

Chatham News + Record

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Siler City's CAM megasite is ready to welcome occupants

New jobs 'could easily be in the thousands'

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) Site, a 1,802-acre industrial megasite in western Chatham County, is ready for launch — all it needs are heavy industry companies to move in. “We’ve taken this thing as far

as we can take it,” said CAM site owner Tim Booras. That’s not to say the megasite is completely functional, but everything left to do must follow company commitments to build at CAM. “Sewer is the biggest thing,” Booras said, adding “the new water pipe main extending down U.S. Hwy. 64 has successfully been run to the site ... Sewer right-of-way has been acquired, design has been completed and the sewer line is permitted.” Companies can have running water and functional sewer within 12 months of committing to build at

CAM, he said. That leaves Booras and his partners at a critical juncture — waiting for companies to make their moves. “There has been a flurry of activity these past few months as the state is entertaining many companies looking to expand, relocate or establish new operations in the state,” he said. Almost 200 major companies have considered locations across North Carolina in recent months, including the CAM site. “Manufacturing, food/beverage, See **CAM**, page A11

'A LITTLE MORE COMFORTABLE' School staff accessing vaccines in Chatham

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN & VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

A small group of school staff and child care workers are set to get vaccinated for the first time in Chatham this Friday — and Alirio Estevez, 51, is one of them. “I feel very happy. Enthusiastic,” said Estevez, an ESL teacher at Siler City Elementary School. He added: “There are some misgivings, some misinformation in the community, especially some people in the Latino community. ... So if I can get it at the school and they can see that teachers are getting it, they would be less reluctant to get the vaccine.” Last Friday, the Chatham County Public Health Department announced that

school staff and childcare workers ages 50 and older will start getting vaccinated in Chatham on Friday. With nearly 1,000 individuals in the department’s database from the county’s school and childcare facilities, the release said about 400 of those people are age 50 or older. “At the same time, we will continue to vaccinate healthcare workers and adults ages 65 and older,” said Mike Zelek, the CCPHD’s director. “Because of increases in our allocations from the state and more options to get the vaccine in Chatham, we do not anticipate the pace of vaccinations to these individuals will slow as we phase in this new group.” The decision followed See **SCHOOLS**, page A6

'WE LOVE SENIORS' MONTH

For Streets and the COA, Chatham's 'graying' is an opportunity to serve

'Many times, there is no one else doing it'

BY JAMES KIEFER
News + Record Correspondent

By Chatham County’s own admission, it’s skewing older. Under the Population and Income Information section of the county’s website, the last sentence on age demographics reads: “Like many counties, Chatham County is becoming ‘grayer,’ but doing so at a faster rate than surrounding counties.” State data supports that claim. People 60 years and older now account for a third of Chatham County’s populace, according to 2018 data from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Much of serving that growing chunk is falling into the lap of Dennis Streets. At 68, Streets finds himself



COA director Dennis Streets in listens in on a conference call with Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek on Friday.

as part of that increasing slice of the population. He also has a resume that illustrates four decades logged in the healthcare field, and has served as executive director of the Chatham Council on Aging since 2014. “We are sort of viewed as a See **COA**, page A3

'IT'S WORTH DRIVING' Most residents get vaccine outside Chatham

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON & HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

When North Carolina first began rolling out vaccinations, Chatham resident Linda Smith thought it would be easy to get an appointment. She quickly found out otherwise. Smith, 70, signed up with four vaccine providers across three nearby counties, including Chatham. After weeks went by with hardly any response, she began looking farther east — and finally found an appointment with a clinic in Tarboro, a two-hour drive from her home in the northwest part of

her home county. “My preference would be to go as close to home as possible, and if I had started feeling like the vaccine was readily available, and (that) I’d get called pretty quickly, sure,” she said. “But I started hearing people get vaccines, and I was hearing nothing. So I was like, ‘I don’t know how far down the waiting list I am ... If I can get it someplace else, it’s worth driving.’ Many other Chatham residents thought so, too. So far, about two-thirds of all vaccinated Chatham County residents received their first vaccine shots outside county lines, according to See **RESIDENTS**, page A6

Highlighting Black History Month celebrations across Chatham's schools

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — School Counselor Orlando Dobbin Jr. has long worked to honor different cultures by creating videos with his students at Pittsboro Elementary to celebrate commemorative months such as National Hispanic, Asian American and Pacific Islander and Irish-American Heritage months. Celebrating Black History Month this February, then, wasn’t much different. “Each month, I really tried to make

it a point of emphasis to create space for the stories of the people from that culture to share a little bit about who they are and what their culture is all about,” Dobbin said. “I wanted to think about what are meaningful ways in which I can not only give people an opportunity to be exposed to African Americans who have made a big difference in our community, our world ... but also, how can I scale it down so that they can see a representation of the Black people that are in their immediate

See **CELEBRATE**, page A3



Judit Zimo, ESL teacher at Chatham Middle School, made a timeline of Black history in her school's hallway to celebrate Black History Month.

IN THE KNOW

No water bill since October? One’s coming — along with payment plan. **PAGE A9**
Cyber update: as county recovers, LaMontagne provides additional info. **PAGE A11**
Sports: Finally, it’s football. Check out our high school gridiron previews. **PAGE B1**
CHAT: Antonio Austin, 8th-generation Pittsboro native, reflects on heritage. **PAGE B7**



IDENTITY THEFT

What to do if your personal data has been stolen

Sheriff's Office has suggestions for those who think they've been victimized

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Attacks on personal data have intensified worldwide amid the coronavirus pandemic, and Chatham is no exception.

Especially since the cyberattack on Oct. 28 — a network infiltration which blindsided the county government’s computer infrastructure and exposed scores of employees, former employees and residents to



Pack

potential fraud — Chathamites are concerned about their information’s security. A News + Record investigation into the extent of Chatham’s breach revealed more than 14,000 stolen documents had been posted online by a criminal threat actor after a failed ransomware demand of

50 bitcoin (worth about \$708,000 at the time of the incident). Some of those files contained sensitive personal information including statements provided by Chatham County children who were victims of sexual abuse, performance evaluations and healthcare documents of current and former county employees and folders of files from criminal investigations labeled “closed” and “open.” Social Security numbers were included in hundreds of

files. There’s some good news, though — if your information was included among the publicized files, county officials have probably already reached out to advise you. “After being alerted to the data breach, our staff worked tirelessly to verify the tip as well as the authenticity of the posted documents,” Sheriff Mike Roberson told the News + Record. See **STOLEN**, page A7

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

THURSDAY

• **The Siler City Board of Commissioners** meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 1, at town hall in Siler City.
 • **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

• **UPCOMING:** Residents are invited to join the **Chatham Community Library** for a virtual program with Michael Frank of the Museum of Bad Art (MOBA) as he presents "Tough Times — Having a Bad Day to Dystopian Apocalypse" on Saturday, March 13, from 1 to 2 p.m. Individuals interested in participating in the program may contact Library Branch Manager Rita Van Duinen at rita.vanduin@chathamlibraries.org for virtual meeting instructions and link. This program is free, open to the public and is made possible with the support of the Friends of the Chatham

Community Library.
 • **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 through 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.
 • With COVID-19 sweeping the country, artists' livelihoods are being challenged like never before. The Chatham Arts Council has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called **CAARE: Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort**. For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit ChathamArtsCouncil.org.
 • **JMArts** hosted a **JMACoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMACoronaConcert performances and #JMACoronaConcert program.
 • **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.

McClellan named CN+R's web editor

CN+R Staff Report

News + Record reporter Hannah McClellan has added "web editor" to her title, Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III has announced.

"In this new role, Hannah will oversee our work as a team to give our readers a more robust experience, and to help us develop a more engaging website and social media presence," Horner said. McClellan, who graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill last May with a degree in journalism and global studies, has

worked with the News + Record over the last eight months covering education, local government and more.

"We've all relied on Hannah's insights about digital content creation and social media platforms, so it just makes sense to create this new role for her and give her additional responsibilities for helping us grow our audiences," Horner said.

"I love many things about journalism, but one of the most important parts of the job to me is the very real need and responsibility to find, report and tell stories that matter to your community in a way that's accessible and makes sense," McClellan said. "I absolutely think a newspaper's online

presence can play a big role in how accessible its stories are to readers, and I'm excited to step into this role formally and keep learning more about web design and analytics — what works and what doesn't."

A native of Currituck, McClellan was on The Daily Tar Heel's investigations team while at UNC and previously wrote for Star News Online, The Durham VOICE and UNC Media Hub.

"I've loved reading and writing since I was a little girl, so I've always been really fond of the art of storytelling," she said. "As I've gotten older, I've seen the positive impact community-oriented, responsible journalism can have, and I feel so

lucky to play a small part in the good journalism the News + Record is producing. I'm passionate about using journalism to share and amplify important, yet often overlooked voices and stories, and grateful for Bill's trust in his reporters to find and tell important stories. I'm excited for all the good journalism in the months to come."

In recent months, the News + Record has been focusing on creating additional new content for the newspaper's website — www.chathamnews-record.com — on a 24/7 basis, Horner said. And in addition to the growth in print subscribers, the newspaper's award-winning e-newsletter — The Chatham Brew — and soon-to-be-announced

new print and digital products will give Chatham residents even more access to content in the platforms of their choice.

McClellan will specifically be instrumental in one of the new projects — a parenting e-newsletter — the News + Record is developing with two local partners; it is expected to debut in the late spring.

CLARIFICATION

In the Feb. 11-17 print edition of the News + Record, an article titled "The legacy of George Moses Horton, lauded Chatham poet born in slavery" incorrectly stated that Horton didn't learn to read until 1832; that he had been composing poetry in his head. In actuality, Horton could read for years prior, he didn't learn how to write until 1832.

Chatham County Council on Aging

WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: Where was the Sandhill Power Co.'s hydroelectric plant built in 1921?

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

NEWS BRIEFS

The Hawbridge School begins expansion project

SAXAPAHAW — The Hawbridge School has begun construction on a new 40,000 square foot school building which will significantly increase the public charter school's current enrollment to serve students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Staying true to the school's vision of environmental stewardship and outdoor education, the new building has been designed to maximize opportunities for students to interact with their natural surroundings. With the expansion, Hawbridge will become one of only four public K-12 schools in Alamance County, though the school serves students from eight counties altogether. Construction on the expansion is expected to be completed by the end of 2021. Applications to enroll for the 2021-2022 lottery must be submitted by March 1 and can be found on the admissions page. Job postings for the expanded school may be found on the employment page.

Hawbridge melds academic excellence with an innovative curriculum of place-based education. Students explore academic concepts as they relate to both natural and social surroundings, and for the past several years, Hawbridge has had the highest SAT averages of high schools in Alamance County. The school places a strong emphasis on the environment, the arts, community engagement and personalized attention. Hawbridge is also known for its prioritization of inclusiveness and respect, and welcomes students and families from diverse backgrounds.

"We have a strong school culture that values individuality, mutual respect and acceptance" said Mya Ciccotti, executive director of The Hawbridge School. "While the expansion will allow us to serve more students, it will also give our students the opportunity to learn and experience this culture from an early age. Students will progress from kindergarten to high school graduation in a supportive and caring school community."

Currently, many Hawbridge students find Hawbridge to be a welcoming "safe haven," and the school draws many exceptional students, gifted learners and students who thrive in a less traditional learning environment.

As part of the place-based education learning model, The Hawbridge School has strong ties to the surrounding community in the small village of Saxapahaw. Students regularly intern with local businesses as part of the SaxConnex internship program, in addition to taking an active role in community projects, such as constructing riverside walking trails and installing informational signs around the village. Hawbridge plans to allow community members use of the new building's trails, natural spaces, and gymnasium. "Our vision is a school as an active participant within the broader community," said Todd Nicolet, chairperson of The Hawbridge School board.

For more information about The Hawbridge School and its expansion, visit www.thehawbridgeschool.org or <http://www.facebook.com/hawbridgeschool>.

— Cn+R staff reports



Dispensing Hope for the Uninsured

Free Over the Counter Medicine Giveaway

DRIVE -THRU EVENT

Date: February 26, 2021
Time: 9am-2pm
Where: Fellowship Baptist Church
 120 Fellowship Church Road
 Siler City, NC 27344

Event Details:
 OTC Items include: cold, cough, flu medicine, pain relief, vitamins, and children's medicine, etc.

NC MedAssist is a nonprofit pharmacy providing access to prescription medications to qualified uninsured North Carolina residents.

Learn how to receive free medicine at:
www.medassist.org

Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged.
 Register at: www.medassist.org/mobile

No ID required. Must be 18 years or older.
 Face mask is required to participate.

EVENT MADE POSSIBLE BY:



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COA celebrates Seniors, Black History Month

From the Chatham Council on Aging

The Chatham County Council on Aging found several ways to celebrate We Love Seniors Month and Black History Month, despite the COVID pandemic.

“We did not want COVID-19 to stop two important February traditions of the Council on Aging,” said Director Dennis Streets.

For many years, the Chatham County Board of County Commissioners had joined the Council on Aging in proclaiming February as “We Love Seniors Month.” In offering its 2021 resolution, commissioners noted that “Living through the COVID-19 pandemic

has made us all even more appreciative of the importance of community and connectedness.”

The resolution acknowledged that throughout Chatham County’s 250-year history, “older adults have contributed significantly to the Chatham we all love. They are our living history and remain vital to our present and future. We owe our seniors great admiration and appreciation.”

As a “thank you” to Chatham County seniors and all who support the work of the Council on Aging, the council offered a free virtual concert to the community on Valentine’s Day. Grammy award winner Mike Farris performed 90

minutes from his home in Nashville, Tennessee. A recording of the event is available online at <https://www.facebook.com/ChathamCOA/posts/10159168007366550>.

At the concert, Commission Chairperson Mike Dasher thanked the COA for its work in helping ensure that Chatham County is a place where older people can live safely and with dignity and can stay actively and productively engaged in the community.

In addition to celebrating “We Love Seniors Month,” during February, the Council on Aging would normally have had a large gathering at its two centers to celebrate Black History Month as well.

While COVID-19 forced changes, the COA still created ways to recognize this special time, including hanging a special banner outside each of its centers and holding a number of virtual events.

“Our Zoom celebration of Black History Month on Feb. 2nd was one of the best attended events we have had since the pandemic started here in Chatham last March,” said Liz Lahti, manager of the Council’s Eastern Center.

Entitled “Voices of the Past & Present,” the program honored three Chatham community leaders. Debbie Lee shared some of the significant contributions of Margaret Bryant Pollard.

Alpha Cheek similarly recalled the leadership provided by her deceased husband, Larry Cheek. In turn, Carl Thompson Jr. spoke proudly of his father, Carl Thompson.

The mistress of ceremonies for the event was Pam Thompson Smith. Providing music were Gene and Marian Goldson.

“This really was a wonderful tribute to persons who have made a tremendous difference in Chatham County,” said the COA’s Vickie Cheek, who helped plan the celebration. A recording of the event can be found on the Council’s YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/FIn6gHr7gUg>

Then on Feb. 5th, Streets used one of this

Friday morning calls with participants to further highlight Black History Month, inviting Saurdra Gardner, one of the council’s volunteer Community Ambassadors, to share her personal perspective. Using her personal history as the first Black social worker in Chatham County Schools, Gardner spoke through the lens of George Moses Horton in remembering the significance of many Black educators in her life. The full text of Ms. Gardner’s remarks can be found on the council’s website at <https://chathamcouncilonaging.org/2021/02/16/a-chatham-black-history-month-tribute-by-saurdra-gardner/>

CELEBRATE

Continued from page A1

ate school community?”

Last February, Dobbin, who is Black, asked Black students what they loved about being Black. Several students said they loved their curly hair.

“For me personally, it was super powerful to hear that because I remember feeling shame about my hair and how it looked,” he said. “It was really beautiful to see the ways in which they had embraced their hair and the way they look.”



Submitted photo

Orlando Dobbin Jr., school counselor at Pittsboro Elementary, makes celebratory videos during heritage months to highlight different cultures and experiences. This year for Black History Month, he spoke with families and students over Zoom about the importance of family.

school. There have been choral studies of music by Black composers, timelines and bulletins in the hallway and classroom activities honoring Black heroes and figures.

In Chatham County Schools, the district’s equity team — which has representatives from every school — put together a Google document with a variety of resources for faculty to celebrate the month.

“The following resources have been collected to help support CCS teachers in celebrating and teaching Black History,” that document says. “First and foremost, Black history is U.S. history! We believe Black history should be taught throughout the year, however February is a time to dig deeper and celebrate the rich history and significant contributions.”

Amanda Hartness, CCS Assistant Supt. of Academic Services and Instructional Support, said the month provides an opportunity for some of the district’s most marginalized students to be explicitly celebrated. She added that the resources compiled by the equity team serve as a good way to offer a more united approach to teaching the month.

“If I just provide those resources, I’m just Amanda Hartness, one white female with an elementary

perspective, for the most part, right?” she said. “The beauty of that team is it’s made up of a variety of stakeholders from across the district and from different levels, different job roles, as well as different nationalities, races. So by having that group be the one that develops materials, it makes it more applicable to folks.”

At Woods Charter School, teachers have celebrated the month with virtual readings, art galleries and videos. The school is still learning remotely, so they’ve gotten creative to engage students.

“We’re just trying to make sure that as a faculty,” said faculty representative Rachel Lawrence at WCS’ last school board meeting, “we’re attending to these important events and observances and keeping our collective consciousness on them even though there’s so many distractions right now.”

7-5 on Feb. 4 to approve the proposed changes of the standards at its meeting on Thursday, which included new State Superintendent Catherine Truitt’s amended language — removing “systemic racism,” “gender identity,” and “systemic discrimination” from the standards and replacing the words with racism, discrimination and identity.

Amy King, a history teacher at Chatham Central High School, said teaching Black History Month exemplifies the importance of teaching positive history along with “hard history.”

“I think teaching hard history is so important. And I think certainly the lessons that we have had recently, from certain current events, as of late, teach us the importance of why all students need to know truth, and history,” she said. “So much of that history we could focus on is really dismal and tumultuous, and really horrible. And so it’s nice to bring out things to students and have them research and look into things that they maybe have not been taught before and are positive stories. So I do try to do both.”

This year, King planned activities around the “Following Harriet” podcast, teaching students about Harriet

Tubman’s life beyond her involvement in the Underground Railroad — as a wife and mother, an entrepreneur, a soldier, a spy, a nurse and an activist who fought for women’s right to vote.

Last February, she taught about lynching, partnering with the Chatham Community NAACP Branch to talk about Chatham’s six lynching victims and about reconciliation and justice. She was prepared for pushback, but said none came. She thanked her school for supporting her in taking risks in the classroom to teach students true history.

“I just made it really clear to my students from day one, that this was not a blame or shame,” King said. “This was about learning, and it was about bringing some peace or reconciliation to our community, because we each represent a different member of that community. And I want to tell you, it was phenomenal.”

King said she thought that her lessons would validate some of the feelings and experiences of her Black students.

“But actually, what happened was they already knew a lot of these stories, and that’s the part I had underestimated as their white female teacher,” she said. “They already knew a lot of these stories, maybe not the finer details, but they knew they had heard it and passed down through their families — it was actually the white students who were just like, ‘What!’”

Judit Zimo, an ESL teacher at Chatham Middle School, has also noticed a lack of background knowledge among her students when it comes to prominent Black

leaders. So this year, she decided to make a large hall display showcasing figures who remained unknown to many middle schoolers — Alice Coachman, Garret Morgan, Benjamin Banneker, Doris Miller, Shirley Chisholm and Henrietta Lacks.

She said it was important for students to know history that was “hidden for a long time,” like the Cicero Race Riot of 1951 or the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

“A lot of students don’t know about this,” Zimo said, “and it is so important that we all go back and read and learn from the systemic racism that happened and happens now.”

Some critics of Black History Month, or those teaching and talking about race generally, have said students are too young to understand such topics.

Dobbin disagrees; he thinks creating space for more history and stories to be told makes us more human, and in turn, can help students “lean into being their most confident selves.”

“Elementary school students, obviously developmentally, they’re at an age where they might not be able to comprehend all of it,” he said. “But I think this is the best time to start teaching them the importance of celebrating who they are, celebrating the cultures and identities of other people. I think it’s important, really important, especially at this age to start to create the atmosphere for which they can learn to celebrate both themselves and others so that we can create a world where people are cool humans.”

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

Black history is U.S. history

Across Chatham, many educators like Dobbin are finding creative ways to celebrate and teach Black History Month this year, even with the challenges presented by remote and hybrid learning. Horton Middle School will celebrate its fifth celebration of George Moses Horton Day on Friday at the

perspective, for the most part, right?” she said. “The beauty of that team is it’s made up of a variety of stakeholders from across the district and from different levels, different job roles, as well as different nationalities, races. So by having that group be the one that develops materials, it makes it more applicable to folks.”

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Teaching hard history is so important

Black History Month this year follows debate among the State Board of Education in January regarding revisions to K-12 social studies standards and whether the U.S. is racist. The board ultimately voted

COA

Continued from page A1

primary or single portal for information and assistance,” Streets said of the COA. “When a senior comes to us with a request for assistance, while someone else may be doing it, then we’re certainly going to help make a connection (to a needed service). But many times, there is no one else doing it.”

The council, he says, not only directs senior citizens to resources they could be eligible for, but also provides programming and services to Chatham’s older community. Some of the offerings from the non-profit include things like meal assistance, tax preparation, minor home repair services and resources for home care. That’s in addition to a litany of social programs aimed at keeping seniors engaged as a community.

And while the COA does spend plenty of time directing people to existing services, the organization often finds itself having to fill in the gaps.

tion. Streets mentioned that seniors 85 and above are of particular concern.

“In the aggregate, that’s the greatest group needing home and community services and long term care and other forms of assistance,” he said.

Part of addressing that comes with making sure there is sufficient housing for care workers and home care aides, according to Streets. He said it’s not a new issue, or one that’s even unique to the county.

The other issue is being able to view “the senior population is one of our few growing natural resources.”

“You think about that and wonder, ‘Are we doing all we need to do to tap the talents, the wisdom, the experience of an older, mature population?’” Streets asked. “To keep them engaged, to keep them healthy and also contributing to the community?”

Before the pandemic, Streets said he had around 275 volunteers, the majority of which were seniors.

“They’ve been dormant right now mostly due to COVID-19, but it’s using those talents,” he said.

Creating an age-friendly community

Part of the COA’s mission statement is commitment to creating an age-friendly community. That essentially translates into a comprehensive set of planning that ranges from accessible infrastructure, healthcare

availability, resource dispersion and education for life planning, according to Streets.

“The most obvious are the physical and accessible environments,” Streets explained.

That means things like transportation options that are both affordable and accessible. Streets said that could look like passing zoning laws that allow for garage apartments — he calls them “granny flats” — to be added onto homes, or constructing walkways that are just as easy for someone using a walker as a parent pushing a stroller. Essentially, it’s creating assets for communities that spread across multiple age groups.

“It’s also going to have a component that focuses on healthy aging,” he said. “It’s going to have access to dental care, to medical services, to vision and hearing care. It’s going to have food and nutrition, it’s going to have immunization — which we now see as sorely needed. It’s going to have physicians that are accepting medicare and medicaid. It’s going to have mental health and behavioral health services.”

The COA moving forward

With people age 65 and older being among those first in line to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, we’re starting to get a peek at the first few days of the post-pandemic era, according to Streets. As for how the COA sees its

own future — right now, in February, the time designated by Chatham Commissioners as “We Love Seniors” month — he’s leaving that decision in Chatham’s hands.

“One of the things that we want to try to do over the next two years is really engage the community in helping us decide what we need to be in the future,” he said. “We’re in our 46th year, and one of the things that you think about is our facility. We really had maxed out our space here at the Pittsboro center; it was just overrun. And now with COVID-19 and the emphasis of having the physical space becomes even more important.”

