

Chatham News + Record

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TOMMY EDWARDS (1945-2021) | 'HE PLAYED WITH HEART'

Chatham bluegrass legend dies at 75

CN+R Staff Report

Legendary Chatham County musician Tommy Edwards, a renowned guitar player and teacher whose performance career spanned half a century, died Saturday morning — one day after receiving The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, the state's highest civilian honor, from Gov. Roy Cooper.

Edwards, who also taught history in Chatham County schools, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer earlier this year. He was 75 and is survived by his wife, Cindy.

"Tommy was simply the coolest, kindest, funniest, lovin'est, pickin'est man on earth," fan William Lewis, the cultural arts manager for the Town of Cary, wrote in a tribute on Facebook.

"Boy, heaven just got a good one."

A native of Siler City, Edwards was said to be as old as bluegrass itself. He was born July 20, 1945 — the same year that Earl Scruggs joined Bill Monroe's "Blue Grass Boys" and ushered in a new musical genre. "The Bluegrass Experience," the band Edwards later co-founded, thrilled bluegrass music fans with live and, after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, virtual performances. 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of the group's founding.

Warren Ort of Pittsboro said he and his wife Barbara became big fans of Edwards after moving to Fearington Village 12 years ago.

"He played at the Fearington Roost a number of times a year, the Bynum Front Porch, the old General Store, and

we always made it a point to attend the Bluegrass Experience's New Year's Eve show in Sanford," he said. "Tommy Edwards was a fabulous musician, a good person and a great friend of Chatham County. He will be missed."

The personable Edwards left an indelible impression on those who came to know him and his music, according to fan Hank Becker.

"He was such an inspiration — not just for his playing and band-leading but for the kind, gentle and warm person he was," Becker said. "It is simply shocking. We will embrace his music forever."

In addition to his musicianship, Edwards worked for decades in Chatham

See EDWARDS, page A3



Submitted photo

Tommy Edwards, a native of Siler City, was one of the state's best-known bluegrass musicians and teachers. He co-founded The Bluegrass Experience and performed professionally for half a century.

HERITAGE BREED STAMPS

New stamps trace lineage to Chatham's Livestock Conservatory



BY BILL MCALLISTER
Special to the News + Record

A Chatham County-based organization went to Washington last week to celebrate a rare victory.

The Livestock Conservancy of Pittsboro joined with the U.S. Postal Service to mark the release of a sheet of 20 stamps showing endangered breeds of American farm animals on May 17.

It was a rare win for the North Carolina organization because the Postal Service receives more than 30,000 suggestions for new stamps every year.

Less than 100 typically win ap-

proval.

So the "first-day of issue" ceremony on the front lawn of Mount Vernon, George Washington's estate, represented the end of what Livestock Conservancy officials said was a struggle of at least six years to win approval for stamps that highlight 10 of the rarest and threatened American breeds.

Washington's Potomac River manor was the ideal spot to highlight the danger to these animals, said Douglas Bradburn, president of Mount Vernon.

That's because the first Ameri-

See STAMPS, page A6



Submitted photo

Actor Daniel Shippey portrays President George Washington at the stamp ceremony at Mount Vernon. Washington signed legislation that created the USPS and was known for his advocacy of mules.

Dr. Anthony Jackson hired as new CCS superintendent, to start July 6

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Six months after former superintendent Derrick Jordan announced his departure, the Chatham County Schools Board of Education has unanimously selected Dr. Anthony Jackson, superintendent from Vance County Schools in Henderson, as the new CCS superintendent.

Jackson

He will start July 6. Announced at a special meeting last Thursday, the decision comes five months after the school board officially began advertising for the position; two after the deadline for superintendent applications.

"First of all I want to say I am absolutely humbled and glad to be here. Lets get it out of the way: I do love children," Jackson said after his contract was approved by the board. "And so anything I can do to help move that ball forward for children I want to do well. And so I thank the board for this opportunity, I thank you for the opportunity and the trust you've placed in me to come and share in this journey."

See JACKSON, page A3

NCDOT shifts proposed highway alignment, but neighbors want more

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — After months-long negotiations between the N.C. Dept. of Transportation and property owners in Pittsboro's North Woods community, NCDOT has suggested it will amend plans for a proposed road that threatens to bisect the neighborhood.

But North Woods residents want more substantial revision.

Plans for the 2.7-mile North Chatham Park Way have been coming together for years. A NCDOT feasibility study first explored potential for the road in 1994. In 2015 and 2019, Pittsboro's comprehensive transportation plan and a second NCDOT investigation cemented the idea. Already, a section of the road has been constructed between U.S. Hwy. 64 and Suttles Road, but North Chatham Park Way would extend the highway to U.S. Hwy. 15-501.

The North Woods neighborhood consists of 17 rural homes on about 200 acres in northern Pittsboro. Much of the surrounding land is owned by Chatham Park Investors. Development of Chatham Park's North Village is under way on about 2,200 acres of land directly adjacent to North Woods, between the private community and the Haw River. The North Chatham Park Way is necessary to serve the

See NCDOT, page A8

Chapel in the Pines hosts first COVID-19 vaccination clinic, sees low turnout

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — Through much of Chatham County's vaccine rollout, resident Dionicio Hernández didn't ask himself whether he wanted to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Instead, he asked: "When?"

"I have a young daughter, a little girl, and I wouldn't want her to get infected because of me," Hernández, 36, told the News + Record in Spanish. "I work serving a lot of people. I talk to a lot of people. So I am very exposed."

But many providers organize

See CLINIC, page A6



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

Dionicio Hernández, 36, receives his first dose of the Moderna vaccine Sunday at Chapel in the Pines, a presbyterian church in Chapel Hill. P.A. Sara Wertman administered the shot.

Testing the waters: Private sewage system's shortcomings devalue Briar Chapel homes

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Editor's note: This is the sixth installment in a series investigating Chatham County's water and sewer infrastructure. Previous stories have explored plans for infrastructure expansion in Pittsboro, Siler City and county-operated facilities. While the

county government oversees water utilities in unincorporated Chatham, sewage systems are left to private developers and operators.

BRIAR CHAPEL — After years decrying deficiencies in their neighborhood's private wastewater treatment plant,

Briar Chapel residents have new quantitative evidence to prove that sewage smell and intermittent leaks are more than just a nuisance: their homes have been officially devalued as a result.

As earlier installments

INSIDE: Pittsboro to ask polluters 'to be held responsible' and cover costs. PAGE A8

See WATER, page A7

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

MONDAY

Memorial Day is Monday, May 31; many local, state and federal offices and businesses will observe the day and be closed for business, including the News + Record.

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: friends-cl.org.

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

ON THE AGENDA

Chatham County Public Libraries has reinstated its pre-COVID hours of operation as of Monday, May 24, at all three branch locations. The date for the next regular meeting of the **Chatham County Board of Education** has changed to June 7. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. in the George Moses Horton Middle School multipurpose room.

Siler City Parks and Recreation invites you to start your days off right with a few laps at the Indoor Walking Program each weekday morning, Monday thru Friday, from 7 to 9 a.m., at the Ernest Ramsey Gymnasium Indoor Walking Track, 512 East 6th Street. The program is free and no pre-registration is required. Operations are subject to COVID-19 guidelines and mask requirement indoors. For more information, visit www.silercity.org or contact Siler City Parks and Recreation at 919-742-2699 or email recreation@silercity.org.

THURSDAY

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

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.

FRIDAY

In conjunction with the Chatham 250 celebration, **Chatham Community Library** will offer a virtual commemoration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Moderated by Anna-Rhesa Versola, the lecture will be held on Saturday, May 28, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and will feature a live panel discussion remembering Asians and Asian American Pacific Islanders who are an integral part of American history. Panel members are Ya Liu, Steve Rao, Ed Binanay and Sean Nguyen. This event is part of the Chatham 250 lecture series chronicling the histories of communities of color in Chatham County. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required and available at: <https://tinyurl.com/ChathamAAPI>.

OTHER UPCOMING:

The Siler City Parks and Recreation Department announces the **Bray Park Aquatic Facility** will officially open for the 2021 season on Saturday, May 29, with modified operations. The pool will operate through Labor Day weekend and is open Monday-Friday from 4:30-6:30pm during the School Year, Monday-Friday from 12-6pm during the Summer months, and Saturday and Sunday from 12-6pm. General admission includes a \$5 entry fee for ages 3 and over. Children ages 2 and under receive free entry. Senior Citizens, 50 or better receive a 50% discount. Siler City is offering Two-Fifty Tuesdays again where patrons may enjoy the pool each Tuesday when the entry fee is only \$2.50. To adhere to COVID-19 guidelines, masks/face coverings are encouraged for all patrons when in the bathhouse and not able to socially distance at least 6-feet from others. Pool furniture will be available with sanitation stations located on the pool deck for patrons to utilize. Outside furniture is not permitted. To schedule swim times for daycares and camps, to register for swim lessons, purchase season passes, or to rent the pool for a pool party, contact Carolina Pool Management at (336) 854-8884.

Chatham County Public Libraries invite children and teens to participate in its 2021 Virtual Summer Reading Challenge "Tails and Tales" from June 3 through July 31. This program, sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, is open to children and teens, ages 2 and up. Readers will participate online this year by signing up on the libraries' Beanstack site, <https://chathamnc.beanstack.org>, and win prizes for completing 10 hours of reading. Using

Beanstack, readers can log their time and titles online, as well as create book reviews for others to see. All readers who reach the 10-hour goal will earn a free book and will be entered into a grand prize drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to McIntyre's Books. The Virtual Summer Reading Challenge kicks off online on June 3rd at 4 p.m. with a special program "Animal Stories in African Art," an interactive virtual program hosted by the N.C. Museum of Art. This event will be most appropriate for children ages 4-10, but everyone is invited to participate and learn. Registration information can be found on the libraries' online Events Calendar.

Central Carolina Community College will host a basketball camp for third through eighth graders, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., July 26-29. It will focus on teaching, developing and improving dribbling, shooting, passing, running, and jumping. The \$100 cost includes snack and drink each day, and a CCCC camp T-shirt. For more information or to register for the Cougar Basketball Camp, visit www.cccc.edu/sports-camps/ or contact Athletic Director Jonathan Hockaday at jhockaday@ccc.edu.

The Chatham Historical Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. We will be following the Governor's directive on occupancy, masks, and social distancing. Adult and kid friendly; no admission fee. Don't miss our new exhibit of the paintings of Annie Lutterloh Bynum. Our permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history. The Museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the circle. More info: <https://chathamhistory.org>

Second Bloom Thrift Store is open at the Food Lion Shopping Center. Store hours are Tuesday until Saturday, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Masks are required and hand sanitizer is also available. Proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

Pittsboro Youth Theater (pittsboroyouththeater.com) is offering in-person theater camps this summer! All campers will learn a comprehensive variety of theater skills, rehearse and perform a live play at Sweet Bee Theater. Camps will be led by experienced Pittsboro Youth Theater Director(s) and Assistant(s). Camp themes include Princess Camp, Fairy Camp, Jungle Camp, and Alien Camp. There will also be a 3-week musical intensive

one resulting in performances of Frozen Jr., as well as a 2-week intensive for younger campers resulting in performances of Frozen Kids. Enrollment is open now on a first-come, first-served basis. Ages: 6-12; 3 weeks for ages 10-18. Dates: Weekly camps, 2-week summer intensive, and 3-week summer intensive, June 14 - August 13, 9 am to 5 pm, (early drop-off and late pick-up for an additional fee). Frozen Jr. and Frozen Kids: See website for details, COVID-19 Precautions, full details and accommodations - PYT Marketing Team, pytmktg@gmail.com - 18A E. Salisbury St., Pittsboro; 919-533-6997.

The Chatham Arts Council has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called CAARE: **Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort**. For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit ChathamArtsCouncil.org.

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

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

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

Motorcycle Association — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham,

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

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

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

Scout News


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

Chatham County Council on Aging

WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: What was the population of Chatham in 1860?

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



Our offices will be closed on Friday, May 28, and Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.





For newsroom queries, write to news@chathamnr.com.

Chatham News + Record

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CORRECTION

In the story entitled "Shooting at Moncure's 'Club 51' and fear of retaliation keep neighbors worried" in the May 20-26 edition of the News + Record, an accompanying photo mistakenly identified Liberty Chapel Church,

located at 1855 Old U.S. Hwy. 1, as Truth Missionary Baptist Church, located at 3823 Old U.S. Hwy. 1. Liberty Chapel Church has no connection to any of the article's contents. The News + Record regrets the error.

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JACKSON

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Jackson thanked his parents for their support of his career and dreams, along with his wife, Tawannah Allen-Jackson, a professor of educational leadership at High Point University. He also thanked teachers for their hard work, particularly during the past year.

"I come as a willing worker with my hands ready to dig in and do the work with you, my sleeves will be rolled up with yours," he said. "And we will do what's right for children every single day."

An educator for more than 30 years, Jackson was recognized as the North Carolina Superintendent of the Year in 2020, an award given jointly by the North Carolina Association of School Administrators, the North Carolina School Superintendents' Association and the North Carolina School Boards Association. He served as superintendent of Vance County Schools since 2015. Under his leadership, WRAL reported in 2019 that the school system's graduation rate had increased dramati-

cally, and the dropout rate had fallen to 2.02% from a five-year high of 5.25%. Before that, Jackson was the leader of Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools for four years and at the Henry County Public School System for three.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree from East Carolina University, a master's degree from N.C. Central University and a doctorate degree in education from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"This is an exciting day," board member David Hamm said at Thursday's meeting. "Dr. Jordan led us and took us to new heights and has laid a foundation, and Dr. Jackson is going to take us to even greater heights — and we look forward to that."

After 12 years in Chatham — nearly eight of those as the superintendent — Jordan joined N.C. Superintendent Catherine Truitt at the Dept. of Public Instruction in January. He was replaced by Randy Bridges, a long-time educator and superintendent, who was hired to serve in an interim role until the board found a permanent superintendent.

The district said it received 45 ap-

plications for the position, submitted across 18 states and U.S. territories.

According to district survey results — 464 from community members and 133 from staff — CCS stakeholders wanted a new superintendent who would provide safe environments for students and staff, communicate with people across race and socioeconomic lines, has strong people skills and can work collaboratively to help children learn.

At their March 22 meeting, board members echoed those priorities, and Chairperson Gary Leonard emphasized looking for a good communicator, team builder and educational leader.

"We've been fortunate," Leonard said at that meeting. "We had a wonderful superintendent in Dr. Jordan so that's a good role model, and of course we followed with Dr. Bridges and he's been awfully good too."

At the time, board members also emphasized a desire to find a visionary leader willing to take risks for the sake of education and innovation. Hamm said he'd like to see a superintendent with a vested interest in the community.

"We want a superintendent that's

going to be out there. Beyond what the survey says, a real people person that lives and connects with the community," Hamm said. "It's going to take a very special person to do that and so that's one angle I'm looking at we review applications... I'm looking for a person that's going to live and breathe and be part of us for a long time."

Jackson emphasized a commitment to the community in his concluding remarks.

"I would say to you that as we move forward, I want to assure you I am coming first as a learner and then as a leader," he said. "... If we believe we can do it, that'll be my purpose, my push, my promise to you that we will work hard for children every day, that we'll work together, that we'll help this community deliver on the promise of educating all children to the highest level."

Additional opportunities to "meet and welcome" Jackson will be announced at a later date, the district said.

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

EDWARDS

Continued from page A1

Hillsboro Street in Pittsboro. Before the pandemic, on many nights and weekends you could find him in solo performances or playing with The Bluegrass Experience or other bands.

Throughout his life, Edwards gained renown as a player and songwriter, twice winning the world championship title for bluegrass guitar at the Union Grove Old Time Fiddlers and Bluegrass Festival. He also served in the North Carolina National Guard, and taught state history for decades in Chatham County public schools.

Friends and fellow musicians paint a portrait of a man with phenomenal talent and unending support for those around him.

"If you ever met him, you would recognize that he touched your life in some way," Rick Lafleur, a band-mate and decades-long friend of Edwards, told the News & Observer of Raleigh. "He was a joy to be around. He really was."

"Tommy was exceptional," said David Brower, the executive director of PineCone, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting and preserving folk arts and music. "His right hand was just explosive, in terms of how nimble he worked through tunes."

Jim Watson, a musician and longtime friend of Edwards, described him as "hardcore bluegrass, all the way."

"He was, in some ways, the quintessential bluegrass musician," Watson added, emphasizing he was a versatile singer and player with mastery over

many songs and instruments.

Joe Newberry, another musician who had known Edwards for decades, said his time as a teacher influenced his habits as a musician.

"He was always sharing what he knew, with audiences and with young folk," he said. "That was a hallmark of Tommy, that he loved playing with folks and was not above learning new licks even though he was an established player. He listened deep, and played just the same."

Newberry said Edwards was the kind of person to never miss a show, always showing up to support his friends and fellow musicians.

To Brower, Edwards "epitomized the spirit of bluegrass and old time music from the Piedmont, where strangers can sit down and play

tunes and get to know each other through the music."

And that's just how the musician met Lafleur, Watson and Newberry — all of whom recall first meeting Edwards through the music.

"It's one of those things where the music forms a strong bond," Lafleur said.

Edwards' band, The Bluegrass Experience, had planned to celebrate its 50th anniversary this month.

"Tommy was never a star. He didn't have any gold records," Brower said. "But he played with passion. He played with heart. Music was a huge part of his life."

"Whenever people gather in our region to play a tune, we'll think about Tommy," Newberry said. "How he was always ready for the next tune, the next show."



CN+R file photo by David Bradley

One of Edwards' favorite instruments in his store on Hillsboro Street in Pittsboro was this classic 1950 Martin D-28. Edwards died Saturday at the age of 75.

'A worthwhile endeavor'

In a 2019 interview with the News + Record, Edwards said that "having parents and extended family that sang, danced and played instruments showed me that music was a worthwhile endeavor. And the fact that family members supported my efforts was incredibly encouraging."

He also talked about what remained difficult about music — and easy — for him.

"I think for many beginning players one of the hardest parts of learning to play is the toughening of the fingertips so that playing is not painful," he said. "The first day I owned a guitar I played until my fingers bled. And as someone who has been playing 60 plus years, it is still hard for me to learn complicated chord fingering as well as to understand where uncommon chords fit in certain pieces of music. The easiest part is that one can use a few basic chords to accompany a host of songs from the campfire to the concert stage."

The middle school students he taught benefited from his experience as a musician and songwriter, Edwards said, although they may have rarely seen his guitar.

"As an educator working with middle grades students, I felt it was important to maintain a professional manner in the classroom, so I was not bringing the guitar to school to play and sing

for the students except on special occasions," he told the News + Record. "Sometimes I would play guitar along with a recording that we used on the final day of the two-week square-dancing program in physical education class. And when we held a 'history day' I might play with visiting folk musicians. And I did not shy away from public performances in the county where students and parents could see me play as part of The Bluegrass Experience."

"Being a teacher has helped my songwriting, not so much with subject matter, but with having to learn to communicate effectively with persons of all ages and backgrounds," he said. "There is a lot of writing that comes with the teaching profession and hopefully that has helped make some of my lyrics easier to understand. And I like to write songs about history (my major area of educational expertise) that (hopefully) educate as well as entertain."

