

Chatham News + Record

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Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Candidates and supporters in Pittsboro's contested races talk with each other early on Election Day in Pittsboro.

ELECTION 2021

With only two contested races, early voting turnout was soft

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Voting in Pittsboro and Goldston — Chatham's only municipalities with off-year balloting — was light heading into Election Day on Tuesday, with fewer than 500 voters taking advantage of early voting, which ended Saturday.

Only two races, both on Pitts-

VOTE RESULTS

Polls closed after press time on Tuesday, but you can find results from Pittsboro's contested races at chathamnewsrecord.com and on our social media platforms.

boro ballots, were contested this election cycle. Polls closed after the News + Record's press time on Tuesday, but results in those races — for Pittsboro

mayor and for two town commissioner seats — can be found at www.chathamnewsrecord.com.

See **VOTING**, page A3

'AN EXTREMELY PAINFUL TIME'



Staff photo by Victoria Johnson

A picture of 18-year-old Bryan Vilchis, who died in a car crash Oct. 23, at the Día de los Muertos altar made by Chatham's Communities In Schools.

Second Northwood student dies following last week's crash

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

In anticipation of Día de Muertos, or Day of the Dead — a Mexican holiday celebrated in multiple Latin American countries in which the living honor the dead — Chatham's Communities In Schools constructed an altar with prayer candles, sugar skulls and paper marigolds at its office in downtown Siler City.

In the center of the altar last

Thursday stood one picture: Northwood High School junior Bryan Vilchis, who died in a car crash on Old Graham Road on Oct. 23.

A week and a day following the crash, Northwood sophomore Desmond "Junior" Patterson — a 16-year-old passenger of Vilchis' critically injured in the wreck — also succumbed to his injuries, Chatham County Schools said in a release Monday.

Vilchis, 18, played football his

first two years at Northwood. Both Vilchis and Patterson were friends to many, community members said, and social workers and counselors will be on-site to offer support to students and staff members the district said.

"This is an extremely painful time for our Northwood staff and students," said Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson. "We grieve with Desmond's and Bryan's families

See **NORTHWOOD**, page A6

Chatham's appetite for COVID-19 vaccine waning

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

One in 11 Chatham residents has contracted COVID-19 during the course of pandemic, but with tests for coronavirus now coming back positive at a rate of about 3.5% inside the county — below the critical 5% threshold medical experts prefer to see — there's a suggestion the Delta wave is waning.

The leading voices in Chatham's fight against coronavirus, however, say that suggestion ignores one vital fact: despite unassailable data that COVID vaccines are effective, the appetite for them in Chatham County is nearly nil.

Four months ago, on July 7, exactly 50% of Chatham's population became at least partially vaccinated. Since then, that number hasn't moved much: the percentage of the partially vaccinated here crept up to just 55% by mid-September and has stayed at that number since.

The number of fully-vaccinated has nudged only incrementally in that time frame — from 52% to 53%. But the percentage of residents 18 years and older vaccinated stayed flat during October: as of today, 65% of Chatham residents are partially vaccinated and 62% are fully vaccinated, rates that haven't changed since mid-September.

Which means that 33,000 Chatham County residents — including children not yet eligible for it, of course — have yet to receive a first dose of one of the readily-available COVID-19 vaccines.

Given that the unvaccinated continue to

See **COVID**, page A6

Hispanic Liaison launches a second Latinx youth group at Seaforth

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

Since its creation in late 2017, the Hispanic Liaison's free year-round youth mentorship program, Orgullo Latinx Pride, has nearly always capped off at around 30 students at Jordan-Matthews High School.

This year, however, the program's going through a growth spurt.

Orgullo Latinx Pride, also called OLP, now serves 48 students — and counting — at two high schools, J-M and Seaforth, on opposite sides of Chatham County. In fact, group membership is now large enough — and spans a large enough distance — to drive the Liaison's youth leadership program manager, Selina Lopez,

to look into securing a school bus to transport everyone.

"Oh my goodness, we'll have our own Vehículo Hispano," Lopez joked, referring to the Liaison's name in Spanish, El Vínculo Hispano.

"It's been a journey, but I'm so happy," she added. "... There's growing interest in the group."

It's all possible thanks to the memorandum of understanding that the Liaison entered into with Chatham County Schools in June to expand the programs and services both organizations provide Hispanic students. Besides granting the Liaison funding and increased access to CCS building, the agreement laid out plans for

See **GROUP**, page A3

NEW BUSINESS OPENING

Red Moose Brewing Co. focused on family and homemade brews

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Brandi Morris didn't expect to come home from a family vacation last September to start a new business with her father, Danny Jenkins Jr.

But during a trip to Busch Gardens last fall, Morris wanted to explore more than just roller coasters. She's been brewing her own beer for a decade or so, and suggested the family explore breweries around the theme park in Virginia.

It was at one of them her father turned to her, asking a fate-sealing question.

"He asked, 'Do you think we can do this?'" Morris recalled.

See **BREWING**, page A7



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Brandi Morris and her dad, Danny Jenkins Jr., stand in the Red Moose Brewing Company's brew room.

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 Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 8, at the historic Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro.
 • The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 8, via Zoom.

OTHER

• The **Chatham Arts Council's Chatham Experience**, Featuring JumpstART Artists is here! The event, sponsored by MOSAIC and Chatham Park, is being held in partnership with The Pittsboro Business Association and Main Street Pittsboro. It will take place on Nov. 7 as part of Pittsboro First Sunday. Chatham Experience features local artists who were awarded the JumpstART grant. The Chatham Arts Council (CAC) is excited to help these artists bring their art to the public sphere in our public spaces.
 • **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.
 • **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 U.S. Hwy. 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 may contact 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.

• **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. Fitts 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 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 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, email recreation@silercity.org, or visit the Town website at www.silercity.org.

• **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.

• In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, **Chatham Community Library** will host a virtual film screening of *Daughter of a Lost Bird* (2021) beginning Thursday, November 11 and continuing through Thursday, November 18. Access to the virtual screening will be available November 11 by visiting: <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/daughter-of-a-lost-bird-watch-page-chatham-community-library>. A password is required at the time of viewing. Those who are interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information.
 • **Chatham County's 250th anniversary celebrations** will conclude with a grand finale fireworks display in downtown Siler City on Saturday, November 13, at 6:30 p.m. The concluding event for the county's semiquincentennial is co-sponsored by Chatham 250 and the Town of Siler City.

• **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://chathamhistory.org>.
 • **Second Bloom** has started winter hours already. Store hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. We are located at 630 E. Street, Pittsboro, in the Food Lion Shopping Center. We are accepting donations of gently used men's and women's clothing and accessories. Credit cards are accepted. All 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.
 • JMArts hosted a **JMACoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @

JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMACoronaConcert performances and #JMACoronaConcert program.
 • **Foster and/or adoptive information:** Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more.
 • **Alcoholics Anonymous** — North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.
 • **Motorcycle Association** — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.
 • **Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings.
 • **Al-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro.

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

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.



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VOTING

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com.

In Goldston, where the candidates for mayor and three town commissioner seats — as well as the two seats on the Goldston Gulf Sanitary District Board — were uncontested, voters trickled in slowly on Tuesday morning. Chief Judge Lisa Gatens said just four residents had cast ballots by 9 a.m., two and a half hours after polls opened at 6:30. About 600 voters were eligible to vote.

Gatens said the uncontested races in Goldston and the relatively small number of voters on the register there were likely the reason for the low turnout.

“We chat, we snack ... people are reading; we rotate duties, even though the duties are small,” she said when asked how she and the other judges would keep busy during the day.

Across the county, over at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center Pittsboro, most of the candidates in the two contested races were there greeting voters in the early chill of Tuesday morning.

Mayor Jim Nass and his challenger, former mayor Cindy Perry, were both on hand



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

At Goldston’s Municipal Center, Election Day turnout began slowly, with only four voters casting ballots by 9 a.m.

campaigning and chatting with voters and supporters. Nass was seeking a second two-year term; Perry, who served from 2015-19 and endorsed Nass two years ago, was seeking to regain the seat.

First-time candidate James Vose was also at the Ag Center; he was on the ballot with incumbents Michael Fiocco and Pamela Baldwin for Pittsboro Town Commissioner. The top two vote-getters will earn four-year terms.

Chatham Board of Elections Director Pandora Paschal said 460 people voted early in

person by the close of early voting Saturday, while another 34 mailed in ballots.

Nass said Tuesday morning he believed more people would come out to vote on Election Day rather than during early voting.

“Some people like to vote on actual Election Day, and I think that is great because we just hope that everyone who is eligible to vote will do so,” he said.

Perry, who spent a lot of time at the Ag Center during the early voting period, said traffic on Tuesday was higher

than during early voting.

She said the slow turnout during early voting discouraged her for a variety of reasons.

“There are issues on the table, and I felt that perhaps the low turnout was in the fact people did not have interest in those issues, and I don’t believe that is true,” she said. “I do think people are very intensely interested in these issues, and I am just very pleased that within the first hour this morning, we had about as many people as we had the first day of early voting.”

Fiocco said he’s typically seen more people show up on Election Day to vote rather than during the early voting period.

“There has been a really heavy turnout during the day,” he said. “That has been true in the past, but I think COVID has changed things in ways I don’t understand yet.”

Vose said he felt confident going into Election Day with the work he had done to promote his candidacy.

“I feel like a lot of early voters have given their vocal support, and that feels good going into today,” he said. “I feel like we’ve done out work, knocked on our doors and done the work needed.”

The Pittsboro races generated negative campaigning from local political action commit-

tees, including one mailer targeting Fiocco and his position as a “Land Use Manager” for a development company.

Fiocco said he hopes voters will see past the campaign ads and vote on what they believe is best for Pittsboro.

“I know there has been some negative statements, and I hope people are able to discern between fact and fiction,” he said.

Each of the candidates said that win or lose, they believed it was important for residents to use their voices at the ballot box. Perry said local government makes the most important and impactful decisions for the community in which people live.

“The municipal election is the one closest to the people,” she said. “It has the greatest impact on our everyday lives.”

Vose said he wanted to use this election to help start a conversation about the importance of residents voicing their concerns about issues that affect Pittsboro.

“I want to see Pittsboro show up,” he said. “Whether it goes my way or not, I want to see the pot stirred up enough that people are showing up, doing some research and casting votes that make sense to them.”

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com.

GROUP

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the Liaison to assist the district in developing college support for Latinx students and in forming two strategic planning focus groups.

Perhaps most importantly, the partnership also permitted the non-profit to expand OLP to another high school and implement the program with school backing.

According to Lopez, OLP provides students multiple pillars of pivotal support: academic support, cultural education, mentorship, and even “a second little home.” Past and current OLP members have told the News + Record that the program has helped them secure college scholarships — in some cases full-rides academically — empowered them to raise their voices and inspired pride and confidence in their cultural identities.

“I felt really out of place when I moved here (from Orange County),” J-M senior and OLP assistant representative Ashley Perez told the school board in June. She joined during her first year at J-M. “Now that I’m in this program, they made me realize that I am not alone. They deeply care about me and support me and are always there for me. I’m just so thankful for this opportunity and I hope that in the future that the possibility of this partnership will also help others (find) a new home, a family.”

Before, the program had been limited to Jordan-Matthews, where more than 60% of the student population identifies as Hispanic. This year, under the district’s direction, the Liaison brought the program to Seaforth High School on the outskirts of Pittsboro in the county’s eastern side.

Seaforth has the third-highest percent of Hispanic students (19.1%) among CCS high schools, according to the district’s latest Ethnic Enrollment Report (from Sept. 21 to Oct. 18). Northwood has the second highest — 19.5% of its student population is Hispanic.

“At the time we did the pull of data, Seaforth was slated to have a higher number,” Amanda Moran, CCS’ assistant superintendent of academic services and instructional support, told the News + Record. “As always, enrollments shift after the school year begins. We also have the Dual Language program at Seaforth, which means some Spanish-speaking students are attending a school outside of their normal attendance zone and having the extra support we thought would be helpful.”

Space, too, was an issue at Northwood, she added, because the school did not have any extra meeting spaces or offices to offer the Liaison.

“So we decided Seaforth for that reason,” Moran said. “We have discussed ways that we can invite Northwood and Chatham Central High School students to events and possibly



Orgullo Latinx Pride’s newest members, from Seaforth High School, pose together inside the school in September. Since then, the number of Seaforth students in the Hispanic Liaison’s youth program has doubled.

Submitted photo

expand in the future to other schools.”

This year, 36 J-M students, plus 12 Seaforth students, have enrolled in OLP. Under the MOU, the program may serve up to 60 students.

“The ultimate goal is to have 30 from each school once Seaforth gets 11th and 12th graders,” Lopez said.

She spent the first few months in both schools setting up lunch information tables and recruiting new students — especially at Seaforth. She’s no longer accepting students this year from J-M, but she still has a few open slots for interested Seaforth students.

“I actually accepted more than my capacity,” she said. “Originally, it was 30 students from Jordan-Matthews, but I accepted a couple of more just because of COVID, I could see the need in certain students, and so

that’s why I increased the number, but yeah, J-M is pretty much pretty much filled — overflowing.”

That, Lopez added, is why the Liaison is scouring the county for a youth program assistant. Under the MOU, the district agreed to provide the organization \$50,000, to be funded for the first three years through Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief (ESSER) funds.

Most of that money will go toward funding a program assistant’s salary.

“We’ve been doing a couple of interviews,” Lopez said. “We haven’t found the right candidate quite yet, so we are still looking to fill that position ... So that’s a work in progress, but I’m hopeful that one day soon, we can fill that position just because it’s getting really busy. Well, I mean, originally, it’s been really busy, but now it’s, like, busier with two schools, so I feel like I’m just running around all the time.”

After all, besides OLP activities after school, Lopez has been carrying out various home visits for Seaforth’s Spanish-speaking families — sometimes until 8 or 9 at night — as well as helping out with interpretation and translation at Seaforth during the school day.

“They don’t have a bilingual receptionist or bilingual translator, so I’ve been working with the social worker and the counselor in terms of trying to help them with Spanish-speaking families in that way,” she said. “But I’m only there once a week ... they have other teachers, too, that are helping in that regard, but that’s a need that I see for Seaforth at least.”

That’s not the only challenge, though; because both schools are on opposite sides of the county, transportation for nearly 50 students

to off-school events has been hard — so is finding activities for both groups to do together.

“We’ve started just like initially with field trips and everything, but transportation is just such a big barrier,” Lopez said. “I think trying to navigate both sides of the county now is going to be a little challenging, but we’re hoping to really find some support in that area.”

Two weeks ago, both groups visited the North Carolina State Fair. They also volunteered at an event called “Boo at the Zoo” in Asheboro a few weekends ago, where they dressed up in costumes and handed out candy to visiting kids. Just last Friday, they also participated in Siler City’s “Fall-O-Ween” event.

Still, both groups have mostly been meeting separately: the J-M group meets on Wednesdays after school from 4 to 6 p.m. while the Seaforth group meets Fridays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Ideally, though, Lopez said she’d like to identify a joint space for both groups to meet together at least once or twice a month.

“I’m not sure if that means either Seaforth students will come to J-M and we can meet in a classroom or vice versa, J-M going to Seaforth,” she said, adding with a laugh, “but yeah, we’re trying to still figure out the logistics of that because it is a lot of students.”

So far, both she and Moran have received good feedback about the expanded services from OLP parents and students, especially those from Seaforth. Because many Seaforth families live in the Chatham part of Chapel Hill, Lopez said, they don’t often go to Siler City or know about the resources offered to Spanish-speaking families within Chatham.

During her home visits, she’s been spreading the word about the Liaison’s services, including OLP.

“They’re super happy to have this program at Seaforth. They feel really grateful that Seaforth was chosen for their students,” she said. “... I have two students from the Moncure area, and they were telling me how a lot of the times they feel, like, kind of left out, because there’s hardly any kind of resources or agency in that area. So, (their mom) was happy to hear that a program like Orgullo Latinx Pride is at the school and offered transportation and everything for her child to be involved in. She says that it just meant a lot to her because a lot of times people forget about families in Moncure. So that was like, ‘Oh, that warmed my heart.’”

Empowering Spanish-speaking parents to provide that sort of feedback and more is also on the horizon. Among other things, Lopez would like to facilitate two parent focus groups for the district once things settle down.

“So, I’m hoping to really work on that as well when I get my new assistant and get a little bit more capacity,” she said. “I definitely want parents to be involved (in the schools), just because they have so much feedback, so much to offer. I think their experiences and their voices are so important for the school system to hear, so I’m excited about that.”

She’s even more excited to see how youth from two different sides of the county get along, as well as what they learn from one another.

“We’re getting there,” Lopez said. “I’m excited. I’m excited to see what even next year looks like for both schools.”

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

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VIEWPOINTS

Some things are worth the wait

When we're young, it doesn't take much to get us to smile.

And not the forced, polite, friendly smile, either. I'm talking about the involuntary grin that lights up a person's face and connects with their eyes. The type of full-face beam a child doesn't save or store up, but instead gives freely on Christmas morning and snacktime alike, along with showing off a new drawing or making a new friend.

As we get older, we're often less generous with our smiles. A sad fact of life: as our worlds get bigger and we find more



The author at the State Fair.

things and people which are worth smiling over, the parts of life which are hard, and ugly and sad, often change us into people who — with our consent or not — smile less freely, less dazzlingly.

The good news is that some moments still bring us childlike smiles — smiles so big and so genuine that they make the wait for the smile

worth it.

I was reminded of this simple yet joyous fact at the long-awaited North Carolina State Fair. In the land where nothing can be finer, I was reminded that life is and should be fun.

I went to the fair two Thursdays ago with my friend, Orlando, to report on the tasty fundraising efforts by the Pittsboro

Kiwanis Club, and to gorge on too much fried food and wait in too-long lines.

We decided to make the trip on a Thursday night after work, which, if you're an adult, you know is a bold move. That week, I'd also felt particularly stressed by life. I am a graduate student in addition to reporting full-time at the News + Record, and I'd been struggling to juggle both responsibilities as I anticipated upcoming finals. Additionally, recent bouts of depression and anxiety left me less energized than usual, and prone to coping by isolating and not making plans.

All that to say, even as we made plans to go to the fair, I was calculating the cost of going on a work night: \$20-plus on fair goodies, the possibility of getting stuck in traf-

fic and waking up to work the next morning with a sugar hangover and too little sleep. The cost (as is often the case with work night outings, I'm afraid to say) was worth it.

I was reminded of a few important lessons that night. That life is fun, even when it's expensive. That clangorous noise and children screaming are sweet sounds when the clamor is coming from the joy of strangers all around you. That walking long distances in boots too tall for the occasion is worth it to get the best fried dessert, even when it means blisters afterward.

Last year, the fair was canceled due to COVID-19 precautions and still-developing guidance on what was required for a large gathering to be safe. This year, almost everyone I talked to at the fair mentioned how happy

they were to be back. I was, too.

When I walked beyond the fair entrance gates, I was cut off mid-sentence by an unexpected surprise: an ear-to-ear grin. Somehow, in the longer-than-usual gap between state fairs, I'd cynically forgotten how much happiness the lights and food smells brought me. But in the moment, my cynicism didn't matter. My face didn't know that I had doubted the beauty of the great fair, it only knew the small joy inexplicitly welling up within me wanted to express itself.

As the fair's 2021 logo put it, some things — even smiles — are "worth the wait."

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

To build a fort: comfort with strength

What are words of comfort in a time of tragedy?



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

On Oct. 23, two Northwood High School students suffered fatal injuries in a car accident. Bryan Vilchis was killed when his car hit a tree. He was known to make everyone laugh. The passenger in the car, Desmond Patterson, died after more than a week in critical condition in the hospital. He had the brightest smile anyone had ever seen.

I haven't studied Latin since I was in high school, but I know that the root of "comfort" means "with strength." In the word comfort, I see the word "fort."

I wish I could have put a mighty fortress around Vilchis and Patterson that would have kept them safe on Oct. 23 so that today we could laugh and smile with both of them. I wish I could protect all our kids. A caregiver has some measure of control when they are younger.

But the terrible truth is that they grow up and go into the world in these speeding missiles we know as cars. We tell them to drive safely and slowly.

We have to allow them to drive away. Some do not drive home.

I joined my friends at Mt Zion Missionary Baptist Church for a prayer vigil last Sunday afternoon. They knew Patterson as "Junior." He was a child of that congregation. They knew his smile.

Dozens of students from Northwood High School had gathered at this vigil to mourn their classmates. I hope many received a measure of comfort in the familiar scriptures that echoed across the millennia and into Chatham County to promise that, though we cannot keep everyone safe, we are not alone: "Comfort, comfort, O my people" (Isaiah 40:1).

I believe the strongest source of comfort were the leaders of Mt Zion. As waves of fresh grief washed over the weeping students and families, these wise and faithful men and women modeled how to build a fort for those who are grieving.

Whether stepping up to the microphone to offer words of solace or opening your arms for a hug, you cannot give any true comfort without facing the real pain.

In the Christian tradition, we say that Christ died for us. This is our way of praying for Vilchis, Patterson and all the kids who don't arrive safely back home. The church teaches that the only way to make any sense of the terrible loss of life is the illogical, fantastical and unprovable conviction that a long time ago a young Jewish kid with a bright future ahead of him had his life snuffed out like a candle. But his flame was relit. Death remains the awful truth. But not the final word.

This means that there is not only one Christ, but billions of them, each suffering death to be born again. This is a hard comfort, for it does not magically take away the pain. It does not bring back the glowing smiles extinguished in the wreckage of metal and glass.

Yet, the leaders of Mt Zion told the mourners at the vigil: "We are all hurting. It's good to cry. We are here for each of you. We love you." They were not under the illusion that they could take away the suffering. They were strong enough to face it and point beyond it. A light still shines in the darkness.

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."



Trick or Treat benefits come in many forms

Halloween was a few days ago, and once again this year, no one came by our place to do the Trick or Treat thing.

Several possible reasons for this, I guess.

One is that by and large not as many folks do the Halloween thing as they used to.

Another likely reason could be that it's not quite as big a deal in rural parts of the land, such as the place where I hang my hat. Not having street lights makes it hard to get around in the dark.

And another is that a growing number of churches and communities and schools are having Halloween parties, "No Fright Night(s)" and "Trunk or Treat," where little folks go by open car trunks and van rear ends to show off their costumes and pick up a piece or two or three of candy.

Once we did the latter at the locale where I attended church and one little Smurfette had trouble figuring out that the pencil she received at one stop was in fact a pencil and not a sucker in disguise.

And yet another could be a growing number of parents and guardians who are wary of taking in "treats" from the general public. In recent years, stories have abounded about the number of folks who do criminally insane things like put ant poison in brownies and razor blades in candy bars.

The evil ones who do that should be boiled in their own oil ... or at the very least be made to listen to Barry Manilow albums day and night.

Whatever the reason for all this, I miss the anticipation I once had both as child and adult — at least a biological adult — that came with trick or treating.

As a youngster it wasn't hard for me to come up with a costume. By virtue of the fact I had stayed often and long at my mama's table I was not what you might call "tiny." So

if I wanted to go out on Halloween every year as the circus big boy, my costume was already halfway there.

Coupled with that was the fact I went to the same homes I went to during the day — Allen and Hazel Money, Mal and Ruby White, Glenn and Elsie White, Wallace and Alma Farrell, and on down the Hanks Chapel Road. What they didn't give me on Spook Night was readily available from them anytime I might "drop in" some other time in the daylight hours.

And the fact they obviously knew who I was — since I wasn't all that big on makeup — didn't hurt my haul.

As I got older, I morphed out of all the Halloween stuff. By the time I got to my late teen years I was already aware of some scary stuff in real life, things like the local draft board and college exams.

However, when the two 40-somethings who used to be teenagers who lived at my house were coming along in their younger days, their mother and I picked up the mantle for them. For a time we lived in Apex when it was still its own little town before it became Raleigh South and we knew the neighborhoods and where to take our little ones. And early on I led them in discovering the sheer delight of sharing their candy with their father.

Later when we moved to D.C. — Deep Chatham — the street lights issue (see above) came into play. But on Halloween one year, when our two were at a function elsewhere, I did it up right.