Streets said that could include changing programming to be more in line with public input. He said one concept he’d like to see is a senior center without walls, which means taking more programs and services into the community. He also mentioned he’s thankful for the support Chatham has already shown the COA, something he hopes will help sustain the non-profit over the next 20 years.

“We may continue to be connected with the larger community and we may be in a larger center,” he said. “All that said, we’ll have to grow as the needs grow, and it means hopefully some additional support from the public side, not just the county, but federal and state. It also means we’ll have to have continued support from the community.”

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VIEWPOINTS

Giving an old flame the old college try

I think an old college flame is trying to reconnect with me.



BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

Trying to interest me in “getting back together,” as they say.

It began with some unsolicited email messages and me poking around the internet. That’s how affairs begin, I know, but what I saw looked enticing, tempting. And now it’s official: we’ve agreed to go on a date.

Two, actually. Both are this coming September — the first, a late-summer rendezvous near the sandy beaches of South Carolina, and the second, if it works out, here in North Carolina.

And how will it end? I’m anticipating a disaster. The reason is simple: my old flame is a loser.

Let you think I’m cheating on my wife, the flame I’m

speaking of is the football team of the University of Kansas, the perennial cellar-dwellers of the Big 12 Conference and widely recognized as one of the worst programs in all of college sports.

The Jayhawks — 0-9 last season and 9-48 since 2016 — are playing Coastal Carolina in Conway, S.C., on Sept. 11 and then traveling to Durham for a Sept. 25 game at Duke. I plan to attend both as a proud alumnus of KU; they’ll mark my first Kansas football games since the fall of 1984.

Kansas’ reputation in basketball is not in question, even here in North Carolina. But we’re talking football here, a sport in which we stink.

It wasn’t always that way. Back when I was a student at KU, I spent a lot of time connected to the football team.

I went to home games as a rowdy freshman and sophomore and then covered the team for the Topeka Capital-Journal as the newspaper’s KU sports correspondent during my ju-

nior year. That meant not only going to every home game, but attending every single practice as well, and the occasional road contest.

On Saturdays, I sat in the press box with two senior sportswriters from the paper and the rest of the media crowd. We’d all make our way to the sidelines late during each 4th quarter, and I’d then scurry around the locker room after games doing interviews for my “next day” game story, which I’d file on Sunday afternoons for Monday’s paper. Weekday afternoons, I’d stand in the hot Kansas sun — and in all sorts of weather as the season progressed — for practices, writing (and then dictating — no email or fax back then) a daily “brief” for the paper following a post-practice scrum with our new head coach, Mike Gottfried.

It was an exciting time. Gottfried was a coach on the rise. The Jayhawks went 4-6-1 his first season, beating

10th-ranked USC at Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles. My senior year, when I worked for the school’s Sports Information Office, we went 5-6 — including a stunning win over then 2nd-ranked Oklahoma at home, 28-11. Standing on the sidelines as the game clock wound down is still a vivid memory. (OU’s star quarterback missed the game with an injury, but so what?)

Gottfried eventually left to coach Pitt, which had a real football program. The Jayhawks, meanwhile, had some good seasons, winning the Orange Bowl in 2008.

But it’s been slim pickings since then. We had high hopes with Les Miles — who won a national championship at LSU in 2007 — coming on board as coach two seasons ago; we started 2-1 and things were looking optimistic.

Since then? A 1-17 record.

I’ve been wanting to go back to a game for some years now. After buying some new KU gear from the student store a few months ago, I’ve been eyeing the

athletic department’s website for schedule updates and pondering a trip to Lawrence for a game. Then after my friend (and fellow alumnus) Darrell Spain’s death on Christmas Day, the urge to go increased. Having two road games scheduled so close to home this coming season made my decision easy, so I’ll go and think of Darrell and remember how entrenched I was in Kansas football for a short period of my life.

My enthusiasm is growing; I even contributed a little extra this year to the #OneDay-OneKU alumni fundraiser last Friday, an online giving event which set a fundraising record for the school. It earned me a Twitter shout-out from the university, which I dutifully re-tweeted as a #humblebrag.

Come September, though, I’m not expecting to be doing any bragging. It’ll be nice enough just to be there in Conway and then at Wallace Wade Stadium in Durham, rekindling the old passion.

And maybe fall in love again.

Happy birthday, older brother

I’m the youngest of the three sons born to my mother and father. Years ago and



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

years after I came to be, I learned that there almost was a fourth one of us — except that my mom suffered a miscarriage. Turns out that the infant would have been our little sister. I won’t pretend I know how such an event affects women.

I was somewhere around the tender age of 5 or so when Mama was in the hospital. They don’t tell you much about things like that when you’re young; I just remember Daddy telling me she wasn’t feeling well but would be fine and would be home in a few days. At the time, that was all I needed to know, especially since it meant I could sleep with him at night and he would make sure I had plenty of some favorite foods, which at that time included lots of peanut butter.

Family has always been a big deal for me — from my folks to my own to the nieces and nephews and now to those people who carry the title “grandchildren,” and the lesson I’ve learned and continue to learn from having them is there is a reason they’re called “grand.” (Remind me sometime to show you my pictures.)

But one of the biggest and most meaningful ones for me has always been my brothers. As “the baby,” as my Mama often referred to me even and especially in public, I looked up, literally and figuratively, to them. They were my heroes, the folks I wanted to grow up to be like. Later on, I caught up to them in height but I still remember them fondly.

This week the senior of we three celebrated a birthday. I won’t tell you how old he is, but he’s 10 years older than me and I was born in 1948. Before President’s Day came along on the calendar, he used to tell me the reason Feb. 22 was a holiday had nothing at all to do with George Washington and everything to do with him.

The two of us have had a running difference of opinion for years about why I even came to be in the first place. I always said that when Mama and Daddy welcomed him into their lives as their first they said, “Well, that’s pretty good; let’s have another” so about three years later, Number 2 appeared. Then they decided to rest for a few years before saying, “It’s pretty good so far, but we think we can do even better” — so then there was me. I don’t know how I would have explained why there was a fourth one if that had come to pass.

He, on the other hand, likes to say that things were rapidly going downhill in the child department, so they called a halt to it all. (But that wouldn’t have explained number four any better either.)

When I was 6 or 7 and he was a dating teenager, I used to whine to Mama to “make Ronald let me go with him” when he went out. I figured that was the least he could do for me shining his shoes for those big events. Now that all three of us are on the other side of Social Security, the age gap has vanished; now basically we’re all the same age, complete with gifts from both sets of parents — our actual ones as well as Mother Nature and Father Time.

In time in the growing up years, he did let me go places with him. He took

me to spend the night a few times when he was a student at then High Point College. I don’t think you could do that today, even before COVID. I went to ball games there with him, ate in the school cafeteria, met his buddies.

When I was in, I think, the 8th grade, he convinced our folks to let me skip a few days of school to go with him to Washington, D.C. — long before the days of fences and razor wire in our nation’s capital. We went all over to the monuments and spent our nights in a fraternity house at Georgetown University. On the way home, we stopped at a Howard Johnson’s restaurant near Petersburg, Virginia, for the evening meal. Afterwards, I was supposed to stay awake and talk with him so *he* could stay awake as we drove on through the night in his 1960 Ford Falcon. I managed to accomplish that task for about 17 minutes before checking out.

Through the years, there have been all kinds of milestones — weddings, births, funerals, family gatherings, well-planned events and spontaneous ones. In a nod to our paternal grandfather who made a career as a railroad man, we once took a train trip to Alabama to see his daughter and other family folks. Before the virus, at my home we would have an every-other year Thanksgiving gathering of the extended families of the three boys, as Mama also called us, and other friends. Most of the time that totaled upwards of 50 or so folks. We’d eat, pitch horseshoes, eat, play Rook for hours, eat some more, sometimes take in a movie, eat, go on hayrides around our pastures — and did I mention we’d sometimes eat?

One Thanksgiving gathering, I had some T-shirts made for us three. Oldest brother got one that said, “I’m the oldest child; I make the rules.” Brother 2 got one that said, “I’m the middle child; I’m why we have rules.” And I, as the youngest, got one that said, “I’m the youngest child; the rules don’t apply to me.” As I now think about our family dynamics, I think there’s more than a grain of truth to that.

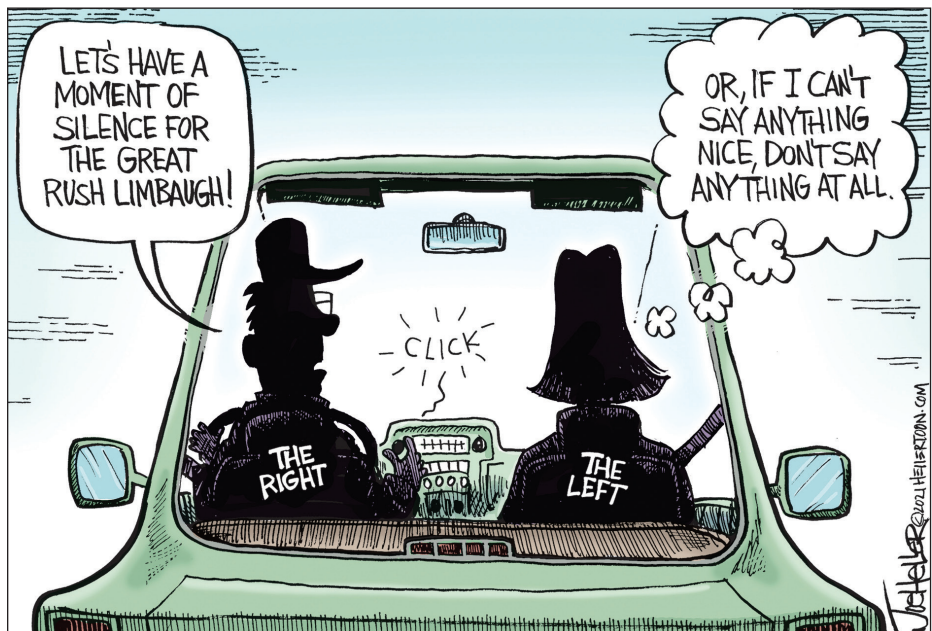
Today, as we three on occasion have talked about all this, the reality of our ages seems a bit unreal. We’re all still here and grateful for it all but it sure happened fast. The other night, the oldest and I acknowledged that we guess the reason we got to where we are is that we all kept breathing.

COVID has had a big impact on so many folks in so many ways — illness, death, shutdowns, loss of jobs, depression (episodic and clinical), school closings ... and get-togethers.

I hope when all this is in our rear view mirror, we can embrace again. I hope my brothers — both of them — know how much I love them. And I hope if you have a brother ... or two or more or a baby sister or an older one that you’ll not only say “Happy Birthday” on a certain day, but you’ll do like the late University of Alabama football coach Paul “Bear” Bryant used to say in a television commercial around Mother’s Day: “Pick up the phone; call your mama.”

Call your brother, too.

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.



When chickens roost, no red herrings

After the terrible winter storms last week, we saw image after image of human misery in Texas. Millions were forced to endure freezing temperatures without electrical power not only because of the ice and snow but also the weakness in the power grid.



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

The state’s electric grid operator, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, intentionally shut off power in a series of rolling blackouts. Officials had to take these extreme measures to prevent a statewide collapse of the entire system.

Tensions among Texans ran high. There were reports that citizens harassed power line crews in Austin and San Antonio, even throwing things at workers. While anger is understandable, it is completely misdirected at the employees fixing the downed power lines.

Texans should take their anger right to the top of their political system. Reliability council officials and Texas lawmakers had no excuse. A winter storm in February 2011 also resulted in widespread blackouts. Officials knew their equipment would not perform in extremely cold temperatures. Still, they did little to upgrade those systems.

Now the chickens have come home to roost as past failures have resulted in today’s problems. Under intense scrutiny, Gov. Greg Abbott blamed the failure on the state’s renewable energy systems, such as wind turbines, despite the fact that such energy sources contribute only a small fraction of the power supply to the state. As reported by USA Today, Daniel Cohan, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at Rice University, noted that the combination of natural gas, coal and nuclear power plants failed to meet the consumer demand. Cohan labeled Abbott’s argument about the wind turbines “a red herring” — an intentionally misleading statement.

When confronted with the facts,

Abbott tried an even more desperate smoke screen, blaming Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for a plan called the Green New Deal. Please bear in mind this congresswoman represents the state of New York, not Texas, and that no such federal legislation has even been proposed.

Why attack renewable energy sources? In the same USA Today article, Emily Grubert, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology, made a wise observation: “It’s easy to focus on the thing that you can see changing as the source of why an outcome is changing.” In this case, easy to blame wind turbines (and the political party that advocated for them) as the cause of failures in the power supply.

The truth is that the Texan leaders who did not sufficiently upgrade and maintain the power plants are at fault. But the more pressing and fundamental issue is that cheap fossil fuels are part of the problem.

Instead of excuses and political jabs, all elected officials must take seriously the predictions of more frequent and serious storms due to climate change. Since renewable energy sources help to decrease carbon emissions, these forms of energy are exactly the types of technologies we need.

Proponents of natural gas, coal and oil are right about one thing. The investment in new sources of energy will take time and money.

But to continue to rely on fossil fuels will prove even more than costly. It will be deadly.

The United States must launch a broad bipartisan effort to act now in order to improve and expand our energy capabilities with wind, water and solar. Then, we will be better able to withstand storms and prevent more disastrous weather. The chickens have come home to roost. We cannot afford to waste time with red herrings.

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

VIEWPOINTS

One final musing — power in the pen

“I can’t believe this. I really can’t. My mom signed me up for the PTA. I think I am going to faint. What will everyone say when they find out? Or maybe they won’t. Maybe I won’t let them. Maybe I’ll stash the certificate in my messy drawer. Deep down. I mean, seriously, who would want to be in a clique with your parents and teachers?”

In preparation to start



RACHEL HOROWITZ
Millennial Musings

teaching middle school, I decided it would be a good idea to dig through my old diaries. I ended up submitting the PTSA opener, as well as a dozen other bits, to “Mortified,” a comedy tour that features adults reading their embarrassing childhood stories. My 6th-grade self would be — well, mortified — at the thought of other people ever reading these entries. However, she also wouldn’t know that most of my “secrets” are already public knowledge.

Middle school marked the first time that I ever struggled with an eating disorder. Because I have now studied men-

tal illnesses and their warning signs, many alarm bells rang as I perused my old journal entries. How did I brush off these thought patterns as just normal parts of growing up? How did no one recognize what I was going through?

I remember when I saw my first therapist who only had appointments in the middle of the day. After the other kids saw me leave English class at the same time each week, they thought that I was dying of a mysterious illness. They collectively signed a “Get Well Soon” card and presented it to me at the end of the semester. I was touched that they cared but

also floored that no one else was seeing a therapist. No one seemed to talk about mental health, either.

Nowadays, a huge part of teacher training involves social and emotional learning. This includes how students apply knowledge, attitudes, and skills to set goals, manage their own emotions, and establish respectful relationships with others. Finally, it focuses on mental health awareness, something that still carries a lot of stigma into adulthood.

Writing became a major outlet for my own mental health. There is power in the

pen, especially when it seems like other outlets are closed off. That is one element that I hope to convey to my students, even ones who would never write in a diary. As I say goodbye to writing Millennial Musings, I am shifting my focus to inspire the next generation of writers. Who knows, maybe one of them will end up on this very page someday.

This is the last “Millennial Musings” column by Rachel Horowitz, resides in Chatham County and works in Pittsboro. She can be reached at millennialmusings.nc@gmail.com.

I thought blacklisting was bad

I’ve never really been a victim of cancel culture. But that’s not to say my critics haven’t tried to make me one.

I began my syndicated column in 1986. It ran initially in a couple of newspapers in eastern North Carolina, then spread to dozens of others over the ensuing decade. On several occasions, left-wing activists have tried to get editors to drop my column. It never worked. In my experience, local newspaper folks didn’t like obviously orchestrated attempts to dictate editorial decisions.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

During my quarter-century as a regular panelist on TV shows, I can’t say producers or stations were never subject to political pressure. They were. But I was never silenced.

I am, of course, just a relatively obscure scribbler and pontificator. At the national level, cancel culture has become a real and pervasive threat in universities, business, and media. Teachers, writers, actors, and even low-level employees have been fired not for doing their jobs poorly, or for truly egregious personal behavior that reflected poorly on their judgment and their employers, but simply for expressing or even tolerating political views that online bullies didn’t like.

Before you jump to the conclusion I’m only talking about political conservatives, I’ll offer two cases of non-conservatives who’ve lost their jobs at just one outlet, the New York Times, for reasons that can only be described as ridiculous.

The first example, James Bennet, is someone I happen to know slightly. We were both reporter-researchers at The New Republic at the same time, just as the Reagan administration was drawing to a close, although the number of meaningful conversations we had could be counted on one hand.

During the riots last summer, Bennet ran an op-ed by Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas that advocated deploying the military if necessary to protect lives and property. Many people had a strong negative reaction to it. I disagreed with part of Cotton’s argument myself. But it was an obviously newsworthy column by a sitting U.S. senator that expressed a mainstream view held by many millions of Americans.

No doubt Bennet disagreed with Cotton, too. But he was editorial-page editor of a national newspaper. It was his job to run such op-eds. In fact, the Times even solicited the piece! But Bennet was forced out over it.

More recently, you may have heard, Times science writer Donald McNeil Jr. was canceled because he used the “n-word” in a conversation with a student. Was McNeil engaging in some racist fulmination or treating the student in a creepy way? No. The student asked McNeil for his opinion about the fate of another student who’d been suspended for using the n-word in a video made when that student was 12 years old. While asking for clarification of the question, McNeil repeated the word. For that, he was forced out.

To be sure, there is a lot of hyperbole, hypocrisy, and shoddy reasoning to be found among current condemnations of cancel culture. When Sen. Josh Hawley lost a book contract with a major publisher after the January 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol, he said, “This is not just a contractual dispute. It’s a direct assault on the First Amendment.”

Nonsense. The constitution prohibits the government from restraining our right to speak or publish, or to punish us later for expressing political views that government functionaries dislike. It has nothing to do with the decisions of private actors.

A better argument is that even perfectly legal private decisions to cancel will, over time, weaken the culture of free expression. We need that culture. We need it to foster good journalism, to create great works of art, and to lubricate our daily interactions within a society of diverse opinions.

Remember the Hollywood blacklist of the 1950s? It’s been denounced repeatedly ever since. But now I can’t help wondering: were those denunciations really about the injustice of people losing jobs because of their political views and friendships? Or is cancel culture OK as long as the victims aren’t communists?

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

Lowered life expectancy doesn’t stop this N.C. native

“Life expectancy in the United States dropped a staggering one year during the first half of 2020,” according to last week’s news reports.

For males the average life expectancy is now 75.1 years and for females, 80.5 years.

This means that several of our most important national leaders (President Joe Biden, 78; U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, 80; and U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, 79) are past their life expectancies.

For most of the rest of us the approach of our 80th birthday is a time of retreat, not a time for taking on challenging new ventures.

Not so for an 80-year-old North Carolina native who recently became the founding dean of a new medical school in the planning stages. The school is a joint venture between Belmont University and Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), both based in Nashville.

Belmont President Bob Fisher explained the rationale for the partnership: “A College of Medicine is the natural next step in Belmont’s health care offerings. HCA Healthcare will bring world-class expertise to Belmont’s College of Medicine, offering our students extraordinary faculty instructors and a pathway to residency and clinical placements.”

The new dean, William Bates, grew up near Charlotte, attended Derita School and graduated from



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

North Mecklenburg High School. He attended UNC-Chapel Hill on a Morehead Scholarship and stayed in Chapel Hill for medical school.

Why would an 80-year-old, mostly-retired medical educator want what promises to be a challenging and probably exhausting leadership task? Those of us who knew Bates, now called “Bill,” as a high school student have part of the answer. He was always eager to succeed at every opportunity from academics to athletics to service. It is fair to say in a positive way that he was driven and willing to take on the hardest tasks.

Why would the organizers of the new medical school look to an older man when the job will certainly require the energy of someone much younger?

A quick look at Bates’ resume provides an answer.

In addition to a distinguished academic record in obstetrics and gynecology at several excellent medical schools, Bates served in high-level medical school leadership positions, including dean of the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston and vice president for medical education and research at the Greenville (S.C.) Hospital System.

Just as important, I am sure, is Bates’ business experience and acumen. He developed a system of electronic medical records for obstetrician-gynecologists called “digiChart OB-GYN.” He organized a business that sold the product to doctors on a subscription basis.

This sort of background in teaching, medical practice, management,

and business is golden for a medical school dean. But I think Bates sealed the deal by combining his prior experiences and his realistic vision for necessary changes into a plan for the launching of the new medical school. His plans were not general goals, but specific details showing the role of each member of the faculty, what courses would be taught at each level, what expenses would be, and how they would be funded.

For instance, he even outlined the admission requirements for entering students: “In addition to compassion, empathy, interpersonal and communication skills, and leadership, what are the academic prerequisites for admission to medical school? I think the following: Liberal Arts: English (writing and literature), social and political sciences, art, music, foreign language, philosophy, religion, economics. Sciences: Biology (8 hours), chemistry (16 hours), physics (8 hours) Mathematics: Calculus I (3 hours) and preferably, calculus II (3 hours).”

Bates’ willingness to take on this new task and his enthusiasm for it is inspirational, although a little daunting for this high school classmate. But I can hear what our North Mecklenburg teachers would say if they were still alive, “I always knew that William was going to be a big success.”

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.

GUEST COLUMN | DAVID DELANEY

The Constitution and the hope of U.S. law

A president failed to overturn an election; an insurrection against Congress and the vice president failed; and the Senate acquitted former president Trump of inciting that insurrection in his second impeachment trial.

Just how does the nation move forward from this tumult? The founding generation would urge us to improve the rule of law.

As we all come to understand, law is not a fixed set of rules, court processes, and verdicts. It is a social enterprise involving constant change. When administered well, the tools of law are simply means to greater ends.

Law can provide the language and mechanisms to reach agreement, find neutral ground, and deliver just outcomes. The rule of law succeeds when — as the Constitution Preamble states — it enables the people “to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty.”

From the very start, the Constitution was meant to change. The first states to ratify these words in 1788 promised holdout states that clear protection of individual rights would soon follow. Congress made good on that promise within six months by passing the Bill of Rights for states to ratify.

Treason (levying war against the nation) and insurrection (carrying arms against the government) were clearly unlawful under that first complete Constitution. They remain unlawful, and federal investigations into the January 6 attack could result in criminal charges.

If convictions for treason or insurrection (and other offenses) can be obtained and sustained on appeal, then — in rule of law terms — they are constitutional successes. If they cannot, then the rule of law success is the government’s decision not to prosecute or the jury’s not-guilty verdict. Either way, there is cause to celebrate the rule of law.

But the true hope of the U.S. constitutional order is to create the conditions — justice, tranquility, common defense, general welfare, blessings of liberty

— that prevent the use of armed force against the government. Every attack on the republic is a social failure that points the way to improve U.S. law as a social enterprise.

Recourse to war in 1861 marked a 72-year failure to reconcile notions of liberty and equality with chattel slavery. Four years of war to preserve the republic and free 4 million enslaved persons cost the nation 600,000 lives, billions in economic costs, and untold human suffering.

Improving the rule of law began immediately through Federal Reconstruction and the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. But white nationalism, Jim Crow laws, and segregation demonstrated the inadequacy of those improvements. The nation’s commitment to change fell short.

Even after pivotal 20th-century civil rights laws and Supreme Court rulings, it is clear that a deep undercurrent of race-based inequality and violent extremism still cuts across American society.

But other forces are also at work.

Social media platforms that stoked and mobilized the mob are largely unregulated. Rural communities are increasingly disconnected from the nation’s economic growth, healthcare services, and other measures of “general welfare.” Many veterans were involved in the Capitol attack — a stunning circumstance since the Founders expected the military to suppress insurrection.

