

Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | MARCH 11-17, 2021 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

COVID-19: ONE YEAR LATER

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Exactly one year ago, the World Health Organization declared global pandemic in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Since then, more than 500,000 have died in the United States. According to the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 79 have died in Chatham County.

The News + Record identified 74 Chathamites lost to COVID-19 after reviewing every death certificate in Chatham County filed since March 1, 2020. In each case, COVID-19 was listed as the primary cause of death or as a contributing factor.

Their deaths represent the pandemic's grimmest toll, but not its only one. Some COVID-19 survivors have irreparable bodily damage. Millions face ongoing unemployment. Millions more have suffered intense mental and emotional distress.

Pandemic fatigue and habit-

See **NAMES**, Page A8

THESE ARE THEIR NAMES. REMEMBER THEM.

Aileen Mildred Hudgens, 85, died April 14, 2020 • **John Marshall Rustad**, 82, died April 14, 2020 • **Colleen Williams**, 84, died April 16, 2020 • **Christopher Robin Willis**, 69, died April 17, 2020 • **Jean Peatross Adams**, 88, died April 17, 2020 • **Mary Adams Dieterich**, 100, died April 17, 2020 • **Barbara Gale Gaines**, 71, died April 18, 2020 • **Judith Alexander**, 82, died April 20, 2020 • **Walter Glendon Lane**, 90, died April 21, 2020 • **Darrell Lee Sutton**, 86, died April 22, 2020 • **Violet Malamati Salcedo**, 90, died April 23, 2020 • **Beverly Ann Bridgers**, 82, died April 24, 2020 • **Allen Richard Manning**, 78, died April 25, 2020 • **Vernon Lee Brown**, 89, died April 26, 2020 • **Carroll Dabney Steele**, 82, died April 26, 2020 • **Elma Fay Deloach**, 61, died April 27, 2020 • **Lora Dell Parker**, 92, died April 30, 2020 • **Annie Rose Thomas**, 79, died May 2, 2020 • **Theresa Lillian Armstrong**, 83, died May 20, 2020 • **Nancy J. Haslem**, 73, died May 8, 2020 • **Geraldine Degraffenreidt**, 76, died May 14, 2020 • **Beverly Censullo**, 75, died May 15, 2020 • **Albert Barnette Chilton**, 86, died May 19, 2020 • **Ruby Frances Brady**, 94, died May 21, 2020 • **Dorothy Patina Ford**, 73, died May 22, 2020 • **Essie Diane Winstead**, 65, died May 23, 2020 • **Earl Wayne Seabolt**, 79, died May 23, 2020 • **Renda Lee McRae**, 70, died May 25, 2020 • **Willis Anne Goldston**, 79, died May 27, 2020 • **Stephen C. Combs**, 73, died May 29, 2020 • **Lacy Mae Williams**, 83, died May 30, 2020 • **Larry Winfred Stevens**, 83, died June 3, 2020 • **Ella Gertrude Wombie**, 101, died June 3, 2020 • **Kenneth Mitchel Whitesell**, 82, died June 4, 2020 • **Tommy Dean Brown**, 72, died June 4, 2020 • **Mary Jean Ingle**, 91, died June 4, 2020 • **Mary Lee Rogers**, 92, died June 6, 2020 • **Gertrude Arleen Laster**, 99, died June 11, 2020 • **Russell Jennings Jones**, 58, died June 28, 2020 • **Ida Evelyn Kidd**, 93, died June 30, 2020 • **Jack Cleveland Beal**, 79, died July 4, 2020 • **Dorothy Mae Childress Kennedy**, 90, died July 12, 2020 • **Billy Jackson Adlock**, 75, died July 14, 2020 • **Harvey Edward Kennedy**, 91, died July 17, 2020 • **Marilyn Lee Vance**, 92, died July 27, 2020 • **Nello Leguy Teer III**, 82, died July 28, 2020 • **Patricia Anne Thomas**, 88, died on July 31, 2020 • **Mary Margaret Stackpole**, 70, died August 13, 2020 • **Glennis Gay Peil**, 52, died August 23, 2020 • **Shioko Saeki Northup**, 94, died September 1, 2020 • **Hugh Ford Pembleton**, 83, died September 13, 2020 • **Angelo James Gianforcaro**, 91, died September 25, 2020 • **James Leonard Abrahamson**, 83, died October 12, 2020 • **Mary Elizabeth Tovell**, 86, died October 29, 2020 • **Leon France Yates**, 92, died November 6, 2020 • **Ken Loy Beal**, 85, died December 9, 2020 • **Maria G. Artiaga**, 64, died December 16, 2020 • **Janet Lynn Bridges**, 45, died December 25, 2020 • **Jonathan Barrett Brady**, 95, died December 27, 2020 • **Diane Bishop Corlett**, 70, died January 10, 2021 • **Shirley Louise Pariseau**, 88, died January 17, 2021 • **Ottaway Carroll Buckner**, 84, died January 20, 2021 • **Edwin Michael Norse**, 75, died January 25, 2021 • **Rudy LaFayette Johnson**, 69, died January 27, 2021 • **John Franklin Petry**, 86, died January 28, 2021 • **David Carlton Peters**, 58, died January 31, 2021 • **Marietta Kageorge Davis**, 97, died February 1, 2021 • **Mary Joan Thorburn**, 78, died February 7, 2021 • **Ronald Lee Ditzler**, 80, died February 8, 2021 • **Marion Fonseca**, 90, died February 9, 2021 • **June Sheila Barclay**, 88, died February 9, 2021 • **Karen Joan McGrain**, 86, died February 9, 2021 • **Teresa K. Tripp**, 92, died February 13, 2021 • **Gladys Hackney Thomas**, 93, died February 17, 2021

BOE approves phased-in Plan A for EC, Pre-K - 5th grade students

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Schools Board of Education unanimously voted at its regular session meeting Monday night for Pre-K through 3rd grade students to start in-person learning four days a week under Plan A on April 12, with 4th-5th grades moving to Plan A on April 19.

In a separate motion, the board also unanimously voted for Exceptional Children and 504 students in grades K-5 to return four days a week under Plan A beginning March 16.

Under both motions, Wednesday will continue to be a remote learning day to allow teachers to have extra time for planning.

See **PLAN A**, Page A3

2021: A YEAR FOR GROWTH

As pandemic wanes, Chatham Park going, growing in a 'great direction'



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Preston Development Company founders Bubba Rawl (left) and Tim Smith pose in front of some of the 30 cottage homes at The Vineyards inside Chatham Park.

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

Editor's note: In this first of a two-part series, we're examining what 2021 will mean for Chatham Park. This week, the story focuses on where the development is now, with a look at what's selling there and how the Mosaic project fits within Chatham Park's plans. In part two next week, we'll

take a closer look at infrastructure and examine more of the "work, play, learn" focus of Chatham Park.

PITTSBORO — Watching it take shape today, it's hard to fathom that it was way back in 2006 when Tim Smith and Julian "Bubba" Rawl acquired the first parcel of land for what would become Chatham Park.

Now, after more than \$200 million worth of infrastructure investment and not even halfway into the 30-to-40-year buildout plan for the 7,068-acre development, Smith and Rawl are more than eager to share an update.

Prepare for an adventurous ride. At Chatham Park, 2021 has already been, and will

See **DIRECTION**, Page A7

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

CIS pilots 'lending library' for Chatham Teen Court

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

For a year now, Communities in Schools' Chatham County Teen Court has worked to adapt to a mostly virtual landscape necessitated by pandemic.

The voluntary court program accepts referrals of first-time offenders ages 11-18 who have admitted guilt to certain misdemeanor offenses. It's confidential and typically results in sentences

involving serving as a juror in future cases, community service and educational seminars — all of which present a challenge due to current COVID-19 restrictions.

In the last few months, Communities In Schools has piloted a new program to hopefully mitigate some of those challenges for youth defendants in Teen Court: a lending library.

"An idea we had discussed was the possibility of having

See **JUSTICE**, Page A3

'PEOPLE ARE INVITING US INTO THEIR WORLDS'

El Futuro weighs telehealth as tool to expand

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — In early 2020, El Futuro's mental health clinics offered primarily in-person services, save for a telehealth program they'd designed for migrant farmworkers.

Now, in early 2021, it's just the opposite: Thanks to COVID-19, the entity has pivoted to offering telehealth services only, with little to no in-person exceptions.

"If you would have told me a year ago that we would be able to function as a clinic doing telehealth, I would have said, 'That's not possible,'" said therapist Courtney Crawford,

See **TELEHEALTH**, Page A13

IN THE KNOW

Organizations share vaccine considerations, advice for employers. **PAGE A8**

Charger men fall to Weddington in 3A state championship game. **PAGE B1**

Chatham's Kimrey Rhinehardt planning a bid for U.S. Senate. **PAGE B6**

'There are no words' for Rojo Canela owners, who close for good. **PAGE B7**

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ADDRESSING THE HOMELESS ISSUE

A pandemic within a pandemic

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The coronavirus pandemic introduced many challenges for all Chathamites. Perhaps none were more affected than the county's homeless population, though.

Nationwide, as disease spread and states shut down, a second pandemic emerged from the economic fallout: a debilitating cycle of homelessness from which many cannot recover.

"Unfortunately, being homeless comes with many barriers," said Jane Wrenn, director of The Salvation Army of Chatham County. "Some include past evictions, personal financial crisis, poor physical health, alcohol and substance abuse, mental health issues, the experience of the criminal justice system, just to name a few. In my opinion breaking out of homelessness is a lifetime challenge but can be broken by reducing these barriers."

COVID-19 exacerbated those issues. For those already homeless at the pandemic's start, extenuating



Photo courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

Mike and Karen, a former homeless couple in Chatham County, embrace after being gifted a car through a local program designed to assist the homeless.

See **HOMELESS**, Page A13

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

ON THE AGENDA

THURSDAY

• The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 15, at Siler City’s town hall.

• The **Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Monday, March 15, at the Chatham County Ag Center in Pittsboro.

• 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:

• **The American Red Cross** - Blood donations remain essential amid COVID-19 pandemic. Blood drives are scheduled on Wednesday, March 17 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Harpers Crossroads Community Center, 20079 NC Hwy 902. - On Tuesday, March 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lowe’s Home Improvement at 121 Lowes Drive in Pittsboro; - Monday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, 151 Old Rock Spring Cemetery Road, also in Pittsboro. Schedule an appointment at 1-800-REDCROSS, 1-800-733-2767.

• The next **Wake Up Wednesday** meeting is **March 17th**, St Patrick’s Day. Each month we have two 6 minute speakers. This months speakers are Chris Brown with Thryv and Drew Becker with Drew Becker Publishing. You may start logging in at 8 a.m. to take care of any technical issues you may encounter. Official

meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends promptly at 9:30. You will need to enter the passcode to get into the meeting. Join the Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 826 0647 0013, Passcode: chomp. See you online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82606470013?pwd=Vko0xMHC1eWloW-E00STVhN2pQU0Z1Zz09>,

• **The Chatham County community is invited to spring into the season with the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department’s Hunt at Home: The Easter Egg Drive-Thru** will be held on Saturday, March 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro. Modified due to COVID-19, this year’s event will take place as a drive-thru, where participants will be asked to stay in their cars while in attendance. During the event, families will be able to collect 10 free Easter eggs per child, a spring-themed craft, bubbles, and additional items from other County departments and community partners that will be joining Chatham County Parks and Recreation in this event.

• **Chatham Community Library** is offering free classes on Facebook, Microsoft Word, and Google Apps in March. While the library is closed, all classes will be offered online. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found at www.chathamnc.org/Computer-Classes, Microsoft Word: Beyond Basics: March 17, Wednesday, 3 pm; and Google Apps: March 24, Wednesday, 3 pm

• 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 ritavanduien@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>

• We will be closing **Second Bloom Thrift Store** on Tuesday, March 16 in

order to restock. We are in our new location at the Food Lion Shopping Center and will reopen for business on March 17. Our new store hours will be from Tuesday until Saturday 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Masks are required and hand sanitizer is also available. We accept credit cards. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

• 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.

• **AI-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers AI-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.

Rev. Dr. Albert Reddick seeks Mayor’s seat again

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Rev. Dr. Albert Reddick, a regular on Siler City municipal elections ballots since 2013, is planning another go at the mayor’s seat — seeking to replace the late John Grimes.

Reddick has been a perennial figure in the town’s political scene since moving to Siler City, his wife’s hometown, about 10 years ago. He has run for mayor in the last four elections, taking second place in the polls each year to Mayor John Grimes.

Grimes, who was re-elected to his fourth term of mayor in 2019, died in office in October. In December, the board of commissioners elected to keep his seat vacant until 2021’s November elections. Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Bray has presided over commissioner meetings in the interim.

Back in 2019, Reddick’s campaign focused on unifying a diverse community, economic growth that would bring jobs that paid a living wage, revitalizing downtown, and affordable safe housing. He finished second in the race — trailing Grimes 468 votes to 176 — earning 23 percent of the vote. Jackie Adams, a first-time candidate and Siler City business owner, finished third with 15 percent of the votes.

If elected, Reddick hopes to distance Siler City from a history

of racial and cultural homogeneity, especially among its leadership. His first action as mayor would be to evaluate how well the town represents and serves all of its residents.

“I think the most important thing would be sitting down with the heads of all the (town) departments in his community,” he said. “I do not think that there’s any diversity among any of the department heads in this community. There’s no diversity.”

That’s troubling, he says, when so many who live in Siler City are non-white.

“We live in a community where the Hispanic population, the African American population are making up almost a majority of the population,” Reddick said. “And I believe that at this point the Hispanic population has outgrown the African American population in this community.”

About 60% of Siler City is white, according to the most recently available U.S. Census data. Most of the remaining population is Black and/or Hispanic.

Still, the town’s leadership, he says, represents a narrow subset of its population and cannot best serve the community until a broader spectrum of ideas and backgrounds are involved in decision-making processes.

“Instead, now decisions which ultimately affect the masses are relegated to personal opinion, beliefs and ideologies of

just a few,” Reddick said.

After addressing the town’s unequal representation, Reddick will turn his attention to its financial woes, he said.

“We need to work on how to generate income in this community ... First would be to have a meeting with staff to deal with their budget issues and their concerns, and then to find out what is actually the city’s revenue,” he said.

Reddick laments that while average metrics across Chatham suggest a thriving county, Siler City is substantially poorer than its eastern neighbors such as Pittsboro.

“We know the county is booming,” he said, “but what is Siler City’s position in view of the situation?”

Underfunding is most palpable in Siler City’s police department, Reddick says, as evidenced by the town’s mounting crime rate. But even without an immediate inflow of new revenue, Reddick thinks the police department could better quell Siler City’s criminal activity if community members felt more comfortable with the town’s police force.

“Helping to address crime is establishing a police force that is friendly,” he said, “and here to provide a caring service to the community.”

In contrast, Reddick says, community members — especially those of color — feel intimidated by the town’s police officers.

“I know there have been some problems in

the police department in terms of profiling certain persons in the community,” he said. “But we have not got all the details.”

Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner said he hasn’t had a chance to talk with Reddick about his concerns.

His qualifications

Reddick, who will be 75 by election time, feels his background and expertise match what Siler City needs to grow and improve. Having grown up in Brunswick County, “when Jim Crow still terrorized the streets,” he is attuned to long-ingrained social issues that still foster racial tension, he said. “I was told then, as Siler City is now, that I had no prospects, no opportunity, no future.”

“On a wing and a prayer,” Reddick enrolled at North Carolina Central University where he eventually graduated with three degrees: Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in political science and history, and a Juris Doctor degree from NCCU’s law school. He later attended Eastern University in Pennsylvania where he earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in theology, a subject he also studied during a stint at Duke University.

Since then, Reddick has made it his life’s mission to overcome social borders and has achieved a long list of “firsts.”

“I became the first minority minister of a majority-white United Methodist congrega-

tion in Pennsylvania history,” he said. “I was the first African American account agent at Allstate, and the first African American to receive a loan from Wachovia Bank for my small business, Ray’s Dairy Bar.”

Since retiring, Reddick has dedicated himself to philanthropic work. In 2015, he co-founded The Becoming One Community Enrichment and Diversity Center, a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization in Siler City. The group works to “provide tutoring, a safe refuge for latchkey kids, life-skills training and so much more to bring Siler City closer together,” Reddick said.

He hopes that a position in town government will help him to extend the breadth of his mission — to improve life in Siler City for the town’s many, diverse populations.

“As Chatham has grown, Siler City has shrunk,” he said. “Unemployment and violent crime are up. Wages are down. At a per capita income of \$18,000, one in four of our neighbors live

below the poverty line. Two in five don’t have access to the Internet. Meanwhile, every day, children live in fear of being deported from the only home they ever knew.”

The town’s mission statement, Reddick said, already calls for the change he wants.

“It says ‘to advance a framework for our success through governance, dynamic partnerships, and an engaged community,’” he said. “And the vision statement says, ‘Siler City is a safe, prosperous and vibrant community where diversity, innovation and education drive success in a globally competitive society.’”

But to Reddick, more must be done to make vision a reality.

“The mission and vision statement, although it’s very noble and virtuous, can only be attained when transformational leadership exists,” he said, “that propels all stakeholders towards attainable success.”

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

Chatham County Council on Aging

WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: What were the first exports from Chatham County?

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

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

N.C. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Chatham News + Record, PO Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344

JUSTICE

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our kids write short book reports, using inspirational biographical figures as their report subjects,” said Paul Bauer, who is on the CIS board of directors. “I thought about setting up a lending library where our kids could go and select a book, read it (or a few chapters) and then write a report. Their report would then count towards fulfilling a portion of their community service time.

“We think this will be a more productive way to have our defendants perform their community service,” he said. “I personally went ahead and ordered a few books to get us started.”

Bauer worked with CIS’ Pablo Avendano to get the library off the ground. He consulted with Chatham County Schools’ Public Relations Coordinator John McCann, also on the CIS Board of Directors, who worked with CCS librarians to develop a book list with 25 titles. The district then also purchased two copies of each book.

“It’s certainly a win-win,” McCann said. “CIS for sure, is helping our students, so we’re just doing our part to

help the organization.”

Bauer also consulted with Katy Henderson, the Youth Librarian at the Chatham County Library, who developed a list with 28 books. Books — purchased in both English and Spanish, when possible — include titles such as “I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter” by Erika Sánchez, “M.L.K.: The Journey of a King” by Tonya Bolden and “Call Me American” by Abdi Nor Iftin.

Already, CIS has more than 65 books lined up for its lending library.

“We want titles that are inclusive of many groups, (and) cultures,” Bauer said, stressing that the library is an effort not only to meet Teen Court community service requirements, but to work toward the organization’s restorative justice goals — by focusing on mediation and growth rather than punishment.

“What makes it even better is Mr. Bauer was like, ‘Let’s not just limit it to restorative justice. Let’s just create this library. Let’s just create this space, where we’re making it easier for kids to get access to reading materials that can encourage them,’” McCann said of the lending library program. “Hopefully, a nice little buzz gets created, because you can do a whole lot worse things

than read a good book.”

Avendano, the program manager for Teen Court and the community service and restitution programs, said he’s offering one-on-one reading sessions with youth. In place of volunteering at places such as a dog shelter or thrift store — currently not options during COVID-19 — Avendano will read a few chapters with youth defendants over Zoom, sometimes in a park.

“We just piloted it and it works well,” he said. “We’ve been reading, ‘We Beat the Street,’ about these three Black young men who became doctors after a tough upbringing, and the kid who’s reading it, I can see him proving he really likes it.”

During a normal year, Avendano said Teen Court will serve around 60 kids. He has no fewer than three active cases at any time, but can have up to 10-12 cases — at which point he said volunteers are even more important. The mission of the program, he said, is to pair an adult with a kid and “bring that mentoring concept to life.”

“We’ve been challenged with corona to kind of think outside of the box and just do things differently,” Avendano said, but he thinks the lending library is a successful adaptation.

It’s an effort CIS hopes will continue

post-pandemic, Bauer said.

“Pablo and I started this initiative as a way to give more meaningful assignments to some of our youth defendants in our Teen Court and Community Service and Restitution programs,” he said. “We are now looking to expand our little library so that it can be used by other CIS staff members in their programs.”

Some of those ideas include using the books with CIS’ mentor and mentee program, or hosting a book club for certain ages and to have them read and discuss on a weekly basis.

“I am proud of how our community has come together to help develop this. We find that the kids who we work with and who are in our programs are excited about having a library that is quickly available to them,” Bauer said. “We are encouraging them to look at the books, read them and, if appropriate keep it. We want kids to be excited to read and learn.”

You can learn more about CIS Teen Court and how to volunteer at: <https://cischatham.org/programs/community-based-programs/teen-court/>

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

PLAN A

Continued from page A1

“What we’re asking teachers to do right now is more under either plan,” said Amanda Hartness, Assistant Supt. of Academic Services & Instructional Support, of the mid-week planning day. Previous CCS staff survey results showed 92% of respondents said they’d prefer a 4-day in-person week with an at-home planning day under Plan A.

Monday’s meeting followed the board’s Feb. 23 decision — in a 3-2 vote — against phasing in Plan A for EC and K-5 students. At that meeting, board members Jane Allen Wilson, Del Turner and Melissa Hlavac dissented, with David Hamm and Gary Leonard voting in

favor of the motion.

At that Feb. 23 special meeting, the board voted on a timeline proposed by district administration which suggested bringing Pre-K through 3rd grade back under Plan A March 22, and 4th-5th graders on March 29. The plan also proposed bringing EC and 504 students back under Plan A within the 15-calendar-window that would’ve been required by Senate Bill 37, which was later vetoed by Gov. Roy Cooper.

At the time, the board grappled with what its members characterized as conflicting messaging from official health sources and their guidance on the importance of physical distancing. The dissenting members ultimately decided at the time to vote in favor of maintaining six feet of distance, citing a desire to see more teach-

ers vaccinated before making the shift.

“I’m hesitant to go to Plan A at this time,” Wilson said at the Feb. 23 meeting, “but it seems like we’re close. And if we get there, I think the administration has done a lot to make sure we’re ready.”

At Monday’s meeting, the district said April 5 would mark the date that all staff who’d received a vaccine would be fully vaccinated. Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek said at Monday’s meeting that the dept. had provided approximately 550 CCS staff with their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, with more expected from a clinic held earlier that day. Zelek said the total number of CCS staff vaccinated is likely higher, due to those outside of the county’s vaccine-in-

terest database or those vaccinated outside of the Chatham. While public health guidance has stressed teacher vaccinations as an important but ultimately unnecessary step in providing safe in-person instruction, many educators have emphasized how important inoculation is to their sense of personal safety working in-person.

The vaccine inoculation timeline, along with the district’s concern with having time to buy furniture “conducive to distancing pieces” under Plan A, led to the pushed-back phasing timeline the board ultimately approved. Hamm, who made the motion and amended it twice, said it was his preference to stick with the original plan — starting March 22 and 29. In the end, he said he wanted to propose whatever would “get the kids back in the classroom.”

CCS will also be on Spring Break April 2-9. Some board members, along with some district staff, expressed wanting to start phasing in student groups to Plan A after spring break to provide as much consistency as possible.

Plan A and the six-foot requirement

Earlier in the board’s discussion on COVID-19, Hamm had questioned health guidance urging six feet of distance.

“I don’t need to make the CDC to wave that magic wand,” he said of future guidance that might suggest less physical distance. “I’ve got school systems across North Carolina — to say the least, across the nation — that have been doing this and have been successful.”

“It’s the level of risk you’d be willing to accept,” Zelek said to Hamm regarding moving away from the six-foot requirement.

As a local health official, Zelek said he looks to the CDC and the state health department for guidance, but said “promising data” might be on the way regarding requiring less distance. The CDC currently advises physical distance “maximized to the greatest extent possible” for all grade levels, and the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services requires six feet for grades 6-12. Current data suggests Plan A does not lead to secondary transmission of COVID-19 with proper masking, demonstrated most reliably at the K-5 grade level.

Though Plan A is currently only allowed for grades K-5, the DHHS has said middle and high schools could offer in-person learning every day of the week if six feet of distance is maintained; six-feet of distance is not required under Plan A. The district’s Feb. 23 presentation regarding

Plan A considerations said that it would “be possible to maintain a minimum of four feet of social distancing in all K-5 classrooms,” though many classrooms could maintain six feet.

During the meeting’s public comments session, multiple parents asked the board to move to Plan A, citing declining student achievement rates during remote learning and student mental health. Parents referred to data from the ABC Science Collaborative suggesting Plan A does not lead to increased secondary spread as a reason CCS could safely offer in-person learning. Hamm also mentioned this data during the board’s COVID-19 discussion.

“We can be successful, we can do the protocols,” Hamm said of Plan A.

Before Monday’s meeting, a small gathering of parents and students held signs outside of Horton Middle School urging the board to move to Plan A five days a week for K-12 students.

Katie Henry, an organizer of the event and parent to three CCS students, told the News + Record that she and other parents are aware of state-imposed restrictions, but would like to see the district “get creative and think outside the box to get these kids in the building all five days.” She noted the fact that some middle schools are part of K-8 schools in Chatham and have lower enrollment, allowing for more distancing. At previous meetings, CCS administration said it was their understanding that district policy legally had to apply across all schools, and couldn’t be different on a school-by-school basis.

“(I’m) so excited for K-5 students but my 8th, 10th and 11th grader sneed school just as much, and I have had it with the whole school community treating them worse than actual covid patients,” Henry said. “That is the stigma these kids are being given, that they are contagious and you shouldn’t interact with them. It’s not right and I will not allow my kids to feel that way.”

While the public comments session largely included parents, two staff members also spoke, expressing concerns about Plan A and the lack of required six feet of distance. Their concerns reflected those expressed by the Chatham County Association of Educators (CCAEE) in a letter sent to the BOE last month after its Feb. 23 meeting.

“Keeping these measures in place will ease the mental stress of staff who are returning to campuses, and reassure families that in-person learning is being conducted safely. We believe it is important to maintain these measures and remain cautious given the resurgence of the virus at the end of last

year,” the letter said. “We urge the school board to maintain the current safety measures and keep Chatham schools on Plan B. We sincerely thank you for all of your time and consideration as we work to offer the best possible public education to the families of Chatham County in the safest environment possible.”

Here’s what else happened:

- Interim Supt. Randy Bridges recognized the Northwood High School mens basketball team, which played Weddington High School for the 3A state championship on March 6. The team lost 47-56, but brought great pride to the district.

- “I couldn’t be more proud of these four seniors and the other 12 players and coaching staff,” Northwood Head Coach Matt Brown said at the meeting. “Thank you for all the love and support for us this year.”

- The board heard a presentation by North Carolina School Board Association (NCSBA), which showed results from the superintendent search community and staff surveys and leadership profile materials. NCSBA Staff Attorney Jim O’Rourke said there were “well over 30 applications” for the superintendent position at the time of the meeting. The deadline for the application was midnight on Monday; the board said it would meet in closed session March 22 to begin reviewing applications.

- The board voted to allow administration to approve Seaforth High School transfers for students who wish to remain in the Dual Language program.

- It also approved the 2021-2022 Local Current Expense Budget, totaling \$40,280,000 at a 6.7% (\$2,530,000) increase when compared to the 2020-2021. The significant budget changes are in the new school startup expenses, classroom teachers, employee salary supplement, charter schools payments non-contributory employee benefits.

- The board voted to rename Horton Middle School, “George Moses Horton,” to fully reflect is namesake and to be consistent with other schools in the districts named after an individual. This followed a request to do so by Chatham Community (East) Branch President Mary Nettles at the board’s Feb. 8 meeting.

The cost to change the signage at Horton Middle School to reflect the name change to George Moses Horton Middle School will cost \$12,000-15,000, administration said.

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

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VIEWPOINTS

Green reporters, Congressmen, exotic dancers and death — and redemption

My very first assignment in my very first college journalism class was to write an obituary for the not-yet-dead Wilbur Mills. If his name doesn't ring a bell with you, then Fanne Foxe's may not, either.

You wouldn't be alone. Even back in 1983, less than a decade after Mills and Foxe made unwanted headlines together, I'd heard of neither. And I'm sure the same could be said of most of my fellow wannabe-journalists on that frosty January morning 38 years ago as we walked into the first day of our Reporting I class on the campus of the University of Kansas.

What happened over the next 48 hours, though, would ensure we *would* remember.

Ted Frederickson, our professor, gave our class a base set of facts about Mills' fictitious demise: that he'd died that very January day, the circumstances (which I no longer recall) of his death; when and where he was to be buried, and a few more tidbits.

The rest was up to us.

We were turned loose to do our own research in the

campus library (no internet back then, and certainly no Google) and come back to class 48 hours later with a finely crafted obituary. Accuracy, perspective, solemnity, a sense of history and weighing critical facts — such as where in Mills' obit to talk about Foxe, and how much "space" to give her — were factors that would play into our grade. (Those, along with the correct spelling of "cemetery" — misspell that word, Professor Ted told us after we handed in our copy, and you're getting an automatic "F.") You'd be surprised how many people stick an "a" in that word.)

It was the perfect first assignment. In the movies and on TV, reporters may sneer at the "obit desk," but in reality, it's not the case. On real newspapers, Professor Ted told us, obits are sacred copy, something I had already learned working the six previous summers in the newsroom in Sanford. (Here at the News + Record, obituaries are entrusted to the venerable Doris Beck.)

I write about this now because memories of that class came back to me after reading an obituary last week — that of Annabel Battistella, who died in February.

She's definitely a part of this story, but let's start with Wilbur Mills. For a period of

time in the 1960s and early '70s, he was one of the most powerful members of Congress. Mills was chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee, meaning he had a hand in everything involving money and finance in Congress. He held the government purse strings, and seemed destined either for the White House or a seat on the Supreme Court.

But at 2 a.m. on Oct. 7, 1974, all that changed. As Battistella's recent Washington Post obit read, on that morning, "U.S. Park Police pulled over a silver-blue Lincoln Continental that had been swerving and speeding without headlights near the Jefferson Memorial in Washington. A female passenger in an evening gown ran from the car, climbed the stone parapet along the Tidal Basin and — acting on what she later described as a frantic impulse — leaped headfirst into the frigid, inky water. Her splash-down would ripple into one of the capital's most infamous sex scandals."

That female passenger? Battistella, better known by her stage name: Fanne Foxe.

Mills' actual obituary — not the assignment I completed for my Reporting I class, but the real 1,043-word death notice published in the May 3, 1992, edition of the Post, nearly seven years to the day after I graduated from college — was

somberly written. I don't have a copy of what I wrote, of course; I seem to recall a "B" grade. But I found the Post's obit fascinating. The words "in the company of a local exotic dancer who threw herself in the Tidal Basin" appeared in the fourth paragraph. But Battistella and "Fanne Foxe" didn't appear until the 14th graph of the 21-graph story.

That passage in his obituary read thusly: "Early on Oct. 7, 1974, his swerving car was stopped near the Tidal Basin by U.S. Park Police, and Mr. Mills, bleeding from the face and obviously intoxicated, shakily emerged from the vehicle. A passenger, Annabel Battistella, a stripper who performed locally as 'Fanne Foxe, the Argentine firecracker,' emerged from the car and leapt into the Tidal Basin."

The next two paragraphs read: "Mr. Mills, who rapidly became the butt of jokes for the first time in his career, said Battistella was a neighbor and friend whom he was driving home after she became ill. He also said his face became cut when she accidentally broke his glasses with her elbow.

"I did something I shouldn't have done," he said in Little Rock 10 days later. "I drank some champagne when I knew it went to my head quickly. And it did."

One of lessons for us in that

assignment was to weigh story elements carefully. For a long time, "Tidal Basin" would have been a defining part of Mills' and Battistella's stories. But there's such a thing as redemption, and both would eventually find it: Mills did win re-election to his seat, but his struggles with alcohol (and the married man's relationship with Battistella) would cause him to leave politics, get sober and eventually testify before Congress on the need for alcohol treatment programs before his death at age 82. He was remembered for much more than just that night.

