able to break the Lions' full-court press and score with ease, turning what should have been a nail-biter into an authoritative win.

This Woods Charter team looked entirely different from the one that was decimated by Chatham Charter's half-court press on Jan. 30 and handled by Southern Wake three days earlier.

Cotten chalks it all up to practice. "We had a good week of practice. We should've went 2-0 this week, we realized that and we took Monday and we broke it down," Cotten said. "They're starting to trust in each other and knew that they had to come in and get the job done. We really needed this win."

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

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SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Board makes moves to revitalize downtown

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — In a bid to stir ongoing downtown revitalization and attract more residents, the town has partnered with UNC School of Government’s Development Finance Initiative to investigate potential renovation of three downtown locations. The town’s initiative began in 2018 when it was awarded \$300,000 in two EPA Brownfield grants “to address abandoned, idle or underutilized properties in our community,” according to the town’s website. “... Many of these properties have environmental uncertainties that can be assessed using these grant monies.” DFI was hired using part of the grant money at the end of last year to evaluate contamination at three downtown locations and determine “a feasible reuse strategy for the sites,” said DFI Senior Project Manager Eric Thomas, who presented the group’s findings in a board of commissioners meeting last week. The UNC non-profit

was founded about 10 years ago, Thomas said, to advise local governments on how they can engage in public-private real estate development projects. “Local governments would come to the school of government,” he said, “and say, ‘Hey, we were approached by a developer to renovate this mill that we own in our downtown core. Can we do it?’” In time, after fielding questions from municipalities across the state, UNC established DFI for the express purpose of assisting towns such as Siler City to rejuvenate local real estate properties. “It’s essentially to provide expertise in real estate development and public-private partnerships to local governments,” Thomas said, “to help them answer that, ‘Should we do this? Does it make financial sense?’” As per Siler City’s commission, DFI was tasked with evaluating three downtown locations: Boling Chair, adjacent to the railroad tracks between Dogwood Ave. and Chatham Ave.; Siler City Mill, near the intersec-

tion of Third Street and Chatham Avenue; and the Pilgrims Pride property at the intersection of Chatham Avenue and Fayetteville Avenue. Each had advantages, but the Siler City Mill offered the most realistic opportunity for development in the near future. “We feel it has the most potential,” Thomas said. DFI coupled its feasibility study with downtown market analysis to evaluate the town’s current demand for expansion. Over the next five years, they estimate that Siler City will need 6,000 to 8,500 square feet in additional downtown office space — a limited demand, especially as the pandemic has emphasized work-from-home programs which could persist in the post-COVID world. Retail demand was higher, Thomas said, but average rent cost per square foot only comes to \$11.57. “These lower rents could pose a challenge as we’re thinking about new development and the costs of new development,” he said. The real potential is in multifamily residential de-

velopment. DFI estimates that 60 to 70 new units will be necessary in the next five years to meet growing demand for downtown living space. Unlike office and retail space — which are typically priced beneath average standards — downtown units are already outperforming the surrounding market. “We see this as a tremendous opportunity,” Thomas said. “We hear from the developers and brokers downtown that the demand for residential spaces — there’s a waiting list for the limited product that currently exists. So, if there’s a waiting list to get in, there might be more demand ... moving forward.” Of the three Brownfield sites in the study, the 1.7-acre Siler City Mill most closely matched projected residential demand. The site would ideally host two three-story buildings, Thomas said, with a 16,000-square-foot footprint between them and 42,000 square feet of residential space. An 88-space parking lot would also fit onsite. With limited environmental

contamination and remediation costs, the entire project would cost an estimated \$7.9 million dollars. The commissioners and town staff hoped future development will help to facilitate the town’s big-picture goals: promoting downtown “as an active, attractive community that accommodates multiple uses such as the arts, small business and residential,” according to the Town of Siler City Downtown Master Plan of 2013. “We want to not just be doing site assessments and putting that information on a shelf,” said Town Planner Jack Meadows, “but see if we can turn these properties into being repurposed — reused for a better use.” The town doesn’t own any of the three sites under consideration, so its next step would be to investigate acquisition. “You could acquire an option for the property — that would be working with the current property owner to acquire an option,” Thomas said, “or, just gain full site control over the property.”

If the town elects to pursue the Siler City Mill, it would also need to rezone the parcel, which is currently zoned for light industrial use. “The rezoning would essentially unlock that ability to do a mixed use development that’s more in line with your downtown development goals,” Thomas said. His presentation effectively concluded DFI’s project, but Thomas encouraged the board to consider employing the group’s services again to facilitate next steps in the process. “It’s a lot of information to digest,” said Commissioner Bill Haiges, “and so, I think taking some of this information back and thinking about it and bringing it back at our next board meeting to look at what we should look at as options would be my recommendation.” Other board members agreed with Haiges’ evaluation and the matter was tabled for future discussion.

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

Siler City’s economic development committee nears its goal

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City leaders inched closer on Thursday toward drafting a strategic plan that may dictate the town’s future economic development. The town’s 11-person Economic Development Strategic 5-Year Plan Steering Committee — working under Town Planner Jack Meadows’ oversight — was convened last year. Its mission is to scrutinize and assess Siler City’s economic inertia and report to the town’s board of commissioners with a recommended plan of action. Members include Commissioner Lewis Fadely, Chatham Economic Development Corporation Project Manager Sam Rauf and Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) site owner Tim Booras. The team has worked in partnership with the N.C. Main Street & Rural Planning Center — a subset of the N.C. Dept. of Commerce — which is designed to “inspire placemaking through building asset-based economic development strategies that achieve measurable results such as investment, business growth, and jobs,” according to its website. MS&RP economic development planners Ann Bass and Bruce Naegelen advise the committee. Siler City’s economy has long dawdled behind those of its neighbors in the Triangle and Triad. The pandemic set back the steering committee’s plans to address the systemic shortcoming, but its ambitious objectives have not been derailed, its representatives say. “We are still in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic and we do not know the final economic toll that will be taken on our communities,” an early report said. But the town is poised to emerge better prepared for a stable eco-

nomics future. “Part of the recovery process is to define our vulnerabilities and consciously grow back our economies in a way that increases our ability to [weather] future disruptions,” the report says. In that vein, the team has spent months analyzing Siler City’s demographic makeup and its retail markets — the town’s novel assets and its encumbrances — all in an effort to prescribe a solution for the enervated economy. A proposed vision statement to drive economic growth will emphasize that Siler City is replete with unique and enticing features, including the N.C. Arts Incubator and the CAM megasite. “The incubator is one thing that we have in town that’s sort of unique to Siler City and nowhere else in the state,” Naegelen said. “I could not find another arts incubator that does the same thing as what the one in Siler City does.” The CAM site — a 1,802-acre industrial megasite in western Chatham County — could attract thousands of new Siler City residents when it populates with heavy industry companies. But the town must prepare now to entice prospective home-buyers. “What do we need to do for when a 1,000-person company comes to town?” Naegelen said. “Are we ready for that? Because we want them to live in Siler City. We don’t want them to live in Chapel Hill — not even in Pittsboro. We want them to live in Siler City because that’s what this is all about.” A diverse population is another of the town’s assets, according to an MS&RP report. For communities of Siler City’s size — the greater area of which has almost 27,000 residents — the average “racially diverse,” or non-white, population is 10,469. Siler City, though,

has 11,145. “Siler City gets a gold star for diversity, just slightly above the national average,” the report said. “Cultural diversity is one key benchmark in developing a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem.” But race relations could be improved, Naegelen said. The town has had a sizable Hispanic community for more than two decades, but its has not always felt welcomed. “Although relationships are improving,” he said, “there’s still much to be done to gain understanding, trust and participation.” The town will also need to improve its retail leakage problem. Right now, Siler City forfeits almost \$2 million per week in local money that residents spend elsewhere because the town doesn’t satisfy retail demand. More than \$80 million in potential spending leaves the town in retail, food and drink sales alone. Including other major industry groups brings the leakage to more than \$103 million annually. The issue is compounded by an employment imbalance, MS&RP representatives said. Most of Siler City’s residents — almost 75% — leave the community for work. “If workers leave to work elsewhere it is possible and even probable that they will buy gas, groceries and even pick up lunch near work,” the report said. “Those monies are then lost to Siler City and local merchants.” The steering committee did not discuss details of its plan to address such economic drivers in its meeting on Thursday, but a draft of its strategy is likely to include community engagement across cultural and racial divides, downtown revitalization objectives, neighborhood safety improvements and business development through some kind of incentives, Naegelen said. The committee is tenta-

tively scheduled to meet once more to finalize its vision statement and strategy after which it will present the group’s recommendations to the Siler City board of commissioners in March.

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

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CHATHAM COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

Chatham COA Events & Announcements February 11th – February 17th

Thursday, February 11th

Tai Chi for Arthritis at 8:45 AM

Chair Yoga with Liz at 10:00 AM

Nature Observations & Discussion w/Alan at 11:15 AM

Friday, February 12th

Strong & Fit with Jackie at 9:00 AM

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

Sunday, February 14th

Mike Farris Concert at 4:00 PM

Monday, February 15th

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 16th

Strong & Fit with Jackie at 9:00 AM

Spill The Beans w/Liz at 11:15 AM

Wednesday, February 17th

Woodturning w/Alan at 10:00 AM

Short Stories with Chris at 12:30 PM

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PITTSBORO COMMISSIONERS

Board pushes ahead with PFAS filtration system

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Town leaders are working hard to address Pittsboro’s pervasive water contamination issues, but the price for clean water keeps going up.