The task for the new bipartisan commission studying the Capitol attacks is to identify Constitutional amendments and new laws that enable a digital-age population to fulfill the Constitution’s goals. Closer to home, improving the rule of law begins with new steps to promote justice, equality, and tranquility, just as the Constitution envisions.

David G. Delaney is an army veteran, attorney, and Chatham County resident who is on the faculty of the UNC-Chapel Hill Curriculum in Peace, War and Defense.

Delayed shipments arrive, allowing Chatham providers to resume vaccines

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

Last week's severe weather delayed vaccine shipments across the country and forced Chatham vaccine providers to reschedule appointments originally planned for earlier this week. Now, the vaccine shipments have arrived, and for Chatham's biggest vaccine providers, it's back to business as usual.

The Chatham County Public Health Department had expected to receive 400 doses of Moderna vaccine last Tuesday, said CCPHD's director, Mike Zelek, but thanks to icy weather, they instead arrived a week later. According to CCPHD Communications Specialist, Zachary Horner, the department received about two weeks' worth of vaccine allocations, or 1,000 doses, Tuesday morning.

"We are moving forward with plans to do vaccine events on Friday and Monday, with first and second doses on both days," Horner told the News + Record.

Last Thursday, while snow and ice storms swept across the country, the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services announced that the weather had delayed some vaccine shipments, including both first and second doses. At that point, the state's weekly allocation of Moderna vaccine hadn't yet been shipped while "only a limited number of Pfizer vaccines" had.

According to the press release, weather had caused a backlog of orders for both vaccines.

"These delays may cause vaccination appointments to be postponed or rescheduled," the release said. "As there is not enough vaccine in the state to shift or transfer supply in order to cover the delayed vaccine doses, DHHS is advising providers to assess current appointments and notify recipients accordingly based on on-hand supplies."

On Feb. 19, DHHS provided an update, announcing that delayed vaccine shipments would likely arrive between Monday and Wednesday. This week's allocations, the press release said, should also arrive during the same time.

Chatham County Public Health Department

Last week's delays left the CCPHD unable to schedule first-dose vaccinations, but now that they've received their allocations, CCPHD staff will begin scheduling vaccination appointments for this upcoming Friday and Monday. Both mass vaccination events will take place at Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro.

According to a Feb. 19 press release, Friday's event will vaccinate frontline health care workers, seniors aged 65 and older, and for the first time, school and child care workers aged 50 and older.

Typically, the CCPHD's allotted doses arrive on Tuesdays, and to date, Zelek said the CCPHD has only scheduled appointments after receiving its allotted doses. That's why they can't schedule appointments more than a week in advance, he added.

"We knew that there was always a chance that something like this would happen," Zelek told the News + Record last Thursday, referring to shipment delays. "So we've been scheduling our appointments, predominately on Mondays, but also (on) Fridays. It gives us a little cushion."

To register for a vaccination appointment with the CCPHD, visit chathamnc.org/vaccinetool or call (919) 545-8323.

Piedmont Health Services

On Thursday, inclement weather prompted Piedmont Health Services to cancel all of its COVID-19 vaccination appointments and instead reschedule them for last Friday and Monday. Piedmont has three Chatham-based clinics: the Siler City Community Health Center; the Moncure Community Health Center and the Piedmont Health SeniorCare (PACE) in Pittsboro.

PHS had also expected to vaccinate over 500 people last Saturday in Alamance County, but the shipment delays forced them to push the event back to next Saturday, Feb. 27, according to spokesperson Debra Markley.

"We thought we were getting 1,500 this

week (across all locations)," she said last Friday. "We got none, so that's why we're having to cancel the Alamance event until next week."

The vaccines arrived Monday, Markley told the News + Record Tuesday afternoon, and vaccinations will continue as planned. To schedule a vaccination appointment with Piedmont Health, new patients can visit piedmonthhealth.org, click on the site's vaccine tab and fill out a form to get on the waiting list. Existing patients can call their doctors.

UNC Health's Chatham clinic

According to UNC Health spokesperson Alan Wolf, Chatham Hospital's vaccination clinic opened today to administer first doses to eligible residents after receiving vaccines Monday. Delayed vaccine shipments had forced Chatham Hospital's vaccination clinic to close Monday and Tuesday and reschedule appointments on both days for later this week.

"For the rest of the week, including Saturday, they will be administering first and second doses," Wolf told the News + Record Tuesday. "They expect to administer 1,750 doses this week."

To schedule an appointment with UNC Health, visit www.unchealthcare.org/schedule or call (984) 215-5485.

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

RESIDENTS

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According to Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek.

"When I first saw that, I was taken aback a little bit," he said last Thursday, but added that the figure makes sense.

North Carolina vaccine providers have been vaccinating frontline health care workers, long-term nursing residents and staff as well as adults ages 65 and older — making up Groups 1 and 2, as dictated by the state health department. Many Chatham health care workers, Zelek said, likely received their shots where they work, which often isn't in Chatham County.

"If somebody, a Chatham resident, works for UNC Health in Chapel Hill or Duke or VA (Veterans Hospital), they'll be vaccinated out of the county," Zelek said. "We know that three quarters of our working adults leave the county to work, and so, I don't know what that percentage is for healthcare workers, but if it's along those same lines, it wouldn't be surprising that those numbers would line up."

A lower percentage of seniors have been vaccinated outside Chatham than health care workers, he added, though many may receive health care outside Chatham right "across the border" in Chapel Hill.

"We've been encouraging residents to pursue all options for vaccines available, knowing we have a limited supply," Zelek said, adding, "So we've been encouraging and putting out contact information through other local options even outside of the county so folks can get vaccinated as quickly as possible."

'Just be patient'

Smith followed the CCPHD's advice and explored outside options — but it didn't bear fruit as quickly as she would have liked.

She first signed up with her personal doctor's office, a family medicine practice in Carrboro.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Linda Smith and her cat, Hemingway.

Soon after, she registered with Duke Health and the Chatham County and Orange County health departments; each put her on their waiting lists.

She tried looking for appointments with UNC Health, too, but she could never find any available slots — even 10 minutes after friends told her some had opened on UNC Health's website. Smith's sister, who lives in eastern North Carolina, first suggested she look for appointments with Vidant Health in that part of the state.

Now, over three weeks after getting her first shot, she said she still hasn't heard a word from the CCPHD, other than: "Just be patient. We're trying to get people vaccinated."

"I think the key is to be patient, but for somebody my age, this is a life and death thing, potentially," Smith said. "I don't know that I would die from it, but I might be horribly debilitated, and I'm not right now. So being at the age of 70, you really start to worry about, 'OK, what's the quality of my life going to be from here on out, and do I really want to risk it?' So I want to get vaccinated as soon as possible."

Chatham's biggest providers include the CCPHD, Chatham Hospital (UNC Health) and Piedmont Health Services. Up until recently, all three had received an "even split" of doses of vaccine,

according to Zelek; combined, they had been receiving about 1,200 doses per week — much fewer than the number of Chatham residents eligible to get vaccinated. Starting this week those doses will increase. Piedmont Health now will receive doses directly from the federal government.

Per Zelek's estimate, more than 20,000 Chatham residents are eligible in Groups 1 and 2. Adults 65 and older make up about a quarter of Chatham's population — around 19,000 people — while Chatham health care workers number between 2,000 to 4,000 people.

Earlier this month, Gov. Roy Cooper announced that school staff and childcare workers would be eligible for the vaccine starting Wednesday, Feb. 24. After previously saying this start date was unlikely to be a reality in Chatham, the CCPHD announced Friday it would begin vaccinations for school and childcare workers 50 years and older on Friday. Nearly 1,000 individuals in Group 3 signed up for the vaccine, Zelek previously told the News + Record, and about 400 of those individuals are 50 or older. The department said the majority of its allocation would continue going to Groups 1 and 2.

As of Tuesday, just over 14,000 Chatham residents have received their first doses of vaccine, according to the state's vaccinations dashboard. Thousands of eligible individuals remain unvaccinated.

'Vaccine tourists'

But Chatham residents aren't the only ones leaving their counties to get vaccinations elsewhere. Just 53% of first doses administered in Chatham across all Chatham-based vaccine providers have gone to county residents, according to Zelek.

The CCPHD's figures are a bit higher; they've administered about 80% of their first doses to Chatham residents. Nearly 90% of its Group 2 vaccinations have gone to residents (65 and older).

"All providers will have some

recipients from other counties since federal and state guidance requires allowing non-county residents to receive the vaccine," Zelek told the News + Record. "Larger healthcare systems likely have higher percentages of out-of-county residents given that they have sites in multiple counties and scheduling is centralized."

Non-county residents could include people from other states, but Zelek estimated few out-of-state residents have been vaccinated in Chatham.

"We target our efforts locally," he added.

Media outlets across North Carolina, including WUNC, have reported that "vaccine tourists," or people seeking vaccinations in other states, have been coming into North Carolina from Virginia. A Jan. 26 story from CBSN in Pittsburgh reported that a woman from Pennsylvania had been considering driving eight hours to North Carolina to get her shot.

While getting her first dose over three weeks ago in Tarboro, Smith remembered her nurse mentioned she'd had a patient drive down to Tarboro from as far away as Virginia.

At first, states couldn't curb "vaccine tourism" since they receive their doses from the federal government under a federal program.

In interim provider guidance last updated Jan. 27, the North Carolina Dept. of Health and Human Services told vaccine providers that the state shouldn't prevent non-residents from getting vaccinated.

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has instructed states that this is a federal vaccine bought with federal funding," the guidance read. "Hence, jurisdictions should not put restrictions on administering vaccinations to non-residents, if those persons meet the current eligibility criteria. This applies to both county and state residency."

But on Feb. 9, per NCDHHS spokesperson Sarah Lewis Peel, the CDC updated those guidelines,

which now permit states and providers to "allow limitations to vaccine based on public-health grounds" and goals.

In practice, the updated guidance encourages North Carolina to prioritize its own residents or "people who spend significant time in North Carolina and are able to spread the virus in North Carolina." That includes people who work or receive health care in the state.

"However, to promote the public health goals for North Carolina, it is permissible to not offer vaccine to temporary travelers who do not reside, work, or spend significant time in North Carolina," the guidance reads. "This could include persons briefly passing or traveling through North Carolina or coming to North Carolina for the main purpose of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine and then returning to another state."

In other words, "vaccine tourists" could now be turned away under state policy.

In Chatham, some residents have expressed frustration on social media about the wait required to get a vaccine in the county, and that non-residents have been vaccinated before them.

Zelek acknowledged that the vaccination process can be lengthy and frustrating, adding that the department will work hard to provide vaccine doses "as quickly and equitably as possible." In the meantime, he pointed residents to other vaccine options in Chatham and surrounding counties.

"What matters to us is that Chatham residents get vaccinated — who does the vaccination is less important to us, we just want them to get vaccinated," he said. "We'll do everything that we can as the health department to make that happen as allocation comes our way, and in partnership with the other providers in the county."

Reporters Victoria Johnson and Hannah McClellan can be reached at victoria@chathamnr.com and hannah@chathamnr.com.

SCHOOLS

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Cooper's Feb. 10 announcement that the state would expand vaccine eligibility to Group 3, starting with educators and school personnel on Wednesday, Feb. 24. Other frontline workers are set to become eligible March 10. At the time, both state and local leaders stressed that vaccine eligibility did not guarantee vaccinations.

"Thousands of Chatham residents in these groups remain unvaccinated, and we are exhausting our weekly vaccine allocations to work through these groups as quickly as possible," Zelek said earlier in February. "Vaccine supply continues to be the limiting factor, and it is unlikely that we will be able to move to Group 3 as soon as the group becomes eligible per this updated guidance from NCDHHS."

But pending the arrival of scheduled allocations, the department said it would schedule appointments

this week with the 400 or so individuals in the county's Group 3 database who are 50 or older.

"We have been working closely with Chatham County Schools, public charter and private schools, and child care facilities for several weeks to prepare for these vaccinations," Zelek said in a department news release. "Thanks to these relationships, we will be able to hit the ground running."

'We're a little late'

In Chatham, most students can choose to attend some form of in-person hybrid learning. Chatham Charter is phasing into Plan A for K-5 students, CCS met Tuesday night to discuss potentially doing the same and Woods Charter School will begin phasing into Plan B on March 15. County teachers and staff have previously expressed concern about teaching in-person prior to getting vaccinated, and while their views converge slightly, groups like the ABC Science Collaborative and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised that

vaccines are not required for schools to open safely.

The rate of community transmission is a sticking point for many educators advocating for vaccine priority. Though the rate of transmission is lower in Chatham than in surrounding counties such as Durham or Randolph, the current spread is still higher than at many other points of the pandemic.

Johnny Alvarado, 52, teaches AP Spanish Literature at Jordan-Matthews High School. Like many other teachers, Alvarado told the News + Record he's glad teachers can now get vaccinated in Chatham, but he wished the move had come sooner.

"It should have been six weeks ago when we started or when the students started coming back," he told the News + Record in Spanish. "The sooner, the better, and it does seem to me that we're a little late. I wish (school staff vaccinations) had started much earlier so that I could teach a little safer."

He just registered to get vaccinated in Wake County

Monday night, but he'd prefer to receive his shots in Chatham, since that's where he works. And why does he want the vaccine?

"The vaccine protects you," he said, adding, "I don't believe in what anti-vaxxers believe. I've taken all the vaccines on the planet. It seems to me that science is preponderant, and if there is a vaccine, then I'm going to take it."

'This isn't a panacea'

For Edward Walgate, a science teacher at Northwood High School, the update doesn't mean too much given that he's not 50. Still, he said he's grateful the county is able to start with teacher vaccinations, particularly given the number of seniors 65 and older in Group 2.

"The teachers were happy that the governor has put us at the front of Group 3," he said. "We appreciate that teachers worked hard and communicated our feelings with the governor to make that happen."

Walgate was set to receive his vaccination in Lee County on Tuesday, where he and

half dozen other coworkers were able to schedule appointments. He knows of others with appointments this week at Duke Health and in Hoke County.

"It seems like other counties were accepting some information from teachers and even scheduling appointments a lot earlier than Chatham," he said. "But again, I think that gets down to, as Zelek said, the amount of senior citizens."

The department is slated to receive 600 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine this week, the CCPHD's release said, up from getting 400 doses the last few weeks. In addition to receiving the expected 600 doses, the department should also receive the 400 first doses delayed last week by the weather.

Once those allocations are received, vaccination events will be scheduled at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro. Planned events included in the release:

- Monday, Feb. 22: Second doses for Groups 1 and 2, which was successfully held despite wind and rain

- Friday, Feb. 26: First doses for Groups 1 and 2 and school and childcare staff ages 50 and older

- Monday, March 1: First and second doses for Groups 1 and 2, and first doses for school and childcare staff ages 50 and older

Though some teachers are reluctant to take a vaccine, Walgate said beginning to vaccinate many school staff is one step toward feeling safer during in-person learning.

"As a teacher, we know that this isn't a panacea — this isn't a solution to the problem," he said. "But it'll make a lot of educators feel a lot better about being face-to-face with students. And for here at Northwood, we have roughly 700 people in the building together during a pandemic; vaccines will go some way to making educators and staff a little more comfortable."

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@HannerMcClellan](https://twitter.com/HannerMcClellan). Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at victoria@chathamnr.com.

STOLEN

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“This process allowed us to identify the victims and confirm types of data exposed. Next, we set out to notify those victims of the breach and guide them toward available resources. All victims identified in our review of the stolen Sheriff’s Office data were notified within 24 hours of confirming the contents of the appropriated files.”

Chatham County government has also been informing its other staff members.

“On February 8th, the County discovered that the cyber actor(s) responsible for the October 2020 ransomware event against the County released certain data acquired by the cyber actor(s) from the County’s servers,” said County Manager Dan LaMontagne in a press release last week. “The County’s investigation of this event remains ongoing. This includes efforts to identify and notify every individual whose personal information may have been impacted.”

The “cyber actor” was an international group of criminals known as DoppelPaymer. The organization is thought to operate out of Russia and has conducted attacks such as the one on Chatham in at least 43 countries worldwide and on a number of other municipalities and entities in North Carolina.

The group is one of several major players in the cybercrime world. It operates according to a standard modus operandi:

breach government or organization networks using time-tested infiltration methods (a phishing email message, as was the case in Chatham), then demand ransom money in exchange for access to locked data. When victims refuse to pay — the recommended practice according to most cybercrime experts — DoppelPaymer starts releasing stolen information publicly online.

So far, there have been at least two sets of Chatham County data posted online following Oct. 28, but it’s unclear whether the files DoppelPaymer released constitute the entirety of its stolen cache. Cybercriminal groups are known to release information in waves as “punishment” when ransom demands go unheeded.

For example, the first of Chatham’s stolen data was posted online on Nov. 4. The files were mostly innocuous — they were posted only to demonstrate that DoppelPaymer had successfully breached the county’s network, according to cybersecurity experts who have followed this and other cases.

Almost three months later, though, after Chatham had refused to pay the 50 bitcoin ransom, DoppelPaymer uploaded a second round of data files. This time the information was more sensitive and compromising.

The county’s cyber attack is not the only reason Chathamites might fear for the security of their personal information, though. Nationwide, network hacks and information scams have

proliferated since the pandemic began a year ago.

“Uncertainty around the coronavirus pandemic has created more opportunities for robocallers, hackers and other thieves,” a recent New York Times report said.

With more people relying on remote communication than ever before, the pandemic has inadvertently fostered a fraudster’s wonderland. Workers are conducting sensitive business from insecure home networks. Record numbers are filing for unemployment and waiting on correspondence from government officials and other authorities. Traditional, in-person shoppers are turning to internet vendors and may volunteer information to any of thousands of fraudulent websites that have emerged in recent months.

The opportunities to accidentally forfeit personal information can seem endless. So what should you do if you suspect your information may have been stolen?

When you think your data has been stolen

First, create a recovery plan.

“If this is someone’s first experience with identity theft and they are unsure where to begin, we recommend visiting www.identitytheft.gov to develop a recovery plan and put it into action,” Lieutenant Sara Pack of the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office told the News + Record. “This site is a one-stop resource and is especially helpful since it breaks down actions

you can take immediately after you realize your data may have been compromised, then steps you can take to begin repairing any damage done, followed by additional routes you may need to take based on your specific identity theft situation.” Pack said the site was developed by experts with many years of experience in dealing with fraud.

“... So it really helps take the guesswork out of the entire process,” she said.

If you confirm that personal information was stolen, or even if you have strong suspicion that your identify could be compromised, the next step is to freeze your credit — “so that no one, including you, can open a new credit card, take out a mortgage or buy a car without going online to unfreeze your credit accounts before they are used,” Pack said.

Freezing your credit will effectively stifle any illegal activity, but don’t rush to this step, she said, unless you’re sure it’s necessary.

“While this approach is safe, it can also be inconvenient if you’re in the process of buying a home or a car, for example,” Pack said. “Credit freezes, unlike fraud alerts, must be placed directly with each of the three credit major bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion). This might also be a useful tool to ensure that credit for minor children is not used unlawfully.”

What if you’re not so sure?

“It’s important to

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WARNING SIGNS OF IDENTITY THEFT:

- <https://www.usa.gov/identity-theft>
- <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-fraud/identity-theft/identity-theft-and-identity-fraud>
- <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/taxpayer-guide-to-identity-theft>

FOR A CREDIT MONITORING SERVICE:

- <https://www.creditkarma.com/credit-monitoring>

INSTRUCTIONS ON FREEZING YOUR CREDIT:

- <https://ncdoj.gov/protecting-consumers/protecting-your-identity/free-security-freeze/>
- <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0497-credit-freeze-faqs>
- <https://www.equifax.com/personal/education/identity-theft/freezing-your-childs-credit-report-faq/>

review your financial accounts and free credit reports regularly to check for any suspicious or unauthorized activity,” Pack said.

If freezing your credit seems too extreme for your circumstances, employing a credit monitoring service might be your better bet.

“Another option is to sign up for a ‘credit monitoring’ service that will let you know any time a hard pull is initiated on your credit accounts — the types of pulls that are used to evaluate new applications for credit,” Pack said. “There are a lot of services that provide free credit monitoring, such as Credit Karma, which can send alerts to you within seconds of someone applying for new credit.”

Don’t wait until it’s too late

It’s better practice to act conservatively when there’s any suspicion of identity theft than to wait for clear signs of trouble.

“It’s important to remember that one does not have to be a victim of identity theft to use these services, many of which are completely free,” Pack said. “... Educate yourself in advance by visiting the following sites to learn more about the warning signs of identity theft and ways to protect yourself and your personal information at home, at work, and online.”

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

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OBITUARIES

CHARLOTTE BARE ALLSUP



Charlotte Bare Allsup, 74, of Pittsboro passed away on Saturday, February 20, 2021, at First Health Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Mrs. Allsup was born in Chatham County on November 1, 1946, the daughter of Thomas Reginald and Eva Moody Bare. Charlotte spent her working years at Kayser Roth in Goldston, N.C. She enjoyed anything that had to do with the kitchen. She was an excellent cook and would spend every season canning

from her garden and baking the best desserts. She loved to travel and spend time outdoors camping. Charlotte was a huge food critic. In her younger years, she enjoyed playing basketball. She spent her free time reading, crocheting and quilting. Charlotte loved spending time with her family, especially during her Christmas gatherings. In addition to her parents, Charlotte was preceded in death by her first husband, Odell Wilkie; sister, Regina Maness; and brother; William Bare.

She is survived by her husband, Thurman Allsup; children, Tim Wilkie and wife Tracey, Laura Clark and husband Kenny, Crystal Johnston and husband Justin, Timothy Allsup and wife Andrea, Maddie Allsup and wife Jeidy, Danny, Tina, and Becky Allsup; grandchildren, Evan, Sarah and Aaron Goode, Alexis Maness, Saylor Wilkie, Tyler Freeman, Logan and Reagan Johnston, Brianna and Titus Allsup and Lilith Allsup-Wolf; great grandchildren, Makayla and Ava Maness; and a brother, Henry Bare.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, February 28, 2021 at Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery, 3835 Bonlee-Carbonton Road, Goldston with Rev. Mike Fields officiating.

A celebration of life will follow at the Depot in Goldston, 1997 North Main Street, Goldston, NC 27252.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Allsup family.

Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneral-home.com.

FRED THURMAN HAMLET



Fred Thurman Hamlet (February 28, 1947-February 18, 2021) grew up in Pittsboro, North Carolina, and was a 1965 graduate of Pittsboro High School. He received his undergraduate degree with highest honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, participating in Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Beta Kappa, and went on to obtain his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1973. He was admitted to the bar in 1973, Georgia; 1977, North Carolina; and

1978, U.S. Supreme Court.

Fred practiced law for more than 45 years. Beginning his legal career in Atlanta with Fisher Phillips, he soon returned to North Carolina where he worked with the firm Nichols, Caffrey, Hill, Evans & Murrelle. In 1994, he opened his own practice where he remained devoted to his work until his final days. Fred provided advice to businesses and individuals on a broad range of labor and employment matters. A special interest in labor unions led to his involvement in matters that required him to enter into strike areas at the risk of physical violence. He also litigated matters that created employment law precedent in North Carolina and in the Fourth Circuit. His most notable trial involved representation of the City of Greensboro in the November 1979 Communists and Klansman clash known as the Greensboro Massacre.

He was a frequent seminar speaker on labor and employment law topics and took pride in being a guest speaker at Elon Law School, UNC Law School, and Wake Forest Law School. He was a preceptor at Elon Law and employed over 30 law clerks from Elon in his practice. He was a mentor to countless young attorneys who would seek his advice on a range of topics, from negotiating a salary to selecting a jury and discussing ethics issues. Throughout his career, he exercised prudence and demonstrated the highest standards of professional ethics.

