

Chatham News + Record

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Chatham's new superintendent a 'champion and a cheerleader' for students, teachers

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff



Jackson

A sparkly blue welcome sign standing nearly as tall as him greeted him, reading "Welcome Dr. Jackson," and decorated with red cardboard balloons. "That said a lot

about the community and about the work," said Jackson, who started as CCS superintendent on July 6. "And you know, it really cemented for me that I had made a good decision."

Nearly a month after stepping into the new role, Jackson is focused on

See JACKSON, page A9

PITTSBORO — When Dr. Anthony Jackson arrived at Chatham County Schools' Pittsboro central office building for his first day as the district's new superintendent, he knew the place was special.

SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Board recesses hearing on Mountaire's project

BY ADRIANNE CLEVEN
News + Record Correspondent

SILER CITY — Siler City's Board of Commissioners, after hearing a litany of concerns from impacted residents, voted unanimously on Monday night to recess a public hearing regarding Mountaire Farms' request to close and re-route parts of East Third Street and East Fifth Street, as well as the entirety of Johnson Avenue.

The hearing will reconvene on Aug. 30, giving the board and town staff more time to consider complaints and objections raised by residents at the public hearing, as well as give more residents the chance to share their thoughts on the proposed Mountaire-financed \$6 million project.

If approved by the town — and eventually, the N.C. Dept. of Transportation — the project would re-route automobile traffic around the Mountaire poultry processing plant, allowing vehicles to turn onto North Avenue directly from U.S. Hwy. 64 and curve away from the Mountaire facility in what Mountaire representatives describe as a "free flow" traffic pattern "similar to the existing conditions today."

Mountaire representatives say the new plan would increase safety — both for residents driving on Third Street and for commercial trucks bringing in chickens for processing — by limiting the need for trucks to cross Third Street during the loading and unloading process.

Cathy Bassett, Mountaire's director of communications and community relations, told commissioners during Monday's presentation that the proposed change "would reduce those trucks from crossing Third Street an additional 464 times a day."

But 10 of the 11 speakers who spoke during the 45-minute long

See MOUNTAIRE, page A9

THE BOOKMOBILE

Siler City elementary schools bring students thousands of books during summer

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Melani Canela Soto goes through different types of books, trying to figure out which ones she'll take them home with her on Tuesday, July 20 inside the Bookmobile. 'Books in hands' is the Bookmobile's ultimate goal, according to Siler City Elementary School media specialist Beth Kalb, who helps run the bus.

At each bus stop, like one on a recent Tuesday, staff allow several children to enter the Bookmobile at a time. Once inside, they'll browse through the shelves or flip through bins and pick out their favorites. Then they'll take their chosen few up — usually at least two or three — to the counter at the front of the bus, where a media specialist will process them. On this day, that media specialist

was Kalb — but on a different day, it might have been Virginia Cross Elementary's Lindsay Shore-Wright.

"There you go, honeybun," Kalb told a student that day on her way out with a set of newly checked out books. "Read them. Love them."

Both schools share the Bookmobile; one side houses SCE's library books

See BOOKMOBILE, page A6

SILER CITY — Dozens of children lined up before a big, blue bus parked along the curb just outside Virginia Cross Elementary School. At first glance, the bus might have been mistaken for an ice cream truck, but the kids didn't line up for sundaes. Instead, they lined up for books.

Inside the bus, or the Bookmobile as it's called, lives a mobile library stocked with thousands of books for a variety of ages — from easy pre-K readers and chapter books to graphic novels, and even a few shelves of bilingual books. Some are free, but most are school library books.

It's all part of a decade-long effort that two Chatham elementary schools — Siler City Elementary and Virginia Cross — have undertaken to provide books to low-income students who may not otherwise have access during the summer break from school. While some students may lack transportation to public libraries, others may live with parents who can't provide the ID many public libraries require in return for library cards.

"It was just a way to get books in hands in summer, and (to) make sure that the summer reading slide did not happen, that we had kids reading during the summer," said SCE media specialist Beth Kalb, who's been involved in running the Bookmobile since she first joined the school system four years ago.

'It is a priority for us': Chatham works toward expanding services for Spanish speakers

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN & VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

Last year, Ramseur resident Noe Briones Licona embarked on a multistep application process to secure county permission to move his double-wide mobile home from Randolph County to Chatham.

After a three-month process riddled with pandemic delays, he finally wrapped up the application process last December.

The hardest part throughout it all? Filling out the forms.

"It took me a while because of the language more than anything," Briones Licona, 36, told the News + Record in Spanish. "I speak a little English, but my English isn't perfect. ... I even had to go to the Hispanic Liaison so that they would help me fill in the application because, well, I've never filled in an application form for permits before."

He isn't alone. In Chatham, more than 12% of the population is Hispanic or Latino, and according to the U.S. Census' five-year American Community Survey, 11.6% of Chatham residents — nearly 8,000 people — speak Spanish at home. Over 5%, or nearly 3,500 people, speak English less than "very well."

Even so, Chatham County offers few readily available Spanish-language materials and resources, like permitting forms and instruc-

See EXPAND, page A13



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Ilana Dubester, pictured here, is the founder and executive director of the Hispanic Liaison. 'In Chatham, it's gotten so much better,' she said. 'There are still, you know, gaps out there, particularly when it comes to translations, but it certainly has gotten better.'

County's move signals possible return to mask mandates

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

When Chatham County government employees returned to work this week, they did so under new masking guidelines for staff: as of Monday, both vaccinated and unvaccinated employees were required to wear face coverings within county facilities.

So far, visitors to county offices aren't required to mask up. But with nationwide COVID-19 cases up 44% in the last week as the Delta variant surges, reports of "breakthrough" cases among the vaccinated gaining attention and masks mandates being reinstated around the country, the director of Chatham County's Public Health Department is recommending "masks are for everyone when in a setting when you cannot physically distance, and not everyone is vaccinated."

Meanwhile, Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne told the News + Record that he and county officials are eyeing

N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper's office as they consider new mandates in Chatham County.

"We will continue to evaluate the need for future steps consistent with what the Governor is requiring of his cabinet agencies, such as requiring proof of vaccination status and mandatory weekly testing for unvaccinated employees," LaMontagne said. "As for other mandates, we have consistently followed the Governor's guidance throughout the pandemic. I would anticipate that we would continue that practice during this unfortunate resurgence due to the Delta variant."

The move toward masks in county facilities comes after what's widely being described as "pandemic whiplash" — renewed frustration and skepticism within the last week or so after reversals from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about the use of face coverings for fully vaccinated people. As the

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IN THE KNOW

Jackson tells B&G Club supporters to make it 'best example.' PAGE A8

Pittsboro's Emmaus back from 4,300-mile bike, research trip. PAGE B1

Woods Charter's Karen Hawkins in this week's 'The Clipboard.' PAGE B2

A look at county government's plan to fill 31 new positions. PAGE B4



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Siler City's City Hall is currently under renovation. The 1st and 2nd floors are closed to the public. The Planning and Community Development Department is located in the basement and can be accessed through the far left door facing E. 3rd St. Parking is available at the 100 block of E. 3rd St.

ON THE AGENDA

The Chatham County Schools Board of Education will hold a special meeting at noon on Thursday, Aug. 5, to discuss personal issues and to consider the state's updated COVID-19 protocol.

The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, in the west side Conference Room of the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center (CCACC). If you wish to attend, please call 919-545-8440 for more information and available virtual attendance options.

Chatham Charter School in Siler City will begin a new school year on Wednesday, August 11. Open House will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Monday, August 9.

Chatham County Public Libraries has reinstated its pre-COVID hours of operation at all three branch locations.

Siler City Parks and Recreation Summer Open Gym Program: Children are invited to visit the Ernest Ramsey Gymnasium — located at 512 East Sixth Street in Siler City — each Weekday (Monday-Friday) until Friday, August 13 (excluding holidays). Weekdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the gym is available for children ages 12 and under. Children must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older. Weekdays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.,

participants ages 13 and older can access the gym. There is no cost to participate; however, all participants must have a waiver signed by an adult. Waivers will be available at Ernest Ramsey Gym when signing in or available online at www.silercity.org. To adhere to COVID-19 guidelines, masks/face coverings are encouraged for all patrons and when not able to socially distance of at least 6-feet from others. Please be advised, operations are subject to change in accordance to Executive Orders and guidelines.

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, from 7 to 9 a.m., at the Ernest Ramsey Gymnasium Indoor Walking Track, 512 East 6th St. 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

VFW Post 7313 in Pittsboro is a 501c3 created to help Veterans with their claims to the Veterans Administration. These involve service-connected disabilities and include the medical field itself, for the Veteran, surviving spouses and dependents of the Veterans. We help with reimbursement of funeral expenses. We can also help with housing, employment and scholarships. We help all Veterans, not just members of the VFW. Christopher Stewart, Post Service Officer, is available to help with claims to the V.A. Walk-in sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 5 p.m. Appointments also available for those needing assistance outside of those hours. Contact them at email: info@vfw7313-org, or phone 919-542-0927.

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.

OTHER UPCOMING:

The Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program will soon begin training at the CCCC Chatham Main Campus in Pittsboro. Tuition is free for students who have a sponsorship from a N.C. law enforcement agency. Learn more about the CCCC BLET program at www.cccc.edu/blet/. For more information, contact Neil Ambrose at 919-777-7774 or email to lamb287@ccc.edu.

The Friends of the Chatham Community Library's August 7th sale of AV materials and children's books at the Chatham Community Library has been postponed due to the rapid increase of COVID-19 delta variant cases. We will provide another update once we have a new date for the sale.

The Siler City Parks and Recreation Department announces the Bray Park Aquatic Facility has opened for the 2021 season with modified operations. The pool will operate through Labor Day weekend during the summer months, and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 - 6 p.m. General admission includes a \$5 entry fee for ages 3 and over. Children ages 2 and under receive free entry. Senior Citizens age 50 or older 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 families with young children to enjoy the great outdoors while experiencing the joy of reading this summer with Outdoor Story Time. These programs will be offered through August 31, with the following weekly schedule: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. – Natural Chef Café seating area on the Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro Campus, adjacent to the Chatham Community Library, 197 N.C. Hwy. 87 N., Pittsboro; Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. – Washington Avenue Park picnic shelter, 1305 Washington Ave., Siler City; and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at Goldston Public Library lawn, 9235 Pittsboro-Goldston Rd., Goldston. Story time is geared toward children who have not yet entered kindergarten (ages 2-5), but anyone is welcome to join in on the fun. Children will hear stories, sing songs and enjoy more activities. Story times will be offered rain or shine. Chatham County Public Libraries are pleased to partner with Central Carolina Community College and the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department to offer these programs.

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 no longer required but hand sanitizer is till available. Proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

Pittsboro Youth Theater: Campers will learn a variety of theater skills, rehearse and perform a live play at Sweet Bee Theater. Camps will be led by 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 camp 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, through 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 informa-

Chatham County Council on Aging

WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: What TV show started airing nationally on this day in 1957?

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham County Board of Health seeks dental representative

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Health will have a vacancy in October 2021 that must be filled by a dentist who lives in the county. Applicants must have a current North Carolina dentistry license, but they do not have to be actively practicing. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 13.

The Board of Health is the policy-making, rulemaking and deliberative body for the Chatham County Public Health Department. The Board of Health's responsibility is to protect and promote the health of the community and is a great way to make a difference.

The Board of Commissioners will make the appointment for a three-year term, and the person would be eligible for two more terms.

Board of Health meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month, beginning at 6 p.m., with dinner provided and reimbursement for mileage.

The application to serve can be completed online: <https://chathamnc.seamlessdocs.com/f/CommitteeForm>. Applicants also may contact Lindsay

Ray at 919-545-8302 or lindsay.ray@chathamcountync.gov to get an email version or printed copy. Those with questions about serving on the Board of Health may call 919-545-8391.

Roadway improvements project under way in Orange County

CHAPEL HILL — A local road is going to be resurfaced over the next couple weeks as part of a contract recently awarded by the N.C. Dept. of Transportation.

Contract crews began work today on a project to mill and resurface, improve pavement markings and add bike lanes along Culbreth Road from U.S. 15-501 to Smith Level Road in Chapel Hill.

The work will take place under lane closures from 9 a.m. to sunset Monday through Saturday and is scheduled to be complete by Aug. 13, weather permitting.


Drivers, cyclists and pedestrians should be mindful of crews working in the area and expect delays when traveling through the work zone.

— CN+R staff reports


MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Connolly Walker

Pittsboro's Rotarian of the Year!




- Graduate of UNC Chapel Hill (BA in Public Relations)
- Father, David Walker, is a former Club President & Paul Harris Fellow
- Agent with Harris & Co. Insurance in downtown PBO
- A beach town native, she has seen every episode of The West Wing, loves cooking for others, & aspires to hike in the mountains.



Rotary
Club of Pittsboro

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NEWSROOM

HANNAH McCLELLAN, Reporter/Web Editor
hannah@chathamnr.com
LARS DOLDER, Reporter
lldolder@chathamnr.com
VICTORIA JOHNSON, Reporter
victoria@chathamnr.com
VICTOR HENSLEY, Sports Editor
vhensley@chathamnr.com
MAX BAKER, OLIVIA ROJAS & PATSY MONTESINOS, News Interns
KIM HAWKS, PEYTON SICKLES & SIMON BARBRE, Staff Photographers

NEWSROOM INQUIRIES, PRESS
RELEASES AND WEBSITE QUESTIONS
news@chathamnr.com

BILL HORNER III, Editor/Publisher
bhorner3@chathamnr.com 919-774-2728

ADVERTISING

JASON JUSTICE
jjustice@chathamnr.com
GLORIA MOCK, Advertising Specialist
advertising@chathamnr.com
919-270-2021

OFFICE

KAREN PYRTLE
karen@chathamnr.com
DORIS BECK
doris@chathamnr.com
FLORENCE TURNER
billing@chathamnr.com

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

CCPHD urges residents to get vaccinated, wear mask in public indoor spaces due to rising COVID-19 trends

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Public Health Department urges all Chatham residents to get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible and wear a face mask in public indoor spaces, following recently updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

The spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19, among other factors, has led to rising case numbers in Chatham County and North Carolina. The Delta variant now accounts for the vast majority of new COVID-19 infections in North

Carolina. Additionally, according to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), hospitalizations due to COVID-19 have more than doubled within the last two weeks.

In response to rising trends across the country and new scientific research, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) revised its guidance for fully vaccinated people earlier this week. The guidance now states that both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people should “wear a mask in public indoor settings if they are in an area of substantial or high transmission.” See the full guidance

here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>.

Chatham County meets the CDC’s definition as an area of high transmission with 111 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population over the last week, more than double the rate from the previous week. Additionally, 8.1% of the county’s COVID-19 tests are coming back positive, a sharp increase from around 1% at the beginning of July. See the full data breakdown here: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>.

“With the sharp increase in cases, we follow the CDC in

recommending both unvaccinated and vaccinated residents wear a mask in public indoor spaces to protect themselves and others from the highly contagious delta variant,” said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek. “This is especially important in crowded indoor spaces.”

The most important step to take right now is to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Everyone ages 12 and up are eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine, and everyone ages 18 and up are eligible to receive the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Many options exist in Chatham County, including:

- Chatham County Public Health Department clinic (Moderna): 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; 1000 S. Tenth Ave., Siler City
- Goldston Town Hall (StarMed Healthcare) (Pfizer): 2-7 p.m.; 40 Coral Avenue #A, Goldston

To see a full list, visit www.vaccines.gov.

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and the CCPHD’s vaccination plans, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvaccine. To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth or www.facebook.com/chathamhealth.

Cooper mandates vaccines for state employees under him

Governor letting N.C. mask mandate expire, saying ‘We know the real way out of this is vaccines’

BY KATE MARTIN
Carolina Public Press

About 50,000 state employees who work for cabinet agencies under Gov. Roy Cooper have until Sept. 1 to verify they are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or face weekly COVID-19 tests and mask-wearing mandates, the governor announced at a Thursday afternoon press conference.

Cooper urged private companies and local governments to follow suit.

COVID-19 cases are climbing rapidly, and hospitalizations are seeing “the fastest increase since the pandemic began,” said Dr. Mandy Cohen, head of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, as she joined Cooper at the press conference.

Cooper and Cohen struck a dire tone. “This moment is different than the last time we were experiencing rising trends,” Cohen said.

With 57% of North Carolinians fully vaccinated, the delta variant of the coronavirus is “finding and infecting those who are still unvaccinated,” Cohen said.

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 have doubled in less than two weeks, with 1,141 people reported hospitalized on Thursday, according to the DHHS website. In that same time frame, the number of new positive cases each day has more than tripled, from 1,023 people two weeks ago to 3,268 reported last Thursday.

Cohen said these cases were for the most part

preventable: 92% of positive COVID-19 cases in North Carolina were among those who have not been vaccinated. Vaccines are available for anyone ages 12 and older.

Cooper also encouraged local school boards to require masks at their campuses in areas with high COVID-19 transmission, which in North Carolina is four out of every five counties, Cooper said. That’s much higher than the nation as a whole, where a little over a third of counties are experiencing high levels of community transmission, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “I know that hearing these messages is alarming,” Cooper said. “Until more people get vaccinated, this is the reality we have to confront.”

Cooper also urged people to follow the CDC guidelines, which call for people to wear masks in areas of high viral spread.

Cohen said the delta variant of the corona-

virus is far more contagious than the strain that dominated last year. “Back in April we didn’t have the Delta variant, and now almost every single case is the delta variant,” she said.

Last year, it could be expected that each person infected with COVID would infect two or three other people. With the Delta variant, that number rises to six.

Meanwhile, members of the National Guard are going door to door in some communities looking for people who want to get vaccinated, said Mike Sprayberry, the head of the Department of Emergency Management, whose last day was Thursday.

“We really want to penetrate those communities where they have a high rate of vaccine hesitancy,” Sprayberry said.

“We want to help people who have transportation issues.”

The American Medical Association and the American Nursing Association have both

endorsed vaccination.

“We have to use the strongest tool we have,” Cohen said.

The mandate covers the agencies in the Democratic governor’s cabinet but not other state workers like those at Republican Treasurer Dale Folwell’s office.

Folwell was stricken with COVID-19 in March 2020 and was even hospitalized.

“My lungs were completely affected,” Folwell told Carolina Public Press later Thursday. “I was in the ER for 32 minutes before they rushed me to the ICU and I stayed in the ICU for three days battling for my life.” There he was placed on oxygen.

“This is a very serious matter,” he said. Folwell said he has also been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Folwell said he encourages everyone to get vaccinated, including his 400 employees, who largely cut checks for the state government and oversee the health plan

for the state’s current and retired workers.

‘People know what to do’

The statewide mask mandate ended last Friday, and when asked at the press conference why he’s not extending it, Cooper said, “People know what to do. ... We know the real way out of this is vaccines.”

Cooper is giving the agencies in his cabinet until Sept. 1 to set up a system to verify the vaccination status of their workers and to have a way to test workers who opt to not get vaccinated.

President Joe Biden announced similar measures for the federal workforce on Thursday. He said all federal workers and on-site contractors must get vaccinated or face regular testing and be subjected to travel restrictions.

He also asked local governments to pay \$100 to anyone newly vaccinated using federal COVID-19 relief funds.

MASKS

Continued from page A1

highly contagious Delta variant surges and new scientific evidence emerges, a “dizzying jumble of news stories and divergent announcements” — as the New York Times described it — has created new confusion for the vaccinated (who are now being required to wear masks in more and more public places across the country) and rising anger among some at the stubborn refusal of the unvaccinated to follow months of pleading from health experts to take the vaccine.

Mike Zelek, the director of the Chatham County Public Health Department, said he agrees “the messaging could have been clearer” from the CDC.

“At the same time, we have had to adjust throughout the pandemic as circumstances changed and new data emerged, and now is no different,” he told the News + Record. “We saw case rates decline steadily through June as vaccination rates increased. However, with the arrival of the Delta variant, we are seeing those trends reverse. We must look to the current situation and current data for current guidance.”

Like most of its neighboring counties, the high levels of local transmission put Chatham County in the “significant” level of viral spread in N.C. — below the highest (“critical”) and next-highest (“substantial”) levels. Chatham’s 14-day case rate per 100,000 people is now at 80.6, according to the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services — up from well below 10 just a month ago — with 6.3% of coronavirus tests coming back positive, one of the highest rates seen in Chatham since the start of the pandemic. (Lee County’s community spread is the closest county at the “substantial” level, with a 14-day new case rate of 110.1 per 100,000 population. Hospital impacts within both Chatham and Lee counties are considered “slight.”)

“We are now seeing high levels of transmission in Chatham, like most of the state and country,” Zelek said. “Recent studies on the transmissibility of the Delta variant have shown that even fully vaccinated people who become sick can give the COVID-19 virus to others. So, the responsible thing to do is update the guidance, which in this

‘... we have had to adjust throughout the pandemic as circumstances changed and new data emerged, and now is no different ... However, with the arrival of the Delta variant, we are seeing those trends reverse. We must look to the current situation and current data for current guidance.’

MIKE ZELEK, director, Chatham County Public Health Department

case means everyone wearing masks indoors in public places, along with getting vaccinated.”

The CDC also reversed its guidance on masking in schools, saying that all schools should require universal masking for students and teachers, regardless of vaccination status. Following this announcement, Gov. Cooper announced the state’s guidance for schools was updated to reflect that guidance; previously, the state said K-8 schools should require masking for all students and teachers, along with any unvaccinated people in high schools.

On Monday, the Chatham County Schools Board of Education called a special meeting for Thursday, to discuss personnel issues and “consider matters related to the recent updates made to the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit.” That meeting will take place at noon.

New cases in North Carolina are up nearly 10-fold over a month ago. In that same time period, Chatham County has seen a similar increase — from zero or one or two new cases reported for most days the first week of July to 12 new cases reported on Sunday. Fifty-one percent of Chatham residents have received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine; 48% are fully vaccinated. Chatham will likely record its 5,000th case of COVID-19 this week; 89 resident deaths have been linked to the virus.

Dr. Andy Hannapel, the chief medical officer at Chatham Hospital, reiterated that the unvaccinated are at the greatest risk, as well as a call for the use of masks “for everyone when in a setting when you cannot physically distance, and not everyone is vaccinated.”

Zelek said those not fully vaccinated

should wear masks “when around others indoors,” and that the fully vaccinated should consider the risks of going unmasked. The more time spent around more people in smaller spaces with poorer ventilation significantly heightens the risk for the vaccinated — particularly when the unvaccinated are there, too.

The reason: the Delta variant. “Delta is a game changer,” Hannapel said, citing the statistics showing the variant in “80-plus% of all new cases” in the United States.

“It is 50% more transmissible than the Alpha variant, which was 50% more transmissible than the original strain of COVID-19,” he said. “Currently, 99.5% of deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19 are in the unvaccinated.”

Which places, he said, undue risks among those who have not been vaccinated — who, in turn, threaten the vaccinated.

“The unvaccinated are at greatest risk,” Hannapel said. “Although we know that vaccinated are protected from the most severe disease, hospitalizations and death, we do not know the full extent to which of the vaccinated, when exposed to COVID-19 — specifically the Delta variant — are likely to get infected and spread the virus in an asymptomatic state.”

So at a minimum, he said, it’s “time to mask up when in groups where you are inside and unable to maintain physical distance.”

“We lack the certainty to be more exact at this time about when are the truly safe times to be maskless in any size group that you do not know their circle of contacts and exposure,” Hannapel said. “In North Carolina, we are not nearly at a point in vaccination rates to be recommending anything less. Mask on and mask up. And get yourselves vaccinated.”

Zelek agreed that Delta has been a game-changer.

“Also,” he said, “if you are immunocompromised or a caregiver of someone who is higher risk, it is even more important to be careful about the spaces you are in and wearing a mask. For me, as the parent of an 11-month-old, I am cautious about the places I spend time indoors, and more cautious than I was a month ago. That is because we are seeing cases rise to levels we have not seen in some time due to the

infectiousness of the Delta variant.”

Even with the CDC’s updates about risk, and new questions about CDC data and research and criticism of the agency, Zelek recommended following the advice for those fully vaccinated to mask up in indoor public places simply given Chatham’s high rates of transmission. And when it comes to testing, he cited the CDC, saying fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested three to five days after exposure, and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

When it comes to breakthrough infections — positive cases among the fully vaccinated — Zelek pointed out that vast majority of new infections, as well as hospitalizations, continue to be among those not fully vaccinated.

“That is why it is so important to get vaccinated,” he said. “That said, breakthrough infections do occur and there is growing evidence that these infections can spread to others. Simple actions can alleviate our concerns. Namely, wearing masks can help prevent spread while allowing us to engage in many normal activities.”

Zelek’s emphasis, though, continued to be on getting vaccinated.

“The Delta variant has certainly created challenges, but this is not the first time during the pandemic we have faced a challenging situation,” he said. “And, unlike in the beginning of the pandemic, we have tools at our disposal to slow the spread of the virus. We have three authorized, safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19 that are widely available. We know masks add another layer of protection. This is much different from March 2020 and is very positive news.”

The vaccines remain the best protection against the virus, Zelek said, including getting infected, spreading it and dying from it.

“Think of the seatbelt analogy,” he said. “Some who get into car crashes while wearing a seatbelt will get injured or pass away, but that does not mean seatbelts don’t work. You should wear a seatbelt and drive responsibly. That is where we are with COVID-19 vaccines: Get the vaccine and wear a mask in higher risk settings.”

VIEWPOINTS

Simone Biles and my head in the clouds

My 8-year-old son and I watched Simone Biles warm up on the vault before the Olympic Games in Tokyo. He loves superlatives — the biggest dinosaur, the fastest bird, the most delicious pizza. When the camera zoomed in on Biles, I told him that she is the G.O.A.T.: the Greatest of All-Time. Right on cue, Biles flashed her brilliant smile.

Then the G.O.A.T. completely missed her landing, tumbling into a forward roll. My son thought that was pretty cool, but I knew something was terribly wrong. Another close-up revealed Biles assuring her coaches and teammates, “I’m fine. Just fine.”

But she wasn’t. Citing concern for her physical wellbeing and mental health, Biles withdrew from both the team and individual Olympic gymnastics competitions. On the world’s greatest stage, she voluntarily walked away.

When I told my son about Biles’ decision to withdraw from the Olympics, he commented, “That means she lost.” Yes and no. Biles eventually returned for Tuesday’s balance beam final, much to the delight of her fans. But earlier, she said she withdrew because she felt “disoriented in the air,” which is dangerous, even potentially deadly, for a leaping, twirling gymnast.

I understand disorientation as a metaphor for struggles in my own life. In reflecting on Biles’ decision, I have been convicted by the words of a fellow Triangle pastor John Pavlovitz: “(Biles) is saying ‘no’ to the

dangerous myth of toughing it out, and ‘yes’ to the wisdom of asking for help.”

Growing up in Raleigh, I played basketball, football and baseball. I was hardly the greatest in any sport. I was the catcher on the high school varsity team in part because I was willing to squat in the dirt, getting battered and bruised by ball and bat. I played through many aches, pains and injuries, including broken fingers. And I was regularly praised for “toughing it out” instead of asking for help or taking myself out of the game.

In this space for the Chatham News + Record, I have written about my family’s mantra during the pandemic: We can do hard things. I still want my son to learn that lesson.

I also want him to learn the value of knowing when he is not fine and help him have the courage to put his health first,

though he may be criticized. Life is bigger than any game, no matter how many people are watching. Each of us must protect our own physical and mental health, including when there is mounting pressure to perform seemingly at all costs. What’s more, the only medal, reward or honor that can’t be taken away is your own sense of satisfaction that you did your best.

I said all this to my son and realized that his eyes had glazed over! I was really preaching to myself. I have no desire to learn a cartwheel, but I would like to have the courage to practice self-care, even at the risk of failing to meet the expectations of others.

The next day, my son and I drove to my parents’ home in Raleigh. As we crossed Jordan Lake, he exclaimed from the back seat, “Look at the beautiful clouds!” Scores of puffy white cumulus clouds filled

the blue sky over the water. We played the game of naming the shapes we saw in the clouds — a rabbit, a dog, an angel, a fire-breathing dragon.

My 8-year-old son observed, “People can look at the same clouds in different ways. It’s like the greatest gymnast losing the Olympics. It all depends on how you look at it.”

Tuesday morning, I awoke to the news that Biles had won the bronze metal. Not the gold. Not the best. Or, as my son observed, it depends on how you look at it. I believe such a perspective on the importance of taking care of yourself is one of the greatest lessons to learn at any age.

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

If you have to fly, go some other way

Long ago and far away in another galaxy, I had a job that required me to travel somewhat extensively around this great land of ours.

Times were good then. I wore a younger man’s clothes, my energy level had not slipped below neutral, all the parents in my family were living, my children were small and at home, gas was 35 cents a gallon and Washington had not yet outgrown its britches. And flying was fun.

All of that has now changed. That young man has run off, now even neutral looks pretty good sometimes, my folks and my in-laws are precious memories, my children are no longer teenagers who used to live at my house, a fill-up of gas requires a bank loan, and only Heaven knows how much more intrusive Big Brother is going to get unless and until someone not only clips his wings but pulls the dang things out by their roots. And flying is not fun anymore.