Battistella would earn several college degrees (including a master's in marine science) before her death at age 84. She was reclusive in later life, but along the way said this to the Post about that period of her life that found its way into our Wilbur Mills obituaries: "What happened happened, so that cannot be repaired completely. But sometimes things can be mended enough to allow you to live comfortably and not be completely ashamed of yourself."

"Redemption" probably wasn't a word any of us used in that first class. But thankfully, before someone gets assigned to write our obit, we get a chance to re-write our stories every day.

Take a quick look; they're going fast

Every older generation, no matter the period of history, seems to think the current younger generation is going to the dogs and is basically hopeless.

My parents and their peers thought Little Richard and Elvis were degenerate and while it's true Elvis shook his pelvis, he never showed it

to anybody — at least during a performance. But look back at the writings of history and you can find those thoughts, all the way from Ben Franklin to Aristotle.

Part of this feeling we — at least, many of us — have as we age is the realization that life is bigger than us. Still, a "forward" message on the Internet from a friend not so long ago gave me great pause ... and a little sadness. In it, the author noted nine things that may likely disappear from life sooner or later, maybe some in my lifetime.

All nine of those have occupied a significant portion of my years, maybe yours, and that piece reassured me life is bigger than me.

At the top of the list was the post office. No way, you say ... but it's possible. The entire organization is struggling to survive as inflation, shutdown and less in-person shopping thanks to email leads to more FedEx, UPS and other forms of communication and service. For some time, there's been discussion that Saturday service may soon to be a casualty in some places; what's next?

Next on the list is the use of checks. You already see the growing use of debit cards. It costs banks huge amounts of money to process paper. Every wondered about the logic of a 50-cent check as a rebate from a cereal purchase? The decline in paying bills by checks has something to do with the decline in the use of the post office, wouldn't you think?

There were other things on the list of items that may be like the disappearance of the buffalo. Among them were newspapers ... ouch! That hurts. I still have many from 30 years ago, still waiting to be read. And the smell of paper and ink gets me going. But fewer and fewer people read newspapers and maybe part of that is the lack of good product and content. But more and more our society is into sound bites, specific "spins" of news and instant gratification.

Same thing for books, which were on the list. Sorry but I can't get the same joy out of a Kindle or whatever. Got to hold the book in my hands,

mark it up, put it down and pick it up again and so on and so on.

Another item included the land line telephone. I've got one for the Internet but that's about all. Taxes on top of taxes for that service will help it die a death unless there's an improvement in the situation.

But of all the items on that list the one that struck me as most interesting in a way was the television. I still remember the introduction of the thing. The first one my dad brought home from C.E. Durham and Son in Bynum in the 1950's — complete with test pattern and glowing fluorescent border around its glorious black and white picture. Took awhile to come on; the tubes had to get warm. Went off at midnight with the playing of the "Star-Spangled Banner."

Today the set comes on instantly with a humongous picture but what's on it should be shot. Comedy isn't funny; every "dramatic" series is too much; violence runs rampant.

That's why folks today, at least those like me, watch TVLAND where they can see "I Love Lucy" or watch Dick Clark on The Game Show Network. Plus, more and more folks are watching full length movies and so forth. When you add in that there are about a dozen commercials every four minutes for such appealing products as "Sitz-A-Lot" for your hemorrhoid relief, typically shown during the dinner hour, it's no wonder things are heading downhill.

Change, of course, is the only thing in our world that's constant. And as I reflected on this list it reminded me of things I've already seen disappear — things such as manual typewriters, slide rules, 8-track cassettes, 45 rpm records, and a host of things that are found only in museums or antique shops.

And so it goes for each generation. My parents saw the disappearance of the Model A, the horse drawn plow, hand pumps for drawing water from the well, and so on.

Pretty soon, it seems, all we'll have left are memories and, as the note I read said, we'll lose those to Alzheimer's.

Pay attention and keep a sharp eye out.

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.



Wearing masks should not be a question

Last week, members of the clergy were authorized to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as part of "Group 3 Frontline Essential Workers."



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

a trick question."

As she readied the needle, she complimented my choice of baseball cap. She told me that, though she had attended East Carolina University, she had married a Tar Heel. I started to say that I had likewise "married up" when, suddenly, my shot was over! It was painless.

As she put an adhesive bandage on my shoulder, the nurse instructed me to keep practicing the three W's to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread: wash my hands, wait six feet apart, and — most importantly — wear a mask.

I lamented that day's news that both Texas and Mississippi had lifted their mask mandates.

The nurse shook her head. "I don't get it. Why spend a whole year building a house and burn it down at the very end?"

After a full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are signs that the end is in sight. There are three safe, effective vaccines. As was true with my experience in Chapel Hill, there are countless dedicated workers and volunteers getting these shots into people's arms.

Now is the time to be vaccinated as soon as we are able.

While waiting for everyone to have the opportunity to receive this miracle of modern medicine, we must do everything we can to prevent the spread of infection. The science is clear: facemasks do exactly that.

Yet, there are now 15 states without mask

mandates. Why are they willing to risk fanning the COVID-19 flames right when the fire finally seems to be under control?

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves, a Republican, justified his decision: "The governor's office is getting out of the business of telling people what they can and cannot do." I realize that's a talking point for his political party. There is a time and place for competition in the political area as opposing ideologies duke it out in the court of public opinion.

But public health is neither a game nor a partisan issue.

Mask mandates do not represent an overreach of government authority; they are not a violation of individual rights. They are a responsibility to the larger public.

I would remind Reeves of the words found on the side of most police cars: "Serve and Protect." Mask mandates serve the best interests of the larger community by helping create herd immunity. Masks also protect individuals from this deadly virus.

The mask mandate has been extended in the Tar Heel State until at least March 26 by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper. Similar extensions have also been made by Republican governors in West Virginia, Utah, Ohio, Indiana, Maryland and Massachusetts.

In the deeply red state of Alabama, Gov. Kay Ivey extended the mask mandate until April 9. Governor Mee-Maw, as the 76-year-old politician is known, told her constituents, "I'm just trying to urge you to use the common sense the good Lord gave each of us to be smart and considerate of others."

While I know the nurse who administered my vaccine shared my college basketball preference, I do not know her religious or political affiliation. But I feel confident that she would join me in responding to Ivey with a hearty "amen."

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

VIEWPOINTS

I’m done with horses, but if you’re looking for one...



DWAYNE WALLS JR.
The Roundabout

My sister loves horses, as does our mother. My friend Missy in Moore County owns a few, as does my friend Judith outside Siler City. Judith even owns one old-timer whom she feeds mush out of a bucket because his teeth are so bad.

My wife jokes about pink ponies with glitter manes, but if anyone out there knows a woman whose inner little girl does not love ponies, I want to hear from you. And if you know someone who needs to be around horses, tell them to volunteer at Horse & Buddy Therapeutic Riding Program in New Hill.

I have cleaned too many stalls and oiled too much tack to think of horses as anything but hard work. We kept them on the farm down Bear Creek

Road where I grew up, and as a teenager I worked for a local quarter horse farm to earn cash for movie tickets and record albums. Going to the stockyards in Staley was a lot more exciting than the Friday night crap-o-rama on network TV, and I have great memories of horse shows in Silk Hope, but I have been stomped, bitten, bucked, thrown, and kicked too many times to care for their company. I am done breaking winter ice on watering troughs so they can drink. I refuse to scrub any more algae from those old tubs in the summer. I have thrown my last bale of hay, swatted my last horse-fly, and you can keep your glycerin soap. Not that I hate horses; I just prefer to keep them at a distance. Watching the Kentucky Derby on TV is close enough for me.

Our mother is in her 80s, and only recently swore off riding; after a partial hip replacement, too much could go wrong if she fell. She contents herself with

watching from the paddock fence and chatting with the staff, but my sister needs to exercise. She used to swim at the Chapel Hill YMCA before the pandemic, but at a family powwow we agreed the risk of infection is too great: no more swimming until everyone gets vaccinated.

Thank goodness for Horse & Buddy. All my mother has to do is wear her mask in the barn and when she rides around the covered, open air arena. She may not be doing laps in the pool, but thanks to Horse & Buddy she can still get some exercise on horseback. Since she was under the weather the other week, I drove my sister to their stables near the Wake/Chatham line.

Horses are a lot like swimming pools or boats; it is much easier to have a friend with horses than to actually care for some of your own. My sister is handicapped, but she ambulates well enough with a three-wheeled walker to get in and out of the barn and up and

down the ramp to the mounting block. She also has weight issues, but we were pleasantly surprised to discover she likes horses better than junk food. The staff made it clear she could not ride if she was too heavy, and I am proud to say she stuck to her diet. Somehow they found money enough to buy and install a motor hoist chair above the mounting block; with the push of a button the chair lifts her up, slides her over, and lowers her into the saddle like she was an armored knight at some medieval jousting tournament. She even rides a draft horse: a dark bay Percheron mare named Grace that flunked out of Amish plow training. As staff member Lauren put it, “She was pretty bad at it.”

That may be so, but great beast is perfect for my carrying my sister.

While horse and rider practiced their routine inside the ring, I walked into the barn into get out of the wind. Down the center aisle I saw each stall

had poster board listing its occupant’s name and individual quirks. Here was a shaggy Shetland pony named Carmen across the concrete were two quarter horses named Emma and Panama. One horse likes to break fence boards with a single push; one likes peppermint as a treat; one makes silly faces when he eats an apple. Walking through the barn reminded me how much like people horses are: they each have their own personality.

At the back of the barn the poster reads that a new Curly pony needs a sponsor. It costs about \$130 a month to feed and board him. His name is Zeke, and he could be your little pony if you want.

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

GUEST COLUMN | WENDY PILLARS

‘Grace’ is no longer enough

Ever hear of the Sorites Paradox? “Sorites” derives from the Greek word for heap and ponders precisely when removing a single grain from a heap of sand makes it not a heap. We’re talking vague boundaries and unspoken agreements on just what constitutes a non-heap. Kind of like determining what number of coins, when aggregated together, finally makes someone wealthy. Or what number of days or years constitutes being old. Cultural context, circumstances, understanding, personal experiences, and individual and group perceptions all play a role in these often subconscious decisions.

As a teacher, however, I’ve been applying this paradox to the concept of grace. We’ve been in pandemic mode for one year now. At what point does “grace” contribute to imbalance in our students and system? At what point does “grace” become enabling, coddling, and excusing a lack of effort rather than an empathic pathway to success in life skills?

It’s the end of the first six weeks of the semester, which means grades are due. I still have students on my roster whom I’ve never met, who have never done an ounce of work, and who have not responded to my outreach efforts. They have pure, unadulterated zeroes in my class. As a teacher, it is hurtful to think I was unable to even reach these students at the most basic and literal levels. I have always prided myself on being able to reach students, so this is doubly agonizing for me because I’m sure there’s “something more” I could have done.

Then there are students with single-digit percentage grades for the past six weeks because they simply did not submit sufficient work. Despite reminders, conversations in class, what seem to be positive relationships in person, and an inordinately slower instructional pace than I would typically move, these students readily admit they were just lazy or didn’t make the time.

Now, after crafting curriculum to meet the needs of zoomies and roomies, students on medical leave, students on quarantine, students with “when-I-feel-like-it” attendance, students who need paper packets, and all the outreach entailed for support and MIA students/ work, I am required to give these students a 50% for their first six weeks.

For doing next to nothing, or flat-out nothing.

How is this serving our students? Yes, I fully understand that I don’t know what they’re going through, and I admit that I will never fully know, but I talk to my students every day they’re with me, conduct surveys, and provide space the best way I know how. I ask them how they’re really doing, and if there is anything I need to know. The majority tell me everything is good, enhanced with emojis and smiley faces, even if they’ve done no work. Challenging analysis, for sure.

I love engaging in work that stretch-

es and challenges me, but this is different. One year on and this status quo is enforcing mediocrity and a basic lack of accountability in what has become a new normal. We can only imagine what the “next normal” will bring, but I’m willing to bet students will always need to complete work to demonstrate what they know and understand, whether or not they feel like it.

As adults, we know that this is a vital life skill. Consistently putting yourself in uncomfortable places and learning to do hard things when it’s inconvenient is preparation for the unknown, to be prepared to face potentially life-changing opportunities that pop up, both positive and negative. Experiencing appropriate levels of discomfort is practice for moments when you really need to perform. If you can learn to push through and read an article or analyze a graph that’s new and challenging, even if you don’t feel like it, then guess what? You’re practicing for life.

If you can learn to push through and actually come to school on the two days you’re expected to, even if you’re tired, then guess what? You’re practicing for life.

But we’re allowing excuses to occur through the lens of grace. And it’s not a long-term solution.

Instead, we are marking students “present” even if they’re signing in from home on the days they should physically be in class, giving them carte blanche for doing nothing, and no penalties for work that is five weeks late. Because we “don’t know” what they’re going through. We can’t continue to say these are the standards or expectations “sometimes.” The soft, blurry lines and extensive forgiveness make our job far more difficult. Ultimately, capitulating and giving giving giving “grace” will shift from investing time to wasting time by compromising and enforcing weak expectations.

My pulse check today is whether I can keep doing this sustainably. With my integrity at bay, compromising the values that fuel me as an educator, in order to meet the invisible needs of students I’ve never met is far from sustainable. There are few areas in adulthood that don’t have some element of working, performing, or creating under pressure, with systems and processes in place.

I hope you understand if I prioritize my finite energies on students who are willing to try, who are present even in small ways, and who have the self-respect to be minimally accountable even when it’s hard. Maybe it’s a couth warrior mentality at this point, but how else to prepare minds for moments when they need to be brilliant, courageous, and strong?

Wendi Pillars leans on decades of teaching in varied global settings, with a special place in her heart for English Language learners, visual creativity and the science of our planet. She is the author of the newly published Visual Impact: Transform Communication in Your Boardroom, Classroom or Living Room. Find her on Twitter @wendi322.



GUEST COLUMN | GARY PEARCE

What is Roy Cooper’s special sauce?

A national reporter recently wrote a flattering article about Gov. Roy Cooper, but seemed flummoxed by Cooper’s political success.

In “What Does This Man Know That Other Democrats Don’t?” in The Atlantic, Edward-Isaac Doveve wrote, “The governor is 16-0 in primary and general elections over the past three and a half decades—in good years and bad years for Democrats, in the North Carolina of his youth and in the very different place his state has become.”

Even after interviewing the governor, he wrote, “Cooper doesn’t know why he keeps winning in North Carolina while other Democrats keep losing.” He added, “the secret to Cooper’s victories may be hard to replicate.”

Actually, there’s no secret here. Doveve touched on most of the explanations. But he underestimated some of them, and he missed a big one.

Cooper’s first key to success, the article noted, is “Make sure voters can see you running a competent and effective government.” Yep. The governor’s handling of the COVID pandemic played a big part in his reelection last year.

Doveve mentioned “his identity as a white man (which) may have enabled him to hold on to moderate voters.” It’s more than that; Cooper comes across as what he is: a small-town boy from rural North Carolina who has worked his way up.

The article noted, in a master stroke of understatement, that Cooper has “built up his own fundraising apparatus.” In fact, the governor raised more than \$42 million for his reelection last year. His opponent, Dan Forest, raised about \$5 million. Cooper outspent Forest 10-1 on TV. In 2016, Cooper outraised an incumbent governor — a rare feat.

Doveve said Cooper “also established (and largely funded) a political operation (that) gave him centers of political support around the state.” Actually, he’s been building a network since he was a student at UNC. Through 35 years in politics, Cooper has built a stable and experienced team of governmental and political advisers; some

have been with him since he ran for Attorney General in 2000.

The article adds, “Then there’s Cooper’s aggressive messaging.” Again, that’s an understatement. In his one debate with Forest last year, Cooper — unlike most incumbents — hit his opponent hard from his opening to close.

After all that, Doveve missed what may be the biggest factor in Cooper’s success: He has won because he has run against the legislature.

Thanks to a fluke off-year election in 2010 and gerrymandering since, Republicans run the legislature. They’ve cut corporate taxes, cut spending on public schools, pushed private schools, stopped Medicaid expansion, cut unemployment relief and cut health, safety and environmental regulations.

But gerrymandering doesn’t work for a statewide race. North Carolina has elected Democratic governors — with precisely the opposite priorities of our legislature — in seven of eight elections since 1992. The only exception was 2012, when incumbent Gov. Beverly Perdue pulled out of the race late and left the door open to Republican Pat McCrory.

McCrory faithfully followed the legislature’s lead on most every issue. He signed the controversial “Bathroom Bill” that cost North Carolina millions of dollars in business. He promptly lost reelection to Cooper, even though Donald Trump carried the state, as he did again in 2020.

Cooper is squarely in the tradition of governors since Terry Sanford (1960-64), including both Democrats and Republicans like Jim Holshouser and Jim Martin. They focused on better education as the path to a better future. Cooper has added better health care, racial and gender equity, climate-change action and rural Internet to the agenda.

His secret is that North Carolinians evidently share his priorities.

Gary Pearce was a reporter and editor at The News & Observer, a political consultant and an adviser to Governor Jim Hunt (1976-1984 and 1992-2000). He blogs about politics and public policy at www.NewDayforNC.com.

VIEWPOINTS

Three school initiatives show promise

In North Carolina politics, few issues are as contentious as education. For years, Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper and the Republican-led General Assembly have locked horns on such issues as funding formulas, teacher pay and parental choice. More recently, legislators have tried to give all schoolchildren access to in-person instruction, only to be stymied by Cooper's veto pen — wielded at the behest of the North Carolina affiliate of America's largest teachers union.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

The problems we face are grave. Among the disastrous effects of COVID-19 and the ensuing shutdowns have been emotional distress and learning loss. Most high-schoolers just failed their end-of-course exams, for example. Given all this, it would be easy to look across the landscape of North Carolina education and see only dark shadows. But I'd urge you to look more closely. There are promising developments, too. Sparks of imagination. Fires of innovation. Torches

held high to light our way to a better future. One of them is the growing consensus about school leadership. To put it simply: principals matter — a lot. A just-released study by Jason Grissom of Vanderbilt University, Anna Egalite of North Carolina State, and Constance Lindsay of UNC-Chapel Hill placed principals into four equal groups based on demonstrable effectiveness. They estimated that replacing a principal in the lowest quartile with a top-quartile principal would boost student learning by an annual average of 2.9 months in math and 2.7 months in reading. In the context of education research, that's a strikingly large effect. Drawing partly on evidence of principal performance here in North Carolina, the authors concluded that effective principals enhance student learning in several ways. They recruit, coach, and evaluate in ways that improve teacher quality. They build teams and cultures that keep good teachers from leaving. And they build school environments that keep students from dropping out. The good news is that North Carolina institutions aren't just producing good ideas about how to improve school leadership. They're on the ground implementing them.

Thanks to the relentless prodding of the education-reform nonprofit BEST NC and other like-minded groups and lawmakers, North Carolina now has one of the top principal-training initiatives in the country. Thanks to the efforts of many of the same institutions, our state is also a leader in matching our best teachers with the greatest needs of our students. Beginning in 2016, an increasing number of school districts have been implementing "advanced teaching roles" programs that, for example, pay high-performing educators more for teaching additional students or for coaching their colleagues. Two of them, Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Cabarrus, were among three systems subjected to intensive study by scholars associated with the Brookings Institution. The scholars found that, according to the most-cautious analysis of the data, the advanced-roles model they studied was associated with large learning gains in math. Finally, one consequence of this frustrating year is that more parents than ever are intimately acquainted with the conduct and content of their children's education. For some parents, of course, that frustration has turned to anger. But if we truly want the parental involvement that

policymakers and educators have been talking up for years, we have to accept the reality that some newly involved and energized parents won't like what they see. As a longtime advocate of parental choice, I am neither surprised nor outraged to see some dissatisfied parents vote with their feet, making greater use of charters, homeschooling, and private alternatives. I think the resulting competition, and tighter fit between particular students and school environments, will be good for education as a whole. Perhaps you disagree. If so, I think you should support the concept of education savings accounts, as I have for more than two decades. Why must choice be an either-or proposition? Providing tax breaks or subsidies for ESAs would give parents who keep their students in district-run public schools the ability to address unmet needs through tutoring or other supplemental services. I'm optimistic about the trajectory of North Carolina education over the coming decade. You should be, too.

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

Big news about the Cherokee

Cherokee is in the news again this month. All about the name of an automobile, a popular Jeep product.



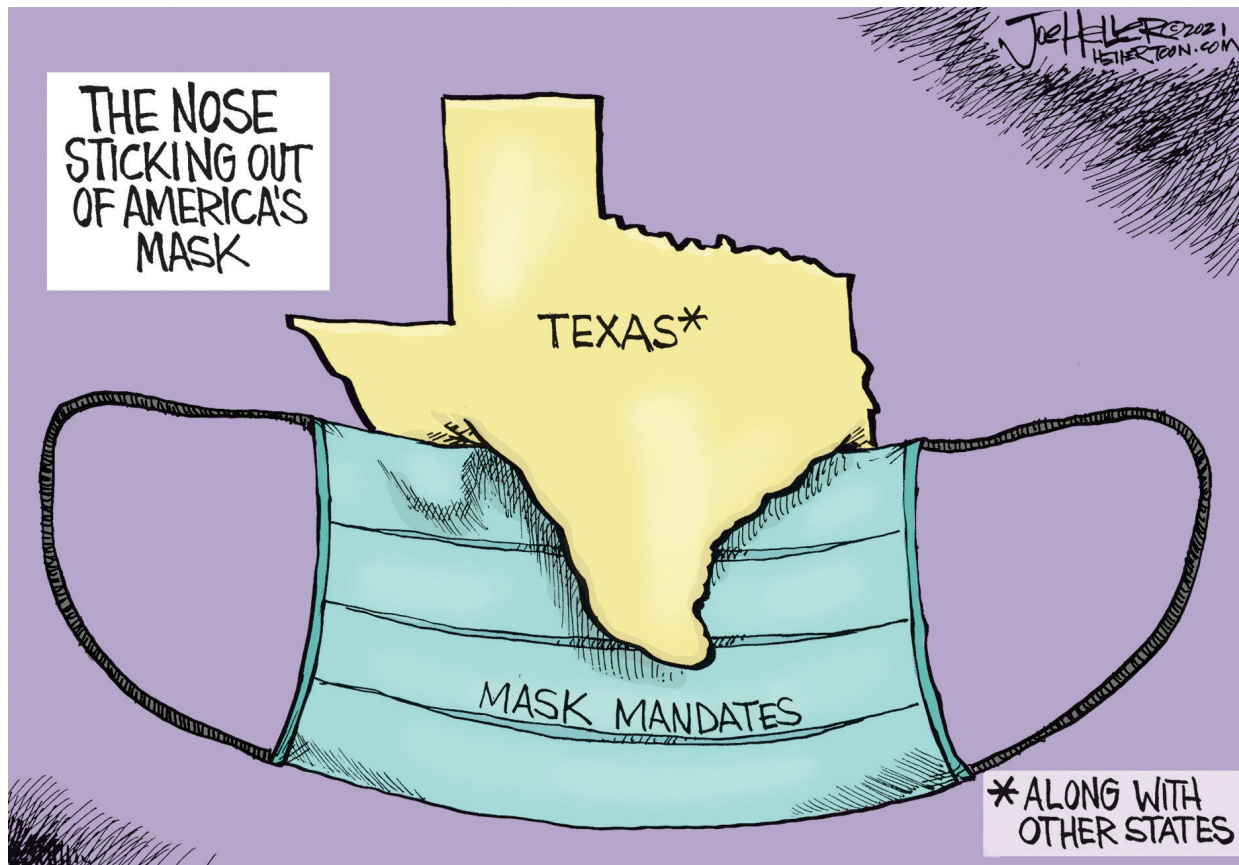
D.G. MARTIN
One on One

But for North Carolinians, the Cherokee term brings up a whole special set of complex thoughts, especially ones regarding the Cherokee people living in far western North Carolina. The big news about this group of Cherokees is "Even As We Breathe," the debut novel of Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle. It is the first novel ever published by an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Appropriately, the book deals with the special challenges Cherokee people face dealing with the non-Indian people who surround them. Set in 1942, during World War II, the lead character, 19-year-old Cowney Sequoyah, lives a hardscrabble life with his grandmother Lishie, whom he loves deeply. His Uncle Bud lives nearby. Bud works Cowney hard and treats him badly. Bud's brother, Cowney's father, died overseas at the end of World War I. Now it is 1942 and World War II is raging, but Cowney's deformed leg means he will not fight. When a groundskeeping job at Asheville's Grove Park Inn opens up, Cowney takes it. The Army is using the Grove Park to confine quarantined enemy officials and their families. Joining him in his family's Model T for the two-hour drive from Cherokee to Asheville is Essie, a beautiful young Cherokee woman who is anxious to break away from the Cherokee community. Cowney and Essie become good friends. He wishes for more, but she develops interest in one of the foreign detainees. On this situation Clapsaddle builds a poignant part of the book's plot. When Lishie dies, Cowney's world collapses. Clapsaddle describes the scents he notices as the Cherokee family and friends gather to grieve:

- Grease
- Lilies
- Tobacco
- Vanilla
- Fresh dirt
- Pine sap

She repeats this refrain over and over again to bring the reader into Cowney's sadness. A white man drops by to pay respects. He had served with Bud and Cowney's dad in World War I. Bud pushes him away, but not before the man gives Cowney his card and tells him to call if he ever needs help. Later, back at the Grove Park, when Cowney is accused in connection with the disappearance of the young daughter of one of the foreign internees, that card and its owner become keys to finding the truth. Other characters and places fill the novel and enrich Cowney's story. An ancient Cherokee man, Tsa Tsi, owns a monkey that wanders freely through the forests. Preacherman appears at funerals to blend Cherokee culture with the religion of the white man. Lishie wakes Cowney by singing "Amazing Grace" in Cherokee: "U ne la nvi u we tsi." Forest fires break out near Lishie's cabin, and the smoke provides an eerie cover for the gloomy parts of the story. The region's lovely waterfalls give Cowney places to find peace. Clapsaddle brings all these, and much more, together for a lovely story that engages its readers and gives them a vivid experience in Cherokee culture. Of course, there are reminders of the unfair and discriminatory treatment suffered by the Cherokee at the hands of the whites who populate historic Cherokee lands. Near the book's end, Cowney's grounds crew boss takes him to dinner and a movie. At the movie box office the clerk initially refused to sell a ticket. "Don't serve Indians here," she snarled. Cowney and his boss quietly go to the balcony and see Charlie Chaplin's "The Great Dictator." Cowney is moved by Chaplin's final speech against intolerance and hatred, an underlying theme of Clapsaddle's book. Citing the Bible's book of Luke, Chaplin said, "The Kingdom of God is within man, not one man, nor a group of men, but in all men, in you."

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.



How can we address climate change?

The Biden Administration has identified addressing climate change — specifically, global warming — as one of its top priorities. Indeed, it is incorporating climate change into both foreign and economic policies. Accepting global warming and its impacts



MIKE WALDEN
You Decide

as an issue still leaves the question of how to deal with it. Of course, a simple answer is for businesses and consumers to change behaviors and purchases in order to reduce the rise in global temperatures. But again, we're left with the question of how — what would motivate businesses and consumers to do this? One answer is concern for the planet. We can voluntarily alter our behavior and change the products and services we use in order to reduce environmental damage. Many people willingly pay more to drive a hybrid or all-electric vehicle so as to curtail carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. Scientists say CO2 is a major cause of global warming. Likewise, some households have installed solar panels on their homes to reduce their use of conventional power sources. The best-case scenario is when these efforts ultimately save money, in addition to saving the environment. For some businesses and households, they do. But based on the fact that fewer than 5 percent of today's vehicles are all-electric or hybrid, and that only 2 percent of electricity is generated from solar power, not enough people consider them to be a good investment. Many think the path to improving the climate is by establishing goals and then enacting programs and spending to reach those goals. For example, the Biden Administration wants the country to reach zero net-emissions of CO2 by 2050. In order to reach this goal, the Administration has talked about spending \$2 trillion for a variety of activities

— insulating buildings, supporting research in improved battery storage for solar power, and increasing the use of renewable energy for vehicles as well as homes and offices. Some call this the "top-down" approach, because the plan both sets the goals as well as the methods of reaching those goals. The worry is, even with the best of intentions and its vast network of data and experts, the federal government will never have enough information to know how to most efficiently reduce our environmental degradation. These concerns have led to an alternative approach to curtailing global warming — the "bottom-up" approach. This approach begins with the premise that people don't purposely engage in behavior that harms the environment. Instead, their environmental harm is an unfortunate byproduct of behavior that benefits them. For example, a person may charge their tech products with electricity that is generated by high CO2-emitting coal. This is not because they hate the environment. Instead, they are either unaware their electricity is generated from coal, or they have no alternative. Likewise, someone who drives to work in a gasoline powered vehicle doesn't do so because they like putting CO2 into the atmosphere. Rather, that vehicle gives them the best transportation for their budget. For decades, many economists have proposed a simple solution to this situation. Levy a fee on the pollution-creating behavior (using electricity generated from coal, driving a gasoline-powered vehicle, plus many others), with the fee approaching the environmental damage done by the behavior. A pollution fee would create two benefits. Since it increases the price of the behavior, like any price increase it will cause people to do less of it. Users of coal-generated electricity will look for electricity generated from cleaner sources, such as solar, natural gas or hydro. For the user of the gasoline vehicle, ride-sharing, public transit or

buying a hybrid or electric vehicle could be options. The second benefit will be environmental improvements to those sources with high pollution levels. Coal producers will know they will have to become cleaner to survive. The same will be the case for gasoline vehicles. When it's been proposed, a typical push-back to the idea of a pollution fee is it will increase prices for many things we use — like the gasoline that fuels most vehicles or the coal that creates almost one-fourth of the country's electricity. This is true; in fact, raising the price is the key part of the idea. There is a possible solution. It's called a refundable pollution fee. The fee will still be applied and collected. But it will also be refunded to those paying it, but on some basis other than the amount paid. One suggestion is to refund an equal amount to everyone paying the fee. Since higher-income folks would likely pay more, the plan would redistribute the fee's revenues in a way that lower-income households would receive more back than they paid in fees. Isn't a refundable pollution fee silly? Why will people pollute less if they get the money back? Here's where some economics is helpful. The pollution fee will rebalance prices, making the prices of polluting products and services rise relative to non-polluting products and services. People implicitly understand this, so they will still be motivated to shift away from things that pollute more to things that pollute less. When trying to solve a problem, it's good to have options. We clearly have options in addressing climate change. You decide on the best approach.

Michael Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook and public policy.

DIRECTION

Continued from page A1

continue to be, a landmark year.

“The confluence of the market being so strong, and the home industry is growing sort of leaps and bounds ... it’s really putting us in the right place at the right time,” Rawl said. “So we’re very optimistic about 2021.”

They point to two notable achievements so far, the most significant of which is this: a full 17 years after the vision first took root in their minds, the first dozen or so of an anticipated 60,000 residents are now officially calling Chatham Park home.

“The biggest milestone we’ve reached is that we’re able to sell homes and to build,” Smith said. “So that’s a major accomplishment.”

The COVID-19 pandemic created a pause for Chatham Park when it began a year ago, but not much of a slowdown. Smith and Rawl say they pushed the project’s contractors throughout last summer to open up lots — beginning with 550 in The Vineyards section alone — for development. The first 30 “cottages” homes sold quickly, and three new \$700,000+ custom homes are now sold. In all, Chatham Park has partnered with 10 homebuilders in Vineyards, the first of many neighborhoods to come inside the property; when fully completed, there will be room for 22,000 homes altogether.

And that’s just homes and homesites — the “live” in Chatham Park’s “Live, Work, Play, Learn” mantra. The list of other projects and goings-on within the development is lengthy indeed, creating a new, happy watchword for the entire development team.

Momentum.

