

Chatham News + Record

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AHEAD OF '22 ELECTION:

Crawford confirms resignation, Hales won't run for reelection

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff



Photos Courtesy of Chatham County Government
Commissioner Jim Crawford (Dist. 4) and Commissioner Diana Hales (Dist. 3).

PITTSBORO — Jim Crawford will announce his resignation from the Chatham County Board of Commissioners at the board's Dec. 20 meeting for personal reasons, he confirmed on Friday.

At that meeting, he will designate Dec. 31 as his last day as commissioner, Crawford said.

"For some time I have been trying to get my hypertension under control. I have a worrisome family history on this score, and so far the steps I have taken have not worked," Crawford, who rep-

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N.C. candidate filing for 2022 elections started Monday. Who has filed in Chatham?

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Six Democratic candidates filed for local contests in the 2022 elections during the first day of filing on Monday, according to the Chatham County Board of Elections, with two more filing on Tuesday.

The filing period in Chatham started at noon Monday and ends at noon on Friday, Dec. 17. Primaries for the election will take place in March, with the general election set for Nov. 8, 2022.

A court order temporarily blocked filing for the U.S. House, N.C. Senate and N.C. House races shortly before it was set to begin. By Monday evening, the full N.C. Court of Appeals reversed

See **FILING**, page A8

'FAITHFULLY FRUITFUL'

Goldston boutique also serves as ministry to women

A struggle with infertility led owner Heather Gaines to create a 'safe place' for sharing, affordable fashion

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

GOLDSTON — Heather Gaines' dream of being a mother hasn't come true yet, but a vision inspired by her experience with infertility has: a place where women struggling with life and faith can find support.

And a measure of beauty, as well.

Her boutique store, Faithfully Fruitful — the first new retail business to open in Goldston in years — is that place, a passion project which had its genesis in the difficulties she and her husband Mitch, married since 2014, have experienced in trying to start a family.

"God led me to 'Faithfully Fruitful,'" Gaines says. "It took all the things I was passionate about — which was women and their struggles with life and their faith, and also helping women to feel good about themselves through fashion and style."

The store, which opened in June on North Main Street in downtown Goldston, sells clothing, accessories and jewelry. But it's a gathering place, too, and a refuge. Gaines

See **BOUQUETTE**, page A7



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Heather Gaines opened 'Faithfully Fruitful' in Goldston in June as both a business and a ministry. It was an outgrowth of her struggles with infertility and also her desire to provide women a safe place to share their stories.

THE FATALITY AT JOHNSON'S Driver in October crash makes first court appearance

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The driver whose car slammed into Johnson's Drive-In on Oct. 8, killing a Pittsboro pastor and injuring three others, made his first court appearance Wednesday but didn't enter a plea.

Instead, the case of John Salvatore Graviano, 60, of Siler City, was continued to Jan. 26. He is being represented by Ben Atwater of Atwater Law Firm in Siler City.

On the Friday afternoon of the crash, Graviano was traveling west on East Eleventh — U.S. Hwy. 64 — and crossed the center line and collided with a vehicle making a left turn onto East Raleigh Street from East Eleventh. After hitting that vehicle, Graviano veered into incoming traffic near Johnson's, where his car then entered Johnson's parking lot and struck four restaurant patrons who were getting lunch at the well-known hamburger establishment.

One of those hit, 64-year-old Mark McKinney, a Pittsboro resident and the pastor of a Morrisville church, died at the scene. Injured were Dianne Perkins, 77, of Burlington, and Shannon Clapp, 39, and Colin Hsieh, 18, both of Siler City.

Graviano was charged the day after the crash with misdemeanor death by vehicle, as well as two additional charges of failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and driving left of center. He was arrested and placed on a secured bond of \$1,000 at the Chatham County Detention Center and released on bail on Oct. 8.

Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner told the News + Record that the case is still under investigation.

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

After a year, St. Julia's normal Virgin of Guadalupe Feast Day celebrations return

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Last December, the Virgin of Guadalupe went on a COVID-safe pilgrimage to her parishioners in and around Siler City.

This year, though, her people will once again go on pilgrimage to her.

Beginning Monday, parishioners could return to St. Julia Catholic Church to celebrate and revere the Virgin of Guadalupe with multi-day festivities associated with the church's traditional celebration.

Each Dec. 12, Mexican and Mexican-American Catholics across the country congregate

to honor and pray to the Virgin of Guadalupe, Mexico's patron saint.

"It should be something very special this year since we can gather again as a community to celebrate the great feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe," Father Julio Martinez told the News + Record. He leads St. Julia, which is over 85% Hispanic.

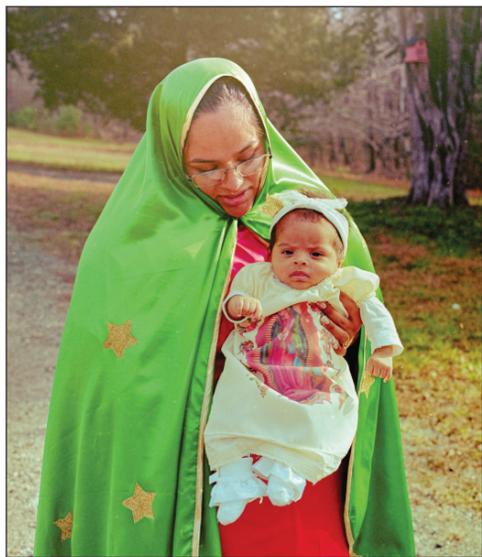
Much like last year's celebration, preparations and festivities began in November. The week of Nov. 15, the church received the "Antorcha," or torch, from Mexico. Carried by runners on foot from Mexico to parishes along the East Coast, the Antorcha contains fire from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico

City. Parishioners usually light a candle from the Antorcha, which runners then bring to the next parish for a similar ceremony; on Dec. 12, the torch arrives in New York.

"What it represents is the immigrants, our roots or our ancestors," Jeronimo Prieto Medina told the News + Record last year. The Oaxaca native and his family participate as runners. "That's why they started doing this ... We're trying to keep our culture, keep our beliefs, our religion going."

Following Monday's start, St. Julia is hosting a series of activities leading up the Feast Day celebrations this coming

See **FEAST**, page A3



Cecilia Esquivel holds her daughter, Evelyn Hernandez, while dressed as the Virgin of Guadalupe in honor of the day's pilgrimage last year in Siler City. Because of the pandemic, St. Julia Catholic Church held a scaled-down feast day celebration in 2020.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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

ON THE AGENDA

The **Chatham County Schools Board of Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13, at the Chatham County Historic Courthouse.
 The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13, via Zoom.

OTHER

The **Town of Siler City Planning Board** meeting scheduled for Monday, Dec. 13, has been cancelled.
 The **Siler City Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee** has rescheduled its December meeting due to staff availability. The Recreation Advisory Committee will meet Monday, Dec. 13, at 5:30 p.m. at the Earl B. Fitts Community Center for their regular meeting.
 The **Triangle South**

Workforce Development Board will hold a hybrid meeting Thursday, December 9, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Central Carolina Community College Lee Main Campus, Marchant Hall Conference Room, 1105 Kelly Drive, Sanford. Due to limited in-person seating, it is suggested that people join the meeting virtually at <https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/b10dfaf1542444bcb69c0c35fe5239e>. Dial-in Number: +1-571-392-7650 PIN: 118 865 8304.

Chatham Community Library Presents a Virtual Film Screening: **Daring to Resist: Three Women Who Faced the Holocaust**, begins Thursday, Dec. 9, and continues through Thursday, Dec. 16. This program is free and open to the public. Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning Dec. 9, by visiting: <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/daring-to-resist-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.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org for more information.

Autism in Motion (AIM) Clinics well host a socially distant Sensory-Friendly Santa Claus event for the Research Triangle autism community, at the AIM Clinics therapy center at 50101 Governor's Drive, Suite 170, Chapel Hill on Saturday, December 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. "The holiday season can be overstimulating for many, including children on the autism spectrum," shares Community Outreach Director Ali Thomas, "AIM Clinics is excited to provide an inclusive holiday celebration where children and families can engage in a variety of holiday activities and traditions in a sensory-friendly and inclusive way, such as an optional visit to the North Pole for an autism-friendly photo opportunity with Santa Claus himself!" The event is free and open to the public. All programming will be special needs-friendly.

Paperbacks Plus! located at 208 E. Raleigh St. in Siler City is again accepting donations for the annual **Christmas for the Animals**. All donations of food, toys, blankets, cleaning supplies, gift cards or cash will be accepted and distributed to the Chatham County Animal Shelter and to C.A.R.E. Help support these organizations and the animals in need of homes. We are open: Wed. 9-1, Thurs. and Fri. 12 to

5:30 and Sat., 10:30 to 5.

Chatham Community Library is offering free online classes on Microsoft Excel in December. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found by clicking on class titles shown or by visiting www.chathamcountync.gov/ComputerClasses: Microsoft Excel Basics, Part 1: December 8, Wednesday, 3 p.m.; Part 2: December 15, Wednesday, 3 p.m.

The **Community Remembrance Coalition - Chatham & the Chatham County NAACP Branches 5377 and 5378** presents **The Unifying Power of Music: A Youth Celebration for the Holidays**, December 16, at 7 p.m. RSVP to Zoom <https://www.crc-c.org/> with musical performances by Chatham Central High School, Jordan-Matthews High School, and Woods Charter School.

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.

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 begun winter hours, 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.

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

Scout News

Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroom93.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.

NEWS BRIEF

Chatham Chamber of Commerce announces new board members, officers

The Chatham Chamber announced new board members and officers for the 2021-22 fiscal year at its November Annual Meeting. They include:

- Sharon Dickens — board chairperson; Financial Advisor - Edward Jones
- Dr. Karen Barbee — owner, Licensed Clinical Mental Health Therapist Counselor, Supervisor, Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist - Renaissance Wellness Services, LLC

- Glenn Brooks — Racial Equity & Equality Committee co-chairperson; Assistant Vice President, Market Leader III - Truist
- Curtis Brown — Ex-Officio; Siler City appointee, Siler City Commissioner - Town of Siler City
- Tim Cunnup — Ex-Officio; Goldston Appointee Mayor of Goldston - Town of Goldston
- Cindy Dameron — Secretary, Building Committee chairperson; Realtor / Broker - Realty World Carolina Properties

- Indira Everett — past board chairperson, director; East Region, Government & Community Relations - Duke Energy
- Chris Elkins — board chairperson-elect, Membership & Marketing Committee chairperson; Marketing Strategist / Chatham Magazine Publisher, Triangle Media Partners
- Billie Goodman — Account Manager, Lumen
- Dr. Mark Hall — Public Policy Committee chairperson; Provost - Chatham, Central Carolina Community College
- George Greger-Holt, Community Outreach Coordinator Chatham

- Drug Free, Communities in Schools Chatham
- Chris Kennedy — Ex-Officio; Pittsboro appointee, Pittsboro Town Manager
- Dan LaMontagne — Ex-Officio; County appointee, Chatham County
- Derrick Mangum — Complex Human Resources Manager - Mountaire Farms
- Tony Messer — board treasurer; Finance Committee chairperson and Chief Financial Officer - Chatham County Schools
- Travis Patterson — owner / CEO Self-Enhancing Education and

- Development Services, LLC
- Cindy Poindexter — Ex-Officio; Chamber President & CEO - Chatham Chamber of Commerce
- Kathy Simmers — Independent Representative - So Worth It
- Michael Smith — Ex-Officio; Chatham Economic Development Corporation Appointee President - Chatham EDC
- Jeffery Strickler — Racial Equity & Equality Committee chairperson; DHA, RN, NEA-BC, President - Chatham Hospital

- Cecil Wilson — Board Development & Governance Committee chairperson; Senior Pastor - True Community Church

— CN+R staff reports



Oratory contest offers cash awards for high schoolers

In the past five years, Chatham County high school students from Northwood and Woods Charter have won more than \$9,000 in local, state and national competitions of the Rumbaugh Oratory contest sponsored by Sons of the American Revolution.

The 2022 contest is now accepting entries. Students with an interest in participation are invited to contact local General Francis Nash chapter SAR chairperson Lowell Hoffman by email LMHglobal927@gmail.com.

The Rumbaugh Oratory competition requires a 5- to 6-minute memorized oration on any topic related to the American Revolutionary War. This offers a wide range of subjects that can incorporate a student's own interests, according to Hoffman. As the nation is now entering the decade of the 250th

Anniversary of the American Revolution, he said, this program is of timely interest.

Applications will close Jan. 31. The local competition will be held at Governors Club on Saturday, March 19. The winner will receive \$250 with awards of \$100 and \$50 for 2nd and 3rd place.

"Our Chapter believes that the commitment to develop and deliver an original oration should be rewarded," Hoffman said. "Our past local winners have also won the North Carolina state competition — a tradition which we would love to continue."

The state winner receives a medal and an additional \$750 award. Two past winners have placed 2nd at the national competition, taking home a \$4,000 award applied to college expenses.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Meet Roger Saunders



Once a Tar Heel, always a Tar Heel.

Twice retired—First from the Army Nurse Corps and second from UNC Health.

Three children born in very different places - Fort Jackson, SC; Fort Riley, KS; & Landstuhl, Germany.

Joined Rotary in 2020 to be involved in the community and engage in community service.

Best times- RV traveling with his wife, Ann, and their dog, Molly.



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Staff photos by Simon Barbre

Pittsboro's Christmas Tree lighting

Pittsboro held its annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Nov. 21.



FEAST

Continued from page A1

weekend, according to Martinez. The church began offering children's activities on Tuesday, including different games and a "surprise" Tuesday evening. Likewise, events on Thursday, Dec. 9, and Friday, Dec. 10, will be dedicated to married couples and families respectively.

"Friday is a family get-together," Martinez said. "Everyone brings food and we have music and simply enjoy the gift of community and family."

Saturday and Sunday, however, will be all-day affairs — literally. Celebrations on the actual Feast Day began in the early hours of the morning.

Starting at 10 a.m. on Dec. 11, the church will hold a festival to sell food — including pupusas, tacos, tamales and atoles, among others — followed

by a procession with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at noon.

"This year the procession will also have about 10 horses and their riders, who accompany the image of Our Lady, which is carried by 12 men on their shoulders," Martinez said. "There is also a band playing music ranchera as it is played in the country towns of Mexico in the procession. Our children and youth will also participate."

The procession will start on Harold Hart Road and wrap around the church — located at 210 Harold Hart Rd. — until riders carry the image to the church's plaza. At 5:45 p.m., mariachi bands will play. The following day,

celebrations will begin at 5 a.m. at the church with "Las Mañanitas," which Martinez defined as "the serenading of Our

Lady of Guadalupe that welcomes her into her feast day." Closer to dawn, parishioners will gather for a "Mexican breakfast" of hot chocolate, tamales and pastries. The day's mass will take place at noon with special music, tributes, poetry and dances.

"That is followed by a meal for everyone who comes," Martinez said. "The church is packed to the gills. We will have tents with heaters placed outside the church so that people will eat as comfortably as possible. There will also be more music and dances."



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Father Julio Martinez leads St. Julia Catholic Church off Harold Hart Road in Siler City.

Who is the Virgin of Guadalupe, and why is she important?

In any Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day celebration, you'll always find a large portrait of a dark-skinned woman draped in a green mantle.

Golden light engulfs her, and a black cord wraps around her waist, symbolizing that she's pregnant with her son, Jesus.

Mexicans know her as the Virgin of Guadalupe — and in Mexico, her story goes back nearly

500 years to Dec. 9, 1531, about a decade after the fall of the Aztec empire.

Juan Diego, an indigenous Mexican who'd recently converted to Catholicism, was walking across Tepeyac Hill (now in Mexico City) when a dark-skinned woman dressed like an Aztec princess appeared to him. Speaking in Nahuatl, his native language, she introduced herself as the Virgin Mary and instructed Diego to tell the local bishop to build a church on that hill in her honor.

At first, the bishop didn't believe Diego and asked for proof. The Virgin agreed to make another appearance to Diego, so on Dec. 12, she instructed him to gather Castilian roses — which weren't native to Mexico — place them in his coat and deliver them to the bishop. Upon opening his cloak, the roses spilled out and an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe miraculously appeared on Diego's cloak.

Recognizing the "miracle," the bishop constructed a small shrine on Tepeyac Hill and later built a larger church below, known today as the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The original image still sits there today and draws millions of pilgrims each year.

For Mexican Catholics, the Virgin of Guadalupe isn't just a religious icon; she's ingrained into Mexico's national identity. She's mestiza — a mix of European and indigenous heritage, like many Mexicans — and appeared to a Mexican native, speaking his native tongue.

"There's a great saying in Mexico that goes like this: 'Mexico is Guadalupe, and Guadalupe is Mexico,'" Martinez told the News + Record last year. "You can't separate the two. When you meet the Mexican Catholic people, that's when you understand that."

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

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | HUGH JACKSON

Why won't that uncaring Joe Biden just snap his fingers and lower gas prices?

Hint: It has something to do with the realities of a market economy

"In less than a year, Joe Biden has crippled our domestic energy production," Adam Laxalt, a Republican candidate for a Nevada U.S. Senate seat tweeted recently.

"We're feeling the effects of Democrat (sic) leadership right now every time we go to the gas pump," reads a recent fundraising missive from the Nevada Republican Party.

"Democrats' reckless spending has made everything cost more," including gas up 61% higher than the same time last year, says an attack ad from the National Republican Congressional Committee against multiple Democratic members of Congress, including Nevada Rep. Dina Titus.

North Carolina Republicans have made similar claims. For example, Rep. Ted Budd has tweeted that rising gas prices are the result of "Biden administration kill[ing] U.S. pipelines" and Sen. Thom Tillis has tweeted that recent increases in prices are the result of "Democrats' radical tax and spending spree."

One nice thing about Re-

publicans unloading on Biden and Democrats for higher gas prices is it's a welcome break from the GOP's busy schedule of pretending to freak out at the idea that a teacher might mention race in a history class.

And as far as deceptions and the Republicans who love them, blaming higher gas prices on Biden and his policies is not near as dangerous as the Big Lie.

But blaming Democrats for high gas prices is still a crock. And Laxalt, the state party, and every other Republican politician around the country knows it. Or should.

As is obvious to anyone and everyone whose examination has extended beyond complaining about it, the price of gas is not controlled by the president of the United States.

Ah, but those darned Biden policies have, as Laxalt put it, "crippled" energy production in the U.S.

Except they haven't.

During the first year of the pandemic, demand for oil plummeted, and inventories soared. Of course when demand tanked the price followed. A barrel of oil was trading for about \$46 in January 2020. The price had dived to less than \$12 three months later.

On one day, April 20, 2020, the price of a barrel of oil was trading for less than zero dol-

lars — traders actually had to pay buyers to get them to take oil contracts off their hands.

Say what you will about oil industry executives (another time, another column), they simply are not the sort of people who are going to spend money to produce a mineral unless they can sell it at a profit.

So production was curtailed — or "crippled," as Laxalt would say — by the industry itself. As of last month domestic crude production was still about 10% lower than the pre-pandemic average in 2019.

"This year, demand for petroleum, both in the United States and globally, has largely returned to the pre-pandemic levels in 2019," reads a recent U.S. Energy Information Agency report. "Demand has grown faster than supply, reducing inventories and contributing to higher prices for crude oil and petroleum products."

That, not socialism, is why gas prices went up.

But let's humor the Republican critics by examining the two main Biden policies they contend have led to higher prices at the pump.

The first is Biden's inauguration day decision to cancel the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline. After all, if Biden hadn't done that, hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil would be coming into the U.S., right?

Right.

In 2023, at the earliest.

Whatever the qualities of Keystone XL Pipeline, transcending the space-time continuum was never advertised as one of them. Even if Biden hadn't beaten Trump, the KXL pipeline currently would be making no contribution whatsoever to U.S. oil supply, and the unfinished project would have nothing whatsoever to do with the price of gas one way or the other.

The other big Biden energy policy sin, according to the GOP, is an executive order issued shortly after taking office to pause new oil and gas leasing on public lands.

The order only applies to new leases, and does nothing to prohibit or even limit drilling on 14 million acres of public land that, according to the Bureau of Land Management, is currently available for development.

Or as one oil executive assured shareholders after Biden issued the executive order, "We have a deep inventory of approved federal drilling permits in hand that essentially cover all of our desired activity over the next presidential term."

But even as the price of a barrel of oil has been flirting with levels not seen for more than seven years, the industry hasn't been rushing to increase production.

So why haven't companies

been drill baby drilling?

"It's not the government that is banning them from drilling more. It's pressure from their shareholders," an oil industry stock analyst told CNN last month.

Powerful investors don't want oil companies to spend money on oil production, especially as many, maybe most, analysts think recent high oil prices are an anomaly. Powerful investors want oil companies to spend money on dividends and stock buybacks.

After topping \$85 a barrel early in November, the price of oil as of this writing was a little less than \$70. Part of that drop is attributed to uncertainty and unease accompanying the new coronavirus variant. But the price already appeared to be dropping more or less steadily even before omicron became a word that normal people used in conversation. Maybe gas prices are settling down.

On the one hand, that'd be great.

But on the other hand, if deprived of the opportunity to pretend high gas prices are Biden's fault, Republicans will probably just resume full-time hyperventilating over whatever it is they want the phrase "critical race theory" to mean. Nothing's ever perfect.

Hugh Jackson is the editor of the Nevada Current, which first published this commentary.

The gift of time

"One goes out, one comes in."

Jack Johnson's song "If I Could" landed on my heart last week when my wife's Grandma Jean died on the exact same day that my nephew was born. While grieving her loss and celebrating the new life, I remembered the day nine years ago when our extended family brought Grandma Jean to Virginia in order to meet our newborn son.



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

At that time, we lived in a manse with steep steps up to the front and back doors of the house, and she was confined to a wheelchair. So we arranged a rendezvous in the church I served as pastor. My father-in-law wheeled Grandma Jean up the ramp and into the church parlor, which the congregation called the Shepherd's Room due to the large wall hanging of Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

Once settled in this room, Grandma Jean stretched out her open hands and declared, "I want to hold that baby!"

I delivered my son into the nest of his great-grandmother's arms. Her grip was steady, her voice reassuring. Still, my son began to cry and I offered to take him back. She shook her head and grinned, "Like I've never held a crying baby!" Soon enough, Grandma Jean had soothed him.

After my wife took back our baby to nurse, Grandma Jean and I slipped into easy conversation, kindness being her first language. In that small church, the Shepherd's Room doubled as a space for choir rehearsals. It so happened that someone had left an old hymnal on the coffee table. Picking up the book, Jean smiled again. "I love the old hymns." We looked up her favorites, including "Amazing Grace" and "Abide with Me."

In more recent years as she suffered from various health problems, I would remember Grandma Jean humming those old hymns in the Shepherd Room: "O Thou who changes not, abide with me; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me." Though time rolls on, Grandma Jean believed that she was held in love, even as she walked in the valley of the shadow of death.

Johnson's song "If I Could" includes the line: "New life makes losing life easier to understand." Today I rejoice over my nephew's birth. Grandma Jean would have wanted to hold him! But as he grows, our family will share stories about her. Her memory will continue to inspire all of us.

That afternoon nine years ago at the church passed quickly. Soon, it was time for our extended family to drive back to North Carolina. But before she left, Grandma Jean had one more smile for me. "You know, Preacher, people will remember the hymns long after they forget your sermon!"

I'm also sure people remember Johnson's songs more than my newspaper columns!

But if I could, I would have you ponder this thought. Though we remember the past and plan for the future, the only time we truly hold our loved ones is in the moment. No wonder it's called the present. What a gift.

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."

Food for thought ... and for the body

When I was a youngster — not to be confused with me saying when I was "little," since old pictures show I was never very small — I had some exposure to agriculture and farming.



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

It wasn't that I grew up on the farm or plowed the lower 40 with a mule or even primed tobacco, as many of my schoolmates, especially those from the Wilsonville "valley," did each harvest season. Instead, my exposure was two or three pigs we fed each fall and winter until the weather was cold enough to turn them into tenderloin and sausage. And each year Daddy would get 50 or so day-old chicks about the same time to turn into 50 or so Sunday dinners after about eight to 10 weeks. And while we never grew cotton or soybeans, we had corn and beans in my mama's garden. She let me help by going along picking up rocks as she ran the tiller.

Obviously, agriculture in Chatham County has changed through the years. The good fertile black soil of Wilsonville and Bells lies under the 40,000 acres of Jordan Lake and the surrounding park. Not much tobacco is grown and the days of the maturing of the golden leaf for harvest being the engine that decided the opening day of school each fall is long gone.

Long gone, as well, are the days I fed and watered the chickens or toted (a Southern word for "carried") 5-gallon buckets of water from the house to the pig pen which was 150 yards away — and it was uphill both ways — in an effort to keep the pigs watered and their mud hole muddy.

Later, in an effort to impress Shirley after we began dating, I found ways to help my future

father-in-law (FIL) with his pigs or even working some at the tractor and farm equipment business he ran with some other folks. And from time to time, I'd saw a board or drive a nail for the latest farm building project he was undertaking.

Eventually, I found a job with an agricultural marketing and supply outfit — FCX, which is now Southern States — and came to understand and appreciate more some of the ins and outs of the food and fiber industry. Eventually, FIL cleared and pastured his spread on the outskirts of Bear Creek and we put a few head of cattle on it.

In time, he gave it up and I took over, meaning I put out a few more cows, raised some calves and added a few dollars to the family cash flow — but I always had another steady income so what we were doing was a sideline, a part-time gig, so to speak.

In time, the younger of the two 40-somethings who used to be teenagers living at my house decided he would enter the world of agriculture. A few years at N.C. State and some jobs with other producers followed before he jumped from the frying pan into the fire and decided to try it on his own as a full-time career.

And here's where it starts to get interesting — on several fronts.

I'm sure every profession has its share of ups and downs, things that are good and some not so. But I'm pretty sure without food nothing else matters. And as our society gets more urban and farther away from the farm, there's a disconnect in the minds of much of society.

