

# Chatham News + Record

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## Northwood student killed, another injured in Saturday car accident

BY BILL HORNER & HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Northwood High School community is still reeling following a car accident on Old Graham Road Saturday night which killed one student and critically injured another.

Bryan Vilchis, an 18-year-old junior at Northwood who played football his first two years at the school, died in the accident. The injured student, 16-year-old sophomore Des-

mond Patterson, is in critical condition at UNC Hospitals.

In an email sent to parents, the school said social workers and counselors would be on-site to offer support to students and staff members on Monday.

"My heart aches for these families," Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson said in a district release on Monday. "We mourn with the Northwood community the loss of a vibrant young life."

A post on the Northwood Marching Charger Band's Facebook page said Vilchis

"passed away in an unfortunate accident while trying to pass someone and lost control of the wheel." Investigators said Vilchis was driving up to 90 miles per hour, a WRAL report said, when he ran off the road, crossed the center line and then overcorrected and hit a tree. By Monday, a memorial adorned with flowers, crosses and a teddy bear was erected at the site of the crash.

"He was a good man with a great heart and someone

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Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

A roadside memorial for 18-year-old Northwood student Bryan Vilchis, who died in a car crash on Old Graham Road Saturday.

### DEVIL'S TRAMPING GROUND

## A Chatham County legend rooted in lore and ghostly tales

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — It's more formally known as State Road 1100, but the signposts on the winding, rural stretch of two-lane road hint that it must be close by. Devil's Tramping Ground Road, in fact, passes close enough to the actual place — one of N.C.'s spookiest destinations — that someone with a good arm could chuck a rock from the road onto Devil's Tramping Ground itself.

The question: would it still be there the next morning? And if not, who moved it?

Behind the "No Trespassing" signs and a locked red gate is the ground in question. It's been owned by Tamara Owens' family for more than 100 years, and its legend is both simple and spine-chilling: two paths into the nearby woods and a circle of dirt, about 40 feet in diameter, where nothing grows.

"The real folklore of it is the devil comes up the one path, tramps around the circle and goes down the other path," she said.

Owens said even as the owner, she refuses to go up the Tramping Ground by herself at night.

"When night falls, it is really eerie," she said.

According to those who have visited after sundown, mysterious things happen without explanation.

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Courtesy of Tamara Owens

The Devil's Tramping Ground remains one of North Carolina's most infamous locations for spooky happenings.

### ACCELERATE 2026

## EDC initiative's goals: 2,000 new jobs, \$500M in investment for Chatham

BY BILL HORNER III  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The objective? "Ambitious" just scratches the surface.

If the Chatham County EDC's "Accelerate 2026" five-year development initiative hits its marks, however, the impact — a significant increase in local jobs and tax base growth — will, combined with the market's residential boom, serve as a rising tide to lift the county to unprecedented economic heights.

Accelerate 2026, a public-private campaign announced earlier this month by Chatham's Economic Development Corporation, the county's lead economic growth agency, is raising \$900,000 to supplement the EDC's work. Its leadership says the fundraising campaign allows the private sector to supplement public investment in the EDC — \$394,174 from Chatham County, Siler City, Pittsboro and Goldston — and positions Chatham and its municipalities for something the county needs to balance its booming residential growth: for starters, 2,000 new jobs and \$500 million in new capital investment.

So far, Accelerate 2026 has raised more than \$750,000 of that \$900,000 goal, funds which will, among other things, be used to more effectively market the county. Priority number one: get Chatham's two megasites — the 2,150-acre Triangle Innovation Point (formerly known as the Moncure Megasite) and the 1,800-acre Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) Site — in front of site selectors, business executives and similar decision-makers.

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### 2021 ELECTION | PITTSBORO MAYOR

## Perry challenging incumbent Nass to regain mayoral seat

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro has only two contested races on the Nov. 2 ballot, but it's the one for mayor which may give voters a double-take: it pits former Mayor Cindy Perry, who gave up the seat in 2019 to endorse the man she's facing — incumbent Mayor Jim Nass.

Perry served two terms as mayor of Pittsboro but didn't seek reelection in 2019, choosing instead to endorse Nass for the post. Nass ran unopposed and is seeking a second term



Jim Nass

while Perry looks to retake the seat she held from 2015 to 2019.

The News + Record sat down with both candidates in an extended interview last Thursday. The full conversation can be



Cindy Perry

accessed from the CN+R's website (chathamnewsrecord.com) and Facebook page.

Meanwhile, here's a brief look at the candidates and the primary issues in the race.

### Cindy Perry

Perry is not an unfamiliar face to Pittsboro; she served as the mayor of the town from 2015 to 2019 before stepping down to work focus her time working with Second Bloom of Chatham, which provides support and resources for survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

She said her main project of moving Second Bloom away from the courthouse circle was coming to a close when people in the community approached her about

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## EPA's new PFAS strategy could mark turning point for Pittsboro's water woes

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan announced last Monday the Biden administration's plan to address pollution from the man-made "forever chemicals" known as PFAS.

In addition to contamination from 1,4-Dioxane, discovered in the Haw River several years ago, PFAS has been a regular contaminant in Pittsboro's drinking water since at least 2018 — after the Wilmington Star-News reported in 2017 on an N.C. State study that showed PFAS contamination from the Chemours plant was making its way into the Cape Fear River and then the drinking water of hundreds of thousands of people in southeastern North Carolina.

Both 1,4-Dioxane and PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are suspected carcinogens which pose severe health risks if

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# 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 Board of Commissioners** will meet at 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 1, at the historic Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro.  
 The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 1, at the multi-purpose room of the Wren Memorial Library in Siler City.

## OTHER

The **Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees** will meet virtually at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27. To join this meeting by video, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82634390587>.  
 Two parking areas on the **C.C.C.C. Main Campus** will be closed October 29-31 due to a resealing project, that includes the front entrance from U.S. 64 Business (West Street) and adjoining parking lot adjacent to Building 41 and the Student Farm, as well as the parking lot adjacent to Building 42. The parking lot off the N.C. 87 entrance to the college will remain open throughout the resealing project.  
**Siler City Parks and Recreation** announces the 5th Annual Fall-O-Ween Trunk 'R Treat will be modified to a drive-thru experience and fun for all ages. The event will be held Friday, October 29, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Bray Park Sports Complex. The community is invited to wear your costumes, remain in your vehicle, and trunk 'r treat from your vehicle as you drive through the park.  
 The **Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department** is treating the Chatham community to its annual Trunk or Treat Fall Festival this October. Community members are invited to come dressed in their best costumes for an afternoon of fall fun. The Festival will take place on Saturday, October 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Northeast District Park, at 5408 Big Woods Road, Chapel Hill. This free, family-friendly event will include pumpkin carving, pumpkin painting, Halloween-themed games, Halloween-themed crafts, and a photo booth from 2 to 4 p.m. Following those fall activities will be the Trunk or Treat, where children can trick-or-treat in the parking lot, from 4 to 5 p.m. We are mindful that we are still in a pandemic, and we will be adhering to all public health safety guidelines at this outdoor event.

**C.C.C.C. Car and Motorcycle Show** for 2021 is scheduled for Saturday, October 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - rain or shine! All makes and models are welcome. Free vehicle registration ends at 11 a.m. Door prizes for registered vehicles. Location: Emergency Services Training Center, 3000 Airport Road, Sanford.  
**Sanford's Railroad House Historical Association** offers Fall Tour of Edwin Patterson's historic buildings and pocosin trail on Sunday, November 7, at 2 p.m. The buildings are located at Rosin Lane on highway U.S. Hwy. 421, approximately two miles east of the Seminole traffic light in Broadway. Signage will mark the entrance to the site on the day of the tour. Sixteen buildings from four counties, dating as early as 1772, are restored on the site. They include six log cabins and houses, barns, smoke houses, a corn crib, spring house, and tobacco barn.  
 The tour will begin with a nature walk along the half-mile pocosin trail, or wetland, which features several large longleaf pines that were boxed for their turpentine gum and juniper trees in the pocosin as large as 88" in circumference. An elevated walking trail, built by Patterson, makes for easy access across the wetland area of the hike. The tour will conclude with a walk to a restored tar kiln on the property that was fired about 1900 and utilized the longleaf pine wood that was plentiful in the area. The public is invited to attend.  
**Autism in Motion (AIM) Clinics** will host a socially distant Trick-or-Treat event for the Chapel Hill autism community. The sensory friendly event will take place at the AIM Clinics therapy center at 50101 Governors Drive Suite, Suite 170, Chapel Hill, on Saturday Oct. 30 from 1 to 3 p.m.  
**The League of Women Voters** of North Carolina announces the availability of the 2021 Municipal Election non-partisan on-line voter guide: **VOTE411.org**. This resource offers voters a "one-stop shop" for all things election related as they prepare to cast their ballots. Early voting runs to Saturday, October 30. Municipal Election Day is Tuesday, November 2. This is a comprehensive resource on voting information where citizens can learn about the policy positions of candidates on their ballot, get detailed instructions on registering to vote, find an early voting location, confirm their election day polling place, and take the guesswork out of the absentee-by-mail process.  
**Chatham County** is seeking individuals to apply for the **Northeast Wastewater Study Commission**. Service on committees is a 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 an application to serve is Friday, November 5, at 5 p.m. Individuals are invited to apply to this commission if they are interested in the future growth in northeastern Chatham County along the US Highway 15-501 corridor or have expertise in wastewater treatment. An online application to serve on the commission can be found at <https://seam.ly/GfxW8UcS>. Applicants also may contact Lindsay Ray at [lindsay.ray@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:lindsay.ray@chathamcountync.gov) or 919-545-8302 to get a printed application.  
 The **Reflections and a Dedication of Peaceful Pathways for Caregivers ceremony** will take place on Wednesday, November 10, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Northeast District Park, 5408 Big Woods Road, Chapel Hill. The ceremony will remember and honor those with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, other chronic conditions, as well as their caregivers. The ceremony will also feature guest speaker, Teepa Snow. Seating will be limited at this event, and attendees are asked to please bring their own chairs if they wish. Being able to interact with others is important in preventing caregiver burnout. A peaceful walk while taking in nature is a good stress reliever, especially for those who are caring for others. It is an honor to partner with the Council on Aging and NC Cooperative Extension Service to provide an area at a park to allow caregivers a place outdoors to spend time with their loved ones. We hope to incorporate more of these peaceful pathways in other Chatham County parks.  
 Shakori Hills and Cat's Cradle invite the community to attend a **Horror In The Hills Halloween Party** for live music, food, "Terror Card" readings and more at the Shakori Hills Arts Community Arts Center, located at 1439 Henderson Tanyard Rd. in Pittsboro, on Oct. 30 and 31. Gates open at 3 p.m. and the music starts at 7 p.m. Residents 12 and under get in free; others pay \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door for full weekend access. Visit <https://bit.ly/3momVGV> for more information.  
 Plan ahead!! Enjoy a magical evening with Mr. & Mrs. Claus at the **Annual Supper with Santa event**. Organized by **Siler City Parks and Recreation**, the event will be held Friday, December 3, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Earl B. Pitts Community Center. Out of caution, the event will feature modified operations. Ticket holders will enjoy a special visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and picture opportunities. Attendees will also receive a delicious catered to-go dinner and a fun holiday craft-kit to take home and enjoy. Space is limited and pre-registered tickets are required to enter. Event tickets are on sale and will be available online at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org) or in City Hall (311 North Second

Avenue, Siler City). Adult tickets are \$10 and tickets for children age 12 and younger are \$5. The deadline to register is Friday, November 26, or until full. No tickets will be available on the day of the event. Face coverings are required for all guests, staff and volunteers inside the facility. Operations are subject to modifications to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines. For more information, contact Daniel Spivey with the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at 919-742-2699, [emailrecreation@silercity.org](mailto:emailrecreation@silercity.org), or visit the Town website at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org).  
**THURSDAY**  
 Chatham County Libraries has announced that the Outdoor Story Time programs will continue through November 29, with the following weekly schedule: Mondays at 10:30 a.m., Natural Chef Café seating area on the C.C.C.C. Pittsboro Campus, adjacent to the Chatham Community Library, Pittsboro -Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., Goldston Public Library lawn, Goldston - and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m., Natural Chef Café seating area on the C.C.C.C. Pittsboro Campus, adjacent to the Chatham Community Library. 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. Story Time will take a break during the month of December.  
**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.  
**Chatham CARES Community Pharmacy** will host its annual Celebration of Lights drive-

through fundraiser on Dec. 4 at St. Julia Catholic Church in Siler City, from 6-7 p.m. Celebrate the season outdoors with a live band playing holiday favorites and a bilingual Christmas message, all from the safety and comfort of your own vehicle. Luminaries will be on display during the service, guiding vehicles along the drive-through holiday experience. The parking lot opens at 6 p.m., and visitors can drive through to look at the luminaries, or stop for the brief message. Admission to the event is free, and luminaries can be purchased for \$10 each. 100% of the sale of luminaries will be used for prescription drug purchases, which are then dispensed to patients through Chatham CARES Community Pharmacy. Purchase your luminaries by calling Patricia at 919-663-0177. If you are purchasing luminaries in memory or in honor of someone and would like the name to be included in the program for the service, please do so by November 30.  
 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. 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 at <https://chatham-history.org>  
**Second Bloom Thrift Store** is open at the Food Lion Shopping Center. Store hours are Tuesday thru Saturday, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.  
 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](http://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](http://www.chathamCBA.com).  
**Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings.  
**AI-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers AI-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro.  
**Scout News**  
**Boy Scout Troop 93** in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit [www.bstroop93.org](http://www.bstroop93.org) for more information.  
**Pack 924** of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.  
**Pack 900** in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

## Columbus Lodge No 102, AF & AM

of Pittsboro, NC Presents it's 10th Annual:

### Columbus Lodge Day Car Show,

### Rib Fest & Family Fun

No Cost for Car Shows Spectators, Rib Fest \$10

Rain Date  
November 6th

## Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

**Car Show Info:**

Registration 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Judging 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Show Awards announced at 2:30 pm

Donation to Show Your Car: \$25



## ALL MAKES AND MODELS WELCOME

Please contact Brian Glover at 919-265-4081, or [bubbletime1@gmail.com](mailto:bubbletime1@gmail.com) for more information.

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697 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro, NC 27312

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# Main Street president speaks out after Pittsboro board's vote

**BY TAYLOR HEEDEN**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Maria Parker-Lewis tuned into the regular Pittsboro Board of Commissioners meeting via Zoom last Monday to update the board about her organization, Main Street Pittsboro (MSPBO), and the work it was doing.

After her update, the board proceeded to address renewing the memorandum of understanding between MSPBO and the town. What Parker-Lewis did not anticipate was a vote ending the official partnership. Commissioners voted 3-2 to not renew the MOU between the town and

the nonprofit organization, with Commissioner Kyle Shipp bringing the motion forward. Shipp said ending the MOU would allow for the town to form its own committee to support the town's businesses without having to reserve additional funds to the nonprofit. "We need to form a Downtown Advisory

Committee, which is appointed by the board of commissioners and directly supported by town staff," Shipp said during the meeting. "We need to continue to budget the necessary funds to support the Main Street district and its businesses and residents." Two commissioners opposed Shipp's motion:

Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin and Commissioner Michael Fiocco. Both expressed concerns regarding the town's ability to properly fulfill the duties performed by MSPBO, stemming from staffing concerns. "The program from 2011 to 2017 was town-run, and I did think it accomplished many good

things," Fiocco said, "but it did not bring the vitality that I think this group of volunteers has brought. ... I question whether or not staff, given all that we got going on in town, is the best vehicle at this time to continue to promote the program." See **MAIN**, page A11

## GROUNDS

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Some people hear voices saying, "Follow me into the woods." Others will see shadow figures among the trees. Some say they've heard footsteps following behind them. Others see what they describe as "phantom animals," while yet others see ghostly girls appearing in photos they take.

Other theories explaining the barren circle exist, including one tale of a Native American battle taking place on that land; as a result of the bloodshed, nothing will grow in the circle.

Owens said her father had found arrowheads on the grounds and throughout the woods, but there's no written record of a battle occurring. "We did have the scientists from N.C. State come out and they did some soil samples and found elevated salt levels," Owens said. "No one really knows how that came to be, and then there's the theories of the Indian burial ground, or it's where there was the battle between

two Indian tribes." Rachel Kirchner is a paranormal investigator from Virginia. Her team, Operation Spirit Seekers, held an investigation at the grounds on Saturday evening — a night, she said, filled with unexplained activity, ranging from mysterious shadows showing up in photographs to team members swearing they saw dark figures running through the woods nearby.

"Investigators on Saturday night actually captured a picture and you can see a silhouette face through there," Kirchner said. "Me and my husband were up on a trail, and we were watching shadow figures because you'll actually see shadow people, some of which were actually like Indians."

Another investigator, Dan Porter, has lived in North Carolina for four years and has been to the grounds multiple times. He said every time he goes to the grounds, he experiences something different.

"I mean, everybody's got different story theory; everybody sees different things," he said. Porter has mostly tried to

establish some type of verbal connection to the entities he believes inhabit the Devil's Tramping Ground. Porter works with an app called Necrophonic, which is used for spirit communication and electronic voice phenomena, or EVP, research.

On one occasion, Porter said a young woman visiting the spot came up to him and his crew while they were trying to establish communication with a potential spirit.

"The Necrophonic app was pretty quiet until she came up, and when she came up, she's asked 'What's my name?'" he said. "And it said her (the girls') name clearly."

After the app said the girl's name, Porter asked whether the spirit could identify what the young woman was drinking.

"I asked what kind of beer was she drinking, to be specific, and it told me Modelo," he said. "There were like six or seven of us there and everybody heard it. It was pretty cool."

However, not all of the energy at the grounds may be friendly. Porter has seen individuals come to do ritualistic activities



Courtesy of Tamara Owens  
**An aerial view of the Devil's Tramping Ground.**

at the grounds. "I was there with my friends camping out, and some guy came with like a black cloak," Porter said. "He walked out into the pasture that was trimmed down onto the trail, and we didn't see him for like another half an hour."

Porter said the man came back from the woods and went to the gate by the circle. "He like knelt down on one knee, was saying some stuff, and then left," he said.

Owens said she broke up what appeared to be a ritual

once when she went to patrol the area on her family's utility vehicle. But vandalism, she said, is the main issue she encounters on the land there, which remains private. She says visitors spray-paint and remove bark from the trees and leave trash around the grounds.

"I've had to paint over the trees because people had painted them with '666' and all sorts of stuff," she said. "It was infuriating."

Despite the vandalism, Owens and her family have worked to keep the property preserved for the future generations. She intends to keep the land in her family so the tale of The Devil's Tramping Ground can continue to haunt and frighten.

"Everybody has a different experience, and you just get to come here and really appreciate it," she said. "That's kind of what me and my dad and my grandfather and my great grandfather have said. I just really want to try to preserve it the best that we can."

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at [theeden@chathamnr.com](mailto:theeden@chathamnr.com).

## WATER

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regularly ingested over long periods of time, but PFAS especially comes with a slew of side effects. High exposure is associated with thyroid disease, increased blood cholesterol levels and birth defects. PFAS is also known to inhibit the body's immune system and limit its response to vaccination.

Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass said he's grateful for the EPA's new plan.

"This is a problem that is nationwide, in fact, it's international-wide," Nass told the News + Record in joint interview with his challenger in the race, former Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry. Perry, who has made town staff transparency regarding water issues a large part of her campaign, also supported the EPA plan.

"These chemicals are essentially everywhere," Nass said. "I listened to the plan that the EPA put out and I'm very, very thankful that they're addressing this issue."

PFAS compounds have been detected throughout North Carolina, but earlier this year, Pittsboro's levels of PFAS concentration led to nonprofit research organization Consumer Reports naming the town's drinking water as among the worst in the country.

Almost every sample of 120 tested contained measurable levels of PFAS, but Pittsboro's PFAS concentration was in a league unto itself, the Consumer Reports study found. And this summer, a discharge of 1,4-Dioxane into South Buffalo Creek, a Haw River tributary, led Pittsboro commissioners and town staff to call for national attention to its PFAS troubles. (The preliminary samples of the 1,4-Dioxane discharge in Greensboro indicated levels between 543 parts per billion and 687 parts per billion; Environmental Protection Agency recommends no more than 35 ppb in healthy drinking water.)

"Clearly, the water issues are our primary concern," Nass said. "I mean, the idea that we have these forever chemicals in the water is certainly a primary concern."

### 'Finally taking some action'

The EPA's PFAS plan aims to clean existing contamination, keep additional chemicals from being released and lead to additional research of the thousands of PFAS compounds.

The agency will set an "aggressive" timeline to set drinking water limits, the Raleigh News & Observer reported, and it will designate PFAS as a hazardous substance under federal Superfund laws. The EPA will also work to require PFAS manufacturers to provide toxicity information about categories of the chemicals.

"It would take EPA decades to do this on our own at the expense of American families and the American taxpayer, but instead the polluters who are poisoning our nation's waterways will be responsible for conducting and paying for this work," EPA Administrator Michael Regan said of the testing effort during an announcement by Lake Raleigh, the N&O

reported.

Regan served as secretary of the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality from 2017 until earlier this year, when he was confirmed as EPA administrator, so he's familiar with the state's PFAS woes. The first orders for toxicity information will be sent in a matter of months, he said last Monday, and he's "certain" PFAS found in North Carolina will be among the first with mandatory testing.

"These chemicals are impacting communities all across the country, and so as I've been traveling all across the country, it's been chilling to see how many stories mirror the experience we had here in North Carolina," Regan told the N&O.

In Pittsboro, Nass has two primary concerns with the EPA strategy: time, and how PFAS compounds are classified. The current plan, he said, seems to look at PFAS compounds as individuals, rather than a "whole family category." There are thousands of compounds and many have not been studied, making

regulation a challenge.

"I'm not criticizing the EPA, because I'm so happy that they're finally taking some action," he said. "But in looking at the plan, I'm thinking of all the steps that they laid out that they're going to be doing on testing and so on and so forth, and I think, 'Good Lord, how long is this going to take?'"

That's why Nass said the town must continue with its own plan — eliminating and removing PFAS through updating its water filtration systems at the municipal water plant to filter as much as 90% of all PFAS from the drinking supply. It will take at least a year for the system to be completed and operational, and it could cost millions.

Pittsboro and other locations across the state trying to deal with PFAS on their own will then face the problem of what to do with the compounds after removing them. Using a special incinerator to handle such toxic materials, for example, imposes a rather large cost.

As of Monday, the EPA had already released a

human health toxicity assessment for GenX (a member of PFAS substances), announced in last week's EPA plan, that determined the chemical is toxic at much lower levels than the Dept. of Health and Human Services used when setting the target range. Even so, DHHS doesn't plan to revise its health goal for PFAS, but plans to wait until spring 2022 when the EPA is expected to publish a national drinking water advisory level for GenX.

The the Southern Environmental Law Center said in a release Monday that the assessment underscores the importance of regulating PFAS and "the need to stop harmful pollution at its source under existing laws, as the Southern Environmental Law Center did in litigation to stop pollution into the Cape Fear River from a Chemours facility in North Carolina."

"Today's toxicity assessment is further confirmation that the more we learn about these chemicals, the more we learn that they must be treated as a class; no community should have to suffer from harmful PFAS as we wait for research to confirm their toxicity," said Geoff Gisler, senior attorney and leader of the Clean Water Program at the Southern Environmental Law Center who led litigation against Chemours in North Carolina to stop GenX and other PFAS pollution. "This more stringent GenX toxicity assessment is why it's so vital to our families and communities that DEQ, and state agencies nationwide, must impose stringent limits on PFAS using existing authority when issuing water permits to polluters."

Without such government mandates limiting manufacturer introduction of PFAS into bodies of water, the root issue will persist despite local leaders' best efforts. That's why Nass is so grateful for the newly announced EPA plan, even with a few lingering concerns.

"The good news is that the EPA, federal, is taking this now seriously, and I'm hopeful that the state will do the same kind of thing," Nass said. "Be-

Billy Jo Alston	<b>Join these Friends and Neighbors Endorsing Cindy Perry for Mayor</b>					India McCanse
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**for CINDY PERRY**  
**for MAYOR**



**Early Voting Thru 10/30 • Election Day 11/2**  
**Vote at the Agricultural Conference Center**

Paid for by the committee to Elect Cindy Perry

# VIEWPOINTS

## Second chance at being a nerd

“I wish I’d spent more time with the nerds,” my high school friend said to me over coffee last week. I hadn’t seen him in 20 years. We teased each other about our receding hairlines and our teenage years in Raleigh. But this comment has stayed with me more than the gentle ribbing.

The popular kids in our high school had a look: the same style of jeans, same brand of shoes, same haircut. The cool dudes all liked the



**ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN**  
Hope Matters

same things, particularly the prettiest girls. This friend and I tried to fit in. We wanted to emulate without appearing to try too hard and to stand out from the pack by looking like everyone else. Sounds impossible, right? It was confusing, frustrating and exhausting. By our junior year, we increasingly turned to alcohol.

And there were lots of students who drank.

Since my graduation, a number of things have changed for today’s high school students. But I believe a similar drinking culture still exists. By culture, I mean a group’s behaviors, expectations and values. “Culture” originally referred to the act of tilling land for crops and should constitute an environ-

ment for growth. Only a toxic culture leads to death.

Though my friend and I made reckless decisions, we made it out of high school alive. Tragically, this is not true for an average of 5,000 underage drinkers who die every year in this country, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. I knew several peers who became part of this grim statistic. It pains me to write of them in the past tense. It’s a wonder that I don’t write the same for more of my classmates.

By contrast, the “nerds” were different. For whatever reason, they didn’t even try to fit the mold. Maybe they wanted to, but lacked the social skills or money. Maybe they

had other interests: science instead of sports, marching band instead of beer. I confess that I don’t know because I wasn’t curious at the time. What a shame.

I don’t mean to suggest that it was easy to be different. There was bullying at my school. And I regret that I was silent when I witnessed most of the suffering of my classmates.

But now I realize that these so-called nerds were counter-cultural. Rather than the toxicity of the drinking culture, they explored other ways to grow. Looking back, I see that they were so much more interesting!

I wish I’d spent more time with the nerds.

Last week, I told my high

school buddy about a group of guys that I meet with one evening a month. We talk about the past, particularly our struggles. Our pain is as unique as our individual selves. Yet, for various reasons, we only drink black coffee when we are together.

My friend heard about this group and commented, “That sounds nerdy. And wonderful.”

I wish the same kinds of life-giving relationships for high schoolers today.

*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.”*

### LETTERS

#### A newspaper subscription is the idea gift

TO THE EDITOR:

Even before Halloween, maybe you’re thinking about your Christmas gift list with news about further supply chain delays. Well, why not give family and friends a local newspaper subscription?

The Chatham News + Record could use support as we often take our local professional reporters and editors for granted. Of course, the digital era’s market disruptions eat up the classifieds (Craigslist) and ads (Google). In the past 15 years, more than 25% of U.S. newspapers have closed. Survivors are smaller and more vulnerable to acquisition by outside investors, like secretive hedge funds wanting to strip local newspaper assets, gutting staff to make money.

What are the consequences?

When a local newspaper folds, research shows corresponding lower local government voter turnout with less competitive elections and greater social media misinformation spread with political polarization. In general, civic engagement erosion allows local government budgets and business corruption to go unchecked. We lose our sense of community as we focus on syndicated national and global issues. Without the Chatham News + Record, we’ll miss our local archival record — birth announcements, obituaries, and our source of precious clippings placed on the fridge. We need our local news professionals to maintain our much-needed community pride of place, accountability, and even democracy.