Fred was predeceased by his parents, Curtis T. Hamlet and Blanche Justice Hamlet of Pittsboro, N.C. Family members who survive him are his two children, Fred Thurman Hamlet Jr. of Durham, N.C. and Alice Hamlet of New York City, N.Y., and his twin sister Margaret and her husband Bill Bingham of Garner, N.C. Also left to cherish his memory are Sheila Dorsett of High Point, N.C., his significant other of 20 years, and Nicole Patino of Asheboro, N.C., his long-time dedicated associate attorney with his law practice.

Fred loved traveling with his children Thurman and Alice; his service as leader of the N.B. Justice Family reunion for over 25 years; vacations at Kure Beach with Thurman, Alice, Margaret, Bill and Sheila; and, as a beach music enthusiast and shag dancer, his adventures with shag club friends in Greensboro and at SOS in Ocean Drive Beach, S.C. He held fond memories of his earlier years in Chatham County (N.C.), especially exploring family and historical sites with his grandfather, Fred Justice. He was a Rolls-Royce enthusiast, collecting several vehicles through the years.

Fred participated in the Boy Scouts in his youth, earning his Eagle Scout, and served as a Scout Leader at the 16th World Scout Jamboree in Australia in 1987. He enjoyed the camping trips and outdoor adventures associated with the Boy Scouts and lived up to their motto, "Be prepared." He was an avid college basketball fan and attended annually the ACC tournament for many years.

Flowers are welcome and memorial gifts may be made to Hickory Mountain Baptist Church Cemetery Fund (c/o Wade Hackney, 742 Arthur Teague Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344).

A graveside burial service was held at Hickory Mountain Baptist Church (1094 Mount Vernon Hickory Mountain Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344) on Tuesday, February 23 at 2:00 p.m. A virtual memorial service provided by West Market Street United Methodist Church of Greensboro, N.C., will be held at a later date. Details available and online condolences may be offered at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

CAPERS 'PIZZY' CARNES



Capers "Pizzy" Carnes, 59, Snow Camp, passed away Saturday, February 13, 2021, at Alamance County Hospice.

Born October 10, 1961, he was the son of William Cape Carnes Jr. and Irene Smith Carnes, with both preceding him in death. He was a woodworker.

He is survived by his children, Shanna Tillman, Thomas "TC" Carnes, Cassey Carnes, Zack Carnes; and one granddaughter, Hadleigh

Carnes.

Services entrusted to Piedmont Cremation & Funeral Service.

JOHN RALPH CHALMERS

John Ralph Chalmers, 71, of Sanford passed away on Monday, February 15, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Committal was held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at Sandhills Veterans Cemetery in Fort Bragg.

BRENDA KAYE MARTIN

Brenda Kaye Martin, 67, of Sanford passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

JAMES ANTHONY WEST

James Anthony West, 70, of Sanford passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at his residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

STELLA ANN STREET

Stella Ann Street, 69, passed away on Friday, February 12, 2021, at her home.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Friday, February 19, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford, with burial following at Lee Memory Garden.

PHILLIP DAVID HOLT

Phillip David Holt, 65, of Bear Creek passed away on February 16, 2021, at his home.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. at Rives Chapel Baptist Church on Friday, February 19, 2021, with Rev. Bob Wachs and Dr. Tripp Foltz presiding.

Phil was born in Chatham County on November 1, 1955, to David Newby Holt and June Carol Scott Holt. He worked in sales management for residential and commercial construction. He served as a sound engineer at Merle Fest for more than 20 years. He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Denise Brown Holt of the home; children, April Lynn Holt Perry, Mary Margaret Holt Dark, David "Tyler" Holt, all of Bear Creek; brother, Steve Holt of Bear Creek; sister, Lorrie Holt Moore of Bear Creek; and three grandchildren.

Flowers are accepted or donations may be made to Rives Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 4338 Rives Chapel Church Rd., Siler City, N.C. 27344.

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

RAYMOND ANTHONY 'TONY' SCOTT

Raymond Anthony "Tony" Scott, 70, of Garner, passed away Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at Transitions Life Care in Raleigh.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 27, 2021, in the Chapel of Bryan-Lee Funeral Home in Garner.

Anthony was born January 10, 1951, in Siler City to Jean and Raymond Scott. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Garner and the "Called Out" Sunday School Class. Anthony served our country in the US Army for five years, with three years in Germany. He retired from Weaver Brothers Volvo after many years in the automotive industry.

In addition to his parents, Anthony was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, Marilyn Card Scott; a son, Robert Warren; daughter, Melissa Noelle; brother, Donnie Scott; and sister, Tonya Scott.

Survivors include his sons, Joseph Patrick of Cape Carteret, Ezekiel Kevin of Garner, Jonathan Elliott of Holly Ridge; sisters, Wilma Pike and Cynthia Nall, both of Siler City; Christie Cook of McGee's Crossroads; brothers, Gregg Scott of Clayton, Brad Scott of Raleigh; and four grandchildren.

Memorials requested to UNC Charity, 700 E. Towne Road, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

GARY DEAN JOHNSON

Gary Dean Johnson, 52, a resident of Siler City, passed away on Sunday, February 21, 2021.

No service arrangements available at this time.

Dean was preceded in death by his father, Gary Johnson, his mother, Debbie Stout and a brother, Shannon Johnson.

Survivors include his brother, Derek Johnson of Randleman; his stepmother, Glenda Johnson of Siler City; step-sisters, Bridget Stout and Jenna Stout, both of Siler City, Maura Blalock-Mercurio of Carolina Beach, Michelle Blalock Mace of Siler City; and a step-brother, Dustin Stout of Siler City.

EDWARD H. SILER SR.

Edward H. Siler Sr., 85, of Siler City passed away on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at Genesis HealthCare.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

See **OBITUARIES**, page A9

BARBARA ANN ROBINSON MOODY



Barbara Ann Robinson Moody, 79, of Siler City passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at the Siler City Center.

Mrs. Moody was born in Chatham County on January 1, 1942, the daughter of Baxter and Cassie Mae Robinson. Barbara was a member of Rives Chapel Baptist Church where she was an organist for 45 years. She enjoyed passing her time with jigsaw puzzles, crosswords and word searches. She was an excellent

baker and loved spending quality time with her family. In addition to her parents, Barbara was preceded in death by her husband Thomas Earl "Tommy" Moody, sisters, Edna R. Hutchins and Ruby Martindale; brothers, Leo Robinson and Roger Robinson; and grandson, Luke Moody.

She is survived by her daughter, Lanette M. McDaniel and husband Randy of Siler City; son, Darryl Moody and wife LaDonna of Siler City; sister, Jessi R. McDaniel of Aberdeen; grandchildren, Hunter McDaniel and wife Lauren, Spencer McDaniel and fiancé Kaitlyn, and Katelyn Moody Burke and husband Zack, and great grandchild, Tucker McDaniel.

The family received friends Saturday, February 20, 2021, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Rives Chapel Baptist Church, and other times at the family home. The funeral services were held Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 2 p.m. at Rives Chapel Baptist Church, with Dr. Tripp Foltz officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Western Carolina Chapter, 4600 Park Rd., Suite 250, Charlotte, N.C. 28209, www.alz.org/northcarolina; the Chatham County Council On Aging, P.O. Box 715, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312; or to Rives Chapel Baptist Church, 4338 Rives Chapel Church Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneral-home.com.

Smith & Buckner assisted the Moody family.

GLADYS HACKNEY THOMAS



Gladys Hackney Thomas, 93, of Pittsboro, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on February 17, 2021.

Gladys was born in Durham, N.C., on November 19, 1927, to Walter and Katie Hackney. She was a homemaker; helped her husband operate Thomas Brothers Furniture Company in Pittsboro, worked and retired from UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, and was a dedicated Sunday school teacher for many years. She was a

loving wife, mother, grandmother and will be dearly missed by her family.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Julian Thomas, a son, Douglas Thomas, and grandson, Jacob Cotten, great-granddaughter Evie Judge, great-grandson, Lennox Tibbitt, and brother, Walter S. Hackney.

She is survived by her children, Kathy Justice (Greenville, N.C.), Rusty Thomas, (Pittsboro, N.C.), Jane Tibbitt (Greenville, N.C.), and Janet Perry (Snow Camp, N.C.): eight grandchildren, Donna, Aimee, Frank Jr., Natalie, Shari, Emily, Kimberly and BJ, 19 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated in Gladys' memory to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, N.C. 28201.

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A8

DELETTE TEAGUE MOODY



Delette Teague Moody, 78, of Siler City went to her heavenly home on Saturday, February 20, 2021, at The Hospice Home in Asheboro, N.C.

Mrs. Moody was born in Chatham County on March 7, 1942. She was the 2nd born daughter to Newby and Gladys Teague. Delette was raised and resided in the Crutchfield Crossroads Community, where she was a 1960 graduate of Silk Hope High School. While there, she participated in several clubs and was a superstar

on the basketball court. She was known for her over headed jump shot. On December 22, 1962, she married Kenneth E. Moody. They were married for 55 years before his death in November 2018. Delette has been a faithful member of Rocky River Baptist Church her whole life. She taught Sunday School for many years and enjoyed singing in the adult choir.

Delette worked at Southern States until her retirement in 2004. She made many friends while working there, some she has kept for a long time. She enjoyed watching her grandchildren at their sporting events, and she never missed a game. After retirement, she enjoyed cooking and sharing her "goodies" with others. Delette never met a stranger and always had a smile on her face.

She is survived by her son, Kenneth "Kenny" Moody and wife Kelley; daughter, Angie Moody Switzer and husband Scotty, all of Siler City; grandchildren, Spencer Moody and wife Adrienne, Matthew Moody, Chance Burke and Emma Burke, all of Siler City, step-grandchildren, Scotty, Jacob and Leah Switzer, step-great grandchildren, Chelsie and Ashton Hardister; sisters, Marie Johnson and husband Marion, Brenda Fuquay and husband Charles, both of Siler City; and several nieces and nephews.

The family is so grateful and has been blessed by the love and support of Lavonda Farrar, Diane York, Sharon Brewer, Leslie Davis and Amy Black. They also would like to thank the Hospice of Randolph for making the last few weeks of Delette's life memorable. Her heavenly angels, Cindy Stanley and Amanda Brigman, will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

Mrs. Moody Lay in Repose on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Ave. Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at Rocky River Baptist Church, 4436 Siler City-Snow Camp Rd. The service took place under the covered entryway of the fellowship building. You could listen to the service on your car radio at 87.9 FM or you could bring a lawn chair to sit in the parking lot. After the service, there was a graveside committal followed by a visitation with the family. At other times, the family received friends at the family home.

Donations may be made to the Rocky River Baptist Church, or Hospice of Randolph, 416 Vision Dr., Asheboro, N.C. 27203, www.hospiceofrandolph.org.

Smith & Buckner funeral home is assisting the Moody family.

Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneral-home.com.

REBECCA LEE WILLIAMS MARSH

Rebecca Lee Williams Marsh, 75, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at UNC Hospital.

A graveside service was held a 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 21, 2021, at Asbury United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Donald Burns and Rev. Ira Smith officiating.

She was born in Lee County on March 11, 1945, to the late Joseph Tyre Williams and Dorothy Rosser Williams. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Woodrow "Woody" Marsh Jr. and two brothers, Johnny Williams and Jimmy Williams. Rebecca was a member of Asbury U.M.C. where she sang in the choir. She and her late husband owned and operated Marsh TV for many years.

Rebecca is survived by her son, Erin Marsh of Sanford; daughter, Robin Hudson of Sanford; sisters, Faye Weeks and Patsy Smith, both of Sanford; six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

JAMES ERNEST MCIVER SR.

Staff Sergeant (Retired) James Ernest McIver Sr., 89, of Sanford, passed away Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at his residence.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home. Burial followed at Taylor's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Ernestine T. McIver of the home; daughter, Lavetrice M. McIver of Sanford; sons, James R. McIver, Gerald D. McIver, Antonio "Tony" McIver and Dederick J. McIver.

JUDITH KISER FERREE

Judith Kiser Ferree, 79, of Bennett passed away on February 21, 2021, at her home.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. at Pleasant Grove Christian Church on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, with Pastor Don Edwards and

Chaplin Sam Garris presiding. The family received friends from 1 to 1:45 p.m. at the church. Attendees were asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing. Friends are welcome to visit the family at the home of Ralph and Tammy Overman.

Judy was born in Chatham County on September 24, 1941, to Eulon Albert Kiser and Ernestine Francis Moore. She was a dedicated member of Pleasant Grove Christian Church, where she sang in the choir and served as the assistant pianist. She was a payroll clerk at Hadley-Peoples in Siler City for 32 years, never missing a day of work. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her former husband, Larry Ferree.

Judy is survived by her daughters, Tammy F. Overman of Bennett and Allison F. Allen of Bear Creek; sister, Kay Andrews of Bear Creek; three grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

Flowers are acceptable or donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10001 (<https://alzfdn.org/support-us/donate/>)

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

Attendees were asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

LEONARD HERNDON JONES SR.

Mr. Leonard Herndon Jones Sr., 94, of Sanford passed away on Sunday, February 14, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, February 20, 2021, at Fair Promise AME Zion Church. Burial followed at Lee Memory Garden.

NINA BELL (THOMAS) FRENCH

Ms. Nina Bell (Thomas) French, 99, of Sanford, passed away Monday, February 15, 2021, at Sanford Rehabilitation Center.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 20, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home. Burial followed at Ward Memorial Church Cemetery.

CHARLES ANTHONY MCADEN

Charles Anthony McAden, 65, of Sanford passed away on Saturday, February 20, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

VICKIE LYNN THOMAS-ELLINGTON

Vicky Lynn Thomas-Ellington, 60, of Chapel Hill, originally of Siler City, passed away Saturday, February 20, 2021, at UNC-CH.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Siler City.

MARY EUNICE UPCHURCH CHANDLER

Mary Eunice Upchurch Chandler, 85, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, February 22, 2021, at her home.

The family will receive friends from 12 until 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at Holly Springs Baptist Church.

The funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. with Rev. Scott Yow officiating. Burial will follow in Lee Memory Gardens.

Mrs. Chandler was born in Harnett County on August 24, 1935, to the late Frank and Alberta Collins Upchurch. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Waylon Royce Chandler; daughter, Kay Chandler Parker; son, Waylon Royce Chandler Jr.; siblings, Edward Upchurch, Bryant Upchurch, Harold Upchurch, Cecil Upchurch, Franklin Upchurch, Ada Harrington, Jeanette Patterson and Joann Roberts. Mrs. Chandler had worked at Blue Bell.

Mary is survived by her son, Waylon Royce Chandler III of Sanford; daughter, Susan Bryant of Sanford; brothers, Durward Upchurch of Manners, Bennie Upchurch, Ray Upchurch and Charles Upchurch, all of Broadway; four grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

COUNTY WATER CUSTOMERS

If you've not seen a water bill since October, one is coming — along with a payment plan option

Meanwhile, Chatham's sales tax revenues show growth

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County's nearly 11,000 water utility customers haven't received a bill since last October, so the March billing notice — consisting of the five previous months of consumption — will come with the option of a payment plan to satisfy outstanding costs.

Jenny Williams, Chatham County's tax

administrator, says the most recent water bills were sent to the county's 10,864 customers at the beginning of October, just prior to the cyber attack that effectively shut down the Chatham's internal computer network.

County staff are engaged now in the process of reading meters, so it's not known what the owed balances for those five months total.

"Currently we are

reading meters and doing all preparatory work (examples: adding new customers, removing customers that are no longer with the county, applying payments that we have on file)," Williams told the News + Record in an email message. "The bills will go out the week of March 1st."

Siler City and Pittsboro utility customers weren't affected by the county's ransomware attack.

Williams said in order to take advantage of the payment plan, Chatham

water customers must call 919-542-8270 to set one up.

Williams also reminded utility customers the county is now accepting water connection applications and water payments at a new location — 192 West St. in Pittsboro, formerly the location of SunTrust Bank. The new location offers the public access to a night deposit box and drive-thru payment service, she said. Drive-thru hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays; vehicles should access the drive-thru from Rectory Street.

Hope Tally, the county's interim finance director, said utility collections were the only revenue stream interrupted by the cyber attack — although the county will lose around \$8,500 in state grant revenue related to Court Programs.

That loss was due to the county's inability to access certain files it needed to satisfy the requirements of the grant.

"While we were able to extend other grant deadlines during our data recovery, this was not the case with this particular

grant," Tally said. "The inability to secure the grant reimbursement has not impacted our ability to provide services in the court-related program area."

Meanwhile, the county's sales tax revenue collections continue to be robust — particularly in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.

Darrell Butts, Chatham County's budget director, provided a report to commissioners at the board's meeting on Feb. 15. It showed a 14.5% increase in collections, or \$6,164,209 — based on available data — through October. Revenue from the county's recently-implemented Article 46 tax had generated an additional \$190,410.

The most notable aspect of sales tax collections, Butt said, has been the continued growth year over year.

"For the past several years, Chatham County's sales tax growth has generally outpaced the state average as well as the projections that are provided to local governments by the N.C. League of Municipalities," he said. "Additionally, it is notable that our sales

tax collection in FY 2021 has continued to grow at such a solid rate — when preparing the FY 2021 budget there were significant concerns over what financial impacts the COVID-19 pandemic would ultimately have on the overall economy, including sales tax."

Butts attributed the growth to the increasing trend of local e-shopping and having packages delivered direct to your door, and local residents staying closer to home during the pandemic.

Additionally, he said, Chatham is much less reliant on "external sales tax revenues" — taxes generated as a result of tourism and large events such as sports, concerts, etc. That has provided Chatham "a measure of protection from sales tax volatility due to those events not being able to operate in the same manner they did pre-pandemic."

Butts said continued residential and commercial development — including Chatham Park/other construction activity — has helped stabilize, if not enhance, sales tax revenues during this fiscal year.



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A GROWING CONCERN

Testing the waters: Siler City plans water and sewer expansion projects

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Editor's note: This article is the second installment in a series exploring Chatham County's intricate water and sewer systems. This week, the News + Record investigates water conditions in Siler City and plans to meet projected future demand as the town aggressively pursues new enterprise.

SILER CITY — With big plans for heavy industrial development, ambitious renovation initiatives to revitalize downtown and the prospect of future real estate development, Siler City is gearing up for considerable growth — and its water systems must expand accordingly.

As explored last week, three distinct systems serve Chatham County's rural areas. But in Siler City, the town government is exclusively responsible for water treatment and distribution.

"So we serve, of course, the city limits, but then we have some outlying areas," says Chris McCorquodale, the town's public works and utilities director. "We have two connections with the county that we can serve water to them like in the Silk Hope area and then down to the south side of the county."

The town pulls its water from the Rocky River at the Charles L. Turner reservoir before processing at a dedicated treatment facility north of downtown.

"When we pick it up out of Charles Turner, it goes to our treatment plant where we pull all the dirt, nutrients and all that stuff out of it," McCorquodale said, "and then it comes into town."

The water can either stop at a "tank farm" for storage or funnel "straight into town," McCorquodale said, depending on daily needs.

With its current treatment facility, Siler City can process up to 4 million gallons of water per day. Current average demand rarely exceeds 3mgd, but town staff expect that to change.

One of the primary drivers for water system expansion: the 1802-acre Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) site which promises to introduce thousands of new jobs and increase water demands substantially as heavy industrial companies begin operations in coming years. (See our update story on the CAM site in this week's edition.)

"And yeah, hopefully, with the development there," said Town Manager Roy Lynch, "that will bring additional residential needs and development in the area."

The town's board of commissioners hopes to complement the CAM site's attraction with a widespread revitalization campaign to make Siler City more appealing to potential new residents. If all goes according to plan, town staff expect water capacity requirements to exceed 4 mgd in the near future. Plans are thus under way to expand the facility to 6 mgd.

"And so, as we continue to grow and see the need for the 6 mgd," Lynch said, "then we will certainly be actively working toward that, which we are doing

through phased projects that we have in place already and already have the funding currently for."

Water treatment plant upgrades

To prepare for capacity expansion needs as the town pursues new development, Siler City has launched a three-part water treatment plant upgrade project. This project will not increase water capacity to 6 mgd. Rather, it will improve efficiency at the treatment plant in preparation for future capacity expansion.

• Phase 1
Before embarking on direct expansion work, the town must upgrade its current facility. Phase 1 completed near the end 2020 and included replacement of the filtration media at the water treatment plant and rehabilitation of the filters. The media had exceeded their useful life and replacement made immediate improvement to the town's drinking water quality.

• Phase 2
The town is now in Phase 2 — upgrading its water treatment plant's air backwash system.

"What that does is it takes the new filter media that we put in there and we blow air through that media to pull all the contaminants back out of it that have been sucked in," McCorquodale said.

The system extends the filters' effective lifespans and thereby contributes to the town's water quality. But the air backwash technology currently installed is 40 years old. It's in desperate need of upgrade.

"So that's the main purpose of phase 2," McCorquodale said, "to upgrade that and bring it up to standard, the new standard, which naturally is going to work much better."

Phase 2 is expected to conclude in Nov. 2022.

• Phase 3
In the final phase of its current plant upgrade project, the town plans to install a pretreatment unit called Actiflo, which will boost the facility's processing capacity in anticipation of future plant expansion.

"The purpose of the tank is to pretreat raw water entering the current facility from the town's reservoir," Lynch wrote in a summary of the project's scope, "ultimately reducing the sludge production at the facility, and significantly extending filter run times."

The three-phase upgrade project should complete near the end of 2023. It will cost roughly \$5 million total, about half of which will come from a state revolving fund loan. The remaining funds are guaranteed by a N.C. Dept of Commerce grant and a small local contribution.

Wastewater treatment plant upgrade

Concurrent with its plans to enhance plant operations at the water treatment facility, the town has launched a wastewater — or sewer — treatment plant upgrade project. Proposed modifications will come in two phases.

• Phase 1
First, the town must improve nutrient removal processes to reduce total nitrogen in the town's

discharge. "So the idea is to take those out of the water, reduce them from the levels that they are at currently," McCorquodale said. "It's just to make the river better, so that less contaminants are going into the rocky River."

To accomplish that goal, the town will replace much of its equipment, modify the aeration system, upgrade process control systems and provide standby generator upgrades to improve operation during power outages.

The total estimated cost for Phase 1 is \$5.1 million, all of which will be covered by secured grant funding. Work is expected to finish in Sept. 2022.

• Phase 2
The next phase will only last about a year, but will include considerably more work. To accommodate real estate growth and ensure adequate flow needs are met for the CAM site and other developing commercial areas, Phase 2 will expand the wastewater treatment plant's capacity from 4 mgd to 6 mgd.

Despite increased flow rate, plant modifications will further reduce discharge of nitrogen and other contaminants. The project will also include a new influent pump station, UV disinfection, a solids handling facility and replacement of more than a mile of sewer main.

The upgrades are estimated to cost about \$17.1 million, funds for which have not yet been secured. The town is in the process of finalizing a USDA application for loan money. Later this month or sometime in spring, Lynch expects to know the town's chances of securing those funds.

So, will my taxes go up to pay off loans?

"No," Lynch says. "But don't feel bad for asking."

"We get that all the time," he said. "People ask about their property taxes ... There's been statements about the use of water and upgrades and things and about taxes going up to sustain them."

But that's not how things work. Taxes have nothing to do with it. User rates fund expansion projects on the water treatment plant and sewer facility, but those aren't likely to get more expensive either.

"We don't anticipate costs going up," Lynch said. "We always go through an analysis process. The engineers will sit down and analyze what the current needs are based on projected loans and things."

From that process, the town can usually ensure rate stability, even as it plans for Siler City's transformation.

"The town has worked hard over the past few years to be proactive in looking forward to the various types of development that we hope to see here in our city," Lynch said. "But we have to have the infrastructure to be able to support that need."