Even in the 1970s with my FCX time, I saw examples of youngsters being asked where our food comes from, to which their answer would be "the grocery store." And I'll never forget seeing the "typical American housewife," as the major network described her in her

appearance before a Congressional committee that was part of the evening news, complaining about "why is everyone so concerned with farmers? As long as we've got grocery stores we're fine."

I hope she didn't have children.

Anyway, here's the bottom line. For many farmers, the bottom line is starting to be a negative one. Some data I saw the other day pointed out that the average age of farmers is approaching 60; few young people are flocking — or even coming at all — to the profession. Across the state, three-fourths of our farms produce less than \$100,000 in annual revenue — that's revenue, not profit. And half of them produce less than \$10,000.

Events like drought and hurricanes play havoc with a farmer's prospects. Crops have to be harvested when they're ready and if the fields are flooded, there's no way. And if livestock or poultry are lost to catastrophic events, another catastrophic event could be just around the corner, namely not enough food.

So, if you see a big tractor pulling a big piece of equipment down the road, don't curse the driver for being on the road when you want to go 80 miles an hour or don't think his pockets are bursting at the seams with a fat wallet that bought that rig. Odds are good he's (or she's) up to the eyeballs in debt.

Keep them in your prayers and if you see one, say "thanks" for that steak or cheeseburger or vegetable soup you just enjoyed.

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.

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | TAMIKA WALKER KELLY

To get better pay, N.C. teachers may need to march

Since the beginning of this school year and through the final four months of state budget negotiations, we at the North Carolina Association of Educators advocated for meaningful salary increases, increased classroom funding and a fulfillment of the Leandro Mandate. But above all, we fought for recognition of what's happening in our public schools across the state.

Teachers and support staff are exhausted, overworked and their frustration has reached a boiling point. We fear the budget is too little, too late for too many.

It has been more than 10 years since education funding was slashed during the Great Recession, and it has never recovered. It has been three years

since the last pay raise for educators, and it has been almost two years since public education was fundamentally altered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Underfunding alone was already taking a toll on our public schools — we've been losing good teachers and staff for more than a decade. When you add in the stress and safety concerns of the pandemic without any corresponding appreciation from state lawmakers, the educator exodus took flight.

Now that we are in the middle of a pandemic and a staff vacancy crisis, educators have every reason to be disappointed in the new state budget. The N.C. General Assembly had the funds available to give bigger raises and show appreciation

to the educators that are working harder and longer hours than ever before. However, state lawmakers chose to do the bare minimum.

We could have fully funded our constitutional mandate to provide a high-quality public education for every child. Instead, lawmakers chose more than \$2 billion in new tax cuts over our children's education.

There were some victories, including an increased minimum wage for support staff and a hold harmless clause that will protect local school budgets in this turbulent period. But considering what was possible, the bare minimum is not enough.

And while we may be disappointed in the outcome, we must continue our mission as educators: to provide every

child — regardless of their race, background or zip code — a high-quality public education and a chance to pursue their dreams. Yet some politicians in this state remain committed to stymieing public education at every turn. Their obstruction only fuels educators' growing frustration.

The pot finally boiled over in Wake County a month ago when bus drivers bravely took a stand for higher pay and more respect. Two weeks later, bus drivers in Cumberland County joined the fight, along with Wake cafeteria workers days later. Educators organized and won \$4,000 bonuses in Rockingham County and \$3,000 in Asheville, along with other concessions.

It's no surprise that school

employees are organizing and using their collective power to demand change at the local level. They are fed up, tired of being ignored and are activated by the inaction of state politicians who are willfully ignoring the growing crisis within our schools.

It has been more than two years since thousands of teachers marched through downtown Raleigh to have their voices heard. Legislators still aren't listening. Maybe when educators start marching through their hometowns, they will finally start to notice.

Tamika Walker Kelly is President of the North Carolina Association of Educators and a 14-year veteran teacher of the Cumberland County Schools.

LETTERS

Hood's column was spot-on about 'populists'

TO THE EDITOR:

Although I am not usually a fan of the right-leaning views of John Hood and the John Locke Foundation, I must say that Mr. Hood was spot on in his description of populist rabble-rousing, whether it comes from the right or the left ("The people never spoke on statues," Nov. 18-24).

Populists of either stripe love to portray themselves as speaking for "the people," when in fact they are speaking for a small and misguided minority. And, as he points out, the people as a whole were never given a chance to express their views on the removal of Confederate monuments. Populists, who claim to be acting for "the people," simply took things into their own hands and succeeded. Those who fomented the Jan. 6th riots in the Capitol claimed the same thing.

Robert Bogle
Pittsboro

Before saving the planet, we must save each other

TO THE EDITOR:

A crimson sky with golden outline painted by God's hand is in denial of the grotesque plague called mankind.

Lush forest are being destroyed, leaving animals with no suitable habitat.

Spilled oil, discarded fishing nets, and trash are spoiling the habitat for ocean life.

Ice caps are melting and affecting weather patterns and food supplies, plus having an affect on the habitat for polar bears.

Trash piled high on sidewalks and polluted drinking water often makes news headlines.

It isn't enough for men to destroy the Earth for all creatures large and small; men also have a drive to destroy each other. Before men can save the Earth, first, they must learn to co-habitat and work together to save the Earth and each other.

Carol Gene Good
Conover

Second Bloom here to assist victims of sexual assault

TO THE EDITOR:

I read with interest the report of a sexual assault investigation being conducted by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office ("Personal trainer accused of sexual assault," Nov. 18-24 edition). I am glad they have been able to arrest and charge the alleged perpetrator, Albert Karali, made possible by two courageous victim/survivors coming forward with reports.

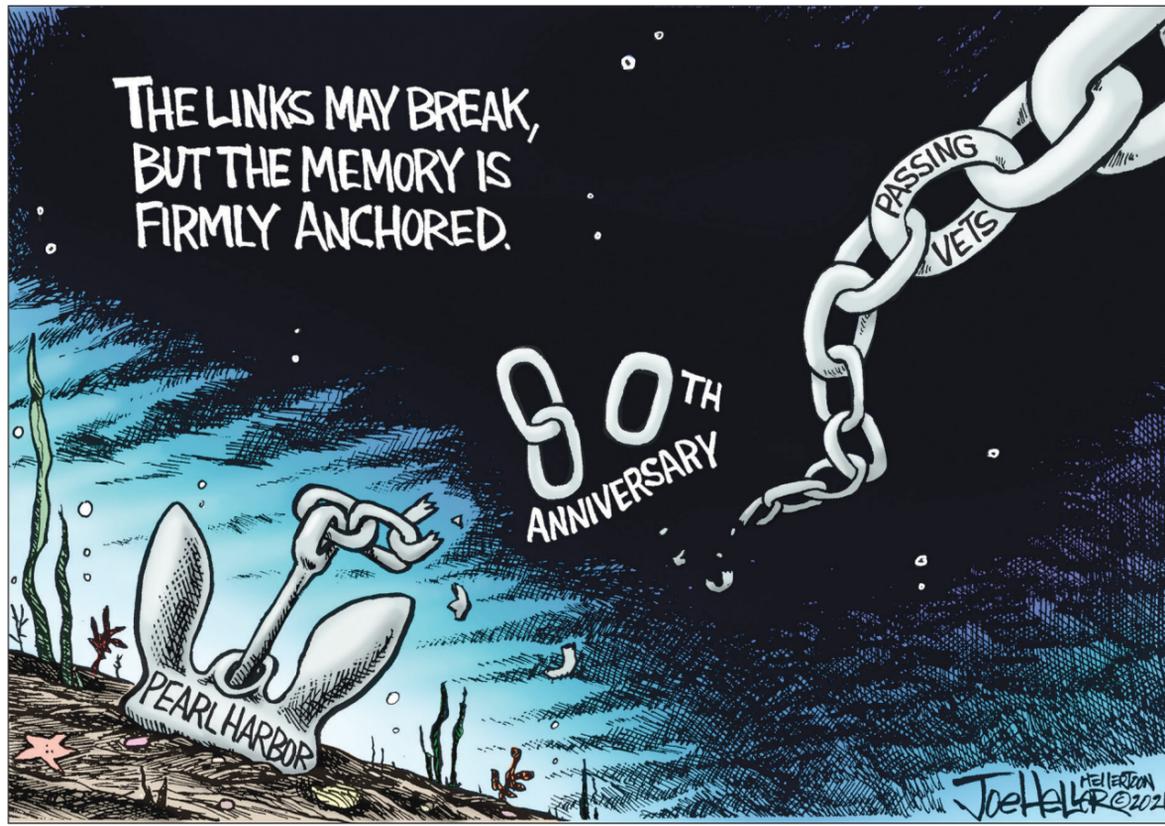
In the article the Sheriff's Office requests other victims to contact them, specifically about this case or just in general. It is very important to note that the decision to report or not report a sexual assault to anyone is an extremely difficult decision for a victim, especially complex when considering whether to report to law enforcement. Yet we know that reporting could possibly help to stop future rapes. (MANY rapists have more than one, if not many victims.)

I feel like an important piece of information was omitted. It is possible to make an anonymous report. Yes, even anonymous reports are helpful to law enforcement.

You do not have to struggle with such decisions alone. Second Bloom of Chatham has trained staff and volunteers available 24/7. We can help you understand all options and sort through your feelings and decisions. And we will always support you and any decisions you make. All communications and services are confidential. Call us anytime at 919-545-0055; of course, you can also remain anonymous to us, if you choose. Or if you wish, you can make an appointment to come to our office at 14 Small St. in Pittsboro. We're open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Se habla español.

Jo Sanders
Pittsboro

The writer is chairperson of Second Bloom's board of directors.



Can a wage-price spiral be avoided?

Who doesn't like to be paid more? Maybe there are a few workers who



MIKE WALDEN
You Decide

are indifferent to their earnings, but I haven't met them yet. Obviously being paid more means workers can buy more of what they want for themselves, their families and even charities they support.

The apparent good news is that worker earnings, as measured by their wage rate (earnings per hour), have been on the rise. Over the last year, average private-sector wage rates have risen almost 5% in the nation and over 6% in North Carolina. This is the fastest increase in more than a decade.

Of course, wage rates can rise for several reasons. One is as a reward for working better. If a worker's productivity — the fancy economics term for working better — increases, then the worker is more valuable to their employer, and a higher wage rate reflects that.

Economic sectors or occupations that are experiencing growth often will lead to higher wage rates. The higher pay is a signal to attract more workers from other industries and jobs.

Then there is the important impact of inflation on wage rates. Inflation measures the change in the cost-of-living. When inflation is positive, the cost-of-living is rising. When inflation is negative (also called "deflation"), the cost-of-living is falling. Positive inflation is the norm. The last time we had deflation was 2009, which was a recession year.

Since inflation raises the cost-of-living, this means people need more money to achieve the same standard of living. For example, if inflation during the year is 5%, then people need 4% more income to maintain their buying. If income rose only 2%,

then buying power would effectively drop by 3%.

There are some situations where people receive an automatic adjustment in their income due to inflation. The best example is Social Security benefits. Rather than being a fixed income, since 1975 Social Security benefits have been automatically adjusted each year to account for inflation. This is called a "COLA," or cost-of-living-adjustment. In 2022, Social Security retirement benefits will be increased by 5.9% to account for the previous year's price increases. Some — although not many — private sector contracts have similar automatic "colas".

An important take-away from this discussion is that workers should always compare changes in their earnings to the inflation rate. And if their earnings are rising less than inflation, then their buying power is actually going down.

This is exactly the problem today. With the latest numbers showing the inflation rate during the last year at over 6%, inflation is wiping out most or all of the pay gains workers have seen. It's understandable if workers lobby their bosses for more pay gains.

Yet what's best on the individual level might not be good for the aggregate level. The danger is the development of — what economists call — a "wage-price spiral."

A wage-price spiral develops when inflation becomes expected and ingrained in the economic system. The spiral goes like this: Inflation occurs and workers realize their standard of living is dropping. They push for pay raises to counteract inflation. Since wages and salaries account for 70% of a business's costs, increasing worker pay prompts businesses to increase customer prices. Yet the increase in prices sparks a new round of inflation, and the process continues. The economy is put on a continuous treadmill of higher and higher inflation.

We had a wage-price spiral occur

in the late 1970s, ultimately pushing the annual inflation rate to reach double-digit rates. The spiral ended when the Federal Reserve significantly raised interest rates and slowed buying and spending, but also plunged the economy into a serious recession.

Some analysts see a similarity to today's inflationary situation. They worry the idea of continuous inflationary pressures will become expected, and thus will generate a self-fulfilling prophecy of on-going significant price increases. If this happens, it will take an extraordinary effort to put inflation back in the box.

However, there is an alternative view that most of today's inflation is related to temporary snags in the supply chain. Once these snags are eliminated — say these economists — inflation will subside. However, many analysts say this could take us well into next year.

With its control over the money supply and interest rates, the Federal Reserve is also a key to containing inflation. During the hyper-inflation of the 1970s, the Fed moved too slowly, and when they did change policy it had to be big and bold, which — unfortunately — led to a recession.

Everyone wants to protect themselves from inflation. We will naturally act in our own self-interests by asking for higher earnings to counter higher prices. But we need public institutions — like the Federal Reserve — to look at the big picture. We want to avoid a wage-price spiral and put the economy on a path to grow with much lower inflation.

This is a tall order. Will it be met? You decide.

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

VIEWPOINTS

How the spending spree will end

Can I let you in on a not-so-little secret? The Democrats in Washington don't really mean it. The Republicans don't, either.

To be more specific, they don't really mean what they say about debt and deficits. Democrats, fully cognizant of how tenuously they control Congress, are trying to shove through trillions of dollars in new federal spending before the 2022 election cycle begins. They claim either that tax hikes on the wealthy can pay for it, or that adding trillions more to the federal debt will have no significant downsides. They know — or, at least, the staffers who feed them their talking points know — that neither of their claims is true.

Back when Republicans held their own congressional

majorities, they ran up massive deficits, too, in part by enacting tax cuts without offsetting budget savings. They claimed either that the tax cuts would be so economically stimulative they'd pay for themselves in future revenue gains, or that the resulting deficits could be managed simply by cutting out waste, fraud, abuse, and bureaucracy. They knew — or, at least, the staffers who fed them their talking points knew — that neither of their claims was true.

The facts are as follows. The Democrats couldn't pay for all their spending promises even if they essentially confiscated all the wealth of today's billionaires and shot income-tax rates into the stratosphere. The math doesn't work.

As for borrowing, publicly held federal debt already exceeds 100% of our GDP. Based on the preponderance of empirical research, including the findings of 36 of 40 scholarly studies published on the topic since 2010, more federal

borrowing will significantly harm future economic growth.

On the Republican side, reducing tax rates on work, savings, and investment does, indeed, boost long-term growth. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 was, on balance, a good plan. But its stimulative effects were never going to be large enough and fast enough to replenish federal coffers.

The fiscally conservative thing to do, then, was to offset the budgetary impact of the tax cuts with spending restraint. Why didn't Republicans do that? Because it was hard work. Nips and tucks wouldn't suffice.

The vast majority of federal spending consists of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other entitlements received by large swaths of the population. If presidents and lawmakers aren't willing to make substantial changes to these programs, then they aren't truly willing to make substantial reductions in federal spending.

In a moment of Yogi Berra-like insight, the economist Herbert Stein once observed that "if something cannot go on forever, it will stop." Federal spending is not a perpetual-motion machine. At some point in the not-too-distant future, and especially when interest rates rise from their historic lows, it will no longer be feasible to finance federal deficits with borrowed money. Then, one of two things will happen.

One possibility is that the then-president and Congress will enact a very large and essentially permanent increase in federal taxation. While the resulting package will push the top income-tax rate well north of 50%, most of the revenue will have to come from middle-income taxpayers, likely in the form of a national sales or value-added tax. That will make us look more like European countries, where the tax burden on the wealthy isn't much different from ours but the tax burden on everyone else is much heavier.

The other possibility is to rein in Social Security payments, Medicare, and other entitlement spending — but primarily for upper-income recipients. In a recent Manhattan Institute paper, economist Brian Riedl made a compelling case that this response might draw bipartisan support. "Before lawmakers endanger the economy and limit their future policy flexibility by drastically raising taxes on upper-income families," he wrote, "they can promote their redistributive goals simply by cutting federal spending on the rich."

Neither of these options is optimal. Both will be unpopular. The politicians in Washington know that, too, which is why they aren't telling you about them — yet.

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

Blame the Scots-Irish

Why are we the way we are?

Can we blame it on somebody else, like the British colonists, for instance?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

By "we" I don't mean just you and me. I don't even include us necessarily. I am thinking about folks who live in North Carolina and the surrounding regions.

You know the kind I mean.

Hard-nosed, sometimes rebellious, resistant to direction from those who think they know it all, suspicious of people in charge, unwilling to give up individual choice to some kind of group direction.

It is not just those anti-vaxxers — those who will not accept an infinitesimal risk to themselves or their children in order to reduce the great risks all of us face from the ongoing series of Covid epidemics. It is not just them whom I am talking about.

Nor is it just the Republicans.

Or the Democrats.

Lots of us on both sides of the political divide share a common resistance to authority.

How do we explain it?

Writing in *The New Yorker* recently, the author and columnist Joe Klein gave it a try, saying, "The divide between maskers and anti-maskers, vaxxers and anti-vaxxers is as old as Plymouth Rock. It is deeper than politics; it is cultural."

For his ideas, Klein credited a 1989 book, "Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America," by David Hackett Fischer. This book, Klein says, "explains how the history of four centuries ago still shapes American culture and politics."

Focusing on the South, Klein says the original settlers were, "a wild caste of emigrants from the borderlands of Scotland and England. They brought their clannish, violent, independent culture, which had evolved over seven centuries of border warfare."

According to Fisher, these emigrants came from "a society of autonomous individuals who were unable to endure external control and incapable of restraining their rage against anyone who stood in the way."

Fisher writes that the Scots-Irish in the Southern hill country "were intensely resistant to change and suspicious of 'foreigners.' In the early 20th century, they would become intensely negrophobic and antisemitic."

Other parts of colonial America were settled by different groups.

For his ideas, Klein writes about the Virginia-Cavalier tradition, "The Virginia definition of freedom was complex, contradictory — and remains problematic. It was hierarchical, the freedom to be unequal. 'I am an aristocrat,' John Randolph of Roanoke said. 'I love liberty; I hate equality.' Freedom was defined by what it wasn't. It wasn't slavery. It was the freedom to enslave. It was a freedom, granted to the plantation masters, to indulge themselves, gamble and debauch."

Over time, Klein continues, "this plutocratic libertarianism found natural allies, if strange bedfellows, in the fiercely egalitarian Scots-Irish hill country folk.

Neither wanted to be 'ruled' by a strong central government."

Klein says things were just the opposite in New England. For the Puritans, "Everything was regulated."

"Order was an obsession."

Local officials reported "on the domestic tranquility of every family in their jurisdiction." Cotton Mather defined an "honorable" person as one who was "studious, humble, patient, reserved and mortified."

About a different group of settlers, Klein writes, "The Quakers seem an afterthought, but their migration was larger in size than that of the Puritans or Cavaliers. And their version of liberty seems most amenable today. It was 'reciprocal freedom,' based on the golden rule."

Fischer notes the Scots-Irish practiced the opposite: "Do unto others as they threatened to do unto you."

The Scots-Irish, Virginia, Puritan and Quaker legacies are very different and are, perhaps, diluted over the almost 300 years since these immigrants came.

But the influence of each continues.

The Scots-Irish influence in our region is still tenacious, which explains why the "Do unto others as they threatened to do unto you" rule is widely practiced by people across the political spectrum.

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.



Berger took a good first step

James W. Frick had a head full of Carolina common sense.



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

Born in New Bern, in 1924, he was raised in a Catholic orphanage and graduated from Notre Dame. He became a nationally recognized fundraiser for his alma mater, but he is perhaps best known for his down-to-earth wisdom.

"Don't tell me where your priorities are," Frick once said. "Show me where you spend your money and I'll tell you what they are." It's true for people and more so for organizations.

It has long been acknowledged that state government's most important function is education. We appropriate 58 cents of every tax dollar received by the state for K-12, university and community colleges.

The historical and legal role of our General Assembly has been as education's banker, but since taking control of our state General Assembly in 2011, Republican leadership has increasingly inserted themselves into its operations, philosophies and practices. This year they passed a law forbidding the teaching of Critical Race Theory in grades K-12, although few really know what it is. Nor can they document many, if any, instances of it being taught in our public schools. Lawmakers appear to want to change our state's history, even to the point of banning books with content they dislike.

But their hackles have really been raised by our state-supported universities, which they contend doesn't offer enough conservative philosophy to balance liberal teachings. With surgical precision they have changed the governing body of

our universities, replacing Board of Governors members with those who march to lawmakers' drumbeat. The Board of Governors fired one president, who they even admitted was doing a good job — except he was a Democrat. They essentially caused another to resign and a third "acting president" to withdraw his name from consideration for the permanent position. The BOG intimidated two chancellors to resign and named a member of their own board as chancellor at another university.

But there is one initiative in which they are on the right track. Prompted by Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger, arguably the most powerful politician in the state, lawmakers have long wanted to move the General Administration of the UNC System out of what they consider the liberal bastion of Chapel Hill. But Berger's reason for including \$11 million for the move in the current state budget makes sense. Berger is convinced the leadership of the universities should be housed in the same building with K-12 public schools and our community colleges, in order to promote closer communication and cooperation, something long discussed but never accomplished.

However, Berger stops short of taking the vital next step: that of reforming governance. If you drew a flow chart of education governance in our state it would look like a confusing, poorly engineered and ineffective multi-headed monster. The K-12 public schools are governed by a state-wide elected Superintendent of Public Instruction, who reports to a board largely appointed by the governor. Universities, as we said, are governed by a board entirely politically appointed by the legislature and community colleges are a really hot mess. They have a statewide president and board ap-

pointed by the governor and the legislature. But our 58 community colleges are essentially run by local boards consisting of 13 members appointed by the local school board, county board of commissioners and the governor. Our entire education structure wasn't designed to be effective or yield exceptional outcomes and it hasn't.

What might be a more effective system? There should be one governing body for all education, selected not by politics, but because of qualifications in business or civic affairs, experience in education and made up of leaders representing the makeup of the state.

Their first task would be to hire one overall head of education, giving that person a 10-year contract so he or she could have time to be effective without worrying about political interference or having to stand for election. That person would effectively be the CEO of education, refereeing competition between and communication and cooperation among all three branches of education. With the advice and consent of the board the CEO would appoint heads for the K-12, universities and community colleges, then all would collectively oversee their effectiveness.

We cannot have the education system we want in our state until it is more perfectly designed and governed. Berger got the first step right. He could become one of our state's greatest leaders if he would wisely help guide that continued reform absent political influence.

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

SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Price to run for mayor, Siler won't seek reelection

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City Commissioner Chip Price told his fellow board members Monday evening he would be seeking the mayor's seat in Siler City's municipal election in March, while Commissioner Tony Siler said he wouldn't seek reelection. The commissioners announced their decisions during the board's regular meeting during commissioner reports. Price has served for 10 years as a commissioner, an at-large

seat which would open if he were to win his bid for mayor. Siler City hasn't had a sitting mayor since John Grimes died in office in Oct. 2020. Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Bray has been acting as mayor since that year. Price told the News + Record he initially wanted to run for public office a decade ago because he felt Siler City was headed in the wrong direction. "I decided if there was a part that I could play and make it a better place for the folks lived here and the young people that were coming here, I should set out to change that course,

and make it a better place for everybody," he said. Now, Price is seeking to move the town's quality of life improve as mayor. He said he wants to continue to see the town grow economically and continue the progress already made. "I want to work with board members — new and old — and continue to move the city forward," he said. "I want to keep progress coming and continue to do things promote growth, jobs for folks to do, create a better place to live and making a better environment

for everybody." Siler announced he would not seek reelection in the town's delayed March election. "This is going to be my last term," Siler said. "I've been fortunate to have served since 2003, and I think it is time for me to pull out for someone else because they may have some new ideas." During his tenure on the board, Siler said he has seen Siler City change and grow. He told the board that he's grateful to have been able to serve the community in this way. Commissioners thanked

Siler for his service on the board, wishing him well as he finishes up his last term. "You will be missed," Bray told Siler in the meeting. Siler City's municipal election will take place at the same time as the March primaries, after being delayed from November 2021 due to redistricting concerns. Filing for municipal elections for Siler City will start at noon Jan. 3 and end on Jan. 7. Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com.

BOUTIQUE

Continued from page A1

calls it a "faith-based boutique and ministry" designed to serve women of all ages, and all walks of life, and "a purposeful place" where women can "find the true beauty in a Father that clothes you in His magnificent and unflinching grace."

Owning a retail store in Goldston wasn't on her radar when she and Mitch were newly married. Starting a family was her goal, but along the way, the Gaineses failed to conceive. Six years of trying, of exams and tests, a surgical procedure, and three failed in vitro fertilization procedures — a type of artificial insemination use in cases of infertility — produced no results. Doctors have described the Gaines' case as "unexplained," she said. "Growing up I had always dreamed of being a mom, and I never thought that I would ever face not being a mom or the potential of not being

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a mom," Gaines said. "That, mentally, is very hard for a woman."

"It's very isolating" About 15% of all couples trying to conceive in 2020 struggled to become pregnant, according to a UCLA Health report. In the United States, one in 10 women are affected by infertility, and 48.5 million couples globally face infertility.

And while the statistics show millions of women go through the

same hardship as Gaines, she said she's felt alone in her journey — and secluded, in a way, from friends and other women who aren't affected by infertility.

"It's very isolating," she said. "You just feel like you're somehow not womanly."

So Gaines leaned on her Christian faith and began to look for ways to connect with other women struggling with infertility for mutual support.



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Faithfully Fruitful features women's clothing, accessories and jewelry and more. Some items are adorned with scripture or Biblical themes.