It’s been hard-won. Over the last 17 years, Smith, Rawl and their Cary-based Preston Development Company team have faced innumerable challenges. Administrative roadblocks from the Town of Pittsboro (now mostly resolved, particularly with new town staff with development experience in place); loud objections from environmentalists (largely overcome, judging purely from the site’s plans for open spaces and parks); and blowback and negative publicity from a small but energized handful of detractors (some of whom, to the delight of the Smith and Rawl, are now customers at Chatham Park businesses) are just a few. Others include Pittsboro’s



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham Park developers Julian ‘Bubba’ Rawl (left) and Tim Smith (right) examine construction taking place at Mosaic with developer Kirk Bradley.

limited water and sewer capacity (which Chatham Park has helped bring solutions to) and simply the inertia that often stymies large-scale development.

So the optimism Chatham Park’s principals feel in 2021 is understandable.

“Things seem to be going in a great direction for us,” Smith said. “We’ve got a lot of good things going on — a lot of interest. Lots of people are coming to us wanting to buy lots. And we’re getting a lot of good, good feedback about what’s there now. I think as we start putting things on the ground, like these 30 cottages, people can see the quality of what we’re doing. It’s one thing to tell somebody you’re going to do something. It’s another thing to show them.”

Which brings the pair to its second milestone achievement thus far: the progress of Mosaic, the 44-acre “gateway” to Chatham Park, which will bring about 300,000 square feet of retail, restaurants and office space; a 121-key hotel; entertainment venues; and living space for residents in the form of 320 apartment homes and 50 condominiums.

Vanessa Jenkins, the executive vice president for Preston Development, described Mosaic as “a deal changer” for the beginning of Chatham Park. Although Chatham Park’s infrastructure has been in the process of development since 2014, having Mosaic positioned prominently near the corner of U.S. Hwy. 64 and Hwy. 15-501 north of Pittsboro is paramount to the project’s success.

“Its visibility gives the project as a whole perspective and relevance for the general public that has no idea how much is happening in areas that are not easily visible,”

she said. “Mosaic will also be a first impression for what Chatham Park will look like and will spotlight many of the exemplary design principles being implemented in Chatham Park.”

In other words, as Smith and Rawl point out, growth done the right way.

Mosaic’s developer, Kirk Bradley, says he understands growth can be a worrisome concept. Most of the opposition to Chatham Park has come from those who would rather Pittsboro not grow, that it not lose its small-town ambience, its unique aura. (Bradley, a partner in Chatham Media Group LLC, the owner of the News + Record, is not an investor in Chatham Park.)

But Chatham County’s geography positioned it for growth. Chatham Park will be the location to help capture much of it.

“The fact of the matter is,” Bradley says, “that the Triangle is a rapidly growing metropolitan area. It’s simply a matter of time before Pittsboro and Chatham experience more than they already have.”

What makes Chatham Park a “case study” in good growth, and good for Chatham County, Bradley said, is that it proves urban growth can be easier to control.

“The opportunity that Chatham Park presents is that you have entitled a significant amount of acreage where you are concurrently planning housing, commercial, schools, medical, open space, storm water, parks, and all that infrastructure,” he said.

That detailed planning — as opposed to disjointed, organic growth — is always more attractive.

“While Pittsboro will certainly be different, I think this will be a case study in how to

grow,” he said. “The elements of the entitlement plan have been thoughtfully considered and create a higher standard of development and, ultimately, higher standard of living than any area in the region or state.”

One example: the network of public parks and the trail system within Chatham Park are being created and developed in tandem with developers and Pittsboro staff and elected officials. It’s a “massive undertaking,” Bradley says, which provides millions of dollars’ worth of added value amenities for all Chatham residents — not just those living in Chatham Park.

“One other point, particularly for Chatham County,” he added, “is that Chatham Park will allow Chatham County to begin to achieve a better balance of tax base between residential and commercial for the first time. The utilities have never been developed by a municipality that allowed for the type of non-residential tax base the county has sought as a strategic initiative for the last decade.”

Jenkins also said Chatham Park will ultimately be viewed as the impetus for the town of Pittsboro to grow “in a concise, confined manor.”

“The plan will appropriately place density vs. sprawling, uncontrolled/unplanned development,” she said “It will also be the reason more services, entertainment, retail and jobs to come to Pittsboro for the benefit of all.”

While Chatham Park’s full build-out is still years down the road, Mosaic’s is much closer: after five years of planning and two years of construction, it’s on the cusp of being what Bradley describes as a “functional entertainment and lifestyle center.”

“We have several years to go before we are finished, but in a matter of months, you will be able to buy a cup of coffee, eat a sandwich or taco, purchase insurance or buy or lease a home, apartment or condominium,” he said. “These will be the first of many offerings in the months to come with three buildings under construction or almost complete. By the fall there will be at least seven buildings completed or under construction and our entertainment and work yard will be having programming for at least a few weeks before full programming starting in the summer of 2022.”

And that’s just Mosaic — only a small slice of what Chatham Park will eventually be. When Smith and Rawl offer

up the details about what’s planned for the development’s North Village and South Village, it’s almost staggering to comprehend — particularly for those who might not have a full picture of what Chatham Park really is.

Rawl pointed out that for most people hearing about Chatham Park for the first time over the last five years, it was likely “due to a lawsuit or zoning issue or something like that.”

That’ll change this spring and summer.

“We haven’t had any reason to invoke the general public’s interest in what we’re doing because we haven’t had anything to sell,” he said. “We’ll be a household word around this market here by this summer because we’ll have product.”

That’ll include ground-breaking on construction of the 121-room Hampton Inn and a 50,000-square-foot Lowes Foods grocery store — two things, Rawl points out, that people in Chatham County have been desiring for more than a decade.

There’s lots more: a medical campus for UNC Health Care, a new YMCA, Thales Academy, a swim and racquet club, 300,000 feet of flex space, restaurants, retail and more — much of which hasn’t been announced because deals are still in the works.

Rawl also points to the \$3.5 million, 10-acre Knight Farm Community Park developed by Preston Development and donated to the town of Pittsboro as one example of a completed part of the overall project that accurately reflects what he and Smith envisioned 17 years ago.

“And that’s open for anybody,” Smith said. “We got children over playing on it every day. We’ve got a portion of a greenway open — a 10-foot wide paved greenway, which we built. And that’s open now, and people are using that.”

That’s the goal, Rawl says: for those who want to come to the area and need a place to live, he, Smith, Jenkins and the rest of the Chatham Park team “want to be the ones who provide them with the best place they can possibly live.”

“We’re in the real estate business,” Smith said. “We like to own land. And now that we’ve got this and got it entitled, we see it being a jewel in our treasure box. And I don’t think you could go to a better place, a better location than what we have in Pittsboro. We looked into the future, and we saw Pittsboro.”

This story concludes next week.

SANCTUARY AT POWELL PLACE

New apartment complex provides upscale living in Pittsboro

It will take years for the 22,000 homes planned for Chatham Park to be built. But right now, more than 1,000 new apartment units are in the process of development north of Pittsboro — including the 264 units recently opened at Sanctuary at Powell Place.

Susan Keller is the manager and broker-in-charge at Rampart Property Management, which manages Sanctuary. She also works with Carolina Commercial Contractors of Sanford, which develops and constructs multi-family and senior living facilities across North Carolina. A former high school English teacher, Keller and her husband — fellow developer Carter Keller — live in Sanford. They have four children.

In this Q&A, Keller talks about Sanctuary at Powell Place and how it complements Chatham Park.

How did the vision for Sanctuary at Powell Place develop?

The vision belongs to the original developers of Powell Place, who always saw the opportunities in Pittsboro and planned for a multi-use community from the inception of the neighborhood. When that group met with Carolina Commercial Contractors in 2017, the partnership began, the timing was right and the process of Sanctuary began in earnest. Rampart Property



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The apartments at Sanctuary at Powell Place in Pittsboro.

Management became involved during the design process and aided in the original proformas.

Can you give us a general timeline of major milestones at Sanctuary?

Completing Sanctuary in the middle of the pandemic was a milestone in itself. Labor issues and supply issues were significant challenges CCC had to overcome. From a management perspective, the beginning of lease-up coincided with the original shutdowns in spring of 2020, and that was a challenge for sure. Rampart had to completely redo the marketing and lease-up plans, as well as the budget. Moving our leasing staff into the clubhouse was a big goal — that happened in May 2020. I remember planting the large pots out in front of the

office myself in the spring sunshine, then snapping a picture and posting it to let everyone know that in spite of the pandemic our Rampart team was looking forward and ready to start serving residents, albeit with restrictions. CCC recently handed over the last building to Rampart and the ownership group, and we are currently at the originally projected pace for leasing; both these milestones are very exciting.

Why is its location so critical?

From a management standpoint, Sanctuary is ideally located. It is tucked into a wonderful and established neighborhood, with access to miles of sidewalks, greenspaces, and a fabulous Chatham County park literally a 10 minute

walk through the community. Pittsboro offers so much, from a cultural standpoint as well as a geographical one. People can work from anywhere now, and with easy access to the Triangle and Triad areas, as well as Chapel Hill and Sanford, our residents can enjoy being in a smaller town (no traffic!) but still get to these other areas easily. And with the addition of Chatham Park, Sanctuary residents will be able to take advantage of the opportunities for activities and shopping that are planned over there. Who wouldn’t want to live in Pittsboro? There is such a wonderful sense of history and place here and it is such an active and engaged community!

Sanctuary is described as “luxury apartment living.” As a developer, builder and manager, can you walk me through how that niche (upscale apartments with plenty of amenities) fits within Chatham County’s other living options, and how it does (or doesn’t) complement what’s taking place within Chatham Park?

Chatham County currently only has one other true market-rate apartment complex, and that is over 20 years old. In the Pittsboro area, we are it. So, if you are in-between houses, or don’t want the hassle of yard maintenance, or simply want the freedom

of renting as opposed to owning, there really was no option for you in the area until now. Sanctuary complements the housing that will become available at Chatham Park. Our product is different, more affordable, and offers people another choice.

How did you assess the needs when it came to deciding how many units to construct?

The site was only approved for a certain number of units, and the developers needed to meet this number and also visually integrate the buildings into an existing neighborhood as seamlessly as possible. There was a limit on how many units we could build as well as how many would really work for aesthetic reasons within the Powell Place neighborhood.

What did the COVID-19 pandemic change when it came your design/build philosophy? Were any changes made, or did you already build in WFH amenities?

We were fortunate to have already made decisions as far as design and wifi access that were forward-thinking, so our apartments currently meet the needs of the new Work From Home lifestyle quite well. We have built-in workspaces as well as 1 gig fiber internet. We also opted for bigger

floorplans than many other new Triangle area apartments are building, which is definitely a selling point since people are spending so much more time at home.

Can you talk about your resident population? Where are you tenants coming from, and what brings them to Chatham and to Sanctuary?

We have residents of all ages and from many different places. We truly have something to offer every demographic. Projections show an influx from more populous northern states and high-density metro areas to North Carolina suburban-type areas, places like Chatham County.

You’ve had your opening — what’s next?

We will keep building our community! We are so happy that some restrictions are easing a bit, so we can make our many amenities at Sanctuary more easily accessible to our residents, and so that we can host in-person events on property that allow everyone to get to know their neighbors a bit better. Rampart is all about creating a community, both literally and in spirit. We are also excited for some of the local Pittsboro and Chatham events to start happening again, and are looking forward to being a part of those.

Chatham organizations share vaccine considerations, advice for employers

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

As vaccine access expands in North Carolina, many Chatham employers have begun looking to get their workforces vaccinated as quickly as possible. To that end, several Chatham organizations came together for a webinar last Thursday to share some advice.

The webinar — called the COVID-19 Vaccine Briefing for Chatham Employers — addressed Group 3 vaccine eligibility, updated employers on Chatham’s vaccine rollout and offered legal and practical advice. The Chatham Economic Development Corporation, the county health department and the Chatham Chamber of Commerce organized it; speakers included Public Health Director Mike Zelek and Kathie Russell, who’s a managing partner at Russell & Associates.

Here are five key takeaways:

The Chatham County Public Health Department may not be getting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine anytime soon.

The FDA approved Johnson & Johnson’s single-shot vaccine for Emergency Use Authorization on Feb. 27. Shipments began arriving in North Carolina last Wednesday, but Zelek said the health department hasn’t received any — and likely wouldn’t at all before month’s end.

“We’re getting the Moderna vaccine right now,” Zelek said,

“and the Johnson & Johnson (vaccine), I think, was sent primarily to these much larger-scale vaccination clinics. We don’t have it right now, but in the coming months, that could change.”

Employers: develop a vaccination plan.

First things first — organize a committee, Russell said; bring in your HR people and “different factions” of your company to develop effective strategies and responses to vaccinate your workforce.

“The committee can then serve as your central point of contact for your company program,” she said, “and they can direct traffic, assist employees so they have resources of where they can go get the vaccine, how to sign up, they can help them with places to go and things like that.”

Accommodate your employees.

If an employee had a vaccination appointment, consider giving them time off work, Zelek advised, both for their appointment and perhaps afterward.

Sometimes, people experience side effects, including arm soreness, headache and fatigue, Zelek added, though most experience them after receiving the second dose. They typically go away within a couple of days.

“If they do feel unwell after the second dose, it’s not because they got COVID,” he said. “It’s just the body developing an immune response to fight against

COVID. Give them that flexible leave time so that they can take off work if needed (or) take off a day if they do need to.”

If you’re signing your employees up for appointments, be careful how you schedule them, Russell said.

“You could even consider staggering appointments within departments,” she said, “especially for that second dose so that you don’t have a big chunk of your workers out.”

Also be sure that you don’t inadvertently penalize your employees for getting vaccinated, she added; employees will be less likely to get vaccinated if they know they’ll be penalized for missing work if they’re sick the day after.

“At a minimum, make sure you’re not docking their pay if they have to take time off, depleting their PTO, or accounting the side-effect-related absences in any sort of disciplinary process,” Russell added. “Keep in mind also that some state and sick pay leave might even require you to provide paid time off — or at least protected unpaid leave — to these employees as they recover from vaccine side effects.”

Mount an education campaign about the vaccines.

Demonstrate that you trust the vaccine, Zelek said, and talk to your employees about your vaccination experience, if you can; be honest about any side effects or reactions you had.

Many concerns surround side effects or allergic reactions to the vaccines. Zelek said allergic reactions are rare; they happen less than five times per 1 million doses administered, and medical workers can treat any reactions easily.

“That’s the kind of information you want to get to your employees,” Russell added.

A lot of misinformation has been circling around the internet, Russell said, so make sure your employees receive accurate information from trusted sources.

“Bring in someone like Mike,” she suggested. “Bring other local resources because studies show that the more they understand, the more likely they are to get it and that they take much more seriously information that they get from local healthcare workers and people like Mike, than they do from political sources or things like that.”

Encourage your employers to get vaccinated; don’t require it.

In December, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission clarified that employers can require their employees to get vaccinated as a condition of working on-site. So legally, Russell said, you can require your employees to get vaccinated — but that decision brings numerous legal and practical considerations that might not make the mandate worth it.

“Encouraging instead of mandating avoids legal issues for you,” Russell added. “... If the employee does not comply, you

have to engage in an individual analysis of whether an exception to that policy is needed to provide a reasonable accommodation under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) or religious objection under Title VII.”

A vaccine mandate also brings you another legal risk: Since each vaccine only has Emergency Use Authorization, vaccine providers are required to tell recipients “to the extent practicable” that they have the option to refuse the injection.

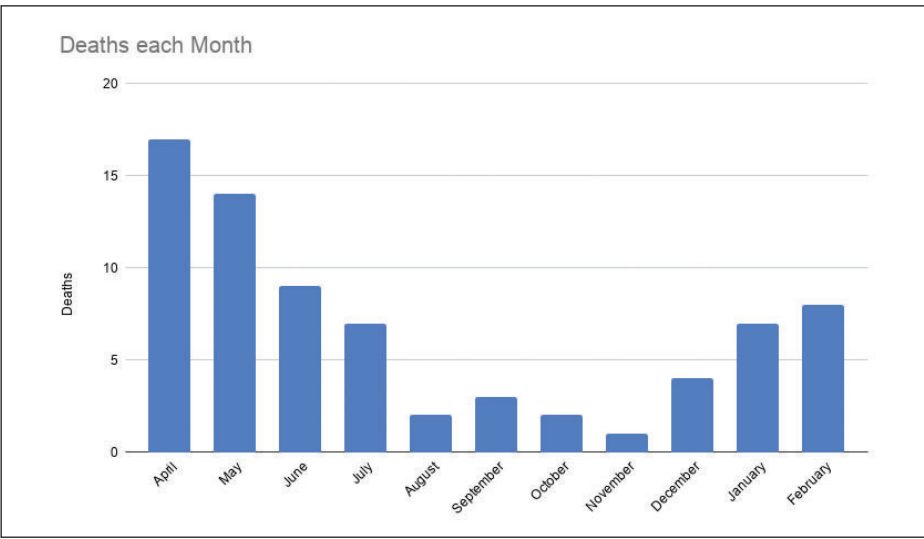
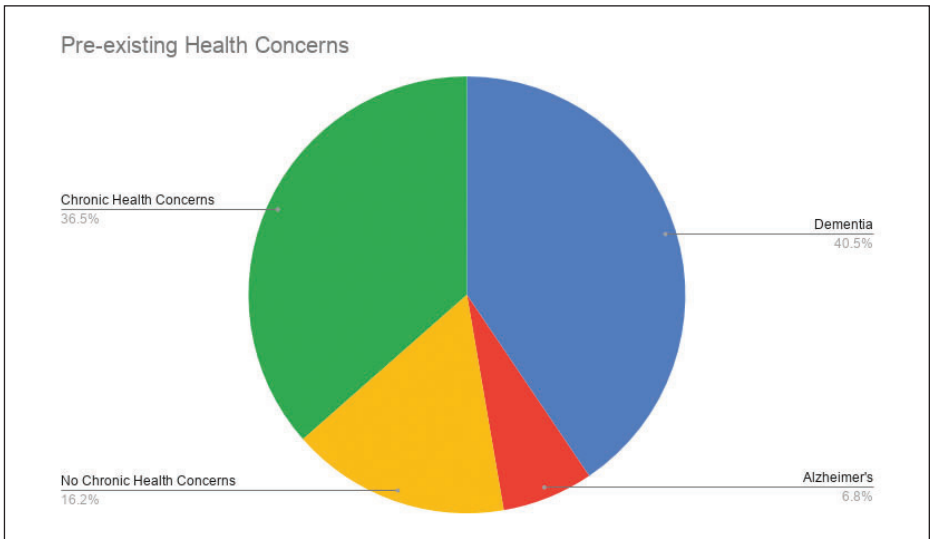
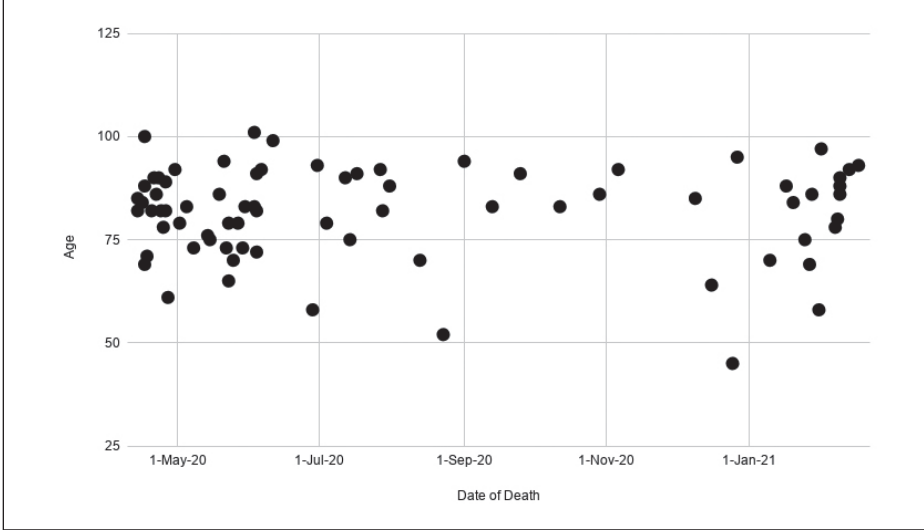
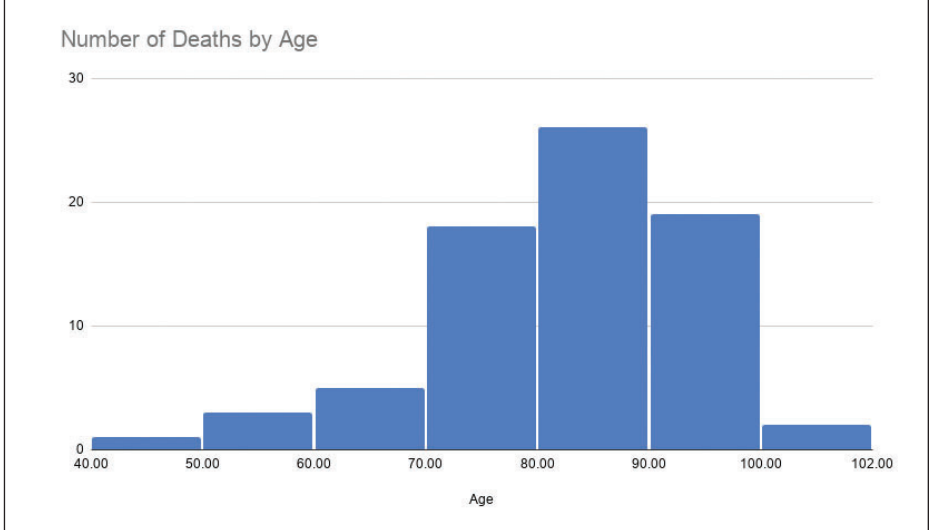
“As you can see, that sets you up for a conundrum there because that could raise a concern that you’re mandating it and then your employee goes to get it and they’re told you can refuse it,” she said. “So they could potentially bring a lawsuit for some sort of public policy violation, given those emergency use guidelines.”

Beyond legal risks, the mandate also poses practical risks: What do you do about those employees who refuse?

“So if half of your workplace refuses, you don’t want to let half your workplace go,” Russell said. “But you have to have a policy because then you can’t require someone to get it and then let someone else do it with no repercussions. So these are all the reasons that it just makes it really a legal quagmire for you to mandate the vaccine.”

To watch the full webinar online, visit <https://youtu.be/b9Hv5dXV6kc>.

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



NAMES

Continued from page A1

uation can dull us to the magnitude of loss in the year we’ve endured. Recited statistics lose their gravity. But these are not just numbers to be tallied for the annals of history. They were our friends, our family, our neighbors.

Chatham’s fallen

While the pandemic has not totally spared Chatham’s younger residents, most on this list are from the elderly population. All but nine were over 70 years old. About 80% had preexisting health conditions that compromised their abilities to fight the virus.

“The past year has brought many challenges to all of us and the virus has taken a heavy toll on the Chatham community, as it has across the world,” said Chatham County Public Health Dept. Director Mike Zelek in a press release, reflecting on a year since the pandemic first touched Chatham.

“More than 4,000 Chatham residents have tested positive for COVID-19, including a disproportionate number of Hispanic/Latinx residents, especially early in the pandemic,” he said. “In the past year, 78 people who called Chatham home have passed away from the virus, most of whom were residents of skilled nursing facilities. Our routines have changed greatly, we have grown accustomed to wearing masks and we all long for a return to normalcy.”

Since Zelek’s statement on March 6,

one more Chathamite has died from the coronavirus, and more are expected. While the pandemic’s early months claimed the most Chatham lives, the number of deaths has steadily ticked up since November.

In turn, vaccine availability has sharply risen in recent months, but Zelek warns against prematurely abandoning our pandemic best practices.

“I ask the Chatham community to keep up the fight until the end,” he said. “With COVID-19 vaccinations increasing and cases on the decline, I am hopeful that we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel after a difficult winter. But this past year has taught us that we are still dealing with a highly infectious and dangerous virus that wants to spread. Now is not the time to let our guard down.”

Reasons for pride

About 8% of all Chatham deaths in the last year were tied to COVID-19. That figure is alarming, but still better than what many counties have experienced elsewhere in North Carolina.

“Although we have not been spared from the virus these last several months, we have not seen the rates of infection that most other counties have,” Zelek said. “Chatham residents have risen to this unprecedented challenge, wearing their masks and avoiding gatherings despite the inconvenience.”

Community pushback against health department recommendations has also been minimal, facilitating a quicker path to normal everyday life.

“Our vaccination rates are currently among the highest in the state,” Zelek said. “While some local public health departments have faced attacks and harassment, we have felt overwhelming support from residents and county leadership who have taken the virus seriously since the pandemic began.”

For the community’s efforts — in Chatham and statewide — some aspects of regular life are starting to resume.

In a press conference late last month, Gov. Roy Cooper eased several restrictions under a new executive order. He lifted a modified stay-at-home order and increased gathering size limits. Businesses, including restaurants, retail stores and sports venues, can expand their operating capacities.

The welcome changes come as vaccine distribution accelerates. Three COVID-19 vaccines are now approved in the U.S. — from Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. Five Chatham distributors are authorized to give shots: UNC Health, CCPHD, Piedmont Health Services, Siler City Pharmacy and Walgreens. For more information and a full list of options in North Carolina, visit <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/findyourspot>.

What comes next?

It would be nice to relegate our pandemic woes to one year in the history books. But COVID-19’s effects are sure to endure for some time.

New variants of the virus in New York and California are spreading quickly and threaten to sidestep com-

munity immunization. Is another spike on its way? Will an evolved virus render our vaccines ineffectual? Will we have to lock down again?

Probably, probably not, and no, most experts say.

“The ground is shifting very, very quickly,” said Dr. Joshua T. Schiffer, an infectious disease specialist in Seattle, in an interview with the New York Times. In other words, much is yet unknown. New variants are likely to increase infection rates for a time, but vaccine efficacy despite new versions of the virus is probable.

The biggest determinant of future success in thwarting the virus, then, will be our own behavior.

“The single biggest lesson I’ve learned during the pandemic is that epidemiological modeling struggles with prediction, because so much of it depends on human behavioral factors,” said Carl Bergstrom, another Seattle expert in the same NYT report.

As some aspects of normalcy return, can we remain vigilant in limiting further spread, or will complacency undermine our efforts? Zelek hopes the memory of fallen Chathamites will inspire the former.

“In honor of the (79) Chatham residents who are no longer with us one year later,” he said, “let’s continue to practice the three W’s, get vaccinated when it is our turn and keep looking out for each other.”

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

Despite everyone’s exuberance to get back to in-person gatherings, I’m hoping that virtual platforms will continue to be utilized to diversify the voices at the table, increase participation, and frankly, save time! They have become an incredible tool to allow people far and wide to add varying perspectives to local discussions.

APRIL STARLING, *Chatham Arts Council*

The biggest change I will carry forward is personal. My wife and I have three grown children, all married that live in three different states. We’ve started monthly Zoom calls to check in and say hello. It is allowing us to stay more connected as a family despite the social distancing and distance of miles.

DANNY BERRIER, *pastor Chatham United Methodist Church*

The Pandemic has caused me to slow down, and given me space to appreciate time more — I hope permanently! I intend to keep enjoying small outdoor gatherings of friends on my porch. In my work world, we’ve had so many opportunities to re-examine what we do and how we do it, and to make changes to improve service and efficiency. I am committed to keeping these changes.

RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE ALLEN BADDOUR, *judicial district 15B*

The pandemic emphasized existing challenges like access to affordable health care and rural high speed internet that we must double down to fix. Also, I’ve been forced to become comfortable with more video conferencing and fewer in-person meetings, but that will open up new and better ways to communicate with people more frequently all across the state. And on a personal note, I’ve become an even greater fan of early morning, long walks that help me reflect and focus.

GOV. ROY COOPER

There will be some positives post-COVID. People will likely use technology more for meetings or working from home. A new standard for cleaning and sanitation will be on some people’s minds, at least for several years. There will continue to be more deliveries to our homes from online purchases, which can pose a risk to some of our locally-owned businesses. I will personally hold on to the need for personal relationships, especially gestures such as a smile, handshake or human contact. It is important to remember to have compassion for those who have lost loved ones, lost their jobs or dealt with isolation and depression during this pandemic. Due to the nature of our jobs, our staff members recognize that not everyone has dealt with COVID the

same way. A lot of people are still struggling, and while a vaccine is very important, it will not immediately fix the post-COVID situation.

MIKE ROBERSON, *Chatham County sheriff*

Plan to continue staying in frequent contact with family and friends. Will continue enjoying my outside landscaping and walks along the Haw River. Will likely keep a small bottle of hand sanitizer in my vehicle.

DENNIS STREETS, *executive director Chatham Council on Aging*

COVID-19 certainly presented its share of challenges, but before the pandemic I was often guilty of saving the ‘good’ stuff for later, be it the weekend, vacation, a holiday, whatever. Post-pandemic I plan to continue to keep all the good things in my life in constant rotation and regular use. The good china, the good wine, the special outfit will all come out on average Tuesdays when it’s grilled cheese for lunch. Our time here is so short and so unpredictable and it took a pandemic to illustrate just how fragile we are and how quickly it can all change. I don’t intend to forget that any time soon.

KAREN HOWARD, *Chatham County Commissioner*

I have never been content at home alone, yet now I revel in it. Content, left with only my thoughts, choosing carefully when and how I connect with the world outside. It’s taken me a full year to get to this place, done completely out of necessity. And yet, it now feels like a gift. A gift of truly knowing me and a gift of peace.

LINDA SMITH, *retired professional development specialist at UNC*

During the pandemic, my wife and I started having dance parties after supper with our three young children. Musical tastes might change, but I hope our kids will continue to boogie with me until they are teenagers. The church I serve as pastor has begun a Sunday afternoon prayer meeting with a historically Black church. We want these relationships to grow and deepen. Finally, I have also started the habit of eating a piece or two of chocolate after lunch — a little sweetness every day.

ANDREW TROUTMAN, *pastor at Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church*

My family has really embraced the Zoom Celebrations. We were able to honor my Aunt’s 88th Birthday with relatives in California, Texas, Illinois, Maryland and North Carolina. We often talked on the phone but we had not seen each other since the ‘80s. During the Holidays, our celebrations included the virtual DJ, games, dancing and a

virtual photo booth. We plan to keep this ‘new tradition.’

At school, I hope the computer devices remain with the students and that CCS will provide more hotspots.

SAUNDRA GARDNER, *Communities In Schools board member*

Working at home was not a difficult shift for us because my husband and I both telecommuted with Nortel Networks in the late ‘90s and early 2000s, and a couple of other positions since. Our biggest adjustment was the shift of my husband to our primary shopper, and his lack of business travel. Man, I miss putzing around the grocery store and Target. Once we get our vaccinations, I look forward to returning to the creative writing classes I teach for Central Carolina Community College, meeting friends for dinner and a drink, visiting my family in other states and adventuring in far-off lands. I do think we’ll carry on the practice of face masks in public for the

After a year in the COVID-19 pandemic, many things about the way we live have likely changed for good. We asked community members what change(s) they plan to carry into a post-pandemic world. Here are some of their responses.

fore-seable future, though, which I find neither insulting nor daunting.

DOLLY R. SICKLES, *local author*

Telehealth and the ability to provide counseling services to those who are unable to leave home or a vulnerable population. Occasionally, people with depression don’t feel like leaving home. Telehealth will allow me to serve clients without the need of leaving the comfort of their home. Wearing a mask in the winter because it keeps my face warm plus germ protection. Win-win! I will carry forward an improved self-awareness of what I am touching and being more conscious of the distance of other people. Finally, a deeper form of resilience. An unshakable belief that we as people are resilient — we will figure it out and overcome our challenges.

ASHLEIGH GLOVER, *Chatham Counseling & Wellness*

Life is a pocket full of two-sided coins, ones of mine that got a good buffing in 2020 include:

1. It’s hard to recognize fair-weather friends — enjoy manic moments;
2. Isn’t that your friend in the chipper? See #1 with red, white and blue glasses;
3. Ignorance is bliss — let’s all act sweet.