Pittsboro’s water supply, drawn from the Haw River, has received widespread attention across the state and country after scientists and researchers discovered in recent years that it was teeming with carcinogenic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances known as PFAS. Other harmful chemicals such as 1, 4 dioxane are similarly found in higher-than-normal concentrations as compared to water supplies nationwide.

In the board’s Jan. 11 meeting, town staff, in partnership with CDM Smith — an engineering and construction company which provides water solutions for government and private clients — advised the board to adopt a plan for tiered installation of various treatment methods starting with a “fast-track” option that could operate within a year.

The filtration method, known as granular activated coal (GAC), would filter approximately 90% of all PFAS from the drinking supply and could facilitate at least one million gallons per day (mgd), more than enough for the town’s water demands on all but the hottest days of the year.

But the “fast-track” GAC system requires metal tanks that are rising in demand.

“Right now, PFAS is a problem all over the country,” said Reed Barton, a CDM Smith engineer, at the board’s regular meeting on Monday. “These vessels are one of the main approaches to fixing it, and there’s a long line.”

The steel market is “volatile,” he said, and tank prices are quickly inflating. “And when we say (prices) are volatile, it’s only headed in one direction — it’s going up.”

To keep up with price inflation and to reserve a “spot in line,” Town Manager Chris Kennedy requested a budget amendment to allocate an extra \$1.2 million for town staff to use in securing a GAC system.

“The total project cost has ballooned somewhat on us,” he said.

In total, with everything operational, the project would cost \$2.5 million to \$3 million, including the unforeseen \$1.2 million. But

Kennedy assured the board that he and town staff were confident in the return on investment. While the upfront cost is hefty, it is probably the lowest it will be for a long time, and it will continue to meet the town’s needs even as its population swells.

“The size we’re looking at is oversized for the 1 mgd reality, but it is sized appropriately for us to expand the operation to fit neatly so we don’t have redundant purchases down the road,” Kennedy said. “So, there has been some consideration that, again, if you’re going to spend the money, spend good money after a good solution so that you don’t have to go back in a couple years.”

After some deliberation, commissioners agreed to approve the budget amendment and authorize Kennedy to begin immediate negotiations with vendors to secure the GAC tanks and the filtration medium.

Kennedy assured the board that quick results would ensue.

“In 60 days, we’ll have a two-thirds design, we’ll have a guaranteed max price, we’ll have ordered our vessels, and have ordered the GAC and be in line for all those things to come together,” he said. “So, in essence of the larger project, we’ll be in excellent shape in just a short period of time.”

To cover short-term costs, the town will probably withdraw funds from its own coffer, but eventually, the expense will be displaced by higher water rates.

“With the way our retained earnings is now, with the demand of just maintenance that we have to perform,” Kennedy said, “... our current rate system can’t absorb a project of this scale. And so, unfortunately, it’s going to have to impact that unless we can find some other ways to do it.”

He suggested that low-interest loans may help to mitigate the town’s financial burden over the next several years.

Town staff, and the experts at CDM Smith, anticipate water needs of 6 mgd in Pittsboro by 2040. Eventually, when all long-term development has completed — notably the Chatham Park community, which will introduce as many as 50,000 new residents or more — the town will require 14 mgd.

In coming years, the town plans to introduce additional filtration systems and begin construction of an expanded water treat-

ment facility. The complete project will cost at least \$42 million.

North Woods community

Three residents of the North Woods community — a private neighborhood of 17 landowners northeast of downtown — attended Monday’s meeting to request the commissioners stop NCDOT from proceeding with road construction through their land.

The town, in partnership with NCDOT and Chatham Park Investors, has sponsored development of the North Chatham Park Way, a projected 2.7-mile road that will extend the existing Chatham Park Way up to U.S. Hwy. 15-501.

The property owners hope NCDOT will shift the road’s trajectory to pass through Chatham Park land, immediately east of North Woods.

“Chatham Park’s encroachment onto private lands would be bleak for the future of North Woods,” said Diana Dalsimer, one of the neighborhoods landowners. “... What we are asking is for the NCDOT in partnership with Chatham Park to reevaluate the current alignment of North Chatham Park Way. Create a model that utilizes as much Chatham Park land as possible while preserving established neighborhoods and private parcels.”

Ducka Kelly another North Woods resident, has been attending public hearings and town board meetings for years tracking the Chatham Park Way’s development.

“It has always seemed as though our little hamlet would remain intact,” she said. “Quite by surprise things changed when we found out at the end of Dec. 2020 and the beginning of Jan. 2021 that the north Chatham Park Way alignment has shifted west just far enough to cut through our neighborhood and somehow was moved off of Chatham Park land.”

The road, as it is currently designed, will cut through three privately owned North Woods properties, bisecting the neighborhood with a proposed four-lane highway.

“The proposed alignment cuts through and divides our neighborhood and my land,” said Mark Pavao, who owns one of North Wood’s largest lots. “The proposed section on my land is about 200 yards west of land owned by Chatham Park.”

To solicit help from their Pittsboro neighbors, the North Woods neighbors launched a change.org petition last month requesting NCDOT adjust its North Chatham Park Way. So far, about 2,800 have signed.

Other news

The board discussed three land development and ordinance decisions at its meeting on Monday.

• Rezoning request from Eco Northwood MUPD, LLC

In its last meeting, the board entertained a public hearing to consider Northwood MUPD’s proposed amendment to zoning of a parcel between U.S. Hwy. 64 and Northwood High School

Road for a multi-use planned development (MUPD). A sliver of the land was omitted from consideration when the property was first rezoned three years ago and remains zoned for rural agricultural use.

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

Monday’s discussion was a continuation of the public hearing. The commissioners voted to close the hearing and defer official action to its next meeting.

• Zoning text amendment — accessory dwell-

ing units and secondary The town’s planning department staff requested the town revise its accessory dwelling unit policies and secondary ingress and egress. The commissioners discussed amendments briefly, but tabled the issue for a later meeting.

• Town hall site plan

The commissioners approved a town hall site plan and sewer allocation, as discussed in previous board meetings, and authorized Hobbs Architects to go to bid.

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

“LET’S GET YOU HOME”

There are 218 homes for sale in Chatham County.

125 Homes are still available with 93 already under contract.

Median Price for available homes is \$540,000. Those under contract were on the market for average of 43 days with many going under contract within 5 or fewer days.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Library hosts ‘Tahira’ for Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, Chatham Community Library will present the virtual performance, Tahira: Storytelling with a Purpose, at 2 p.m. Saturday via the library’s YouTube channel.

A repeat showing will air at 2 p.m. on Feb. 27.

Tahira is a storyteller, musician, vocalist, songwriter and spoken word artist whose high-energy performances delight listeners of all ages. She delivers unique performances of original works, as well as traditional African and African American folklore. Her programs blend story and music, and are often punctuated by soul-stirring vocals, rhythmic guitar and pulsating drumming.

An advocate of using the arts to bring about social change, Tahira believes that storytelling should inspire and educate. Her mission as an artist is “... to shed light in dark places to reveal the brilliance of the human spirit.”

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

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

Silk Hope Ruritans to host community blood drive

The Silk Hope Ruritans will host a community blood drive with the

American Red Cross from 2:30-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at the Silk Hope Community Building, located at 4220 Silk Hope Rd. in Siler City.

For more information or to make an appointment to donate, call 919-742-5891 or sign up online at redcross-blood.org.

“The Silk Hope Ruritans are committed to strengthening our community and helping meet hospital and patient needs through blood donations,” said Jack Strum, chairman of the club’s Social Welfare Committee. “This blood drive is our way of giving staff, colleagues and neighbors an opportunity to help save lives.”

Blood is a perishable product that can only come from volunteer blood donors. With someone in the U.S. needing blood every two seconds, blood products must be constantly replenished, according to the Red Cross.

“We urge community members to donate blood and help ensure that patients in local hospitals have a supply of blood ready and waiting before an emergency occurs,” Strum said. “There’s no better feeling than knowing that your blood donation may give someone a second chance at life.”

According to the Red Cross, donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative.

The mission of the Silk Hope Ruritan Club is to build community through “Fellowship, Goodwill and Community Service” in bringing the people of Silk Hope together through endeavors that improve their quality of life.

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

BOE to meet in two weeks to discuss any changes to learning plan

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Schools Board of Education heard updates on COVID-19 from local health leaders and district administrators at its regular meeting Monday night, ultimately deciding to wait before considering any learning plan changes.

The board is set to meet in two weeks to review specific scenarios — including the fully in-person Plan A option — and said it would work with the district on Tuesday to decide on a date for that meeting.