She created a blog, called "Faithfully Fruitful," which became a place for her to vent and to express the emotions of the experience; she also connected with other women and couples through social media having similar experiences.

"I could just kind of put my thoughts into words that I couldn't verbalize when I first found out that we were struggling to conceive and that we were labeled as a couple with infertility," Gaines said of the blog.

That blog then turned into a Facebook group, and in time, the idea for Faithfully Fruitful — a business and ministry — took shape. Gaines envisioned creating a safe space for women, a way to intertwine her faith and her compassion for the community of women who face the same hardships she has.

The name "Faithfully Fruitful" has a special meaning for Gaines, one she wishes to share with other women. She says while she and Mitch haven't conceived at this point in time — though she remains hopeful — she strives to be driven by her faith.

"Even though you may not be fruitful physically, then being faithful through that, no matter what happens, we stay true to what we know, and to trust him (God) through all things faithfully," Gaines said.

That message is reflected in items in the store. From the Biblical names of the clothing items — such as the Water to Wine Midi or the How Great Thou Art high neck sweater — to its motto, "Clothed in His Grace," Faithfully Fruitful aims to be both a place to shop and a women's ministry.

"There a lot of times women come in, and we just share our stories," Gaines said. "I may talk about my infertility, and they may talk about walking through cancer or losing a loved one or whatever they might be facing. We just want them to know that we're here for them."

"This is someone special" Former Goldston mayor Tim Cunnup said the store has added "a sweet presence" to downtown.

"Heather has provided a wonderful boutique and a much needed service," Cunnup said. "Not only does she have beautiful products, they're also reasonably priced."

But the best part of Faithfully Fruitful, he said, is its owner.

"Once you meet Heather, you immediately connect with her sweet, gentle spirit, and you know this is someone special," Cunnup said. "Heather loves the Lord — not in an overbearing way but in calming caring way that is sincere. We are so happy to have her here."

Faithfully Fruitful also gives back to communities and organizations which support women's health and other issues. One of those is Cry Freedom in Goldsboro, a nonprofit aiming to help eradicate human trafficking and support trafficking survivors. Cry Freedom helps female victims of human trafficking by providing a place to live, clothes, food and other necessities one may need. Gaines has donated clothes, jewelry and other goods to help these women start a new life.

"They have nothing but the clothes on their back, so we love doing stuff like that and just loving on women in any type of way," Gaines said.

Gaines said she hopes the business will be a resource for women who are struggling — whether with infertility, faith or another issue — and provide them a place where they can authentically express themselves. She said the community around Goldston has been nothing but supportive of her effort.

"Some people will just pop in and just ask how the business is going and I almost feel like being from Goldston — they almost take it personal that this is part of their community," said Gaines, who's originally from Princeton. "I just love that small town feel where we just take care of each other."

Gaines said thanks to the community, Faithfully Fruitful can continue to provide a place for women to not only support one another but also feel confident about themselves.

"Faithfully Fruitful is just so much more than a place of beautiful things," Gaines said. "It's truly a place where when you walk in, you find your true beauty inside, and you find your true identity and a Father that clothes you with His grace."

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

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New Chatham commissioner candidates announce bids for open seats

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The first and second candidates to file in Chatham on Monday for the 2022 election were two Democrats running for commissioner seats: former Siler City mayor candidate Rev. Albert Reddick in Dist. 4. and restaurant owner Lewis Hendricks in Dist. 3.

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners is made up of five members, each representing one district but elected at-large. Two of the three seats — in Dist. 3 and Dist. 4 — will not contain any incumbents in the race, given that Dist. 3 Commissioner Diana Hales will not run for reelection and Dist. 4 commissioner Jim Crawford intends to resign from the board due to health reasons at the board's Dec. 20 meeting.

Democratic candidate Katie Kenlan also filed for the Dist. 4 seat and was the sixth and last person to file on Monday; Democratic candidate Travis

Patterson filed for the seat on Tuesday.

Hendricks, a Democrat who's lived in Chatham for 20 years, decided to file for a seat on the five-member board after learning that Hales, a Democrat elected to the board in 2014, won't seek reelection. He announced his campaign last Friday.

"So that was the opportunity. But then I guess the question is the why, right?" Hendricks told the News + Record prior to announcing his campaign. "It's in two veins: My number one passion or priority is public education, so that and then the other one is Chatham County and the growth that is happening within the county."

"It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of how Chatham should grow," he said. "So I just think we need to be thoughtful in regard to how that happens."

The board is comprised entirely of Democratic commissioners; Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores narrowly defeated Republican incumbent Andy Wilkie to

represent Dist. 5 in November 2020. In addition to the Dist. 3 and 4 seats, the Dist. 5 seats is also up for reelection this year. Gomez Flores was the fifth person to file on Monday.

Commissioner Jim Crawford will announce his resignation from the board at the Dec. 20 meeting for health reasons, he confirmed to the News + Record, meaning the Dist. 4 seat will be filled by an appointed replacement prior to the election. With Crawford's resignation, the board could look quite different following next November, given that two of the three seats will not contain any incumbents in the race.

Learning of Crawford's resignation inspired Reddick to run for the office.

"We all know that there is plenty in life that can seem unfair, unjust, and even tragic," he wrote in an email release to the board of commissioners and copied to the News + Record. "It is the situation in which Chatham County now finds itself with the stepping

down of our Commissioner Dr. Jim Crawford. We pray for him. We continue to support him. And we will do what I am sure he would want us all to do for him ... continue our service to our beloved Chatham County.

"It is this sense of duty and service that compels me now to write and ask for your consideration to fill the Board of Commissioners vacancy in Chatham County."

Reddick is a Siler City resident and community faith leader who has unsuccessfully sought office on Siler City's town board.

The other commissioner candidates who filed, Kenlan and Patterson, also filed for Dist. 4.

Under state law the board will appoint a new commissioner to fill out the remaining year of Crawford's term, and the person doesn't need to live in the 4th District to fill out the term. To be elected to the spot in 2022, the person must live in the district and have filed during the candidacy period.

Hendricks, running for Dist.

3, owns Old East Tavern, a restaurant in Chapel Hill, and served in the military for 10 years as an Army officer in the Iraq War. His wife, Megan Hendricks, is an oncology nurse at UNC Hospitals and they live with their four children in northern Chatham. He credits his mother, who taught as a public educator for 30 years, as a primary factor in seeking office due to the impact he saw her have on students.

"I want to join a board that's not just contentious to just add each other before that gets together and tries to solve problems," he told the News + Record. "And I found that. Just talking to other people in regard to the other people that are on the board, it seems like it is a board that is willing to get together and talk through things and solve problems together."

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

FILING

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the order and allowed candidates to again file in those state races.

Rep. Robert Reives II, Chatham's representative in the N.C. House, said in a release before filing was resumed that N.C. residents deserve fair district lines and that the maps passed by legislature last month "were generally viewed as the most gerrymandered in the country."

"I appreciate the thoughtful consideration of last week's three judge panel and our state's appellate judges," he said. "My hope is that this process will lead to better maps and a better opportunity for voters to participate in the democratic process."

As of Tuesday morning, congressional and state candidates can file to run for office in 2022.

Candidates for the following offices are eligible to file during this period for Chatham County, to be updated online as new candidates file or announce campaigns.

State Contests

State Senate 20:

Chatham is currently represented in the state Senate by Rep. Valerie Foushee, who has announced a bid for Congress. Following redistricting, Sen. Natalie Murdock is the incumbent for Chatham's 2022 voting district.

House District 54: Currently held by Dem. Rep. Robert Reives II, who is running again. So far, former Rep. County Commissioner Walter Petty has also announced a campaign.

Local Contests

Chatham County Board of Commissioners Dist. 3: Currently held by Dem. Commissioner Diana Hales, who is not seeking reelection. Dem. Lewis Hendricks announced a bid for the seat and filed for it on Monday.

Chatham County Board of Commissioners Dist. 4: Currently held by Dem. Commissioner Jim Crawford, who will resign at the board's Dec. 20 meeting. On Monday, two Democratic candidates filed for the seat: Albert Reddick and Katie Kenlan.

On Tuesday, Democrat Travis Patterson also filed for the office.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Filing for the March 2022 primary in Chatham started at noon Monday and ends at noon on Friday, Dec. 17. On Monday, six Democratic candidates filed.

Chatham County Board of Commissioners Dist. 5: Currently held by Dem. Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, who filed for the seat Monday.

Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court: Democratic Incumbent Dana Hackney filed for the office on Monday.

Chatham County Sheriff: Currently held by Dem. Sheriff Mike Roberson, who filed for the office Monday.

Board of Education Dist. 3: Currently held by Vice-Chairperson Del Turner, who filed on Tuesday. She will not be on the ballot in the primary, since the Board of Education race is non-partisan.

Board of Education Dist. 4: Currently held by Board member Jane Allen Wilson.

Board of Education Dist. 5: Currently held by Chairperson Gary Leonard.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Rev. Albert Reddick was the first person to file on Monday. A former Siler City mayor candidate, he's filing for the Dist. 4 commissioner seat.

Delayed Municipal Elections

Town of Cary Town Council At-Large

Delayed Municipal Elections Filing Jan. 3 - 7, 2022

Town of Siler City Mayor: Siler City Commissioner Chip Price announced Monday evening he would be running for mayor in Siler City's municipal election in March.

Town of Siler City Town Commissioner At-Large: Price has served as at-large commission-

er for 10 years. If he were to win his election bid for mayor, the seat would be open.

Town of Siler City Town commissioner Dist. 1: Commissioner Tony Siler announced he would not seek reelection this year, meaning the Dist. 1 seat will be wide open.

Town of Siler City Town Commissioner Dist. 5: Lewis Fadely holds the seat.

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

ELECTION

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resents Dist. 4 in the county, told the News + Record in an email statement. "So, after discussions with my wife and daughter, I have determined that I must take steps to reduce stressors in my life so that I may live to a ripe old age."

Crawford's intended resignation came just ahead of the filing period for the 2022 election, in which the Dist. 3, Dist. 4 and Dist. 5 seats will each be contested. Filing for the March 2022 primary in Chatham started at noon Monday and ends at noon on Friday, Dec. 17; filing for the U.S. House, N.C. Senate and N.C. House were temporarily halted by the N.C. Court of Appeals shortly before the filing period was set to begin on Monday but resumed Monday evening.

Commissioner Diana Hales, also elected in 2014, has said she won't run for reelection for her Dist. 3 seat.

"I've been very pleased and proud to serve for, it will be eight years by the December of 2022. And I've been very fortunate and pleased to serve to accomplish some significant goals I had when I was elected," Hales told the News + Record, including progress on the county's zoning and comprehensive land use plans, along with its efforts to increase affordable housing.

"I feel like I accomplished

things I set out to do with this board, and because of a few health issues — and I'm also about to turn 75 — I thought it was time to step aside to see if we can have some younger vision elected to this board," she said. "I'm glad to have been able to serve and I certainly will be following what happens in the county as time goes by, but I've been very, very blessed, as they say, to have had the opportunity."

Hales has lived in rural Chatham for nearly 30 years and owns a farm on the Rocky River with her husband, Cheyney Hales. Since being elected to the board in 2014 and reelected in 2018, Hales has served as a liaison to the Climate Change Advisory Committee, Environmental Review Advisory Committee, as a voting member to the N.C. Association of County Commissioners Environment Committee, among others.

As a board member, she has regularly brought up water and conservation issues during development discussions, including the fracking moratorium put in place by the board should fracking come to Chatham. She serves as a member of several local nonprofits which protect Chatham's environment and rivers.

Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, who filed for his Dist. 5 seat on Monday, said he is very thankful for the work both commissioners have done.

"As the most recent product of Chatham County on

the Board of Commissioners, I know that our youth have better resources and opportunities than what I had growing up," he told the News + Record of Hales and Crawford. "Thank you for investing in our future!"

'No one has contacted me'

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners is made up of five members, each representing one district, and elected for four-year, staggered terms. All commissioners are elected at-large, not just by the district they represent.

The board is currently comprised entirely of Democratic commissioners, since Gomez Flores narrowly defeated Wilkie to represent Dist. 5 in November 2020 for a two-year term. He will run for a full, four-year term next year.

With Crawford's resignation, the board could look quite different following next November, given that two of the three seats will not contain any incumbents in the race. Restaurant owner Lewis Hendricks (Democrat) announced last Friday that he will run for the Dist. 3 seat, and filed for the seat on Monday. The Dist. 4 and Dist. 5 seats are also up for reelection.

Crawford's resignation also means the Dist. 4 seat will likely be filled by an appointed replacement prior to the election. On Monday, two Democratic candidates filed for the seat: Rev. Albert Reddick and Katie Kenlan. On Tuesday, Democrat

Travis Patterson also filed for the Dist. 4 seat.

Under state law, the board will appoint a new commissioner to fill out the remaining year of the term, and can take or reject the recommendation of the Chatham County Democratic Party. The replacement need not live in the 4th district to fill out Crawford's term, but must live in the district if they plan to be elected to the spot in 2022. (In 2019, former Rep. Commissioner Andie Wilkie was appointed to replace Rep. Commissioner Walter Petty following his resignation. Wilkie was defeated in the November 2020 election by Gomez Flores, Chatham's first Latino commissioner.)

"So far, no one has contacted me about taking the seat," Crawford said last Friday, ahead of filing.

Since being elected to the board in 2014 and reelected in 2018, Crawford has served as the liaison on various boards and committees, including the Affordable Rental Housing Task Review, Board of Health, Chatham Economic Development Board of Directors, Chatham County Council on Aging and Regional Aging Council, and more. Before being elected, he served on the Chatham County Recreation Advisory Committee and the Chatham County Planning Board.

He served as chairperson of the board from 2015 to 2017 and was a big proponent of removing the Confederate statue from outside the county's historic

courthouse, prior to its vote to be removed in August 2019 and removal that November. He is most proud of the following board decisions from his tenure: Chatham Promise with Central Carolina Community College, purchase negotiations at two of the county's megasites and the incentives policies.

"I also voted for increases in teacher pay and salaries for county staff, to keep good people in public service," Crawford said. "The standard position of the GOP is to treat government employees with contempt, often regarding them as leeches. The view does not hold in Chatham since 2015."

Crawford intends to remain on the Central Carolina Board of Trustees, he said.

"I am very proud of my record as commissioner, especially the change in direction and great strides made by Chatham when I was chairman of the board," he told the News + Record. "It is my conviction that I am leaving the county's affairs in a better condition than when I found it. I am grateful to our outstanding, dedicated, and rollickingly good-natured staff."

"It has been an honor to serve with fine citizens on our county board and the region's affiliated bodies," Crawford said.

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

'You have made a difference': J-M family celebrates the life of teacher Mike Williams

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Dozens of notes line the hallway of Jordan-Matthews High School honoring the life of Mike Williams — a well loved teacher who died in a car accident on Thanksgiving Day.

"I don't know how to feel, but I truly miss you Mr. Williams," one note reads. "You were an amazing teacher and friend."

"GOAT (Greatest of All Time)," read several others.

"Mr. Williams, you were such a kind-hearted person. It's all the small things that you did that made my day," a note signed by someone named Fatima reads. "I really hope that you're doing OK wherever you are. I just want to say thank you for everything because you have made a difference in my life."

Williams, 56, worked as an educator for 25 years and at Jordan-Matthews since 2015, where he taught science and AVID, a college-preparation support program, and volunteered regularly at extracurriculars. Among his students, Williams was known for that "famous Mike laugh," playing rock 'n' roll at 8 a.m. and for treating students like family. In recent years, he was also known for his long beard.

He loved trivia, Ohio State Buckeye football, Scrabble, craft beer, and of course, the students and staff at J-M.

A celebration of life service was held to Williams at Jordan-Matthews last Friday, with around 250 people attending and more watching via livestream.

"Mike was giving, he was kind, he was funny, and most of all, he was a dedicated friend, mentor and teacher," J-M Principal Donna Barger said Friday. "He made time for all of his students and they loved him back wholeheartedly. Mike would be so touched to see you all here today. He loved being part of an extended family, especially when we were

celebrating something special. "And let me tell you," she continued, "Mike Williams was that something special."

Many students shared on Friday that Williams provided them with a safe place at school, encouraged their dreams, lent a listening ear and honest advice.

During remote learning in 2020, he wanted to make sure all of his AVID students had a yearbook to commemorate their senior year after so many pandemic challenges.

In the end, he bought 12 yearbooks. "Everything he did for his students, he did for his students," former J-M student Wilson Ramos Meza said.

Meza recounted the time he asked Williams to write his recommendation for college — the day it was due.

"He never brushed us off. Instead he was there, always. Nothing was too big or too small for him. Trust me, I know," Meza said. "... Let's remember Mr. Williams for everything he did for people. All the big things and all the little things."

"Thank you Mr. Williams for listening when no one else did. Thank you for believing me, even when I didn't," Meza said,

choking up. "Thank you for everything."

Williams was born in Stuttgart, Germany, and was the son of and preceded in death by Ronald Williams and Sofia (Daichendt) Williams.

He is survived by his sister, Lea (Williams) Cramer of Texas; former spouse, Amy Ford; aunts Sharon Parsons of Ohio, Beth Williams of Florida, Jo Ellen Sherow of Ohio, Barbara Wingert of Florida; and uncles, Larry Williams of Oregon, John Williams of Ohio, Jeff Williams (deceased), Mark Williams of Florida and many cousins. In Germany, Williams leaves his aunt and uncle, Heidi and Manne Nick, as well as their sons, Heiko and Thomas Nick.

Williams is also survived by his beloved dogs, Chewbacca and Jyn Erso, who have since found a new safe and caring home.

In remembrance of Williams, donations can be made to the Jordan-Matthews Science Department, the National Parks Foundation and St. Baldrick's Foundation.

During the ceremony, friend and former coworker Matthew Fry performed a rendition of "Over the Rainbow" to honor Williams. Another friend and

coworker, Rose Pate, read a poem by Robert Frost, which "summed up Mike's loss."

"Nature's first green is gold, her hardest hue to hold. Her early leaf's a flower; but only so an hour," Pate read. "Then leaf subsides to leaf. So Eden sank to grief, so dawn goes down to day. Nothing gold can stay."

"His quiet wisdom and good humor made him an outstanding teacher and treasured

member of the Jordan-Matthews family," Barger said. "His loss leaves a hole in our school family and a deep sadness in our hearts."

You can view the celebration of life service at www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYAUVg35p5s.

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



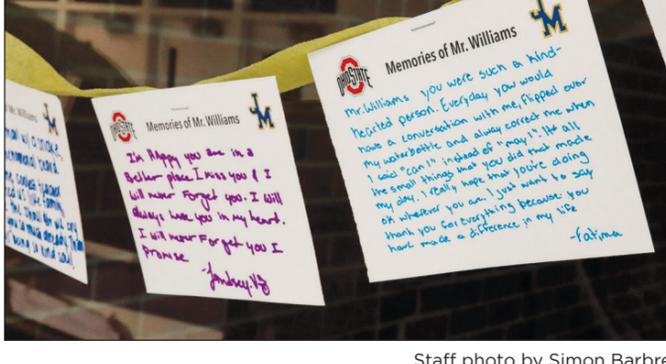
Staff photo by Simon Barbre

On Nov. 24, beloved Jordan-Matthews teacher Mike Williams died in a car accident. Last Friday, students, staff and community members honored his memory at a celebration of life service.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

About 250 people attended Williams' celebration of life service at Jordan-Matthews last Friday.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Dozens of students wrote notes lining the school hallway thanking Williams for his impact on their life.

Q&A: THEOMICRON QUESTION

The new COVID-19 variant has created alarm. But it is time to panic?

As Chatham County nears the milestone of 100 COVID-related deaths and a new variant has sparked concerns about the seemingly never-ending pandemic, the News + Record spoke with Mike Zelek and Eric Wolak to get updated information. Zelek is the director of the Chatham County Public Health Department; Wolak is the COO and chief nursing officer at Chatham Hospital.

Now there's Omicron: one science writer likened the Omicron variant of COVID-19 scenario to a puzzle. "It's a picture of the sky," he wrote. "No, wait the sea. Oh, a ship." Another described the news about Omicron as "a super weird moment where we know a thing is happening, but we don't know what." What's the best way to summarize what we know about it?

ERIC WOLAK: It's best for all of us to remember that the Omicron variant is still COVID. While we know it has more mutations than we have seen in the past, we do not yet know how/if those mutations will impact transmission rates and/or sickness.

MIKE ZELEK: We have had many moments in the pandemic where there was something new that time and research helped us better understand, and this is another one of those moments. Right now, I see a blurry photo of a coronavirus. We know generally what it is and what we can do to protect ourselves (namely, vaccination and masks), but additional information will help clarify the picture.

For those of us not in the medical field, what's the difference between the Delta variant and Omicron?

WOLAK: They are both COVID viruses, but the Omicron variant has more mutations from the original virus than the Delta does. Part of these mutations is the number of spike proteins, which the Omicron has much more of. The concerns within the science community are that these increased numbers of spike proteins could indicate that the virus is more transmissible. However, this is just speculation and not much is really known yet. It will probably be

several weeks before we have a better understanding of Omicron's transmissibility, physiologic impact, and susceptibility to vaccines.

ZELEK: Delta had changes compared to previous variants that made it easier to spread. Omicron has additional changes that may do the same, but we are still learning. Think of it like a key. Delta was able to open more doors than Alpha, and there is potential that Omicron can open more doors than Delta based on these additional changes. But vaccines are like an alarm system that is likely to still go off and protect you with Omicron. This is something health experts are working hard to better understand.

Bottom line: what should our "freak out" level be with Omicron?

WOLAK: There should be no "freak-out" whatsoever. The current consensus is that even if Omicron is more transmissible, it is still passed on by droplets and there is a no reason to assume that the vaccines will not be effective against it. While there are questions on the degree of effectiveness, our best tools right now against both the Delta and Omicron variants are vaccination and mask wearing.

ZELEK: It is not the time to freak out, but rather take the actions that have worked well to protect us to this point. At the top of the list is getting vaccinated, including a booster shot. This was already important, especially as we move into winter, and Omicron is all the more reason to do so.

Are ever-evolving variants from here to eternity the new normal?

WOLAK: This all depends on how we respond. If we can slow transmission by 90%+ of the population getting vaccinated and us wearing masks when in close proximity to those with unknown vaccination status, then we still have a chance of ending this pandemic sooner rather than later. Alternatively, not getting vaccinated and being physically close to other unvaccinated people will

probably mean more variants to come.

ZELEK: We can expect to see more variants, but that does not mean they will hit as hard as previous ones. They are, however, a reminder of the importance of protecting ourselves by getting vaccinated.

(Note: 56% of Chatham residents are partially vaccinated and 53% are fully vaccinated. Across North Carolina, those numbers are 62% and 58%, respectively.)

How has the latest news on the COVID front changed, if at all, the relevance and importance of booster shots? (And remind us of when boosters are recommended in each of our own personal vaccination timelines.)

WOLAK: The biggest change right now is that COVID numbers are increasing, as are hospitalizations, which will probably be followed by increasing deaths in the coming weeks. This increase is still being driven by the Delta variant and is probably a reflection on us decreasing our guard again transmission by not wearing masks and/or being physically distant. Currently, Chatham County's total population is only 53% vaccinated, and only 59% for those 12 and older. This means that there are a lot of people in Chatham County that are at high risk of being infected, getting sick, and/or passing the COVID virus on to others. The best thing people can do right now is get vaccinated, and if vaccinated to get a booster. If you have been fully vaccinated (two weeks after your last dose) for six months or longer and are 18 and older, then you can now get a booster from either Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson & Johnson.

ZELEK: Boosters are now recommended for all adults. If someone received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, they should get a booster at least six months after completing their two-dose vaccine series. If they received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, they should get a booster at least two months after getting the one-dose vaccine. Eligible people can get any of the

authorized vaccines as a booster shot. While this recommendation was based on data that did not take into account Omicron, the emergence of a new variant makes it all the more important to add this protection.

Finish this story: An unvaccinated guy walks into a bar ...

WOLAK: An unvaccinated guy walks into a bar wearing a mask that covers his nose and mouth. He cleans his hands and orders a beer and takes a seat outside six feet or farther from others to enjoy it. He is enjoying his beer alone, as he is unvaccinated and does not want to risk having an asymptomatic infection and passing the virus on to others.

ZELEK: He may not get COVID this round, but eventually he will. Delta and Omicron show us that the virus isn't going away and we need to strengthen our defenses.

Chatham is approaching 100 deaths now, and we know transmission rates are still high. Given what we know about vaccination levels here, and the fact that Thanksgiving is in our rear-view mirror and Christmas is coming up, what's your advice about self-care and family (and community) well-being and health this next month or two?

WOLAK: The best advice I can continue to give is to get vaccinated, get a booster if you are vaccinated and have not yet received a booster, and only socialize with other vaccinated individuals.

ZELEK: The good news is we have vaccine for everyone ages 5 and older. Getting vaccinated and boosted, to me, is the best form of self-care and reduces risk significantly during the holidays and beyond. Though I am still cautious, I feel much more at ease having received my booster shot.

We have been through a lot over the past 21 months. Despite these challenges and pandemic fatigue, I hope the holidays bring comfort, healing, and togetherness to families across Chatham

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL WILLIAMS



Michael Williams died on November 25th, 2021, in a single motor vehicle accident near his home in Pittsboro, North Carolina.

Born on September 2nd, 1965, in Stuttgart, Germany he was the son of and preceded in death by Ronald G. Williams and Sofia (Daichendt) Williams. He was a graduate of Athens High School, SUNY New Paltz (Elementary Education) and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Master of School

Administration).

Mike was a member of the faculty in the Science Department at Jordan-Matthews High School since 2015. He taught Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, and was a member of the AVID Team that prepares students for college. Mike also served as a Science Teacher and educational professional in the Sanford N.C. School system. Early in his career he performed in a variety of roles including the hospitality and banking industries.