The next installment in this series will examine Pittsboro's water needs and the town's plans for water/sewer expansion to keep pace with aggressive real estate development.

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

CHURCH NEWS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church is pleased to announce that Rev. Jason Brogan has accepted the call to serve as the church's new pastor. He and his wife Michelle are moving to Siler City from Florida where he has been pastoring a church in Avon Park. He has also pastored churches in Kentucky and Nevada.

His first Sunday at First Baptist will be February 28 in the morning worship service at 11 a.m. We invite everyone to join us inside the sanctuary where COVID-19 precautions including masks and socially distant seating is being practiced. The service is also broadcast to the parking lot on 93.3 FM, where you can listen on your radio.

Please share in this exciting time at First Baptist Church located at 314 North Second Ave., Siler City.

STUDENTS HONORED

PHI KAPPA PHI INDUCTEE HONORED
Sharon Wellman of Goldston was recently initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. The event was held at North Carolina A&T State University.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
James H. Brewer of Siler City has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
Sarah Pilecki of Moncure has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Seton Hall University of South Orange, N.J.

WIDENER UNIVERSITY
Emma Wilcock of Pittsboro has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Widener University of Chester, Pennsylvania.

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ACROSS	DOWN	ON A MISSION
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5 Mix for a deli sandwich	59 Stand-up comedy TV series	93 Golden — (senior)
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21 Long, bitter speech	66 Pakistani's language	101 Most preferred: Abbr.
22 Popular hot sauce brand	67 Like circles	102 Corkscrew
23 Calf-length skirt	71 Daniel Boone or Johnny Appleseed	105 Baby bed
24 Navigable sea route in southern Chile	76 Lustrous gem	106 Analyzes in a lab
26 Hayloft sites	79 Pushpin's kin	108 "TiK —" (#1 Keshia hit)
28 Home to Boise: Abbr.	80 Jewel box for music	110 Stares at creepily
29 Extra game periods, for short	84 Color	111 Enter, as to a database
30 Distrustful	85 Kia Sedona competitor	112 An ex-Trump button abbr.
31 Designer for Jackie Kennedy	90 Mystery's Christie	113 Lizardlike amphibians
35 1958 Leslie Caron film	94 Org. offering tows	114 Port of Italy
38 Head dog	95 Actor Morales	115 "Hair" hairdo
39 — tai (drink)	96 Sundae toppings	116 Pumped stuff
42 Really must	97 Florence institute near the Uffizi Gallery	117 Suffer defeat
47 Tag again	100 New York Giants' div.	118 Discharge
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54 "Woe —"	105 Tree yielding chocolate	125 GI tour gp.
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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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Developer Tim Booras walks along a road inside the Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing site near Siler City in this file photo.



CAM

Continued from page A1

agriculture, biotech, pharma, automotive and textile industry projects have all expressed recent interest in looking at locating a project in our state,” Booras said. “Most of these projects are typically considering multiple states so it is a ‘courting/incentive’ challenge for the state to be able to lure and successfully attract large projects.”

The pandemic has posed new challenges to site owners such as Booras who have historically attracted potential occupants with in-person tours.

“We continue to refine our presentations and are currently investing to clear vistas and add a viewing platform on the eastern portion of the site,” he said.

But virtual tours have been the site’s most popular viewing option in the last year.

“Twelve months ago, we had never done a virtual site visit, but now those are quite common where we are showing the site to prospects, over platforms like (Zoom),” said Brian Hall, director of development at SAMET Corporation

— a Greensboro design-build construction and real estate development company contracted to oversee the CAM site’s progress. “We’re doing our best to create a site visit experience across a virtual platform. So upgrading our materials and ability to be able to highlight the benefits of the site virtually is really important, as people are making decisions from their home office as opposed to physically being out on the site.”

Hall works on “all things industrial development,” working with clients such as Booras to prepare them for the rush of company interest that has started in recent months. It’s unclear at this point whether the CAM site will be host to one or a few major businesses with hundreds of employees each, or several smaller tier organizations, Hall said, but whatever the final arrangement, the number of new Siler City jobs “could easily be in the thousands.”

“We are currently investing our efforts, ensuring we are properly prepared for a project with 500 to 1,000 or more employees,” Booras added.

In turn, county

officials and staff are working to beautify the town in a bid to keep prospective workers from settling elsewhere.

“The county and local governments continue to address our local needs, as they arise, such as, where do we house these employees and how do we accommodate the need for increased water and sewer capacity?” Booras said. “Siler City and county officials are diligently working on solutions everyday, and have action plans in place for utility concerns.” (See story on Siler City’s water plans in this week’s edition.)

Chatham Park, however, just 20 minutes from the CAM site, is still “one of our greatest selling points,” he added.

“The CAM site is at a high level of readiness, and is certainly getting looks from large projects ...” Booras said. “Our investment in Chatham County and Siler City is actively pursuing many projects, of a variety of sizes, working to attract jobs and investment for our community.”

Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @ [dldolder](https://twitter.com/dldolder).

CYBER UPDATE

As county recovers, LaMontagne provides additional info

CN+R Staff Report

of stolen information.

Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne provided an update on Chatham’s cyber attack to county commissioners last week. This week, he responded to questions from the News + Record as he and other officials continue to guide the county’s recovery from the breach.

What kind of training did county employees get about cyber attack prevention prior to the breach?

Chatham County employees receive security training as part of their employee orientation that includes information on what to look out for with regards to phishing emails and other social engineering tactics. Additionally, spoof phishing emails are periodically sent out to staff to test their awareness on phishing emails. Information about whether they click on the email, links, attachments, etc., can be documented and utilized to retrain staff, as necessary.

Do you know which employee opened the phishing email?

Like many local governments, Chatham County faces constant threats from such criminal activities that are increasingly sophisticated. Any employee(s) who opened malicious attachments have/will be addressed as a personnel matter.

Which agencies and law enforcement groups are assisting the county now with the incident and recovery?

Chatham County worked with N.C. Emergency Management and the FBI at the onset of the incident and have been in communication with the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and the N.C. Attorney General’s (NCAG) office on notification requirements. Additionally, we received assistance in the form of loaner computers from municipal and county government partners.

Have the assisting agencies/law enforcement and/or the county seen the data that’s been posted online?

The county, Sheriff’s Office, and N.C. Emergency Management have seen the stolen information and we have been reviewing every file in an effort to identify and notify every individual who may have been impacted by this release

What communication have you had from DoppelPaymer, who has been identified as the culprit, from start until now?

None beyond the initial ransom note.

Do you have a sense of how long the threat actor had access to the county’s network before the ransomware request was communicated? And do you know the period of time which elapsed from the first intrusion to the data theft to the ransom request?

The first sign of malware intrusion on our network was on Oct. 26, 2020. Malicious activity was observed the day prior to the ransomware event and was mitigated based on our existing security protocols at the time. County staff became aware of the ransomware attack in the early morning hours of Oct. 28, within hours of the onset, and worked quickly to isolate our network from further attack.

Who was involved in the decision-making process to NOT pay the ransom?

We were informed by our agency partners, including the FBI, early in the response that the threat actor involved in this incident is tied to a group on a U.S. Treasury sanctions list. So, it would be illegal for any person subject to U.S. jurisdiction to pay such a ransom.

Has the county cut ties with any vendors as the result of the incident, or hired any new vendors?

No. We did switch vendors for our permitting software, but that was unrelated to the cyber incident and was underway prior.

We’re curious about the county’s computers and operating systems before the cyber incident. Were devices current, and what upgrades had been made prior to the breach?

We regularly keep our computers up to date on a computer replacement schedule, so we did not have a situation where old computers were being used.

Do you know what, if any, data the county lost as a result of the incident?

Due to the quick response of our staff to limit the attack, it appears that the only unrecoverable data of note will consist of the loss of emails from May 2020 to October 2020.



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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

PREVIEW: Which Chatham-area teams have a shot at a state title?

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

Editor's note: Tuesday's men's and women's playoff basketball games began after the News + Record's print deadline, meaning all of the first-round results are already in. Check our website for updated scores and schedules, and follow us on Twitter @ChathamNRSports.

High school basketball playoffs are back in full swing and there's no shortage of local schools in the mix fighting for their shot at a state title.

Chatham County is slated to be well-represented at the 2020-21 NCHSAA playoffs, with five of the county's nine teams having earned a spot in this year's shortened postseason.

Here's a look at each team's season leading up to this point, the upcoming playoff schedule, key players and more, starting with the Men's 1A classification and sorting by overall record.

Men's 1A

CHATHAM CHARTER KNIGHTS

Record: 12-1 (9-0 in Central Tar Heel)

Conference: Central Tar Heel (conference champions)

Seed: 7

First Round Matchup: vs. (10) Mountain Island Charter, Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Potential Second Round Matchup: at (2) Hayesville or vs. (15) Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy on Thursday

The Chatham Charter Knights were one win away from finishing with a perfect regular-season record this year, but in the second-to-last game, they lost to the Uwharrie Charter Academy Eagles by 21.

Despite that hiccup, the Knights are one of the county's best shots at claiming a state title after winning the Central Tar Heel 1A conference in dominating fashion, earning all but two of their 12 wins by double-digits — includ-

ing four games by 30-plus points.

Led by the dynamic duo of sophomore forward Adam Harvey (18.5 points and 11.2 rebounds per game) and senior forward Trevor Golden (16.2 points per game), Chatham Charter has created a reputation of being a high-scoring powerhouse — and doing most of it from inside the arc, scoring nearly 80% of its points from two-point territory as they work from the inside-out.

Last season, Chatham Charter was extremely close to making the state championship, losing to the Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy Phoenix in the semifinals, 65-60.

This year, with Harvey having returned from a back injury that caused him to miss the 2019-20 season, the Knights appear locked and loaded, ready to take on the rest of the playoff field as they work to return to last year's peak — and potentially surpass it.

CHATHAM CENTRAL BEARS

Record: 9-1 (7-1 in Yadkin Valley)

Conference: Yadkin Valley 1A (second place)

Seed: 13

First Round Opponent: at (4) Hiwassee Dam, Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Potential Second Round Matchup: at (5) Lincoln Charter or at (12) Murphy on Thursday

Chatham Central was one solid fourth quarter away from winning the Yadkin Valley conference this season, but lost their only game to the North Stanly Comets on Feb. 2, 52-51, after holding a 13-point lead at the end of the third quarter.

This game would ultimately decide the winner of the Yadkin Valley, with the conference title going to the Comets and the Bears having to settle for second place.

The Bears' collapse against North Stanly became doubly important because it's the sole reason why Chatham Central must travel nearly five and a half hours (335.7 miles) from Bear



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Knights sophomore guard Jackson Brown (14) is introduced in the pre-game festivities against Woods Charter on Jan. 30. Chatham Charter won that mid-season game handily, 87-37.

Creek to Murphy to face-off against Hiwassee Dam on Tuesday.

Distance aside, the Bears are primed for a run this postseason.

Battling player injuries and COVID-related quarantines, Chatham Central has overcome plenty of obstacles on its road to the playoffs. And with senior center Michael Moore (21 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists per game) at the helm — a 6-foot-4, three-sport athlete that averages a triple-double and can shoot threes, block shots and strongarm opponents in the paint — it's safe to say that the Bears are in good hands.

Add Moore to the group of nine seniors that have led Chatham Central this year, including Parker Crowley and Jayden Gilliland, and you have what head coach Robert Burke called "one of the deepest, from 1 through 14, best

teams I've ever had."

Now, they have a shot to prove it.

Women's 1A

CHATHAM CHARTER KNIGHTS

Record: 8-2 (5-1 in Central Tar Heel)

Conference: Central Tar Heel 1A (conference champions)

Seed: 9

First Round Opponent: at (8) Robbinsville, Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Potential Second Round Matchup: at (1) East Surry or vs. (16) Clover Garden on Thursday

It all came down to Friday night's conference championship game against the Clover Garden Grizzlies at a neutral site in Greensboro, an overtime thriller that saw Chatham Charter senior for-

See **BBALL**, page B4



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Finally, it's football

Chatham Central practiced in less-than-ideal field conditions Saturday morning. Each of Chatham County's three high school football teams kick off their seasons Friday. Check out our 2020-21 high school football preview on page B2.

NORTHWOOD 48, EAST CHAPEL HILL 28

Northwood earns commanding win in East Chapel Hill revenge game; clinch wild card playoff spot

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

Editor's note: This story was published online on Feb. 18, but some details have been altered to reflect Northwood's postseason berth. In addition, Tuesday's men's and women's playoff basketball games began after the News + Record's print deadline. Check our website for updated scores and schedules, and follow us on Twitter @ChathamNRSports.

PITTSBORO — When you've

got revenge and a playoff spot on the line, it's easy to feel motivated.

Northwood's a prime example of that.

The Chargers completed their revenge tour by defeating the conference-winning East Chapel Hill Wildcats at home on Feb. 16, 48-28, to extend their winning streak to six games as they clinched a wild card playoff spot in the East region, narrowly sneaking into the postseason.

On Jan. 22, the Chargers

lost a road game to conference foe East Chapel Hill on a buzzer-beater, which has since haunted Northwood as one of the sole reasons the team finished third in the Big Eight Conference this season, one spot away from an automatic playoff berth.

With that on their minds, the Chargers went into the rematch with the Wildcats on Feb. 16 galvanized — and it showed.

See **MENS**, page B3

NORTHWOOD 48, EAST CHAPEL HILL 35

Chargers complete perfect regular season with 13-point win over East Chapel Hill, earn 5 seed in playoffs

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

Editor's note: This story was published online on Feb. 18, but some details have been altered to reflect Northwood's perfect season. In addition, Tuesday's men's and women's playoff basketball games began after the News + Record's print deadline. Check our website for updated scores and schedules, and follow us on Twitter @ChathamNRSports.

PITTSBORO — It isn't every year that your team goes undefeated in the regular season.

And for Northwood women's basketball, it's even more rare.

The Chargers won their final game of the regular season last Tuesday against the East Chapel Hill Wildcats, 48-35, improving their record to 11-0 and keeping them among the ranks of the unbeaten.

"I don't know if we thought before the season that we'd be in this position, but we're rolling with it and they're learning how to play with a bulls-eye on their chest," said Chargers Head Coach Cameron Vernon.

According to MaxPreps, Northwood is one of just nine undefeated teams in the North Carolina women's 3A class — and one of only six of them with at least 11 wins.

After their regular season finale against Vance County was canceled last Friday due to inclement weather, the Chargers joined the 1983-84 team to become the second-ever Northwood women's team to finish the regular season undefeated. Historic.

"We've got a goal to reach and it's not easy, just like being undefeated right now is not easy," said Northwood senior guard Rae McClarty. "Being undefeated) is

definitely something to be proud of."

Two of the primary keys to the Chargers' success are their depth and defense. And both were on full display against the Wildcats.

In each of the nine games since Jan. 15, Northwood sophomore forward Te'Keyah Bland has led the team in scoring with an average of 15.6 points.

When it comes to the Chargers' second-leading scorer, four different girls have claimed that spot in that same nine-game span — a true testament to the spread-the-wealth mentality this team is known for.

"We just play good team basketball. I don't think our girls are selfish, I don't think anyone plays for themselves, I think they truly play for Northwood High School and they have done everything I've asked them to do, they've bought in," said Vernon. "They're a great group of kids."

On Tuesday, junior guard McKenna Snively was the one who filled that second role, acting as a sniper from behind the arc going three-for-three on triples in the second quarter, her last of which gave the Chargers a three-possession lead just before the half.

Bland, per usual, still found a way to get hers.

Her presence in the paint — whether she's grabbing her own offensive rebounds, bailing out her teammates on putbacks or making simple yet hard-to-defend post moves as the guards feed her — is enormous. She may not be the tallest player on her team at 6 feet, but sometimes she sure feels like it.

"She's not hit her ceiling yet, she's not even close," said Vernon. "She still can take plays off, but just her presence inside,

See **WOMENS**, page B3

2020 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

With the unusual spring football season kicking off on Friday, the News + Record is taking a look at the major Chatham County programs and how they fare going into the delayed 2020-21 season.

'This is a new era': Bears navigate challenges, aim to put 1-10 season in rear view mirror

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

Head coach: Sherman Howze, fifth season
Conference: Yadkin Valley 1A
Season-opener: Feb. 26 vs. Albemarle, 6:30 p.m.
2019 record: 1-10 overall (1-5 in Yadkin Valley, seventh place)
Best 2019 win: 38-20 at North Moore (3-7) on Nov. 8, 2019

2019 all-conference selections:
• QB Michael Moore (senior) BEAR CREEK — Torn-up turf. Mud-soaked cleats. Bundled-up coaches. Stiff-handed quarterbacks.

These are the signs of February football in North Carolina — more specifically, the signs of February football at Chatham Central.

"It's been hard," said Sherman Howze, Chatham Central's head coach, prior to practice on Saturday morning. "We tore up the practice soccer field and that's where we're going today. We tried to be over here (at the football practice field), but our backup quarterback hyperextended his knee over there. You've just got to deal with it. We didn't ask for it, but we've got it. At least they're playing."

The Bears spent Saturday morning running through offensive plays on a practice field with very little support with temperatures in the low 30s.

The ground was saturated from recent winter weather, causing players to lose their footing, receivers to stumble on routes and the risk of injury to grow with each taken step.

For Howze and his Bears, poor field conditions are one of the many challenges starting them right in the face,



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central senior quarterback Michael Moore (black jersey) throws a pass to senior wide receiver Parker Crowley (7). Crowley is playing in his first football season with the Bears, despite head coach Sherman Howze trying to recruit him for the last four years.

all of which he's prepared to take on.

Just as with other programs, Chatham Central has been hit hard by a wave of academic ineligibility this season, with 14 players being deemed ineligible because of poor grades, dropping the team's roster numbers from the low-40s to the mid-20s.

Eight of those 14 players were starters last season.

"We stressed to them last March that everything in the first semester when we come back to school is going to count, regardless of if it's remote or not," said Howze. "And those 14, believe me, they're working now, because they know they're supposed to be out here. Are we going to take a hit from it? Yeah, but I trust what I've got."

In addition to eligibility causing their numbers to dwindle, so is the Bears' suc-

cess in basketball.

Chatham Central (9-1) took second place in the Yadkin Valley conference in basketball, automatically earning them a spot in the playoffs that started on Tuesday.

The Bears have multiple players — including senior all-conference quarterback Michael Moore — who play on the basketball team, meaning that the farther they advance in the playoffs, the longer Howze will be without some of his most important players. There's a chance they could miss the football team's season-opener on Friday against Albemarle.

"If they play Tuesday, and they win, they play Thursday, then they win, they play Saturday, so I might not even have them. Now we go back to who's going to play quarterback. We'll just have to revert to the wildcard (for-

mation)," Howze said with a laugh.

Looking ahead

To put it lightly, the Bears struggled in 2019.

Chatham Central ended the season with a 1-10 record that included a two-game span where they lost by a combined score of 146-3 to North Stanly and North Rowan.

Howze chalks some of the team's shortcomings up to injuries, including a couple of torn ACLs and six concussions, which he said were the most concussions suffered by a team of his since he got to Bear Creek.

This year, Howze is excited about some of his four-year starters, but none more than his star quarterback Moore, a three-time all-conference selection and a starter from day one in the program.

"He's a three-sport athlete, that's one good thing about him. He's always busy," said Howze. "He's smart with his progressions and can read a defense."

Moore has had multiple Division I schools scout him as a quarterback, according to Howze, including Appalachian State, Wake Forest and Coastal Carolina, the latter of which he's had deep discussions with.

He even spent time working out with former Duke quarterback Anthony Boone and UNC quarterback Sam Howell, a testament to the quality of training he received in the offseason.

Howze also has his eyes on senior wide receivers Tyler Oldham and Brady Cunnup to make a splash, along with senior receiver Parker Crowley, who Howze said he's been trying to recruit to play football for his entire high school career.

On defense, Howze expects

the unit's strength to rely on senior defensive end Wesley Buie, junior safety Luke Oldham and junior cornerback Collin Lagenor.

"I've got a lot of new faces, but defensively, we're going to be strong. We're a lot faster defensively," said Howze.

Chatham Central's veteran leadership — which begins with Moore — is one of Howze's keys to improving upon last year's single-win campaign. He said he thinks the Bears could "steal" four or five conference wins in this year's seven-game season.

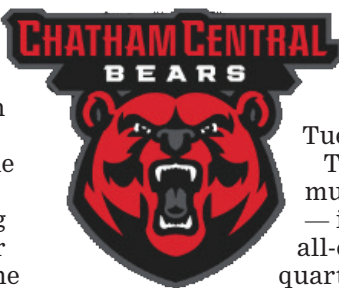
With about a half-hour remaining in Saturday's practice, the field was so decimated that the Bears' coaching staff made the decision to move practice to the school's tennis courts.

As Howze walked from the tennis courts to the fieldhouse, where players were changing out of their cleats and into their tennis shoes, Howze yelled back to the coaches waiting around on the courts: "This is a new era!"

He was referring not only to the strange feel of football in February, but to the future of the Bears' program, one he continues to focus on building.

"I'm happy that we're able to play," Howze said. "I don't know what the outcome's going to be game after game, but just to give these kids an opportunity to play is the most important. Yes, the pandemic has put a damper on a lot of stuff, but you've got to continue to believe and trust that everything's going to be all right."

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@Frezeal33](https://twitter.com/Frezeal33).



JORDAN-MATTHEWS

Jets hope to build on 2019 momentum, improve on 2-9 record in Spencer's second year

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

Head coach: Sam Spencer, second season
Conference: PAC 7 2A
Season-opener: Feb. 25 vs. T.W. Andrews, 6:30 p.m.
2019 record: 2-9 overall (1-5 in PAC 7, sixth place)
Best 2019 win: 56-30 at Chatham Central (1-10) on Sept. 13, 2019

2019 all-conference selections:
• DB Jerrell Brooks (graduated)
• DL Johnny Person (graduated)
• LB Jaquez Thompson (senior)

SILER CITY — It may not have been the most ideal first season at 2-9, but for Jordan-Matthews' head coach Sam Spencer, 2019 wasn't all bad.

"We had three goals, really: beat Chatham Central, re-establish JV and win (our first PAC 7) conference game," said Spencer, "and we checked all three of those boxes."

While the win-loss record wasn't pretty, Spencer appeared much more interested in improving the future of Jets football by garnering interest in a program that was previously struggling to get kids to sign up.

In total, about 24 freshmen came out to play in the 2019 season, allowing

Spencer to restart the JV football team. That interest carried over to the start of 2020, which was officially delayed six months in August because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The biggest thing was just putting more experienced players on the field. We had real good momentum after the 2019 season as far as after-school weightlifting and that kind of stuff," said Spencer. "We had a lot of interest among kids in the building that didn't play last season and wanted to come out and play in the fall of 2020 ... and we were making progress towards that until all of the COVID stuff hit."

This season, the Jets will have between 30-35 athletes on the roster, making a JV team unlikely. Spencer said remote learning may have been a culprit, calling Chatham County Schools' decision to remain in Plan C — entirely remote learning — for the fall 2020 semester "not good for our football program."

Jordan-Matthews — like many other schools — has been severely affected by academic ineligibility, losing

somewhere between 13-15 football players this season who were deemed ineligible.

"Even with the eligibility issues, we're still older than we were last year. We're still better than we were last year," said Spencer.

Looking ahead
In 2019, each of the Jets' losses were by 35 points or more.

"We got clobbered in every one of them," said Spencer, laughing. "This year, if we lose a game, I think we'll at least be competitive in that game."

Jordan-Matthews has one of its three all-conference players returning from last season: senior linebacker and running back Jaquez Thompson, who registered 122 solo tackles, eclipsed 1400 rushing yards and scored 11 touchdowns in 2019 and plans to be one of the team's premier defenders while simultaneously shouldering the workload in the Jets' rushing attack.