Also on the board's agenda was reviewing the 2021-22 academic calendar, hearing about social and emotional supports implemented for students during remote learning, voting on graduation requirements and more. CCS Interim Superintendent Randy Bridges, who was sworn in Jan. 11, emphasized during his comments to the board the importance of flexibility and preserving positive adaptations stemming from the coronavirus.

"As bad as this pandemic is, and it is awful ... It's also important for us as educators to look at what schools will look like post-pandemic," Bridges said, adding that he'd now visited all the district's schools and principals. "In general, I hope that we will talk about using the resources of time, people, space, technology and information in different ways to improve the education opportunities for all of

our children. I've already said to the principals — in my mind, the only thing I want to go back to is the option for children to come to school every day."

The board's COVID-19 discussion started with updates from The ABC Science Collaborative, a project which analyzes COVID-related data in partnership with Duke, UNC and surrounding school districts, including CCS. Presenter Michael Smith began by addressing the board's questions from its last meeting regarding high school specific data.

Smith said the ABC Collaborative found "no differences in distribution of cases by age" among the 32 secondary cases reported. The group analyzed data from 90,000 children and adults from across 54 school districts in the state. While there have been concerns about the increased socialization of high school students, Smith said educators in the study who implemented Plan B at their high schools did not find that to be an issue.

"I fully admit you should never make decisions based on a single study," Smith said, regarding community concerns that case counts were lower when the ABC group collected its data. He cited the CDC's recent research, conducted in an area with high community spread, as confirmation of the group's findings that adherence to the three W's leads to safe in-person learning.

"I think this is really important because now we have a second study

from a different state, a different group of people that really found similar results to ours," he said.

Teacher vaccinations and hybrid learning

Among educators and school staff, two major concerns with the return to in-person learning have been the emergence of COVID-19 variants as well as not yet receiving vaccinations. Smith stressed that mask-wearing and social distancing are meant to prevent spread under any conditions.

Board members discussed school staff vaccinations at length, ultimately voting unanimously to write a letter to Gov. Roy Cooper urging the prioritization of teachers in receiving vaccinations. When asked by board members when teachers could expect to receive inoculations, Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek said he couldn't estimate exactly when the county will move to Group 3, which includes school staff as a part of essential workers, due to not knowing the county's vaccine supply on a week-to-week basis. County and state health officials had previously said teachers would be up for vaccines in the next "weeks to months."

"Do we have any recourse here to come together and start stirring the pot, and saying 'How can we push this thing faster?'" board member David Hamm asked, suggesting that the board, Chatham commissioners and health department

should urge for school staff vaccine prioritization.

Zelek clarified that a county is able to move to the next vaccination priority group once all the people in the current phase who wish to receive a vaccine have. In Chatham, Zelek said 11,414 residents have received the first dosage of the vaccine, or 14.9% of the population. The health department has administered about 2,000 of those first dosages, he said.

The district presented at-home learning updates to the board, sharing the percentage of students opting for hybrid learning in each grade level range: 72% in K-2, 67% in grades 3-5, 66% in grades 6-8 and nearly 80% in grades 9-12. The other students are on the CCS Virtual Academy track.

Amanda Hartness, assistant superintendent of academic services and instruction, said the district has been planning for the possibility of the passage of Senate Bill 37, which would require all districts to provide in-person learning and four days of in-person learning for special needs students. She said under this model, teachers could potentially navigate teaching up to five groups of students: Plan A students, Plan B students, virtual students, students coming 4 or 5 days a week and quarantined groups in those categories.

The board then discussed the possibility of implementing fully in-person Plan A at certain grade levels, which does not mandate six feet of social distancing. Members expressed concern with this, with Jane Allen Wilson saying she "couldn't imagine" supporting an option that

didn't require staying six feet apart and Hamm characterizing it as "gouges in the safety plan." As an example, they brought up potential challenges with transportation guidelines, which would still dictate in most cases keeping one student per seat, even though more students would likely need to ride the bus under Plan A.

"It feels a little contradictory," Chief Operations Officer Chris Blice said.

Ultimately, the board decided to call a special meeting in two weeks — the week of the 22nd — to discuss any potential changes to the learning plan, reasoning that the district could provide specific numbers and information on various scenarios in that time. Wilson stressed that she hoped those scenarios would only include options in which six feet of distance were required. Board member Del Turner voiced concern with potentially increasing in-person instruction when some studies show COVID-19 variants could lead to more cases.

"I don't think meeting in two weeks is going to stop you from voicing that opinion, or anybody else," Chairperson Gary Leonard said. "We'll just have a little more information. It gives the district time, the administration time to look at some different scenarios, and then we can go from there."

Here's what else happened:

- The board viewed two drafts of the 2021-22 Academic Calendar, but did not take action on Monday. The only difference between the two calendars, the district said, is a March 8 work day included in Draft B for

election day, as requested by the Board of Elections.

- The district also shared social-emotional supports implemented for students during remote and hybrid learning, saying such supports had been in the works before COVID-19, starting in 2016. Three signature practices added during the pandemic include welcome check-ins, engaging activities to foster relationships and "optimistic closure activities."

- The board approved Policy 3460: Graduation Requirements as presented. Those requirements were adopted in 2014 and revised in December 2016. At the time of revisions, local requirement credits were "inadvertently removed from the charts" in policy, the district said, but the revisions adopted Monday matched daily operation practices adhered to since 2014.

- The board also approved the Scholastic Support Center proposal, created in Oct. 2020 in response to the need for supervision for students returning to face-to-face instruction during Plan B. Cost to continue the program for the current enrollment through the last day of school is \$150,000, funded primarily through grants rather than local funds.

- A request from Chatham County Parks and Recreations for the opportunity to use school facilities was approved; another request by Silk Hope Recreation will be discussed more when the board meets in two weeks and a MOU could be written to detail cost agreements for use of the facility.

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

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NEIGHBOR2NEIGHBOR PROJECT

Hundreds of Chatham families have been helped; More require assistance

BY MARCELA SLADE

Abundance NC

Editor's note: The News + Record partnered with Abundance NC and other groups to create "Neighbor2Neighbor" last spring to connect Chatham residents in need with Chatham residents who have the capacity to help. The program has expanded thanks to community support and the fact that need across the N.C. Piedmont has grown. Here's a program update from Marcela Slade, the executive director of Abundance NC.

Abundance NC's Neighbor2Neighbor / VecinoAVecino program was started in March 2020. It's a mutual aid program in which neighbors living in the Piedmont — who are willing and able to do so — donate money in order to help pay utilities and shelter for those in need. Some folks have time and resources and help buying and delivering groceries to others. That helps make the Neighbor2Neighbor / VecinoAVecino assistance immediate. When there are funds, needs are normally met within a few days. There is no application process other than reaching out to the organization for help.

Throughout the month of December 2020, Abundance NC created a Holiday Gift Card Campaign for the Neighbor2Neighbor / VecinoAVecino program and raised \$17,000, helping approximately 85 families with food, shelter and utilities.

Currently the program is in need of funds. Although the moratorium for evictions was extended, people still need to pay their rent. The moratorium just means they won't get kicked out right now, but if they don't pay rent it just accumulates as debt — and once the moratorium is lifted, renters face the prospect of getting kicked out the streets.

And there is no moratorium on utilities getting cut off. There are several families who have received disconnect notices and a couple who currently have no heat.

Many people are struggling because of COVID-19, but others are in bad situations and the pandemic just makes things worse. In serving families, volunteers with Abundance NC have seen systemic racism and social inequality throughout the region — but also an outpouring of commu-



nity support from many people who have shown a lot of love and compassion.

For instance, Chapel In the Pines Presbyterian Church recently made a generous donation to help about a dozen families. And last week the Neighbor2Neighbor / VecinoAVecino program paired a neighbor who actually decided she didn't want to just buy and deliver the suggested grocery list but rather meet the head of household (family with kids aged 5, 11, 13, 15 and 17) at the grocery store, with mask and socially distant, in order for them to do the shopping themselves.

If you can join your community in helping this great program, please join our program. If you are willing and able to help but don't have time, you can donate here or write a check to Abundance NC and mail it to: Abundance NC / Neighbor2Neighbor 220 Lorax Lane / Box 5 / Pittsboro, NC 27312

Once we receive and process your donation you will receive a tax deductible receipt. *20% goes to program overhead costs.

We also have a Valentine's Day Gift Card Campaign. Instead of buying a generic card or random box of chocolates, you can donate toward the program and have Abundance NC send a Valentine's card, on your behalf, to the person/s you wish.

To take part, go here: <https://abundance.org/neighbor2neighbor-vecinoavecino-valentine-gift-card-campaign-support-people-in-need/>.



Pet of the Week: OWEN

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Owen, a white, 3-year-old, neutered feline with a winning personality. Owen, like his namesake Owen Wilson, is a lovable character with distinctive facial features. He is a chatty vocalizer who isn't shy about holding a conversation when he wants attention, playtime, cuddles or a meal! Owen would make a wonderful, unique companion for an individual who wants a little extra company for socializing around the house. He is FIV positive, meaning his immune system is weakened, so Owen would do best in a relaxed, stress-free home where he can live happily and comfortably with his new human. For more information about how to meet or adopt Owen or another pet, please contact the Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center (ARC) at 919-542-7203 to schedule an appointment for a visit at 725 Renaissance Dr., Pittsboro.