Mike enjoyed many activities that involved family, friends, colleagues, students, his dogs, and the outdoors which included lively conversation and revelry, extra-curricular school events, traveling, camping, Buckeye football, trivial pursuit, Scrabble, and craft beer. Known for his jovial nature, humor, wisdom, care and concern for others, and his passion for teaching, Mike was treasured by all those whose lives he touched. The education of our youth is one of the highest virtues on earth. The community has been enriched by his presence which included teaching its children. This is how we know his chapter of life may live on.

He will be missed.

Mike is survived by his sister, Lea (Williams) Cramer of Texas, former spouse Amy Ford of N.C., aunts, Sharon Parsons of Athens, Ohio, Beth Williams of Florida, Jo Ellen Sherow of Ohio, Barbara Wingert of Florida, and uncles Larry Williams of Oregon, John Williams of Ohio, Jeff Williams (deceased), Mark Williams of Florida and many cousins. In Germany, Mike leaves Aunt Heidi and Uncle Manne Nick, as well as their sons, Heiko and Thomas Nick.

Mike's dogs Chewbacca and Jyn Erso have found a safe and caring home where they can bring joy to their new family together.

A remembrance of Mike's life was conducted at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 3, 2021, at Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City, N.C. and was open to the public.

In remembrance of Mike, donations may be made to the Jordan-Matthews Science Department, the National Parks Foundation, and St. Baldrick's Foundation.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Michael's memory to the Science Department at Jordan-Matthews High School (make checks payable to Jordan-Matthews Science Dept.), 910 E. Cardinal St., Siler City, N.C. 27344; the National Parks Foundation, 1500 K Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20005; or St. Baldrick's Foundation, 1333 South Mayflower Avenue, Suite 400 Monrovia, CA 91016.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

SHERRIE FANETTE RIVES



Sherrie Fanette Rives, 60, of Siler City, passed away on November 30, 2021, at Siler City Center.

Sherrie was born in Chatham County on June 1, 1961, the daughter of Melvin and Betty Phillips Rives. Ms. Rives graduated from Chatham Central High School in 1979, and afterwards attended the first class offered at CCC for Nursing. She spent her working years as an RN at Chatham Hospital, and loved getting to travel for nursing duty. She was

a member of Goldston Baptist Church. She had a love of animals, especially horses, and was always rescuing and fostering dogs. Sherrie is preceded in death by her mother, Betty Sue Phillips Rives.

She is survived by her father, Melvin Rives of Bear Creek; sister, Michelle R. Sanders of Bear Creek; niece, Hannah Clewis and husband Aaron of Bear Creek; great niece and nephew, Ainsley and Blaine Clewis of Bear Creek; and cousins, Joe Hairr and Joel Brower, both of Siler City.

Ms. Rives laid in repose from 1 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City. The funeral service was held in the Smith & Buckner Chapel on Friday, December 3, 2021, at 2 p.m. with Rev. David Hicks officiating. Burial followed at Oakwood Cemetery, N. Chatham Avenue, Siler City.

Memorials may be made to the Happy Hills Animal Foundation, 3143 Happy Hills Dr., Staley, N.C. 27235 or to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 42040, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Rives family.

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

CONNIE MARIE (NEWSOME) RODGERS

Connie Marie (Newsome) Rodgers, 63, of Vass, passed away Sunday, December 5, 2021, at her home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home of Sanford.

JOHN HAYWARD FOX

Mr. John Hayward Fox, 93, of Moncure, passed away on Monday, December 6, 2021, at Wake Med Hospital in Raleigh.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home of Sanford.

ROBERT ERVIN HECK

Robert Ervin Heck, 61, of Fayetteville, passed away on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at Duke Hospital in Raleigh.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home of Sanford.

BEVERLY FRANKS JOHNSON

Beverly Franks Johnson passed away November 22, 2021. She was born October 30, 1930.

MICHAEL ANTHONY WILLIAMS

Deacon Michael Anthony Williams, 66, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, November 28, 2021, at his residence.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 4, 2021, at Works for Christ Christian Center,

ANGELO FREDERICK REAVES

Angelo Frederick Reaves, 74, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, November 29, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Funeral service was held Monday, December 6, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

GUYTANNA MARIA CLARISSA YVONNE HORTON DEGRAFFENREIDT

Guytanna Maria Clarissa Yvonne Horton DeGraffenreidt was born November 22, 1941, in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina to Rev. Rufus V. and Mrs. M. Mozelle Horton (both deceased). She was the second born of three girls and two boys, Minerva "Beanie" Horton Milliken (deceased), Euphalia Horton Farrar, Rufus Horton Jr., and Richard Horton. She had three older half-siblings, Essie Mae Albright, Alfred Horton and Cornelius Horton, each of whom preceded her in death.

At the age of 10, her family moved to Pittsboro when her father was assigned as pastor of Mitchell Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church where she sang in the White Wings Choir (and she never topped singing since). During her senior year in high school, she followed in the footsteps of Kermit DeGraffenreidt and drove his school bus route. After graduating from Horton High School in 1960, she attended North Carolina College (NCC) at Durham (later renamed North Carolina Central University) where she worked on the school paper and became very much involved in the Fight for Freedom Movement to end Jim Crow in Durham.

In August 1962, Guytanna and three other students (Jocelyn McKissick, Waldo Mead and Jon Schaeffer) protested racial segregation at a Howard Johnson's restaurant in Durham, N.C. The students were arrested and, for their refusal to pay a trespass fine for sitting at the counter of Howard Johnson's, the four protestors served a 30-day jail term. The Freedom Rally organized on behalf of these students featured Roy Wilkins (Executive Secretary NAACP), James Farmer (National Director of CORE), and Rev. B.E. Cox (North Carolina Field Secretary of CORE) as the speakers. Also, while in college, she crossed the burning sands and became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

In June of 1963, Guytanna married the now-Rev. Kermit DeGraffenreidt. In the same year, Kermit was assigned to be the pastor of Clinton AME Zion Church in Rockville, Maryland. and Guytanna served as the First Lady. Four months later, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Although she had moved, she continued her studies and graduated with her B.S. degree from NCC in 1965. In Rockville, she worked full time teaching math at Julius West Jr. High School and continued her social activism which included being a charter member of the Montgomery County Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Inc. (1970).

In 1965, Guytanna gave birth to their daughter, Keisha Clintnett. In 1973, Guytanna, Kermit, and Keisha visited Liberia and Ghana. The next year, the family became missionaries and moved to Monrovia, Liberia, where Guytanna taught math at the American Cooperative School until 1979. In 1979, Guytanna and Keisha returned to the United States and moved to Pittsboro. Guytanna taught math in North Carolina until she moved to Mt. Vernon, N.Y., in 1982.

Guytanna continued to reach young minds by teaching math full time and volunteering as a literacy tutor in Mt. Vernon until her medical condition made her unable to work. In 1993 Long Island University conferred upon her the degree of Master of Science in Education. From 1987 to 1995, Guytanna held the position of Secretary, Bureau of Supplies, for the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

In addition to her husband, daughter and siblings, Guytanna now watches over her son-in-law: Anthony Peter Ashton, four grandchildren: Anthony Peter Ashton II; Kasey DeGraffenreidt Ashton; Kiara Christine Diane Ashton; and Alisha Patrice Ashton Mackell; adopted grandson: Kermit Obeng and two great grandchildren: Jay Mack and Aubree Mackell.

Rest in peace, Mommy.

FRANKLIN MASON

Franklin Mason, 86, of Spring Lake, passed away on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at FirstHealth Hospice House in Pinehurst.

The funeral service was held at 11:30 a.m. Friday, December 3, 2021, at Northwood Temple Pentecostal Holiness Church with Rev. Dr. John Hedgepeth officiating. Burial followed in Gourd Springs Baptist Church Cemetery.

He was born in Harnett County on December 24, 1934, to the late Walter Mason and Thelma Porter Mason. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sisters Geraldine Mason, Grace Holland and Helen Strickland. Frank owned and operated a pest control company for many years. He was a faithful member of Northwood Temple for 46 years where he was an usher. He served his country in the U.S. Navy.

Frank is survived by his wife, Mary Lynn Dean Mason; son, Frank Mason Jr. of Vass; stepdaughter, Rhonda Whaley of Spring Lake; brother Ray Mason of Spring Lake; and one granddaughter.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 and/or FirstHealth Hospice, 251 Campground Road, West End, N.C. 27376.

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

LYNN BYNUM WOMBLE

Lynn Bynum Womble, 55, of Greensboro, passed away on Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at Moses Cone Hospital.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Pittsboro. Burial followed at Terrells Chapel AMEZ Church Cemetery.

EDWINA ANN ZAGAMI

Edwina Ann Zagami, 73, of Chapel Hill, died Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at home.

A funeral mass will be held at St. Thomas More Church in Chapel Hill on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Edwina was born in Staten Island, N.Y., on December 4, 1947, to the late Natale "Roy" Zagami and Mary Cameron Zagami. Edwina was a Registered Nurse and held bachelor's degrees in Social Work and Nursing and a Master's in Counseling. She spent the majority of her career as a School Nurse for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools.

Survivors include three children, Sarah McWay Boling of Hillsborough, Dr. Mike McWay of Philadelphia, and Mary McWay of Pittsboro; two brothers, Ken Zagami of Naples, Florida, and Dr. Richard France of New York, N.Y.; and her three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to a charity of your choice or the English Springer Rescue America Inc., 1025 Rose Creek Drive, Suite 620-305, Woodstock, GA 30189.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

MAYBELLINE ANN ARZATE

Maybelline Ann Arzatem, 27, passed away on Sunday, November 28, 2021, in Sanford.

Memorial service was held on 1 p.m. Saturday, December 4, 2021, at Iglesia Roc Fuerte.

TOMMIE LEROY FOX

Mr. Tommie Leroy Foxx, 83, of Siler City passed away on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

ROGER LANE CARTER

Roger Lane Carter, 68, of Lillington, died Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home in Pittsboro.

Graveside funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m. Friday, December 4, 2021, at Cool Springs United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Ramon Atkins officiating.

Roger was born on April 4, 1953, son of the late Tony Albert and Edna Mae Christian Carte, who preceded him in death. Surviving is his son Colby Lane Carter of Clayton; daughters, Brandie Allison Journigan of Franklinton, N.C., and Jessica Ann Wall of Dunn; brother, Stacy Albert Carter of Montana; seven grandchildren.

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

KENNETH PAUL MASHBURN

Kenneth Paul Mashburn, 61, of Broadway, passed away on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at his home.

The funeral service was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 1 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home with Pastor Charlie Hickman officiating. Burial followed in Broadway Town Cemetery.

Kenneth was born in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, on November 19, 1960, to Mary Ruth Lusby. In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his father, Billy Arnold, grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Lusby and sister Rhonda Arnold. Paul was a truck mechanic.

Paul is survived by his wife Janet; daughter, Maghan McDonald; son, Eddie L. Deal Jr, both of Broadway; brothers, David Mashburn and Pat Arnold, both of Louisiana; sisters, Nancy Ruth Batson, Debbie Wendt Pracht, and Robin Golman, all of Arkansas; and three grandchildren.

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

JAMES PAUL WRIGHT

James Paul Wright passed away Wednesday, December 1, 2021, in Harnett County.

Services will be held at a later date.

Paul was born in Grand Forks, N.D., on March 19, 1975, to Pamela Crutcher (Deceased) and James Lee Wright Jr. of Sanford, Florida. Paul was also preceded in death by grandmother, Betty Timbs and grandfather, James Lee Wright Sr.

Survivors include half-sisters, Carla Davis of Alexandria, Tennessee, Christi Raczkowski of Winter Garden, Florida, and half-brother, Brandon Wright of Longwood, Florida.; and his grandmother, Marvelene Corcoran of Sanford, N.C.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

SELVIA MADDOX DOSS

Selvina Maddox Doss, 100, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, December 5, 2021.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Shallow Well Cemetery with Pastor John Hackney officiating.

She was born in Lee County on April 7, 1921, to the late Ira Clinton and Clara Dickens Maddox. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, James Doss; daughters, Gloria Jean Doss and Janet Carol Doss; brothers, Samuel Maddox, Prentice Maddox, Freddie Maddox, Willie Maddox and J. Lacy Maddox. Mrs. Doss was retired from Coty. She also worked at Southern Packaging and Maxway Warehouse.

Mrs. Doss is survived by her son, Ronnie Lee Doss of Sanford; daughter, Nancy Doss Thomas of Broadway; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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

TONY BERNARD WILEY

Tony Bernard Wiley, 60, passed away on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at hi home.

Services entrusted to Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

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Court halts, then restarts, N.C. candidate filing

Plaintiffs ask for review in lawsuits about redistricting that may delay primaries from March to May.

BY JORDAN WILKIE
Carolina Public Press

Minutes before candidate filing for the 2022 races were set to open at noon Monday, a panel for the N.C. Court of Appeals stopped the process for N.C. Senate, House and congressional hopefuls. Then, late Monday afternoon, the majority of the Court of Appeals voted to restart the process.

As of Tuesday morning, congressional and state legislative candidates can file to run for office in 2022.

The first Court of Appeals order was triggered by an appeal from the N.C. League of Conservation Voters, which filed a lawsuit Nov. 16 challenging the political maps drawn and approved by the North Carolina's legislature.

On Friday, a three-judge panel of Superior Court judges, consisting of two Republicans and a Democrat, unanimously ruled against delaying candidate filing and the primaries. Though the presiding judge, Graham Shirley, said gerrymandering "results in an ill that has affected this country and state since Colonial days," the panel ruled that politically gerrymandered maps are not in violation of the state constitution.

The panel denied intervention in two cases at the same time. The other, brought by the National Redistricting Foundation, an affiliate of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, made similar arguments and also requested the election be delayed so the legislature could draw new political maps.

By Friday night, both the League of Conservation Voters and the foundation filed intentions to appeal. Both groups appealed directly to the N.C. Supreme Court, but only the league plaintiffs also filed with the N.C. Court of Appeals. That is

what resulted in the stay of candidate filing, which the court later reversed.

The Court of Appeals will rule on the league's appeal en banc, meaning all the judges on the court will vote on a decision. Ten Republicans and five Democrats currently sit on the court.

Though the initial order from the Court of Appeals said the decision on the appeal will come Thursday, the en banc order does not set a timeline for making a decision, though says it will do so "promptly."

In a statement, the foundation said the confusion at the Court of Appeals was all the more reason for the N.C. Supreme Court to pick up the case quickly.

The foundation's appeal asked the Supreme Court to hear the matter in an expedited fashion in lieu of the Court of Appeals, given the urgency and importance of the case, according to the filing.

In its appeal, the foundation criticized the legislature for failing to delay the primaries, despite U.S. census delays caused by the pandemic: "The Republican-controlled General Assembly sat on its hands: It postponed certain municipal elections but refused to do the same for the congressional primary date in order to leave less time for legal challenges to the gerrymandered congressional districts."

The League of Conservation Voters plaintiffs raised similar concerns in their appeal, noting North Carolina as an outlier nationwide in holding primaries in the early spring. "Forty-eight states have 2022 primaries scheduled in May or later," the petition said.

In his response, Phil Strach, a private attorney the Republican legislative leadership hired to defend the cases, balked at the time frame for the

decision. The plaintiffs filed at 9 a.m. concerning a noon opening, he wrote. "That does not even afford this court sufficient time to read their filing, much less any other party time to respond in an informative way."

The defendants maintain the trial court judges were correct in their assessment and that the plaintiffs "are unlikely to establish discriminatory intent — an essential element to any arguably cognizable claim of so-called 'partisan gerrymandering.'"

The plaintiffs contend that although Republican leaders claimed the process was without partisan influence, "the prohibition on partisan considerations was a farce."

"While legislators drew and submitted maps using software on computer terminals in the redistricting committee hearing rooms, Legislative Defendants chose not to prohibit legislators from simply bringing political data — or maps drawn by political consultants using political data — with them into the map-drawing room, even after they were specifically asked to ban this practice," the petition read.

In Friday's order, the trial judges said the League of Conservation Voters plaintiffs lacked standing because they did not show their "own districts would shift from Republican-leaning to Democratic-leaning under a different configuration or that they are prevented from electing their candidates of choice."

In their petition with the Court of Appeals, the league plaintiffs said the trial court was incorrect about the residence of the petitioners and that the organization represents voters in all districts who might be harmed by the new maps.

They also petitioned the Supreme Court to disqualify one of the justices, Republican Phil Berger Jr. from hearing the case. Berger's father, Phil Berger, is the president pro tem of the N.C. Senate and one of the defendants in the case.

The N.C. State Board of Elections is also named as a defendant in the case, as that is the body that administers statewide elections in North Carolina. The board hasn't made any arguments for or against the maps and instead is telling the court how the elections will be affected if the courts delay the primaries, currently scheduled for March 8.

Whatever decision the courts make on postponing the primaries to redraw maps, or not, the board asked that it affect all elections equally. The board wants to avoid running county-level races in March, which are unaffected by the redistricting lawsuits, then running the state legislative and congressional elections later in the year, according to their court filings.



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RAIN OR SHINE Saturday, December 11th 2021

4pm-PARADE

Followed by the Lighting of the Town Christmas Tree & Appearance from Santa Claus

NO HORSES, 4 WHEELERS, GOLF CARTS, BIKES, MOTORCYCLES

The First Baptist Church of Siler City, Adult Choir, will present

"What Christmas Really Means" Sunday, December 12 during the 11:00am Worship Service.

At Christmas, it is important to remember what Christmas is really about. The world was in desperate need of a Savior, and Christmas gave us the gift of Jesus. He is the true meaning of Christmas.

Please worship with us Sunday, December 12 at 11:00 am.

314 N. 2nd Avenue, Siler City, NC 27344
www.silercityfbc.org

CHURCH NEWS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SILER CITY

The Adult Choir of the First Baptist Church of Siler City will present "What Christmas Really Means" Sunday, December 12, during the 11 a.m. worship service. Join us for this important message in song.

The church is located at 314 North Second Avenue, Siler City.

Siler City's Immigrant Advisory Committee meets for the first time

Elects committee leadership, sets monthly meetings

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff



Staff photo by Victoria Johnson

The Siler City Immigrant Community Advisory Committee held its inaugural meeting last Tuesday night at the Wren Memorial Library. Back row, left to right: Hannia Benitez, Victoria Navarro, Shirley Villatoro, Carlos Simpson and Jisselle Perdomo. Front row, left to right: Danubio Vazquez Rodriguez and Norma Hernandez.

of the three-year terms, these are all partial terms, so anytime a committee member fulfills a partial term, then they're still eligible for the two-to three-year terms after that," Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson said during the meeting.

The committee will meet every second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in Wren Memorial Library. Its next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 14. The public may attend in person or connect via Zoom.

"I'm really excited to be here and share in what I believe is a historic moment for Siler City, for Chatham County," Hernandez told the committee. "I think that Siler City deserved this a long time ago ... I don't think that there was a formal place for people that look like us to really have a place to go and say, 'Hey, we feel this way. We want this.' So I'm really excited that this committee now exists."

Building Integrated Communities plan

The Siler City Board of Commissioners appointed seven members to the



Staff photo by Victoria Johnson

Town staff ready the nametags for Siler City's new Immigrant Community Advisory Committee members last Tuesday night just before the committee's inaugural meeting.

town's first Immigrant Advisory Committee on Nov. 15, nearly five months after commissioners unanimously approved the committee's formation. Originally, the town planned to appoint members in August or September after setting the initial application deadline for Aug. 9, but the board delayed appointments several times to solicit more candidates.

Among the new committee members, all migrated from Latin American countries — including Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica — or have Hispanic ancestry. All seven also reside in Siler City.

The idea for the committee originally emerged several years ago amid a two- to three-year com-

munity planning project called Building Integrated Communities (BIC). Launched in 2017, this project brought the town, the Hispanic Liaison and community members — including some now leading the Immigrant Advisory Committee — together to identify immigrant residents' needs and create a plan to address them.

Forming an immigrant advisory committee was one such step in the project's finalized plan, but the COVID-19 pandemic and personnel turnover delayed its implementation until June.

According to the town's resolution, members will provide a bridge between the board and immigrant residents, offer strategies to foment civic participation among immigrant residents and serve as a

forum to both discuss and address the immigrant community's concerns. Committee members will also take the lead on implementing any and all recommendations outlined in BIC's action plan to better serve the town's immigrant residents.

The plan identifies eight key strategic objectives, which together create a list of more than 40 policy and action items. Some of these objectives include improving communication between immigrant residents and the town, enhancing leadership opportunities for immigrant residents, addressing housing issues, and generating more trust and communication between residents and law enforcement.

The entire plan can be found at <https://unc.live/3Donqpl>.

'This committee brings me hope'

Since the plan's approval in February 2019, the town has managed to check off some action items. Besides publishing a bilingual guide to Siler City government in both English and Spanish, the town now offers a Spanish-language section on its website. It also increased pay incentives for bilingual employees, offering a 5% pay increase to police officers who could speak fluent

Spanish — an offering expanded to other town employees in June.

"We do have a new website that will be coming online here hopefully in the next couple of months," Town Manager Roy Lynch told the News + Record in July, "and there is a button, or a link, that will be on the website that will automatically translate."

The town also contracted a translation service to offer Spanish interpretation at board meetings upon request — something Lynch asked the committee to revisit last Tuesday as its initial project.

"For many months — I'm not sure how many — we had the interpreters show up for the board meetings, but we had no one to show up that had a need for interpretation," he said. "... Maybe this committee can look at that and say, 'Well, this is the way that you can go about that, and this is the way we can reach out to the community for those that do want to be involved in the board meetings.'"

Several Siler City immigrant residents attended the meeting by Zoom last Tuesday, including Mexican immigrant and DACA beneficiary Jazmin Mendoza Sosa. She told the News + Record she hopes the committee will go out and engage with the immigrant community to learn about their needs and collect feedback about what the town's doing right so that "the supports continue."

"I would like for the committee to really try to bring the voice of the immigrant community of all Chatham County," Mendoza Sosa said. "I am confident there will be action and I hope I can see at least one project that this committee can accomplish within their term. I am very proud to see many familiar faces in the formation of this committee, and this committee brings me hope (that it will) be the door to better opportunities for immigrants and the whole Chatham County community."

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



PITTSBORO'S NEW COMMISSIONER

Newly elected Vose wants to 'deliver the goods' for voters

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — In the five weeks since he was elected to Pittsboro's board of commissioners, James Vose says he's been tackling the learning curve that comes with being a newly minted public official.

That means meeting with Town Manager Chris Kennedy and current and former board members, reading about topics like zoning and water quality, poring over board documents, learning more about the town's budget, and getting an earful of suggestions from Pittsboro residents.

Seeking the office — getting his name in front of voters in advance of November's election, and talking to as many people as possible — was "one very real set of challenges," he said.

"And now I want to be ready to deliver the goods," Vose said. "Reading is just no substitute for having done the job for the last however many years. I just want to be as ready as I possibly can be."

He'll be officially sworn in, along with new (and also former) Mayor Cindy Perry, at the board's meeting Monday. It starts at 7 p.m. and will be held via Zoom.

Vose won the seat by finishing a close second in the three-person race with incum-

bents Pamela Baldwin and Michael Fiocco. Baldwin led the balloting with 562 votes; Vose received 560. Fiocco got 400, knocking him off the board after 12 years.

"I can't promise miracles," Vose said, "but I'll appreciate being a part of the conversations."

Some will certainly involve water. He described Pittsboro's ongoing water woes — related to "forever chemical" pollutants like PFAS in the Haw River and the recent slug of 1,4-Dioxane released upstream from Greensboro — as "discouraging, alarming."

He grows animated when talking about the 1,4-Dioxane issue, suggesting Greensboro election officials and leaders should be called out by name for the multiple releases of the toxic chemical (and likely carcinogen) into the Haw, which occurred on their watch. He wants the city of Greensboro and the offending polluters — as yet not identified — to be held accountable, and says Greensboro should foot the bill for solutions Pittsboro is having to create.

Vose once led hydroengineering students into the African bush while working with a nonprofit organization and has helped pull wells and done water sampling.

"So I'm interested in water," he said. "I'm interested in the

environment. I'm interested in all of these things. Am I in any way a subject matter expert? Absolutely not. Is it [insisting on clean water] a sword I'm willing to fall on? It is."

Vose said he doesn't have "a lot of patience," given what's happened upstream, suggesting Pittsboro should "force the issue" — saying his elected counterparts in Greensboro should be asked to pledge to do what they can to help safeguard Pittsboro's drinking water supply.

While he's entertained the notion of "standing out on a bridge over the Haw, calling out the names of Greensboro commissioners one at a time" to get their attention over the 1,4-Dioxane issue, and using social media to pressure them, Vose also favors a more logical, measured approach. One he's contemplated regarding the water crisis is to confront Greensboro with the financial realities of the fixes required in Pittsboro, and — to avoid costly potential litigation — asking Greensboro to go ahead and pony up without having to admit culpability.

"It's better optics," he said of the idea of Greensboro helping to foot the bill. "It's the right thing to do ... We can probably get a whole lot further, a lot faster, than waiting for the EPA to save us or trying to litigate around this."

But he tempers his thoughts about the water issues with the fact that he's still "the guy who just got hired."

"And it's his first week on the job," he said, "and somebody says, 'What questions do you have?' And my honest answer is, 'I don't know enough to have a question.' ... Until I really get my feet underneath me, I don't even know what I should say. I just know it's going to be a challenge and I'm ready for it. I've got the time to work hard at this."

And Vose promises to come to meetings ready to talk about issues on the agenda — a trait he recognized in Fiocco.

"I think Commissioner Fiocco really showed up prepared," he said. "I think he took that job very, very seriously for a long time. And he set the bar pretty high."

Vose wants to as well, but adds: he's not much of a "hot-air blower."

"So I don't want to tell you all the great things that I'm going to do before I recognize what the hurdles are," he said. "But I want to talk to people. And I want to explain to people if we can't do things, I want to not vote — I want to not *not* vote on things because they're difficult issues. And I want to not just take a pass on it, because it's maybe a divisive issue. You know, like masking, right? You know, the board didn't vote on

(it); the mayor made a unilateral decision. Yeah, the board should have voted on that."