Spencer called Thompson "all-conference caliber on both sides of the ball," but said he chose to nominate him at linebacker last season to ensure he made it.

In addition to Thompson's planned control of the run game, the Jets get their quarterback, senior Xavier Woods, back from a knee injury. Junior wide receiver Calvin Schwartz is set to have a big year, too, as the team's likely leading target.

Defensively, many of the same names on offense are primed to also shine on defense, including Thompson and Schwartz, who Spencer said has the ability to be an all-conference-level safety for J-M.

Spencer also has his eyes on sophomore Dallas Richardson, who will take over as the SAM linebacker alongside Thompson and has plenty of potential after his freshman season on JV.

"He showed some flashes as a freshman, but he's a pretty good athlete and he wrestled," said Spencer. "He'll get down there and get physical, so we're excited about Dallas at linebacker."

With all of the challenges and changes that come along with the 2020 season, including a shorter seven-game schedule, frigid winter weather and less-than-ideal field conditions, it's hard to know what to expect from the Jets — or any other team — this year.

Spencer agrees. "If you asked me (what

my expectations were) last summer, I'd be able to give you a straightforward answer, but the honest answer is, I don't really know what to expect," said Spencer. "We'll keep our fingers

crossed that we don't get bit by the COVID bug and we get this season in."

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@Frezeal33](https://twitter.com/Frezeal33).



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NORTHWOOD

Chargers relying on talent, depth and team-building to fuel 2020 success

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

Head coach: Cullen Homolka, second season

Conference: Big Eight 3A

Season-opener: Feb. 25 at Cedar Ridge, 6:30 p.m.

2019 record: 4-7 overall (3-4 in Big Eight, fifth place)

Best 2019 win: 27-24 vs. East Chapel Hill (2-9) on Oct. 11, 2019

2019 all-conference selections:

- LB Will Lake (senior)
- P Aidan Laros (senior)
- WR Chris Lawson (transferred)
- DB Aaron Ross (graduated)
- DL Cameron Sanders (senior)

PITTSBORO — For Northwood, last year's focus was on the fundamentals. This year, it's all about using those fundamentals to work and win as a team.

Cullen Homolka, Northwood's head coach, finished his first season with the Chargers in 2019 at 4-7, which he noted was "a learning experience."

"I was just trying to figure out where we were and how raw we were, what we needed to work on, that was kind of the season in a nutshell to me," he said. "We just had to go back to fundamentals and kind of build a base. Hopefully this year the product on the field is a little bit better than it has been in the past."

Last season, the Chargers were able to string together an impressive four-game winning streak in the middle of the season, showing life after opening the season with three straight losses. But after the win streak, they went on a four-game losing streak to close out the year.

And when they lost, it typically wasn't close. Each of Northwood's losses, aside

from a one-point loss in overtime to Orange, were by at least three touchdowns.

Homolka said he partially blames himself for trying to make things "too complicated" coming in, which took away from some of the core elements of playing good football that he was trying to teach them.

More important than wins or losses, however, was Homolka's chance to familiarize himself with the team and craft a vision for what he wants his program to look, feel and play like.

"(You need to) have some really good core stuff that you can always fall back on, repping the heck out of it and just getting really good at the stuff you believe in," said Homolka. "And trying to put it in a situation where you're not relying on just a couple of kids, but the entire team doing their job to be successful."

If there is one thing Homolka appears to want from this upcoming season, it's for his team to play like one. While egos are undoubtedly going to get involved, he is trying to stress that everyone's role is important, not just those who get the outside praise.

"I just put them in situations where there's a lot more team-building involved than I had in the past," said Homolka. "Encouraging each other, not being negative, having a good locker room presence ... just being good teammates, understanding what it takes to rely on others to get things done."

While Northwood has the talent on the field, Homolka's idea is that the talent needs to mesh together to support the team as a whole if the Chargers want to win.

Looking ahead

Homolka's emphasis on building a team, rather than just a group of individuals, is evident in the way he speaks about both sides of the ball.

Offensively, he refuses to name individuals he thinks will be key players for the Chargers this season because it would be "unfair for what I'm trying to do" in terms of creating a team atmosphere, according to Homolka.

However, that doesn't stop him from gushing over the offensive line, which he said could have anywhere from six to eight players who could start at those positions. That's how much talent and depth they have in the trenches.

"They're talented," Homolka said. "They can come off of the ball and they're big and they're athletic and they definitely care about the team first. I hate having to pick five out of them because I probably could start six if I was able to. So I'm excited about the front five more than anything."

Having a stellar front five will allow Northwood to play the type of offense it chooses: a run-first, downhill style with athletes like senior Aidan Laros — the team's all-conference punter who recently committed to Florida International University — who will also act as one of the team's primary ball carriers.

On defense, Homolka is excited about a plethora of athletes, complimenting players on all three units: the defensive line, linebacking corps and secondary, all of which have more depth than they've had in recent years.

Specifically, Homolka is ready to see the linebackers go to work, including



returning senior starters Will Lake (2019 all-conference), Jake Mann (2021 Oklahoma long snapping commit) and Laros, along with seniors Hue Jacobs and Cade Little and sophomore Troy Ennis.

"We've got a good core and then we've got a couple of juniors who are going to be helpful at that position that will probably play a big role," said Homolka. "I'm excited about them."

In total, the Chargers have more than 50 players on the varsity roster this season, plus around 30 others playing for the JV team. The interest in the program remains extremely high.

Unlike other schools, Northwood hasn't been hit quite as hard with academic eligibility issues, to which Homolka gives credit to both his players and the teachers at Northwood for staying on top of schoolwork during remote learning.

While it's been strange to practice in winter weather for a football season that starts at the end of February, Homolka said his players never complain, even on days when "it feels like we're practicing in the middle of a pond."

Throughout the offseason, even when they weren't allowed to work out in person, he had players reaching out to him and asking questions, participating in Zoom workouts and remaining dedicated to honing their craft.

"It's definitely opened my eyes to the importance of my role as a head coach and as a leader for these young men," said Homolka. "Win-lose, as long as we go out there and play every down and not quit, I'm going to be a happy man."

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

WOMENS

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offense, her touch, once all of those things come together and she matures, she's going to be pretty scary to watch."

While the final score may look like a semi-close win for Northwood, the game was never truly in doubt.

The Chargers went up 6-0 to start the game, then allowed East Chapel Hill to make it 6-5 before pulling

away again to lead 15-5. This cat-and-mouse game would persist for most of the evening, but the Wildcats could never truly catch up as Northwood controlled all 32 minutes.

No ties. No lead changes. Just an unbeaten team going to work.

Much of that work could be seen on the defensive end, especially in the play of guards McClarty and junior Natalie Bell, who hustled regardless of the situation, stuck their

hands out to disrupt any plays the Wildcats tried to run and were menacing during Northwood's press opportunities.

In total, the Chargers accounted for 18 steals against East Chapel Hill, with McClarty and Bell having two apiece, while freshman forward Skylar Adams thieved five by herself.

"That's kind of how I've always been because I've never been a real avid scorer," McClarty said.

"Te'Keyah is a natural scorer, but for me, I've had to work for what I get. So if I can't score, I'm going to help my team some other way. I'm quick, I'm agile. If I get any points, that's how I get them. Defense has been my thing."

Northwood, which locked up its Big Eight Conference title a couple of weeks ago, will play at home against the 12th-seeded E.E. Smith Golden Bulls on Tuesday — the same team that

knocked the Chargers off in the third round of last year's playoffs en route to being named co-champion with Southeast Guilford (game was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic).

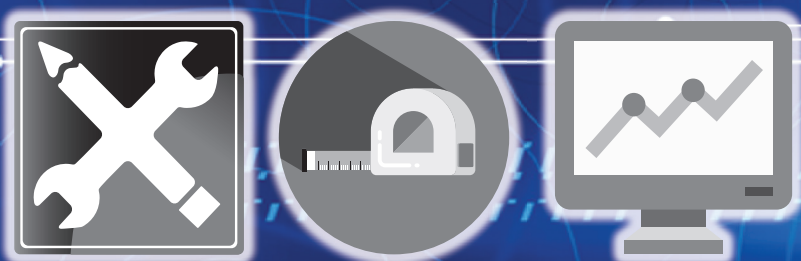
Regardless of the opponent, the Chargers seem up to the task. And a lot of that goes back not only to the team's depth, but to the versatility of that depth.

"We're a talented team. We have a lot of talented guards, we have some really good, strong post

players," said Bland. "There's not a lot of teams you come across that the whole lineup is a good team, a stacked team, and I feel like that's what makes us stand out because everyone's good. It's not really anybody's just there to be there. Everyone wants to be here, everyone's working hard."

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

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CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

Note: Tuesday's men's and women's playoff basketball games began after the News + Record's print deadline. The second round is scheduled to be played on Thursday, while the third round will take place on Saturday. Check our website for updated scores and schedules, and follow us on Twitter @ChathamNR-Sports.

Despite the calendar saying it's February, this week marks the start of football season for Northwood, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central. The men's and women's basketball playoffs, of which five teams (Northwood men and women, Chatham Charter men and women and Chatham Central men) are participating are also revving up. Men's and women's lacrosse, along with men's soccer, continue across Chatham County. Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, Feb. 24

Lacrosse: Northwood women at Heritage, 6:30 p.m.
Lacrosse: Northwood men vs. East Chapel Hill, 7 p.m.
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men at Randleman, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Woods Charter

men at Research Triangle, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 25

Basketball: Second round of playoffs, teams and opponents to be determined.
Football: Northwood at Cedar Ridge, 6:30 p.m.
Football: Jordan-Matthews vs. T.W. Andrews, 6:30 p.m.
Lacrosse: Northwood men at Chapel Hill, 7 p.m.
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men at Providence Grove, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Northwood men at Chapel Hill, 6:45 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 26

Football: Chatham Central vs. Albemarle, 6:30 p.m.
Lacrosse: Northwood men at Cary Academy, 4:15 p.m.
Soccer: Woods Charter at Carrboro, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 27

Basketball: Third round of playoffs, teams and opponents to be determined.

LAST WEEK

Monday, Feb. 15

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women lost a road game to the Wheatmore Warriors, 57-43.
Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men suffered a 53-44 loss to the Wheatmore Warriors,

marking their seventh defeat in a row.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

Basketball: The Northwood women clinched an undefeated regular season (11-0) with a 48-35 victory over the East Chapel Hill Wildcats. Defensively, the Chargers forced turnovers left and right, suffocating the Wildcats throughout the game. Leading Northwood was sophomore forward Te'Keyah Bland (14 points) and junior guard McKenna Snively (nine points).
Basketball: The Northwood men avenged their Jan. 22 buzzer-beating loss to East Chapel Hill with a commanding win over the Wildcats, 48-28. The game was never really in doubt for the Chargers, who allowed just three points in the first quarter and gradually pulled away as the game went on, improving their record to 10-2. The Chargers were led by freshman guard Drake Powell (16 points, four blocks) and freshman forward Jarin Stevenson (10 points).
Basketball: The Chatham Central men scored the most points they have all season in their win over the South Davidson Wildcats, 81-52.
Basketball: The Chatham Central women fell in a close one to the North Stanly Comets,

39-34. Despite the game being tied to end the third quarter, the Comets took over in the fourth to secure the five-point win.

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men suffered an uncharacteristic blowout loss to the Uwharrie Charter Academy Eagles, 65-44. Scoring leaders for the Knights were senior forward Trevor Golden (15 points) and sophomore forward Adam Harvey (13 points). The loss is the Knights' first of the season (11-1).
Basketball: The Woods Charter Wolves lost a road game to the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 61-50.

Wednesday, Feb. 17

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women lost at home against the Providence Grove Patriots, 61-43.
Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men lost a close season finale to the Providence Grove Patriots, 67-62. The Jets finish the 2020-21 season at 4-10.
Lacrosse: The Northwood women lost a lopsided road game to the East Chapel Hill Wildcats, 19-2. The loss pushes the Chargers' record to 2-3 on the season. Northwood junior Kendall Laberge and sophomore Mia Collins each scored a goal.
Basketball: The Chatham Central women completed a drubbing of the North Moore Mus-

tangs, 67-25.
Basketball: The Chatham Central men earned a 35-point victory over the North Moore Mustangs, 75-40.

Thursday, Feb. 18

All sporting events were postponed due to winter weather.

Friday, Feb. 19

Basketball: The Chatham Charter women defeated the Clover Garden Grizzlies in an overtime thriller, 48-45, to win the Central Tar Heel 1A Conference. With the game tied 45-45 with less than a minute left in the overtime period, Knights senior forward Rebecca McLaughnea drove down the lane, taking contact and hitting a layup to make it 47-45, sealing the game for Chatham Charter. Leading the Knights on the evening was senior center Morgan Lineberry (18 points, 12 rebounds) and McLaughnea (11 points, 12 rebounds).
Chatham Charter ends the regular season with an 8-2 record.
Basketball: The Chatham Charter men won a close game against the North Rowan Cavaliers, 51-46. Leading the Knights was sophomore forward Adam Harvey (20 points, 10 rebounds) and senior forward Trevor Golden (10 points, 7 rebounds). Chatham Charter closes out the year

with a 12-1 overall record (9-0 conference), good for first place in the Central Tar Heel 1A conference.

Basketball: The Chatham Central women lost handily to the Uwharrie Charter Academy Eagles, 47-27. The Bears finish the season with a 4-4 overall record.

Basketball: The Chatham Central men closed out the regular season with a nine-point win over the Uwharrie Charter Academy Eagles, 55-46. Leading the Bears was senior center Michael Moore (20 points) and senior Jayden Gilliland (12 points). Chatham Central finishes the regular season with a 9-1 record en route to the playoffs.

Basketball: The Woods Charter Wolves lost to the Research Triangle Raptors, 72-44.

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women lost their season finale to the Eastern Randolph Wildcats, 64-58. The Jets finish the season with a 1-10 record.

Saturday, Feb. 20

Basketball: The Woods Charter Wolves lost their last game of the season to the Research Triangle Raptors, 82-50. The Wolves finish the year with a 1-10 record.

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

MENS

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"We knew we had to blow them out because we didn't want the same thing that happened last time," said Northwood freshman forward Jarin Stevenson.

From the start, it was clear that Northwood was prepared to do just that.

Late in the first quarter, Northwood senior guard Troy Arnold scored on a fast break layup after a steal to put his team up 14-1. The Wildcats would end the quarter with just three points.

From there, East Chapel Hill put up a fight for most of the second quarter, cutting its deficit to eight points at half-time, 23-15, but the Chargers never truly felt like they were in trouble.

"That loss at (East) Chapel Hill really hurt us, but it was a good type of hurt because we learned a lot from it and you always want those losses that kind of sting a little bit more early on in the season," said Matt Brown, Northwood's head coach. "The guys were out here ready to go."

If anybody was ready to go, it was Northwood freshman guard Drake Powell.

All night long, Powell acted as both a disruptor and an igniter, putting his full abilities on display.

If the Chargers needed a blocked shot, Powell was there (he had four of them).

If they needed an offensive boost, he was there (he led the team with 16 points and hit two threes).

If they needed someone to knock away passes during full-court presses, he was there.

"He's so versatile," said Brown. "That's what he does best. He's a lockdown defender, he can handle the ball, he can shoot the three, he can drive on you, he's a great offensive rebounder and he blocks shots. He's hard to guard, hard to defend. And it's a matchup problem."

In short, Powell seemingly did it all on Feb. 16 — but that's not to say he didn't have a ton of help.

Powell makes up one-third of the Chargers' starting freshmen trio — along with Stevenson and guard Frederico Whitaker — that continues to shine night-in and night-out, of-

ten looking as if they're actively trying to add to their highlight reels on a nightly basis.

One play in the first half, though it didn't result in points, embodied the defensive mindset and the sheer talent of Northwood's young nucleus.

During one of Northwood's presses, the Wildcats attempted to get the ball across half court, but Powell knocked the ball away. Whitaker then scooped up the loose ball, made a spin move that split two defenders as he sped down the floor and kicked it to Arnold in the left corner for a three.

While Arnold narrowly missed the shot, the play itself oozed with swagger, athleticism and awareness. This is the future of Northwood basketball.

"They're just good players, they make the coaches look good," said Brown. "We've got a great coaching staff that works with them every single day and makes them better. Our coaching staff is probably one of the best in the state."

One of the primary goals for Northwood coming into this rematch was to lock down Wildcats senior forward Will Tyndall, who had 16 points — including the game-winning

baseline jumper — in East Chapel Hill's first matchup with the Chargers.

The strategy? Have Powell stick to him like glue. Face-guard him. Don't worry about defending the ball, just focus on making sure he doesn't catch it.

Of course, with a talented player like Tyndall, it's nearly impossible to deny him completely. He would finish the night with 19 points — all but nine of his team's total points — but nine of them came off of free throws. Brown looks at it as a success.

"He's such a good player and he found a way to score, and we knew he would," said Brown, "but our thought was if we made it a little bit tougher on him, he would tire out. And I think he tired out."

East Chapel Hill scored just 13 points in the second half, compared to 25 for the Chargers, as Northwood pulled away with little to no issue after the intermission.

While this win solidified Northwood as having avenged both of their last-second losses this season — they won their rematch with Southern Durham on Feb. 2 after losing in early January — it still

didn't automatically guarantee them a playoff spot.

Northwood has locked up the best record in the Big Eight, but due to the NCHSAA's 2020-21 playoff bracketing format that was put into place because of the coronavirus pandemic, the conference title was given to the team with the best record after seven conference games: East Chapel Hill.

Northwood's third-place conference finish put them in the race for four wild card spots in the East region, which consists of 16 teams. The Chargers, sitting with a 10-2 overall conference record, had their last game of the season against Vance County canceled due to winter weather issues, setting them up for a road playoff game against the undefeated, fourth-seeded Rocky Mount Gryphons.

Stevenson is confident. "We've got to finish out the season ... then go into the playoffs strong," said Stevenson. "We've got to continue our streak."

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

BBALL

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ward Rebecca McLaughnea power her way into the lane for a layup that put the Knights up 47-45 with less than 30 seconds remaining, acting as the eventual game-winner.

Chatham Charter won the Central Tar Heel conference on that shot, capping off a regular season in which the Knights started 2-2 then won six games in a row to capture the conference title, an 8-2 overall record and a playoff spot.

During the win streak, Chatham Charter has won four out of six games by at least 17 points, the only exceptions coming in the final two games against Clover Garden, seven- and three-point victories, respectively.

The Knights have three scorers that average double-figures, including senior center Morgan Lineberry (14.6 points per game), junior forward Alexis Baldwin (12.2 points) and sophomore guard Tamaya Walden (11.3 points), who paired

with McLaughnea (9.1 points and 8.8 rebounds per game), act as the team's heartbeat and have been crucial pieces to their six-game streak.

Chatham Charter is one of the hottest teams in the county and looks to carry that momentum into the postseason, where they'll have their hands full in the first round with the 13-1 Robinsville Black Knights, who are on an 11-game win streak of their own.

Men's 3A

NORTHWOOD CHARGERS

Record: 10-2 (10-2 in Big Eight)

Conference: Big Eight 3A (third place)

Seed: 13

First Round Opponent: at (4) Rocky Mount, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Potential Second Round Matchup: at (5) D.H. Conley or at (12) Southern Durham on Thursday

The Northwood men were Chatham County's only question mark going into Selection Sunday, as a couple of last-second losses to Southern Durham and East Chapel Hill ear-

lier in the season pushed them to third place in the Big Eight, where only the first seven conference games counted toward the final conference standings this year.

With both of the Big Eight's two automatic bids out of reach, the Chargers needed to hope that their final record would be enough to get them an at-large wild card spot. They ended the season on a six-game winning streak — including convincing victories in rematches with the two teams that beat them — to finish with the best record in the Big Eight, as well as a top-four record amongst wild card contenders in the East region, earning them a playoff spot.

Northwood is defined by its youth. A Final Four team a year ago, the Chargers have defied expectations after losing 90.7% of their offensive production from last season, using a mix of young stars and veteran leaders to propel them to the postseason.

Most notably, freshman forward Jarin Steven-

son (13.3 points and 8.8 rebounds per game) and freshman guard Drake Powell (11.5 points) are two of the most versatile players in the county and are just as productive on defense as they are on offense.

With Stevenson and Powell's length and athleticism paired with the vision and facilitation skills of fellow freshman guard Frederico Whitaker (9.8 points) and the outside shooting presence of senior guards Troy Arnold (7.5 points) and Colby Burlison (5.6 points), the Chargers are going to be a tough out for whichever team attempts to match up with them.

Northwood's future is undoubtedly bright with the talent of their freshman trio, but with the Chargers on a six-game win streak and playing their best basketball of the season, their focus is less on the future and more on making a back-to-back run to the Final Four and beyond.

Women's 3A

NORTHWOOD CHARGERS

Record: 11-0 (11-0 in Big Eight)

Conference: Big Eight 3A (conference champions)

Seed: 5

First Round Opponent: vs. (12) E.E. Smith, Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Potential Second Round Matchup: at (4) Terry Sanford or vs. (13) Jacksonville on Thursday

The Northwood women made history this season when they defeated the East Chapel Hill Wildcats on Feb. 16 to become the first women's Chargers team to go undefeated in the regular season since 1983-84 nearly 40 years ago.

Their perfect record was more than enough to earn them the conference title this season, but what makes Northwood so special is the team's combination of selflessness and defense.

While sophomore forward Te'Keyah Bland (15.6 points per game) is the team's top scorer, it's usually up to a slew of others to step up and join Bland — including sharpshooting junior guard McKenna Snively (10 points per game),

freshman guard Skylar Adams (7.6 points) and senior guard Rae McClarty (6.5 points) — and lead the offense.

Most of the same players that thrive on offense also contribute heavily on defense, especially McClarty and junior guard Natalie Bell, both of whom's bread and butter is making opposing ball handlers uncomfortable and forcing turnovers wherever possible.

The ability to get so many girls involved on offense — and rattle opponents on defense — is the key to Northwood's 11-0 season and will be crucial to any sort of run the unbeaten Chargers may be able to make this postseason.

Northwood head coach Cameron Vernon said his team is learning to play with a target on their backs as one of just nine undefeated teams in the 3A class. The next two weeks will show whether that's true.

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SCHOOL OF THE ARTS FOR BOYS ACADEMY

SABA officially approved by state to operate as public charter school

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff



Submitted photo

School of the Arts for Boys Academy founder Valencia Toomer's son, Tyson Toomer, rocking one of the school's new shirts. The school is set to open in fall 2021.

to operate as a single-sex charter school. "SABA will help them to be leaders in our community and our kids deserve it," Toomer previously told the News + Record. "They deserve to have a place that will nurture their cultures, nurture their multiple ways of learning, nurture their

love of the arts and that's what we anticipate SABA being about." The school's enrollment began in January and will go through March, and uses a weighted lottery for admission — meaning students with various education disadvantages are given extra weight, or consideration, for acceptance. There are no fees to attend, and Toomer said the school anticipates about 60% of its population will qualify for free and reduced lunch. The lottery also gives extra weight to siblings of those accepted. SABA is set to open in August with 116 boys in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade — with plans to add a grade level each subsequent year to eventually reach the 12th grade. The school is in the final stages of securing an interim facility in Pittsboro to support them for a year

or two while its "forever facility" is built in Pittsboro near the State Employee's Credit Union on Industrial Park Drive. The school will host a live lottery for admission and will begin hiring faculty in March once it has a better understanding of student ratios. "We are enrolling boys all over the county, so we're excited about that," Toomer said. "We are moving forward, obviously, to open in August, so parents are applying as we speak. We have been receiving wonderful support from the Chatham and surrounding communities for SABA."

Offering a culturally responsive, arts-based education, the school will partner with two instructional organizations: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), a nonprofit focused on closing the opportunity gap to prepare all students for college and careers, and A+ Schools of North Carolina, a whole-school model that views the arts as foundational to teaching and learning.