Granted, not all of America flies, has ever flown or even wants to. The reasons are plentiful — don’t need to get to Zimbabwe, costs too much for the ol’ family budget or just plain don’t want to. And for some folks it’s like my boyhood friend Bobby Joe High’s grandma Katherine (Kitty) Litter used to say to us children (when we were children), “If God had wanted you to fly, you’d have wings.”

Still, there were times I needed to take advantage of Orville and Wilbur’s best day’s work and needed the Great Silver Bird. Several times it fell my lot to travel to Chicago when that was still a reasonably safe thing to do. Much quicker that way than, say, thumbing. Fortunately, speed of life has come to mean something different for me in these Golden Years. It’s no longer the most important thing going, especially when it comes to going somewhere.

There are, I think, many reasons flying is no longer fun. The seats are smaller and closer than they once were. That means plenty of leg room for a grasshopper but not much for any adult taller than 3-foot-2. Airplane food once was — hold your breath — good. It was plentiful and complimentary (although no doubt the price of your ticket included your meal) and tasteful and most of the folks who served it were gracious. Ditto for soft drinks and snacks. The only noticeable expense was if someone wanted “George” or “Jack” to accompany him from one of those little bottles the airlines used to have.

And recent news reports have been full of accounts of confrontations between passenger and crew because some folks will wear masks and some won’t.

But of all the reasons it’s not fun anymore, I think the biggest one is the effort it takes to get on the plane. Actually, it’s more a matter of getting “in” (or really, to use good English, getting “into”) the plane but that’s another day, story and column.

It’s been my experience that most of the folks who are employed by Big Brother’s Transportation Security Administration (TSA) have either flunked out of Dale Carnegie’s course on How To Be Nice or never bothered to sign up. I know they’ve got that speech memorized about “Step this way ... you may be subject to a body search,” etc. I think there are more words to their speech but they just don’t say them — words like, “I’m in a bad mood — again,” or “I’m going to touch you in places even your doctor doesn’t and I may invite some of my buddies to do the same and it’ll be out here in the general public area where everybody can see.”

I once went through a screening and before walking through the metal detector, after taking off my belt and emptying my pockets, and told Mr. Congeniality, “I’ve had hip replacement surgery and have a foot of metal in my leg and I’m going to make your little machine go crazy.”

I might as well have told him my grandfather’s dog ran away since he ignored me. As soon as I walked through the detector and the bells started clanging and lights started flashing and the SWAT team came running, he stuck me in the taped-off area while everyone else moved far away so I wouldn’t blow them up when my fanny bomb went off.

Then he started Part Two of the official TSA harassment. “Sir, are you carrying any concealed weapons?” If I were a criminal and had been guilty of such did he really think I’d admit to it?

“Do you remember eight seconds ago,” I asked, “I told you I had a stainless steel rod in my leg? Would you like to see the six-inch scar on my hip where you folks love your naked body scan machine so much?”

Reluctantly, he let me pass, but not before I became convinced the delay would put me and my luggage on separate planes — another reason not to love flying the “friendly skies” anymore.

Maybe I look like a terrorist; I don’t know. I do know I’ve been known to terrorize the buffet at Kentucky Fried Chicken from time to time. But I tend to agree with something ol’ Ben Franklin said years ago, namely, more or less, “Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both.”

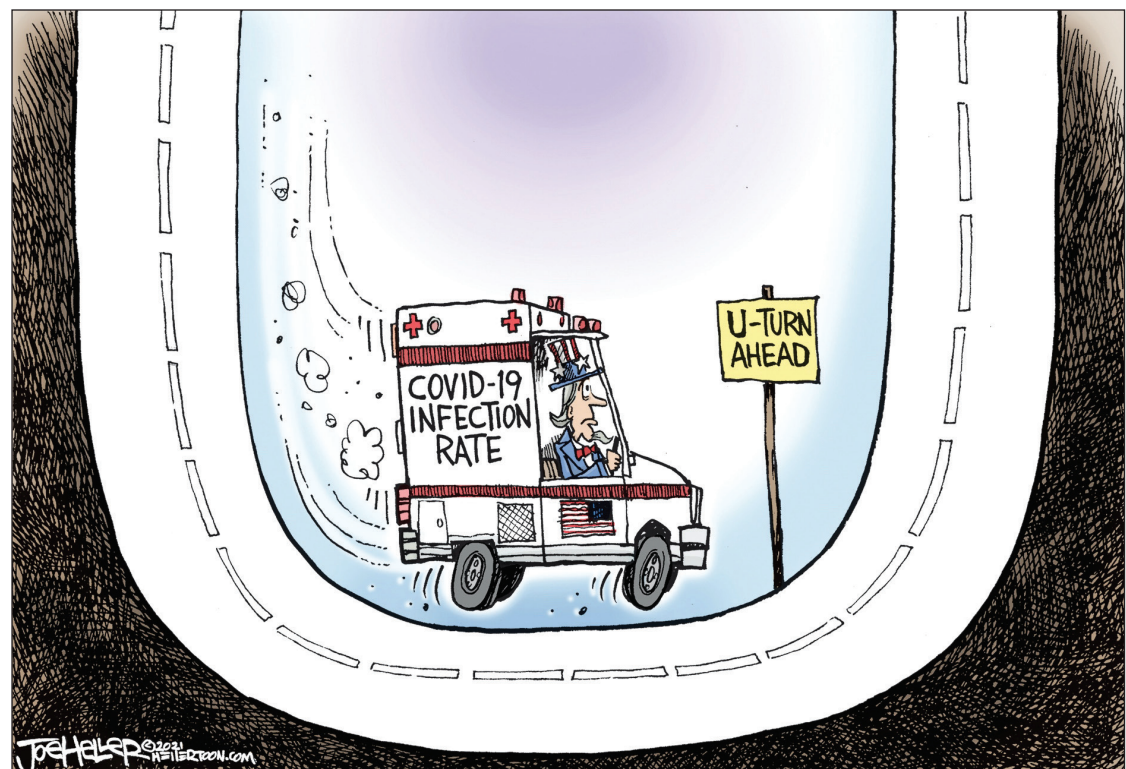
Quite a prophet, Ben was.

Take the train ... unless you need to get to Zimbabwe.

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.



BOB WACHS
Movin’ Around



We owe it to the people who love us to take care of ourselves

Of all the gifts bestowed on our society by the industrial revolution, surely the greatest must be our profound advances in medical science.

Current events aside, vaccination, inoculation, preventive medicine and preventive hygiene have made once great waves of infection things of the past. Diligent, brave men and women armed with scientific methods fought successful battles against tuberculosis, diphtheria, cholera, whooping cough and many more dangerous diseases.

In 1953, American medical researcher Dr. Jonas Salk announced the development of a vaccine for the prevention of polio, a virus for which there still is no cure. By 1980, smallpox had literally been obliterated, with this once ubiquitous virus confined for study in the petri dishes and test tubes of sterile laboratories.

Smallpox had been the scourge of humanity. Two hundred years ago, nine out of 10 Europeans contracted smallpox, one out of seven died, and most survivors were left disfigured. Nietzsche may have written, “That which does not kill us makes us stronger,” but he probably should have written, “That which does not kill us leaves us maimed for life.”

I have a tiny scar on my upper arm from my smallpox inoculation; everyone who is about my age or older has one, too, but the friends I have who are younger do not. They do not need to be vaccinated against it. Thanks to scientific methods, smallpox is now just

a bedtime story.

The fight against infectious disease is often a fight against the conditions that breed the disease. After the Spanish-American War, U.S. Army physician Major Walter Reed led the team who confirmed Cuban doctor Carlos Juan Finlay’s theory that yellow fever was spread by a particular kind of mosquito instead of by direct contact. At around the same time, English doctor Sir Ronald Ross proved the mosquito’s role in spreading the malarial parasite, and French physician Paul-Louis Simond discovered that fleas vectored bubonic plague from rats to humans. The transmission of typhus from person to person by lice was discovered in 1909, lending modern credence to the old saw that “Cleanliness is next to godliness.”

The fight was also aided by more effective drugs. In 1897, German chemist Felix Hoffman synthesized acetylsalicylic acid, a juice found in willow tree bark that eased his father’s arthritic pains. At the time Hoffman was working for Friedrich Bayer & Company, who made both drugs and dyes. They patented this medicine and sold it under the name “Aspirin.” Antibacterial drugs, beginning with the accidental discovery of penicillin in 1928 by Scottish physician Alexander Fleming, have changed the face of modern medicine forever and saved millions of lives. We live longer, healthier lives thanks to the hard work of men and women who often had faith in God above, but always felt that God helps those who help themselves.

Now, more than a century after the triumph of what has come to be called “western” medicine, we find ourselves facing this new virus called

COVID-19. For us to believe we can successfully resist this insidious virus with alternative, holistic, traditional, or complementary medicine alone is unrealistic. We cannot ignore it as somebody else’s problem, nor can we simply pray it away. Western medicine alone can mitigate the pain and loss and sorrow that comes with sickness and death. Science is the best weapon with which to battle this plague.

I read in the newspapers that Chatham County, like much of the country, is seeing a rapid increase in the number of COVID-19 cases among our unvaccinated and partially vaccinated citizens. Once again, we are in danger of overwhelming our health system. As a fully vaccinated person in a fully vaccinated household, I would like to encourage anyone reading me now to get vaccinated; I had some muscle aches the next day, but they were soon gone, and they were a small price to pay for knowing my family is safe. And we owe it to the people who love us to take care of ourselves. They want to see you healthy and happy, not in the hospital on a ventilator, and your family certainly does not want to see you dead and buried. Elected officials across the country might disagree on mask policies, but everyone, save for a small, vocal minority, agrees that vaccinations save lives.

So get vaccinated; if not for yourself, then for the ones who love you.

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

VIEWPOINTS

To do good or do better

There are at least as many different ways to explain the origins of political disagreement as there are political commentators. I, for one, think such factors as cultural traditions, religious views, family background, educational experiences and interpersonal relationships all help to shape how we choose our preferred political candidates or “sides” — and how we choose to act on those preferences.

Whatever the origins of political disagreement, one way to think about it is that it reflects different assumptions about the purpose of political action. For some, politics is about doing good. For others, politics is about doing better. I’m not playing a Wicked the Musical word game here.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

Those who define politics as “doing good” tend to evaluate political action by intentions. If you think of yourself as seeking to do good, then you tend to see those with whom you come to disagree as either seeking to do harm or not seeking much of anything at all, except perhaps political power for its own sake. Both alternatives look abhorrent to you.

Those who define politics as “doing better,” on the other hand, tend to evaluate political action by results. Unless you are an anarchist — in which case you spend your time theorizing about people and conditions that don’t actually exist — you recognize that political action has the potential to make you and your neighbors safer, wealthier, and happier. But these outcomes are comparative and far from guaranteed. Some government programs might well increase the safety of your person and property. Others might well imperil your living standards, your liberty or your life. The

intention of the program is, in this context, utterly irrelevant.

History is full of examples of governments generating both benefits and costs for their citizens that no one intended — or even could have intended.

Consider the basic architecture of the internet. Progressives are quite right in observing that federal spending was integral to its creation. But in funding the development of the internet’s infrastructure and protocols, government’s intention was not to give shoppers the ability to buy Star Wars paraphernalia or tweeters the chance to debate the superiority of the Justice League to the Avengers. The federal government was seeking to secure critical assets and information in the event of war.

The commercial, intellectual, and recreational applications of the internet were unintended byproducts of this work, much as previous generations of tinkerers and innovators

had adapted military advances in metallurgy, construction, shipbuilding and ballistics to create other wonders of the modern world. (If you truly want to turn swords into plowshares, in other words, build a dynamic, competitive private economy and turn it loose.)

Examples of the unintended costs of government action are just as prevalent. Welfare programs aimed at alleviating immediate suffering can instead create greater suffering in the future by reducing the incentive to work, save or form families. Regulatory programs aimed at improving the moral character of the population can instead push regulated behavior (such as alcohol consumption during Prohibition) off into the shadows, where it may fester outside our immediate gaze, increasing the level of risk, criminality, corruption and disrespect for the law in areas where it deserves to be respected.

No political movement is immune from intentionality

bias. Over the past five years, far too many Republicans have come to believe their rivals aren’t just misguided but actively evil, just as too many Democrats view Republicans as, inevitably, bigots and villains.

Still, I would submit that the modern Left remains more likely to judge government action according to intentions, and to see those with whom they disagree not as mistaken but as malicious. And the modern Right remains more likely to subject government policies to evaluation by outcomes, measured against what one might expect from alternative policies.

In other words, conservatives and libertarians are more likely to heed the warning of economist Milton Friedman that “concentrated power is not rendered harmless by the good intentions of those who create it.”

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

The ugliest word, or the sweetest

Revenge. It may be the ugliest word in the English language.

Or the sweetest when it describes a politician’s response to a perceived wrong.

In 1984, after two terms as governor, Jim Hunt was running for the U.S. Senate seat held by Jesse Helms. A host of ambitious Democrats lined up to succeed him. Competitors in the gubernatorial primary that year included Lieutenant Governor Jimmy Green, Insurance Commissioner John Ingram, Hunt’s Secretary of Commerce Lauch Faircloth, Hunt’s Deputy Secretary of Human Resources Tom Gilmore, Attorney General Rufus Edmisten, and former Charlotte Mayor Eddie Knox.

Even though Hunt was consumed with his own campaign, all these candidates for governor, especially those who had worked closely with Hunt in government and politics, hoped for some favorable attention and help from the popular Hunt.

None was more hopeful or expectant than Knox, who had been Hunt’s political friend beginning in college days at N.C. State, where they were close allies. Knox managed Hunt’s campaign for student body president. Their alliance continued as both mounted successful political careers, including Hunt’s statewide campaigns for lieutenant governor and governor.

Knox was a close second to Edmisten in the primary. As the two lined up to compete in a run-off and with Hunt’s other closest political allies no longer in competition, Knox hoped Hunt would give him the much-needed help he would have to have to beat Edmisten. It did not come, and Knox lost by almost four percentage points.

Knox seethed. A few weeks later, appearing with Senator Helms, Knox let it be known that he had changed his loyalties. He would be supporting Helms rather than Hunt in the upcoming election. Hunt lost by four percentage points. Later Knox formalized the break by changing his political affiliation from Democrat to Republican.

We cannot know for sure whether Knox’s actions were revenge or some other political calculation.

But looking back, we can see it marked the end of his promising political career that some believe could have led to much higher office, including the presidency. Instead, he returned to his Charlotte law practice where he still puts his considerable skills to work for his clients.

In that 1984 primary, Lauch Faircloth came in a respectable third place, leading him to consider running for the U.S. Senate in 1986. The seat was “open” in the sense that the incumbent John East was ill and later died. But there was no rush of prominent Democrats to contend for the seat.

Former governor and Duke University President Terry Sanford had considered running, but dropped out in September 1985 when party leaders were not encouraging, apparently looking for a “fresh face.”

Faircloth at this point felt some encouragement from Sanford.

With Sanford out, Faircloth became the leading contender and set about organizing his campaign, gaining support, especially from conservative Democrats.

Reacting to Faircloth’s seeming success and fearing that he was too conservative, party leaders reassessed their decision to discourage Sanford. They persuaded him to enter the contest. He immediately became the favorite.

These actions pulled the rug out from under Faircloth, who withdrew from the campaign. Sanford went on to win the primary handily and won election to the senate.

Faircloth quietly seethed.

His opportunity for revenge came six years later in 1992 when Sanford stood for reelection. Faircloth had become a Republican and had the support of Sen. Helms and the powerful conservative Congressional Club. With Sanford fighting illness at the end of the campaign, Faircloth won by four percentage points.

Revenge. Ugly. And sweet.

Note: The author was the Democratic nominee for the 9th District U.S. House seat in 1984 and 1986.

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.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

An altar call for the unvaccinated

Sometimes I hate it when I’m right. My April fool’s column predicted that our return to life as we knew it before COVID would likely be determined by those who refused to take the shot. We, who have been vaccinated, are paying a price for those



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

anti-vaxxers who selfishly choose not to protect themselves, but also disregard the health and freedoms of the rest of us.

Here are the facts, according to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. After peaking at 12,079 cases on February 3, North Carolina began a decline in the number of daily new cases, reaching a low of 55 on June 26th. About that same time, we witnessed a slowdown in the numbers being vaccinated. The Delta variant’s appearance sparked a dramatic spike in our case numbers and hospitalizations. In just a bit more than a month we jumped from 55 to 3,268 on July 29th. Our hospitalizations more than doubled, rising from 374 on June 26 to 1,141 last week. Almost every new case, every new hospitalization came from those who were not vaccinated.

Only 58% of those 12 and older in our state have even had one dose. Some of the remaining 42% have real health issues, but a large number are refusing for political reasons or because they

are being fed false information. Some don’t want anybody telling them what to do. Curiously, they get a required driver’s license, register their vehicles, pay taxes and even get mandated shots to prevent other diseases, but say they have a right not to get this vaccine.

We will never fully go back to our pre-virus life until a large majority (70% or more) have been vaccinated. We’ve tried encouragement, making it extremely easy, even begging. North Carolina has offered incentives, entering the names of those vaccinated in a million-dollar lottery drawing. Maybe it’s time to change tactics.

On July 12, French President Emmanuel Macron, discouraged by his country’s abysmal vaccination record (37%), announced that come August 1 citizens would no longer be allowed to go to cafes, bars, restaurants, shopping centers and indoor venues without proof of vaccination or a very recent negative test. And those tests would no longer be free.

Guess what happened? As expected, there was a large outcry from those claiming Macron was a dictator or worse. But more than a million people made appointments to get vaccinated within a day, and large numbers continue to sign up. Other European countries are taking strong measures as people grow angry that they are being penalized because of those who won’t do their civic duty.

It’s time North Carolina spoke out. A number of hospitals have already announced that all

their employees must be vaccinated. Many private colleges and UNC-Chapel Hill have told students attending this fall they must have the shots or frequent covid tests. Businesses are joining the movement.

Here’s my spin: We are on a track to return to large numbers of new cases and hospitalizations. The CDC just announced we should again wear masks when we go indoors to public places, whether vaccinated or not. All school children are advised to wear masks in class. If coronavirus gets really bad, as it has in some places, we will be forced to return to conditions we faced in 2020.

I don’t want to return to those lonely, restricted times. If forced to be restricted again the blame can be laid squarely at the feet of those, who may claim to be patriots, but are unwilling to do their duty and get their shots.

It is time that those of us who did the right thing started telling the unvaccinated that they stand between us beating this deadly disease or going back to 2020. The only unarguable way to beat COVID is to do the right thing and get vaccinated.

Maybe some good old-fashioned shaming might work. Can I get an amen?

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.

LETTERS

Thanks for your ‘Pennies from Heaven’ donations

TO THE EDITOR:

“God Sent Pennies from Heaven,” a local non-profit charitable organization since 2000, would like to thank each one for the monetary donations and prayers sent our way. Your donations continue to purchase food for those in need in Chatham County and your much needed prayers continue to move God’s hand in this and every ministry of his. Even the little boy in the Bible with the two fish and the five little loaves of bread could never have fed the multitude if they had not first of all been given to Jesus and then be blessed by him.

Every penny, dollar, or check received has truly been a blessing. With no overhead in this ministry, every cent received is given to our local food pantry

to help purchase needed foods.

Every cent has a value and God truly values every man, every need. While our accumulations may not always be great in amount, we believe God’s call is to do what you can do, thank God for it, and ask His blessings on it.

Our last coin count, in spite of COVID, was for \$285.45. Our next count will be in early December. If you should have coins you would like to donate, you do not have to count them or roll them, we will gladly do that for you. All donations written by check should be made out to “God Sent Pennies from Heaven,” and mailed to 804 N. Dogwood Ave., Siler City, N.C. 27344.

For further information, you may call 919-742-5446. God Bless!

Connie Holt Lineberry
Siler City

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What’s on your mind?

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

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

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

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

SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of police: Beware of criminals targeting the elderly

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — It's been a bad year for the community's oldest residents. No single demographic has been more heavily impacted by the pandemic than elderly Americans. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 80% of all COVID-19 deaths are of people aged 65 and older. Those 50 and older account for about 95% of all deaths in the U.S., according to AARP.

But another, quieter crisis has wreaked havoc on the nation's senior citizens since COVID-19 changed the world — an insurgence of scamming operations.

"We have definitely seen an increase this year, especially since COVID," Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner told the News + Record. "These types of scams have become more prevalent, because people have been home and they're not able to do what they normally do, and then these deals come along that seem too good to be true. Well, they really are too good to be true."

A rise in fraudulent activity targeting Siler City residents is consistent with national and state trends. A report from the Federal Trade Commission released earlier this year revealed staggering figures. Consumers reported losing more than \$3.3 billion to different scams in 2020 compared to \$1.8 billion in 2019. That represents an 83% increase in

stolen money year-over-year.

In North Carolina — which ranks 17th in the country for most money lost to fraud per 100,000 people — more than \$72 million was reported stolen in 2020, according to the FTC. Criminals employed a variety of telephone and online scams.

Wagner could not compile exact figures for Siler City, he said, but calls to his department reporting senior-targeting scams have distinctly escalated since the pandemic's start, and tens of thousands of dollars, if not more, have been stolen from town residents.

"And that's just what we know about," he said. "And we need some perspective. We've had recent cases of about \$11,000 or \$5,000. To a senior on limited income, that's like \$100,000 for someone else. It's critical. It's their last hope. And oftentimes, it's just the start. These people gain access to your bank account and when you get that monthly check from Social Security or disability, they know right when to hit it and it's gone before you even see it."

A perfect storm

Senior citizens make up a growing slice of Siler City's population. According to March analysis by the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Main Street & Rural Planning Center, Siler City's 55- to 84-year-old population constitutes a widening proportion of the town's residents.

Last year's census data may reveal a different picture when it's released in coming weeks, but circumstances aren't ripe for an infusion of youth. A stagnant job market and strapped real estate inventory make life difficult for young people still establishing their careers and raising families.

That makes Siler City an ideal target for greedy scammers.

"There's a different level of trust between the generations," Wagner said. "Most times those the people, the seniors, they did business on a handshake and with some type of informal commitment. And they expect the same. And so the people that we talk about, the predators, they understand the human nature of that generation and they prey on that."

The elderly are not less intelligent than younger generations, he emphasized. But they may be unaccustomed to modern-day ploys. Even a Federal Bureau of Investigations report acknowledges "seniors are often targeted because they tend to be trusting and polite."

And seniors are more likely to have assets worth stealing.

"They also usually have financial savings, own a home and have good credit," the FBI report says, "all of which make them attractive to scammers."

Still, the elderly are often em-

barrassed after realizing they were scammed, Wagner said, and they're reluctant to report what happened. He would implore them to dispel with that attitude, though — it only promotes avoidable victimization.

"Don't get it twisted, these are professionals," Wagner said. "They're very crafty and they're very mobile, so don't be embarrassed."

Criminals contrive new scams frequently; it's impossible to stay abreast of every scam one might encounter. The best way to stay safe, then, is to involve the police early.

"We just want to tell all of our community, call us first," Wagner said. "If you have one ounce of hesitation, or one ounce of something when that internal ticker says, 'This is not right,' call us, because we will help you vet whoever's calling you."

The Siler City Police Department's non-emergency phone number is 919-742-5626. But Wagner encourages residents to call 911 if they prefer. Potential scams are that serious.

"Whatever they feel comfortable with they should do, I really mean that," Wagner said. "Because in a matter of moments, if you subject yourself to giving any information, most times within an hour or less you can be penniless. It happens that quick."

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

BOOKMOBILE

Continued from page A1

while the other contains VCE's collection. That's why each school takes turns driving the bus around Siler City. Kalb and SCE staff drive it around on Tuesdays, while VCE staff, plus Communities In Schools' Jazmin Mendoza Sosa, take the Bookmobile out every other Wednesday.

From 1 to 5 p.m., SCE's Bookmobile makes five stops — the SCE and VCE parking lots, Cateland Place, Santa Fe Circle and Fontana Circle. Though now that summer school's over, Kalb said the Bookmobile will swap out the VCE parking lot for the Piggly Wiggly Park starting this week.

VCE's Bookmobile route makes eight stops — including at Love's Creek Mobile Home Park, Hampton Village and Justice Mobile Home Park.

"We focus only on VCE neighborhoods or stops where our VCE students live," said Mendoza Sosa, who up until recently worked as a student support specialist at VCE. "... A lot of the time, most of the kids came from neighborhoods such as Love's Creek and Justice. Those are the biggest neighborhoods we have in attendance — and Washington Park is also another one."

Only children with student accounts may check out books, she said, but that doesn't mean it's exclusive to those students. Each school has a pile of free books that visiting children may keep. Pre-K students at VCE may also check out books since they have their own student library accounts.

"We had students who would often be at a babysitter's house who wouldn't live in Siler City or just were there for the summer, and through the Bookmobile, they also could get free books," Mendoza Sosa said. "Then we also had access to books for, like, toddlers and those kids who are not in the school age or registered in the school system, so they could also get free books."

According to Kalb, SCE's pile of free books is especially large this year. Last winter, SCE overhauled its literacy closet, and now, they're looking to get rid of thousands of "excess books."

"And so, I thought the best place to say, 'Hey, kids, you want a lot of books?' would be the Bookmobile," she said, adding, "So just this summer, really, they can take a gigantic bag of books and they're theirs to keep forever."

Children who don't return their books on time won't face any sort of punishment, Kalb and Mendoza Sosa both say.

"Normally, kids would come in, check out a book, return it the next week and then check out another book," Kalb said. "And I know that both Lindsay and I are not the kind of librar-



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The Bookmobile bus visited Virginia Cross Elementary School on Tuesday, July 20 during summer school hours. Children from Siler City, Silk Hope, and Virginia Cross Elementary were able to go inside the bus and take home a few books with them.

ians who are like, 'You didn't return your book. You don't get another one.' The ultimate goal is as many books in hands and kids reading over the summer."

This summer, VCE's Bookmobile started on June 16, while SCE's began on July 13. Both routes finish next week on Aug. 10 and 11. It's the first time the Bookmobile has ridden since 2019, thanks to COVID-19.

"Because of COVID, we had to stop for a year, so that was 2020," Mendoza Sosa said, adding with a laugh, "I'm thinking it's like two years, but no. Long time."

'Take books to families'

Virginia Cross' Bookmobile traces all the way back to the summer of 2010, according to VCE media specialist, Lindsay Shore-Wright. A group of school staff, including Shore-Wright, had identified a gap — and naturally, they resolved to fill it in.

"We had noticed that students were not accessing books in the summer," she told the News + Record. "We had tried promoting the public library and having the school library open during the summer. Transportation was a huge issue for families, so neither of these options were working very well. Finally, we decided to take books to families."

That summer, Shore-Wright, some "concerned teachers," and instructional assistants began loading their cars with books, taking them out into the community and lending them to children who wouldn't have access otherwise. They alternated cars, loading each with boxes of books and then unloading them all at every stop.

At the time, Shore-Wright recalled, she was just "a support person." Other teachers took on much of the work. Today, she's the librarian on board.

"The first few years we called it the PRIDE Ride because our VCE mascot is the lion cub and we said we were a pride of lions," she said. "Over the years we have learned to keep things as simple and straightforward as possible, so

we just call it the VCE Bookmobile."

But school staff didn't have to use their own cars for long: once they demonstrated the community's need for a Bookmobile, the county provided them "an old maintenance van," Shore-Wright said. After a few more years, the Bookmobile eventually found a new — and permanent — home in the big, blue vehicle both schools share today.

"I've heard teachers multiple times be like, 'Oh, my gosh, this van is so much better,'" Kalb said. "Like, it's so much better. We don't have to unpack books anymore."

But a bigger and better bus isn't the only milestone in the Bookmobile's history. Thanks to COVID, this summer's Bookmobile has operated differently than in years past — and not just because adults have to mask up.

"Before COVID, both schools would do it every week," said Mendoza Sosa, who's been helping operate the VCE Bookmobile since 2017. "Now because of COVID, we alternate the weeks — one yes, one no."

Prior to COVID, the Bookmobile also partnered with other organizations to provide a little something extra. Science or art camp organizers, for example, accompanied them a few years ago to encourage kids to sign up for summer camps, according to Kalb, and the school system's child nutrition program provided snacks.

"It's usually something as easy as Cheez-Its or Teddy Grahams or something that they can kind of take with them," Kalb said. "It's nothing super big, but it's good, and some of our students struggle with food insecurity, so one extra snack a day is usually a helpful thing."

The Bookmobile's still providing snacks this summer, she said, just not in partnership with the school system.

SCE's Bookmobile also changed its schedule from mornings to afternoons to accommodate summer school students — and that, Kalb said, has made a world of difference, even during a pandemic.

"I had — which was amazing — about 20 at each stop, which honestly is, like, gangbusters for us," Kalb said, referring to her first Bookmobile trip on July 13. She added: "So about 120 on the first day, and I was super proud of that. ... In the summer, I would only say we'd get about half that."

But for VCE, Mendoza Sosa said she thinks the changes have depressed turnout. Before their COVID-induced service changes, they averaged about 135 kids per week, with as many as 190, according to Shore-Wright. Now, they're averaging about 80.

"Most of the kids we have served so far this summer are at summer school at VCE," Shore-Wright said. "Attendance at our neighborhood stops is way down."

"It has to be COVID," Mendoza Sosa added, "and it has to be that we're only running bi-monthly instead of every week, and because of COVID, a lot of changes have happened within our neighborhoods. ... I'm sad to not see as many kids come into the Bookmobile."