The commission board race was non-partisan. Vose is a registered Independent, but says he changed his affiliation prior to the election from Republican because his beliefs "don't align with today's Republican Party."

"January 6, the Big Lie ..." he said, referring to the Capitol insurrection by supporters of then-President Donald Trump and claims by Trump that the November election was stolen from him. "Re-affiliating as an independent was something I thought long and hard about. I'm happy with my decision."

He owns Vose Natural Stone, which provides granite, marble and engineered stone for kitchen countertops and other home interior and exterior uses. He says his work schedule will allow him to set regular times to meet with Pittsboro residents about issues they care about.

"I hope to have at least biweekly office hours Zoom meetings for anybody that wants to talk," he said. "I think people need an easy way to access us, and I hope I can do a really good job and keep the doors open."

In next week's edition: Outgoing Pittsboro Commissioner Michael Fiocco shares thoughts about his legacy as a board member.

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City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. -- Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. D9,1tc

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21-E-559

All persons having claims against **MICHAEL WESLEY CATES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 18th day of November, 2021. Wendy C. Burgess, Executrix c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC PO Box 31205 Raleigh, NC 27622 N18,N25,D2,D9,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 659

All persons having claims against **CAROLYN N. PITTMAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 18th day of November, 2021. Gregory B. Pittman, Executor 2304 Cypress Bend Dr. S., Apt B312 Pompano Beach, FL 33069 N18,N25,D2,D9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 646

All persons having claims against **NANCY OWEN FOLTZ**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 18th day of November, 2021. Sidney Allen Foltz III, Executor 4258 Rives Chapel Church Road Siler City, NC 27344 N18,N25,D2,D9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 21-E-418 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, Janet Doublier, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **EUGENE BOSHERS**, 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 18th day of February, 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 17th day of November, 2021. Janet Doublier c/o Shanelle K. Edmonds, Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 N18,N25,D2,D9,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 21-E-663 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, Christina Lynn Blankenship, having qualified as Administrator of the

Estate of CHARLES MICHAEL BLANKENSHIP, 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 18th day of February, 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 17th day of November, 2021. Christina Lynn Blankenship c/o Shanelle K. Edmonds, Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 N18,N25,D2,D9,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 669

All persons having claims against **HARRIET DICKENS GEORGE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery.

ery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 18th day of November, 2021. Christopher Lynn George, Co-Executor 2017 NC Hwy 42 Moncure, NC 27559 Angela George Harris, Co-Executor 67 Dickens Rd..... Moncure, NC 27559 N18,N25,D2,D9,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 670

All persons having claims

against **RANDALL KELLY OATES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 18th day of November, 2021. Carolyn A. Oates, Executrix 3705 Chatham St PO Box 7 Bennett, NC 27208 N18,N25,D2,D9,4tp

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NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 675

All persons having claims against **JOY L. MASKE JUDGE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 25th day of November, 2021.

Jamey L. Judge, Executrix
5505 Fearington Post
Pittsboro, NC 27312
N25,D2,D9,D16,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of November, 2021, as Executrix of the ESTATE OF **ANNA COOK FOWLER**, 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 26th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This, the 25th day of November, 2021.

Patsy Cook Hirschhorn, Executrix
Estate of Anna Cook Fowler
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
N25,D2,D9,D16,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E683

All persons having claims against **JOHN KYLE FULLER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 25th day of November, 2021.

Renee Paschal, Executrix
105 Chatham Oaks
Moncure, N.C. 27559
N25,D2,D9,D16,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E681

All persons having claims against **PATTI KUCINIC JUSTICE**, deceased, late of

Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 25th day of November, 2021.

Joseph Randy Welch, Executrix
845 Lakewood Falls Rd
Goldston, NC 2725225
N25,D2,D9,D16,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E672

All persons having claims against **LOUISE H. POE aka LOUISE HUMBLE POE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 25th day of November, 2021.

Cynthia Poe Ferguson, Executrix
87 John Lane Rd
Bear Creek, NC 27207
N25,D2,D9,D16,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20E475

All persons having claims against **ALICE MARIE HAYNES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 2nd day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of December, 2021.

John L. Haynes, Executrix
514 Carolina Meadows Village
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27517
D2,D9,D16,D23,4tp

NOTICE OF SERVICES OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION State Of North Carolina Chatham County,

before the Clerk in the Superior Court Division, File No. 21 SP 87
Petitioners: WILLIAM PATTERSON et al
v. Respondents: FLORINE MOORE et al. Petitioners and Respondents are all the remaining living heirs of John Emerson Sr. who died on September 20, 1924, and Henrietta Emerson who died on May 17, 1953, intestate. At the time of her death, Henrietta Emerson owned four (4) parcels of

real property that now belong to all of her heirs. Petitioners were unable to locate the Respondents and therefore had to file this Petition with the Clerk of Court in Chatham County. TO RESPONDENTS: FLORINE MOORE, SHARON ADAMS, VICKIE EDWARDS, MARCIA D. BROOKS, ROBERT D. BROOKS, DOROTHY ALSTON SIMMS, WILLIAM ALSTON, LESSIE LEE ALSTON, BENJAMIN T. ALSTON, CAROLYN A. EMERSON GODFREY, CAROLYN L. EMERSON, DARRELL EMERSON, FRANCES "NETTIE" EMERSON SAVOY, JAMES DALAS ALSTON, JAMES JETTER EMERSON, JAMILLE EMERSON, JULIAN EMERSON, KELLY EMERSON JR., KYNDLE EMERSON, LISA M. BITTLE, LYDIA LORRAINE EMERSON, MARY ANN EMERSON, MICHAEL SAMUELS, PARRISH ALSTON, STEPHANIE L. EMERSON-SMITH BEVERLY D. BALDWIN, BLAINE EMERSON, BRITTANY EMERSON, DENISE EDWARDS CHAPLIN, GARLAND EMERSON, LESTER EMERSON, MARGARET ALSTON FENNEY, THOMAS C. ALSTON, JR. and EVERETTE MARSH OR HEIRS, GRACE HALEY OR HEIRS, HALTON ALSTON OR HEIRS, JAMES EMERSON OR HEIRS, JESSIE MILLIKEN OR HEIRS, JONNIE MARSH OR HEIRS, LINDA RICHARDSON OR HEIRS, LORETTA CHAVIS OR HEIRS, MARGO HARRIS OR HEIRS, MARY CHERRY OR HEIRS, ROSE MYLES ALLISON OR HEIRS.

Take notice that a pleading to move the Court to partition for sale four (4) parcels of real property belonging to the heirs of Henrietta Emerson that are located in Chatham County has been filed. The Clerk of Court has appointed a Guardian ad Litem, Attorney Sherri Belk, to represent your interests in the properties. The following described real property, which is the subject of this action:

Parcel A: Tax Id. No. 0011976, PIN 9703 00 11 6165, located on Bowers Store Road, off NC Route 64 West, containing 115 acres of land (Farm 3140) Siler City, NC 27344;
Parcel B: Tax Id. No. 0016528, PIN 8762 14 43 6514, with address of 1411 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Siler City, NC 27344, containing .570 acres. Legal Description: Being lots numbers twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine and thirty on Siler City Burlington Highway as designated by a plot of the R.H. Dixon subdivision of the James T. Gilliland lands duly registered in the office of the Register of Deeds in Chatham County in Plat Book EN Page 25.
Parcel C: Tax Id. No. 0016715, PIN 8762 14 43 7493, with address of Hill Street, cross street Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Siler City, NC 27344 containing .490 acres. Legal Description: Lots number seventeen, eighteen and nineteen on Hill Street as designated by a plot of the R.H. Dixon subdivision of the James T. Gilliland lands duly registered in the office of the Register of Deeds in Chatham County in Plat Book EN Page 25.
Parcel D: Tax Id. No. 0016714, PIN 8762 14 43 7493, with address of 15th Street, intersection Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Siler City, NC 27344 containing .450 acres. If you object or oppose the petition to partition, you have to file an answer within forty (40) days after the first date of publication of this notice of service of process with the Chatham Clerk of Court. If you fail to respond, the properties will be sold and any interest you own will be held with the Chatham County Clerk. Guardian ad Litem Sherri Belk, 7413 Six Forks Road, Suite 170, Raleigh, NC 27615 (919) 834-3533. This the 22nd day of November, 2021.
Inez de Ondarza Simmons, 4030 Wake Forest Rd, Ste 319, Raleigh, NC 27609 (800) 678-9440.
Name of Newspaper: Chatham News + Record
D2,D9,D16,3tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E677

All persons having claims

against **GEORGE DANIEL PIKE** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 2nd day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of December, 2021.

Pamela Ruth Pike, Co-Executrix
951 Silk Hope Liberty Rd
Siler City, NC 27344
Kristen Pike Horton, Co-Executrix
1626 Puh Lane
Kailua, HI 96734
D2,D9,D16,D23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM

16 E 270
In the Matter of the Estate Of Joseph Weldon Foster, Jr. Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JOSEPH WELDON FOSTER, JR.**, deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the said decedent to exhibit them to the Chatham County Clerk of Court on or before March 5, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate are notified to make immediate payment. This the 29th day of November, 2021.

Marlene Foster, Administrator
Brian P. Hayes, Attorney
Ferguson, Hayes, Hawkins & DeMay, PLLC
P.O. Box 444
Concord, NC 28026
D2,D9,D16,D23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF BETTY WARD BRITAIN STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **BETTY WARD BRITAIN**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at P.O. Box 3120, Chapel Hill, NC 27515, on or before the 2nd day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 2nd day of December, 2021.

William Gregory Brittain, Executor for the Estate
Charles B. Carver, CPA
PO Box 3120
Chapel Hill, NC 27515
Telephone: 919-929-2149
D2,D9,D16,D23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Chatham County North Carolina - 21 E 666

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JAMES LOWELL COCKMAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All person indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 26th day of November, 2021.

Sarah Frances Cockman, Administrator
c/o Margaret K. Winfield
PO Box 10669
Raleigh, NC 27605
D2,D9,D16,D23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E685

All persons having claims against **FRANCES ELLEN HOVEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 9th day of December, 2021.

Patricia S. Powell, Executrix
34804 Carriage Court
Dagsboro, DE 19939
c/o John M. Perna, Attorney at Law
202 Davis Grove Circle, Suite 105
Cary, N.C. 27519
D9,D16,D23,D30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E694

All persons having claims against **BOBBY LEE ARRINGTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 2nd day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are

asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of December, 2021.
Lee Ann Arrington Churchill, Executor
602 Manor Ridge Drive
Carrboro, NC 27510
D2,D9,D16,D23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 23rd day of November, 2021, as Executrix of the ESTATE OF **ERICA LYNN PERLOW**, 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 2nd day of March, 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 2nd day of December 2021.

DONNA PERLOW, EXECUTRIX
ESTATE OF ERICA LYNN PERLOW
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
D2,D9,D16,D23,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **CONSTANCE H. WILL**, aka CONSTANCE HEADLEY WILL, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before March 2nd, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 2nd day of December, 2021.
MARGARET WILL, Executor of Estate of
CONSTANCE H. WILL aka CONSTANCE HEADLEY WILL
c/o Roberson Law Firm
1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
D2,D9,D16,D23,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E584

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **ANNE MAXWELL DELLINGER**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before March 9, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 9th day of December, 2021.

Walter E. Dellinger III, Limited Personal Representative,
c/o Tanya D Hervey, Hervey & Hervey, P.A.
1151 Executive Circle, Suite 102
Cary, N.C. 27511
D9,D16,D23,D30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E685

All persons having claims against **MARGARET HUNEYCUTT**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 9th day of December, 2021.

W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the Estate of Margaret Huneycutt
900 West Dolphin Street
Pittsboro, NC 27344
Attorneys:
Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
206 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford, NC 27330
D9,D16,D23,D30,4tc

the undersigned on or before the 9th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 9th day of December, 2021.

Neal James Bell, Executor
415 N. Serenity Hill Circle
Chapel Hill, NC 27316
D9,D16,D23,D30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E596

All persons having claims against **MARY ANN BOMENGO**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 9th day of December, 2021.

Michael Bomengo, Executor
94 Two Creeks Loop
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
D9,D16,D23,D30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, having qualified on the 16th day of November, 2021, as Executor of the Estate of **ROBERT W. ANDERSON**, 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 9th day of March, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 9th day of December, 2021.

Jeffrey W. Anderson, Executor of the Estate of Robert W. Anderson
Post Office Box 57579
Durham, North Carolina 27717
G. Rhodes Craver
Kennon Craver, PLLC
4011 University Drive, Suite 300
Durham, North Carolina 27707
D9,D16,D23,D30,4tc

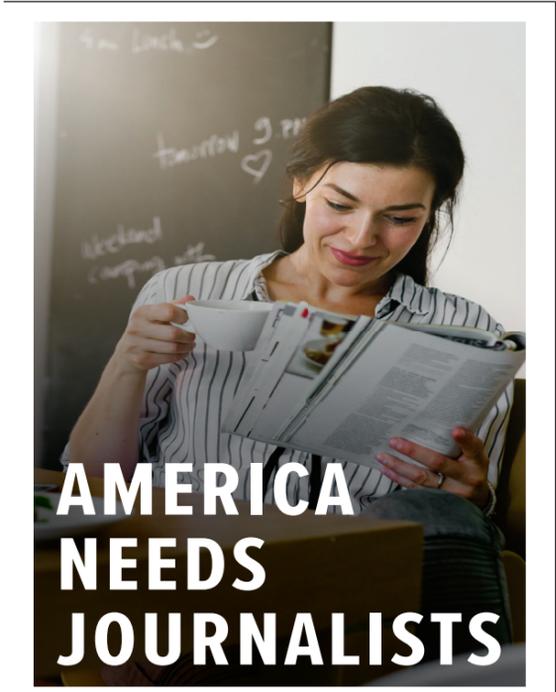
NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E584

All persons having claims against **SHIRLEY ROBERTA MOFFITT SILER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 9th day of December, 2021.

Edward Herman Siler, II, Executor of the Estate of Shirley Roberta Moffitt Siler
c/o J. Ray Deal, Attorney
Deal Law Firm, PLLC
3017 South Church Street
Burlington, NC 27215
D9,D16,D23,D30,4tc

CREITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified on the 1st day of December 2021, as Administrator of the Estate of **MARGARET HUNEYCUTT**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 9th day of December, 2021.
W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the Estate of Margaret Huneycutt
900 West Dolphin Street
Pittsboro, NC 27344
Attorneys:
Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
206 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford, NC 27330
D9,D16,D23,D30,4tc



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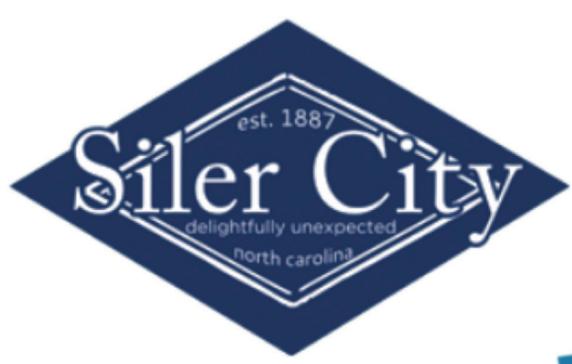
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NORTHWOOD 62, JORDAN-MATTHEWS 37

Chargers force 30 turnovers in rivalry win over Jets

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
 News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — If you watch, read or hear about Northwood basketball this season, it'll be nearly impossible to avoid the terms "size" and "length."
 The Chargers have an abundance of it.
 But despite the massive height advantage that Northwood had against Jordan-Matthews last Wednesday night, the Jets looked neither scared nor intimidated, competing with the Chargers in the paint all the way to the final buzzer.

The game may have ended with Northwood securing a bounce-back 62-37 win after a loss to Wakefield the night before, but the 25-point difference was hardly representative of the contest's hard-fought, scrappy nature.

"(We) did a really good job, I thought, of getting in there and battling and rebounding with their big boys, which is really tough," Rodney Wiley, the Jets' head coach, said after the loss. "Those guys are big. You don't know 6-foot-8 until you stand up beside of it."

The Chargers' starting

five against the Jets had an average height of 6-foot-4, including the 6-foot-6 sophomore phenom guard Drake Powell and the 6-foot-8 junior transfer Max Frazier.

Yet, the Chargers collected just six more rebounds than the Jets — 31 to J-M's 25 — and didn't cause as much trouble for their opponents in the paint as the size differential would have you believe.

At one point in the second quarter, Jets senior Rayshawn Alston and junior Aiden Harrison double-teamed

See **CHARGERS**, page B2



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood sophomore guard Fred Whitaker Jr. (0) passes the ball to junior Koda Lewis in the Chargers' 62-37 win over the Jets last Wednesday in Siler City. Whitaker was the Chargers' third-leading scorer on the night with 9 points.

CHATHAM CENTRAL 64, SOUTH DAVIDSON 45

Revenge in Bear Creek: after heartbreaking loss, Bears ravage Wildcats in 19-point win

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
 News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — A day before Thanksgiving break, Chatham Central opened its season with a heartbreaking loss to the South Davidson Wildcats.
 With a little less than two minutes to play in the third quarter, the Bears had a seven-point lead — and somehow, by the end of the quarter, they were down by two.

The Wildcats went on to eke out a win, 54-52, in a barnburner, sending the Bears on the bus back to Bear Creek.

Over the holiday break, it was important that Chatham Central stew on the loss — reflecting on what they got wrong and mentally correcting their mistakes — because 10 days later, in the Bears' first post-Thanksgiving contest, the Wildcats were coming to town for a rematch.

And the Bears made sure they were ready.

Chatham Central dominated nearly all facets of the game last Friday, shellacking the Wildcats, 64-45, in a tough, physical rematch to improve to 1-1 on the season.

It was a Bears team that looked much improved from the season opener, Bears' Head Coach Robert Burke admits.

"The first game of the year, they came out shell-shocked," Burke said following the win. "And nobody got on No. 33 (Wildcats senior Hayden Smith). ... But I think the biggest thing tonight was our defense. Once they realized we had a good defense going, it spawned our offense. And taking No. 33 out of the ballgame, that helped."

Smith was a thorn in the Bears' side in the first matchup, scoring 22 points on six 3-pointers as the Wildcats torched the Bears from behind the arc (10-for-26, 38%).

Burke made it his point of emphasis to shut him down, no matter what, in the rematch.

If other members of the Wildcats beat them, so be it. But he wouldn't let Smith be the one putting the nail in his team's coffin.

"I've got to give it to (Smith), I think he dropped 22 points on us in the last ballgame and

See **BEARS**, page B4



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central senior Collin Lagenor (12) attempts an acrobatic reverse layup in the first half of the Bears' blowout win over South Davidson, 64-25, in Bear Creek last Friday. Lagenor ended the night with 9 points.

Trailblazin' Bearcats: Cincy paves the way with historic CFP selection

By golly, they did it. They really did it.

The 2021 Cincinnati Bearcats — the champions of the American Athletic Conference, not the Big 12 or Pac-12 or ACC — are in the College Football Playoff.



VICTOR HENSLEY
 Sports Editor

For the first time in CFP history, a non-Power Five school made the cut.

For the first time in CFP history, the committee put some genuine respect on the name of one of the little guys.

And I, for one, couldn't be

more thrilled.

There isn't a better story in college football right now than the Bearcats' victory against the odds.

After Georgia's shocking SEC Championship loss to Alabama over the weekend, the Bearcats stood alone as the only unbeaten team in the final CFP rankings.

They put together a magical 13-0 regular season that — despite some hiccups and too-close-for-comfort wins — culminated in a 35-20 whuppin' of the one-loss Houston Cougars in the AAC title game.

It's Cincinnati's first unbeaten season since 1918, when the team finished 3-0-2 in a year I'm sure we all remember.

They knocked off a scrappy Notre Dame team — which finished as the No. 5 team in the final CFP rankings this year — in South Bend in October, handing the Fighting Irish their first home loss in four years.

The heart and soul of the team is senior starting quarterback Desmond Ridder, who has led the Bearcats on their meteoric rise and is the nation's winningest quarterback with a career record of 41-5 (89%).

The brains and passion behind the program's success stem from Luke Fickell, the team's

See **BEARCATS**, page B4

What makes each College Football Playoff team special?

The College Football Playoff is set. After an upset-filled final few weeks,



MAX BAKER
 CN+R Intern

Alabama, Michigan, Georgia and Cincinnati remain in the hunt for a championship. However, each of their journeys had their own unique storylines. Here's what makes each team special:

Cincinnati

For the first time in the history of the Playoff, a Group of 5 school has made the playoff. At times, such a feat seemed impossible. Last season, the Bearcats finished undefeated, but were denied a berth into the playoff and lost a nail biter to Georgia in a New Year's Six bowl game. UCF went undefeated in both 2017 and 2018, but never got a shot for college football glory. But after the committee ranked the Bearcats at No. 4 heading into the final three weeks of the college football season, reality set in.

On Saturday, they took care of business against Houston in the American Athletic Conference Championship, winning 35-20 and completing an undefeated season. This time, they left no doubt for the committee. After beating now ranked No. 5 Notre Dame on the

road earlier this year, the Bearcats had their marquee win that they lacked in years past. Quarterback Desmond Ridder and Jerome Ford highlighted an explosive offense while the Bearcats secondary behind Bryan Cook, Coby Bryant and Ahmad Gardner remained the strength of their defense. Despite earning the No. 4 seed, there's no reason to think that Cincinnati can't pull off the upset. They've been counted out before.

Georgia

College football's most dominant team in 2021 hit a roadblock last week against Alabama. For years, the Bulldogs' Achilles heel has been Alabama. On Saturday, the Crimson Tide again rolled to a 41-24 win over the Bulldogs in the SEC Championship. Georgia might still be the nation's best team as they have been for most of the season. Alabama was playing for its season and the Bulldogs had pretty much secured their berth into the Playoff even with a loss.

Nonetheless, Saturday was a wake-up call for a team that had won all of its conference games by double figures. The Bulldogs looked outmatched. They allowed a season-high number of points and Alabama controlled the Bulldogs rushing attack. Now, even if coach Kirby Smart might not publicly admit

it, Georgia has a quarterback decision to make. JT Daniels, a highly touted transfer from USC, has remained the backup to former walk-on Stetson Bennett since he went out with an injury. Bennett didn't look sharp last week and that might be enough for Smart to make the switch. But if the Bulldogs defense plays like they have throughout the season, they might be the best team still remaining.

Michigan

If Jim Harbaugh doesn't win National Coach of the Year, someone better make a really strong case against him. After going 2-4 last season with doubts about the future of Harbaugh's ability to win in big games at Michigan, he brought the Wolverines to glory. After Sunday's rankings were revealed, they became the first team to begin the season unranked and make the College Football Playoff.

It was no fluke, either. The Wolverines flat-out dominated in the final three weeks of the season. They snapped their eight-game losing streak to Ohio State behind strong offensive line play and cruised to a 42-3 win over Iowa in the Big 10 Championship game. Michigan has two of the best pass rushers in the nation in David Ojabo and Aidan Hutchinson. Hutchinson, a Heisman finalist, set the Michigan single-season sack record

in the win against the Buckeyes. On offense, running back Hassan Haskins has carried the load after the team lost star wideout Ronnie Bell early in the season to an injury. Michigan might not be the flashiest team in the Playoff, but there might not be a team playing as well as them in the country.

Alabama

Surprise, surprise. The Crimson Tide are back in the Playoff. Was there any doubt? Actually, yes, but they shattered it on Saturday. Fighting for their Playoff Lives, the Crimson Tide knocked off Georgia behind quarterback Bryce Young. It hasn't been easy for Alabama. Their playoff hopes nearly ended in Auburn as they trailed 10-0 in the fourth quarter as heavy favorites. They did enough in the fourth quarter and came back to win in four overtimes. Wide receiver John Metchie tore his ACL last week and that could slow their passing attack against Cincinnati.

Still, if there's a team that seemingly always finds a way to win, it's Alabama and coach Nick Saban. Now, with a month to prepare, Saban can regroup and maybe he'll work his magic on the way to a second straight championship.

Max Baker can be reached at max@chathamnr.com and @maxbaker_15.

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

We're just a couple of weeks into the winter sports season, yet we only have two remaining undefeated basketball teams in the county: the Northwood (4-0) and Woods Charter (4-0) women, both of which have won all of their matchups by double-digits. In addition, the Seaforth wrestling team (4-0) is the county's lone unbeaten squad on the mat. This week, there are plenty of sporting events to attend around Chatham, including basketball games, swim and track meets and wrestling matches. Will the teams mentioned above extend their season-opening winning streaks? We'll find out soon enough. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, December 8

Track: Northwood at Eastern Alamance (Eastern Alamance Polar Invitational), 4 p.m.
Wrestling: Chatham Central at Cummings (Graham also participating), 5 p.m.
Basketball: Northwood women vs. East Chapel Hill, 6 p.m.
Basketball: Woods Charter vs. Cornerstone (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)
Wrestling: Jordan-Matthews at Cedar Ridge (Orange also attending), 6 p.m.
Wrestling: Northwood at Person, 6 p.m.
Wrestling: Seaforth at Bartlett Yancey (North Moore also participating), 6 p.m.

Thursday, December 9

Basketball: Seaforth women at Grace Christian School, 6 p.m.
Swimming: Northwood at Eastern Alamance (at New Millennium Fitness), 8 p.m.

Friday, December 10

Basketball: Chatham Charter vs. Chatham Central (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)
Basketball: Jordan-Matthews vs. Union Pines (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)
Basketball: Woods Charter vs. Research Triangle (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)

Saturday, December 11

Basketball: Seaforth men at East Forsyth (Healthy Blue Tourney Town Showcase), 3 p.m.
Swimming: Jordan-Matthews at Smith High School, 5 p.m.
Basketball: Northwood vs. Jordan-Matthews (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)

LAST WEEK

Monday, November 29

Basketball: The Woods Charter women earned a double-digit win over the Franklin Academy Patriots, 39-28, to improve to 2-0 on the young season.
Basketball: The Woods Charter men dropped a lopsided game to the Franklin Academy Patriots, 74-43, to start the season 0-2.