Photo courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

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Chatham News + Record

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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February is the month to fall in love with fitness!

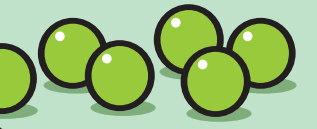
Good 4 You Valentine's Day Cards

Create some healthy Valentine cards by filling in the missing vowels. Then cut out each message, paste it on some construction paper and give to a good friend!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.


TO: _____
FROM: _____

P _ _ S B _
M _
V _ L _ NT _ N _ !




TO: _____
FROM: _____

_ R _ NG _ Y _ U
GL _ D T _ B _
M _ V _ L _ NT _ N _ ?

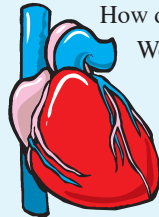


TO: _____
FROM: _____

Y _ _ 'R _ TH _
_ PPL _ _ F
M _ _ Y _ !











































Love Your Heart and Your Heart Will Love You!



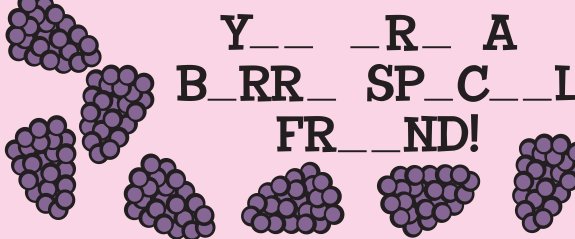
How do you love your heart?
Well, first of all you need to understand that your heart is a muscle. And, like all of your muscles, it works best when you exercise, rest, drink water and eat healthy food.

Circle the healthy food item that should come next in each row.

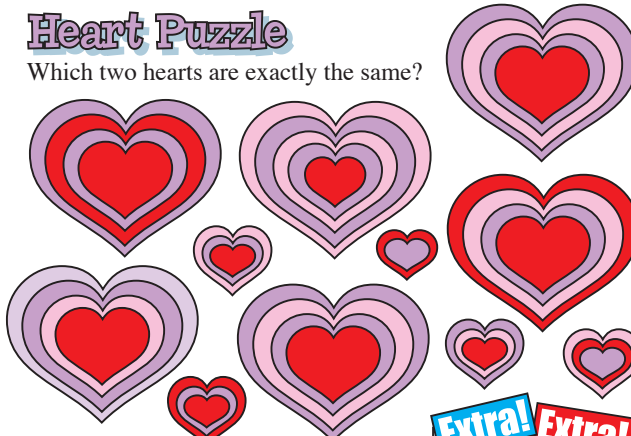
TO: _____
FROM: _____

Y _ _ _ R _ A
B _ RR _ SP _ C _ L
FR _ ND!



Heart Puzzle

Which two hearts are exactly the same?



Extra! Extra!

Ad Transformer

Look for newspaper ads that encourage kids to eat or drink things that are unhealthy. Rewrite the ad so that it is advertising something good for your health.

Standards Link: Health: Students understand essential concepts about nutrition and diet; know healthy eating practices.

Valentine's Day Healthy Heart Tag

Materials: Cut out the 10 cards at right. (Paste them onto construction paper to make them sturdier if you wish.) A watch with a second hand will be needed as well.

Directions: Give the stack of activity cards to the person who is "It." When "It" tags someone, that person selects a card and performs the named activity for the amount of time stated. After the person completes the activity, he or she becomes "It."

Standards Link: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

Hop on one foot for 30 seconds.	Jump up and down in place for 60 seconds.	Stand on one leg while singing for 45 seconds.
Flap your arms like a bird for 30 seconds.	Tiptoe in a circle while quacking for 10 seconds.	Pretend to be a motorcycle for 30 seconds.
Run in slow-motion for 15 seconds.	Pretend to carry an elephant for 60 seconds.	Do jumping jacks for 20 seconds.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Draw a line from each piece of broken heart below to its other half. What compound words did you create?



Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify compound words.

Double Word Search

VALENTINE
HEART
MUSCLE
EXERCISE
HEALTHY
TEACHER
CARDS
PLACE
SECONDS
STACK
FITNESS
GOOD
REST
CARE

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

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

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

Kid Scoop Together:

Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the article below and correct the **ten errors** you find. The first one is done for you.

Do you feel with your heart?

Are you making pictures of hearts and fiving little

heart-shaped candies to your friends for

valentine's Day?

When you make a promise you really, really

meant, do you cross your heart? do you listen to

songs about feelings and emotions?

This time of year, we hear about and saw hearts

everywhere. Long ago, people thought our

feelings came from our hearts, maybe because

strong feelings can make our hearts beated

faster. now we know feelings come from the

brane, not the hart.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand the meaning of words from context clues.

Kid Scoo-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word LOVE in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

	L		E
	O	L	
	V		
	E		

Write On!

Valentine Surprise

Make up a story about a Valentine's Day surprise. Who was surprised? What was the surprise? Use five or more adjectives in your story.



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

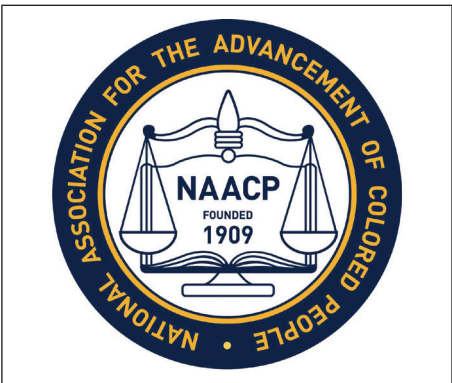
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CHATHAM CHAT | NAACP SPOKESPERSONS

Chatham’s NAACP branches speak out on history, change



During Black History Month, the News + Record is featuring discussions about issues related to the African American experience in our Chatham Chats. This week, we speak with Mary Nettles of the Chatham Community (East) Branch of the NAACP and Larry Brooks, Mary Harris and Norma Boone, representing the West Chatham NAACP.

The world has certainly changed much in the last year. The COVID-19 pandemic and a tumultuous election season were certainly remarkable, but the death of George Floyd was part of a catalyst of change as well (not to mention Breonna Taylor and others) in the United States. As we observe Black History Month this month, how would you assess the state of African Americans living in Chatham County?

MARY NETTLES: Some Chatham County residents are still trying to live in denial in thinking everyone has been treated fairly or in thinking we will continue to accept the unfair treatment when they know in their hearts Blacks in the county have not been treated fairly. Everyone needs to stand up for truth/justice and talk about the past so mistakes of the past will not be repeated. When racial inequity has been acknowledged by all then we can all move forward.

What’s changed in the last year? What hasn’t changed — what needs to change?
WEST CHATHAM NAACP: Of course, the climate in Chatham County mirrors the climate across the Country. The racial unrest, political unrest and the unemployment has caused many people to speak out and face the issues head-on. Many are organizing to address the concerns. These groups include African Americans, Whites and other people of color coming together to find common ground and to look at possible solutions to what might be

considered dominant groups and others who don’t feel connected.
The feeling that there still exist what some describe as “White” privilege. Most who are in this category do not see it because they have not experienced being on the “other” side. Yes, some people are still treated differently due to the color of their skin or because they are socio-economically disadvantaged.
The powers that be need to really sit down and have open and honest conversations about their perceptions and/or misconceptions about other groups. Being open and willing to take a risk is paramount to getting to the heart of what keeps racism and inequality in place. Nobody benefits or everyone continues to suffer.

We hear terms like “racial equity” and “systemic racism” a lot these days. As leaders in local branches of the NAACP, how have your conversations changed in the last 12 months around those and other subjects?
NETTLES: Within weeks of the murder of George Floyd last year the NAACP and the Community Remembrance Coalition (CRC-C) held a rally in Pittsboro on “Truth, Justice and Reconciliation.” Many young people and adults, Black and White, attended. Law enforcement, government offi-

cials, Black ministers and community leaders spoke. These leaders, Black and White, spoke of the positive spirit in the county to make concrete progress toward equal justice for all. The Chatham County Historical Association has published a number of articles highlighting our county’s Black History — its struggles and its triumphs. There is strong support for the Lewis Freeman Park in Pittsboro to remember this prominent free Black leader and businessman during slave times. The county’s Public Health Department has shown its commitment to eliminating systemic racism in all its activities. We have held productive talks directly with the three law enforcement agencies in the county on the NAACP’s national “Six Point Agenda” for equal justice. Black and White, we still have major challenges remaining in education, in jobs creation and training, in protecting the right to vote, and in sharing fairly in the growth and new prosperity of Chatham County.
WEST CHATHAM NAACP: Just a few weeks ago was the riot/protest at the Capitol. It was astonishing and amazing that the approach to the predominately White group of violent protesters seemed extremely different than the approach that so many African Americans met with as they peacefully protested on the same grounds. They did not storm the capital or commit any of the other atrocities committed by the other group. Blacks would have been shot. So, the conversations have changed, but the actions/responses are much the same. Of course, there has been many broad conversations, but we must wait for the outcome of these critical to see if there is a more positive response in the future.
We also see groups — some of which have been active in Chatham County — denying racial injustice. What kinds of exchanges do you have with those organi-