'I love seeing kids'

But for Mendoza Sosa, this summer's depressed turnout couldn't ever dampen the Bookmobile's overall impact.

It's an important resource, she said, not only for students, but their parents as well. Students receive access to books and build relationships with school staff while parents — especially Spanish speakers — can find answers to any and all school-related questions.

"The bus driver and the media specialists, sometimes they did the best they could to answer questions, but they really felt that it was needed to have a bilingual person on the Bookmobile," Mendoza Sosa said. "So that's how I started. As Communities In Schools and as someone who was a student support specialist, I really felt the Bookmobile was able to reach kids who I wouldn't be able to access during the summer and that to continue building relationships."

From the Bookmobile, she would answer parents' questions about school registration, school supplies, open house — anything.

"They know that if they go to the Bookmobile, there's someone who might be able to answer their questions or they have someone who will provide them the information about where to get that information," she said. "... It took me a whole Bookmobile summer to get a parent to actually visit it and feel comfortable coming in. She didn't feel like she could. So it was building that relationship with that parent and empowering her to, like, 'You can open books with your kids, and that would be something you can do.'"

The Bookmobile, she added, was also what inspired her to co-create the first Hispanic 4-H club with Shore-Wright. While

speaking to media specialists and kids who came on board, she repeatedly heard kids say, "We don't have activities to learn."

"There were no enrichment activities that parents and kids could do together," Mendoza Sosa said, adding, "Through the Bookmobile we saw the need for enrichment opportunities for kids that were free and that were family orientated."

The Bookmobile's also a great way to fight summer learning loss and reading gaps, said Jaime Detzi, Chatham Education Foundation's executive director. CEF has been providing funding and support to the Bookmobile since 2018.

"We get funding from the Women of Fearrington," Detzi told the News + Record. "Pretty much every year they've been sponsoring the Bookmobile, so \$3,000 every year, and then we take those funds and split them between VCE and Siler City, and use them for books and incentives."

Low-income students can lose close to two years of learning over the summers by the time they reach 5th grade, she said, for various reasons, including lack of access to books or enrichment activities.

"What I love about (the Bookmobile) is that it goes and meets students where they are, and gives them access to literacy resources that they may or may not have had otherwise," Detzi said. "Statistics show that two-thirds of low income families have few if any books in their homes, so the ability to target neighborhoods and get in there and actually give kids books that are engaging, that they want to read during the summer, helps those kids keep up with their more affluent peers."

But besides filling in gaps or serving underserved students and families, the Bookmobile also holds an even simpler attraction: Both participating school staff and students just love it.

"I love seeing kids and I love talking to them," Kalb said. "It's nice to see students again. It's nice to see them, and they get so excited. It's almost like they forget your face over the summer. They're like, 'What? You're here again?' And I'm like, 'Yeah, I'm here again. I'll always be back.'"

That's what Shore-Wright enjoys, too.

"Some of the kids are so excited to see us pull into their neighborhood. They bring their little brothers and sisters, their puppies and kittens," she said. "We've even had a pet chicken! It's another way that I show our students that I care about them and (that) they deserve to have books they want to read all the time, even in the summer."

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

Meet Dr. Anthony Jackson, CCS's new superintendent

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

Dr. Anthony Jackson — named N.C.'s "Superintendent of the Year" in 2020 as head of the Vance County Schools — assumed his role as superintendent for Chatham County Schools on July 6, replacing former superintendent Dr. Derrick Jordan. The News + Record sat down with Dr. Jackson last Wednesday to discuss his first month on the job, his priorities as superintendent and COVID-19 recovery in schools.

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

Well, I guess to get started, I'd love to just hear a little bit about how you would describe yourself, both as an educator and a leader — in terms of what matters most to you in those areas.

JACKSON: I would say that they're all really in how I see myself as a person. I hope that I am a thoughtful and reflective leader who makes good decisions to support the long-term needs of kids and communities. As a person, as a leader, as a superintendent, I've often been classified as a champion and a cheerleader — because I do believe that that's my role, to champion the needs of kids and cheer on the adults who are making it happen for them. So I see myself as that person who really wants to see people succeed, and who's willing to do whatever I can to remove the obstacles, pave the way, open the door, and push them, hold their hands, walk with them, run with them, whatever it takes — work hard to help them achieve whatever they determine as their outcome, or their final hopes and dreams.

What stood out to you about Chatham County Schools in making you want to apply for the superintendent position in the first place?

Well, Chatham is known across the state for innovative programming, and that's been my slice of the pie for many, many years. So when I began to look at this opportunity, I was thrilled to see that one-to-one-technology initiative, I was thrilled to see things like the dual language programming, I was thrilled to see the focus on equity and opportunities for all kids. I was thrilled to see that, wow, there was a district that was very focused on meeting the immediate needs and it was also a district and community that truly had developed a structure to begin looking at the future and had set up processes to begin that journey.

So the innovation was very attractive, the location was very attractive to me, and just the diversity of the community. A lot of people see it as a challenge, but it's a wonderful gift to be able to see all of those things that make our community unique. To see all of those things operating, operating in harmony, really was attractive to me as an opportunity to take those things that were important to me as a leader — innovation, outcomes and supporting and growing and taking risks academically for kids. To see the district that was already well on that road was really exciting to me.

How has this first almost month of the job been for you?

It's been what I've expected, but it's also been extremely gratifying. I've been welcomed with open arms. I believe that my first few months here will be about relationship building, and it's been extremely positive. I've met people in the community — I've tried to visit places like thrift stores, I've met people in the grocery store, the gas station. It's been fun to meet new people, and hear them talk about their hopes and dreams for our school system and our kids. And so that's kept me busy. It's been just a whirlwind, this meeting a lot of people. But I'm at my best when I'm engaging people and talking about things that are important to them, figuring out ways that we can find those intersections where I can support their hopes and dreams of a community. So



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

'As a person, as a leader, as a superintendent, I've often been classified as a champion and a cheerleader,' CCS Superintendent Anthony Jackson said, 'because I do believe that that's my role, to champion the needs of kids and cheer on the adults who are making it happen for them.'

it's been fun

The good news is I've had transitions into districts before, so I have a very detailed process that I use that I'll be announcing fairly shortly on my entry plan to the community in a very structured way. And I will be talking with the community and have meet and greet sessions with the community, just hearing from them.

What are some opportunities and also challenges that you see as being unique to Chatham County Schools?

I think, as with every community, you have opportunities and challenges, and a large opportunity for us is really finding a way to celebrate the uniqueness within this community, from — from Bennett, to North Chatham. And not giving any extra value to any of them, but respect them for the true gifts that they are, and celebrate them for the unique things that they provide. Because people have been able to find their space in this community, because of that uniqueness, and I think we want to find ways to celebrate and honor that. And so you'll find that one of the things that you'll hear me talk about all the time, will be this notion of "One Chatham," "one Chatham County Schools," where every person can find their space.

And so that, to me, is a tremendous opportunity for our community, especially coming in. Because with outside eyes, I can see all these wonderful things and people inside, they may see it as well, this community over that community or this community has that and this community has this — well there's something unique about your community, let's celebrate that. I think one of the real challenges here is being able to tell the compelling story of this community. I think there are so many opportunities to tell the compelling stories of this community, and I think people will be really, really shocked at the richness. And so you want to try to preserve those things that make this place special. And I really believe that as a leader, and a leader for the entity that's our (Chatham's) largest employer, I want to help preserve that, because those are the things that will attract others here and see us as that value add to the community that they want, because it really ultimately adds to quality of life. I just see those things as real opportunities for us, as well as challenges if we don't address them.

I know you mentioned an emphasis on relationship building, especially in these first few weeks and months. But what are some other priorities for you moving ahead?

Making sure that we have analyzed and looked at the data clearly — the academic data, the financial data, the community data, what are those data telling us, and it's a great time because the district's going to be building out a new strategic plan in the next year. So it's important that we understand clearly where we are.

The second thing that we're going to have to do is really make sure that we are at the table and fully participating in

the discussions around growth. That's a huge challenge in our community, we see that with the economic development happening around us, which means that that will ultimately impact schools. And so we have to make sure that we have an attractive option available to our parents, because parents have options now with their school choice. So we want to make sure Chatham County Schools are always at the front of that line and at the top of that list. And then clearly, as we grow, another challenge is going to be facilities and making sure we stay ahead of that curve, and that our school facilities are maximized in terms of capacity. And that's boring stuff, but it's important stuff, because it impacts quality of life and impacts community building, and it impacts on those things that would be attractors to those individuals who would want to come here. Those are three very big rocks, read internal data, to do what we need to do to make sure that our product is sound, managing the growth so that we recognize what's ahead of us and then making sure that we have the assets available to serve once we've done all that.

How are you conceptualizing moving forward in the pandemic, and just thinking about things like "learning loss," burnout and even just trying to unite school communities around issues that have been really controversial or dividing?

Well, COVID has been a challenge. No one questions that. I think we have a choice to make a pandemic, beyond the health issues, into a pandemic of our own behaviors and decision making. Or we can make it a "can-demic," where we use the things that we've learned to actually improve systems, and to make sure that we're taking care of our kids. We know first of all, we are going to have to have a more nimble academic delivery system — COVID taught us that we have to be able to turn on a dime. That's something good that we have learned, we have been able to do it and our teachers have proven that we can do it.

The second thing we have to learn is that the social and emotional needs of kids, as well as adults, are going to be front and center as we return to, I don't say normal, but to a routine. Because I don't know if we go back to that normal — we get back to a routine, whatever that looks like. And then I think we're gonna have to learn how to disagree gracefully. This pandemic has taught us that people have very different ideas about what schools can and should be. It's important for us to hear one another, but ultimately recognize that it's not a competition that somebody is going to win, that we really have to talk about what's in the best interests of our children, make those decisions and move forward. So I'm hoping that we can find a way to have those conversations in a graceful and respectful way and make good decisions around that. So hopefully schools are going to be more routine than may have been, I'm always afraid to say normal.

And then you mentioned the term "learning loss," and I

pretty much reject that term. Our kids lost time with their teachers and they lost time in school. So any loss we have to work on recovering, we have to work on reconnecting and we have to work on giving kids the ability to recover and build those relationships that would help them recapture what they lost in time, as well as our teachers. With our summer programming ... our kids have been engaged all summer with just trying to recapture time. So hopefully, if we can be strategic about that, we can help them find a space where they can recover anything that they've lost.

What would you say to teachers in the school district that you maybe haven't had the opportunity to meet one-on-one?

I've met a lot of them. I had a meeting yesterday with the Education Association leadership. One of the things that they need to know about me is that I'm pretty visible in the schools; I did not come into this work to be the superintendent, I was a teacher and the principal. So you're gonna find me most of the time in the school building. And again, I told you, I'm a champion and a cheerleader. So I'm the biggest champion for teachers ever. I think what they do every day is magic. And so I want them to know that I'm a huge supporter of teachers. I still try to get in — I started as a music teacher so when I can get into a classroom, I love it. I respect their work. I want them to know that I know what's hard and what's challenging, but we need them to do that work if kids are going to be okay. So what you'll find with me is that I will always come back and connect it to what's right for kids.

I guess the same question, but for parents and also students.

I'm looking forward to working with parents. Again, I've met with several parents, I want there to be a relationship with parents that's not rooted in just problem solving. I want there to be a relationship with parents that's rooted in talking about the hopes and dreams that they have for their children. Because I think that's where most parents come to the table with good hearts, they want what's best for the children. Sometimes we can do it without question. Other times, we have to really work to get there. I want parents to know that they have an advocate and a colleague and a partner with me, not with the school system, but with me — I'm always going to try to do what's right for the kids. Even when we disagree, I really want to be able to hear them and make sure I'm understanding them before I make any of those kinds of decisions.

I'm a dad, my kids who have benefited from good teachers and good schools. And so I know what that means. And so I want parents to be able to walk away from us saying, even if we didn't agree, or even if you didn't get everything you wanted, they tried and they did their very best for my child. And the good news is the parents that I've talked to all of them have been so very, very complimentary of the school system and their experiences here. And even when they've not had the absolute best experiences, they've been able to say what I just said, you know, I think the school system really tried to do A, B or C. That's what I believe will be the ultimate compliment, when parents say that about the school system. So I'm looking forward to building those kinds of relationships. And it's not the only time you interact with the superintendent is when there's a problem — that gets old.

What are you kind of focusing on in this last little bit less than a month before school starts back up?

Preparation. And we have some decisions to make around, clearly, safety protocols and things like that, but I think people are going to have to get used to the fact that those things are going to be shifting regularly. And that's what I meant in terms of

being nimble; our post-COVID position will be totally different than pre-COVID, we could predict the opening of school (then), I can't predict the opening of school now. People want answers fast — well, we could give you an answer, but it's going to change again. So what we're gonna really try to do is not contribute to the chaos, we're going to try to contribute to giving parents clear information once we've had it. But I think we're also going to have to ask people to extend some grace, to give us time to actually reflect on the information and make good decisions, as opposed to a fast and quick decision to calm you down. We need to make good decisions that make a difference, and will allow us to operate in a way that will give you some level of consistency. And like I said, getting us back to routine — not normal, some level of routine for our kids.

What have been some standout moments for you so far?

I think one one was really my first day, just driving up and sitting there being a big welcome sign. That said a lot about the community and about the work. And you know, it really cemented for me that I had made a good decision. So that was special. I think the other moment was being out in the community, and a parent walking up to me, and I had no idea she knew I was and she just said, "Hey, welcome to the community, we're so glad you're here." Well, that's meaningful to me, and it really speaks to what I hold as a core value. And that's building good relationships with people to know you, outside of this work, because this is what I do. So I want you to know who I am so that you will understand me as a person. That's important to me — I want people to know me as a person.

Outside of education in your role as superintendent, what are some things that you are really passionate about, or just enjoy a lot?

You follow me on Twitter. I love to run, I'm a runner. I don't know how I became a runner. That was not something that I enjoyed previously in life. And I'm a musician. So I love my music and travel. And most importantly, anytime I can just sit and watch water — I don't have to get in but just sit and watch water. So yeah, those things are important for me.

I think a good note to end on, speaking of running: I've loved seeing your motivational morning and night running videos. What's the story with those?

It's my accountability to a group of superintendents. We all talk about self care, how COVID has been very difficult. It's a group of us, we just kind of encourage each other but we're all over the place. Picking up the phone is hard, so we said let's just use Twitter. So this summer, I kind of challenged myself with doing "X" amount of miles in a month — that was my way of holding myself accountable. And people said, "I love them, man, keep em' coming!" So I've had the memes and the jokes that I've got from my friends who have made their own personal videos of them like running in slow motion. It's just fun... There's nothing to it, but it's just a lot of fun.

And then, I have this real strong belief that to do this work, you have to be healthy and whole — you really do. You can't be at risk physically and try to do this work, because the community expects you to be on. When they see you at night, they expect you to be on. I have to take care of myself first, and if I can't take care of myself, I know I can't take care of teachers and kids. And that goes back to that comment I made about the social and emotional needs of families and students — I have to take care of my own first before I take care of others. So that's the story — it's just fun.

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

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PITTSBORO

Jackson tells club supporters to help make it the ‘best example of a caring, community partnership’

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Dr. Amanda Hartness of Chatham County Schools (from left), Pittsboro Commissioner Kyle Shipp and Dr. Anthony Jackson, superintendent of Chatham County Schools, pose after last Wednesday’s fundraising breakfast for the Boys & Girls Club of Pittsboro. Shipp helped spearhead efforts to start the club; Jackson served as the event’s keynote speaker.

PITTSBORO — Pancakes did indeed help pave the way, but there’s still a little bit of road the newly-formed Boys & Girls Club of Pittsboro needs to cover.

Organizers of the club — which would join the existing Wren Family Center club in Siler City to serve Chatham’s student population with after-school programs and more — say last Wednesday’s “Pancakes Pave the Way” fundraising event at the county’s Agriculture & Conference Center raised about \$40,000. With \$25,000 in pledges already in hand for the event, combined with funds raised during the past year, that leaves the club less than \$50,000 short of its \$220,000 goal to open and serve students by this fall in the Professional Learning Center building on the campus of George Moses Horton Middle School in Pittsboro.

It’s a gap club organizers are relying on donors in Chatham to close.

“We are thrilled with the turnout and so grateful for the level of support we saw from our investors at the Pancakes Pave the Way event,” Daniel Simmons, the CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina, which includes Chatham, Lee and Harnett counties, said. “We made major strides toward our funding goal and, with only \$49,000 to get to our goal, we are fully within striking distance of opening the Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club this fall. A tremendous thanks goes out to our investors

who’ve already supported the project and we look forward to future support from those who will help us get to the starting line.”

New Chatham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson, an alumnus of the Boys & Girls Clubs, was the event’s keynote speaker.

The fundraising drive for the first Boys & Girls Club of Pittsboro will enable it to join established clubs in the region, including the Wren Family Center in Siler City, O.T. Sloan Park Club in Sanford, and the Robin Paige Club in Lillington. Club registration will be open to any child in Kindergarten through 12th grade. Upon opening, transportation will be provided from Pittsboro Elementary School and the Moncure School. The cost for families is \$52 per student per year for the after-school program,

which runs with the school year, with scholarships available for those who have a need.

Pittsboro Town Commissioner Kyle Shipp, who has led the effort to create a club in Pittsboro, told attendees that donors had the opportunity be the catalyst to get the club’s doors open.

“Of course, the most important part of this equation is the boys and girls who will fill the Boys & Girls Club,” he said.

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs is to enable all young people to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. A national clubs report showed that investing \$1 in a Boys & Girls Club returns \$9.60 to the local economy through current and future earnings and cost-savings for health-care, public assistance and criminal justice

system involvement.

Jackson, who began in his new role July 6 after a move from Vance County, encouraged Chatham residents to make an investment in the club. He told his listeners to imagine someone standing on the stage in the Ag Center 10 years from now saying, “This Pittsboro club made a difference in my life.”

He remembered a mural at the entrance of the club from his youth in the Washington, D.C. area, which read: “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”

The saying made a difference for him — as a child living in an area where “danger was around every corner” — and played “a significant role in the life of this superintendent.”

“And by the way,” Jackson added. “If I can sit in this seat, there’s nothing that the children in this community can’t accomplish.”

He called his experience as a Boys & Girls Club member “a game-changer” and said the launch of the new Pittsboro club would provide a safe place for children to gather after school, with high-quality programming to help level the playing field as they pursued their own goals and dreams.

“They’re watching us, they’re going to hold us accountable,” Jackson said of Chatham’s children.

“This is great work, hard work — but not matter how hard it is, I will always bet on the kids. We’ve got to commit to making this not just the best club, but the best example of a caring,

community partnership so that the kids win and the community will grow and prosper.”

Brian Davis, the chairman of the board of directors for the Central Carolina clubs, said the effort to create a club in Pittsboro met the district’s objective to “follow the footprint” of Central Carolina College and have clubs in locations where CCCC has campuses.

“The is more than a place to go after school,” he told attendees. “It’s a safe place for these kids to develop relationships and explore opportunities.”

Davis pointed out that the Boys & Girls Clubs of American don’t have “a pile of money” to give to communities to support new clubs.

“They have to stand alone,” he said, to raise the support.

He gave credit to Shipp, who took a vision for a Pittsboro club and made it into a near-reality, helping to form an advisory council and building enthusiasm for the club’s opening.

“It’s been a lot of work, and it’s exciting to be this close,” Davis said.

Advisory council member Chevon Moore of Hobbs Architects, club member Cheyenne Benton, a rising junior at Jordan-Matthews, and Dr. Amanda Hartness of Chatham County Schools were among the other speakers. Chatham County Board of Commissioners Chairperson Mike Dasher read a statement from Rep. Robert Reives II.

The new Boys & Girls Club has been in development for well more than a

year. Early on, the group’s advisory committee established a local partnership with Pittsboro’s Kiwanis Club and planned to use the latter’s downtown location. Plans were under way to renovate the building and a groundbreaking ceremony was held in April. But that changed with plans to use the building at George Moses Horton Middle School.

“Last fall, we looked at and reviewed a lot of locations, and Horton Middle School — as it was called at the time — was one of those,” Shipp previously told the News + Record.

“They didn’t really have a good location for us, but they said there was another building over there that might be available later, like thinking about a couple years from now.”

The Professional Learning Center at Horton has been vacant for much of the last year. Before then it was used as a training facility for school staff, but those functions are moving to a new administration building currently under development on Enterprise Drive. Shipp emphasized the decision to move to the school site was based on that building’s ideal fit for the Boys & Girls Club’s needs, and that the Kiwanis Club was still a partner of the Boys & Girls Club.

To make a donation to the Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club, visit <https://qrco.de/PittsboroBGC> or send a contribution to PO Box 551, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Parents and children interested in joining the club are invited to fill out a survey at <http://qrco.de/PBGCsurvey>.



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MOUNTAIRE

Continued from page A1

public hearing say the changes serve Mountaire more than they help the city.

The hearing, which was held at Jordan-Matthews High School as part of the board's regular meeting, drew a crowd of around 60 community members. Those who spoke against the road proposal cited a variety of different concerns. Several were worried the project would limit access to local businesses, while others complained about possible impacts on school-hour traffic, water quality during construction and rescue routes for emergency vehicles. Some were worried about re-routed truck traffic impacting Raleigh Street and downtown Siler City, while others expressed concerns about the poor driving habits of drivers traveling to load and unload at the \$170 million, 255,000-square-foot Mountaire facility, which opened in 2019 and employs more than 1,500 workers.

Bobby Steel, who owns What-A-Wash Laundromat in Siler City, talked about the road project's impact on his business.

"I currently have three road frontages: a road frontage on the rear, a road frontage on the right side and a road frontage in the front," Steel said, referring to his laundry business. "I currently have entrances in the front and rear. I currently have access to around 4,200 potential customers every day. So with the redirection ... I'll have two road frontages taken away. I'll no longer have a rear entrance ... and I'll have zero potential customers passing by my business."

Krystal Desai, who owns a local Quick Way Mart Exxon gas station with her husband Mike Desai, noted similar concerns.

"When construction originally started that closed off Third Street for the better part of a year, it drastically hurt our business," she said. "At that time we understood it was a temporary change and we looked forward to the positive impact for the city and its people."

But now, she says, "The impact [of the Third Street closure] on my business would potentially be anywhere between 30 and 40 percent in revenue, which is huge for a small business owner like myself."

Representatives from Mountaire Farms spoke before and after the public hearing period, addressing their own concerns for the safety and well-being of drivers who travel along Third Street and the company's desire to listen to and find solutions for concerns expressed by the community and town staff. Bassett emphasized the company's plan to avoid closing the current East Third Street before opening a new road. She said Mountaire wanted to be a "community partner" for Siler

City. Mountaire Farms President Phillip Plylar, who traveled to the meeting from the company's corporate office in Delaware, said the company's plant in Siler City had a bright future — but its internal "goal zero" objectives made the safety issue of its drivers criss-crossing Third Street a priority concern.

"We know that we have internal and external customers," he said, speaking of the company's relationship with the town of Siler City. Of the road proposal, he said: "We want to give you a good product, a good gateway into the city and to take care of the safety needs of the community."

Ken Smith, the operations manager of Wilson Brothers Trucking company in Bear Creek, spoke in favor of the proposal. Mountaire contracts with Wilson Brothers to truck in live poultry to the Siler City plant. According to Smith, the company's trucks cross Third Street approximately 300 times per day, while hauling around 80 daily loads.

"I've actually hauled into that complex myself," Smith said. "I'm a CDL driver ... It is hugely unsafe trying to get in and out, especially during the busy times of the day itself. I agree with Mountaire for a safety reason. If there's nothing but safety, it needs to be redirected where our trucks, their trucks, all the contract trucks that are coming in and getting the dressed poultry out of there, can move around without worrying about hitting someone or somebody getting hit."

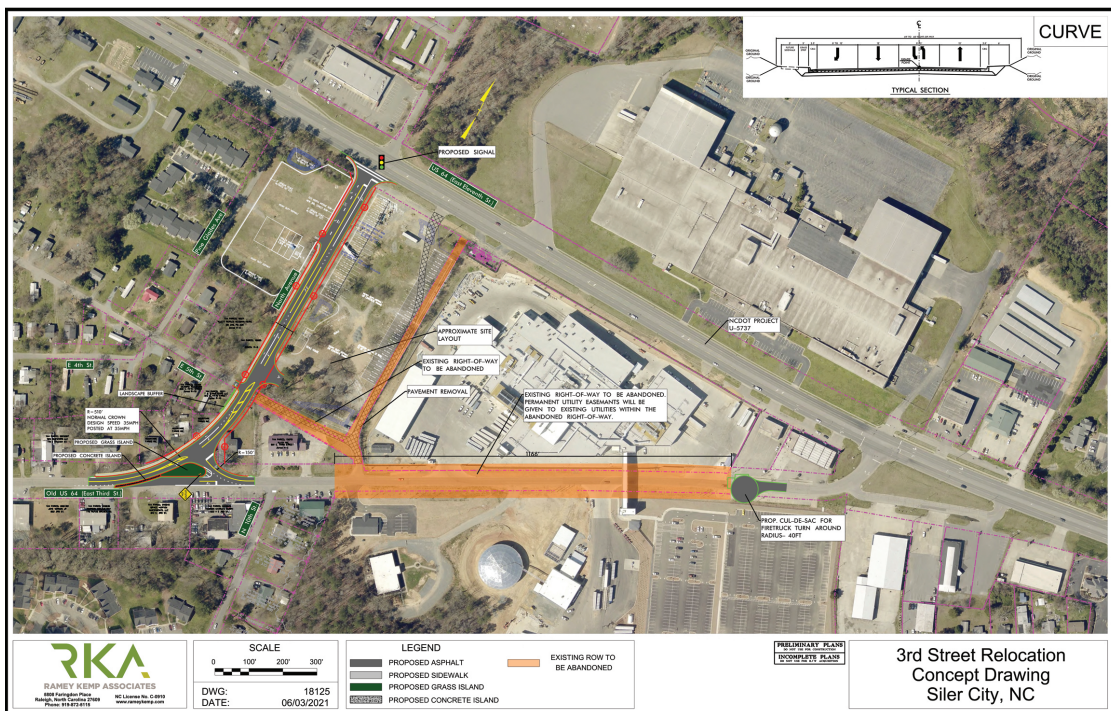
Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Bray expressed concern that traffic on Raleigh Street would increase if passenger vehicles were re-routed.

"My concern is the traffic that's going to be detoured from Third Street — because people won't go there — to Raleigh Street," Bray said. "And Raleigh Street is pretty much packed now, especially when school starts in the morning and in the afternoons."

Consulting firm Ramey Kemp, hired by Mountaire to study traffic flow along the affected roadways, reported that the project's impact on Raleigh Street would be "fairly negligible."

Resident Beverly Goldston expressed concerns about "the conduct of the drivers of Mountaire," saying the town made a mistake allowing the poultry processing plant to be built within city limits. Speaker Jimmie Pugh said not enough traffic studies had been done to fully understand the impact of the work, and Janet Ramirez said "reckless driving" by Mountaire employees and contracted drivers and the closing of a portion of Third Street would create traffic jams for residents traveling in the area.

They and other speakers also



Courtesy of Mountaire Farms

This concept drawing shows how roads around Mountaire Farms, including Third Street, would be closed or re-routed.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Hannia Benitez of Siler City speaks at Monday's public hearing, encouraging Mountaire and Siler City officials to use more tools at their disposal to lessen the impact of the Third Street re-routing and closing.

said they'd not been given adequate information about the project prior to the hearing.

After some questions for town staff and brief discussion, the board ultimately decided to continue the public hearing Aug. 30 in order to receive more input from community members and to allow Mountaire time to make any changes to the plan.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Plylar sought to assuage residents about their concerns.

"I would say that some of the concerns that I've heard tonight — we'll do our best to address them," he said. "To me, you are our customers, the community. And where we can work to address [concerns], we will. On Raleigh Street, I understand your concern there. We're chicken people, we're not traffic experts. So we went to the traffic experts — the Department of Transportation and a third party consultant that this group recommended. They said we didn't need to widen the road, so we went

with that. However, if we need to put in a turn lane, we can do that. If you guys want a cul-de-sac, we can do that."

Bassett said after the meeting that the concerns expressed would be discussed by Mountaire, and that the company wanted to be "good neighbors" and work toward common ground throughout the project, which is expected to take several years to finish.

According to a timeline presented to the board, the Third Street project began in October 2018 when Mountaire submitted several street closure petitions to the town. As the project has moved through stages of ideation and development, Mountaire has acquired three properties adjacent to East Third Street and provided detailed visual renderings of the new road construction. Siler City officials have notified property owners who would be affected by the project, as well as publicly expressed the town's right to retain water and sewer easements along East Third Street, East Fifth

Street and Johnson Avenue.

In June, the board passed a formal resolution of intent to close each of the three streets, although the Third Street closure includes a shifting and re-routing.

If the board ultimately approves the project — which is now not likely until at least September — NCDOT will ultimately decide whether to proceed.

Future approval from NCDOT seems likely in the case of board approval. Aaron Moody, public relations officer with the Department, said NCDOT will likely support the plan "so long as required traffic improvements are made and they are up to current safety and design standards."

The board will hear more public comments regarding the project during the Aug. 30 meeting. It will begin at Wren Memorial Library in Siler City and — if attendance exceeds space limitations — will continue at a larger venue, likely the auditorium at Jordan-Matthews.