Tuesday, November 30

Basketball: The Northwood women dominated the Wakefield Wolverines, 68-32, to improve to 2-0 on the year. Leading the Chargers on the night were senior Olivia Porter (22 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist, 5 steals, 1 block) and senior Natalie Bell (10 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals).
Basketball: The Northwood men lost a close game to the Wakefield Wolverines at home, 48-40, for their first loss of the season. Leading the Chargers on the night were sophomore Frederico Whitaker Jr. (19 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 1

steal) and sophomore Drake Powell (12 points, 5 rebounds, 2 blocks).
Basketball: The Seaforth women routed the Harnett Central Trojans, 60-18, for their first win in program history. Leading the Hawks on the night were freshman Peyton Collins (16 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 5 steals), freshman Sydney Ballard (13 points, 7 rebounds, 7 assists, 4 steals, 1 block) and freshman Sofia Ramirez (12 points, 6 rebounds).
Basketball: The Seaforth men lost a nail-biting game to the Harnett Central Trojans, 45-42, to start the year 0-2.

Wednesday, December 1

Basketball: The Chatham Central women fell to the Uwharrie Charter Eagles, 47-35, on the road.
Basketball: The Chatham Charter women earned a comfortable win over the Eno River Bobcats, 62-28, on the road.
Basketball: The Chatham Charter men crushed the Eno River Bobcats, 64-15, to stay unbeaten (8-0) on the season.
Basketball: The Northwood women earned a lopsided win over the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 61-21, to remain undefeated (3-0) on the year. Leading the Chargers on the night were senior Olivia Porter (27 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 6 steals, 1 block) and senior Myla Marve (12 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 5 steals), while the Jets were led by senior Eillia Wright (8 points, 2 assists, 2 steals). See game report in this week's edition.
Basketball: The Northwood men earned a hard-fought victory over the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 62-37, on the road. Leading the Chargers on the night were sophomore Drake Powell (12 points) and sophomore Frederico Whitaker Jr. (9 points), while the Jets

were led by sophomore Kelton Fuquay (13 points) and senior Rayshawn Alston (10 points). See game report in this week's edition.
Thursday, December 2
Swimming: Northwood competed in their season-opening swim meet against Cedar Ridge, River Mill and Western Alamance, with the Chargers' women's team finishing 3-0 on the day (with wins against Cedar Ridge (93-64), River Mill (106-15) and Western Alamance (84.50-58.50)) and the men's team finishing 2-1 (with wins against Cedar Ridge (66-36) and River Mill (72-0), but a loss to Western Alamance (81-44)).

Friday, December 3

Basketball: The Chatham Central women fell in a close game to the South Davidson Wildcats, 46-45, to start the season 0-3.
Basketball: The Chatham Central men won a dominant game against the South Davidson Wildcats, 64-45, in a rematch to improve to 1-1 on the year. Leading the Bears on the night were freshman Reid Albright (17 points) and senior Trey Clay (12 points). See game report in this week's edition.
Basketball: The Chatham Charter women suffered their second loss of the season to the Uwharrie Charter Eagles, 47-37, on the road. Leading the Knights on the evening were sophomore Delana Loflin (11 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals), junior Tamaya Walden (11 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal) and senior Alexis Baldwin (7 points, 5 rebounds, 3 steals, 4 blocks).
Basketball: The Chatham Charter men suffered their first loss of the season to the Uwharrie Charter Eagles, 57-56, in an overtime thriller on the road. The Knights are now 8-1 on the season.

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women lost to the Providence Grove Patriots, 58-40, on the road to stay winless on the season at 0-3. Leading the Jets on the night were senior Eillia Wright (20 points, 4 rebounds, 5 assists, 7 steals) and sophomore Lia Carter (8 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals).
Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men fell to the Providence Grove Patriots, 68-43, for their third-straight loss to start the season.
Basketball: The Seaforth women were crushed by the unbeaten Apex Friendship Patriots, 71-39, to fall to 1-2 on the season.
Basketball: The Woods Charter women soundly defeated the Eno River Bobcats, 51-24, to stay perfect on the season at 3-0. Leading the Wolves on the night were sophomore Lexi Smollen (18 points), senior Emi Hutter-Demarco (15 points) and sophomore Caroline Mitchell (13 points).

Saturday, December 4

Basketball: The Seaforth men lost another three-point game to the Willow Spring Storm, 39-36, in the Millbrook Winter Showcase at Millbrook High School.
Basketball: The Northwood women crushed the Orange Panthers in their first conference game of the season, 74-27.
Basketball: The Northwood men won their first conference game of the season against the Orange Panthers, 64-48, at home. Leading the Chargers on the night were sophomore Drake Powell (23 points, 10 rebounds, 6 assists, 1 steal, 1 block) and sophomore Frederico Whitaker Jr. (11 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist).

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

CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

Frazier in the paint, just underneath the basket, and forced a turnover as they pushed him toward the baseline.
Plays like that, along with a couple of awe-striking post moves by Alston and sophomore Kelton Fuquay in the first half, were enough evidence that the Jets came prepared for the Chargers' size.
That wasn't going to be the key for Northwood to shut down their cross-county rival.
"They weren't really able to impose their will, but they tried," Wiley said. "They missed some shots (in the paint) ... We played hard, though. They left everything they had on the floor."
"We've got to start hitting layups," Matt Brown, the Chargers' head coach, said after the win. "I think maybe we hit one layup tonight. We've got to do a lot better, using our size to our advantage. We'll fix that."

Instead, it was Northwood's length, speed and defensive commitment that made all the difference. That is the Chargers' brand, after all.
The Jets turned the ball over 30 times on the night, succumbing to Northwood's length as the Chargers' long arms and athleticism made it difficult for them to find clear passing lanes and run their offense as efficiently as Wiley would've liked.
"(We need to) be a little bit more disciplined on offense and running our offense," Wiley said. "I thought Northwood pushed us away from our basket, pushed our offense further out and that took us out of our offensive flow that we wanted to run tonight."
"With that length," Wiley added, "it's hard."
The Chargers' defense not only forced 30



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood standout guard Drake Powell (32) goes up for a floater, defended by three Jets players, in the Chargers' 62-37 win over Jordan-Matthews last Wednesday in Siler City. Powell led all Northwood scorers with 12 points.

turnovers, but also held the Jets to two quarters with single-digit points and racked up five blocks in the process.
They may not have held J-M to 35 points — Brown's magic number — but they were just about as close as you can get.
Brown praised the Chargers' aggressiveness, primarily on the defensive end, after the game, citing a few players' high foul counts — including 6-foot-11 junior Kenan Parrish (4 fouls) and freshman Gus Ritchey (5 fouls, fouled out) — as a developmental victory.
"I'd probably give (the game ball) to Kenan

because we've been telling him that he needs to be more aggressive, be more assertive on the offensive and defensive ends," Brown said, "and he got four fouls, which I'm happy about. ... That deserves a game ball because we've been stress-

ing it. In order for us to be successful, he has to be successful, too."
Northwood was led by the sophomore duo of guards Drake Powell (12 points, 5 rebounds, 1 block) and Fred Whitaker Jr. (9 points, 4 rebounds, 1 block), both of which hold the key to their team's success in the palms of their hands.
Whitaker, the team's floor general, is learning to become a leader on a squad that has just one senior and four juniors. He may not be there yet, but Brown seems to have full confidence that he'll become more vocal as the season progresses.
"(The leadership) is still being developed," Brown said. "Fred Whitaker is becoming a leader on the floor and off the floor as our point guard and as the guy who wears the No. 0 jersey, that's a big deal to us. ... We've got to do a better job of having some sort of leadership. When we have days like this and days like last night (against Wakefield), we've got to have somebody step up and talk."
Early in the game, the Chargers' established their defensive presence, forcing six turnovers and capitalizing on a couple of them to take a 17-6 lead at the end of the first period.
"We turned the ball over in the first quarter and they knocked down some threes and we missed some open shots," Wiley said. "The

game started slipping away from us right in there."
While the Jets had a much better offensive showing in the second quarter, turnovers continued to be an issue, with J-M coughing the ball up 10 times in the second period.
The Jets were able to cut the deficit to six points, 23-16, with just under three minutes to play in the second, but a mid-range jumper from Whitaker sparked an 11-1 Northwood run that bled into the third quarter.
At halftime, the Chargers had a 30-17 lead that'd only grow from there.
Northwood got into its groove early in the third, scoring its first three field goals in the paint, including a tip-in bucket from Frazier made possible by his length to put the Chargers up by 16 points, 36-20.
The Chargers played most of the fourth quarter using their reserves, a decision that Brown chalked up to rest since they were slated to play their third game in five days against Orange on Saturday — which they won, 64-48.
While it wasn't the cleanest game of the season for the Chargers

— they had 16 turnovers of their own and didn't shoot the ball too well — it was a tough rivalry victory that allowed them to bounce back from the 48-40 loss to Wakefield the night before.
Northwood (3-1) is set to take the floor again on Tuesday against Chapel Hill (0-4) and then face East Chapel Hill (1-2) on Thursday before the rematch with Jordan-Matthews on Saturday.
"I think we're in a good spot," Brown said. "I think that we competed last night against a really, really good Wakefield team, so I think we're going to be O.K. going into conference play and hopefully the playoffs. ... I like our team, I like the makeup of our team, I like that the kids work hard. They want to do good."
The Jets (0-3) have North Moore (2-1) on tap for Monday and Union Pines (5-0) on Friday before heading to Pittsboro on Saturday, where we'll see the latest installment of one of Chatham's best rivalries.
Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Frezeal33.

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NORTHWOOD 61, JORDAN-MATTHEWS 21

Porter, Marve lead Chargers in rivalry rout of Jets to stay perfect

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Nine months ago, Olivia Porter was a varsity basketball standout 480 miles away in Auburn, Alabama.

In her junior season, she averaged nearly 20 points per game for Auburn High School and led the Tigers to a semifinal finish in the Class 7A state tournament.

Now, after transferring for her senior season, she's a breakout star for Northwood, scoring 22 points and grabbing 8.3 rebounds per game as one of the primary orchestrators of the Chargers' perfect 4-0 start, leading the team in nearly all major per-game categories: points, rebounds, steals (5.3) and blocks (0.5).

Porter had herself a night last Wednesday against the Jordan-Matthews Jets, scoring 27 points and knocking down 3-of-4 shots from behind the arc to solidify a lopsided win, 61-21, in the Chargers' second in-county rivalry game of the season.

"She just brings that energy and that hustle every single time, whether it's on defense, whether it's on offense, she's very composed with the ball," Kerri Snipes, Northwood's first-year head coach, said about Porter after the win. "She's been a great help for us."

Porter, one of the team's four seniors and the team's only senior transfer, has established herself as one of the Chargers' veteran leaders just three games into the season, said Snipes.

Against the Jets, Porter racked up 27 points (9-of-14 shooting), 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 6 steals and a block — all of which led (or tied for the lead on) the team — in her flashiest performance in a Northwood jersey to this point.

Pair Porter's scalding-hot start with a trio of returning seniors thriving with increased roles and you've got the recipe for the Chargers' early season dominance.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Jordan-Matthews junior Maggie Thornton (32) boxes out Northwood sophomore Skylar Adams (22) in the Chargers' 61-21 win over the Jets last Wednesday in Siler City.

Natalie Bell (4 points) and Myla Marve (12 points) are two of those seniors, both guards that have already exceeded last season's expectations, where they both averaged less than 13 minutes per game on a talent-stacked roster.

Marve was the team's second-leading scorer against the Jets on Wednesday, where she also complemented Porter's ball-hawking ability, nabbing 5 steals of her own as she continually frustrated J-M's offense. "They both worked really hard in the offseason, I'll give them credit for that," Snipes said of Bell and Marve. "Natalie's come in and kind of knows her role as being one of our go-to shooters and Myla's been working hard, putting her as more of our post player, even as small as she is."

While the season's still young, Northwood has found a way to cruise past its competi-

tion so far, winning all four of its games by at least 36 points, including three by more than 40 points.

After finishing the regular season undefeated last year (11-0) and starting 4-0 this year, the Chargers haven't lost a regular-season game since Jan. 7, 2020, against the Chapel Hill Tigers.

They're 26-0 since that loss. "It's just the intensity," Snipes said. "They all have that drive and the ones that were here last year definitely have that drive to want to get further than we did last year."

The Jets, on the other hand, suffered three consecutive blowout defeats to start the season — including a 58-40 loss to Providence Grove last Friday — as they struggle to find their rhythm coming off of a one-win season a year ago.

They were able to earn their first win on Monday against

the North Moore Mustangs, 60-49, in their most complete game this season.

Yet, last Wednesday, it didn't take long for the Chargers to break the game's seal, with Porter stripping J-M junior Maggie Thornton in a chaotic opening series that led to an easy fastbreak layup.

From there, Northwood took over, hopping out to an early 15-0 lead behind six Jets turnovers and nine points from Porter.

It wasn't until J-M freshman Kalayah Headen scored in the paint with 2:15 to play in the first quarter that the Jets finally made it on the board. By the end of the opening period, it was 17-4 in favor of the Chargers.

"We shot ourselves in the foot early, we didn't sprint back on defense like we were supposed to and (Northwood) came out and ran the floor early," Lamont Piggie, the Jets' first-year head coach, said after the loss. "They outran us at the beginning. ... They jumped out to that early lead and we could never recover from it."

The Chargers kept their feet on the gas even after the first-period buzzer.

Porter knocked down a pair of 3-pointers as the Northwood offense continued to roll, dropping 18 points in the second quarter, including another nine from Porter and four from junior Gianna McManaman.

But many of the Chargers' points came courtesy of the Jets' seven second-period giveaways, including a few errant passes that landed either out of bounds or right in Northwood's hands going the other way.

In total, J-M coughed the ball up a staggering 23 times, a testament to Northwood's primary strength: defense.

Not only were the Chargers turnover-forcing machines against the Jets, but they also limited the number of good looks they had at the basket, allowing no more than six points

in any of the game's four periods and holding J-M to just 9-for-39 (23%) from the field.

By halftime, Northwood had a 26-point lead, 35-9, and the game was all but over.

Yet, the Chargers still refused to let up. Even a little bit.

Northwood came out of the break with the same level of intensity they played with during the first half, with Porter and Marve combining for four steals in the opening three minutes of the third quarter.

J-M didn't get into double digits until the 3:09 mark in the third period, coming off of a made free throw from senior Eillia Wright, who was J-M's leading scorer on the night with 8 points.

By then, it was a 43-10 game.

"I made it clear that this is a rivalry game and always has been," Snipes said. "We went into the locker room at halftime and I said, 'Coming out, it's still 0-0.' ... They brought it tonight. The energy was there from the crowd and from the fans, so I just told them to play our game, be disciplined."

Northwood's victory marked the 16th-straight win for the Chargers in the series, dating back to the 2012-13 season, when Northwood (Elite Eight) and J-M (Final Four) both lost to Kinston in the 2A state playoffs.

The Chargers (4-0), who earned their fourth win in a 74-27 rout of conference foe Orange on Saturday, take the floor against Chapel Hill (2-2) on Tuesday on the road, followed by home games on Thursday and Saturday against East Chapel Hill (2-1) and Jordan-Matthews, respectively.

The Jets face Union Pines (3-2) on Friday before heading to Northwood on Saturday for the rematch and a chance to break the 16-game skid against the Chargers.

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

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Over 400 people flock to Siler City for 4th installment of AFE Winter Games Taekwondo Tournament

CN+R Staff Reports

Over the weekend, Siler City became a focal point for taekwondo in the Southeast, playing host to 13 schools from a mix of states ranging from Georgia to North and South Carolina to Virginia and even to Cuba (attending virtually) in the 4th annual installment of the AFE Winter Games Taekwondo Tournament at A.F.E. Taekwondo Fitness Academy.

The tournament featured over 135 competitors participating in three events: poomsae (forms), sparring and board breaking, with USA Taekwondo and AAU-certified officials overseeing each event. It took place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. last Saturday.

A.F.E. Taekwondo and its competitors — ranging from ages 3 to 14 — had an impressive showing in the tournament, earning a total of 18 medals (10 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze) on the day.

The organizers from A.F.E. Taekwondo also



Submitted photo

Competitors gather on the mat at A.F.E. Taekwondo in Siler City ahead of the 2021 AFE Winter Games, which featured over 135 participants competing in three event styles.

strove to make the tournament a social event, creating a multicultural atmosphere with foods from a wide range of cultures and allowing competitors from a plethora of different backgrounds to interact with each other.

It was a day fueled by competition, community and passion for the art of

taekwondo.

“A lot of planning, volunteer work, community support was needed to ensure the event was a success,” wrote Crystal Pike, mother of an A.F.E. student. “This type of activity and organization provides kids of all ages a way to learn discipline, confidence, self-defense, respect and much more.

It helps mold our children to become great adults that give back to the community.”

Pike encouraged any individuals or businesses interested in sponsoring the students at A.F.E. Taekwondo to contact Antonio Ara, the studio’s owner, via email at afetkd@gmail.com or phone at (919) 799-7500.



Submitted photo

A.F.E. Taekwondo student Ace Justice (center) poses on the podium after taking first place in an event during the 2021 AFE Winter Games in Siler City last Saturday.

Local athletes win medals at 2021 Senior Games Virtual State Finals

From Chatham County Council on Aging

A total of 18 athletes from Chatham County won medals in the 2021 North Carolina Senior Games Virtual Finals, held from October 1-22. Qualification took place at the Chatham County Senior Games last spring.

Chatham residents excelled in the pool, with gold medals claimed by Steve Barrett in the men’s 200-yard breaststroke (5:28.04), 50-yard backstroke (57.17), 50-yard breaststroke (1:04.06) and 50-yard freestyle (49.08).

Stan Cox logged first-place finishes in the men’s 200-yard breaststroke (3:45.00) and 200-yard butterfly (4:15.00), while picking up silver medals in the 200-yard

individual medley and the 400-yard IM.

Keith Megginson won silver in the men’s 50-yard and 100-yard breaststrokes and bronze in the 500-yard freestyle.

On the track, Denise Lynch sprinted her way to gold in the women’s 50-meter dash in a time of 8.48 seconds and secured silver in the 100-meter dash.

Rob Silbajoris finished third in the men’s 50-meter dash.

Wayne Eckert was first in the men’s 10K run, finishing in 53:45.02. He claimed bronze in the 1,500-meter run. Eckert and Joel Rivers were first and second in the 10K run, respectively.

In the 5K run, Edward Beronet picked up silver in the men’s event while Janet Cromer was third in the

women’s race.

Ronald Bousquet’s marksman-ship earned a gold medal in Archery Conv-Recurve Barebow with a score of 397. Dean Selleseth came away with bronze in Archery Comp with sight and release aid.

The doubles tandem of Kathleen Havlin/Leslie Pyatt secured gold in women’s pickleball, with Jane Hamilton/Gwen McWilliams finishing second.

Michael Flanary took home a bronze medal in the softball throw.

Daniel Tunstall made it a clean sweep of men’s cycling events, racking up gold medals in the 1-mile (3:10.34), 5K (12:04.70) and 10K (23:38.92) races.

Mark Herboth turned in a silver-med-

al performance in 1,500-meter power walking.

Chatham County Senior Games is a part of a statewide of 53 local programs sanctioned by North Carolina Senior Games Inc. NCSG is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing year-round health promotion and education for adults 50 years of age and better. Senior Games is sponsored statewide by the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Qualification for next year’s State Finals will be held in the spring of 2022 at the Chatham County Senior Games. For more information on Chatham County Senior Games, please contact Liz Lahti at 919-542-4512 or liz.lahti@chathamcoa.org.

BEARCATS

Continued from page B1

fifth-year head coach who has cultivated a culture of grit and togetherness. He’s constructed a tight-knit group with plenty of underrated athletes, an abundance of local talent and a never-say-die mentality.

The Bearcats have just one 4-star recruit in their starting lineup and zero 5-stars. They have just a few projected NFL draft picks.

In addition, Fickell has become dedicated to finding and recruiting some of the most overlooked players from his own home state, with 75 athletes on the Bearcats’ roster hailing from Ohio.

The rise of Cincinnati’s program has been primarily a homegrown effort.

The process hasn’t always been easy, perfect or sexy. But success stories like these rarely are. And for a non-Power Five team aiming to make the CFP for the very first time, just being sexy isn’t going to cut it.

That’s why Cincinnati — the No. 4 seed — having to face Alabama, the defending national champion, No. 1 seed and winner of three of the seven CFP titles up to this point, is so beautiful.

Alabama is the media darling. It’s the perennial powerhouse. It’s the school with the sexiest NFL draft picks, the household names and the potentially soon-to-be Heisman Trophy winner in QB Bryce Young.

Cincinnati has none of those things.

Yet, for the first time in CFP history, the Bearcats will have an opportunity to show the Crimson Tide — and the selection

committee and the rest of the free world — why they belong here.

And if somehow, somehow, Cincinnati pulls this off, it would easily be one of the most unforgettable moments in college football history.

So, let’s hope they do.

But once Cincinnati’s CFP ride is over — whether it ends in championship immortality or a disappointing exit — it’ll be the end of an era for the Bearcats. Ridder will graduate and test the NFL Draft waters, and Fickell, an Ohio native who’s never held a coaching job outside of the state’s borders, may end up elsewhere, whether it’s a Power Five college job or an NFL position (he’s reportedly on the radar of a few NFL teams).

But even if next year’s Cincinnati team is slated to look much, much differently — and will likely have slim chances at another undefeated regular season — the 2021 Bearcats will always be a team worth remembering.

They broke the mold, shattered expectations and paved the way for deserving non-Power Five schools to have a shot at national titles in the future.

Even though their conference rivals in the AAC, and will continue to be when both schools move to the Big 12, the Bearcats have finally gotten revenge for the snubbed 2017 and 2018 UCF teams.

Justice has been served.

Now, we wait for the Bearcats to pull off the upset of the century.

They’ve already beaten the odds to get here.

You’re next, ‘Bama.

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

BEARS

Continued from page B1

I said, ‘Not tonight,’” Burke said, “and I think that took their whole team out of rhythm. ... I just didn’t want No. 33 getting on a roll and making those 3’s.”

While Smith was still able to score 10 points against the Bears — good for third-best on the team — he only hit a single 3-pointer and had just three field goals in total.

It’s the only time he’s scored fewer than 22 points this season.

The Bears won this game primarily due to their physicality on both sides of the ball.

They weren’t afraid to get their hands dirty in the trenches.

Even against a sharpshooting team like South Davidson — which averaged nine 3-pointers a game entering Friday’s contest and still managed to hit eight of them in the rematch — they decided to lock down the paint and dared the Wildcats to beat them from outside.

The Bears outscored the Wildcats in the paint, 48-12, and out-rebounded them, 39-20, including 12 offensive rebounds, despite not having any sort of significant height advantage.

They also racked up four blocks to the Wildcats’ one.

“I’ve been telling my guys, if you’ll stay with me and listen to me and learn my schemes,” Burke said, “then you’re going to be tough.”

Perhaps nobody played tougher than Bears’ freshman guard Reid Albright, who scored 17 points, including three 3-pointers, in his varsity basketball coming out party.

He also had eight rebounds and two blocks to go along with four steals as he spent his night terrorizing the Wildcats on both sides of the ball.

“He sees the court very well and he understands the game, that’s something you can’t teach,” Burke said. “He’s going to have a great year.”

What makes this Bears team special, according to Burke, is their ability to play much larger than they are.

Seniors Collin Lagenor (5-foot-

9) and Malachi Moore (5-foot-8) are two prime examples, both of which aren’t afraid to knock themselves — and others — around in the paint to give their team second or third chances on offense or disrupt opposing post players on defense.

“(Lagenor) plays like he’s 6-foot-6 as strong as he is,” Burke said. “He gets inside and he does a lot of things for us, especially tonight, that you don’t necessarily see in the scorebook.”

Early on, it looked like it might have been a repeat of the first matchup between the two teams, with the Wildcats’ top-two shooters, Smith and sophomore Tanner DeLatre (18 points), splashing a pair of triples to give South Davidson a 6-4 lead just a few minutes into the contest.

From there, however, Bears senior Trey Clay hit a 3-pointer of his own, along with a gorgeous eurostep finish at the basket a couple of possessions later, to give Chatham Central a 9-6 advantage.

Albright followed it up with a pull-up 3-pointer in transition to make it 12-7 and complete a block on the other end to fire up his squad and give the Wildcats a glimpse of what they were in for.

South Davidson wouldn’t take the lead for the rest of the game.

While the Bears’ dominant win acted as a showcase for their defense and a breakout moment for Albright, perhaps more importantly were the contributions of two key seniors: Clay and Moore, neither of whom had picked up a basketball competitively since middle school/early high school.

This past offseason, the Bears graduated nine seniors, including star center Michael Moore, who’s now playing basketball at Appalachian State.

Instead of having a down year with very little senior leadership, however, Burke seems to have found something special in his upperclassman group, including Clay (12 points) and Moore (10 points), who are both providing a major spark for a Bears team with little varsity basketball experience.

“They’re the most athletic players that we’ve got on the

team,” Burke said of Moore and Clay. “They give us a lot of ability on the court that we didn’t have without them. Rebounding, quickness. ... After tonight, I’m tickled.”

After going on a 13-1 run to end the first quarter, the Bears came out to start the second with just as much firepower, racking up four steals in the first three minutes and feeding the hot hand as Albright downed two 3-pointers to help get the Bears out to a 27-7 lead.

By then, Chatham Central was on a 21-1 run and had all the momentum.

The Bears continued to play aggressively, controlling the paint and locking down the Wildcats’ best offensive weapons, throughout the half, cruising to a 41-20 halftime lead.

The second half was more of the same story — aside from a stellar fourth quarter from DeLatre, who scored nine points and played excellent defense to keep South Davidson within 20 points despite Chatham Central’s best attempt to blow the game wide open.