The big black kettle that doubled as a washing machine for my grandmother lived with us. We had a fairly long driveway from the road up to our house. A wide front porch provided the perfect place for rocking chairs and the dining room window that opened onto the porch was a perfect place for me to hide a stereo speaker.

As darkness settled, I started a fire under the pot where it sat on the yard and the dry ice in it gave off just the right amount of white

smoke. On the stereo was my album of spooky sound effects and unusual — shall we say — mood music and in a rocker on the edge of the porch sat a large silent and stuffed dark figure.

Me. As the day faded and the night came, a few little folks came by. Shirley was appropriately scared of their outfits and gave them some goodies — and a hug since we knew them and they (and their folks) knew us.

As the night wore on, the supply of goblins began to diminish and we were ready to pack it in ... until paydirt showed up.

Out on the road at the edge of the driveway, a vehicle stopped. We knew who it was so there wasn't going to be any liability with what was about to happen. The young lady in question, almost a teenager, came easing up the driveway, eyeing the smoking pot and listening intently to the sounds coming from the window.

About the time she approached the black pot, I stood up from my rocking chair seat and called her name.

I'm pretty sure she stopped a couple of hundred yards down the road and later we did return her treat bag, saying we think she accidentally must have dropped it in our yard. And in time she did get her voice back after it healed from all the hollering and screaming she put it through.

That was the last time I expended such effort; it wore me out just getting ready.

But the candy ... well, it was worth it.

Pass the Snickers, please.

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.

VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | ILANA DUBESTER

The Budget Reconciliation bill should include a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants

When I moved to the United States in 1989, I already spoke English fairly well — something that set me apart from many other immigrants. I moved to Chatham County in 1991, and in my visits to Siler City, I would come across Latinxs who were struggling to communicate with pharmacists or read labels in the supermarkets. I would often offer to help interpret or translate. Though my first language is Portuguese, I learned Spanish while living abroad. Those encounters left me with many questions about how Latinx immigrants found and decided to settle in this rural county where few people spoke Spanish. In 1995, I had the opportunity and support to start the Hispanic Liaison, known to our community as El Vinculo Hispano. The Liaison is a nonprofit advocacy and direct services organization. Soon, folks were seeking our help with issues from filing taxes to finding a doctor. Most recently, the pandemic led us to create a COVID-19 Commu-

nity Response Program to help our community access testing, vaccines and accurate information.

I'm proud of the work we do, but I also know that the challenges our community face would be far lessened if more immigrants had a path to legalization. Studies show that providing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the United States would significantly boost their earning potential, their tax contributions and their English language skills. People would also be more likely to seek preventative healthcare, which would reduce the burden on all taxpayers, including immigrants. Even without legal protections, North Carolina's more than 300,000 undocumented immigrants fill essential roles in our community and economy, from healthcare to meatpacking to construction. That's why I'm urging Congress to keep pushing for a budget reconciliation bill that provides these long-time

American residents, including Dreamers and TPS holders, a permanent future here.

Over the last two decades, Chatham County has come to recognize the contributions of our growing Hispanic population. Between 2010 and 2020, North Carolina alone gained 318,000 new Hispanic residents. As a result, companies are now hiring more bilingual staff. In 2018, Siler City began offering a higher salary base for police officers with Spanish-language skills, and in 2021, they extended this benefit to all bilingual town employees. The lack of legal status — or any way to obtain it — is leaving many in our community out in the cold and restricting our growth. According to one recent study, a pathway to legal residency for undocumented "essential workers," Dreamers and TPS holders would boost our country's GDP by \$1.5 trillion and create 400,800 new jobs over 10 years.

This would also secure a vital workforce today. Businesses across North Carolina

are struggling to hire workers. These labor shortages aren't new. Take health care and construction, which both have high proportions of immigrant workers in our state. For over 40 years, we've made very little progress against a growing shortage of health care workers, especially in rural areas of the state. A 2021 report on the construction industry from the UNC School of Government calls the shortfall "urgent," noting the "aging workforce" has increased safety and quality concerns. Currently, 93% of North Carolina Dreamers and 96% of our TPS holders are employed, according to New American Economy. Their employers deserve more stability — and so do they.

The DACA program, which President Barack Obama created in 2012, and TPS, which Congress created in 1990, were never meant to be permanent solutions. Immigrants in these groups live in limbo. They never know if and when they may be torn away from their families and deported, all because

Congress has failed to act for decades. And yet, immigrants are fully integrated into our communities and our economy. They are our neighbors, our employees and our fellow congregants. They wake up every day, just like you, go to work and send their children to school.

Providing permanent residency through the Budget Reconciliation bill is both right and necessary — certainly for the people who live in uncertainty but also for the prosperity of our state and nation. As the Hispanic population continues to grow, it's time for us to embrace our neighbors and celebrate the diversity that makes us a strong and prosperous nation.

Ilana Dubester is founder and executive director of The Hispanic Liaison/El Vinculo Hispano, a nonprofit located in Siler City whose mission is to foster intercultural understanding and to empower Hispanics to overcome the challenges they face.

Home from Afghanistan

Our man in Afghanistan is home. But he is still covering Afghanistan for The New York Times.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

David Zucchino, Pulitzer Prize winning author of "Wilmington's Lie," had a routine. He would spend several weeks in Afghanistan reporting on events there. Then he would come back to his home near Durham for a few weeks where he continued his work, writing and staying in touch by email and social media with Afghan contacts. Then back to Afghanistan. The Afghan travel has ended, at least for now, but he continues to communicate

with sources there.

He is still writing for the Times. In an October 20 story in the paper headlined "Female judges in Afghanistan, now jobless and in hiding," he wrote about a woman judge who had sentenced men to prison. Now released by the Taliban, the former prisoners are threatening to kill the judge. She has moved into hiding and is looking for a way to leave the country. Amazingly, Zucchino contacted a Taliban representative, Bilal Karimi, a member of the Taliban cultural commission. He "denied that the former judges and lawyers were at risk. He said they were covered by a general amnesty for all Afghans who served the previous government."

In a recent conversation Zucchino explained how he works. "It's not the ideal way to do a story, not the way I would choose, but this is the hand I've been dealt. I'm trying to do it from afar, by WhatsApp messages, by text, and by phone."

About the woman judge, Zucchino told me, "I did that story by WhatsApp, texts, and phone interviews. It's all long distance. I mean, ideally I would have been in Kabul and gone around to see them. So, I do the best I can do."

I asked Zucchino if he knew the Taliban were going to take over. He told me that he knew earlier because in one province where he visited "the Afghanistan military was completely cut off. They'd been abandoned by the government and they [the Taliban] just went to them and said, 'Hey, if you want to live, just come on out and give us your weapons. We won't kill you. In fact, we'll give you some money and send you home.'

"Thousands of soldiers and police took it. They said, 'Yeah, I'm not fighting for this government that sold me out. They abandoned me.'

"And I wrote about that in June. So I knew from that there would be a collapse. I never thought it would be by August. I thought it would play out for many months. It really surprised me. And I think everybody else, I don't think anybody had any idea that would happen that fast, but once it happened, it really just started rolling. And all these people started surrendering."

I asked Zucchino if the Taliban would be able to set up a working government.

"Well," he said, "so far they've given no indication that they can transition from being an insurgent group to being a functioning government. I wouldn't say it's easy to be an insurgent, but it's a lot less complicated. It's a very clear, clear goal, and there's a way to go about it. But once you get in charge, you're responsible, for everything. I mean, they can't keep the electricity on, they can't keep the lights on, they can't provide any security. There've been all these attacks by ISIS, particularly on Hazara [an ethnic minority that was targeted by the previous Taliban regime] which is being persecuted again."

What about ISIS? Zucchino said they are already a problem for the Taliban. "They've killed Taliban fighters at checkpoints. So, ISIS has become the insurgency and the Taliban, which was very successful as an insurgency" has yet to show that it can deal with other disruptors.

"You would think," Zucchino said, "they'd be successful at combating an insurgency. They have not been. The security is just as bad as ever."

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.



Public conflicted on housing markets

As they witness rapidly escalating costs for building, buying, and maintaining homes, the vast majority of North Carolinians clearly want their leaders to do something about affordable housing.

What that something ought to be, however, remains far from clear.

In a recent Elon University survey, for example, 66% of respondents agreed that North Carolina leaders should "allow the free market to deal with housing costs without government involvement." At the same time, 61% of respondents said North Carolina should "increase government spending to support housing costs."

A flat-out contradiction? Not necessarily. One can certainly argue for an unrestricted market for building, buying, and selling houses while also arguing for a direct or indirect subsidy to low-income households to help them enter that market as renters or buyers. Indeed, these two policy approaches coexist in broad swaths of our state and nation, especially in small towns and rural areas where housing and zoning codes are either flexible or nonexistent.

The contradictions creep in when the questions get more specific. For example, here's another policy the Elon pollsters represented to respondents: "change zoning laws to allow more houses per acre." Because zoning is one of the main tools with which government restricts the

housing market, you might expect public support for this option to be comparable to public support for a free-market approach.

And you'd be wrong. Only 40% of North Carolinians support a looser approach to zoning, with 60% in opposition to it.

Looking at the subgroups of respondents, I was struck by the extent to which Democrats were reasonably consistent about this. Among North Carolina Democrats, 57% said we should allow the free market to deal with housing costs and 54% said we should change zoning laws to allow more houses per acre. Among Republicans, 77% favored fewer government restrictions on the free market in general but only 31% favored lighter government restrictions on houses per acre. Unaffiliated North Carolinians were almost as conflicted about this issue as Republicans were.

As a longtime advocate of deregulating North Carolina's housing market — which means, inevitably, allowing developers to offer a wide range of housing options to willing consumers — I found the Elon results disappointing but not surprising.

Over the years, I've found that many folks otherwise friendly to free enterprise and hostile to government encroachment see zoning codes in a different light. In their version of events, they enter a housing market already overlaid by lot-size minimums and other rules. They make their choices accordingly, in good faith, opting for neighborhoods with more or less density based on their own preferences.

Then some pesky politician or greedy developer

(or reckless free-market ideologue) comes along and threatens to pull the regulatory rug out from under them. If some of the homes in the neighborhood get torn down and replaced by duplexes or triplexes, traffic will worsen. There'll be more noise. The character of the neighborhood could change.

I can understand these concerns. Still, I find that I can't reconcile them with a broader belief that free markets and individual choices represent a better way of solving problems than government dictates and central planning. Healthy, robust markets are always full of dynamism and churn. New technologies can radically increase the availability or decrease the cost of goods and services, but they often do so at a cost. It may take a while for workers skilled at shoeing horses or growing hay to become skilled at riveting car panels or drilling oil. Or they may have to learn how to do something else, somewhere else.

In other words, markets are simply institutions for using prices to coordinate the varying and changing tastes of many different kinds of people. If a private developer brings new inventory to market that requires buyers voluntarily to restrict what structures can be placed on their property later on, so be it. But I don't think governments should make such decisions. It's a free-market thing — I hope you understand.

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 (MountainFolkBook.com).

CIS celebrates Day of the Dead

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Inside Communities In Schools' downtown office, a richly decorated skull smiles up at you from the first level of a three-step altar in front of the office's window.

Made from sugar, the skull sports colorful designs drawn in icing and markers; shimmering golden paper fills its eye sockets. A row of tiny flowers — orange, blue, yellow and pink — curve around its forehead; green, orange and purple beads of icing trace its chin. Both frame two parts of one message: "Toda tu familia te extraña (*Your entire family misses you*)." "My brother passed three years ago, and so this (the skull) is in his honor," said CIS' Maria Soto, who built the altar. She's the organization's Family Advocate. "... You make a sugar skull and put the name of your loved one (on it) because it's to celebrate life, you know, not death. We celebrate when they were alive."

It's one of many sugar skulls placed around the altar. Some are large. Others might fit in your palm. Surrounded by prayer candles and paper marigolds, some aren't made out of sugar but plastic or even marshmallows. Each represents a crucial piece — and carries a powerful message — when it comes to celebrating Day of the Dead, a two-day Mexican holiday in which families and communities celebrate and welcome back the souls of their deceased loved ones. Families and communities remember children on Nov. 1 and adults on Nov. 2. "In Mexico in general, there are parades and big altars, a lot of flowers," Soto said. "Peo-



Staff photo by Victoria Johnson

Communities In Schools' Maria Soto stands next to the Day of the Dead altar she constructed inside the nonprofit's Siler City office. Day of the Dead, or Día de Muertos in Spanish, is a Mexican and Latin American holiday that honors and remembers deceased loved ones.

ple go to the cemetery, bring mariachis and food and eat there, visit their loved ones — because that's the belief, that they come to visit you. You know, like the (Disney) movie, 'Coco,' it's about the tradition. There are some things that are not exactly right (in the movie), but it's pretty close to the traditions of the altar."

As part of the tradition, families across Mexico and parts of Latin America construct altars with items rich in symbolic meaning. While sugar skulls are representations of deceased loved ones, an arch often fixed above the altar represents the passage between life and death. Fire (in candles) symbolizes love for deceased relatives and also provides their souls guiding lights to return. The fragrance of bright yellow or orange marigolds, called *cempazuchitl* in Nahuatl or *flores de muerto* in Spanish, has been said to attract souls to the altars.

"You should put food in the

altar, you know, like bread or tamales, atole, fruit, whatever your loved one loved the most, because the belief is that they come visit you and that you have their favorite dish," Soto said. "And sometimes people put like whiskey or you know, like cigars or cigarettes or whatever (if) the people, they were always smoking — just the way that you remember them."

At CIS, celebrating Day of the Dead has become something of an office tradition. This year's celebration marks the fifth time the nonprofit has observed the holiday — but they hadn't always celebrated the occasion inside their office. Before the pandemic, Soto said, she used to set up the altar just a few doors down in Peppercorn, which has since closed.

"It was a great space," she said, "so we were able to put a big altar and you know, a little bit more of the traditional way."

This year's celebration also marks the first time CIS has



Staff photo by Victoria Johnson

Maria Soto designed this sugar skull in honor of her brother who passed away about three years ago, on her Day of the Dead altar inside CIS' Siler City office. Sugar skulls represent deceased loved ones.

celebrated Day of the Dead together since 2019. Staff considered trying to reserve space in the N.C. Arts Incubator, across the street, for the altar, but as COVID-19 cases rose, they ultimately decided it wasn't yet safe to hold a celebration.

With vaccines widely available and cases in Chatham trending down, this year's a bit of a different story.

"Not to lose the tradition, I told Tych [Cowdin, CIS' executive director], I was like, 'How about if I just do something here?'" Soto said, laughing. "... At least a little altar so that we don't lose this tradition."

Staff, plus the families and students they work with, make all the altar decorations by hand, especially the sugar skulls and flowers. Many on display this year, Soto said, had originally been made by youth and families who'd been in CIS' program about three years ago.

"Each one of those sugar skulls was made by a kid, each one of them, so there are some that look pretty good. There are others that look ...," Soto

trailed off, laughing. "I think the youngest kid that participated was like 6 or 7 years old, so it's their creation, but ... each one of them is different, unique, because it's created by the kid or the parent. It was a family activity."

After making the altar, CIS holds a celebration around it.

"We invite friends and family to bring pictures of their loved ones," she said, adding that this year,

At the top of this year's altar sits a photo of Bryan Vilchis, a Northwood junior who died in a car crash on Oct. 23.

"He was part of the family advocacy program about four years ago," Soto recalled. "So I knew him very well, the family, his mom, and so that's why we're doing this in his honor. Every year, unfortunately, there's somebody close to us that loses their loved one and so we dedicate each year to that person."

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

NORTHWOOD

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and mourn their loss."

Vilchis was driving at least 90 miles per hour, the N.C. Highway Patrol told the News + Record, when his car ran off Old Graham Road, crossed the center line and then overcorrected and hit a tree — at a speed over 80 mph.

Patterson was in critical condition following the crash and treated at UNC Hospitals, where his family said he suffered two strokes and underwent several operations. Vilchis died at the scene of the accident; the final report for the crash from the Highway Patrol was not posted at the time of publication.

A GoFundMe page launched to help

cover Vilchis' funeral expenses and other costs had raised \$13,800 of a \$15,000 goal by Tuesday evening. The page can be found at shorturl.at/xyBQ1.

Patterson's brother, Tauvaris Barrett, also started a GoFundMe page for Patterson in anticipation of large medical bills. Nearly \$7,000 of the page's original \$15,000 goal was raised by early last week; the goal was increased to \$40,000 and by Tuesday morning, more than \$27,000 was raised. You can view the page at shorturl.at/oyGQ5.

"It would mean so much to Des and our family if you can contribute whatever you can to Des' medical expenses," Barrett wrote on the page before Patterson died. "Please continue to send positive energy into the universe and keep Des in your prayers for a speedy

recovery. 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."

A prayer vigil for Patterson was held by Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and Chapel of the Pines Presbyterian Church on Sunday, under the oak trees at Mt. Zion.

"Our hearts go out to Desmond's and Bryan's families," Northwood Principal Bradford Walston said. "For both the students and staff who knew them personally or who have after this tragedy come to know the kind of young men they were, this has taken a heavy toll. We want our students and their families to know that we are here for them and will continue to provide whatever support our students need as

they grieve."

By last Monday, two days after the wreck, a memorial adorned with flowers, crosses and a teddy bear was erected at the site of the crash, where friends and loved ones visited throughout last week to pay their respects.

Friends and community members also left notes honoring Patterson and Vilchis on their GoFundMe pages.

"I love Desmond and his family," one poster said of Patterson. "I'm going to help them in any way that I can."

"RIP Bryan," another donor said of Vilchis. "You were such a sweet & caring person. We will miss you."

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COVID

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make up most of the sick in Chatham County, and with data continuing to show that most COVID cases can be traced back to exposure by an unvaccinated individual who's spread the virus in a small cluster — it's not surprising county health leaders remain frustrated.

"Simply put, the case rate and positivity rate do not change the importance of getting vaccinated," said Chatham County Public Health Department Director Mike Zelek. "The stagnation in vaccination rates has been a frustration for many of us. The COVID vaccine is widely available. On an individual level, getting vaccinated is for most a ticket out of the hospital. On a population level, it is what is needed to end the pandemic."

Through early this week — a week which saw the world's death count from COVID top 5 million — there have been nearly 6,800 cases of the virus reported among Chatham residents and 91 local deaths. Across the state, the percentage of residents partially vaccinated has risen to 59%, with 55% fully vaccinated.

More than a quarter — 27% — of COVID cases in Chatham have been diagnosed in residents

On an individual level, getting vaccinated is for most a ticket out of the hospital. On a population level, it is what is needed to end the pandemic.

MIKE ZELEK, Chatham County Public Health Department director

aged 24 or under.

Eric Wolak, the COO and chief nursing officer at Chatham Hospital, told the News + Record a "realistic expectation" for vaccination rates in the county is a high percentage.

"Honestly, there is no reason why it shouldn't be more than 90%," he said. "Accurate information is available to everyone, as are the vaccines. While we are seeing positive trends so far, if such a large amount of the population continues to remain unvaccinated, then there is a strong likelihood that positivity rates will increase — as will hospitalizations, and mortality."

The pandemic is still here and "is not going anywhere soon," according to Wolak — and that's because so many eligible residents have allowed misinformation and ungrounded skepticism to convince them they're OK without what they describe with contempt as "the jab."

"North Carolina is in the bottom half of states in terms of vaccination status," he said. "Right now only 70% of our eligible population

have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine. That is not near enough to generate herd immunity. So while our rates are currently dropping, they are not where they need to be. And with such a high number of unvaccinated people in our state, there remains a real risk of another spike in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths."

Dr. Andy Hannapel, Chatham Hospital's chief medical officer, pointed to the fact that North Carolina is still averaging more than 40 deaths a day from COVID — the vast majority of those among the unvaccinated.

"Those of us who can take the vaccine need to step up and get vaccinated to protect our neighbors, family members, the more vulnerable in our population, our children and ourselves," he said. "The time is now, not when you are sick with COVID and in the hospital."

If you've had COVID?

And what about those who've had COVID and survived with minimal symptoms? Doesn't natural immunity make it unnecessary for them to

get vaccinated?

The answer: absolutely not.

You still need to get vaccinated if you've had COVID, Wolak said.

"Having COVID does not protect you from getting COVID again, especially a different variant," he said. "Perhaps more importantly, if you do get infected again, then you are risking transmitting that virus to someone who may get very sick from it."

The health department's Zelek agreed the vaccination adds protection even if you have been infected. He pointed to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study which said "unvaccinated individuals are more than twice as likely to be reinfected with COVID-19 than those who were fully vaccinated after initially contracting the virus."

Another CDC report, published over the weekend, said evidence demonstrated that both fully vaccinated individuals and those previously infected with COVID-19 have a "low risk" of additional infection for at least six months — but "substantial immunologic evidence" indicated that becoming vaccinated after an infection "significantly enhances protection and further reduces risk of reinfection."

"The guidance on this is clear," Zelek said. "All who are eligible should get vaccinated."

Wolak said the antibodies generated from vaccines protect us from the worst impact of the virus if we contract it in the future.

"The development of antibodies this way helps provide herd immunity without people getting sick from the disease," he said.

Hannapel added that we don't yet know "at what minimum level of antibodies — called an antibody titer — in your blood are you protected."

But we do know the effect of becoming fully vaccinated. "When you are fully vaccinated, your risk of hospitalization, ICU admission, being placed on a ventilator or death is significantly less," he said.

Zelek poses the question: why not do all you can to reduce your risk? "Vaccination is beneficial even if you have been infected and if you have been through a case of COVID once," he said. "We heard this from many who had been infected and came to get vaccinated. They were eager to get the vaccine and not go through a serious case again."

And Wolak pointed to the issue of spread as another reason — whether you've had COVID or not — to get the vaccine.

"We know people can get it again even if someone has had it before, especially if they are exposed to a new/different

variant," he said. "More importantly, not getting vaccinated, regardless of having the virus in the past, puts us at greater risk of a more infectious and harmful variant in the future. Additionally, even if someone has had it before and have some form of protection from that previous infection, they still risk passing the virus on to someone who could get very, very sick from it."

Hannapel, who's spoken openly about hearing severely ill COVID patients express regret over not getting vaccinated while struggling for breath, encouraged the unvaccinated by saying: "Don't gamble with your life."

Between 10% and 30% of COVID survivors suffer from "long COVID," he said, exhibiting persistent symptoms that "greatly affect their well-being." In addition, the diminished health-care workforce — due in large part to the pandemic — adds another level of concern.

"That limits our ability to care for patients in the hospital," Hannapel said. "Nurses are leaving for non-hospital nursing positions, doing travel nursing to increase their pay, retiring or plain out exhausted by the pandemic and all the affect it has had in caring for all of our patients. It is happening in our state and in Chatham County."

CHURCH NEWS

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MISSIONS GROUP

The Rodgers Missions group of First Baptist Church, Siler City, is partnering with First United Methodist Church of Siler City to host a fall food drive benefitting the West Chatham Food Bank.

Please consider contributing to this joint food drive. Donations will be accepted at both Church offices until Sunday, Nov. 7. Items needed for the holiday season include canned goods and non-perishable food items.

RED HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Revival services will begin Wednesday, Nov. 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 N.C. Hwy. 42 in Goldston. Everyone is welcome.

ROCKY RIVER FRIENDS MEETING

Revival services will be held at Rocky River Friends Meeting on Nov. 5 through Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. on Sunday morning and each evening at 7:30 p.m. 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, Nov. 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.

McDonald named pastor of Pittsboro Baptist Church

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro Baptist Church has named Peter B. McDonald as its new pastor.

A graduate of Fruitland Baptist Bible College in Hendersonville, North Greenville University in Tigerville, S.C., and Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, McDonald is enrolled in the doctoral program at Carolina University in Winston-Salem.

He comes to Pittsboro after 10 years of minis-



Submitted photo

Peter McDonald

try at Midway Baptist Church, located in Columbus, N.C. McDonald

also serves as professor of Youth and Family Ministry and Biblical Counseling at Fruitland Bible College.

McDonald's wife, Tara, is an elementary school teacher and was recognized as the 2021-22 Teacher of the Year in Polk County.