Minta Phillips  
Julian

#### Prince for the Congressional Gold Medal? It’s an embarrassment.

TO THE EDITOR:

What an outrage!

Congresswoman Ilhan Omar and Senator Amy Klobuchar have partnered to nominate Prince, the rock musician who died of an overdose of a fentanyl-related opioid, for a Congressional Gold Medal. This medal is Congress’ highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements.

If approved, Prince will share this recognition with 173 other people, institutions, or events.

Some of those who he’ll be listed with include George Washington, Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Winston Churchill, Ulysses Grant, Jonas Salk, Rosa Parks, Douglas MacArthur, The Tuskegee Airmen, Robert Kennedy, Jackie Robinson, the American Red Cross, Joe Louis, Elie Wiesel, Roy Wilkins, Jesse Owens, Rosie the Riveter ...

Get my point?

You can check out the entire list at <https://history.house.gov/Institution/Gold-Medal/Gold-Medal-Recipients/>.

I personally like Prince’s music — “Purple Rain,” “When Doves Cry,” “Raspberry Beret,” etc.

But what a travesty.

It’s hard to believe that we have members of Congress who are so disrespectful of this country as to suggest that Prince should qualify for its (by association our) “highest expression of appreciation.”

I think both nominators are deliberately pushing this woke effort as an affront to our nation’s true meaning and purpose. It’s an in-your-face insult. They mirror much of what is going on in this country today ... little respect for everyday-American values, traditions, and ideals.

It takes 290 House members and 67 Senate members to co-sponsor it.

Any reader knows where I’m going with this: please let your Congressional members know you are opposed to such an embarrassment.

Philip H. Johnson  
Siler City



## Don’t let Halloween show its dark side

Through the years I haven’t exactly set the woods on fire as far as trick-or-treating goes. Part of that, no doubt, revolves around where I grew up — in the country east of Pittsboro — and where I live now — in the country south of Siler City.



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin’ Around

Given that those parts of the world weren’t then — and still aren’t now — running over with little folks (including me the times I put a pillowcase with holes cut for eyes on my noggin and went to the homes of a few neighbors calling “trick or treat!” as I beat on their front door) it’s understandable.

Actually some of the rural parts of those worlds weren’t then and still aren’t now running over with many people of any age. And the reality in my childhood was if no one gave me any treats, I didn’t know any tricks other than to just leave. The good news at my house was — and still is — that any candy left over went into me.

Today, so I’m told and occasionally observe, Halloween is specialized as little folks — actually their parents — go all out on elaborate (read “expensive”) costumes. Bigger little folks, including 11-year-olds who could be playing linebacker for the Packers or some even older and larger, go from house to house with cell phones and other electronic gadgets putting out and

receiving word on who has the best stuff.

And, again so I’m told, some of the “tricks” aren’t really tricks but border on vandalism and in some cases go across that line to the hideous.

When it comes to Halloween I’m of two opinions. One is there’s nothing any cuter than a little lady in a princess dress or a little man in cowboy duds, complete with lasso and horse, or an infant dressed as a bumblebee. But there’s nothing any sicker or grosser than some of the Hollywood-esque outfits with no heads and dripping blood. And they’re not always limited to any particular age.

Many cities, towns, churches and civic clubs are opting to sponsor such things as Fall Festivals, a No Scare Fair, Trunk or Treat or other-theme dress-ups like a “Noah’s Ark Party.” High on the list among the reasons for such is safety for children and youths attending. I remember advertisements from local hospitals inviting trick-or-treaters to bring their candy by the X-ray depart-

ment to make sure there were no razor blades or other foreign or hurtful objects present before chowing down on the morsels. I’m pretty sure nothing like that happens at the alternative entertainment.

So if you’re going to be out and about Halloween night, go only to places and people you know, watch out for traffic, don’t take candy from strangers, carry and use a flashlight, avoid dark places and stay safe so you can be around to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas ... and watch out for 11-year old linebackers.

And, if you have any Twix bars left over, call me. I think I can find my pillow case.

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.

### 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](mailto:bhorner3@chathamnr.com); or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

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# VIEWPOINTS

## Surge in violence merits response

Are North Carolinians safer today than they were a decade ago? That depends on how you define the term "safe."

The overall crime rate, defined as the total number of reported crimes divided by

North Carolina's population, was lower in 2020 than in 2010. But most of these reports concern property crimes: arson, burglary, larceny and motor-vehicle theft. Their frequency certainly affects the security of our homes and possessions. Places with high rates of property crime also struggle to attract business investment and residential development.

It is, nevertheless, violence against people that most affects public perceptions. And in North Carolina, I'm sad to say, violent crimes are surging.

According to the latest FBI

reports, there were 419 violent crimes per 100,000 North Carolinians last year. That's 16% higher than the 2010 rate. Indeed, for the first time in more than a decade, North Carolina's rate of violent crime is higher than the national average.

Two violent crimes are driving the trend: homicides and aggravated assaults. Though murder and manslaughter are comparatively rare, analysts often focus on these offenses because, unlike for others, there isn't likely to be much of a difference between crimes reported and crimes committed. North Carolina's homicide rate is up a stunning 45% just since 2018.

Did the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent recession help to create the conditions that produced more homicides? Almost certainly. What about last year's "defund the police" protests? Did they make officers less assertive in high-risk neighborhoods, emboldening violent criminals? Again, almost certainly. But some of

the increase occurred in 2019, before these events took place. Crime is a complex phenomenon with multiple causes.

Still, I am persuaded that higher levels of policing tend to produce lower levels of crime. It makes sense. When more police officers are visibly on patrol in neighborhoods, individuals will think twice before committing crimes there.

You can't prove (or disprove) such a relationship by comparing police staffing to crime rates and looking for simple correlations, however. If a community has low levels of criminality for other reasons, it might well have fewer officers on patrol. And a high-crime community might well hire lots of officers. Such relationships shouldn't be used to assert that policing causes crime, although that hasn't stopped some activists from saying so.

Better research designs show something very different. A recent study in the *Journal of Public Economics* exploited the fact that a 2009 bill vastly increased funding

for a federal grant program for local cops. The new grants varied greatly across communities based on an application score, not on crime rates. These conditions created something like an experiment. Communities receiving grants saw policing levels rise by an average of 3.2%. They also experienced a 3.5% reduction in crime.

Another recent study, published in the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, focused on beat cops in Dallas, Texas. For years, the department used GPS to track the precise locations of all their police cars. When officers responded to emergency calls outside their immediate beats, the system recorded that absence. Comparing the pattern against crime reports, the researcher found that a 10% reduction in police presence in a neighborhood was associated with a 7% increase in crime.

To say that policing can deter crime is not to say that all forms of policing work equally well. For example, should we

continue to deploy law enforcement in schools as resource officers? Some argue that the practice inherently escalates low-level disputes best handled by teachers, counselors, and principals. Others say it makes schools safer. I found persuasive a recent study of resource officers in North Carolina. Published in *Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, it concluded both that the practice both reduces school violence and results in more referrals of youngsters, disproportionately minorities, into the justice system.

There are tradeoffs and unanswered questions that merit further study. But on the whole, our communities need more policing, not less. That's what North Carolina's recent surge in violence tells me.

*John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member and author of the new novel "Mountain Folk," a historical fantasy set during the American Revolution (MountainFolk-Book.com).*

## Joe Biden needed Frank Porter Graham last week

Could the legendary president of the University of North Carolina, Frank Porter

Graham, have helped Joe Biden last week get an agreement among the warring factions of the Democratic Party?

A new book suggests that, if Graham were still alive, he would have been just what Biden needed to bring the fighting Democrats together.

The book, "Frank Porter Graham: Southern Liberal, Citizen of the World," was written by William Link, a University of Florida history professor and the biographer of Jesse Helms and William Friday.

Graham was a magician at bringing warring factions together and leading them to agreement. During World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt called for Graham's help in resolving labor disputes that threatened the United States' war-making capability.

Link explains that Graham would seek out each side "separately in order to let them air their grievances."

Then, "He and his negotiating team worked into the evening in search of a settlement. Graham practiced transparency, always providing a side with the same information."

Not every labor organizer was a fan. For instance, the famous leader of the United Mine Workers, John L. Lewis, warned a fellow labor representative, "Be careful of that little SOB, Graham." Lewis continued, "He will lean across the table, stick his little chin out and ask for your shirt and make you think you owe it to him."

In North Carolina, Graham is remembered, not so much for his negotiating skills as for his courageous defense of academic freedom, his advocacy for the university during the Depression of the 1930s, his support for working people, and his efforts for fair treatment and opportunity for Blacks, all of which Link covers in illuminating detail.

Graham was born in Fayetteville in 1886, the son of a Confederate veteran. He grew up in Charlotte, where his father led the public school system. After an extraordinary career as a student at UNC, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa

in 1909. Following graduate work at Columbia University and service in the U.S. Marine Corps, he returned to UNC to teach history. In 1930, over his objection, he was chosen to be president of the university, holding office until 1949 when he was appointed to the U.S. Senate.

His strong efforts to secure public support for the university, his fierce protection of freedom of thought and expression for university faculty, and his support for working people and Blacks are still part of the university's culture.

Graham was beloved by university students for many reasons. First, he knew their names, as he had an amazing facility to remember names. He could identify almost every student. He knew their hometowns and family connections. He worked hard to build connections, regularly hosting well-attended Sunday evening open house for students.

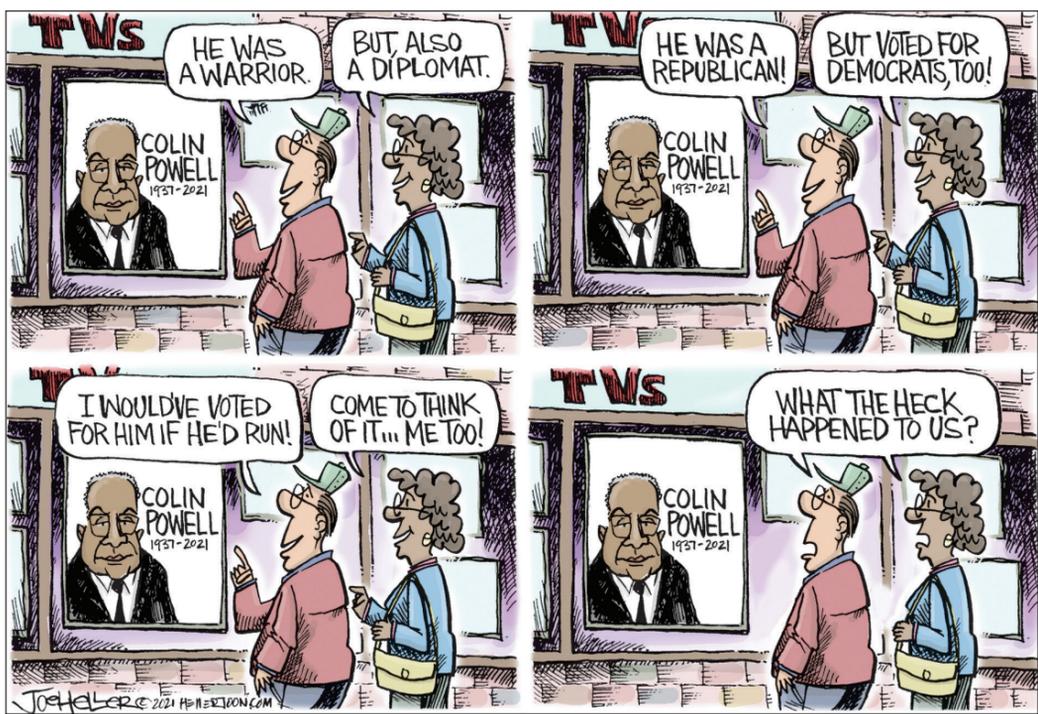
He traveled tirelessly across the state, speaking to groups and meeting leaders, remembering names and interests of each person. Link shows how Graham rose from an untenured history teacher to become university president in large part because of this ability and willingness to travel across the state and convince people of the value of the university and explain why it should be supported at a time during the Depression when the legislature was cutting every state activity.

Graham has been dead almost 50 years, and it has been more than 70 years since he stepped down as president of UNC to go to the U.S. Senate. He lost that seat in the 1950 Democratic primary, a contest that birthed a generation of progressive political activists and also a generation of dedicated conservatives who opposed him.

Nevertheless, the memory of his struggles still lives and still inspires on the university campus and among progressive activists across the state.

Covering Graham's life and work in detail, Link helps readers understand why he was so influential and why his influence endures.

*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.*



## Do we even want to go back to pre-pandemic work conditions?

Not since 1942, when women flooded into the workplace in support of the war effort, have we seen a worker

revolution such as we are experiencing now. A just-released Duke Fuqua School of Business global survey

of Chief Financial Officers reports job openings are at a 20-year high. Total employment today is 5 million below the pre-pandemic peak. How can this be explained in a growing economy?

Some voices say workers are just lazy and don't want to work, reasoning that many are still living off the overly generous unemployment benefits they received. Others believe the continued fear of the pandemic is keeping some from returning to work.

Both are wrong! A record-breaking 4.3 million (nearly 3% of the workforce) quit their jobs in August. Hiring across all industries is almost 2% lower than before the pandemic. Some retired early, saying their reduced costs of clothing, gas, restaurants and business-related expenses, especially high childcare costs, helped offset the loss of income. As one bumper sticker said, "My take home pay won't take me home."

A large number are staying home because they aren't willing to go back to jobs that pay too little and have poor working conditions. Who can blame nurses, teachers, flight attendants, restaurant, hospitality workers and others from leaving jobs with inadequate

pay and abusive treatment from employers and customers? Many quit because they believe they can get a better job and are willing to wait for it.

This revolution reflects a changed work ethic. Over the past century we became a nation of workaholics, bragging about not taking vacations, going into work earlier and staying later in order to get ahead. Instead of working to live we had become a nation living to work. Prior to COVID, employers called the shots, setting hours, pay and work conditions, with large numbers willing to accept their conditions. 2020 caused many to be willing to give up paychecks instead of their wellbeing.

The average male worker in 2019 earned no more than his counterpart did 40 years ago, adjusted for inflation. During that same period, profitability and executive compensation escalated. In 2020, the CEO of the top 350 firms made 299 times the wage of their average worker. In 1989 that multiple was just 58 times more. The minimum wage hasn't been increased from \$7.25 per hour since 2009. If it had kept pace with productivity gains over the past half century, CBS Moneywatch says it would be almost \$26 an hour today. Restricting the minimum wage constricts all worker pay. The scales have tilted dramatically against workers.

We are effectively witnessing a worker strike. Even those who remained in jobs are benefiting. The Fuqua study revealed 82 percent of employers had raised pay by an average of 10 percent. Even so, there are large numbers of job openings. About 10,000 John Deere

workers, including those in North Carolina, are striking for better pay and benefits. Airline, healthcare, motion picture and manufacturing employees, both union and nonunion, are demanding more.

Some claim the worker shortage is the reason for supply chain problems. Economist Paul Krugman refutes this notion, saying that in reality "more goods are reaching Americans than ever. The problem is that despite increased deliveries, the system hasn't kept up with the extraordinary demand. Early this year, real spending on durable goods was more than 30% above pre-pandemic levels, and it's still very high."

How's this revolution going to play out? For at least the foreseeable future, workers will have the upper hand. Wages will continue to rise. Consumers will be willing to absorb some resulting price increases, but not enough to compensate for all the increased costs. Executive compensation will get a big haircut to more historic levels in comparison to average worker wage. Profit margins will shrink some. Workers, with higher pay and more time to enjoy life, will save more and enjoy more leisure activities.

In North Carolina we will see a continued economic expansion with more people and jobs moving to our state. Will we ever go back to pre-pandemic ways? Do we even want to?

*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.*

**PITTSBORO MAYOR | JIM NASS**

**Date/place of birth:** Denver, Colorado  
**Current occupation:** Mayor, Pittsboro, NC  
**Campaign website/social media:** Jim Nass Facebook  
**Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members):** Jennifer Smith and Colleen Lewis daughters. Sean Nass and Brandan Nass, sons. Olivia Smith, Porter Lewis, Rylee Nass, Dylan Nass Grandchildren.  
**Party affiliation:** Unaffiliated  
**Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service:** Mayor, Pittsboro, NC

ment the solutions.  
**You're completing your first term as mayor. How would assess your performance over the past two years? What are you most proud of, and what would have liked to have accomplished that you couldn't?:** I am most proud of fixing our town management and helping to forge a motivated, strong town staff. And finding solutions that will stand the test of time for our water and sewer issues.

mum extent possible.  
**Chatham Park plans to introduce 50,000+ residents to Pittsboro (which is now about 4,500) over coming decades. Overseeing such development is one of the board's most frequent tasks. The topic comes with some conflict, especially between the pro-development community and environmentalists. What is your philosophy with respect to development and growth and the rapid change that is coming to Pittsboro?:** This growth was inevitable. The good news is that the town has a significant role in how this growth occurs. Every aspect of this growth has town involvement and careful attention. For example, the small area plan for North village sets forth a plan where 61% of the land will be public parks and open space. Another is that we are very close to an agreement on affordable housing that will produce a very significant number of affordable units for our town.

is to provide a significant number of new affordable housing units in Pittsboro. Goal two is to eliminate all harmful contaminants from our water supply.  
**The Mayor does not vote on any items that come before the town board but serves as a "chairman of the Board" and figurehead for the town. What are three principles you would carry into that role to deserve it?:**  
 • Integrity and Honesty  
 • Service, especially to those most in need.  
 • Unity- always strive to unite not divide.

**How would you rate your competitor's performance when she previously served as mayor?:** The former Mayor is a friend and had very good intentions. However, the issues of town management and staff were not dealt with and our water and sewer issues remained caught in what seemed like never ending bureaucracy.

**One of the most important decisions that elected officials make is on the annual budget, which includes spending and tax rates. Do you have a budgeting philosophy? What's more important to you, spending more to allocate resources to needed programs or cutting spending and keeping the tax rate low?:** My budget philosophy is to take advantage of every source of funding for our town that is available so as to keep the burden on our citizens as low as possible.

**Cindy Perry elected not to run for mayor again last cycle, and (if we remember correctly) she endorsed you as her replacement. What is your reaction to her decision to run against you now after previously stepping aside?:** I welcome her decision to run and wish more citizens would join races for elected officials. It gives our citizens an opportunity to decide and in the mayor race to compare accomplishments.

**What do you think are Pittsboro's three best features?:** Its people, It's fantastic downtown, Its spirit propelled by love for one another.

**What are three areas where Pittsboro can improve?:**  
 • A commitment to unite and not divide.  
 • More involvement in the political process.  
 • To love each other as members of a family

**If you are not elected, what steps will you take to serve Pittsboro?:** Work tirelessly to unite our family. Provide affordable housing. Make our downtown as prosperous and welcoming as possible.

**Biographical Facts**  
**Political/government hero:** John Kennedy  
**Favorite book:** The coming age of quantum biology.  
**Book most recently read:** The hours of the universe  
**Favorite film:** Doctor Zhivago  
**Hobbies:** Quantum Physics, Writing poetry  
**Personal motto or one-line philosophy:** Love is the energy of the universe  
**Strongest childhood ambition:** Play baseball for the Dodgers  
**Most significant life goal you've accomplished:** Raising four extraordinary children  
**Goal you haven't accomplished yet:** Equality for all

**Pittsboro's water contamination is one of the most critical issues facing the town's elected officials and staff. Regular water pollution affecting people's health and costing the town more money than it would spend under different circumstances. How will you find the balance between prioritizing residents' health, using town resources responsibly and giving appropriate attention to other important initiatives?:** We will use federal, state, and grant funds to finance the in-hand solutions to these critical issues to the maxi-

**Town staff has largely turned over within your term, most notably the town manager. How would you evaluate Chris Kennedy and his staff's performance?:** The state of town management was deplorable when I took over and staff was not motivated, and morale was low. Chris is doing a great job and our staff is doing great and their morale is high.

**Give us two goals that are specific, measurable and attainable you would have if elected:** Goal one

**PITTSBORO MAYOR | CINDY PERRY**

**Full name:** Cynthia (Cindy) Sax Perry  
**Date/place of birth:** 7/29/1947, Pearl River, NY  
**Current occupation:** Attorney, Retired  
**Campaign website/social media:** Facebook: Cindy Perry for Mayor 2021  
**Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members):** Husband: Dan Perry; Adult Children: Ward, Hally and Cynthia  
**Party affiliation:** Municipal elections are non-partisan. I am an active Democrat.  
**Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service:** Mayor of Pittsboro 2015-2019, Candidate for Chatham County School Board in late 1970's

**Why are you seeking this office?:** I am seeking this office because I care deeply about the Town of Pittsboro and its people. Pittsboro is grappling with growth issues around infrastructure, water quality, environmental concerns and affordable housing, and these require strong leadership and diplomacy. I am confident that my legal and political experience will help Pittsboro thrive.

**What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the office you seek, and in one sentence, why do you believe you're qualified to fill that role?:** The Mayor assists in setting the agenda and conducts Board of Commissioners Meetings. The Mayor is the spokesperson for Pittsboro initiatives, news and celebrations with the citizens and the broader community. I am qualified to fill that role because I did so from 2015-2019 with success and the spirit of unity and respect.

**You chose not seek reelection during the last cycle and (if we remember correctly) endorsed Nass as your replacement. Why did you decide now to run for mayor against him after previously stepping aside?:** In 2019 I was pleased that Jim Nass was interested in running for Mayor. I wanted to devote time to other community work, such as serving on the Board of Second Bloom, our domestic violence agency. In recent months, numerous citizens urged me to run again. I realized that I sincerely missed my work as Mayor. As I am completing my Board service with Second Bloom, I am ready to return to local government.

**How would you rate Nass' performance as mayor in the last two years?:** Pittsboro voters will do that.

**One of the most important decisions that elected officials make is on the annual budget, which includes spending and tax rates. Do you have a budgeting philosophy? What's more important to you, spending more to allocate resources to needed programs or cutting spending and keeping the tax rate low?:** My fiscal philosophy is conservative taxation and conservative spending. It is important for Pittsboro's ad valorem tax rate to remain low enough to fund infrastructure improvements and be competitive with other communities.

See **PERRY**, page A7

**MAYOR**

Continued from page A1

making a run at the office of mayor again.

“As the spring came, and my work on that board was coming close to an end, I thought to myself about what I could do and continue to help the town of Pittsboro,” she said. “There’s something about this town, the friendliness of it, the opportunities of it, that I just wanted to be a part of it again.”

Perry said during her terms as mayor, one of the main issues residents spoke to her about was about the lack communication between town staff and residents.

“There were many people in Pittsboro who were not getting returned phone calls, emails, any kind of communication,” she said. “We as a board, and I as Mayor, were frustrated too.”

Perry said at the end of her term, enthusiasm among staff was almost nonexistent compared to what is in town hall now.

“Personnel policies, having the privacy aspect that they have, would not allow me to talk about what happened towards the end of my term,” she said. “But I will tell you that there was not any enthusiasm for the continued relationship [for some town staff members, who now no longer work for the town].”

Since Perry’s administration, turnover on town staff has included the town manager position, now held by Chris Kennedy — who gets high marks from both Perry and Nass. With fresh faces in town hall, Perry said she believes the town is in a better place to get important work done.

“At a meeting, we need to be presented with the pros and cons, the haves and the have nots, the things that we could and should do, and Chris does that,” Perry said. “It’s to Jim’s credit that finally a vote was garnered under his leadership, and not only did the top posi-

tion fall, but then Chris helped to clean house.”

Another issue Perry is campaigning on is regarding the water quality in Pittsboro.

Perry said that at the beginning of her administration, some within town administration did not want to admit how dire the situation with Pittsboro’s drinking water really was. She said she pushed the board to be more transparent about Pittsboro’s water and wastewater issues.

“The dichotomy between admitting a problem and charging for water which was questionable was just not anything that the town administration at that time wanted to face,” she said. “We pushed it forward and said, ‘We have got to be transparent; we have got to be clear.’”

Perry said water plant work proposed for Pittsboro is a step in the right direction, but people want more immediate action.

“There are a lot of people who have said to me in the course of the campaign, ‘I don’t want to hear about five years from now, when you’re going to put a new water plant on the west side of the Jordan lake; I want to know what you’re doing right now,’” Perry said. “I would say that the Water Quality Committee task force that we put in place in 2019 has given recommendations, which I think need to be followed.”

Perry is also concerned with the ongoing issue of affordable housing in Pittsboro, especially within the Chatham Park development. She said the developers involved in the Chatham Park project have “pushed the envelope” in regards to their proposal for affordable housing.

“I am not happy with the idea that they want the affordable housing to not be on their 7,200 acres,” she said. “That is plenty of room to have inclusive, incorporated housing which is affordable.”

Perry said there are other communities who have been able to incorporate affordable

housing into their developments, and, according to her, Chatham Park is capable of including affordable housing in their development.

“Chatham Forest had units that you can’t tell from the outside which ones are affordable and which ones aren’t,” Perry said. “That is fully capable of being done in Chatham Park.”

Perry is also concerned about Chatham Park’s impact on long-time residents and businesses in Pittsboro. She said she wants to make sure all of the work being done in Pittsboro, not just Chatham Park, is a priority.

“There’s so many other things that are on the table,” Perry said. “We can’t let Chatham Park outshine legacy Pittsboro and small businesses in town.”

Perry believes she is the best suited for the job for multiple reasons, but she believes her style of leadership sets her apart from the competition.

“I have my own leadership style,” she said. “I’m a member of the Quaker faith and one of the things that I believe in is just doing as much good as I can, in a gentle but diplomatic way, and so that’s really the reason I filed again.”

**Jim Nass**  
 Nass believes the mayor should be an important leader within the community and work to make sure the town’s administration benefits the quality of life for those in around Pittsboro.

“I think the mayor position in Pittsboro is really three different kinds of things,” he said. “I think the mayor is the representative of the town. The mayor is looked to for answers and the mayor is looked to for guidance and leadership.”

Nass’s first term has been far from typical. Shortly after taking office, the coronavirus pandemic struck. It impacted the way Nass thought his first term as mayor would start.

“I did one ribbon cutting, and I hadn’t done another ribbon cutting until a few weeks

ago,” he said. “The normal things that the mayor can do to get out and represent the town and support all the fine things that are going on in town sort of went away for a period of time. I’m very glad that we’re kind of coming out of that right now.”

Part of the reason Nass decided to run again for the office of mayor was the amount of progress and growth made in Pittsboro over the last two years.

“I realized that we had made some fairly significant progress on some important things, such as finally getting the affordable housing ordinance, so that we can begin to implement that, and finally getting through the additional elements with Chatham Park and getting the logjam of our water and sewer issues in the state kind of resolved,” he said. “I really would like to see these things through and get them actually implemented and be enforced because I think they’re all important.”

One of the reasons Nass ran for mayor in the first place was to change what he saw was a “lack of morale” in town staff and administration.

Nass wanted to make a change in leadership within town management; he said Kennedy’s hiring as town manager accomplished that.

“We began the process of changing over some of the staff,” he said. “The commissioners agreed to provide some additional staff in key positions that were that was necessary.”

Now Nass faces a potential second term, which would include leading negotiations in regards to Pittsboro’s water woes and, like Perry addressed, creating more affordable housing in Chatham Park.