CRAIG WITTER, *Pittsboro Youth Theater*

The pandemic virus has allowed me to think about how precious relationships are and to make time and help others along the way. COVID-19 slowed me down where I read my Bible daily and that has taught me to forgive, not to forget but to focus on the present and the future.

MARY NETTLES, *president Chatham Community NAACP and Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham*

I think I’ll be carrying hand sanitizer as a part of my keychain.

GEORGE GREGER-HOLT, *coordinator Chatham Drug Free*

I began walking my neighborhood two miles per day in the early evening during the pandemic and I will continue to do so. The daily walk has improved my physical health and it brings me a few minutes of quiet and mental clarity each day.

DANIEL K. SIMMONS, *CEO Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina*

My adopted sequester practice has become one of reaching out to people I have known in the past but with whom I have not been in touch. Each renewed conversation by email or phone begins with sharing the good memories, the attributes which were admired, why the relationship mattered, and thanking them for touching my life in a positive way — keeping the focus on them, not me. Many pleasant conversations resulted and relationships renewed — even if for a few hours or days. It is sufficient. And we both could smile and celebrate the good things that life brings. The initiative is now adopted as a continuing habit.

LOWELL HOFFMAN

What changes have impacted my life as a pastor at Mays Chapel Baptist Church (Bear Creek) and adjunct professor finishing his Ph.D. in biblical studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary? For one, we have embraced having a more dynamic and flexible approach to ministry. We have been gathering together outside for ‘drive-in’ services since the beginning of the pandemic last March. This has its challenges (especially in extreme temperatures), but also many blessings as we safely reach many who otherwise would not feel comfortable attending in-building services. Second, we do not take fellowship for granted. We must be wise as serpents but harmless as doves and have found many creative ways to encourage and serve our shut-ins and those living alone. Lastly, the pandemic has opened so many new doors to serve our community and beyond through partnerships with the Deep River Park Assoc., Union Taylors Community Action Center, and the Men’s/Women’s Shelter in Sanford. We also set up a ‘blessings box’ at Mays Chapel to serve those in need with diapers, canned foods and other non-perishable essentials.

GREG LAMB, *pastor Mays Chapel Baptist Church*

I will be able to easily go to gatherings on Zoom that would be very difficult, distant, expensive in both time, energy and money to attend in person. We in Rotary will be able to invite guest speakers on Zoom who would not possibly be able to make the trip in person. See above in reverse. I expect we will continue to

eat at home more and restaurant less than we did BC.

A little bit more hermit peace and quiet than BC. But I surely hope to be back in Kenan Stadium for football games and the Dean Dome for basketball.

DR. JOHN DYKERS

I want to keep taking time to explore my passions. Performing virtual plays, writing a newspaper column and reading a book every week are just a few that come to mind. I also want to carry over the empathy and compassion that many of us felt at the onset of the pandemic.

RACHEL HOROWITZ, *Chatham County Schools teacher*

I think my concept of ‘personal space’ and friendly displays of affection — a hug, handshake or kiss on the cheek when greeting close friends — is gone forever.

MAYME BOYD, *co-chair Communities In Schools board of directors*

I’ve really enjoyed engaging with far-flung family, friends, colleagues and work associates using video conferencing. We had it before the pandemic, but it wasn’t so widely used. It’s helped me feel more connected, and enabled me to learn more, faster. I hope we can continue using tools like Zoom, post pandemic. And I hope we finally address the digital divide, so that many more people are able to have access.

JOHN BONITZ, *Pittsboro commissioner*

At the meadery, we started doing flights on homemade flight boards in lieu of face-to-face tastings. We plan to keep those even after we go back to doing tastings. We also finally got the fire pit going outside and everyone’s loved that!

BECKY STARR, *Starrlight Mead*

I’ve challenged myself to learn something new every day. Something that is outside of my own domain of knowledge. It started as a way for me to take my mind off of the unknown and the anxiety generated by the pandemic, and ended up being a beautiful way to start my morning.

LISA FEDELE, *The Alliance*

I am certainly looking forward to a post pandemic world and hope we can achieve that scenario very soon. I have been very fortunate to have already been given my second vaccine dose, but still I plan to continue mask wearing when I’m out in public. I think this continues to set a good example for those who have not received a vaccine so that they can see that mask wearing is still one of the most important ways to stop the spread. And of course, continue with hand washing and social distancing when you are around people you do not know. As my mother always said, ‘Better safe, than sorry.’

JANE J. WRENN, *The Salvation Army Chatham County*

My husband and I have gotten closer during the pandemic. Slowing down and being together more, we’ve paid attention to each other’s needs during this stressful time. I think we’re each more tender and accepting of the other. I renewed my meditation practice and will continue with that. I’ve also come to value slowing down and quiet time. Consequently, my reading has gone up exponentially. And of course, I’ve had more hours to write, which is my most productive time.

MIRINDA KOSSOFF, *author of The Rope of Life: A Memoir*

The COVID-19 pandemic

forced us to focus on creating an outdoor customer experience. I believe that will continue. Customers seem to appreciate trees, plantings, birds, grass etc. At the Plant we will continue to bring on new outdoor spaces, new shade structures, more outdoor seating, improved trails, etc.

LYLE ESTILL, *Fair Game Beverage Company*

I will carry a renewed appreciation for my family and the importance of self-care. Nothing aches like being separated from a loved one — missing out on hugs and smiles and milestones — but I’ve found new ‘old’ ways to connect, like sending cards or flowers, photographs or handwritten notes to keep in touch. I’ve found great comfort in these practices! I’ve also taken time to self-reflect, reconnect, and reevaluate my priorities, goals, and individual needs during this time of isolation. Spending more time alone has helped me develop a clear vision of my physical/mental health and wellbeing, and I look forward to continuing to apply mindfulness practices post-COVID, like spending time outdoors, journaling or doing other activities I enjoy.

LT. SARA PACK, *Chatham County Sheriff’s Office*

I think the biggest change for me has to be having a spirit of thankfulness for the activities and social interactions we take for granted on a daily basis.

KEVIN FORSTER, *Northwood men’s soccer head coach*

Don’t take things for granted. Oftentimes, we are focused on what we are doing a day, a week, a month from now; however we should be living in the moment because it is an instance we are unable to experience again. In a blink of an eye, your way of life can change for the better or worse, which oftentimes is out of our control. Let us learn from the past, live in the moment and have an optimistic view of the future.

CAMERON ISENHOUR, *Northwood cross country head coach*

(The girls) have not yet had a chance to play a game, but in my watching the Jordan-Matthews boys soccer team, I can see this feeling in them too. They play their games with smiles on their faces. You can see the joy they are experiencing in playing again, and so there is no time for complaining about playing time or fussing with each other about small things. The gift, the soccer season, is here, and they are treating it that way. I hope to take this into our post-pandemic world, seeing everything as a gift. It is a gift I get to spend time with my family, a gift to work (to have a good job) and provide for them, and also a gift that I get to play and coach soccer, even if there is extra work to make all of those things happen.

CHIP MILLARD, *Jordan-Matthews women’s soccer head coach*

COVID-19 took the life of a buddy of mine, A. Lynn Lockrow. I miss him. I also lost my job when my former employer, a trade show and exhibit company in the RTP named ZigZibit, contracted to less than 10% its pre-pandemic size; indeed, the entire entertainment industry has been shattered. With no Broadway tours coming through DPAC, my union card opens no doors in Durham. There is no show biz. But my family is healthy, and for that I am grateful. We go shopping for my mother so she need not expose herself unnecessarily to the contagion. She gets her last vaccination shot this week, and we want to celebrate her birthday this summer!

DWAYNE WALLS JR., *Chatham resident*

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OBITUARIES

JOYCE STALKER POE



Joyce Stalker Poe, 88, of Siler City passed away on Monday, March 1, 2021, at her home in Siler City.

Mrs. Poe was born in Randolph County on March 28, 1932, the daughter of Claude and Jessie Farlow Stalker.

Joyce was a member of Staley Baptist Church. She loved talking on the phone and never met a stranger. Joyce was an excellent listener and you could talk with her about anything; your secret was safe with her. She was very loved by all, and loved her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all her friends. She was a wonderful mother and wife to her husband Colon. In addition to her parents, Joyce is preceded in death by her husband, Luther Colon Poe, a grandson, Joey Jacques and brother, Ed Stalker.

She is survived by her daughters, Jessie Martin of Staley, Janice “Zavannah” Peck of Siler City, and Jeanette Teague of the home; sons, Joshua Poe and wife Gretel of Staley, and Jeff Gallimore of Durham; 21 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-granddaughters; and her special friend, Debbie McNeill.

Mrs. Poe Laid in Repose on Thursday, March 4, 2021, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City, N.C. A graveside service was held on Friday, March 5, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Oakwood Cemetery, N. Chatham Ave., Siler City with Rev. Roger Carlson officiating and Chaplain Sam Garris.

Memorials may be made to Liberty Hospice of Sanford, 1005 Carthage Street, Sanford, N.C. 27330 or Staley Baptist Church, 440 W. Railroad St., Liberty, N.C. 27298

The family would like to give a special thanks to the staff of Liberty Hospice Care.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Poe family.

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

JOHN COURTRIGHT CUSTER



John married his high school sweetheart, Jean Ann Schlosser of Garden City, N.Y., in 1951 and they were married for 53 years until her death in 2004. They had two children. John Robert Custer is a mechanical engineer and lives in Indianapolis. He is married to Pat Barber Custer and they have two daughters. Katherine Barber Custer lives with John and Pat in Indianapolis. Elizabeth Sloane Cabrera and her husband, Jorge Carbrera and their daughter, Lyla, live in Miami. Nancy Custer Chescheir is an obstetrician-gynecologist and lives in Chapel Hill, N.C. She is married to George (Chip) Chescheir and they have two sons. Alex Courtright Chescheir lives in Durham and Stuart Cecil Chescheir and his wife, Ashley Edlund-Chescheir live in Geneva, N.Y.

Mr. Custer was very involved with his grandchildren, all of whom either saw him regularly or spoke to him at least weekly. During the weeks before his death, he was brightened by hearing Lyla read poetry to him over video visits and in person.

John was fortunate to have found the second love of his life, Dora Nissen Mann, and they married in 2006. Although prematurely shortened due to her death in 2008, they shared a wonderful love that inspired many people.

After graduation he worked continuously for the Mason and Hanger-Silas Mason Company, a defense contractor, until he retired as Chairman of Board in 1996. He was also Chairman of the Board of Directors of Benchmark Electronic until 2001. His work was primarily in defense contracting, which entailed multiple moves to Texas, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Iowa, California and Kentucky. As well, he traveled extensively internationally with work, and later for pleasure.

John and Jean retired to Pittsboro, N.C., in 1996 where he was active with several local organizations including SCORE, Deep River Mediation at the Pittsboro Courthouse, United Way of Chatham County, and Fearington Cares, the Newman Center and governance committees for Fearington Village and Galloway Ridge. His commitment to finding solutions to problems, attention to detail, compassion, loyalty, and ability to connect to people of all ages informed his work and leisure time. In addition to travel, Mr. Custer enjoyed golf, reading and learning, bridge, a spirited conversation, crossword puzzles, and friends. John and eleven friends from high school, collectively known as the Elephants — for undisclosed but perhaps bawdy reasons — remained close from high school to the present time.

He is survived by his brother Robert Custer and his wife, Gerry Custer. They have two sons, David and Jonathon Custer. His brother James Custer is deceased, but his wife Phyllis and four sons, Corkey, William, Tom, and Jeff survive. One son, Mike, is deceased. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, William Schlosser and his children, Brooke, Caitlin and Brett.

A memorial mass will be held at the Newman Center in Chapel Hill, N.C., in April. In lieu of flowers, Mr. Custer asked that those who wished to do so could make a donation to the organization of their choice that promotes access to resources and equity, such as Special Olympics, food banks, or court mediation services.

The family would like to thank the physicians, nurses, therapists and staff of the UNC Health System who provided expert and compassionate care for Mr. Custer and to the staff at Galloway Ridge.

JOSEPH FIELDS ROBERTSON

Joseph Fields Robertson passed away peacefully on the morning of February 11, 2021, at The Lower Cape Fear Life Center in Wilmington, N.C.

Joe was a resident of Bear Creek, N.C., since 1980. He graduated with a degree in engineering from Wake Technical College. He served in the U.S. Navy, including Vietnam.

Joe leaves many friends in the Bear Creek and Siler City area. He also leaves behind his brother, Larry and four nephews, Todd, Chad, Jared, and Wes Robertson.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to The Lower Cape Fear Life Center, Wilmington, N.C.

A private ceremony will be held at a later date.

STACY KIRK WOODY



Stacy Kirk Woody, 38, of Siler City joined her Lord and Savior on March 6, 2021.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Wesley and Geraldine Kirk.

She leaves behind her husband Donnie and their children, Anna, Jackson and Elliott, also, many aunts, uncles, and other cherished family members.

Stacy received her RN from UNCG in 2017 and committed her life to helping others. In her free time, Stacy loved going to the beach, boating, and being outdoors. She especially enjoyed spending time with her close friends Emily, Beth, Lindsey, Yasmine and her childhood friend, Ryan Andrews. Stacy was a ray of sunshine to everyone and to know her was to love her. She will be missed dearly.

A memorial graveside service will be held on Friday, March 19, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Oakley Baptist Church Cemetery, 2300 Siler City-Glendon Road, Siler City, with Brandon Butler officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Autism Society of N.C. local branch: Camp Royall, Att: Sara Gage, 250 Bill Ash Road, Moncure, N.C. 27559.

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

DANIEL CRAIG DRIGGERS

Daniel Craig Driggers, 33, of Sanford, passed away Sunday, February 28, 2021.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 5, 2021, at Poplar Springs United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Keith Miller officiating.

Daniel was born on May 8, 1987, son of Mark Floyd Lewis and Misty Dawn Driggers. He was preceded in death by his brother, Robert Glenn Lewis II, and grandfathers, Robert Glenn Lewis and Larry Thomas Driggers.

Survivors include his parents, Mark Lewis of Goldston and Misty Dawn Driggers of Sanford; children, Leah Driggers of Broadway, Jayda Marie Driggers of Raleigh, and Daniel Craig Driggers Jr. of Vass; brother, Thomas Brumley of Sanford; and grandmother, Susan Driggers of Sanford.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials may be made to the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 370, Broadway, N.C. 27505 for funeral expenses.

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

CHRISTINE WILMOTH GENTRY

Christine Wilmoth Gentry, 90, of Cana, Virginia, died Monday, March 1, 2021, at Heritage Hall of Laurel Meadows in Laurel Fork, Virginia.

Graveside funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 6, 2021, at Charity United Methodist Church Cemetery in Elkin with Rev. Garland Smith officiating.

She was born in Surry County, daughter of the late Zedrick Bailey Wilmoth and Mamie Leona Pardew Wilmoth. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Richard Paul Gentry, sisters, Marie Pfaff, Ruby Semones, Frances Draughn, Geraldine Myers, brother, Lester Wilmoth, and one great-grandson.

Surviving are her daughters, Jeanette Gentry Holt of Cana, Virginia, Bonnie Gentry Brim of Mt. Airy; sons, Lonnie R. Gentry of Walnut Cove, Joseph W. Gentry of Mt. Airy; 14 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

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

STEPHEN ANTHONY GARNER

Stephen Anthony Garner, 61, of Sanford passed away on Thursday, March 4, 2021, at his home.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home, with burial following at Lee memory Garden.

WILLIE MAE (PATTISALL) WILLIAMS

Mrs. Willie Mae Pattisall Williams, 90, passed away on Friday, February 26, 2021 at her home.

Funeral services were held at 12 p.m. Thursday, March 4, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Pittsboro with burial following at the Pittsboro Community Cemetery.

Mrs. Williams was born on December 24, 1930, in Chatham County, to the late Fred Moore and Willie Mae Moore. A life-long native of Chatham County, she was a member of Staunton Memorial C.M.E. Church in Pittsboro.

Survivors include her husband, Russell Williams of the home; a daughter, Ms. Willie Ann Pattisall of Pittsboro; three grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

ANNIE LAURA BUCHANAN SEYMORE

Annie Laura Buchanan Seymore, 87, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, March 4, 2021, at her home.

Graveside funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 7, 2021, at Buffalo Cemetery with Rev. Garland Smith officiating.

She was born in Harnett County on August 23, 1933, to Alton and Madie Buchanan. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, David E. Seymore, and siblings Sophie McNeill, Vada Tingen, Faye Cotton, Arlene Crissman, Mary Lee Buchanan and Alton B. Buchanan Jr.

She is survived by her sister, Sue McNeill of Broadway; daughters, Linda Patterson and Darlene Gurtis, both of Sanford, Lisa Jackson of Pinehurst; son, Randy Seymore of Sanford; nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

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

SAMMY CHATMAN

Sammy Chatman, 64, of Cameron passed away Monday, February 22, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

CHIEF APOSTLE SAMUEL THOMAS SR.

Chief Apostle Samuel Thomas Sr., 88, passed away Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at his home.

Graveside service was held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 7, 2021 in Lee Memory Garden.

VIRGINIA (PUGH) DEGRAFFENREIDT

Mrs. Virginia Pugh Degraffenreidt, 88, of Siler City passed away Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

A funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 6, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

BRANTON HIRAM THOMAS

Branton Hiram Thomas, 85, formerly of Broadway, died Thursday, March 4, 2021 at Oak Hill Assisted Living in Angier.

Graveside services were conducted at 4 p.m. Sunday at Broadway Town Cemetery with Rev. Garland Smith officiating.

He was born in Harnett County, son of the late Hiram B. and Cornelia Clark Thomas. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Roy M. Thomas Sr., Holloway Thomas Bill Thomas, sisters, Nancy T. Cameron, Betty Lou Rogers and his wife, Helen T. Thomas. Branton retired from the City of Sanford with over 30 years of service.

Surviving is his daughter, Brenda T. Walden; two grandchildren; and a sister, Phyllis Thomas.

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

ALICE FAYE ELKINS

Alice Faye Elkins, 80, passed away Wednesday morning, March 3, 2021.

A service in her memory will be held at a later date.

A Chatham County native, Alice was born April 24, 1940, daughter of the late Dorothy Campbell and Bernist Whitaker. She drove a school bus and worked as a teacher’s aide for 24 years. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by brothers Elwood Whitaker and Jerry Whitaker.

Survivors include her husband of 61 years, William Clyde Elkins Sr.; son, William Clyde Elkins Jr. of Pittsboro; daughter, Sharon Gregory of Lillington; brothers, Donald E. Whitaker and Charles E. Whitaker; one granddaughter and four great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please submit donations in her memory to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Lighthouse Fund, c/o Rev. Robert Elmore, 1309 N. Pea Ridge Rd., Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

VICKIE MCCANN FISHER

Vickie McCann Fisher, 69, of Cameron, passed away on Sunday, February 28, 2021, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Lemon Springs United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Kent Miller officiating.

She was born in Lee County on August 27, 1951, to the late Lacy Ralph McCann and Gladys Jeffers McCann Hayes. Vickie worked at Eaton Corporation and at Pfizer as a manufacturing specialist until her retirement in 2013. She also served as secretary of Back Country Horseman of Uwharrie. Vickie was an active member of Lemon Springs United Methodist Church where she served in many capacities including being a puppeteer in the Puppet Ministry, singing in the choir, serving on the board of trustees and she was the church treasurer for the last ten years.

She is survived by her husband, Chuck; son, Christopher Brad Key of The Netherlands; brother, Robert McCann of Holly Springs; sisters, Carolyn Thomas of Sanford, Ann Patterson of Sanford, Linda Hall of Cameron and three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Lemon Springs United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 129, Lemon Springs, N.C. 28355.

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

See **OBITUARIES**, page A12

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CARD OF THANKS

The family of Rodney Marsh would like to thank you very much for the cards, flowers, monetary gifts and kind expressions of sympathy at his passing. Your support at this difficult time was much appreciated and of comfort to the family.

A new bank is coming to Pittsboro

It's been a tough year for most businesses. But some, such as Fuquay-Varina-based Fidelity Bank, have thrived — so much so that it's planning to open a new location in Pittsboro.

Fidelity Bank (not to be confused with Fidelity Investments Inc., the multi-trillion dollar asset-holding financial services company headquartered in Boston) recently filed a new branch application with the North Carolina Commissioner of Banks, requesting authority to open a site at Industrial Drive, as first reported by the Triangle Business Journal last week.

Fidelity Bank representatives, including CEO Mary Willis, did not respond to News + Record requests for comment, but the bank's behavior suggests what you already know: Pittsboro is a hotbed for new businesses hoping to cash in on the town's expected growth.

It's the perfect spot for a small but ambitious institution like Fidelity. The bank is hungry for further expansion having capitalized on unique pandemic opportunities to elevate its stature in a crowd of national giants such as JP Morgan and Wells Fargo.

When the Paycheck Protection Program was announced last year, Fidelity Bank had about \$2 billion in assets. But the bank rallied to attract new customers through PPP, and issued a bigger share of the government funded loans than its footprint should have allowed. The result: 30% asset growth within a few months and a host of new customers to propel future expansion.

Now, the company holds \$2.9 billion and operates 57 locations across North Carolina and Virginia, according to the TBJ.

But the move is something of a gamble.

Some experts anticipate the worst of our pandemic-impelled economic fallout may yet lie ahead, and banks especially could face crippling losses in coming months.

The banking industry as a whole stands on precarious ground. Every metric should indicate a grim market. Interest rates are historically low, which hurts bank profit. Millions nationwide are out of work and strapped for cash, so credit card spending has dawdled. Many are living off savings, leaving banks with fewer assets to invest.

That's why lugubrious finance gurus say a precipitous crash is coming — something à la 2008's housing bubble crisis.

"You may think that such a crisis is unlikely, with memories of the 2008 crash still so fresh. But banks learned few lessons from that calamity, and new laws intended to keep them from taking on too much risk have failed to



Courtesy of Fidelity Bank

Fidelity Bank, based in Fuquay-Varina, has plans to open a new branch in Pittsboro at Industrial Drive.

do so," Frank Partnoy, a law professor and finance expert at UC Berkeley, wrote in The Atlantic last summer.

"As a result, we could be on the precipice of another crash, one different from 2008 less in kind than in degree," he added. "This one could be worse."

Since then, the economy has stayed about level. But seeming stability does not preclude the oncoming trough, Partnoy warned.

"The present is analogous not to the fall of 2008, when the U.S. was in full-blown crisis," he said, "but to the summer of 2007, when some securities were going underwater but no one yet knew what the upshot would be."

Anticipating such potential disaster, major banks around the country began stockpiling reserves at the pandemic's start. But most are loosening their spending habits as conditions appear to recover. Last year's economic decline was not the result of legitimate systemic shortcomings, they say, but of an irregular and temporary tempest which is finally abating.

I agree with the banks. Sure, there's still the chance that a wave of indebted consumers default on their bank loans when government stimulus money dries up and forbearance programs expire. But a national fervor for the resumption of regular life suggests a boom in spending that will offset bank losses.

Already, banks are reporting upticks in profitability. JP Morgan has seen mortgages and auto loans rise 20% from a year ago, according to the New York Times. Profits from stock trading went up 32% and earnings from bonds, currencies, commodities and other products have risen by 15%.

Wells Fargo, Citigroup and other major players have published similar reports.

Should Partnoy's forecast come to bear, a small institution in high-earning markets such as Fidelity Bank should be insulated from much of the catastrophe. The move to Pittsboro is a good one — for the bank and future borrowers.

Have an idea for what Chatham business topics I should write about? Send me a note at dldolder@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @dldolder.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

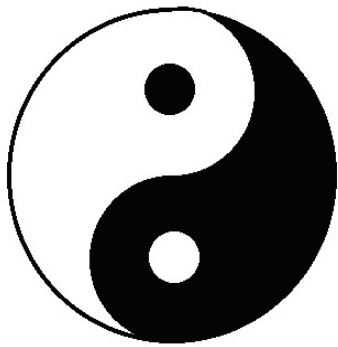
UNBRIDLED ENERGY

ACROSS											
1	Elevates	62	Liquid-emptying conduit	114	Bagel salmon	13	Doctors in training	53	Shah's land	93	Contest competitor
9	Faithful attendant in "Othello"	115	1980s Pontiac	116	JVC rival	14	"Boyfriend" singer	54	Horse noise	96	Film's Hitchcock
15	Maritime	65	Bits of land in la mer	117	Bacterium that requires oxygen	15	"You — have worried"	55	Boat in Venice	97	Ugandan despot Amin
20	Intensify	66	Pollute	119	Shady recess	16	According to	56	Theda of silent films	98	Girls in family trees
21	Quark model particles	68	Target of Arrid or Sure	121	Riddle's answer	17	Enthusiasm	57	Describe by drawing	100	Listening accessory for an iPod
22	Kagan of justice	69	Riddle, part 4	125	Sleep loudly	18	Markswoman	58	Potentially offensive, for short	101	Text written for commercials
23	Start of a riddle	76	Some purple flowers	126	Turns out	19	Surgical beam source	63	Disloyal sorts	102	Oahu shindig
25	Deserves	77	Drifting types	127	Bring back in from another country	24	Encircle with a belt	64	Capital of South Dakota	104	Tiny pieces
26	Violinists' rub-ons	79	Place side by side for contrast	128	Axed down	29	Sue Grafton's "— for Evidence"	66	Throw easily	105	Overly, emphatically
27	Radio's Glass or Flatow	82	Ayres of "State Fair"	129	Not wobbling	33	Papas' other halves	67	Lhasa's land	106	Writer Camus
28	Fished for morays	83	Scoold	130	Florida city south of Tampa Bay	34	Central German river	70	Narrow inlets	107	Midday snooze
30	Jostle (for)	86	— out a living	DOWN							
31	In — (mired)	87	ID for the IRS	1	Put a fresh bandage on	35	Deputy: Abbr.	73	Strewn, as seeds	108	Really mark down
32	Riddle, part 2	88	Riddle, part 5	2	Onto dry land	36	Oct. clock setting	74	Military group	109	Singer Lena
37	English diarist Samuel	91	Part of MCAT	3	Frosts over	38	Plan detail	75	"Yes" signals	110	"The — Incident" (Henry Fonda film)
39	Confuses	93	Fair-hiring abbr.	4	Soundness of mind	42	Choose (to)	79	Boeing plane	111	Singer with the #1 hit "Royals"
40	Aviary homes	94	Irate, with "off"	5	Enthusiasm	44	Fishing pole	80	Hawaiian guitar, for short	112	Bottom point
41	Apple, e.g.	95	"The Office" actor Wilson	6	Taco sauce	46	Asmara native	81	Lamb nurser	118	Humorist Bombeck
43	Next yr.'s alums	99	Cure provider	7	Hagen of Broadway	47	Midday snooze	83	In — (prior to birth)	120	Metal source
45	Look after	103	"Cómo —?" (Spanish greeting)	8	According to	48	Salon supply	84	Start for eminent	122	"That — lie!"
49	Riddle, part 3	108	End of the riddle	9	Chef Lagasse	49	"Understood, dude"	85	— one's time	123	Divs. of days
56	With 59-Across, DVD format	113	E. — (bacterium)	10	Threaten	50	Farm tower	89	Chocolate snack cake	124	"For" vote
59	See 56-Across	108	End of the riddle	11	Lead-in to thermal	51	Un-, non-, pro- and con-	90	Lone Star State coll.		
60	Supervises			12	Sophia of "Firepower"	52	Vacation getaway	92	Mr. Capote, informally		
61	— Speedwagon										

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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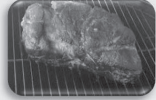
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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A10

ROBERT WAYNE EVERETT SR.

Robert Wayne Everett Sr., 76, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, March 5, 2021, at his home.

The funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Monday, March 8, 2021, at Calvary Missionary Methodist Church with Rev. Curtis Norris officiating. Burial followed in Johnson Family Cemetery.

He was born in Lee County on September 9, 1944, to the late Fletcher Jones Everett Sr. and Amina Hall Everett. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Edward Hall, Fletcher Everett and a grandson. Robert worked many years at Carter Weber and was a member of Calvary Missionary Methodist Church.

Robert is survived by his wife, Jean; sons, Robert Everett Jr. of Sanford, Nicholas Chad Everett of Broadway, Robin O'Quinn of Sanford; daughters, Pamela "Sissy" Fore of Sanford, Gala Bunch of Aberdeen; brothers, Elbert Hall and Billy Everett, both of Sanford; sister, Joanne Dover of Sanford; eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

MINNIE REGINA MINTER

Ms. Minnie Regina Minter, 60, of Sanford, passed away, Sunday, February 28, 2021, at Duke University Hospital, Durham.

A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 6, 2021, at Lee Memory Garden.

LUCILLE C. GOLDSTON

Mrs. Lucille Christine Goldston, 85, of Siler City passed away Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at UNC Chapel Hill Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

DEWEY FRANKLIN BRITT JR.

Dewey Franklin Britt Jr., 59, of Eagle Springs, died Thursday, March 4, 2021, at his home.

The family will hold a memorial service at a later date.

Dewey was born in Montgomery County, in 1961, son of the late Dewey F. Britt Sr. and Blanche Maness Britt. He served in the United States Navy as an Aviation Machinists Mate (AD3). He worked for Charles Phillips Plumbing for many years. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his sister, Laverne Cockman.

He is survived by sisters, Annette Caldwell Joyce of Asheboro, Vera Warren of Robbins; and a brother, Walter Powers of North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The family has requested that donations be made in his honor to Animal Advocates of Moore County, P.O. Box 3399, Pinehurst, N.C. 28374 or the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, 1500 Rosecrans Ave., Suite 200, Manhattan Beach, California 90266.

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

RONNIE MARSH

Ronnie Marsh, 60, of Siler City passed away Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at his residence.

Services provided by Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

LISTON SUMPTER

Mr. Liston Sumpter, 86, passed away on Friday, March 5, 2021.

Family and friends are being received at the home of his daughter, 1925 Rosser Pittman Rd., Broadway.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

GROSVENOR TEACHER FELLOWS

Chatham Central's Amy King a National Geographic fellow

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN

News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — Amy King was leaving her son's basketball game in Bennett in February 2020 when she saw she'd missed a call from National Geographic.

King

She knew what that call likely meant: that she'd been accepted into the prestigious 2021 cohort of Grosvenor Teacher Fellows, a field-based professional development opportunity meant to help educators bring new geographic awareness into their learning communities. Driving through Bennett, she didn't have cell service; she had to wait until she got home to confirm the news.

Nearly one year after she received that call, King is finally able to share her accomplishment.

"Wow, it's been a long road," said King, a history teacher at Chatham Central High School.

When she found out she was a 2020 Grosvenor Fellow — part of the 50-person 14th cohort, selected from more than 2,000 applicants — she thought she'd travel to D.C. for a week training at the end of March and embark on her international expedition — at which she'd explore American history, which she teaches — in May.

"And three weeks later, everything shut down," King said, adding that National Geographic called to say D.C. wouldn't happen and that they weren't sure about the status of the group's trips. "Everything was put on hold, and it has been put on hold from February of 2020 — until now."

Travel for the fellows is still on hold, but once it's possible, small groups of fellows will embark on a one- to three-week voyages aboard a Lindblad Expeditions ship to various international locations. The trip will include field experience as well as training with researchers and scientists aboard the Lindblad — and livestream and video technology for educators to share their experiences with their students.

The Fellows were selected from a competitive applicant pool of pre-K-12 educators, the National Geographic's website says, from all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

"The formal and informal educators in this group were chosen for their impactful work to further students' understanding of the planet and its people, empowering them to generate solutions for a healthier and more sustainable future," the website says. "Their work focuses on inspiring youth to become environmental stewards, mentoring and amplifying student leaders, and tackling complex issues such as climate change."