The McDonalds are North Carolina natives. They have two sons.

Pittsboro Baptist Church is located at 121 W. Salisbury St. in Pittsboro.

BREWING

Continued from page A1

"And I said yes."

The idea of having a family-run brewery had been one floated around by Morris and Jenkins for a few years, but after Jenkins retired from the N.C. Highway Patrol in March 2020, he decided it was time to pursue that dream.

"I sat at home for almost all of 2020, trying to figure out what to do next," Jenkins said. "After Busch Gardens, we parted each other's company, and I called [Morris] by the time I hit the North Carolina line and said, 'We were going to open a brewery.'"

A year ago this week, the duo signed a lease on a former karate studio on East Street in Downtown Pittsboro. From there, the father-daughter team has gone on to renovate the old dojo into a place where people can unwind with one of Morris' unique brews.

They decided to name their business Red Moose Brewing Company after Jenkins' red

hair and his son-in-law's nickname, Moose.

"A lot of people we know who have opened breweries said the hardest part was picking out a name," Morris said. "We never argued about the name. Everybody liked it."

The brewery's taproom is covered in hardwood and moose-themed decor. The tables are handmade from slabs of tree wood Jenkins found from Charles Hollins Wood Mill in Chatham County. He, Morris and his other children sanded, stained and sealed all of the table surfaces, including the actual bar.

"Each different table in here, we made each of these together," Jenkins said. "It took a long, long time to get these done."

The theme of family is built into the decor of the Red Moose's taproom. With tin from Jenkins' dad's home, a piece of wood from Morris' "Pa-Pa" being turned into a table for kids to sit at and play together and the American and North Carolina flags Jenkins received when he retired from

law enforcement, the brewery is filled with generational pride from both owners into the project they created together.

Family-friendly is also what Jenkins and Morris want to enforce in their business, from the chalkboard walls where kids can draw to their hearts' content to the various games the duo have collected for the bar.

And there's even a custom rocking chair made to look like a red moose.

Red Moose Brewing also has an outdoor patio where people can sit outside and enjoy a beer or even play a game of corn hole with friends and family.

"We knew that with me being a father and a grandfather and Brandi having her first child and wanting to have more, we did not want this to be a honky tonk or a rough place," he said. "We want it to be very welcoming and inviting so all kinds of people would feel cool coming here and bringing their kids or dogs."

When it opens, Red Moose will have 12 brews on tap. All of the Red Moose's beers will

be brewed in house, and the taproom will also feature one or two other choices on tap from other breweries.

Right now, the brew system in Red Moose allows for smaller batches to be made, but Morris hopes in the next few years the business can expand into a bigger space.

"Our hope is we will be here for a while, and we will outgrow this, and this can be our pilot system and taproom," she said. "We want to keep this as a taproom and build a bigger facility to brew out of."

Many Red Moose beers feature ingredients sourced from other businesses in Chatham County, according to Morris — including coffee, fresh vegetables, fruits and more.

"We've done a test batch that has roasted pumpkin from the Local Roots Market and coffee from Aromatic Roasters," Morris said. "We're trying to be very seasonal with it and support other local businesses."

Red Moose aims to be a place where people from all walks of life can come together and spend time together in a place

that "feels like home," according to Jenkins.

"We've had people from so many backgrounds come in and they say, 'Man, I feel like I am at home,'" he said.

Jenkins and Morris want the business to be something they can keep in their family for generations — because for them, family is the best part of Red Moose Brewing Company.

"For me, it was being able to pass down some generational wealth, as well as something that is fun," Jenkins said.

Morris also wanted to leave something for her siblings and children, as well as give something back to the community she spent her life in.

"I want to leave something for my younger sisters and my daughter," Morris said. "All of this is also for the town I grew up in, where new people are moving in everyday, but there are people who have been here forever."

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnc.com

CORA
Together we are building a community without hunger!

CORA (Chatham Outreach Alliance) - www.corafoodpantry.org
40 Camp Dr., Pittsboro, NC

Food Pantry

Monday / lunes: 10 am - 1 pm
Tuesday / martes: 10 am - 1 pm
Wednesday / miércoles: 10 am - 1 pm
Thursday / jueves: 10 am - 1 pm

Mobile Market

326 Nature Trail, Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Second Tuesday of the month from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. / El segundo martes del mes de 4 a 6 de la trade.

Technology Way in Siler City, NC 27344

Fourth Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. / El cuarto martes del mes de 10 a 12 de la mañana.

Freedom Family Church

421 N Holly Ave, Siler City, NC 27344
Food Pantry and Free Clothing Closet on the first and third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. / Despensa de comida y armario de ropa gratis en el primer y tercer sábado del mes de 10 a 1 en la trade.

Bonlee Baptist Church - www.bonleebaptist.org

25 Al Davis Rd, Bear Creek, NC
The fourth Wednesday every month, starting at 9 am./ El cuarto miércoles de cada mes, a partir de las 9.

Cedar Grove UMC – www.cedargrovemethodist.org

2791 Jones Ferry Rd, Pittsboro, NC
Front Porch Pantry on Monday, Thursday, and Friday between 3 pm – 6 pm. / Despensa del porche delantero los lunes, jueves y viernes entre las 3 y 6 de la tarde.

Second Thursday of each month, "Pay What You Can" food truck night with Ta Contento from 4:30 pm -7 pm. / El segundo jueves de cada mes, "Pague lo que Pueda" noche de camión de comida con Ta Contento de las 4:30 a 7 de la noche.

Organization across Chatham County want to help you if you are facing hunger this holiday season!

Chatham Chuckwagon

204 W Salisbury St, Pittsboro, NC 27312
Free precooked, vacuum packed, and frozen meals every Tuesday 5 - 6:30pm at the corner of Hanks St. and Rectory St. / Comidas precocinadas, luego envasadas al vacío y congeladas gratis todos los martes de las 5 a 6:30 de la noche en la esquina de Hanks St. y Rectory St.

El Camino UMC

1101 W Raleigh Street, Siler City, NC
Third Tuesday each month, starting at 4 pm. / El tercer martes de cada mes, a partir de las 4 de la tarde.

Mountaire

1100 E 3rd St, Siler City, NC
Thanksgiving for Thousands on November 13th: Mountaire will be distributing boxes containing a roaster chicken and all the fixings for a delicious holiday meal. / Acción de Gracias para miles el 13 de noviembre. Mountaire distribuirá cajas que contienen un pollo asado y todas las cositas para una deliciosa comida navideña.

West Chatham Food Pantry

2535 Old US HWY 421 North, Siler City, NC
Monday / lunes - 3:30 pm -5:30 pm
Wednesday / miércoles - 12 pm -2 pm
Friday / viernes - 12 pm -2 pm

DORA OWENS OF WALSTONE FARM

Chatham farmer joins mother N.C. State Fair Hall of Fame

BY PATRICK O'NEILL
Special to the News + Record

RALEIGH — When Dora Owens was told she was selected as an inductee into this year's North Carolina State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame, she was surprised.

Owens, 59, now joins her mother, Ruth Weaver, 85, as the first mother-daughter Livestock Hall of Fame inductees. Weaver was inducted in 1985. The pair, along with other family members, is part of a family-run dairy goat operation, known as Walstone Farm in Chatham County.

"I'm a bit puzzled," she said of the honor. "I'm the secretary. My job is limited mostly to doing all the paperwork."

It turns out that "paperwork" is a big part of both managing the family goat farm as well as Owen's work as secretary of the State Fair's annual Hall of Fame Show featuring pedigree dairy goats from across North Carolina and other states.

"She's an accountant," Weaver said of her daughter. "She does all the financial work for us; manages all the money and keeps the records straight."



Courtesy of N.C. State Fair

Steve Troxler, N.C.'s Secretary of Agriculture, recognizes Chatham County's Dora Owens upon her election to the N.C. State Fair's Livestock Hall of Fame.

It's quite a job to keep things straight. She has been secretary of the State Fair's show. She has been at the desk for at least 30 years."

The family also have been showing their goats, known as Alpine pure breeds, since about 1980, Weaver said. On the farm, the family raises goats primarily for milk. Owens and Weaver are big proponents of

goat milk, singing its praises as a cure for almost whatever ails you. Weaver and her late husband, Luby Weaver, started their dairy goat operation in the 1970s for health reasons after several family members had special protein needs and allergies to cow's milk.

"Children do better if they have goat milk; fewer stomach issues," Weaver said. "I can

sleep a whole lot better if I have a glass of goat milk before bed. We're big believers in the value of goat milk."

Owens said she enjoyed the Hall of Fame induction ceremony held during this year's State Fair in Raleigh, which ran for 11 days from Oct. 14 through Sunday.

"It was nice," Owens said. "I don't do a whole lot of social event sort of things. There were a lot of nice folks there, and I got to see the Commissioner of Agriculture (Steve Troxler), so it was nice to talk to him being at The State Fair where he has a lot of demands on his time."

"Usually when you're supported, that's not what people notice ... so that was a nice surprise. They're honoring people for their support of North Carolina agriculture."

At Walstone, it's Weaver who does a lot of the hands-on work with the herd that usually numbers 12 to 15 goats. Son Brian Weaver farms about 65 acres of hay crops, some of which are used for feed for the goats.

At present, Weaver milks four does each morning at 8 and again around 6 p.m. The

does average between 150 and 200 or more pounds, she said. Each doe produces up to two gallons of milk per day, enough milk that Owens said she also feeds some of the milk to the family's pigs.

At 85, Weaver knows she is not your average octogenarian working up to 3 hours a day, 7 days a week, caring for a herd of dairy goats. "That's why I get out of bed in the morning," she said. "What else is there to do?"

Weaver said she does get a break during the January and February "dry season" between breeding cycles when the milking is on hold. Weaver turns 86 next June 19, and she doesn't have any plans to slow down on her farming.

She's also proud her daughter has now joined her in the Fair's Livestock Hall of Fame.

"Oh gracious, yes," Weaver said of how proud she is of Owens. "She is very particular about everything she does. She's good at anything she does. She's also a musician. Anything you can name she can play it. She started out with the bassoon in high school, and now she's playing the harp."

Draft 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan now available for public review, until Dec. 8

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The draft 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which includes a long-range plan for transportation improvements across the Triangle region — including the northeastern section of Pittsboro — is available for public review until Dec. 8.

Chatham County Commissioners received a presentation on the plan at the board's September meeting, given by Andy Henry, transportation planner to Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO). The plan, developed and coordinated by the Capital Area (CAMPO) and Durham Chapel Hill Carrboro MPOs, includes projects to improve roadways, transit and bike and pedestrian areas throughout the Triangle.

"We're trying to adopt by February 2022," Henry told the board in September. "That's our deadline, so we're racing forward. It's very busy."

The majority of Chatham is covered in plans by TARPO, or Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization, which is a voluntary association of local governments in Chatham, Lee, Moore and Orange counties that plans rural transportation systems and advises the NCDOT on rural transportation policy. Because of Pittsboro's anticipated large population growth in future decades — the portion included in the 2050 MPO plan is expected to go up by 57,000 people — the improvement projects encompassed in the MPO will be an important part of responding well to Chatham's growth, commissioners said.

Prior public comment indicated Triangle residents wanted to see more encouragement of biking and walking, coordination of land use and transportation and increased transit service, car pools and ride shares. Additionally, survey respondents indicated interest in reducing personal vehicle dependence,

increasing sustainability, enhancing transit connectivity and increasing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

Chatham Commissioner Diana Hales said she was glad the plan the group was proceeding with seemed to take a more extensive look at environmental issues.

"I'm glad you're looking at more from the environmental and climate change realm to figure out if in high residential areas where you have a lot of mixed use, you can do bike lanes, and you can have options for increasing the transit," Hales said. "But in those suburban, rural-spread areas, I think that's indeed the challenge. That's the big challenge."

Commissioner Karen Howard, a voting member of the DCHC MPO, asked Henry whether the collaboration with TARPO resembled the collaboration between DCHC MPO and CAMPO.

"For Chatham, how do we get the same kind of collaboration with TARPO, because I know that Pittsboro is in TARPO, and Pittsboro is going to be such a driver for transit and where our transit dollars need to be spent," Howard said. "I think it's probably going to be really difficult, for Chatham County's purposes, that we're not having the same level of conversation and collaboration."

The 2050 MTP groups collaborate with TARPO on a project-by-project basis, Henry said. The plan assumes key land use assumptions in its scenario, Henry said: the extension of current land use plans/policies as well as increased density and mixed uses at employment hubs and travel corridors.

"We haven't talked about aligning goals and objectives or whatever," he said of working with TARPO.

Federal regulations require the 2050 MTP to have a financial plan, its website says, that covers project costs that must be covered by state, federal, local, private and other transportation revenues "that can be reasonably expected to be available."

The plan divides projects into three time periods: near-term through 2030, mid-term through 2040 and long-term to 2050. Many of the additional revenue resources proposed in the plan would require legislation from the state General Assembly or the U.S. Congress, the MPO website says.

Henry said transportation investments show subsequent movement in a positive direction, though not very large. For example, the change between travel time distance and overall congestion didn't change much from one scenario to the next.

"That's probably because underlying all of those, there's a lot of roadway projects," he told the board. "The hard part is the Triangle area is so large, you have so much suburban tract development around the fringes, which makes up the majority of that, and you're not seeing the change."

"If you're looking at a regional scale, you're not seeing the change from the investments you're making, say from transit and bicycle pedestrian projects," Henry said. "Does that make sense? It's kind of getting diluted."

More significant change was evident in smaller areas which had implemented changes.

Henry also discussed the group's equity measures with the board, from the integrated mobility division of the NCDOT.

"I think it's important," he said of the measures. "It says on average communities of color have lower vehicle ownership rates, live further from work, more people depend on public transportation are more likely to be involved in a crash as a pedestrian."

MPO staff is working on updated measures using the Triangle Regional Model, Henry said. So far, staff has found higher numbers of serious injuries and fatalities in areas which are low income, have higher minority populations or zero-car households. Such measurements are more likely to negatively

impact Chathamites in rural areas, which falls under TARPO.

You can view the draft MTP at <https://bit.ly/3mz7s6O>. A public hearing on the draft

plan will occur Nov. 17 at CAMPO's executive board meeting. Comments can be submitted online, by emailing comments@campo-nc.us, or calling 919-996-

4403.

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



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‘EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN ADULTS’

CIS’ Eva Depaz works to support Virginia Cross students, inspire them to become lifelong learners

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Because she’s born and raised in Siler City, Eva Depaz knows the county’s school system inside and out.

First, she was a student. Then she became a family services specialist and teaching assistant. Now she’s a student support specialist at Virginia Cross Elementary School for Communities In Schools of Chatham County, taking over the post from Jazmin Mendoza Sosa, who became CIS’ program director back in July.

This week, we spoke with Depaz about her role, the students she serves and what she hopes to achieve.

Tell us about yourself and your background.

My name is Eva Depaz. My dad is from Guatemala, and my mother is from Mexico. I was born and raised here in Siler City. So, Chatham County is pretty much all I know, which is why it fills me with pride to be able to serve it. I graduated from Jordan-Matthews High School in 2010. I have my associate’s degree in human services (from Central Carolina Community College) and I hope to soon be able to further my education as I have always been interested in the social

work field. I have served the Chatham County community for about 10 years doing different types of roles. Currently, I am working for Communities In Schools, where I am the Student Support Specialist at Virginia Cross Elementary.

What did you do before coming to CIS-Chatham?

I worked at Pittsboro Elementary School as an instructional assistant for about six months, and prior to that, I worked at Telamon Head Start for about eight years. Telamon is a [nationwide] program that

provides educational opportunities to children but also focuses on the family as a whole. I have to admit that both hold a special place in my heart because they have both opened doors for me and have helped me get to where I am today. I have met so many wonderful people from whom I have learned so much.

What are you passionate about? Why did you want to join CIS as a student support specialist?

Since I can remember, I have always wanted to grow up and help people; specifically, women and domestic violence related. My mother would always say I had a big heart! I was not quite sure who to help or how to do



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Eva Depaz, a CIS student support specialist at Virginia Cross Elementary School, plays a game with Yosary, a 2nd grader, during one of their sessions together in mid-October. The game allows each person to get to know the other: After building a tower out of wooden blocks, each player takes out a block and answers the question on each block until the tower collapses.

this, but as mentioned earlier, Pittsboro and Telamon hold a special spot because they both taught me the love for working with children and families. Working with children is definitely the most rewarding job I have done and the most impacting one. I have touched lives and have made a difference in them. When I heard of CIS, I was excited because it sounded very similar to my position at Telamon, but I also liked the fact that I could still do part of what I did at Pittsboro Elementary. It’s like I put Telamon and Pittsboro together.

What are your roles and responsibilities as a student support specialist? When did you officially start?

I started my CIS role on Aug. 2. As a Student Support Specialist, my responsibilities consist of providing individualized support to my students. I have the opportunity to empower students not only academically, but we also focus on the social-emotional aspect. Some students need that one-to-one level care and attention to motivate them to success. Aside from supporting my students, I also provide support and maintain an open communication with their parents. I assist VCE with other duties such as parent meetings, interpreting, being a part of committees, providing resources to families, participating in community events, and working closely with the school’s social worker

and guidance counselors.

Tell us about the students and families you work with. What challenges do they face or have they overcome?

My caseload is currently 38, but I hope to reach 50 in the next month or so. All are students from VCE. I think the biggest challenge I see with families I am currently working with is the language barrier. Most of my families are from the Latino community. I have about five parents who are illiterate. Not being able to communicate in English is hard for them; not being able to read or write in their language makes it even harder. I communicate with these parents through an app called WhatsApp; I keep them up to date by sending voice audios. If they have any concerns or questions, they shoot me an audio, and I respond back that way. It has been a BIG help. It is easy for them to use and convenient for our work schedules.

What are the best and worst parts about the job so far?

I would have to say the best part is seeing my students grow — and building positive relationships with them and other students. I went to a birthday party a few weekends ago and upon arrival, I had a 1st grader give me a joyful welcoming. She called me by my name with a huge smile and I did not know who she was. She told me she went to VCE and that she sees me go into her classroom all the time!

I really don’t have a worst part yet; everyone has been so welcoming both at CIS and VCE. I have a very caring and

supportive supervisor who has been with me pretty much every step of the way. The only thing I could consider on the negative side is the fact that this kind of job can be very unpredictable. It is very hard to plan things ahead because things have to be handled as they come to you or based on priority. But sometimes this is what keeps it interesting; there is never a “same day.”

What do you hope to achieve in your time with CIS as a student support specialist?

I want to create positive relationships with my students to better support them in the areas that are needed, provide that one-on-one support, and be that caring adult or safe spot when they need it. I want to motivate my students to always strive for the best just like I am always looking to better myself. I have only been in this role for about two and a half months, and I have already learned so much. I look forward to exploring my abilities, gaining more experiences, and creating many more memories to cherish throughout my career.

Anything else you think the community should know?

Education is crucial for a child’s life, but it is a teamwork project. We need parents/guardians as much as they need us! To have successful and productive human beings in the future, we need to create positive relationships with any students we come across. I’d like to share a quote that is very present in my mind: “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken adults.”

Nuclear Medicine in Chatham County



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Phone
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NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham Literacy seeks candidates for board

Chatham Literacy, one of the highly respected non-profit organizations in Chatham County, helps adults living or working here acquire the literacy and educational skills needed to function successfully in society.

The organization is welcoming a few qualified individuals to be members of its board of directors who want to give back to the community through service.

If you have experience in resource development, a background in adult literacy, board governance and/or business partnerships, you’d be welcome to apply. Chatham Literacy seeks diverse applicants from all geographic areas of our Chatham County.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about how you can make a difference in the lives of so many county residents and workers, along with gaining a stronger personal sense of pride in giving back to our community, please contact Vicki Newell at 919-742-0578 or vicki@chatham-literacy.org.

Chatham Community Library presents ‘Daughter of a Lost Bird’

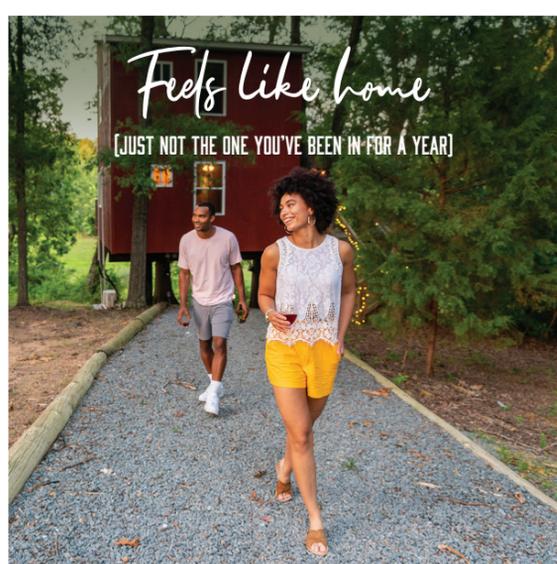
PITTSBORO — In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, Chatham Community Library will host a virtual film screening of Daughter of a Lost Bird (2021), Nov. 11 through Nov. 18. This program is free and

open to the public. “Lost birds” refers to a term for Native children adopted out of their tribal communities. Right after the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 became law, Kendra Mynnechuk Potter was adopted into a white family and raised with no knowledge of her Native parentage. This film follows Kendra on her journey to find her birth mother April, also a Native adoptee, and return to her Lummi homelands in Washington State. Director Brooke Swaney (Black-foot/Salish) documents Kendra and April as they connect with relatives and navigate what it means to be Native and to belong to a tribe from the outside looking in.

Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning November 11 by visiting <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/daughter-of-a-lost-bird-watch-page-chatham-community-library>. A password is required at the time of viewing. Those who are interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information. The library has purchased a hard copy of the film if residents who wish to see the film miss the virtual screening window.

Residents may also visit the libraries’ website www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or rita.vanduin@chathamlibraries.org for more information on this and other events and programs.

— CN+R staff reports



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OBITUARIES

DANIEL JOHN STACEY



Daniel John Stacey, 66, of Siler City entered the gates of heaven at 11:54 a.m. on October 18, 2021, with his children and best friend of 40 years, Michael Adcock by his side. Mr. Stacey was born June 16, 1955, in East Liverpool, Ohio. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Anna Stacey; five brothers, Carl, Richard (Dick), Roy Jr. (Tom), Chuck and Arthur; one sister, Joann.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Nora Regina Stacey. His

memory will live on through his daughters, Anna (Michael) Craig, Danielle Jo (Kevin) White and son, Wesley J. Roy (Amber) Stacey; six grandsons, Kevin Cameron White, Ralph Morgan White, Joseph Michael Craig II, Payton Thomas White, Reagon Daniel White, and Daniel Michael Stacey. He had two granddaughters, Anna Elizabeth Craig and Gracelynn Marie Stacey. He has two stepsons, Sharven Lee Estes, Zachary Blaine Estes, and three grandchildren, Madison Faith England, Nora Summer Estes, and Sharven Lee Estes III. He is also survived by two brothers Laurin, Dave Stacey; and five sisters, Thelma Lockhart, Catherine Feller, Ruth Jarvis, Susie Buzzard, and Pauline Daughterty.

Mr. Stacey will be cremated and his ashes will be laid to rest by his family.

GILBERT ALFRED TOON



Gilbert Alfred Toon of Pittsboro died Sunday, October 24, 2021, at UNC Hospital surrounded by his loving family.

His family emigrated from England coming to the United States to work in the textile industry. He was born in Monmouth County, New Jersey, and lived most of his life there before moving to his new home in North Carolina. He was a proud member of the United States Air Force and was a member of the American Legion Post 0292 in Goldston, North Carolina. He graduated from Trenton State College in New Jersey. He had a variety of careers before finding his true calling as an educator with the Monmouth County Vocational School District.

He was predeceased by his parents, John Toon and Hazel Sherwood, his first wife, Kay Henshy, his brother, Jack Toon, his sister, Shirley Fary and brother-in-law, John Fary, and brother-in-law, Henry F. Labrecque Jr.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Phyllis Toon; his sister, Diann Mellott; sister-in-law, Effie Labrecque; brother-in-law, Richard Labrecque and his wife, Sharon; many nieces and nephews, dear friends, his dog Shug, and many grandnieces and grandnephews.