JACKSON

Continued from page A1

final preparation for the Aug. 23 start of the school year — which he hopes will resemble more of a pre-COVID routine than the last three semesters — along with getting to know the people of Chatham.

"I've been welcomed with open arms. It's been just a whirlwind, this meeting a lot of people," he said. "But I'm at my best when I'm engaging people and talking about things that are important to them, figuring out ways that we can find those intersections where I can support their hopes and dreams of a community."

"So it's been fun."

Jackson comes from Vance County Schools, where he was named the North Carolina Superintendent of the Year in 2020. He's worked as an educator for more than 30 years, and is passionate about pursuing innovation and equity to better serve students.

Under his leadership at Vance County Schools, where he served since 2015, WRAL reported in 2019 that the school system's graduation rate had

increased dramatically, 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.

Jackson was drawn to Chatham for a few reasons, he told the News + Record: its commitment to innovation and technology, along with its pre-existing equity strategic plan.

"And just the diversity of the community," he said. "A lot of people see it as a challenge, but it's a wonderful gift to be able to see all of those things that make our community unique."

Jackson was selected as superintendent from a pool of 45 applications submitted across 18 states and U.S. territories, the district previously said. 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.

The search for a new superintendent began last January, when Dr. Derrick Jordan left his role as superintendent —

a position he'd held for eight years — to join N.C. Superintendent Catherine Truitt at the Dept. of Public Instruction. He was replaced on an interim basis by Randy Bridges, a long-time educator and superintendent, who was hired to serve until the board found a permanent superintendent.

"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," board of education member David Hamm said at the county's May 20 meeting, when the board unanimously selected Jackson.

According to district survey results, CCS stakeholders wanted a 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.

Board members also previously expressed a desire to find 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 in March.

Jackson's done just that already. In addition to attending and planning a slew of introductory events, he's made an effort to be out in the community — at thrift stores and gas stations, for example — to meet community members in non-school settings, too.

"I want parents to know that they have an advocate and a colleague and a partner with me, not with the school system, but with me — I'm always going to try to do what's right for the kids," he said. "Even when we disagree, I really want to be able to hear them and make sure I'm understanding them before I make any of those kinds of decisions. I'm a dad, my kids have benefited from good teachers and good schools, so I know what that means."

In addition to facing the expected problems that come with the job — anticipating and planning for growth, listening to all stakeholders and making sometimes tough decisions — Jackson is also working to respond to challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While he rejects the

term, "learning loss," he said students and teachers alike lost valuable time with each other last year. In addition to finding creative ways to make up for that lost time, Jackson said an emphasis on social and emotional needs would be front in center in the classroom this year.

"I don't know if we go back to that normal," he said, "we get back to a routine, whatever that looks like."

He hopes the school community can find ways to disagree gracefully in the coming year, particularly when it comes to the ever-changing and updated COVID-19 protocol. He also hopes people will "extend grace" to school administration as they make decisions, understanding they're working to respond to new information as best as they can.

"People want answers fast — well, we could give you an answer, but it's going to change again," Jackson said. "So what we're gonna really try to do is not contribute to the chaos, we're going to try to contribute to giving parents clear information once we've had it."

On Monday, the board of education called a special meeting for Thursday, to discuss personnel

issues and "consider matters related to the recent updates made to the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit," which strongly urges schools to require universal masking for students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. That meeting will take place at noon.

In addition to being superintendent, Jackson is also a runner — he uploads inspirational videos to Twitter of himself logging multiple miles on the treadmill nearly every day — musician, traveler, husband and father.

And no matter how administrative his role, he'll always consider himself an advocate for teachers and a cheerleader for students.

"I'm the biggest champion for teachers ever. I think what they do every day is magic," Jackson said. "I want them to know that I know what's hard and what's challenging, but we need them to do that work if kids are going to be okay. So what you'll find with me is that I will always come back and connect it to what's right for kids."

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

OBITUARIES

ALCA ELSIE FOGLEMAN OLDHAM

Alca Elsie Fogleman Oldham, 83, of Bear Creek passed away on Thursday, July 29, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital, Sanford.

Mrs. Oldham was born in Chatham County on March 25, 1938, the daughter of Johnnie Clifton Fogleman Sr. and Carrie Gunter Fogleman. Alca was a faithful member of Antioch Christian Church. She retired from Glendale Kellwood after 49 years of work. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, J.B. Oldham Jr.; sister, Mary Helen Fogleman; and brother, James (Jim) Fogleman.

She is survived by her daughter, Jill O. Gilliland; sons, Jeffrey B. Oldham and Joel K. Oldham, all of Bear Creek; sister, Rachel Fogleman Elkins of Pittsboro; brother, Johnnie Clifton Fogleman Jr. and wife Jane of Siler City; grandchildren, Jessica O. Brown, Taylor Oldham, Morgan O. Jones, Jacob and Jenna Gilliland; great grandchildren, Willa Lane Oldham, and Eliza Kay Jones.

Mrs. Oldham Laid in Repose on Saturday, July 31, 2021 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City. A graveside service was held on Sunday, August 1, 2021, at 2 p.m. at the Oldham Family Cemetery, Henry Oldham Road, Bear Creek with Pastor Jimmy Talton officiating.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Oldham family.

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

JOHN HOWARD GAINES



John Howard Gaines, 61, of Bonlee, died Friday, July 30, 2021 at his home surrounded by his family and friends.

Mr. Gaines was born on November 2, 1959, in Chatham County and was the son of Howard J. "Buck" and Carlile Fields Gaines. He was employed by N. G. Purvis as a Truck Driver. John was a member of Bonlee Baptist Church. He enjoyed playing golf, poker and riding his motorcycle. He was a prankster and loved meeting his friends for coffee. John loved all kinds of music, singing and playing his guitar. He was preceded in death by his mother.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Cindy Craven Gaines; son, Justin H. Gaines of Bonlee; father, Howard J. "Buck" Gaines of Bonlee; and sister, Lisa Gaines and husband, Barry of Goldston.

The family will receive friends Saturday, August 14, 2021, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Bonlee Baptist Church, 25 Al Davis Road, Bonlee, N.C. 27312. A celebration of life will follow at 11 a.m., with Ritchie Nall, Rev. Frank Taylor and Rev. Bob Lovette officiating. Inurnment will follow at Hope Cemetery, Bonlee.

Memorials may be made to UNC Hospice, P.O. Box 1077, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Smith & Buckner funeral Home is assisting the Gaines family.

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

BARBARA ANN ROBERSON FERRELL AND CHARLES HENRY FERRELL JR.

The memorial service for Barbara Ann Roberson Ferrell, 71, and her husband, Charles Henry Ferrell Jr., 73, of Norfolk, Virginia will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, August 7, 2021 at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church in Pittsboro. The public is invited.

Barbara was the daughter of Maggie and Allen Roberson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, 1785 Mt Gilead Church Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

CLIFTON LEVI CULBERSON

Clifton Levi Culberson, 26, passed away on Monday, July 26, 2021, at his home in Snow Camp.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 31, 2021, at Rocky River Baptist Church, with Dr. Greg W. Burris officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Levi was born in Lee County on August 31, 1994. He was a graduate of Sage Academy.

Levi was baptized at Crossroads Baptist Church. He is survived by his mother, Penny Culberson Barth; sister, Mary LeAnn Pope of Vass; grandfather, Archie Culberson of Siler City; and grandmother, Sandra McLeod of Robbins.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Smith & Buckner Funeral Home.

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

ROYCE ALI SMITH

Royce Ali Smith, 37, of West End, passed away on Sunday, August 1, 2021, at First Health Hospice House in West End.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

NANCY ANN FIELDS HEFFNER

Nancy Ann Fields Heffner, 69, of Broadway, died Monday, July 26, 2021, at her home.

A memorial service was held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at the Smith Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Garland Smith officiating.

She was born in Lee County, daughter of the late James Gurney and Dorothy Wicker Fields, who preceded her in death. She was retired from Walmart.

Surviving is her husband, Guy Edward Heffner of Broadway; daughter, Dorothy J. Keene of Marners; son, James R. Switzer III of Broadway; sister, Sara Mecham of Virginia; brother, Wiley Fields of Southern Pines; stepson, Adam Heffner of Alabama.

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

DAVE KENNY WILLIAMS

Dave Kenny Williams, 60, of Siler City, passed away on Monday, August 2, 2021 at Siler City Center.

Services entrusted to Knotts and Son.

SALLIE INES WILLIAMS

Sallie Ines Williams, 87, of Sanford passed away July 29, 2021, in Kinston.

The funeral was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, August 1, 2021, in the Chapel of Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home, with Rev. Ralph Douglas presiding. Burial was in the Lemon Springs U.M.C. Cemetery.

Sallie was born Harnett County on September 5, 1933, to the late William Jefferson and Nina Elizabeth Womack Maddox. She was a home-maker and farmer. Mrs. Williams is preceded in death by her husband, Owen "Bob" Williams, a brother, William Watson Maddox and sisters, Kathleen D. McWaters, Elizabeth McWaters, and Maize Maddox.

She is survived by her son, Owen Jefferson Williams of Kinston; daughters, Sallie Crutchfield of Sanford, Bobbie J. Evans and Ola Ann Holder, both of Sanford, and Betty Mae Macedonio of Kinston; brother, Frank B. Maddox of Sanford; nine grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and one step-grandchild.

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

FAYE JEFFERS CLARK SECHLER

Faye Jeffers Clark Sechler, 74, of Sanford, died July 31, 2021, at her home.

The funeral was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at Lemon Springs United Methodist Church with Rev. Thearon Willis and Rev. Kent Miller presiding. Burial followed at Caribonton Methodist Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Sechler was born in Lee County, on December 16, 1946, to the late Herbert and Ellie Oldham Jeffers. She is preceded in death by her parents, son, Justin Clark, and siblings, Gladys Hayes, Buster Jeffers, Dorothy Martin, and Patty Sue Jeffers. Faye worked as a shipping clerk for Carnes Company in Jonesboro.

Surviving relatives include her husband, Donald "Don" Sechler of the home; son, Jason Clark of Sanford; sisters, Kay Frances Taylor of Virginia, Wanda Head of Sanford, Vallie Kate Blakely of Sanford; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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

WADE ALLEN MARION III

Wade Allen "Trey" Marion III, 29, of Broadway, died Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Monday, August 2, 2021, at Holly Springs Baptist Church with Rev. Darrell Wood officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was born in Moore County on March 12, 1992, the son of Gwendolyn Mae Douglas and the late Wade Allen Marion Jr. Trey was a carpenter. He was preceded in death by his father.

Surviving is his wife, Crystal Williams Marion and their son, Wade Allen Marion IV of the home; his mother, Gwendolyn Douglas of Sanford; sister, Jessica Marion of Sanford; and brother, Kyle Marion of Broadway. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

PAULO HONORIO MENDOZA RAMIREZ

Paulo Honorio Mendoza Ramirez, 30, of Durham, passed away on Monday, July 26, 2021, in Durham.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

ALLEN WAYNE MONROE

Allen Wayne Monroe, 59, of Southern Pines passed away on Sunday, August 1, 2021 at Duke University Hospital in Durham.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

SARAH SHELTON THOMAS

Sarah Ann Shelton Thomas, 63, died on Friday, July 30, 2021, at her home.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at the Smith Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Garland Smith officiating. Burial followed in the Broadway Town Cemetery.

Sarah was born on August 31, 1957, the daughter of Betty Hardy Shelton and Mitchell Eugene Shelton. She was preceded in death by her father.

Surviving is her mother, Betty Hardy Shelton of Tennessee; her husband, Joseph Kelly Thomas Jr. of the home; son, Jamie Kelly Thomas of Charleston, West Virginia; daughter, Christina Ann Deskins of Sanford; four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter; and sisters, Cathy Shelton and Linda Lowrie, both of Tennessee and Brenda Wright of Cameron.

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

ESTELLE FRAZIER SILER WARD

Estelle Frazier Siler Ward, 89, of Staley, passed away on Sunday, August 1, 2021.

Estelle will lie in Repose on Thursday, August 5, 2021 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home.

The funeral service will be held on Friday, August 6, 2021 at 2 p.m. at Moon's Chapel Baptist Church, with Rev. Reginald Robbins officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Ward was born in Randolph County on May 17, 1932, the daughter of Jessie M. and Esther Needham Frazier. She was a member of Staley Baptist Church. In addition to her parents, Estelle is preceded in death by her husbands William M. Siler, and Wade M. Ward; sisters, Dorothy F. Smith, Lucille F. Hayes; brothers, Wilbert, Clarence, James, J.C., Earl, Clyde Frazier; and two infants.

She is survived by her sister, Evelyn Frazier McDaniel of Siler City; and step-son, William Edison Ward of Staley.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Ward family.

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

SHELBA RIDDLE RACKLEY

Shelba Riddle Rackley, 84, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, August 2, 2021 at Central Carolina Hospital.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, August 5, 2021 from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Sanford Church of God. The funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. with Pastor Michael Horton officiating. Burial will follow in Jones Chapel Church Cemetery.

She was born in Lee County on April 14, 1937 to the late O.D. "Buck" and Sarah "Sadie" Katherine Hall Riddle. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers Oded Riddle, Charlie Riddle and Robie Riddle; sisters, Dollie Boyd, Joyce Chorney and Bertie Poindexter. Shelba was a member of the Sanford Church of God.

Shelba is survived by her husband of 66 years, James Rackley; sons, James Michael Rackley of Cameron, Richard Rackley of Troutman and Mark Rackley of Statesville; brother, Edwin Riddle of Sanford; sister, Nell Soloman of Sanford; eight grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

RAYMOND SYLVESTER LASSITER

Mr. Raymond Sylvester Lassiter, 81, of Carthage passed away on Friday, July 30, 2021, at the FirstHealth Hospice House in West End.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at Knotts Funeral Home, with burial following at Liberty Chapel Church Cemetery.

JAMES MARSHALL PETTY

James Marshall Petty, 69, passed away Monday, July 26, 2021.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 31, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home. Burial followed at Tempting Congregational Church Cemetery.

DALPHINE (BUIE) ADAMS

Dalphine Buie Adams, 68, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at her residence.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Friday, July 30, 2021 at Pilgrim's Rest Church, with burial in the church cemetery.

JOHN 'JOHNNIE' JAMES QUICK

Mr. John "Johnnie" James Quick, 81, of Greensboro, passed away on Sunday, July 25, 2021, at Greenhaven Health and Rehabilitation Center in Greensboro.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, July 30, 2021, at New Generation Church in Sanford, with burial following at Lee Memory Garden.

DOMINGO TADEO

Domingo Tadeo, 77, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, July 18, 2021, at his residence.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 31, 2021, at St. Stephens Catholic Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

LEE MAJORES BURNS

Lee Majores Burns, 53, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at his residence.

Memorial services were held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at Bread of Life Ministries.

LAZARO SALVADOR CATALAN

Lazaro Salvador Catalan, 54, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, July 25, 2021, at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

SARAH DIANE BLUE

Sarah Diane Blue, 60, of Broadway, passed away on Friday, July 30, 2021.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

RAYMOND SYLVESTER LASSITER

Mr. Raymond Sylvester Lassiter, 81, of Carthage passed away on Friday, July 30, 2021, at the FirstHealth Hospice House in West End.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

TOMMY GENE SANDERS SR.

Tommy Gene Sanders Sr., 59, of Spring Lake, passed away on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at Rex Hospital in Raleigh.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

GERALDINE 'SHIRLEY' (BREWER) MASON

Geraldine "Shirley" Brewer Mason, 65, of Siler City, passed away on Friday, July 30, 2021, at her home.

Services entrusted to Knotts and Son.

Chatham County man 'multiplies his luck' to win \$1 million prize

CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — Gerardo Rodriguez Ramirez of Siler City tried his luck on a 50X the Cash ticket and won a \$1 million top prize.

Rodriguez Ramirez purchased his winning \$10 ticket from the Sunrise Food & Gas on West Third Street in Siler City.

He claimed his prize last Wednesday at lottery headquarters in Raleigh.

Rodriguez Ramirez had a choice of taking the \$1 million as an annuity of \$50,000 a year over 20 years, or a lump sum of \$600,000. He chose the lump sum of \$600,000 and took home \$388,500 after federal and state tax withholdings.



Gerardo Rodriguez Ramirez of Siler City won \$1 million with a \$10 50X the Cash ticket purchased at Sunrise Food & Gas on West Third Street in Siler City last Wednesday.

Courtesy of the N.C. Education Lottery

CHURCH NEWS

OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at Oakley Baptist Church from 1:30 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11. You can sign up at redcrossblood.org. The church is located at 2300 Siler City - Glendon Road, Siler City.

LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at Loves Creek Baptist Church from 2:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 5, in the Fellowship Hall. The church is located at 1745 East 11th Street, Siler City.

THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

The church will host a 20th year pastor's anniversary celebration at the Church of God of Prophecy for Pastor Jimmy and First Lady Linda Sutton at 7 p.m. on Saturday, August 7. The speaker will be Pastor Ben Townsend from Candor. The celebration will continue at 3 p.m. on Sunday, August 8, when Pastor Shawn Cox of Kingdom Culture Ministries will be the speaker. The public is welcome. Masks are required. The church is located at 6675 Whitney Road in Graham.

RANDOLPH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Spring Semester, 2021, area students named to the Honors List:

- President's List**
Bear Creek: Emily Ferrell
Bennett: Misty Murray
Franklinville: Alyson Kidd
Liberty: Heidi Hammond, Kristan Kirkman, Maria Nieto Padron
Ramseur: Kiersten Brower, Danielle Cruey, Katrina Hagen, Stephanie Juarez, Haley Kearns, Kylie Robbins, Jonathan Waldron
Siler City: Ana Galicia, Parker Kidd
Dean's List
Bennett: Gina Davis, Trever Gray
Franklinville: Taylor Leonard, Skyler Robbins
Liberty: Loubna Elkhabbaz, Jakson Kirkman, Kory Langley, Arielle Woods
Pittsboro: Anthony Shambley
Ramseur: Jeremy Auler, Taryn Brunson, Dalton Craven, Melanie Garner, Kaden Graham, Cynthia Phillips, Caleb Robbins, Alex Rodriguez, Aija Thomas
Siler City: Jason Armas Fentanez, Dustin Bullock
Staley: Fatima Vera Raya
Dean's List
Academic Merit List
Bear Creek: Cayley Powell
Bennett: Jonas McCanless, Suzana

- Morgan, Charlise Phillips
Franklinville: Jordan Baker, Kimberley Brooks, Kendall Cox, Trenton Crutchfield, Macie Davenport, Lucas Gartner, Brandon Green, Ariadna Juarez-Valencia, Casey Junod, Monica Stover
Liberty: Priscilla Bautista Chahuiz, Alyssa Beasley, Abbey Burgess, Lily Butler, Owen Canedy, Jonathan Garrett, Cadence Heilig, Braxton Hiatt, Cassie Horvath, Delton Johnson, Natalie King, Kailey Mabe, Stephanie Marceleno, Montserrat Mariscal, Shane McDuffee, Samantha McPherson, Tia Meredith, Jesus Mondragon, Austin Morrow, Jacqueline Raya Puente, Daniel Redding, Leah Switzer, Dalton Thompson, Issac Vera-Espinoza
Ramseur: Cyrus Bartholow, Kimberly Flores-Perez, Katie Gaines, Lydia Hamilton, Brooklyn Hargett, Samuel Harris, Karen Peltier, Hannah Proper, Marlene Rangel, Zachary Ratchford, Wendy Roman-Hernandez, Margarita Santos-Perez, Amanda Smith, Abbey Stout, Avery Wright
Siler City: Mason Clark, Yasleen Perez Bautista, David Stecher, Doris Tomas Garcia
Staley: Haley Langley, Nicholas Lanier, Jessica Waite

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE GRADUATE

Anna Kaitlyn Scott of Bennett has been awarded an undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

BEREA COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

Em Croft, a resident of Pittsboro, has been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky.

SHERMAN COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

Jose Garcia Loyola of Snow Camp has been named to the Sherman College of Chiropractic's Dean's List for the

Spring 2021 academic quarter. These students have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the quarter.

C.C.C.C. SPRING 2021 GRADUATES

Central Carolina Community College had nearly 700 graduates at the conclusion of the spring 2021 semester. Chatham County graduates are listed as follows:
 Connor Ackerman, Mary Adams, Lutfiyah Alwahishi, Marcus Apodaca, Erick Arciniega, Melissa Baltazar, Sophie Barnett, Ruben Barrera, Alec Beaton, Jessica Bell, Jarrod Blackmon, Anthony Blackwelder, Anthony Borelli, Krystle Brown, Brittany Campbell, Rogelio Carlos, Nathan Carson, Alexander Carter, Jacob Cates, Lendy Cerna Carias, Mackenzie Clark, Samantha Coble, Hunter Cole, Amie Crabtree, Rebecca Crawford, Michael D'Amico, Kyle Dekaney, German Diaz-Garcia, Zoe Edwards, Cameron Entekin, Azucena Espinoza, Ruben Esquivel, Kathryn Fister, Miranda Foushee, Paulette Garcia,

Catherine Griffith, Lauryn Hammer, Amanda Hasbrouck, Tiffany Hodges, Shannon Holt, Justin Johnston, Kelsey Justice, Joshua Kolb, Jesse Lawler, Dylan Lerch, Caleb Lytton, Cassidi Maness, Hayley Mashburn, Skyler May, Roxanne McDonough, Gage Minor, Justin Minor, Jocelyn Mitchell, Brandon Montoya, Hannah Murphy, Gabriela Ortiz MacHuca, Faith Paschal, McKenna Reives, Megan Rush, Morgan Rush, Rebecca Samuel, Amy Sanchez, Jaycee Sansom, Jayden Sansom, Luis Santamaria Lopez, Heidi Schouten, John Seck, Roger Seufert-Navarro, Andrew Sipe, Cynthia Smith, Fernando Soto Monter, Graham Stafford, Salem Tedder, Lillian Tripp, Anna Trotter, Johnathan Tucker, Amanda Usary, Jacob Vickrey, Sarah Walters, Robert Wheeler

C.C.C.C. SPRING 2021 PRESIDENTS LIST

The following Chatham County students have been named to the Central Carolina Community College President's List for the Spring 2021 semester:
 Yoana Aguirre-Morales, Alexis Allred, Samantha Leigh Andrews, Zora Eve Andrews, Marcus Ji Zong Apodaca, Allyson Bare, Anthony Quentin Blackwelder, Luz Elena Borrayo, Sydney Peyton Bowman, Mahlon James Bradshaw, Lendy Asmistia Cerna Carias, Julia Madison Earnshaw,

Zoe Edwards, Mackenzie Anna Fassinger, Kathryn A Fister, Jonae Loren Fochtman-Lange, Erica Daniela Francisco-Vargas, Ava Mae Gangemi, Abigail Tiffany George, Haleigh Madison Gilbert, Sarai Gonzalez, Noah Cole Griffin, Ashlyn Dawn Hart, Michael Joseph Hubbard, Madalyn Ann Justice, Caitlyn Frances Keith, James Francis Keith, Lauren Sierra Leonard, Gabriela Maria Ortiz MacHuca, Rosalia Basilio Mendoza, Joce-

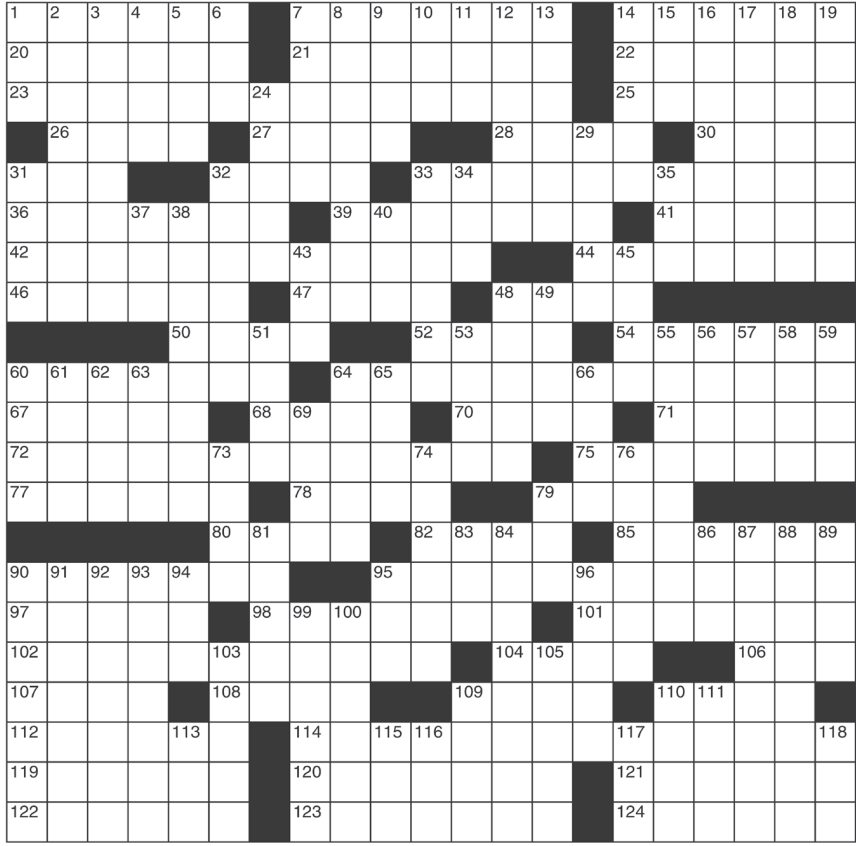
lyn Wren Mitchell, Lizbet Cruz Monroy, Tempe Louise Munach, Hannah Rierison Murphy, Mackenzie Cleo Norris, Kristiane Isabel Perry, Dylan Hailey Philipps, Jordan Michaela Phillips, Pooja Paayal Prasad, Holly Bella Prete, Adelia Rose Rickman, Linsey Nicole Rimmer, Rebekah Brianna Riveland, Courtney Taylor-Mae Robinson, Megan Elliott Rush, Morgan Elliott Rush, Margaret Patricia Safrit, Jayden Kelly Sansom, Zaidaly Delgado Santiago, Dana C Schouten, Lindsay Anne Seitz, Katherine Brown Skeen, Kayleigh Marian Smith, Sarah Grace Smith, Juana Gomez Soriano, Lauren Taylor Sparrow, Graham Brian Stafford, Emily Jean Stecher, Cameron S Stevenson, Sarah Katherine Walters, Abigail Brianna Warf, Tanner Robert Whitt, Molly Grace Wilson



PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

OFF THE GRID

- ACROSS**
 1 Imperfection
 7 1970 Simon & Garfunkel hit
 14 "— Lot" (Stephen King novel)
 20 Geronimo's tribe
 21 Scenting compound
 22 Push forward
 23 Footballer from a major Kansas city?
 25 Dwell (in)
 26 Corp. VIPs
 27 Pimples
 28 "The — of the Ancient Mariner"
 30 Fashion designer
 31 Actor Brynner
 32 Strong urge
 33 Footballer ejected from a nightclub?
 36 She helped Theseus
 39 Imparted fizz to
 41 Critical
 42 Not on a footballer's right?
 44 For the most part
 46 Aristocrat's home
- DOWN**
 47 Formerly
 48 Liberal —
 50 Mai — (rum drinks)
 52 Salvador the surrealist
 54 Hard hitter, biblically
 60 Ship shelters
 64 Footballer with a rod and reel?
 67 PC-sent greeting
 68 Hearing things
 70 Fast shark
 71 Bamboozles
 72 Footballer working as a sound technician?
 75 Matching pullover and cardigan
 77 Old Chrysler
 78 Think
 79 "Uh, pardon me..."
 80 Like Goodwill goods
 82 Apple variety
 85 Humiliated
 90 Expand, as a house
 95 Footballer on a plane trip?
 97 Thin pancake
 98 Envious composer in "Amadeus"
- ACROSS**
 7 Common infant illness
 8 Girl played by Lily Tomlin
 9 Bamboozles
 10 Anger
 11 Quick escape
 12 Stuck going nowhere
 13 When typical workdays start
 14 Self-indulgent
 15 Have existence
 16 Experience a huge failure
 17 Remove hair from, as one's legs
 18 Like doctors' practices
 19 In an aerodynamic way
 24 Early Mexican
 29 '80s Golden Arches burger
 31 Bulldogs' school
 32 Scared (of)
 33 Kennel club classifications
 34 Rowing need
 35 TiVo device
 37 — minimum
 38 Connect-the-points puzzle
 40 Abbr. limiting a list
- DOWN**
 43 Canon — Rebel
 45 Exec. helper
 48 Make — out of (rebut)
 49 Skating place
 51 "It's finally clear"
 53 Woeful cry
 55 Relatives of xylophones
 56 Clickable screen image
 57 Some ring wins, for short
 58 Sommer of "A Shot in the Dark"
 59 Take it easy
 60 A helmet protects it
 61 Take — from (do as suggested by)
 62 Units of absorbed energy
 63 Vigor, in music scores
 64 "Oedipus complex" coiner
 65 Egyptian goddess of fertility
 66 Black-clad teen, maybe
 69 High point
 73 Blowout win
 74 Enshrouded
 76 Mink's cousin
 79 "Mein Gott!"
 81 "Such a pity!"
 83 Erstwhile space station
 84 Troublemaker
 86 Rear, at sea
 87 Marine animal's pelt
 88 Title girl of old comics
 89 Like green or purple hair
 90 Doesn't reject
 91 Embedded, as a nail
 92 "Taking Woodstock" star — Martin
 93 Source of flowing water
 94 Tennis divider
 95 Shark feature
 96 Tot's wheels
 99 Pollen bearer
 100 Lowest parking garage tier, perhaps
 103 "Absolutely!"
 105 Earthy hue, to a Brit
 109 Post-Q string
 110 Fender flaw
 111 Latin "Lo!"
 113 Lyrical verse
 115 Sales staffer
 116 Outer: Prefix
 117 Rio carmaker
 118 Hi — image



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



Wednesday Spotlight



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EXPAND

Continued from page A1

tions. Though Hispanic community leaders say the county has expanded its Spanish resources in recent years — in many cases ahead of neighboring counties — several gaps still persist, including translations for important county alerts and services as well as bilingual staffing.