'There to entertain'

Four Oaks musician Russell Johnson, who knew Edwards for 40 years, remembered his brother taking him to see Edwards play at Cat's Cradle in Chapel Hill his first week at college.

"I went every week that I could," Johnson wrote

on Facebook. "That's when I met Tommy. He was always ready to take a request, talk to anyone in the crowd, pick the strings off the guitar, and boy, he was there to entertain."

Not long after, Edwards heard Johnson play mandolin. "We might give you a call to fill in sometime," he told Johnson.

"That might as well been Bill Monroe asking me to be a 'Bluegrass Boy,'" Johnson wrote. "I'm grateful for knowing Tommy these past 40 years and for the legacy he has left behind for bluegrass, flatpickers, bandleaders and entertainers. Rest in peace, Tommy."

Former and teacher Jefferson Hart recalled Edwards as "a pure delight every time I was lucky enough to run into him."

"Just a lovely man who was very kind to me and my family, truly went out of his way, every time we saw him," he wrote in a tribute on Facebook. "Just one of those people that made you feel good about humanity when the world itself is seemingly bursting apart at the seams."

Funeral arrangements are incomplete. Check www.donaldsonfuneral-home.com for updates.

The News & Observer of Raleigh contributed to this story.

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST EDITORIAL | PAUL MAUNEY & BILL MOSS

Why are Democrats AWOL on public's right to know?

With no meaningful state law giving North Carolinians the right to see disciplinary records of those they employ in state and local government jobs, how will we ever know? How will we know about the public school teacher who molested students in numerous mountain schools? About the superintendent of schools in the Piedmont who was fired and paid \$250,000 to leave, without so much as a reason? Or about six city police officers who were suspended without pay, leaving the public with a vague explanation that the officers solicited prostitution? We would know, if the Legislature enacts a law opening up personnel records. A bill filed in the North Carolina Senate this legislative session would result in the strongest improvement in decades in the people's right to know in our state. There's plenty of room for positive strides in the category.

North Carolina ranks near the bottom in the records citizens can access about the job performance their tax dollars fund. The Government Transparency Act of 2021, sponsored by Sen. Norman Sanderson and two other high-ranking Senate Republicans, would allow the public to see the reason for hirings, firings, demotions and promotions, opening a window into the management of public personnel and the decisions around their job performance. Such an open records law sounds like unequivocally sound public policy, which is how it's regarded in more than 35 states where that information is available. Opponents in their efforts to derail Senate Bill 355 have nonetheless mounted a campaign based on misinformation and alarmist scenarios. The State Employees Association of North Carolina, the North Carolina Association

of Educators, the Teamsters Union and the N.C. Justice Center have flooded senators' inboxes with a letter declaring the bill unconstitutional and they persist in the false portrayal even after sponsors agreed to an amendment addressing their due process concerns. The aggressive opposition raises several questions. What is there to hide? What is the public policy interest in keeping public employee performance records hidden from the public? The NCAE asserts that SB 355 "expands public access to personnel records of public employees to an inappropriate level far beyond what is expected in any other state." This too is baloney, given that 36 other states have codified access to employee records and in many cases require disclosure of personnel actions that go beyond the Government Transparency Act.

Fortunately, the Senate leadership has signaled that it won't be cowed by the drama from the teachers and state employee organizations. The question that dogs us is where is the leadership of Gov. Roy Cooper and the Democratic senators? Cooper has always been a good-government advocate and a friend of the public's right to know. In fact, Senate Bill 355 is similar to a bill Cooper sponsored as a state senator in 1997 — "the Discipline Disclosure Act." Everyone knows that the SEANC and the NCAE wield power in the Democratic Party but that is no reason for Democrats to choose secrecy over their constituents' best interest. Cooper should call out Democratic leaders and the party's rank and file for going AWOL on a significant public policy improvement for North Carolina, in support of principles of openness that ought to

be more bipartisan than almost anything the Legislature will take up this year. Cooper and the Democratic Party are welcome to support schoolteachers, state employees, law officers and other public sector employees when it comes to pay, benefits and other priorities. They ought to part ways with the SEANC and NCAE when public employees' Raleigh lobbyists urge them to torpedo a bill that would immensely improve openness and transparency to the benefit of all North Carolinians. *Paul Mauney, President, APG Media of TN/NC/VA, is president of the North Carolina Press Association. Bill Moss, editor and publisher of the Hendersonville Lightning, is chairperson of the NCPA Legislative Committee. News + Record Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III is a long-time member of that committee.*

There's one sure sign seasons are changing

Despite the fact the calendar doesn't say it yet, it's a pretty safe bet we're at summer. The signs are there — the school year is almost over; we've had some thunderstorms and rain and muggy temps all of which mess up my hair; and baseball is off and running, even though school ball and little folks' games are winding down. And while all those are still pretty good indicators of the changing of the season from spring to summer, there's one other happening that's a fail-safe indicator that summer is almost here. Church homecomings.

They're those wonderful events when folks who used to be members of a particular congregation but moved away remember to come back to the ol' home church for a worship service and big meal that strains the abilities of the tables to hold up under large amounts of fried chicken, deviled eggs, tomato sandwiches, ham biscuits and enough sweets and tea to run your sugar up pretty high.

Some folks hug one another and exchange greetings. That all will be a bit different this year as not everyone has given up wearing masks and doing that new dance we call "social distancing." I remember years ago when that phrase meant you didn't stand too close to your boyhood friend everyone called Stinky for a well-deserved reason. Other folks wander around trying to put a name on a face that looks pretty familiar but somehow not the same as you remember. Families place flowers on the tombstones of loved ones. There are smiles and tears, sadness and joy and more than a few stretched tummies.

I've always been a sucker for a good homecoming and through the years I've taken in my share of them. Never been to a bad one yet.

I've known more folks at some than at others but there has always been a familiar face or two, even at the ones my mama dragged me to when she determined that at age 10 that I wasn't old enough to stay at home by myself and that it didn't matter I didn't know her grandma's eight older sisters.

While homecoming services are, at their heart, a special form of Sunday morning worship of God, there are some other special things about them. I've thought about that a lot through the years, especially as I ponder the situation with a chicken leg in one hand and a ham biscuit in the other. And I think I have finally hit upon what, at least for me, makes them memorable occasions and ones I look forward to.

It's the tradition and how it gives me roots. Human lives are like plants and trees. We grow best when we grow deep, sending down roots that draw nutrients from the deep soil of human existence and fellowship. The food is just the setting for how we do one part of that growing.

The place that now lets me come every Sunday morning and other days for that matter is a place I've spent the biggest part of my vocational pastoral ministry. There have been a lot of folks who used to be there who aren't here now.

I remember other events, the people who were a part of my youth and young adult days who now, at least some of them, are the people remembered in memorial tributes. The fact that some of them are gone just doesn't sound or feel or seem right.

I remember in some of those days how the food was spread on tables under giant oak trees and tea and homemade lemonade with pieces of the lemon floating in it were served from a barrel or big tub. I remember how we sat our plates on giant fenders of the 1940s and '50s cars that lined the parking area. I remember how my dad could hold his plate in one hand and his tea in the other and still get the job done. I wish I had paid more attention to how he did that. I can't; got to have a table or flat surface somewhere.

There is, however, I think a key to what all this remembering does and why it exists. It's not to turn us into fossils and keep us in the past but it's a time to add to our foundation to move through the present and into the future.

And that's as good as a chicken leg or a piece of my Aunt Rachel's lemon pie. I hope you get to go to one or two homecomings this season, even if you do have to stand a little farther apart than you might like, and while you're there share the love ... and the chicken.

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.



Dear students, teachers and school staff ...

This academic year has been marked by a global pandemic.

Yet, as in previous years, you will take end-of-grade tests. I don't believe this makes any sense.

But I believe in you. You have had online classes and hybrid classes. You have had to cancel class. But you kept answering the bell.

You have worn masks and kept social distance. But you have remained connected and supported one another.

You and your families have suffered lost jobs and hard times. You have lost loved ones. But you have gained wisdom and compassion.

You will have to take these standardized tests.

But don't listen to any number on a page or any voice in your head that says you don't measure up.

Take it from former presi-

dent Teddy Roosevelt: "Comparison is the thief of joy."

Instead of comparison, do the best that is within you, for you are made of the stuff of exploded stars. It's true! Google it.

Also, look up a picture of Mr. Roosevelt, our 26th president. Amazing walrus moustache.

Thinking of grades, it is unjust that school performance and funding will be tied to these test results. It has been a failure of our society's moral imagination that we were unable to think beyond standardized testing as a way to measure academic performance in a global pandemic.

But don't you fail to use your imagination — this is your star power!

Let your imagination guide you to joy. Yes, you have to bubble in the test answers. Then, you can leave the path and skip beneath the trees. You can wade in the creek. You can sing the melody in your head. Make a joyful noise! Read something that will make you smile. Look for messages from the clouds

in the sky.

Seek moments that make you exclaim, "Aha!" Ask questions that do not have standardized answers. Move pens and crayons across the paper with gratitude. Whether you know it or not, your courage has left lasting marks on the hearts of those of us who are watching you.

Courage is a word that comes from the Latin for "heart," and you have put your heart into this year. You have learned lessons of perseverance, flexibility and compassion that will long live and make our world a kinder, more creative, place.

Though we have all been tested by this troubling, tragic year, you have shone like stars in the night sky. And your light will continue to guide us into the future.

Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church. His forthcoming book is a collection of his columns for the Chatham News + Record titled "Hope Matters: Churchless Sermons."



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

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

VIEWPOINTS

Nikole Hannah-Jones wasn't cancelled

In a few weeks, New York Times reporter Nikole Hannah-Jones will join the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Hussman School of Journalism and Media, as the Knight Chair in Race and Investigative Journalism. She accepted a five-year contract as a professor of the practice, with the possibility of receiving tenure at a later date.

Previous Knight chairs got tenure right off the bat. Hannah-Jones didn't. For this difference, university trustees have been accused of racism, sexism, infringing on academic freedom, and engaging in "cancel culture."

I have strong disagreements with Nikole Hannah-Jones on a wide range of political issues. As both a conservative and a Huss-

man School alumnus, however, I would defend her if I thought her failure to receive immediate tenure was the product of viewpoint discrimination.

But that's not what happened, as best I can determine.

As the Raleigh News & Observer has correctly reported — in sharp contrast to the mistaken reporting of other state and national media outlets — UNC did not offer Hannah-Jones a tenured position in April, then revoke the offer after external criticism from the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal (an organization I helped found and for which I serve as vice-chairman).

Rather, back in January, before her potential role at UNC was public knowledge, the provost submitted a package of faculty appointments to the UNC-CH Board of Trustees for approval. Included was a proposal to offer Hannah-Jones a tenured position at Hussman.

Trustee Chuck Duckett, who chairs the relevant board committee, replied with questions

about Hannah-Jones. Other tenured appointments were approved. The board never voted on hers one way or the other. Instead, UNC converted its offer into a five-year contract and offered it to Hannah-Jones, who accepted it.

What concerns did Duckett and presumably other trustees have about giving Hannah-Jones immediate tenure? This is a personnel matter about which they are not sharing details, at least not on the record. Board chairman Richard Stevens told the N&O that because tenure is a "lifetime position," it's not unusual to have "questions or clarifications about background, particularly candidates that don't come from a traditional academic-type background."

Champions of Hannah-Jones allege the Republican-appointed trustees hesitated because they disagreed with her politically. Again, if so that would be problematic. But I don't buy the allegation. Here's no news flash at all: most pro-

fessors who receive tenure at UNC-Chapel Hill are politically left-of-center. If UNC trustees are applying an ideological litmus test, they're doing a horrible job of it.

What distinguishes Hannah-Jones isn't her politics. It's her conduct. The problem isn't just that her signature 1619 Project contained significant factual errors and indefensible claims. When challenged about them, she dodged, weaved and personally smeared her critics. She later tried to "memory hole" much of this.

She and the Times also engaged in stealth edits of their work, backing away from key claims while denying they were doing so. For instance, the original version of the 1619 Project stated that it aimed "to reframe the country's history, understanding 1619 as our true founding, and placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of our national narrative." Later, after withering criticism, the

Times edited the online version to take out the phrase "understanding 1619 as our true founding."

"I argue that 1619 is our true founding," Hannah-Jones said in an early tweet. Later, after the edit, she tweeted that the 1619 Project "does not argue that 1619 was our true founding. We know this nation marks its founding at 1776."

I'm not nitpicking a single instance of poor judgment or bad faith. I'm offering one example among many, including her involvement in true cancel-culture episodes at the New York Times itself.

That Hannah-Jones didn't receive immediate tenure, and will instead be evaluated according to her future classroom performance, is no outrage. It's a wise precaution that resulted from the UNC Board of Trustees properly exercising its governance responsibilities.

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

Changing times strain Carolina and Davidson

Tenure at UNC-Chapel Hill and changing rules about the Davidson College president's religion pulled both schools into the headlines last week.

These topics remind how hard it is for some of us to accept changes to long-held ideas about our history and our strong religious attachments.

In Chapel Hill, the news dealt with the successful recruitment of Nikole Hannah-Jones by the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media to serve in the prestigious position of Knight Chair in Race and Investigative Journalism.

Hannah-Jones, an alumna of the school, had gained national attention as a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and creator of The New York Times' "1619 Project."

Hannah-Jones was to serve in a prestigious tenured or permanent position that would assure she could not be fired without cause.

However, at UNC-CH, appointment to a tenured position requires action by the board of trustees, which has not given its approval.

Hussman Dean Susan King was undaunted by this set-back and offered Hannah-Jones a five-year contract. She told NBC News, "While I am disappointed that the appointment is without tenure, there is no doubt in anyone's mind that she will be a star faculty member."

Why did the politically appointed trustees fail to act? It is, at least in large part, political. Hannah-Jones' 1619 Project is controversial — big-time.

According to a Columbia School of Journalism statement, "Twenty-three Republican Senators and nineteen state Attorneys General have signed letters denouncing the 1619 Project."

Why? In its introduction to the Hannah-Jones report, the Times asserted that "the moment that the country's defining contradictions first came into the world was in late August of 1619.

"That was when a ship arrived at Point Comfort in the British colony of Virginia, bearing a cargo of 20 to 30 enslaved Africans. Their arrival inaugurated a barbaric system of chattel slavery that would last for the next 250 years. This is sometimes referred to as the country's original sin, but it is more than that: It is the country's very origin.

"The goal of The 1619 Project is to reframe American history by considering what it would mean to regard 1619 as our nation's birth year. Doing so requires us to place the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are as a country."

In the academic world of Chapel Hill, this radical new way of viewing our nation's history may be welcome fodder for vigorous and stimulating discussion. But among others, it can appear to be an arrogant demand to abandon the treasured understandings of our nation's history that help hold our diverse population together.

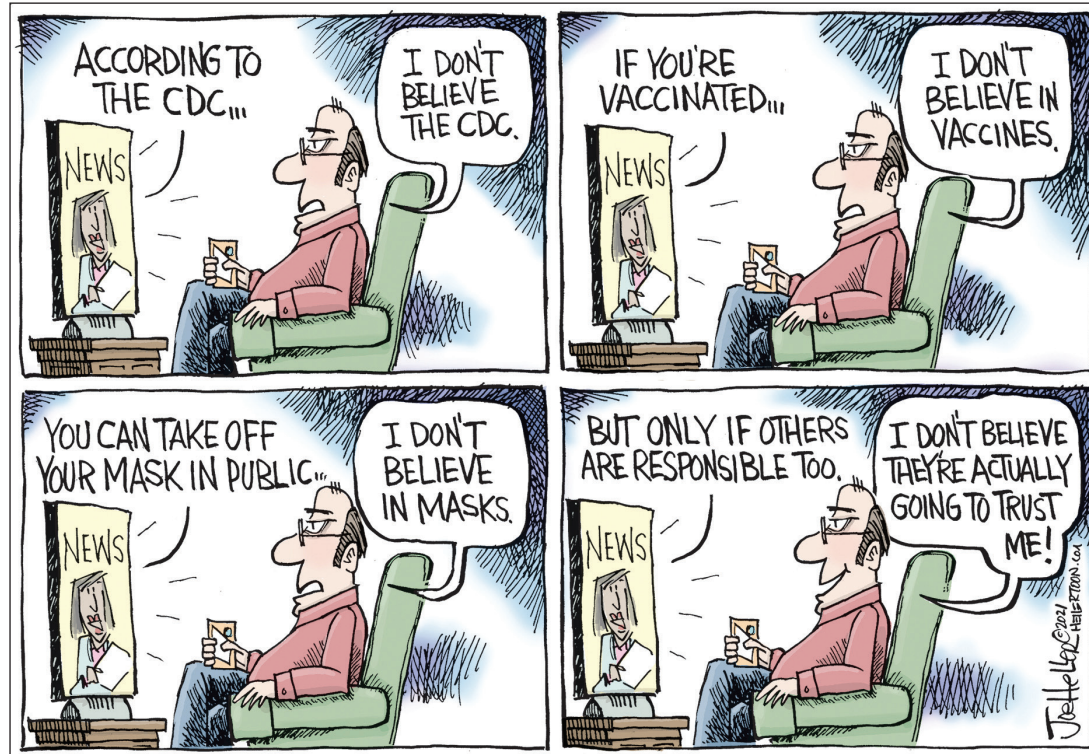
Changing key foundational planks of a college's governing documents can also unleash controversy. Last week at Davidson College, 11 former trustees objected to recent changes in the college's bylaws, including the removal of a requirement that the college president be "a person who is a loyal and active church member, whose life provides evidence of strong Christian faith and commitment. Such faith and commitment will be appropriately expressed by affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and active participation in the life of Davidson College Presbyterian Church."

Davidson has always valued its Presbyterian ties, but over time those connections have loosened as the college changed from a southern-based white men's school into a widely admired national institution with a diverse student body and led by a woman president and a woman board chair.

Over the 70 years that I have been connected to the school, I worried about each change, each opening, just as I worry today about losing the requirement that the school be led by a Presbyterian. But notwithstanding my worries, each change strengthened the college and opened the door to wider service.

So, while I am a little worried about this recent change, too, I plan to keep my mouth shut and pray for the best.

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.



Long lines, short tempers and higher prices. Is this what lies ahead for North Carolina?

We knew it was coming. We just didn't know when or where. The Colonial Pipeline hacking was a scary introduction to ransom attacks.



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

Here are five take-aways:
1. Human nature hasn't changed much. When the east coast pipeline was shut down for five days due to a cyberattack, our neighbors rushed to top off their tanks. We witnessed a panic mentality, even if people didn't really need extra gallons of gas. Many of us still remember the Arab Oil Embargo of the '70s, when long lines and short tempers were in plentiful supply. Then, as with the Colonial shutdown, we wondered how long it would be before we could "fill'er up" again? Human nature hasn't changed much in 50 years.

2. We are more vulnerable than we thought. How quickly we forgot last year's pandemic when store shelves were empty of toilet paper, paper towels and hand sanitizer. It doesn't take a lot to disrupt supply lines, whether it is food, fuel or electricity. We have taken for granted that the grocer or retailer will have just what we want when we want it and have failed to take precautions for supply chain disruptions. This should be a wake-up call to North Carolina.