The family will receive friends and family on Friday, November 5, 2021, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. with a memorial service to follow at 1 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home, 396 West Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Gilbert's memory to Piedmont Land Conservancy, P.O. Box 4025, Greensboro, North Carolina 27404-4025 or Second Chance Pet Adoptions, 6003 Chapel Hill Rd., Suite 133, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607 or to a charity of your choice.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com. Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Toon family.

EUGENE CARL FRIEDRICH



Eugene Carl Friedrich, 77, passed away on Thursday, October 28, 2021.

Eugene was born in Valencia, Pennsylvania, on March 18, 1944, to the late Eugene and Edna Brislin Friedrich. Eugene was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Judy B. Friedrich; and one sister, Margaret Ann Friedrich.

Those left to cherish Eugene's memory include his sister, Grace C. Bonney; his brother-in-law, Gordon Bonney; two nieces, and one nephew.

A service in Eugene's memory will be held on Thursday, November 4, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery. A visitation will be held prior to the service from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at Adcock Funeral Home.

ALLIE MICHELLE UPCHURCH

Allie Michelle Upchurch, 27, of Ramseur, passed away on Friday, October 22, 2021, at her home.

The funeral service was held Friday, October 29, 2021, at 2 p.m. at High Falls U.M.C. with Preacher Chris Wood presiding.

She was born in Guilford County. She was preceded in death by her brother, Glenn Upchurch and her grandparents.

Allie is survived by her sons, Liam Neal and Levi Neal, both of Asheboro; her parents, Ricky and Sherry Upchurch of Ramseur; sister, Samantha Phillips of Ramseur; brothers, Seymour Phillips of Hudson, Florida, and John Upchurch of Ramseur.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to High Falls U.M.C. Cemetery Fund, 324 Frieson Road, High Falls, N.C. 27259.

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

DEEANGELO TOMPKINS

Deeangelo Tompkins, 32, of Spring Lake passed away on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, in Charlotte.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

SUSAN KEEL TESREAU

Susan Keel Tesreau, 63, of Broadway, died Monday, October 25, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Memorial services were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, October 30, 2021, at Bizzell Grove Pentecostal Holiness Church in Princeton, with Pastor Phillip Bland officiating.

She was born in Craven County on October 21, 1958, daughter of the late James Curtis Keel and Hazel Stowe Keel. Both preceded her in death.

Surviving is her husband, Ronnie David Tesreau of the home; daughters, Erin Nichole Moore of New Bern, Deanna Kay Geribics of Daleville, Alabama, Dana May Chadwick of Clarksville, Tennessee; brother, Curtis Brinson Keel of Advance; sisters, Deborah Ferrell of Jacksonville, N.C., Ellen Keel of Havelock, Elizabeth Parker of Arapahoe; and seven grandchildren.

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

CATHIE DARLENE (GRENINGER) HEDEMAN

Cathie Darlene Hederman, 78, of Sanford passed away Wednesday, October 27, 2021, at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

GLADYS ANN WHEELER WRIGHT



Gladys Ann Wheeler Wright, 75, of Pittsboro, died Thursday, October 28, 2021, at the SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice Home.

Gladys was born in Chatham County on May 8, 1946, to the late Nelson Wheeler and Fannie Eubanks Wheeler. She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Charlie Wheeler and Wayne Wheeler, and two sisters, Frances Screws, and Ester Shirley.

Surviving relatives include her husband, John G. Wright; two sons, Dwayne Wright and wife Lessa of Pittsboro, Tony Wright and wife Diane of Siler City; one daughter, Tammy Bass and husband Keith of Wilson; seven grandchildren, Jordan Riggins and husband Casey, Gracie Wright, Kendal Wright, Brittany McDaniel and partner, Matt Tiller, Jessica McNeil, Morgan Bear and husband Jacob, and Hunter Bass and wife Jada, six great-grandchildren, Weston Riggins, Evelyn Tiller, Riley Tiller, Lily Tiller, Cheyenne Bear, Canaan Bear; and one sister, Ava Lee Brower of Staley.

The family received friends Monday, November 1, 2021, from 1 to 2 p.m. at New Salem Church. The funeral service followed at 2:30 p.m. with Pastor Chris Gambos presiding. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Gladys's memory to New Salem Church, 5030 Old Graham Rd., Pittsboro, N.C. 27312 or the SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan UNC Hospice Home, 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

JOSE SESMAS

Jose Sesmas, 36, of Siler City passed away on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

A funeral service was held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at Smith & Buckner Chapel with Rev. Javier Benitez officiating. Burial followed at Oakwood cemetery.

He was born March 5, 1985, in Austin, Texas, the son of Jesus Sesmas Villa and Lorenza Valdorinos Villa.

Jose is survived by his parents of Austin, Texas; children, Shyanna Sesmas, Jose Sesmas, and Madison Sesmas, all of Siler City; brothers, Pablo and Pedro Suarez, David Valdorinos, and Jesus Sesmas, all of Siler City; and sister, Crystal Sesmas of Austin, Texas.

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

ANNA 'ANN' JOSEPHINE IMPEMBA

Anna "Ann" Josephine Impemba, 94, of Raleigh, passed away on Friday, October 22, 2021, at the Springbrook Health and Rehabilitation Center in Clayton.

Graveside service was held on Friday, October 29, 2021, at 11 a.m. at the Greenlawn Memorial Gardens in Fuquay Varina, with Father Joseph Oji officiating.

Anna was born on September 3, 1927, daughter of Vincenzo "Vincent" Berte and Paola "Pauline" Orecchio Berte. Anna was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Anthony Impemba, and son, Anthony G. Impemba.

Anna is survived by her daughter, Anne Impemba of the home; a son, Frank Impemba of Brooksville, Florida; and four grandchildren.

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

NANCY ANN GODFREY SANTOS

Nancy Ann Godfrey Santos, age 48, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, October 29, 2021, at her home.

A graveside service was held on Monday, November 1, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Center United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Steve Johnson officiating.

She was born on March 14, 1973, to William Godfrey and the late Lois Schott Godfrey Schlorf. In addition to her mother, she was preceded in death by a daughter Regis Godfrey. Nancy worked for 25 years at Yarborough's Homemade Ice Cream Shop.

In addition to her father, she is survived by daughters Ashley Nich of New York, Hannah Marie Godfrey of Bennett and Sarah Ann Godfrey of Sanford; three siblings, Karen Godfrey Criswell of Ellerbe, Godfrey Godfrey of Sanford and Bill Godfrey Jr. (Stacy) of Southern Shore; and one grandchild.

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

MICHAEL FRANCIS DALTON

Michael Francis Dalton, 66, of Raleigh, passed away on Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

A memorial service for loved ones shall be planned in the future.

Born in Ozone Park, N.Y., Mike was the son of the late Anne Costello Dalton and Joseph Dalton. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Barry D. Dalton, and Greg J. Dalton.

Mike graduated from SUNY-Plattsburgh in 1978. Later in life he found a passion for teaching elementary students. In recent years, Mike was a substitute teacher for the Lee County and Chatham County school systems.

Mike is survived by his daughters, Catherine Dalton and Danielle Dalton.

In lieu of flowers or memorials, please contribute to the Chatham Education Foundation. Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

GERALDINE BARNES HALL

Geraldine Barnes Hall, 70, of Bennett, passed away on Friday, October 29, 2021, at her home.

The funeral service was held Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 1 p.m. at Pine Mountain Church with Pastor Edwin Moore presiding.

She was born in Richmond County on August 2, 1951, to Albert Lee and Nettie Mae Heaton Barnes. Geraldine was preceded in death by her father, Albert Barnes and her sister Ruby Johnson.

She is survived by her husband, Larry Odell Hall Sr., of the home; her mother, Nettie Mae Barnes of Siler City; daughters, Wendy Hall of Carthage, Tammy Hall Cruz of Bennett and Stephanie Barnes of Aberdeen; sons, Larry Hall Jr., of Bennett and Scotty Lee Hall of Carthage; sisters, Shirley Johnson, Loretta Binkley, Louise Robinson and Robin Hogan; brothers, Albert Lee Barnes Jr., Ray Barnes, Timmy Barnes, James Barnes and Marvin Barnes; nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

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

BARRY MICHAEL JAMES

Barry Michael James, 64, of Sanford passed away on Monday, October 25, 2021, at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

JOSEPHINE EADS HOLLAND

Josephine Eads Holland, 93, of Sanford, passed away Saturday, October 30, 2021, at FirstHealth Hospice Home.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Lee Memory Gardens with Rev. Kenneth Williams officiating.

She was born in Surry County on May 26, 1928, to the late Dillard Eads and Effie Atkins Eads. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Charlie Holland and a son, Michael Joe Holland.

Survivors include sons, Marshall Holland and Ronnie Holland, both of Sanford, Richard Holland of Greensboro; and one brother, James Eads of Sanford.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Alzheimer's Association, 3739 National Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27612.

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

RODNEY LEE MORGAN

Rodney Lee Morgan, 77, of Eagle Springs, passed away on Saturday, October 30, 2021, at his home.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 3 p.m. at Robbins Bible Methodist Church with Rev. Stephen Tomek and Rev. Dale Chapman presiding. Internment followed at Brown's Chapel Christian Church.

He was born in Randolph County on November 5, 1943 to Ellie Aster and Bessie Allen Morgan. Rodney was a devoted member of Robbins Bible Methodist Church, where he served as a trustee. He worked as a pipe fitter/welder with Union #785 for 40 years and retired from RCM Mechanical. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Phil Morgan.

Rodney is survived by his wife of 55 years, Margie Louise Cox Morgan, of the home; children, Chris West, Mandy Seawell and Clark Morgan, all of Eagle Springs; sister, Tobbie Emmons of High Falls; brother, Butch Morgan of Eagle Springs; and six grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to FirstHealth Hospice, 251 Campground Road, West End, N.C. 27376.

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

SHIRLEY MORRIS SMITH

Shirley Morris Smith, 66, of Sanford, died Friday, October 29, 2021 at her home.

The family received friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at Smith Funeral Home in Broadway. They will have a private family memorial service at a later date. She was born in Lee County on September 3, 1955, daughter of the late Robert Louis Morris and Mamie Lee O'Quinn, who preceded her in death.

Surviving is her husband, Richard Lee Smith of the home; daughter, Jessica McDougald of Sanford; a son, Anthony Smith of Sanford; two grandchildren; sisters, Cathy Page of Sanford, Peggy England and Lisa Holt, both of Broadway; and brothers, Danny Morris and Jimmy Morris, both of Sanford.

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

OCTAVIO CASIMIRO BARRAGAN

Octavio Casimiro Barragan, 19, of Broadway, passed away on Sunday, October 24, 2021, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

See **OBITUARIES**, page A12

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Greg Campbell

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Opposite Smith & Buckner Funeral Home

Chatham commissioners hear update from climate change committee

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham commissioners heard an annual update from the county's Climate Change Advisory Committee at the board's meeting Monday night, ahead of the climate committee's upcoming Dec. 20 presentation which will include 10 recommendations for the county.

Committee co-chairperson Charles Cooper presented the group's report for the fiscal year 2020-21. The committee was formed in 2015.

"Our mission has been the same since the inception of the committee," Cooper told the board. "Our purpose is to make recommendations to the board of commissioners and others with respect to likely climate change impact and also with respect to mitigation and adaptation strategies."

With significant development and population growth expected in Chatham over the next 20 years, the county is not immune from the impacts of climate change. The committee specifically looks at regenerative agriculture practices and retention of the county's tree cover, along with the reduction of emissions and carbon neutral green building standards.

A 2019-20 Chatham greenhouse gas inventory carried out by the county showed small decreases in most emission categories from the year prior, the News + Record previously reported, likely due to COVID-19. That study showed an increase in CO2 equivalent emissions from 2019 to 2020 in transportation (40.4% to 42.7%) and decreases in commercial (9.2% to 8.8%), residential (20.2% to 19.5%) and industrial (21.7% to 20.5%) emissions.

With an entirely Democratic board, the county is perhaps uniquely positioned to invest in practices and adopt policies that mitigate negative impacts of climate change. Even so, Chatham County is limited in what it can do because of state jurisdiction, as well as low emissions levels from the county government itself. Still, local officials and leaders are pushing for creative solutions, by adding solar panels to its buildings, buying electric or hybrid electric cars as old ones need replacement and installing two electric vehicle stations — one in Pittsboro and one in Siler City.

In addition to looking for more renewable energy resources, local leaders are looking toward more sustainable practices such as modified development ordinances, stormwater runoff mechanisms and clean drinking water. On Monday, Cooper said the

climate committee also prepared a tree protection ordinance model for the commissioners to consider.

"We're running up against the same barriers and challenges that everyone else is running into," Cooper said. "Especially in governance of our country as a whole state and our locale and that's this acceleration of climate effects — it's moving faster than experts predicted in many ways. That's really requiring more and more, all the way down to more and more of our committee. But what we've tried to do to deal with the overload is to focus our attention on two different areas, one having to do with storing carbon, in soils and trees, through regenerative agriculture, and also in the electrification of transportation."

The county's greenhouse gas inventory showed that transportation in Chatham is the largest contributor to emissions by far, nearly double the next-highest sector, industrial.

Part of the climate committee's 10 recommendations, to be presented to the board next month, is for the county to become a "carbon negative" county, rather than a "carbon neutral" one.

The county's greenhouse inventory showed emissions exceeded 900,000 CO2E, with an estimated 1.1 CO2E removed by carbon sinks. (The committee's estimate was made "with significant uncertainty," the presentation said.)

"But to sustain that is going to be a real, huge challenge," Cooper said, "because with development coming in, that is likely to be able to push out some of our carbon sinks, in other words, displace trees, and farmland and so forth, while at the same time increasing the amount of emissions that are involved in transportation."

Commissioner Diana Hales suggested that the board discuss the county's climate change strategy at its mid-year retreat in January, using the comprehensive land plan as a guide. Commissioner Jim Crawford also supported raising climate change discussions at that meeting, adding the Unified Development Ordinance being developed by the county could help create a more sustainable future standard.

"... This is a board that could get that made the standard — future boards probably are helpful, because I think young people get it, right," Crawford said. "But the earlier we get things rolling, the easier it should be going forward. Obviously, we've got to make up for lost time and close the gap, maybe during the budget retreat, to look at some actual policies and some commitments under these 10 general recommendations."

"I would say the only question I hear from young people regarding it is, 'Why aren't you idiots doing anything?'" Chairperson Mike Dasher added with a laugh before moving to the next agenda item of the meeting. "That's the one I get the most from my young people."

more than \$100,000.

The presentation was a "high-level overview" of the proposed CIP, Thompson said. A more detailed presentation will be made to the board at its Nov. 16 work session. The plan includes updates to current county projects as well as new proposals.

"The CIP is not a budget, it is a plan. I emphasize that because even as a staff when we work on the CIP, we have to remind ourselves of that," Thompson told the board. "However, the CIP does inform what the upcoming operating budget will look like, so the decisions made through the CIP process will have an impact on the operating budget itself."

Of the current CIP projects, the proposal includes the following updates: increasing the budget for the Chatham County Schools new Central Services building by nearly \$1.5 million and \$2 million for the Emergency Operations Center relocation, along with anticipated savings of \$1.2 million for the finishing out of cell blocks at Chatham County's Detention Center.

"We start this process on a staff level earlier than this, but bring it before the board and the public in November," Thompson said, "so we can have a couple of meetings, workshop with the driven goal of having an adopted CIP by the end of December as we move into the operating budget (in early January)."

You can view the recommended plan here: <https://bit.ly/3pV8oVc>. A public hearing on the proposed CIP is scheduled for Nov. 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Introduction to ordinance amendments

Introduction to ordinance amendments

Commissioners also heard an informational item on county ordinance amendments to comply with Senate Bill 300, a criminal justice reform law approved by Gov. Roy Cooper and state lawmakers in September. The board will vote on the changes at its Nov. 15 meeting.

That bill promotes the recruitment of officers with diverse backgrounds, requires early intervention mechanisms in the case of police excessive force or misconduct and furthers independent investigations of police shootings. It also limits local laws criminalizing poverty and requires a first appearance in court within 72 hours of someone being arrested.

The Chatham document amended chapters 90, 91 and 130 of Chatham ordinances, clarifying penalties and which ordinance violations are punishable by a misdemeanor.

The amended chapter 90 of the code, on penalties, removed a link saying that "a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$50 or imprisonment for 30 days or both in the discretion of the court."

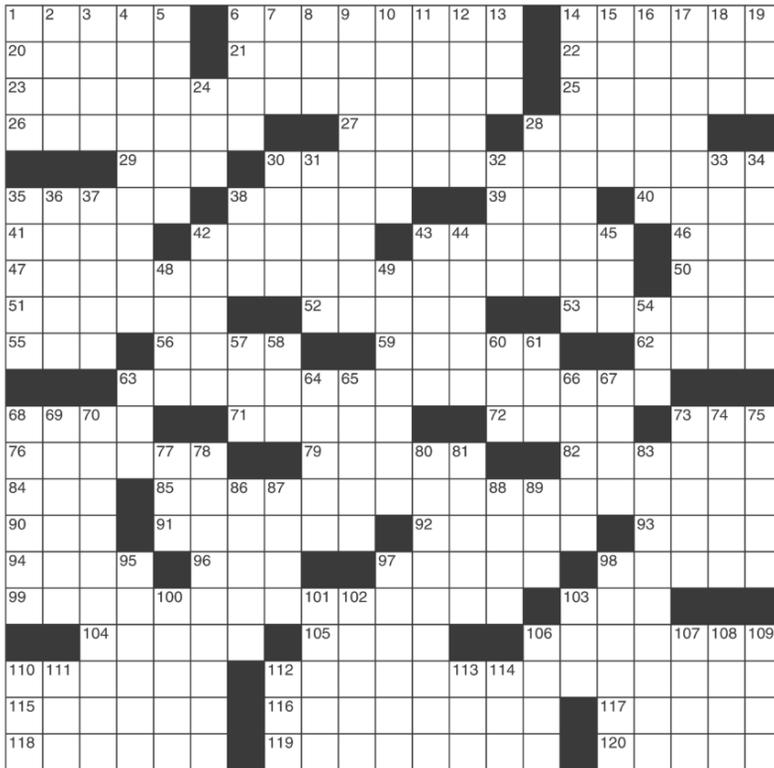
The ordinance will become effective Dec. 1. During the board's 4 o'clock work session, it went into closed session pursuant "to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body," according to the meeting agenda.

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

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

SCARE TACTICS

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 50 — 'n' cheese | 94 Actress Turner | 4 Torque transmitter in a motor | 33 Marlins' and Mets' div. | 75 Dickinson of "Rio Bravo" |
| 1 Mess up on | 51 Airing of ads on the tube | 96 Mined stuff | 5 "Star Wars" won seven of them | 34 Decides (to) | 77 Sporty English autos |
| 6 Dismiss, as an ill student | 52 Eyeliner flaw | 97 Female hip-hopper | 6 Weeps noisily | 35 Pick up on | 78 Supreme Court's Sonia |
| 14 Pause-causing marks | 55 Archaic verb suffix | 98 Self-indulgent outing | 7 Musician Brian | 36 Blow up | 80 "Let's move!" |
| 20 Skunks' defenses | 56 Warty hopper | 99 Comment upon finally getting a chance to sit down? | 8 S.Sgt. or M.Sgt. | 37 Big name in photocopiers | 81 Natives of Bangkok |
| 21 Quick size-up | 59 Son of Cain | 103 "The Raven" writer | 9 Tyranny | 38 Happy hour locale | 82 Many a video chat |
| 22 1998 Masters winner Mark | 63 Two things a baby might be wearing in cold weather? | 104 Typical | 10 Pay-to-stay places | 42 Great devastation | 86 Hannah of "Roxanne" |
| 23 Giving an officer a leg up? | 68 — -Cola | 105 In perfect condition | 11 Sheep-related | 43 "— of angels coming after me" ("Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" line) | 87 Design detail |
| 25 Defaced | 71 St. Teresa's birthplace | 106 Not mixing well with others | 12 High-IQ club | 44 Chocolate substitute | 88 Raison d'— |
| 26 Neighbors of Czechos | 72 Chili bit | 110 Thirty tripled | 13 Minuscule bit of work | 45 Santa —, California | 89 — Paese (cheese type) |
| 27 Composes | 73 Neighbor of Wash. | 112 Ruling house enjoying great prosperity? | 14 Jet engine part that includes the igniter | 46 Comics' Kett | 95 Thumbs-up |
| 28 "Li" fellow | 76 Leaves | 115 Comparable with | 15 Muscat-ear? | 48 Like mutant | 97 Witticism |
| 29 Previous to | 79 Finger or toe | 116 Get robots to do | 16 Most trifling | 49 Like Ninja Turtles | 98 Part of ASAP |
| 30 Food favored by logicians? | 82 MRI | 117 Kate's mate on 1980s TV | 17 Guys wearing wedding rings | 54 Actress Issa | 100 Mozart's "Cosi fan —" |
| 35 Belgrade citizens | 84 Winnipeg's province: Abbr. | 118 Part of BBB | 18 "My lips — sealed" | 57 Alias letters | 101 Love, to Gigi |
| 38 Impish kids | 85 "I pray our reservation doesn't get canceled!" | 119 Rubs the wrong way | 24 Barely get, with "out" | 58 Actor Patel | 102 Regional flora and fauna |
| 39 Extra NFL periods | 90 News agcy. founded in 1958 | 120 Bed boards | 28 "Don't — surprised!" | 60 Corn holder | 103 — -Ops (CIA tactics) |
| 40 Spill a secret | 91 Fastener for paper sheets | DOWN | 30 Londoner, e.g. | 61 Garden tool | 106 Yemeni city |
| 41 Lake fed by the Huron | 92 Totally fills | 1 Janitorial tools | 31 Author Joyce Carol — | 63 Jelly holder | 107 Dot in the sea, to Juanita |
| 42 Port-au-Prince's place canceled!" | 93 Fabled snow humanoid | 2 Reversed sort | 32 Unskilled PC gamer, say | 64 Like some waves | 108 Toiling away |
| 43 2017-19 labor secretary Alexander | | 3 Unassisted | | 65 Full of energy | 109 Strong alkalis |
| 46 Poor grade | | | | 66 Tijuana treats | 110 Collar |
| 47 Monkey setting off big experimental blasts? | | | | 67 Wild about | 111 Singer Turner |
| | | | | 68 Fluffy clouds | 112 Grocery holder |
| | | | | 69 Comparable (with) | 113 "Ilmatic" rapper |
| | | | | 70 Team of dogs on the force | 114 '60s Pontiac |
| | | | | 73 Less genial | |
| | | | | 74 "Inferno" poet | |



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

D	O	D	G	E	M	A	L	F	K	O	I	T	R	I	P	U	P		
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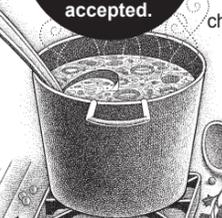
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Community invited to participate in 2021 Chatham Community Assessment process

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — The research and survey process for the 2021 Chatham County Community Assessment is under way, and there are multiple opportunities for all Chatham residents to participate.

Many Chatham residents recently received an invitation to participate in the Chatham Community Cohort Survey, which is sent to a representative sample of households across Chatham. Those who received the invitation are encouraged to enroll in the cohort and share their perspectives by completing the survey. In addition, county residents have three other options to participate and let their voices be heard in the Community Assessment: the supplemental survey, Chatham Snapshots and Chatham Talks: Community Story Circles.

“The Community Assessment is one of the biggest opportunities to see Chatham as it is right now, whether it’s on paper, sending a photo, or telling your story,” said Michelle Wright, the Equity and Community Engagement Initiatives Lead for the Chatham County Public Health Department. “The community has the chance to share their experiences with health, family, and county resources. And this is what we need to drive us forward in serving Chatham the way that Chatham wants and needs.”

Community Assessment supplemental survey

A supplemental survey is open to all residents. This survey gives all Chatham community members the opportunity to share their thoughts about health and well-being

in Chatham County. Respondents are invited to share opinions about their experiences in the community and provide input on areas to prioritize to improve life for everyone.