“In Chatham, it’s gotten so much better,” said Ilana Dubester, executive director of the Hispanic Liaison and an immigrant herself. “... There are still, you know, gaps out there, particularly when it comes to translations, but it certainly has gotten better.”

‘It’s a burden’

When Dubester founded the Liaison in 1995, Chatham’s Spanish-speaking community had just started to grow and few, if any, county forms, documents and services included Spanish translation or interpretation. In that landscape, the Liaison had to dabble in a little bit of everything — from legal matters and utility bills all the way to severe weather alerts.

Initially, that meant a lot of extra work. Despite county strides toward more Spanish-language services, it still does, though no longer as much.

“An organization like ours ... basically plays so many different roles in the community. Because of the particular community we work with, we’re kind of a central location for information, regardless of what information it is,” Dubester said. “It’s a burden that most organizations that have their own mission don’t have to face. They can focus just on their work with youth or whatever it is, and don’t have to worry about all of a sudden informing the community about the weather.”

One such role is helping clients fill out and submit permitting application forms, she said. The Liaison helps clients apply for building permits, among other types, as hardly any permitting forms or applications are available in Spanish.

“If people don’t have folks in their lives that can either send in the forms or help them fill it out,” she said, “then they end up coming to us.”

That’s what Briones Licona did last year. Janet Ramirez, the Liaison’s program and volunteer coordinator, helped him fill out his application.

“Most of it was, like, his name and all that good stuff like contact information, and he was able to do that on his own with little mistakes — none that would have cost him enough to get the permits,” Ramirez said. “But the

hardest part for him was understanding what he was reading.”

That’s why Dubester said she’d like to see the county provide bilingual forms.

Much of the required information — such as names and addresses — would be the same in either language anyway, she said. Plus, bilingual or Spanish forms would mean the Liaison wouldn’t have to translate forms “on-site,” or read an English document aloud in Spanish.

“Having already that language there would take the burden off of our staff to make sure that they are saying exactly what needs to be said,” Dubester said. “And sometimes, you know, they’ll (staff) come to me and say, ‘What did they mean by that?’”

Using accessible Spanish in documents is important, too, Ramirez added.

“So having Spanish, but having it as clear as possible and not as legally as they typically do,” she said. “Because that just does not make any difference — if I was to speak to somebody in a very professional way, or with legal terms, people in our own community who speak (Spanish) would not understand what we’re saying.”

According to Chatham’s Courtney Cooper-Lewter, the county is working toward providing more Spanish resources for things like building permits and inspections.

Last month, she said, the county contracted an agency to provide Spanish translations for its departments, “allowing the county to maintain consistency across Spanish-language translations.”

“This service may be used for items such as forms, applications, presentations and news releases,” said Cooper-Lewter, who is a strategic initiatives analyst with the county manager’s office, in an email to the News + Record. “... And we are currently in the process of using a translation company to translate information that specific departments want on the website like the Tax Revaluation presentation and Library services brochure.”

The county also has access to written and verbal resources in Spanish, Cooper-Lewter said, should Hispanic business owners reach out to county departments.

“The county is working toward translating many of its forms and applications to further streamline this process and improve accessibility,” she said.

Still, most of the county’s website — where much of its forms and

news releases live — is primarily in English. Some news releases have Spanish translations underneath the English message, but not all.

As hurricane season continues, emergency service notifications from the county present another language barrier for people who don’t speak English well.

Chatham County Emergency Communications uses a translation service provided by state 911 funds, but local warning messaging primarily goes out in English, the director of Chatham’s Emergency Management, Steve Newton, previously told the News + Record. The online alert system does not have an option on its sign-up page to opt into Spanish updates, and the information about the systems are in English.

The county’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) provides Spanish-language materials at its recruiting booths, Newton said, along with Spanish basic course training manuals. Additionally, anyone can change Wireless Emergency Alerts from the National Weather Service in Raleigh to Spanish.

“Warnings in Spanish require a bilingual person to translate and record a single message in both English and Spanish,” Newton said in July. “If they are not immediately available, the warning message is broadcast in English and we will evaluate the need to resend the message in other languages.”

In the past, local organizations such as the Hispanic Liaison spread information about approaching hurricanes and resources in Spanish through messaging and its Facebook page. Newton spoke to the importance of work done by groups such as the Hispanic Liaison.

“We lean on our county departments and non-government organizations that routinely serve Spanish-speaking residents to support us with translations and distributing notices and warnings through their established communities,” he said. “The Hispanic Liaison routinely shares disaster and recovery information on their social media pages.”

The county’s website is currently “undergoing a complete redesign,” Cooper-Lewter said, with a translation plug-in to be installed. That new website is expected to launch this fall.

‘It is a priority for us’

Beyond website and document translation efforts, the county is working to engage the Hispanic com-

munity more consistently overall.

During this year’s 250th anniversary celebration for the county, Cooper-Lewter said an emphasis was placed on “authentically engaging” all of Chatham’s communities, including the Hispanic community. These efforts included bilingual Chatham 250 social media posts, along with featuring notable Hispanic Chatham residents in its Change-makers profile series.

The county also partnered with the Hispanic Liaison during the 2020 Census to increase Hispanic participation in the census, including Spanish flyers, social media posts and Facebook Live events.

“Chatham County will remain committed to providing Spanish-language materials and communications to our Hispanic/Latinx community,” Cooper-Lewter said.

That need was especially evident last year, she said, as COVID-19 highlighted the need for Spanish-language materials at the county level — particularly as Chatham’s Hispanic community was hit especially hard in the early months of the pandemic. Though Chatham’s population is 12% Hispanic, 34% of its total confirmed coronavirus cases are among Hispanic residents, according to the state’s COVID-19 data.

As a result, the Chatham County Public Health Department launched a comprehensive COVID-19 portal on its website in Spanish (Coronavirus en Español).

“With the CCPHD’s equity focus, it will continue to translate public health information, particularly in the digital sphere,” Cooper-Lewter said.

The health department also published bilingual social media posts, flyers and news releases. While efforts to increase Spanish resources are particularly evident with CCPHD, Cooper-Lewter said such efforts span all the county’s departments.

“As the Spanish-speaking population grows in Chatham County, it is a priority for us to reach these individuals through a variety of methods,” she said. “We are actively working to increase access to information and resources in Spanish.”

‘Many Hispanics do not have access’

When Briones Licona called the county to discuss his permit applications, staff answered him in English. He did his best to communicate, but he struggled.

“Yes, I can speak for myself a little, but not as well as I would like,” he said. “... There are words in English that I’ve never heard in my life. Perhaps they’re objects or things

I’ve never seen.”

Going to the county offices in Pittsboro didn’t change things.

“When you go to the offices, in reality,” he said, “well, if you’re Hispanic, they kind of push you aside and it’s just for not speaking English, or that is, not understanding it 100%.”

Spanish speakers don’t just need translated or bilingual forms, Dubester said; they also need bilingual assistance, especially from county staff who know “how to do things that we didn’t know how to answer.”

In Briones Licona’s case, the process was relatively straightforward, save for pandemic delays, according to Ramirez. Other permitting processes, however, aren’t always so straightforward — and often stretch Ramirez and others to the limits of their knowledge.

One client, for instance, purchased a flipper home.

“So that was a bit more hard, because it required that they had, like, sketches of what we’re going to change and things (that) are obviously above my knowledge,” Ramirez said. “I have very little knowledge while drafting and so things like that were hard for me, and then required me to reach out to other friends and community members to get this investigated. It was very time consuming, in addition to the normal work that we do.”

As the go-between, many times Ramirez and other Liaison staff have to find out what requirements clients have to meet and then explain the process to them. But they also have to make clients understand just how long the process may take. Building permits, Dubester said, usually takes more than one visit or phone call because the county might have further questions that clients can’t answer.

“They have to go back and come back to us, and then some of those also require a drawing, and so we need to explain to them what’s needed and we then go back to the property and try to figure out what the drawing looks like and then come back, and then we help them draw,” Dubester said. “And so it takes a couple hours or more to help somebody through that process — for, like, the building permit, for example.”

It’s a familiar burden, Dubester said, though one that’s lightened considerably since the Liaison first formed more than 25 years ago. In the early years, she remembers how the county’s Department of Social Services didn’t provide any interpretation services.

It took “some big pushing,” she said, to inspire DSS to begin hiring interpreters and eventually

bilingual staff — a push that involved attorneys and demand letters. At one point, the Liaison’s staff even refused to accompany clients to DSS, which they’d done in the beginning.

“But we would spend like four hours at DSS just waiting in line,” Dubester said. “It was impossible. We couldn’t spend that much time with one client for a government agency that is required by law to abide by Title VI.”

But since then, the county has made significant strides toward improving its bilingual staffing ratio, she said. Agencies have more bilingual staffers “than ever” in crucial positions, like in the court system, and in that sense, she said Chatham’s probably 15 years ahead of Lee County, where the Liaison just recently opened a satellite office.

“It took a while to turn that corner,” she said, “and then once that corner turned, it was like a tidal wave in terms of awareness and commitment to serving the community.”

Today, Chatham County’s government has four trained Spanish interpreters, with other bilingual staff across various departments, said Cooper-Lewter, including 11 in the health department.

But hiring even more bilingual personnel, Dubester said, would go a long way toward making the process easier for Spanish speakers, as well as the Liaison. Ramirez also hopes to see the county establish an online landing page with all its Spanish-speaking resources, along with a phone line or Spanish-speaking residents to call with questions.


“You know, if there’s somebody who is low-literacy level (and) needed that help, they might go into the department and ask for that help and get it because they can’t write,” Dubester said. “But for a Hispanic, that’s not quite an option.”

Despite language hiccups, Briones Licona said he had a good experience with the county overall, if a little delayed because of the pandemic. And now that he knows what he needs to do, he’s thinking about applying for more permits to move more double-wide mobile homes.

“All (the county) really need(s) is to have both languages because there are a lot of people here who don’t speak any English,” he said. “Many Hispanics do not have access to help, so speaking Spanish is very important to them. Hiring someone in the office who is bilingual would be much better.”

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





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RETURNING HOME

'Unfinished business': J-M softball star-turned-coach Holly Clark has opportunity to rekindle Jets' success

Charleston Southern University pitcher Holly Clark (in uniform) poses with her family during the Buccaneers' senior day celebrations. Clark, the new head coach of J-M softball, played five seasons in Charleston after a decorated career in Siler City.



Submitted photo

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — In 2014, Jordan-Matthews was one win away from the school's first-ever softball state championship.

The Jets — in the midst of a 23-4 season (10-0 in the Mid-State 2A Conference) — forced Game 3 against East Rutherford by overcoming a 3-0 deficit in Game 2 to earn a close win, 4-3, tying the series at one game apiece.

In the tournament's finale, played in Raleigh, just three hours after Game 2's conclu-

sion, the Cavaliers captured the 2A state title in a nine-inning affair, 4-2, ending hopes of a miraculous J-M comeback and leaving the Jets' trophy case a little emptier than it could have been.

Holly Clark, a sophomore on that 2014 team, still remembers the heartbreak of losing that series seven years later.

"I don't remember how many innings we played (during that series), I think we had a doubleheader one day where we played seven innings one game and the next game went nine ... I have never in

my life been that tired," Clark said. "We got really close to winning the state championship, a few times, actually, and as soon as I left J-M, I was like, 'I'm coming back.'"

Now, Clark has a shot at redemption.

In early July, just a couple of short months after finishing her career at Charleston Southern University in South Carolina, Clark was officially hired as the Jets' newest head softball coach, taking over for former head coach

See **CLARK**, page B3

The NCHSAA is in trouble. Or is it?

High school sports in North Carolina are nearing a dramatic change.

Or maybe they aren't. At this point, it's a toss-up. But either way, you should be paying attention.

Republicans in the General Assembly have long been at odds with the N.C. High School Athletic Association, but a recent bill may lead to the association's demise.

On July 20, Senate Republicans introduced a revised version of House Bill 91, which would see the NCHSAA's 108-year oversight of high school athletics in the state come to an end, replacing it with a 17-member commission called the North Carolina Interscholastic Athletic Commission (NCIAC), consisting of public school employees (athletic directors, superintendents, principals, etc.) that would be appointed by various N.C. politicians.

But why? Essentially, some members of the state legislature are upset that the NCHSAA hasn't seemed willing to cooperate with them in regards to concerns over the organization's finances.

In April, a months-long investigation into the organization by the legislature revealed that the NCHSAA's total assets, valued at over \$41 million, put it ahead of all other state athletic associations in the country.

Senate Republicans have expressed concern about an im-

See **NCHSAA**, page B2

PITTSBORO'S EMMAUS HOLDER | CYCLING FOR A CAUSE

FASD advocate returns from 4,300-mile cross-country research trip



Submitted photo

Emmaus Holder rides his bike through Los Angeles on the final day of his cross-country cycling trip, which doubled as a research trip centered around fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD).

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — An adventurous spirit — a cyclist, runner, backpacker and self-proclaimed explorer — 19-year-old Pittsboro resident and UNC-Chapel Hill student Emmaus Holder has long dreamt of packing a bag, throwing it on the rear of his bike and taking a tour across Europe.

But as the COVID-19 pandemic closed borders, restricted international travel and forced lockdowns across the world, his hopes of an international bikepacking trip would have to wait.

Instead, he used this summer as a way to not only scratch his intrepid itch, but conduct important research and inspire change along the way.

"So I thought, 'Why not do a domestic trip?'" Holder told the News + Record a couple of days after returning home



Submitted photo

Pittsboro's Emmaus Holder (in white helmet) hugs his younger sister, Mia (in blue), after reaching the finish line of his cross-country cycling trip at a pier in Los Angeles. Holder's family traveled all the way to the West Coast to see him finish the journey on July 12.

from Los Angeles last week. "When I was thinking about all of the really cool things that you can learn from America just from traveling across the U.S., I realized I also wanted to put some purpose behind the trip."

Holder has two adopted brothers, aged 13 and 14, who have been diagnosed with a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), a selection of disorders that are caused by a baby's exposure to alcohol in utero.

Since the adoption — and diagnosis — of his brothers, he's become more passionate about FASDs, striving to learn more about them and increase public awareness of the issue, which affects a staggering 1 in 20 children in the U.S.

So, he turned it into a research trip. Two months before he was set to leave, Holder began networking with organizations across the country that provide resources to those with FASDs,

such as the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Proof Alliance.

His goal? To find people in cities around the U.S. that would be willing to share their own stories about FASD as part of his research.

"(I wanted) to find people who would be willing to talk to me about their experiences with both the physical and emotional challenges of FASD," Holder said, "and with the challenges of a broken system that doesn't know how to take care of those people."

Based on his networking and planning, he created a 4,300-mile long route from Topsail Beach on North Carolina's coast to Los Angeles with nearly two dozen points plotted along the way — many of which made the route less linear — which represented people he'd

See **HOLDER**, page B3

Conference realignment takes away key piece of college football

Much was lost from the college football experience in 2020.

Roaring stadiums were replaced by artificial crowd noise and tailgates turned into days of watching football on the couch.

But there was one thing I missed more than any: marching bands.

Make fun of me all you want or call me a traditionalist, but something about a DJ blaring Eminem's "Till I Collapse" on third down doesn't get me going like a marching band.

It's traditions like these that make college football so

special. The annual matchups between bitter rivals such as Michigan vs. Ohio State, Alabama vs. Auburn and Miami vs. Florida State can't compare to anything that professional sports offer. These games divide states, and sometimes families, awarding bragging rights for the next 365 days.

So watching Big 12 schools Oklahoma and Texas, two of college football's most historic programs, announce last week that they had voted to accept the SEC's invitation to join the conference after the 2025 season, was a gut punch. The move will essentially end the Big 12 as it currently exists and will likely lead to other conference realignments around the country.

What will happen to in-state rivalries like Oklahoma vs. Oklahoma State and Texas vs. TCU?

It will leave the schools blindsided by the move in a desperate situation to potentially find a new conference. It will create an even greater disparity between the college football conferences and will beg the question whether college football even needs conferences at all.

"What's becoming abundantly clear, and I hate to say this because I've always tried to fight it, is people are trying to stay at the top," college football analyst Kirk Herbstreit said on ESPN. "They're trying to compete with the SEC, and it's all about money. It's no longer

about tradition. It's no longer about the things that I think college football has always kind of tried to stand itself on top of and really look at and appreciate rivalries and tradition and things of that nature."

For two schools engrained with rich college football tradition, it's ironic to see that they would value money over the rivalries they've formed with Big 12 schools over decades. Obviously, football isn't the only sport affected by this decision. But with revenue being the main goal to those at the top, it seems that football was the catalyst for this decision.

Texas and Oklahoma aren't the first two schools to make a move like this and they certainly won't be the last. Mis-

souri and Texas A&M both left the Big 12 for the SEC almost 10 years ago. However, it's the first conference realignment in recent history to shift the balance of the sport in a way that will create a super conference.

But this move strips fans of the core of what makes college football so great. And just like marching bands in 2020, we may not realize how much we miss these traditions until they're gone.

CN+R Intern Max Baker can be reached at max@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@Maxbakr_15](https://twitter.com/Maxbakr_15).

Wolves' Hawkins talks first season success, runners to watch in 2021 campaign

The fall athletic season began this week with tryouts starting for seven different sports across the county on Monday ahead of Aug. 23's start to the school year. Cross country — one of just three sports, alongside volleyball and swimming, to start their seasons last November — is slated to get up and running over the next two weeks, with programs like Woods Charter and Northwood looking to make big returns to the state meets this year.

Woods Charter was one of the top programs in the county last season, sending five runners from the women's team to the 1A NCHSAA State Championships in Kernersville in January, finishing in sixth place as a team with freshman Ellie Poitras (4th place, 20:16.03) leading the way.

This week, in the second edition of The Clipboard — a series featuring coaches and sports figures from across Chatham — we speak with Karen Hawkins, second-year head coach of the Wolves, who's in the midst of her first real offseason with the team this summer.

Hawkins has worked as a cross country coach for the last eight years, including a three-year stint at Leesville Road High School in Raleigh as the head coach, followed by a four-year stay as an assistant coach at Panther Creek High School in Cary. In 2020, she joined the Wolves as the head coach for men's and women's cross country,

where she helped lead the women's team to a state meet appearance.

When you look back at last season with all of its challenges, what are you the most proud of?

KAREN HAWKINS: For me, the commitment from the students, the runners, I was most proud of because it was so unpredictable and there were constant changes and there was constant confusion about when will we begin practice, when will the season begin, when will the first week be, what will that look like? And then we did have to make adjustments sometimes due to contact tracing, or other challenges that a lot of teams faced due to COVID. The fact that they stuck with it and gave it their best, to me, that was the most inspiring, too, because it wasn't like a typical season.

One of the things that I'm normally used to doing is pasta dinners or team celebrations that are just team activities that we felt were unsafe to do, so it was pretty much strictly coming to practice, keeping our distance and going to meets. There was little camaraderie and just the general fun that comes with a normal season and, again, it showed that they were committed. I think they found a positive in all that, though. I think they saw the silver lining despite it being unusual. They rallied around each other and were really supportive of each other. I think, for me, that was most exceptional on their part.

Last year, five members of the women's team made it to the state championship meet. How are you going

to try and build off of that success this season?

The girls have told me that they want to go back to states; they enjoyed that experience and I think that's one thing that we're harping on this year. Let's keep this going and try to make it back and maybe try to improve upon our performance and crack into the top five this year. It requires our runners to be there as much as possible and to push each other. It's hard to run by yourself, it's not as much fun, so being together helps us all and helped us get pretty far last year. I'm hopeful that message is still in their mind but I'll try to remind them of that as much as possible.

We haven't talked much about the boys yet, but that was because — not to go too much into detail — we had a lot of freak injuries — broken collarbones, knee issues, a number of things that were just due to bad luck — and then we also had a few that had been in contact with someone with COVID last year, so the day before the meet they would find out and we, of course, couldn't have them race, so that was really disappointing for them. I'm hopeful this year we'll have a full squad and they can also join the girls at the state meet.

With this being your first actual offseason as the Wolves' head coach, what does the workout program look like for you guys right now, especially compared to the way it looked last year?

I'm hopeful that this year we can have a plan that we can stick with. We began summer practices last year in June, just like we did this year,

with the hope that we would have the season starting in August, but that was pushed back to November, so we had to stop what we were doing, take some time off and then come back. I'm hopeful this year that we can — since we started in mid-June — that we can keep building upon this and not have the stop-start. It's possible that could happen for other reasons, but I'm hopeful that we can have the consistency of a plan. We also have some meets that we can target that we have on the schedule, as well, that we weren't sure about last year, so I think that comes with a little bit more excitement, maybe, because last year it was hard to get excited because you were wondering, well, when is it going to end? Is it going to continue? So I think the excitement is a little bit greater from what I can tell. We're getting our runs in about four or five times a week, we meet out at Woods, so it's mostly just building up mileage, just longer, what I call conversational-paced runs, where they're not out of breath, but they're getting their longer runs in. Then we'll start to do some faster stuff here soon.

Who are the individuals that you're intrigued or excited to see run this year, to see how they'll improve upon last season?

I'm very excited to see all of them return and build upon last year, so I definitely want to see that for sure, but one that comes to mind first might be Wiley Sikes because he didn't have a chance to finish his season last year. He was building his way and had to stop right when he was kind of getting some momen-

tum, so I'm really looking forward to seeing him and how far he can take his season. He'll be a junior and I do think he'll be very competitive in the region and hopefully at the state meet, if he makes it.

On the girls side, Ellie Poitras, she finished first in the second section — they had two sections last year at states — so she won that section, but as well as she ran, I think she has a lot more in her. I also think, as she's a year older, she can compete with some of the girls that she was not able to race against last year in the second section. She's been putting in some good work and she ran track this past outdoor spring season and did very well there, so she's coming off of a strong freshman year and I think her sophomore year will be even better. She's very talented, but she works extremely hard and she's very competitive. I've personally never seen her do anything less than what I'd consider her best, so that's something that's also good for our team.

We have a lot of runners like that, that give it their all and help everyone around them. I'd also say Maddie Sparrow on the girls side, she's a rising junior, I think she has a lot of growth to show this year. She was our No. 2 runner consistently last year. We also have returned Chloe Richard, she's like a lot of our girls, they're multi-sport athletes, so she plays soccer pretty heavily but yet she finds the time to come out for the cross country team and I think she would agree that it's helping her soccer, but at the same

time, it's something that I think she's learning to enjoy.

And there are so many boys to name that just had their season cut short. Wiley Sikes to Collin Thompson, who's going to be a rising junior, that I'm looking forward to seeing how he does. And then Ethan Green, he's a rising sophomore, he had a really good end to his year and really showed a lot of leadership as a freshman. When we did lose a lot of our boys, he was a consistent hard worker and we really saw a lot of growth at the end of the year, so I think keeping him healthy, we can see even more leadership and contributions to the team.

What are you most excited about going into this upcoming season?

There's a lot of things. Our first week of tryouts, we tend to do a mile time trial, so — even though it's a lot shorter distance than what we normally do — I think it's a fun way for the kids to do something fast and give me insight into their fitness. And then the first meet we have on Aug. 21 is a 3K, so not quite a 5K, but I also look forward to those 3Ks because it's kind of a beginning part of racing, but it's a short enough distance that, as they're growing in their endurance and their aerobic ability, they can still have fun with it. Plus, it's still warm, so shorter is often better until it cools off a little bit. So I'm looking forward to that meet on the 21st, it's at Rolesville High School and it's actually a new event. That's where the fun happens is at the races, so I'm looking forward to seeing how the kids do there.

NCHSAA

Continued from page B1

balance in the dispersal of the organization's funds, calling into question what its money — including its endowment fund of \$26.5 million, according to NCHSAA Commissioner Que Tucker — is going toward.

However, as determined as some legislators — including Sen. Todd Johnson (R-Union), Sen. Tom McInnis (R-Richmond), Sen. Vickie Sawyer (R-Iredell) and Rep. John Bell (R-Wayne) — appeared to be to dissolve the NCHSAA at first, recent events may have turned the tide in the association's favor.

On July 28, state lawmakers and members of the association, including Tucker and NCHSAA Board of Directors President Bobby Wilkins, had a closed-door meeting in Raleigh to take what Johnson called “a positive first step” in ironing out potential legislation and mending the relationship between the two parties.

Now, it's unclear as to whether or not members of the legislature will continue to pursue the dissolution of the NCHSAA, but based on comments made after the meeting, there's a chance the revised HB 91 was nothing more than a scare tactic for the legislature to get what it wanted from the NCHSAA: attention and obedience.

“I think that's what you heard from both sides of the aisle, that we need to fix the organization, but there needs to be some framework and legislation

around what that looks like,” Sawyer told the media after the meeting's conclusion. “Do I wake up in the morning and say, ‘I want the North Carolina High School Athletic Association to die?’ No. I never at any point did that, but unfortunately it took House Bill 91 to get them finally to the table.”

While we wait patiently to see if legislators choose to once again revise HB 91 and strike any mention of the NCHSAA's destruction from the legislation, let's take a look at the response to the bill from those within high school sports circles. In a recent survey of 427 athletic directors sent out by HighSchoolOT.com, 86.1% — or 198 of the 230 ADs that responded — said they were in opposition to HB 91 and the dissolution of the NCHSAA.

One of the survey's respondents was Northwood Athletic Director Cameron Vernon, who told the News + Record last week that he opposed HB 91 and the legislature's handling of the situation.

“I think there's a disconnect with the legislature that they don't really know what the NCHSAA does,” Vernon said. “They're unhappy with some of the things (the NCHSAA) has done in the past ... but I think they need to communicate that and allow the association to make some changes. That's what we do every day as teachers and coaches and athletic directors. We coach, we mentor, we give suggestions and we allow people to improve themselves.”

Vernon expressed concern in the ability of the

NCHSAA to run high school athletics if the NCHSAA was to be dissolved, pointing out that the 17 appointees may not be ready to take on the responsibility of what is “a full-time job.”

According to Vernon, he's never heard an athletic director speak very negatively about the NCHSAA, citing the work the association does in setting rules and regulations, handling transfers, providing officials, laying out health and safety guidelines, hosting concussion trainings, rule interpretations and leadership clinics for why he'd be upset to see the NCHSAA go.

“They're always there, they're always a phone call away,” Vernon said. “We may not always like what they say or their rulings or maybe even how they do things, but for most athletic directors, we do respect them.”

When asked about HB 91 in a text message, Jordan-Matthews Athletic Director Josh Harris responded simply with, “From what I have heard, nobody wants the NCHSAA dissolved.”

In addition to the AD survey, a group of 100 officials from the Triangle Basketball Officials Association released a signed statement last week that said the organization opposes HB 91, supporting the association's continued oversight of high school sports and its officiating.

To summarize: the number of people within high school athletics around the state that support the dissolution of the NCHSAA is incredibly minute.

With such a large amount of opposition to HB 91 from athletic

directors to officials to the general public across the state — along with fair criticism of the future NCIAC's ability to run the show — the General Assembly is better off leaving the oversight of high school athletics to the association that's been at it for over a century.

Provide an avenue for the NCHSAA to change some of its oversight tactics and be more transparent with its finances, but otherwise, leave it be. It's what's best.

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



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HOLDER

Continued from page B1

stop to interview.

He also added a fundraising component to his trip, starting a GoFundMe page to benefit NCFASD Informed, a Chapel Hill-based non-profit group that aims to foster “a world where individuals with FASD can thrive,” according to its website, primarily through education.

With the campaign, Holder raised more than \$4,500 for the organization through 76 separate donations throughout his trip.

And on May 20 — strapped with a \$6,000 Morehead-Cain scholarship grant to supplement his research, camping supplies and his bike — Holder left Topsail Beach and embarked on a journey that would take nearly two months to complete.

‘Everyone feels isolated’

Though you may not be familiar with the name, FASDs are extremely common in the United States.

A 2020 report published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine detailed a 2018 study that found that 11.3% of pregnant women aged 18-44 admitted to having at least one drink of an alcoholic beverage in the last 30 days.

Because of those statistics, it’s estimated that FASDs affect 5% of all children in the U.S., according to studies by Philip May and other FASD researchers. For those in the foster care system, the number of children exposed to alcohol in utero jumps to around 60%, said Kathy Hotelling, board chairperson for NCFASD Informed.

However, there’s a chance it could be even higher. It all comes down to individual diagnoses.

“It’s extremely underdiagnosed, so it’s likely that number is much bigger,” Holder said. “We can’t actually say for sure how different, but even within the known communities, only 15% show facial features and other physical features. Having heard an experience that people won’t give the same kind of diagnosis to those without physical components, it’s honestly kind of ridiculous.”