In regards to the water issue the town faces, Nass said it is key for town leadership to stay on track with the water treatment plant project and hold the people responsible for the water pollution accountable. “We have put out on the

street requests for attorneys that can help us when we examine the potential for lawsuits and where that goes,” he said. “For Pittsboro, what we have to do is stay on plan, do exactly what we’re doing and get these chemicals out of the water and adding the ultraviolet light to get rid of the dioxalate.”

Affordable housing is something Nass says is also of utmost importance to the Pittsboro community

“It’s a problem not just for Pittsboro; it’s a problem for the United States,” he said. “What we have to do is find a solution we think will work.”

What would a solution be in a Nass administration?

Nass said he and other town staff and elected officials have talked to developers who have built affordable housing units and have asked them: what works, and what doesn’t work? He said his board is almost ready to present and potentially approve an affordable housing plan of incentives in an upcoming meeting.

“We produced a set of things that we could do for someone who committed to building affordable housing that would ease the process and make them want to come here,” Nass said. “We are just about ready for the approval of the Pittsboro Affordable Housing plan with all of these things that are going to be available to these builders.”

Chatham Park is a part of this master plan, and they have not come to an agreement with the town yet on affordable housing requirements.

Nass said he hopes they will agree to make it a priority with this proposed plan he and commissioners have developed.

“All of the additional elements have been resolved, and there’s only one outstanding; that’s affordable housing,” he said. “We are not going to give in on this affordable housing.”

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at [theeden@chathamnc.com](mailto:theeden@chathamnc.com).

# PERRY

Continued from page A6

Eventually, tax revenues from Chatham Park will allow the Town to have greater resources for staff, facilities and plans that are currently beyond our means. Until that income comes to fruition, we will need to do extensive master planning to be prepared when the income allows those expenditures to be made. I favor funding through State and Federal grants and programs in order to keep our tax rate low. I am in favor of State action on water quality so that our ratepayers will not shoulder the burden of installing costly drinking water filtration devices to resolve issues created upstream.

**Pittsboro's water contamination is one of the most critical issues facing the town's elected officials and staff. Regular water pollution affects people's health and costs the town more money than it would spend under different circumstances. How will you find the balance between prioritizing residents' health, using town resources responsibly and giving appropriate attention to other important initiatives?:** The health of our children is my first priority. There is no issue of greater importance. First, we must complete comprehensive protections for our children and vulnerable populations. The current \$2+ million dollar ex-

penditures for the Town's water plant do not remove 1,4 Dioxane, a suspected carcinogen. By the end of this year expenditures will reduce PFOS and PFOA, but not 1,4 Dioxane. We cannot wait for State funding for additional improvements to our drinking water system. We must work creatively to fund crucial improvements to our drinking water, and simultaneously get the State and upstream communities to recognize this unconscionable predicament. Once the State has recognized and funded the cost of our improvements, we can shift town resources to other important initiatives.

**Chatham Park plans to introduce 50,000+ residents to Pittsboro (which is now about 4,500) over coming decades. Overseeing such development is one of the board's most frequent tasks. The topic comes with some conflict, especially between the pro-development community and environmentalists. What is your philosophy with respect to development and growth and the rapid change that is coming to Pittsboro?:** Chatham Park was approved in March of 2015 before I became Mayor in December of that year. Given that approval, I have worked to fine-tune details of the development, overseeing the Board's review, revision and passage of Additional Elements. Those Elements involve environmental protections in open space, parks, tree protection and infrastructure. My philos-

ophy is to advocate for the best protections for Chatham Park's development, since it will impact "legacy Pittsboro" in many significant ways, especially our environment and our eclectic small downtown businesses.

**Town staff has largely turned over within your term, most notably the town manager. How would you evaluate Chris Kennedy and his staff's performance?:** Town staff turned over after my terms ended. I have had limited interactions with Chris Kennedy, the new Town Manager, but on each occasion he has impressed me with his well-informed advocacy for our Town. Other than these observations, it would not be appropriate for me to evaluate the Manager, since he serves at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners.

**Give us two goals that are specific, measurable and attainable you would have if elected:**

- (1). Increase water quality protections through State assistance and appropriate penalties on upstream dischargers; and
- (2). Institute Climate-Saving-Initiatives.

**The Mayor does not vote on any items that come before the town board, but serves as a "chairman of the Board" and figurehead for the town. What are three principles you would carry into that role to deserve it?:** I disagree that the Mayor is a figurehead for

the Town. The Mayor is a vital and visible representative of the Town. The Mayor conducts Town Board Meetings, assists in agenda development, is the chief spokesperson for the Town in the public and press, and the Town's representative at state and national meetings. For example, I served as the Town's representative at the 2018 Chicago Mayors' Climate Conference that gave our Town an amazing amount of press and recognition. The principles I have brought and will bring to the job are: as an attorney, I bring the principles of speaking in conformity with the law and facts. As the former Mayor, I bring the principle of experience being the best teacher. As a long-time resident, I bring the constituent contacts and relationships that give me the principles of keen leadership.

**What do you think are Pittsboro's three best features?:** Downtown businesses, Warm and welcoming community, Community Artists and Non-profit Agencies

**What are three areas where Pittsboro can improve?:** Communication with citizens and Infrastructure improvements, especially water quality, and affordable housing

**If you are not elected, what steps will you take to serve Pittsboro?:** I will remain active with our community and government.

**Biographical Facts**  
**Political/government hero:** President Franklin D. Roosevelt (Who came through Pittsboro in the 1930's in a convertible, pausing at the Courthouse Circle to the thrill of local citizens by declaring a \$0.25 minimum wage!)

**Favorite book:** Friends for 350 Years by Howard Brinton  
**Book most recently read:** Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson  
**Favorite film:** American President  
**Hobbies:** Hiking, gardening, and walking my chocolate Lab Cocoa

**Church/civic involvement:** Society of Friends (Quaker), Board of Elections, Planning Board, Girl Scout Council, Water Quality Committees, Domestic Violence Agency Volunteer and Board Member, Historical Association Volunteer

**Personal motto or one-line philosophy:** Honesty, integrity and equality

**Strongest childhood ambition:** To become an attorney

**Most significant life goal you've accomplished:** Trekking in Nepal with my daughter to see Mt. Everest

**Goal you haven't accomplished yet:** Visiting all 48 Continental States (47 so far...North Dakota remains)

## CHURCH NEWS

### CAMERON GROVE AME ZION CHURCH

The 7th pastoral anniversary and appreciation service honoring Pastor Kenneth Lamont Swann of Cameron Grove AME Zion Church will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 31. The speaker will be Pastor Elijah Blue of One Way Christian Church in Sanford. Cameron Grove Church is located at 309 Vernon St., Broadway.

### HICKORY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

A fall festival will be held at Hickory Mountain Baptist Church from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 30. There

will be something for all ages, including music, hot dogs, games and bonfires.

The church is located at 1094 Mt. Vernon-Hickory Mountain Rd.

### SANDY BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

There will be a drive-thru Trunk or Treat at Sandy Branch Baptist Church at 715 Sandy Branch Church Road, Bear Creek, from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 30, so plan to remain in your vehicle. Hope to see you there.

### RED HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Revival services will begin Wednes-

day, November 3, and run through Friday, Nov. 5, with services at 7 p.m. at Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church. The guest speaker will be evangelist/missionary Larry Adams.

The church is located on Hwy. 42, Goldston. Everyone is welcome.

### ROCKY RIVER FRIENDS MEETING

Revival services will be held at Rocky River Friends Meeting on November 5 - 7 at 10 a.m. on Sunday morning and evenings at 7:30. The guest speaker will be Rev. Bob Wachs. Special music is planned in each service.

Regular services during the pandemic: friends, family, visitors gather

in the Meeting Room or Fellowship Hall (face mask requested) or listen in their vehicles on 90.3 FM, and/or watch via Facebook Live on the Rocky River Friends Facebook link. We are not having Sunday School services at this time.

### SOUTH FORK FRIENDS

There will be a fried chicken tenders or barbecue meal from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 6. Eat in or take out at South Fork Friends Church; adult meals, \$10, child's plate, \$6.

The church is located at 359 South Fork-Bethel Rd., Snow Camp.



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General Manager

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# FATALITY

Continued from page A1

everyone loved and got along with,” the Northwood band post said. “Please keep Des and Bryan’s family in your thought and prayers.”

The post contained a link to a GoFundMe page launched to help cover Vilchis’ funeral expenses and other costs. The page can be found at <https://bit.ly/3EjBgKA>. The GoFundMe has a goal of \$15,000; nearly \$11,000 had been raised by Tuesday evening.

Patterson’s brother, Tavaris Barrett, also started a GoFundMe page for Patterson in anticipation of large medical bills and the potential need for rehabilitative therapy. Nearly \$7,000 of the page’s \$15,000 goal has been raised by Tuesday morning. By the time the News + Record went to press Tuesday afternoon, the goal had been increased to \$20,000 and more than \$15,000 raised. The page can be found at <https://bit.ly/3vNvduN>.

“It would mean so much to Des and our family if you can contribute whatever you can to Des’ medical expenses. Please continue to send positive energy into the universe and keep Des in your prayers for a speedy recovery,” Barrett wrote on the page. “All we can do is remain hopeful and leave it with God’s will. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this and think about Desmond and our family.”

Since being admitted to the hospital, he said, Patterson had two strokes, several surgeries and is currently relying on life support. Barrett said his brother is “slowly showing signs of improvement over time.”

A prayer vigil for Patterson will be held by Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and Chapel of the Pines Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 31, under the oak trees at Mt. Zion.

“These young men are part of our school family,” Northwood Principal Bradford Walston said in the district release. “Our hearts are with their families during this incredibly difficult time. We want to support them and support our students through this.”

“One of the biggest reasons Chatham is missing out on projects is due to our lack of available industrial buildings,” Smith said. “We see many project requests that are seeking an existing building, which immediately puts us out of the running. Chatham Park has this type of development under way, but we are also invested in starting a speculative building program, similar to that of other counties in N.C. My first experience with industrial spec buildings was in Iredell County in 2009, and we have seen that model be successful in a number of communities, provided the facilities are in a good location with all utilities and have the support of the public and private sectors.”

That adds up, Smith said, to the secret sauce Chatham needs for economic success.

“We have a majority of the ingredients — location, leadership, vision,” he said. “Now, we just need to focus on cooking. We have great partnerships across the spectrum, from Central Carolina Community College to Chatham Park to all of our utility providers and development partners. As evidenced by the campaign, we have the backing of the industries in the county, as well as the support of Chatham County. Utilizing all of these partnerships, we have a pretty good recipe.”

# JOBS

Continued from page A1

“The more people in the larger business community know about our sites, the more likely it is that the right project will be interested,” said Michael Smith, the EDC’s president.

The additional investment dollars will make that happen, according to the campaign council’s chairperson, Kirk Bradley.

“It’s essential for the Chatham EDC to have 100% of the resources needed to meet the needs of clients in the 21st-century global economy,” said Bradley, the developer of Pittsboro’s Mosaic project and the president and CEO of Lee-Moore Capital in Sanford. “All previous efforts, including the public and private sector investing in getting product available, puts us in a position to grow our jobs and tax base significantly during the next five to 10 years.”

Bradley is also part-owner of Chatham Media Group, which owns the News + Record.

“The county funding we receive enables us to provide our core services, while the private funding allows us the flexibility to go after the big projects and get creative,” Smith said. “We are fortunate in Chatham County to have an organization that is focused on economic development.”

The funds, he said, would also be used to improve the EDC’s website and give Chatham better presence at national site selection events. Other goals: increase Chatham’s industrial and commercial tax base to 14% from 8%, help 100 local businesses with expansion projects, and create a spec building program to give the county active inventory to help lure investment.

Increasing the industrial and commercial tax base means a lower tax burden on Chatham residents, Smith said.

“Most of the county’s revenue comes from property tax,” he said. “If we can increase the commercial tax base by recruiting more industries to Chatham, county revenue is less reliant on property taxes, creating a more diverse tax base. Eight percent of our tax base is commercial or industrial. By comparison, Lee, Durham and Wake’s commercial and industrial bases are in the ranges of 20-40%. The return to taxpayers on each \$1 worth of services for commercial and industrial uses is \$2.45, according to a recent study in a neighboring county.”

Bradley is a developer who played a lead role in the restructuring of Lee County’s economic development efforts in the last decade, which have yielded huge dividends for that county’s economy

**... it means growth, which we knew would be coming. It will mean new employers, new neighbors, a lot of new things. But it will also mean new customers for the shops on main street, new entrepreneurs launching their small business, and new opportunities for those who may not have had them before.**

**MICHAEL SMITH, Chatham EDC’s president**

and job growth. He previously worked with Smith when the latter headed up the Sanford Growth Alliance, also known as SAGA. SAGA encompasses both Lee County’s traditional EDC work and its Chamber of Commerce and used public-private investment to help fund marketing efforts to spur



**Kirk Bradley**

interest from companies to invest and locate in and around Sanford. “Having commitment from the private sector to supplement and support all efforts of Chatham EDC also means we have the full support of all public and private stakeholders needed to get the kinds of projects that provide great paying jobs and expand the tax base,” Bradley said. “This tax base expansion and the subsequent revenues allow the county to support education and other social and quality of life services for the entire citizenry.”

Smith, who came over to the Chatham EDC from SAGA in January, said as a nonprofit, the EDC’s capital campaign is structured around a five-year strategic plan, which began to be developed in 2020. COVID and the departure of former EDC president Alyssa Byrd delayed the launch, but with the fundraising nearly done, work will begin that will help accomplish the goals laid out in the campaign.

“By 2026,” Smith said, “the predicted annual consumer spending generated by the 2,000 new jobs and \$500 million in capital investment will be \$67.9 million. So, just monetarily, that’s what it would mean for the county. Overall, it means growth, which we knew would be coming. It will mean new employers, new neighbors, a lot of new things. But it will also mean new customers for the shops on main street, new entrepreneurs launching their small business, and new opportunities for those who may not have had them before.”

Smith also said another byproduct of achieving those goals is the reduction of “out-commuting” from Chatham. Chatham County has a higher per capita of residents working outside the county than almost any place in North Carolina, which creates its own set of challenges.

“If we can establish the type of jobs here that we are envisioning, we can enable Chatham residents to stay here for work,” he said. “When people leave the county for work and buy their lunches, gas and groceries elsewhere, they are paying a sales tax to a county where they don’t reside and won’t benefit from in terms of services and governance. Having local jobs is also positive for the environment as it reduces road congestion and commute times.”

The EDC hopes many of those 2,000 jobs will come from development at Chatham’s megasites. Both the CAM and Triangle Innovation Point sites have hosted prospective employers seeking to expand, but the types of economic “home runs” that some neighboring counties have landed — including a \$500 million expansion by Pfizer and another \$170 million by Bharat Forge in Lee County — have so far eluded Chatham.

“When prospects are considering new locations, sites in Chatham County are often in competition with sites in other parts of the state, as well as other states entirely,” Smith said.

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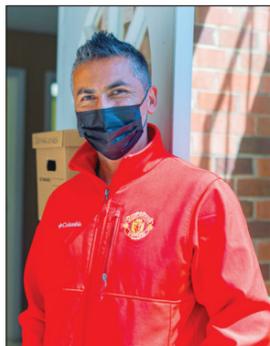
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SHOP

Local

# Can you teach yourself another language? One local immigrant says yes.

**BY VICTORIA JOHNSON**  
News + Record Staff



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Ascary Arias in front of Vidas de Esperanza in Siler City.**

Some people learn second or third languages in school; others learn on the job or through total immersion.

Then there's Mexican immigrant Ascary Arias, who learned English from Elvis Presley.

"I remember having an Elvis Presley 8-track (tape) ... in a big old car that I used to drive, and that's what I would listen to every day and just repeat the words back, you know, like play it all the time," Arias told the News + Record, laughing. "I wasn't doing it mainly because I love Elvis Presley, which I do, but because I was learning to speak the language."

At first, he was just "singing away," but eventually, he began to look and study the words — and after hours of repeating the song lyrics, plus loads of practice and near-complete English immersion, Arias managed to teach himself English.

"Within six months, I was fluent," he said. "I learned it so quickly, so quickly, and then I started doing more translating work. I was the one to go to for all the friends and family whenever they went to the doctor or the mechanic or anything like that."

And what motivated Arias to learn so quickly? He knew it would open

originally come to work in the tobacco fields.

"I came like most everyone that comes from where I come from," he said. "I came here to find work and I guess help my family provide and then provide for myself as best as I could. I didn't really have goals, really. I mean, I knew I wanted a nice car. That's about it. So yeah, 'I want a nice car. That's what I want.'"

He didn't work in the tobacco fields; instead, he began working in different jobs and interpreting for fellow Spanish speakers — though, he added with a laugh, "I don't know how effectively." At the time, he lived near a ranch that employed a lot of Mexican workers, many of whom didn't speak English.

"So they would come and pick me up at the house, and then I would translate for them," he said. "I would have to translate whether they were being hired — and fired."

To continue improving his English, Arias sought work in places that didn't employ many fellow Spanish speakers. Otherwise, he knew, "I was going to be speaking nothing but Spanish."

He found that in small rural diners. In one such diner, he started out washing the floors, then the dishes, before moving up to cutting vegetables and fruits for the diner's salad bar.

"And then I moved to the salad bar, meaning

that I would be on the microphone there and then just call out whatever we needed next," he said, laughing. "'We're running out of this,' and then they would bring it out. And so, I was like, 'Yeah, I'm moving up in the world really quickly.'"

But something still held him back. By the time he turned 20, he spoke "great" English, enough to communicate with a woman who eventually became his wife. She didn't speak Spanish. He didn't, however, know how to read or write English very well — and he'd long since internalized the idea that maybe he wouldn't be able to do it.

"I grew up thinking I wasn't very smart, and I also grew up having people tell me I wasn't very smart. I got held back a couple of years," he said. "One in 2nd grade, I think, and one in 6th grade — and I didn't finish school in Mexico either. So basically, I stopped going to school when I was maybe 14. So I didn't really have any formal education whatsoever."

He finally realized "he wasn't dumb" during a job interview for a position with a tire retreat company when he was in his early 20s.

He'd been competing against two other applicants, both native English speakers. The owner had them watch a 30-minute video and then answer 15 or so questions based on

what they'd watched.

"He's like, 'I only have one spot. The one with the highest score gets a job. I'll call you and you come in tomorrow to work,'" he said. "So we took the test, and he called me the next morning. ... So, you know, then at that moment, I was like, 'Huh. You know what? I think I can do some things,' and then it was from there, it was, like, nothing but up." You know, there's never been a "going down" for me. It's always nothing but up."

That's what inspired him to dedicate himself to learning how to read and write English. First, he worked on his reading. His mother-in-law gifted him with a "big old book" called "Falls the Shadow," he remembered. It was one of the first books he'd ever read.

Then he turned his attention to writing.

"So I would go to work every day, and my wife would give me an essay," he said. "She would say, 'OK, Ascary, today, I want you to write about why you like soccer.' So during lunchtime, at work, I would write an essay. I like soccer, because of this, this and this. Then she would come home, and I would get home, and then she would read it for me and say, 'OK, this is how you write an essay,' and blah blah blah."

By the time he decided to go for his GED at Guilford Technical

Community College, Arias knew how to read and write English well. In 2005, he graduated from Greensboro College with a double-major degree in Spanish and sociology, plus minors in art and international studies. While in college, he also founded Vidas de Esperanza.

It was a far cry from his original plan to work in the tobacco fields.

"Change starts within, you know, and I think that's what happened with me," he said. "I started changing who I was gonna be, you know — not that there's anything wrong with being a farmworker, right? But I wasn't going to be a farmworker. Nothing wrong with being a dishwasher, but I wasn't going to be one."

It all started with his decision to master English. That's why he has a simple piece of advice for those who may be hesitant to study English: Just do it.

"Being the third person in the conversation where you should be the first or second, it's not the best place to be at when it is possible to learn," he said. "Just because you're 20 or 30 years old doesn't mean you can't learn anymore. It might take a little longer, but with effort, it's possible."

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at [victoria@chathamnr.com](mailto:victoria@chathamnr.com).

doors for him — and about three decades later, mastering English has since opened several. Thanks to his ability to speak English, he met his wife, Elizabeth, obtained his GED and several college degrees, and founded Vidas de Esperanza, now a medical and dental nonprofit in Siler City that offers free, bilingual services to those in need.

"Once I got here, it became to me so apparent, so clear, that things were possible, as long as — I don't know why, but I figured if I speak English, things are gonna be way easier," Arias said. "It just became very, very simple to me."

### 'With effort, it's possible'

Originally from Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo, Arias first migrated to North Carolina in 1991, when he was 17, to join his parents in Fuquay-Varina. He'd

## Chatham County Schools makes Nov. 12 a day of reflection for students, staff

**BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Schools will give students Nov. 12 off "in response to the ongoing strenuous impact of the pandemic on students, families and staff," the district's board of education decided at a specially called meeting Monday.

Instead of a regular

instructional day, Nov. 12 will now be one "of reflection" for students and staff, with schools closed to students and staff working remotely "for the purposes of restorative reflection," the district said.

"As we continue through the school year, it's clear that COVID has changed everything we thought we knew about schools and school operation, and especially this notion we call normal," Superintendent Anthony Jackson said at Monday's meeting. "We are finding that the social and emotional needs of both students and staff remain a primary concern for all... Our students and staff are carrying heavy loads."

Jackson also acknowledged the loss of a Northwood High School student, Bryan Vilchis, who died in a

car accident on Saturday night. In an email sent to parents, obtained by the News + Record, the school said social workers and counselors would be on-site to offer support to students and staff members on Monday. Jackson was at Northwood prior to the board meeting.

Last week, Wake County Schools canceled classes on Nov. 12, extending the Nov. 11 Veterans Day holiday break by a day. Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools also said it would give students the entire week of Thanksgiving off to support the mental health and wellness of its students and staff.

Following reports of the Wake County Schools calendar change, some parents on social media voiced concern for how school calendar revisions impact the childcare

plans for families.

At Monday's meeting, Jackson said community partners such as the YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club would provide options for parents in need of support on Nov. 12. Details regarding such options will be finalized and then communicated soon, Jackson said.

"It was stated to me when I arrived here that we are family," Jackson said. "And if in fact we are family — families look out for one another."

The district is using hours in the school calendar that exceed the 1,025 instructional hours required by the state to make the calendar revision.

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



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson greets a class at Northwood High School during CCS's first week of classes — and his first week of school as the district's superintendent. Jackson asked the CCS BOE to make Nov. 12 a 'reflection day' for staff and students.**



## 17TH ANNUAL REINDEER RUN 5K

**DECEMBER 11, 8 AM  
CENTRAL CAROLINA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

visit [www.chathamkids.org/5k](http://www.chathamkids.org/5k) for pricing and registration details



**Barefoot in the Park** Live On-Stage in Pittsboro's *Sweet Bee Theater* Nov. 6-7



Chatham Community Players Adult Actors in Neil Simon's Broadway smash hit comedy Sat. Sun. Nov. 6-7 at 4pm & 7pm both days. Tickets & Info. [www.PittsboroYouthTheater.com](http://www.PittsboroYouthTheater.com)

# OBITUARIES

## MAXINE PERRY COTNER



Maxine Perry Cotner, 87, of Pittsboro, died Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at the SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice Home.

Maxine was born in Chatham County on October 25, 1933, to the late Numa Perry and Lina Brasington Perry. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Earl Cotner and two sisters, Mary Perry and Mozzell Eubanks.

Surviving relatives include one daughter, Rhonda Wallace and husband Kimble of Pittsboro; one son, Steve Cotner of Pittsboro; two grandsons, Brandon Wallace and fiancé Krystal Sanders of Pittsboro, Brentson Wallace of Pittsboro, and three great-grandchildren, Logan Morgan, Aubree Wallace, and Braelynn Wallace.

The family received friends Thursday, October 21, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory, Griffin Chapel. A funeral service was held Friday, October 22, 2021, at 1 p.m. at Bynum United Methodist Church. Burial followed at Rock Spring Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Maxine's memory to Bynum UMC, 774 Bynum Church Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Condolences may be made at [www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com).

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Cotner family.

## DENNIS KEITH MCNEILL



Dennis Keith McNeill, 59, of Pittsboro passed away Sunday, October 24, 2021, at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill. Mr. McNeill was born May 28, 1962, in Fort Benning, Georgia, the son of Boyd E. and Rebecca Brown McNeill.

Dennis was a member of Moon's Chapel Baptist Church. He graduated from Jordan-Matthews in 1980, afterwards attending Central Carolina Community College. Dennis spent his working years as a truck

driver first for CE&W Trucking, then First Choice Disposal. He loved baseball and spent his time coaching and announcing for baseball games and playing softball for the church league. He was a member of the Chatham Central Athletic Booster Club. Dennis loved his grandchildren, and spending time outdoors hunting and fishing. He loved watching NASCAR races and was an avid UNC Tar Heel fan. You could always find him hanging out at the store; Dennis never met a stranger.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 5½ years, Christy Howard McNeill; parents, Boyd E. and Rebecca Brown McNeill; children, Taylor McNeill (Josh Clegg) of Pittsboro, Kameron McNeill of Siler City, Josey Moody (Ethan) of Bear Creek, Christian Sirls (Katy) of Sherills Ford; grandchildren, Bennett, Beau, and Josie Clegg, Emaline and Elwyn Moody and Hadley Sirls; brothers, Tony McNeill (Keira) of Knightdale and David McNeill (Michelle) of Zebulon; and several nieces.

Mr. McNeill will lie in repose on Thursday, October 28, 2021, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City. The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 29, 2021, at Moon's Chapel Baptist Church, 175 Moon's Chapel Rd., Siler City, N.C., with Rev. Marc Sanders and Dr. Patrick Fuller officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends after the service in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Memorials may be made to the Mitch and Micah Gurley M/JG Scholarship Fund, 308 W. Dolphin St., Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Online condolences may be made at [www.pughfuneral-home.com](http://www.pughfuneral-home.com).

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the McNeill family.

## BOBBY EUGENE ELLIS



Bobby Eugene Ellis, 85, of Newport, formerly of Chatham County, left to be with our Lord on October 20, 2021.

Bobby was born in Chatham County on January 13, 1936, to the late Robert Ellis and Ozie Woody Ellis. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Tripp Ellis, two sons, Henry Donald "Donnie" Ellis, Kennie Dwayne Ellis, great-grandson, Donald Ellis Klomprens, three brothers, Robert "Buck" Ellis, Billy Ellis, Lynwood Ellis, and three sisters, Hazel Barber, Rachel Blalock, and Mamie Lois Ellis.

He grew up in a farming family and joined the Navy serving honorably until discharged in February 1963. Bobby enjoyed hunting, fishing, and farming, often growing enough vegetables to feed his friends and neighbors. He was an awesome father, grandfather, and a friend to all. He served 26 years as a Lieutenant in the Chatham County Sheriff's Department in the capacity of chief jailer. He retired to the Crystal Coast and spent his last years in Newport with his faithful little buddy "Pepper." His door was always open to family and friends, always having a good meal cooking on the stove. Bobby and Pepper enjoyed their daily golf cart rides visiting with their neighbors. His favorite pastime was sitting on the breezeway with Pepper watching the birds, squirrels, and boat launches.