As part of the fellowship, members of the cohort make a two-year leadership commitment, serving as "program ambassadors" in the National Geographic community to educate their communities.

King, who was named one of 10 finalists for the 2019 National History Teacher of the Year Award, has been recognized for her hands-on and creative digital lesson planning for students. She regularly incorporates multimedia such as podcasts into her lessons, with the aim of making learning about history as experience-driven as possible for her students.

She's also committed herself to teaching what she calls "hard history," helping to share students who can be better stewards of history, and how it relates to current events.

Being named a Grosvenor Fellow still feels a bit surreal, King said, but she's excited to see how the fellowship can help her students. She credits her school community for allowing her to take chances in the classroom with lesson planning, and fellow teacher, Jordan-Matthew's Wendi Pillars, for encouraging her to apply. Pillars was a Grosvenor Fellow in 2017.

"I thought there's no way I would actually get this," King said, emphasizing her desire to get her students excited about learning. "Hopefully this Grosvenor teacher fellowship is going to bring that even more to students where they experience something new and different. And hopefully, it'll be as amazing for them as it is for me."

She's excited for herself, but she's really excited for all the "opportunities and possibilities" the fellowship might bring her students.

"I went to Chatham Central, so I'm an alumni, and I grew up here," King said. "It's a very small community, a wonderful community. But a lot of the kids here don't get experiences like this, international experiences. And so I think what I'm most looking forward to, is actually being on an expedition and sharing this opportunity with my students in real time, if possible, or at least by video, because many of them will never get an opportunity like this."

"I'm really eager for them to see what I see," she added.

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

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FREE PRESCHOOL
Quality Preschool Openings Available




Chatham County NC Pre-K has openings for eligible 4 year old children in its high quality classrooms for FALL 2021.

Pre-K openings are available at Bennett School, Chatham Child Development Center, Children First Learning Center, North Chatham School, Pasitos Felices, Perry Harrison School, Pittsboro Elementary, Siler City Elementary School, Telamon Head Start, and Virginia Cross Elementary School.

The program is FREE for children who qualify. To be eligible for NC Pre-K, a child must turn 4 years old on or before August 31, 2021 and meet other qualifications. Applications are available at www.chathamkids.org/NCPK or at each school site. Call Sheen at 919-542-7449 ext. 131 for more information.

NC Pre-K is administered by Chatham County Partnership for Children 


PREESCOLAR GRATIS



Las Escuelas del Condado Chatham NC Pre-K tiene puestos disponibles paraniños elegibles de 4 años de edad en sus salones de clases de alta calidad para el OTOÑO del 2021. Las matriculas para Preescolar están disponibles en las siguientes escuelas y centros educativos.

Bennett School, Chatham Child Development Center, Children First Learning Center, North Chatham School, Pasitos Felices, Perry Harrison School, Pittsboro Elementary, Siler City Elementary School, Telamon Head Start and Virginia Cross Elementary School.

El programa es GRATIS para los niños que califi can. Para ser elegible en NC Pre-K, un niño debe tener 4 años en o antes del 31 de Agosto, 2021 y llenar otros requisitos. Las aplicaciones están disponibles en línea: www.chathamkids.org/NCPK o en cada escuela o centro educativo. Comuníquese con Sheen al 919-542-7449 ext. 131 para obtener más información.

El Preescolar NK es administrado por la Alianza por los Niños del Condado de Chatham (Chatham County Partnership for Children) 

HOMELESS

Continued from page A1

circumstances such as rising unemployment made breaking the cycle nearly impossible. For others — already teetering between housing security, mental stability and emotional health — unwelcome isolation from statewide lockdown pushed them beyond their limits.

But the problem existed long before COVID-19 arrived in the U.S. At the start of 2019, 568,000 people were known to be homeless across the country, according to the most recently available data from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development — about 15,000 more than in the year before.

That’s 17 in 10,000 Americans, and the numbers likely under represent the problem’s breadth.

“The homelessness population in Chatham is a challenge,” said Wrenn, whose organization is one of the county’s leading philanthropic groups working to combat Chatham’s homelessness. “...The number of true homelessness is hard to estimate due to the fact that some might be staying with friends or family, sharing a place, living in hotels and other alternative scenarios.

‘Even when the assistance is given ... and once the relief is stabilized, there’s an action plan about that person — that you need to take these action steps to get yourself stabilized. And sometimes, they don’t do that, and they find themselves back at square one.’

MIKE WAGNER, Siler City Police Chief

Homelessness shows in many options, not just people living on the streets.”

In Chatham, the issue is most concentrated in western towns, especially Siler City. Like Wrenn, town leaders say it’s difficult to estimate the size of Siler City’s homeless population.

“But I think last time we talked about it, we identified 16 more people that had actually would meet the definition of being homeless,” said Mike Wagner, Siler City’s chief of police.

That “definition” is more complicated than just lacking a home, Wagner says. Homelessness is born of many circumstances, all of which make a solution hard to identify.

“There’s so many underlying factors,” he said. “Displacement, dependency, mental health — sometimes both are co-occurring with a person that becomes homeless.”

The police and other agencies such as the Chatham County Dept. of

Social Services sometimes coordinate to assist homeless individuals with short-term arrangements to get them back on their feet. But often, Wagner says, it’s not enough.

“Even when the assistance is given ... and once the relief is stabilized, there’s an action plan about that person — that you need to take these action steps to get yourself stabilized,” he said. “And sometimes, they don’t do that, and they find themselves back at square one.”

To more completely address the problem, then, requires the dedicated efforts of private organizations.

“I would say that what we have done, and the way that the town has contributed,” said Siler City Town Manager Roy Lynch, “has been through the nonprofits as far as helping to fund some of those who do provide the direct resources that we cannot.”

Such groups include Wrenn’s Salvation Army, the Central Piedmont

Community Action Group and representatives from Central Carolina Community College. Community 1 Solutions, a non-profit led by True Community Church Pastor Cecil Wilson, is especially active in assisting Siler City’s homeless population, according to Wagner and Town Planner Jack Meadows.

“His group helps all folks in need,” Meadows said, “whether with housing issues or food and other things.”

Wilson did not respond to multiple requests for comment, but at the Salvation Army, Wrenn and her team are working hard to expand their programs to address the homelessness crisis before it spirals out of control.

“We will soon begin a Rapid Rehousing Pilot program for Chatham County,” she said. “Unfortunately, housing is an issue, or I should say, the lack of housing in Chatham County is a barrier. We have formed relationships with landlords and apartment managers that we hope to increase those partnerships and to strengthen those that we have.”

But, she says, providing houses will not alone eliminate homelessness.

“Each situation is unique to that family or individual; we work to help those that need help with their unique barriers,” she said. “We have many resources that

we work with to provide the homeless the best possible help they might need. We offer direct resources or reach out to our partnerships.”

Despite such efforts, though, homelessness in Chatham and around the country is almost certain to worsen before it improves. While pandemic circumstances have cast many to the precipice of homelessness, some have avoided the final plunge as beneficiaries of the statewide evictions moratorium, which is scheduled to expire at the end of March if Gov. Roy Cooper does not extend it.

When it finally expires, some will likely have to leave their homes.

Still, Wrenn is confident Chathamites will rally to support their disadvantaged neighbors.

“The community has always come to support The Salvation Army in Chatham,” she said, and she doesn’t expect that to change.

Besides monetary donations, people can donate several high-demand items such as socks, combs, pencil and notepad, toiletry items such as deodorant, shampoos, soaps, hand sanitizer, and face and hand wipes, Wrenn said.

“Once a family or individual is in housing, many items might be needed,” she added. “One success story was we had many people come

together and furnish almost the entire house for this homeless couple that had absolutely nothing to start with.”

For any experiencing homelessness, or for those who would like to learn more about assisting Chatham efforts to end homelessness, Wrenn welcomes calls to The Salvation Army at 919-542-1593. Donations can be mailed to The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 752, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

If your circumstances are dire, town staff recommend calling 211.

“It’s like a central hub,” Meadows said. “And that’s where they want folks to call who have needs, who need help. Dial 211 first, and then that organization routes you to say the Salvation Army, or Central Piedmont.”

Much like 911, 211 “provides individuals and families in need with a shortcut through what can be a bewildering maze of health and human service agency phone numbers,” according to the Federal Communications Commission. “By simply dialing 211, those in need of assistance can be referred, and sometimes connected, to appropriate agencies and community organizations.”

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

TELEHEALTH

Continued from page A1

El Futuro’s clinical director. “It’s just amazing how it has become possible.”

El Futuro, a bilingual mental health clinic which serves the Spanish-speaking community, has two clinics — one in Durham and another in Siler City, located on 401 North Ivey Ave. It provides a bundle of bilingual services, including therapy, psychiatry, substance use treatment and case management, which refers clients to outside agencies to serve other needs, like paying rent.

A year ago, Crawford also wouldn’t have imagined telehealth as El Futuro’s ticket to expansion — yet, that’s what it might prove to be. While schools, community organizations and medical providers struggled with the digital divide and disengagement, virtual services allowed the not-for-profit El Futuro to expand its reach to those who lacked access before and to connect with clients in a new way.

“We’re excited — I’m excited — about getting back in person with people,” Crawford said, adding, “But we’re also excited about thinking about the possibilities for the future. ... One of our main goals is to increase services, so provide more mental health services to more people, and telehealth might be a way that we can do that.”

‘There’s a higher need’

In March, COVID-19 forced El Futuro to close its clinics and go virtual — and within months, everything changed. Services went online, demand skyrocketed and the pandemic brought clients stresses they perhaps hadn’t dealt with before.

More people began coming in with heightened anxiety, depression and isolation, especially teenagers, said Crawford and another El Futuro therapist, Victoria Romero. Others have been grappling with loss — and especially an inability to travel to be with family in different countries. Others have seen intermarital and interpersonal dynamics suffer, too.

“I think that is something that we’ve seen, instead of having that reprieve of during the day ‘I’m not with you,’ it’s like, ‘Now, I’m with you all the time,’ and that can be trying for anybody,” Crawford said. “But particularly, I think, in this (Latinx) community, there tends to be more people at home.”

According to Crawford, the Siler City clinic served an average of 50 people per month

last year, and not all of them lived in Chatham County. On average, they’d also begun to see clients for longer periods of time.

“More people are coming in for our services, are requesting our services,” she said. “... Those are two areas of need that we’re seeing, both in just sort of getting into services and then when you get into services, often there’s higher need once you’re in there, too.”

The pandemic especially touched El Futuro’s case management program, said Romero, who spends about 50% of her time running the clinic’s case management program. During COVID, she said they’d been referring people now more than ever to partner organizations for basic needs, including food, rent and utilities.

“Whereas before COVID, we had more of an array,” she said. “We would have that of course, but we would also have more clients may be seeking legal help or may be interested in job skills. But because of COVID, it’s like those are extras now. We’re starting to see that change a little bit, tiniest bit after a year.”

‘It’s been so fun’

Switching over to telehealth was a bumpy ride at first, Crawford recalled. Staff had to work to adapt face-to-face services for telehealth, find HIPAA-compliant Zoom lines and switch their clients over to videoconferencing, too.

Even therapists’ toolkits changed: Instead of playing games with children, for instance, therapists had to substitute online methods, like drawing on a Zoom whiteboard or a virtual show-and-tell.

“You go find something and I’ll go find something and we sort of bring it back together,” Crawford said as an example. She added, “And so those first couple of weeks were really intense.”

But after a year, El Futuro’s telehealth system now works like a well-oiled machine — and has reaped some unexpected benefits.

Thanks to telehealth, El Futuro has been able to expand its hours — and even days — of operation and accommodate

clients.

“Previously, we were open three days a week in our Siler City clinic and five days a week in Durham,” Crawford said. “But now that we don’t have to staff a physical clinic separately, we actually can see Chatham County (or) Siler City clients any day of the week.”



Romero said she’s even been able to see clients late in the night,

which she rarely did before.

“I have a little bit of a commute, and I didn’t like to stay too late at the office,” she added. “Now, because we are 100% teletherapy, I have no problem with that.”

Better yet, both said, their clients haven’t really had problems using telehealth technology. To pre-empt technology barriers, El Futuro employs a team of bilingual administrative assistants who walk clients through downloading Zoom onto their smartphones or computers.

“We’ve created videos that we send to the client that walks them through it, and then they’ll actually practice with the client,” Crawford said. “So in case, you know, audio is an issue or something like that, they can sort of troubleshoot that.”

On certain days, El Futuro also invites clients without Wi-Fi access to come to their clinics, where staff will set them up with company computers to attend their appointments. Some psychiatrists, Crawford added, are also beginning to see some people face-to-face when it’s necessary.

“There is a small percentage of clients that don’t have access to Wi-Fi, but that’s a very, very small percentage of clients,” Romero said. “I would say by far, most of our clients have adapted incredibly well to getting on Zoom.”

According to El Futuro’s surveys, the system has worked well for nearly everyone, too, Romero said; surveys found telehealth treatment “outcomes” and improvement are similar to those measured when people came to the clinics in person.

“What’s interesting is it’s almost increased access, because as you can imagine, if somebody, say, a mother has children at home, but can’t find

childcare, she might have had to cancel her appointment,” Crawford said. “... But now, since you can just call us on your cell phone, she can like go in the other room and have her appointment.”

Ironically, telehealth has also allowed therapists to connect with their clients on another level. Before, Crawford said, she may have only heard about a client’s stress with his or her spouse; now, she actually can see it.

“People are inviting us into their worlds,” Crawford said. “... So in some ways I can imagine that might be something that I miss about telehealth — learning a little bit more about somebody’s world by seeing it rather than just hearing about it.”

Romero said she’s seen clients in their cars, bathrooms, stairwells at work and even in break rooms, which has also given her “a window into (her) clients’ lives.”

“It’s been so fun,” she said. “I think that most of us who see kids will say, ‘Can you show me your favorite object in your room? And can you show me something in your house that you’re really proud of?’ Or something like that, and we get walked around on the computer.”

As such, she even said telehealth has helped her break her stereotypes about her clients.

“It’s our implicit racism that we all have and even as a Latina, definitely, I own that and see some of my clients are very financially well off,” she said. “I don’t think I had realized that, like, they’re really living in a nice house, and I could see it’s very nice.”

‘It doesn’t feel the same’

Yet in some ways, Romero and Crawford said telehealth just doesn’t compare to in-person therapy.

“It’s amazing the information that we give and receive through our bodies,” Crawford said. “And so shifting in a chair, or leaning forward, or something like that — that can communicate a lot, and I miss that. I miss receiving that information. I think that can be really good information.”

She also misses giving that same information to her clients.

“Like, ‘I’m concerned with you, so I’m going to lean forward,’ or things like that,” she said, adding, “We all sort of know that we use body language ... I find myself limited in sort of being able to communicate fully. Telehealth is a wonderful tool, and I’m so grateful for it, and I do think that there are some things that feel different about it.”

It’s also harder for therapists

to maintain confidentiality and keep their clients safe when they no longer share a space, Romero said. Some clients may be logging on from work; some may have really thin apartment walls.

“So I will make sure with clients at the beginning, are you in a place where you feel comfortable talking right now?” Romero said. “And sometimes they’ll say yes, and then sometimes, ‘No,’ they’ll say, ‘Other people can hear me.’ So I will judge from there where to go.”

Sometimes they’ll end up rescheduling; other times, sessions won’t go as “deep” as others to ensure clients won’t have private emotional reactions where others can hear them.

“If we’re talking about a trauma, the client is in front of me, and I’m able to use my clinical skills to keep that client clinically, emotionally, within a window of tolerance,” Romero said. “However, when that client is in another room ... it’s scary for me, because I don’t know what that client can do.”

Crawford and Romero also just miss sharing the same room with their clients.

“It’s just sort of like a fatigue of, ‘Gosh, I wish that I could just be in person with you,’ because it doesn’t feel the same,” Crawford said.

“Being able to engage the person with their whole being, I really miss that,” Romero added. “And then of course, the kids — I really miss all of that, just engaging them completely with activities and making it so much fun, as opposed to sitting in front of a computer.”

That’s why she’s looking forward to going back to her office — though she’s not yet sure when that’ll happen.

El Futuro is still planning when and how to reopen, Romero said; so far, she added, they’ve been considering a move into a hybrid schedule, a combination of in-person therapy and telehealth. Surveying their clients, Crawford said, has shown them that the majority of clients prefer to have in-person appointments once it’s safe.

“But it’s hard to determine when that might be,” she added. “So we’re excited about continuing with the possibility of telehealth. Time will tell what that will look like in our service provision.”

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at victoria@chathamnr.com. Find more La Voz de Chatham coverage on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lavoz) and on our website (www.chathamnewsrecord.com/lavoz).

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WEDDINGTON 56, NORTHWOOD 47

Chargers fall to unbeaten Weddington in 3A state championship game



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood freshman forward Jarin Stevenson finishes a dunk in the first quarter of his team's 56-47 loss to Weddington in the NCHSAA 3A Men's Basketball State Championship Game on Saturday at Providence Grove High School. Stevenson finished the day with 13 points, 6 rebounds and 5 assists, earning the East Region's Most Outstanding Player award.

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

CLIMAX — It isn't time to dust off the key to Northwood's trophy case just yet. It'll have to wait another year.

The Weddington Warriors won a hard-fought game over the Chargers, 56-47, on Saturday morning at Providence Grove High School to earn their first-ever NCHSAA 3A Men's Basketball State Championship, snapping Northwood's streak of 10 straight wins and pushing them to 0-4 all-time in state title games (2000, 2009, 2011, 2021).

This season, Weddington embarrassed some of its opponents. But

not Northwood.

Going into Saturday's contest, the Warriors — who finished with a perfect 18-0 record — won 15 of their 17 games prior to the state championship by double-digits, including all three playoff games by at least 13 points.

Weddington looked like an immovable force for most of the season, especially as of late, and was inevitably a monstrous hill for the Chargers to climb.

The scoring junior duo of Chase Lowe (14 points, named the game's Most Valuable Player) and A.J. Cook (10 points, named the West Region's Most Outstanding Player on Saturday), who thrived all year long, were a

daunting task for Northwood to defend.

But Northwood made them look human.

"I think our size and length kind of bothered them," said Northwood Head Coach Matt Brown. "We have a lot of weapons on the inside and outside, so I don't think they've seen that in the past this year."

In the first half, Northwood's height inside — most notably from 6-foot-8 freshman forward Jarin Stevenson — forced the Warriors to beat Northwood from the outside.

And they did just that.

Weddington hit five three-point-

See **CHARGERS**, page B5



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The Northwood basketball team poses for photos after their loss to Weddington in the 3A state title game, 56-47, on Saturday at Providence Grove High School. The Chargers' journey to this point included 10-straight wins, including three-straight road playoff wins.

JORDAN-MATTHEWS 4, EASTERN RANDOLPH 2

Jets sweep Eastern Randolph with 4-2 win Friday, clinch final PAC 7 title Monday

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Jordan-Matthews is officially escaping the PAC 7 2A conference as its final champion.

The Jets earned a come-from-behind 4-2 home victory over the Eastern Randolph Wildcats (4-4) on Friday to improve their record to 7-1 on the season and put themselves in prime position to take the conference crown this week.

In its previous three seasons in the PAC 7, Jordan-Matthews has won the conference once (2017-18) and placed second twice.

"If we win one of the two next week, then we'll clinch," said Paul Cuadros, Jordan-Matthews' head coach. "We've been conference champions many times, but we didn't get it last year, so I'll be happy to leave this conference as the champions."

The Jets did just that on Monday, getting revenge on the Wheatmore Warriors, 3-0, to clinch their conference title and earn an automatic bid to the postseason.

Next season, as part of the 2021-25 NCHSAA conference realignment plan, Jordan-Matthews will be a part of the 1A/2A hybrid, soon-to-be-named "Conference 14" along with Chatham Central (1A) and Seaforth, Pittsboro's newest high school opening this fall.

The realignment will take Jordan-Matthews out of Randolph County, where it's played nearly all of its road conference games over the past four seasons (aside



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews' Cristian Cruz (6) heads a shot over the goal on a Jets' corner kick in their win over Eastern Randolph, 4-2, on Friday.

from Guilford County's T.W. Andrews).

Friday night's game was a sign of why that might be a positive thing for the Jets. At least as far as soccer goes.

In the only loss of the season for the Jets so far, 1-0 to Wheatmore on Feb. 10, the lone goal came in the waning moments of the first half, when Wheatmore's Collin Burgess got the ball on a beautiful, arcing pass by Jagur Williams a little past mid-field and took it in for a breakaway score.

The contest against Eastern Randolph was much of the same.

"That kind of loss, a loss of concentration in the last 10 seconds, a lucky bounce, what can you say?" said Cuadros. "And ER got a couple of goals like that tonight. I'll be happy to leave this conference because this is the style of play that a lot of teams in Randolph County play."

See **JETS**, page B5

NORTHWOOD 4, ORANGE 0

Waudby scores hat trick en route to Chargers' shutout win over Orange



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Northwood senior forward Burke Waudby fires a shot toward goal during the Chargers' 4-0 win over Orange on Wednesday. Northwood head coach Kevin Forster was impressed with his team's ability to create 'a lot of goal-scoring opportunities.'

BY BRENNAN DOHERTY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Not much has been normal throughout Burke Waudby's senior year on the Northwood men's soccer team.

The season has been delayed, shortened and full of postponements.

The mud-soaked, divot-filled field he played on Wednesday night served as a reminder that there is a reason why soccer is not typically played in North Carolina winters, no less one of the rainiest on record locally.

But Waudby is grateful for the opportunity to play at all in a makeshift spring soccer campaign, and he took full advantage in Northwood's recent 4-0 win over Orange, scoring a hat trick in the second-to-last home game of his career. The win was one Northwood (3W-2L-0T) simply needed to have in order to keep its playoff hopes alive, as the regular season approaches its match-filled final stretch.

"I'm just thankful for everything that we're able to have this season," Waudby said. "There

See **WAUDBY**, page B5

The day sports stood still: March 11, 2020

If you're a sports fan — and even if you're not — you remember March 11, 2020.

A year ago, sports changed. And it all started in Oklahoma City.

For me, like many others, I'll never forget where I was on that evening.

The memory has been ingrained in my mind in the same way that others remember exactly what they were doing when they heard the news that the Twin Towers fell or that their favorite celebrity died.

Driving in my hometown of Trinity — a small Randolph County town that borders High Point — I was on the phone with my roommate at the time, Alec, on my way to meet him at a local restaurant so we could catch up.

We were only a couple of days into spring break from UNC-Chapel Hill, but having not seen each other in 72 hours, it seemed necessary to fill each other in on the latest, as if our lives could change that drastically in the matter of a few days.

If we only knew.

As I passed over the railroad tracks near my home, my phone pinged with the notification that would mark an indefinite shift in the world of sports. It was a tweet from Shams Charania, lead NBA reporter for The Athletic, after a game in Oklahoma City between the Utah Jazz and the Oklahoma City Thunder had been delayed for what, until then, had been an unspecified reason.

"Utah Jazz All-Star Rudy Gobert has tested positive

See **SPORTS**, page B4

ASHEBORO 54, NORTHWOOD 44

Chargers' women stopped short of title game by unbeaten Asheboro

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The greatest season for a Northwood women's sports team has come to an end.

For the Chargers, that end felt both abrupt and heart-wrenching, but was laced with memorable moments, historic accomplishments and high hopes for the future.

The Northwood women's basketball team fell to the unbeaten, seventh-seeded Asheboro Blue Comets at home on March 2, 54-44, in the East Regional Final of the NCHSAA Women's 3A playoffs, cutting their run just short of the state championship game and ending their quest for a perfect season at 14-1.

If there were things Asheboro lacked, intensity wasn't one of them.

"I thought (Asheboro Head Coach Don Cory) had his team more motivated tonight than I did," said Cameron Vernon, Northwood's head coach. "The four seniors on their team who played the entire game without coming out, I think they wanted it a little more, and you would expect that from four seniors with this being their last season."

The Blue Comets led the entire way — from the moment one of those four seniors, guard Ashley Maness, drilled a three-pointer on the game's first possession to put Asheboro up 3-0, to the final buzzer.

But that doesn't mean it wasn't close.

With 1:52 left in the fourth quarter, Northwood freshman guard Skylar Adams hit two free throws to cut Asheboro's lead to 49-44. The Chargers were within striking distance, and after Asheboro senior guard Tanaesha Ellison missed two free throws on the ensuing possession, Northwood seemed poised to cut the lead down further.

But they didn't score for the rest of the contest.

And just how it happened all night long, the Blue Comets found a way to stop Northwood in its tracks and extend their lead — this time with a layup by senior forward Diamond McDowell, who dove around Chargers' sophomore forward Te'Keyah Bland to put Asheboro up by seven.

After Adams' free throws, Northwood had plenty of opportunities to put points on the board, but the shots just weren't falling.

"We just couldn't get over that six-point hump it seemed. We got a couple of



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood sophomore forward Te'Keyah Bland (12) waits to grab a rebound alongside Asheboro senior forward Diamond McDowell (5) in the Chargers' 54-44 loss to Asheboro on Tuesday in the East Regional title game. Bland (13 points) and McDowell (22 points) battled in the paint all night long.

stops, then we came down and had questionable shot selection, but that happens, they were trying to make plays," Vernon said. "I've never been mad at them for shooting their shot ... as long as they're playing hard."

Asheboro's maturity — inevitable with a team full of seniors led by one of North Carolina's legendary high school basketball coaches with over 700 wins on his resume — was an asset down the stretch.

Earlier in the fourth quarter, Asheboro saw its lead cut to four after a second-chance shot by Bland, with all of the momentum swinging in favor of the Chargers.

Northwood had been in this situation just two games prior at Terry Sanford, which saw the team bounce back from a 17-point second-half deficit to win. A comeback wasn't out of the question. But then, just as she did in the game's opening moments to propel Asheboro to an early lead, Maness hit a three. Then McDowell made a great pass to Sion Murrain for a layup. Then Maness laid it in after a wild, turnover-heavy sequence for both teams.

And suddenly, it was an 11-point Blue Comets lead with 3:25 left.

Asheboro absorbed Northwood's punches, only to fire back with stronger ones.

McDowell, the Blue Comets' leading scorer on the year, was electric. She scored 22 points on the night via second-chance baskets, crafty layups and fadeaway jumpers. She could do it all.

"Diamond's a really good player," Vernon said. "She's a force inside. We didn't have anybody to guard her. Let's be honest. We tried our best. She made it difficult for us."

'You have to look at the bright side'

For Northwood, this loss stings. There's no way around it.

Once the final buzzer sounded, the tears started to flow as players began to realize the ride, as special as it had been, was over. But even in defeat, there are plenty of reasons for the Chargers to hold their heads high.

"While that trophy over there, the regional runner-up, is not what I wanted, I'm just happy to be here. I'm happy we got the chance to play," said Northwood senior guard Rae McClarty. "There are 28 teams who didn't get to be here today, so you just have to look at the bright side."

Despite the abbreviated season, the strange year for sports and the lack of in-person workouts in the offseason, Northwood found a way to overcome it all, becoming the first women's sports team in school history to make a Final Four appearance.

They also became just the second-ever Northwood women's basketball team to finish the regular season undefeated (1983-84) en route to three playoff wins, including victories over E.E. Smith and Terry Sanford, which both had players from E.E. Smith's 2020 team that knocked the Chargers out in the Sweet 16 last year.

"I wasn't very optimistic that we were going to make it through COVID, to be honest with you. Not us personally, the whole state," said Vernon. "But they made a lot of people in Pittsboro proud. We had so many former Lady Chargers texting me ... you could just see the enthusiasm out there in the community, so I can't

say enough about these girls. I want to thank them for giving me a great ride and allowing me to join them on their journey this year."

A bright future

If Tuesday's game — along with the season as a whole — was any indication, the future of Northwood basketball is in great hands.

Bland, a sophomore, was the team's leading scorer on Tuesday (13 points), as she's been all season, and is a fearless offensive centerpiece for the Chargers moving forward.

"I am super proud of her," said McClarty. "I just want Te'Keyah to keep doing what she's doing. To keep being the funny, outgoing, silly girl she is. She's got two more years, so she's got two more chances and I feel like she can take this team really far."

Adams, a freshman, looked like a veteran with the way she carried herself against Asheboro, rarely getting rattled and making smart, team-friendly decisions, while also being the team's second-leading scorer on the night (11 points).

"Skylar's going to be special and she had a phenomenal 9th grade year," said Vernon. "And when she starts getting the feel of the game even more and starts looking for her offense even more, she's going to be deadly, and there's going to be a lot of college coaches coming to see her one day."

The senior class will be led by guards McKenna Snively, Natalie Bell and Myla Marve, along with forward Caroline Allen, each of whom have all shown signs of growth and leadership throughout the season and their careers.

As bright as the future is, being without the leadership of McClarty, the hustle of Jillian McNaught and the energy of Jamarie Faucette — Northwood's three outgoing seniors — is going to be a tough pill to swallow.

McClarty, the team's de-facto leader, is the player that brought the most passion, the most heart, the best defense and the most positive energy every night for the Chargers.

"There's going to be a huge void left with Rae leaving. She's our heart and soul. She gets the team going, they look to her for leadership, Rae's not afraid of anybody. I put Rae on the toughest player every night. I wish she was five or six inches taller because I would have put her on Diamond tonight," said Vernon with a laugh. "Those are

the types of players that coaches love to have."

With Northwood, McClarty and the other seniors have made countless memories during their careers, from Faucette playfully bickering with Vernon during practice and making the other girls laugh to McClarty simply driving Bell to practice and going out to eat with her and Bland.

"I just want anybody who's still in high school to know that you should just enjoy it while you're here because there are definitely some moments I took for granted," said McClarty.

After the game, Vernon gave his last speech to the team, while McClarty, even having just lost her final game as a Charger, comforted some of her teammates who were visibly upset as he spoke.

In moments like that, she said she wants to be

her teammates' "light in a cave of darkness," always trying to lift their spirits, whether it be after a loss or in the middle of a game when they're down and trying to claw their way back. She never wants them to look or feel dejected.

"I held myself together and I wanted to show them that it's going to be O.K. and that the majority of the team, except for me, Mari and Jillian, have a chance next year, so they have something to fight for," McClarty said. "I'm not going to get to play with them ever again, and that really hurts, but I'm trying to keep my head up ... I hope that I left my name in pretty big letters somewhere on this wall."

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



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Future HHW events will be held the third Saturday of each month, through November.



No trash or empty containers.
No business waste.
No decal required.
Must show proof of address.

Questions? Call (919) 542-5516

CCCC Foundation Golf Classic coming to Chatham

From Central Carolina Community College

PITTSBORO — Golfers, grab your clubs for a day of fun and fellowship for a good cause as the Central Carolina Community College Foundation hosts its 8th annual Chatham County Golf Classic on Wednesday, May 5, at the Chapel Ridge Golf Course. The proceeds from the Golf Classic will be used to help provide scholarships and other financial assistance.

George Lucier and Barber Holmes are tournament co-chairmen. Other tournament committee members are Chris Ehrenfeld, Emily Hare, Mark Hall, David Harris, Josh Lee and Greg Vassie, as well as CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman.

The event features a shotgun start at 9 a.m., with lunch from 1-2 p.m.

The format for the Chatham County Golf Classic is four-person Captain's Choice Flighted. Prizes will be awarded to top teams in each flight.

Four-person team packages include green fees, cart rental, putting contest and lunch. Sponsorships are available at various levels: a \$1,000 Platinum Sponsor receives sponsorship recognition and two foursomes; a \$600 Gold Sponsor receives sponsorship recognition and one foursome; and a \$200 Silver Sponsor receives sponsorship recognition.

"We are so grateful for the support we have received in Chatham County," said Dr. Emily Hare, Executive Director of the CCCC Foundation. "Chatham County has given so much to us and we will use funds raised in the tournament to go directly back to our students, faculty, and staff. We look forward to the event and hope everyone

will come out and join us."