SABA board member Mike Wiley told the News + Record in July that the pandemic helped bring to light the lack of equity in schooling — particularly when it comes to access to technology.

"There are students, many of them, predominantly Black and brown, who don't have access to the minimal technologies that they need to survive in a virtual world," said Wiley, a local performer and playwright. "Having a school that is forged during a pandemic will give us experiences that enable us to understand what our students will need, because

we're seeing ourselves what we need to be able to survive through this."

All boys can attend SABA, but the school will be specifically structured to serve boys of color by exposing students to rich and diverse culturally responsive learning opportunities. This structure and emphasis on the arts is meant to help address the achievement gap — any significant and persistent disparity in education performance — found between Black and white students in Chatham County.

In Chatham, despite a commitment to school equity by CCS in recent years, students of color — particularly brown and Black boys — are suspended at higher rates than any other group and their test scores are consistently not reaching those of their white counterparts, Wiley and Toomer said.

"We have to ask ourselves why is that? Why is that happening?" Wiley previously said. "Why does it continue to happen? To be able to combat that, it is important that SABA succeed, it is important to have a SABA that particularly teaches Black and brown boys from a pedagogical standpoint that nurtures the difference in them."

"This is not necessarily a Chatham issue," Toomer said, "this is a nationwide issue with the achievement gap and the discipline disparities that exist especially with minority boys."

Toomer emphasized that she wanted to provide another learning choice in Chatham.

"SABA is another option for students and families within Chatham — I started in Chatham, I was born and

raised in Chatham and I still have work to do in Chatham," she said.

Though the school will receive federal and district funds, it will also depend on grants and donations to help provide creative learning and meet accessibility goals such as providing free meals to all students during the school day. SABA is partnering with the Golf Club at Charter Ridge to host its first golf tournament fundraiser on March 20. There is a \$100 entry fee and all of the money earned will go directly to SABA.

As the school enrollment period continues, Toomer will continue hosting her "Talk with Toomer" chats on Facebook, something she started at Horton Middle to allow students and parents to get to know her more, ask questions and discuss important topics. So far with SABA, she's focused on featuring Black local artists and community members, such as Wiley, motivational speaker and performing artist Sandra Dubose and a former Chatham alum who now plays football for Appalachian State.

With another month of enrollment to go, Toomer said some boys may end up on the waiting list.

"We still are encouraging folks to please apply and I know the seats are going to fill up fast," she said, "But we want everybody to at least have an opportunity at SABA if they so choose to."

You can learn more about or apply to SABA at its website: <https://www.sabacademy.org/>.

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

Eureka! You found the answer!

A: Carbonton

To enter the COA's monthly drawing for a \$25 Visa Gift Card, call the COA at 919-542-4512, extension 223 and follow the prompts on the voicemail. February's winner will be drawn from eligible entries provided by 3/2/2021. The February winner will be announced in a March issue of the Chatham News + Record. One entry per household, per week. Employees of the COA and their dependents not eligible.

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Chatham COA Events & Announcements February 25th - March 3rd

Thursday, February 25th

- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 8:45 AM
- [Chair Yoga with Liz](#) at 10:00 AM
- [Trivia with Faye](#) at 11:15 AM

Friday, February 26th

- [Strong & Fit with Jackie](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Weekly Call with Director, Dennis Streets](#) at 10:15 AM

Monday, March 1st

- [Chair Yoga with Liz](#) at 10:00 AM
- [Bingo with Joe](#) at 11:15 AM
- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 3:00 PM

Tuesday, March 2nd

- [Strong & Fit with Jackie](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Virtual Health & Wellness Expo: COVID Vaccination Info](#) at 11:15 AM

Wednesday, March 3rd

- [Wood Turning with Alan](#) at 11:15 AM

On Zoom On Conference Line: 727-731-8717

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

Virtual VITA Income Tax Preparation Assistance



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

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

Join the Trivia Hunt & Win!



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

The Chatham COA is Here for You!

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

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

Preview to BOE meeting considering Plan A for K-5 students

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

guidance and state reopening bill

On Feb. 2, Cooper “strongly urged” North Carolina public school districts to offer in-person instruction at a press conference, stopping short of mandating schools to reopen.

Last week, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 37, a bill also introduced in early February which requires school systems to offer Plan A to special needs students and Plan A or Plan B to all other students. Gov. Cooper said last Thursday that he wanted to discuss the bill further before acting on it — namely by including state-recommended social distancing requirements at middle and high schools and allowing local districts to respond to emergencies to return to Plan C if needed.

The governor has 10 days to sign or veto the bill; it will become law without his signature if he does nothing by then. By the time of publication Tuesday, Cooper hadn’t acted on the bill yet.

Teacher vaccines

The Chatham County Public Health Department announced last Friday that school and childcare workers over the age of 50 could begin receiving the vaccine in Chatham on Feb. 26. (For more about that plan, see this week’s story about teacher reactions to vaccine eligibility.)

This decision followed Cooper’s Feb. 10 announcement that the state would expand vaccine eligibility to Group 3, starting with educators and school personnel on Feb. 24, with other frontline workers set to become eligible March 10.

At the time, both state and local leaders stressed that vaccine eligibility did not guarantee vaccination doses given.

CCPHD Director Mike Zelek told the News + Record at the time that the department would continue to focus its vaccination efforts on individuals in Groups 1 and 2 who have not yet been vaccinated.

“Thousands of Chatham residents in these groups remain unvaccinated, and we are exhausting our weekly vaccine allocations to work through these groups as quickly as possible,” Zelek said. “Vaccine supply continues to be the limiting factor, and it is unlikely that we will be able to move to Group 3 as soon as the group becomes eligible per this updated guidance from NCDHHS.”

In the announcement made Friday, the department said it will continue to use the majority of its allocation to vaccinate individuals in Groups 1 and 2, but will begin scheduling appointments in the CCPHD vaccine database who work in the county’s

public, public charter and private schools and childcare centers. That database already has nearly 1,000 individuals from these facilities, the release said, with around 40% of those people 50 years or older.

New CDC guidance

On Feb. 12, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention again urged K-12 schools to offer in-person instruction as quickly as possible, offering a step-by-step plan including five mitigation strategies to do so.

In that guidance, the agency said elementary school students could receive at least some in-person instruction safely, even in communities with high transmission spread. However, the same guidance said middle and high school students might need to switch to hybrid or remote learning in communities experiencing intense outbreaks.

Under the agency’s new criteria regarding community spread, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky told media that schools in more than 90 percent of U.S. counties could not return to in-person classrooms full-time. That includes counties in North Carolina, where the state legislature is currently pushing for all students to return to in-person instruction.

The five mitigation strategies listed in the guidance included the universal and correct wearing of masks; physical distancing; washing hands; cleaning facilities and improving ventilation; and contact tracing, isolation and quarantine. The agency said vaccines and testing were “additional layers” of COVID-19 protection.

“I want to be clear, with this operational strategy, CDC is not mandating that schools reopen,” Walensky said in the Feb. 12 news briefing. “These recommendations simply provide schools a long-needed roadmap for how to do so safely under different levels of disease in the community.”

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

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

On February 15, Emily Annette Kidd, 34, of 347 North Howard Mill Road, Robbins, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for misdemeanor probation violation. Kidd was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Moore County District Court in Carthage on February 18.

On February 16, Larry Joe Myers, 49, of 140 Doc Gaines Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by

Deputy Brandal Harrington for possession of firearm by felon, assault by pointing a gun, assault on a child under 12, simple assault, and communicating threats. Myers was issued a \$50,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 1.

On February 18, Amber Nichole Kenner, 33, of 3180 Old 421 North, Siler City, was arrested by Sgt. Rischetta White for simple assault. Kenner was issued a 48-hour domestic violence hold and

is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 3.

SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

On Feb. 21, Donald Ray Alston Jr., 45, of Siler City, was arrested at Chatham Hospital on an order for arrest out of Randolph County for failure to appear. He was taken to the Chatham County Magistrate’s Office and issued a \$2,500 secured bond. He is expected to appear in court on March 9.



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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!

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8th-generation Pittsboro native reflects on history, heritage

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 historian Antonio Austin, an 8th-generation native of Pittsboro, about his research into his family's local heritage.

Austin



Photo courtesy of Antonio Austin

Austin graduated from Northwood High School in 2010, then obtained his Bachelor's degree in Human Service Studies, minoring in African/African-American Studies at Elon University. He then obtained his Master of Education in Educational Leadership in 2017 at Valdosta State University in Georgia.

During his matriculation and post-graduation, he worked in higher education, advising fraternities and sororities in Georgia, Indiana and North Carolina.

Today, he's a first-year Ph.D. student in the Department of History at Howard University in Washington, D.C. His career goal after graduation is to work in the museum or archival setting preserving the histories of Black people within the United States whose stories have been silenced or written out of the historical narrative.

You're studying history at Howard University and you've been sharing lots of your family's history during Black History Month. Why is

Prudie Burnette Sanders, an ancestor of Austin's.

history so vitally important to us?

History gives us an interesting perspective. I truly believe in the old saying that "if you don't know your history, then you're bound to repeat it."

People often see history as being about these famous people who did profoundly great (or horrible) things and are often put on a pedestal. However, I believe that we are more open to history when we are able to humanize these individuals and realize that they had feelings just like everyone else, and made mistakes in their lives as well. History also convicts us regarding the wrongs that we have done and how we can collectively be better humans to our neighbors and those who come after us. It ultimately is a way of giving ourselves a chance to be better and do better.

Your family traces its history in Chatham County to at least the mid-1800s. As you've researched, how would you characterize your family's attachment to Cha-

tham and what the land and people here have meant to your family?

It's so astonishing to say, but my family has been here for at least 200 years — and that is on several lines!

I think that my family has always seen Chatham County — mainly Pittsboro — as home regardless of the circumstances. This is the place where many of us grew up along with the generations before us. I believe that the sense of community, especially with our neighbors, has kept people wanting to still be here. I think that the physical land also means so much to us because of the individuals who worked tirelessly to purchase land — especially those who were formerly enslaved.

To go from being seen as property to acquiring things that society previously said were not meant for you is amazing. I think that that type of connection to the people and the land are truly what have kept us in Chatham for so long. I also believe that many of my family members have tried to make things better for the next generation, in hopes that they will reach successes that they only dreamed of.

You've shared and told many of your family's stories and its history on Facebook this month. Can you share some with us?

There are a couple of people that I heard about growing up, such as Thomas Taylor and Renty Sanders, who were both ancestors on my father's side. Thomas Taylor was born around

1807 and enslaved here in Pittsboro. He was a stonemason which I believe allowed for him to rent himself out and earn money. He was able to purchase land in December 1865, only a short few months after being emancipated, then was able to purchase land yet again on New Year's Day 1867.

Renty Sanders was an ancestor that I had always heard of through his experience as a Civil War veteran. I had tried for years to confirm this fact, then came across his obituary in the newspaper from 1918. In that article, it noted: "Renty Sanders, a worthy colored man ... He went through the civil war — 1861-'65 — with his master and was a faithful and reliable servant..." This was such a joy to find! I hope that one day I will be able to potentially find more about his experience within the Civil War.

On my mother's side, I had been told that my great-grandmother's sister, Mattie Craig Penn, worked for John F. Kennedy. After researching this, I found out that Aunt Mattie indeed worked for the Kennedys prior to his presidency and had such an affectionate relationship with them. I was able to find that their book, Camelot at Dawn, actually dedicated a chapter to my aunt and included a couple of pictures with her and Jackie Kennedy.

I have always loved to hear my grandpa speak of his grandfather (Robert) Dude Farrar. Anytime he speaks about him, you can see the joy in his eyes as he recounts hearing his grandfather singing "The Diamond Road" as he walked past his parents' house.

Those types of tidbits always brought joy and pride to those who were telling me. These types of stories passed down are one of the reasons why I

have always loved history and been curious about those who came before me.

You've been able to find many family members who were slaves during the 1800s. What changed — and what didn't change — after Emancipation for your family, particularly those in Chatham County?

One of the things that obviously changed was their freedom — they were able to have autonomy over themselves; however, that was often challenged through the use of Black codes then with the emergence of the Ku Klux Klan, along with segregation. I believe that I have family members who were able to navigate this well as they were blessed with more opportunities than other sides in my family. With Emancipation, several of my ancestors officially married their spouses, along with being able to have the choice of whom to marry. They were able to acquire property and leave that for their descendants, to worship freely, and to learn to read and write.

Some of the things that did not change were the types of discrimination that they had to face — lasting up until the time my parents were pre-teen/teenagers. Unfortunately, some of them were stuck in a cycle of poverty because they did not have the necessary resources to thrive after only a generation or two removed from enslavement.

However, throughout all of the bad, they tended to at least have the support of their family and their community which can still be seen in so many branches of my family to this day!

For those interested in history, how are you performing the research? What can you share with others who are interested in looking back?

One of the things that

have been key for my research is oral history, which allowed me to become familiar with some of my ancestors. However, it is also important to utilize primary and secondary documents to support the oral tradition (starting from yourself and going backward). There are so many resources and collections that have been digitized, however; there's nothing like utilizing local records through the Register of Deeds, the Clerk of Court, the Chatham County Historical Society, and the library. A great network that I love is BlackProGen, which is a collective of genealogists who specialize in researching people of color. They offer free videos online on an array of topics.

What's been the response to what you've shared?

I have been extremely surprised by the number of individuals who are really receptive to my posts. There have been so many people who have liked and shared the posts over the years, which makes me happy that people find the things that I am sharing, interesting! My goal is always to make this information public, transparent and informative. After initially doing these posts in February 2018, it led me to create my blog, Young Black Genie.

Historians also like to look ahead. What do you foresee for Chatham County in its future?

I foresee Chatham County to continue growing! What I do hope for the county is that the rich history — whether good or bad — is taught and we are able to grow from it. I hope that those individuals who have been pivotal to the success of many people within the community are never forgotten, and the torch that they have carried is never dropped!

How Can Women Overcome Obstacles to Financial Security?

On March 8, we observe International Women's Day, a celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Of course, women still tend to encounter more obstacles than men in the pursuit of financial security. Let's consider a few of them.

To begin with, women are still more likely to leave the workforce, at least temporarily, to raise children, resulting in lower contributions to employer-sponsored retirement plans such as 401(k)s. And women are often the ones who become full-time caregivers of aging parents or other relatives. Caregiving duties can exact a big financial toll: The lost wages, pensions (including 401(k)s and similar plans) and Social Security benefits that a woman loses to become a full-time caregiver amount to more than \$300,000 over her lifetime, according to the National Academy of Sciences.

Women also may be more susceptible to financial downturns. Consider the COVID-19 pandemic: Just a few months ago, in December, women lost 156,000 jobs, while men gained 16,000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which also reported that women accounted for 54% of the jobs lost from the pandemic in 2020.

And women are not unaware of their circumstances and outlook. Just 41% of women are confident about retirement, compared with 56% of men, according to a survey by Edward Jones and Age Wave.

But if you're a woman, you can take steps to help improve your financial outlook. Here are a few suggestions:

Take full advantage of retirement plans. If you are still working and your employer offers a 401(k) or similar retirement plan, take full advantage of it. Put in as much as you can afford each year and increase your contributions when your

salary goes up. Also, within your plan, you'll want to choose the mix of investments that can help provide the most growth potential, given your individual risk tolerance. Also, even if you contribute to a 401(k) or similar plan, you may also be eligible to fund an IRA, which gives you even more investment choices.

Evaluate your Social Security options. You can typically start taking Social Security benefits when you're 62, but your monthly checks will be much larger if you wait until your "full" retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67. You might also consider whether you'd be better off by taking spousal benefits, if you're married and your spouse earned more money than you. You're generally even eligible for spousal benefits if you are divorced, as long as you were married at least 10 years and you haven't remarried.

Look for unexpected income opportunities. Even after you've formally retired, you may still find ways to receive some earned income. Perhaps you can work part time or do some consulting. And if you're a caregiver, you might be able to receive some compensation for your work. Many local governments pay non-spouse caregivers who act as personal attendants, although the rules vary greatly by state and county.

These certainly aren't the only ways you can improve your financial status, but they may prove useful to you. In any case, be aware of the challenges facing you and do whatever you can to brighten your future.

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Sanctuary's ribbon-cutting spotlights Pittsboro's first apartment community in 20 years

PITTSBORO — Sanctuary at Powell Place Apartment Homes held a small, COVID-conscious ribbon cutting last Thursday to celebrate the completion of construction and the official opening of all buildings within the community.

Located within the Powell Place neighborhood at 145 Retreat Dr., Sanctuary is the first apartment community to open in Chatham County in more than 20 years. Sanctuary's 264 units are a mix of one, two and three bedroom floor plans. The community is fully amenitized with a fitness center, 1 gig fiber internet, business center, garages, game room, bark park, dog

wash, resort-style pool, grilling area and outdoor lounge areas.

"We are so happy to see this project, which has been planned for a long time, finally come to fruition," says Edward Holmes, one of the property owners. "It fits into the neighborhood and offers an additional housing option here in Pittsboro."

Modern finishes, like granite counter tops and stainless steel appliances, as well as open floor plans, make the interiors appealing. The buildings utilize Energy-Star appliances, made-in-America sustainably produced cabinetry and low-flow plumbing

fixtures.

"This was a challenging design-build project, integrating these buildings into the existing neighborhood as seamlessly as possible," says Corey Mabus, Project Manager for Carolina Commercial Contractors, the developer and general contractor. "They turned out really well and we are so pleased to have been a part of this project."

For more information, contact Susan Keller, Rampart Property Management, at 919-708-3422 or susankeller@rampart-us.com. Sanctuary's website is Sanctuarypowell-place.com.



Photo courtesy of Sanctuary

Members of the development team of Sanctuary at Powell Place pose at the apartment complex's ribbon-cutting last week. Sanctuary, with 264 apartment units, is the first apartment community to open in Chatham County in more than 20 years.

Kid Scoop THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mary Ann Shadd (1823-1893)

What would you like to be when you grow up? If you are like Mary Ann Shadd, you might end up doing many different things.

Mary Ann Shadd Cary lived in both the United States and Canada. In her lifetime, she was an anti-slavery activist, journalist, newspaper publisher, teacher, and lawyer.

Born Free

Mary Ann Shadd was born to free parents in the slave state of Delaware. While Mary Ann's parents were not slaves, they devoted their lives to helping other African Americans to be free from slavery.

Her parents were abolitionists. Their home was a stop (or "station") on the Underground Railroad. Mary Ann learned about the importance of helping others from her parents.

WORD BOX

Abolitionist: A person who supported Abolition, or the ending of slavery before the American Civil War. To abolish something means to get rid of it. Abolitionists wanted to get rid of slavery.

Kid Scoop Together: Scoop the Scoop

You are the journalist! When journalists report on the news, they answer a list of questions to write an article. These questions are:

- Who** is the news about?
- What** happened?
- When** did it happen?
- Where** did it happen?
- How** did it happen?
- Why** did it happen?

Read today's Kid Scoop page about Mary Ann Shadd and then answer the journalist questions.

Who is this page about?

What did she do?

When did she do these things?

Where did she do these things?

How and why did she do these things?

Use these answers above to write a Black History Month article about Mary Ann Shadd.

KID SCOOP'S MISSION

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

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Write On!

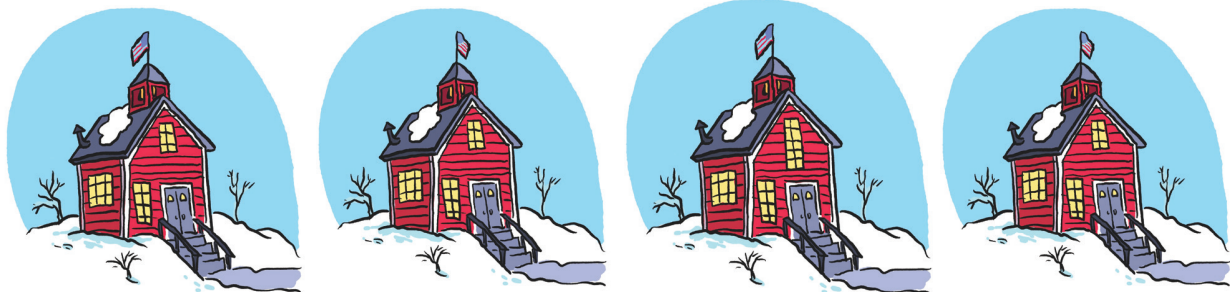
My Amazing Invention

If you could invent something new and useful, what would it be? What would your new invention do?

Determined to Learn and Teach

When Mary Ann was a child, it was against the law for Blacks to go to school in the state of Delaware. The Shadd family moved to Pennsylvania in 1833 where Mary Ann could go to school. When she finished school, she spent the next 12 years teaching Black children in Delaware, New York and Pennsylvania.

Circle the two identical school houses.



Move to Canada

In 1851, Mary Ann moved to Canada. There were more opportunities for Black people in Canada at that time than in the United States. She started writing booklets about the advantages of living in Canada, encouraging Black people in the United States to move north.

Journalist

Mary Ann wanted to tell the story of Black people living in freedom in Canada. She started a newspaper to do just that. She was the first Black woman in North America to publish her own newspaper.

On March 24, 1853, Mary Ann published the first copy of her weekly newspaper.

Use the code to discover the name of Mary Ann's newspaper.

26=A	20=G	14=M	8=S
25=B	19=H	13=N	7=T
24=C	18=I	12=O	6=U
23=D	17=J	11=P	5=V
22=E	16=K	10=Q	4=W
21=F	15=L	9=R	3=Y

7 19 22

11 9 12 5 18 13 24 18 26 15

21 9 22 22 14 26 13

Return to the U.S. During Civil War

She was persistent. She never gave up her hope or the hard work to

Cut out the strips and paste them in the correct order on another sheet of paper.

States during the Civil War to sign

Mary Ann returned to the United

up Black men for the Union Army.

in the United States.

help Black people be free

up her hope or the hard work to

Extra! Extra!

Picture Details

Good writing includes lots of interesting details. Practice being a detail detective by carefully studying a photograph from the newspaper. Then make a list of all of the details you observe. Can you list 25 or more?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Later in Life: Another First



Later she moved to Washington, D.C., where she once again worked as a teacher. Years later, Mary Ann pursued law studies at Howard University. She was the first Black woman to attend Howard University. In 1883 she became one of the first Black women to complete a law degree.

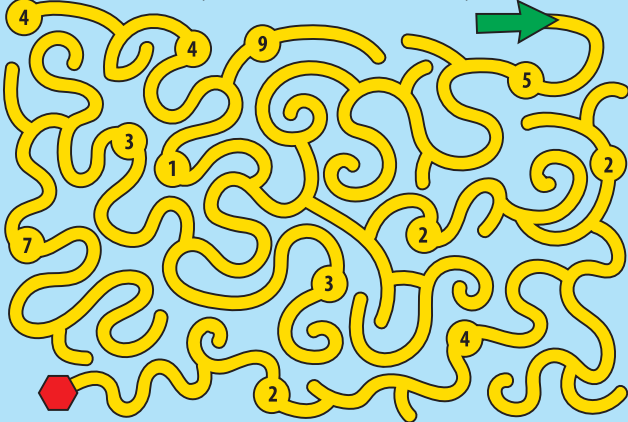
Mary Ann was born in 1823. How old was she when she completed her law degree?

_____ years old.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Mary Ann's Family

Mary Ann was the oldest child of a large family. Add up the numbers on the correct path of the maze to find out how many children were in the family.



Double Double Word Search

- PUBLISHER
- ABOLITION
- ACTIVIST
- SLAVERY
- FREEDOM
- DEVOTED
- TEACHER
- CANADA
- HOWARD
- CIVIL
- BLACK
- HARD
- SIGN
- STOP
- LAW

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

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

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

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

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National, local artists unite for 'Big Night' on March 11

From Chatham Arts Council

PITTSBORO — People are so accustomed to living in an area surrounded by art of every kind that we may forget what it would be like if the arts disappeared altogether.