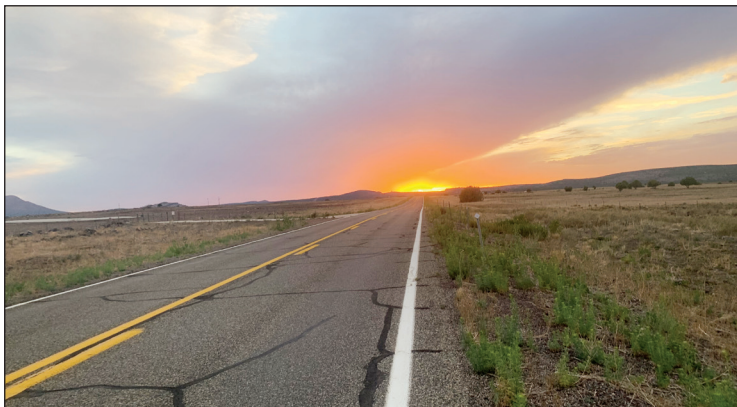
With FASDs being spectrum disorders, there are lots of ways people can be affected.

It’s not a one-size-fits-all condition.

Some people with FASDs show physical features — such as a smooth ridge between the nose and upper lip — and many others don’t. Those with FASDs can have speech delays, learning disabilities, vision/hearing problems, behavioral issues, attention/memory difficulties, poor coordination and a plethora of other effects that can vary depending on how much alcohol was ingested by the mother and in what period of the pregnancy the drinking occurred.

But due to a lack of education and awareness about FASDs, even among physicians, getting officially diagnosed can be a painstakingly difficult process if one is a member of the 85-90% who don’t show physical signs.

“I moved (to N.C.) from Illinois 15 years ago and it took me 10 1/2 years to get my daughter diagnosed,” Hotelling said, referring to her 27-year-



Submitted photo

One of the many ‘amazing’ views — from sunsets to mountain top perspectives — that Emmaus Holder captured photos of during his cross-country cycling trip over the last couple of months.

old daughter that she adopted at 4 months old in Russia, who has an FASD. “My daughter passes, as I call it, for neurotypical, which is a problem in itself because people expect her to be able to do things she can’t do.”

Hotelling said her daughter, who doesn’t exhibit physical features related to FASDs, had seizures until she was 8 years old — not atypical for those with an FASD — and other various problems. She’d been to a cardiologist, four neurologists, a gastroenterologist, a developmental pediatrician and taken part in physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy programs. But none of them could quite tell her what was wrong.

That is, until a clinic in Chicago gave her daughter an FASD diagnosis, which is what Hotelling had suspected for years.

The diagnosis allowed her daughter to apply for support services through Medicaid, which Hotelling recommends all newly diagnosed families do immediately because there’s a chance you could be waiting for up to a decade.

In North Carolina, there’s something called the N.C. Innovations Waiver that is “designed to meet the needs of Individuals with Intellectual or Development Disabilities (I/DD) who prefer to get long-term care services and support in their home or community,” according to the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services’ website. An official diagnosis is required to apply.

It essentially allows those diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental disability, like an FASD, to receive a wide range of in-home care and other support options, rather than being institutionalized. But its waitlist, titled the Registry of Unmet Need, is unfathomably lengthy.

“Even if a person believes that their child will not need support services, I recommend they get on it,” Hotelling said. “If you’ve got 13,000 that have it and 14,000 that are waiting — the legislature is the one that says how many (slots) are available per year, and it’s often about 100 per year, which doesn’t make much of a dent, but this year it’s about 600 — that’s still not a very large portion of those that are waiting.”

Holder’s brothers had a much easier time getting diagnosed, since one of them exhibits facial features evident of an FASD, and their biological mother has also admitted to alcohol use while pregnant.

Though, their journey — which has seen them go in-and-out of medical institutions due to behavioral issues — has

been far from easy, a common thread among many people diagnosed with FASD.

“(All of this) shows how our medical system and how the institutions and organizations that take care of people with disabilities have completely disregarded this invisible disability,” Holder said. “Everyone feels isolated.”

‘This is amazing, this is ridiculous’

While most cyclists making cross-country trips tend to follow one of the few well-known coast-to-coast routes — such as the TransAmerica Bike Route from Astoria, Oregon, to Yorktown, Virginia — Holder’s adventure took a different path.

He based his route primarily on the people he was interviewing, which took him from North Carolina to Tennessee, to Kentucky, to Indiana, to Ohio, back to Indiana, to Illinois, to Iowa, to Nebraska, to Colorado, to Utah, to Arizona and then, finally, to California, where he crossed the finish line.

On a normal day, Holder would wake up around 5 or 6 a.m. and spend an hour getting ready and putting everything — food, water, toiletries, repair kits, medkits, clothes, electronics — on his bike.

He’d typically ride for two or three hours before stopping for food and water — one of his four major meals of the day, which was a necessity, given the amount of energy he exerted by riding each day.

“I had about a 6,000-calorie diet, so that was fun, because I had to burn so many calories,” Holder said with a laugh. “I had snacks on the bike, as well. I’d carry a good amount of food. I didn’t have the healthiest diet, but calories are calories.”

On average, he’d ride about 40 to 50 miles before lunch, then another 50 or 60 in the afternoon. Aside from his time crossing over the Rockies, which slowed him down because of the huge elevation gains, he averaged around 115 miles per day.

Holder estimates that he slept in his tent about 35% of the time, spending the other 65% staying in the homes of either his interviewees or hosts he found via Warmshowers, an app for discovering places to sleep while on road trips.

On occasion, he’d opt for a hotel room or an Airbnb.

In total, he rode his bike on 47 of the trip’s 56 days, nine of which were used to focus on interviews and give his legs a breather.

While he never had any days where he flat-out didn’t feel like riding, he did have moments where pain and exhaus-

tion caught up to him. The Fourth of July was particularly bad.

He was coming through Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Kanab, Utah. His legs were “destroyed,” he recalls, and he ended up breaking down at a gas station. He stopped for the night, only going 87 of the 120 miles he planned to ride that day.

“My head just did not want to keep going,” Holder said. “But then, the day afterward, I had one of the best days of the whole trip. My legs felt absolutely amazing. I ended up camping under the stars. It was amazing.”

This was just one example of his journey’s many ups and downs.

Some days, Holder’s bike broke in outrageous ways — including a crank bolt (a small part attached to the pedal) that snapped in half, along with an entirely broken right pedal — or he’d have to deal with forest fires, rock blastings, torrential downpours, unbearable heat or seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

He even traveled through the Mojave Desert at the same time that the historic heatwave washed over the Western U.S. in late June/early July.

“It was pretty ridiculous, I did not sleep very well in that,” Holder said, chuckling. “I ended up waking up at 4 a.m. every day for the three days that I was in the Mojave, riding until noon, then sitting in a gas station or something for like six hours while it was 120 degrees outside, then riding from 6:30ish when the sun set to around 11 p.m.”

However, he said that despite the less-than-ideal points of his trip, the highs undoubtedly outweighed the lows. He documented all of it on his Instagram page, @emmaus_holder, writing out the best and worst parts of every day through posts and stories.

“I think having that moment of reflection, recapping all of these amazing things that I saw during the day, it’s like, ‘Oh, man, this is amazing, this is ridiculous. It’s so cool and I’m actually doing it,’” Holder said. “It’s like, man, how can I feel ungrateful or have doubts about this when I get to see all this amazing stuff?”

He experienced some of the country’s greatest natural wonders, including a night of camping at the Grand Canyon and a picture-perfect mountain top view after a tough climb in the Appalachians.

He met some of the kindest strangers, too, one of which gave him a gallon of water to fuel him on his trek and another, a bike shop owner, who grabbed a crank bolt from his personal collection to help fix Holder’s bike in Iowa.

And, above all else, the trip allowed him to raise awareness about FASD, gain the perspective of other families who have been affected and conduct empirical, sociological research, something he said he hopes to do more of.

“I think on top of learning about how difficult FASD is, you see how amazing and kind people are, so it’s kind of this dichotomy of what our country is,” Holder said. “It’s this blindness in that we don’t know what’s happening here and it’s kind of difficult to deal with, but then there’s also this

overwhelming kindness. It’s something that needs to be rectified.”

‘I’m kind of flooded with emotions’

Holder, less than a week after returning from his trip, has already started to analyze and transcribe the interviews and research he’s gathered over the last couple of months.

While there isn’t a set plan for what he wants to do with his research, he has hopes that he’ll be able to consolidate everything he’s learned into a research paper — or master’s/doctoral thesis — for school, a peer-reviewed article or two that’ll be published in academic journals and, if possible, a book down the road.

He plans to do additional research on the subject in the future — this trip was just the beginning.

His work will be multi-layered, with him taking a journalistic approach to his trip, recalling snippets of stories he heard from his interviews and documenting his family’s struggles with FASD, but also taking a critical academic approach to fixing the broken systems that are in charge of taking care of those with FASD.

“A lot of the major problems that our country is dealing with right now and the world is dealing with right now is educating people,” Holder said. “So the intent is to get it published in as many places as possible, get as much exposure as possible and educate people in the right way.”

Education is one of the many aspects of a bipartisan bill recently introduced in Congress entitled the FASD Respect Act, which, if passed, would create an FASD Task Force, expand support options for those diagnosed with FASDs and prioritize teaching schools and foster parents correct ways to aid children with FASDs.

Hotelling and many other FASD advocates around the country are working to boost support for the bill, while Holder said there have been talks about him possibly speaking in front of Congress to talk about the bill’s significance, but nothing’s set in stone just yet.

This bill, along with work being done by Holder, Hotelling and other FASD researchers has the potential to create change in the stigmatization and ignorance surrounding both alcoholism and FASDs, Holder said.

At least, that’s the goal. “I’m very grateful for the fact that I had this opportunity ... because it’s an all-encompassing adventure that’s very life-changing and shaped a lot of who I am and what I want to be,” Holder said. “I’m hopeful of the capacity for change that it has in the sense that it’s an area that so few people know about. ... There’s a lot of tension and anxiety as to whether or not my research will actually make a difference, but I think it certainly will in many ways. It’s just been amazing for my development in advocating for the FASD community. I’m kind of flooded with emotions.”

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

CLARK

Continued from page B1

Rick Willoughby, who opted not to return for the upcoming season.

During her high school career, from 2012 to 2016, the Jets knocked on the title’s door nearly every season, but could never get over the hump.

Over the final three seasons of her tenure, the Jets were a combined 73-9 with losses in the state championship (2014), Sweet 16 (2015) and Elite Eight (2016). Few teams were as consistent as they were.

Clark was a three-time all-conference, all-district and all-state pitcher who was one of the top leaders on the squad.

“We have some unfinished business,” Clark said. “What I’ve spoken into existence five years ago is exactly where I am now. It literally gives me chills. ... That’s why it’s

so exciting, because I feel like I was meant to be in this position.”

After graduating from J-M in 2016, Clark went on to pitch for the Buccaneers at CSU, where she posted a 28-33 record over five seasons in Charleston — including an extra year of eligibility she received due to the COVID-19 pandemic cutting the 2020 season short.

In what may come as a surprise, those five years also came with plenty of turmoil at the head coaching position for CSU, with Clark having three different head coaches during her college career. In a way, though, she liked it.

“Looking back, I got to learn three different (coaching) styles, three different ways to do things,” Clark said. “So just having the experience of a bigger number of coaches, which some people would not want at a



Submitted photo

Charleston Southern University pitcher Holly Clark winds up to throw a pitch during a game for the Buccaneers.

Division I school, I used it to my advantage because I learned a lot as a player and coach, especially this last year, when I started really paying attention to the coaching side of it.”

Clark takes over the J-M job without any formal coaching experience under her belt, but says she learned a lot

during her time as a student-athlete at a Division I program and is excited to implement some of her own ideas, even if she hasn’t yet figured out her true coaching style.

She’s sure to have a tall task on her hands, too.

Since she graduated in 2016, the Jets haven’t quite had the same luster.

In 2017, J-M made it to the Elite Eight in a 19-7 season, but lost to Eastern Randolph, 12-4, to end the year.

The following four seasons — including the pandemic-shortened 2020 season where the Jets were 1-3 at the stopping point — the team went a combined 26-34 with just one trip to the playoffs (a first-round exit in 2018).

Clark said she recognizes the drop in expectations for the team over the last few seasons and that her goal is to get J-M back to form with hopes that it’ll get with the school — and town — excited about softball again.

“For months now, I’ve been thinking about what I’m going to say to (the players) because I know I’m young and I know it’s my first year out of college, but I don’t doubt myself,” Clark said. “It’s just going to have to be a culture shift ... trying to

figure out a good balance between having higher expectations, but having a blast while we’re doing it.”

While the softball season won’t begin until February, she’s planning to host workouts later this fall in an attempt to get her team ready and drum up interest in the program.

And as a self-proclaimed “hometown girl,” Clark’s just excited to get the ball rolling.

“The opportunity, the timing was just perfect,” Clark said. “I’m really excited to be back on campus and work there (as a physical education teacher), then being the softball coach is a big bonus for me. I have no idea what challenges will be thrown my way, but that’s part of the excitement. I will always accept the challenge.”

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

‘We’re ready to roll’: Seaforth hosts youth sports camps to gear up for its inaugural school year

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Few schools in the county have been as busy as Seaforth this summer.

In the midst of building an athletic program from scratch, Seaforth continues to work toward cultivating a community around a school that has yet to host its first sporting event, teach its first class or serve its first cafeteria meal.

Along with other high schools in the county, the Hawks have hosted a few different youth sports camps this summer, including basketball, baseball and volleyball, along with an “All-Sports Camp” last Friday, which saw campers going through drills in football, soccer, basketball and baseball to make them “the perfect athlete,” claimed the camp’s flyer.

And they’ve seen success.

There were about 40 campers at the All-Sports Camp, with those numbers jumping to more than 70 campers at the volleyball camp and more than 80 at the baseball camp.

Seaforth has also made it a point to sign elementary-aged students up for the Junior Hawks Club, which costs \$50 annually and gives students a Junior Hawks T-shirt



Submitted photo

An unidentified camper at Seaforth’s All-Sports Youth Camp shoots a jumper during the basketball portion of the camp last Friday.

and a season pass to all Seaforth athletic events, among other benefits.

While most students attending camps and joining the Junior Hawks Club won’t be taking classes at Seaforth anytime soon, it’s all part of Athletic Director Jason Amy’s plan to get the community excited about the future of Seaforth Athletics.

“In Chatham County, we’re not used to change, we’re not used to growth, we’re used to what we’ve got and I’ve been living here long enough to say that,” Amy told the News + Record last Friday. “Now, the time has come, where here we are. We knew it was coming, but now you’ve got to pinch yourself because we start fall sports on (Aug.



Submitted photo

Campers at Seaforth’s All-Sports Youth Camp practice playing football, one of four sports campers participated in during the camp on July 30.

2). ... We’re still getting kids enrolled, we’re still getting desks put in here, but the fact is, we’re ready. We’re ready to roll.”

Amy said that Seaforth — which will only host 9th and 10th graders this school year — is officially planning to have varsity teams in all sports except football, which will compete at the junior varsity level this season, citing concerns over having a team full of underclassmen.

For Amy and the rest of the Seaforth staff, school starting up this month finally means their hard work has paid off.

“It’s like an everyday sprint,” Amy said. “You complete things, you get

things done, but the next day, you wake up and it’s a whole new list of things you’ve got to get done. It’s almost surreal how much is involved in the dynamics of hiring a coaching staff, getting all of the uniforms, having all of the parents involved ... it’s definitely been interesting.”

Tryouts for all of the school’s fall sports began on Monday, with Amy projecting a decent turnout based on offseason interest and individual team workouts.

Seaforth is planning to host an open house on Aug. 17 at 6 p.m. for

incoming students, which will feature plenty of information on the upcoming school year, as well as the fall athletic season. It’ll be one of the last events before the school opens up on Aug. 23.

“The one thing I’ll say is, without a community and without having everybody on your side and helping, there’s no way you could succeed,” Amy said. “This is not a Jason Amy project, this is way, way bigger.”

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

A look at Chatham’s plan to hire 31 new positions approved in this year’s budget

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

Most of the 31 new county staff positions funded by Chatham’s \$149.8 million 2021-22 budget were approved with a July 1 effective date, according to Human Resources and Risk Management Director Carolyn Miller.

Those new positions — spanning multiple county departments — are budgeted to cost approximately \$1.8 million. Many of the approved positions are in the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office, which Miller said has its own hiring process in place for.

“In Human Resources, we’ve been gearing up to handle the influx of job postings and applications,” Miller said in an email to the News + Record. “We have streamlined our process internally to facilitate faster posting of job announcements and processing of applications.”

The 31 budgeted new positions include multiple positions in building inspections, social services, MIS, emergency communications and the Sheriff’s Department. There are also positions recommended in central permitting, register of deeds, watershed protection, facilities, social services, parks and recreation, telecommunications and pretrial release.

“We can no longer delay responding to the increased demand in service that accompanies growth,” County Manager Dan LaMontagne previously said of the new positions.

Some of the positions are brand new to the organization, Miller said, meaning Human Resources is working with departments to develop job descriptions, announcements and “appropriate hiring timelines.”

expanded its outreach to include direct notification of more community colleges, trade programs, professional associations, historically Black colleges and universities and online job platforms. Miller said the county participates in local job fairs to increase outreach, in addition to using the county’s Facebook page and LinkedIn.

“This is the largest number of positions we’ve added to my recollection that are not tied to a specific capital project (such as the opening of the detention facility),” Miller said, “but Chatham County has never experienced the level of growth we are seeing either. Our turnover rate has remained steady (between 11-13%), and we experience on average between 4-8 retirements a calendar year.”

Breakdown of new positions

- The Development Services Collaborative Impact Team (CIT): 2 multi-trade building inspectors [\$172,633], 1 permitting technician [\$54,512], 1 watershed specialist [\$79,279], 1 assistant Register of Deeds [\$55,420]

- The Public Safety CIT: 11 specialized detention officers for \$655,688 (3 new positions), a Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Administrator [\$39,697], 1 animal service technician and 1 front desk attendant with the Sheriff animal services division [\$103,238], 1 pretrial release coordinator in the Chatham 360 division of the Court Services department [\$56,067], 5 Emergency telecommunicators [\$265,303] (Hiring queries for positions at the Sheriff’s Office should be directed to Captain Steve Maynor

at 919-545-8157.)

- Three additional positions in the Human Services CIT: 2 Children’s Services Supervisors — these positions are 50% reimbursable by the state [\$88,572], 1 park manager [\$78,424]

- Facilities and MIS in the Administration CIT: 1 Application Solutions Engineer [\$81,544], 1 GIS technician [\$58,961] and 1 Maintenance Technician

The budget also included a 3% salary increase for county employees, as well as implementing the recently completely pay study.

The 6% overall increase in salary expenditures reflects the recommended salary increase, pay study implementation, as well as the full-year cost of the 31 positions to be added mid-year in FY 2021.

“While many expenses are necessary to continue movement toward our goals, competitive salaries are essential to maintaining and attracting talented, professional staff,” LaMontagne previously said. “This is a vital investment to handle the coming growth.”

Miller said people can view a list of open positions and applications at the county’s website (chathamcountync.gov/jobs).

“This is the most exciting time to be working in public service and Chatham County specifically. Local government is on the front lines in helping our county develop, grow, and thrive,” she said. “If you are looking for a place that is challenging and rewarding, Chatham County government is the place to work. ... We are always available to answer questions about any of our positions, what it means to work in public service, and our organization.”

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached

at hannah@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @HannerMcClellan.

Eureka! You found the answer!

A: American Bandstand with Dick Clark

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.

August’s winner will be drawn from eligible entries provided by 8/31/2021. The August winner will be announced in a September 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

August 5th through August 11th

Thursday, August 5th

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 3:00 PM 📶

Friday, August 6th

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Friday Night Dance](#) at 7:00 PM (on site at WCSC - Siler City) 💰

Monday, August 9th

- [Chair Yoga with Liz](#) at 10:00 AM 📶

Tuesday, August 10th

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)

Wednesday, August 11th

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Chair Yoga with Liz](#) at 10:00 AM 📶

📶 **Programming Hosted On Zoom**

💰 **Fee Required for Participation**

For more information or to register for these and other programs, visit our website: chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/calendars/

Now Accepting Vehicle Donations!

Your unwanted car, truck, boat, motorcycle, SUV or even plane can be accepted as a donation to the COA. Your generosity qualifies for a tax deduction and we’ll do all the heavy lifting. The pick-up is free and we’ll schedule it during a time that’s convenient for you. Call 855-500-RIDE (7433) or visit: careasy.org/nonprofit/chathamcountycouncilonaginginc to get started!

Volunteers Needed...

For Meals on Wheels Delivery & More!

Contact Allison Andrews for more info: 919-542-4512 or allison.andrews@chathamcouncilonaging.org

The Chatham COA is Here for You!

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

<p>Eastern Chatham Senior Center</p> <p>365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512</p>	<p>Western Chatham Senior Center</p> <p>112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975</p>
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PROPERTY TAX BILLS

Chatham residents to get property tax bills by late August

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County property owners can expect to receive their 2021 property tax bills by late August, according to Chatham County Tax Administrator Jenny Williams.

Taxes are due by Sept. 1, and the deadline to pay 2021 property taxes without penalty is Jan. 5, 2022.

The fiscal year 2021-2022 county tax rate decreased from \$0.67 to \$0.665 per \$100 of valuation. Circle City, Hope and Bennett fire districts requested and received a small increase in their tax levy for properties served by those districts.

Williams said it was important for taxpayers to carefully review their bills after receiving them. If they identify problems or do not receive their tax bills by Aug. 30, they should contact the Chatham County Tax Office as soon as possible at 919-542-8250 or 919-542-8260.

In some cases, taxpayers will receive one bill covering both real estate and personal property (such as a boat or mobile home), while some will receive separate bills for different types of properties. The bill will not include motor vehicles, which are billed separately by the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) as part of vehicle registration renewals. However, there are some exceptions billed as personal property.

Solid Waste Fees

For residents living outside incorporated towns that offer municipal waste collection, the county property tax bill includes the county's annual Solid Waste Fee. The county allows an exemption from the fee when a residence is not habitable, or it has been vacant for more than two years.

To be eligible for the solid waste fee exemption, taxpayers must file an application with Chatham County Solid Waste and Recycling by Jan. 5. Waste fees will not be waived if applications are received after this date. For residents living in the Town of Goldston a solid waste service fee of \$90 per household will be included in the county property tax bill.

Appeals and Personal Property

The deadline to appeal real estate

property tax values has already passed, but taxpayers may appeal the value, location or taxability of personal property within 30 days of the date posted on the tax bill. Personal property includes airplanes, boats and motors, mobile homes, unlicensed vehicles, or business personal property.

"It is important for people to know that deadlines to appeal real and personal property values are set by state law and are not negotiable at the county level," Williams said.

Taxpayers are billed for any personal property they owned as of Jan. 1, 2021. "If you owned a boat on January 1 of this year and sold it the next month, you still owe the full year of personal property taxes for that boat," Williams said.

Real estate property taxes also are billed based on Jan. 1, 2021, ownership. However, if the property is sold a few months later, the attorney handling the closing usually requires the seller to pay a prorated share of taxes, with the buyer paying the remaining balance. "We strongly encourage the seller to send the property's 2021 tax bill to the new owners immediately to avoid problems with delinquent taxes," Williams said.

Payment Methods

The Tax Office offers several methods to pay taxes, including the chance to pay in installments. The public can pay taxes in partial payments by either mailing them to P.O. Box 697, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312 or by visiting the Tax Office in Pittsboro at 192 West Street. If making a partial payment, residents should include their tax ID account number found on their tax bill on all payments.

"It is very important for customers wishing to pay in installments to begin as soon as they receive their tax bill and not wait until December or when the bill becomes past due," Williams said. "The Tax Collector's staff will begin reviewing accounts in January and will begin enforcement procedures at that time."

For more information on tax payment options, including payment by credit card, e-check or bank draft, residents may contact the Tax Collections Office at (919) 542-8260 or visit: https://paytaxes.us/nc_chatham.

NEWS BRIEFS

Agriculture Advisory Board

Chatham County seeks applicants for a vacancy on the Agriculture Advisory Board. The advisory board especially needs a member from the Southwest quadrant of the county, but anyone in the county may apply.

The Agriculture Advisory Board advises the Board of Commissioners on agricultural issues and related land use issues. The board

also reviews applications for farm properties to be designated as a Voluntary Agriculture District to make sure they meet state requirements.

The open seat's term will expire June 30, 2023, but the person appointed would be eligible for reappointment to a full three-year term.

The board typically meets eight to ten times a year at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro. More information about

the Agriculture Advisory Board may be found on the county website.

To complete an online application specifically for service for the Agriculture Advisory Board, applicants may visit <https://chathamnc.seamlessdocs.com/f/Ag-BoardApplication>. They can also contact Lindsay Ray at 919-545-8302 or lindsay.ray@chatham-countync.gov to obtain a printed or emailed copy.

— CN+R staff reports



Blood Drive

Chatham County Community
in Partnership with *True Value.*

386 East St.
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Saturday, August 21
10:00 AM–3:00 PM

To make an appointment, please scan the QR Code and search for the Sponsor Code 6784.

A \$20 charitable donation will be made for every blood donor!



CORA is requesting cereal, maseca, canned fruit, canned veggies, canned salmon, pasta, canned pasta sauce, olive oil, & spices.

Sponsored by Craig Kinsey

The Blood Connection is a non-profit organization. Blood can be donated every 56 days. Donors must be 16 years or older and over 110 lbs. to donate. Sixteen year olds are required to have written consent to donate blood. Before you donate blood, make sure that you drink plenty of water and eat a healthy meal. 10C Donor ID Card (preferred) or photo ID required to donate. Gift cards and other incentives are non-transferable.



thebloodconnection.org



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Lora Wright



Tracey Dinkens Schoolcraft
Sales Associate



Adrian Smith
Master Jeweler

Development project activity at ‘all-time high’ in Chatham County

Michael Smith is an experienced economic development professional with more than 20 years serving in local organizations and with the N.C. Dept. of Commerce.

Smith

At his most recent position in Lee County, he had significant success in business recruitment and product development. Smith has served as the President of the North Carolina Economic Development Association (NCEDA). He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Geography with a concentration in Urban/Regional Planning from East Carolina University. We spoke with Smith to get an update on development in Chatham County.

Michael, you've just passed your six-month mark as the new EDC director. If you could give an "elevator" speech now to your "first day" Michael Smith, what would you say?

"Welcome to beautiful Chatham County, the third-fastest growing county in the ninth-largest state. Things will be busy, and lots will require your attention. There are many people to meet, all with important perspectives and helpful advice. This is the only county in N.C. with two megasites of over 1,500 acres and are full of potential, waiting for you to harness it. Combined with the amazing live/work/play community of Chatham Park that is now vertical — six months will be

gone before you know it. Let's get started."

By now you know your way around Chatham, you've gotten to know the business and industry leaders and you've gotten to know the landscape. What's occupying your hours and days and weeks now? What's at the top of your task lists?

Even prior to my start in January, project activity has been at an all-time high. So, when I arrived, that was one of the first things I dove into. This activity is certainly occupying my hours, days and weeks. In my 20 years in economic development in N.C. there has never been a time like this. As for the projects themselves, activity is high in that there is a large number of them coming across my desk, as well as large numbers being attached to them around investments, jobs and impact. It really is an exciting time to be working in this field.

Also occupying my time is a new program we are hoping to launch soon — a small business grant program. Through funding provided to us from the county, we will be able to give grant money out to small businesses in Chatham. We're not completely ready to give all the details or fully announce it yet, but we want people to know that it is in the pipeline, and many of our board members have been hard at work developing the program to support small businesses and entrepreneurs.

We've talked plenty before with you about Chatham's megasites and the potential we have here to land candidates. What can you share with us about any movement or any discussions you're having with

prospectors for either of the megasites?

Both the Triangle Innovation Point in Moncure and the Chatham Advanced Manufacturing Site in Siler City have been involved in the project activity I discussed previously. I would love to share more information about the projects with your readers, but in these discussions, confidentiality is key. Companies need the confidentiality to protect stock values, contend with their competition, maintain employee satisfaction and for many other reasons. They are looking for communities to be an ally in the search for a new location, or conversely, looking for a reason to cross a community off the list.

Regarding movement and discussions, we are in communications with our state partners at the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina almost daily regarding potential for our sites. Having these two megasites during a time of increased activity and interest in Central North Carolina continues to be an advantage for us and provides us a great opportunity to help create new jobs and increase the tax base for Chatham County. The time and hard work done by my predecessors at the EDC has allowed us to be in an excellent position during this unique time. My team and I feel fortunate to be a part of all of this positive energy that is in our region in 2021.

The last time we spoke, we discussed the progress at Chatham Park. The business sections at Chatham Park are in the process of leasing space. What role are

you playing in the development and upfit of Chatham Park, and as the lead economic developer, how does having something like Chatham Park make your job easier — or harder?

The role I have with Chatham Park is mutually beneficial. We often use their impressive conference room when hosting visitors to the County. There is no other mixed use development like it on the East Coast. In turn, we are doing the work that will be bringing the people that will potentially be their future residents.

Having Chatham Park in our community is one of our greatest assets. When companies come to visit, they want to know where their employees will live, and what better place to show them than Chatham Park, where you can see the active construction going on in a Class A community built for the 21st Century?