The Chatham County Golf Classic registration form can be downloaded from the Foundation's website, www.cccc.edu/foundation/events/golf-classics/. Registration is also available by contacting Hare at 919-718-7230 or by email at ehare@cccc.edu.

The CCCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization affiliated with, but independent of, Central Carolina Community College. It receives donations of money and equipment on behalf of the college and uses them to promote its educational mission and assist students through scholarships and grants.

For more information about the Foundation, its work and events, visit www.cccc.edu/foundation/. For more information about classes and programs at Central Carolina Community College, visit www.cccc.edu.

A younger Carolina-Duke: Pollard, Horton split rivalry matchups



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

News + Record photographer Simon Barbre spent an afternoon at Margaret B. Pollard Middle School on Friday for the men's and women's basketball games between the Pollard Mustangs and the Horton Wildcats, a rivalry that Pollard assistant women's basketball coach Craig Adams compares to the historic Carolina-Duke feud, with the players being just a tad younger. Here, Adams (black shirt) and head coach Harold Baldwin speak to the Pollard women's team in a huddle during their 38-24 victory over Horton.



Mustangs' Gabby White (20) goes up for a layup in her team's 14-point win, 38-24, over rival Horton. She finished the day with 15 points, leading all scorers.

Staff photo by Simon Barbre



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Wildcats' Hayes Burleson (2) knocks down his third three-pointer in front of a socially distanced Pollard bench in his team's blowout win over the Mustangs, 60-23, on Friday. Burleson led the team with 13 points.



Mustangs' Darren Moore (24) attempts an acrobatic layup in his team's loss to Horton, 60-23, on Friday.

Staff photo by Simon Barbre



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

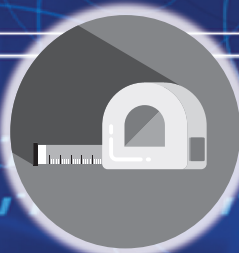
Horton men's basketball head coach Kenneth Scurlock (center) communicates with his players during the Wildcats' blowout win over Pollard.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Wildcats' Neah Henry (12) drives to the lane in her team's 38-24 loss to Pollard.

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CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

This week marks the end of the men's soccer and lacrosse and women's lacrosse regular seasons, with the playoffs starting next week. In addition, spring football continues to ramp up across the county with two programs, Northwood and Chatham Central, still undefeated on the season. Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, March 10
Lacrosse: Northwood men at Apex (played at Hunter Street Park), 3 p.m.
Lacrosse: Northwood women vs. Carrboro, 5 p.m.
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men vs. Providence Grove, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Woods Charter men vs. Southern Wake, 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 11
Soccer: Woods Charter men at Cornerstone, 4 p.m.

Friday, March 12
Football: Jordan-Matthews vs. Randleman, 7 p.m.

LAST WEEK

Monday, March 1
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men downed the Trinity Bulldogs, 3-2, which featured the Jets scoring two goals off of penalty kicks, including the game-winner from Alexis Ibarra.

Tuesday, March 2
Basketball: The Northwood women fell to the unbeaten (7) Asheboro Blue Comets, 54-44, at home in the NCHSAA 3A East Regional Final (Final Four) to end their quest for a perfect season. The Chargers started slowly, down 17-8 at the end of the first quarter, but fought their way back, cutting Asheboro's lead to as little as one point in the second quarter. But every time Northwood would get within striking distance, the Blue Comets would pull away again. This pattern persisted until the final buzzer sounded. Asheboro senior forward Diamond McDowell was electric, scoring 22 points in the win. Leading the Chargers were sophomore forward Te'Keyah Bland (13 points) and senior guard Rae McClarty (10 points). Northwood ends the year at 14-1 with plenty to be proud of, as they became the first Northwood women's sports team to make it a state semifinal, while also becoming just the second women Chargers team (1983-84) to finish the regular season undefeated.
Basketball: The Northwood men defeated the (6) West Carteret Patriots, 72-69, on the road in a comeback overtime thriller to advance to the NCHSAA Men's 3A state championship game. Down by 13 at the end of the third, the Chargers climbed back into it on the backs of their freshmen, including guard Fred Whitaker, who drilled a corner triple to tie the game at 61 and send it to overtime. In the extra

period, Northwood prevailed by getting out to an early lead and holding on despite a last-second comeback attempt by the Patriots. Leading the Chargers was the freshman trio of forward Jarin Stevenson (28 points, 10 rebounds), guard Drake Powell (16 points) and Whitaker (13 points).
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men trounced the Randleman Tigers, 10-1, to earn their fourth straight win. Scoring for the Jets were Cristian Escobedo (hat trick; three goals), Zander Ocampo (two goals) and Alexis Ibarra, Alfredo Hernandez, Franco Basurto, Kevin Gonzalez and Anthony Rodriguez, each with one goal.

Wednesday, March 3
Lacrosse: The Northwood women fell to the Wake Forest Cougars on the road, 20-4. Leading the Chargers were junior Kendall Laberge (two goals) and sophomores Mia Collins and Sophia Cremeans (one goal apiece).
Soccer: The Woods Charter men earned their first win of the season with a dominating victory over the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 10-3.
Soccer: The Northwood men earned a commanding shutout win over the Orange Panthers, 4-0. Leading the Chargers were seniors Burke Waudby (hat trick; three goals) and Rafael Mantovani Rocha (one goal), while senior keeper Aiden Bungay made 10 saves on the day.

Thursday, March 4
Lacrosse: The Northwood

women lost a lopsided game to the Chapel Hill Tigers, 22-6. Leading the Chargers were junior Kendall Laberge and sophomore Sophia Cremeans, each with two goals apiece.
Lacrosse: The Northwood men fell at home to the Chapel Hill Tigers, 5-4. The Chargers are now 3-3 on the season.
Soccer: The Northwood men earned a commanding road win over the Southern Durham Spartans, 8-1, improving their record to 4-2 this season. Leading the Chargers were junior Walker Johnson (hat trick; three goals) and seniors Burke Waudby and Aiden Bungay, junior Ayden Turner and sophomores Jon Dadi Assthorsson and Benjamin Schoolcraft, all with one goal each.

Friday, March 5
Football: Northwood earned a narrow home victory over the Chapel Hill Tigers, 7-6, to improve to 2-0 on the shortened season.
Lacrosse: The Northwood women lost their second of back-to-back games against the Chapel Hill Tigers, 19-8. Leading the Chargers were junior Kendall Laberge (4 goals) and sophomores Mia Collins and Sophia Cremeans and freshmen Ryan Tinervin and Ella Boecke, each with one goal. Northwood is now 3-7 on the season.
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men won a home game over the Eastern Randolph Wildcats, 4-2. After trailing 2-1 in the second half, the Jets went on a scoring barrage as

Cristian Escobedo scored two of his three goals (65' and 70') within five minutes of each other, which included the go-ahead goal and the eventual game-winner. Escobedo had a hat trick (3 goals) on the night, while Franco Basurto added one goal.
Soccer: The Woods Charter men won a road game against the Research Triangle Raptors, 2-1, handing them their first loss of the season and dropping the Wolves' record to 2-3 on the season.
Saturday, March 6
Basketball: The Northwood men lost a hard-fought game to the unbeaten Weddington Warriors in the NCHSAA 3A Men's Basketball State Championship, 56-47, to keep Northwood winless in state title game appearances (0-4). The Chargers kept it close for most of the game, but went down by 10 in the third quarter and were never truly able to recover despite cutting the lead to five in the fourth. Leading the Chargers were freshman guard Drake Powell (15 points, 6 rebounds), freshman forward Jarin Stevenson (13 points, 6 rebounds, named the East Region's Most Outstanding Player) and freshman guard Fred Whitaker (12 points, 6 assists). Northwood finished the year 14-3 with an incredibly bright future ahead of them.

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

SPORTS

Continued from page B1
for coronavirus, sources tell @TheAthleticNBA @ Stadium," the tweet read. There was the reason. And just four minutes later, at 9:31 p.m., an even bigger bombshell from Charania: "The NBA has suspended its season." I broke the news to Alec, pulling my car over to process the information I had just learned, with each of us in shock on either end of the line. My first thought: What's going to happen to Rudy? My second: What's going to happen to sports? Earlier in the day, the World Health Organization had officially deemed the coronavirus, which they recognized as COVID-19, a global pandemic. President Trump had put into effect the European travel ban. The NCAA had announced it would not host fans at the NCAA Tournament. There had been just over 1,000 confirmed cases in the United States. And yet, it wasn't until Charania's tweets that the severity of the situation registered in my mind. The coronavirus had finally hit close to home. Though I'm not a Jazz fan nor have I ever stepped foot in Utah or spoken to Gobert in my life, having someone I "know" contract the virus felt surreal. And for that test to shut down the NBA, a multi-billion dollar organization, in just four minutes? There was no doubt this was serious. As ridiculous — and selfish — as it sounds to say now, before that moment COVID-19 felt like a distant, slightly scary problem. Gobert's positive test made it feel real, as did Tom Hanks', which was announced just moments after Gobert's. If a high-profile superstar could be infected, couldn't we all? In the hours and days that followed, I watched ESPN nearly non-stop for updates. My eyes were glued to Twitter, my ears locked on the voices of SportsCenter anchors filling airtime with news of cancellations, suspended seasons and positive test results. Jazz star Donovan Mitchell tested positive the next morning, the only one of Gobert's teammates to contract the virus at the time. Later, a video began circu-


lating of Gobert touching nearly a dozen of reporters' microphones during a press conference two days earlier, mocking the virus. Not a great look. That one positive test had a mound of consequences. Less than 24 hours after Gobert's positive result, the NHL suspended its season, the MLB delayed the start of its season, each NCAA conference canceled its respective conference basketball tournament and the NCAA Tournament was called off. March Madness took on a whole different meaning. Gov. Roy Cooper didn't put his first Stay-at-Home Order in place until March 27 — and it didn't go into effect until March 30 — but the seriousness of the pandemic was felt weeks earlier. From that point on, many of us were bound to our homes. That was that. It would take a Tolstoy-sized novel to document the feelings we've had, the events that have taken place and all of the craziness, heartache, boredom, grief, inspiration and tragedy we've endured as a county, a state, a nation and a planet since March 11. Months passed with no professional sporting events. Athletes, just like the rest of us, conducted work via Zoom, including workouts and team meetings without in-person

interaction. We passed time, seemingly as a nation, by watching documentaries like Netflix's "Tiger King" and ESPN's "The Last Dance" to fill the void. When sports returned, we saw championships won in "bubbles" and games played with virtual fans in attendance. We've witnessed star player after star player yield positive test results without the attention that Gobert received, now essentially becoming a weekly occurrence in professional and amateur sports locker rooms. There have been heart-wrenching stories like that of Minnesota Timberwolves' forward Karl-Anthony Towns, who has lost seven family members to the virus, including his mother, Jacqueline. Or that of Laurent Duvernay-Tardif, a Kansas City Chiefs offensive lineman who, after helping them win the Super Bowl in February 2020, decided to put his doctorate in medicine to use by working on the front lines at a long-term care facility in Quebec. A year later after that fateful night in Oklahoma City, sports are back in session as the pandemic rages on, vaccination numbers continue to rise and fans are slowly being allowed back into venues, such as the Carolina Hurricanes opening PNC Arena to 15% capacity on March 4. Many parents have to watch their high school

children play via live streams. Masks have to be worn by student-athletes during play. High school football is being played in February. And the list of oddities and necessary protocols goes on. Sold-out arenas will return at some point, but that's toward the bottom of the priority list. Until then, we can use this anniversary of March 11 to reflect on the impact

of the last year on both our psyche as sports fans and our lives as humans. Think about what sports mean to you, how empty it felt without them here, which of your loved ones you'd like to take to next year's Super Bowl if you won two tickets via a radio contest. When you get a chance, sit down, turn on your T.V. and enjoy watching Steph Curry drain threes, Alex

Ovechkin score goals, Fernando Tatis hit homers or mid-major Cinderella teams bust everyone's brackets. Don't take any of them for granted. And for your own sanity, please turn off Shams Charania's Twitter notifications. Just in case. *Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Frezeal33.*



Chatham COA

Events & Announcements

March 11th – March 17th

Thursday, March 11th

- [Chair Yoga with Liz](#) at 10:00 AM
- [Tech Cafe Training with Conor](#) at 11:15 AM
- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 3:00 PM

Friday, March 12th

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

Monday, March 15th


- [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 16th

- [Strong & Fit with Jackie](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Virtual Health & Wellness Expo: Home Safety & Falls Prevention](#) at 11:15 AM

Wednesday, March 17th


- [Virtual Walk](#) at 11:15 AM
- [Legal Aid Outreach for Seniors](#) at 11:15 AM
- [Short Stories with Chris](#) at 12:30 PM

 On Zoom

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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 Saturday 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!

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A: Trees/lumber and navel stores (turpentine, tar, pitch) were exported down the Cape Fear to the Wilmington ship yards.

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.

CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

ers in the first 15 minutes of the game. Many of them came on open shots in the corners where the Chargers, playing a 2-3 zone, couldn't get to the open shooter in time.

In the second half, however, Northwood did a much better job guarding the perimeter after making some adjustments, allowing just one triple for the entire half.

One of Northwood's weapons, freshman guard Drake Powell (15 points, six rebounds), was crucial for the Chargers, using his 6-foot-5 frame, length and athleticism to punish the Warriors for most of the day. In the opening seconds of the second half, Powell drained a three-pointer to tie the game at 26 and gave the Chargers a fighting chance after being down by seven, 23-16, in the second quarter.

However, after a jumper by Weddington senior center Caleb Wetherbee and a couple of free throws by Powell, the Warriors went on a 10-0 run — thanks to three Northwood turnovers, each of which Weddington converted into points on the other end.

All morning long, the Chargers struggled in the turnover department as they coughed up the ball 16 times compared to just seven for Weddington.

By the conclusion of the third quarter, the Chargers had cut the deficit to six off of a triple by Powell, but they ended up carrying almost none of that momentum into the final period.

Northwood touched the ball just once in the first 2 minutes, 17 seconds of the fourth quarter as Weddington passed the ball around to kill clock. But the team couldn't get anything to fall offensively once they did, including a painful possession that featured two offensive rebounds and three three-point attempts, none of which connected.

The Chargers didn't score again until

there was 3:44 left in the game, but Weddington had its own offensive woes. The eventual champions made just one field goal in the entire quarter, which came on a fast break layup off of a steal by Cook with 11 seconds left, putting them up by 11.

While Northwood had opportunities in the fourth quarter to cut the deficit down further — including Powell's three-pointer with 1:25 left to make it a five-point game again — Weddington didn't allow them a chance to get back in it, as the Warriors' first-half hot hand translated to the charity stripe, hitting nine of 10 free throws down the stretch (14-of-17 overall) to ice the game.

The loss was a tough one for the Chargers, who at times felt like a team of destiny after all of the comebacks, crazy finishes and obstacles they've faced this season. It almost seemed that this was their championship to lose, despite the powerhouse sitting on the other sideline.

Then again, were they even supposed to be here?

'Nobody thought we were going to be here'

One year removed from a five-point Final Four loss to Westover (30-0) in Fayetteville in 2020 — a game which technically acted as the state championship game with the winners of the semifinals being named co-champions with the championship game being canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic — Northwood didn't imagine it'd make it even further this season.

"To be honest, it's really meant a lot because nobody thought we were going to be here," said Northwood senior guard Troy Arnold.

That 2020 Final Four team consisted of eight seniors and five juniors, with the seniors getting the bulk of the minutes. Of those juniors, just one of them (Arnold, 2.1 points) averaged more than two points per game for the Chargers last season.

Fast forward to this year, where

four of those five juniors, now seniors, stepped into their roles flawlessly, taking charge of mentoring the younger players on the team and acting as leaders both on and off the court — the same way previous seniors helped them.

"Last year's team, they kind of set the tone, but these seniors here, these four seniors, they had the hardest job," Brown said. "And I told them in the summer, 'You guys are going to have the hardest job to make sure this culture and this program goes the way we want it to go, and that is an upward hill,' and they met that challenge."

During the offseason, Brown said his players were tasked with making 21,000 shots as a way of perfecting their shooting ability and keeping themselves fresh during the summer. Senior guard Colby Burleson made somewhere around 98,000, more than quadrupling the goal.

"Colby Burleson is probably one of the hardest-working individuals I've ever met in my life," said Brown. "He loves the game. He's a tremendous player, he loves to be around it. I think that motivates a lot of guys, to see him work as hard as he did and to get them working a little bit harder."

Losing the production, the experience, the talent and the knowledge of those eight seniors would be a killer for most teams. Last season could have easily been a championship-or-bust year for Northwood's program, knowing this year would be totally different.

But when you have a trio coming in that's as special as Northwood's, plans change. As has been discussed time and time again, the freshman trio of Powell, Stevenson and guard Fred Whitaker proved to be a force to be reckoned with.

Powell plays like a savvy and versatile veteran, able to do whatever his team needs of him, whenever they need it.

Stevenson (13 points, named the East Region's Most Outstanding Player on Saturday) is an athletic, towering player who wreaks havoc on the glass and can shoot from anywhere.

Whitaker (12 points, six assists vs.

Weddington) is the member who gets the least shine of the three, but he manages the game as if he's been playing at Northwood for years. He finds open players, makes cross-court passes, knocks down threes after going around screens to get open, all of it. He's everything you want in a point guard.

And, of course, all three of them play phenomenal defense. They wouldn't be Chargers if they didn't.

"Personally, I think (Stevenson and me) were both trained for this, really," said Powell. "Coming from AAU, I think we play at a pretty high level. ... Coach Brown is a great leader, so we just trust him."

The freshmen still have things to learn — they aren't perfect — but the way Brown was able to integrate them into the team as quickly as he did, helping them flourish and lead Northwood to the state title game is a testament to both the talent level of the trio and the program's culture that he's built over the last four years.

While the Chargers will be without Arnold — who Brown called "the heart and soul" of the team — Burleson and centers Tucker Morgan and Aidan McLandsborough, all of whom played critical roles on this year's 14-3 runner-up squad, the future is in good hands with a trio of young players who are only destined to improve.

Saturday's game might not have gone the Chargers' way. But the simple fact that this team, one with plenty of question marks before the year began, wound up winning three straight road playoff games to make it to their fourth-ever state title game appearance?

Magical.

"I love every single one of those kids in that locker room. I feel for them, I really do," said Brown. "... I just hope that they understand that this one moment doesn't define who they are and they should be proud of what they accomplished this year."

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

JETS

Continued from page B1

That style of play consists mainly of through balls and breakaways.

On Friday, the Wildcats scored both of their goals towards the beginning of the second half — in the 46th and 51st minute after being down 1-0 in the first — off of plays where they were able to get ahead of the defense. One came on a breakaway to tie the game at 1-1 and another on a through ball to a player streaking down the left sideline, who got a crossing pass to Yane Jaimes for the go-ahead goal.

"We like to play a more possessive game and kind of move the ball around," Cuadros said. "So for us, as a team and as a program, it really kind of put us in a shape to say 'Look, we win it all out, the conference is

ours. That's all we have to do.'"

After looking sluggish for most of the second half, they came alive down the stretch primarily because they stuck to that style.

The Jets had numerous opportunities on the offensive end to make something happen in the second half — including a couple of shots that hit the crossbar and a penalty kick by Zander Ocampo that was narrowly saved on the left side of the net — all contributing to the 21 shots on goal that J-M got off on the night.

The flood gates didn't open up until Cristian Escobedo, who scored the only goal of the first half, got a pass from Ocampo on a corner kick and smoothly slotted it to the left corner of the net in the 65th minute.

Escobedo scored again just five minutes later on a crossing pass from Cristian Cruz, completing his hat trick on the goal that would act as the eventual

game-winner.

"That was his best night. Sometimes he fades in and out, but the last couple of games, he's really come on and really understood his role there," said Cuadros. "He's been getting vision. Vision is something we talk about and train for in practice, to be able to see the game maybe one step ahead and anticipate what may happen and he did that tonight, he was fantastic for us."

A few minutes after Escobedo's goal, Franco Basurto took a deep shot that made a couple of bounces before it went by the goalkeeper into the right corner of the net to make it 4-2 in favor of the Jets. Game over.

The defense for Jordan-Matthews was phenomenal all night, especially Cruz and Irvin Campos Cervantes, who Cuadros called the "twin towers," acting as a strong line of defense before getting to

goalkeeper Ricardo Rocha.

Cruz shut down multiple scoring opportunities for the Wildcats, including one in the first half where a shot zoomed towards the net after Rocha fell. Cruz jumped in front to save it at just the right moment.

"Both (Cruz) and Irvin Campos have been the pillars of our defense and those two guys stand tall in the back, so they're invaluable," said Cuadros. "Cruz has got the speed and the stamina to just run all day and run people down and that's what we needed. Especially against (Eastern Randolph's Yane Jaimes), who's a fantastic player."

After the game and Cuadros' post-game speech, the entire Jets team huddled tightly around their coach, jumping and yelling in celebration.

Jordan-Matthews, now the PAC 7 conference champion, has overcome academic

eligibility issues, a mostly young roster and a plethora of postponed games to get to this point. Not to mention Eastern Randolph acts as one of its main rivals in soccer because of how close the two schools are — just 11 miles apart.

The celebration was justified.

"No (the celebration) doesn't happen every game, but this helps us to kind of get closer to clinching the conference," said Cuadros. "It's a high-intensity game, we knew it was going to be a playoff level type of game and atmosphere, and the guys were thinking about it ... It's very much a little rivalry that's been going on between Siler City and Ramseur when it comes to soccer, and we got it tonight, so a little celebration, why not?"

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

WAUDBY

Continued from page B1

are a lot of guys who still want to play. I think we just need to stay focused. This end stretch to the season is most important to us in our final goal of making the playoffs."

Northwood's conference, the Big Eight 3A, receives two automatic postseason berths, but East Chapel Hill and Chapel Hill occupy the top two spots in the

league standings.

The Chargers could still earn a spot as a wild card, but they would most likely need to finish third in the Big Eight and hope their in-conference winning percentage compares well to other wild-card contenders throughout the state.

Northwood showed against Orange why there is optimism it could end the season on a flourish. In what was a comprehensive victory, the Chargers were consistently in ad-

vanced positions and aggressive with their attack, mostly composed at the back and lucky to have senior goalkeeper Aiden Bungay, who performed well when called upon.

"We were strong in the attack," first-year head coach Kevin Forster said. "We did a really nice job finding gaps in the defense and really created a lot of goal-scoring opportunities."

The first opportunity Northwood capitalized on came early, as senior Rafael Rocha opened up

the scoring in the sixth minute. After tracking down a ball played down the left channel, Rocha cut inside and scored from a tight angle, whizzing a shot into the right side of the goal in a situation where many other players would have been tempted to simply play in a cross. Later on, there would be ample chances for Rocha to set up teammates, however, as he finished with two assists.

Not long after, Waudby's goal-scoring spree commenced.

In a sequence that mostly mirrored Rocha's opener but on the other side of the pitch, Waudby chased a ball down the right flank before dribbling into the box and firing away. Orange senior goalkeeper Jose Beltran-Reyes managed to get a hand on it, but Waudby's shot still had enough power to reach the goal, doubling Northwood's lead in the 14th minute.

"We just played some good possession in the back and they found Lucas (Beaulieu) for a long ball through the side," Waudby said. "He split the defenders and I made an easy run to goal."

Scoring opportunities were sparse for Orange, but the hard-working Panthers did manufacture a few nerve-racking moments for Northwood via set pieces and counterattacks.

One of Orange's best chances of the evening came in the 28th minute. After Northwood only partially cleared a corner kick, the Panthers' Jasper Tyll hit a well-driven effort that forced Northwood's Bungay to get low, parrying the ball away before Orange scuffed a chance at a rebound.

"Aiden stepped up really big for us and made some really huge saves," Forster, a former goalkeeper himself, said, "and he's been doing that all year long."

The second half brought more of the same for Northwood, which scored its third goal less than a minute after the break, as Waudby timed a run past the Orange backline well

and received a chip from Rocha. One-on-one with the goalkeeper, Waudby calmly slotted his effort to the right and into the net.

Twelve minutes later, Waudby completed his hat trick, scoring a goal that was largely a duplicate of his second. Well-positioned and remaining onside, he snuck past the Panthers' center backs and didn't miss from point-blank range.

"He's got a nose for the goal, that's for sure," Forster said of Waudby, who now has five goals in as many games.

Following the game, Forster told his team to enjoy the win, but to be ready to turn the page quickly. That message is out of necessity, as the Chargers' traveled to face Southern Durham on March 4, a game they won 8-1, with junior Walker Johnson scoring a hat trick.

Not far behind are the two final games of the season, a road match at East Chapel Hill on Tuesday and the regular-season finale on March 11 against Vance County.

Regardless of how the year ends, Forster remains impressed by the leadership he's seen from his most experienced players during his first year as coach.

"I can't say enough about the character and hard work of our seniors," Forster said. "They kind of set the mood for the team. We talk about having a F.A.C.E., and that includes focus, attitude, excellent communication and enthusiasm for the game. Our guys have really taken that on."



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- We have connected approximately 50 families with other community resources available.
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SEEKING BURR’S SEAT

Chatham’s Kimrey Rhinehardt planning bid for U.S. Senate

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Chatham resident Kimrey Rhinehardt has confirmed her intended candidacy for U.S. Senate in an exclusive interview with the News + Record.

She hopes to fill Sen. Richard Burr’s (R) seat after the longtime legislator’s term expires in 2022. Back in 2016, Burr announced his plan to retire at the end of his final term after more than 25 years in Congress.

Rhinehardt, a longtime Republican, first suggested potential candidacy in a Twitter post on Feb. 15; if she qualifies for the ballot, she’ll seek office as an unaffiliated candidate.

“I will run for U.S. Senate if Lara Trump steps foot in North Carolina,” she tweeted.

Lara Trump — who is married to Eric Trump, former President Donald Trump’s second-oldest son — has hinted for more than a year that she might pursue Burr’s vacated position in 2022. When Burr voted to convict Donald Trump in his second impeachment trial last month, the senator inadvertently elevated Lara Trump’s chances, according to Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican.

“My friend Richard Burr just made Lara Trump almost the certain nominee for the Senate seat in North Carolina to replace him if she runs,” he said in an interview with Fox News last month.

The shoutout garnered wide-spread attention and support from far-right conservatives, many of whom maintain the unfounded theory that Trump won November’s presidential election.

Since then, Lara Trump has been silent in respect to her political aspirations. But Rhinehardt’s mind is already made up.

“It is my plan to run for U.S. Senate in 2022,” she told the News + Record.

With her candidacy, Rhinehardt joins five other contenders for Burr’s seat — three Democrats, a Republican and a Libertarian. They are state Sen. Jeff Jackson (D); former state Sen. Erica Smith (D); Richard Watkins, a Democrat and virologist at The Science Policy Action Network; former U.S. Rep. Mark Walker (R); and Shannon Bray, a Libertarian.

Rhinehardt, the only unaffiliated candidate so far, says she will represent a more traditional and centric set of ideals than Trump and her opponents. Many of her policy opinions reflect those promoted by Burr, for whom she worked as a congressional staffer when he was still in the House of Representatives.

Earlier, Rhinehardt had served on N.C. Senator Lauch Faircloth’s (R) staff before briefly working under the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

After seven years working in the Capitol, Rhinehardt accepted a position with the UNC system as a federal lobbyist. She eventually settled in Chatham County 15 years ago. Four years ago, she founded Gray Zone Strategies LLC, a consulting firm she still operates.

Since her college days as a political science major at Appalachian State University, Rhinehardt has studied America’s complicated and demanding systems of governance. More

‘I want North Carolina’s voices to be heard. I don’t want it to be a party-driven message, because most people that I know don’t sit down and think about the issues facing their family in a political way. They don’t sit down and say, ‘What would the Republican Party suggest that I do?’ or ‘What would the Democratic Party suggest that I do?’

KIMREY RHINEHARDT, candidate for US Senate

than 20 years serving in the political arena has prepared her well for the rigors of Congress, she says, and attuned her acumen to address today’s unique governmental challenges.

But Rhinehardt will not represent the Republican Party when she seeks office next year. After decades working for the Republican cause, she said her life changed on Jan. 6 when a mob of Trump supporters ransacked the Capitol building. Rhinehardt could no longer oblige the party’s deviation from her principals. A few days later she refiled with the Chatham Board of Elections as an unaffiliated voter.

And she wasn’t alone. More than 15,000 N.C. Republicans have changed their registrations in the last two months — most of them to unaffiliated. As Rhinehardt pointed out in a tweet last Wednesday, citing data from the N.C. Board of Elections, unaffiliated voters in the state outnumber Republicans. There were 2,351,160 registered unaffiliated North Carolinians as of Feb. 27, the latest available data, compared to 2,155,265 Republicans. Democrats numbered 2,479,574.

Rhinehardt interprets those figures as evidence that party politics misrepresent today’s political climate.

“I want North Carolina’s voices to be heard. I don’t want it to be a party-driven message,” she said, “because most people that I know don’t sit down and think about the issues facing their family in a political way. They don’t sit down and say, ‘What would the Republican Party suggest that I do?’ or ‘What would the Democratic Party suggest that I do?’”

To Rhinehardt, politics has lost its “framework of common sense,” and a polarized two-party system compounds the problem.

“I believe there is an important opportunity for a new voice that doesn’t have to submit to the will of a major party to just speak truth to the voters,” she said, “give them more options, talk about policy issues in a way that factors in more than just ‘What does my political party say that it needs to be?’ Frankly, all I care about is what do North Carolinians say that they want? And then, we work toward a solution.”

‘An uphill battle’

Rhinehardt hopes North Carolina voters will identify with her platform. But, she said, “this will be an uphill battle any way you look at it.”

Even to get her name on the ballot will take concerted effort. As an unaffiliated candidate, Rhinehardt needs 84,000 signatures of support from potential constituents in advance of election season. Normally, her campaign would knock on doors and otherwise meet with voters face-to-face. In the midst of a public health crisis, though, Rhinehardt is loathe to the idea of compromising anyone’s safety.

“I don’t want to make anyone feel uncomfortable,” she said. “I don’t want to get sick and I don’t want anyone else to get sick.”

But under state law, the signatures she needs cannot be obtained electronically.

“A big surprise was that the signatures must be in ink,” Rhinehardt said. “But to have to obtain an ink signature during, again, a public health crisis, I come back to the word nonsensical.”

She has not yet devised a solution to her quandary, Rhinehardt said, but her campaign may start with an online canvass.

“We could launch an online campaign where registered voters could signal their interest in signing a petition,” Rhinehardt said, “and we could send them a petition electronically that they can sign and someone may pick it up, or it can be mailed to us.”

Obtaining signatures is just the first of Rhinehardt’s challenges, though. Her platform will face push back from wing adherents to both parties who resent a moderate position.

With the coronavirus pandemic ongoing — and its ramifications likely to linger beyond midterm elections — Rhinehardt’s “priority number one” is shoring up public health initiatives.

“And embedded in that is ensuring that North Carolinians have access to employment, the ability to start a small business and thrive and the ability for our children to return to the classroom,” she said.

Addressing the con-

cerns in North Carolina’s education system wrought by the pandemic are essential, Rhinehardt said, but schools returning to the way they functioned before COVID-19 will not constitute “a problem solved.”

“I think one of the things that the pandemic has shown us is that we have a unique opportunity to think differently, and to innovate,” she said, “and to explore ways that this crisis has exposed holes in our education systems from prenatal all the way up through the lifelong learners.”

The pandemic has also exposed healthcare failures, and potential solutions have sparked vitriolic debate among Washington lawmakers.

“I believe that the state of North Carolina has done a pretty good job of managing through the pandemic,” Rhinehardt said, “But I think the federal government could do a much better job of coordinating the financial support for states and localities.”

She does not advocate

a system of government wherein Congress reserves expansive authority over state programs, Rhinehardt said. “I guarantee you North Carolina needs different responses than the state of California.”