Surviving relatives include two daughters, Cherie Sumner and husband Mike, Vicki Klomprens and husband Terry; one son, Robert Keith Glenn Ellis; daughters-in-law, Sharon Williams Ellis, and Patricia Brady Ellis; three sisters, Ruby Holt, Shirley Thomas, Nancy Beal and husband Lonnie; two brothers, Obie Ellis and wife Gracie, Walter "Dink" Ellis and wife Frances; 10 grandchildren, Michael Sumner and wife Brooke, Dana Daniel and husband Paul, Jerry Sumner and wife Kim, Jacob Lee Klomprens, Aaron Blake Klomprens, Donna Zogopoulos and husband Todd, Geoffrey Alan Ellis, Amanda Lauren Ellis, Robert Damon Lee Ellis, and Shaina Mae Rose Ellis Laster, and multiple great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends Thursday, October 28, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory Griffin Chapel. A graveside service will be held Friday, October 29, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Calvary Church (formerly Mt. Zion UMC) with Chaplain Rick Brooks presiding.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial contributions to be made in Bobby's memory to Loaves and Fishes Ministry, 1730 Live Oak Street, Beaufort, N.C. 28516.

Condolences may be made at [www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com).

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Ellis family.

## CAROLYN NEWSOME PITTMAN

Carolyn Newsome Pittman, 87, of Siler City passed away on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill.

Mrs. Pittman was born in Hertford County, N.C., on June 26, 1934, the daughter of Troy and Lena Taylor Newsome. Carolyn was a member of the First Baptist Church. She spent her working years as a devoted Elementary School Teacher for 35 years. Carolyn enjoyed spending time in her yard working on her flowers. She had a great love for her cats. In addition to her parents, Carolyn is preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Bruce Pittman.

She is survived by her sons, Gregory Pittman and (Jose Javier Chacon) of Pompano Beach, Fla. and Robin Pittman and (Vicky) of Greensboro; grandchildren, Ryan, Allison and Alexandra.

A memorial service was held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Ave., Siler City, with Rev. Jason Brogan officiating. The family received friends after the service at the Smith & Buckner Chapel.

Memorials may be made to the Chatham County Council On Aging, Meals on Wheels, P.O. Box 715, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Online condolences may be made at [www.pughfuneral-home.com](http://www.pughfuneral-home.com).

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Pittman family.

## ROBERT ANTHONY KERLEY

Robert Anthony Kerley, 38, of Cameron, passed away on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Funeral service was held Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford, with burial following in Lee Memory Gardens.

## BOBBY ROGER (BOW) GAINES

Bobby Roger (Bow) Gaines, 82, of Goldston, passed away on Monday, October 18, 2021.

Roger was born on July 15, 1939, in Goldston, to the late Robert and Gertie Gaines. He drove for Byrd Motor Line in Lexington. He was preceded in passing by his parents and brothers, Wayne, Tommy, Rick Gaines, and sisters, Shelby Jean, Glory Jean, Carolyn Gilliland.

In addition to his wife, Peggie, daughter, Maggie; and two grandchildren, he is survived by his sister Brenda Beal.

The funeral service will be held at Gaines Grove Cemetery at 11 a.m. on October 21, 2021. He will lie in repose at Smith and Buckner Funeral Home from 1 to 5 p.m. on October 20, 2021. Family will gather and welcome loved ones at the home of Maggie and Drew Hackney.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for any donations to be made to a scholarship fund set up for his two grandchildren, Fynnlie and Karver. The Hackney Scholarship Fund, c/o Fidelity Bank, 1426 East 11th St., Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Online condolences may be made at [www.pughfuneral-home.com](http://www.pughfuneral-home.com).

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Gaines family.

## WENDY BROWN WILLIAMS

Wendy Brown Williams, 50 of Broadway, died Monday, October 18, 2021, at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro.

Funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m. on Friday, October 22, 2021, at Cool Springs Baptist Church in Sanford with Rev. Matt Martin officiating. Burial followed in the Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery.

She was born October 31, 1970, daughter of Frances Capps Brown and the late Johnny Mack Brown. She was preceded in death by her father.

Surviving is her mother, Frances Capps Brown of Broadway; her husband, Barry Wayne Williams of the home; daughter, Holly Williams Hedgepath of Broadway; son, Grant Austin Williams of the home; brother, Robert Mack Brown of Sanford; and one granddaughter.

Online condolences may be made at [www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com](http://www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com).

## BRITTON DARRELL BUCHANAN

Britton Darrell Buchanan, 61 of Sanford, died Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at his home.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, October 23, 2021, at Juniper Springs Baptist Church with Pastor Eddie Thomas officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was born on October 6, 1960, son of Annie Beryl Buchanan and the late William Harvey Buchanan. He worked at Tyson in maintenance and as a truck driver for Maxway.

Surviving is his mother, Annie Beryl Buchanan of Sanford; and brothers, Craig Buchanan and Randall Gattis, both of Sanford.

Online condolences may be made at [www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com](http://www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com).

## LEONARD RAY RAGAN

Leonard Ray Ragan, 88, of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at his home.

The body laid in state from 2 to 7 p.m. on Friday, October 22, 2021, at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. A graveside service was held at 11a.m. on October 23, 2021, at Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery, with Pastor Mike Oldham presiding.

Leonard was born in Harnett County on March 11, 1933, to the late Mack Thomas and Vira Jarman Ragan. Mr. Ragan was retired from the State of N.C. in the maintenance division. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Kathryn Mills Ragan; a grandson; a sister, Alice Taylor; and brothers, John Mack Thomas and Robert Kenneth Ragan.

Surviving relatives include his sons, Charles Ray Ragan and Curtis Dixon Ragan, both of Sanford; daughter, Angela Ragan Jones of Sanford; sister, Betty Buchanan of Lillington; seven grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

## FRANKLIN ELLIS WILLIAMS

Franklin Ellis Williams, 85, of Harnett County died Thursday, October 21, 2021 at his home.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 24, 2021, at Bridges and Cameron Funeral Home Chapel with the Reverend James Estes officiating. Burial followed at Miracle Baptist Church Cemetery.

He was the son of the late Lonnie Lloyd and Maggie Cooper Williams, and was preceded in death by his wife, Eula Bell Matthews Williams. He was a member of Miracle Baptist Church and a truck driver for 50+ years.

He is survived by his sons, Ellis Williams, Terry Williams, Mark Williams, all of Sanford, Jimmy Williams of Broadway; 12 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Cleona Moore of Sanford.

Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

## DONALD WILLIAM WOOSTER

Donald William Wooster, 71, of Fayetteville, died Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at Wilkes Regional Medical Center in North Wilkesboro.

Memorial and Masonic services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at Phoenix Lodge #8.

Donald was born on June 28, 1950, son of the late John J. and Joyce Childress Wooster. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Chester Wooster. Don was general manager of several hotels in the Fayetteville area, then retired from Pet Dairy. He was a Veteran of the United States Army, Past Master of Phoenix Masonic Lodge #8 and served as Grand Commander of the York Rite of North Carolina.

Surviving is his wife, Susan Dean Wooster of the home; daughter, Johnna Wooster King of Fayetteville; a brother, Robert Lee Wooster of Griffin, Georgia; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Online condolences can be made at [www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com](http://www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com).

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

## ANNA COOK FOWLER

Anna Cook Fowler, 81, of Pittsboro, passed October 19, 2021.

Arrangements by Cremation Society of the Carolinas, Raleigh.

## MAURICE DE'ANGELO HARRINGTON

Maurice De'Angelo Harrington, 54, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at his residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## CHESTER MELVIN DOUGLAS SR.

Chester Melvin Douglas Sr., 82, of Sanford passed away on Sunday, October 24, 2021, at his residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## WILLIAM SAMUEL RODGERS

William Samuel Rodgers, 52, of Siler City passed away on Thursday, October 21, 2021.

Services have been entrusted to Knotts & Son.

## CAROL ANN MILLER FAHLE

Carol Ann Miller Fahle, 61, of Carthage passed away on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at FirstHealth Hospice House in West End.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

## MARZELLA LONG MURCHISON

Marzella Long Murchison, 92, of Spring Lake passed away on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at her home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## RONALD ST. CLAIR

Ronald St. Clair, 75, of Fayetteville passed away at the State Veterans' Home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

## PATRICK SHONDALL BETHEA

Patrick Shondall Bethea, 47, of Sanford passed away on Thursday, October 19, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.



PITTSBORO COMMISSIONERS

# Affordable housing vote tabled at Monday meeting

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro commissioners held a public hearing on Monday evening discussing the affordable housing element of the Chatham Park development, as well as discussing the creation of an affordable housing ordinance for the town.

They ultimately decided to hold off on voting on the topic until there could be a workshop session where experts could come in and evaluate Chatham Park's proposal.

Commissioner John Bonitz brought the idea forward of continuing the public hearing at a later date until the commissioners and mayor could hear from local experts about their thoughts on Chatham Park's proposal. Specifically, Bonitz felt hearing a statistic for the current need for affordable housing in Pittsboro would be crucial in the board's decision when voting on Chatham Park's proposal.

"I would like this board to hear a quantification of the need or at some attempts of estimating the need for affordable housing in our community," he said. "I think it's appropriate because the work of the (affordable housing) task force was, indeed, four years ago, and so any efforts at understanding the need then are going to be different from today."

The affordable housing element of Chatham Park is the last outstanding element of its master plan awaiting approval from Pittsboro commissioners. But Chatham Park's proposed 5% of all residential units reserved for affordable housing units hasn't been satisfactory for the board.

On Monday, Chatham Park representative Chuck Smith said Chatham Park Investors were willing to go up to 8%, but residents who spoke at public comment felt 8% wasn't enough.

"Anyone who works within the park, including those on the lower end of the pay scale, should be able to find housing in Chatham Park," Pittsboro resident Bobby Nicholas said. "If only the required percentage is people (earning) 80% to 120% of the average median income, the units for lower cost housing will not be built."

Other residents expressed similar concerns. Henry Foust retired from his job as a Chatham County Schools teacher and said he was able to live comfortably. But he said based off of the numbers and thresholds he'd seen, he would technically qualify for an

affordable housing unit. "If that's the case for me, you can imagine what the calculations would show for a beginning teacher, or a teacher's assistant, or a cafeteria worker and many other people like me," Foust said. "So the question comes up of, according to the current proposal, is there sufficient space in Chatham Park for people like me?"

One of the issues brought forth by Commissioner Kyle Shipp was in regards to land allocation for residential properties in Chatham Park. Shipp said he wanted to look at how much land the developers planned on using for residential units to see what land could be set aside for affordable housing units.

"This element includes a higher priority of land development," he said. "I think we do need some standards for the characteristics of that land would be to develop on it."

Pittsboro commissioners discussed potential incentives for developers, like those involved at the Chatham Park project, to build a certain amount of affordable housing in each development.

The proposed affordable housing incentives for Pittsboro developments would include density credit payments, expedited reviews through town staff, application and development fee rebates and more. These would be granted to developers if they agreed to reserve 10% of residential dwellings for people who make less than 60% of the average median income, 15% of units for those who make between 60% and 80% of the AMI and 20% of residential units for those who make between 80% and 120% of the AMI.

Mayor Jim Nass said the main goal of the incentives was to help bring enough affordable units to Pittsboro to address the needs of those who qualify for affordable housing.

"This problem that we are facing with affordable housing is nationwide, and certainly it is countywide" Nass said. "We want this additional element to be as good as it can possibly be, but I think very much, like the ordinance we talked about immediately before this, that it will have to be tweaked, examined and changed from time to time as we move forward."

The board will continue the affordable housing hearing at its next meeting on Nov. 8.

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at [theeden@chathamnr.com](mailto:theeden@chathamnr.com).

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

NATIONAL DATA

<b>ACROSS</b>	57 "— a customer"	106 Some legislators (or the theme of this puzzle?)	8 Desktop illuminator	39 Stocking stuffer	77 1941 Oscar winner Mary
1 Bumper-car carnival ride	59 Joe of "GoodFellas"	117 Arrived by plane	9 No longer being detained	40 Worked on a leaf collection?	78 Scottish title
7 TV title alien	60 Clinton aide Myers	118 Opera legend Pavarotti	10 Sax celebrity	41 "You beat me"	79 Emitted a contented sigh
10 Garden pond fish	62 Susan of "Goldengirl"	119 Make a comment	11 Soulful Redding	42 Tennis tie	82 Ending for golden or New
13 Cause to blunder	64 Eurasian animal with antlers	120 Response to "You'd never do that!"	12 Really tiny	43 Up and about	83 Arnaz of TV
19 Cook too long	66 "North to the Future"	121 Ill-fated NASA mission of 1967	13 "Saturday Night Fever" star	46 Gained access to	85 Decide on
20 Ned of NASCAR	70 Used up	122 And others, to Ovid	14 Hard Italian cheese	50 Refrigeration fluid	88 Toned down
22 Ned of "The D.A."	74 118-Across was one	123 Dwelt	15 "Sure, put me down"	51 Workers with shingles, maybe	90 Outside clearance event, of a sort
23 Appear gradually, as a scene	75 Printing goofs	124 Round bread of India	16 Toenail treatment, informally	52 Kofi, once of the U.N.	91 Quite chubby
24 "No, seriously!"	80 Humdinger	125 Subj. for some immigrants	17 Astral bear	54 Caveman's weapon	94 Bert with lion lines
25 Surround by	81 Reformer Ralph	126 Passable	18 Coffee holder	58 Scrub nurses' sites, in brief	98 Not delayed
26 Mountain laurel	84 "OK" from Tom Sawyer to Aunt Polly	<b>DOWN</b>	21 Rambled	61 Be hammy	99 Diamond substitute
29 Clumsy type	86 Workplace welfare org.	1 Tip politely, as one's hat	27 Mexican city due south of Dallas	63 Tribal pole emblem	100 Baseball pioneer Buck
30 Stocking stuffer	87 Fuddy-duddies	2 Human face's shape	28 Elevate	65 — Mountain fry food	102 Came closer
31 It's charged	89 Topaz	3 Whoop- — (extravagant fanfare)	32 Waiting with — breath	67 Two fives	105 One way to
32 Alternative to ChapStick	92 Relative of a lutz	4 Expanded	33 2013 Grammy winner for "Royals"	68 — Mary-mount	106 Chunky slice
37 "Old Folks at Home"	93 Bullfight yells	5 Sedgwick of Warhol films	34 Dune of classic films	69 Stadium's kin	107 Garr of films
44 Vital artery	95 Israeli airline	6 Marilyn of "Niagara"	35 Lieu	70 Britcom of the '90s	108 Spellbound
45 Spellbound	96 Right wrongs	7 In — (pronto)	36 Chinese ideal	71 Pope before Paul V	109 Flair
47 1989-2007 senator Trent	97 Cactus wren		37 California county whose seat is Fairfield	72 Coors offering	110 Cocooned insect
48 Stein fillers	101 Went in		38 Sign word after "Ye"	73 Trade group	111 Son of Seth
49 Blue spruce	103 To the — power			76 GPS calculation	112 Head, in Haiti
53 Propose a date to	104 Savings acct. accrual				113 Classroom Apple, often
55 Author Ferber	105 Hail, basically				114 Glen
56 Pro — (in proportion)					115 Bard's Ireland
					116 Revue sketch
					117 Pill-OK'ing agcy.

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

P	A	S	T	O	R	A	L	S	E	C	E	D	E	L	O	A	F	S	
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COLLEGE HONORS

WILLIAM PEACE UNIVERSITY

Kyle Rooze of Pittsboro has been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2021 semester at William Peace University in Raleigh.

MAIN

Continued from page A3

Fiocco serves on MSPBO's board of directors.

Parker-Lewis shared his sentiments, especially since she formed part of the organization when it was a town operation. Prior to being a nonprofit, MSPBO was a part of the parks manager's job. Parker-Lewis became involved in 2016 before the nonprofit was formed and went to a N.C. Main Street training workshop. There, she saw what MSPBO could become if it had more manpower.

"I realized there was so much more to the program that what we were taking advantage of," she said.

From there, MSPBO formed as a nonprofit and was funded by the town of Pittsboro and its own fundraising efforts. The memorandum was created as a way to maintain a formal partnership between the town and MSPBO to allow for town funds to be used to help fund its work.

Parker-Lewis said she and her husband, Greg — the couple owns and operates The Sycamore, an upscale restaurant in Pittsboro — had a conversation with Shipp the Friday before the meeting to discuss the town's future with MSPBO. Prior to this conversation, Parker-Lewis said she had heard rumors about ending the MOU.

"There were some murmurings," she said, "and we weren't really sure what was going on."

Shipp presented the various ideas he and others had in regard to the future of the partnership, according to Parker-Lewis. She said that conversation led her to believe the board was going to

renew the MOU and change the funding schedule.

"He discussed two various thoughts," she said. "One of which was that instead of right now, the agreement is that we get two installments from the town, one at the beginning of the fiscal year, one in the middle of the fiscal year. So, he was thinking: what if we did quarterly installments with our updates?"

Parker-Lewis said even though Shipp had mentioned bringing the organization into the town in their conversation, it appeared the town was going to wait to make a decision.

"I had no idea that it was going to be a discussion on Monday night and a vote was going to be taken on Monday night," she said. "I had hoped that there might have been more discussion with the organization itself."

Shipp told the News + Record in an email message there were many reasons the board went the way it did in regard to the MOU with MSPBO. But ultimately he believed it would allow the commissioners to focus on other issues the town faces.

"The amount of time that the board of commissioners has spent discussing Main Street Pittsboro has exceeded other larger issues such as water quality, affordable housing, sewer capacity, etc.," Shipp said. "I believe this is the best option to move forward for the stakeholders in the Main Street district and the rest of Pittsboro."

Shipp also addressed the disappointment Parker-Lewis and other volunteers felt after the board's decision not to renew the MOU. He said the town was grateful for all of the work the nonprofit has been able

to accomplish, and he hoped the decision wouldn't stop the nonprofit from continuing its work.

"The decision by the town board does not denigrate the significant efforts of the volunteers at Main Street Pittsboro over the last few years," Shipp said. "The MOU between the town and Main Street Pittsboro was one way to accomplish the goals of the Main Street program. I believe this change will allow the current volunteers to more directly impact the citizens and businesses in the Main Street district while attracting new volunteers and perspectives."

The MOU provided an avenue for MSPBO to request funds directly from the town, but with the partnership not being renewed for the 2022 fiscal year, the organization will no longer secure funds from the town.

According to Shipp, Main Street Pittsboro's budget last year had \$70,000 going toward the upkeep and operations of the Welcome Center and \$8,900 allocated toward administrative costs; around \$43,000 funded other Main Street district projects.

MSPBO now faces finding those operating funds on its own.

Parker-Lewis said while finances would not necessarily be an issue, MSPBO has not been able to decide exactly what lies in its future.

"At this point, we are not dissolving," she said. "But I hope that we continue to see all of the things that the organization has brought to our town."

MSPBO meets Oct. 29 to discuss its next steps.

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at [theeden@chathamnr.com](mailto:theeden@chathamnr.com).

Piney Grove United Methodist Church  
**Annual Harvest Sale**  
Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>  
**BBQ Dinner begins at 4:30 PM**  
**Sale begins at 6 PM**  
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Brown's Chapel United Methodist Church  
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**Chicken Supper**  
November 6, 2021 • 3PM *Until Sold Out*  
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(plate contains: Stew OR 1/2 BBQ chicken, slaw, hushpuppies & dessert)  
QUART CONTAINER OF STEW: \$10  
PINT CONTAINER OF STEW: \$5  
*Sides are also available for purchase separately (hushpuppies slaw, or desserts)*

# UNDER JERUSALEM: Author's book digs into what's below historic city

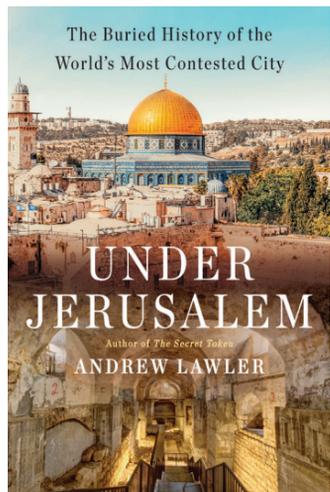
Sacred to three faiths and revered by more than half the people on the planet, the city of Jerusalem conjures up powerful images of the celestial. Beneath its narrow alleys and holy places, however, the ancient city conceals a labyrinthine, three-dimensional time capsule recording five millennia of bustling prosperity and brutal war — not to mention repeated religious innovation that altered the course of human history.

**Andrew Lawler**

That's what Andrew Lawler wanted to explore. He did — for his just-released book, "Under Jerusalem: The Buried History of the World's Most Contested City" — and he'll discuss the work, at an event at McIntyre's Books in Fearington Village in Pittsboro on Nov. 6. It'll be held at 11 a.m.; for more information, visit [www.mcintyresbooks.com/event/andrew-lawler-discusses-under-jerusalem](http://www.mcintyresbooks.com/event/andrew-lawler-discusses-under-jerusalem).

Lawler, a contributing writer for Science magazine and a contributing editor for Archaeology, is also the author of the bestselling "The Secret Token: Myth, Obsession, and the Search for the Lost Colony of Roanoke," as well as the acclaimed "Why Did the Chicken Cross the World?: The Epic Saga of the Bird that Powers Civilization." His work has appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, National Geographic, and Smithsonian.

Kai Bird, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and author, has called Under Jerusalem "a brilliant, highly innovative history of the most contested city on the planet." "Andrew Lawler," he wrote, "uses these untold stories of archaeological digs near and under Jerusalem's sacred sites to convey all the colorful and violent and contentious history of



**IF YOU'RE GOING**

Event date: 11 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Nov. 6  
 Location: McIntyre's Books, 220 Market Street, Fearington Village.  
 Admission: \$5 ticket required; the cost of your ticket can be put toward a purchase of "Under Jerusalem" at McIntyre's on the day of the event.

both spiritual as well as material and scientific treasure.

**What led you there, to Jerusalem, and to write this book?**

Naivete. I've covered archaeological digs in many Middle Eastern countries, but was also wary of Jerusalem given its political and religious turmoil. But when an Israeli archaeologist gave me a tour of the underground city, I couldn't resist learning more. National Geographic assigned me to do a story on this subterranean landscape, but even after that was published, I was eager to know more. Little did I know that the topic would hold me captive for three or so years.

**Is there a more historical city on Earth than Jerusalem? Why or why not?**

There are plenty of ancient cities with impressive histories — think Rome, Xian, or Mexico City. But none of these can match Jerusalem with its 5,000 years of religious innovation and a long and bloody list of sieges, battles, and utter destruction — along with some of the world's most sacred shrines. And unlike most old cities, the past here is always very present.

**What do you think is most misunderstood about Jerusalem — and what from your work here would help shed light on clarifying those misunderstandings?**

I was stunned to learn that

it was Western Christians, mainly Protestants, who started the scramble for Jerusalem. They arrived to dig up biblical remains in Jerusalem as part of a wider effort by colonial powers to dominate the city. This idea of recovering evidence of the Old Testament past was later passed on to Jews who emigrated to the Holy Land, and became central to Zionist identity. This set the stage for today's conflict with Palestinians, who, like Israeli Jews, claim Jerusalem as the capital of their nation.

**How was your personal story, and your faith, impacted by researching and writing the book?**

Everyone who comes to Jerusalem, whether raised Christian, Jewish, or Muslim, arrives with images and beliefs of this holy place instilled since childhood, and I was no exception. My job as a writer was to step into the fray, aware of my own personal beliefs but determined not to advocate for any one group or faith.

After seeing what archaeologists are finding beneath its streets, I came away convinced that each faith is today a result of its interactions with the other two, much as Jerusalem's architecture is a mix of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim styles. And I can envision a day when scientific results can provide the basis for believers to share a place that billions hold sacred.

**Jerusalem's history is as old as time itself. How did you decide to structure the book to capture that history, that story, and the revelations about the city's tombs, tunnels and trenches?**

There are plenty of books detailing the complicated history of Jerusalem. I took a different approach. What interested me was the people who searched beneath its surface, beginning with a French politician in the 1860s until the Israeli archaeologists digging today. Along

the way, of course, we get to discover the city's history as the excavators exposed it.

**How was the research experience into a city with that much history?**

Overwhelming. You could spend your life reading what has been written about Jerusalem. Fortunately, I had plenty of help from scholars and access to some extraordinary archives. They helped keep me from going down too many rabbit holes.

**Do you have a favorite story from your experience in writing the book?**

I spent most of my time living in the Christian Quarter of the Old City. One day, while shopping in the local grocery store off the Via Dolorosa, the Muslim owner asked me who I was, since I was hanging around longer than the average tourist. When I told him, he walked to the potato-chip aisle, raised a metal hatch, and vanished. I followed down a rickety ladder and found myself in a vast Crusader hall next to the Holy Sepulchre — and learned about a fierce fight and a 20-year-long legal battle between the shopkeeper and Christian monks over who owned the enormous space. This became a whole chapter in my book. That's Jerusalem — just when you think you know what's beneath your feet, you encounter something surprising.

**What will you share during your visit to McIntyre's?**

I will share lots of images from beneath the city that provide people with a sense of the enormity of subterranean Jerusalem, as well as some insights into the big questions scholars have tried to answer, from the actual burial site of Jesus to the lost city of Solomon.



And the winners are (drumroll please)...David Weekley and Garman Homes! Chatham Park is proud to announce that both of our Parade Home builders were recognized at the 2021 Parade of Homes Gala hosted by The Home Builders Association of Durham, Orange, & Chatham Counties. David Weekley Homes brought home Gold in its category for the Careywood model and Garman Homes was awarded Silver in another category for its No Little Plans design.

Both homes are located in Vineyards at Chatham Park. David Weekley showcased the Careywood, a beauti-

fully decorated model home featuring 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms over 2,300+ square feet. Enjoy a wonderfully open and airy first-floor living space and impeccable trim details throughout the home. The Barnaby, part of Garman Homes' Quotables Collection, is the America At Home Study Concept Home. This innovative floor plan boasts over 2,600 square feet with 4-bedrooms and 3.5-bathrooms and even has a secret room (we just can't tell you where!).



In addition to the awards, Chatham Park experienced three successful Parade weekends due to beautiful

weather, well-executed events, and a steady stream of visitors to the community. During our public event, visitors were able to enjoy food trucks, a caricature artist and participate in a fun scavenger hunt. Participants turned in their registration cards at the MOSAIC Comes Alive event to receive a Chatham Park goodie bag.

Over the three Parade weekends, more than 660 people (including 230 Realtors) toured the Vineyards and MOSAIC Information Center to learn about our community, amenities, and custom homes nearing completion. We are pleased to announce that the festivities resulted in five homes sold by David Weekley, two homes sold by Garman Homes, and a custom home sale for Walker Design Build.

As supporters of the popular home tour, we recognize the opportunity to highlight not just our homes but our community as a whole. From our convenient location and stunning views to our myriad of amenities and retail spaces, we know you are going to love what Chatham Park has to offer.

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WEBB SQUARED DEBUTS

# Nonprofit aims to support Black-owned businesses

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A Chatham County-based nonprofit created to offer a “living ecosystem of support” for Black-owned businesses ceremoniously opened its services at a ribbon-cutting event at The Plant in Pittsboro on Saturday.

WEBB Squared has been a project led by Stephanie Terry, the nonprofit’s executive director, to address the racial economic inequities Black business owners face.

“WEBB Squared is a N.C. nonprofit created to support Black entrepreneurs living in rural North Carolina,” Terry told the News + Record. “Our infrastructure helps mitigate the structural obstacles that Black entrepreneurs face by providing support.”