The commercial space being added at Chatham Park is also a great benefit to our work. That space will be filled by companies offering jobs to Chatham residents, hopefully cutting down on the rate of out commuting recapturing some of the retail dollars spent elsewhere when people work outside of the county.

Can you address the employment picture in Chatham County? We know of small businesses having a difficult time filling positions here, but we also know Chatham sends many of its residents across the county border to work... What's Chatham's employment outlook, short-term and long-term?

Employment issues are hitting everyone right now, businesses large and small. What's interest-

ing to note is that these challenges aren't new. In February 2020, before the pandemic truly took hold, Chatham's unemployment rate was at 3%, which is low, and we were hearing from employers then that staffing was getting hard to find. In June of this year, it was at 3.9%. I think for a lot of people, the pandemic has changed the way they live, whether it being one parent leaving work to provide childcare while schools were virtual, health concerns during the pandemic or other issues. Now that vaccines are available, schools are reopening, and we can begin moving forward again, hopefully there will be progress on the employment front as well. For the long term, employment is tied into larger issues, like the availability and affordability of worker housing that were frequent discussions prior to the pandemic. We are committed to working with our local, regional and state partners on these issues.

One of the less glamorous part of your work, I'm sure, involves collaborating and communicating about infrastructure. Chatham's water woes have been well-documented, particularly what Pittsboro is dealing with. Can you give us a summary of your assessment of our industrial and business infrastructure — the way you might communicate it to a prospect?

A strength we have when it comes to our infrastructure is that we have strong leadership in the county and the region that are actively taking the steps needed to improve it. Plans have been made, upgrades and expansions are under way. We do have

infrastructure challenges, but they are being addressed head on by our community leaders, which in turn makes prospective companies feel reassured. These types of challenges aren't exactly unique to Chatham, and most often prospects want reassurances that addressing the challenges are a priority, which they are.

The EDC has made a number of changes to its website, and you've previously addressed your desire of sharing information about the EDC and what's happening in Chatham County with the stakeholders and residents here. What's taking place in that regard (and this is an opportunity to talk about the newsletter we're working on, etc....)?

We have updated our website to feature some new content we have, including an expansive map of everything Chatham and the surrounding areas have to offer. It's a great map to show prospects, as it really showcases what we all know and love about Chatham.

Also in the works is the business column we are collaborating with News + Record Reporter Lars Dolder to produce, which will feature some of our larger industry employers in the county. Most of these larger employers were essential operations during the pandemic, and we want to recognize their hard work. It is important, too, for residents to be aware of all the great things being made here in Chatham, to drum up some hometown pride. Residents and stakeholders can stay up to date with us on our website, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham set to get \$3M from opioid settlement

PITTSBORO — Chatham County would get about \$2.99 million, or \$166K/year over an 18-year period, as a part of the landmark \$26 billion national opioid settlement — pending approval of a 315-page settlement agreement by the Chatham Board of Commissioners. Should the Memorandum of Agreement be approved as it is today, the state would get about \$750 million from the total. Of that, 80% would go to local governments.

Chatham County officials told the News + Record that of that amount, Chatham County would get 0.4498% over an 18-year period. That is about \$2.99M or \$166,000 per year on average over the 18-year period.

Chatham County's legal counsel is still reviewing the settlement agreement and will advise the Board of Commissioners on next steps.

Mountaire awards \$67,500 in scholarship funds to students

MILLSBORO, Delaware — Mountaire Farms, the nation's fourth largest chicken producer, recently awarded 27 students with \$2,500 scholarships to help them pay for college.

Children and grandchildren of employees, growers, and grain suppliers are all eligible for the scholarships, which were announced recently. Winners received a certificate and a scholarship.

"We are proud of this program because it embraces everything that we care about — our

employees, our growers, our grain producers and their families," said Philip Plylar, President of Mountaire Farms. "And these students have all demonstrated a commitment to their education, and to their communities, which we believe should be celebrated."

2021 Scholarship Recipients in North Carolina include:

- Marlene Gomez, a graduate of Jordan Matthews High School who now attends North Carolina State University. Her mother, Rosa Lopez, is a Human Resources Representative for Mountaire in Siler City.
- Hailey Howell, a graduate of Grace Christian School who now attends Sandhills Community College. Her mother, Lori Howell, is an Occupational Health Manager in Siler City.

Mountaire Farms is an agricultural food processing company providing work for almost 10,000 people at facilities in Arkansas, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. Mountaire Farms is a privately owned, Christ-centered company with a commitment to the communities in which our employees work and live. For more information, visit www.mountaire.com.

technology-centric community located outside of Raleigh, North Carolina - recently announced plans for a new phase that will feature homes targeted towards 55+ active adult living. This initiative is one more example of the exciting growth taking place in Chatham Park and the town of Pittsboro.

David Weekley Homes was chosen to build their successful Encore product for this new phase which will serve as the first 55+ active-adult neighborhood in Chatham Park. Decorated models are expected to be complete by mid-2022. The Encore product has already seen sold-out success in surrounding areas, making Chatham Park the only community currently in Chatham County with considerations for the 55+ demographic. In addition to the new homes being built in Chatham Park, David Weekley is also building the Encore product in Wendell Falls and has recently sold out in Briar Chapel.

This section of homes will be comprised of 345 homesites within the larger community and feature three product lines: Classic, Tradition and Villas. These three series will provide its residents with the livability, price points and space needs for aging in place comfortably and actively. Villas, a new addition to the Encore lineup, will boast paired homes.

"The concept of a small neighborhood of adult homes inside a larger, age-diverse neighborhood resonates with our buyers who want to live in a vibrant community," says David Weekley's Raleigh Division President Ryan

Wells. "We enjoy the partnership with Preston Development Company and are honored to be a part of Chatham Park's builder team. Chatham Park is an immersive, experience-rich community that combines quaint charm with modern convenience, as well as nature. It is a well-planned and dynamic neighborhood that will highlight the quality and lifestyle design of our David Weekley Homes."

This first adult resident only section within Chatham Park is scheduled to include

a variety of private amenities including walking/cycling trails, a swimming pool and clubhouse, a yoga lawn, putting green, tennis and pickleball courts, grills, and firepits. Encore residents will also benefit from the close proximity to Mosaic, a 44-acre live-work-play-learn mixed-use development located within Chatham Park along Highway 15-501. Scheduled to open Fall 2021, Mosaic will provide opportunities for shopping, dining, and entertainment as well as space for businesses and

health care facilities.

"David Weekley's Encore homes have proven to be very successful in the Triangle area due to their demographic considerations and intentional design. The Encore community will be a wonderful and much needed addition to our current offerings as well as a valuable asset to the town of Pittsboro for those seeking an active adult lifestyle" said Executive Vice President Vanessa Jenkins of Preston Development.

— CN+R staff reports

Chatham Park announces its first active adult enclave

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Park community in Pittsboro continues to offer a variety of diverse housing options to create a dynamic and appealing lifestyle for residents. To quickly meet rising demands, Preston Development Company — developers of this

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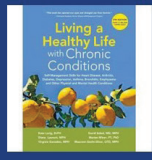
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Each class builds on the next, so it is very important to attend all 6 classes. Attend a FREE 6-week workshop and discover how to:

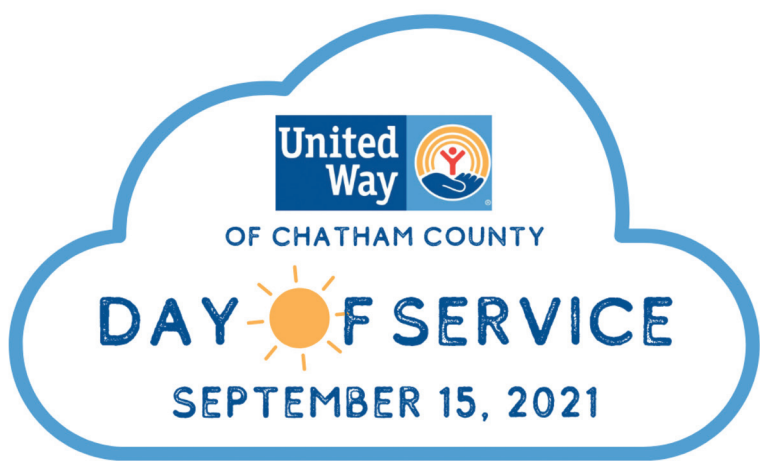
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To register: Contact Liz Lahti at liz.lahti@chathamcouncilonaging.org or 919-542-4512



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United Way's 'Day of Service' will be observed Sept. 15 in Chatham County.

United Way of Chatham County's 'Day of Service' to kick off 2021 campaign

Volunteers needed for community projects across Chatham

From the United Way of Chatham County

PITTSBORO — The United Way of Chatham County will kick off its annual campaign with the Day of Service Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021.

The Day of Service is an all-day event that unites community leaders, businesses and volunteers to complete community service projects for non-profits across Chatham County.

This year eight local organizations submitted nine community service projects: Boys & Girls Club Wren Family Center – outdoor enrichment and facility beautification and playground updates; Chatham CARES Pharmacy, Smith and Buckner Funeral Home and Siler City Police Department – food drive and drug take back event; Chatham Education Foundation – book sort and distribution; Chatham Trades – fence installation; CORA Food Pantry – grounds maintenance,

repairs and landscaping; Chatham Habitat for Humanity – community build; Salvation Army – Angel Tree preparation; Primrose School of Chapel Hill at Briar Chapel – school supply drive for students of Chatham County Schools.

To volunteer for a Day of Service project, or for more information, visit www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org/DayofService/.

The Day of Service would not be possible without the generous support of the Chatham community. Thank you to our 2021 Day of Service Sponsors: Carolina Civilworks Inc.; Axis Utility Inc.; Sanctuary Apartment Homes at Powell Place; Triangle Community Foundation; Realty World Carolina Properties; and the Chatham News + Record.

The United Way of Chatham County funds 22 programs managed by its 16 nonprofit agencies that specialize in the education, financial stability and health of Chatham County residents. For more information on the agencies and programs funded by United Way, volunteer opportunities or to make a donation, visit www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org

CHAMBER TALK | CINDY POINDEXTER

Open house at new office, Chatham Leadership, and more

The Chatham Chamber of Commerce has been hard at work on its Strategic Plan and other projects — along with scheduling in-person events, at long last.

In June, the Chamber opened its new Pittsboro office. We now have offices on the east and west side of the county, enabling the Chamber to better serve the needs of businesses and the community. The Pittsboro office is located inside Perch Co-working space at 102 Hillsboro St. Come by and visit with us.

A ribbon cutting and open house are planned for Wednesday, Sept. 1, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the new location. There will be appetizers and beverages available to guests. The Siler City office, located at 531 East 3rd St., will host an open house from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 28.

We're currently accepting applications for Leadership Chatham, a signature program of the Chatham Chamber of Commerce. The program will be in full swing when it begins its next class year with an opening reception and orientation in September. Only 25 participants are accepted each year.

Leadership Chatham takes you on a journey through the social, cultural and economic makeup of the Chatham County community. Access to existing community experts yields firsthand knowledge of critical issues facing Chatham County. The program is designed to develop informed, skilled, and involved community leaders.



Submitted photo

The Chamber has just opened a new office in Pittsboro's Perch Coworking space.



The Chamber is dedicated to the support and promotion of businesses and to helping mold Chatham into a place that everyone is proud to do business and call home. With the expected growth for Chatham County, more and more opportunities will arise. The demand for effective leaders is crucial. Through hands-on experiences in the Leadership Chatham Program, participants gain invaluable knowledge that can help them to become one of those influential leaders.

The Chatham Chamber of Commerce is a membership-driven

organization focusing on the economic vitality of Chatham County and the increased visibility and advocacy of its members. The Chamber is here to assist your business. If you are not a Chamber member, contact the Chamber for information. Allow us to support you and your business. You can reach the Chamber office by email at info@ccucc.net or by phone at 919-742-3333 or 984-265-9172.

Enjoy Chatham and all it has to offer!

Cindy Poindexter is the president and CEO of the Chatham Chamber of Commerce.

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There's a first for everything — even potato dishes

You'd think that as much as I love all things spud, I would be a regular gnocchi eater. And if you did, you'd be wrong, Gentle Reader. Until last week, I've never in my life had gnocchi.

And don't ask me why — 'cause I don't have a clue. I'm Italian, I've known about them since before I could ride a bike. They aren't hard to make, just a little time-consuming. It's not because I don't like old school marinara, because they're amenable to any type of saucing; one of the most classic is sage butter.

One thing I did do that many gnocchi preparations don't is to brown them in butter before dressing them. It added extra flavor (brown food tastes good) and we felt it kept them from becoming gummy when sauced.

I'm still not sure why I never had gnocchi before. Maybe I was

too busy eating all the spuds in potato salad. But one thing I do know for sure.

The first time I made and ate gnocchi will definitely not be the last.

Thanks for your time. Contact me with questions or comments at dm@bullcity.mom.

Asparagus Class

Years ago, I spoke with an asparagus farmer, and he told me that "baby asparagus" is basically a con. Those thin reedy stalks are from either immature or played out plants. They taste like grass and no matter how skilled the chef, will never have good, asparagus flavor. The stalks that his family eats are as thick as your thumb, and full of real asparagus taste. The easiest way to bring out the best of them is a quick steam (4-5 minutes, max).

Then drizzle with melted butter and sprinkle with plenty of salt.

The key to making children fans of asparagus? Don't purchase pencil-thin examples, and don't overcook. Asparagus should never be mushy or gray.



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Gnocci and asparagus.

Fluffy Gnocchi

(From Serious Eats) all over with a fork divided, plus more for dusting and as needed

Ingredients 3 egg yolks, lightly beaten 4 tablespoons butter
3 pounds russet potatoes, scrubbed and pierced 3/4 cup all-purpose flour K kosher salt

Preheat oven to 450°. Set potatoes either on a wire rack set over a baking sheet, on a baking sheet lined with a layer of salt, or directly on the oven's racks. Bake until completely tender throughout when pierced with a fork, about 45 minutes.

Transfer potatoes to a work surface. Using tongs to hold hot potatoes, slice each in half lengthwise.

Using a spoon, scoop potato flesh into a ricer or food mill fitted with the finest disk. Press potato flesh onto a clean work surface, spreading it into an even layer, and allow steam to escape for a few minutes.

Drizzle egg yolks all over.

Scoop 1/2 cup flour into a fine-mesh sieve and tap to dust flour all over potatoes.

Using a pastry blender or bench scraper, chop down repeatedly all over to cut flour and egg into potato.

Using a bench scraper, gather up shaggy potato mass and pat into a loose ball. Press ball flat with hands, then fold in half using bench scraper and press down again.

Scoop remaining 1/4 cup flour into sieve and dust all over potato dough. Continue to gently fold and press, just until a uniform dough comes together. (Make sure to simply fold and press down; avoid the smearing motion more commonly used when kneading bread.)

Dust potato dough all over with flour and gently form into a log.

Clean work area well and dust with fresh flour. Using bench scraper, slice off a roughly 2-inch-thick portion of dough and roll into a snake about 1/2 inch thick; use a light touch as you roll, trying to use your palms more than your fingers, and dusting as necessary with flour to prevent sticking.

Using bench scraper, cut snake into 1-inch portions, trimming off uneven ends as necessary. Transfer gnocchi to a well-floured area or baking sheet and repeat with remaining dough.

Bring a large pot of very well-salted water to a boil. Meanwhile, melt butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat until it foams. Add sage and fry until very aromatic and butter begins to lightly brown; remove from heat.

Using a bench scraper or slotted spatula to scoop them up, transfer gnocchi to boiling water. Stir once very gently with a spider or slotted spoon to prevent sticking. When gnocchi begin to float to the surface, wait about 20 seconds, then taste one; it should be soft yet cooked through, without any raw-flour flavor.

Finishing and Dressing

Melt butter in large non-stick skillet on medium.

Using spider or slotted spoon, scoop gnocchi directly into skillet with butter, allowing some of the water clinging to them to come along. Let gnocchi cook until dry and lightly browned on one side, (5 minutes), flip and cook until browned on the other side.

Remove from skillet to a shallow bowl and set aside.

Garlic Salsa Cruda

Ingredients Joe's, in the salad section only
1 pint grape tomatoes, sliced in half length-wise and called "garlic spread-dip," or Serious Eats has a good recipe) 2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon toum; (I buy mine from Trader Joe's) K kosher salt
Lebanese Garlic Sauce 3 green onions thinly sliced on the bias, green parts Freshly cracked black pepper

In the same skillet you browned the gnocchi, add olive oil and allow to heat until it just starts to shimmer. Add tomatoes, season with salt and lots of pepper. Toss to coat tomatoes with oil.

Add toum and gently stir in to evenly distribute. Once the toum is mixed through, carefully add gnocchi and gingerly toss to coat.

Remove to serving platter and garnish with green onions and a final dusting of freshly cracked black pepper.

Serve with green salad or side veg and a glass of crisp white wine. Serves four.

NEWS BRIEFS

Environmental Review Advisory Committee

Chatham County seeks applicants to a vacancy for its Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC), which advises the Board of Commissioners on environmental policy and related county ordinances and serves on the Chatham County Watershed Review Board. The Board of Commissioners especially seeks applicants with environmental expertise or interests.

The vacancy is for Commissioner District 3 for a partial term ending June 30, 2023, but the person appointed would be eligible for reappointment to a full three-year term. Anyone interested in the position should apply regardless of where they live in the county.

A map of commissioner districts and an online application form can be found at www.chathamnc.org/CommitteeAppointments. Applicants who would like an email or printed copy of the form, may call Lindsay Ray at 919-545-8302 or email her at lindsay.ray@chathamcountync.gov.

The ERAC typically meets six or more times a year on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Pittsboro area. To find out more about the ERAC, visit the county website.

Chatham seeks applicants for advisory committees

PITTSBORO — Chatham County is seeking individuals to apply for two upcoming vacancies on key advisory committees. Service on committees is a great way for interested residents to have a voice on issues of interest and make a difference in the community. Individuals must be a resident of Chatham County to serve on advisory committees. The deadline to submit applications to serve in these vacant positions is 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 20.

— CN+R staff reports

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Are Trust Services Right For You?

If you're extremely busy with your career and family and you've accumulated a fair amount of assets, you might be concerned about a variety of issues related to financial management and legacy planning. Specifically, you might think you don't have the time or expertise to deal with these matters effectively. If this is the case, you might want to consider using a trust company.

You might think you need to have a large estate or millions of dollars to benefit from working with a trust company, but that's not the case. And if you're not familiar with what a trust company can do, you might be surprised at all the services it can provide, including the following:

- **Wealth management** – Typically, when working with a trust company, you'll receive investment management designed to help you achieve various goals, such as a comfortable retirement and college for your children. The company can manage retirement accounts, monitor investments and disburse funds, make changes as needed and ensure compliance with government reporting for contributions, withdrawals and rollovers. While different companies operate in different ways, you may have an arrangement in which you work with a personal financial advisor and a separate portfolio manager.

- **Financial management during incapacity** – If you were to become incapacitated and couldn't make financial decisions, a trust company can step in, giving you peace of mind from knowing that your financial assets will be managed by a team of professionals, helping protect you and your family from potentially dire consequences.

- **Trust administration** – A trust company can perform several essential tasks related to administering your trust. The company can act as trustee for a trust you've established, such as a revocable living trust, which can allow your estate to avoid probate while providing you with

great control over how your assets will be distributed at your passing. Alternatively, the trust company can work alongside an individual you've designated to execute the terms of a trust. If your selected trustee resigns or becomes unable to make decisions, the trust company can serve as successor trustee. When it's time to settle your estate, the trust company can handle the valuation, dispersion and re-titling of assets, pay off any debts and expenses, and complete any tax returns related to your estate.

- **Bill payment and recordkeeping** – A trust company can keep up with all the trust's bills (household maintenance, medical bills, etc.) and provide statements summarizing receipts, disbursements and the value of assets within the trust.

In addition to providing these practical services, a trust company may benefit you in a more intangible way. It's unfortunate but true that, in many families, dividing up assets can cause conflict and bitter feelings. But when a trust company serves as trustee, it impartially administers distribution of the assets based on the instructions you've provided in the trust – helping minimize family disputes over inheritances.

If you ever feel like the complexities of wealth management and trust administration are getting to be more than you can handle – or perhaps more than you want to handle – consider contacting a trust company. You might find that it can make your life a lot easier.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Edward Jones Trust Company and Edward Jones, and their employees and financial advisors, are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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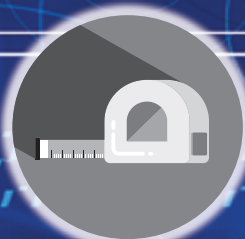
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A flower blooms

News + Record photographer Kim Hawks captured these two pictures of the first lotus flower she grew from a dormant tuber this spring. After filling a 3'-tall tub with about 12" of red clay, she gently planted the tuber. Round leaves soon emerged. Then, out of the blue, there was a tiny flower bud that hid behind a lotus leaf.



Every day, she said, she visited it multiple times. Watching plants demands patience, and a few days later the lotus bud got larger and was ready to burst open. The next morning, it did open, expressing the beauty captured here.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
 Find Kid Scoop on Facebook
 © 2021 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 37, No. 36

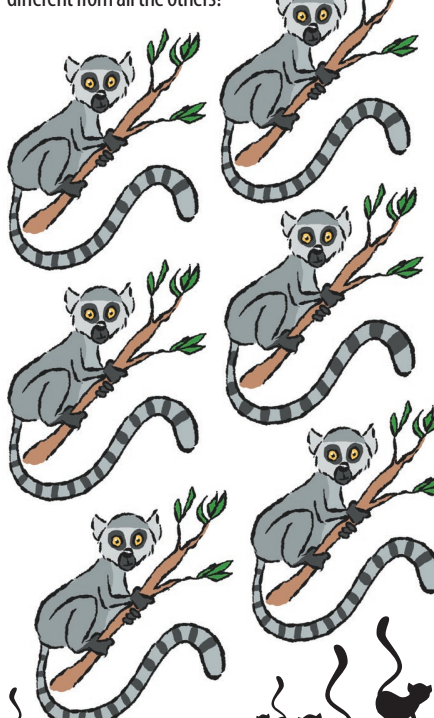
Lemur Rescue

Replace the missing words in this news story.

- raccoons.
- awarded
- critter
- spotted
- asked,
- believe
- calmly.
- experts
- leaped
- missing

Lookalike Lemurs

Can you find the lemur that looks different from all the others?



Monkeys in the Mirror?

Are ring-tailed lemurs monkeys? Clip this coupon and hold it up to a mirror to reveal the answer.

It's an easy mistake to think lemurs are monkeys. They have many things in common. Both belong to the primate order which is made up of monkeys, apes and lemurs. Lemurs are primates which literally means "before monkeys".

THE FLYSPECK FLYER

Five-Year Old Saves Lemur

By Nellie Fly
 STAFF REPORTER

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – In October of 2020, five-year-old James Trinh spotted a lemur in his school's parking lot. He pointed and said, "There's a lemur! There's a lemur!"



At first the adults didn't believe James. The school often had visits from skunks, coyotes and raccoons.

The director of the school asked, "Are you sure that's not a raccoon?"

The lemur started leaping and leaping into the school's playground. This was definitely not a raccoon.

In the playground, the animal leaped into a playhouse to hide. James knew just what to do.

"Call the Zoo!" he yelled.

Everyone said James was right. This little animal was a lemur named Maki that was spotted from the San Francisco Zoo.

The Zoo and local animal control came and coaxed Maki into a cage to take him back to the Zoo. He went quite calmly.

James was awarded a lifetime membership to the Zoo, where he will be able to visit Maki often.

Maki Mystery

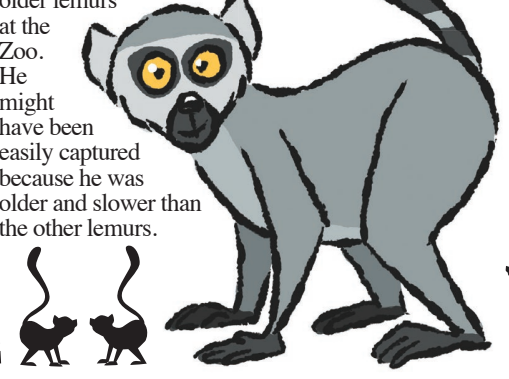
San Francisco Zoo workers are not sure how Maki got out. There were signs that someone had broken into the primate enclosure. Was Maki stolen? Or did he escape during a burglary? The police have arrested a suspect and are working to find out what happened.

Maki was 21-years old when he got away, making him one of the older lemurs at the Zoo. He might have been easily captured because he was older and slower than the other lemurs.

How many lemurs can you find on this page?

There are nearly 100 types of lemurs. The smallest is the pygmy mouse lemur which weighs just one ounce!

Extra! Extra!



Animals in the News

Look through today's newspaper. How many pictures, photos or articles about animals can you find? Discuss why each animal is in the newspaper.

Standards Link: Read from a variety of text including newspapers.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Ring-Tailed Lemur Facts

Which of these statements about ring-tailed lemurs are true? Do the math to find out. If the sum of the math problem is even, the statement is true.

- The lemur's tail is longer than its body. $2+8+2=$
- Lemurs like to bask in the sun in the morning. $6+6=$
- Male ring-tailed lemurs put smells, from glands in their bottoms, on their tails and wave it at rivals. It's known as 'stink fighting!' $3+3+3+1=$
- Ring-tailed lemurs come from Madagascar. $7+3+8=$
- A group of lemurs is called a troop. $8+9+3=$

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums to twenty.

Double Double Word Search

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

PROSIMIANS
 DIRECTOR
 BURGLARY
 CRITTER
 EXPERTS
 MONKEYS
 PRIMATE
 LEMUR
 MOUSE
 PYGMY
 MAKI
 APES
 TAIL
 BASK
 EASY

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

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

Kid Scoop Together: Nellie Fly's News Scoop

Nellie Fly is the world's smallest reporter. Today's Kid Scoop page has an article by her called, "Five-Year Old Saves Lemur."

Read the article and answer the questions below.

Who is the article about?

What did he do?

Where did the event in the article take place?

When did the event take place?

How was the lemur saved?

KID SCOOP'S MISSION

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

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

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

Write On!

That's Strange

What is one of the strangest things you have ever heard about? Write about it!