Chatham Snapshots

The goal of Chatham Snapshots is to bring forward the perspective of all the communities in the county, showing how we are one community with many different experiences. To participate, community members choose one of the following four prompts — what home looks like for you in Chatham, what your life looks like in Chatham, what you think is the best of Chatham and how you see yourself reflected in Chatham — and take a picture that answers one of the prompts for them.

After taking the picture, the respondent should write a brief summary of no more than one typed page of what the photo is and how it answers the prompt for them. Submit the photo and summary to chathamtalks@chathamcountync.gov by Dec. 3.

For more on Chatham Snapshots, including full guidelines and to fill out a consent form, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/chathamshots.

Chatham Talks: Community Story Circles

The 2021 Community Assessment team is hosting Chatham Talks listening events across the area to hear from the Chatham community. Everyone who lives, works, plays, and/or worships in the county is invited to tell their own story.

The schedule of remaining Chatham Talks events is as follows:

- Thursday, Nov. 4, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, 1192 U.S. Hwy. 64 Business, Pittsboro (6-8

p.m.); and the Alliance NC, 134 S. Chatham Ave., Siler City (6:15-8:30 p.m.)

- Saturday, Nov. 13 (10 a.m. to noon) at Goldston Town Hall, 40 Coral Avenue #A, Goldston; and Liberty Chapel Church, 1855 Old U.S. Hwy. 1, Moncure.

- Thursday, Dec. 2, at the Ag Center in Pitts-

boro (6-8 p.m.) and the Alliance NC in Siler City (6:15-8:30 p.m.)

Additionally, a virtual Story Circle event will be held each night listed above. The event will be hosted at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86990433882>.

Participants are not required to RSVP, but it is

encouraged. Children are welcome to attend each event, and dinner will be provided. Call 919-704-4421 or email chathamtalks@chathamcountync.gov to RSVP.

The 2021 Chatham County Community Assessment is a joint project sponsored by the Chatham Health Alliance,

Chatham County Public Health Department and Chatham Hospital. Previous Community Assessments can be found at www.chathamcountync.gov/healthreports. The web home for the current Assessment can be found at www.chathamhealthalliance.org/community-assessment.

Town of Siler City

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A10

MELISSA ANN HAWKINS

Melissa Ann Hawkins, 47, of Cameron, passed away on Sunday, October 31, 2021, at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, November 4, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at Good Shepherd Baptist Church on Friday, November 5, 2021, at 3 p.m. with Rev. Allen Smith and Rev. George Brice officiating.

She was born in Lee County, August 16, 1974, to Wayne Maddox and Emma Taylor. Melissa was preceded in death by grandparents, Lyston Taylor and Mary Taylor Baker, James David Maddox and Pearl Britt Maddox Thomas and Jake Thomas; and her infant son, Brandon Barlup. Melissa was employed at Farmers Furniture in Aberdeen.

She is survived by her husband, Tim Hawkins; children, Heather Barlup of Pennsylvania, Emily Conely of Cameron, Joseph (Bobo) Matthews of Sanford, and of the home Sadeya, Akira, Preston and Craig; stepchildren, Brittany Franco, Brooke Stewart, Brandon and Gordon Jr.; and eleven grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made at www.bridges-cameronfuneralhome.com.

CHESTER MELVIN DOUGLAS SR.

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

His funeral service was held at 2 p.m., Saturday, October 30, 2021, at Star of Hope.

MARZELLA (LONG) MURCHISON

Marzella Long Murchison, 92, passed away on Sunday, October 23, 2021.

Funeral service was held at 11 a.m., October 30, 2021, at Evangelical House of God Ministries, with burial at Jacksonville Community Cemetery.

PATRICK SHONDAL BETHEA

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

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. October 28, 2021, at the Stevens Center with burial in Minter Cemetery.



Town of Siler City

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DEATH FAIRE

Overcoming grief with connection and community

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The year and a half of the COVID-19 era has been unprecedented in many ways, not the least of which has been the losses so many people have experienced.

The 2021 version of Death Faire, Abundance NC's annual exploration of grief, addressed loss in unique ways Saturday at The Plant in Pittsboro, inviting community members to gather together to help one another with grieving processes in sustainable, connective ways.

Ally DeJong, Abundance NC's executive director, said she worked this year with other organizations to create an inclusive safe space for people to process their grief and loss.

"With the busy nature of our society, it doesn't really set us up well to be able to take a lot of time really for ourselves, but especially not our grief," she said. "Anyone who has gone through a process of loss knows that the two weeks that you get to grieve when someone immediately passes away is kind of taken up by all the logistic work, so there's not really much time at all for us to really focus on these things."

This year's Death Faire featured several spiritual workshops, including meditation, writing and journaling sessions, visual art sessions, as well as house music and a New Orleans-style funeral procession complete with beads and parasols. There were also booths offering things such as selling crystals, tarot readings, promoting the American Wildlife Rescue and more.

The purpose of all of Death Faire's activities is to allow people to process their grief in a way that connects them to others and to connect to the world around them.

Aubrey Griffith-Zill, the founder of the Living Arts



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

An altar to honor the dead at Death Faire 2021.

Collective, has participated in Death Faire every year. She said she got involved with the event through her organization's relationship with Abundance.

"We're really all about helping people access deep emotions that are inside in their body, whether that be grief or joy, and finding embodied ways to express that," Griffith-Zill said.

Griffith-Zill also said she thinks connecting deep emotions among an inclusive community allows for people to grieve in a more beneficial way for themselves and others.

"Connection with community, connection with each other, connection with ourselves, connection with this land is so important," she said. "This is a safe place and intentional place to talk about death, to embrace it, to think of it in a different light in a way that I think a lot of our culture does not think about here in America."

Death Faire also looks at various perspectives when it comes to processing death or loss.

One of these ways is through teaching about sustainable burials such as green burial,

deep sea burial and more. DeJong said Death Faire's session on green burials mostly focuses on pine casket burials, which is when the deceased are placed into a pine wood casket, which will eventually decompose over time.

"It's a very beautiful, handmade casket and you're buried in it, and eventually your body in the casket itself decomposes into the ground," DeJong said. "That's really what we are meant to do; go back to the earth. We are nutrients — our body, our decay, our decomposition — are all nutrients, and it's just the cycle of life."

This year's event took a different focus from the green burial one the event normally has. This year, DeJong said prior to Death Faire she wanted the event to take a deeper dive at the connection people have with each other, most specifically with their ancestry.

"Our ancestry is another way I feel we feel a little less alone," she said. "It goes from your parents and then you have four grandparents and then it literally keeps doubling every step you take back, and so to think about all the humans and all the lives and all the hardship that got you to this point, it's really liberating."

Griffith-Zill said for her, the movement and meditation Death Faire offers creates a space that helps people to go through the grieving process in a unique way.

"Co-creating a container where people are able to be curious, vulnerable, courageous and tap into a place for those feelings to be felt and expressed — we feel that helps heal the grief in a way that allows for the stored emotions to be moved, to be expressed and to be felt deeper," she said.

Griffith-Zill said this year's event was special to her because she feels Death Faire allows for people to come together after all of the emotion-

al turmoil the pandemic has brought on.

"There's a deep sense of collective grief after all of this we have been through the past couple of years together," she said. "Having the privilege and opportunity to be here together in itself is a celebration, and then getting to hold death and grief in a way that we get to bring it to the surface and get to honor it collectively feels really special."

Community is a common theme present at Death Faire. From the circles of strangers gathering to share their stories of loss and sorrow, to the room full of friends painting and drawing together, Death Faire provided an outlet for people to come together and process their emotions as a community. According to DeJong, that's what makes Death Faire so special.

"Grief has many faces — it'll turn into anger and rage and depression," she said. "Once we like can approach and nurture our relationships and just look at death more as a transformation and less so this like finite ending, we'll be able to attend to each other's needs more and tend to our own needs more and really heal."

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com.



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

One of the work sessions at Death Faire.

Work With Life Partner To Achieve Mutual Goals

When you and your life partner work together to achieve your important long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement lifestyle, the experience can be greatly rewarding. However, your success will require commitment and discipline. So, what steps should you take along the way?

One key move is to decide early in your relationship how you will handle money. Many couples merge their finances and make joint decisions on major purchases. But some couples like to keep at least part of their finances distinct, perhaps by maintaining separate checking or savings accounts. There's really no one correct solution for everyone, but whatever you decide, you'll want to be assured that all the bills will be paid and that neither one of you feels the pressure of an unfair financial burden.

Here's another suggestion: Try to avoid keeping financial secrets from your partner. That means disclosing your debts, hidden funds or uncommon investments. These types of surprises can lead to difficulties and mistrust. Even if you're entering the relationship carrying something like a heavy student loan, it's best to get it out in the open right away so, together, you can strive to gradually eliminate it.

Of course, there's also a practical side to not keeping secrets. Your large student loan could affect your credit rating — an issue that may arise when you and your partner are seeking a mortgage or some other type of loan. Clearly, you both should be aware of this potential stumbling block before you begin the application process.

Now, let's consider your investments. You each may have your own IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, but you might also share a

joint investment account. However, you might not share the same risk tolerance — perhaps one of you tends to be more aggressive, willing to take more risks in exchange for potentially higher returns, while the other is more conservative, preferring to keep down the risk level of a portfolio, even if it means lesser capacity for growth.

Again, neither you nor your partner is necessarily "right" or "wrong" in your views on investing — and nobody's feelings about risk should be ignored. But once you've clearly identified your retirement goals and estimated their cost, you may find that compromise is possible. In other words, perhaps the conservative partner will realize that a too-cautious approach could hinder progress toward the desired retirement goal, while the partner who focuses on maximum growth will learn that a somewhat less aggressive approach can still yield the desired results. This type of compromise may affect the investment choices you make in your individual accounts as well as your joint accounts. And the way you choose your investments may even change over time, especially if your financial goals evolve.

Ultimately, *communication* is the key. As long as you're talking to each other and openly expressing your wishes and concerns, you and your partner can find a way to keep moving toward your mutual goals.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

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SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Board sets public hearing on redistricting

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City commissioners on Monday set a date for a public hearing to discuss two proposed maps for redistricting.

The hearings will be held Nov. 15, at the board's next regular meeting, in the Multipurpose Room of the Wren Memorial Library. The location may change if room capacity is exceeded.

Siler City has to redraw its district voting maps after losing population since the 2010 census. Only three of Siler City's five districts meet the voting district population criteria required by law.

The board was presented two maps by Blake Esselstyn of FrontWater LLC and Mapfigure consulting, along with Deborah Stagner with Tharrington Smith LLP.

Esselstyn said the maps have to meet certain requirements to be approved by state and federal regulators.

"These maps are the result of having looked at the population requirements through the lens of the criteria that you all have directed us to consider," he said. "Most of the changes that are happening are along or near Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Third Avenue, and Third Street."

The 2020 population for Siler City was 7,702, a decrease of more than 100 residents from the 2010 census. For the redrawn districts to be approved, the population of each district must be within +/- 5% of the "ideal deviation," which in Siler City's case is 1,540 residents per district.

According to Esselstyn, two districts were either below or above the allowed deviation: Districts 1 and 3.

"When we look at the existing district shapes and the 2020 population, you can see that three of the five districts have populations that are within the +/- 5%," he said. "We see that District 1's population is below the essential deviation and District 3 is above."

Esselstyn presented two map options to redesign the districts to accommodate Siler City's population loss.

The first option, Option A, has District 5 expanding along Third Avenue and East 4th Street. It also has District 4 expanding into some of District 3, District 1 expanding into District 1, and

District 2 takes some land from District 4.

"In Option A, 95% of the blocks stay the same," Esselstyn said. "The changes that you see are in the neighborhood along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard."

The second option, Option B, most resembles the current map. Districts 4 and 1 expand slightly, but other than that, the map looks very similar to the 2010 one.

"The major difference between Option B and Option A is Option B looked a little bit harder to try and take into account expected population growth," Esselstyn said. "So in addition to the residential development in the eastern part of District 1, there's been a development that has been proposed and applied for and is expected to be proposed again, so in anticipation of the potential approval of that, which would be in District 2, it made sense to make district two's population a little lower."

The public hearing has been set for 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 15, and members of the public are welcome to comment on both options Esselstyn presented to the board on Monday evening.

Other business

Commissioners received an update from the Siler City police department regarding the department's annual report.

Lt. Andrew Freeman, Lt. Jason Boyd, Major Jay Underwood and Chief Mike Wagner presented the police department's statistics over the last year. Highlights from the report include:

- Almost 40 calls into the police department were in regard to a drug overdose in the 2020-2021 year. Five of those resulted in death.
- Body worn cameras went online for Siler City police in September.
- All major cases have been cleared, including one homicide, two armed robberies, 30 sexual assaults, three assaults with a deadly weapon and two kidnappings.
- All major crime is down except for murder and sexual assault.
- Sexual assault cases jumped by 250% in the last year.

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com.

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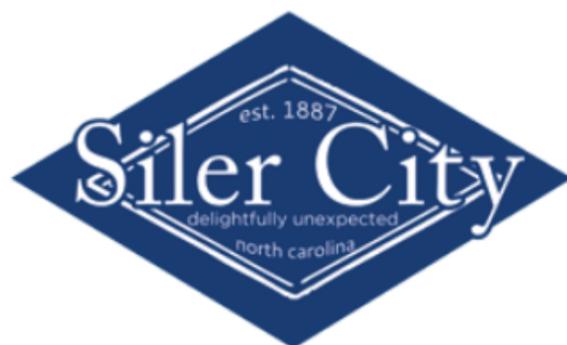
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WOODS CHARTER 4, UNION 3

Scoring frenzy pushes Woods Charter men's soccer past Union in 1st round

BY MITCHELL NORTHAM
 News + Record
 Correspondent

CHAPEL HILL — The ball bounced high into the cold night sky, off the mitts of the goalkeeper for the visiting Union High School men's soccer team.

As it drifted back toward the worn turf at the Park at Briar Chapel, Woods Charter junior Vanner Weakley was there to intervene. The lanky forward hopped into the air and headed the ball with a force, past the keeper and into the back of the net.

A celebration ensued. It was just one of four goals that Woods Charter scored

Monday night, but it proved to be the most crucial one. It came in the 68th minute and broke a 2-2 tie, giving the Wolves a lead at home with mere minutes to play.

Both teams would score again, but Weakley's header proved to be enough cushion between the Wolves and Union High's Spartans. And so, on a brisk evening on the soccer pitch surrounded by trees full of fall leaves, Woods Charter captured a playoff victory over Union with a 4-3 score.

"It was very physical, I thought we kept our composure," Wolves' head coach Graeme Stewart said. "We needed to match their intensity. When we had the com-

posure and the discipline, I thought we controlled the game, mostly. They were looking for the quick break off the long ball, a lot. After the first 10 minutes, we handled it pretty well. ... We scored some very good goals."

With the win, sixth-seeded Woods (10-8) advances in the NCHSAA 1A boys soccer playoffs, and will host 11th-seeded River Mill on Thursday. River Mill (15-2), located in Graham, topped Gates County, 9-0, on Monday in a dominant performance.

To get its victory, Woods had to work hard and pounce on opportunities. The opening mo-

See **SOCCER**, page B2



Staff photo by Mitchell Northam

Woods Charter midfielder Motasem Mamoun (11) celebrates with his teammates after scoring a goal in the Wolves' 4-3 playoff win over Union on Monday at the Park at Briar Chapel.

NCHSAA WOMEN'S TENNIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bears' duo finishes as state runner-up; Knights advance to dual-team 4th round

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
 News + Record Staff

CARY — There the rain-soaked courts sat as a group of spectators waited patiently, watching with intent as larger-than-life squeegees attempted to soak up the puddles that prevented the start of the NCHSAA 1A Women's Tennis Individual State Championships last Friday.

The tournament, set to start at 9 a.m. at Cary Tennis Park, wouldn't get under way until after 11:30 a.m. as just a couple of courts became available, finally dry thanks to the industrial squeegees, sunlight and fans desperately working to recreate evaporation.

While the rain was a nuisance for players, coaches and fans alike — delaying the start of the tournament and even postponing the day's final match as storms rolled through — the clouds in the sky weren't indicative of the day itself.

After all, it was a day full of excitement, nervousness and pride for Chathamites, as their county had the most individual state qualifiers in the 1A classification (four), including two duos each from Chatham Central and Chatham Charter.

The Bears' doubles qualifiers were the duos of juniors Livvy Brooks & Ellie Phillips, the 1A East regional doubles champions, and sophomore Rachel Albright & junior Jaylee Williams.

The Knights' doubles



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham Central junior Ellie Phillips hits a serve during the first set of her duo's first-round matchup against Christ the King's Nicole Castillo/Grace Sides at the NCHSAA 1A Individual State Championships at Cary Tennis Park last Friday.

qualifiers were the duos of sophomore Elphie Spillman & senior Emery Eldridge and seniors Ashlyn Hart & Lorelei Byrd.

In the tournament itself, Brooks/Phillips made it all the way to the state title match, where they finished as the runners-up to the dominant pairing from Mount Airy, junior Audrey Marion & sophomore Ella Brant, who knocked them out by way of a 6-1, 6-2 score.

Marion/Brant also elim-

inated two other Chatham duos — Chatham Central's Albright/Williams in the first round (6-1, 6-1) and Chatham Charter's Hart/Byrd in the second round (6-4, 6-4) — en route to winning the 1A doubles state championship.

Brooks/Phillips entered the tournament with a 13-1 overall record as the Bears' top doubles pairing, claiming the top seed in the 1A East after blowing through the 1A East Regionals — defeating both Eldridge/Spillman (6-1,

6-3) and Hart/Byrd (6-0, 6-1) — a week earlier.

And despite the duo's talent level and resume, it didn't take long before realizing just how difficult it'd be to replicate that success.

After waiting over four hours to start their first match, Brooks/Phillips got off to an inconsistent start, taking a 3-0 lead in the first set before relinquishing it and barely holding on to a 6-5 advantage with Christ the King's Nicole Castillo & Grace

Sides on their tail.

Castillo/Sides would even the set after a 12th-game victory, tying it at 6 all, but in the heated tiebreaker, Brooks returned a deep ball that hit just inside the Crusaders' zone and over their heads, sealing the 7-6 set win for the Bears' duo.

However, in the second set, Brooks/Phillips' momentum failed to carry over from the first as they lost it in shocking fashion, 1-6, without putting up much of a fight.

And in the third and final set, the Bears found themselves in a 1-3 hole and on the brink of being upset.

But even when nerves were high in Chatham Central's corner, the Bears just wouldn't stay down as Phillips sliced a hit down the left side and out of the Crusaders' reach, causing the Bears' crowd to erupt as they came one step closer to tying it.

Phillips made a similar play later in the set to tie it at 4 apiece as Brooks gave her yet another look of awe, tapping her racquet as if to say, "We've got this."

And they, in fact, had it, winning the next two games to take the third set, 6-4, and the match (7-6, 1-6, 6-4).

"When they would get over the mental block and play the tennis that they have been working for and training for so hard, they were amazing," Heather Brooks, Chatham Central's head tennis coach,

See **CHAMPS**, page B4

WESTERN ALAMANCE 21, NORTHWOOD 6

Following Homolka's resignation, Chargers play tough in regular-season finale loss

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
 News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Northwood had every reason to come out flat against Western Alamance last Friday night.

Coming off of a deflating, 37-0 shutout road loss to the Eastern Alamance Eagles a week earlier, the Chargers' three-game winning streak — snapped by the Eagles that night — felt like a lifetime ago.

Then, just five days later, the team's head coach resigned.

Cullen Homolka, the fifth-year coach who helped lead the team to the postseason during

the 2020-21 season, announced his resignation from both his teaching and coaching duties last Wednesday, the school's athletic director, Cameron Vernon, told the News + Record. Northwood assistant coach Dennis Burton, previously acting as the defensive coordinator, was named the interim head coach for the rest of the season.

So, entering Friday's game against the Warriors (4-5-1, 3-2 in Central 3A), the Chargers (4-5, 2-3 in Central 3A) were without their usual head coach as they fought for their postseason lives, which was only going

to come through one of the 3A East's 17 wild-card spots.

And while the Warriors ultimately handed the Chargers their second-straight loss, 21-6, it didn't come without a strong-willed fight. And a punched ticket to the playoffs.

"I thought we played well tonight," Burton said after his first game as the Chargers' interim head coach. "I thought this was one of the better games we've played as a team."

Early on, Northwood didn't look fazed by the week's chaos.

After a three-and-out on



Northwood junior quarterback Will Smith drops back to throw the ball during the Chargers' 21-6 loss to Western Alamance last Friday. Smith was 5-for-6 for 73 yards and an interception on the day.

Staff photo by Simon Barbre

See **NORTHWOOD**, page B4

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

All of the hard work, the long hours at practice and the grueling regular seasons have led us to this point: the penultimate week of fall sports across the state. Last week, we saw some of Chatham's best golfers compete in the NCHSAA Women's Golf State Championships — including Northwood junior Lily Jordan (7th, 3A) and Chatham Charter's Mackenzie Crossman (10th, 1A), who finished in the top 10 of their respective tournaments — and a stellar run by the Woods Charter volleyball team (Sweet 16) and the Northwood volleyball team (Elite 8). This week, the playoffs begin for men's soccer and football, while there are still student-athletes from around the county battling it out for state titles in cross country and women's tennis. With all of the postseason action this week, make sure to grab your popcorn. Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, November 3

Tennis: (5) Chatham Charter women at (3) Voyager Academy in NCHSAA 1A Dual-Team Playoffs, time TBD

Thursday, November 4

Soccer: (6) Jordan-Matthews men vs. (22) East Bladen in 2nd round of NCHSAA 2A state playoffs, 6 p.m.

Soccer: (6) Woods Charter men vs. (11) River Mill in 2nd round of NCHSAA 1A state playoffs, 6 p.m.

Friday, November 5

Football: (24) Chatham Central at (9) Riverside-Martin in 1st round of NCHSAA 1A state playoffs, 7 p.m.

Football: (31) Northwood at (2) Northern Nash in 1st round of NCHSAA 3A state playoffs, 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 6

Cross Country: Chatham Charter, Northwood, Woods Charter at NCHSAA 1A/3A State Championships at Ivey M. Redmon Sports Complex in Kernersville, 10 a.m.

Tennis: Chatham Charter women at NCHSAA 1A Dual-Team State Championships (depending on Wednesday results) at Burlington Tennis Center, time TBA

Cross Country: Seaforth at NCHSAA 2A State Championships at Ivey M. Redmon Sports Complex in Kernersville, 2 p.m.

LAST WEEK

Monday, October 25

Soccer: The Woods Charter men shut out the Chatham Charter Knights, 5-0, to continue their three-game conference winning streak. Leading the Wolves on the night were sophomore Motasem Mamoun (4 goals) and senior Caleb Jackson (1 goal).

Tuesday, October 26

Golf: The Chatham Central, Chatham Charter, Seaforth and Woods Charter women all had representatives at the NCHSAA 1A/2A State Championships at Longleaf Golf & Family Club in Southern Pines. Chatham participants, in order of finish, were: Chatham Charter sophomore Mackenzie Crossman (10th, 168 (+24)), Woods Charter sophomore Elise Teddy Taylor (T-28th, 190 (+46)), Seaforth freshman Avery Fauth (41st, 200 (+56)), Chatham Central junior Reagan Mize (T-53rd, 211 (+67)), Woods Charter senior Sophie Taylor (T-59th, 215 (+71)) and Seaforth sophomore Olivia Dennis (T-62nd, 216 (+72)).

Golf: The Northwood women had two golfers — junior Lily Jordan (T-7th, 168 (+24)) and senior Lindsay Vickers (T-36th, 195 (+51)) — competing at the NCHSAA 3A State Championships at Foxfire Resort.

Tennis: The No. 1 Chatham Central women defeated the No. 8 Rosewood Eagles, 8-1, to advance to the 3rd round of the NCHSAA 1A Dual-Team Playoffs.