zations and individuals, and do you see any movement in those conversations toward a better place?
NETTLES: Unfortunately, these past years have seen a rise in white supremacy groups and activities. Groups demonstrating in Pittsboro against the removal of the Confederate statue have hurt our city’s economy and the willingness of Blacks to shop or visit downtown. For our part, we are ready to engage with all groups and welcome the opportunity to come together for public discussion on race issues. Our CRC-C website (CRC-C.org) presents articles, news and a blog for better community conversations. We are looking at the future with optimism and determination.
WEST CHATHAM NAACP: The conversations are meaningful, working toward common ground is daunting, yet productive in that the difficult topics are being addressed. Hopefully that will bring about more positive results as we create a climate whose intent is to work toward a common good and a common goal. We do not want to become polarized by speaking but not acting on what we learn from each other. We must all stand together and work together for creating that “more perfect union.”
What’s on your wish list for 2021?
NETTLES: My wish list is for Horton Middle School to be renamed George Moses Horton Middle School and for Lewis Freeman Park to open. The school and the park will honor the accomplishments of Black men who succeeded during the time of slavery. I look forward to the NAACP and the Community Remembrance Coalition – Chatham to memorialize Eugene Daniel, John Pattisall, Lee Tyson, Henry Jones, Harriet Finch and Jerry Finch. The lynching of these six individuals has remained a horrible and hidden secret of Chatham County.

Sunday sides collide

I love a thrift store. It’s like wandering into Aladdin’s cave. Sometimes that cave is empty and smells funny. But sometimes. Sometimes that darn cave is chock-full of the most wondrous things you ever did see. I have found designer bags, brand new, brand name clothing, kitchen stuff, and furniture (I’ve never been brave enough to buy upholstered furniture because I have an irrational fear of bedbugs; you should travel with me — I’m a twitchy girl in a hotel room until I can give it a thorough inspection). One of my favorite things to look for is old Corning ware. My mom has some very old bowls that came from her mom, and I guess I have the bug. Those square white bowls?



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook
I have just about every size you can imagine — even round ones. I have the blue flowers that are the ubiquitous decoration, and other floral motifs from the ‘70s, ‘80s, ‘90s, and the aughts.

But my favorite piece is a mid-century divided serving dish in that kind Pepto-pink that was so popular in the 1950s. I’m sure it came from some grandmother’s kitchen when she downsized. I think I paid \$6 for it. Etsy has one with a lid for \$54 and Amazon is selling one without lid for \$99.96. Just saying. Anyway, I used it tonight. Lately, Petey and I have been having potato salad for dinner on Sundays, as a side, but left to my own devices ... Just saying. And The Kid came over for dinner tonight. So, I made potato salad. The Kid dislikes onions but likes potato salad with a ton of lemon and capers. Petey is not a fan of capers or lots of lemon. Sometimes I make two potato salads so everybody gets what they like. But we do have one type that we all enjoy. Merritt’s in Chapel Hill is known far and wide for two things; their grilled cheese sandwiches and the fact that it’s where James Taylor got his start. They also make a delicious potato salad — they put peas and carrots in it. Sounds kind of odd, but it works. Scrolling through potato salad recipes online one day, I found one that called for horseradish.

We all like horseradish. I was inspired to combine the two versions into one epic potato salad. Instead of onions, I use shallots, which The Kid is OK with. So, the colorful co-star from lunch trays everywhere and the condiment that brings the one type of heat I can not only endure but welcome, came together to make the one potato salad that the whole family loves. Quel symmetry. Last time we had dinner together, I made a proto-preparation of baby bok choy. The adult version of this Chinese vegetable is what you’ll find chopped up in your moo goo gai pan. The baby version is terrific roasted, but a little bitter for most folks. So, I decided to try to use the acid and sweetness of lemon to cut the bitterness a wee bit. It worked. It’s kind of an unusual vegetable for many of us, but if you’re not up for that, you can use the lemon trick to cut the bitterness of something like broccoli or dark greens. Everything was really tasty. When The Kid was leaving I offered to box up some leftovers, like I always do. Then I remembered. We didn’t have any. Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Roasted baby bok choy and horseradish potato salad.

Garden Horsey Potato Salad

1 1/2 pounds Yukon gold potatoes (about 4 large), boiled ‘til fork tender
3/4 cup frozen peas and carrots, quickly blanched (2-3 minutes) in boiling salted water and shocked in ice water to stop cooking and set color, then drained very well
1 large shallot, diced
Kosher salt & freshly cracked pepper
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
Splash of malt vinegar
Dressing:
2 cups mayonnaise
1 tablespoon malt vinegar
1 tablespoon prepared horseradish (or more if you like it that way)
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly cracked pepper
A few hours before assembling, whisk together dressing ingredients holding back a bit of the salt, taste for seasoning, add more salt if needed, and refrigerate.
Assembly: When they’re still very warm, peel potatoes and cut into salad sized cubes. Season, and add 1 tablespoon each of malt vinegar and oil. Toss gently to coat and let cool completely before proceeding.
When totally cool, add shallots and toss with enough dressing to bring to your desired salad consistency (you may like it wetter or drier than me).
Gently fold in peas and carrots. Taste for seasoning, and let sit covered, at room temperature, for about twenty minutes before service.
*A word of advice about shallots: Don’t dice them until just before you mix the salad. When they sit for too long after cutting, shallots will become quite acrid in flavor and stink up your kitchen.
Makes 6 servings.

Sunday Night Baby Bok Choy

2 dozen, or 1/2 pound of baby bok choy, washed and cut in half, lengthwise
2 tablespoons neutral vegetable oil
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
Pinch of sugar
Juice of half a lemon
Large flaked salt, like Malden salt, for finishing
Place cut bok choy into a bowl and add salt, pepper, sugar, and oil. Toss to coat. Set aside for a couple of hours.
When ready to cook: place a large rimmed baking sheet in oven and set to 450°. When the oven comes to temp, place the bok choy on the baking sheet, cut side down.
Bake for 15-20 minutes or until nicely browned on the cut side. Turn on broiler and put the pan on the top rack. Leave cut side down. Cook until there is a little color on the veg.
When done, put the bok choy back in the bowl, add the lemon juice and toss to coat. Sprinkle with a big pinch of finishing salt.
Serve immediately. Serves 3-4.

Worth knowing.

Worth reading.

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FOR SALE

HAY FOR SALE - Round Bales, \$25; Square Bales, \$5. 919-742-4856, 919-669-9705, F4,11,2tp

FESCUE HAY, \$4 Square Bale, Crutchfield X-Rds area; No rain/in shed. 984-265-0402 or 919-663-5780. J14,21,28,F4,11,5tp

AUCTIONEERS

RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, S3,tfnc

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HELP WANTED

UTILITY MECHANIC I/UTILITY MECHANIC II - (CDL - Will train) - Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), Carrboro-Chapel Hill's not-for-profit public service agency delivering high-quality water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services seeks highly responsible, detail-oriented individuals to join our Water Distribution and Sewer Collection team as a Utility Mechanic I or Utility Mechanic II. - This

position maintains, repairs, and installs, water, sewer and reclaimed water lines and associated infrastructure. This includes water services, meters, valves, hydrants, manholes, and maintaining easements. Position uses a wide variety of equipment and tools including, but not limited to, hand tools, air compressors, jack hammers, pavement saw, dump trucks, backhoes, compact rollers and tapping machine. Employees will be required to correspond via email and utilize our computerized work order management system. - Candidates must have the ability to work outdoors in all kinds of weather and respond to after-hour situations on a rotating on-call basis. Typical work hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. Physical requirements include exerting 20 - 50 pounds constantly, 50 - 100 pounds frequently and walking/standing to a significant degree. - Title and salary range are dependent on experience. Utility Mechanic I: No experience required. Requires a High School Diploma or equivalent and a valid NC Driver's License. Within 6 months, successful candidate must be able to obtain (and maintain) a Class A Commercial Driver's License. Prior experience in a water and wastewater utility preferred. - Salary range: \$34,897 - \$53,742; Utility Mechanic II: One to three years of experience in a water and wastewater utility required. Position requires a High School Diploma or equivalent and a valid Class A NC Commercial Driver's License. Candidates must have a Sewer Collection System Grade 1 certification or a Water Distribution System Grade C certification. - Salary range: \$40,397 - \$62,211. - OWASA provides excellent benefits to include membership in the NC Local Government Employees Retirement System, employer 457 plan contribution and retirement health savings account. Paid Health, Dental, Vision and Life insurances. Additional benefits include: Paid Holidays, Vacation, Sick, Personal, Bereavement and Parental Leave, Educational Reimbursement, Bonus Pay for Additional Certifications and/or Education and more! - OWASA is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to continuous improvement, sustainability, creativity, diversity, and inclusion. OWASA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex in administration of its programs or activities, or employment decisions. - Certified Orange County Living Wage Employer. - Apply online at www.owasa.org - Closing date is February 22, 2021. F11,1tc