WEBB Squared’s gala marked the start of its official operations in Chatham County. Several local officials were present at the event, including county and Pittsboro commissioners and Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass.

Nass said he believed WEBB Squared — the acronym stands for “Wealth Through Entrepreneurship for Black Businesses” — would be influential and create positive change within the community.

“This has power and the opportunity to be



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Stephanie Terry (left), the executive director of WEBB Squared, and supporter Carol Hewitt encourage attendees to donate to the nonprofit during Saturday’s event.**

transformational for Chatham County, transformational for the town of Pittsboro and transformational for the whole state,” he said.

WEBB Squared brought in several guests to talk about its mission and opening. The gala was hosted by comedian Rob Santos and featured the Grammy-nominated John Brown Jazz Quintet.

Santos has a unique connection to North Carolina: his family came to North Carolina and was sold into slavery in the city of Raleigh, the place where his flight into N.C. for the event landed, at

Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

He said coming to N.C. was an emotional and healing experience for him.

“My family is from here, so for me, this is like coming home,” he said. “I feel at peace now.”

Santos talked more about what he called “his backstory,” which many Black Americans share, and how WEBB Squared goes to address the history.

“We all have a backstory that helps to shape who you are, a backstory that tells us to live life in a certain way, a backstory that at time our lives revolved around may not necessarily be true anymore,” he said. “If we change the way we think, we can change the way we behave. We use that power so that our backstory does not have to be the story.”

According to a 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances data from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the average Black household in America has \$24,100 in wealth, while white households average \$189,100 in wealth and assets.



Staff Photo by Kim Hawks

**Saturday’s WEBB Squared event in Pittsboro featured music and performances.**

Terry said that fact was a huge motivation for her in starting WEBB Squared. She wants the organization to help Black-owned businesses by working to address economic disparities caused by systemic racially dividing policies.

“Policies and legislation that have historically disadvantaged Black Americans have been passed down through generations and inform the starting points of Black entrepreneurs,” Terry said. “To really get at closing the racial wealth gap, we need to have a structural, systemic impact — one that involves entire business ecosystems. We have inherited, and in many instances are maintaining, race-based arrangements with race-neutral solutions. To really make an impact that addresses disparate outcomes, we must be intentional about race.”

Terry said as Chatham County continues to grow, it becomes even more crucial to address the systemic issues Black entrepreneurs face. By doing so, she hopes WEBB Squared will help to nurture an important part of the local economy.

“As Chatham County grows and becomes more diverse with different people from ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds coming here to live, a thriving diverse



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Stephanie Terry (in red) cuts the ribbon at the launch gala for WEBB Squared Saturday in Pittsboro.**

business community is essential to the growth and economic well-being of our rural county,” she said. “The time is now for Chatham County to more fully embrace the ingenuity, genius, and business acumen of Black entrepreneurs in tangible, public-facing ways.”

WEBB Squared offers a variety of programs, ranging from individualized coaching sessions to financial advising. The nonprofit also offers something called the “Mindset Program,” which serves as a mentorship opportunity for Black entrepreneurs, according to the WEBB Squared website.

“Our unique trainings are designed to assist the Black entrepreneur realign with powerful universal principles that expand the natural abilities of human beings to attract and create for more desirable results,” according to the website.

Individual coaching is priced at \$250. Both the Mindset program and the financial advising program offers two unique sessions. The “History

and Context of Black Entrepreneurship in the U.S.” mindset curriculum is three sessions for \$375. The “Developing a Power-Mindset” program is four sessions at \$500. Both financial advising and literacy programs are three sessions for \$375.

WEBB Squared has become Terry’s dream, and she said to see her project come alive has been a life-altering experience. She hopes she can help other Black entrepreneurs have the access to resources to make sure their ventures are successful.

“I am really looking forward to seeing all the people gathered together to celebrate what we hope to build, relationships that express our values of abundance, equity, and interdependence,” she said. “For me, it feels like launching the work that I was born to do. I am finally using all my skill sets and talents to live my purpose.”

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theed-[en@chathamnr.com](mailto:en@chathamnr.com).



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**The Grammy-nominated John Brown Quintet performs at the WEBB Squared launch party Saturday at The Plant in Pittsboro.**

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NORTHWOOD 3, TERRY SANFORD 0

# Heavy hitters: Team chemistry, star power carry Chargers to first-round playoff win

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — As a player at Northwood from 2012-2015, Alexis Hollis strove to change the school's volleyball image.

Now, in her first year as the team's head coach, Hollis has been instrumental in leading the Chargers to the highest single-season win total in school history.

And it continues to rise.

Last Saturday, No. 12 Northwood (22-5, 10-2 in Central 3A conference) swept the No. 21 Terry Sanford Bulldogs (15-7, 13-1 in All-American 3A/4A) at home in the first round of the NCHSAA 3A volleyball playoffs in front of a passionate crowd on both sides.

The playoff win was not only the first of Hollis' head coaching career, but also the first postseason victory for the Chargers since their Sweet 16 run in 2018 and their first home playoff win since 2017.

"I'm very, very proud of the girls," Hollis said after the game. "I think today, we definitely were more of a team than we've ever been."

While there are two stand-out players on the Chargers — senior Hannah Forbes and sophomore Asia Thigpen, both of whom played exceptionally well on Saturday — it's the team as a whole that rose to the occasion against the Bulldogs.

If it wasn't for senior setter Ainsley Fauth, who tallied 34 assists on the afternoon

as she continued placing the ball in the perfect spot for her attackers, Forbes (19 kills) and Thigpen (13) might not have been able to contribute 32 kills between the two of them.

If it wasn't for senior libero Olivia Thill saving points or senior Laikyn Hodges for bringing the energy or senior Kaylee Atkins and senior Annika Kearsley for imposing their presence up front, the game might not have been as much of a breeze as it was after the first set.

Yet, all of those players stepped up.

Hence why the Chargers are moving on.

"I think players have become

See **CHARGERS**, page B5



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood senior Ainsley Fauth (12) sets up an assist for senior Hannah Forbes (16) during Chargers' 3-0 sweep of Terry Sanford in the first round of the NCHSAA 3A playoffs last Saturday. After the game, Northwood sophomore Asia Thigpen called Fauth 'a really, really great setter.'

WOLVES 3, KNIGHTS 0 | WOLVES 3, NE CAROLINA PREP 0

# Woods Charter wins conference title, advances to 1A's 2nd round

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — Woods Charter isn't supposed to be here.

The Wolves aren't supposed to be one-loss conference volleyball champions.

They aren't supposed to be the No. 7 seed in the 1A East.

They aren't supposed to be state title contenders.

And yet, here they are.

Woods Charter's (16-3, 9-1 in conference) victory over the Chatham Charter Knights (17-6, 9-2 in conference) in the Central Tar Heel 1A Conference Championship last Wednesday, 3-0, was nothing short of electric.

Hosted by Woods, a school of fewer than 200 students, it felt like the entire student body was in attendance for the Wolves' most important match of the season to date.

"We had a few students here on Monday in the semis and they saw how Chatham Charter's fans kind of pumped them up and got them into the match," Scott Green, Woods Charter's head coach, said after the win. "Social media exploded over the past few days to try and get people to come to our match and you see how effective it was."

"You go down to Woods the other night, and good Lord," Johnny Alston, Chatham Charter's head volleyball coach, said in a phone call with the News + Record last Friday. "The gym's packed, they've got the mascot running around in there, there are about four different signs and it was just a tough envi-



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Woods Charter's volleyball team lifts the Central Tar Heel 1A conference championship trophy after defeating Chatham Charter, 3-0, in the conference championship match last Wednesday in Chapel Hill. After having a combined 4-44 record over the last three seasons, the Wolves have officially gone from last to first.

ronment for any visiting team to go into."

The Wolves' home gym had a very different atmosphere on Wednesday than it has in years past — primarily because they're finally winning.

Since Green took over ahead of the 2018 season, it's been an uphill battle.

For the first three seasons of Green's tenure (2018-2020), the Wolves finished last in their conference — including a fourth place finish out of

four teams in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season — encompassing a 4-44 overall record (1-36 in the conference).

This season, it took just six games to surpass their combined win total over the past three seasons — thanks to a 5-1 start that was part of a larger 11-game win streak, which propelled them to an eventual conference title.

"It's just a great feeling, especially after three years of

finishing last in the conference," Green said. "To go from last to conference champions, it's just very fulfilling, very gratifying. The girls worked really hard and they deserve it."

At the end of the regular season, the Wolves found themselves co-conference champions alongside the Knights after splitting the season series, 1-1.

After Woods Charter swept Chatham Charter in the first

meeting, the second acted as Clash of the Titans-esque rematch, with the Knights, fueled by the loss and on a winning streak of their own, taking a five-set thriller at home.

In the rematch, the stars shined bright on both sides as each team's top attacker — sophomore Lexi Smollen for the Wolves, junior Emerson Clark for the Knights — came away with 30 kills each.

"Individually, it was like each one versus the other," Alston said with a laugh. "Emerson would kill it and Smollen would dig it, and then she'd kill it and Emerson would dig it. You could actually see that taking place."

But on Wednesday, in the finale of the three-part series, it was Smollen and the Wolves who ran away with it.

After Smollen knocked the ball out of the back of the Knights' zone for a Chatham Charter point to make it 15-12 in the first set, the Wolves rattled off 10 of the next 12 points, cruising to a 25-14 win and taking a one-set advantage.

The next set was simply an extension of Woods' dominance, starting out with a 7-0 run and ending with six straight points to cap off a 25-9 second-set victory. The Wolves just needed one more set and they were conference champs.

Between both of those runs, one thing became clear, if it wasn't already: Smollen's ability to choose how she hits the ball — either forceful with

See **WOLVES**, page B4

# Stephen Curry is the most exciting player in sports

There are few players in sports who have the ability to capture a nation's attention every time they step onto the playing field.

At one point, that was Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa as they chased Roger Maris' home run record. And then more recently, playoff LeBron James in the NBA and Patrick Mahomes in the NFL are always must-see TV.

But right now, Golden State Warriors' star Stephen Curry is not only the greatest shooter on the planet, but he's currently the most exciting player in American professional sports.

On NBA's opening night last Tuesday, Curry struggled shooting the ball, finishing 5-of-21 from the field as the Warriors narrowly beat the Los Angeles Lakers. Nonetheless, he recorded his first regular season triple-double since his MVP season in 2015-16. He didn't have to erupt for 62 points like he did last year against the Portland Trail Blazers. It was the mere possibility that he might have one of those "Curry explosions" that brings you in.

Two nights later, the Charlotte native caught fire like he has so many times throughout his career, scoring 25 points in the first quarter alone without missing any of his nine shots. He scored around the rim and drained contested 3-pointers. On the night, he finished with 45 points, nailing two dagger 3-pointers in the final

minutes as the Warriors took down the Los Angeles Clippers.

Curry doesn't have to play all 48 minutes to be a factor, either. Last season, the MVP finalist averaged a little more than 34 minutes, ranking No. 22 in the league. It was also the first time that Curry played an entire season without another scoring star alongside him.

First, it was Monta Ellis early in Curry's career, then it became current backcourt mate Klay Thompson, and for three years, Kevin Durant. Although Thompson and Durant made the Warriors and Curry more explosive, fans rarely got the opportunity to see what Curry could do by himself.

We got the chance to see this version of Curry last year following Thompson's injury and he didn't disappoint.

He averaged career-highs in points and rebounds and single-handedly led the Warriors into the play-in games.

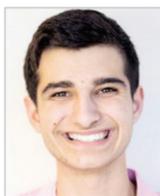
At one point in April, the baby-faced assassin posted 11 consecutive games with more than 30 points.

At age 33, the window for Curry's greatness is limited and even Thompson's lengthy injury is proof that we can't take either of the splash brothers for granted.

Now, with the Warriors facing probably the easiest 10-game stretch of their regular season schedule, Curry is primed to post video game-like numbers.

Don't wait for it to be over. You're watching something special.

Max Baker can be reached at max@chathamnr.com and @maxbaker\_15.



MAX BAKER  
CN+R Intern

**CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN**

# This week's schedule and last week's results

**BY VICTOR HENSLEY**  
News + Record Staff

Woods Charter and Northwood's volleyball playoff runs.

Chatham Central's dominance in women's tennis.

Nearly every school's postseason appearances in cross country, women's golf and women's tennis individual tournaments.

Jordan-Matthews regular-season soccer perfection.

Those headlines are among a plethora of excitement happening around Chatham County athletics this week.

Things are only heating up as the county's six high schools fight for both team and individual titles in a variety of sports, while some programs are in the home stretch of their postseason push. Buy your tickets to any locally hosted playoff games/events, hop in your car and travel to any of the regional tournaments or re-up your subscription to NFHS Network to make sure you catch as much of the postseason (and continuing regular-season) action this week and beyond. You won't regret it. Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

**THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday, October 27**

Soccer: Chatham Central men vs. River Mill, 4:30 p.m.

Soccer: Woods Charter men at Southern Wake, 4 p.m.

**Thursday, October 28**

Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men at North Moore, 6 p.m.

Volleyball: Northwood, Woods Charter women in Sweet 16 of NCHSAA playoffs (if either or both teams win on Tuesday), times and opponents TBA

**Friday, October 29**

Tennis: Chatham Central, Chatham Charter women in doubles bracket of 1A Individual State Championships at Cary Tennis Park, 9 a.m.

Tennis: Seaforth women (sophomore Evelyn Atkins) in singles bracket of 2A Individual State Championships at Ting Park in Holly Springs, 9 a.m.

Football: Northwood vs. Western Alamance, 7 p.m.

Football: Chatham Central vs. North Moore, 7:30 p.m.

Football: Jordan-Matthews at East Chapel Hill, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 30**

Cross Country: Chatham Charter, Woods Charter at 1A Mid East Regional at WakeMed Soccer Park, 8 a.m.

Cross Country: Jordan-Matthews, Seaforth at 2A Mid East Regionals at WakeMed Soccer Park, 9:30 a.m.

Cross Country: Northwood at 3A Mid East Regional at Northwood, 10 a.m.

Volleyball: Northwood, Woods Charter women in Elite 8 of NCHSAA playoffs (if either or both teams win on Tuesday and Thursday), times and opponents TBA

**LAST WEEK**

**Monday, October 18**

Golf: The Chatham Charter, Chatham Central, Seaforth and Woods Charter women competed at the 1A/2A East Regionals at Rosewood (Goldsboro Municipal Golf Course), where Woods Charter finished sixth as a team (+95; no

other Chatham schools qualified for team play). Finishing in the top 20 for Chatham schools were sophomore Mackenzie Crossman (Chatham Charter, fourth, +12 (84)), freshman Avery Fauth (Seaforth, seventh, +17 (89)), junior Reagan Mize (Chatham Central, T-15th, +26 (98)), sophomore Elise Teddy Taylor (Woods Charter, T-15th, +26 (98)), senior Sophie Taylor (Woods Charter, 19th, +28 (100)) and sophomore Olivia Dennis (Seaforth, T-20th, +29 (101)).

Soccer: The Chatham Charter men fell to the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 5-2, on the road.

Volleyball: The Chatham Charter women defeated the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 3-2, in a five-set match in the semifinals of the Central Tar Heel 1A conference tournament.

Volleyball: The Woods Charter women swept the River Mill Jaguars, 3-0, in the semifinals of the Central Tar Heel 1A conference tournament. Leading the Wolves on the night were sophomore Lexi Smollen (16 kills, 1 ace, 1 block, 7 digs), senior Jana Thompson (4 aces, 13 digs) and freshman Maya Sheridan (1 kill, 6 aces, 2 digs, 16 assists).

Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men shut out the Cummings Cavaliers, 6-0, to remain unbeaten on the season at 15-0-1. Scoring for the Jets on the night were Zander Ocampo (2 goals) and Brian Hernandez, Juan Soto Hernandez, Paul Lujan and Anthony Rodriguez, each with 1 goal.

Soccer: The Woods Charter men shut out the Triangle Math & Science Academy Tigers, 5-0, at home.

Volleyball: The Jordan-Matthews women swept the Seaforth Hawks, 3-0, to advance to the semifinals of the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference tournament.

Volleyball: The Chatham Central women swept the Graham Red Devils, 3-0, to advance to the semifinals of the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference tournament. Leading the Bears on the night were freshman Karaleigh Dodson (7 kills, 1 ace) and senior Taylor Poe (6 kills, 3 aces, 1 block).

Soccer: The Northwood men earned a dominant shut-out win over the Orange Panthers, 7-0, on the road. Scoring for the Chargers on the night were junior Benjamin Schoolcraft, senior Ayden Turner, sophomore Gabriel de Bueno, junior Javier Bautista, junior Jose Barajas, senior Bryan Ramirez and sophomore Patrick Baquero, all with 1 goal apiece.

**Tuesday, October 19**

Cross Country: Northwood competed in the Central 3A Conference Championship meet at home against Cedar Ridge, Eastern Alamance, Orange, Person, Western Alamance and Walter M. Williams, where the Chargers placed second in both the men's race (44 points) and women's race (50 points). Placing in the top 15 for the Chargers in the men's race were senior Colin Henry (fourth, 16:57.99), junior Christian Glick (seventh, 17:49.69), junior Matthew Sullivan (ninth, 17:58.29), junior Jackson Adams (11th, 18:15.06), senior Andrew Kimbrel (13th, 19:01.68) and freshman Ian Henry (15th, 19:13.19). Placing in the top 15 in the women's race for the Chargers were senior Caroline Murrell (first, 18:57.79), senior Emma Serrano (third,

21:16.74), freshman Avery Adams (13th, 24:08.06) and sophomore Rokia Sissoko (15th, 24:18.46).

Golf: The Northwood women competed in the 3A East Regional at Greensboro National Golf Club, where the Chargers finished 4th as a team (+80). Placing in the top 30 for Northwood were junior Lillian Jordan (sixth, +12 (84)), senior Lindsay Vickers (T-18th, +28 (100)) and senior Amelia Spell (T-30th, +40 (112)).

Volleyball: The Jordan-Matthews women were swept by the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 3-0, in the semifinals of the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference tournament.

Volleyball: The Chatham Central women lost in four sets, 3-1, to the North Moore Mustangs in the semifinals of the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference tournament. Leading the Bears on the night were senior Taylor Poe (7 kills, 3 aces, 1 block), freshman Karaleigh Dodson (8 kills, 1 block) and senior Ivey Tillman (8 kills, 1 block).

Soccer: The Northwood men won a lopsided shut out over the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 9-0, at home. Scoring for the Chargers were senior Bryan Ramirez (2 goals) and junior Gabriel Chirino, senior Ayden Turner, senior Jose Enamorado, senior Adam Beaulieu, junior Javier Bautista, junior Jose Barajas and sophomore Patrick Baquero, all with 1 goal apiece.

Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men earned a dominant shutout win over the Seaforth Hawks, 9-0, to stay unbeaten at 16-0-1 on the season.

Volleyball: The Woods Charter women defeated the Chatham Charter Knights, 3-0, to win the Central Tar Heel 1A conference championship meet against Clover Garden, River Mill, Southern Wake and Triangle Math & Science, where the Knights placed second in the men's race (36 points), while the Wolves placed first in both the men's race (32 points) and women's race (19 points). Finishing in the top 10 of the men's race for the Knights and Wolves were senior Brandon McKoy (Knights, first, 17:16.00), junior Wiley Sikes (Wolves, second, 18:38.00), senior Caleb Kolb (Knights, third, 20:01.00), freshman Jesse Sikes (Wolves, fourth, 20:15.00), junior Silas Christenbury (Knights, sixth, 20:19.00), senior Nichols Vallant (Wolves, eighth, 20:25.00) and freshman Dylan de Leon Villanueva (Wolves, ninth, 20:33.00). Finishing in the top 10 of the women's race for the Knights/Wolves were sophomore Ellie Poitras (Wolves, second, 20:49.00), junior Maddie Sparrow (Wolves, third, 21:01.00), junior Chloe Richard (Wolves, fourth, 24:00.00), freshman Anna Peeler (Wolves, seventh, 25:09.00) and sophomore Meredith Reese (Knights, eighth, 25:31.00).

**Wednesday, October 20**

Cross Country: Chatham Charter and Woods Charter competed in the Central Tar Heel 1A Conference Championship meet against Clover Garden, River Mill, Southern Wake and Triangle Math & Science, where the Knights placed second in the men's race (36 points), while the Wolves placed first in both the men's race (32 points) and women's race (19 points). Finishing in the top 10 of the men's race for the Knights and Wolves were senior Brandon McKoy (Knights, first, 17:16.00), junior Wiley Sikes (Wolves, second, 18:38.00), senior Caleb Kolb (Knights, third, 20:01.00), freshman Jesse Sikes (Wolves, fourth, 20:15.00), junior Silas Christenbury (Knights, sixth, 20:19.00), senior Nichols Vallant (Wolves, eighth, 20:25.00) and freshman Dylan de Leon Villanueva (Wolves, ninth, 20:33.00). Finishing in the top 10 of the women's race for the Knights/Wolves were sophomore Ellie Poitras (Wolves, second, 20:49.00), junior Maddie Sparrow (Wolves, third, 21:01.00), junior Chloe Richard (Wolves, fourth, 24:00.00), freshman Anna Peeler (Wolves, seventh, 25:09.00) and sophomore Meredith Reese (Knights, eighth, 25:31.00).

Soccer: The Woods Charter men defeated the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 3-1, on the road.

Tennis: The top-seeded Chatham Central women defeated the No. 16 Tarboro Vikings, 6-0, in the first round in the 1A East Region of the NCHSAA Dual-Team Playoffs.

Tennis: The No. 5 Chatham Charter women swept the No. 12 Gates County Red Barons, 9-0, in the first round in the 1A East Region of the NCHSAA Dual-Team Playoffs. Winning their singles matches for the Knights on the evening were sophomore Elphie Spillman (6-0, 6-0), senior Emery Eldridge (6-0, 6-1), senior Ashlyn Hart (6-0,

6-0), senior Lorelei Byrd (6-0, 6-0), junior Rebecca Brookshire (6-0, 6-0) and senior Emily Stecher (6-0, 6-0), while the duos of Spillman & Eldridge (8-3), Hart & Byrd (8-0) and Brookshire & Stecher (8-0) won their doubles matches.

Tennis: The No. 8 Northwood women were upset in a narrow match, 5-4, by the No. 9 Durham School of the Arts Bulldogs in the first round in the 3A East Region of the NCHSAA Dual-Team Playoffs. Winning their singles matches for the Chargers were senior Evelyn Lippers (6-1, 6-0), sophomore Ryan Tinervin (5-7, 6-2, 11-9), sophomore Kaylee Fisher (6-1, 6-4) and senior Kendall Leberge (6-0, 6-0), while all of the Chargers' doubles teams lost close matches.

Tennis: The No. 9 Seaforth women defeated the No. 8 North Johnston Panthers, 5-1, in the first round in the 2A East Region of the NCHSAA Dual-Team Playoffs. Winning their singles matches for the Hawks were sophomore Evelyn Atkins (4-6, 6-4, 10-4), sophomore Lauren Keeley (6-2, 6-3), freshman Bailey Shadoan (6-0, 6-3), freshman Lillian McFall (6-0, 6-0) and freshman Jenna Robinette (7-5, 6-4)

Soccer: The Chatham Charter men were shut out by the Triangle Math & Science Tigers, 3-0, to fall to 0-15 on the season.

Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men earned a dominant shutout win over the Seaforth Hawks, 9-0, to stay unbeaten at 16-0-1 on the season.

Volleyball: The Woods Charter women defeated the Chatham Charter Knights, 3-0, to win the Central Tar Heel 1A conference championship.

See match report in this week's edition.

Football: Jordan-Matthews fell to the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers in a shut-out loss, 54-0, to stay winless at 0-9 on the season (0-5 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).

Soccer: The Seaforth men shut out the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 7-0, for their second win of the season.

Football: Northwood was shut out by Eastern Alamance, 37-0, on the road to fall to 4-4 overall (2-2 in the Central 3A conference). Leading the Chargers on the night were junior quarterback Will Smith (2-for-4, 14 yards, 1 interception; 13 carries, 70 yards) and senior running back Dashaun Vines-McSwain (20 carries, 79 yards). See game report in this week's edition.

Football: Jordan-Matthews fell to the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers in a shut-out loss, 54-0, to stay winless at 0-9 on the season (0-5 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).

Soccer: The Seaforth men shut out the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 7-0, for their second win of the season.

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ference championship. See match report in this week's edition.

**Thursday, October 21**  
No events scheduled.

**Friday, October 22**

Tennis: The Chatham Central and Chatham Charter women competed in the 1A East Regionals at Herman Park in Goldsboro, where both of the Bears and Knights duos — Chatham Charter sophomore Elphie Spillman & senior Emery Eldridge, senior Ashlyn Hart & senior Lorelei Byrd; Chatham Central juniors Olivia Brooks & Ellie Phillips, junior Jaylee Williams & sophomore Rachel Albright — finished as the top four teams in the region. The Bears' duo of Brooks & Phillips defeated the Knights' pairing of Hart & Byrd (6-0, 6-1) to win the regional.

Soccer: The Seaforth men shut out the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 7-0, for their second win of the season.

Football: Northwood was shut out by Eastern Alamance, 37-0, on the road to fall to 4-4 overall (2-2 in the Central 3A conference). Leading the Chargers on the night were junior quarterback Will Smith (2-for-4, 14 yards, 1 interception; 13 carries, 70 yards) and senior running back Dashaun Vines-McSwain (20 carries, 79 yards). See game report in this week's edition.

Football: Jordan-Matthews fell to the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers in a shut-out loss, 54-0, to stay winless at 0-9 on the season (0-5 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).

Soccer: The Seaforth men shut out the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 7-0, for their second win of the season.

Football: Northwood was shut out by Eastern Alamance, 37-0, on the road to fall to 4-4 overall (2-2 in the Central 3A conference). Leading the Chargers on the night were junior quarterback Will Smith (2-for-4, 14 yards, 1 interception; 13 carries, 70 yards) and senior running back Dashaun Vines-McSwain (20 carries, 79 yards). See game report in this week's edition.

Football: Jordan-Matthews fell to the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers in a shut-out loss, 54-0, to stay winless at 0-9 on the season (0-5 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).

Soccer: The Seaforth men shut out the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 7-0, for their second win of the season.

Chatham Charter women were swept by the No. 14 Pamlico County Hurricanes, 3-0, in the first round of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs.

Volleyball: The No. 12 Northwood women swept the No. 21 Terry Sanford Bulldogs, 3-0, to advance to the second round of the NCHSAA 3A playoffs. Leading the Chargers on the afternoon were senior Hannah Forbes (19 kills, 4 digs), sophomore Asia Thigpen (13 kills, 2 aces, 5 digs) and senior Ainsley Fauth (2 kills, 1 ace, 4 digs, 34 assists). See match report in this week's edition.

Volleyball: The No. 31 Chatham Central women were swept by the No. 2 Neuse Charter Cougars, 3-0, in the first round of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs. Leading the Bears on the day were freshman Karaleigh Dodson (4 kills) and senior Lindsey Johnson (3 kills, 1 ace, 8 assists).

Volleyball: The No. 7 Woods Charter women swept No. 26 North East Carolina Prep, 3-0, to advance to the second round of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs. Leading the Wolves on the night was sophomore Lexi Smollen (22 kills, 3 aces, 8 digs).