3. This won't be the last disruption. Nobody should

believe this was a one-off occurrence. The message sent to the devious minds who would disrupt, for either political or profit motives, was they could accomplish their goals and profit from them. Reports say that Colonial paid about \$5 million to the ransomware attackers. They didn't have much choice. The attackers gained much more than money; next time the disruption will be equally painful and the ransom even greater. We know who ends up paying for it in the end.

Unlike that Arab crisis there was no shortage of fuel. The problem resulted from the computer and information systems being overtaken. We've come a long way from when early computers occupied the entire basement of a building to where we hold more computing power in our hands than was available then. But just as we benefit from being able to have instant information at our fingertips so do those who would use this information for evil. Companies and individuals need to spend as much time and money securing their information from hackers as they do in improving their technology systems.

4. Bigger is not always better. Why is there only one pipeline along the entire east coast? Why only one natural gas pipeline? And why is there only one primary source of electricity in most of our state?

Time was every town had their own electrical power generation plant. We bought into the promise that consoli-

dation would bring economies of scale and lower prices to the consumer and developed "regulated monopolies" for consumer protection. Regulated or not, they are still monopolies and the bigger they are, the more appealing they are for evildoers.

We say we believe in competition, but if you look at the record of the past half century, you see more consolidation in banks and financial institutions, hospitals, retailing, the news media, transportation and corporations. We would challenge you to show one industry where the public is better off. They have become so large we are told they are "too big to fail." Maybe they are just too big. It is time to re-think the benefits of bigness.

Our Infrastructure badly needs improvement. It is a well-established fact that our public infrastructure in North Carolina and the U.S. is old, poorly maintained and inadequate. The Colonial Pipeline incident should be a poster child calling us to bring our infrastructure up to date, if for no other reason than to avoid or minimize future disruptions.

We don't need more long lines, short tempers and higher prices because we failed to act.

Tom Campbell is a former assistant N.C. State Treasurer and was the creator/host of N.C. SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of N.C. issues that aired on UNC-TV until 2020. Contact him at tomcamp@carolinabroadcasting.com.

WATER

Continued from page A1

of this series explored, private sewage solutions across Chatham County are regularly plagued by capacity limitations, low-quality construction materials and aging facilities in need of repair. But the wastewater treatment plant in Briar Chapel — centrally located among the cluster of homes — stands apart as notoriously unsound.

More than 87,000 gallons of sewage have spilled from the community's plant in 32 different leaks since 2016, according to the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. Of those, more than 72,000 gallons drained into Pokeberry Creek, a tributary of the Haw River and Jordan Lake.

The frequent spills have suffused Briar Chapel with rank air as raw sewage bleeds onto private land and runs through the streets. The treatment plant — which was privately developed and has been privately managed by various operators over the years — is located at the neighborhood's highest point, worsening the effects of leakage and complicating facility upkeep.

"Almost 85% to 90% of the spills have been due to pipe breaks because of the pressure build-up that occurs in our system," Liz Rolison, a Briar Chapel resident said. "The pipes were insufficient for the terrain that we have — you know sewage does not flow uphill. So you have to pump it up, and that creates pressures and that's created the pipe breaks."

Rolison has lived in Briar Chapel since 2014. It didn't take long after moving into her new home before she started to hear of sewage issues, which had haunted parts of Briar Chapel for years. After some investigation, Rolison uncovered what she thought was a pattern of irresponsible and shortsighted management, which perpetuated the wastewater treatment plant's breakdown.

"The more I dug," she said, "the more I felt like things weren't transparent, weren't being told to residents, and as a result, they were causing harm."

She and a group of other Briar Chapel homeowners formed a 501(c)(4) non-profit called Stop Chatham North in



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Briar Chapel's wastewater treatment plant (top right) is centrally located amid several homes. Frequent sewage leaks and near-constant odors have devalued properties nearest the facility.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Homes at the intersection of Whispering Wind Drive and Cliffdale Road sit directly across from the neighborhood's privately operated wastewater treatment plant.

response to the facility's mismanagement. The group's mission is "to represent concerned homeowners in Briar Chapel who want to see that the owner and management of the wastewater treatment plant are held accountable for managing appropriately within regulatory guidelines, and with a minimum of nuisance conditions," she told the News + Record.

Until recently, Briar Chapel's plant was operated by a water, wastewater and public works management company called EnviroLink, and owned by Old North State Water Company. In August, ONSWC was absorbed by Integra Water, after which EnviroLink resigned as operator of the sewage plant. Since then, Greener EHS Solutions has taken over the facility's operations. The News + Record could not reach a company representative for comment.

Rolison and Stop Chatham North have fought for years to demonstrate

the need for an improved wastewater treatment system, either from substantial modification to the current facility, or through new services at a different treatment center. In discussions with Chatham County management — the board of commissioners and county staff — Stop Chatham North has found less support than its members would have liked.

But now they're armed with new evidence in support of their cause. In the 2020 round of state-mandated property reappraisals, almost all of Chatham County homes saw considerable value increases. Most Briar Chapel home values went up by almost 20% on average, consistent with the total overall valuation of parcels in Chatham County.

But not those closest to the wastewater treatment plant.

"We took a random sample of homes that are within proximity, so all of the streets that are closest to the wastewater treatment plant,



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Unlike communities within Chatham's municipal districts, which are served by distant regional wastewater treatment plants, Briar Chapel has its sewage facility inside the neighborhood. Frequent spills have bathed surrounding homes in foul odors and sewage overflow.

including several of the streets that run away from the wastewater treatment plant," Rolison said. "And what you find is that there are market devaluations on average of 9% with some homes as much as 18% to 22%."

After consulting with the Chatham County Tax Information Office, the Stop Chatham North team confirmed its suspicions — homes near the sewage plant decreased in value because of "the odor conditions and the sewage spills."

"The tax valuation that recently occurred is the most tangible evidence of damages to homeowners within Briar Chapel that we've seen so far," Rolison said.

Problems to solutions

Perry James is one Briar Chapel resident whose house, in close range of the sewage plant, saw a drop-off in value. His property valuation fell

by about 10% from four years ago, the last time Chatham County performed the reappraisal process.

"And by the time they use a kind of market value increase to what your adjusted value is, it really makes the numbers more than just a flat 10%, like it is in my case, or 15% or whatever," James said. "So it does certainly get your attention."

James knows more about wastewater management and property valuations than most. Before retiring to Briar Chapel in 2017, he worked 35 years for the City of Raleigh, most of that time as its chief financial officer and briefly as interim city manager.

"So, of course, one of our big areas that required a lot of important financing was public utilities, the water and sewer system in Raleigh," he said. "And so I had seen a lot of that, worked closely with that group a lot, really appreciated the value of kind of planning in that aspect and getting ahead of your needs."

As Raleigh's CFO, James worked intimately with the team that

facilitated an expansive merger between Raleigh's water and sewer systems and those of six nearby governments about 15 years ago.

"That to this day is viewed as one of the more successful mergers in the state," James said. "It's often used as an example of how to do that in a kind of a win-win way — to provide good, needed services at reasonable cost."

James and Rolison think the solution to Briar Chapel's wastewater treatment dilemma is to follow a similar model. They hope county oversight will agree to support a public-private task force to investigate wastewater solutions in the mutual interest of all unincorporated communities and the county's quickly developing municipalities.

"Particularly as growth and progressive changes in this area of the county are moving quickly," James said, "it's a good time, I think, to further involve stakeholders and really look at what the future needs to be."

In response to calls for Chatham to assume responsibility for sewage systems in neighborhoods such as Briar Chapel, government representatives have said the county's involvement is unlikely, as the News + Record previously reported. But James emphasizes that he is not proposing private sewage systems should come under county authority.

"We're not asking them to buy into any plan to operate, or purchase or do anything dealing with the systems here, we're just asking the county to facilitate the discussion," he said. "Back to when I told you about the City of Raleigh-County merger, it was Wake County who brought everybody to the table. If they hadn't done that, we may not never have had that merger. But they said, 'We're the responsible party to bring people together and look at best solutions,' and that's all we're asking Chatham County to do."

Rolison hopes the call for countywide teamwork between government representatives and community members will mark an important inflection point and lead to more constructive conversation on wastewater systems in unincorporated Chatham.

"We've been talking about the problems for so long, it's time to start really having the right people brought in to look at the solutions," she said. "And by asking Chatham County to be involved, we're not asking them to take financial responsibility for solving this problem. We're asking them to share the leadership, to help develop a strategy for this section of the county."

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

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Pittsboro demands accountability for water contamination

Letter would ask polluters 'to be held responsible' and cover town's costs

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Town of Pittsboro staff, the board of commissioners and Clean Haw River — a Pittsboro-based environmental conservation organization — are partnering to draft a letter requesting upstream municipalities and cities cover design and installation costs for the town's new water filtration systems.

Clean Haw River's founders — Dr. Jessica Merricks, an assistant biology professor at Elon University, and Katie Bryant, a microbiologist and biomedical researcher — proposed the collaboration at the board of commissioners' regular meeting on Monday. The two suggested Pittsboro leaders lend their support to an awareness campaign pressuring Greensboro, Burlington and Reidsville governments to identify and suppress industry polluters introducing dangerous chemicals into the Haw

River. "We're basically asking for them to be held responsible," Bryant said.

For more than a year, environmental activists and residents alike have lamented Pittsboro's water quality since it was discovered to contain alarming concentrations of perfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS — chemicals known as potential carcinogens. A 2018 study by Duke University researchers first alerted the public to abnormally high PFAS levels in the Haw River, from whence the town draws its drinking water.

Since then, the News + Record has frequently reported on developing research into the contaminant's enduring presence, as have national news outlets. A recent study by Consumer Reports and Guardian newspaper identified Pittsboro as having some of the country's worst water. Its PFAS concentration was considerably higher than anywhere else nationwide.

In late 2019, the board of commissioners assembled a water quality task force on which Bryant served as one of 17 members. The group completed an investigation report last October identifying upstream factories as the likely sources of PFAS runoff, and submitted a recommended action plan to protect Pittsboro residents. Since then, the board of commissioners has

authorized considerable measures to stifle PFAS proliferation, including a \$2.6 million project to install granular activated coal filters at the town's water treatment plant. Once completed, the advanced filtration system is designed to remove more than 90% of all PFAS from the water supply.

But such sizable expenditures threaten the town's fiscal stability, and town residents ultimately shoulder the burden. To finance installation of the GAC filtration system and other infrastructure needs, the town is likely to raise water and sewer utility rates by 43% and 18% respectively, according to the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022.

As Clean Haw River and Pittsboro leaders see it, that's unfair.

"We in Pittsboro aren't putting anything into the water, that is, this kind of pollution," Mayor Jim Nass said at the Monday meeting. "We're not doing that, but what we are being forced to do is try to take the steps to clean it up when it shows up in our water. So, not only do we bear the expense and responsibility for taking this out of our water, which we have to do in order to protect our citizens, then we have to figure out what in the world to do with it so we don't send it on downstream where other people have to do the same thing."

In the letter, Clean Haw River and

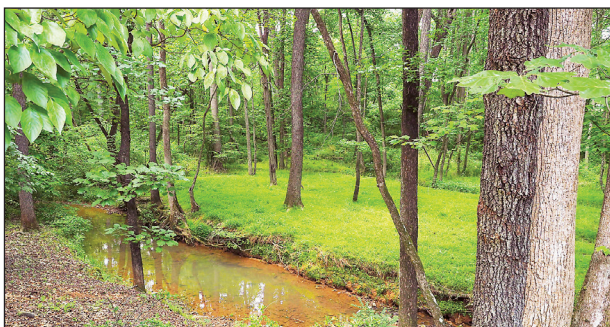
town officials plan to disclose likely polluters and demand financial reparation for the damages imposed on resident health and town resources. At the suggestion of Town Manager Chris Kennedy — who will collaborate with Bryant and Merricks to draft their message — the group will forward a completed letter to upstream governments, state representatives in the General Assembly and downstream neighbors who might also suffer from inordinate PFAS levels.

"It's going to be a big battle," Bryant said.

With the coordinated backing of several municipal governments and private organizations, though, the group hopes their letter will achieve its intended result.

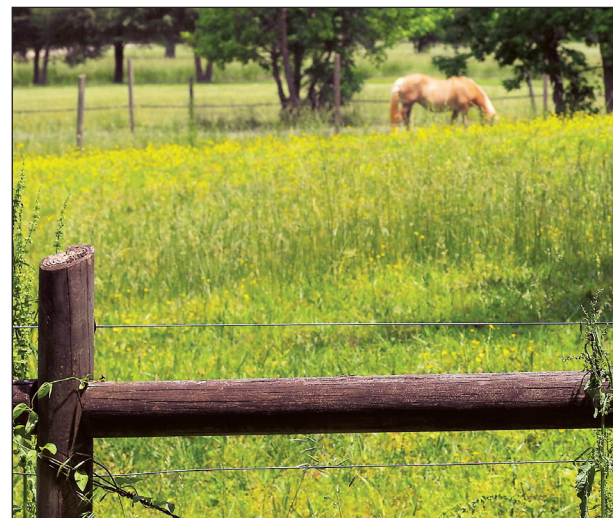
"This letter coming from the Town of Pittsboro, or jointly with you," Nass said, addressing Bryant and Merricks, "will be more effective ... Kind of putting myself in a position of receiving this letter in, let's say, Greensboro, it could be that if it is a joint letter, it might well garner number one, more attention, and number two, be taken more seriously."

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



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Fewer neighbors would have to forfeit land to accommodate NCDOT's most recent alignment of the North Chatham Park Way than in previous renditions. But the highway is still projected to run through at least four properties.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

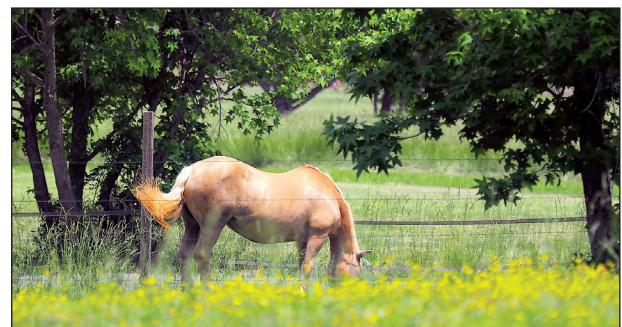
Pasture land and dense forest make up most of the North Woods neighborhood. Only 17 homes sit on the 200-acre community in northeastern Pittsboro.

alignments and here it is. I don't know, but I hope it considers what's best for the community here."

Construction of the North Chatham Park Way is expected to begin soon and will cost about \$18 million. NCDOT hopes to complete the project by 2023.

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

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



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Pittsboro's rural North Woods neighborhood has avoided major development for more than 30 years. But a proposed NCDOT project threatens to bisect the 200-acre community with a four-lane highway.

NCDOT

Continued from page A1
many thousands of new residents who will inhabit Chatham Park in coming years and to mitigate traffic issues through downtown Pittsboro, according to NCDOT representatives.

"With new development in the area, traffic has increased, and creates mobility challenges in downtown Pittsboro," said NCDOT Community Studies Expert Jamille Robbins in a January public hearing.

When NCDOT first published sample renderings of the North Chatham Park Way in 2016, the road appeared to pass east of North Woods through Chatham Park-owned land. At a public hearing in January, however, new drawings depicted the highway further west.

"(T)hey had shifted the alignment from Chatham Park land onto our land," Mark Pavao, a North Woods property owner, previously told the News + Record. It "... was a watershed moment for us."

Pavao and his neighbors quickly launched a petition on change.org called "Save North Woods Neighborhood." They implored residents of the greater Pittsboro area to support them in voicing disapproval of the proposed North Chatham Park Way alignment. Within a week, more than 2,300 had signed. As of Tuesday, more than 1,000 more had added their names.

"Over the last three months we have continued our campaign to draw awareness to the fact that the proposed alignment of (North Chatham Park Way) would divide North Woods," Pavao said. "We have presented to Pittsboro and Chatham County Commissioners and kept in touch with NCDOT and the Pittsboro planning department."

Before the campaign to prevent seizure of their

land, the "NCDOT seems to have had no awareness that the proposed alignment would divide a neighborhood," he added. In response, NCDOT hosted a meeting for the North Woods neighbors last Tuesday to present an alternative road trajectory. The new proposal shifts North Chatham Park Way east of its first planned alignment, but not entirely off North Woods land.

"It's definitely better," Pavao said, "but it still cuts through a lot of our land."

At least four North Woods residents would still have much of their land cut off. To avoid that, Save North Woods Neighborhood members submitted to NCDOT their own alternative alignment following the Tuesday meeting. In their drawing, the road would shift further east to run along North Woods' border before turning west after having passed most of the neighborhood. Only Pavao would still have to sacrifice some land, a concession he's willing to make.

"Both the Pavaos and Chatham Park would be left with a similar amount of isolated land," he said, "which is a very fair compromise."

NCDOT representatives confirmed receipt of the suggested realignment, Pavao said, and promised to consider the neighbors' proposal in their final deliberations. They did not say when another proposal will be published.

"They showed us their alternative but the input was, 'This is an improvement, but it's not perfect. It could be fairer,'" Pavao said. "... So I suspect that they're going to go back and discuss it amongst themselves and they will make a decision, or at least they will move towards making a decision. Maybe they'll reach back out to the neighbors, or maybe they'll just post on their website that they have finalized their



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

North Woods stands apart from dense housing developments that will nearly envelop the 200-acre rural community in coming years. A major four-lane highway might soon replace the quiet, gravel roads.

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THE CN+R Q&A

LYNCH: Bouncing back from Siler City's pandemic year

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Big things are coming to Siler City as town management and the board of commissioners work to improve the town's aesthetic, expand infrastructure and incentivize new commerce.

A year in pandemic forced many of the town's plans to be postponed sine die, but the town's proposed budget for fiscal year 2022 revisits opportunities for growth and improvement. Should the current recommendations go into effect, taxes and utilities will hold at their current rates. Town spending, though, is anticipated to grow by 12%.

Between new staff positions, infrastructure upgrades and other town initiatives, the proposed budget calls for \$17.67 million in spending, up from \$15.74 in fiscal year 2021's budget. Expenditures are distributed across four town funds. Besides general and enterprise (or water sewer) funds, which most municipalities have, Siler City also maintains a Powell Bill fund and License Plate Agency fund. A complete breakdown of projected spending from within each fund is available on the Town of Siler City website, silercity.org.

The News + Record talked with Siler City Town Manager Roy Lynch to get some more insight into what town leadership hopes to achieve with the proposed budget, and what he thinks is most important for residents to know. The town's board of commissioners will host a public hearing for the proposed budget on June 21 after which they will vote to adopt the budget or send it back to staff for revisions. The new fiscal year begins on July 1.

Let's start with taxes and utility rates. Residents will be glad that neither has gone up in the proposed budget for FY21-22. What were some of the biggest considerations in evaluating taxes and rates and how were you able to keep them static despite the town working on some projects?

This year, there were two drivers of the projected increase for the General Fund including revenue from both Ad Valorem Tax and Sales and Use Tax. In addition, ABC revenues are projected to increase 32% pursuant to trending data

along with some recovery in Parks and Recreation revenues based on the reopening of facilities and programs. In all, the town recognized a 17% or \$1.2 million increase in the General Fund.