The Bears grabbed 27 of their 39 rebounds in the second half, including 11 on the offensive end, as their inside presence became even stronger after the break, staving off any chance the Wildcats had at a comeback and leading them all the way to a 19-point revenge win.

Chatham Central will finally face a team other than South Davidson this week, when they visit the Southwestern Randolph Cougars (2-2) on Tuesday and the red-hot Chatham Central Knights (8-1) on Friday.

While Burke said his team still has plenty to work on after the win over the Wildcats, it’s hard not to be impressed with the team’s 180-degree turnaround after Thanksgiving break.

“In a couple of games, I think we’ll be fine, as long as we don’t get a real good team that breaks our stride,” Burke said. “I think in the 1A/2A (split) this season, we’ll do pretty good.”

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Hispanic Liaison wins GSK IMPACT award for efforts to create healthier community

SILER CITY — The Hispanic Liaison was one of 10 Triangle-based community nonprofits to win an IMPACT award from global pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) for creating a healthier community.

GSK partnered with the Triangle Community Foundation and Philadelphia Foundation in 2021 to award \$1 million to 20 small- to mid-sized nonprofits working to improve the health of marginalized populations — including 10 based in the Triangle and 10 in Greater Philadelphia. Launched 25 years ago, the IMPACT awards since have doled out over \$13 million to community nonprofits.

Each winner will receive \$50,000 in unrestricted funds to

continue their work; this year's award sum represents a 25% increase from last year's.

"Health is about so much more than the products that we (GSK) make or what happens in the doctor's office," Sri Ramaswami, GSK's head of U.S. Communications, said during the company's virtual IMPACT awards ceremony. "The IMPACT awards have shown us that the neighborhood and community that a person lives in and the support systems that they have access to have an even greater influence on living a healthy life. ... Thanks to the work of these amazing GSK IMPACT Award winners, more people are living in healthy neighborhoods and communities every day."

Along with 19 other leaders, the Liaison's executive director — Ilana Dubester — spoke about the nonprofit's mission and work in the virtual award ceremony. This included the health and safety project they

launched with poultry plant workers to advocate for healthier working conditions and their Solidarity Fund — which has distributed \$226,000 to 261 immigrant families who didn't qualify for federal stimulus checks.

"Thanks to your generosity and vote of confidence we'll make our organization and our communities stronger," Dubester said. "Mil gracias."

Toyota to build company's first North American battery plant in North Carolina

RALEIGH — Toyota will build its first North American battery manufacturing plant for a new generation of vehicles in North Carolina, creating at least 1,750 jobs, Gov. Roy Cooper announced Monday.

Toyota will invest \$1.29 billion at the Greensboro-Randolph Megawatt, strengthening

North Carolina's position as a leader in the nation's growing, clean energy economy.

"It's tremendous that Toyota has selected North Carolina for such an important part of its electric vehicle future, creating good paying jobs and moving us toward a healthier environment," Cooper said. "It's clear the world is beginning to embrace a clean energy future and today's decision puts North Carolina front and center."

Toyota Motor North America Inc. is the headquarters for all Toyota's operations in North America, including research and development, vehicle design, manufacturing, sales, and marketing. The company sells and distributes a wide variety of Toyota and Lexus branded vehicles, including a growing line of electrified vehicles of hybrids, plug-in hybrids, fuel cells and battery electric vehicles. Currently, electrified vehicles account for nearly 25% of its sales volume,

and the company estimates that number will increase to 70% by 2030.

The new plant in Randolph County will initially produce batteries for Toyota's hybrid electric vehicles, and intends to produce batteries for battery electric vehicles long term.

"The future of mobility is electrification and the Greensboro-Randolph Megawatt is the ideal location to make that future a reality," said Ted Ogawa, CEO of Toyota Motor North America. "North Carolina offers the right conditions for this investment, including the infrastructure, high-quality education system, access to a diverse and skilled workforce, and a welcoming environment for doing business. Today marks the beginning of a mutually beneficial partnership with the Tar Heel state as we embark on our journey to achieve carbon neutrality and provide mobility for all."

— CN+R staff reports

PITTSBORO PARTNERSHIP

Town, local grocer to provide clean water to residents

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The town of Pittsboro and Chatham Marketplace have finalized a partnership to help bring clean drinking water to town residents.

Chatham Marketplace has agreed to allow Pittsboro's water users to access the grocery store's water dispensing system, which uses reverse osmosis and UV light to treat the water for PFAS and PFOS — known as "forever chemicals" and considered health risks if consumed in high levels.

Manager Evan Diamond said the process

started when local activist Jennifer Platt approached him at Chatham Marketplace about finding a way to source treated water and make it accessible to residents.

"She was initially making the connection between us and the town," Diamond said.

Pittsboro has struggled with water quality because of contamination in the Haw River, the main source of Pittsboro's drinking water. As recently as the past month, the town experienced a spike in 1,4-Dioxane levels in the water related to an improper discharge from a

yet-unnamed Greensboro industry.

After further discussions with town officials and Town Manager Chris Kennedy, a formal partnership was forged to help address some issues with deadlines associated with Pittsboro's water treatment plant project, as well as the recent pollutant discharges from Greensboro.

Kennedy told the News + Record the town has been working to expand the treatment capacities at the water plant in Pittsboro. This would be done through the installation of a Granular Activated Carbon system — but that project has

been delayed because of supply chain shortages.

"We were shooting for the end of this calendar year — we were pushing hard for that," Kennedy said. "We knew that was ambitious, but we really wanted to try to kind of make that more to settle the minds and the hearts of our citizens and residents and customers, but we weren't able to meet that target."

Kennedy said because of the delay, the town found itself in need of a more immediate solution.

"I think it provides an alternative to our customers," Kennedy said of Chatham Marketplace's solution. "If they have concerns about our water, they can go and have a local destination, a place where they can get water free of charge."

Chatham Marketplace is allowing Pittsboro water customers, including residents of Chapel Ridge, to receive free water at its treated water dispenser in their grocery store. Residents who pay for Pittsboro's water can present a coupon code to the store's cashier. Customers must provide their own container to fill with the treated water.

Kennedy pointed out that when it comes to levels of PFOA, PFOS and PFAS, the levels are not

that different between Chatham Marketplace's treated water and the town's.

Kennedy said recently measured levels of PFOA, PFOS and PFAS in the town's treated water were 3.0 ng/L, 1.8 ng/L and 5.1 ng/L, respectively. In comparison, Chatham Marketplace's levels for PFOA, PFOS and PFAS were 0.85 ng/L, 1.2 ng/L and 0.64 ng/L, respectively. All of these levels are well below the EPA's recommended 40 ng/L for PFOA and PFOS.

Despite the town's PFAS and PFOS levels staying close to Chatham Marketplace's levels, Kennedy said he believes having a second option for drinking water will help ease the minds of residents.

"We really are proud to provide the alternative for those who want to opt in to doing so," Kennedy said. "It's really just an ability to provide that supplement and alternative where previously they didn't think it was available to them, and hopefully, that's comforting to our customers."

Kennedy said there is no limit to how much people can take, since the water is being paid for by the residents' monthly water bill.

Chatham Marketplace is a local co-op

grocery store located in Chatham Mills on 480 Hillsboro St. in Pittsboro. The marketplace is owned by members of the community, who pay a fee to be an owner of the grocery store. One of Chatham Marketplace's seven principles include "Cooperation among Cooperatives," which is defined as "cooperative owners and the cooperative movement in general is served best by working collaboratively with other local, regional, national, and international co-op organizations."

The partnership is an example of this principle, according to Diamond. He said that while he did not imagine Chatham Marketplace would play a role in becoming a solution to a long-time problem in Pittsboro, he was excited to see what this partnership brings to the community.

"What's really important to us is being catalysts for cooperation in the community," he said. "Whether that's for owners or not, one of our missions is just trying to be useful so this seems like a very good way to fulfill that and be a partner in town and help people get some water."

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

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Don't avoid 'taboo' topics with older parents

If your parents are getting close to retirement age, or are already retired, it may be time to talk with them about financial and aging issues, some of which may involve difficult conversations. For the sake of everyone in your family, don't avoid these "taboo" topics.

You'll need to be careful about approaching these subjects with your parents. Mention ahead of time that you'd like to talk to them about their future plans and reassure them that you want to understand their wishes, so their affairs will be taken care of as they would like.

If your parents are agreeable, choose a location comfortable for them and ask whom they might like to invite (or not invite). Then, think about how to open the conversation, preferably not with what they want to do with their money — this could be interpreted as your seeking information about your inheritance or being skeptical about their financial decisions. Instead, build a broad-based discussion about their vision for their aging years. A series of shorter conversations may allow you to cover topics more comfortably, one by one, rather than trying to solve everything at once.

Try to address these areas:

- Health care — You'll want to learn if your parents have established the appropriate health-related legal documents — a health care power of attorney, which gives someone the authority to make important decisions about their medical care if they become unable to do so themselves, and a living will, which spells out the extraordinary medical treatments they may or may not want.
- Independence — As people age, they may begin to lose their independence. Have your parents considered any options for long-term care, such as a nursing home stay, or the services of a home health aide?

And do they have plans in place? If they plan to receive support from family members, do their expectations match yours?

- Financial goals — Focusing on the personal and financial aspects of the legacy your parents want to leave can be a valuable conversation. Have your parents updated their will or other arrangements, such as a living trust? Have they named a financial power of attorney to make decisions on their behalf if they become incapacitated? Do they have the proper beneficiary designations on their insurance policies and retirement plan accounts? If you can position these issues as being more about your parents' control over their financial destiny, rather than "who will get what," you'll more likely have a productive conversation.
- Last wishes — You'll want to find out if your parents have left instructions in their will about their funerals and last wishes. Express to them that you, or another close family member, should know who is responsible for making sure their wishes are met. Money, independence and aging can be sensitive topics. Don't think you have to go it alone — you can enlist help from another close family member. Or, if you know your parents are working with a trusted advisor, such as an attorney or financial professional, you could see if they'd be willing to have this person participate in your talks. You might even be able to introduce them to one of your advisors.

In any case, keep talking. These conversations can be challenging, but, if handled correctly, can be of great benefit to your parents and your entire family.

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

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Don't Feed the Grease Goblin!

DO

- ✓ Put oil and grease in collection containers
- Remove oil and grease from kitchen utensils, equipment and food preparation areas with scrapers/towels/brooms
- ✓ Keep grease out of wash water
- ✓ Place food scraps in collection containers

DO NOT

- Pour oil and grease down drains
- Wash fryers/griddles, pots/pans and plates with water until oil and grease are removed
- Use hot water to rinse grease off surfaces Put food scraps down drains

No Alimente a el Duende de Grasa!

SI

- ✓ Ponga la grasa en contenedores apropiados
- Remueva el aceite y la grasa de utensilios de cocina, equipos, y areas de preparación de comidas con espátulas/toallas/escobas
- Mantenga la grasa fuera de el agua de lavar
- ✓ Ponga los desperdicios de comida en contenedores adecuados

NO

- No tire aceite o grasa en los drenajes
- No lave con agua freidora/planchas, ollas.cacerolas y platos hasta que el aceite y la grasa hayan sido removidos
- No use aua caliente para limpiar la grasa de las superficies
- No tire desperdicios de comida en los drenajes

'WE JUST WANT TO MAKE OUR CONCERNS HEARD'

Chatham teacher group wants bonuses, pay raises for classified staff

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Association of Educators (CCA) is asking the county's board of education to use federal relief dollars to recruit and retain staff.

A petition posted last week on The Action Network, an online organizing platform, said demands on Chatham schools' staff have been "extraordinary in recent times."

"Vacant positions and extra duties have strained already excessive workloads and schedules," reads the petition, sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Educators. "We firmly believe that what makes Chatham County schools an excellent school system for our students is its personnel. We fear this excellence is in jeopardy as these additional responsibilities are resulting in burnout and exhaustion amongst employees. We feel it is right that all staff be compensated for the extra time and work they have put in over the last 2 years."

Petition organizers plan to share signatures — nearly 400 as of Tuesday, with more than 100 online — with the school board at its Dec. 13 meeting; many staff members plan to make public comments as well.

"We are not angry with the school board. We just want to make our concerns heard," petition organizer and Northwood High School teacher Edward Walgate told the News + Record. "And we know the superintendent and county office are supportive of more compensation for staff. We would like to work with them to ensure high quality staff can be recruited and retained."

COVID-relief funds

North Carolina school districts have so far spent about \$1.1 billion of their allotted relief money, or about 20% of the total, a November NC Watchdog Reporting Network report found. At Chatham County Schools, the district had \$16.84 million remaining from its more than \$22 million COVID-relief-related funds — a fact the petition calls out.

"We feel a substantial amount of this money should be invested in fairly compensating school employees," the petition says. "This will allow Chatham County to attract and retain the highly qualified personnel that make our school system one of the best in the state."

Though the district had only spent a little more than \$5 million of its COVID-relief funds as of November, some of its previously approved spending plans include allotments of funds over the next two to three years.

The second round of funding, Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II), must be allocated by Sept. 30, 2023, to be spent by the end of that year, while ESSER III must last until Sept. 30, 2024. School districts are expected to use some of their ESSER II funding for last year's summer learning costs, along with next year's.

In June, funding for the following new positions for the next three years was approved:

- A high school dropout prevention position for each high school
- District translator
- Digital learning instruction program facilitator
- K-12 literacy program facilitator
- Equity executive director
- Contracted mental health services for in-school therapy
- Two counselors, three social workers, two nurses, three ESL teachers and 23 instruction assistants to support K-3 learning loss and class sizes

In September, the board approved a retention and recruitment bonus plan for district employees from its relief funds, which gave all full-time employees a \$1,250 one-time bonus and all part-time employees a one-time bonus of \$650. Under the plan, employees who join the district between Oct. 11 and Dec. 13 and who made a "firm time commitment" for how long they'll stay in the system would receive a signing bonus — \$1,500 for classified employees and \$3,500 for certified employees.

Even so, additional potential unallocated funds remain. The petition, then, was developed in support of CCS students, staff and Superintendent Anthony Jackson, and calls for an additional \$2,750 bonus to be given to every staff member — which would total about \$3.3 million of ESSER funds.

The petition also calls for an increase in classified staff wages to more than \$15 per hour — until the state wage levels take effect in 2024 — and to raise the rate for substitute pay to \$130 per day for certified staff with teaching licenses and \$100 per day for non-certified staff. (The minimum wage for school staff

will rise to \$13 an hour, up from as low as \$11, this school year, under the newly passed state budget, and then to \$15 an hour next fall.)

"A major concern is the current pay of classified staff," Walgate said. "Some of our custodians have been working here for many years and only make \$12.40/hour. Our head custodian started off making around \$11/hour, 23 years ago and she now makes \$12.55/hour. We have struggled to find substitute teachers in the last year and part of that is the fact that they make \$80/day if they are uncertified and \$100/day if they are certified."

The state budget

The first full state budget since 2017, signed into law last month by Gov. Roy Cooper, allocates hundreds of millions of dollars to increase educator compensation pay over the next two years.

While lawmakers are publicizing average pay raises of 5% over the next two years, many teachers are frustrated due to the fact that the increase in base pay this year amounts to, in most cases, about \$50 to \$65 per month. North Carolina ranks 30th in the nation for teacher pay, not including pay for other school employees like cafeteria workers, janitors, instructional assistants and bus drivers.

School employees are eligible for bonuses from the state budget — up to \$2,800 for teachers — but those are temporary.

The average 5% pay raise over two years includes annual step increases on the teacher salary schedule most teachers receive for each extra year of service. The 2.5% annual raise breaks down to a 1.3% bump in base salary each year, and an annual step increase for teachers with 15 years or less of service

While lawmakers are publicizing average pay raises of 5% over the next two years, many teachers are frustrated due to the fact that the increase in base pay this year amounts to, in most cases, about \$50 to \$65 per month. North Carolina ranks 30th in the nation for teacher pay, not including pay for other school employees like cafeteria workers, janitors, instructional assistants and bus drivers.

amounting to about a 1.2% raise. The CCAE petition

calls for an additional \$2,750 bonus for all CCS employees, regardless

of what bonuses they're eligible for from the state. "Please help our school staff, our school system, and our students by signing this petition," the site reads. "Our kids and our classrooms can't wait for us to recruit and retain the staff they need to learn."

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



Chatham COA Events & Announcements

December 9th through December 15th

Thursday, December 9th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
- [Take Off Pounds Sensibly \(TOPS\)](#) at 1:00 PM 🧘
- [Geri-Fit w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (at WCSC Aerobic Room) 🧘

Friday, December 10th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM 🧘
- [Strong & Fit w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom) 🧘 📶
- [Friday Night Dance](#) at 7:00 PM (on site at WCSC - Siler City) 💰

Monday, December 13th

- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM 🧘
- [Strength & Conditioning w/Olivia](#) at 10:00 AM (at Holly Brooks Room, WCSC) 🧘
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center (Pittsboro) and on Zoom) 🧘 📶

Tuesday, December 14th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
- [Strong & Fit w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom) 🧘 📶
- [Geri-Fit w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 p.m. (at WCSC Aerobic Room) 🧘

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.

Eastern Chatham Senior Center (ECSC)
365 NC-87 N
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center (WCSC)
112 Village Lake Road
Siler City, NC 27344
919-742-3975



CHATHAM IS BOLD!



CHATHAM CHAT | AUTHOR KEVIN STEWART

'Geology of the Carolinas' explores uniqueness of N.C.'s Blue Ridge, Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions

North Carolina's mountains, Piedmont and coast provide more than just gorgeous landscapes and vacation destinations — they contain geological features that have played an important role in the human history of the state and region, as well as fascinating places to explore.

This week, we speak with author Kevin G. Stewart, an associate professor in the Department of Earth, Marine and Environmental Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill and the co-author, with Mary-Russell Roberson, of "Exploring the Geology of the Carolinas." The book — subtitled "A Field Guide to Favorite Places from Chimney Rock to Charleston" — is a reader-friendly guide to the geology of North Carolina and South Carolina. It pairs a brief geological history of the region with 31 field trips to easily-accessible (and often familiar) sites in both states where readers can observe firsthand the evidence of geologic change found in rocks, river basins, mountains, waterfalls, and coastal land formations.

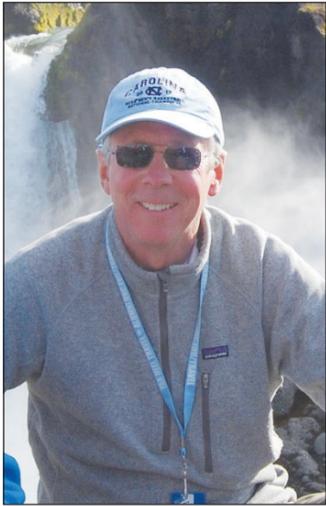
Stewart received his Ph.D. from U.C.-Berkeley. His research is focused on the evolution of mountain belts, including the Rocky Mountains of Montana and Wyoming, the Apennines of Italy, and the Appalachians. He's won numerous teaching awards.

Your book is entitled "Exploring the Geology of the Carolinas," but it's not just for geologists. Who would benefit from reading the book, and why should anyone who lives in the Carolinas own it?

One of the primary goals of our book is to introduce non-geologists to the amazing geologic stories that are contained in the rocks and landscapes of the Carolinas. Geology is everywhere, and in our book we help people "see" geology that they may have been overlooking. Not only has the rich geologic history of the Carolinas created our mountains, piedmont, and coast, but we also show how geology has played an important role in the human history of the Carolinas. Our book gives non-geologists a new way of looking at the history of the Carolinas.

In the book, you address the state's three geologic regions: the Blue Ridge, the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain. Which is your favorite among those, and why?

I live in the Piedmont, love to fish at the coast, and enjoy hiking in the mountains but I'd have to say that the Blue Ridge is my favorite. My personal research at UNC-Chapel Hill is focused on the origin of mountains and the Blue Ridge is not only a beautiful part of our



Submitted photo

Author Kevin Stewart

'... the Blue Ridge is not only a beautiful part of our state but is also the deeply eroded core of a mountain range that once rivaled the Himalayas in elevation quote.'

KEVIN STEWART, author

state but is also the deeply eroded core of a mountain range that once rivaled the Himalayas in elevation. In the Blue Ridge we can see the inner workings of the mountain building process that is usually deeply buried in other mountain ranges.

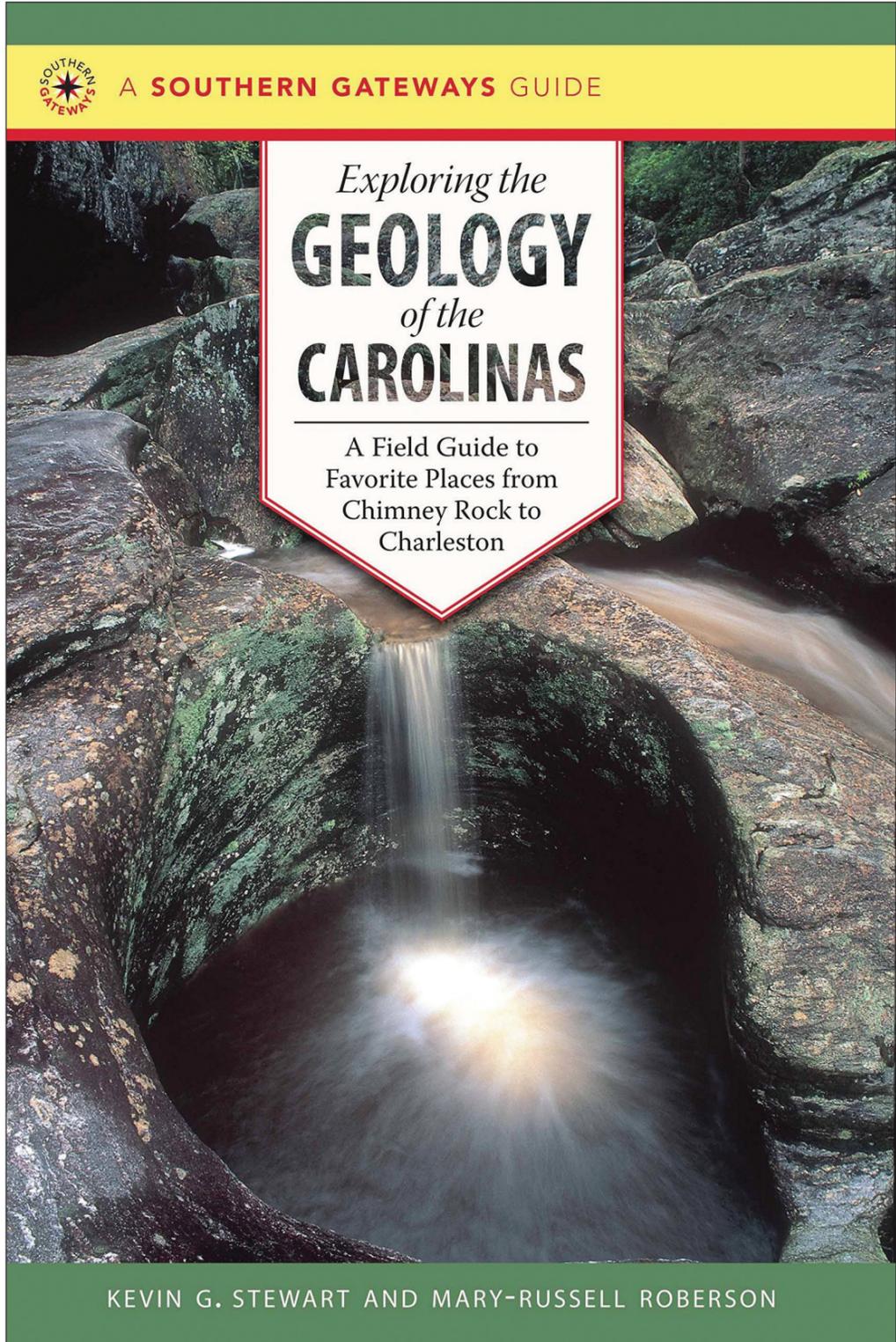
Your book outlines 31 fascinating field trips among those regions. How did you develop those, and do you have a favorite?

When Mary-Russell Roberson and I set out to write our book we wanted to not just describe the geology but to guide people to places where they could see the geology in person. We chose places that contained an interesting geologic story, were easily accessible, and located on public land, mostly in state parks. The hard part was distilling the field trips down to a manageable number. There are many more places we could have included.

North Carolina has some geologic anomalies and mysteries ... one of the most well-known is Pilot Mountain. How did that formation happen?

Although many people think that Pilot Mountain is an ancient volcano, it's not. Pilot Mountain stands as a lone peak because it is capped by a layer of rock, called quartzite, that is very resistant to erosion.

The rocky cliffs near the top of Pilot Mountain started as ancient beach sands that were deposited on the shores of the Iapetus Ocean, which is the ocean that existed in this area about 600 million years ago. Eventually these quartz-rich beach sands were buried and metamorphosed into a rock known as quartzite. As the Ap-



Stewart's book includes 31 'field trips' to sites of geological interest in the Carolinas.

palachian Mountains formed, the quartzite and other rocks were uplifted and exposed to erosion. The quartzite was an extensive layer, and parts of it can still be seen in Hanging Rock State Park, near Pilot Mountain. The quartzite at Pilot Mountain has been whittled away by erosion leaving the small cap that we see today.

Colorado's Rocky Mountains are certainly beautiful and spectacular, but what about our own Appalachians Mountains? What's most unique about them?

The Rocky Mountains are young, geologically speaking, which is why they stand taller than our old Appalachians, but our mountains are still remarkably high. Mount Mitchell, at 6,684 feet, is the highest point in the U.S. east of the Black Hills in South Dakota. The topographic relief in the Appalachians,

which is the difference in elevation between two nearby points, can be as much as a mile, rivaling the topographic relief seen in many places in the Rockies. Despite their antiquity, they are not a dead mountain range. In August 2020, there was a magnitude 5.1 earthquake in the Blue Ridge mountains near Sparta, where the fault broke the surface. This is the first time an earthquake in the eastern U.S. has produced a documented surface rupture.