Tennis: The No. 5 Chatham Charter women swept the No. 4 Jones Senior Trojans, 9-0, to advance to the 3rd round of the NCHSAA 1A Dual-Team Playoffs. Winning their singles matches for the Knights were sophomore Elphie Spillman (6-4, 6-4), senior Emery Eldridge (6-1, 6-0), senior Ashlyn Hart (6-0, 6-0), senior Lorelei Byrd (6-2, 6-0), junior Rebecca Brookshire (6-0, 6-0) and senior Emily Stecher (6-0, 6-0), while the duos of Spillman/Eldridge (8-5), Hart/Byrd (8-2) and Brookshire/Stecher (8-1) won their doubles matches.

Tennis: The No.9 Seaforth women narrowly defeated the No. 1 Clinton Dark Horses, 5-4, to advance to the 3rd round of the NCHSAA 2A Dual-Team Playoffs.

Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men defeated the Cummings Cavaliers, 3-1, on the road to stay unbeaten at 17-0-1 on the season. This was the first time in well over a month that the Jets didn't score at least 6 goals or shut out their opponent.

Volleyball: The No. 12 Northwood women came back from an early 2-0 deficit to defeat the No. 5 Cape Fear Colts on the road, 3-2, to advance to the Sweet 16 of the NCHSAA 3A playoffs. Leading the Chargers on the day were sophomore Asia Thigpen (29 kills, 2 aces, 10 digs) and senior Hannah Forbes (26 kills, 1 ace, 10 digs).

Volleyball: The No. 7 Woods Charter women swept the No. 10 East Columbus Gators, 3-0, at home to advance to the Sweet 16 of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs. Leading the Wolves on the evening were sophomore Lexi Smollen (24 kills, 5 aces, 6 digs), senior Jana Thompson (2

kills, 2 aces, 18 digs) and freshman Maya Sheridan (2 kills, 5 aces, 6 digs, 28 assists). See match report in this edition.

Soccer: The Northwood men defeated the Western Alamance Warriors, 3-2, on the road to close out the regular season with an 11-9-1 overall record (8-3-1 in the Central 3A conference). Scoring for the Chargers on the night were senior Walker Johnson (2 goals) and senior Ayden Turner (1 goal).

Wednesday, October 27

Soccer: The Chatham Charter men fell to the River Mill Jaguars, 5-2, to finish the regular season with an 0-17 record.

Soccer: The Woods Charter men won their regular-season finale against the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 3-2, in overtime to finish the season with a 9-8 overall record (9-1 in the Central Tar Heel 1A conference).

Thursday, October 28

Volleyball: The No. 7 Woods Charter women fell to the No. 2 Neuse Charter Cougars, 3-1, on the road in the Sweet 16 of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. The Wolves end the season with an 18-4 overall record and a Central Tar Heel 1A conference title.

Volleyball: The No. 12 Northwood women swept the No. 4 Croatan Cougars, 3-0, on the road to advance to the Elite 8 of the NCHSAA 3A state playoffs.

Friday, October 29

Tennis: The Chatham Central and Chatham Charter women each had two doubles teams competing in the doubles bracket of the NCHSAA 1A Individual State Championships at Cary Tennis Park. The Bears' duo of juniors Olivia Brooks & Ellie Phillips — defeated Christ the King's Nicole Castillo & Grace Sides (7-6 (4), 1-6, 6-4) in the first round and East Wilkes' Tristen Blevins & Kristie Brown (2-6, 7-5, 6-3) in the second — made it all the way to the state title match, falling to Mount Airy's Carrie Marion & Ella Brant (1-6, 2-6). The Knight's duo of seniors Ashlyn Hart & Lorelei Byrd — defeated Mount Airy's Lily Morris & Charlotte Hauser (6-4, 6-4) in the first round — made it to the second round, where they lost to Marion & Brant (1-6, 0-6). The Bears' duo of sophomore Rachel Albright & junior Jaylee Williams fell to Marion & Brant in the first round (1-6, 1-6), while the Knights' duo of sophomore Elphie Spillman & senior Emery Eldridge fell to Blevins & Brown in the first round (3-6, 4-6). See event report in this edition.

Tennis: The Seaforth women had one player, sophomore Evelyn Atkins, compete in the singles bracket of NCHSAA 2A Individual State Championships at Ting Park in Holly

Springs, where Atkins lost in the first round to John A. Holmes' Ellie Spear (4-6, 6-4, 1-6).

Football: Northwood lost a home game to the Western Alamance Warriors, 21-6, to finish the regular season with a 4-5 overall record. Despite two conference losses in a row, the Chargers earned a postseason berth and will take on the Northern Nash Knights in the NCHSAA 3A state playoffs on Friday. See game report in this edition.

Football: Chatham Central suffered a lopsided loss to the North Moore Mustangs, 36-6, to finish the regular season with a 1-7 record. Leading the Bears on the day were senior quarterback Malachi Moore (4-for-8 for 38 yards and 1 interception; 3 carries for 53 yards) and senior running back Trey Clay (14 carries for 143 yards). The Bears will face off against the Riverside-Martin Knights in the first round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs on Friday.

Football: Jordan-Matthews earned its first win of the season in a shut-out victory over the East Chapel Hill Wildcats, 24-0. The Jets finished the regular season with a 1-9 overall record and avoided a second-straight winless season.

Saturday, October 30

Cross Country: Chatham Central, Chatham Charter and Woods Charter competed in the 1A Mideast Regional at WakeMed Soccer Park, where the Wolves won the men's race as a team (86 points) and finished second in the women's race (54 points). The Knights placed third (104 points) and the Bears placed fifth (140 points) in the men's race, while neither team qualified as a team in the women's race. State qualifiers for the Chatham Co. men are: senior Brandon McKoy (CCS, first, 17:02.76), junior Wiley Sikes (WCS, second, 17:07.58), sophomore Kolton Phillips (CCHS, fourth, 18:24.13), senior Caleb Kolb (CCS, fifth, 18:46.95), junior Collin Thompson (WCS, 14th, 19:22.93), junior Silas Christentbury (CCS, 17th, 19:33.50), freshman Dylan De Leon Villaneuva (WCS, 21st, 19:38.83), senior Nichols Vallant (WCS, 24th, 19:43.09), freshman Jesse Sikes (WCS, 38th, 21:01.94), senior Thomas O'Hara (CCS, 49th, 21:43.42), sophomore Colton Todd (CCS, 50th, 21:45.27), sophomore Ethan Green (WCS, 56th, 21:55.10), junior Ethan Galiger (WCS, 59th, 22:06.99), junior Landon Rakes (CCS, 64th, 22:15.08) and freshman Julian Todero (CCS, 75th, 23:09.58). State qualifiers for the Chatham Co. women are: sophomore Ellie Poitras (WCS, second, 20:20.65), junior Maddie Sparrow (WCS, third, 20:29.88), freshman Anna Peeler (WCS, ninth, 23:06.53), junior Chloe Richard (WCS, 18th, 24:04.27),

sophomore Meredith Reese (CCS, 23rd, 24:33.46), freshman Isabel Wood (WCS, 32nd, 26:03.92), senior Analise De Leon Villaneuva (WCS, 35th, 26:17.89) and freshman Brylee Downs (WCS, 48th, 27:55.70).

Cross Country: Jordan-Matthews and Seaforth competed in the 2A Mideast Regional at WakeMed Soccer Park, where the Hawks placed second in the men's race (75 points) and third in the women's race (106 points), qualifying them for states in both races. The Jets, on the other hand, finished eighth in the men's race (254 points) and ninth in the women's race (263 points). State qualifiers for the Chatham Co. men are: freshman Jack Anstrom (SHS, second, 16:23.86), freshman Will Cuicchi (SHS, 13th, 18:12.64), sophomore Andrew Parker (SHS, 16th, 18:19.74), sophomore Ethan Becker (SHS, 17th, 18:20.01), freshman Evan Hepburn (SHS, 29th, 18:58.53), sophomore Harry Mendlovitz (SHS, 43rd, 20:09.86) and freshman Connor Yalch (SHS, 47th, 20:30.73). State qualifiers for the Chatham Co. women are: freshman Claire Morgan (SHS, 12th, 22:56.31), sophomore Lily Cox (SHS, 13th, 23:00.37), freshman Zuzanna Mikolajec (SHS, 20th, 23:20.09), freshman Ava Belle Cox (SHS, 27th, 23:54.51), freshman Katie Johnson (SHS, 35th, 25:13.37), freshman Abbie Lehman (SHS, 49th, 27:18.51), and freshman Juana Jimenez (SHS, 53rd, 27:35.00).

Cross Country: Northwood competed in the 3A Mideast Regional, hosted at Northwood, where the Chargers placed second as a team in the men's race (78 points) and fourth in the women's race (138 points), qualifying them for states as a team in both races. State qualifiers for the Northwood men: senior Colin Henry (fifth, 17:01.46), junior Christian Glick (12th, 17:34.50), junior Jackson Adams (16th, 17:39.62), junior Matthews Sullivan (18th, 17:46.42), senior Andrew Kimbrel (27th, 18:27.07), sophomore Noah Nielson (43rd, 19:16.67) and freshman Ian Henry (46th, 19:28.48). State qualifiers for the Northwood women are: senior Caroline Murrell (first, 18:36.63), senior Emma Serrano (seventh, 20:49.09), sophomore Rokia Sissoko (37th, 23:36.13), senior Emma Iacono (50th, 24:12.52), freshman Avery Adams (51st, 24:17.13), sophomore Sydney Markham (52nd, 24:18.59) and senior Ella Hennessey (60th, 24:36.18).

Volleyball: The No. 12 Northwood women fell to the No. 1 Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 3-0, in the Elite 8 of the NCHSAA 3A volleyball playoffs. The Chargers finish the season with a 24-6 overall record, the best in program history.

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

SOCCER

Continued from page B1

ments of the game were sloppy, and Union — despite just two wins on the season — actually got on the scoreboard first when the boys from Rose Hill scored on a counter attack in the 11th minute.

Within minutes though, the game's momentum quickly sawed back into Woods' favor.

The Wolves found an equalizer in the 17th minute when sophomore midfielder Motasem Mamoun found the back of the net. The sequence began for Woods when junior midfielder Graden O'Connor stepped in front of an attempted clearance by Union, then quickly passed possession off to Weakley, who was unmarked at the top of the box. Instead of shooting as a defender closed in on him, Weakley turned and laid the ball off to his left, where Mamoun ran onto it and blasted a shot toward the far post and past the Spartans' keeper.

another score moments later, when freshman defender Aaron Teta leapt up over Union defenders to head in a corner delivery from junior midfielder Ethan Heatherington.

"We had some good individual performances," Stewart said. "We did well, overall. I'm really pleased. When you're playing a team like that — that's really committed, really intense, really fighting for the shirt — it's always going to be a tough game."

Union worked its way back into the match in the second half by using grit and physicality. Then, in the 64th minute, there was a scramble for the ball in the Woods penalty area and Union's Alfredo Hernandez slotted a quick close-range shot past the Wolves' keeper.

Minutes later, though, Woods responded with Weakley's important goal. It was the sixth score of the season for the standout junior. "Weakley has been working hard to get that touch and movement," Stewart said. "Tonight, he was doing it at pace, and that makes a big

difference. He's got a good IQ; we're just trying to get him to use it. And now he's using it, and he's a different player. Up top looked pretty dangerous."

The contest didn't end there though. Around the 80th minute, Woods scored again on a strike from junior midfielder Carter Lapp that made Stewart pump his fists. The Wolves also misfired on a penalty kick late in the match too, which would have grown their lead even more.

With a two-goal lead in the waning moments of the game, the Wolves relaxed for a moment, which was enough time for Union to get a score back. A long, lofty attempt from Union's Jonathan Torres sailed

out of reach for the Wolves' keeper and landed softly in the back of the net. However, time didn't allow for Union to get another attempt at the goal.

Before Thursday arrives, first on the to-do list for the Wolves is to recharge and regain their strength. They'll need it if they want to keep advancing in the playoffs.

"We'll have some knocks, because we're a small squad," Stewart said. "Then it's just refocusing, mentally getting ready to play another intense game."



Ethan Heatherington surveys the field for a throw-in for Woods Charter in the Wolves' 4-3 playoff win over Union on Monday at Briar Chapel.

Staff photo by Mitchell Northam

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WOODS CHARTER 3, EAST COLUMBUS 0 | NORTHWOOD 3, CAPE FEAR 2

'I feel relieved': Wolves overcome mid-match struggles in sweep of Gators, advance to Sweet 16

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

Editor's note: This story was published online ahead of Northwood and Woods Charter's Sweet 16 matchups. It's since been updated to reflect the following matches' results.

CHAPEL HILL — Resilience is one of the primary ingredients for winning a title.

Facing adversity, tackling difficulty and having the ability to bounce back from it is a quality only given to a select few teams and athletes.

But after Oct. 26th's second-round NCHSAA playoff matches, it's clear that it's also a requirement to play volleyball in Chatham County.

On Tuesday night, both the No. 7 Woods Charter Wolves (1A) and No. 12 Northwood Chargers (3A) advanced to the Sweet 16 after hard-fought matches against tough opponents as both teams continue to have the best seasons in their respective program's history.

Northwood, having traveled an hour and a half to Fayetteville to take on No. 5 Cape Fear, dropped the first two sets to the Colts (28-26, 25-21) before gaining its footing and taking the next three (26-24, 25-21, 15-9) to win the five-set thriller.

The Chargers went on to sweep the No. 4 Croatan Cougars (25-18, 25-16, 25-19) on the road in the Sweet 16 before falling to the No. 1 Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves (26-28, 21-25, 14-25) in the Elite 8.

Woods Charter, on the other hand, hosted the No. 10 East Columbus Gators for its second-round contest, but despite the 3-0 final score, the Wolves were on the brink of a collapse in the second set.

Yet, as resilient teams do, they bent, but didn't break. "I feel relieved and fortunate," Scott Green, the Wolves' head coach, said following the win. "They had a good team, we were fortunate to win. We had a couple of rotations where we were having trouble with their servicing — they've



Woods Charter freshman Maya Sheridan (12) and senior Emma Hobbs (9) work together to block a shot at the net in the Wolves' 3-0 sweep of East Columbus in the second round of the NCHSAA 1A volleyball playoffs on Oct. 26.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

got good servers — but we managed to eventually get through that and take advantage of our attack."

After a first set in which the Wolves started out in a 5-1 hole before storming back and taking 22 of the next 29 points to win the set 25-19, they found their momentum carrying over to the second set, dominating the Gators from the jump.

Wolves sophomore outside hitter Lexi Smollen was responsible for all of her team's first four points — including three kills and a combined block at the net with senior Emma Hobbs — but after an ace by senior Jana Thompson, a gentle kill by senior Ada Green and a few other impressive points from Smollen and her teammates, Woods Charter had taken a 12-3 lead and looked to be rolling to a second-set victory.

But in the playoffs, teams rarely roll over and die. The Gators were no exception. East Columbus suddenly kicked it into gear, stepping up and

making big plays when they needed it. The Gators went on a 9-1 run — including three aces and six total possessions that never made it back to the Gators' side — as their serving began giving the Wolves fits.

In the blink of an eye, the score was 13-12 with the Wolves holding on to a narrow one-point lead with almost nothing going right for them.

"I don't think that server served in the first set, so for them to come out and have a great server, it was a little bit of a shock to us because we were used to the same six," Smollen said of the Wolves' second-set woes. "So she got out there and (her serve) had topspin. Nobody had used topspin all game. So it took a little bit of adjusting."

For the second time in the match, though, the Wolves' resiliency kicked in.

Even as the Gators were on their tails, the Wolves never stumbled and gave up their lead. They were on top the whole way.

With the set 15-14 in favor of Woods Charter, East Columbus junior Harmony Somerville hit the ball out of bounds at the back of the Wolves' zone.

From there, the Wolves won the next four points, including a point on a nice hit from freshman Maya Sheridan, two strong attacks from Smollen (featuring one emphatic kill) and a kill by Green where she caught East Columbus off guard, knocking it unexpectedly to the left-center of the court.

Volleyball — like basketball — is a game of runs. And Woods Charter's 5-0 run in the second set not only sealed the deal on a 2-0 match lead, but also sealed East Columbus' postseason fate.

"We try to encourage each other — not criticize — and just build each other up, lift each other up," Green said about bouncing back in the second set, "and just forget about the last play and go on to the next one. That's helped us the whole season."

The Gators went on to win

just five more points for the remainder of the set as the Wolves re-took control, eventually winning it, 25-19.

In the third set, it was all Woods Charter from the first serve.

Sheridan had a strong run at the service line, Smollen and Green combined for a couple of stuffed shots at the net and Thompson, Hobbs and senior Julia Christian held their own, saving points during impressive volleys.

The Wolves had officially found their rhythm, jumping out to a 21-4 third-set lead in a set that saw major contributions from everyone in white and green.

Despite a hiccup that allowed the Gators to win eight straight points, it was too little, too late, as the Wolves took the set, 25-12, to win the match, 3-0, and advance to their first Sweet 16 in program history.

"We've got a group of seniors who have played together for four years and their communication with each other, plus the newer, younger underclassmen," Green said, "it's just all come together this season."

No. 7 Woods Charter (18-4) went on to lose to the No. 2 Neuse Charter Cougars (25-2) on the road in the Sweet 16 (20-25, 17-25, 25-23, 25-14).

It was the Wolves' first road game of the postseason and their first road game overall since Oct. 13 against Clover Garden (a 3-1 victory). But if the first two rounds of postseason showed anything, it's that this Woods Charter team isn't afraid, no matter the competition.

"I'm going to go look at some video tonight of our opponent and try to prepare for them tomorrow as best we can," Green said before the match against Neuse Charter. "(Right now), the whole group is just gelled together in a great way. It's fun to watch."

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

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College Football Playoff expansion has never made more sense



MAX BAKER
CN+R Intern

There's not enough parity in college football. Every year, the question is a matter of when, not if, Alabama, Ohio State and Clemson will meet in the College Football Playoff. Since its creation in 2014, the College Football Playoff has featured just 11 teams, with Alabama and Clemson appearing in six of the seven years and Ohio State and Oklahoma four different times. Only four teams have ever won the title. But for the first time this year, it seems we may have a little shake up. Clemson is

struggling and eliminated from playoff contention, and early-season losses by Ohio State and Alabama have them on thin ice heading into tough November stretches. And this could mean chaos in the selection show with multiple schools having solid cases to make it. Other than Georgia, which at this point seems like an almost sure thing to run the table for an undefeated regular season, the playoff door is wide open. Cincinnati, which gave the Bulldogs a scare in the Peach Bowl last season, is still undefeated and has bolstered its strength of schedule with a road win over Notre Dame. The committee, however, has never allowed a non-Power Five school into the playoff. If the committee recognizes

an unbeaten Cincinnati, that essentially leaves two spots for four conference champions. There is a very realistic possibility that a one-loss Big 10 champion, a one-loss Pac 12 champion and a one-loss Big 12 champion all exist in the final week. That doesn't even include Alabama, which could play spoiler in the SEC Championship. It's time to expand the playoff. In recent years, discussions have grown on the topic of increasing the number of teams to six, eight or 12. Arguments can be made that although it would give more schools a chance to win, the same dominant teams will prevail. However, if we continue to show the same teams on national spot-

light playoff games, recruiting will only benefit them and it will be a continuous cycle. This could give the smaller schools a fighting chance. The playoff system decreased the significance of playing in a bowl game. Nowadays, players are rightfully sitting out essentially meaningless games to stay healthy before declaring for the NFL Draft. If the games became more meaningful and their draft stock could improve, that would change. College football is more exciting when the best players are on the field. Another argument is that it is a burden on the athletes to play the extra games. But what if we removed one non conference game from the schedule? Additionally, if it were an

eight-team playoff, it would be one extra game for only four teams. It would also allow for more raucous home crowds, instead of only neutral-site games with little atmosphere. Finally, there would be virtually no more controversial scenarios. Texas A&M seemed to have a compelling case last year with just one loss against the eventual champion Alabama, but undefeated Notre Dame nabbed the final spot. Hearing UCF fans claim a National Championship in 2017 was funny, but it also showed a major flaw in the system. An expanded playoff would change that. *Max Baker can be reached at max@chathamnr.com and @maxbaker_15.*

NORTHWOOD

Continued from page B1

the first drive of the game, followed by a punt return into Chargers' territory, the Northwood defense stood up against the Warriors on their first possession, shutting down their offense and forcing a turnover on downs on the Chargers' 36-yard-line in just four plays — thanks, in part, to a botched snap on fourth down, a common theme for an up-and-down Warriors offense throughout the night.

The Chargers capitalized on the defensive stop as senior running back Dashaun Vines-McSwain broke the game wide open, bolting through the middle of the line and taking it 55 yards to the Warriors' red zone.

Two plays later, Vines-McSwain completed the touchdown drive with a 4-yard TD run around the right side. A failed two-point conversion gave the Chargers a 6-0 lead midway through the first period.

However, as great as the Chargers looked on both sides early on, that would be the last time they'd find the end zone on the night — or put points on the board at all.

And it was only a matter of time before Western Alamance did. On the ensuing drive, Northwood sophomore linebacker Ryan Brinker blocked a Western Alamance punt,

allowing the Chargers to take over at the Warriors' 40-yard-line.

But as has been the case in many losses this season, the Chargers' run-first offense got nowhere, carrying the ball four times for just three yards and turning it over on downs.

While Northwood's defense played well in the opening quarter — allowing just 13 yards on three possessions — it continued to be susceptible to big passing plays, as seen on Western Alamance's first drive of the second quarter — a 69-yard TD pass from sophomore quarterback Evan Kuehnel to senior wide receiver Kaden Wilborn, who slanted across the middle of the field and torched the secondary for an easy score.

Northwood fumbled the ball during the return of the ensuing kickoff and it was recovered by Western Alamance, which took over at the Chargers' 26-yard-line and promptly scored on a 1-yard TD run on a short, six-play drive.

All of a sudden, the Chargers found themselves in a 14-6 hole that they'd never dig themselves out of.

"Big plays (changed the game)," Burton said. "It's kind of been our thing all year. We'll just have a breakdown and they get a big play and it costs us points."

In the second half, Western Alamance's slippery junior running back Mason Hogsed helped lead the Warriors to another scoring drive, capped off by a 12-yard-run by Hogsed to give

his team a 21-6 lead toward the end of the third quarter.

Down by 15 points and having had its last two drives result in few yards — just 6 total — on six run plays, the Chargers decided to do what the student section had been clamoring for since the first half: throw the football.

The Chargers brought in sophomore quarterback Will Smith — which they did throughout the night on passing downs — and let him finish out the game at the end of the fourth quarter. Smith aired it out to senior running back Jalen Paige as he streaked down the right sideline, completing the 57-yard catch before being thrown down at the Warriors' 2-yard-line.

While Northwood had the perfect opportunity to cut it to a one-score game, the Chargers ran four run plays from inside the 2-yard-line and mustered just a single yard. They turned it over on downs as Western Alamance celebrated a hard-nosed goal-line stop.

From there, the Chargers' momentum was shot.

"I think if we score that, we get a stop and we've got that last drive where we're trying to do it, maybe we end up a touchdown short, I don't know, but it definitely changes the way they would have played," Burton said of the goal-line stand. "We made a couple of mistakes and that's what hurts."

The game ended with a fourth-quarter interception by Western Alamance

senior defensive back Jackson Snyder, who handed Smith his only turnover of the night.

Under Burton, Smith threw the ball six times, completing five for 73 yards and an interception. It's the second-most passing yards the Chargers have had in a game all season.

The week's distractions aside, Burton was able to grab hold of the Chargers' locker room and get them ready for a crucial game.

"I just talked to them about how, when things do go wrong, this is when teams get stronger, you shouldn't turn on each other," Burton said. "Bad times make strong people."

Despite two straight conference losses and a sub-.500 overall record (and conference record), the Chargers earned a postseason berth as the No. 31 seed in the 3A East bracket and will take on the No. 2 Northern Nash Knights (9-1, 6-0 in 2A/3A East 17 conference) at 7 p.m. on Friday in Rocky Mount.