One of the biggest considerations was in January 2021, the county went through a tax reappraisal that led the town to recognize an increase in tax base of approximately \$81 million. This will provide an additional \$437,460 to the ad valorem tax revenue in the General Fund which is needed to sustain some of the requested budget increases that were not funded and carried over from last year's budget. Another consideration was the Sales and Use Tax which has been outperforming our expected revenues for the current fiscal year. Heading into the current year, we took a conservative approach and reduced revenue based on expectations of what the effects of COVID-19 would be. This coming budget year is a different story. A strong performance due to the recovering economy has guided our approach to a more aggressive projection in this line item estimating a total \$2.7 million.

By prioritizing capital requests and various ancillary expenditures, the town was able to present a valuation at the sustained \$0.54 per \$100 valuation.

Concerning water and sewer utility rates, our revenues have remained resilient throughout the pandemic and notably to the conservative approach we took in budgeting for the current fiscal year. The overall performance year to date demonstrates the need to increase projections and allows the rates to stay constant. We must remain cognizant of the requirements to maintain a level of revenue that supports the necessary maintenance costs associated with operating the system. In doing so, each year we discuss ongoing and future projects along with prospective funding opportunities to evaluate the need for any rate adjustments. Currently our planned utility projects have either been fully funded or we have pending applications for a combination of grant and loan funding.

In your budget presentation to the board, you suggested this fiscal year's town revenue was better

than you and staff might have expected when the pandemic began. Can you elaborate on how you handled the town's money management through the pandemic and how end-of-year balances ended about on par with last year's?

To balance the budget and meet required needs for the FY21, we had to set a baseline of the previous fiscal year and hold off on providing personnel with annual compensation study and pay for performance increases, the purchase of replacement fleet and capital equipment, along with non-profit funding. These were some of the substantial costs that were placed on hold due to the constraints of the projected revenue. The board asked staff to reevaluate revenues quarterly as we moved forward throughout the year and bring back any recommendations. Staff continued to monitor monthly expenditures and prioritize needs.

By the end of the first quarter, we started to see the revenues outperforming the projections and continued holding discussions monthly with the board. During this same time frame, the CARES Act funding was factored in and we began to see avenues in which to move forward with providing the items we initially put on hold. Once we realized the revenues were going to sustain the personnel increases, we took the information to the board and they retroactively funded those requests. The CARES Act funding was utilized to pay for some of the capital items, more so in public safety, fire and police, together with other expenses incurred due to the pandemic. Nonprofits were also funded as allowed by the guidance of the Act.

In the proposed budget, eight new town jobs are funded. In budget discussions, 12 were requested. How did you and staff decide which jobs were of highest priority and what factors went into denying some requests (also what were the other four jobs)?

Yes, you are correct, there were 12 positions requested, eight in the General Fund, one in the Powell Bill "Streets" Fund, and three in the Enterprise "Water and Sewer" Fund.

Priority was set by the board to focus on the needs within the Police Department, so that was the primary factor in

funding the three Police Officers and one Evidence Technician.

Next, we looked at prior year's requests and the Planner 1 position was ranked higher as we have seen growth and development throughout our town. We focused on the strengths of our downtown development and the possibility of joining the Main Street Program. Those are the four requested positions in the General Fund.

The Accountant position was removed based on the transition to the new software program and will be revisited at the request of the Finance Director.

The Street Maintenance Worker was removed based on the additional maintenance position in the Powell Bill "Streets" Fund.

The Program & Special Events Coordinator was removed due to the current decreased number of programs offered by Parks and Recreation and no immediate need.

The Powell Bill Fund does include a Street Maintenance Worker position that will improve the efficiency and timing of town street maintenance on easements. This position was requested last year.

The Enterprise "Water and Sewer" Fund has two positions that were requested, one additional Treatment Plant Operator at the water plant, which will improve operational staffing levels needed for optimization in preparation for growth, and one additional Utility Maintenance Worker.

The additional Meter Reader position was removed as we look to upgrade our technology in meter reading and move to a system that is more cloud based.

You said in the last board of commissioners meeting that FY22's goals and objectives are virtually the same as last year's. What are some of the most important you think residents should know about?

Each year we continue to focus on placing our resources in areas that maintain the highest standard of fiscal stewardship that will benefit the expectations of the residents. These departmental needs are analyzed annually during the budget process and often vary from year to year. The focus could be equipment, additional upgraded technology or personnel additions.

We have continued to focus on funding that provides for enhanced technology into core operations. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have upgraded our technology at many levels to provide resources for the public to have virtual access to Town Board, Planning Board and various Advisory Board meetings. This virtual upgrade was something we had talked about in prior years and it became a priority in 2020. Professional development and training are

key to the excellent performance of an employee. We must equip them with the latest tools to be successful and this will be reflected in their annual performance evaluations.

The town has some substantial and important projects under way that we've reported on before, notably water and sewer infrastructure development and expansion. You've worked hard to secure funding from a variety of sources to cover those projects without having to ask more of residents. Can you talk a bit about the process of finding grants and loans, and what are some you've secured recently?

Our Grants Administrator works with the department heads and engineers to source the most substantial funding opportunities and we have been successful in securing grants to assist in the funding needs of various projects throughout the town. These not only pertain to the water and sewer infrastructure but also economic development, pedestrian improvements, airport improvements and expansion, along with neighborhood revitalization.

Most recently in 2021, as a part of economic development, the town was awarded a second \$300,000 EPA Brownfields grant to clean up and sustain reuse of contaminated properties.

In late 2020, the town was awarded a \$750,000 CDBG-NR (Neighborhood Revitalization) grant that will fund renovations to residential properties. This program is in the initial stages.

For the past few years, the police department has continued to receive the VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) through the Department of Justice in the amount of \$110,000 to assist with this service.

In 2019, the town secured funding for Phase 1 of the wastewater treatment plant optimization upgrade in the amount of \$3 million from Commerce, \$2 million dollars from Golden Leaf and \$750,000 from Chatham County. Phase 2 of the project will include an expansion of the plant to increase capacity from 4 million gallons per day to 6 million gallons per day. This part of the project is estimated at \$17 million. We currently have an application pending with USDA.

We have a water treatment plant upgrade underway in the amount of \$4.7 million including the replacement of filters, optimization of production and increased performance that is funded 50/50 grant/loan through NCDEQ. We also received \$600,000 from Golden Leaf toward the project.

There are other projects open and in the planning phase in each of these categories. I notably mention the ones above as the most recent and currently under way.

does not at the moment include appropriations for nonprofits. Nonprofit funding has been an important feature in previous years' budgets, and many have renewed their requests in recent board meetings. What considerations went into the decision not to appropriate funds for nonprofits and might it still be possible to secure some money for them?

Again this year as we worked our way through the budget process and set priorities, we did not have resources to initially fund non-profit requests. As I mentioned during the budget presentation on May 17, we will review the guidelines of the American Rescue Plan funding once received and bring recommendations to the board. I feel there will be an opportunity to fund some of these requests and will be driven by the availability of direct assistance to the community, similar to the CARES Act. The board is committed to assisting those in need through these resources that have the policies and procedures in place to administer the funding.

You expect about \$2.41 million from the American Rescue Plan. Can you elaborate briefly on how else you might use those funds?

As I mentioned earlier, I do anticipate recommending the allocation of these funds to directly assist the community through those non-profits that meet the criteria. I plan to recommend the initial \$1.2 million be divided between the two major funds, addressing public safety equipment needs in the general fund and infrastructure needs in the water and sewer fund. The projects that we have in process that are not fully funded through grants will be the primary focus of the allocation.

Anything important you want residents to know that we might not have covered in previous questions?

Over the last year, we felt the impact of these unprecedented times, but maintained a continued conservative management of the town's finances.

As always, the town strives to provide services and meet the expectations of the residents while maintaining reserves for unanticipated community needs. We work toward balancing the budget without appropriating fund balance except in situations where there is a specific project planned and it aligns with the Capital Improvement Plan.

Taking this into consideration, the board of commissioners adopted a Fund Balance Policy most recently to direct staff in the decision-making process and manage recommendations that will ensure the town remains healthy and in a strong position.

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

The proposed budget



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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A10

PATRICIA LANE BECKWITH GALES MARKS

Patricia Lane Beckwith Gales Marks, 87, of Moncure passed away on Friday, May 21, 2021, in Sanford.

Graveside service was conducted at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 23, 2021, at New Elam Christian Church Cemetery with the Rev. Ed Earp officiating.

Mrs. Marks was born in Chatham County on April 8, 1934, daughter of Donnie Green Beckwith and Alice Webster Beckwith. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husbands, Henry G. Gales Jr., and Luther A. Marks; sister, Geraldine Beckwith Coore, and brother, Curtis Beckwith.

Survivors include sons, Henry G. Gales III of Sanford, Donnie L. Gales of Sweetwa-

ter, Tennessee; brother, Hoyle Beckwith of Moncure; and two granddaughters.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorial donations be made to New Elam Christian Church c/o Marie Wimberly, 491 Buckroe Drive, Sanford, NC 27330.

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

WESLEY ANDREW GUNTER

Wesley Andrew Gunter "Rollie," 43, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, May 22, 2021, at UNC Hospital.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at Shallow Well Church with Rev. Duncan Lundy and Rev. Robert Thomas officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family received friends in the fellowship hall following the services.

Rollie was born on November 17, 1977, in Moore County

to Randy and Pamela Fitzpatrick Gunter. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Clarence and Coleen Gunter and Donald and Betty Fitzpatrick. He graduated from Durham School of Arts with a culinary arts degree. He was employed as head chef at St. Josephs of the Pines Health Center.

He is survived by his parents Randy and Pam Gunter; and brother, Corey Gunter of Sanford.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

ANNETTE JO (BOYKIN) ST. CLAIR

Annette Jo (Boykin) St. Clair, 67, of Sanford, passed away at her home on Thursday, May 20, 2021.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

MARGARET ANN (MCLEAN) BAKER

Margaret Ann McLean Baker, 71, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at her residence.

Graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 20, 2021, at Lee Memory Gardens.

GEORGE OTIS MCIVER

George Otis McIver, 65, passed away on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

PHYLLIS (MAPP) SILER

Phyllis M. Siler, 59, of Siler City, passed away on Friday, May 21, 2021, at Duke University Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

JUVENAL BAHENA SANDOVAL

Juvenal Bahena Sandoval, 71, of Siler City, passed away

on Friday, May 21, 2021, at UNC Hospital in Hillsborough.

Juvenal Bahena Sandoval, de, 71, de edad de Siler City, partio el Vienes, May 21, 2021, en UNC Hospital in Hillsborough.

Servicio Profesional con Amor y Dignidad Proveido de por Knotts and Son Funeral Home, Siler City.

DERRICK LAMONT WILLIAMS SR.

Mr. Derrick Lamont Williams Sr., 45, of Sanford passed away on Monday, May 24, 2021, at his residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

BESSIE JANE COX

Ms. Bessie Jane Cox, 94, of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at Liberty Commons.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

PITTSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board adopts UDO, approves several land development requests

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — After about six years in the making, the board of commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the Town of Pittsboro Unified Development Ordinance at the board's regular meeting on Monday.

The UDO "consolidates, rewrites and replaces multiple ordinances into a single document to manage land development," according to a presentation from Interim Planning Director Theresa Thompson.

Town policy on such things as "zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance, flood damage prevention, lighting, stormwater and riparian buffer protection ordinances" are all included in the UDO, she said.

Thompson and her team have worked for several months to shape the document per commissioners' wishes and resident input, presenting several noteworthy town ordinance amend-

ments in board of commissioners meetings, as the News + Record has reported. But their work represents the culmination of several years of deliberation by elected officials, town staff and the public.

"This has been a very long time coming," said Commissioner Kyle Shipp, "and I'm glad to be at this point this evening. There will always be a lot of work to do on our development ordinances, but I think this is a big step forward ... So, I'm thankful for all the work that went in, and also for all the work that will come."

While the commissioners elected to officially adopt the UDO, Thompson emphasized that some features are yet incomplete and others are subject to change at the board's request.

"If we find that there are issues or concerns in the future with the current language," she said, "it can always be addressed or changed."

Some commissioners suggested they expect to propose future amendments, especially Com-

missioner Michael Fiocco, who expressed dissatisfaction with the UDO's overall approach to development regulation.

"While I think it's an improvement to our current zoning ordinance, I do find it lacking," he said. "As far as our aspirations when we started on this project, I'd hoped for a far more progressive product."

Fiocco described the problem as a missing "funky" factor.

"I think in the last several years, we worked to introduce a little bit of the funk," he said, "but I think we're far short of it. I wish we had done a better job, and I look forward to the many amendments that I think will come forth in the endeavor to get this where we would like it to have arrived already."

Other news

The board addressed and approved several petitions for land use and development permissions in its Monday

meeting, most of them from Chatham Park Investors.

- Chatham Park Investors proposed an amendment to the Chatham Park Planned Development District Master Plan to revise the table of permitted uses for two parcels located on Eubanks Road adjacent to its intersections with U.S. Hwy. 64 Business East and the U.S. Hwy. 64 bypass. The approximately 55 acres was originally zoned for research and development purposes. Under the approved revision, Chatham Park may host a broader range of businesses on the land, including manufacturing and industrial, retail trade, wholesale trade and transportation warehouse and utilities.

- The board approved a proposed site plan from Chatham Park Investors for construction of a new, private amenity center to be located in the Vineyards neighborhood along Vine Parkway.

- The commissioners approved a preliminary plan from Chatham Park Investors for a

new 129-lot development near the intersection of Chatham Parkway and Suttles Road with 81 single-family, detached homes and 48 townhouses.

- At Chatham Park Investors' request, the board approved a contiguous annexation petition to annex 130.5 acres along Eubanks Road.

- Green Beagle Kennel requested a special use permit for a commercial kennel, accessory pet daycare, grooming and dog training facility to be located on about 16 acres on Eubanks Road adjacent to and north of the U.S. Hwy. 64 East bypass. The board enthusiastically approved the request.

"Welcome to Pittsboro," Fiocco said, "thanks for coming."

"We look forward to you coming here," Mayor Jim Nass added.

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



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Millennials start settling down, but (as always) it's on their own terms

A nationwide survey of about 7,000 Americans, mostly millennials, suggests that pandemic living has done more than change our living habits — it's changed where we want to live.

“For many core millennial segments, the pandemic has turned everything upside down,” Teri Slavik-Tsuyuki, a marketing expert and founder of the California marketing firm ts ink, told me. “The millennial generation as a demographic has delayed homeownership by about 10 years from preceding generations and there are a million reasons we can all talk about as to why. But they're buying houses now and we're seeing a sea change.”

Millennials have long been partial to rental properties. At the age when their parents and grandparents settled down and started families, millennials elected to travel the world, to restart careers, to pursue lifelong dreams. But now, after a year in confinement, they're ready to buy, and housing demand has exploded. Millions of new, young buyers are flooding the market all at once.

“And so what you are seeing in the real estate market right now,” Slavik-Tsuyuki said, “is there's no supply in any market in the country. You put a house on the market, and you get five cash offers in the first five hours — over asking price.”

The housing boom provoked a ripple effect across several industries. In the last year, many basic commodities, including lumber, have more than quadrupled in market value as builders scuffled over waning supplies (see my column from three weeks ago). But the feeding frenzy hasn't slowed. Millennials want houses, and they want them now. They don't want houses designed for older generations, though.

“Millennials have always made their own way, and they're continuing to do that now as more of them enter the housing market,” said Alaina Money-Garman, CEO and co-founder of Cary-based Garman Homes. “They don't want the same things as their parents did.”

To identify what millennials want, Money-Garman and Slavik-Tsuyuki collaborated to design and build a concept home that reflects the shift in buyer values. From a two-part survey of nearly 7,000 people called The America at Home Study, Slavik-Tsuyuki found that millennials are less concerned with total living space, and more interested in functionality. They want open spaces that can be segmented when necessary to isolate office space or home-schooling rooms. They can do without the formal dining areas that were indispensable to their parents' and grandparents' idea of hospitality. With everything, aesthetic must be tempered by utilitarianism.

Money-Garman has used those findings to build a concept home in Chatham Park — the first purpose-built house for the millennial buyer. The house is 2,600 square feet, two stories high, with four bedrooms and three and a half baths on a 45-foot alley-loaded lot.

I toured the house with Money-Garman and, as a millennial, I dare say I was impressed. The house features an open design, with movable partitions to adjust room configurations as needed. The layout dispenses with any child-specific fixtures (I don't need a Jack-and-Jill bathroom with a counter two feet off the ground) but includes sensible designs to serve residents of all ages. And for those times when you just want to get away without actually leaving the house? The master bedroom includes a breakaway bookcase that hides a secret chamber. How cool is that?

“If you want to do home building right these days, you have to do this as much as possible,” Money-Garman said of the build-

er-researcher partnership. “People want to know you've considered what's important to them.”

Traditionally, the country's largest residential developers have operated in the other direction. They design homes according to what best suits the company's needs — usually a one-size-fits-all model — and then tell buyers why it's their best bet.

But millennials have rebelled against what they perceive as corporate manipulation.

“I think there are some homebuilding companies that still look at their business as if they're a manufacturer of boxes,” Slavik-Tsuyuki said. “They build houses according to a certain plan they've had for the last 20 years. Maybe they make one or two changes, maybe they rename the plan, but they're less focused on the human and how people live.”

There will always be a place for such builders, Slavik-Tsuyuki added, but their stronghold atop the housing market is crumbling. Even if they can't afford a truly custom-built house, millennial buyers want personal interest. They want to see builder's such as Money-Garman take time to evaluate their wants.

“It's incumbent upon us as market experts and builders to stay on the pulse of each generation, how they view housing,” Money-Garman said, “and then build houses that are a direct interpretation of their wants. We have to concentrate on specific groups of people versus trying to make something for everyone.”

To see the concept home, visit 28 Edgefield St. in Pittsboro at the intersection of Vine Parkway and Edgefield. Construction is ongoing, but Money-Garman plans to unveil the final product sometime in June.

Gov. Cooper issues executive order to help North Carolinians return to work

Gov. Roy Cooper issued an executive order last week to encourage and assist unemployment beneficiaries to rejoin the work force.

Early in pandemic, Cooper waived work search requirements for North Carolinians seeking unemployment assistance when many businesses were forced to close under the mandated statewide lockdown. Under Executive Order 216, though, all existing unemployment benefits claimants will be required to fulfill work search criteria starting June 6. New claimants have been required to perform work search requirements since March 14.

“Unemployment benefits have provided a critical lifeline for many North Carolinians living on the edge due to the pandemic,” Cooper said in a press release. “As our state emerges from the pandemic, we want to help people safely return to work as soon as possible. Reinstating the work search guidelines will help connect claimants with employers, resources and tools to help them return to the workforce.”

The order also directs the N.C. Dept. of Commerce to explore opportunities, consistent with federal law and through the use of certain federal funds, to establish a reemployment incentive program for jobless workers who find and maintain employment.

Work search requirements benefits claimants include the following:

- Anyone receiving unemployment payments must document contact with at least three different employers each week. One of the three weekly job contacts can be satisfied by attending an approved reemployment activity offered by a NCWorks Career Center or a partnering agency.

- Unemployment claimants will be required to register on NCWorks.gov, North Carolina's online portal for employment and training services. Job seekers can use the site to search and apply for jobs, access labor market information and find opportunities for workforce training.

Since the start of the pandemic, North Carolina has distributed more than \$11.7 billion in unemployment benefits across multiple state and federal programs.