Volleyball: The No. 7 Woods Charter women swept No. 26 North East Carolina Prep, 3-0, to advance to the second round of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs. Leading the Wolves on the night was sophomore Lexi Smollen (22 kills, 3 aces, 8 digs).

Volleyball: The No. 7 Woods Charter women swept No. 26 North East Carolina Prep, 3-0, to advance to the second round of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs. Leading the Wolves on the night was sophomore Lexi Smollen (22 kills, 3 aces, 8 digs).

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at [vhensley@chathamncr.com](mailto:vhensley@chathamncr.com) or on Twitter at [@Freezeal33](https://twitter.com/Freezeal33).

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**Chatham COA Events & Announcements**  
October 28th through November 3rd



**Thursday, October 28th**

- [Take Off Pounds Sensibly](#) at 1:00 PM 📶

**Friday, October 29th**

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Chatham County Parks and Recreation) 🧘
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class](#) at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom) 🧘 📶
- [Friday Night Dance](#) at 7:00 PM (on site at WCSC - Siler City) 💰

**Monday, November 1st**

- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center (Pittsboro) and on Zoom) 🧘 📶

**Tuesday, November 2nd**

- [Body Conditioning w/ Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class](#) at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom) 🧘 📶
- [Powerful Tools for Caregivers](#) at 3:00 PM (at WCSC) 🧘

**Wednesday, November 3rd**

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center (Pittsboro) and on Zoom) 🧘 📶

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

- 🧘 **In-person - Pre-registration Required**
- 📶 **Programming Hosted On Zoom**
- 💰 **Fee Required for Participation**

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For more information on our ongoing programs & services visit our website at [chathamcoa.org](https://chathamcoa.org) or call our centers, Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

<b>Eastern Chatham Senior Center (ECSC)</b> 365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512	<b>Western Chatham Senior Center (WCSC)</b> 112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975
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EASTERN ALAMANCE 37, NORTHWOOD 0

# 'We flinch': Chargers drop crucial game to Eagles, cling to playoff hopes

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

MEBANE — Coming out of a heated postgame huddle following Friday night's loss, Northwood Head Coach Cullen Homolka didn't have much to say.

His team had just fallen to the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 37-0, on the road.

They were out-gained by 101 yards, the Eagles' 353 to their 252.

They were outplayed in nearly every sense of the word in what could be classified as a must-win conference game.

And after 48 minutes of Eastern Alamance scoring a lot to Northwood's none, Homolka was visibly frustrated.

"We flinch in big situations," Homolka said following the game.

Signs of the Chargers flinching — rather than taking hold of the big moments — came early on in Friday's contest.

On the opening drive, Northwood and its power run game took control. The Chargers ran 15 offensive plays, all of them rushes — one for six yards here, another for two yards there — culminating in a 32-yard bootleg run by junior quarterback Will Smith, who was getting his first start at the position.

Smith's long run put the Chargers at first-and-goal from the Eagles' six-yard-line, where they called three straight runs up the middle ... and only mustered two yards.

With fourth-and-goal from the four-yard-line, Northwood opted for a short field goal try.

No good.

Eastern Alamance's defense held up and on the following possession, the Eagles ran a similar long-winded drive, capped off by a 6-yard TD pass on a double-reverse trick play from senior quarterback Kasen McCawley to senior starting quarterback Hunter Douglas.

The Chargers got punched in the mouth early with the goal-line stand, then flinched when



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**A group of Northwood players huddles up near the sideline during the Chargers' 37-0 loss to Eastern Alamance in Mebane last Friday. The loss evens Northwood's record at 4-4 on the season.**

it was time to make up for it on the defensive end.

"They played well, but sometimes they play like sophomores when they should be past that," Homolka said. "We'll get there. We just have to figure out a way to stop flinching when we have to make a play."

The Eagles scored touchdowns on five of their seven possessions, including four TD plays of 22-plus yards.

A couple of Eastern Alamance's most talented offensive skill players — Douglas and sophomore running back Joshua Murray — had a field day against the Chargers.

Douglas, who was under pressure a couple of times by Northwood's defensive line, finished the night 9-for-15 for 149 yards passing and three TDs, along with four carries for 28 yards on the ground and one reception for six yards and a TD through the air.

As electric as Douglas was, Murray might have been even better.

On the Eagles' second offensive possession, they capitalized on a third-down defensive pass interference penalty on the Chargers by handing the ball off to Murray on the next play, who found a hole, ran straight through the line and took it 39 yards to the house untouched.

great things are going to come from him as long as we give him a little bit of help."

While there were plenty of positives from the Chargers' defense — including the play of sophomore linebacker Ryan Brinker, who made a couple of hard-hitting tackles throughout the night — the Eagles simply found the best ways to exploit their weaknesses.

The score was 21-0 at half-time after a 25-yard TD pass from Douglas to junior wide receiver Triston Keck and the Chargers' wheels looked like they were falling off.

"Hats off to Northwood," Kirby said. "With their scheme and what they do, it's tough (to play against). They're a good football team, they're very physical. ... I'm proud of our kids."

Offensively, the Chargers weren't able to make it back into Eastern Alamance territory until the final two drives of the game, already down 37-0, which ended in a turnover on downs and an interception, respectively.

Northwood may have gained 238 yards on the ground, led by senior Dashaun Vines-McSwain (20 carries for 79 yards), but Homolka said he thought the team's run game could

have been more efficient. "I don't think our tailbacks were seeing anything," Homolka said. "There were holes they were missing. They were wide-open holes."

In his first start at QB, Smith only threw the ball sparingly — 2-for-4 for 14 yards and an interception — but his best drive came on Northwood's penultimate possession, where he completed two passes and carried the ball four times for 34 yards, including a 17-yard keeper that put the team into Eagles territory.

Then, the interception happened, putting a scoreless end to yet another Northwood possession.

While the offense never truly looked comfortable outside of the team's opening drive, Smith helped provide a couple of bright spots as he filled in for sophomore Carson Fortunes, the Chargers' typical starter, who was out due to non-injury-related reasons, but was on the sideline.

"He settled down a little bit (toward the end) and I want to keep working with him and see if we can get it done next week," Homolka said. "Maybe Carson will be back and things will be different, too. ... Tonight, we just lost the cohesion. When you put a different kid at quarterback, it kind of changes the offense."

The Chargers, sitting at 4-4 (2-2 in the Central 3A conference) have just one game remaining in the regular season this Friday against the Western Alamance Warriors (3-5, 2-2 in the Central 3A).

They'll need a win to keep their chances at a wild-card playoff berth alive.

"If we're getting in, we've got to beat Western Alamance to do it," Homolka said. "If we lose to Western, we might as well pack it up and go home. We've got a game to win."

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



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Northwood senior running back Dashaun Vines-McSwain (28) hustles past a pair of Eastern Alamance defenders during the Chargers' 37-0 loss to the Eagles last Friday. Vines-McSwain was Northwood's leading rusher on the night with 20 carries for 79 yards.**

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## Chatham News + Record Local Service Directory

THE CLIPBOARD | JOHNNY ALSTON, CHATHAM CHARTER VOLLEYBALL

# Knights' Alston reflects on historic season, Clark's importance following loss in conference title game

The Chatham Charter volleyball team recently finished one of its best seasons in school history. Last Saturday, the 19th-seeded Knights fell to the 14th-seeded Pamlico County Hurricanes, 3-0, in the first round of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs, eliminating them from the postseason.

However, despite the loss, Chatham Charter's season — which included a seven-game winning streak, a regular-season co-conference title, a trip to the Central Tar Heel 1A conference championship game and a playoff berth — was nothing short of a success as the program continues to showcase its upward trajectory over the past decade.

This week, the News + Record spoke to Knights Head Coach Johnny Alston to discuss his team's impressive season, its ability to bounce back from emotional losses and what coaching means to him. Conversation — which took place last Friday, a day before the Knights' first-round loss — has been edited for length and clarity.

**This has shaken out to be one of the best volleyball seasons at Chatham Charter in a while. How would you describe this season and what got your team to this point?**

JOHNNY ALSTON: First of all, like I always say, hard work. And we have some good athletes there, when you break it down, but I have said along the way that we've been piecing it together because sometimes we have someone out, especially in practice. We didn't have the greatest offseason, but I think that

was a reflection of last season and everybody dealing with COVID and everything. But I told them, "Well, you know, everything's designed for us to play our best volleyball at the end of the season and along the way, as long as we improve, I'm happy." It was a little slow at first, but we saw improvement, then we went down to North Moore the first month of the season and we lost that, then we turned around and went to South Davidson and won it, we were able to bounce back, we saw that a lot early.

It's all just been a result of hard work and just being good students as far as learning various things, being open for learning and just building on each experience they have.

**You mentioned being able to bounce back, which your team had to do plenty of times this season — including the first loss to Woods Charter, then coming back the next time and beating it. What kind of culture have you created there to change the mindset of not giving up?**

I'd probably say just trying to stay positive, even in the midst of adversity. Yes, we might have lost, but we're just not going to beat the dead horse and I always tell them, "When things don't go your way, do you go crazy and start tearing up stuff and hollering and screaming, or do you figure out what you need to do to correct whatever problem you have, do that and move forward?" We take a move-forward approach to everything.

Every once in a while, I read to them a letter that Dean Smith wrote me years ago. Carolina was doing well, having a great season and they lost to Notre Dame, they went up to Notre Dame and they lost it. So I wrote him and I asked him, "Well, Coach, is there such a thing as a good loss?" thinking

that, OK, they were undefeated and that rubber band was tightening up in the back of their minds and then they lose one and it took some pressure off. And he wrote back and he said that they try not to think in terms of winning and losing, but more so in terms of working to improve each day. He said, "It's good to learn from a loss, but it's even better to learn while winning," so their focus was on improving every day and winning and losing would take care of themselves. I try to take that approach with the girls. As long as today is better than the previous day, then we're doing the right thing.

**A huge part of your success this season has been who you've got on the court. Who, overall, have you been the most impressed with this year?**

We'll start with Emerson Clark, she's a junior. She has so much love for the game of volleyball. She comes to workouts about 86% of the time over the summer, so she really works hard. She's an outstanding player, but she works hard, so whatever she's getting in terms of the outside attention and everything, she's earned it. She's really been a strong player for us.

Then there's Molly Wilson, she's having a good season as a libero and playing pretty solid. She started out as a freshman as a setter, but the year I got sick, I noticed she changed positions and then when I came back, she was really diehard, wanting to be a libero and wanting to be a libero, so she's had a really great year.

The few players that we do have, they're pretty great athletes and volleyball players. Emerson, Molly, Tamaya Walden, Alexis Baldwin. And then all of the seniors, including Olivia Cheek and Taylor Brewer, they dropped out

**Johnny Alston**

**Role:** Head Coach, Volleyball  
**Experience at Chatham Charter:** 6 seasons  
**Notes:**

- Graduated from North Carolina A&T, where he played four seasons of college football
- Coached football, basketball and volleyball at different levels over the course of his nearly 40-year career
- While coaching middle school basketball in Lawrenceville, Virginia, he coached Bryant Stith, who went on to become the all-time points leader for the Virginia Cavaliers
- Developed a relationship with UNC coaching legend Dean Smith through basketball coaching connections
- Diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in 2018, for which he's now in remission

**Chatham Charter Knights**

**Conference:** Central Tar Heel 1A  
**Record:** 17-7  
**Postseason results:**  
• Saturday, Oct. 23 — lost 3-0 to (14) Pamlico County in 1st round, NCHSAA 1A playoffs

because of COVID and then came back this year and have come along over the course of the season and have really made a big difference. And then we have another junior, Ashlee Raines, she's done well, and two sophomores who played last year as freshmen, Riley Maynor and Delana Loflin. So all of those girls, believe it or not, sort of tie it together to form what we have that's brought us to a really good season.

**You mentioned Emerson Clark, who has had an out-of-this-world season this year with 255 kills and 298 digs. What, in your opinion, is the best part of her game? What does she bring to the team?**

Her top thing is her swing, her arms, she's got a pretty great swing. Even though she serves well and she's a good back court player as far as digging and things like that, but I would say the most outstanding thing would be her attacks, kind of like Woods Charter's Lexi Smollen. She doesn't have as many as Smollen and a lot of things go into that. Smollen and the setter there, Maya Sheridan, have a strong relationship. Even Emerson and junior Allison

Perez, our setter, hook up pretty well, too, but the most outstanding thing about her probably would be her strong arm and her swinging.

**What does it mean for you to coach, whether it's football, basketball or volleyball? How important is coaching to you?**

A girl that used to play volleyball for me, she's about 31 years old now, she recently got married just this past August in St. Louis and she sent me an invitation, so me, my wife and my son, we all went out to her wedding because she was adamant that we attend.

So, it's just been the friendships I've made along the way. Everybody loves winning — and I learned how to deal with losing — but you just have to keep it into perspective. If we win, great, and if we lose, then hey, we'll keep moving on, but the relationships we form and the way we treat people are probably more important than winning any kind of championship. That's why I still go down to the gym and stay a couple of hours every day. That's basically what it boils down to.

## WOLVES

Continued from page B1

power or gentle with finesse — and to switch between the two effortlessly, emphasizes just how special she is.

When you're in the gym with her, there's no overlooking her.

The 6-foot-tall sophomore towers over some of her teammates, making her presence known before she starts swinging at the ball.

When she's in action, she's able to hit the ball with unbelievable strength — every smack of the ball sounding akin to a gunshot — pounding balls into the floor, ricocheting them off of opposing defenders or forcing them through block attempts at the net.

But when Smollen's opponents are least expecting it, she's able to gracefully jump into the air and lightly tap the ball in any direction she pleases, catching defenders off guard.

Against the Knights, Smollen did both, racking up 26 kills on 49 attempts and scoring a plethora of points for the Wolves.

"She was probably mad (after the rematch loss against us), so she went out and she just pounded that ball out there," Alston said, chuckling. "I don't know if she's ever hit the ball that hard before."

As strong and talented as Smollen has been all year, she gives a lot of credit to her setter, freshman Maya Sheridan, who has set her up perfectly on kill attempts throughout the season. Wednesday was no different.

"She's just such an amazing person," Smollen said of Sheridan. "We're good friends on and off the court and I feel like that connection between us just helps us bond."



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Woods Charter sophomore outside hitter Lexi Smollen (hitting ball), lifts up to gently tap the ball over the net during the Wolves' 3-0 victory over Chatham Charter in the Central Tar Heel 1A conference championship match last Wednesday. Smollen has been the Wolves' most important player this season, racking up 403 kills and 162 digs in 20 games played.**

Sheridan was the only Wolf with an assist against the Knights, totaling a whopping 31 as she fed Smollen and some of her other teammates throughout the night.

She also showed even more heart, diving on the ground on a couple of occasions to save potential points. The same could be said for senior libero Jana Thompson, one of the Wolves' most critical leaders.

"Maya's able to get to just about any ball and set it very well, whether it's a good pass or a bad pass," Green said. "So that's all of the difference in the world in volleyball because it goes from us having to make perfect passes to get a good set, to making OK passes and still getting a good set."

While the Knights put up a good fight in the third set, the Wolves ultimately controlled it, taking the final set, 25-15, to sweep the match, 3-0.

With the win, Woods Charter earned the No. 7 seed in the 1A East region of the NCHSAA playoffs, where it hosted its first-round match

against No. 26 North East Carolina Prep.

In Green's first appearance in the state tournament on Saturday, the Wolves looked nearly flawless, allowing no more than nine points in any set en route to a 3-0 sweep. It's Woods Charter's third sweep in a row.

The Knights, on the other hand, also earned a postseason bid, snagging the No. 19 seed and visiting No. 14 Pamlico County in Bayboro, where they were swept, 3-0, on Saturday, despite two close final sets.

On Tuesday night (after press time for this edition), The Wolves will play host to No. 10 East Columbus in the second round, where they'll try to punch their ticket to the Sweet 16.

However, after the struggles of the past three seasons, Green said this season is already considered a success, no matter the end result.

"This season, we just worked hard and improved every day," Green said. "We're a much better team now than we were day one. That's real-

ly all I'm asking of them. I didn't want to set any specific tournament wins



Staff photo by David Bradley

**Woods Charter sophomore Lexi Smollen (15) forces a hit through a North East Carolina Prep defender during the Wolves' 3-0 sweep in the 1st round of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs.**

or number of wins as goals (before the season), I'd rather just improve from start to finish and that's what we've done."

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

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## Doubles Dominance

The Chatham Central and Chatham Charter women's doubles teams (from left to right: Bears sophomore Rachel Albright, junior Jaylee Williams, junior Ellie Phillips, junior Olivia Brooks, Knights sophomore Elphie Spillman, senior Emery Eldridge, senior Lorelei Byrd, senior Ashlyn Hart) pose for photos after the 1A East regional tennis tournament last week. The doubles side of the tournament was dominated by the two Chatham schools, with both Bears duos and both Knights duos making up the top four finishers.

Chatham Central juniors Olivia Brooks (left) and Ellie Phillips pose with their medals after winning the doubles bracket of the 1A East regional women's tennis tournament last week. Brooks/Phillips defeated Chatham Charter's duo of seniors Lorelei Byrd & Ashlyn Hart (6-0, 6-1) to take the title. All four of the Chatham duos (Bears, Knights) will be featured at the 1A State Championships Friday and Saturday at Cary Tennis Park.

## CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

more consistent, passing and hitting wise," Thigpen said after the win. "Last year, we didn't have as many players who could put the ball down, but this year, I feel like we have a lot more people."

"I also think we've been through a lot together," Forbes added. "We've just had so many ups and downs this season that it's just built a lot, so that's why we're able to go out and get wins."

In the first set against the Bulldogs, those ups and downs showed up.

Northwood started out sluggish.

Terry Sanford took a commanding lead out of the gate, winning six of the set's first nine points. Eventually, the Bulldogs took a 12-8 lead on an emphatic kill by senior lead attacker Maggie Barnes, who caused Northwood fits throughout the day.

The Terry Sanford crowd, which traveled nearly 60 miles from Fayetteville to support their Bulldogs, brought both the volume and intensity, filling the gym with roars every time the Chargers made a mistake.

It was beginning to look like Northwood was in for a tough challenge.

But when you have the level of talent and chemistry that the Chargers do, it's only a matter of time before things begin to click.

A couple of points later, Fauth laid out a beautiful set for Forbes, who leapt into the air, smashed the ball and it collided with the hardwood beneath the Bulldogs' feet.

That point not only changed the set, tying it at 12 each, but altered the course of the match.

From there, Forbes went on to score the next three points, using both strength and finesse to keep the Bulldogs on their toes.

After the game, the



The Northwood volleyball team exits the huddle after a timeout during the Chargers' 3-0 sweep of Terry Sanford in the first round of the NCHSAA 3A playoffs last Saturday. The Chargers' 22 wins on the season (so far) are the most in school history.

Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chargers credited an early timeout for their flipped switch.

"In the time out, we kind of just told ourselves that we need to match their intensity and their scoring runs because when we went to the service line, we'd only score like one point and the other team would score two or three," Thigpen said.

"I also think we had an energy change," Forbes added. "When we first came out, the energy was kind of dead and when we called that time out, we were like, 'Guys, if we're going to win, then we're going to have to play more positive with higher energy.' ... And I think that everyone, individually, was able to step up and play their own game."

For the rest of the set, it was all Forbes and Thigpen, essentially taking turns scoring to maintain their lead. With the score 24-20, Forbes batted up a moonshot pass in the direction of Thigpen, who forcefully slammed it into the body of Bulldogs junior Sarah Stone, who couldn't handle it as it fell to the floor.

The Chargers won the first set, 25-20.

But in the final two sets, it was all Northwood. And it wasn't particularly close.

While Terry Sanford had a couple of positive runs throughout both,

the defense and strength of the Chargers was just too much to handle.

Northwood took the second set, 25-13, to claim a two-set advantage over the Bulldogs.

In the third and final set, it was a foregone conclusion that the Chargers would be advancing. It was only a matter of time.

But deep into the set, with the score 11-9 in favor of the Chargers, Hodges took to the service line and fired off four straight aces that fired up both her teammates and the green-and-gold-themed crowd.

By the time her fifth serve connected with the middle of the net, Northwood had a 15-9 lead and was well on its way to a sweep.

"I would definitely give (the game ball) to Laikyn because she went to the service line and she totally went after it and got like five aces in a row," Thigpen said. "It was neck-and-neck and then she had that run and it was just a completely different energy afterward."

The Chargers went on to win the third set by the same score they'd won the second, 25-13, to move on to the second round of the NCHSAA 3A playoffs.

When Hollis arrived at Northwood as a freshman in 2012, the Chargers were coming off of an 0-15 year and went on to have their

second-straight winless season with an 0-13 campaign that year.

While she only made the playoffs once during her four-year career, Hollis' time as a player in Pittsboro was full of improvements and baby steps, winning zero games her freshman year, four games her sophomore year, seven games her junior year and 10 games her senior year.

From there, Northwood's program just kept improving.

"While I was here, I was helping my teammates learn how to play, literally learn how to play," Hollis said. "People had never touched the ball on a varsity level. Me, as a freshman coming in to play varsity, I was like, 'OK, I'm here to be a team player and that's what I'm going to do, I'm going to help my team and we're going to grow.' And that's what we did. And each year, we always got better."

Now, in her first head-coaching gig at just 23 years old, Hollis' Chargers have a chance to go to the Sweet 16 for the second time in the last four seasons, a far cry from where the program was a decade ago.

"The program has completely changed," Hollis said. "And I'm beyond proud."

On Tuesday night, Northwood travels to Fayetteville to take on No. 5 Cape Fear (20-4, 11-3 in the United Eight 3A/4A) at 7 p.m. for a shot at the Sweet 16.

It's Hollis' mom, Shellarnetta's, alma mater. But she'll be cheering for her daughter to earn her second-career playoff win.

"(I'm) very proud of her," Shellarnetta Hollis said when asked about her daughter's success. "I know she can be a great coach, it's something she's wanted to do. ... I knew she could (win that playoff game)."

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

## Build Your 'Cash' Account Before Retiring

If you're going to retire in the next few years, you'll want to start thinking about making some changes to your investment portfolio. And one area you may want to look at is whatever type of cash account you might have – because, when you're retired, the amount of cash you have readily available may be even more important than when you were working.

Your cash management account could pay a slightly higher rate than a typical savings account, as well as serving as a holding place for funds that may eventually be transferred to other investments. Furthermore, it can provide you with these benefits:

- **You can pay for emergency expenses.** You might be retired, but life goes on – and life is full of unexpected expenses, such as a new furnace or a costly auto repair. It's a good idea for retirees to keep at least three months of living expenses in a separate cash account, which can help pay for emergencies without forcing you to dip into your longer-term investments.

- **You can save for a short-term goal.** You may have several short-term goals, such as a long vacation or a kitchen remodeling project. If you are trying to reach this type of goal within a year or two, you may want to start moving funds into your cash management account. For goals with longer time frames, you may want to consider using other types of investments appropriate for the specific goal and your risk tolerance.

- **You can protect some money from market volatility.** When you're a long way from retirement, you may not be particularly bothered when the financial markets drop, leading to a decline in the

value of your investment portfolio. However, once you're retired, those downturns might not be quite so tolerable. As a retiree, you may want to maintain one year of expenses (adjusted for outside income sources such as Social Security) in a cash management account for spending purposes. Knowing you have this cash set aside may help you feel more comfortable when markets are volatile. Nevertheless, holding too much cash has risks of its own. Retirement can last for more than 30 years, so you'll want to be invested in enough equities and fixed-income vehicles to provide your portfolio with the balance and growth potential necessary to help you avoid outliving your money.

As you can see, building your cash management account can be helpful in several ways. So, in the years preceding your retirement, look for opportunities to add to this account. For example, you could use some of the money from a tax refund or a bonus at work. And, if you haven't already done so, you might direct your bank to move a certain amount each month from your checking or savings account into your cash management. When you're retired, do what you can to replenish your cash account as much as possible.

Your cash management account is important at every point in your life, but it may take on even greater meaning when you're retired – so do whatever you can to keep it in good shape.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

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# Handsome, impressive ‘Dispatch’ still a bit disjointed and antiseptic

“The French Dispatch,” or more formally “The



French Dispatch of the Liberty, Kansas, Evening Sun,” is

**NEIL MORRIS**  
Film Critic

couched as writer-di-

rector Wes Anderson’s ode to print journalism and reportage, with its flowery, voluble script painting as vivid an element as Anderson’s distinctive style and color palette. In truth, the film is a self-salute to Anderson’s idiosyncratic filmmaking, a tightly twee milieu in which each element — cast, dialogue, set design — is carefully concocted like assembling a dollhouse.

The film’s fulcrum is Arthur Howitzer Jr. (Bill Murray), editor of a journal published by the eponymous foreign bureau of its Liberty, Kansas, parent paper. Reportedly inspired by Anderson’s love for “The New Yorker,” the trifurcated script contains vignettes loosely based on actual magazine stories, all set in the fictional French city of Ennui-sur-Blasé. After Howitzer’s untimely death, his coterie of writers gather

## THE FRENCH DISPATCH

**GRADE:** B -

**DIRECTOR:** Wes Anderson

**STARRING:** Benicio del Toro, Adrien Brody, Léa Seydoux, Tilda Swinton, Frances McDormand, Timothée Chalamet, Lyna Khoudri, Jeffrey Wright, Mathieu Amalric, Bill Murray and Owen Wilson

**MPAA RATING:** R

**RUNNING TIME:** 1 hr. 43 min.

to publish one last edition comprising three notable past articles.

The first, “The Concrete Masterpiece,” penned by J.K.L. Berensen (a terrific Tilda Swinton), tells the tale of Moses Rosenthaler (Benicio del Toro), a murderous mental health patient, who takes a shine to Simone (Léa Seydoux), his comely prison guard. This inspires Rosenthaler to start painting modernist portraits of a nude Simone, which appear as little more than indecipherable color smears to everyone except art dealer Julien Cadazio (Adrien Brody), a fellow inmate who becomes the reluctant Rosenthaler’s frustrated benefactor upon release.

“Revisions to a Manifesto,” by Lucinda Kremenz (Frances McDormand), is inspired by writer Mavis Gallant’s two-part article about

the May 1968 student occupation protests.

Kremenz chronicles the inside story of the fictitious “Chessboard Revolution” and its student leader, Zeffirelli (Timothée Chalamet). Kremenz becomes embroiled in a love triangle with Zeffirelli and fellow student activist and Zeffirelli’s girlfriend, Juliette (Lyna Khoudri), while Kremenz also helps ghostwrite Zeffirelli’s protest manifesto, calling into question Kremenz’s journalistic integrity.

Finally, “The Private Dining Room of the Police Commissioner” is written and narrated by Roebuck Wright (Jeffrey Wright), an amalgam of James Baldwin and A. J. Liebling, particularly Liebling’s penchant for weaving elaborate prose about food into his articles. Roebuck Wright recounts a dinner party



Courtesy of American Empirical Pictures

Bill Murray stars as part of ensemble cast in ‘The French Dispatch.’

with the Ennui police commissioner (Mathieu Amalric) that evolves into an odyssey to track down the commissioner’s kidnapped son and the crime’s perpetrators, featuring police and chef Lt. Nescaffier (Stephen Park).