BASIC MACHINERY CO. Inc. (BMC), Siler City, NC, is currently looking to fill positions for Machinists, Fabricator/Welder and Industrial Mechanic 3-5 years experience is a plus. These positions will be permanent, full time, working at least 40 hours per week. Pay will be commensurate with experience. BMC offers 1 week paid vacation after 1 year and 2 weeks paid vacation beginning with the 2nd year of employment and 7 paid holidays annually. Medical, dental and vision insurances are offered, as well as many voluntary insurances, deducted on a pretax basis. Qualified applicants should apply in person

to 1220 Harold Andrews Rd, Siler City, NC 27344 Monday thru Friday from 8am until 5pm or submit resume by email to billy_scott@basimachinery.com. - BMC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PARTICIPATES IN THE FEDERAL E-VERIFY PROGRAM, F4,11,2tc

CAROLINA ADVANCED DIGITAL is seeking a Government Sales Order Specialist to join our team! Immediate opening, part-time. - We are hiring candidates for this position to work out of our Siler City, NC location. Daily Responsibilities include: Provide customer service and account support for government/federal customers; Responsible for inside sales functions, quotes, orders; Data entry and customer database maintenance. - Skills & Experience: Exceptional written and verbal communication skills, Moderate software skills: Word, Excel, Adobe Acrobat; Great customer service skills/attitude. If you are hardworking, responsible, detail-oriented, have a great personality, a sense of humor and have an interest in information technology, apply here: <https://cadinc.com/about/careers>. J28,F4,11,18,4tp

PART-TIME FARM WORKER - in Silk Hope area. Call 336-669-6357, J21,28,F4,11,4tp

HOMECARE SEEKING, Now hiring for immediate positions in Pittsboro/Siler City: Certified Nurse Aides - Competitive Weekly Pay, CNA's start at \$10.00/hr. & up for extra care cases - Total LifeCare, Call (919) 799-7275 or visit 106 Village Lake Rd. Ste. A, Siler City for more info or to apply. F11,18,25,M4,11,18,25,7tp

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified on the 13th day of January, 2021 as Executrix of the Estate of ALAN W. KAPLAN A/K/A ALAN WILLIAM KAPLAN, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of April, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their

recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This 21st day of January 2021.
Barbara Kaplan, Executor of the Estate of Alan W. Kaplan a/k/a Alan William Kaplan
PO Box 51579
Durham, NC 27717-1579
Candace B. Minjares, Esquire
Kennon Craver, PLLC
4011 University Drive, Suite 300
Durham, North Carolina 27707
J21,J28,F4,F11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The Undersigned having qualified as the Executor of the Estate of ALMA S. BERGMANN, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 21st day of January, 2021.
Jayne Seebach vanDusen, Executor
20008 Grier
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Charles L. Steel, IV
Manning Fulton & Skinner, PA
Diamond View II, Ste. 130
280 S. Mangum Street
Durham, NC 27701
J21,J28,F4,F11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of WILLIAM F. MILHOLEN of Chatham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before April 21, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the

undersigned.
This the 21st day of January, 2021.
Sallie T. Milholen, Co-Executor of the Estate of William F. Milholen
79 Medinah Lane
Siler City, NC 27344
Laurie M. Nunnery, Co-Executor of the Estate of William F. Milholen
207 Fairwinds Drive
Cary, NC 27518
Martha T. Peddrick
Johnson, Peddrick, & McDonald, P.L.L.C.
440 West Market Street, Suite 300
Greensboro, North Carolina 27401
Telephone: (336) 574-9720
J21,J28,F4,F11,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 535
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executor or of the Estate of JOHN GEORGE LOSAK of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all creditors that they should present their claims to Bonnie Joyce Losak, Executor, c/o Kratt Dedmond & Associates, PLLC, 5623 Duraileigh Road, Suite 111, Raleigh, NC 27612 on or before April 22, 2021,

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sons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 21st day of January, 2021.

Bonnie Joyce Losak, Executor
Estate of John George Losak
c/o Kratt Dedmond & Associates, PLLC
5623 Duraleigh Road
Suite 111
Raleigh, NC 27612
J21,J28,F4,F11,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-6
All persons having claims against JAMES DONALD THORNTON, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate

payment.
This the 21st day of January, 2021.

Anne T. Wood, Administrator
958 Taylors Rd
Boones Mill, VA 24065
J21,J28,F4,F11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20E577
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of JOAN E. BURTON, late of 510 S. 6th Ave., Apt. D, Siler City, NC, Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 2800 Carrington Rd., Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804 on or before the 4th day of May or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the

undersigned.
This the 28th day of January, 2021.

Wade Burton, Executor of
The Estate of Joan E. Burton
David Scott Russ
Pierce Law Group
9121 Anson Way, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27615
Attorney of Executor
J28,F4,F11,F18,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20-E-340
All persons having claims against NANCY E. CLEMENT, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 28th day of January, 2021.

Coy L. Clement, Executor
72109 Mosley
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Meghan N. Knight
Lynch & Eatman, L.L.P.
PO Box 30515
Raleigh, NC 27622-0515
J28,F4,F11,F18,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20 E 494
The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Administrators of the Estate of SALLY M. NORRIS, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at their address, 196 Jasmine Drive, Hanover, Pennsylvania, 17331, on or before the 28th day of April, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 20th day of January, 2021.

Frank D. Norris, Jr., Co-Administrator
196 Jasmine Drive
Hanover, PA 17331
Leola Maria Norris Ottinger, Co-Administrator
221 S. Melville Street
Graham, NC 27253
GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC
P. O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
J28,F4,F11,F18,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of THOMAS MONROE ALSTON late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
This the 25th day of January, 2021.

Margaret Alston Martin, Executor of
The Estate of Thomas Monroe Alston
Post Office Box 1806
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27344
MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
BOX 1806
PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312
(919) 542-5605
J28,F4,F11,F18,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of WAYNE AUSTIN SIMPSON late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
This the 25th day of January, 2021.

Sydney D.F. Farrar, Executor of
The Estate of Wayne Austin Simpson
Post Office Box 1806
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
BOX 1806
PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312
(919) 542-5605
J28,F4,F11,F18,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-20
All persons having claims against MAKE PEACE CHALMERS, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28TH day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 28th day of January, 2021.

Rashawnda Benton, Executor
1365 Glovers Church Road
Bennett, NC 27208
J28,F4,F11,F18,4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday, February 15, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in

Pittsboro, North Carolina at 1192 US-64 W BUS. Due to the Governor's restrictions on mass gatherings, public seating at the meeting will be limited. There will also be an option to participate electronically for the legislative requests and for more information about the meeting you can select the meeting date at the following link: https://www.chathamnc.org/government/commissioner-meetings/calendar-with-agenda-minutes. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www.chathamnc.org by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below: Legislative Request:
1. A Legislative public hearing for a general use rezoning request by Brendie Vega, on behalf of Moncure Holdings, LLC & Moncure Holdings West, LLC, to rezone in full or a portion of Parcel No's. 92884, 92883, 5604, 5620, 5321, 5814, and 92449, being approximately 249.036 acres total, from R-1 Residential, to IH Heavy Industrial, located off Old US 1, Pea Ridge Rd, Christian Chapel Church Rd, and Moncure Flatwood Rd., Cape Fear Township.
2. A legislative public hearing for a request by Moncure Holdings LLC and Moncure Holdings West LLC to amend Section 302 (E)(2)(b) of the Watershed Protection Ordinance to establish an overlay district where the 10/70 rule applies in the Cape Fear WS-IV Protected Area watershed district and amend the Watershed Protection Map to establish the boundaries of the overlay district. Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions. Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.
F 4,F11,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20-E-646
All persons having claims against MARGARET EMMA PAULSEN, A.K.A. MARGARET WHITEHILL PAULSEN, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of May, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 4th day of February, 2021.

Charles Michael Paulsen, Executor
C/O Steve Lackey, Attorney
410 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
F4,F11,F18,F25,4tp

NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE
Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. STANLEY D. LEWTER and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of STANLEY D. LEWTER and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, 19-CVD-524 the undersigned Commissioner will ON THE 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction at the COURTHOUSE DOOR IN CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA AT 12:00 O'CLOCK, NOON, the following described real property, lying and being in Matthew Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a stake, corner of Lot #14, on the West side of Sears Street, and running thence a Westerly direction, parallel with U.S. Highway #64, 150 feet to a stake, corner of Lot #21; thence a Northerly direction, with line of said lot, 75 feet to a stake, corner of Lot #18; thence with line of Lot #18, an Easterly direction, 150 feet to a stake on the West margin of Sears Street; thence with said Street, a Southerly direction, 75 feet to the beginning, and being all of Lots #15, 16 and 17 of the Wade H. Paschal property. Parcel Identification Number: #0016482
The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition,

the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25.
This the 25nd day of January, 2021.

Mark B. Bardill, Jr., Commissioner
P.O. Box 25
Trenton, NC 28585
F4,F11,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of JOHN P. HOFSESS, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 26th day of January, 2021, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before the 6th day of May, 2021, or this Notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 4th day of February 2021.