Approximately 245,000 North Carolinians are currently receiving benefit payments each week.

For work search assistance in North Carolina, job seekers can contact NCWorks at NCWorks.gov or 1-855-NCWorks. Information about unemployment benefits can be found at des.nc.gov.

Other business news

- PolarOnyx, a California-based advanced laser 3D manufacturing company, has relocated to Chatham County from Silicon Valley.

The company will inhabit the 142,000-square-foot former Performance Bicycle building off U.S. Hwy. 15-501 in Chapel Hill.

“This move will create many new jobs in North Carolina,” company Director Shuang Bai said in a press release, “and enable PolarOnyx to expand the emerging 3D printing business.”

Founded in 2002, PolarOnyx designs, develops and manufactures products for the medical industry and defense and aerospace markets.

“We're delighted to welcome PolarOnyx to Chatham County, and grateful for the work of the EDC and related agencies in attracting more high-quality jobs to our area,” said Mike Dasher, chairperson of the Chatham County board of commissioners, in a release.

The Economic Development Corporation, under new leadership from former Sanford Economic Developer Michael Smith, has been instrumental in the county's efforts to promote Chatham as one of the nation's top locations for aspiring and established businesses alike.

“We are very excited for the arrival of PolarOnyx,” Greg Lewis, chairman of the EDC's board of directors, said in a release. “Their purchase of an existing building is immediate proof of their investment in our community. Their presence in Chatham County will create new jobs and opportunities for our residents and confirms that Chatham County is a great location for business.” The EDC worked with a number of key allies to bring this

new company to the area.

Besides the EDC, Chatham County staff and Central Carolina Community College collaborated on the effort to secure PolarOnyx's relocation to Chatham.

“The announcement of new jobs and investment in Chatham County by PolarOnyx is great news for our citizens,” Smith said in a release. “These advanced laser 3D manufacturing jobs from a Silicon Valley company moving to the Triangle is another example of our strong workforce and quality of life attractions.”

PolarOnyx is actively hiring at its new location. Jobs include production technicians, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, mechatronics engineers, laser processing engineers and software engineers. For more employment information, visit <http://www.polaronyx.com/employment.php>.

- Siler City was one of seven N.C. locations selected earlier this month by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to receive Brownfields grants totaling \$2,800,000. Siler City is slated to receive \$300,000.

The money is to be used for environmental site assessments and to develop three cleanup plans. Funds may also be used to support community outreach activities.

Assessments will focus on the 11th Street Corridor and the 2nd Avenue Corridor. Priority sites include a 2.3-acre former auto dealership, and a cluster of four adjacent vacant parcels that previously housed a restaurant, dry cleaner, car wash and propane dealer.

The funding is part of a larger effort to support underserved and economically disadvantaged communities across the country in assessing and cleaning up contaminated and abandoned industrial and commercial properties.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Randolph Communications Awards 8 students with scholarships

ASHEBORO — Randolph Communications

selected eight local high school seniors — including three from Chatham County — to receive \$8,000 in college scholarships.

Randolph Communications' General Scholarship Program is an

investment in the future growth, development, and well-being of our member/subscriber families and the community.

The recipients of these scholarships have active service and reside within

Randolph Communications customer areas.

“With the challenging times these students have endured, we appreciate all of the applicants and their hard work to pursue their future goals. In

reading the essays, it was apparent these students have persevered during the global pandemic. They were awe-inspiring; and, we are proud of each of them,” said Kim Garner, CEO & General Manager.

Randolph Communications has given more than \$140,000 in scholarships since 1995 through its annual scholarship program. This year's General Scholarship winners are:

- Grace Jones — Chatham Central High School — (581 Exchange)
- Hallie Ritter — Heritage Christian Academy Home-school — (464 Exchange)
- Joseph Gilliland — Chatham Central High School — CLEC
- Macy Henson — Chatham Central High School — (879 Exchange)
- Martin Gann — Southwestern Randolph High School — (879 Exchange)
- Matilin Keeter — Southwestern Randolph High School — (857 & 241 Exchange)
- Olivia Hall — Eastern Randolph High School — (622 Exchange)
- Reilly McDuffie — Southwestern Randolph High School — (381 Exchange)

Randolph Communications is dedicated to providing the most advanced telecommunications solutions and world-class customer care to its customers. Locally owned and operated, Randolph Communications is proud of its 67 years of serving its neighbors and communities in Randolph, Alamance, Chatham, Davidson, Guilford, Moore, Lee and Montgomery counties.

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Health department transitioning out of primary care services for children

From Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — Beginning July 1, the Chatham County Public Health Department will no longer be a primary care provider (medical home) for children.

This change, which was approved by the Chatham County Board of Health at its May 24th meeting, comes as the department continues to partner with other Chatham-based healthcare providers to align services and address gaps.

The transition of primary care services for children applies specifically to well-child visits, such as school and sports physicals and annual check-ups, and sick care visits. The public health department will continue to offer and work to expand many services for children, including

immunizations, individual and group nutrition services, preventive dental care, lead and sickle cell testing, Healthy Homes visits, and newborn home visits.

“This transition has been under consideration for the past few years as we have worked with the local healthcare community to build a coordinated system of care for residents,” said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek.

“There are several high-quality primary care options for children that offer comprehensive services for Chatham’s youth, including Medicaid beneficiaries and those without health insurance. At the same time, there are important non-primary care services for children, such as nutrition counseling and newborn home visits, that our healthcare system partners have

encouraged us to expand. This partnership is at the heart of the transition, and we look forward to growing these services in the months and years ahead.”

In anticipation of a potential transition, CCPHD stopped accepting new child health primary care clients in April 2020, though the official transition was delayed as the public health and healthcare systems responded to COVID-19. The department has worked closely with several local providers, including Piedmont Health Services, to help clients transition their care and notified clients in early May that this change was under consideration. Letters are being mailed to all active clients this week to let them know that this change will take effect July 1st and to share information and contacts for other

providers to help them select a new medical home.

In deciding to move forward with this transition from child health primary care to community-based and population health services, CCPHD also took into consideration that Medicaid in North Carolina will shift to a managed care system July 1st. This change, known as Medicaid Transformation, includes additional requirements for primary care providers. Many local health departments across the state have already transitioned out of primary care services to grow their focus on public health services. This includes CCPHD, which divested adult health primary care services in 2017 and expanded public health communications and epidemiology programs.

“Despite our shift from primary care services for children,

we will continue to provide important services to Chatham’s younger residents,” added Zelek. “As a public health department, we have a responsibility to coordinate our efforts with other local resources, assure quality care is available, and address gaps in services. This change better positions us to meet these responsibilities, and we remain committed to our vision of a fair and inclusive Chatham County where all residents achieve their best physical, mental and emotional health and feel a sense of belonging.”

CCPHD will continue to provide limited clinical services until July 1, 2021 as it supports clients in selecting a new medical home and transferring their medical records. CCPHD asks that any clients with questions about these changes please call the CCPHD clinic at 919-742-5641.

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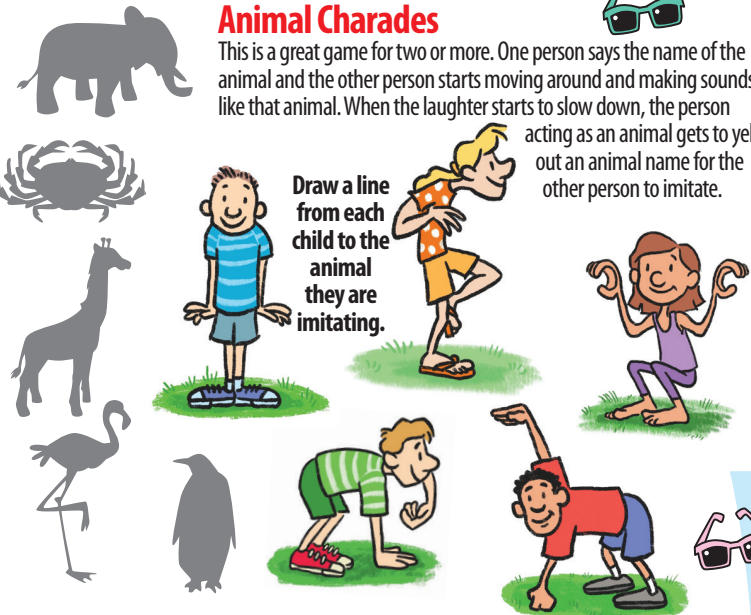
© 2021 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 37, No. 25

Summer Activities FOR FITNESS AND FUN

Summer is the time to get outside and get moving!

Animal Charades

This is a great game for two or more. One person says the name of the animal and the other person starts moving around and making sounds like that animal. When the laughter starts to slow down, the person acting as an animal gets to yell out an animal name for the other person to imitate.



Draw a line from each child to the animal they are imitating.

Water Balloon Piñata

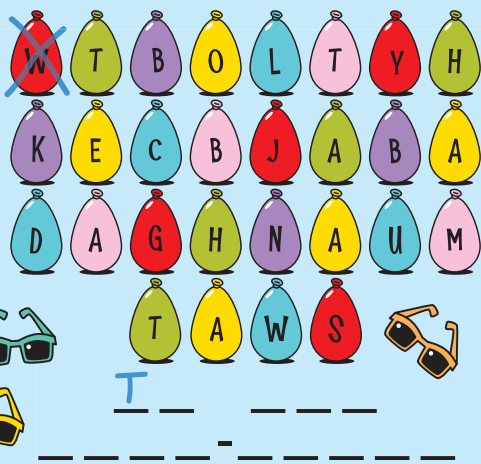
Skip the unhealthy sweets and try a piñata that can cool you down on a hot day!



1. String a bunch of water balloons in the yard between two trees. The water balloons are your piñata!
2. Take turns with a friend or brother or sister or cousin—someone you like to be with and swing a plastic bat or a large stick at the piñata. A wrapping paper tube would work as well.
3. **EXTRA CHALLENGE:** Blindfold the hitter!

Where do Sheep go for summer vacation?

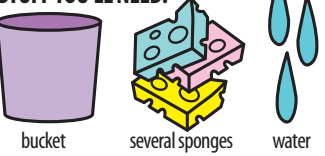
Just pop (cross out) every other water balloon below to reveal the answer.



Super Sponge Splash Zone

Win or lose, everyone winds up soaked in this game for three or more players.

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:



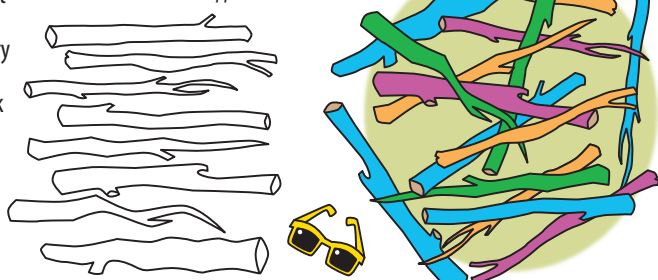
1. One person holds an empty bucket and stands about 10 feet apart from the other players.
2. Players toss water-soaked sponges towards the player holding the bucket.
3. If the player with the bucket catches one of the sponges in the bucket, the person who tossed that sponge becomes the bucket holder.

How many sunglasses can you find on this page?

Make and Play Giant Pick-Up Sticks

Look outside for some sticks about two feet (60 cm) or longer. Paint the sticks different colors. Toss the sticks into a pile and then try to pick them up one at a time. If you play with another person, you each have to pick up sticks without moving any stick except the one you are picking up. A player loses their turn if they cause another stick to move. Give each color stick a different number of points. See who can pick up sticks that add up to the most points.

Draw a line from each stick on the left to its exact twin in the pile on the right.
NOTE: Each stick can appear more than once.



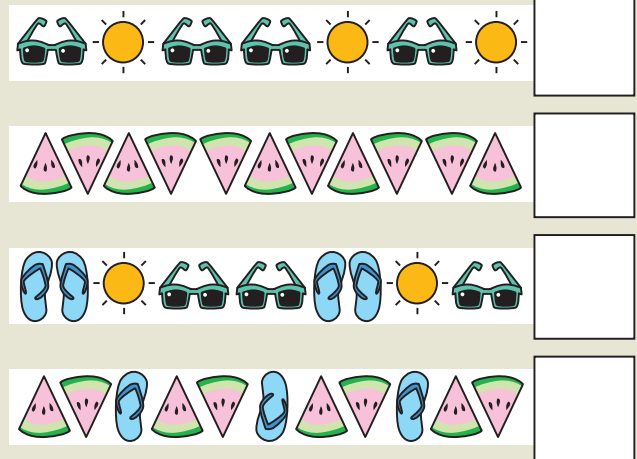
Extra! Extra! Newspaper Baseball

Wad up a newspaper page and wrap it with tape to make a ball. Roll up several pages into a long roll and wrap with tape. Use the newspaper “bat” to hit the newspaper “baseball.”

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Draw the thing that should come next to continue the pattern in each row.



Double Double Word Search

- ACTIVITIES
- BLINDFOLD
- CHARADES
- FITNESS
- SPLASH
- STICKS
- PINATA
- ACTING
- GIANT
- WATER
- COLOR
- ZONE
- PICK
- YARD
- FUN

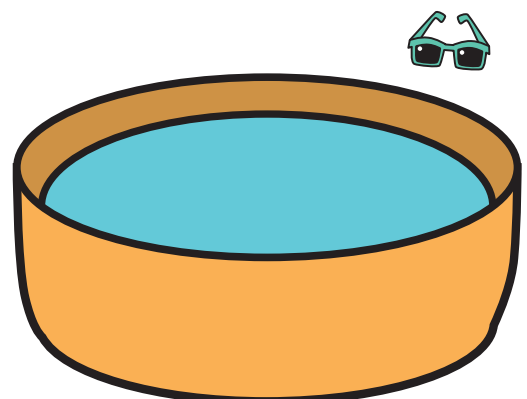
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



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

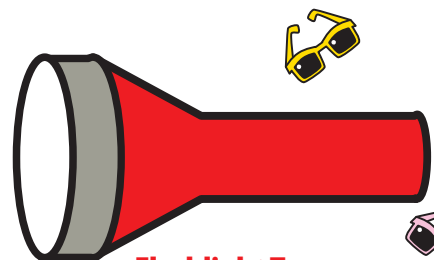
Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

Summertime is a great time to get some exercise while also having fun with family and friends. Try these outdoor games this summer.



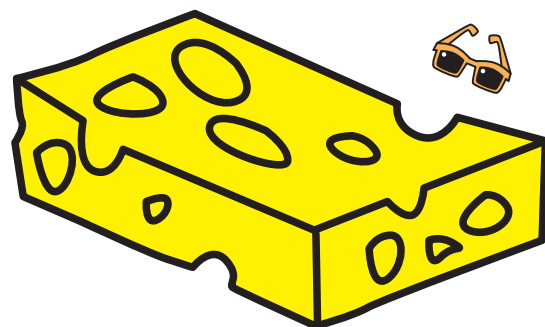
Water Balance Dance

Crank up your favorite music and dance while holding a plastic bowl filled with water over your head. Can you dance through the whole song without getting soaked?



Flashlight Tag

Start an egg timer at 5 minutes. The person who is “it” has a flashlight but must close their eyes and count to 30 while everyone hides. While standing in place (base), the person who is “it” must try to spotlight those hiding. And those hiding must make it back to base before the egg timer dings.



Sponge Volleyball

Make a clothesline between two trees with a rope. Hang a plastic tarp over the rope so that each team of 3 or more players can't see the team on the other side of the tarp. Each player has a bucket of water and some sponges. Three, two, one . . . GO! Every player starts tossing sponges over the net towards the other team, while the other team does the same. First side to have no sponges left on their side of the “net” wins one point. Repeat. Which team can earn 10 points first? Still dry? How about 20?

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Write On!

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PITTSBORO'S FY2021-22 BUDGET

Amendments to proposed budget reduce utility rate increases

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Town Manager Chris Kennedy announced on Monday a substantial revision to the town's proposed budget for fiscal year 2022 in the board of commissioners' second and final public hearing on the subject.

In the first budget rendition presented to the public on May 10, water and sewer utility rates for town customers were recommended to increase by 45% and 35% respectively, as the News + Record previously reported. The proposed increases already represented a change to the draft town staff originally presented to the board of commissioners at its budget retreat last month, which called for 53% and 68% increases to water and sewer utility rates.

On Monday, though, Kennedy announced he'd found a way to minimize the rate increases to 43% for water and 18% for sewer.

"We have tweaked and bent and done everything with those numbers as best we can in my opinion," Kennedy said.

Much of the sewer utility rate increase was designed to fund installation of a force main connecting Pittsboro to Sanford's wastewater treatment plant. The project is anticipated to cost about \$248,000, 65% of which Chatham Park Investors have agreed to pay. With some financial finagling, Kennedy and his team were able to reclassify and defer some of the expense for which utility users are responsible.

"And what that does is it reduces the overall burden," Kennedy said. "Basically there's a mathematical dollar amount that says, 'OK, these are how we filter the budget through, and this is what our deficit remains that we need a rate increase to overcome.'"

But the rate hikes for users are still substantial, Kennedy admitted, even if lower than in previous versions of the proposed budget.

"A manager with more tenure probably wouldn't have the you-know-what's to propose that," he said, laughing.

Kennedy and the commissioners emphasized, though, that increases are necessary to fund critical infrastructure development projects that will address the town's ongoing water contamination issues and capacity shortages.

"We are in a very pivotal time in Pittsboro as growth is promised," said Commissioner Michael Fiocco. "It does take investment on the public side as well — that's what I recognize our rates as. We do have some big water and sewer projects, not the least of which is trying to get PFAS out of our water."

For more than a year, town staff and the board have worked to mitigate alarming concentrations of PFAS, a family of carcinogenic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, that are present in Pittsboro's drinking water. A recent nationwide study by Consumer

Reports identified the town as having the highest PFAS levels of any water supply in the U.S. To improve water quality, the board of commissioners approved a roughly \$2.6 million project to install granular activated coal filters at the town's water treatment facility within about a year, \$1.4 million is covered in the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-22. The advanced filtration is designed to remove at least 90% of all PFAS from the water supply.

Besides improving water quality, town staff and the board of commissioners are working to expand infrastructure before new real estate and commercial development push water and sewer allocations beyond capacity.

"I just want to commend Mr. Kennedy and town staff for their diligence in working through this," Mayor Jim Nass said. "The news that we're seeing some reduction in the sewer part of this equation is very much appreciated, I know, by myself and by members of

the board."

The commissioners did not vote to approve or reject the proposed budget, allowing 24 hours after the meeting for residents to submit written comments in accordance with public hearing requirements. The board was expected to adopt the proposed budget at a special meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday. Residents interested in attending may join via Zoom. Details are provided on the town's website, pittsboronc.gov. (Follow [chathamnewsrecord.com](https://twitter.com/chathamnewsrecord) for more updates.)

"We think that our citizens and residents will be pleased with these operational advances that we're proposing," Kennedy said. "... We're very hopeful that people will find value in what we're proposing, and that they'll feel like they're investing in a better future for Pittsboro."

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Triangle Capacity Building Network grant recipients include Abundance NC, Hispanic Liaison

Triangle Capacity Building Network, comprised of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, Fidelity Charitable Trustees' Initiative, John Rex Endowment, Oak Foundation, The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation and Triangle Community Foundation, has awarded \$312,000 in capacity building grants as part of

their continued commitment to the nonprofit ecosystem in the region.