“The French Dispatch” occupies a space in Anderson’s oeuvre between embraceable, accessible films like “The Royal Tenenbaums” and “The Grand Budapest Hotel” and more self-indulgent niche offerings like “The Life Aquatic” and “The

Darjeeling Limited.” The overall product is the handsome, impressive spectacle of a director in full command of his craft, yet in service to a disjointed, antiseptic narrative drained of any real connection to human emotions set amid stories that desperately call for it. This is particularly true of the interplay between Kremenz and Zeffirelli, which spotlights Anderson’s stilted dialogue delivery and McDormand’s trademark camera mugging but does not scratch the surface

of the complex themes at play in the story. So, too, with Wright’s crime saga, which features some delightful world-building but scant story development.

This leaves too many characters — Rosenthaler, Simone, Kremenz, Juliette, Nescaffier — as veritable cyphers at the heart of stories meant to venerate the descriptive power of the written word. Ironically, “The French Dispatch” ends up as a paean to exemplary style over lacking substance.

## CCPHD refocuses services, transitions out of two care management programs

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

**PITTSBORO** — Starting Nov. 15, the Chatham County Public Health Department will no longer provide Care Management for At-Risk Children (CMARC) and Care Management for High-Risk Pregnancies (CMHRP) services. The programs will still be available to Chatham County residents through their Medicaid Health Plan.

“We have been exploring this transition for the past three years. With Medicaid Managed Care beginning this past July, the timing is appropriate for us to move forward,” said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek. “While these services will continue to be provided to residents through Medicaid Health Plans, this transition will allow us to focus on other important services for moms, babies, and families in Chatham County.”

The CMARC program coordinates services between clients, health care providers, and community services for at-risk children ages 0-5. The CMHRP program provides care management to Medicaid-eligible pregnant women who may be at risk for adverse birth outcomes. Care managers have reached out to clients to notify them of this change and ensure they are connected to these services offered by their Medicaid Health Plan. Clients were also sent notification letters earlier this month.

While the health department will no longer be providing these services, it will be adding and growing services to support moms, babies and families like home visits for newborns

and new moms and car seat checks, along with strengthening resources for those who struggle with mental health and substance use challenges. More on those programs will be shared in the near future.

“The Chatham County Public Health Department is excited to pilot public health social worker roles within the community,” said Julie Goodwin, RN, Public Health Nurse Supervisor. “This shift will allow us to serve county residents regardless of medical insurance status and continue our focus on health equity for all. We

are fortunate to have two Licensed Clinical Social Workers on our team who are rooted in this community and possess a strong ongoing commitment to the health and safety of Chatham County families.”

For any questions related to this transition, please call 919-742-5641 and ask to speak with a public health social worker. To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit [www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth), or Like the CCPHD page on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/chathamhealth](http://www.facebook.com/chathamhealth).

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# Seniors' wish list item comes true with help from Lowe's Home Improvement

From Council on Aging

SILER CITY — For many years, a top priority of the Participant Advisory Committee of the Western Senior Center in Siler City has been the construction of bocce courts and horseshoe pits. These are both Senior Games events.

Last Tuesday, that wish was fulfilled after a Lowe's Home Improvement "Red Vest Impact Tuesday."

"As I drove up to our Western Center on Tuesday, I saw an amazing, heartwarming sight," said Dennis Streets, director of the Chatham County Council on Aging. "A crew of more than 25 employees of area Lowe's Home Improvement stores were engaged in a wide variety of tasks to beautify our center and make a dream of our participants come true."

The Lowe's employees, joined by several personnel from Rebuilding Together of the Triangle, constructed two bocce courts and two horseshoe pits. In addition, they assembled two picnic tables and did extensive landscaping.



Submitted photo

**A crew of more than 25 employees of area Lowe's Home Improvement stores worked to beautify the Council on Aging's center in Siler City recently.**

While one Lowe's crew was busy at the Western Center, another crew was helping Rebuilding Together repair flooring at the home of a senior living near the center.

"We could never have achieved this without the support of Lowe's and Rebuilding Together," Streets said. "As the construction was under way at the center, there was so much joy among the seniors who watched from inside and others who strolled around the site while on their daily walk. I was excited to see the first group of seniors play bocce and pitch horseshoes."

The Lowes' "Red Vest Impact Tuesday," as

Lowe's calls such volunteer events, was led by Chad Decasas, Lowe's district manager, and two store captains (David Lynam of the Pittsboro Lowe's and Heather Borchert of Morrisville Lowe's.)

Clearly, this activity was not only been special for the seniors who directly benefit, but also for the Lowe's crew.

"What a pleasure to see the warm reception and appreciation we received from both participants and staff at the senior center and also from those whose homes we helped repair," Lynam said. "I especially remember the shock of the senior for whom we re-



Submitted photo

**A Lowe's Home Improvement 'Red Vest Impact Tuesday' added bocce courts and horseshoe pits to the Council on Aging's Western Senior Center in Siler City.**

placed her roof, installed handrails, repaired her deck and floors, and more. Having raised her children and grandchildren and cared for her parents and grandparents in this home — it meant everything to be able remain living safely there too in her older years."

The impetus for this project was the award of a Lowe's 100 Hometowns grant to the Chatham County Council on Aging and Rebuilding Together of the Triangle. Chatham County was chosen by Lowe's and Points of Light to be one of 100 communities across the nation to receive this support.

Most of the grant has

been used to address major home modification and repair needs. Rebuilding Together of the Triangle has undertaken this work, which had to be completed between July and October. Some of the work has involved additional "Red Vest Days," helping repair seniors' homes.

"Rebuilding Together of the Triangle is so grateful to be able to work with Lowe's and support the Chatham County Council on Aging in their efforts to help seniors facing housing challenges," said Dan Sargent, Executive Director of Rebuilding Together of the Triangle. "The repairs and modifications being

done in seven homes, along with the improvements to the facilities here at the West Chatham Senior Center, will be transformative for these seniors."

"On behalf of our seniors who will enjoy the enhancements to our Western Center and for those who are now living in safer homes, I want to thank Lowe's Home Improvement and Rebuilding Together of the Triangle," Streets said.

For more information about the services of the Chatham County Council on Aging, visit [www.chathamcoa.org](http://www.chathamcoa.org) or call 919-742-3975 for the Western Center or 919-542-4512 for the Council's Eastern Center.

## CCPHD offering Moderna boosters Wednesdays, Fridays in Siler City

### COVID-19 vaccine booster options expand across types, allow for mix-and-match

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Public Health Department will begin offering Moderna COVID-19 vaccine boosters to eligible individuals this week as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended a booster dose last Thursday for certain populations. The CDC also recommended a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 booster shot for anyone 18 and older who received their Johnson & Johnson shot at least two months ago.

The CDC also allowed mix-and-match boosters, meaning that if someone is eligible for the booster shot of the vaccine they originally received, they may get any of the boosters. For example, if it has been at least six months since someone received the two-dose Pfizer vaccine and they meet the age, health or working/living requirements, they may get the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine boosters. If someone received the Johnson & Johnson one-shot COVID-19 vaccine at least two months ago, they may get any of the available and authorized boosters.

These developments are another step in improving community immunity to the COVID-19 virus. While case numbers are decreasing in Chatham County and across North Carolina, hundreds of people are still testing positive daily and nearly 1,700 North Carolinians

remain hospitalized due to COVID-19.

"There are many options to get a COVID-19 booster shot in Chatham, and more locations will be offering boosters in the coming days," said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek. "Booster doses are especially important for older adults and those with underlying health conditions."

#### Vaccine booster eligibility

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized booster shots for all three COVID-19 vaccines.

Individuals who received either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine are eligible for a booster dose if:

- They completed the two-dose series of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at least six months ago and they fall into one of the following categories: 65 years of age or older; are 18-64 years of age and: live in a long-term care setting; have an underlying medical condition that makes you at risk for severe COVID-19 illness; work in a higher-risk setting like healthcare, schools, manufacturing, meat processing or grocery stores; live in a high-risk setting like a correctional facility or homeless shelter.

Individuals are eligible for the Johnson & Johnson booster if they are 18 years or older and received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at least two months ago.

#### Additional notes about boosters:

Booster doses are used to increase immune response to protect against COVID-19, including new variants like the Delta variant. All three vaccines continue to be effective against COVID-19.

Those who received two doses of the

Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or one dose of the J&J vaccine are still considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their last dose.

The Moderna booster is half of the dose that is given for a primary series dose. The Pfizer and J&J booster doses are the same as the primary doses. When you go to get the vaccine, please let the provider know you are getting a booster shot.

If you have any questions about whether or not you should get a booster shot, please talk to your doctor or medical provider.

You do not need to get the booster shot from the same location or provider where you received your first doses. You may get a booster shot from any COVID-19 vaccine provider offering boosters.

#### Where to get a booster shot in Chatham County

Many locations around Chatham County offer the COVID-19 vaccine, including booster shots. Visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) for a full list of options. Please call ahead to confirm availability.

The Chatham County Public Health Department will offer Moderna COVID-19 boosters at the Siler City clinic (1000 S. 10th Ave, Siler City) Wednesdays 12:30-4:30pm and Fridays 8:30am-4:30pm. Given the high demand, appointments are strongly preferred. To schedule an appointment, please call 919-545-8323. There will not be a drive-thru booster clinic at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, and those who received the vaccine at the drive-thru clinic earlier this year are encouraged to consider all

local options for their booster dose.

#### Getting fully immunized continues to be the priority

While the authorization of booster shots for those who are particularly vulnerable to severe COVID-19 is a significant step, there are still many who have not received their first vaccine.

According to the N.C. Department of Health & Human Services, 41,189 Chatham County residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while 39,155 residents have been fully vaccinated. This makes up only 55% and 53%, respectively, of the county's population. Additionally, 65% of adults and 63% of all individuals ages 12 and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. All vaccination data for North Carolina can be seen at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/vaccinations>.

"Most importantly, it is critical that those who are eligible and remain unvaccinated get their first dose," added Zelek.

Those who have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine or testing can call the CCPHD COVID-19 Vaccine Infoline at 919-545-8323. More information on COVID-19 boosters will be shared and updated at [www.chathamcountync.gov/boosters](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/boosters).

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

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# Veronica Nuñez helps Latino families as CIS' new family advocate program assistant

BY HEIDI PÉREZ-MORENO  
News + Record Staff



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

**Veronica Nuñez is the new Family Advocate Program Assistant for Communities In Schools of Chatham County.**

SILER CITY — Veronica Nuñez's calling in life revolves around being able to help those around her. Whether that translates into helping Latino students find educational opportunities and support, or helping her mother recover from hip replacement surgery in 2019, she hopes to improve the lives of those around her. "I love helping people," Nuñez told the News + Record. "If I'm ever at a store where someone is having a hard time communicating — especially with Hispanic families — it's no trouble to ask if they need help or need help translating. I like being able to help people whenever I see that they need it." As the new Family Advocate program assistant for Communities In Schools of Chatham County, Nuñez is doing just that. She works with families assigned through the county's Juvenile Court and recommends programs and resources. She started in mid-August. "I'm grateful for the opportunity that Communities In Schools gave me," Nuñez said. "I'm glad the department has had that trust to welcome me into their family because we're not just co-workers, but family. We support each other in different situations and cases. I'm just really glad to be here." Formerly known as Chatham County Together, CIS began in 1989 as a way to provide more prevention services to Chatham County students. They work with students referred by Chatham County Schools, the Department of Social Services, the Division of Juvenile Justice, in addition to mental health providers and parents. CIS provides free services in English and Spanish. "We provide interpreting services to families a lot of the time — we help them specifically with psychological

or clinical services," said Maria Soto, who serves as CIS' family advocate and Nuñez's supervisor. "We essentially work with families to have those kinds of evaluations. So I'm very happy and at ease that she's here." Nuñez works to ensure children stay and find success in school through educational, emotional and social support. One of her goals in this new position is to help non-English speaking families and students attain resources she didn't have when she was a child. Originally from Los Angeles, Nuñez is one of nine children. Both of her parents are from Mexico — her mother from Guerrero and father from Michoacán. Since her parents didn't speak English, there were few people to help her navigate the school system. The majority of her homework was in English, as were parent-teacher meetings and classes. Because they didn't speak English, her parents didn't have a solid understanding of the educational opportunities and resources available for their children. "They couldn't give me that support when I needed help in school," Nuñez said. Her older brother — Rudy Estrada — served as one of few lifelines. He

routinely helped her with homework and learning English. Nuñez attended Benjamin Franklin High School, a public school in the Highland Park neighborhood close to downtown LA. There, she realized she had hopes of becoming a registered nurse. "It always called my attention," Nuñez said. "I was always interested in helping patients, how to connect with patients, how to help them get better and how to help them with their medications. More than anything, I wanted to be able to help people." After graduating in 1996, she moved to Siler City with other siblings who were already living in the area. Her first job was at the Glendale Hosiery Outlet Store in Siler City. On top of that, she started taking classes at Central Carolina Community College in Pittsboro and registered with the nursing program. But her studies were put on hold after becoming pregnant with her daughter Vanessa — the oldest of three children. Nuñez dropped out of college and switched careers. She began working at the Chatham Child Development Center as a teaching assistant in 2007. Over the years, she worked as a CCS employee in a variety of different roles, such as secretary, interpreter, and data manager. Her passion for helping others evolved into the educational sector. She found herself being able to find opportunities for Latinx students — ones she didn't have as a young student. "Many of the families that we work with have recently emigrated to the United States," Nuñez said. "Many of them aren't aware of the systems that are available to support and help them, and sometimes these families also can't read. I want to be their voice." But she still dreams of going back to school.

"I'll never lose faith that I will return back to school because that is my end goal," Nuñez said. While working as a data manager, she met Jazmin Mendoza Sosa, who now serves as CIS' program director. Mendoza Sosa said Nuñez's friendly and helpful attitude makes her a beneficial asset to the organization. "She's always very friendly and always has a smile — very polite," Mendoza Sosa said. "She's a quick learner and definitely learns very, very fast. She's also a team player — there are some members of our staff that are not bilingual and she's always willing to help them." Some time ago, as part of the CIS' Juvenile Crime Prevention Candle team, Nuñez worked with a new family to interpret and register a new family because Mendoza Sosa was unavailable. Her help meant not canceling intake with the family and delaying their opportunity to receive services. "By her being so willing to do the interpretation, since I was unavailable, that helped us not cancel the meeting and that helped us start the services earlier," Mendoza Sosa said. Soto said having Nuñez on board with the department will be instrumental in supporting families across the Siler City area. "She has the spirit and personality that is a great asset to our department," Soto said. Nuñez said there is a greater demand for assistance from Latino families in the Siler City area, where nearly half of the population is Hispanic. "In working in schools and with families, I'm able to support families," Nuñez said. "Social work has become my calling." Heidi Pérez-Moreno is a part-time reporter and translator with La Voz de Chatham, the News + Record's bilingual reporting project.

## COVID-19 cluster with seven associated cases reported at Northwood High School

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Northwood High School has a cluster involving seven associated COVID-19 cases, according to the Chatham County Schools case tracker dashboard as of Tuesday, including five cases reported on Friday and two reported this week. There have been 256 cumulative cases of COVID-19 reported to Chatham County Schools since Aug. 23, according to the district's case dashboard, making up 2.4% of the district's total population. There are four active cases. The district said it couldn't confirm the origin of the cluster in order to protect the identity of infected students, but in a Friday email obtained by the News + Record, the Northwood Band Director Jason Freeman said there'd been a cluster of five COVID-19 cases reported. "It would be irresponsible on our part to compete this weekend with so many undiagnosed illnesses," Freeman wrote in the Friday email addressed to "Marching Chargers." "Currently we have 5 reported cases (and) we also have a bunch of students also battling different illnesses (colds, allergies, etc.)," he said. "We want to keep everyone as safe as possible. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to me. I'll answer what I know, and (am) allowed to share. If you're able to be tested this weekend please do so and send the results to myself or the front office." One parent — who spoke on the condition of anonymity to not embarrass their child — said they found out about the positive cases much earlier in the week from other parents. The parent is concerned that with the loose mask protocols necessary at a band competition, more students

than those notified by the school would qualify as "close contacts." The district defines a close contact as someone "within 3 to 6 feet of an infected person and incorrect mask use." Effectively, that means schools will only notify those who had been within 3 to 6 feet of an infected person, and at some point also did not properly wear a mask. "We understand questions have also arisen around the district's protocol when there are positive cases," CCS Public Information Officer Nancy Wykle told the News + Record in an email Monday. "The district notifies families whose students had close contact with someone who tested positive for the virus. If parents have questions or concerns, they should contact their school principal or reach out to our Central Services staff." Bradford Walston, Northwood's principal, said the school has made it clear what the expectations are for masking, sanitizing and social distancing. If students are not wearing their masks correctly or are not

following safety guidelines, staff members will correct them, he said. "We appreciate parents raising concerns, and if they see a situation in which the guidelines for masking are not being followed, please let me know so I can address it," he said in an email statement to the News + Record. "Our number one priority is the safety of our students and staff while ensuring the continuation of strategies designed to keep students in the classroom." CCS has only had one prior cluster — defined as five or more cases that are epidemiologically related within a 14-day window — at Chatham Central High School, reported during the second week of classes. A cluster at Northwood was included in the state health department's child care and school settings report last month, but it was later deemed to be erroneous and removed. The current cluster at Northwood, added to the district's COVID-19 dashboard Friday, marks the second cluster among the district's schools. The district follows

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended guidelines for contact tracing and quarantining, along with the Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit and guidance from the Chatham County Public Health Department, Wykle said. She added that any students exhibiting symptoms should not come to school until they are tested. Those state guidelines for quarantines say that if a student tests positive for COVID-19 but was masked, CCS will not enforce a two-week quarantine period for students potentially exposed to that student — so long as those students were also masked. If a student is determined to be a close contact, the quarantine period is 10 days. Vaccinated teachers don't have to quarantine. At CCS, officials have stressed since before the start of the school year that universal indoor masking — done properly, with the right type of mask covering both

a person's mouth and nose — would play a huge role in allowing in-person classes and activities to continue. "We are very disheartened when any of our staff or students contract COVID-19," said Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson in an email statement on Monday. "We have established clear expectations for our students and staff related to masking indoors and on school transportation and maintaining appropriate distance when outside. These are all known strategies that help mitigate the spread of the virus and ensure our athletes and musicians continue to play together and stay together. I have asked all principals and organization sponsors to reiterate these expectations once again with students and staff." As an additional mitigation strategy, the district is also set to phase in free weekly COVID-19 tests to students and staff, beginning with K-5 students next

week. The rapid results tests, administered by Raleigh-based Mako Medical, are set to expand to middle schoolers the week of Nov. 1 and to high schoolers the week of Nov. 8. To be tested, a parent or guardian must provide a one-time consent for any student under 18, available through the links on the district's website. The district updates its weekly case reports, including any clusters, on its website daily, and posts finalized and archived reports by the end of the business day every Friday. Last year, the district reported minimal clusters, suggesting that cases present in school buildings were the result of community spread and not school spread. Health experts have long cited masking as an important mitigation strategy in preventing such school spread. Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @HannerMcClellan.

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KEEP THE BELL RINGING!

# Hispanic Liaison's Hispanic Heritage raffle raises over \$5,000

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Hispanic Liaison's Hispanic Heritage raffle raised \$5,200 in donations and gave away nine prizes, including the top prize, a Nintendo Switch, and a "surprise."

The Liaison held the raffle at 8 p.m. on Oct. 15 at the Chatham Rabbit Cafe



courtyard and via Facebook Live with Mexican-American artist Antonio Alanís. It formed part of a reception the organization co-hosted with the N.C. Arts Incubator in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which ended that same day. The free reception began at 6 p.m. and offered music curated by DJ César Merlos, plus re-

freshments. About 35 people attended.

"It was fun," the Liaison's executive director and founder, Ilana Dubester, told the News + Record. She added with a laugh, "We had a great salsa lesson that night — salsa (and) bachata — and DJ César Merlos got the party dancing, which is very cute."

With help from volunteers and local businesses, the nonprofit sold hundreds of tickets both in person and online. All funds will go toward supporting the Liaison's work across the four counties it serves — Chatham, Alamance, Randolph and Lee.

The raffle gave away eight scheduled prizes, plus one surprise. The grand prize was a Nintendo Switch. Other prizes included \$200 in cash, two weekend passes to the Shakori Hills music festival in Silk Hope for May 2022, a chocoflan cake with 20 servings made by Elena Gonzalez as well as a cloth hammock hand-crafted by Ana Huevo.

The winners were:

- Victor Vazquez, who won the Nintendo Switch
- Lizzy Preciado, who won \$200 in cash
- Chatham Rabbit owner Brooke Simmons, who won two



The Hispanic Liaison's Ilana Dubester (left) with Aleis Vazquez Rodriguez, who won the Liaison's top raffle prize, a Nintendo Switch, for her son Victor Vazquez. 'She bought one ticket. It was for her son to get the Nintendo Switch, and she got it,' Dubester said.

Submitted photo



Submitted photo

The Hispanic Liaison raffled off several prizes (shown here) and co-hosted a reception for Mexican-American artist Antonio Alanís inside the N.C. Arts Incubator in Siler City last Friday to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month.

weekend passes to the Shakori Hills Music Festival for the second time

- Deisi Rocha, who won the Princess House mandolin donated by Liaison volunteer Guadalupe Tavera

- Pablo Avendano, who won the brand new Air Fryer PowerXL 8 qt donated by long-time volunteer Juan Carlos Gonzalez

- Molly Matlook, who won the chocoflan cake

- Stacey Anders, who won the hammock

- Carmen Lucila Preciado Lopez, who won a 3' by 2' Mexican painting and ceramic pitcher donated by La Guadalupe de

Siler City, a Hispanic-owned shop on Raleigh Street

- Diane Kirkman, who won the "surprise prize," or a bracelet and ring donated by one of the Liaison's clients.

The Liaison contacted all winners last week. If winners don't respond or pick up their prizes within the next couple of weeks, the Liaison will re-raffle the remaining prizes. For more information, visit the Hispanic Liaison's Facebook page or website at [www.hispanicliaison.org](http://www.hispanicliaison.org).

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at [victoria@chathamnr.com](mailto:victoria@chathamnr.com).

## Medicare beneficiaries should compare plans during open enrollment

CN+R Staff Report

RALEIGH — N.C. Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey reminds Medicare beneficiaries to compare and evaluate their current plans and make necessary changes during the upcoming Open Enrollment Period.

Medicare plans and prices change. It is important for Medicare beneficiaries to take advantage of the Open Enrollment Period by contacting local Seniors' Health Insurance Information

Program (SHIIP) counselors to save money, improve coverage or both.

The Open Enrollment Period began and runs for eight weeks to give enough time to review and make changes to a person's Medicare coverage. Changes must be made by Dec. 7 to guarantee your coverage will begin without interruption on Jan. 1, 2022.

It's important to contact a local SHIIP counselor before making a decision about coverage because beneficiaries may be able to receive more affordable and

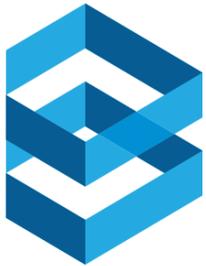
better Medicare health and/or drug plan options. For example, even if a person is satisfied with their current Medicare Advantage or Part D plan, there may be another plan in your area that covers health care and/or drugs at a better price.

SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and offers free, unbiased information about Medicare, Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance and other health insurance issues. In addition to helping

Medicare beneficiaries compare and enroll in plans during the Open Enrollment Period, SHIIP counselors can help people find out if they are eligible for Medicare cost savings programs.

You can get one-on-one help from a local SHIIP office by calling the Chatham County Council on Aging at 919-542-4512 or 919-742-3975.

For more information about SHIIP and the Medicare Open Enrollment Period, call 1-855-408-1212 or visit [www.ncshiiip.com](http://www.ncshiiip.com).



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# Pittsboro Kiwanis Club funds scholarships with 56 years of State Fair ham biscuits

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — For 56 years now, the Pittsboro Kiwanis Club has sold genuine country ham biscuits at the N.C. State Fair to fund scholarships for seniors graduating from local high schools.

It's a tradition the club has continued every year since 1964 — every year, that is, except for last year, when the fair was canceled due to pandemic precautions.

"We have a following," Kiwanis member and volunteer Richard Parr said of the club's tasty biscuits. "The number of people that come back ... we always appreciate that they come back and help us out."

"Occasionally we'll modify the menu a little bit," Parr said, but the club always "goes back to the basics" with their

ham biscuits. Sold for \$4, the biscuits serve as their primary fundraiser each year — typically bringing in around \$30,000 after operation expenses.

Kiwanis International is an international service club founded in 1915, according to its website, with clubs in more than 80 nations and geographic areas. The Pittsboro club, which meets every Thursday at 7 p.m., has a facility at 309 Credle St., which it rents out to several local organizations.

Todd Yanders, who started volunteering with Kiwanis when his kids were in 9th and 7th grade, said it was good to be back this year. Both of his children — Lucas, 25, and Rachel, 22 — received scholarships when they graduated in 2015 and 2018, respectively.

"We haven't got our final numbers for deposit yet on what we made this year, but I

think we honestly had a decent year," Yanders said. "There's so many people that even come straight to the booth when they first walk in and I mean, we get a lot of people just donating money to us as they're buying biscuits to help our cause."

The club typically distributes \$25,000 in scholarships each year, in addition to donating money to CORA food pantry and the Salvation Army. Based on the amount of funds raised each year, the club gives scholarships to between six and 10 students, with hopes to award enough funds to cover the first semester cost. Last year, the club "only gave \$20,000," but that was because they didn't have any fair funds.

Kiwanis is down to 13 members, Parr said, which initially poses a challenge in finding people to work shifts the entirety of the 11-day fair period. But



Staff photo by Hannah McClellan

**Pictured left to right: Lucas Yanders, Anna Dixon, Suzanne Yanders and Todd Yanders volunteer at the Kiwanis booth last Thursday night.**

members recruit friends and family to help lighten the load.

"I think that myself, as well as the crew that helps me, kind of look forward to it," Parr said, "because you have people contact which makes it interesting and it's always kind

of fun to watch people.

"But other than that, it's a fundraiser and can be pretty busy at times, so I can't really say it's exciting," he said with a laugh. "But it's a good program for us — it's a great way of raising funds."

## 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. 47

### Reuse Materials to Make Your Halloween Costume!

# IT CAME FROM THE RECYCLE BIN!

Replace the missing words.

- CUPS TROUBLE SAD SMILE RECYCLE COSTUMES CARDBOARD

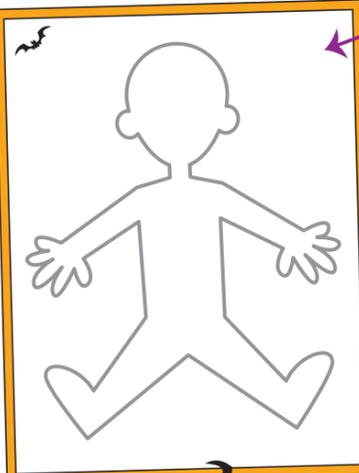
One Halloween day, the students in Ms. Lively's class showed up in their costumes. Well, all but one student.

David didn't have a costume. But he wasn't \_\_\_\_\_. He had a secretive \_\_\_\_\_ on his face. What was he up to, wondered the other students?

At lunchtime, Ms. Lively said, "David, please stay in at lunch." The other kids wondered if David was in some kind of \_\_\_\_\_.

But a little later, David came out to the playground in a cool robot costume — one Ms. Lively and he had put together with \_\_\_\_\_ boxes, aluminum foil, newspaper, construction paper and paper \_\_\_\_\_.