But when states call for federal assistance, the U.S. government should respond, she said.

“The state should not have to convince the feds of realities that actually exist.”

As for free-market enterprise and individual liberty, Rhinehardt agrees with traditional Republican belief that “regulations can create unnecessary burdens and put roadblocks in the way of the goals that we’re all trying to achieve,” she said, “which is to fulfill the dreams of the American people, and in North Carolina to fulfill the dreams of North Carolinians.”

Still, she said, “I believe that regulation is a necessary and important aspect of the way we govern.” Striking the appropriate balance, then, requires “a constant eval-

uation of whether or not regulations are meeting their intended purpose. And policy makers are charged with performing this evaluation with input from the stakeholders, i.e. North Carolinians.”

Balance and compromise are fundamental to Rhinehardt’s understanding of good government. Her stance will upset some party loyalists, but Rhinehardt doesn’t care.

“I know that much of what I said would never allow me to emerge from a Republican primary,” she said.

Neither will all of her policy preferences resonate with staunch Democrats.

“But that that’s not my goal,” Rhinehardt said. “My goal is to look at the facts, present the facts to the people of North Carolina — who are very smart, and can evaluate things for what they are — and then let’s go solve the problem.”

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

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‘THERE ARE NO WORDS’

After three years, Rojo Canela closes for good

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Tucked away on East 3rd Street, Rojo Canela, a family-owned Mexican restaurant, has been whipping up authentic food for Siler City since 2018.

Now, the lights are off, the tables are empty and the kitchen’s closed.

After nearly three years of serving Siler City with “calidez humana,” or human warmth, Rojo Canela has shut down — permanently. March 1 was the restaurant’s last day.

“There are no words,” said Leo Davalos-Nuño, who owned and operated Rojo Canela with his wife, Aidee. “... I am trying to see — how can I say it? I probably have to sit down and write something (on Facebook). I’m letting my customers know (who) used to call me for take out.”

It wasn’t an easy decision, he told the News + Record.

“I like to serve,” he said. “I did it all the time with my fullest respect. I want to be the best servant to the restaurant. But actually, I never knew what I was getting to.”

Rojo Canela first opened on April 27, 2018. According to a statement Davalos-Nuño posted on Facebook, he used 40 years’ worth of savings to open Rojo Canela and “fulfil (his) American Dream.” He and Aidee originally immigrated to Siler City from Zapot-



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Rojo Canela closed permanently last Monday after three years of serving authentic Mexican food in Siler City. Leo Davalos-Nuño and his wife, Aidee, owned and operated the restaurant.

lanejo, Jalisco, in Mexico. The food Rojo Canela served all came from family recipes.

“We thought that we were going to be so successful because we put in so much effort since the beginning — our recipes, our food, to keep it clean,” Davalos-Nuño said. “I thought we had it because when we opened the business, we were selling anywhere from \$900 to \$1,600 a day.”

But soon after opening, their fortunes began to change: In 2018, East 3rd Street closed for about seven months or so to facilitate construction traffic while the new Mountaire Farms chicken processing plant was developed.

“We had four employees plus my wife and me,” he said. “I had a girl to help us out as a waitress, and when they closed the road, I had to let them

go — everyone — because the business just dropped; you know, all the traffic went through all the other street, and that was it. That was the end.”

Rojo Canela used to open at 6 a.m. for breakfast, he recalled; steadily, they began opening later, backing it up “to seven, then to eight, then to nine” until they hit 11 a.m. The restaurant used to be open seven days a week, too, but about a year ago, they decided to close on Sundays.

Then in early 2020, COVID-19 struck — and that proved to be the final blow.

“We decided just to close because it was too hard, especially for Aidee, because we weren’t able to hire someone,” Davalos-Nuño said. “They wanted \$15 an hour, but we can’t pay that much. We were making a little, but not that much.”

Maintaining the restaurant by themselves, he said, involved a lot of work — “lots of hours” — and his wife felt the pressure.

“It is closing for good because I don’t want my wife to go through this again,” he said. “... Aidee didn’t have any more chances to do her painting, and she had just a

few moments, but not that much. It finally got to us, you know? Can’t do it anymore.”

Davalos-Nuño has canceled nearly everything — the internet, phone and gas. Now all that’s left is to sell or rent out the building, which he owns.

Rojo Canela’s closing has shocked and devastated Siler City residents who enjoyed its food and friendship.

Dave and Nicol Gaddis have been going to Rojo Canela since 2018, just after it first opened. They’d only just ordered taco salads the Sunday before the restaurant closed — and might have been among the last customers Rojo Canela served.

“I worked under the State Department and I lived in Mexico for about eight years, and I have eaten Mexican cuisine in all 32 states of Mexico, and I’ve told everybody this, nobody — I mean, nobody — could cook as well as the Rojo Canela,” Gaddis told the News + Record. “That was just the best food and (they were) just a very kind family, a good family, the kind of family you want to be in Siler City.”

They’d always order dozens of homemade tamales for the holidays, and sometimes Aidee would cook food for them that wasn’t on the menu.

Both said they’ll miss Rojo Canela dearly, especially their flavors and “variety of dishes.”

“It’s a real loss for Chatham County. It’s a huge loss for Siler City,” Gaddis said. “... They’ve contributed to this town, and it’s a shame that it ends up this way. We’re all very saddened by it.”

Now that Rojo Canela’s closed, Davalos-Nuño said he thinks he’ll plan on opening another small business — this time involving automobiles.

“I’m pretty good at mechanics,” he said. “Ever since I had a car, I have never been to the mechanic shop. I had done always my (own) services and repairs. I think I’m good enough to — and I used to be a truck driver. That’s another option. I can go trucking.”

All the hardships and disappointment aside, Davalos-Nuño said he doesn’t regret owning and operating Rojo Canela.

“I see this way: At least I gave it a try, and we held it for three years. I would have (held) it longer,” he said, breaking off. Later, he added, “We’ll make it through.”

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at victoria@chathamnr.com. Find more La Voz de Chatham coverage on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lavoz) and on our website (www.chathamnewsrecord.com/lavoz).

Chatham Charter DECA chapters success at state competition

CN+R Staff Reports

Chatham Charter high school students have had successes at recent state level club competitions.

The Chatham Charter chapter of DECA, an organization of marketing students, was successful in competitive events during the 77th

North Carolina DECA Career Development Conference (CDC). The conference was held virtually due to COVID-19.

The Chatham Charter trophy and top 10 winners were:

- Gracie Agnew, 2nd Place, Hospitality & Tourism Professional Selling and recipient of \$1,000 Sonya W. Dismuke

Scholarship

- Abbey Gaines, 4th Place, Integrated Marketing Campaign-Service; Top Test Score

- Elphie Spillman, Marketing Communications Series Event Top 10 Finalist

These students are set to compete at DECA’s Virtual International Career Development Conference April 19-23. Additionally, Chatham Charter DECA’s school-based enterprise (SBE) was among 246 school-based enterprises achieving Gold Certification for the 2020-2021 school year. The SBE also will be recognized during DECA’s Virtual

International Career Development Conference.

Three Chatham Charter Senior Beta Club members earned recognition for submissions at the state level Senior Beta competitions that were held virtually in 2021.

- Abbey Gaines: 3rd place, Jewelry Division II
- Silas Christenbury: 3rd place, Color Photography, Division I
- Leah Jones: 4th place, Digital Art Division II

All three are eligible to compete in Senior Beta national competitions this June.

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PITTSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Nightclubs and bars and taverns, oh my!

Commissioners discuss zoning ordinance amendments

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — It may soon be a lot easier to open a bar in Pittsboro.

At its regular meeting on Monday, the Pittsboro board of commissioners entertained a public hearing to discuss a potential zoning ordinance adjustment that would permit easier construction and operation of nightclubs, bars and taverns.

Attendance was scant. No members of the public signed up to speak, and Commissioner Michael Fiocco and Town Manager Chris Kennedy were both absent.

“Planning staff is requesting a text amendment to the Pittsboro zoning ordinance regarding nightclubs, bars and taverns,” said Theresa Thompson, the town’s senior planner and interim planning director.

Under current ordinance, such businesses require a special use permit, but the amended ordinance would permit them to operate under highway commercial and

central commercial “use-by-right” classifications.

“The purpose of this text amendment is to support and promote local businesses in town,” Thompson said.

Town staff recommended the board slash all special use permit requirements from town ordinance as respects nightclubs, bars and taverns. Those requirements include the following:

- No nightclub, bar or tavern shall be located within 500 feet of any other nightclub, bar or tavern
- No such establishment shall be located within 200 feet of a church, elementary or secondary school, public park or residentially-zoned property
- The main entrance of the building shall be toward a road zoned predominantly for nonresidential use
- A minimum 6-foot high opaque fence shall be erected adjacent to the property line of abutting residences
- Parking areas related to the establishment shall

be located no closer than 30 feet to the property line of abutting residences.

The commissioners were generally amendable to the ordinance amendment but expressed some reservations about removing prohibitions on nightclub, bar and tavern proximity to residential areas.

Thompson emphasized, though, that other ordinances still exist which should prevent raucous activity within view and earshot of people’s homes.

“The town also has a noise ordinance,” she said. “So, if noise is a concern, there are existing standards in place for that as well.”

Thompson asked that the board forward town staff’s amendment recommendation to Pittsboro’s planning board for further critique, a request the commissioners granted with a unanimous vote.

With nothing further to discuss on their agenda, the commissioners concluded Monday’s meeting in record time.

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

POLICE REPORTS

Woods Charter's music videos 'light the kids up'

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

Shortly into the pandemic, the Woods Charter School development team asked music and chorus teacher Creighton Irons to write a song for the school's annual fundraiser, to be hosted online.

Irons remembers thinking, "Well, let's get the kids to sing it."

It took about 40 hours of work. He had to compile tracks, teach students to sing to them, find intuitive software students could use to film their parts and edit all the individual parts together. But at the end, "The Seeds We Sow" video compilation was complete.

Since then, Irons has made seven more production videos — the editing process is down to about 10 hours now — along with several smaller videos for individual classes. Woods Charter, a K-12 school, will begin phasing into Plan B on Monday, but for a year now, Irons — like many educators — has been looking for ways to engage his students during remote learning.

"Music is technically extra for everybody. It's not a core class, like English or math, where they're tested, and they have to pass to advance," he said. "So then my role becomes really sort of confusing in a pandemic, when people are stressed out, and they have so much on their plate, and they get 10,000 emails a day. How can I force somebody to care about this other task?"

His first instinct was to tell students to "just go play music and explore," but he knew students needed structure to learn to sing or play an instrument.

"What I've stumbled into is the idea that, OK, if we're going to do anything it has to have some component of really just awesomeness to it. And if I'm going to ask them to invest, I need to say, 'This is going to be worth it,'" Irons said. "Because so much of their online lives just feels like clicking boxes or sort of spinning their wheels. So, I'm not going to say, here's another worksheet to do, or another website to go look at these different exercises or games — I want to have something that they can show for it at the end of their time."

Irons' approach is appreciated by many par-



Screenshot from 'Home' music video on YouTube

Woods Charter School music teacher Creighton Irons used video editing to create music performances by students even during remote learning. Here's a clip from the school's performance of 'Home' by 3rd-12th graders at the school.

ents, students and even the principal.

"He's a pretty phenomenal person," said Woods Charter Principal Cotton Bryan, "and the work he's doing is heartening."

Gianni DePietro, a 3rd grader at Woods Charter, said he's had a lot of fun making the videos.

"I've been participating in his music videos, his assignments that he posts, like there are some fun games that he did for music. It's one of my favorite things to do music," he said. "It's really cool how Mr. Irons can put videos together with kids singing apart. It's really cool when you put it together."

Fifth-grader Eve Terrell has been featured in five of the videos. She was nervous for the first video — particularly about her singing solo — but that eased after seeing the first video.

"I was super excited, but also nervous, because I knew a lot of people were going to see it," she said. "I think it looked really cool — I didn't expect it to look that good."

Two of Eve's siblings have been involved in the video production, too — her sister Navah, in 3rd grade, takes music class and they've performed duets together. Their older brother Eli, a senior, helped film the schoolwide production of "Home," which is Irons' personal favorite.

Mary Terrell, their mom, said she saw the music videos pull her children together as siblings to work on things together.

"It was one of the few times we saw our kids, especially our youngest Navah, kind of have the self initiative to really want to get a project done," she said. "And she would not only want to record one version, she would want to do like two

or three.

"I think everyone, if not most parents in the community, felt a huge sense of pride when they saw that video," she said of the first video, shown at the beginning of the pandemic. "It really seemed to bring everyone together during that challenging time for sure."

While Irons has enjoyed making the videos, he's looking forward to performing live concerts again. Still, he plans to carry the videos into a post-COVID future, too, particularly for original songs, which could include all grades.

"It's another tool I have now in the toolkit," he said, "and I'm glad to have it now."

Sometimes, he said he gets inspired and adds electronic instruments to the video — slightly appeasing his need to create with people in a completely remote format.

And if ever he gets frustrated with some students missing notes or not editing something precisely the way he wants to, Irons said he thinks about the enjoyment he's seen on his students faces as they watch the completed videos.

"I always try to respond to what is going to light the kids up, you know, because they're not real lit up right now," he said. "Just feeling overwhelmed with pride and gratitude that they're singing into the camera at all. Because it really, for so many, it's a huge leap to turn that camera on, and sing and hit submit — so I'm just wanting to make that experience of putting yourself out there a positive one."

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

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On March 3, Jamie Lee Clark, 29, of 975 Ralph Sipe Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Grant Carter for placing a harassing phone call, communicating threats, breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering, damage to property and larceny. Clark was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 22.

On March 3, Tony Eugene Davis, 53, of 12058 NC 902 Hwy, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for failure to appear on charges of driving while license revoked and failure to stop for a steady red light. Davis was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on April 5.

On, March 4, Francisco Javier Hernandez Munoz, 46, of 19045 US 64 West, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Alberto Estrada for assault and battery. Munoz was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 23.

On March 4, Gregorio Ramirez-Aparicio, 41, of 127 Brittany Love, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for failure to appear on charges of driving while impaired, possession of open container/consuming alcohol in passenger area. Ramirez-Aparicio was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Durham County District Court in Durham on March 24.

On March 4, Steven Lamorriess Sheppard, 53, of 847 Old Sanford

Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy David Nixon for possession of a firearm by a felon. Sheppard was issued a \$1,000 unsecured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 22.

On March 4, Richard Eugene Scurlock, Jr, 49, of 200 Elvie Scurlock Rd., Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy David Nixon for possession of a firearm by a felon. Scurlock was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 22.

On March 5, James Brian Schoonover, 60, of 2949 Siler City Glendon Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear on charges of driving while license revoked and expired/no inspection, and expired registration card. Schoonover was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on March 15.

On March 5, Jeffrey Osbourne Poole, 49, of 909 Peaks St, Bedford, Virginia, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failure to appear on charges of driving while impaired. Poole was issued a \$1,915 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Rockingham County District Court in Wentworth on April 1.

On March 5, Jeffrey Osbourne Poole, 49, of 909 Peaks St, Bedford, Virginia, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failure to appear on charges of driving while licensed revoked — impaired revocation. Poole was issued a \$125 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Rockingham County District Court in Wentworth on April 1.

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‘OUT OF REACH FOR SO MANY’

Chatham Youth fundraise for full-ride scholarship for CCS student

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

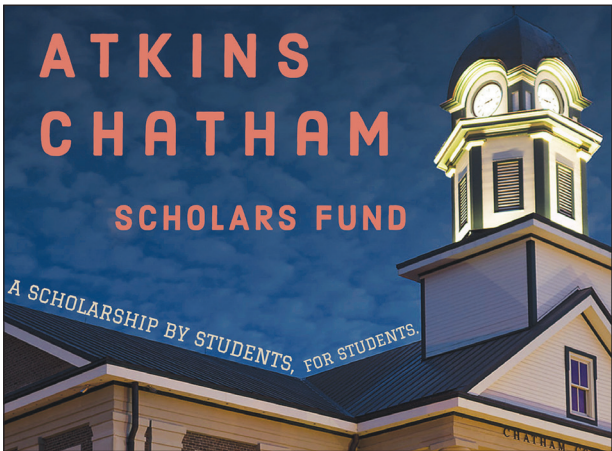
By students, for students.

That’s the banner of the Atkins Chatham Scholar Fund, a scholarship partnership between Chatham Education Foundation and Chatham Youth with the mission of sending “one needy Chathamite to the school of their dreams.”

“As the first and only #ByStudentsForStudents scholarship in Chatham and one of the first in the nation, we’re demonstrating the resolve of a new generation,” the GoFundMe page states. “High school and college juniors have accepted the mantle of a new day in America.”

The scholarship’s organizers — including Chatham Youth’s 12 student members and two advisers — say such a scholarship reflects an urgent need, as the pandemic perpetuates financial hardship and as student loan debt in the United States continues to grow at more than six times the rate of the national economy, according to research by EducationData.org. The scholarship’s GoFundMe campaign currently has raised \$1,000 of its \$28,000 goal to fully pay for four years of in-state tuition.

“Higher education has never been in higher demand, and yet, so far out of reach for so many,” the GoFundMe page says. “It is said that education is the ‘great equalizer,’ but in these times, it might as well be the ‘great barrier.’



Graphic courtesy of Atkins Chatham Scholars Fund

The good news is, there is hope. And that hope starts with you.”

Chatham Youth Founder and President Alexander Cook, a junior at Northwood High School, said he was largely inspired to start Chatham Youth during the presidential election last November — a time when so many important issues were brought to the forefront and remote learning meant he had extra time on his hands. He wanted to create something that created change and amplified youth voices from around the county, and so he did.

“I was just talking with a couple of my friends who were helping me on this, and we just kind of came up with this idea — maybe we could do a scholarship that was by students and for students,” Cook said, “but we didn’t actually have the infrastructure to do that. So we found the Chatham Education Foundation, and... (they) really liked the idea. It was a bit of a process, but we were able to get the go-ahead.”

The scholarship is

named for Simon Green Atkins, an African American educator from Chatham who was born into slavery in 1863 and devoted his life to improving health, housing and economic status for Black North Carolinians. He served as founding president of Winston-Salem State University, a historically Black college, and the North Carolina Negro Teachers’ Association.

In order to apply for the scholarship, CCS seniors must be pursuing a bachelor’s degree, possess a GPA of 3.0+ and have a household income at or below \$60,000. You can apply, or learn more, at chathamyouthnc.wixsite.com/home/chatham-scholars.

CEF Executive Director Jaime Detzi said the scholarship is a hyper-local opportunity to not only help close the gap for low-income students attending college — a gap reflected in Chatham and across the country — but also for those students being able to complete college.

“This pandemic has shown nothing but the problems that

already existed in the educational and public education system and education in general, as far as education equity throughout North Carolina, specifically, but in the nation. So there is no better time than now for us to be supporting a low-income student that could go to college without walking out with a ton of debt,” Detzi said. “And I think that Alexander and his team understand that you have opportunities in life that are given to you, and then you have opportunities in life that somebody of their age might be able to give to another student. And that’s more important than anything.”

Jonathan Aguilar, a former Jordan-Matthew student who is now a junior at Duke University, is not officially on a member of Chatham Youth, but he’s been helping out with the group’s efforts. He said this cause is important to him because of the number of students who miss out on the opportunity to attend college, particularly in Chatham. He was three years old when he immigrated to Siler City from Mexico with his mother. He is a DREAMer who graduated top of his class at J-M and earned a full ride to Duke University.

He hopes other students can have the same opportunities he did.

“During high school, I always contemplated the idea of not being able to go to college due to my status as an undocumented student and almost convinced myself at one point that it was impossible,” Aguilar said. “This is, however, not the case and I’d like to extend this notion to all of the students who are thinking the same thoughts that I was thinking during this point in one’s academic career.”

After graduating from J-M, Aguilar learned his class had the most college acceptances of recent classes, but the ratio of students who actually went on to attend college showed acceptance alone was not enough.

“In my eyes, the purpose of this scholarship is to inform all of the interested high school students of the many resources avail-

Chatham Youth members:

- Alexander Cook, founder and president
- Ray Posada, advisor
- Dawn Streets, advisor
- Mason Cook, co-director of CCS Serves
- George Gilson III, neighborhood outreach lead of Chatham Scholars
- Jacob Hartman, co-director of Chatham Scholars
- Soren Kappelman, co-director of CCS Serves
- Patrick McCaw, co-director of Chatham Scholars
- Antonio Salinas, chief technology advisor and senior advisor to the president
- Kayleigh Smith, director of Change
- Lindsey Torres, co-chief marketing officer
- Aiden Vigus, chief of staff
- Emma Wieber, co-chief marketing officer
- Cole Wolfgang, co-director of CCS Serves

able to prospective college students,” he said, adding that while he loved his time at CCS, he was not as prepared for college as he would have liked, particularly in his college chemistry studies.

“Upon confirming this thought with other CCS graduates in other universities, it became clear that many of us were not sufficiently prepared for our college journey,” he said. “This is one of the things I’d like to begin to change by starting this scholarship. By offering non-profit student run resources, I hope that external sources take notice and hopefully aid us with our task.”

Detzi said the scholarship presents a great opportunity for CEF to help get it off the ground. Currently, Detzi is helping with advertising of the scholarship, as well as with sorting out some of the logistical aspects of the application review process.

“I think that it’s super impactful that we have a group of students that are advocating for other students,” she said.

Another big piece that the group is focusing on is how to fundraise for such a large project. Without a super strong

business base in Chatham, Detzi said securing large donations can be a challenge — particularly because local businesses are already frequently giving and being asked for donations.

“We’re just trying to see what sticks, but we’re throwing a lot of things against the wall here,” Cook added. The group is also working to launch “CCS Serves,” a community service hub, but is currently focusing efforts on fundraising through raising awareness on social media and other creative avenues — encouraging donations of all sizes.

It’s a large task, but one Cook and his co-organizers believe warrants all the effort it will take to make a reality.

“I think that as students, we can serve as ambassadors to actually raise the money to make this happen and just see what we can do,” he said. “Because I think there was a need here in Chatham County, but it wasn’t necessarily being served. And so hopefully we can serve as a way to do that.”

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

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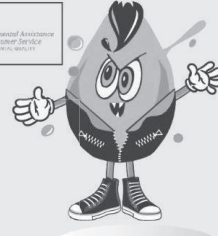
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Mentenga la grasa fuera de el agua de lavar

Ponga los desperdicios de comida en contenedores adecuados



No tire aceite o grasa en los drenajes
No lave con agua freidora/planchas, ollas,cacerolas y platos hasta que el aceite y la grasa hayan sido removidos
No use aua caliente para limpiar la grasa de las superficies
No tire desperdicios de comida en l os drenajes

- ✓ Put oil and grease in collection containers
- Remove oil and grease from kitchen utensils, equipment and food preparation areas with scrapers/towels/brooms
- ✓ Keep grease out of wash water
- ✓ Place food scraps in collection containers

DO NOT

- Pour oil and grease down drains
- Wash fryers/griddles, pots/pans and plates with water until oil and grease are removed
- Use hot water to rinse grease off surfaces Put food scraps down drains

Pets of the Week: Zippy & Rex

ZIPPY

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Zippy, a 10-year-old, spayed, domestic shorthair. Zippy is a mellow, lovable, senior cat who enjoys snuggling up in bed or on a fluffy blanket with her stuffed animals. She is what we call a 'velcro' pet — once she warms up to someone, she will be stuck to their side wherever they go! Zippy would do well in a calm household with older children, without dogs or other cats, where she can live out her retirement years in peace. The Animal Resource Center is currently running an adoption special on Zippy; for just \$10, you can take this sweet girl home today! For more information about how to meet or adopt Zippy or another pet, please contact the Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center at 919-542-7203 to schedule an appointment for a visit at 725 Renaissance Dr., Pittsboro. Photo courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office.



REX

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Rex, a 2-year-old, neutered, pitt bull mix. Rex is moderately active, but also enjoys being lazy alongside his human, meaning he will be up for long movie nights and midday naps with his new family. He loves to pile into laps for snuggles or lean in for reassuring hugs! Rex is a larger dog who would do well in a home with female dogs and older children. This chunky, endearing goofball is available for a special adoption fee of only \$20 — so call now to adopt your new cuddly family member! For more information about how to meet or adopt Rex or another pet, please contact the Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center (ARC) at 919-542-7203 to schedule an appointment for a visit at 725 Renaissance Dr., Pittsboro. Photo courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office.





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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Maya Angelou

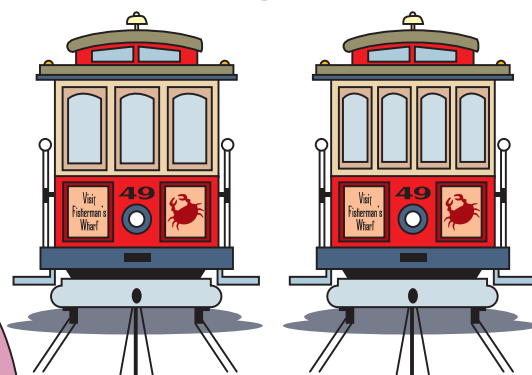
Maya Angelou was born Marguerite Ann Johnson on April 4, 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri. Today she is one of the most honored women in the world, recognized as a poet, memoirist, novelist, educator, dramatist, producer, actress, historian, filmmaker and civil rights activist. She has won three Grammys for her spoken-word albums, and in 2011, President Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom for inspiring young people with her words.

Maya's life didn't have an easy start. After her parents' divorce,



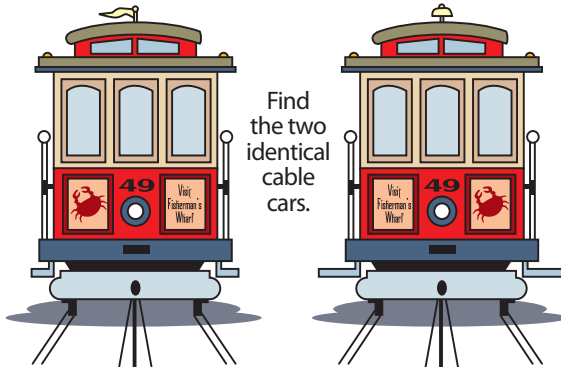
she was moved from home to home for many years, living in turn with her mother, her grandmother and her father. For a while she was homeless.

But she didn't let the poverty, pain or suffering of her childhood destroy her. In response, she created works of art.



Cable Car Conductor

As a young woman, Maya was San Francisco's first African-American female cable car conductor. She worked hard to support herself and her son.



Find the two identical cable cars.

Look at the list of art forms. Circle the ones with even numbers. These are art forms that helped Maya become famous.

- 16 + 16 = Feature film**

6 + 2 + 14 = Poetry

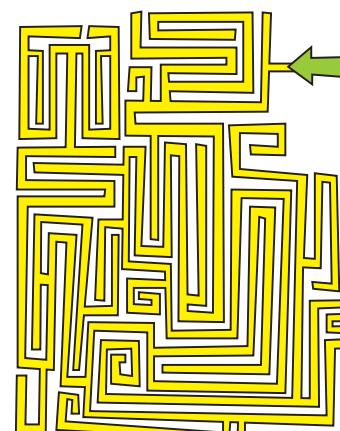
6 + 8 + 10 = The novel

9 + 9 + 6 = Dance
- 18 + 9 + 3 = Acting**

14 + 8 + 6 = Singing

13 + 13 = Spoken word

Standards Link: History: Students understand that specific individuals can have a great impact on history.



Singer and Dancer

Maya loved to perform. She started singing and dancing in nightclubs and changed her name to Maya Angelou. Maya came from her brother's nickname for her, "my-a-sister." Angelou came from her first husband's name, Angelos.

After Maya was cast in the opera *Porgy and Bess*, she traveled throughout Europe performing in the show. While on tour, she learned the languages of the countries she visited. Follow the maze to see which languages she learned.

- SPANISH

ITALIAN

ARABIC

FANTASY

FRENCH
- GERMAN

RUSSIAN

ARABIC

FANTASY

GREEK

*A West African language

Standards Link: Behavioral Studies: Understand that people learn about each other in different ways.

Let's Talk About It

Maya's first book was an autobiography. Based upon what you know of Maya's life, what do you think the title means to her?

Standards Link: Comprehension: Respond to questions citing evidence.

Writer

Maya died in 2014. She published more than 30 best-selling books. She wrote a series of books about her life. To discover the name of her first book, hold this page up to a mirror.

sdn yW wonk I
zgniz bniB

Create a Maya Angelou Poster

From the newspaper, select images and words that represent Maya Angelou. Use these to make a poster about her.


Standards Link: Visual Art: Know a range of subject matter in the arts.


JOURNALIST


In 1960, Maya moved to Cairo, Egypt and became the editor of an English language weekly newspaper.


What was the name of the newspaper that hired Maya as an editor? Use the code to find out!






-  = A


 = B


 = E


 = H

 = I
-  = O

 = R

 = S

 = T

 = V

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Maya is one of four poets in U.S. history to read a poem at a presidential inauguration (the others being Robert Frost, Amanda Gorman and Elizabeth Alexander). The poem Maya read is "On the Pulse of Morning." Here is the last stanza. Can you replace the missing vowels?

Here _n the p_lse of th_s new d_y
You m_y have the gr_ce to look _p and o_t
And int_ yo_r s_ster's _yes, int_
Y__r br_ther's f_ce, your c__ntry
And s_y s_mply
V_ry s_mply
With h_pe—
G__d m_rning.



Source: america.gov

Standards Link: Art: Know that ideas are used to communicate meaning.

Double Double Word Search

JOURNALIST
LANGUAGES
CONDUCTOR
PERFORM
POVERTY
HISTORY
POETRY
EDITOR
PULSE
OPERA
CAGED
CABLE
TEXT
PAIN
ART

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

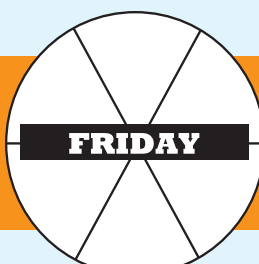
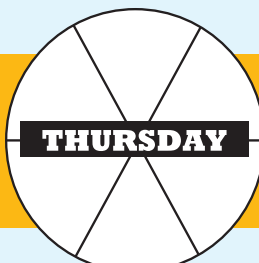
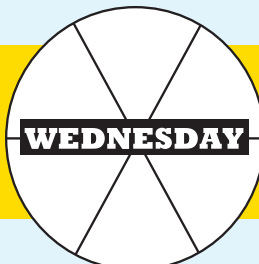
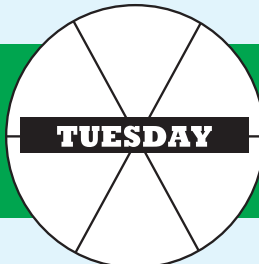
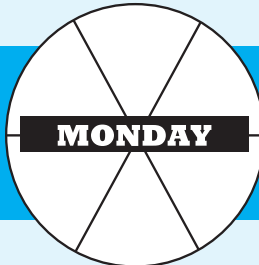
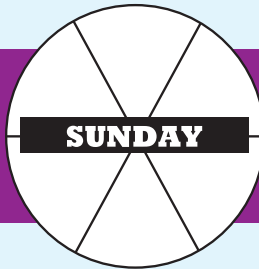
T S I L A N R U O J
W E D I T O R O R D
M A X Y T R E V O P
R R S T R I A E N C
O E Y R O T S I H A
F P C A B L E S P G
R O T C U D N O C E
E I R P E N I A P D
P L A N G U A G E S

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

Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

Can you do something physically active for one hour every day of the week?

Complete the circle charts below, one for each day of the week. Each wedge in the charts equals 10 minutes. If you dance for 20 minutes, color in two wedges. If you play basketball for one hour, fill in an entire circle.



Standards Link: Physical Education: Understand how to monitor and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.

Write On!

Amazing Woman

Who is the woman you most admire? Explain why.