These grants, ranging between \$10,000-\$15,000 and awarded to 24 local organizations, prioritize nonprofits led by and serving people of color. The grants will support staff and leadership's ability to invest in an organizational capacity-building project that will allow their organization to better serve the community.

The grant recipients included Abundance NC of Pittsboro and the Hispanic Liaison of Siler City.

Chatham Artists Guild announces sponsorship program

The Chatham Artists Guild has announced a new sponsorship program to help its supporters gain visibility while helping CAG to meet its arts mission.

Local businesses, clubs, civic groups and faith-based organizations will be featured on a special recognition page with an online ad and live link to their website for a full year. In addition, sponsors will be acknowledged and promoted to the public via newsletters, social

media and an acknowledgment in the CAG's 29th Annual Open Studio Tour brochure, distributed to more than 15,000 homes and offices in Chatham County and throughout the Triangle.

Four levels are available to choose from and the tax-deductible sponsorships will directly support efforts to develop and enrich awareness and appreciation for visual arts through outreach, education and advocacy. CAG's Open Studio Tour is key to its mission and attracts hundreds of visitors to Chatham County during the holiday shopping

season who also patronize local shops and restaurants.

"Our new program is a win-win for arts supporters," said Gina Harrison, Guild president. "The exposure sponsors will receive has tangible value over a full year and the funding to our 501(c)(3) volunteer-run organization makes it possible for us to bring visual artists and the surrounding community together."

Learn more about the new Sponsorship Program by visiting www.chathamartistsguild.org.

— CN+R staff reports



IT'S TIME TO PLAY! IN CHATHAM PARK

Knight Farm Community Park will officially open to the public this coming Memorial Day weekend. The 10-acre park is one portion of roughly 2,000 acres dedicated to open space, parks, and walking trails within the Chatham Park community and is being generously donated to the town of Pittsboro. A ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. on May 27th in which Chatham Park will "flip the switch" to the splash pad as well as turn the park over to the town of Pittsboro.



Whimsical, colorful playhouse equipment, a dragon-shaped climbing gym, and a zipline are sure to be exciting and fun exercise for the kids. Everyone will get a "kick" out of the Nature Playground where they can balance on live-edge tree trunks, slide down the rock garden, have a game of ring toss, and crawl through the tunnel. A covered pavilion with restrooms and several picnic tables will offer sheltered space for a picnic or snack break. All of this and there will still be additional space within the park for possible future developments, according to town needs.

"WE ARE ENJOYING EVERY CELEBRATION, EVERY MILESTONE OF CHATHAM PARK AS WE WATCH THIS COMMUNITY GROW INTO OUR VISION,"

VANESSA JENKINS, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

"We are enjoying every celebration, every milestone of Chatham Park as we watch this community grow into our vision," said Executive Vice President Vanessa Jenkins of Preston Development Company. "We are very excited to be a part of Knight Farm Community Park and the town of Pittsboro."

Chatham Park will assist the town of Pittsboro with park maintenance costs for the first three years.



Located on Vine Parkway near the Chatham Park Info Center, operating hours will be 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Knight Farm Community Park will bring the first "Play" into the "Live. Work. Play. Learn." motto of Chatham Park and give back to the town of Pittsboro and all residents.

The town of Pittsboro will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony later this summer to celebrate the official grand opening and naming of the park.

DISCOVER CHATHAM PARK AT CHATHAMPARK.COM



Knight Farm Community Park boasts a splash pad for hot summer days, a measured walking trail on the perimeter, a large multi-use field, and a dog park for canine members of the family.



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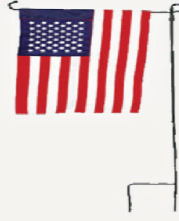
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- Chatham County Council of Aging



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48 count, strike a fire stick.
168439



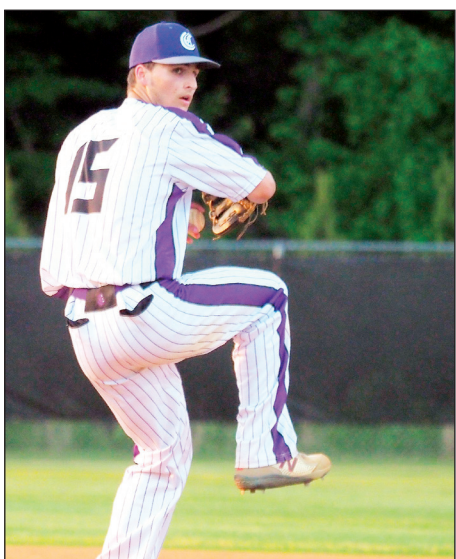
Chatham News + Record

SPORTS NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS

MAY 27-JUNE 2, 2021 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

CHATHAM CHARTER 10, CLOVER GARDEN 0

Striking Gold(en): Chatham Charter's ace leads Knights past Clover Garden with 14 Ks



BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — They may not be precious metal experts, but if you ask the Chatham Charter dugout, they'll likely tell you that gold — not rhodium or palladium — is still the most valuable metal there is.

And much like '49ers during the gold rush, Clover Garden batters discovered avoiding Golden strikeouts is just as rare as striking gold itself.

Knights' senior starting pitcher Trevor Golden earned his fourth win of the season (4-0) last Thursday against the Clover Garden Grizzlies, striking out 14 batters en route to a 10-0 six-inning shutout.

And despite his stellar stat line (6.0 IP, 3 H, 0 ER, 2 BB, 14 K), Golden wasn't totally satisfied.

"Truthfully, I feel like I did not play good, pitching-wise," Golden said after the win. "I struggled to locate the zone a little bit. Off-speed wasn't really on tonight, I had a good change-up and fastball. ... But overall, I didn't let them score, so that's pretty exciting."

His frustrations, in some ways, are justified.

In three separate innings — the fourth, fifth and sixth — Golden allowed either a hit or walk to lead off the inning, putting his team at a disadvantage early.

However, in each of the three scenarios, he battled back to collect three straight outs, ending the inning without any further damage. He bent on occasion, but never broke. Not even once.

Golden's senior season has been one full of successes and, at times, unbelievable numbers.

On May 14, Golden pitched 6.2 innings in a 7-2 victory over the Southern Wake Academy Lions. Out of the 20 outs he was responsible for that night — he was pulled one batter before the last out — 19 of them came by way of strikeout.

"I didn't even know I had 19 strikeouts until they pulled me out," Golden said, laughing. "That was the best feeling I've ever had in the world."

In four starts, the Knights' ace has allowed just two earned runs — both against Southern Wake — and has pitched three shutouts, including one

no-hitter in the season-opener against Ascend Leadership Academy.

Over his last two outings — spanning 12.2 innings — Golden has combined for 33 strikeouts, an average of 2.7 strikeouts per inning.

In those two games, 24% of opposing batters have put the ball in play against him.

"He'll tell you he didn't have his best stuff (tonight) and he wasn't sharp and he still struck out 14," Bill Slaughter, the Knights' coach said. "He's got a good arm, he's got a good mind for the game, but he just works hard. ... And he loves it."

Along with his lights-out defense, Golden is arguably the team's best hitter, too.

Against the Grizzlies, he was an extra-base machine, going 4-for-4 from the plate with a single, a double and two triples with one RBI.

Despite their 2-6 record, the Grizzlies are a formidable team that's hung with a couple of tough Central Tar Heel opponents — including a 4-0 loss to the

See **KNIGHTS**, page B2

Staff photo by Kim Hawks
Chatham Charter senior starting pitcher Trevor Golden winds up to pitch in his team's 10-0 win over Clover Garden last Thursday. Golden struck out 14 Grizzlies in six innings pitched. In the last two outings, he's struck out a whopping 33 batters combined.

EAST 42, WEST 29

Chatham Central's Moore leads Team East to win in Blue-Grey All-American Bowl at AT&T Stadium



BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

ARLINGTON, Texas — If someone came up to you and asked who was the most recent player to throw a touchdown pass in the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium, your mind might automatically jump to the NFL.

You might answer with the Cowboys' Andy Dalton (started nine games in 2020), Philadelphia Eagles starting QB Jalen Hurts (Dallas' Week 17 opponent) or even the Cowboys' \$160 million man Dak Prescott, who was hurt most of last season.

If so, you'd be wrong. The correct answer is a little closer to home: it's Michael Moore, quarterback of the Chatham Central Bears, who threw a 63-yard touchdown pass in Arlington's \$1.15 billion architectural masterpiece on May 17, five months after the Cowboys' 2020 season came to an end.

Donning a navy blue jersey and his white Chatham Central helmet — the vibrant red Bears logo popping in the stadium's bright lights — Moore led the East against the West in Dallas' Blue-Grey All-American Bowl, hosted at AT&T Stadium.

Late in the game, Moore threw a 63-yard bomb to Grassfield High School (Virginia) wide receiver Demani Ward, sealing a 42-29 win for the East and putting the cherry on top of a once-in-a-lifetime moment.

For a student-athlete from the small-town Bear Creek, getting to play at one of the country's most recognizable

sports venues is something most can only dream of.

"It was one of the coolest things that I've ever done, especially in sports, in my life," Moore said following a baseball game against Jordan-Matthews the day after the Blue-Grey game. "It was so awesome. ... Anything you could imagine it'd be, it was that and more."

Getting the invite

The process to be selected for the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl starts with the Blue-Grey combines.

To participate, a student-athlete must be nominated for one of the combines via a form on its website. Once invited, players attend the combine, where evaluators look at each player's skillset and measurables to determine who would be best suited to play in one of the four bowl games.

In Moore's case, he attended a combine in Greensboro his junior year, performed well and was subsequently invited to one of the larger Blue-Grey combines at the Washington Football Team's training facility in Ashburn, Virginia.

Then, after a year of waiting, he got the call — two weeks before the game was scheduled to be played.

"I was stoked man," wrote Moore in a text message to the News + Record. "As soon as I got the call I knew it would be the best experience and a great chance to show what I have."

With his invitation, Moore became

See **MOORE**, page B3

Submitted photo by Alan Moore
Chatham Central quarterback Michael Moore (19) poses on the field at AT&T Stadium with his Bears helmet in hand ahead of the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl on May 17. In the fourth quarter, Moore threw a 63-yard touchdown pass to seal a 42-29 win for Team East.

Seaforth bolsters athletic staff with 19 hirings

CN+R Staff Reports

PITTSBORO — Seaforth High School announced a number of approved hires in recent weeks that will join the athletic staff this fall in the Hawks' inaugural season.

Here is a list of those hires, with all biographies courtesy of the Seaforth Athletics website:

Heather Algieri, Varsity Cheerleading Head Coach

"Algieri started her teaching career at Davie County High School and was J.V. cheer coach for a year before moving to Chatham County. Once at Northwood High School, she met the amazing Northwood cheer staff, joined the coaching team and has been working alongside both varsity and J.V. squads for the last six years."

Kirsten Berger, Varsity Girls Volleyball and Softball Head Coach

"Coach K' is a Chatham County native and has been coaching volleyball and softball for nine years at the middle

and high school level. Her coaching philosophy centers around hard work, dedication and communication.

She values growth by focusing on team and individual goals to learn from the past to succeed in the future. Fundamentals of the sport play a key role in improving our day-to-day success and creating our legacy."

John Berry, Director of Basketball Skills Development

"For over 20 years, Berry has coached basketball at the recreation, travel, AAU, J.V. and varsity levels. In addition, he has been a skills development trainer since 1997 and has instructed and coached thousands of kids.

Berry's 'surgical instruction' style — with an emphasis on defense — is his calling card, but more importantly, in addition to helping kids on the basketball court, he's committed to helping kids in life."

Charles Byrd, Varsity Girls Basketball Head Coach

"Byrd is a basketball coach who

helps young athletes take their skill and basketball I.Q. to the next level. As a former athlete himself, he fully understands the game of basketball and strives to help others do the same. He firmly believes in the term "student-athlete" by allowing teens to be focused in their studies while also allowing them a safe place to lose themselves in the game.

Byrd began coaching in 2016 as a girls middle school basketball coach at Fuquay-Varina Middle School. He then went on to coach girls basketball at Fuquay-Varina High School for two years and then at Jordan-Matthews High School the following two years. In addition to coaching women's high school basketball teams, he has now accomplished creating his "Hoops-madesimple" brand while also coaching various AAU basketball teams. Through these programs, he allows athletes to build their legacy one brick at a time."

Joseph DeShazo, J.V. Boys Basketball

Head Coach

No bio provided by Seaforth's website.

Terrance Gary, Varsity Football Coach

"Gary is from Spring Lake, where he participated in football, powerlifting and track. Upon graduation he attended Guilford College and earned his B.S. in Exercise and Sport Studies while playing football. He and his wife moved to the area four years ago with their two dogs, Freddy and Fergus. In 2018, they were blessed with a baby girl, Olivia.

Upon graduating college, Gary played arena football and became a professional bodybuilder. In his 13 years of coaching, he's been a middle school and semi-professional head coach, along with a high school offense, defense and special teams coordinator."

Jenny Jones, J.V. Girls Volleyball Head Coach and Varsity Assistant Coach

"Jones was born in Colorado and

See **SEAFORTH**, page B4

MOORE

Continued from page B1

one of 48 players selected to represent the Eastern U.S. in the game, including one of six players from North Carolina and one of four quarterbacks on the roster.

“It’s awesome (to be one of 48 players),” Moore said. “It’s such a great feeling.”

The schedule of an All-American

The week of Moore’s trip to Dallas was hectic, to say the least.

In addition to being the team’s star quarterback, Moore also acts as a pitcher for Chatham Central’s baseball team, which is in the midst of a strong 6-2 campaign this season.

Two weeks ago, on May 13, Moore had a career game, throwing a no-hitter and hitting a walk-off grand slam to trigger the mercy rule in an 11-0 win over the South Stanly Rowdy Rebel Bulls. The following night, he played an integral role in a 9-2 conference win over the Gray Stone Day Knights by hitting a double and driving in three runs.

Then, it was time to hop on a flight.

Moore and his father, Alan, flew out early Saturday morning and arrived in Hurst, Texas — the home of L.D. Bell High School, where Team East practiced — just in time for him to register, meet some of his coaches and get to work.

Playing in any sort of all-star game typically comes with its share of challenges, namely trying to develop team chemistry between a bunch of players who haven’t met each other before — hence why every minute of practice matters.

On Sunday, after a tough practice battle



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham Central star quarterback Michael Moore (1) throws a pass in his team’s 56-8 loss to North Rowan on Friday. Moore completed 14-of-27 passes for 102 yards and three interceptions against the Cavaliers, adding another 17 yards on the ground.

with the other two available quarterbacks — Daron Bryden from Bloomfield High School (Connecticut) and Damien Flores from Swansboro High School (North Carolina) — Team East’s offensive coordinator and NFL veteran trainer, Rodney Beasley, gave Moore some good news.

“The offensive coordinator actually told him that all three quarterbacks were throwing very well ... and that he’d probably just draw the starter out of a hat,” Alan Moore said, laughing. “But after Sunday’s practice, he took Michael to the side and told him he earned the start.”

So it was set: the next day, May 17, Moore would be the starting quarterback on the Dallas Cowboys’ iconic field, blue star and all.

Securing the win

Moore and the rest of his teammates took Greyhound buses to the stadium — as if it were a typical NFL Sunday — ahead of the big game, arriving hours before

kick-off to allow them the opportunity to warm up and get a couple of extra reps in before showtime.

Once noon rolled around, Alan estimated there were anywhere from 3-4,000 people in the stands, easily the largest crowd his son had ever played in front of.

“I couldn’t really believe how big the place was ... when you walk in, it’s just immaculate and it was really, really first-class,” Alan said. “And to look out there and see Michael, your son, it was really just surreal. I couldn’t believe it was happening. ... To see him out there in that environment, on an NFL field, in front of all of those people and cameras, it was surreal, it sure was.”

The game itself was intense. This wasn’t your typical all-star game or NFL Pro Bowl. These kids, many of them showcasing their talents for scouts, recruiters and college coaches, gave plenty of effort in a contest where the final score wasn’t necessarily important.

The East rotated its

quarterbacks every series, meaning that by the time the game was over, Moore had led his team on seven offensive possessions.

Early on, there were plenty of struggles.

The team’s starting center got hurt on the first day of practice, which led to a guard taking over snapping duties for the remainder of the trip, including on game day.

In the first three Moore-led possessions, the East turned the ball over three times, twice on interceptions, the third via fumbled snap. On both the first interception and the fumble, the snap was at Moore’s feet instead of his chest, throwing the play off from the get-go.

“He had a couple of early turnovers, but honestly they were just rolling the ball back to him,” Alan said. “If the snap on the first one would have been to him, he had the guy open for a touchdown and he would’ve hit him, but the timing of the play was off.”

On Moore’s fourth drive, in the third quar-

ter, he led the East down the field with a hurry-up style of offense, gashing the defense for chunk play after chunk play, including a couple of nice throws to wide receiver Davion Fields of Old Bridge High School (New Jersey).

Moore was starting to find his flow.

The drive was capped off by a seven-yard touchdown run by running back Willie Edmunds of George Washington High School (Virginia) to give the East a 28-20 lead.

The snaps never stopped being an issue, though, as many of them were so high that Moore — even at 6-foot-5 — was still having to jump up to catch them. On the first play of Moore’s next drive, in the fourth quarter, the snap sailed over his head and flew out of the back of the end zone, resulting in a safety for the West.

However, Moore was saving his best for last.

On his final drive, with the East sitting on a 35-29 lead in the middle of the fourth quarter, he stepped back as Ward streaked down the sideline and got behind a pair of defenders. He let the ball rip, landing perfectly in Ward’s arms around the West’s 35-yard-line, who used his speed to take it the rest of the way to the house.

The beautiful 63-yard touchdown pass acted as the nail in the coffin for the West, giving the East a 42-29 win.

“We had a first-and-10 and they thought we were just going to run the clock out,” Moore said. “We called a play-action and hit on a deep ball for about 65 and that kind of sealed it up.”

“I was just like, ‘I can’t believe this,’” Alan added with a chuckle. “It was like you had to teach yourself to wake up, but there it was. I had to look around for flags to make sure. That was really

cool.”

The next chapter

Moore is verbally committed to attend Catawba College in Salisbury, where he’ll play football for the Indians this fall.

As was the case for many Class of 2021 high school seniors, the recruiting process was rocky for him over the last year, primarily in part to the NCAA granting senior student-athletes an extra year of eligibility to make up for time lost to the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools simply don’t have the roster space and scholarships available to accommodate another class this season.

Despite not garnering as much recruiting interest as he likely deserved, Moore appeared optimistic about joining the Catawba football family, praising the coaching staff and the way they treated him on his campus visit.

“Recruiting has been kind of slow for me, but I finally got something (from Catawba) and I went down there and loved it,” Moore said. “And the coaches wanted me there, so it just felt right.”

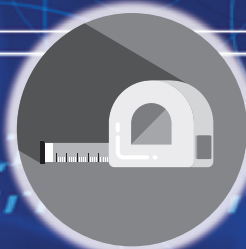
His weekend in Texas — most notably that final touchdown pass in front of a loud, exuberant crowd — was the perfect way to cement an impressive career at Chatham Central.