David beamed as he told his friends, "I asked Ms. Lively to help me make my Reuse Robot costume from things heading to the \_\_\_\_\_ bin! I wanted \_\_\_\_\_ to show how \_\_\_\_\_ can be made from reusable things. And after Halloween, I'll recycle all the parts of my costume!"



What can you create with some of these things? Draw your costume idea!

- plastic bottles
- paper bags
- newspapers
- magazines
- shoe boxes
- egg cartons
- cereal boxes
- pizza boxes
- popsicle sticks
- paper cups
- large envelopes
- fruit stickers
- yogurt cups
- butter tubs
- milk cartons

### Why do vampires like recycling?

Replace the missing vowels to discover the answer:

BECAUSE PL\_\_ST\_\_C  
W\_\_ST\_\_ IS A P\_\_N  
IN THE N\_\_CK!

How many bats can you find on this page? Have a friend try, too!

### Extra! Extra! Halloween Scavenger Hunt

- Look through the newspaper for:
- A word that means the opposite of scary
  - A Halloween costume
  - A scary large number
  - An adjective that describes Halloween

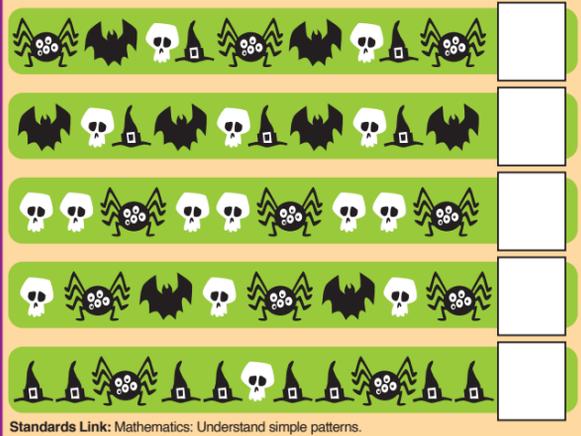
Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

**HALLOWEEN HATS:** A paper sack and scrap paper can become a silly Halloween hat! Each picture has a match, except one. Can you find it?



### Kid Scoop Puzzler

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



Standards Link: Mathematics: Understand simple patterns.

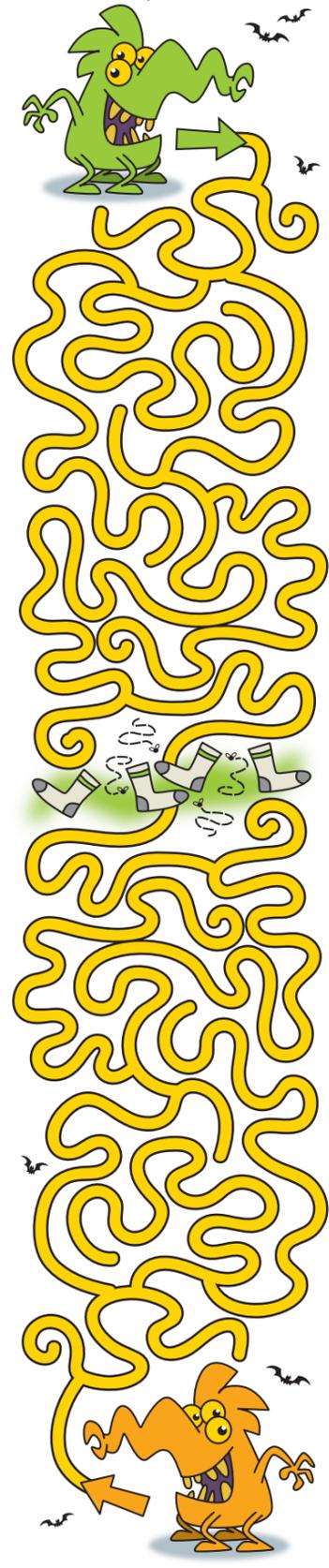
### Double Double Word Search

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

MATERIALS	H	I	T	A	O	E	D	I	V	S
COSTUMES	S	D	N	L	L	R	R	S	A	L
MACARONI	C	E	E	O	A	O	E	M	L	A
UMBRELLA	R	A	D	C	R	M	C	I	L	I
ALUMINUM	A	S	U	W	U	A	Y	L	E	R
STUDENT	P	P	T	T	X	N	C	E	R	E
RECYCLE	S	E	S	O	E	I	L	A	B	T
ROBOT	T	O	B	O	R	B	E	N	M	A
IDEAS	C	X	A	L	U	M	I	N	U	M
SMILE										
VIDEO										
SCRAP										
BOX										
BIN										
CUPS										

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

Race a friend to see which of these monsters will reach those tasty, smelly socks first!



### 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](http://kidscoopnews.org)

### Write On! Halloween Costume Ideas

Can you give other kids advice and idea recommendations for Halloween costumes that don't cost too much money?



## 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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919-663-3232

# PLACE YOUR AD HERE FOR \$5 PER WEEK. CALL 919-663-3232

Up to 25 words — additional words 20¢ each

**PLUS: Your ad is posted on chathamnewsrecord.com for FREE!**

# CLASSIFIEDS

**Seeking bilingual professional to join our growing team!** Our agency is growing and we need several full and part-time team members. If you are motivated by problem solving, supporting the community and providing exceptional customer service- Join our team! We offer a fast-paced environment with excellent income potential and GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES!

**Requirements include:**

- Excellent communications skills-written, listening and verbal
- Enthusiasm for supporting customers and community
- Detail oriented with exceptional organizational skills
- Ability to work in a team environment

Email resume to: [Connie@theconniefennerway.com](mailto:Connie@theconniefennerway.com)

**CONNIE FENNER**  
  
[WWW.THECONNIEFENNERWAY.COM](http://WWW.THECONNIEFENNERWAY.COM)  
 919-265-0702



## PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

**Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA** Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.  
 400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312  
 919-542-5410  
 TDD 1-800-735-2962  
 Email: [pittsborovillage@ECCMGT.com](mailto:pittsborovillage@ECCMGT.com)  
 EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

## SILER CITY COUNTRY CLUB

accepting applications for Assistant Superintendent. Starting wage \$13.50 hourly, must have experience.



**Career Opportunities Available**  
 Visit [www.chathamcountync.gov](http://www.chathamcountync.gov) and click Jobs.

## AUCTION

**39+/- Acres for Sale – Chatham County, NC Divided in 3 Parcels – Buy 1 or Combination! 16, 13, & 10 Acres!**

**Estate of the Late Eugene B. Marley, Jr. 609 Silk Hope Rd., Siler City, NC 27344 Chatham Co. Tax Parcel #: 14136**

Woodland w/ Timber Value  
 Rocky River Frontage!  
 Great Location less than Mile off US 64 in Silk Hope Community  
 Mobile Home On-Site w/ Well & Septic



Register & Bid Online – Ends Nov. 2nd!  
[RogersAuction.com](http://RogersAuction.com)

**ROGERS AUCTIONEERS & REAL ESTATE** (919) 545-0412  
[RogersAuction.com](http://RogersAuction.com)  
 NCFL7360

### REAL ESTATE

**LEARN ABOUT LAND** - Chatham Land Experts - [www.learn-aboutland.com](http://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

### MOBILE HOME RENTAL

**TWO BEDROOM,** 1 bath, mobile home in Bear Creek area - No smoking or pets. Call 919-548-1332. Leave, name, number & message. O21,28,2tp

### RENTAL APARTMENTS

**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

**HAY FOR SALE** - Round bales, \$20 and up, Charles R. Marsh, 336-669-9705, 07,14,21,3tp

### YARD SALE

**DOWN-SIZING SALE** - large variety of household items, vintage collectors items, inside furniture, outside furniture, jewelry, all holiday decorations and more. Cash only please. Call 919-542-2172. O28,1tp

### 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](http://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](mailto:rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com), My6,tfnc

### SERVICES

**RAINBOW WATER FILTERED VACUUMS,** Alice Cox, Cox's Distributing - Rainbow - Cell: 919-548-4314, Sales, Services, Supplies. Serving public for 35 years. Rada Cutlery also available. Au26,tfnc

**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

**FOOD SERVICES STAFF** - Pittsboro Christian Village is accepting applications for Server, Pantry Cook, and Cook. Apply in person 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday, at 1825 East St. in Pittsboro. O21,1tfnc

### 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.

**LAND SURVEYOR** - Entry level position available for land survey field crew member. Outside work. Experience preferred but not necessary. Full time position. Must have a valid N.C. Drivers License and be able to drive company vehicle. Must have good driving record. Might consider part time position. Off early on Friday afternoons. State your desired salary and I will consider it. Call 919-812-3592, 919-542-2503 or email [finchsurvey2507@gmail.com](mailto:finchsurvey2507@gmail.com) O28,1tc

**CLASS A - CDL DRIVERS,** equipment operators and laborers. Local Pittsboro grading and utility company. Call or text 919-624-4638. O14,21,28,N4,4tp

**JOB DESCRIPTION: WATER PLANT OPERATOR:** Hiring Rates: \$37,371 – \$54,382 Annually; Duties and Responsibilities, See Website for full description. - Job Requirements: Completion of high school or GED required. Prefer candidates with at least a grade (C-SURFACE) certificate in water treatment or be willing/able to obtain within one year of employment. Possession of a driver's license valid in the State of North Carolina required. - Closing date for Applications: October 22nd, 2021 @ 5:00pm. How to Apply: Download an application at [www.pittsboronc.gov](http://www.pittsboronc.gov). Fax or Mail with attention to Cassandra Bullock, Town of Pittsboro, PO Box 759, Pittsboro NC, 27312 - Fax: (919) 542-7109. O14,21,28,3tc

**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

### LEGALS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 Having qualified as Executor on the estate of **CARL G. SANKEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned c/o Robert A. Mason, Esq., PO Box 817, Asheboro, North Carolina 27204, on or before the 7th day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 7th day of October, 2021. Lucille A. Sankey, Executor of the Estate of Carl G. Sankey c/o Robert A. Mason, Esq. PO Box 817 Asheboro, NC 27204 07,014,021,028,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 The undersigned, having qualified on the 17th day of September, 2021, as Executrix of the Estate of **Virginia J. Rاهدert a/k/a Virginia Josephine Rاهدert**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of January, 2022, 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 7th day of October, 2021. Barbara Berry, Executrix of The Estate of Virginia J. Rاهدert a/k/a

## 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](mailto:jjustice@chathamnr.com)

Chatham News + Record

EOE

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY  
21 E 566**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **WILLIAM LOUIS DIGGS**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at her address, 152 Old Farrington Road, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517, on or before the 5th day of January, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 29th day of September, 2021.

Catherine Jean Diggs  
152 Old Farrington Road  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
27517  
GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC  
P. O. Box 880  
Pittsboro, North Carolina  
27312-0880  
07,014,021,028,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against **ELEANOR de GRANGE HEATH** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 4th day of January, 2021, are notified to present them to Frank Boynton Heath, Executor of the Estate of Eleanor de Grange Heath in c/o David R. Frankstone, 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 December 30, 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 Eleanor de Grange Heath. Those indebted to Eleanor de Grange Heath are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.

David R. Frankstone  
Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A.  
1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203  
Exchange West at Meadowmont  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834  
07,014,021,028,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against **RICHARD SPRINGER** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 1st day of August, 2021, are notified to present them to Frederic R. Ammon, Executor of the Estate of Richard Springer in c/o David R. Frankstone, 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 January 13, 2022. 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 Richard Springer. Those indebted to Richard Springer are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.

David R. Frankstone  
Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A.  
1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203  
Exchange West at Meadowmont  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834  
07,014,021,028,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY  
21 E 569**

All persons having claims against **KAREN BETH HEILMAN**,

deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 4th day of October, 2021.

Thomas Newton Heilman II  
306 Highland Trail  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
07,014,021,028,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY  
21-E-559**

All persons having claims against **INGRID BAIRD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of December, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 30th day of September, 2021.

Joanne Hawkins, Executor  
c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC  
PO Box 31205  
Raleigh, NC 27622  
07,014,021,028,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against **Catharine W. Pope aka Catharine Louise Pope** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 9th day of January, 2021, are notified to present them to Mariechen Smith Matson, Executrix of the Estate of Catharine W. Pope aka Catharine Louise Pope in c/o David R. Frankstone, 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 January 13, 2022. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executrix, and the devisees of Catharine W. Pope aka Catharine Louise Pope. Those indebted to Catharine W. Pope aka Catharine Louise Pope are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.

David R. Frankstone  
Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A.  
1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203  
Exchange West at Meadowmont  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834  
07,014,021,028,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**

Estate of George C. Theologus aka George Charles Theologus Having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of George C. Theologus, aka George Charles Theologus, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned doeshereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517, on or before the 8th day of January, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 7th day of October, 2021.

Laura Shel Brahlek, Administrator CTA of the Estate of George C. Theologus aka George Charles Theologus  
Dori J. Dixon  
Schell Bray PLLC  
Attorney for the Estate  
100 Europa Drive, Suite 271  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517  
07,014,021,028,4tc

**CRDITOR'S NOTICE  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JAMES E. RICE, AKA JAMES EUGENE RICE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of January, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate of the deceased will please make immediate payment. This 7th day of October, 2021.

Barbara S. Rice, Administrator of the Estate of James E. Rice  
1274 New Hope Church Road  
Apex, N.C. 27523  
Wade H. Paschal, Jr.  
Attorney at Law  
PO Box 273  
Siler City, NC 27344  
Attorney for th Estate of James E. Rice  
07,014,021,028,4tc

**CRDITOR'S NOTICE  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **MARY CATHERINE JOHNSON HARRIS, AKA MARY K. HARRIS, AKA**

**MARY J. HARRIS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of January, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate of the deceased will please make immediate payment. This 7th day of October, 2021.

Larry Wilson Harris, Sr., Administrator of the Estate of Mary Catherine Johnson Harris  
724 McLaurin Road  
Siler City, NC 27344  
Wade H. Paschal, Jr.  
Attorney at Law  
PO Box 273  
Siler City, NC 27344  
Attorney for th Estate of Mary Catherine Johnson Harris  
07,014,021,028,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**

Estate of Rae E. Brahlek aka Rae Eugenie Brahlek Having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **RAE E. BRAHLEK** aka Rae Eugenie

Brahlek, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517, on or before the 15th day of January, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 14th day of October, 2021.

Laura Shel Brahlek, Administrator CTA of the Estate of Rae E. Brahlek aka Rae Eugenie Brahlek  
Dori J. Dixon  
Schell Bray PLLC  
Attorney for the Estate  
100 Europa Drive, Suite 271  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517  
014,021,028,N4,4tc

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **ALEXANDRA P. SIMPSON**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 14th day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 14th day of October, 2021.

ANGELA R. SPONG, EXECUTRIX ESTATE OF ALEXANDRA P. SIMPSON  
Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC  
501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
014,021,028,N4,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against **TOBY PACE BRITTS aka**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **ALEXANDRA P. SIMPSON**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 14th day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 14th day of October, 2021.

ANGELA R. SPONG, EXECUTRIX ESTATE OF ALEXANDRA P. SIMPSON  
Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC  
501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
014,021,028,N4,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against **TOBY PACE BRITTS aka**

**Call to get an ADT Security System + Get a \$100 ADT Visa Reward Card FREE\***

ADT's 24/7 monitoring plus top of the line security cameras help ensure your loved ones are safe - whether you're out and about or in the next room.



\*With 36-month monitoring contract. Early termination and installation fees apply. Reward card issued by MetaBank®, N.A., Member FDIC. Card terms and expiration apply. For full terms, see below.

**\$100 value BONUS<sup>+</sup>**  
ADT Visa Reward Card

Call today to speak with a home security expert  
**1-844-850-9218**

\*\$900 ADT Visa Reward Card requires 36-month monitoring contract starting at \$28.99/mo. (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees from \$495.76), and enrollment in ADT EasyFit. Requires minimum purchase price of \$400. One (1) Visa Reward Card valued at \$100 is redeemable seven (7) days after system is installed, wherein an email is sent to the customer's email address associated with their account with a promo code. The customer must validate the promo code on the website provided in the email and a physical card will be sent in the mail. Installation must occur within 60 days of offer expiration date to receive card. Applicable to new and resale site types only. Cards issued by MetaBank®, N.A., Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. No cash access or recurring payments. Can be used wherever Visa debit cards are accepted. Card valid for up to 6 months; unused funds will forfeit after the valid thru date. Card terms and conditions apply. General: Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. System remains property of ADT. Local permit fees may be required. Prices and offers subject to change and may vary by market. Additional taxes and fees may apply. Satisfactory credit required. A security deposit may be required. Simulated screen images and photos are for illustrative purposes only.



**The Delightful Gift**

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5.0 oz.)
- 4 Filet Mignon Burgers (5.3 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 jar Signature Seasoning (3.1 oz. jar)
- 8 FREE Filet Mignon Burgers (5.3 oz.)

65658LBH separately \$223.99  
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**S. Toby Pace Britts** [hereinafter "Toby Britts"] of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 6th day of January, 2021, are notified to present them to David R. Frankstone, Executor of the Estate of Toby Britts in c/o Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., Attorneys for the Estate, 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before January 20, 2022. 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 Toby Britts. Those indebted to Toby Britts are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. David R. Frankstone Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 014,021,028,N4,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 582**  
All persons having claims against **PATSY WANN HINSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 14th day of October, 2021. Harold Thomas Hinson, Jr., Executor 506 West 10th St. Siler City, NC 27344 014,021,028,N4,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 581**  
All persons having claims against **AGNES CARROLL PAGE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 14th day of October, 2021. Jerry G. Page, Administrator 4169 Old US #1 New Hill, NC 27562 014,021,028,N4,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Deborah W. Neal qualified before the Chatham County Clerk of Court on October 12, 2021 as Ancillary Administrator of the Estate of **EUGENIA WHIT**, 9409 Winter Side Lane, Chattanooga, TN 27421. This is to notify all persons, firms and corporations, as required by NCGS 28A-14-1, having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the attorney designated below on or before the 21st day of January, 2021 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payments to the undersigned. Payments and claims should

be presented to Sanford Law Group M. Andrew Lucas P.O. Box 1045 Sanford, NC 27331-1045 021,028,N4,N11,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 21-E-571 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, Melissa Godwin, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JAMES L. GODWIN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 21 day of January, 2022, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 13 day of October, 2021. Melissa Godwin, Administrator C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 021,028,N4,N11,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **GAIL ANN RUSSO** deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of the decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 523 Keisler Drive, Suite 102, Cary, North Carolina 27518 on or before January 22, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the undersigned address. This the 21st day of October, 2021. Susan Feaman, Executor c/o Ann-Margaret Alexander, Attorney at Law 523 Keisler Drive, Suite 102 Cary, NC 27518 (Phone): (919) 380-1001 (Fax): (919) 380-4099 021,028,N4,N11,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 589**  
All persons having claims against **JUDITH H. AKRIDGE AKA JUDITH VIANNE AKRIDGE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 21st day of October, 2021. Bill Akridge, Executor 182 Old Lystra Rd Chapel Hill, NC 27517 021,028,N4,N11,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 374**  
All persons having claims against **ALFRED PAUL DE LA HOUSSAYE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of

January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 21st day of October, 2021. Brianna Marie De La Houssaye, Administrator 84 Kirkman's Ford Rd Siler City, NC 27344 021,028,N4,N11,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 524**  
All persons having claims against **RICHARD M. CHADWICK AKA RICHARD MERRITT CHADWICK** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 21st day of October, 2021. Carol Lee Chadwick, Executrix 625 Bloomsbury Place Cary, NC 27519 021,028,N4,N11,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 233**  
All persons having claims against **EUNICE PEOPLES AKA EUNICE PEOPLES, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 21st day of October, 2021. Eulishia Spruiell, Executrix 799 Mays Chapel Rd. Bear Creek, N.C. 27207 021,028,N4,N11,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 607**  
All persons having claims against **CATHERINE MARGARET MILLER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 21st day of October, 2021. Linda C. Page, Administrator 697 Pea Ridge Rd New Hill, NC 27562 021,028,N4,N11,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21-E-601**  
All persons having claims against **ALBERT LARRY STERLING**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 21st day of October, 2021. Shanda Bytomski, Executor c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC

PO Box 31205 Raleigh, NC 27622 021,028,N4,N11,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of **DIMITRIOS I. VARELAS**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 18th day of October, 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 30th day of January, 2022, 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 28th day of October, 2021. Georgina Varelas-Ruiz and John Peter Varelas, Co-Personal Representatives c/o Catherine L. Wilson, Attorney for the Estate McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson & Hinkle, PLLC 3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400 Durham, NC 27707. 028,N4,N11,N18,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 615**  
All persons having claims against **FRANCES P. DOWD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 21st day of October, 2021. Phillip David Dowd, Administrator CTA 1107 Phillips Ave Siler City, NC 27344 028,N4,N11,N18,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 487**  
All persons having claims against **NELLIE COX TILLMAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 21st day of October, 2021. RICHARD TILLMAN, Administrator P.O. Box 34 Gulf, NC 27256 028,N4,N11,N18,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 606**  
All persons having claims against **JAMES WINFRED COOPER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 21st day of October, 2021. Co-Executrix

1. Sherry Foust 6118 Monnett Road Julian, NC 27283  
2. Susan Kitterman 695 Old Castle Dr Randleman, NC 27317 028,N4,N11,N18,4tp

**IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION 2020 CVS 600 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
**ARJUN YERUBANDI, A Minor, By and Through His Guardian ad Litem, JOSEPH B. CHAMBLISS, JR., and VIJAY YERUBANDI, Plaintiffs, v. SHELTON L. GUNNELL; QIRONG GUO; and PENINSULA AT AMBERLY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., Defendants.**  
**NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**  
TO: QIRONG GUO: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is the recovery of monetary damages for personal injuries sustained in a dog bite which occurred on 6/7/2020 in Cary, North Carolina. You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than 12/7/2021, said date being 40 days from the first publication of this notice; and, upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought. This 28th day of October, 2021. WHITLEY LAW FIRM By: /s/ Mathew S. Bisette State Bar # 53809 3301 Benson Drive, Suite 120 Raleigh, NC 27609 Telephone: (919) 785-5000 msb@whitleylawfirm.com 028,N4,N11,3tc

**TOWN OF SILER CITY NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS**  
To: All Heirs, Known and Unknown of Olivia Dark, Linda Alston, Susan Alston, George M. Dark, Janice Dark, Jimmie Gilbert Dark, John H. Dark, Zylphia A. Dark, Helen McLaughlin, and Sarah Twitty. The Town has filed a Notice of Lis Pendens with the Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court pursuant to N.C.G.S 1-120.2. The ordinance enforcement proceeding pending before the Town Ordinance Enforcement Officer is for violations of the Town Code of Ordinances under Chapter 8 Buildings, Article IV. Minimum Housing Standards. The real property affected by this ordinance enforcement proceeding is described as 1113 Lee Street and Tax Parcel Number 16742. The subject finding of fact order in said ordinance enforcement proceeding shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the owners of (including heirs) and the parties in interest in the subject dwelling. The Notice of Lis Pendens shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. A copy of the Finding of Fact Order and Notice of Lis Pendens can be obtained by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at 311 N. 2nd Ave., Siler City, 919-742-2323, or jmeadows@silercity.org. 028,1tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**

The undersigned, having qualified on the 22nd day of October, 2021 as Executrix, of the Estate of **LEONARD CUTLER**, 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 28th day of January, 2022, 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 28th day of October, 2021. Betsy A. Cutler, Executrix of the Estate of Leonard Cutler PO Box 51579 Durham, NC 27717-1579 G. Rhodes Craver, Esquire Kennon Craver, PLLC 4011 University Drive, Suite 300 Durham, North Carolina 27707. 028,N4,N11,N18,4tc

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO**  
The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following **Public Hearing on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom** to consider the following item:  
1. Proposed Rezoning: Pittsboro Place WEH, LP is requesting to rezone a total of approximately 212.72 acres from M-2 Manufacturing District (Heavy Industrial) to MUPD (Multi-Use Planned Development) for a maximum of 900 residential units (single family and/or townhome and/or multi-family) and/or up to 50,000 square feet of non-residential development, located on 22 properties including Parcel ID 7317, 60741, 81979, 83078, 83080, 83081, 83082, 83083, 83084, 85076, 87604, 87605, 87606, 87607, 87608, 87609, 87610, 87611, 87612, 87613, 87614, and 73513. The properties are located south of the intersection of Business 64 / East Street and Industrial Park Drive. The future extension of Lorax Drive traverses the property from east to west and the future extension of Industrial Park Drive traverses the property to south. The properties are owned by Pittsboro Place WEH, LP. The purpose of the public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. **SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING.** The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. Please give reasonable notice to the Pittsboro Planning Department at (919) 533-5480 if accommodations for individuals with disabilities or impairments are required. The meeting will be held via Zoom, a teleconference software. **Instructions on how to join the Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website at www.pittsboronc.gov. Please sign up with the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock by 4:00 p.m. on November 8, 2021** if you wish to participate. If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at cbullock@pittsboronc.gov by 4 p.m. on November 8, 2021. 028,N4,2tc

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Trust provides benches for Pittsboro parks, trail**

PITTSBORO — Area residents who walk or jog along two Pittsboro trails now have a place to stop and rest if they choose. Four benches — two at the Pittsboro Town Lake Trail and two at the trail on U.S. Hwy. 15/501 along Robeson Creek near Horton School — have been donated to the town by

the James M. and Laura Blair Johnson Trust. The trust was established several years ago by the Johnsons as a means to fund projects to benefit Pittsboro, their longtime hometown. Through the years, the trust has funded the purchase of approximately \$100,000 worth of books and equipment at the Pittsboro library, helped with restoration of an old log cabin that dates to the mid 1800's, aided in renovations to the VFW hut and help fund the Paige Vernon Park on the east

side of Hillsborough Street near the traffic signal, among other projects. This most recent effort cost approximately \$6,000. Gene Brooks, who serves as chairman of the trust's board, says the gifts are a natural outreach of the Johnsons. "They both loved Pittsboro and wanted to do something that would benefit the town and area and its citizens," he says. "It was their hope that the gifts would benefit folks for years to come after they passed

away." James Johnson was a long-time employee of Standard Oil while Laura Blair and her former late husband Henry Blair owned and operated Blair Hardware, a fixture on main street in downtown Pittsboro for years until his death.

**October edition of Growing Chatham now available**

PITTSBORO — October's

Growing Chatham newsletter celebrates fall with new articles, webinars, and a history lesson about century old farms. Learn about what Chatham County is doing to celebrate National 4-H Week, how to sign up for online plant identification classes, and the miracle of fall colors in North Carolina by visiting <https://spark.adobe.com/page/CV04UbN-H2oYFL>. — CN+R staff reports

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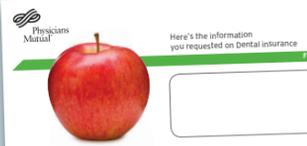
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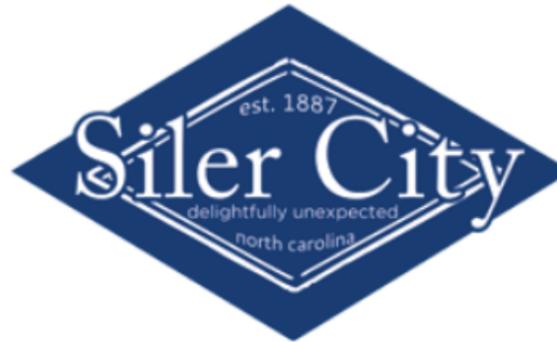


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