Chatham YMCA

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- YMCA DAY CAMP: PERRY HARRISON SCHOOL

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Campbell named head of school at Haw River

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Haw River Christian Academy has named Dr. Don Campbell as Head of School. Campbell has more than 25 years of teaching and administrative experience, as a pastor and in Christian education. He recently completed a two-year teaching mission in Saipan, which is part of the Mariana Islands. Dr. Campbell joins this private, Christian school at a unique point in its history. The school is growing and has plans to add a new building with 20 classrooms plus office space on the leased campus of Emmaus Baptist Church. The projected completion of this addition is within the next two years, which will enable the school to carry out its vision of serving junior kindergarten-12th grade with more than one class per grade. “I am excited to be part of HRCA during this important time of transition,” Campbell said. “The school’s mission is well-represented by wonderful teachers, parents and students. We are all

excited about its future and being a more vibrant part of the local community.” He will be particularly focused on advancing the school’s commitment to the Christian faith through a classical approach that prepares graduates for every area of life. He will be increasing staff development, strengthening the upper school and enhancing the school’s culture. Campbell and his wife, Ellen, have been married for 32 years with seven children and four grandchildren. Their youngest daughter has joined the grammar school. Haw River Christian Academy opened its doors in 2008 as the county’s only private, Christian school, offering a distinctly classical and faith-based educational model that has gained momentum across the nation. The school is a member of the Association of Classical Christian Schools. As an interdenominational, church independent school, there is a wide span of churches across multiple counties reflected in its staff and student body.

Charlotte artist transforms Jordan-Matthews library’s trash into work that inspires

From JMArts

SILER CITY — Call them vintage. Or just call them old. But for Jordan-Matthews High School media coordinator Rose Pate, that large pile of old Life magazines that had remained untouched for decades was just gathering dust. Let’s face it: They were trash. But that didn’t mean she was ready to bury them in a landfill. “We needed to clear the library storeroom early last year to make a workspace for teachers and so we simply needed to get rid of them,” Pate said. “After give-aways to our history teachers, the next obvious spot was the art department.” Down the hall and around the corner, some art students studying under teacher Rahma Mateen-Mason worked in the studio at the time, sorting through the stacks, pulling images and words for their own

collages. And, after that, when there were so many issues left untouched, Mateen-Mason knew exactly where to send them next: her friend John R. Miles III. Miles is a collage and mixed media artist working in Charlotte, someone who shares a passion for arts education. After graduating from Western Carolina University with a Bachelor of Fine Art, he returned home and accepted a job with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools as a high school art teacher. Now, he is a full-time artist whose work appears in many public spaces including Charlotte’s Harvey Gantt Center, Brooklyn Collective and 9189 Studio Gallery. “Collage has become a lost art form over the years,” Miles explains in an artist statement on his website. “Romare Bearden brought collage to light during the Harlem Renaissance, and I’m bringing it back to light



Photo courtesy of JMArts

John R. Miles III took discarded magazines from Jordan-Matthews and turned them into creative works of art.

today. I want the world to understand that collage is not just the cutting and pasting of pictures on a page. Instead, it’s more like taking puzzle pieces that were never meant to fit together and manipulating them to not only fit, but also to make an aesthetically pleasing image during the culmination of a long, and tedious process.” Much of the work he created using magazines from Jordan-Matthews seems nostalgic, which isn’t terribly surprising, since the Life magazines spanned roughly from the 1940s to 1960s. But there’s always a subtext to be gleaned in the work, something left for the audience to interpret and absorb.

Mateen-Mason was happy to share the magazines with her colleague, who made an appearance in Pittsboro last year as an instructor in Chatham’s first-ever All-County Art Workshop. And she was impressed to see what he did turning potential trash into art that has made an impact — not only on audiences, but the artist, himself. “John was delighted and grateful to get the magazines,” she said. “He was definitely inspired by them.” More information about JMArts, including a schedule of upcoming arts events and information on membership, is available online at JMArts.org.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

Town of Siler City: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service (RUS), USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that RUS, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by the Town of Siler City. The proposal is for Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Nutrient Removal and Capacity Increase in Siler City. The Town of Siler City has submitted an application to RUS for funding of the proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy L. Whittington, Area Specialist, USDA Rural Development, 847 Curry Drive, Ste 104, Asheboro, NC 28359, 336.308.1660 Lynn.Whittington@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Town of Siler City proposes to improve/upgrade the Town’s existing WWTP located at 198 Utility Drive, Siler City, North Carolina. These upgrades are proposed to be completed in two (2) phases due to permitting requirements. The proposed phase 1 upgrade includes modifications to the existing oxidation ditches (mixers, control valves, fine bubble diffusers, etc.) four (4) new 100 horsepower (HP) blowers, air piping, yard piping, related electrical and site work, and appurtenances. The upgrades also include replacement of clarifier equipment and the installation of a new standby power generator with automatic transfer switch to ensure that the WWTP facilities remain operational during a loss of power. The second phase of the project includes upgrades to expand the current treatment capacity from 4.0 million gallons per day (MGD) to 6.0 MGD, expansion of the headworks (screening & grit removal), and influent pump station. A third oxidation ditch is proposed to be constructed along with a third clarifier for biological treatment and settling. Lastly, the project includes upgrades to approximately 5,600 linear feet (LF) of gravity sewer interceptor from the point that Mountaire Farms flow enters the interceptor to the WWTP.

McGill Associates, P.A. an environmental consultant, prepared an environmental assessment for RUS that describes the project, assesses the proposed project’s environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided. RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

A general location map of the proposal is shown below:

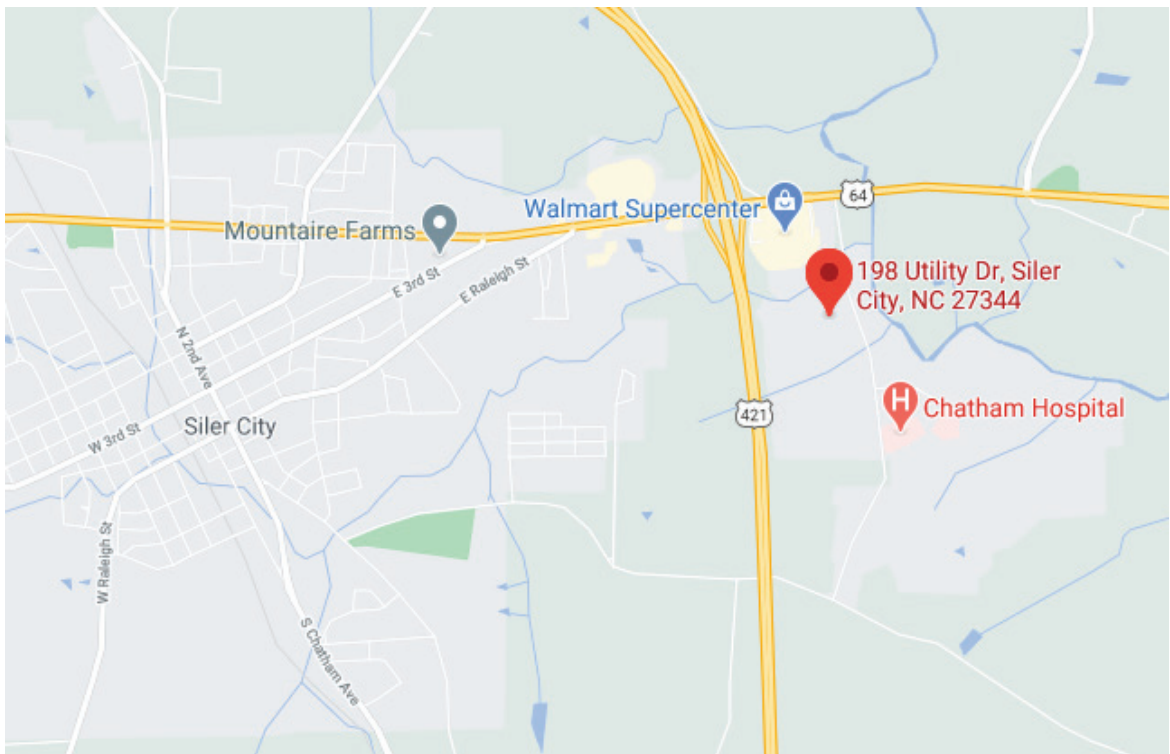


Photo courtesy of JMArts

The photo used in this piece was originally published in a magazine discarded from Jordan-Matthews’ library.

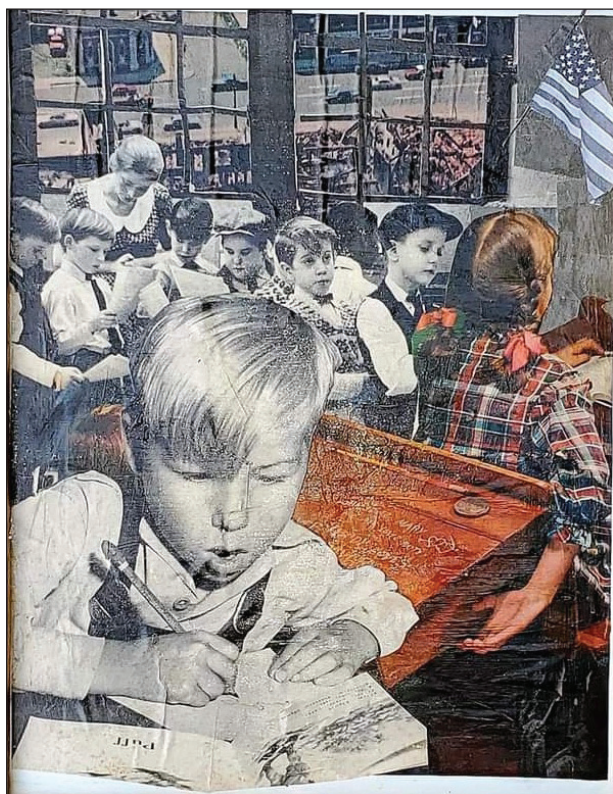


Photo courtesy of JMArts

Miles’ creativity has inspired J-M students.

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

LEARN ABOUT LAND - Chatham Land Experts - www.learn-aboutlands.com - 919-362-6999. Jy2,tfnc

OFFICE SPACE RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT. Approximately 2,000 sq. ft. reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, 919-930-1650. Jn15,tfnc

HOUSE FOR RENT

POWELL SPRINGS APTS. Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 – 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD # 1-800-735-2962. Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, A2,tfnc

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

YARD SALE

EXTRAVAGANT YARD SALE: Saturday, March 20, 8a.m.–2p.m. at 2356 Mays Chapel Road. (Rain date: Sunday, March 21, noon – 4p.m.) For information, call 919-542-6632 or 919-545-4934. M11,18, 2tc

AUCTIONEERS

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

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call... We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, S3,tfnc

SERVICES

ELITE HOME IMPROVEMENTS - We specialize in all your home improvement needs. Door and Window Replacement - Drywall, Trim - Deck & Demo - Roof & Floors - Carpentry. John Hayes, 919-548-0474, F18,25,M4,11,4tp

RAINBOW WATER FILTERED VACUUMS, Alice Cox, Cox's Distributing - Rainbow -- Cell: 919-548-4314, Sales, Services, Supplies. Serving public for 35 years. Rada Cutlery also available. F4-A15,11tp

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

CARPENTRY WORK – all types, repairs, renovation, installation, windows and doors. Call Robert Clark, 919-742-3194. My25,tfnc

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

HELP WANTED

CLEANING LADY WANTED - In Gulf, 3 to 4 days per week, 20 hours or so, \$12 per hour. Call Reba at 919-898-4846. M11,18,25,A1,4tp

LOCAL OPTOMETRY OFFICE looking for immediate front desk help. Experience is preferred, but will train. Must be friendly, outgoing and responsible. Paid health insurance, holidays and vacation days. Fax resume to 919-742-4599. M11,18,2tc

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
HAVING QUALIFIED as Executrix of the Estate of RONALD L. TEAGUE, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of May, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 9th day of February, 2021.

Deborah Sue Y. Teague, Executrix of
The Estate of Ronald L. Teague
Post Office Box 1806
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
MOODY, WILLIAMS & LEE, LLP
Attorneys at Law
Box 1806
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
(919) 542-5605
F18,F25,M4,M11,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-78
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 on the 9th day of February, 2021, 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
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 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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-84
All persons having claims against LUTHER ISAAC LOTT, JR., 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.
Nathan Lott, Administrator
120 Lillie Lane
Sanford, NC 27332
F18,F25,M4,M11,4tp

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

Sheffield Manor

813 Sheffield Drive
Siler City, NC 27344

- Elderly Households
(Persons 62 or older, or Persons with Disabilities)
- 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments
- Units for Persons with Disabilities Available

-Rent Based On Income-
Rental Assistance Available. Please call,

(919) 742-4058

TDD/TYY # 1-800-735-2962

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

I, MARK L. AYER, have qualified as Executor of the Estate of JEAN M. AYER, deceased, formerly of Chatham County. This is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to present them to me at the address shown below on or before May 27, 2021, or your claim will be barred pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 28A-19-3. I hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations indebted to the decedent to make immediate payment to me. This the 19th day of February, 2021.

Mark L. Ayer, Executor
Estate of JEAN M. AYER
Post Office Box 2608
High Point, North Carolina 27261
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

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

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.

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.

HIRING CNA's 3RD SHIFT

CALL: 919-542-3151

Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

**for appointment to complete
application and interview**

Pittsboro Christian Village

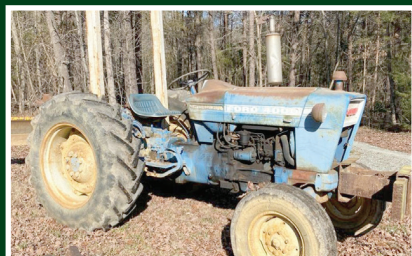
1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

AUCTION

1000+ Lots Farm, Shop, Lawn Equipment & Collectibles

Estate of the Late Mr. William Mebane Tractors, CAT Loader, Vintage Tool Collection, Toys, Collectibles!

3691 Lambeth Mill Rd., Siler City, NC Inspection/Previews Posted Online



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RogersAuction.com
Bidding Ends
March 15th!**

(919) 545-0412

RogersAuction.com

NCFL7360



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AUCTIONEERS
& REAL ESTATE**

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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

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Handicap Accessible Units

Please Call [1] 919-742-2395

TDD/TYY # [1] 800-735-2962



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



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

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. 20 CVD 336
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
MARINE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION,
Plaintiff vs
AUBREY BURNETTE,
DEFENDANT
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
TO: AUBREY BURNETTE
Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action.
The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Money owed, which is more completely described in the Complaint for Chatham County File Number 20 CVD 336, to collect the money owed.
You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than April 13, 2021 which is forty (40) days from the first date of publication. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.
This the 4th day of March, 2021.
MEWBORN & DESELMs, ATTORNEYS AT LAW
By: Brett J. DeSelms, Jonathan Eure,
Attorney for Plaintiff
829 Gum Branch Road, Suite C
Jacksonville, NC 28540
Telephone: (910) 455-9755
M4,M11,M18,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified on the 23rd day of February, 2021, as Co-Executors of the Estate of BETTY JEAN PHILLIPS AKA BETTY J. 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 7th day of June, 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 4th day of March, 2021.
Tracey E. Parker and Scott R. Phillips, Co-Executors
Estate of Betty Jean Phillips aka Betty J. Phillips
c/o J Alan Campbell Law
PO Box 850
Hillsborough, NC 27278
M4,M11,M18,M25,4tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Board of Commissioners will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING ON MAR. 15, 2021, AT 6:30 PM IN THE CITY HALL COURTROOM LOCATED AT 311 N. 2ND AVE. Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests:
Town of Siler City proposes text amendments to the following sections of the UDO: §147 Table of Permissible Uses (primary residence with accessory apartment, R-20), §148(e) Primary Residence With Accessory Apartment, §168 Residential Density (primary residence with accessory apartment), §286 Satellite Parking (600 feet, exceptions, exclusions, C-C).
The proposed items are available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the application are invited to attend the public hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced items. The Planning Board will meet on Mar. 8 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. If you are interested in attending the meetings via Zoom, then contact jbridges@silercity.org for the Planning Board meeting and jjohnson@silercity.org for the Board of Commissioner meeting.
The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.
M4.M11,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-122
All persons having claims

against MARGIE MARTIN KIVETT, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of June, 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 March, 2021.
Diane K. Saylor,
Limited Personal Representative
220 North Tenth Avenue
Siler City, NC 27344
M4,M11,M18,M25,4tp

CREDITOR'S NOTICE
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified on the 23rd of February 2021, as Co-Administrators of the Estate of CHARLES NEWELL HANCOCK, JR., 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 on or before the 4th day of June, 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 1st day of March 2021
Daune Honeycutt and Shara Bunker, Co-Administrators of The Estate of Charles Newell Hancock, Jr.
213 Sugar Mill Road
Sanford, NC 27332 and
1940 Chris Cole Road
Sanford, NC 27332
Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
115 Chatham Street, Suite 302
Sanford, NC 27330
M4,M11,M18,M25,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against GARY DEAN JACKSON, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before Friday, June 4, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This day, Thursday, March 4, 2021.
Rachel Jackson, Executor of the Estate of Gary Dean Jackson
278 Woodfield Court,
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526
M4,M11,M18,M25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against JOHN W. ROBERTS, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before June 11th, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This 11th day of March, 2021.
Brook H. Roberts, Executor
Estate of John W. Roberts
c/o Roberson Law Firm
1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
M11,M18,M25,A1,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-120
All persons having claims against **JOSEPH FIELDS ROBERTSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of June, 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 March, 2021.
William L. Robertson, Executor
1312 B Louisa Ln.
Wilmington, NC 2840 3
M11,M18,M25,A1,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-134
All persons having claims against **MARY FANNIE BURKE (LOPOSSAY)**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of June, 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 March, 2021.
1. Jeffrey Ray Burke, Co-Administrator
2. Dawn Marie Burke (Pate), Co-Administrator
785 Glovers Church Rd
Siler City, NC 27344
M11,M18,M25,A1,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of TRUDY LETITIA SHAPCOTT of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned c/o David P. Nanney, Jr., Esq., P.O. Box 19766, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27619-9766, on or before the 11th day of June, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 11th day of March, 2021.
Robin Goldcott, Executor

c/o David P. Nanney, Jr.
Kirschbaum, Nanney, Keenan & Griffin, P.A.
P. O. Box 19766
Raleigh, NC 27619-9766
M11,M18,M25,A1,4tp

FRIENDLY MUTUAL BURIAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS,
FEBRUARY 26, 2021
On October 14, 2015 the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service ordered the assets of Friendly Mutual Burial Association of Siler City, NC to Reich-Hayes-Boren Mutual Burial Association of Elkin, NC. Reich-Hayes-Boren has agreed to accept the known active members deemed by the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service to be in good standing as reported on the Friendly Mutual Burial Association membership files. Each respective household is being notified in writing to his or her last known address of the following:
1. The Membership of Friendly Mutual Burial Association was transferred to Reich-Hayes-Boren Mutual Burial Association by Order of the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service.
2. Reich-Hayes-Boren Mutual Burial Association agrees to provide burial benefits at least equal
To, but not less, than the amounts provided by Friendly Mutual Burial Association.
3. Each Member impacted by this transfer may remain Members by doing the following:
a. Contact Reich-Hayes-Boren Mutual Burial Association's Secretary / Treasurer,
P. Hasten Wall, with a current mailing address and telephone number for the head of
Household and
b. Remitting payment of all current and past assessment fees due.
Due to the increase in the cost of postage, your assessment for Burial Association will be billed only once every three (3) years. However, if you wish to be billed yearly, please pay the yearly amount shown on your new billing notice. To receive a death claim, a copy of a certified Death Certificate may be mailed to: Reich-Hayes-Boren Mutual Burial Association, Post Office Box 192, Elkin, North Carolina 28621. Death benefits may be paid directly to the next of kin or the servicing funeral home. Questions regarding Burial Association may be sent to: reich.hayes.boren@gmail.com or call the administrative office of Reich-Hayes-Boren Mutual Burial Association, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sincerely,
P. Hasten Wall
Secretary/Treasurer
Reich-Hayes-Boren Mutual Burial Association.
M11,1tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of WILLIAM A. KOEHLNLINE, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Marcus Hudson, Attorney at Law, 641 Rock Creek Road, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, on or before the 14th day of June, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.
This 11th day of March, 2021.
Evelyn Koehline, Executor,
Estate of William A. Koehline
Marcus Hudson, Attorney at Law
641 Rock Creek Road
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514
M11,M18,M25,A1,4tc

CHATHAM COUNTY HAS BEEN AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)/FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM
Chatham County has been chosen to receive \$16,167 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.
The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; The Salvation Army and The United Way Worldwide. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the county.
A Local Board made up of local representatives of the organizations listed above will determine how the funds awarded to Chatham County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. Applications are available only by email or mail. Please do not come by office for an application. For applications by mail: The Salvation Army, P.O.Box 752, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or email: jane.wrenn@uss.salvationarmy.org The deadline for applications to be received back is Friday, March 19, by 5:00 p.m.
M11,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-94
All persons having claims against ROBERTA B. LARSON, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of June, 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 March, 2021.
Rebecca L. Redman, Executrix
15232 Shannon Dale Rd
Purcellville, VA 20132
M11,M18,M25,A1,4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF PITTSBORO
The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following Public Hearings on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The Public Hearing will be conducted remotely via Zoom, a teleconference software, for the following item:
Graham Scott Oldham is requesting a Conditional Rezoning from R-A2 (Residential Agricultural - 2 acres) to C2-CZ (Highway Commercial Conditional Zoning) for a shopping center, located on 5 parcels (PID 7108, 7109, 7110, 93983, 93984), the total being approximately 12.85 acres, located at 3151 US 15-501 North, Pittsboro, north of Oldham Place, owned by Graham Scott Oldham.
The purpose of the legislative public hearing 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 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 22, 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 22, 2021 if you wish to participate.
M11,M18,2tc

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)
SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION CENTER IMPROVEMENTS
The Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling Division is requesting bids from qualified, licensed contractors to perform site improvements at four (4) collection centers. The work will include installing concrete pads, asphalt pavement resurfacing and repair, and miscellaneous site work. All trade permits shall be obtained by the Contractor if needed.
The complete RFB 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 holding a public bid opening Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM EST at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, 1192 US HWY 64 Business West, Pittsboro, NC 27312.
Vendors must submit one hard copy with all attachments, including signatory pages, which must be received by the deadline above. If not delivering to the bid open location, the hard copies must be sent to one of the following delivery addresses:
Postal Address: Kevin Lindley, Chatham County Solid Waste and Recycling, P.O. Box 1550, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (all postal delivery)
Street Address: Kevin Lindley, Chatham County Solid Waste and Recycling, 28 County Services Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (land delivery only)
A pre-bid meeting will be held at the Crutchfield Crossroads facility, 4030 Silk Hope-Liberty Rd, Snow Camp, NC on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021, AT 9:00 AM.
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 5:00 PM on Thursday, March 25, 2021 to purchasing@chathamcountync.gov or by fax to (919)-542-8272. NO RFB inquiries by telephone please. All addenda will

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Court Ordered Real Estate Auction, 3 Tracts, Richmond Co., Rockingham, NC, Online w/Bid Center, Starts Ending 3/23 at 12 noon, See Our Website for More, ironhorseauction.com, 800.997.2248, NCAL 3936

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be posted by 5:00pm on Friday, March 26, 2021 and available at <http://www.chathamnc.org/government/current-bid-proposal-opportunities>. Chatham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability.

M11,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21 E 145
The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of JERRY WALTER CATES, 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, 1985 Andrews Store Road, Pitts-

boro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 11th day of June, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This 8th day of March, 2021.
Lynn Rimmer Cates
1985 Andrews Store
Road
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC
P. O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880

M11,M18,M25,A1,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against FLORENCE AUTRY MCCACHREN, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to Susan Tera McCachren as

Administrator of the Estate of Florence Autry McCachren on or before June 11, 2021, c/o Thomas J. Neagle, Attorney at Law, 605 W. Main Street, Suite 104, Carrboro, North Carolina 27510, or this notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Administrator.

This the 11th day of March, 2021.
Susan Tera McCachren, Administrator
c/o Thomas J. Neagle, Attorney
605 W. Main Street, Suite 104
Carrboro, North Carolina 27510
Attorney for Estate: Thomas J. Neagle
Neagle Law Firm, PC
605 W. Main Street, Suite 104
Carrboro, North Carolina 27510
(919) 368-3536

M11,M18,M25,A1,4tc

PUBLIC NOTICE

Chatham County Schools' federal projects under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 are presently being developed. Projects included: Title I (Helping Disadvantaged Children Meet High Standards) Title II Title III (Language Acquisition) Title IV A Student Support and Academic Enrichment McKinney-Vento (Homeless Education) Migrant Education Program Career and Technical Education High school students can enroll, without cost, in college credit classes through the Career and College Promise program. This includes Career and Technical Education pathways of study. IDEA (Students with Disabilities) The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446) Project is presently being amended.

The Project describes the special education programs that Chatham County Schools proposes for Federal funding for the 2021-2022 School Year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the Project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this Federal Program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended Project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project is open to the public for review and comments during the week of April 12-16, 2021 in the office of Melvin Diggs, Executive Director Exceptional Children and Academically and Intellectually Gifted located at Horton Middle School, Central Office-South, Pittsboro, NC. These projects describe the programs that Chatham

County Schools proposes for federal funding for the 2021-2022 school year. Non-profit private schools and interested persons are encouraged to review these federal guidelines for the above listed projects and indicate their interest in participation of the projects if qualified. These projects are being developed during April and May and are due to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction on June 30, 2021. The initial Equitable Services for Private Schools meeting will be held on April 20, 2021, at 2:00 PM via virtual platform. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the office of Carol Little, Executive Director Federal Programs and School Improvement, at Chatham County Board of Education, P.O. Box 128 / 369 West Street, Pittsboro, N.C., prior to April 20, 2021.

M11-A15,6tc

Chatham County Public Health Department to partner with StarMed Healthcare on mass vaccination events

From Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Public Health Department (CCPHD) continued its efforts last week to get the Chatham County community vaccinated against COVID-19. These efforts included first and second dose vaccinations at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center (Ag Center) in Pittsboro on March 1 and second dose vaccinations at Roberts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Goldston on Friday.

The CCPHD hosted a mass vaccination clinic at the Agriculture Center on Monday, focusing on Groups 1, 2 and 3 of the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services' prioritization guidance, including frontline essential workers.

Beginning this Friday, March 12, the CCPHD will partner with StarMed Healthcare on mass vaccination clinics at the Agriculture Center. To ensure a smooth transition, StarMed will shadow the CCPHD's operations at Monday's clinic, where the department is slated to administer approximately 700 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. StarMed will take over mass vaccination clinic operations at the Ag Center beginning with an event on Friday.

"We have already been partnering with StarMed for several months as they conducted weekly COVID-19 testing events at multiple locations in the county," said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek. "StarMed has been working with

other counties in N.C. on vaccinations and we are excited about this new stage of our partnership. This will allow mass vaccination clinics to continue and expand as supplies allow, while increasing capacity for our team to ramp up efforts to reach priority populations, including marginalized communities, that often face barriers to accessing healthcare, including vaccinations. It is a necessary and important next step as we continue this critical work."

Individuals who received first-dose vaccinations from the CCPHD at the Ag Center will still receive their second-dose vaccinations at the same date, time and location as it was scheduled. There is no need to confirm appointments, as the CCPHD will coordinate scheduling with StarMed for these events to ensure appointments continue as planned. The CCPHD will also work with StarMed to schedule first-dose appointments for individuals who are in the CCPHD's vaccine database, including those who entered their information on the online Vaccine Interest Tool or COVID Vaccine Info Line (919-545-8323). The CCPHD will transfer some of its vaccine allocation to StarMed each week for these mass vaccination events, including second-dose vaccines.

A full Frequently Asked Questions document on the CCPHD-StarMed partnership is available on the Chatham County website: <https://www.chatham-countync.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=54619>.

The CCPHD will ramp up equity-focused efforts to reach communities across Chatham County to ensure all residents have access to vaccinations and information about the vaccine. Staff have worked with community partners on a number of outreach events to date, including recent vaccinations at Roberts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Goldston.

"Local public health has an important role to play in COVID-19 vaccinations, not just as a provider but also in sharing factual information and connecting residents to resources in and around Chatham County," Zelek said. "This requires community partnerships and intentional, equity-driven effort to reach those who may be missed through traditional channels, including marginalized communities."

According to the NC-DHHS COVID-19 vaccination database, 16,548 Chatham County residents had received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine through last Friday, accounting for 22.2% of the county's population. Additionally, 10,868 Chatham residents have received their second dose, representing 14.6% of the population. Both of these percentages are among the highest in the state.

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and the CCPHD's vaccination plans, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvaccine. To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, please visit www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth or www.facebook.com/chathamhealth.

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Financial Moves for Widows and Widowers

If you've recently become a widow or widower, you're obviously dealing with an enormous emotional burden, and coping with your grief can seem like a full-time struggle. Unfortunately, the business of life must go on – and the financial moves you make at this time can have a big impact on your life.

So, as you attend to your affairs, consider the following suggestions:

- **Don't make hasty decisions.** Even though you will need to make some moves in the near future, don't feel rushed into decisions that may prove to be ill-advised. For example, don't immediately sell your home or liquidate all your stocks.
- **Consult with your estate planning professional.** If you and your spouse created an estate plan involving a will, living trust or other documents, you'll want to consult with your estate planning professional to determine what steps should be taken to implement these arrangements.
- **Address life insurance issues.** If your spouse had a life insurance policy, you'll want to contact your insurance agent for help in navigating the paperwork necessary to receive the death benefit. Of course, some financial advisors also sell life insurance within the context of your overall financial strategy, so, if this is your situation, you'll want to speak with your advisor about how to handle the insurance proceeds.
- **Apply for Social Security benefits.** If you are 60 or older, you may be entitled to Social Security survivor benefits, along with a one-time death benefit. Contact your local Social Security office to stop the benefits your spouse received and apply for the new ones for yourself.
- **Change the name on financial accounts.** If you and your spouse had jointly held accounts with "right of survivorship," the assets will typically pass automatically to you, the surviving spouse. However, for legal purposes, it's still a good idea to retitle these assets in your name. This usually only requires filling out some simple documents, which are available from your financial institutions – bank, credit union, investment firm, etc. But you also may need to change the beneficiary designations on accounts held only in your name, such as your 401(k). These designations are powerful and can even supersede instructions in your will or living trust.
- **Go over bills and debts.** Review all your bills, automatic payments and outstanding loans. If they are in your spouse's name, or in both your names, contact the merchant or financial services provider to change all correspondence and account information to your name only. For any outstanding accounts in your spouse's name, you may need to notify the business that all payments will be handled by your spouse's estate, if you choose to go that route. You may need to provide these businesses with the contact information of your estate planning professional.
- **Plan for your future.** Once you've handled the immediate financial needs described above, you'll want to think about your own future. This means you may have to update your estate plans and insurance policies. You'll also want to consult with your financial advisor to see what changes, if any, you might need to make to your investment portfolio.

Only time can ease the pain of losing a spouse. But by taking care of the mundane matters of daily living, you can at least alleviate the feelings of being overwhelmed – and that, in itself, has value.

Pittsboro Chad Virgil, CFP®, ChFC®, CLU® 630 East St Suite 2 919-545-5669	Governors Club Sharon A Dickens, AAMS® 50101 Governors Dr Suite 118 919-967-9968	Pittsboro Lee Shanklin, AAMS® 120 Lowes Drive Suite 107 919-545-0125
Penguin Place Eric C Williams, AAMS® 114 Russet Run Suite 120 919-542-3020	Pittsboro Kevin C Maley 984 Thompson St Suite E2 919-444-2961	Chapel Hill Jessica L Villagrana 180 Providence Rd Suite 1c 984-219-6635
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