Glenn Hofsess, Personal Representative
c/o Anthony D. Nicholson, Attorney for the Estate
McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson, & Hinkle, PLLC
3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400
Durham, NC 27707
F4,F11,F18,F25,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-57
All persons having claims against DONALD E. WOODY, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of May, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 4th day of February, 2021.

Donald E. Woody, Jr., Executor
2705 Siler City Snow Camp Rd
Siler City, NC 27344
F4,F11,F18,F25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-56
All persons having claims against MOLLIE W. WOODY, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4TH day of May, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 4th day of February, 2021.

Donald E. Woody, Jr., Executor
2705 Siler City Snow Camp Rd
Siler City, NC 27344
F4,F11,F18,F25,4tp

TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on FEB. 15, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COURTROOM LOCATED AT 311 N. 2ND AVE. Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests:
1. Town of Siler City proposes text amendments to the following sections of the UDO: §129 Flood Districts, §131 Landfill Districts (Downtown Siler City overlay district), and §148 (multifamily downtown development); and
2. Town of Siler City proposes a map amendment by including the following blocks into the Downtown Siler City overlay district: N. Birch Ave. (100), S. Birch Ave. (100), N. Chatham Ave. (100, 200, 300), S. Chatham Ave. (100, 200), N. 2nd Ave. (100, 200, 300), S. 2nd Ave. (100), Chestnut St. (100), W. Beaver St. (100), E. Beaver St. (100, 200), W. Raleigh St. (100), E. Raleigh St. (100, 200), W. 2nd St. (100), E. 2nd St. (100, 200), W. 3rd St. (100), and E. 3rd St. (100, 200).
The proposed items are available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the application are invited to attend the public hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced items. The Planning Board will meet on Feb. 8 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. If you are interested in attending the meetings via Zoom, then contact jbridges@silercity.org for the Planning Board meeting and jjohnson@silercity.org for the Board of Commissioner meeting.
The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for

this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.
F4,F11,2tc

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM
EXECUTOR'S NOTICE
The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of WILLIAM J. BUSBY, M.D., deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 31st day of May, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 3rd day of February, 2021.

Charles T. Busby, Executor of the
Estate of William J. Busby
P.O. Box 88
Maple, N.C. 27956
F11,F18,F25,M1,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20-E-167
All persons having claims against BARBARA J. LOTT, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12TH day of May, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 11th day of February, 2021.

Charity Alston, Executrix
PO Box 1093
860 East Alston Rd
Pittsboro, N.C. 27312
F11,F18,F25,M4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-64
All persons having claims against DAVID K. LOVINGS, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12TH day of May, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 11th day of February, 2021.

Julia Dowdy, Administrator
300 So. Evergreen Ave
Siler City, NC 27344
c/o Lewis Fadelly, PLLC
119 West Fir Avenue
Siler City, NC 27344
F11,F18,F25,M4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of DOROTHY LOUISE TILLEY A/K/A DOROTHY G. TILLEY, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of May, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 29th day of January, 2021.

Michael Ray Tilley, Administrator of the Estate of
Dorothy Louise Tilley a/k/a Dorothy G. Tilley
c/o Linda Funke Johnson, Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 446
114 Raleigh Street
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526
F11,F18,F25,M4,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of RAY JACK TILLEY, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of May, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 29th day of January, 2021.

Michael Ray Tilley, Administrator of the Estate of
Ray Jack Tilley
c/o Linda Funke Johnson, Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 446
114 Raleigh Street
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526
F11,F18,F25,M4,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as co-Executrices of the Estate of GEORGE MCLEAN STOCKSTILL of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned do hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of May, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 11th day of February, 2021.

Marie Elizabeth Stockstill and
Barbara Layne Stockstill

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Weller, co-Executrices
c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr.
Stubbs, Cole, Breedlove, Pren-
tis & Biggs
4 Consultant Place
Durham, NC 27707
F11,F18,F25,M4,4tc

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE TOWN OF PITTSBORO,
NORTH CAROLINA
WITH RESPECT TO AN IN-
STALLMENT LOAN BETWEEN
THE PITTSBORO VOLUNTEER
FIRE AND RESCUE DEPART-
MENT, INC. AND FIRST BANK IN
AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
\$1,433,447
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
THAT ON FEBRUARY 22, 2021,
a public hearing, as required
by Sections 150(e)(3) and
147(f) of the Internal Revenue
Code of 1986, as amended (the
"Code"), will be held by the
Boards of Commissioners of the
Town of Pittsboro, North Carolina
(the "Board") with respect
to a proposed Installment Loan
(the "Loan") between the Pitts-
boro Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Department, Inc. ("PVFD") and
First Bank in an amount not to
exceed \$1,433,477, the interest
on which will be excludible
from gross income for federal
income tax purposes. The
hearing will commence at 7:00
p.m., or as soon thereafter
as the matter can be heard,
and will be held in Town Hall,
635 East Street, Pittsboro, NC
27312.

The proceeds of the Loan will
be used by PVFD to pay the
cost of acquiring, constructing
and equipping a new ladder
truck (the "Project"). The Proj-
ect will be stored at 4170 Old

Graham Road, Pittsboro, NC
27312 and will be owned and
operated by the PVFD through-
out the Town of Pittsboro and
Chatham County.
The Loan will be an obligation
solely of the PVFD, payable
only from the revenues and
other funds of the PVFD in
accordance with the terms and
provisions of the Loan.
The public hearing will
provide an opportunity for all
interested persons to express
their views on the proposed
issuance of the Loan and the
financing of the Project.
Any person interested in the
proposed Loan or financing of
the Project may appear and be
heard at the public hearing.
This notice is given pursuant
to the provisions of Sections
150(e)(3) and 147(f) of the
Code. Additional information
concerning the Project may
be obtained from Erin Cowan
Mosley, Esq., 701 Green Valley
Rd., Suite 100, Greensboro, NC
27408; Phone (336) 387-5146;
Email Address: ecmosley@nexusenpruet.com
Cassandra Bullock
Clerk to the Board of Commis-
sioners
Town of Pittsboro, North
Carolina

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-52
All persons having claims
against TIMOTHY JAMES
GRINNELL, deceased, late
of Chatham County, North
Carolina, are notified to exhibit
the same to the undersigned
on or before the 12th day of
May, 2021, or this notice will

be pleaded in bar of recovery.
Debtors of the decedent are
asked to make immediate
payment.
This the 11th day of February,
2021.
William James Grinnell, Affiant
#1
149 Charlie Perkins Rd
Pittsboro, NC 27312
F11,F18,F25,M4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executor of
the Estate of JAMES WILLIAM
HAYS, late of 303 Hoot Owl Ln.,
Siler City, NC 27344 in Chatham
County, North Carolina, the un-
dersigned does hereby notify
all persons, firms and corpo-
rations having claims against
the estate of said decedent to
exhibit them to the under-
signed at the address given
below, on or before the 12th
day of May, 2021, or this notice
will be pleaded in bar of their
recovery. All persons, firms
and corporations indebted
to the said estate will please
make immediate payment to
the undersigned.
This the 11th day of February,
2021.
Patricia H. Hays, Executor of
the
Estate of James William Hays
c/o Jason R. Jones, Attorney
880 MLK Jr. Blvd, Ste. 105
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
F11,F18,F25,M4,4tp

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified on the 5th day
of February, 2021, as Executor
of the Estate of JOSEPH J.
BEAL, deceased, late of Cha-

tham County, North Carolina,
this is to notify all persons,
firms and corporations having
claims against the decedent to
exhibit the same to the under-
signed Executor on or before
the 14th day of May, 2021, or
this notice will be pleaded
in bar of their recovery. All per-
sons, firms and corporations
indebted to the estate should
make immediate payment.
This the 11th day of February,
2021.
Estate of Joseph J. Beal,
Shawn Beal, Executor
1522 Grantville Lane
Asheboro, North Carolina
27205
Attorney for Estate:
William H Flowe, Jr.
PO Box 1315
Liberty, NC 27298
Phone: (336) 622-2278
F11,F18,F25,M4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims
against IRIS MAY SIMMONDS,
deceased, late of Chatham
County, North Carolina, are
notified to exhibit the same to
the undersigned on or before
the 12th day of May, 2021, or
this notice will be pleaded in
bar of recovery. Debtors of the
decedent are asked to make
immediate payment.
This the 11th day of February,
2021.
Leslie A. Simmonds, Personal
Representative
528 Legacy Falls
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
c/o Hopler Wilms & Hanna,
PLLC
2314 S Miami Blvd, Ste. 151
Durham, NC 27703
F11,F18,F25,M4,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20-E-647
All persons having claims
against EFROSENE JUFFRAS,
deceased, late of Chatham
County, North Carolina, are
notified to exhibit the same to
the undersigned on or before
the 12th day of May, 2021, or
this notice will be pleaded in
bar of recovery. Debtors of the
decedent are asked to make
immediate payment.
This the 11th day of February,
2021.
Diane M. Juffras, Executrix
203 Rossburn Way
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
F11,F18,F25,M4,4tp

CHATHAM COUNTY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
(RFP)
CHATHAM COUNTY SOLID
WASTE AND RECYCLING DIVI-
SION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR
STAFFING AND OPERATING
RESIDENTIAL
SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING
COLLECTION CENTERS
Chatham County is seeking
proposals for the staffing and
operation of twelve (12) resi-
dential solid waste and recy-
cling collection centers. These
centers collect a variety of
waste materials and recycla-
bles. The vendor shall provide
staff and supervision for the
operation of the centers.
A pre-bid meeting is scheduled
for Wednesday, February 24,
2021 at 9:00 AM. Interested
vendors should pre-register by
notifying Kimberly Johnson,
Chatham County Procurement
Manager at: purchasing@chathamcountync.gov.