Moore finishes his four-year varsity stint with the Bears as a four-time Yadkin Valley All-Conference selection at quarterback and the 2020-21 YVC Offensive Player of the Year.

He still has some left in the tank, however, with five baseball games left on the Bears’ schedule, not including a possible postseason run. As goes the life of a three-sport athlete.

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

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CCCC to host basketball, volleyball camps in July

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Central Carolina Community College will host a basketball camp for 3rd through 8th graders. The camp will be held from 5:30-8:30 p.m. July 26-29.

This camp will focus on teaching, developing and improving dribbling, shooting, passing, running and jumping.

The \$100 cost includes snack and drink each day, along with a CCCC camp T-shirt.

Camp Directors are CCCC

basketball coaches Brad McDougald (head men's basketball coach) and Marcel Webster (head women's basketball coach).

CCCC will also host summer volleyball camps designed and facilitated by CCCC Volleyball Coach Bill Carter and assistants.

The Cougar Volleyball Development Camp, which will be held Monday through Friday, July 12-16, is open to rising third to fifth graders. The registration fee of \$75 includes T-shirt. Registration/check-in is at 8 a.m., with sessions from

8:30-11 a.m. Participants will receive detailed training in all basic aspects of the game of volleyball and fundamental volleyball skills. Each day will include team building activities as well as coordination and agility training. There will be a 30-minute arts and crafts time. Class limited to 12 participants.

The Cougar Volleyball Camp for rising sixth through eighth graders (middle school) will be held Monday through Friday, July 12-16. Registration/check-in time is 1 p.m., with session times from 1:30-4 p.m. The

registration fee of \$75 includes a T-shirt. Participants will receive advanced volleyball instruction in the primary areas of serving, attacking, setting, digging, passing and blocking. Class limited to 16 participants.

The Cougar Volleyball Training Workouts for rising ninth through 12th graders will be held Monday through Friday, July 12-16. Registration/check-in time is 6 p.m., with session times from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The registration fee of \$75 includes a T-shirt. Participants will receive a 60-minute strength and

agility session and 90 minutes of volleyball play. Workouts will include some drills and a lot of competitive games, but mostly 6 vs. 6 competition directed by the college staff.

Class limited to 16 participants.

For more information or to register for the Cougar Basketball and Volleyball Camps, visit www.cccc.edu/sports-camps/ or contact Athletic Director Jonathan Hockaday at jhockaday@ccc.edu.

To learn more about Central Carolina Community College athletics, visit www.cccc.edu/sports.

SEAFORTH

Continued from page B1

grew up in both Colorado and Idaho. She began playing volleyball as a child, began coaching individuals as a teenager and now enjoys coaching both individuals and teams. She is passionate about helping athletes and students become successful both on and off the court.

Besides coaching and playing volleyball, she enjoys serving in her church, spending time with her husband and six kids and doing outdoor activities."

Brian Ledford, J.V. Baseball Head Coach

"Ledford has been teaching Math at the high school level for 13 years and has coached baseball at Pincrest High School (Southern Pines) and Panther Creek High School (Cary), in addition to most recently coaching softball at Middle Creek High School (Cary).

When Ledford is not teaching or coaching in school, he can be found coaching his two children's baseball and softball teams."

Katie McGinty, Varsity Girls Lacrosse Head Coach

"Coach McGinty is very excited to begin this new chapter at Seaforth High School and lead the women's lacrosse program!

She is a former collegiate athlete, playing lacrosse at Stony Brook University and named captain her senior year. After graduation, McGinty was the assistant coach at Dean College in Franklin, Massachusetts, before moving back to New York in 2009. Since then, she has coached high school-age players on the club circuit for programs such as FLG Lacrosse and Long Island Express and at St. Anthony's High School, which is, historically, a nationally ranked program. McGinty was an assistant coach for its varsity team before becoming the head J.V. coach in 2015. As head coach, she led them to five consecutive league championships and many of her former players are playing collegiately or are committed.

In addition to coaching, she has been a high school guidance counselor for the past seven years and specializes in NCAA regulations and college admissions/applications."

Anna Murr, Athletic Trainer

"Murr graduated in 2018 from Truett McCo-

nnell University with a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. She continued on at Lee University, where she recently completed her master's degree in Athletic Training. Murr is looking forward to helping build and grow the athletic and sports medicine departments at Seaforth."

Duncan Murrell, Varsity Boys Cross Country Head Coach

"Murrell has coached top high school athletes and All-American youth athletes during his career. At Green Hope High School, he helped coach the men's cross country team to a runner-up finish at the NCHSAA 4A championship and led the indoor track distance squad, several members of which now compete at NCAA Division I colleges and universities. While at Chatham Central High School, he was named the Central Tar Heel Conference Men's Track and Field Coach of the Year in 2018. He is a USA Track and Field level two endurance coach and has also coached sprinters at Durham Academy.

A runner himself, he was a member of the Rockville High School cross country squad that won one state championship and had a couple of podium finishes.

Murrell is a graduate of Cornell University and Northwestern University. Off the track, he is an independent book editor and a contributing editor at Harper's Magazine."

PJ Petrides, Boys and Girls Varsity Tennis Head Coach

"A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill where he played tennis for the Tar Heels under Sam Paul, Petrides has a true passion for the sport and genuinely enjoys coaching players of all skill levels. He is excited to bring his extensive tennis knowledge to Seaforth.

Outside of tennis, Petrides manages (an) energy services business and a small law practice and enjoys spending time with his identical twin daughters."

Tony Pyland, Defensive Coordinator and Defensive Backs Coach for Football

"Pyland has 22 years of experience coaching high school football and has also coached sports such as powerlifting, track and basketball."

Tanelle Smith, Varsity Girls Cross Country Head Coach

"Smith is a USA Track & Field certified coach with a passion and drive that hopes to encourage student-athletes to

develop their own love for the sport. The goal is to instill individual confidence through training hard and fostering strong team unity.

Her prior coaching experience includes being a cross country assistant coach at both Margaret B. Pollard Middle School and Northwood High School."

Jarod Stevenson, Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach

"Coach Stevenson graduated from the University of Richmond. In his senior year, he was the CAA Conference Most Valuable Player and he led his team in the upset of the no. 4 seed in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Stevenson has played professionally for 21 years in many different countries including France, Greece, Turkey, Russia, Spain and South Korea. He is a 2014 Asian Games gold medalist and has been coaching kids in the United States and South Korea for the past eight years."

Nicole Stevenson, Varsity Boys Basketball Assistant Coach

"Stevenson started for UNC-Chapel Hill women's basketball, where she won three ACC Championships and advanced to the NCAA Tournament three times, going as far as the Elite Eight. She played professionally in Portugal, where she was selected to an All-Star team. She has a BSPH with honors in Health Policy and Administration and an M.S. in Information Science with a minor in Computer Science from UNC-Chapel Hill.

She has been coaching school and travel basketball teams nationally and abroad for more than eight years. She's coached numerous camps and clinics for kids in elementary through high school. While head coach of the varsity boys basketball team for the Dwight International School of Seoul (South Korea), the team won the conference and playoff championship. She believes in building strong fundamentals through hard work and lots of repetition and is passionate about helping kids succeed on and off the court."

Shontai Totten, Varsity Girls Basketball Assistant Coach

"Totten is a 2020 graduate of North Carolina Central University, where she earned her Bachelor of Social Work. She also holds an Associates degree in Business Administration from Louisburg

College.

After playing two years of college basketball at Louisburg, she joined the women's basketball team at NCCU as a point guard and shooting guard. She is the former assistant boys basketball coach for The Institute for the Development of Young Leaders (IDYL). In addition, she has three years of experience in one-on-one and group basketball training for middle school, high school and college athletics."

Giovanni Viana, Varsity Boys and Girls Soccer Head Coach

"Viana brings a wealth of in-depth soccer knowledge at all levels, youth to professional, to Seaforth High School. Most recently, he spent the last six years as a youth coach for NC Football Club (NCFC) at the Classic Level. Prior to that, he served as the women's soccer head coach for Newbury College and Beaver Country Day High School, the head men's soccer coach at Brookline High School and an assistant coach at Lasell College, all in Massachusetts.

Viana also has a plethora of international professional coaching experiences. He served

as an assistant coach with Canto do Rio Football Club and Serrano Football Club in the Rio de Janeiro State League (Brazil), where he previously played professionally. He also participated in a coaching internship with the FIFA Club World Cup Champion and seven-time Brazilian National Champion Clube de Regatas do Flamengo.

Viana resides in Chatham County and has been married to his wife, Carolina, for 22 years and has two young daughters, Sofia and Isabela, who both play soccer."

Brent Winston, Offensive Line Coach for Varsity Football

"Winston grew up in Statesville, where he attended Statesville High

School and UNC-Chapel Hill from 2003-2010. He has been working in Chatham County since 2011 teaching Math at Moncure School and earned National Board certification in 2015.

Winston has coached multiple sports at the middle school and high school levels, but his main focus has been on high school football. Winston's number one passion is watching Bufalo Bills games with his wife and dogs."

Seaforth will host a virtual 'Meet the Coaches' Zoom meeting on June 2nd at 6 p.m. for all students interested in playing sports. Check the Hawks' athletics page for details: <https://seaforth-hawks.bigteams.com/>

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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.

May's winner will be drawn from eligible entries provided by 6/1/2021. The May winner will be announced in an June issue of the Chatham News + Record. One entry per household, per week. Employees of the COA and their dependents not eligible.

Chatham COA Events & Announcements

May 27th - June 2nd

Thursday, May 27th

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM *(Outside at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center Bocce Court)*
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Trivia with Faye & Jackie](#) at 11:15 AM 📶
- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 3:00 PM 📶

Friday, May 28th

- [Strong & Fit with Jackie](#) at 9:15 AM 📶
- [Weekly Call with Director, Dennis Streets, honoring Memorial Day](#) at 10:15 AM 📞
- [Virtual Yoga for Senior Athletes](#) at 3:00 PM 📶

Monday, May 31st

- **CLOSED in observance of Memorial Day**

Tuesday, June 1st

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM *(Outside at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center Bocce Court)* 📶
- [Strong & Fit with Jackie](#) at 9:15 AM 📶
- [Brain Games with Jackie](#) at 11:15 AM 📶

Wednesday, June 2nd

- [Virtual Walk Club](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Chair Yoga with Liz](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Wood Turning with Alan](#) at 11:15 AM 📶
- [Short Stories with Chris](#) at 12:30 PM 📞

📶 On Zoom
📞 On Conference Line: 727-731-8717

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BEARS 11, JETS 6

Efficient hitting, powerful pitching leads Chatham Central to rivalry win over J-M

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — The pitch sped through the air on its way from the mound.

It crossed into the batter's box, where the bat of Chatham Central senior Parker Crowley was waiting to introduce itself, slicing it in the direction from which it came as it landed just in front of the outfield wall and rolled further away, escaping the centerfielder's grasp.

A run made its way across home plate with ease while Crowley darted from base to base, sliding his way into third and avoiding the tag by mere milliseconds.

The senior's RBI triple wasn't the game-winning or go-ahead run — in fact, there were still two more innings to be played and the Bears were up by seven runs — but it was a play that felt like the final straw.

Crowley's fifth-inning three-bagger — the third-straight Chatham Central at-bat that resulted in an RBI — gave the Bears a 10-3 lead over the Jordan-Matthews Jets, who they'd go on to defeat 11-6 on Tuesday, May 18, to extend their winning streak to four games.

As is commonplace for a game against J-M, the stands in Bear Creek were filled to the brim with excited spectators. Even if you couldn't see it, you could feel it.

"J-M's just always been J-M," Michael Moore, senior starting pitcher for the Bears, said. "We know some of their guys, but when we're out here playing, we don't really like them very much historically, so that's one game you don't really have to try to get up for. You always have a lot of energy."

Crowley's triple was one thrilling moment on a night where they were plentiful for the Bears, one that also featured big hits, powerful strikeouts and, of course, on-base celebrations.

Central's night at the plate can be defined using one word: productive.

All but one Bears batter reached base on the night by either hit, walk or error, totaling 21 baserunning opportunities; they capitalized on 10.

Most of the credit should be awarded to a few of Chatham Central's hitters in particular, including sophomore Hasten T. Paige (3-for-4, 3 RBI), who followed up Crowley's triple with an RBI single of his own for



Chatham Central sophomore Hasten T. Paige (15) slides past home plate on a single by junior Nick Jourdan in the Bears' 11-6 victory over the Jets on Tuesday, May 18. Paige was 3-for-4 on the evening with all three hits coming in the form of two-out RBI singles.

Staff photo by Simon Barbre



Jordan-Matthews sophomore Conner Martin (18) and Chatham Central junior Luke Oldham stand by each other at first base while J-M head coach John Headen (in distance, center, blue) pays a visit to the mound in the Jets' 11-6 loss to the Bears on Tuesday, May 18. Oldham reached base three times on the night (two walks, once on error).

Staff photo by Simon Barbre

his third hit of the night. He hit singles in back-to-back-to-back innings, each of which scored runs.

Even as a sophomore, Paige was arguably the most reliable hitter for the Bears on Tuesday. When they needed one, he was their guy. As a five-hole hitter, he collected all three of his RBI singles with two outs, keeping innings alive and extending the lead.

"Hasten Paige had three hits with two outs, used the whole field and just really battled," Brett Walden, Chatham Central's head coach, said. "He's a sophomore and he's just really, really worked hard. He works hard when he's not here and he's just going to be a really good player for us. ... He's (also) a good outfielder and covers ground."

Moore was another Bear that exceeded expectations against the Jets, playing a dominant game both at the plate and on the mound.

A day removed from competing as a quarterback in the Blue-Grey All-American game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas — home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys — the Catawba-bound Moore had himself a night.

Moore thrived in the batter's box, raking in two hits — both doubles — and reaching base twice on errors. He smoked a double deep to center field for his first hit in the opening inning, driving in junior Colin Lagenor for the game's first run and giving the Bears a 1-0 lead.

His energy was infectious, letting out a celebration once he reached the bag on both



Chatham Central senior starting pitcher Michael Moore throws a pitch from the mound in his team's 11-6 victory over Jordan-Matthews on Tuesday, May 18. Moore was electric on both sides of the ball, hitting two doubles, reaching base four times, allowing just two earned runs and striking out eight batters.

Staff photo by Simon Barbre

of his doubles while his team loudly cheered him on from the dugout.

On May 13, his last game pitched before Tuesday, Moore threw a five-inning no-hitter in an 11-0 win over conference foe South Stanly, which paired nicely with his walk-off grand slam that triggered the 10-run mercy rule in the same game.

And as the Bears' starting pitcher against the Jets, he still had some fuel left in the tank.

"I didn't know (if he was going to pitch) — he said he was sore this morning — so I had a couple of different back-up plans," Walden said. "Then we get out here ... and he said he felt good enough to go and after three (innings), he said, 'Let me try one more.' He gets another one, then he said, 'Let me go one more.'"

Moore — a three-sport athlete that's verbally committed to play football at Catawba — racked up eight strikeouts against the Jets despite being sore from his time in Dallas, allowing just two earned runs and

using his dangerous curveball to methodically mow down batters in 4.2 innings pitched.

It wasn't until the top of fifth inning when his exhaustion seemed to catch up with him, allowing a triple to J-M senior Huston Causey (3-for-4, 3B, RBI) and a subsequent RBI single to freshman Ian McMillan (1-for-4, RBI), cutting Central's lead to 8-3.

Walden pulled him after the run scored, replacing him with sophomore Travis Crissman (2.1 IP, 4 H, 3 ER, 4 K), who got the final out and pitched the last two innings, but Moore's performance had its share of admirers.

"You watch him play football, you watch him play basketball, you watch him play baseball and I've watched him do all of those for four years and he's just a natural athlete with a very high acumen," Walden said. "He kind of made a point to come in and, even with a condensed season, give it all he's got."

Moore's father, Alan, added that he's "never seen him throw it as hard as he did in the first inning."

While the Jets put together a small rally in the sixth, scoring three runs thanks in part to a two-RBI single by senior Carson Rickman (1-for-4, 2 RBI), it wasn't enough to climb out of the eight-run hole that the Bears had them in.

It's been a tale of two seasons for the Chatham rivals.

After a 3-1 start to the year, J-M's loss to Central marked its third-straight loss. Three days later, it was shutout for the first time this season against Southern Alamance, 8-0, increasing the losing streak to four and dropping the team's record to 3-5.

"J-M's not a bad team, not at all," Walden said. "J-M is extremely well coached, I love coach (John) Headen, he's a great guy. They've beat us three out of the last four, so we really wanted to get this one tonight."

With the win, Central extended its winning streak to four games, a number that grew to five with a dominant 20-1 victory over the winless South Davidson Wildcats last Friday.

However, the Bears didn't always look this good.

In the season-opener, Lee County trotted out senior N.C. State commit Carson Kelly, who one-hit the Bears, 9-0. Then, two games later, Central was blanked by Yadkin Valley opponent Uwharrie Charter, 11-0.

After a tough start to the season, the fact that the Bears are holding on to a 6-2 record after eight games almost feels like a miracle for Walden.

Now, the focus is on their chances to make the postseason with five games remaining.

"If you had told me they'd start 5-2 with this schedule, I would've said I'd take it," Walden said. "I'm really proud of the work they've put in to be in this position. I just hate this condensed field for the playoffs because I think we're playoff worthy, but with Uwharrie being at the top of our league, it may be hard to sneak in there. But we'll give it our best shot."

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



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



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- Abundance NC has raised \$16,000 and paid \$11,000 worth of utility bills.
- You have avoided evictions several times by pooling in money to cover unpaid rent due to lack of work or reduced hours due to the pandemic.
- You have avoided disconnection of utilities and helped people get their utilities reinstated for about half a dozen families.
- We have connected approximately 50 families with other community resources available.
- We have been able to cover Abundance NC staff time to run this Neighbor2Neighbor program!!

Thank YOU!

Much LOVE and BLESSINGS from the families YOU help! This is community resilience!!

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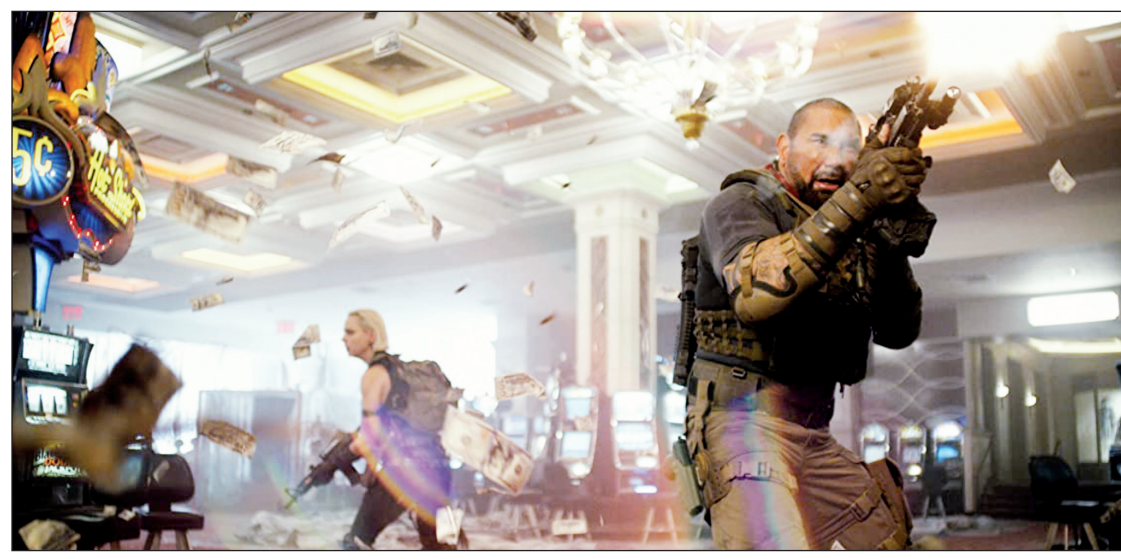
Demotion's Eleven: 'Army of the Dead' a genre guilty pleasure, and little more

"Army of the Dead" begins promisingly enough, with a cold open featuring a mysterious über-zombie escaping from and decimating a Area 51 military convoy, punctuated by it and two newly undead soldiers standing atop a cliff overlooking the bright lights of Las Vegas, a zombie smorgasbord not unlike the gluttonous brunch buffet at a Vegas hotel.