Chatham YMCA

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

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

Chatham News + Record

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Up to 25 words — additional words 20¢ each

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

LEARN ABOUT LAND - Chatham Land Experts - www.learn-aboutland.com - 919-362-6999. Jy2,tfnc

OFFICE SPACE RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT, Approximately 2,000 sq. ft. reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, 919-930-1650. Jn15,tfnc

RENTAL APARTMENTS

WINDSOR ARMS APARTMENTS - Has 2 bdrm units available NOW! Accepting apps for the wait list for 1 bdrm units. Rental Assistance available; \$25 application fee; Credit/Criminal check required. Visit us Mon-Wed 9am-1pm & Thurs 9am-12pm at 1409 E. 11th Street, Apt 2-B in Siler City, NC 27344, or call to schedule an appointment (919) 663-2473. This institution is professionally managed by Partnership Property Management, an equal opportunity provider and employer. Jy15,22,29,Au5,4tc

SILER SCHOOL SQUARE APTS - Has 2 bdrm units available NOW for \$675.00/mo! Accepting apps for wait list for 1 bdrm units. Amenities include: playground, fitness center, computer room, and much more! Affordable housing, must meet income requirements. Call (919) 799-7557 for more info, or stop by 511 West Fourth St A-10 in Siler City Mon-Thurs 9am-2pm. Credit & criminal background check required. Handicap accessible units subject to availability. Equal Housing Opportunity. Professionally managed by Partnership Property Management. Jy15,22,29,Au5,4tc

POWELL SPRINGS APTS. Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 - 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD # 1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, A2,tfnc

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. \$486/mo., no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. A2,tfnc

FOR SALE

1998 OLDSMOBILE AURORA, 67,000 miles, new A/C Compressor. Always garage kept, never wrecked or damaged. Pearl white with tan leather interior. \$4,500., 919-742-2394 or 919-548-3761. Au5,1tp

YARD SALES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 8 a.m.- Yard sale at: House at Ore Hill, Old 421 toward Bonlee. Rugs, linens, household. Cancel if rain. Au5,1tp

AUCTIONEERS

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call...We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, My6,tfnc

RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, My6,tfnc

SERVICES

AUTO BROKERS RECYCLERS - Cash paid for Junk/Wrecked vehicles. Call 919-545-0194. My13,tfnc

JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfnc

I PAY IN CASH FOR Junk Cars and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or Cell: 910-639-5614. God Bless! J9,tfnc

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

HELP WANTED

METAL SHOP ASSISTANT - Sheet Metal Fabricator located in Pittsboro is hiring full time shop workers. Must have a

valid DL, dependable vehicle of your own. Starting position - room to grow. Apply at Metal Impressions, 290 East Street, Suite 107, Pittsboro, NC. 919-542-4655 Au5,12,2tc

LAND SURVEYOR - Instrument Operator. Experienced only. Total Station, data collector, GPS equipment. No travel. Chatham County area. Must have valid driver's license and be able to drive a company vehicle. Good driving record. Full time work and benefits. \$58,000. 919-812-3592. finchsurvey2507@gmail.com. Jy29,Au5,2tc

LAND SURVEYOR - Entry level position. Experience good, but not required. Will train if needed. Full Time job. Must have valid NC driver's license and be able to drive a company vehicle. Good driving record. Background / drug test. Local work - no out of town travel. Salary open for discussion. Benefits and bonus if hired. Reply to: finchsurvey2507@gmail.com or call 919-812-3592. Jy29,Au5,2tc

TOWN OF PITTSBORO - CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST - The Pittsboro Planning Department is excited about adding a new Customer Service Specialist to our team. We are looking for an individual of high moral character with a genuine desire to serve. We are an equal opportunity employer and welcome applicants from diverse backgrounds. This is a continuous recruitment; review of applications will begin immediately. Hiring Range: \$34,181 - \$41,724. Full-Time (Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm). The complete job description and employment application is available on the Town's website at <https://pittsboronc.gov>. Mail applications and resumes to the Town Clerk at P.O. Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or email

to cbullock@pittsboronc.gov. Jy29,Au5,2tc

VERTICAL WALLS - Job Help Wanted - We are looking for workers for a retaining wall company to help stack blocks and build walls. 40 or more hours a week, with a pay starting at \$17 / hour. We also offer overtime pay, as well as health, dental and vision benefits. To better understand what you will do, visit our website at www.verticalwalls.com. If interested, call our office at 919-852-0840. We are open Monday through Friday from 9 to 5 if you want to come and fill out an application. We ask that you make an appointment before you arrive. Our office address is 612 W. Lane St. Raleigh, NC. Au5,1tc

VERTICAL WALLS - Se busca ayuda laboral - Buscamos trabajadores para una empresa de muros de contención para ayudar a apilar bloques y construir muros. 40 o más horas a la semana, con un pago a partir de \$ 17 / hora. También ofrecemos pago de horas extras, así como beneficios de salud, dentales y de la vista. Para comprender mejor lo que hará, visite nuestro sitio web en www.verticalwalls.com. Si está interesado, llame a nuestra oficina al 919-852-0840. Estamos abiertos de lunes a viernes de 9 a 5 si desea venir y completar una solicitud. Le pedimos que programe una cita antes de llegar. La dirección de nuestra oficina es 612 W. Lane St. Raleigh, NC. Au5,1tc

CHATHAM MONUMENT COMPANY has an immediate opening for a monument installer. Work involves digging monument foundations, mixing cement and installing monuments. Work is generally Monday through Friday, 8 to 4:30 p.m. but some weekend work is necessary. Please apply in person to: Chatham

Monument Co. Inc., 227 N 2nd Avenue, Siler City. Jn24,tfnc

HOMECARE SEEKING, Now hiring for immediate positions in Pittsboro/Siler City: Certified Nurse Aides - Competitive weekly pay, CNAs start at \$10.00/hr. & up for extra care cases - Total LifeCare, Call 919-776-0352 or visit 824 South Horner Blvd., Sanford for more info or to apply. A29,tfnc

HELP WANTED - EVENINGS & WEEKENDS, Please inquire in person: Country Mart, 320 W. Raleigh St., Siler City, NC or Desperados, 602 North Second Avenue, Siler City A29,tfnc

MISCELLANEOUS

INTERESTED IN OWNING your own business? For interview, please call 919-346-4019 for further details. Jy15,22,29,Au5,12,5tp

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Administrator of the Estate of **DENNIS KEITH TALLY** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons,

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Line ad deadline Tuesday — Noon

Display ad deadline Monday — 5 p.m.

Rates and payment Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.

Blind ads No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.

Errors In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA
Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.
400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-5410
TDD 1-800-735-2962
Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMGTCOM
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Career Opportunities Available

Visit www.chathamcountync.gov and click Jobs.

HIRING CNA's

3RD SHIFT

CALL: 919-542-3151
Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm
for appointment to complete application and interview
Pittsboro Christian Village
1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

Join the News + Record's Team

HELP WANTED

Delivery Drivers

The Chatham News + Record is seeking part-time drivers to assist in the delivery of newspapers on Wednesday or Thursday mornings. Ability to lift 25lbs, work in various weather conditions and a valid NC drivers license is required.

Please email resume and references to Jason Justice at jjustice@chathamnr.com

Chatham News + Record

EOE

NOW HIRING

APPLY — IN — PERSON

1015 Alston Bridge Road • Siler City, NC

them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This the 12th day of July, 2021.
Kevin Lynn Tally, Administrator of
The Estate of Dennis Keith Tally
Post Office Box 1806
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE
Attorneys at Law
Box 1806
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
(919) 542-5605
Jy15,Jy22,Jy29,Au5,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 6th day of July, 2021, as Executor of the ESTATE OF **JOAN RIPPLE CLARK A/K/A JOAN CLARK**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of October, 2021 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This, the 15th day of July, 2021.
STEVEN THOMAS CLARK, EXECUTOR
ESTATE OF JOAN RIPPLE CLARK
A/K/A JOAN CLARK
c/o Stephen C. Rhudy, Attorney Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
Jy15,Jy22,Jy29,Au5,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of **GILBERT ALLAN WINDHEIM**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 9th day of July, 2021, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before the 17th day of October, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 15th day of July, 2021.
Patricia Arcoleo and Kenneth Windheim
Co-Personal Representatives
c/o Catherine L. Wilson, Attorney for the estate
McPherson, Rocomora, Nicholson, Wilson & Hinkle, PLLC
3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400
Durham, NC 27707
Jy15,Jy22,Jy29,Au5,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **TAMMY S. DOWDY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of July, 2021.
Doris Dowdy, Administrator
1556 Silk Hope Rd.
Siler City, NC 27344
Jy15,Jy22,Jy29,Au5,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **CAMILIA B. GILLILAND AKA CAMILLA BINKLEY GILLILAND**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of July, 2021.
Lisa G. Denkins, Administrator CTA
103 N Church St
Goldston, NC 27252
Jy15,Jy22,Jy29,Au5,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **JAMES HENRY BUTCHER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021.
James Jeffrey Butcher, Executor
8 Piedmont Lane
Palmyra, VA 22963
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **THERESA JULIUS FONTENOT**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021.
Leon A. Alston, Jr., Administrator
209 S. Fir Ave.
Siler City, NC 27344
c/o Lewis Fadely, Atty.
119 N Fir Avenue
Siler City, NC 27344

Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
21 E 421
All persons having claims against **ALICE MARIE NUNN FOUSHEE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021.
Co-Executors:
1. Wayne R. Foushee
791 Carl Foushee Road
Moncure, NC 27559
2. Donna F. Turner
2237 Deer Run Road
Ridgeway, SC 29130
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **KATHRYN J. O'CONNOR**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to Neil MacIntyre, Executor, 3920 Wentworth Drive, Durham, North Carolina 27707, on or before the 22 day of October, 2021 or this notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 22 day of July, 2021.
Neil MacIntyre, Executor of the
Estate of Kathryn J. O'Connor
3920 Wentworth Drive
Durham, North Carolina 27707
Keith E. Hartley, Esquire
Maxwell, Freeman & Bowman, P. A.
Post Office Box 52396
Durham, North Carolina 27717-2396
Telephone: (919) 493-6464
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **PATRICIA B. MARKS AKA PATRICIA BECKWITH GALES MARKS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021.
Donnie Lane Gales, Executor
800 Hawkins Road
Sweetwater, TN 37874
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **NANCY YVONNE LITTLE**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before October 22, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021.
Debbie Ann McClary, Administrator
c/o Hopler, Wilms & Hanna, PLLC
2314 S. Miami Blvd., Suite 151
Durham, NC 27703
Jy22,J29,Au5,Au12,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **ELIZABETH BYAM SHER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021.
Vickie McNeill Crocker, Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **CAMILIA B. GILLILAND AKA CAMILLA BINKLEY GILLILAND**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of July, 2021.
Lisa G. Denkins, Administrator CTA
103 N Church St
Goldston, NC 27252
Jy15,Jy22,Jy29,Au5,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **TAMMY S. DOWDY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of July, 2021.
Doris Dowdy, Administrator
1556 Silk Hope Rd.
Siler City, NC 27344
Jy15,Jy22,Jy29,Au5,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **CAMILIA B. GILLILAND AKA CAMILLA BINKLEY GILLILAND**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of July, 2021.
Lisa G. Denkins, Administrator CTA
103 N Church St
Goldston, NC 27252
Jy15,Jy22,Jy29,Au5,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **JAMES HENRY BUTCHER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021.
James Jeffrey Butcher, Executor
8 Piedmont Lane
Palmyra, VA 22963
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **THERESA JULIUS FONTENOT**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021.
Leon A. Alston, Jr., Administrator
209 S. Fir Ave.
Siler City, NC 27344
c/o Lewis Fadely, Atty.
119 N Fir Avenue
Siler City, NC 27344

641 Fearrington Post
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **KAREN KAY ATKINS** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 19th day of July, 2021.
Kathryn Atkins Johnson, Executor of
The Estate of Karen Kay Atkins
3405 White Smith Road
Siler City, North Carolina 27344
Moody, Williams, Atwater & Lee
PO Box 1806
Pittsboro, NC 27812
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tc

ESTATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ANNABEL COLVARD HARRILL**, deceased on 5/14/2021 of the Carolina Meadows community in Chapel Hill, Chatham County, NC, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of ANNABEL COLVARD HARRILL, to present them to the undersigned on or before November 1, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of June, 2021.
Jeffrey Neal Hunter, Executor
c/o Miller & Johnson, PLLC
PO Box 49
Boone, NC 28607
828-264-1125
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 16-CVD-550 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY COUNTY OF CHATHAM
Plaintiff, vs
THE HEIRS, ASSIGNS, and DEVISEES of ERNEST N. LEE, et al
Defendants.
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES of ERNEST N. LEE and spouse, if any, which may include ANTHONY POWELL and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder
A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on July 22, 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.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after July 22, 2021, or by August 31, 2021, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought.
This the 22nd day of July, 2021.
Zacchaeus Legal Services
By: /s/Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill
Attorney for Plaintiff
NC Bar #12852/56782
310 W. Jones St.
P. O. Box 25
Trenton, North Carolina 28585
Telephone: (252) 448-4541
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **JOHN RICHARD SEED aka JOHN R. SEED** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 18th day of December, 2020, are notified to present them to David R. Seed, Executor of the Estate of John Richard Seed aka John R. Seed in c/o Dean P. Broz, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before November 4, 2021. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of John Richard Seed aka John R. Seed. Those indebted to John Richard Seed aka John R. Seed are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.
Dean P. Broz
Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A.
1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203
Exchange West at Meadowmont
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **LYNN M. SULLIVAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 29th day of July, 2021.
Lauren Ann Cox-Fazio, Executrix
85 McCormack Road
Slingerlands, NY 12159
c/o Becker Law Offices, PC
Diane Becker, Esquire
6030 Creedmoor Road, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27612
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **MELVIN S. MCMANUS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 29th day of July, 2021.
Marjorie Ann McManus Bonagura, Executrix
7351 Watkins Ford Rd,
Kernersville, NC 27284
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **PEGGY STALEY THREADGILL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 29th day of July, 2021.
Chad Threadgill, Administrator
1128 Brooklyn Ave, Ext.
Ramseur, NC 27316
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **EDWARD P. LEWY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 29th day of July, 2021.
Stephen W. Hoover, Executor
c/o Bagwell Holt Smith P.A.
111 Cloister Ct. STE 200
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO
The Pittsboro Town Board of

Commissioners will hold **Public Hearings on Monday, August 9, 2021**. The hearings will be held via Zoom, a teleconferencing platform. In the event that the state-wide State of Emergency is cancelled prior to the meeting, it will be held in person at the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room (Superior Court Room) located on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse located at 9 Hillsboro Street in Pittsboro. The hearings are for the following items:
Legislative Public Hearings:
1. Voluntary Annexation Request A-2021-03: Corbett Landing Subdivision-Preliminary Plat Resubmittal
The Town of Pittsboro has received a voluntary annexation petition for The Rexford Group, Ltd. If directed by the Board of Commissioners, each request for annexation will be investigated by the Town Clerk to determine the feasibility, then the Board of Commissioners may elect to schedule a public hearing to receive public comment and act on the subject petition.
OWNER:
The Rexford Group, Ltd
APPLICANT:
The Rexford Group, Ltd
LOCATION:
West of Old Graham Road, Just

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **LYNN M. SULLIVAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 29th day of July, 2021.
Lauren Ann Cox-Fazio, Executrix
85 McCormack Road
Slingerlands, NY 12159
c/o Becker Law Offices, PC
Diane Becker, Esquire
6030 Creedmoor Road, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27612
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **MELVIN S. MCMANUS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 29th day of July, 2021.
Marjorie Ann McManus Bonagura, Executrix
7351 Watkins Ford Rd,
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
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1128 Brooklyn Ave, Ext.
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **EDWARD P. LEWY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 29th day of July, 2021.
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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO
The Pittsboro Town Board of

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **LYNN M. SULLIVAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of John Richard Seed aka John R. Seed. Those indebted to John Richard Seed aka John R. Seed are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.
Dean P. Broz
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Commissioners will hold **Public Hearings on Monday, August 9, 2021**. The hearings will be held via Zoom, a teleconferencing platform. In the event that the state-wide State of Emergency is cancelled prior to the meeting, it will be held in person at the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room (Superior Court Room) located on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse located at 9 Hillsboro Street in Pittsboro. The hearings are for the following items:
Legislative Public Hearings:
1. Voluntary Annexation Request A-2021-03: Corbett Landing Subdivision-Preliminary Plat Resubmittal
The Town of Pittsboro has received a voluntary annexation petition for The Rexford Group, Ltd. If directed by the Board of Commissioners, each request for annexation will be investigated by the Town Clerk to determine the feasibility, then the Board of Commissioners may elect to schedule a public hearing to receive public comment and act on the subject petition.
OWNER:
The Rexford Group, Ltd
APPLICANT:
The Rexford Group, Ltd
LOCATION:
West of Old Graham Road, Just

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Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tc

NOTICE

North of 64 Bypass
 PARCEL: 6580 & 69515
 CURRENT ZONING: 6580-RACZ & 69515-RA-5
 PROPOSED ZONING: No change
 ACREAGE: 197.07 acres
 CORPORATE LIMITS: Yes
 EXISTING USE: Vacant
 UTILITIES:

Property proposed to be served by Town water
 The purpose of this legislative public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. **SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING.**
 2. Voluntary Annexation Request A-2021-02: Northwood MUPD US 15-501 N
 The Town of Pittsboro has received a voluntary contiguous annexation petition for The ECO Northwood MUPD, LLC. If directed by the Board of Commissioners, each request for annexation will be investigated by the Town Clerk to determine the feasibility, then the Board of Commissioners may elect to schedule a public hearing to receive public comment and act on the subject petition.
 OWNER: ECO Northwood MUPD, LLC
 APPLICANT: ECO Northwood MUPD, LLC
 LOCATION:

On the NW Corner of 15/501 and 64 Bypass
 PARCEL: 72825
 CURRENT ZONING: MUPD
 PROPOSED ZONING: No change
 ACREAGE: 2.89 acres
 CORPORATE LIMITS: Yes
 EXISTING USE: Vacant
 UTILITIES:
 Property proposed to be served by Town water and Sewer.

The complete records to the proposed actions which are the subject of these hearing are available for inspection at the Town of Pittsboro Town Hall Department located at 635 East Street, during regular business hours (8:30am to 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday). Please give reasonable notice to the Town's Clerk Cassandra Bullock at (919) 542-4621 ext. 1104 if accommodations for individuals with disabilities or impairments are required. If you wish to participate in the legislative public hearings, you may speak via Zoom or submit written comments for consideration by the Board prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Friday, August 6, 2021. The written comments will not be read but will be provided to the Board and included in the minutes. Written comments may be sent to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock, at cbullock@pittsboronc.gov.
 Participation in the evidentiary hearing will be limited to interested persons with standing who shall testify under oath. Please sign up with the Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on August 9, 2021, if you wish to participate in any hearing.
 Instructions on how to join the Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website under the BOC Agenda & Minutes tab (PittsboroNC.gov).
 Jy29,Au5,2tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO
 The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold **Public Hearings on Monday, August 9, 2021.** The hearings will be held via Zoom, a teleconferencing platform. In the event that the state-wide State of Emergency is cancelled prior to the meeting, it will be held in person at the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room (Superior Court Room) located on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse located at 9 Hillsboro Street in Pittsboro. The hearings are for the following items:
 Legislative Public Hearings:
 1. Townsend Rezoning (REZ-2021-03). Jamie S. Schwedler on behalf of CPF LLC is requesting a General Use Rezoning - Heavy Industrial, RA (Residential-Agricultural), and RA-2 (Residential-Agricultural

- 2 acres) to R-15 (Low Density Residential) of 3 parcels (Parcel ID 60774, 89720, 7413), the total being approximately 740.8 acres, located at and near 1377 Sanford Road, Pittsboro, and is adjacent to and south of Moncure-Pittsboro Road.

The purpose of this legislative public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. **SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

2. Chatham Park Development Agreement. Chatham Park Investors, LLC is requesting a Development Agreement pursuant to NCGS 160D-Article 10, the Chatham Park Master Plan and the Town of Pittsboro Development Agreement Ordinance. A legislative public hearing will be held on the proposed Development Agreement that will apply to the entirety of the Chatham Park Planned Development District or Chatham Park PDD. The Chatham Park PDD is identified as the land zoned as planned development district by the Board on August 10, 2015, in Town zoning case no. REZ-2015-04 and all land added to Chatham Park PDD in accordance with Town ordinances, but excluding all land deleted from Chatham Park PDD in accordance with Town ordinances. A broad range of residential, institutional, and commercial land uses are authorized and provided for in the Master Plan, including up to 22,000 residential units and 22,000,000 square feet of non-residential uses. Residential and non-residential uses will be located generally as depicted in the Master Plan and more specifically as provided in Small Area Plans and Development Plans approved by the Town. Building types will include single family detached dwellings, townhouses, condominiums, apartments and other forms of attached residences, mixed-use buildings, offices, and a variety of institutional and commercial structures. Architectural styles and designs may vary within the Chatham Park Planned Development District. Small Area Plans provide additional information as to permitted uses, population densities, building types, design, intensity of development, placement of uses and development, and design. A copy of the Development Agreement is available on the Town's website, <https://pittsboronc.gov>, or it may be obtained by emailing the Town Clerk Cassandra Bullock at cbullock@pittsboronc.gov or by requesting a copy at Town Hall. To accommodate disabilities and to comply with ADA regulations, please contact Town Hall if you need assistance.

The purpose of this legislative public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. **SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING.**
 Evidentiary Public Hearing:
 3. Townsend Planned Unit Development (SUP-2021-02). Jamie S. Schwedler on behalf of CPF LLC is requesting a Special Use Permit for a Planned Unit Development including a maximum of 2,220 units (one-family detached residences, townhome residences, and duplexes; and associated accessory uses and amenities such as club houses), located on 3 parcels (Parcel ID 60774, 89720, 7413), the total being approximately 740.8 acres, located at and near 1377 Sanford Road, Pittsboro, and is adjacent to and south of Moncure-Pittsboro Road.

The purpose of the evidentiary hearing is to determine, by the presentation of factual evidence, whether the specified use(s) will be allowed on the above referenced property pursuant to the terms of the Town of Pittsboro Zoning Ordinance. **SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PERMIT REQUEST MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE EVIDENTIARY HEARING IN ITS PROPOSED LOCATION, BUT ONLY THOSE CONDITIONS MUTUALLY APPROVED BY THE**

TOWN AND THE PETITIONER MAY BE INCORPORATED INTO THE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS. The complete records to the proposed actions which are the subject of these hearing are available for inspection at the Town of Pittsboro Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400 during regular business hours (8:30am to 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday). Please give reasonable notice to the Pittsboro Planning Department at (919) 533-5480 if accommodations for individuals with disabilities or impairments are required. If you wish to participate in the legislative public hearings, you may speak via Zoom or submit written comments for consideration by the Board **prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Friday, August 6, 2021.** The written comments will not be read but will be provided to the Board and included in the minutes. Written comments may be sent to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock, at cbullock@pittsboronc.gov.
 Participation in the evidentiary hearing will be limited to interested persons with standing who shall testify under oath. Please **sign up with the Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on August 9, 2021, if you wish to participate in any hearing.**
 Instructions on how to join the Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website under the BOC Agenda & Minutes tab (PittsboroNC.gov).
 Jy29,Au5,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 426
 All persons having claims against **PEGGY SMITH ANDREWS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
 This the 29th day of July, 2021.
 Diane Rives, Executor
 3205 Mockingbird Ln.
 Sanford, NC 27330
 Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 432N
 All persons having claims against **JIANMIN WANG**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
 This the 29th day of July, 2021.
 Co-Administrators:
 Austin Wang
 28 Evandale Lane
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 Oliver Wang
 28 Evandale Lane
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

LOCAL NOTICE AS PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION PROCESS FOR THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC'S) ANTENNA STRUCTURE REGISTRATION
 Chatham County is increasing the height of its telecommunications tower off Renaissance Drive Pittsboro, NC 27312 (N. Lat. 35°44'02.79"/W. Lon 79°15'40.13") to 370 feet (including appurtenance). The antenna structure is required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to have marking and/or lighting for aviation safety. Interested persons may review the application for this project by going to www.fcc.gov/asr/ applications and entering the Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) Form 854 File Number "A1197829" with ASR number 131510. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the proposed structure by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the FCC within 30 days of this posting. Instructions for filing such requests can be found at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online. Parties

wishing to submit a request by mail may send the request to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.
 Au5,1tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
 A public hearing will be held by the **Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday, August 16, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m.** The hearing will be held in the **courtroom of the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro**, North Carolina at 9 Hillsboro Street. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www.chatham-countync.gov by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners.
 The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below:
Legislative Request:
 1. A legislative public hearing for a request by the Vickers Bennett Group LLC for text and map amendments to the Chatham County Compact Community Ordinance specifically Section 6.1, p 3 for an expansion of the CCO map and text amendments to support the expansion of area request.
 2. A legislative public hearing for a request by the Vickers Bennett Group LLC for a Conditional District Rezoning from R-1 Residential to CD-CCO Compact Community being approximately 101.8 acres located off US 15-501 between Vicker's Rd and Jack Bennett roads, Williams Township.
 3. A legislative public hearing for a request by Congruus LLC for a map amendment to the Chatham County Compact Community boundary map specifically Section 6.1, p 3-4 for an expansion of the CCO map to include an additional 184.04 acres off Parker Herridon and Morris roads, Baldwin Township.
 Testimony is required to be given under oath during the evidentiary hearing for the following item:

Quasi-Judicial Request:
 1. A quasi-judicial public hearing for a request by the Conservancy Real Estate Group LLC for a Special Use Permit to allow a public golf course utilizing approximately five acres to be located within a proposed conservation subdivision located off New Elam Church Rd and Rush Rd, Cape Fear Township.
 Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions.
 Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.
 Au5,Au12,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
 The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **WILLIAM BOBBY JUSTICE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to Trudy D. Justice, Administrator, c/o Keith E. Hartley, Resident Process Agent, P.O. Box 52396, Durham, North Carolina 27717-2396, on or before the 5th day of November, 2021 or this notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 Au5,Au12,Au19,Au26,4tc

This the 5th day of August, 2021.
 Trudy D. Justice, Administrator of the Estate of William Bobby Justice
 c/o Keith E. Hartley
 Resident Process Agent
 P.O. Box 52396
 Durham, North Carolina 27717-2396
 c/o Keith E. Hartley, Esquire
 Maxwell, Freeman & Bowman, P.A.
 Post Office Box 52396
 Durham, North Carolina 27717-2396
 Telephone: (919) 493-6464
 Au5,Au12,Au19,Au26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 452
 All persons having claims against **VIVIAN ANN MANESS DUNN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of November, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
 This the 5th day of August, 2021.
 Limited Personal Representative,
 Jackie Renee Dunn
 4671 Silk Hope Liberty Road
 Siler City, N 27344
 c/o Lewis Fadelly
 119 N. Fir Avenue
 Siler City, N 27344
 Au5,Au12,Au19,Au26,4tc E

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 453
 All persons having claims against **RUBY TYSOR HERITAGE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of November, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
 This the 5th day of August, 2021.
 Jane Tysor Tally, Administrator
 2382 NC Hwy 42
 Goldston, NC 27252
 Au5,Au12,Au19,Au26,4tp

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS Water Treatment Plant Improvements - Phase 2 Project No. H-SRP-D-17-0076 Siler City, NC
 Separate, sealed bids for the project entitled **Water Treatment Plant Improvements - Phase 2 will be received by the Town of Siler City at 2:00 p.m. local time on September 7, 2021 in the Wren Memorial Library** located at 500 N. Second Ave. Siler City, NC 27344. At said place and time, all Bids that have been duly received will be publicly opened and read aloud. The bidder shall show evidence of appropriate contractor's license by clearly displaying his or her current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope in which the bid is delivered. **A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. local time August 17, 2021 at the Wren Memorial Library** located at 500 N. Second Ave. Siler City, NC 27344. Minority business participation requirements and other important project issues will be discussed. Interested parties are encouraged to attend this meeting to review the plans, ask for additional information or clarification and to visit the project site. The project generally consists of the installation of a new pretreatment system, air backwash system, and chemical feed system modifications for the Water Treatment Plant. Construction of the pretreatment system includes site grading, installation of concrete pads, and prefabricated steel treatment units, with pumps, valves and appurtenances. Work also includes installation of yard piping for influent, effluent, waste, and drain lines for the pretreatment system. A new electrical and chemical feed building will be installed. The proposed air backwash system includes installation of a duplex positive displacement blower system, air diffusers in the existing filters, and associated air piping, valves and appurtenances. Electrical improvements for all components, controls and SCADA system improvements are also included in the work. Contract Documents may be examined at the following: Town of Siler City Town Hall, Siler City, NC; McGill Associates, PA, Pinehurst, NC; and QuestCDN at <https://www.questcdn.com/>. Digital copies of Bid Documents are

available for purchase at www.mcgillengineers.com for a fee of \$50.00 per set. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the "Bids" link and by entering Quest Project Number 7971594. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com. Each bid shall be accompanied with a cash deposit or certified check drawn on a bank or trust company insured by the FDIC or a Bid Bond prepared on the form of Bid Bond contained in the Bidding Documents or a Surety Company's standard form and properly executed under the laws of North Carolina to execute such bonds. The amount of the bid bond shall be equal to five (5) percent of the total of the bid. The bid deposit shall be retained by the Owner if the successful bidder fails to execute the contract or fails to provide the required bonds, as stated above, within ten (10) days after the proper notice of award of the contract. Bidders must comply with the requirements of the State of North Carolina and be appropriately licensed as a Contractor as provided in General Statutes Chapter 87. Neither the Owner nor the Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including any Addenda, obtained from any source other than the Owner's representative, McGill Associates, P.A. Each Bidder shall be responsible for the review of all addenda for the project and shall acknowledge the addenda on the bid form. The Owner reserves the right to reject all Bids, to waive informalities, or to reject non-conforming, non-responsive, or conditional bids. The Owner reserves the right to award a contract to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder or bidders, taking into consideration quality, performance and time. Contractors submitting a Bid on this project must solicit bids from minority subcontractors and provide documentation of any outreach efforts as required by the SRP Conditions. Bidders must comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246 as amended, which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex or national origin. Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act, the Contract Work Hours Standard Act, and 40 CFR 33.1016, and 40 CFR 60-4. Date: August 5, 2021
 Authorized Representative:
 Roy Lynch, Town Manager
 Town of Siler City
 Au5,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 459
 The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **GARY LYNN STONE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at his address, 1325 Bennington Drive, NW, Concord, North Carolina, 28027, on or before the 5th day of November, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
 This 2nd day of August, 2021.
 Marlon Stone, Administrator
 1325 Bennington Drive, NW
 Concord, North Carolina 28027
 c/o GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC
 P. O. Box 880
 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880
 Au5,Au12,Au19,Au26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 457
 All persons having claims against **TODD LAYMOND BROWN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of November, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
 This the 5th day of August, 2021.
 Danna Yvette Brown,
 Administrator
 401 Greenhill Drive
 Siler City, NC 27344
 Au5,Au12,Au19,Au26,4tp



This Community ROCKS!

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



To DONATE:  For help or to help: 



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Volunteer project for Council on Aging



Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

First-year UNC medical students created a garden for family caregivers of dementia patients Saturday at the Chatham Northeast District Park. The community service work was led by Dennis Streets, the director of the Chatham Council on Aging, along with the COA's Susan Hardy and Lisa Levine from the Dementia Alliance of North Carolina. The group worked to create a short loop trail in the woods and a covered shelter inside the 66-acre park.

Dennis Streets leads a group of students to an adjoining wooded area to remove saplings so a short loop walking trail can be created.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Lisa Devine explained to the students that the garden is intended to support family caregivers. Family caregivers don't often get a break from the physical and emotional stress taking care of a parent or other relative.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The area selected for the healing garden is close to parking and has a lovely view of a lake. The picnic shelter will be retro-fitted to accommodate the needs of Alzheimer's patients.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Medical students Eliza Silene of Carrboro and Peter Said of Chapel Hill work together to cut and remove understory saplings for the loop trail.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Lisa Devine of the Dementia Alliance of North Carolina speaks to medical students about a community model that encourages mixed-age communities to live together to provide 'age friendly living.' Instead of placing the elderly together in one living community, she suggested creating a community with mixed-aged individuals to help care for each other.

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