"If we get a playoff game, I know it'll be against a good opponent, so we'll do the best we can to get ready for them," Burton said about a potential playoff berth before the NCHSAA released its postseason brackets. "I hope the seniors get another game."

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

CHAMPS

Continued from page B1

said. "They started off both matches on Friday a little slow. I think they were really nervous even though they'd never tell us that. ... But once they started playing to win and not to lose, that's when they started playing their tennis."

In the second round, Brooks/Phillips were down, 1-4, in the first set against East Wilkes' Tristen Blevins & Kristie Brown — who defeated the Knights' Spillman/Eldridge in the first round (6-3, 6-4) — when the storm clouds rolled in and, because the Cary Tennis Center had no available indoor courts, forced the postponement of the match until Saturday.

It was a decision that only set to benefit the Bears, giving them an overnight breather after their marathon first-round match.

Brooks/Phillips went on to lose the first set on Saturday, 2-6, before storming back to win the next two (7-5, 6-3) and punch their ticket to the title match, where they'd eventually lose to the Marion/Brant powerhouse.

Despite the loss in the championship match, Brooks/Phillips are still just juniors with a wildly successful first season as the Bears' No. 1 duo, giving their moms and coaches, Heather Brooks (head coach) and Wendy Phillips (assistant coach) plenty to be excited about for the future.

"I think this team is only going to do bigger things next year," Brooks said. "We had the state runners-up in individual doubles and they've made a goal to be in the same place next year and win."

"They're all hungry right now, they're practicing on their own time and getting together,"

added Wendy Phillips, the Bears' assistant coach. "I feel like these girls have kind of given themselves an introduction to the East. ... I don't think we'll have a problem getting seeded now."

Chatham Charter's doubles team of Hart/Byrd was the only other Chatham duo to win their first-round match, downing Mount Airy's Lily Morris & Charlotte Hauser (6-4, 6-4), in a hard-fought victory.

"In the first match, they played really well together, they knew what each other was doing," said Kelly Eldridge, Chatham Charter's head coach, after the tournament on Friday. "They would just move together really well and kind of anticipate what the other was doing. ... (In the second round), the team was just really solid and had some really great shots. I'm still super proud of them."

Aside from the 1A tournament Seaforth also had a player competing in the 2A singles bracket at Ting Park in Holly Springs, where sophomore Evelyn Atkins lost in the first round (4-6, 6-4, 1-6) to John A. Holmes' Ellie Spear.

Competing as a team While the Individual State Championships stole the show this past weekend, Monday was the continuation of the NCHSAA Dual-Team Playoffs, where three Chatham teams competed for a shot at the state semifinals.

No. 9 Seaforth, in its first season as a program, took the court against No. 13 Research Triangle in the 2A bracket, dropping the match, 9-0.

On the 1A side of things, No. 1 Chatham Central and No. 5 Chatham Charter duked it out in a showdown for the county, where the Knights upset the Bears in fairly dominant

fashion, 6-3, to advance to the 1A East Dual-Team Regional.

Winning their singles matches for the Knights were Spillman (7-6 (7-3), 4-6, 0-0 (10-7)), Byrd (6-1, 6-0), junior Rebecca Brookshire (6-1, 6-1) and senior Emily Stecher (6-0, 6-0), while the duos of Byrd/Hart (8-5) and Brookshire/Stecher (8-1) winning their doubles matches.

The Bears got singles wins from Phillips (7-6 (9-7), 6-1) and sophomore Rachel Albright (4-6, 6-0, 0-0 (10-5)), while Brooks/Phillips won their doubles match (8-6).

Over the last few years, the Bears and Knights have developed a relationship as a couple of the top tennis programs in the county, often playing each other multiple times per season in friendly, but competitive, matches.

On Friday, Kelly Eldridge said in a match of this caliber, all friendships would have to take a back seat.

"It's hard just because we've played them twice (this season)," Eldridge said ahead of the contest with the Bears. "But we've just got to treat it like a playoff game. Try to take the personal out of it while we're playing and see if we can swing one more win. ... We want to have fun, we want to compete, but we want to win at the end of the day."

And with a team overflowing with seniors, it's clear the Knights are hungry to capture glory before they have to shift around nearly their entire lineup next season.

"(The seniors) have brought experience, definitely," Eldridge said. "They brought the camaraderie within the team, telling each other what they need to do, but in a team spirit kind of way because they want each other to win and succeed and get better." The Knights will face

off against the third-seeded Voyager Academy Vikings in the 1A Region-

al on Wednesday.

Reporter Victor Hensley

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

Chatham COA Events & Announcements

November 4th through November 10th

Thursday, November 4th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🦋
- [Take Off Pounds Sensibly \(TOPS\)](#) at 1:00 PM 🦋

Friday, November 5th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🦋
- [Salute to Veterans](#) at 10:00 AM (at West Chatham Veterans Memorial, Siler City) 🦋
- [Friday Night Dance](#) at 7:00 PM (on site at WCSC - Siler City) 🍷

Monday, November 8th

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

Tuesday, November 9th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🦋
- [NC Registry for Brain Health](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🦋
- [3G Men's Group](#) at 9:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center, RSVP Susan Hardy) 🦋
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom) 🦋 📶
- [Powerful Tools for Caregivers](#) at 3:00 PM (at Holly Brooks Room, Western Center) 🦋

Wednesday, November 10th

- [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/

🦋 **In-person - Pre-registration Required**

📶 **Programming Hosted On Zoom**

🍷 **Fee Required for Participation**

The Chatham COA is Here for You!

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

<p>Eastern Chatham Senior Center (ECSC)</p> <p>365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512</p>	<p>Western Chatham Senior Center (WCSC)</p> <p>112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975</p>
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ARTS COUNCIL'S 2021-22 ARTISTS-IN-SCHOOLS SEASON

Program aims to foster students' personal connections to academics via artistic immersion

From the Chatham Arts Council

PITTSBORO — If you love the arts, you know how transformative it can be to experience a live performance.

But access to the arts is not equal. Many children don't have access to crayons and markers, let alone the opportunity to see a show or hear a concert. The Chatham Arts Council is working to change that through its Artists-in-Schools Initiative. In partnership with Chatham County Schools and public charter schools in the county, the CAC, through the initiative, is providing arts residencies to students, one transformative experience at a time.

The CAC's Artists-in-Schools Initiative brings professional artists into local schools to help make deeper curriculum connections through art, theatre and music. The organization has been successfully growing the program since the 2015-16 school year and aims to be in every school, every year, by 2025.

"We've seen first-hand how these residencies awaken something in students that allows them to express themselves in new and creative ways," said Julie Amani, the Artists-in-Schools facilitator for the Chatham Arts Council. "That is powerful. That is transformational. That is at the heart of our Artists-in-Schools Initiative."

Research shows the arts help students develop innovative problem-solving skills, build self-confidence, provide a creative outlet, and offer a path for processing trauma — something that continues to be critical during the ongoing pandemic.

This year's Artists-in-Schools season will bring art-

ists into all 11 public Chatham County elementary and K-8 schools, four charter schools, and the Virtual Academy, with programming primarily for 5th graders. Students will experience performances and take part in engaging workshops on a variety of subjects, building a connection to core curriculum content. Artists include Black Box Dance Theatre (modern dance), John Brown (jazz music), Diali Cissokho (West African music), EbzB Productions (theatre), Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana (Spanish dance), The Magic of Africa Rhythm (African drumming, dancing, storytelling, and visual arts), Phillip Shabazz (poetry), and Mike Wiley (theatre). The season will run from the fall through April.

"One goal of educators is to reach all students," said David Clark, a music teacher at Bonlee School. "However, some students are more difficult to engage with than others. Mike Wiley's engaging presentation [last year] and encouraging demeanor resulted in student participation and volunteering from students who are normally rather passive."

Making direct curriculum connections

Fundamental to the success of Artists-in-Schools residencies is the ability for the artist and teacher to collaborate, ensuring that the interactive workshops leverage the arts to support learning objectives. This year, artists are using their craft to create opportunities for a deeper engagement with diverse subjects:

- Nationally known theater artist Mike Wiley: social studies, writing
- Modern dance company Black Box Dance Theatre:

mathematics, dance

- Nationally recognized jazz musician John Brown: social studies, music

- West African musician and storyteller Diali Cissokho: mathematics, social studies, dance, music

- Poet Phillip Shabazz: writing

- Spanish dance company Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana: social studies, mathematics, dance

- The Magic of Africa Rhythm, a group which focuses on the African concept of Ngoma, the "rhythmic thread" that links drumming, dancing, storytelling and visual arts together: social studies, science, dance, music

- Theater production company EbzB Productions: social studies

As of now, this year's residencies will take place in person, with COVID-19 precautions in place. All artists working in person with students are required to be vaccinated and will wear masks when working directly with the students.

Last year, during remote learning, the CAC shifted its program to become Artists-OUTSIDE-Schools, providing monthly artist videos, interactive virtual workshops, and roving neighborhood music and dance performances to reach children through the arts in a safe way. With students back in school, the organization is thrilled to be returning to in-person residencies, providing an opportunity for children to interact with myriad artists and discover the arts in a way they never have before.

For more information on Artists-in-Schools, please visit www.ChathamArtsCouncil.org/artists-in-schools.

THE CHATHAM EXPERIENCE | NOV. 7

Chatham Arts Council's event features JumpstART artists eager to share their works

From the Chatham Arts Council

PITTSBORO — Ready for an outdoor event that has a little something for all arts lovers?

The Chatham Arts Council's Chatham Experience, Featuring JumpstART artists, promises to deliver. The event, sponsored by Mosaic and Chatham Park, is being held in partnership with The Pittsboro Business Association and Main Street Pittsboro. It will take place on Nov. 7 as part of Pittsboro First Sunday. Designed to help get Chatham County artists and arts-workers back to work by paying artists to make art, Chatham Experience features local artists who were awarded the JumpstART grant. The Chatham Arts Council is excited to help these artists bring their art to the public sphere as we reconnect with one another in our public spaces.

"I'm honored to be part of an event that is showing so much art in one of Chatham County's downtown streets," said participating artist Steve Fagan. "Art exists solely for the sake of beauty, inspiration and thought. With the events of the past few years having sown isolation and division in our world, both great and small, public displays of art have the ability to unify. Everyone can appreciate it, no matter what's going on in their lives or what they believe. Maybe it gives us a moment of inspiration or causes us to look at the world in a different way — that's important."

The JumpstART grant was awarded to performing, visual, and literary artists living in Chatham County who have been financially impacted due to COVID-19 cancellations and closures. It was generously funded by Manbites Dog Theater Fund and the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.

Chatham Experience, Featuring JumpstART Artists will include the 15 JumpstART grant recipients and their artistic collaborators, representing multiple art forms:

- Sculpture with JR Butler, Steve Fagan, Alexander Percy
- Textiles with Tanja Cole
- Painting/Drawing with Britt Flood, Julia Kennedy, Kate Ladd, Nancy Ann Moore, Felix Obelix (aka Wendy Spitzer), ~buffy, Cope Aesthetic

- Literary with Brenda Linton and Dolly Sickles

- Music with the Chatham Rabbits, Grand Shores, and Breadfoot Musician Edith McCaskill will also be joining the lineup.

"It feels so good to be able to share work from these talented artists with our community," said Cheryl Chamblee, CAC's executive director. "We're all craving something positive that brings us together right now. The arts have a unique ability to create a sense of unity, while allowing individuals to have a distinctive, meaningful experience."

JumpstART visual artists' work will be on display in both the Welcome Center in downtown Pittsboro and participating surrounding businesses, including The Salon, Edwards Antiques, Perch Co-Working, Chatham Park, Carolina Cravings, Pittsboro Toys, Ladies Fitness Center, Page Vernon Park and Eric Michaels Salon. In addition to the Nov. 7 Chatham Experience event date, JumpstART visual art will be on show from Oct. 30 until Nov. 16.

Chatham Experience, Featuring JumpstART artists, is free to the public.

Pittsboro First Sunday

Pittsboro First Sunday takes place on the first Sunday of the month (March through December) in downtown Pittsboro from 12-4 p.m. It's a family-friendly event with food trucks and vendors selling art, jewelry, textiles, woodwork, soaps, pottery and more.

The Chatham Arts Council will continue to monitor COVID-19 conditions and work to provide a safe environment following all local and state mandates at the time of the event.



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Scan for event details

No new COVID-19 cases from Northwood cluster

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

There have been 264 cumulative cases of COVID-19 reported to Chatham County Schools since Aug. 23 and two clusters, according to the district's case dashboard on Tuesday, making up 2.5% of the district's total population.

There were two active cases as of press time Tuesday.

The district reported its second cluster at Northwood High School on Oct. 22, which had eight associated cases and originated in the high school's marching band, the News + Record previously reported. 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.

"We are very disheartened when any of our staff or students contract COVID-19," CCS Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson said via email last 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."

One parent raised concerns after news of the cluster at Northwood broke about who qualifies as a "close contact," given the loose mask-protocols necessary at a band competition. 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 noti-

fy 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 previously told the News + Record. "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."

The district follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended guidelines for contact tracing and quarantining, along with the Strong Schools N.C. Public Health Toolkit and guidance from the Chatham County Public Health Department.

There haven't been any clusters reported among the county's public charter schools — Willow Oak Montessori, Woods Charter School and Chatham Charter School — in the

state report. Each school also has an indoor mask mandate, and Woods and Chatham Charter have COVID-19 trackers on their websites. Woods has had eight student cases since Aug. 23; Chatham Charter has had 20 student cases and one case among staff since Aug. 11.

Chatham County Schools 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.

As an additional mitigation strategy, the district has phased in free weekly COVID-19 tests to students and staff, beginning with K-5 students last week. The rapid

results tests, administered by Raleigh-based Mako Medical, are set to expand to middle schoolers this week and to high schoolers the week of Nov. 8. In order 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.

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

Chatham County to dedicate Peaceful Pathways for Caregivers

From Chatham County Government

CHAPEL HILL — Caregivers of people living with dementia often feel isolated. This was especially true when COVID-19 restrictions kept many caregivers at home with few places to go safely.

Chatham County caregivers and their loved ones will now have a dedicated place to relax, walk, and take in nature. The community is invited to join the Chatham County Council on Aging, Chatham County Parks and Recreation, and the Chatham County Center of N.C. Cooperative Extension Service for a special dedication ceremony of Peaceful Pathways for Caregivers. The respite area at Northeast District Park features an accessible pathway and picnic shelter that will be dedicated to Chatham County caregivers.

The Reflections and a Dedication of Peaceful Pathways for Caregivers ceremony will take place from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 10, at Northeast District Park at 5408 Big Woods Rd., 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 Teepa Snow, owner of Positive Approach to Care, which educates family and professional care providers about living with dementia. Seating will be limited at this event, and attendees are asked to please bring their own chairs if they wish.

"The idea for the Peaceful Pathways for Caregivers came about when many of Chatham's caregivers were telling us they had not left their homes, and they had no visitors to interact with," said Susan Hardy, family caregiver specialist and Human Services team leader with the Chatham County Council on Aging. "Caregivers told us they were feeling very alone and exhausted. Being able to interact with others is extremely 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."



Submitted photo

Part of the 'Peaceful Pathway,' located at Northeast District Park at 5408 Big Woods Rd., Chapel Hill.

"It is an honor to partner with the Council on Aging and N.C. Cooperative Extension Service to provide an area at a park to allow caregivers a place outdoors to spend time with their loved ones," said Tracy Burnett, Chatham County Parks and Recreation director. "We hope to incorporate more of these peaceful pathways in other Chatham County parks."

Ginger Cunningham, the director of Chatham County Cooperative Extension, said nature and garden spaces have long

been valued as refuges for both fulfillment and solace.

"So creating such places of refuge here in the county is near and dear to so many of us," she said. "Horticulture is such an amazing medium for positive change in the realms of physical health, social engagement, cognitive processes, and overall emotional well-being. We are thankful to the Council on Aging and Parks and Recreation for spearheading this loving project for our community members."

The Nov. 10th event takes place during what the Chatham County Board of Commissioners has proclaimed as Family Caregivers and Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

For more information about Peaceful Pathways for Caregivers or its dedication ceremony, individuals may contact the Chatham County Council on Aging at 919-542-4512, Chatham County Parks and Recreation at 919-545-8555 or recreation@chathamcountync.gov, or the Chatham County NC Cooperative Extension Service at 919-542-8202.

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REAL ESTATE

CHATHAM CHAT | SASHA DUNCAN, 'THANKSGIVING FOR THOUSANDS'

Mountaire Farms' holiday program nearly doubling in size

Will provide 5,000 boxes of food in Chatham on Nov. 13

Mountaire Farms' "Thanksgiving for Thousands" program started a quarter century ago, and its effort in Chatham County this year is expanding. This week, we speak with Sasha Duncan, Mountaire's community relations manager, about the effort.

Duncan, a Raleigh native, began working for Mountaire this summer. After launching her career in the political realm, she was excited to make the transition to the poultry industry and help promote Mountaire Farms in the Chatham County community.

Can you give us a bit of a history lesson on Mountaire's "Thanksgiving for Thousands" program?

Our Thanksgiving for Thousands program started more than 25 years ago with a local church who ran out of room to feed people at Thanksgiving. They reached out to us and we worked together to provide families a complete meal to take home and cook at Thanksgiving. Since then, it's been growing in all the communities where we do business. In fact, we've expanded it to Christmas and Easter, and we're excited to bring that to families in Siler City for the first time this year at those holidays too. It's really become our signature event as part of our Mountaire Cares program, and we look forward to it every year.

For these events, Mountaire

Farms partners with local churches, food banks and other organizations to provide families a complete ready-to-cook Thanksgiving feast, and just in time for the holidays. We rely on these organizations to determine who might need help every year, and we know with the pandemic, more people need help than ever before.

Sasha Duncan

How will Siler City's "Thanksgiving for Thousands" event be different this year?

It will be different because we're almost doubling the number of boxes we're giving away.

This year, Mountaire Farms will be distributing over 5,000 boxes to more than 70 organizations in the Chatham County community on Saturday, Nov. 13, in the employee parking lot of the Siler City processing plant. There are no walk-ups — groups are pre-registered in advance. But we're excited to be able to help so many more families this year.

Let's talk about numbers: you'll provide 5,000 boxes to those in need. What's in the food boxes, and what resources are you dedicating to putting those together?

Our employees really enjoy the opportunity to give back and we work together like a well-oiled machine to organize, sort, pack, and distribute these boxes on the big day. We will have a tent set up in our employee parking lot and pallets of supplies ready to go the

night before. On the morning of the event, we'll all be up early to ensure we get it all done just as vehicles are showing up to pick up their allotted amount of boxes.

This year, we're excited to partner with the Piggly Wiggly in Siler City and purchase our canned and boxed goods locally. Each Thanksgiving for Thousands box contains a plump Mountaire Farms roast-chicken, green beans, yams, corn, cranberries, gravy, stuffing and brownies. Blake Evans and his team at Piggly Wiggly have been phenomenal to work with and were excited to work with Mountaire Farms to bless those in our community with a complete holiday meal.

Mountaire is expanding the program to Christmas and Easter — what can you share about that?

As we've grown our presence in Siler City, we've also grown our Mountaire Cares program. We work with a number of local organizations to give back, not just at the holidays, but year-round. We know food insecurity isn't just a holiday thing. But we also know that the holidays are when families gather, and we want to ensure that a healthy, nutritious meal is part of that. So for the first time, we're going to be packing complete meal boxes at Christmas and Easter too.

The towns, counties, and states where we live and work are an integral part of who we are and we're committed to being good neighbors. Through our volunteer and outreach efforts, we try and make a real difference in our communities.

Christmas is quickly approaching, and Mountaire

Farms is excited to open up our "Christmas for Thousands" request form in the coming weeks, and then again in the spring for our Easter event. These programs will be just like Thanksgiving for Thousands and we're looking forward to working with even more organizations.

Which nonprofits, churches and food banks are integral to the project?

All of the churches, food banks and organizations are integral to our Thanksgiving for Thousands program. Each one of them serves a different community of their own and allows us to have a positive impact on even more people. This year, we've partnered with some unexpected organizations including NCWorks, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Jordan-Matthews High School, Silk Hope School, and more that might not be the first ones that come to mind. Our list has grown to over 70 organizations and we're excited to see that list continue to grow year after year in the Chatham County community.

In what other ways is Mountaire working to be a part of the Chatham County community and add value to it?

Mountaire Farms was a part of this community even before our processing plant opened in 2019. We also own two hatcheries in town and during our plant construction we made sure to become involved in the community. Over the past few years, the list of organizations that we've worked with has exponentially grown and will

continue to do so. Since my start in June, Mountaire Farms has sponsored many new events and become even more involved in our community. It's been great to see participation from employees in the community as well. I'm always looking for events that our employees can attend and see for themselves the impact that their work has on the community.

One of my favorite community service opportunities that we've done a few times is to volunteer with the Chatham County Chuckwagon. Mountaire Farms donates cases of chicken to this organization every other week and once a month on Tuesday night, our employees help distribute the pre-cooked vacuum sealed meals to those in need. We all want to feel good about what we do, so volunteering where we get to see the impact firsthand is so meaningful to our team.

What I personally enjoy about my job is that I get to be a part of so many great projects to give back. Mountaire has a long history of charitable giving and I'm excited to be a part of that. With 1,800 employees in Siler City, we can always find a few volunteers willing to pitch in and help.

Editor's note: Mountaire Farms and a number of other business have strongly supported the News + Record's La Voz de Chatham project. The newspaper is grateful for that support, which allows us to report on the impact of COVID-19 and provide critical news and information to the area's Latinx population.

THE CN+R FILM REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS

It's all in the name for an ambitious yet excessive 'Eternals'

It is both trite and true to proclaim that "Eternals"



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

may as well reference the perceived running time of the latest entry in the latest phase of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, one bolstered thus far more by its Disney+ television series than its silver screen fare. Clocking in at a beefy 157 minutes, "Eternals" is engaged on a hefty cast and storyline that literally spans 7,000 years of actual and fictitious history.

It is no small wonder, then, that writer-director Chloé Zhao — whose indie film bona fides include the Oscar-winning "Nomadland" — manages to forge this hefty spectacle about gods and monsters into one of the most human Marvel

ETERNALS
GRADE: B
DIRECTOR: Chloé Zhao
STARRING: Gemma Chan, Richard Madden, Kumail Nanjiani, Lia McHugh, Brian Tyree Henry, Lauren Ridloff, Barry Keoghan, Don Lee, Salma Hayek and Angelina Jolie
MPAA RATING: PG-13
RUNNING TIME: 2 hr. 37 min.

Thousands of years ago, the titular immortals, led by matriarch and healer Ajak (Salma Hayek), were sent to Earth by omnipotent celestial Arishem the Judge, tasked with protecting the planet from a species of space creatures called the Deviants. Even after seemingly eradicating the Deviants, the Eternals remain on terra firma, blending in with humans while also splintering from each other. In the most notable of numerous narrative and moral inconsistencies, the Eternals are forbidden from interfering with human events, including the most brutal bloodshed, yet they nudge along human evolution, particularly technological advances honed by tech whiz Phastos (Brian Tyree Henry).

So, the petulant Druig (Barry Keoghan), who can control the minds of others, goes off to live in a jungle commune populated by his manipu-



Courtesy of Marvel Studios

Richard Madden and Gemma Chan star in 'Eternals.'

lated minions. Super-fast Makkari (Lauren Ridloff) chooses to live by herself in the Eternals' spaceship, waiting for the day they can leave for home. Super-strong Gilgamesh (Don Lee) goes into exile to babysit warrior goddess Thena (Angelina Jolie), who is going insane under the weight

of many millennia of thoughts. The fire-shooting Kingo (Kumail Nanjiani) becomes a Bollywood star. The empathetic Serisi (Gemma Chan), who can transmute inanimate objects, has a centuries-long romance with Ikaris (Richard Madden), this comic's Superman analog, before splitting

and living alongside BFF Sprite (Lia McHugh), who can project illusions but is forever trapped in the body of a 12-year-old child.