The pandemic has given the world a preview of life without live concerts, art openings or book readings, and we do not like what we have seen. That's why arts councils from Chatham, Durham, Orange and Wake counties, in partnership with WRAL-TV, are joining forces to rally support around the arts through a live event — Big Night In for the Arts.

The regional fundraising initiative will be broadcast live on WRAL-TV at 7 p.m. on March 11. It will also be closed captioned and audio described, unique for a locally produced program — all in an effort to increase accessibility for everyone interested in participating.

Dollars raised will go toward arts programming, initiatives for equity in the arts and artist/



arts organizations' relief — and with the lingering effects of the pandemic, the help comes not a moment too soon.

Scotty McCreery, an award-winning country music singer and Garner native, joins the superstar line-up of artists performing, including:

- Ariana DeBose, Tony-nominated actress/singer/dancer and Raleigh native, who will be starring as Anita in Steven Spielberg's upcoming film West Side Story
- Mandolin Orange,

nationally acclaimed folk music duo based in Chapel Hill, featuring singer-songwriter Andrew Marlin and multi-instrumentalist Emily Frantz

• Branford Marsalis, three-time Grammy Award winner and internationally renowned saxophonist based in Durham, who recently wrote the score for Netflix's Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

• Mike Wiley, nationally acclaimed actor and playwright based in Chatham County, who shines the light on key

figures in African-American history through his performances.

"Our local arts communities need support now more than ever. This pandemic has been challenging in so many ways," DeBose said. "Millions of people have suffered, entire industries have been brought to their knees with no relief in sight. In times of trouble, people turn to the arts. Now is the time for us to show up for each other in a radical way. That is why I am so proud to lend my voice to this event in efforts to support the community that has given me so much."

A stream of local artists will also be participating in Big Night In for the Arts to help support their arts communities. Chatham County artist Marcelle Harwell Pachnowski, who is nationally and internationally collected and exhibited, visualizes color and rhythmic patterns when she listens to music, resulting in paintings with a spontaneous mix of color, rhythm, texture and movement. She will be creating a mixed media piece, which

will be utilized to help raise additional funds for the campaign.

Regional and local leaders across the four counties are posting videos on social media in support of this vital fundraising event. Their messages highlight the devastation the arts have experienced due to COVID-19, while reminding us of the widespread positive effect the arts have on our communities. They implore our region to stand up and support a field that impacts the young and the old, the down-trodden and the affluent and people of all cultures.

"We all rely on the arts to connect with our humanity, to bring us joy, to remind us that we are not alone," said Cheryl Chamblee, Executive Director, Chatham Arts Council. "Big Night In for the Arts is a way for us to show how much we value the artists and arts organizations who lift us up and bring us together."

Supporting the Big Night

Arts supporters can

join the effort prior to the event as sponsors or donate live during the event. Audiences and arts enthusiasts who have enjoyed the arts across the Triangle for years can make a gift to benefit the four counties collectively or designate which specific county they would like to support. Every dollar helps ensure the arts in the Triangle will survive and thrive long after this pandemic has lifted.

The Chatham Arts Council, the Durham Arts Council, the Orange County Arts Commission and the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County are grateful to the more than 70 generous corporate and individual sponsors who have already stepped up to support the arts through this event.

Join us on March 11 and lend a helping hand to the arts throughout the region! For more information on the talented artists headlining this event, sponsorship opportunities or to donate prior to the event, go to BigNightIn.org.

Quality Equipment opens new store in Pittsboro

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Quality Equipment, a John Deere dealer group based in North Carolina, opened a new location in Pittsboro on Monday.

Located at 1243 Thompson St. — at the old Ford dealership — Quality Equipment Pittsboro will bring nine new jobs to the area by serving the equipment needs of local

residents, farms, and commercial businesses closer to home.

Quality Equipment had previously served Pittsboro from its nearest locations in Fuquay-Varina, Burlington, Durham and Carthage.

"Quality Equipment LLC is excited to open a store in Pittsboro and to increase service to Chatham County and its surrounding area," said

CEO Bryan Dobson. "Our local staff looks forward to providing our customers with professional equipment, parts, and service support from a location more convenient than ever to their homes, businesses, and recreational hobbies."

The dealership plans to host a grand opening at a later date, in order to introduce the store and staff to their new commu-

nity.

Quality Equipment sells agricultural, residential and compact construction equipment, as well as products from Stihl, Honda Power Equipment, and several other allied brands.

"We are proud to represent John Deere and other leading brands," said COO Greg Morgan. "Our dealership is focused on providing our customers with quality equipment, reliable parts and service support, and an excellent customer experience. Our goal is to create value for our customers and local communities by providing solutions using a partnership approach."

Quality Equipment sells new John Deere equipment, used equipment, parts and merchandise, and service for residential, agricultural, and compact construction equipment. Stores can transfer equipment and parts to one another overnight, making it easier for customers to get what they need, faster.

Now with 28 locations, Quality Equipment serves much of North Carolina, from Charlotte and Greensboro to the coast. The dealership group also has one Virginia store, located in Chesapeake. Its headquarters are located in Fuquay-Varina, and it employs approximately 525 employees. In addition to Dobson and Morgan, the company leadership includes Stan Bowers (CFO), James Lucas (Aftermarket Director), and Brian Ellington (Sales Director).

For more information, please visit www.QualityEquip.com/Pittsboro-Opening/.

Quality Equipment was formed in October 2018,



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

Quality Equipment's new location in Pittsboro is at 1243 Thompson Road and features John Deere machinery.



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

In addition to John Deere machinery, Quality Equipment carries products from Stihl, Honda and other brands.

following the merger of two large John Deere dealer groups based in North Carolina. The company provides equipment, parts and service

for John Deere products, as well as other lines, such as Stihl, Amadas, KMC, Unverferth, Tiger/Alamo, Krone, Kuhn, and Bush Hog.



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

The store's inside features products to meet the needs of local residents, farms and commercial businesses.

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ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. \$486/mo., no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. A2,tfnc

AUCTIONEERS
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JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfnc

I PAY IN CASH FOR Junk Cars and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or Cell: 910-639-5614. God Bless! J9,tfnc

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HELP WANTED
UPHOLSTERERS NEEDED! We are seeking experienced Furniture Upholsterers to Join our Team. Control your own pay. This is a Piece-rate position where your earnings are only limited to your skills. - Our Upholsterers average \$21 to \$32 per hour each week. Successful candidates should have at least 2 years' experience of Furniture upholstery. We offer Medical, Dental, Vision insurance, 401K with employer matching, disability benefits, and a steady work week. - For more information: Call 336 622 2201 EXT 21, F25,M4,2tc

PETS - HELP NEEDED for grooming and care of small dogs (pets). Dependable vehicle required. References. Will train. Call 919-770-6356, in Bonlee area. F25,M4,2tp

CHATHAM MONUMENT COMPANY has an immediate opening for a monument installer. Work involves digging monument foundations, mixing cement and installing monuments. Work is generally Monday through Friday, 8 to 4:30 p.m. but some weekend work is

necessary. Please apply in person to: Chatham Monument Co., Inc., 227 N 2nd Avenue, Siler City, F25,1tc

CHATHAM TRANSIT NETWORK is seeking professional and caring individuals for open driver's positions. Qualified candidates must possess a valid NC driver's license with passenger endorsement, be at least 21 years of age, and submit to and pass a pre-employment drug screening and driving screening. Interested individuals can apply in person, on our website www.chathamtransit.org, or send an email to applicants@chathamtransit.org. Chatham Transit Network is an Equal Opportunity Employer. F25,1tc

BILINGUAL ADVOCATE (Spanish/English) for Second Bloom of Chatham Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault victim's services. Part-Time. \$15.00 per hour. Call 919-548-1443 or email resumé to info@secondbloomofchatham.org. F18,F25,M4,3tc

DEFENSOR BILINGUE (español / inglés) de los servicios para víctimas de la violencia doméstica y agresión sexual de Second Bloom of Chatham. Tiempo parcial. \$ 15.00 por hora. Llame al 919-548-1443 o envíe un resumen por correo electrónico a info@secondbloomofchatham.org. F18,F25,M4,3tc

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,M4,11,18,25,7tc

LEGALS
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 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

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.

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS
Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up. 400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-5410 TDD 1-800-735-2962 Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMGt.com EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

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Visit www.chathamnc.org and click on Jobs

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

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,M4,4tp

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 Fadely, 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 Weller, co-Executrices c/o Richard F. Prentis, Jr. Stubbs, Cole, Breedlove, Prentis & Biggs 4 Consultant Place

Durham, NC 27707 F11,F18,F25,M4,4tc

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 undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned 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

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION
Line ad deadline Tuesday - Noon
Display ad deadline Monday - 5 p.m.
Rates and payment Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.
Blind ads No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.
Errors In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

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

HIRING CNA's 3RD SHIFT
CALL: 919-542-3151
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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 Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned Executor on or before the 14th day of May, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, 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.

Chapel Hill, NC 27514
 F11,F18,F25,M4,4tp

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
 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

to said estate should make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 This 18th day of February, 2021
 Beatrice Sue Kennedy a/k/a Beatrice C. Kenney
 Executor of the Estate of Janice Ruth Hussey Cox, Deceased
 S. Scott Eggleston, Attorney
 IVEY & EGGLESTON, Attorneys at Law
 111 Worth Street
 Asheboro, NC 27203
 (336) 625-3043
 F18,F25,M4,M11,4tp

specified. If you fail to attend any hearing in this matter, the Court may release your court appointed attorney without further notice to you.
 This the 18th day of February, 2021.
 Shannon Peterson (#20805)
 Deputy County Attorney
 PO Box 3427
 Greensboro, NC 27402
 F18,F25,M4,3tc

NORTH CHATHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC HEARING LEGAL NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Public Law No. 100-647 S1013(a)(24)(A) (1988), the undersigned will hold a public hearing on March 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the location of the undersigned listed below to discuss its refinace and acquisition by lease purchase of (Issue 1) refinace of existing HomeTrust Bank fire station and fire apparatus debt and existing First Bank fire station debt, funding for additions and renovations to various fire stations located in Chatham County, NC, approximately 2.72 acres of land adjacent to fire station 2, future essential purpose equipment needed and financial arrangements related thereto. (Issue 2) Refinace of First Bank fire apparatus debt and financial arrangements related thereto. Approximate amount of issue (1): \$7,900,000.00 (2): \$ 418,000.00 All interested persons are invited to attend.
 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Pittsboro this 19th day of February, 2021.
 /s/ Mary Ann Norwood, Corporate Secretary
 North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department
 45 Morris Road
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 F25,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 NORTH CAROLINA
 CHATHAM COUNTY
 21 E 88
 The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of STEVEN EUGENE OLDHAM, 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 at her address, 3951 US Highway 15-501 N, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 19th 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. This 15th day of February, 2021.
 Vicky T. Oldham, Executrix
 3951 US Highway 15-501 N
 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
 GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC
 P. O. Box 880
 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880
 F18,F25,M4,M11,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 NORTH CAROLINA
 CHATHAM COUNTY
 21 E 91
 All persons having claims against ANNE MARIE ANTOINETTE RIETHER, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 18th day of February, 2021.
 Francine Marie Cracker, Executrix
 C/O Bagwell Holt Smith P.A.
 111 Cloister Ct, STE 200
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514
 F18,F25,M4,M11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 NORTH CAROLINA
 CHATHAM COUNTY
 All persons having claims against JOHN DOUGLAS WILSON, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 18th day of February, 2021.
 Nancy Pritchard Wilson, Administrator
 813 Sheffield Drive, Apt 3
 Siler City, NC 27344
 F18,F25,M4,M11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 NORTH CAROLINA
 CHATHAM COUNTY
 The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of HEDRICK MITCHELL PHILLIPS AKA HEDRICK M PHILLIPS, 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 23rd 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 18th day of February, 2021.
 Tracey E. Parker and Scott R. Phillips, Co-Executors
 Estate of Hedrick Mitchell Phillips aka Hedrick M Phillips
 c/o J Alan Campbell Law
 PO Box 850
 Hillsborough, NC 27278
 J Alan Campbell
 919-451-5441
 F18,F25,M4,M11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 NORTH CAROLINA
 CHATHAM COUNTY
 All persons having claims against ANNE MARIE ANTOINETTE RIETHER, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 18th day of February, 2021.
 Steven H. Bouldin
 KEZIAH GATES LLP
 Post Office Box 2608, Suite 400
 300 North Marin Street
 High Point, North Carolina 27261
 (336) 889-6900
 F25,M4,M11,M18,4tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
 TOWN OF PITTSBORO
 The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following Public Hearing on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The Public Hearing will be conducted remotely via Zoom, a teleconference software, for the following items:
 Planning Staff is requesting text amendments to the Pittsboro Zoning Ordinance concerning nightclubs, bars, and taverns:
 1. Amend Section 5.2.1 Table of Permitted Uses, to change "NightClubs (except adult entertainment clubs), bars, taverns" from a special use to a permitted use in the C2 and C4 Zoning Districts.
 2. Remove Section 5.3.3.35 Night clubs, Bars, and Taverns, (Regulations for Special Use Permits) in its entirety.
 The purpose of the legislative public hearings is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING. The

NORTH CAROLINA - GUILFORD COUNTY
 IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
 DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
 18 JT 333
 IN THE MATTER OF: Baby boy Thomas, a minor child born on February 1, 2018 in Greensboro, Guilford County, North Carolina
 TO: DONALD RAY ALSTON, JR., FATHER.
 TAKE NOTICE that a Petition seeking to terminate your parental rights for the juvenile referenced above, was filed on April 24, 2020 with the Clerk of Superior Court, Juvenile Division, Greensboro, Guilford County, NC.
 You must answer this Petition within 40 days of February 18, 2021, exclusive of that date. You are entitled to attend any hearing affecting your rights. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, you are entitled to a court appointed attorney. Your parental rights as to the juvenile will be terminated upon your failure to answer the Petition within the time

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 NORTH CAROLINA
 CHATHAM COUNTY
 Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of JANICE RUTH HUSSEY COX, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of the decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of Ivey & Eggleston, Attorneys at Law, 111 Worth Street, Asheboro, North Carolina 27203, on or before May 21, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted

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complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. The meeting will be held via Zoom, a teleconference software. Instructions on how to join the Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website under the BOC Agenda, Minutes, and Audio tab (pittsboronc.gov). If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov by 4 p.m. on March 8, 2021. The Clerk will receive written comments to be included in the minutes for 24 hours after the meeting. Please sign up with the Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on March 8, 2021 if you wish to participate.
 F25,M4,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 NORTH CAROLINA
 CHATHAM COUNTY
 21-E-104
 All persons having claims against CLYDE EDWARD CLARK, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 26th 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 25th day of February, 2021.
 Mark Allen Clark, Executor
 321 Clyde Clark Rd
 Siler City, NC 27344
 F25,M4,M11,M18,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 NORTH CAROLINA
 CHATHAM COUNTY
 21-E-50
 All persons having claims against MARCUS FREDRICK EDWARDS JR., deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 26th 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 25th day of February, 2021.
 Martha Jean Brown, Executrix
 1884 Andrews Store Road
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 F25,M4,M11,M18,4tp

ADVERTISEMENT - CHATHAM COUNTY
 REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
 PHASE 2 FEASIBILITY STUDY - CHATHAM COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND CONFERENCE CENTER
 Chatham County is seeking a qualified firm to provide professional programming services and conduct a comprehensive study to provide a master plan for Phase 2 development at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center. The complete RFQ 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 appropriate media, and included with the paper copies. The submittal package must be marked RFQ for CCACC and received by March 25, 2021 at 5:00 PM EST, to one of the following delivery addresses: Postal Address: Kim Johnson, Chatham County Finance Office, P. O. Box 608, Pittsboro, NC 27312, or Street Address: Kim Johnson, 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 accepted under any circumstance and will not be opened or reviewed. All inquiries must be made no later than 12:00 PM on Thursday, March 18, 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, March 29, 2021 and available at http://www.chathamnc.org/government/current-bid-proposal-opportunities.

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 F25,1tc

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PITTSBORO COMMISSIONERS

Board addresses fire truck purchase, microbrewery definition, UDO and more in whirlwind meeting

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The board of commissioners stepped through several action items in its regular meeting on Monday, voting on land use proposals, town ordinance on microbreweries, a resolution of support for congressional climate change legislation and more.

New fire truck

The board held a public hearing to consider a proposed installment loan between the Pittsboro Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and First Bank to fund purchase of a new ladder truck. The loan amount would not exceed \$1,433,477.

While the decision to approve the loan agreement fell to the town's board of commissioners, the entire responsibility for loan repayment would fall to the PVFD.

"There's no liability on the part of the town for any of the repayment of the debt," said Town Attorney Paul Messick. "So it's really pretty straightforward and it's of benefit to the bank and to the fire department."

The commissioners voted unanimously to adopt a resolution in support of loan.

Land use and development

After discussions in several previous meetings, the board finally voted on Monday to approve a rezoning amendment for 94.29 acres north of the U.S. Hwy. 64 bypass, just south of Northwood High School Road. The land will be designated for commercial use.

A majority of the land was previously rezoned in 2018 to permit construction of a small subdivision. In January, however, the developer — Eco Northwood MUPD LLC — petitioned the board to again consider the parcel rezoning, this time including a roughly three-acre sliver of land which had been overlooked in the original evaluation.

Eco Northwood — owned by Durham's John Fugo and Sanford's Kirk Bradley — proposed an 18-lot community with a maximum of 21 lots in 2018. They amended their proposal to include 26 lots in the most recent iteration. The rezoning amendment also included lot configuration and street revisions.

Commercial zoning areas permit "restaurants, building supply, light manufacturing, distribution and professional services," according to a presentation from Kayleigh Mielenz, a Pittsboro town planner. "Development in these areas should be well-planned with streetfront and interior lot landscaping, coordinated building styles, attractive signage, and shared driveways/access where appropriate."

New ordinance welcomes microbreweries

Red Moose Brewing, a Pittsboro-based microbrewery with plans to expand operations in town, requested zoning ordinance amendments to include microbreweries as permissible under several zoning classifications: neighborhood commercial, highway commercial, central commercial, light industrial, heavy industrial and mixed use planned development. The expanded flexibility would make Pittsboro a more inviting locality for microbreweries, which are increasingly popular community social settings countrywide.

Red Moose, owned by Pittsboro resident Daniel Jenkins, also proposed in writing that a new definition be added to Pittsboro's

ordinance for the term microbrewery, distinguishing it from regular breweries: "An establishment primarily engaged in the brewing of ale, beer, malt liquors, and nonalcoholic beer ... with a capacity less than 15,000 barrels per year, on premises for either consumption on premises or sold directly to the consumer. Accessory uses include a restaurant, a public tasting room, and the retail sales of ale or beer, or related products."

The proposed amendment was previously considered under public hearing and town staff heard no comments from the community. On Monday, the board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution approving the text amendment in the town's ordinance.

Resolution in support of potential congressional legislation

The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 was a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that proposed to impose fees "on the carbon content of fuel products that emit greenhouse gases," according to the board's agenda packet for its meeting. On Monday, the commissioners approved a resolution to formalize their support of the bill's 2020 iteration in a bid to sway Congress' ultimate decision.

The resolution came before the board primarily at Commissioner John Bonitz's behest.

"As you know I've spent a good chunk of my professional career focusing on climate change," he said, "and helping move our economy in ways that emits less greenhouse gas and contributes less to climate change."

Bonitz works with the N.C. State Energy Collaborate as a clean transportation specialist.

"The EICDA is a market-based proposal," he said. "The emphasis is definitely on the market and incentivizing the behavior and technologies that will emit less pollution and deliver more efficiencies."

Should the EICDA pass, energy providers, such as those operating oil wells and coal mines, Bonitz said, will be required to pay \$15 per ton of carbon emissions in the act's first year. In subsequent years, the fee would increase by another \$10 per ton of carbon.

The money collected from fees is to be deposited into a carbon dividend trust fund from which administrative expenses can be paid and dividend payments made to U.S. citizens or lawful residents.

If energy providers must pay fees, however, user rates are sure to increase, Bonitz admitted.

"But that would be offset — for most of us more than offset — by this monthly dividend," he said. "All of those fees that are collected from the source of fossil fuel are then paid back out to citizens and that happens in a way that's very prompt and rapid so that we actually receive money in the bank, or a check in the mail that for most of us would more than make up for that and thus incentivize us with cash in our pocket to pay that small premium for a better air conditioner, a better furnace, a more efficient car."

At least one commissioner, though, was unsure that increased energy rates would be displaced by dividends and eventual market benefits.

"I feel like the bottom line to this figure dividend is going to come back down to our lower and middle class people," said Commissioner Jay Farrell. "If we're going

to get some type of dividend out of it, I'm sure we're going to be paying for it in the long run ... I'm not ready to move forward with this, but whatever the will of the board is fine with me."

The board voted 4-1 in support of the resolution, with Farrell the lone dissenter.

Chatham Park final plat approvals

The board considered and unanimously approved three separate petitions for final plat approvals from Chatham Park Investors, the developers of Chatham Park.

Plat recordation is the official approval of a subdivision or associated feature for interment in the municipality's land records. Under some circumstances, the town can approve final plats before a project's completion.

At least "40% of the total cost of improvements must be complete for the board of commissioners to consider waiving the requirement that the applicant complete all public improvements prior to plat recordation," according to a presentation from Senior Planner Theresa Thompson.

But approval of a final plat is not synonymous approval of the final product — whether a road or any part of a subdivision.

"There is a differentiation between adoption of the final plat and acceptance of the road," said Town Manager Chris Kennedy. "It's an offer of dedication to endorse a plat where it says public, but it is not accepted until the board renders a future decision to formally accept the road for public maintenance."

Chatham Park Investors first requested final plat approval for the northern part of Vine Parkway. So far, 96% of the total costs of road improvements have been completed and CPI agreed to provide a letter of credit in the amount of 125% of the estimated re-

maining construction costs.

The developer offered similar assurance with respect to Wendover Parkway, of which 93% of the total cost has been completed.

Subdivision North Phases 4a and 4b are two sections of the larger Chatham Park project. Only 54% of their total costs have been completed, but still the commissioners approved final plat. Phase 4A will house 15 single-family detached lots and eight town-home lots. Phase 4B has 10 single-family detached lots.

UDO amendments

The board entertained discussion on two potential amendments to its Unified Development Ordinance but did not take action Monday to approve or deny any changes.

The town's current UDO requires all streets in minor and major subdivisions to be public.

"There was some discussion in the past about

if that's something that has the board's consensus," said Thompson, the town's senior planner, "or if the board would like to allow the option for private streets as well, which staff recommends adding."

Most towns, Thompson said, permit private streets, though under varying conditions.

The commissioners agreed that forbidding private streets might stifle development and create burdensome circumstances for the town, which is obligated to maintain all public roads.

The current UDO also includes an extensive neighborhood compatibility clause that requires new construction to meet the aesthetic of existing buildings and land features. Most commissioners voiced strong disapproval of such an ordinance, saying it prevents the town from upholding its commitment to uniqueness and diversity.

"This section does not inspire any level of funkiness that was one of the things we had hoped to accomplish," said Commissioner Michael Fiocco, "to keep Pittsboro funky."

Mayor Jim Nass agreed and feared the neighborhood compatibility standards would "create the opportunity — if not the reality — of requiring so much sameness as to change the whole nature of the community over time."

Though no decisions were made, the commissioners agreed they would probably elect to strike the neighborhood compatibility clause from the revised UDO.

Under state law, the UDO must be completed by July, but the commissioners will begin making decisions later this month.

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

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Mar 8 6 p.m.

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Mar 11 6 p.m.

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