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

Director Zack Snyder's opening credit sequences often succeed at propelling the plot in short, efficient order — his spectacular start to "Watchmen" springs to mind. For "Army of the Dead," Snyder fast-forwards through the fall of Vegas, a protracted collapse and war that showcases casino patrons, performers, and even show tigers ravaged and turned into zombies. It's a pitched battle that sees the emergence of everyman into heroes, personal tragedies, and the drastic decision to wall-off Vegas from the outside world and leave a teeming undead city to lie fallow. In other words, Snyder shows us the movie we want to see in a



Dave Bautista and Nora Arnezeder star in 'Army of the Dead.'

Courtesy of Netflix

three-minute montage. The principal plot of "Army of the Dead" picks up years later, with Vegas still under quarantine and the countdown under way to drop a nuclear bomb on Sin City and finally put the zombie problem to rest. Casino owner Bly Tanaka (Hiroyuki Sanada) still has \$200 million left behind in the vault of his derelict casino, so he hires a crew to recover the loot before the city is nuked. Bly turns to Scott Ward (Dave Bautista), a short-order cook who we know is a retired mercenary and decorated zombie slayer because, well, that was featured in the open-

ing credit sequence. Scott's de rigueur reluctance to return to zombie land quickly crumbles versus a \$50 million reward. Scott's crew eventually grows to a not-coincidental 11, as the movie becomes a "Walking Dead" edition of "Ocean's 11." The group includes Scott's daughter (Ella Purnell), who is on the hunt for an immigrant mom wrongly exiled behind the Vegas walls, Scott's gal pal (Ana de la Reguera), a Dutch safecracker (Matthias Schweighöfer), a Frenchwoman sherpa (Nora Arnezeder), a helicopter pilot (Tig Notaro), a couple of Internet-famous zom-

bie sharpshooters, one of Bly's henchmen (Garret Dillahunt), and an unwitting sacrificial lamb for the zombie leaders/gatekeepers. Yes, there is a zombie caste system, with the typically slow, unthinking carnivores (called "shamblers") in the majority and a cadre of cunning alphas leading the pack. It goes unexplained how the super-strong, super-quick, and above-average intelligent zombies cannot figure out how to breach the single reinforced steel door preventing their escape. "Army of the Dead" unfolds as a zombie heist film filtered

ARMY OF THE DEAD
GRADE: B -
DIRECTOR: Zack Snyder
STARRING: Dave Bautista, Ella Purnell, Omari Hardwick, Ana de la Reguera, Nora Arnezeder, Garret Dillahunt, Tig Notaro, Matthias Schweighöfer, Raúl Castillo, and Samantha Win
MPAA RATING: R
RUNNING TIME: 2 hr. 28 min.

through the construct of "And Then There Were None." And while that may sound like a hoot — and it occasionally is — the audience never quite shakes the origin story that wasn't and the wanting character development that might have lent the story more resonance. It is a far cry from Snyder's directorial debut, his well-regarded 2004 remake of George Romero's zombie classic "Dawn of the Dead." Instead, we get the endless barrage of cannon fodder that suffices for a latter-day genre guilty pleasure.

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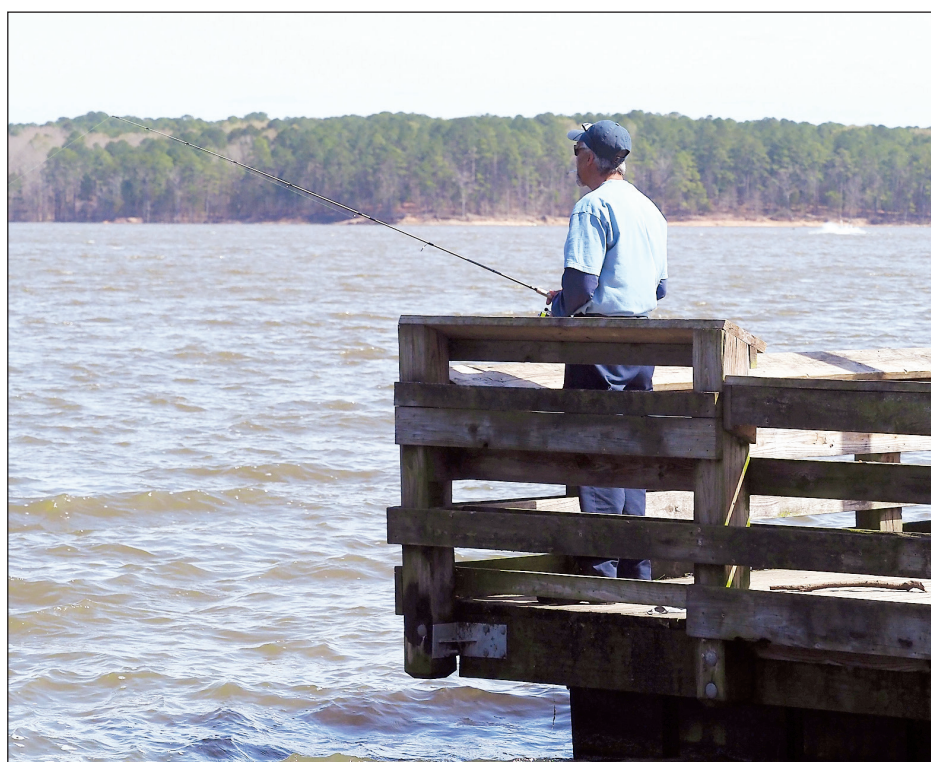
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Chatham Scene

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Jordan Lake on a beautiful early spring sunset. From hiking, to camping to boating, Jordan Lake provides a great variety of outdoor areas to explore.



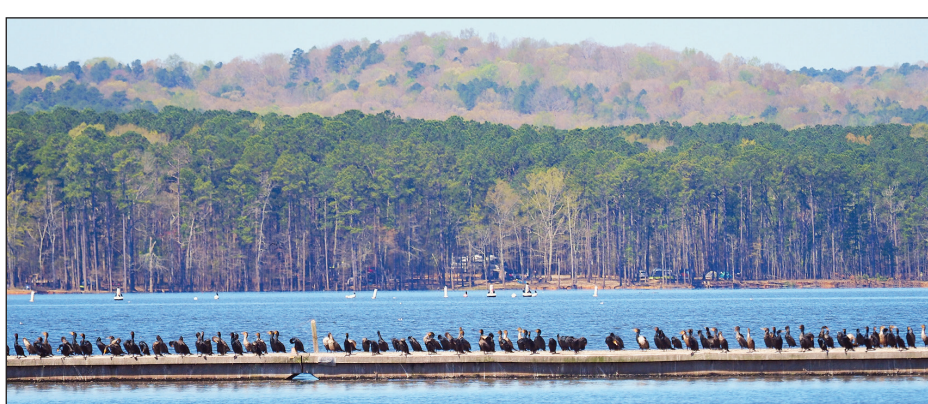
This man was content to fish off of Bells Church Pier on a cool spring day.



Blue jays on a cool, rainy day in Chatham. They have been working on building a nest for babies.



Eastern Snowball Bush, *Viburnum opulus*, provides large round flower heads that open as chartreuse green, then flushes to pure white. I always look forward to the arrival of these flowers. It's a sign spring is definitely here.



Out on Jordan Lake, a long line of Cormorants were out sunning on a small parcel of land. As spring approaches birds and boaters can be seen all over Jordan Lake.

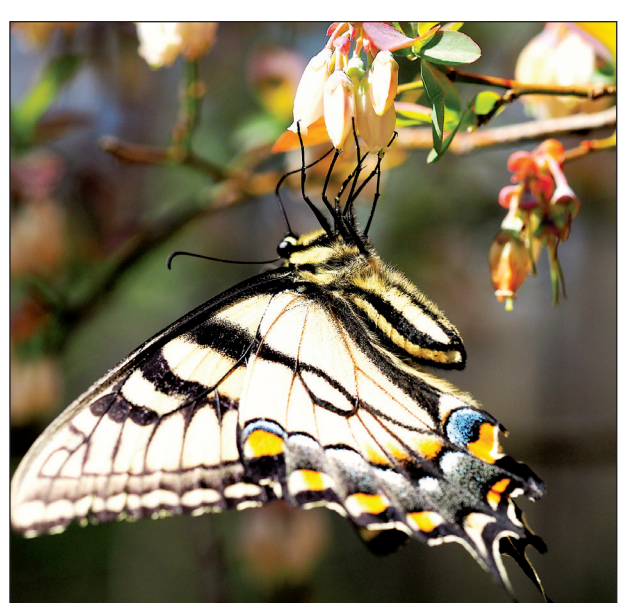
SPRING: Up close and colorful

The season's beauty yields opportunity for the camera eye

Kim Hawks, the News + Record's talented all-purpose photographer, particularly enjoys capturing pictures of the best of what nature has to offer. While many of her stellar shots come from her own gardens at "Hawknest," her property in Cha-

tham County, she traverses our rural roads and byways to find color and beauty. On this page, you'll find a sampling from her lenses from the past week or two. As spring turns its eyes toward summer, and temperatures rise, take a few moments to enjoy her work here.

Formosa Azaleas are a personal favorite for Chatham County gardens. In partial shade, these azaleas grow 6-feet tall by 5-feet wide, covered in large blossoms.



A Swallowtail butterfly perches on blueberry flowers.



Purple Striped Tulips were a big hit this year in my garden. They are beautiful, twisted tight in bud form, as they unfurl their striped petals.



Heading towards the Haw River on Chicken Bridge Road, I am struck by the many shades of green in early spring. Spring is a time of new beginnings.

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WINN MICHAEL TODD	84002	1566.33	YOUNG PEARL W	3564	185.51
WOFFORD MICKLE	61095	226.88	YOW CLARENCE D	71728	409.22

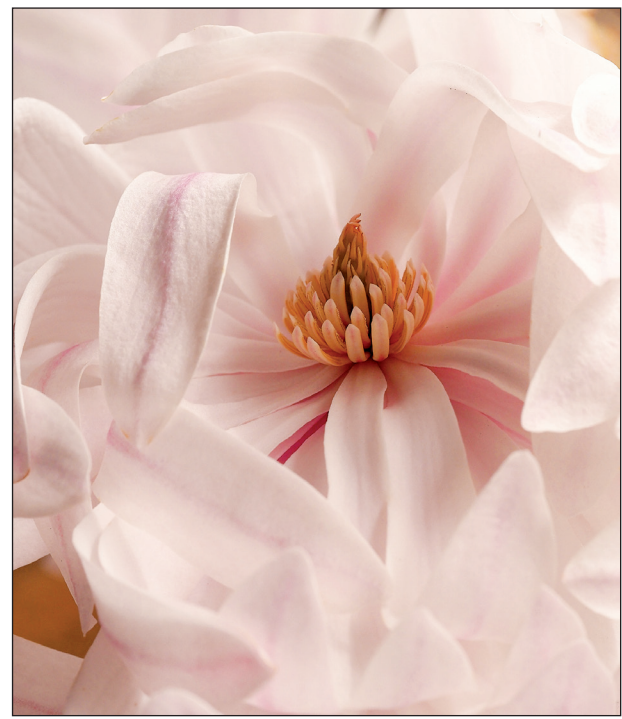
By mid-May, my garden is full of different colors and types of Irises. By planting different Iris species, Chatham County gardeners can have irises blooming from early spring through mid-summer.



While many of Kim Hawks' stellar shots come from her own gardens at "Hawknest," her property in Chatham County, she traverses our rural roads and byways to find color and beauty.



In my Chatham County garden, bees enjoy the nectar of blueberry flowers. I always look forward to picking blueberries in late June.



Magnolia stellate 'Centennial Blush' is a lavish double flowered pale pink Star Magnolia that signals spring has arrived. They need planted in an area that receives at least half a day of sunlight.



Looking at the Haw River via the bridge on Chicken Bridge Road, the fresh lush green shades and textures took my breath away. Spring in Chatham County can stop you in your tracks.



Lenten Roses in my Chatham garden come in shades of burgundy, pinks and whites. They provide welcome cut flowers in winter.



The Super Petunias made a big splash this year in local garden centers. 'Daybreak Charm' is a very floriferous petunia with hot pink flowers and a butter yellow center. Remove faded flowers for continuous bloom.



Red Shouldered Hawks have an air of majesty about them. This one perched on a limb just outside my kitchen window. So powerful.



This Eastern Towhee out at Jordan Lake is talking about something! In early spring, migrating birds arrive in Chatham County to nest and raise their young.



Iris virginica loves to live on the edge of a pond, lake or area where water settles after a rain, in at least half a day of sun. These are planted in my small water garden.

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 283

All persons having claims against **CHERRY LEE NICKS MUNN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 6th day of May, 2021. Jonathan L. Nicks, Executor 211 Sycamore Lake Drive Siler City, NC 27344 My6,My13,My20,My27,4tp

NOTICE OF EXECUTOR TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS

Wickliffe Winston Shreve, II, having qualified as Executor for the Estate of **BRANDON WICKLIFFE SHREVE**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned, at the address indicated below, on or before August 6, 2021 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said estate should please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 6th day of May, 2021. Wickliffe Winston Shreve, II, Executor of the Brandon Wickliffe Shreve Estate c/o Schell Bray PLLC P.O. Box 21847 Greensboro, NC 27420 Michael H. Godwin SCHELL BRAY PLLC 230 North Elm Street, Suite 1500 Greensboro, NC 27401 My6,My13,My20,My27,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons having claims against **BRUCE MILES CLEVELAND**, deceased, late

of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 6th day of May, 2021. Barbara Ruth Cleveland, Executrix c/o Bagwell Holt Smith, P.A. 111 Cloister Ct., STE 200 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 My6,My13,My20,My27,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons having claims against **GEORGE G. (GUS-TAV) PAULY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 6th day of May, 2021. Thomas A. Pauly, Executor c/o Mitchell Law Group, PLLC 2530 Meridian Parkway, Suite 100 Durham, NC 27713 My6,My13,My20,My27,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 67

All persons having claims against **MAGGIE E. BAINES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 6th day of May, 2021. Brenda Kay Blade, Executrix 3054 Diana Circle Burlington, NC 27215 My6,My13,My20,My27,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED, as Administrator, CTA of the Estate of **MABEL CRITE JONES**, 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 August 17, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 13th day of May, 2021. RONALD P. COLLINS, Administrator. CTA of the Estate of MABEL CRITE JONES 117 West Raleigh Street Siler City, North Carolina 27344 (919) 663-2533 My13,My20,My27,Jn3,4tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 15-CVD-726 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

COUNTY OF CHATHAM, Plaintiff, vs The HEIRS, ASSIGNS, and DEVISEES or FAYE MCDONALD, et al, Defendants

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NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS, and DEVISEES of FAYE MCDONALD and spouse, if any, which may include TASHA TEJUANA MCDONALD'S SPOUSE, IF ANY, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder

against JOHN THOMAS MCGEE, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before August 13, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery.

Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 My13,My20,My27,Jn3,4tc

2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

or by June 29, 2021, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought.

A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on May 20, 2021.

The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of PHYLLIS ELAINE LAMBERT 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 Charles N. Griffin, III, Esq., P. O. Box 19766, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27619-9766, on or before the 13th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20-E-615 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Sonja Kitchings, having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of DWIGHT HICKS, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the ESTATE OF JAMES L. ABRAHAMSON late of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on October 12, 2020 are hereby notified to present their claims to JANET H. MCLAMB, EXECUTOR, on or before August 20, 2021 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery.

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 17-CVD-315 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY COUNTY OF CHATHAM, Plaintiff, vs MARK CURTIS LIEB, et al Defendants. NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS or DEVISEES of MARK CURTIS LIEB and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, and LESLIE F. LIEB and ANY HEIRS, ASSIGNS or DEVISEES of LESLIE F. LIEB or any other person or entity claiming thereunder

The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property.

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 19-CVD-739 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY COUNTY OF CHATHAM, Plaintiff, vs The HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES of MARY E. BIVINS A/K/A MARY E. BIVENS, et al Defendants. NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES of MARY E. BIVINS A/K/A MARY E. BIVENS and spouse, if any, which may include JOE D. BIVENS, Incompetent, and spouse, if any, and THE HEIRS, ASSIGNS AND DEVISEES OF WILMA JEAN BIVENS and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder.

PUBLIC NOTICE The tentative budget meeting for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 for the Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District was presented to the Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District Board on May 4, 2020 and is available for public inspection at the Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District Water Plant, JR Moore & Son Store located in Gulf and/or the Goldston Public Library. A public hearing will be held at 6:00 pm on June 1, 2021 at the Town Hall Building in Goldston, NC, at which time any persons who wishes to be heard on the budget may appear.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 21-E-139 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Joette Newkirk, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of THOMAS DAVID TOOMER, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 15-CVD-727 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY COUNTY OF CHATHAM Plaintiff, vs FLORENCE ELIZABETH CUMMINGS f/k/a FLORENCE ELIZABETH MONROE, et al NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION Defendants. TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS, and DEVISEES of WILLIE PAGE MONROE and spouse, if any, and any other person or entity claiming thereunder

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A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on May 13, 2021. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property.

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified on the 5th day of May, 2021, as Executrix of the Estate of LESLIE S. WRUBLE, 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 11th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 138 All persons having claims against DONNA ELIZABETH HUFF deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of August,

Online Only Auction, Featherlite Hauler, Transcraft Trailers, Freightliner Road Tractors, Sprinter Van & Box Truck, Harrisburg, NC, Begins Closing 6/10 at 2pm, Visit Our Website, ironhorseauction.com, 800.997.2248, NCAL 3936 Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed SSD and denied, our attorneys can help! Win or Pay Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 877-553-0252 [Steppacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

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IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 08-CVD-1217 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY COUNTY OF CHATHAM, Plaintiff, vs ROY STOUT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. et al Defendants. NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION TO: ROY STOUT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC. and any ASSIGNS or SUCCESSORS of ROY STOUT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC. or any other person or entity claiming thereunder

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 21-E-267 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Ivadale Law, having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of HERBERT HOOVER PARKER, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on May 13, 2021. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims

against JOHN THOMAS MCGEE, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before August 13, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery.

Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 My13,My20,My27,Jn3,4tc

2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

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