Skip ahead to the post-Thanos era — speaking of which, the pregnant question of why these all-powerful beings stood by when half the universe disappeared is off-handedly chalked up to a non-interference pact that they otherwise regularly ignore. The Eternals band back together after the Deviants reappear, including their Ultron-esque leader who can absorb the powers of slain Eternals — not nearly enough is made as this snarling beast gradually morphs into a sentient, self-aware foe. But the real dividing lines form between Eternals dedicated to the preservation of humankind and those duty-bound to their true mission, which essentially rests on Earth being a giant egg and earthlings being cultivated to overpopulate until they're not needed anymore. The argument is that sacrificing billions would give life to many billions more throughout the universe, a very "Watchmen"-like moral quandary for this broken superhero family.

That leads to emotional conflict built around genuine stakes, as each Eternal must also face questions about their own origins and purpose. There is also a tantalizing New vs. Old Testament schism between archangels ready to sacrifice themselves to save the human race and those blindly devoted to God's wrath. But it is all punctuated by plot holes and lackluster action sequences layered atop unconvincing CGI, lumbering along for so long you forget what it was all about. Although on a very different scale, "Eternals" shares a quality with Zhao's "Nomadland": it is at once both overly convoluted and oversimplistic.

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Holy mother of deliciousness, Batman!

In classic French cuisine, there's a concept called the Five Mother Sauces. They are the five sauces from which all other sauces come.

They are (From Food52): Velouté: Roux + White Stock (traditionally chicken, but also vegetable or fish); Espagnole: Roux + Brown Stock (traditionally veal or beef); Tomato: Roux + Tomatoes (or, go the Italian route by skipping the roux and simply reducing tomatoes over medium-low heat until thick); Hollandaise: Egg Yolks + Clarified Melted Butter + Acid (like lemon juice or white wine); and proba-

DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

bly the most versatile, or at least the creamiest and dairy-licious — Bechamel, or cream sauce. Bechamel may seem simple, even when un-

Minced beef Bolognese
Sauté the chopped onion in a saucepan with a little sunflower oil. Once golden brown, add the minced meat and stir frequently. Add the wine and then salt, pepper and sugar. Dilute the tomato paste in cold water, pour into the pot, fill with more warm water and bring to a boil.

For the béchamel sauce
Place a pot over heat. Add the sunflower oil and the flour and whisk quickly until it soaks up all of the oil and starts to get some color. Add the milk in small batches while continuously whisking so that no lumps form. As soon as the béchamel sauce thickens and bubbles start to form on the surface, remove from heat. Add the salt, pepper and grated nutmeg. Once slightly cooled, add the 2 eggs, and whisk thoroughly. Preheat oven to 350°. In a 9x13 baking pan, spread a layer of potatoes, season with salt and pepper and cover with a layer of eggplants and again season, making sure you don't leave any gaps. Cover with half the minced bolognese and then add another layer of eggplant and add a bit of sugar. Continue spreading the rest of the minced meat and finish with another layer of eggplant, which again we season with salt, pepper and a little sugar. Cover with the béchamel sauce, spreading it evenly and sprinkle with a little bit of grated cheese or parmesan. Bake for 35-40 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool for 20 minutes before cutting.

adulterated, it transforms everything it touches. I put it on cauliflower and spinach the other night and it reminded me of the many different wonderful

things cream sauce can do to a dish. But it's not delicious just spooned over foods and eaten as is. Bechamel is awesome when baked. Think about baked macaroni and cheese and you'll know what I mean, Gentle Reader.

But bechamel, as is, is also insane when baked. Recently I went to a Greek Festival, and they had Greek grandmothers making this ridiculous moussaka.

Greek grandmas aren't big on giving over their recipes, so I searched and found the most authentic recipe I could find — from the grandson of the inventor of the dish.

Also below is a lunatic version of a sandwich from France. Like all great sandwiches, it's an unusual collection of ingredients that somehow defy the odds and are perfect bites of sandwich love. I will return to the Mother Sauces in upcoming columns. Wait 'til you hear about Chef Boyardee.

Croque Monsieur Ham and Cheese Sandwich
Gruyère cheese, grated (1 1/2 cups)
3/4 cup Grated parmesan cheese (packed)
8 slices French or Italian loaf bread
12 ounces ham, sliced
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
Preheat oven to 400°F
Make the béchamel sauce and stir the Parmesan and 1/4 cup of the grated Gruyère into warm sauce. Set aside.

Toast bread slices in oven: Lay out the bread slices on a baking sheet and toast them in the 400°F oven, a few minutes each side, until lightly toasted. For extra flavor you can spread some butter on the bread slices before you toast them if you want.

(Alternatively, you can assemble the sandwiches as follows in step four and grill them on a skillet, finishing them in the broiler with the bechamel sauce.)

Build the sandwiches: Lightly brush half of the toasted slices with mustard. Add the ham slices and about 1 cup of the remaining Gruyère cheese. Top with the other toasted bread slices.

Add bechamel, more Gruyere. Spoon on the béchamel sauce to the tops of the sandwiches. Sprinkle with the remaining Gruyère cheese.

Broil till bubbly: Place on a broiling pan. Bake in the oven for 5 minutes, then turn on the broiler and broil for an additional 3 to 5 minutes, until the cheese topping is bubbly and lightly browned.

If you top this sandwich with a fried egg it becomes a Croque Madame.

Basic Bechamel
1-1/2 oz. (3 Tbs.) unsalted butter
3 Tbs. unbleached all-purpose flour
1-3/4 cups whole milk, heated
1/2 tsp. kosher salt
1/8 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
Small pinch freshly grated nutmeg
In a 2-qt. saucepan, melt the butter over medium-low heat. Add the flour and cook, whisking constantly for 2 to 3 minutes. Do not let the mixture brown. Slowly whisk in the hot milk and bring just to a simmer, whisking frequently. Reduce the heat to low and cook, whisking often, until the sauce has thickened to a creamy, gravy-like consistency and no longer tastes of raw flour, 6 to 8 minutes for a single batch, 10 to 12 minutes for a double batch. Remove from the heat and whisk in the salt, pepper, and nutmeg. Makes 1 & 3/4 cups.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

A tasty dish of moussaka.

Moussaka

From Chef George Tselementes, grandson of Nikolaos Tselementes who invented the modern version of the Greek/European Dish in the 1920s.

- 4 medium-sized eggplant
- 5 medium-sized potatoes
- a pinch of sugar
- salt and pepper
- sunflower oil
- minced beef Bolognese
- 1 pound hamburger
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 tbsp tomato paste (passata)
- 1 wine glass of red wine
- sunflower oil
- 3/4 teaspoon of sugar
- salt & pepper
- For the béchamel sauce
- 3/4 cup sunflower oil
- 3/4 cup flour
- 2 & 3/4 cups milk at room temperature
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup grated Swiss type of cheese or parmesan
- grated nutmeg
- salt & pepper

Peel the potatoes and slice them into not too thin, not too thick slices. Slice the eggplants into thin rounds and fry. Place a deep pan over heat, add the sunflower oil and let it heat. Fry the potatoes over medium heat until softened and golden brown. Next, fry the eggplant at a higher heat. Drain the excess oil from both on a baking pan lined with paper towels.

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KEEP THE BELL RINGING!

CCCC Small Business Center receives Innovation Award

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — The North Carolina Community College System Small Business Center Network awarded the Central Carolina Community College Small Business Center the Innovation Award: Programs/Services during its annual statewide Center of Excellence awards in Wrightsville Beach on Oct. 14.

The award was presented for innovation in program development for the RISE program, an eight-class series created in collaboration with the Sanford Area Growth Alliance/Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Sanford Inc. The RISE program introduces prospective and existing business owners in Lee County to the tools and training necessary for business success.

“Collaborating with the Sanford Area Growth Alliance/Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Sanford Inc. on RISE has been a fantastic experience,” said Terri Brown, CCCC Small Business Center Director. “Kelli Laudate (Downtown Sanford Inc. Executive Director) and Meg Moss (Chamber of Commerce Executive Director) have been instrumental in its success and I

am certain that the program will continue to innovate and grow as we move into the future.”

In the RISE program, participants attend a series of seminars, create a business plan, have their business plans reviewed, prepare a pitch to the RISE Review Committee on the final night of the program, and are connected with necessary resources and potential partners.

Participants that graduate from the program and open a retail business in downtown Sanford, Jonesboro, or Broadway may apply for a \$5,000 startup grant.

Since the program began in early 2020, six retail businesses have held grand openings and two home-based businesses have opened. To date, 23 new jobs have been created. Participants who opened businesses during the pandemic were also given additional support during the startup period.

“I am thrilled with the new businesses that have opened in Sanford and I look forward to assisting many more new business open in the coming months,” said Brown.

Learn more about the Central Carolina Community College Small Business Center at www.cccc.edu/sbc.



Terri Brown, Central Carolina Community College's Small Business Center director, holds the Innovation Award: Programs/Services recently received from the North Carolina Community College System Small Business Center Network.

Courtesy of CCCC

CCCC HFS program sponsors Wellnessology event Nov. 8-10

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — The Central Carolina Community College Health & Fitness Science (HFS) program is conducting a Health & Wellness virtual conference titled “Wellnessology” Nov. 8-10.

This event — a variety of virtual seminars on various health and fitness topics — is the brainchild of the CCCC Health and Fitness Science program students. CCCC offers HFS program at its Lee Main Campus and Chatham Health Sciences Center.

The Wellnessology event includes a variety of noteworthy speakers, including local athlete Heather Connor, a World Champion Power Lifter; for-

mer National Football Leaguer Tim Goad; and Richard Howell, the strength and conditioning coach for the NFL's Indianapolis Colts.

The schedule:

- **Nov. 8:** 9 a.m.: Spiritual Wellness - Finding Purpose In Life (Thadd McElreath), 9:30 a.m.: Early Cancer Detection (Barbara Campbell), 10 a.m.: Yoga At Your Desk When You Are Stressed (Katie Brownfield), 10:30 a.m.: You Don't Have To Be A Health Nut To Be Healthy (Jeff Carter), 11 a.m.: Becoming A Skin Care Warrior (Susan Johnson), 11:30 a.m.: Questions and Answers with the IPF World Champion Power Lifter (Heather Connor).
- **Nov. 9:** 9 a.m.: Credit Is Money (Daniel Berndt), 9:30 a.m.: Mastering the Art of

Time Management (Seth Buchanan), 10 a.m.: Stressed Out About Being Stressed (Thea Boyer), 10:30 a.m.: Transitions – Careers in Wellness (Peter Rogers), 11 a.m.: Easy Yoga Tools To Tap Into Your Calming Superpower (Andrea Thomas), 11:30 a.m.: Athletic Taping Techniques (Bryan Koprowski).

- **Nov. 10:** 9 a.m.: Questions and Answers With An NFL Veteran (Tim Goad – New England Patriots), 10 a.m.: Tips in Training From An NFL Strength Coach (Richard Howell – Indianapolis Colts), 11 a.m.: Resilience – How To Bloom Where You Are Planted (Trinity Faucett), 11:30 a.m.: Eating Bitter To Get Better (Regina Minter).

Visit <http://ow.ly/sk-4750GvCvf> to attend any of the sessions at the respective times.

Among the HFS students involved in the promotion of the event are Alejandra Albarran, Bersai Laureano Perez and Andrew Whitley.

“I would describe this event in three words: informative, educational, and fun,” said Albarran, of Bear Creek.

“People can learn new skills to input in their own life physically or mentally,” said Perez, of Sanford. “I really hope that they get the knowledge out of this event that we intend to portray for the wellness of their life as a student and out in the world.”

“I think that it would be beneficial to attend this event because you can get to meet with and speak with some pret-

ty cool people as well as hear what they have to say about a variety of different topics,” said Whitley, of Fayetteville. “This event can be a good time to learn about all things Wellness and an opportunity to ask personalized questions to help you and your health.”

To learn more about this event, contact Dr. Carl Bryan, CCCC Health and Fitness Science Department Chair, at cbryan@ccc.edu or call 919-718-7554.

The CCCC Health and Fitness Science program prepares multi-skilled fitness professionals to be qualified to perform various skills in the health and fitness industry. Learn more about the program at www.cccc.edu/curriculum/majors/hfs/.



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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Estate of Rae E. Brahlele aka Rae Eugenie Brahlele Having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **RAE E. BRAHLEK** aka Rae Eugenie Brahlele, 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, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 14th day of October, 2021. Laura Shel Brahlele, Administrator CTA of the Estate of Rae E. Brahlele aka Rae Eugenie Brahlele Dori J. Dixon Schell Bray PLLC Attorney for the Estate 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271 Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517 O14,021,028,N4,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
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 O14,021,028,N4,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims

against **TOBY PACE BRITTS** aka **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 O14,021,028,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 O14,021,028,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 O14,021,028,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

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.

please make immediate payments to the undersigned. Payments and claims should be presented to

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS
Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA
Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.
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TDD 1-800-735-2962
Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMG.com
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Huge Public Estate Auction

Saturday, Nov 13th, 2021, at 10am
1709 US Hwy 64 West Asheboro, NC

Estates of the late **JL & Gertrude Small & (son) Cecil Small & Contents of Westside Auto Body shop!**

Brief listing: Vehicles Incl. 86 Chev 20 Conv. Van, 05 Chev Cobalt, Midas Motorhome Coach, 69 Avion Alum. Travel Trailer, IH 354 3Cyl. Diesel tractor, Long 3pt Backhoe & Other 3pt implements, Cub Cadet Lawn Tractors, Lots of yard tools, (2) 60 gallon Air compressors & others, tire changers, Paint can shaker, torch & welders, Frame straightener, Edelbrock intakes & Lots of Auto & Racing Parts incl. New auto Sheet Metal, Holley 4 & 2 Barrel Carburetors, Craftsmen toolbox's full of Snap-On, Mac & Rodac Tools, Cragar Chrome Rims & Others, 3 large Anvils & blacksmith tools, Woodworking tools incl. Craftsman Radial Saw, Table saw, Joiner & More! Antiques & Household incl. Victorian Walnut Parlor chairs, Pecan, Oak & Mahogany Bdr. Suites, China Hutches & Imperial China set, Carnival Glassware, Cast Iron Pots, Stoneware incl. Signed ES Craven, Hunting & Outdoor Items incl. Lefever Dbl Barrel 20 Ga. Winchester 270, Ruger 9mm, Bond Stainless 45/410 & Others!! Fishing Rods & Reels & tackle, Camping tent items & lots more too much to list! Tremendous number of items!! Selling with 2 Auctioneers all day!!

Preview Fri. Nov 12th For Details, More Info & Pics visit **www.DAANDR.com**

Terms: CASH, CREDIT CARD w/3% fee, Local Checks (only) without a bank letter of guaranteed payment. 10% Buyers Premium & Sales Tax to be collected. ALL ITEMS AS-IS All Announcements Precede Ads.

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148 Whip-O-Will Rd Ruffin, NC 27326
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HUGE PUBLIC AUCTION

FIREARMS, LOTS OF AMMUNITION, COINS, ADVERTISING

(Living Estate, Name withheld at the request of seller)

(LIVE AUCTION, ALL BIDDING TO TAKE PLACE IN PERSON)

Saturday, November 6th at 11am Preview Auction Day from 9am till sale time. Siler City NC

721 Alston Bridge Rd, Siler City NC (Moose Lodge)

MORGAN & PEACE SILVER DOLLARS, LARGE PENNIES, FRANKLIN HALVES, PLUS LOTS MORE COINS, HENRY 45-70 GOV LEVER ACTION, HENRY 30-30 WIN LEVER ACTION, HENRY GOLDEN BOY 22 LR LEVER ACTION, HENRY H001 22 LR LEVER ACTION, HENRY EVIL ROY 22LR LEVER ACTION, HENRY MOD H006 CB2 BIG BOY COWBOY 44 REM MAG/44 SPCL LEVER ACTION, RUGER 10/22 CARBINE 22LR WEATHERBY VANGUARD 30-06 BOLT ACTION W LEUPOLD SCOPE, SAIGA 410 AK SEMI AUTO WITH 2 MAG'S, ALSO, REMINGTON. SAVAGE, STEYR, ITALIAN GARDONE, HIGH POINT, LUGER, TAURUS, HATFIELD, MOSS-BERG, LOTS OF AMMO: 30/30, 308, 350 LEGEND, 45-70 GOV, 22 MAGNUM, 223, 9MM, 17HMR, 12 GA, 20GA, 410 GA, PLUS LOTS MORE!! ADVERTISING SIGNS



Please visit for photos and a full list of items: **www.JerryHarrisAuction.com**

SCOTT L. HARRIS, AUCTIONEER - BROKER, NCAL #8420
Cell (919) 498-4077 • **www.JerryHarrisAuction.com** • Firm #8086

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HELP WANTED

Delivery Drivers

The Chatham News + Record is seeking part-time drivers to assist in the delivery of newspapers on Wednesday or Thursday mornings. Ability to lift 25lbs, work in various weather conditions and a valid NC drivers license is required.

Please email resume and references to Jason Justice at **jjustice@chathamnr.com**

Chatham News + Record

Sanford Law Group
M. Andrew Lucas
P.O. Box 1045
Sanford, NC 27331-1045
O21,028,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 21st 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 the 13th day of October, 2021.
Melissa Godwin, Administrator
C/O Shanell K. Edmonds
Attorney for the Estate
Hopper Cummings, PLLC
Post Office Box 1455
Pittsboro, NC 27312
O21,028,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
O21,028,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
O21,028,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
O21,028,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
O21,028,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 O21,028,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
O21,028,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 Bytowski, Executor
c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC
PO Box 31205
Raleigh, NC 27622
O21,028,N4,N11,4tp

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 the 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.
O28,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
O28,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
O28,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
O28,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 the 28th day of October, 2021.
WHITLEY LAW FIRM
By: /s/ Mathew S. Bissette
State Bar # 53809
3301 Benson Drive, Suite 120
Raleigh, NC 27609
Telephone: (919) 785-5000
msb@whitleylawfirm.com
O28,N4,N11,3tc

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 the 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
O28,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.
O28,N4,2tc

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
20 SP 87
Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust made by **FRED T. MCKEE** (PRESENT RECORD OWNER(S): Fred T. McKee, Heirs of Fred T. McKee; Wayne T. McKee, George McKee, David McKee) to PRLAP, Inc., Trustee(s), dated January 2, 2009, and recorded in Book No. 01442, at Page 0483 in Chatham County Registry, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the promissory note secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Substitute Trustee Services, Inc. having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust by an instrument duly recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds Chatham County, North Carolina and the holder of the note evidencing said indebtedness having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door in Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina, or the customary location designated for foreclosure sales, at 1:30 PM on November 18, 2021 and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following real estate situated in New Hill in the County of Chatham, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows: All that real property situated in the County of Chatham, State of North Carolina: Being the same property conveyed to the Grantor by deed recorded 10/10/1983 in Book 464, Page 444 Chatham County Registry, to which deed reference is hereby made for a more particular description of this property. Together with improvements located thereon; said property being located at **2311 New Elam Church Road, New Hill, North Carolina.**

Parcel ID: 0005779
Trustee may, in the Trustee's sole discretion, delay the sale for up to one hour as provided in N.C.G.S. §45-21.23.
Should the property be purchased by a third party, that party must pay the excise tax, as well as the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (\$0.45) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a) (1).
The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust/security agreement, or both, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of either the Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed. Also, this property is being sold subject to all taxes, special assessments, and prior liens or prior encumbrances of record and any recorded releases. Said property is also being sold subject to applicable Federal and State laws.

A deposit of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in its sole discretion, if it believes the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Additional Notice for Residential Property with Less than 15 rental units, including Single-Family Residential Real Property
An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may after receiving the notice of foreclosure sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in this notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC.
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE
c/o Hutchens Law Firm
P.O. Box 1028
4317 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311
Phone No: (910) 864-3068
<https://sales.hutchenslawfirm.com>
Firm Case No: 3595 - 10137
N4,N11,2tc

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
21 SP 89
Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust made by **BARBARA K. SMITHER** aka Barbara Smither (PRESENT RECORD OWNER(S): Barbara K. Smither) to M. Patricia Oliver, Trustee(s), dated February 28, 2008, and recorded in Book No. 01388, at Page 0618 in Chatham County Registry, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the promissory note secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Substitute Trustee Services, Inc. having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust by an instrument duly recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds Chatham County, North Carolina and the holder of the note evidencing said indebtedness having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door in Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina, or the customary location designated for foreclosure sales, at 1:30 PM on November 18, 2021 and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following real estate situated in **Bear Creek in the County of Chatham, North Carolina**, and being more particularly described as follows: Being all of Lot 2, containing 5.96 acres, more or less, according to a survey entitled "Final Plat Property of Barbara K. Smither", dated January 3, 2008, prepared by Carolina Cornerstone Surveying & Land Design, recorded in Plat Slide 2008-46, Chatham County Registry, to which plat reference is hereby made for greater certainty of description. Together with improvements located thereon; said property being located at 796 Roscoe Road, Bear Creek, North Carolina.

Trustee may, in the Trustee's sole discretion, delay the sale for up to one hour as provided in N.C.G.S. §45-21.23.
Should the property be purchased by a third party, that party must pay the excise tax, as well as the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (\$0.45) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a) (1).
The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust/security agreement, or both, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of either the Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed. Also, this property is being sold subject to all taxes, special assessments, and prior liens or prior encumbrances of record and any recorded releases. Said property is also being sold subject to applicable Federal and State laws.

A deposit of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in its sole discretion, if it believes the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Additional Notice for Residential Property with Less than 15 rental units, including Single-Family Residential Real Property
An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may after receiving the notice of foreclosure sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in this notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.



Career Opportunities Available
Visit www.chathamcountync.gov and click Jobs.

HIRING CNA's
2ND & 3RD SHIFT
CALL: 919-542-3151
Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm for appointment to complete application and interview.
Pittsboro Christian Village
1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

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



CONNIE FENNER
State Farm
WWW.THECONNIEFENNERWAY.COM
919-265-0702

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC.
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE
c/o Hutchens Law Firm
P.O. Box 1028
4317 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311
Phone No: (910) 864-3068
<https://sales.hutchenslawfirm.com>
Firm Case No: 4993 - 18917
N4,N11,2tc

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO.: 20 JT 60
IN RE: "D.C."
DOB: 4/16/09
NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PRO-CESS OF PUBLICATION
TO: Marcus Shaw/Biological father/unknown father of the above male child, born in Asheboro, NC to Melissa Cailhan
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed to terminate your parental rights to the above-referenced minor child. You have forty days from 11/4/21, the first date of publication of this Notice to respond to said Petition by filing a written answer to the petition with the Chatham Clerk of Court. Your parental rights to the juvenile may and will be terminated upon failure to answer the petitions within the time prescribed. Any attorney appointed previously in an abuse, neglect or dependency proceeding and still representing you shall continue to represent you. If you are indigent and not already represented by an attorney, you are entitled to a court-appointed attorney by contacting the Chatham County Clerk of Court. STEPHENSON & FLEMING, L.L.P.
BY: /s/ANGENETTE STEPHENSON, Attorney for Petitioner
CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
109 Conner Dr., Suite 208
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514
Telephone: (919) 869-7795
N4,N11,N18,3tc

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO.: 18 JT 62
IN RE: "A.R."
DOB: 9/29/17
NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PRO-CESS OF PUBLICATION
TO: Biological father/Father/unknown father of the above male child, born in Orange County, NC to Shakita Robinson.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed to terminate your parental rights to the above-referenced minor child. You have forty days from 11/4/21, the first date of publication of this Notice to respond to said Petition by filing a written answer to the petition with the Chatham Clerk of Court. Your parental rights to the juvenile may/will be terminated upon failure to answer the petition within the time prescribed. Any attorney appointed previously in an abuse, neglect or dependency proceeding and still representing you shall continue to represent you. If you are indigent and not already represented by

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Medical	Covered	Covered
Prescription drugs	Covered	Covered
Access of seeing a doctor outside of your plan's network	No (unless authorized)	YES
Freedom of seeing any specialist outside of your plan's network	No (limited by a doctor's referral)	YES (without a referral)

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Thu 12/2 • 1:00 pm

Golden Corral
3424 Capital Blvd
Raleigh

Tue 12/7 • 11:00 am

Golden Corral
3424 Capital Blvd
Raleigh

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