The complete RFP document
and details are located on the
Chatham County Current Bids
and Proposals webpage at:
<http://www.chathamnc.org/government/current-bid-proposal-opportunities>.
The County is requesting 3
hard copies and one electronic
pdf file, included on appropri-
ate media, and included with
the paper copies. The submit-
tal package must be received
by March 4, 2021 at 5:00 PM
EST, to one of the following
delivery addresses: Postal Ad-
dress: Kim Johnson, Chatham
County Finance Office, P. O.
Box 608, Pittsboro, NC 27312,
or Street Address: Kim John-
son, County Managers Office,
Courthouse Annex, 12 East
Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312
All inquiries relating to this
request must be in writing
and submitted by e-mail to
Kim Johnson at purchasing@chathamcountync.gov. Late
submittals will not be accept-
ed under any circumstance
and will not be opened or
reviewed. All inquiries must
be made no later than 12:00
PM on Thursday, February 25,
2021 to purchasing@chathamcountync.gov or by fax to (919)
542-8272. No RFP inquiries by
telephone please. All addenda
will be posted by 5:00pm
on Friday, February 26, 2021
and available at <http://www.chathamnc.org/government/current-bid-proposal-opportunities>.
Chatham County is an Equal
Opportunity Employer and
does not discriminate on the
basis of sex, marital status,
race, color, creed, national ori-
gin, sexual orientation, gender
identity, age or disability.
F11,1tc

Chatham Charter, in hybrid learning since January, to increase in-person learning this month

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — With
nearly a month of in-per-
son hybrid learning
under its belt, Chatham
Charter School is plan-
ning the second phase
of its return to campus,
with all of K-5 set to
return to Plan A by the
beginning of March.

"The January return
to campus has been a
positive one so admin-
istration feels we are
able to expand in-person
learning," the school's
website says. "Toward
the end of February, middle
and high school students
who are currently in fully
remote status will have
the option of returning to
in-person learning... for
the final nine-week grad-
ing period of the school
year."

Last October, just 12
days after Chatham Char-
ter began phasing in a
return to in-person learn-
ing, the school paused all
face-to-face instruction
and athletic workouts on
Sundy, Oct. 18 through
at least Friday, Oct. 30,
later extending remote
learning through the end
of the first semester. Kin-
dergarteners returned
under Plan A and grades
1-5 returned under Plan
B on Jan. 11; 6th through
12th graders returned

under Plan B on Jan. 19.

Next Tuesday, all K-2
students can return to
campus four days a week
for in-person learning,
with Wednesday as a
remote learning and
thorough cleaning day.
Third grade students can
return on Feb. 22, and
4th and 5th graders can
return March 1. All 6th
through 12th grade stu-
dents will return on the
Plan B hybrid schedule.

John Eldridge, head
of school, said it's been
a challenging year for
teachers and families
alike — and that chal-
lenge doesn't go away
even though some stu-
dents are back in-person.

"While it's great that
we've got some kids back
on campus, also knowing
that we have a number
of kids at home, teachers
are finding themselves
teaching the same lesson
two, three times — so it's
been really challenging
and taxing on teachers,"
Eldridge said.

"But I won't lie to you,"
he said, "if I said to you,
I wasn't like a giddy
little kid the first day we
brought kids back and
they were walking down
the hallway — with us
adults acting like it's a
parade."

Of the school's 564
students, 189 students —
or 33.5% — are opting for
fully remote instruction,

school administration
said.

Silas Christenbury, a
10th grade student who
began in-person learning
last month, said the tran-
sition back to in-person
classes hasn't been "that
bad," so long as he re-
members to set his alarm
earlier for those days.

"It's nice because
you're seeing people
again," he said, adding
that he prefers the hybrid
model to Plan C. "And
if you have the online
schedule every day, it
gets really monotonous,
but having the hybrid
breaks it up. I like the hy-
brid better, because I get
to see people — it's the
best of both worlds."

Last semester, the
school created "Knights
on a Crusade Brigade"
campaign to foster school
spirit and a sense of
community even during
periods of remote learn-
ing. They celebrated the
return to in-person learn-
ing with a fireworks show
in January, and will host
a spirit week this month.
In March there will be a
drive-in movie.

And along the way,
Eldridge said the school
community will keep
looking for ways to adapt.

As you drive onto the
school's campus, its sign
features a message meant
to accomplish its goal of
remaining "uKNIGHT-

ed," even in challenges
associated with learning
during COVID-19.

"Do your part to keep
our campus open," the

sign reads.

Eldridge concurs: "I re-
ally look to the day when
we can get them all back,
as much as possible."

*Reporter Hannah Mc-
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Town of Siler City to Perform Annual Temporary Switch to Chlorine Disinfection

Beginning March 1, 2021, the Town of Siler City Water Plant will temporarily suspend the addition of ammonia to its water treatment disinfection process, as required by North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Siler City will resume the addition of ammonia to the water treatment disinfection process on April 1, 2021.

Siler City uses both ammonia and chlorine to form chloramines for its disinfection process. Ammonia is added to the water in a carefully regulated dose and reacts chemically with the chlorine to produce chloramines. Chloraminated drinking water is safe for drinking, bathing, cooking and many other daily uses. NCDENR requires all systems using chloramination to suspend the addition of ammonia for a one-month period annually.

During the changes in our disinfection process, three groups of people need to take special precautions for higher concentrations of chlorine – kidney dialysis patients, pretreatment owners and aquatic pet owners using City water. Dialysis patients and aquatic pet owners already treat the water they use for chlorine removal. Any customer who pre-treats City water for any process should be aware of their change and consult the manufacturer of any pretreatment equipment for recommendations.

There may also be flushing of water mains throughout the system during this time, causing some discoloration and/or chlorine odor to the drinking water. The city water, however, will still be safe for drinking, bathing and other daily uses. While there are no associated health risks with the discoloration and/or odor, you may want to be sure the water is clear of discoloration prior to laundering light-colored clothing during this time period. If you notice discoloration at the tap, allowing the water to run 5 to 10 minutes should clear up the problem.

Customers with concerns may contact the Town of Siler City at

919-742-4731 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org.

Ciudad de Siler Realizará el Cambio Temporal Anual a la Desinfección del Cloro

A partir del 1 de Marzo de 2021, la Planta de Agua de la Ciudad de Siler City suspenderá temporalmente la adición de amoníaco a su proceso de desinfección del tratamiento de agua, como lo requiere el Departamento de North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Siler City reanudará la adición de amoníaco al proceso de desinfección del tratamiento del agua el 1 de Abril de 2021.

Siler City utiliza amoníaco y cloro para formar cloraminas para su proceso de desinfección. El amoníaco se añade al agua en una dosis cuidadosamente regulada y reacciona químicamente con el cloro para producir cloraminas. El agua potable cloramiada es segura para beber, bañarse, cocinar y muchos otros usos diarios. NCDENR requiere que todos los sistemas que utilizan cloraminación suspendan la adición de amoníaco durante un período de un mes al año.

Durante los cambios en nuestro proceso de desinfección, tres grupos de personas necesitan tomar precauciones especiales para mayores concentraciones de cloro – pacientes de diálisis renal, propietarios de pretratamiento y propietarios de mascotas acuáticas que utilizan agua de la ciudad. Los pacientes de diálisis y los dueños de mascotas acuáticas ya tratan el agua que utilizan para la eliminación de cloro. Cualquier cliente que pre-trata el agua de la ciudad para cualquier proceso debe ser consciente de su cambio y consultar al fabricante de cualquier equipo de pretratamiento para recomendaciones.

También puede haber un enjuague de agua por todo el Sistema durante este tiempo, causando algo de decoloración y/o olor a cloro en el agua potable. Sin embargo el agua de la ciudad seguirá siendo segura para beber, bañarse y otros usos diarios. Si bien no existen riesgos para la salud asociados con la decoloración y/o el olor, es posible asegurarse de que el agua no tenga decoloración antes de lavar ropa de colores claros durante este periodo de tiempo. Si nota decoloración en el grifo, deje correr el agua de 5 a 10 minutos esto debería solucionar el problema. Los clientes con inquietudes pueden comunicarse con la ciudad de Siler City al 919-742-4731, or cmccorquodale@silercity.org



Grades 6-12 started Plan B on Jan. 19 at Chatham Charter School in Siler City. This marked the first time these students attended in-person classes since last March.

Staff photo
by Hannah
McClellan

Rynn Nicks, college liaison at Chatham Charter, said it's been a challenge to replicate some former networking and training events online this year.

Staff photo
by Hannah
McClellan