You don't specifically address Chatham County in the book, but what can you share about our region? What's unique, what's different, what's noteworthy?

Chatham County has a wide variety of rock types, including volcanic and sedimentary rocks. The volcanic rocks are over 500 million years old and were erupted from ancient volcanoes that were active when this part of the earth's crust

was part of what is now South America.

Five hundred million years ago, the earth looked very different than it does today and the rocks that make up a significant part of eastern North Carolina were attached to an ancient continent known as Gondwana, which included large parts of present-day South America and Africa. Eventually these pieces of crust detached from Gondwana and, through the magic of plate tectonics, were able to cross the Iapetus Ocean (see Pilot Mountain, above) and collide with ancient North America. These rocks make up most of western and central Chatham County. The low topography in eastern Chatham County is floored by 200-million-year-old sedimentary rocks that fill an ancient rift basin that was created when the continent was pulled apart as the Atlantic Ocean was created. Chatham County has a truly remarkable geologic history!

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HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

'Best of' Triangle Theater is in Pittsboro

POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On November 23, Cassie Danielle Jordan, 34, of 5004 Old Coleridge Road, Ramseur, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for failure to appear. She was issued a \$1,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 8.

On November 24, Zhari Zhane Goins, 27, of 95 J Dowdy Road, Goldston, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for cyberstalking. She was issued a written promise to appear in Lee County District Court in Sanford on December 14. Goins was also arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for felony possession of cocaine. For this charge, she was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 3, 2022.

On November 26, Justin Lee Hodgkin, 41, of 425 Dr Truitt Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of stolen vehicle, and injury to personal property. He was issued a \$1,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 13. Hodgkin was also arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for failure to appear concerning a release order, failure to appear regarding a charge of driving/allowing the operation of a motor vehicle with no registration, and failure to appear regarding a charge of resisting a public officer. He was issued a \$2,500.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on December 14.

On November 26, Jonathan Ernesto Vilchis-Arreola, 19, of 237 Obie Drive, Durham, was

arrested by Deputy Regie Griffin for possession of marijuana. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 11.

On November 27, Justin Scott Ward, 34, of 566 Melvin Clark Road, Siler City, was arrested by Cpl. Robert Hussey for breaking and entering. He was issued a \$500.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 15.

On November 28, Allen King Wiggins, 40, homeless, was arrested by Deputy Justina Knox for a domestic violence protective order violation and felony stalking. He was held without bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 12.

On November 28, Stephen Parker Brown, 48, of 354 Stockinghead Road, Rose Hill, was arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for felony inflicting serious injury by vehicle. He was issued a \$10,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Pender County District Court in Burgaw on December 16. Brown was also arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for multiple failures to appear. He was issued a \$100.00 secured bond and scheduled to appear in Pender County District Court in Burgaw on February 9, 2022; a \$1,000.00 secured bond and scheduled to appear in New Hanover County District Court in Wilmington on December 14; and a \$100.00 secured bond and scheduled to appear in New Hanover County District Court in Wilmington on January 14, 2022.

On November 29, Dwayne Maurice Nettles, 29, of 306 West 5t Street, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for possession of methamphetamine,

maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for the use or sale of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of counterfeit instrument/currency. He was issued a \$5,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 3, 2022.

On November 30, James Michael Burns, 57, of 100 Piney Bluff, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Cody DeViney for domestic criminal trespass, communicating threats, and assault on a female. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 14.

On November 30, Kevin Samuel Rosales-Cruz, 19, of 1012 N. Chatham Avenue, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$50.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Guilford County District Court in Greensboro on December 7.

On December 1, Randall James Fesel, 26, of 488 NC Highway 87, Pittsboro, was arrested by Cpl. David Nixon for obtaining property under false pretense. He was issued a \$1,000.00 unsecured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on December 3.

On December 1, Judah Isaac Smith, 32, of 3102 Cedarwood Drive, Durham, was arrested by Deputy Devin Smith for injury to property, destruction/damage/vandalism of property, and communicating threats. He was issued a written promise to appear in Durham County District Court in Durham on December 13.

On December 1, Cheryl Ann Korkidas, 58, of 676 Old Chestnut Xing, Moncure, was arrested by Deputy Mackenzie

Abbott for assault with a deadly weapon. She was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 8.

On December 2, Jakeyra Shmione McClure, 30, of 1200 Lanada Road, Greensboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failure to appear on charges of speeding, driving while license revoked – impaired revocation, and expired registration card/tag. She was issued a \$500.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 7. McClure was also arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failure to appear related to charges of assault and battery. She was issued a \$100.00 cash bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 7. McClure was also arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failure to appear on charges of driving while license revoked. She was issued a \$1,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on December 13.

On December 3, Ricky Moore, 65, of 37 Masonic Street, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for failure to appear regarding a release order. He was issued a \$200.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 11, 2022.

On December 3, James Michael Burns, 57, of 100 Piney Bluff, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for violation of unsupervised probation. He was issued a \$5,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 7.

On December 3, Michael Shawn Seeley, 43, of 63 Steven Luke Lane, Broadway, was arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for violation of release conditions. He was issued a \$50,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County Superior Court in Pittsboro on December 13.

On December 4, David Edward Mashburn, 45, of 2334 Vander Oldham Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Soles for altering/stealing/destroying criminal evidence. He was issued a \$2,500.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 3, 2022. Mashburn was also arrested by Deputy Olivia Soles for failure to appear. He was issued \$1,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Lee County District Court in Sanford on January 13, 2022. Mashburn was also arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for failure to appear regarding child support. He was issued a \$10,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 17.

On December 4, Jenna Alyss Andrews, 28, of 7892 Siler City Glendon Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for obtaining property under false pretense, forgery of endorsement, forgery of instrument, and identity theft. She was issued a \$2,500.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 13. Andrews was also arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for possession of methamphetamine. She was issued a \$1,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 3, 2022.

Andrews was also arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for multiple failures to appear. For the first, she was issued a \$4,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 8. For the second, she was issued a \$500.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 3, 2022.

On December 6, John Wayne Gerteisen, 69, of 2501 Corinth Road, Moncure, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for burning personal property, fraudulently burning dwelling, and burning other buildings. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County Court in Pittsboro on January 3, 2022.

Burning ban issued by Chatham County Fire Marshal

Hazardous forest fire conditions prompt directive

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Due to increased fire risk, and at the direction of the North Carolina Forest Service, the Chatham County Fire Marshal's Office has issued a ban on all open burning and has canceled all burning permits county-wide until further notice.

This ban includes open burning within the municipal limits of Goldston, Pittsboro, and Siler City.

Open burning includes burning leaves, branches, or other plant material. In all cases, burning trash, lumber, tires, newspapers, plastics, or other non-vegetative material is illegal. Under North Carolina law, the N.C. Forest Service ban prohibits all open burning in all 100 counties, regardless of whether a permit was previously issued. The issuance of any new permits also has been suspended until the ban is lifted. Anyone violating the burn ban faces a \$100 fine plus \$183 in court costs. Any person responsible for setting a fire may be liable for any expenses related to extinguishing the fire. Local fire officials and law enforcement officers are assisting the NC Forest Service in enforcing the burn ban.

"It is fall wildfire season in North Carolina, and we are seeing wildfire activity increase due to dry conditions," said N.C. Agriculture Com-

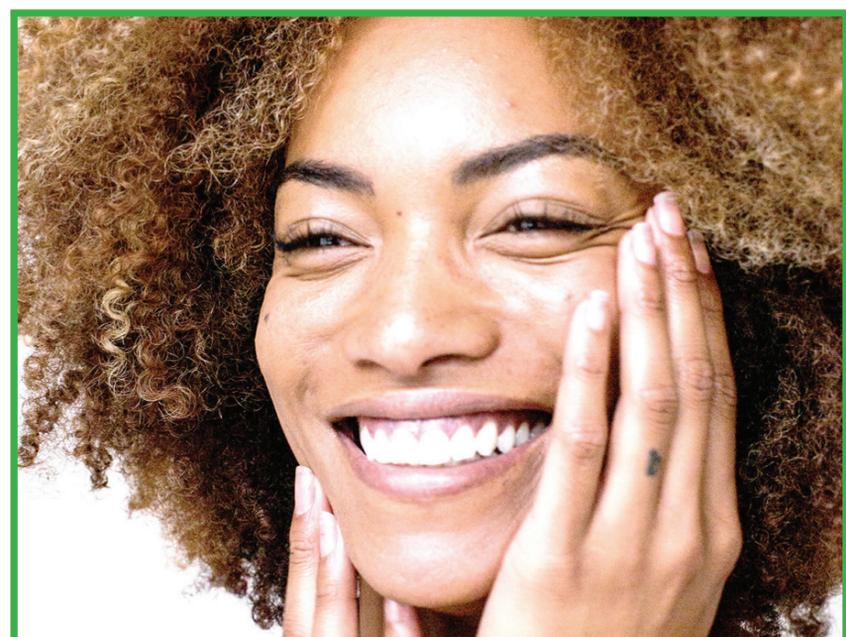
This ban includes open burning within the municipal limits of Goldston, Pittsboro, and Siler City.

missioner Steve Troxler. "With these ongoing conditions, a statewide burn ban is necessary to reduce the risk of fires starting and spreading quickly. Our top priority is always to protect lives, property, and forestland across the state."

Chatham County Fire Marshal Billy Judson strongly recommends that only liquid gas or propane camp stoves that do not use solid briquettes and have on/off controls be used during this time and strongly urges all county residents and property owners to be attentive to the conditions of their properties through proactive fire prevention measures. He also discourages the use of fire pits due to the risk of embers that may spark a fire.

"We recognize that this decision may alter recreational plans, but the decision to issue a burn ban prioritizes public safety and the protection of property," Judson said.

The burn ban will remain in place until further notice, and the NC Forest Service will continue to monitor conditions. The public is asked to call 911 to report any wildfires or if they see any fire burning that is not in a gas or charcoal grill. Residents with questions about the burn ban may contact the Chatham County Fire Marshal's Office at 919-545-8342 or visit the NC Forest Service website at <https://www.ncforestservice.gov>.



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A few birds with one dinner

In days of yore, Gentle Reader, I would literally spend two or even three days on an elaborate, labor-intensive dinner. Then I got a job selling cars.

So, these days elaborate and time-consuming mean sitting down to eat, and maybe putting the grub on an actual plate. Even on my days off (which sometimes, based on the schedule of customers, may vanish altogether) time is short because it's when I try and cram everything from my old, leisurely life into one or two days.

Early on, I even tried to get everything done plus catch up on my rest. But I had to pick one, so it's mostly lots of errands and if I'm extraordinarily lucky, a little sleep.

But I really miss cooking from scratch and eating said cooking.

When I do cook, I like to make it tick off a few boxes: tasty, healthy, quick, comforting, and quick (yeah, I know I put it in twice, but for my new, uber-busy life, quick is life-or-death crucial).

I love macaroni salad. Growing up it was elbow macaroni, tuna from a can, and mayo. I think it's a regional thing. My mom grew up with it in New Jersey and one of my managers at the dealership, who's from New York, also ate boatloads of it and even brings it in for lunch once in a while.

The problem with this simple three-ingredient salad is the mayonnaise absorbs into the pasta almost instantly. This makes for a dust dry salad very quickly.

I also love pasta salads from various salad bars because they do something to the dressing that keeps it from completely absorbing and leaving it seductively draping the pasta and the

New School Macaroni Salad

1 cup frozen peas
1 cup grape tomatoes, sliced in half
1 1/2 cups cooked white meat chicken, cut into bite-size chunks
1 1/2 cups cavatappi pasta, cooked in heavily salted water, drained, and cooled, but not rinsed

1/4 cup thinly sliced green onions or snipped chives
Fresh salad greens
Salt and pepper
Dressing
1 cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons malt or red wine vinegar
Hot water
Salt and pepper

Break out two colanders. Into the smaller one, place peas, tomatoes and chicken. Season and set aside for peas to thaw.

Make dressing: into a small bowl, whisk together mayo and vinegar. Slowly add the hot water a teaspoon at a time and whisk until it is silky and the consistency of creamy salad dressing. Set aside. Dressing can be made up to a day earlier, cover and refrigerate and then whisk before using, adding a little bit of hot water if needed to thin.

Drain cooked pasta into a second, larger colander. Allow to cool completely.

To prepare:
Place pasta, along with peas, tomatoes, and chicken into a large bowl. Add green onions and dressing.

Toss until it's evenly coated. Cover and let sit at room temp for about 30 minutes for flavors to come together and pasta to lightly absorb dressing. Taste for seasoning and re-season, if necessary.

Serve in shallow bowls. Top each with a handful of greens.

Makes four dinner-sized servings.

other salad components.

The problem with these restaurant-prepared recipes is that they're often studded with things that I don't like enough to have in my house, let alone in my mouth.

Once worked in the mall that housed Southern Season. The famous foodie amusement park had a salad bar. In that salad bar they had a pasta salad that I ate often. It had that tantalizing clingy dressing.

But one day they changed the recipe and started adding ingredients that utterly turned me off; but it still had that silky dressing. So, I asked one of the cooks what was the secret ingredient.

His answer floored me and made me think he didn't understand the question — water!

That night I called my friend and culinary mentor, Chef Chrissie. He explained that simple water loosened the mayo up enough to slow the absorption and coat the salad fixin's.

But he added one piece of advice: add another liquid as well to up the ante

on the flavor, rather than dilute it. He liked an acid to cut the mayo's richness.

I always keep a bag or two of frozen peas in the chill chest. I use them in all kinds of things and often end up with a cup or so hanging in the freezer.

The other night I happened to have some white meat chicken left from a previous meal.

So, I decided to make a pasta salad — but instead of a side dish for a main dish, this would be an "only dish" dinner, a salad as entree, and use up some bits and pieces of this and that.

One of the pieces was some greens that were fresh and crispy, but not enough for a full salad. Topping the creamy pasta salad with the lettuces brought a bright freshness that lightened the whole thing — plus it made all the calories and fat just go away like a miracle.

Not really. But it was delicious.

Thanks for your time. Contact me with questions or comments at dm@bullcity.mom.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

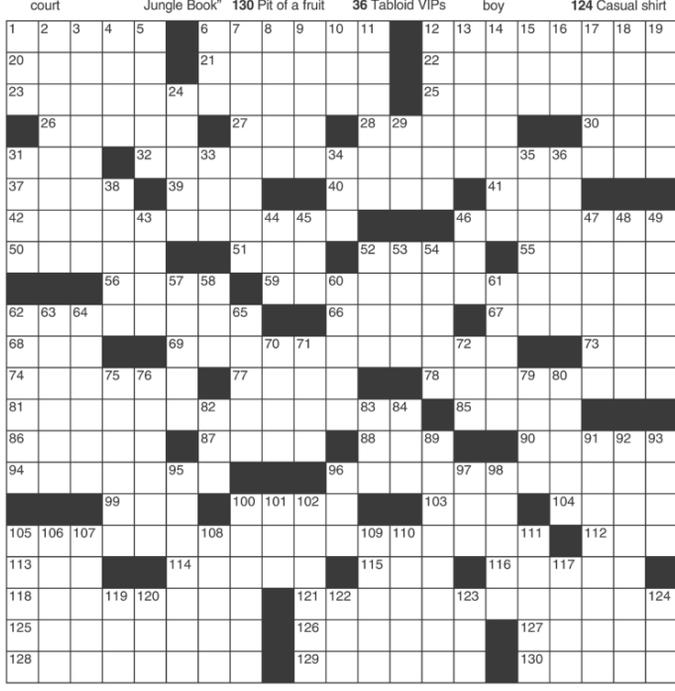
ACROSS

1 Vocalist
6 Falsely present as genuine
12 Wizard-Magic matchups, e.g.
20 Brand of spaghetti sauce
21 Illicit moneylender
22 Legendary lost city of gold
23 Carjacking or kidnapping
25 Guys playing in central positions in team sports
26 Whirling, old-style
27 Vase variety
28 Disgrace
30 Major Dutch banking corp.
31 "I believe," on the internet
32 Metabolism or reproduction
37 Places for petri dishes
40 Actress
41 Haul to court

DOWN

1 Tanning lotion stat
2 Aids for walking tours
3 Scarlet tanager
4 Old film critic
5 Biblical peak identified with Sinai
6 Ending for eye or mouth
7 Fancy word for "kiss"
8 Little donkey
9 Round rubber gasket
10 Masc. opposite
11 Plaster painting
12 Kathmandu native
13 Zeppelin, e.g.
14 Not favorable
15 Gunky stuff
16 Still lifes, e.g.
17 Ike's first lady
18 Utopias
19 Jukebox selections
24 Supreme Court's Samuel
29 Solo of "Solo"
31 "Casablanca" heroine
33 Embrace fully
34 Not healthy
35 Surpass in firepower
36 Tabloid VIPs

87 About
88 Genre for
90 Blown away
94 Made calm
96 President
98-Down,
99 Billfold bill
100 Hawaiian
103 Neighbor of
104 Actor Brody
105 Chemistry
59 Market
112 Former NPR
113 Slangy
114 Zapped with
115 Social insect
116 Monastery
118 Pub vessel
121 "P.S."
73 Imbibe slowly
74 "Sakes alive!"
77 "Va-va-—!"
78 Boxes of
81 They patrol
85 Historic
86 Wolf in "The
127 Loosen, as a
128 Irremediable
129 Hams it up
130 Pit of a fruit



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

A	I	S	L	E	D	A	B	S	I	L	T	S	P	R	I	T	E		
R	A	P	I	D	F	I	R	E	P	O	O	R	T	I	E	S	U	P	
A	G	E	D	G	R	A	C	E	F	U	L	L	O	N	F	I	R	E	
B	O	A	E	E	L	S	A	M	A	Z	I	N	G	R	A	C	E		
	K	N	I	T	S	O	X	E	N	T	A	I	A	H	A	S			
H	A	S	O	N		C	U	E	D	I	N	P	E	R	M				
E	C	O	N	A	M	A	S	S	P	D	S	C	E	L	E	B			
E	A	U	A	V	E	R	T	B	A	R	E	T	T	A	A	X	E		
L	I	T	A	F	I	R	E	R	O	W	M	E	H	O	V	A	L		
	G	R	A	C	E	N	O	T	E	S	R	E	C	H	A	L	L		
N	A	I	L	I	T	R	O	T	H	I	R	A	P	I	G	S	T	Y	
A	M	M	O	N	I	A	R	I	N	G	O	F	F	I	R	E			
S	P	E	W	O	W	E	N	I	H	G	R	A	C	E	C	U	P		
A	L	A	I	N	E	R	T	I	A	S	H	O	N	E	E	R	A		
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D	U	M	P	S	T	E	R	F	I	R	E	G	Y	R	O	T	O	P	
E	N	H	A	L	O	G	R	A	C	E	U	N	D	E	R	F	I	R	E
S	T	I	R	I	N	E	A	R	L	S	A	I	D	G	R	A	C	E	
T	O	T	E	M	S	S	T	Y	E	E	W	E	S	O	L	A	R		

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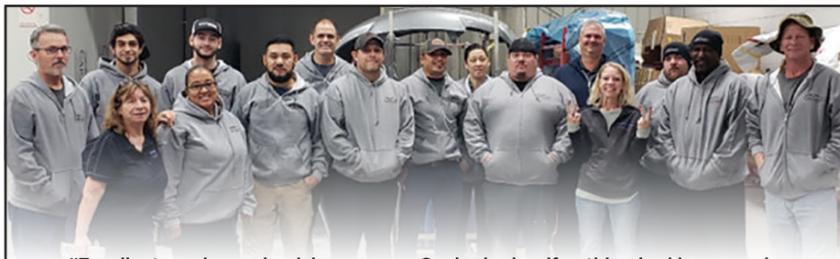
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3					5			6
	8			7		1	9	
		7	2				4	
		9	3				2	
	3				7			1
5		6		1		4		
		2	7			5		
9			1		6			3
	6			4				8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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MAGIC MAZE ● HORNERD WORDS

U E B Y V S Q N K H E B Y W T
R O L J T G E B Y W U R P N K
N B I F A E A G D B Z X V S E
Q R I O O L N R O H E D N P M
K I O G T G P R E C A R I Y W
U S Q H H P N H O S O P L J H
F E O T O N R O H N I T C A
Y R X R V W R U G R E R S Q P
N N M N K J A N O H N O O F E
E K I L N R O H L L U B H H C
B Z Y X V L L I B N R O H S T

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: A LARGE WASP

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Alphorn | Dehorn | Hornlike | Shorn |
| Althorn | Foghorn | Hornpipe | Thorns |
| Bighorn | Hawthorn | Longhorn | Tinhorn |
| Bullhorn | Hornbill | Shoehorn | |

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HORNED WORDS

THE CN+R REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS

Appearances are deceiving and engrossing in 'The Power of the Dog'

For her first feature film in over a decade, writer-director Jane Campion tackles the American West in "The Power of the Dog," an engrossing dissection of everything from masculinity to class, sexism, sexuality, and expansionism. Exquisitely shot by cinematographer Ari Wegner and hauntingly scored by Jonny Greenwood, the film opens with an air of "There Will Be Blood" (also scored by Greenwood) before morphing into full-blown "A Streetcar Named Desire," then flirts with "Call Me By

THE POWER OF THE DOG
GRADE: A -
DIRECTOR: Jane Campion
STARRING: Benedict Cumberbatch, Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Plemons and Kodi Smit-McPhee
MPAA RATING: R
RUNNING TIME: 2 hr. 6 min.

cattle rancher in business with his brother, George (Jesse Plemons). Each yearns for a life they don't have. Once Phi Beta Kappa at Yale, Phil now embraces the gritty, grimy life of a cowpoke. He rarely bathes, braids rawhide into his own lassos, and castrates bulls by hand. He constantly evokes the memory of his deceased mentor Bronco Henry, who taught Phil the ways of the West. By contrast, the effete George yearns for the finer life, erecting a manse in the middle of a Montana plain and cladding himself in fine suits. He hires housekeepers, hauls in a grand piano, and hosts dinner parties with politicians. The two share a familial bond but have an uneasy relationship. George also wants a family

and unexpectedly finds his bride in Rose (Kirsten Dunst), who runs a rural restaurant with her teenage son, Peter (Kodi Smit-McPhee). After George moves in Rose, the cruelly disapproving Phil sets out to emotionally torture his new sister-in-law. He extends his torment to Peter when he returns from medical school for an extended visit. The awkward Peter — "Little Lord Fauntleroy," Phil derisively calls him — endures barbs as he prances around in high-wafer pants, an ill-fitting 10-gallon hat, and snow-white sneakers. Campion examines the conception of masculinity in a transforming milieu. It is notable that while the advent of the railroad is usually used in film to denote the end of the Old

West, Campion sets this film in 1925, with Model T Fords rattling amidst horses and serpentine dirt roadways bisecting across the expansive frontier. It is a tableau in transition, both physically and culturally. When Phil takes a shine to Peter, their respective motives propel the primary plot. Phil wants to fill the same role for Peter that Bronco Henry once filled for him. As for Peter, well, his ungainly visage does not tell the whole story. Campion's turgid pacing lures the viewer into a false sense of lethargy, and slow-moving scenes seemingly ripe for trimming become fodder for a second viewing once all is unveiled. Like everything else in "The Power of the Dog," appearances are deceiving.

'Being the Ricardos' is a gauzy Lucy biopic to like, not love

Yes, there are other seemingly more fitting actors than Nicole Kidman to portray Lucille Ball in writer-director Aaron Sorkin's "Being the Ricardos." Jessica Chastain and Cate Blanchett (who was once linked to the film project) are obvious choices, with Tilda Swinton being my own dark horse candidate. Still, while Kidman does not give a precise impersonation of Lucy, she is a tremendous actor who ably captures Lucy's spunk and spirit, both on and especially off screen. The presence of children Desi Arnaz Jr. and Lucie Arnaz as producers betrays what "Being the Ricardos" is: an entertaining yet gauzy hagiography about the marriage and legendary comedy team of Lucy (Kidman) and Desi Arnaz (Javier Bardem). Bardem convincingly channels Desi's Cuban charm, his admiration for his talented wife, and

BEING THE RICARDOS
GRADE: B
DIRECTOR: Aaron Sorkin
STARRING: Nicole Kidman, Javier Bardem, J. K. Simmons, Nina Arianda and Tony Hale
MPAA RATING: R
RUNNING TIME: 2 hr. 11 min.

glimpses of his self-indulgence. The film's framing device is the week leading up to filming the 1952 episode of "I Love Lucy" titled "Fred and Ethel Fight." From table reading to rehearsals, we see Lucy's comic genius and obsessive perfection. She disapproves of the episode's director, wants to rewrite the episode's opening, and roasts co-stars Bill Frawley (J. K. Simmons) and Vivian Vance (Nina Arianda) to the set at 3 a.m. to restage a dinner scene. Meanwhile, Desi and the studio heads fret over impending tabloid reports linking Lucy to the communist party. In between, Sorkin intercuts flashbacks to Lucy and Desi's initial lusty romance, her early acting career, and the advent of their iconic TV sitcom. As is the case with all Sorkin screenplays, however, the real headliner of "Being the Ricardos" is Sorkin's circumlocutory script, which is both its own best friend and worst enemy. The dialogue is free-flowing and rarely dull, but even the most mundane moments are elongated into a staccato whirl of quips and non sequiturs. While Sorkin ably hits the highlights of Lucy and Desi's Wikipedia page, he does not train his formidable scrivener

skills on exhaustively explicating the untidy elements of his protagonists' lives. Desi's infidelity is only alluded to before being confirmed in the film's climax, then tossed aside as quickly as it's revealed. At one point, Lucy begs her long-time producer Jess Oppenheimer (Tony Hale) to "help save my marriage," but her lament seems incongruous because it isn't grounded in anything the audience has yet been made privy to. So, too, with Lucy's relationships with the irascible Frawley and long-suffering Vance, who tires of playing down to the role of Lucy's dowdy pal. Still, any tension between them dutifully evaporates in time for a feel-good ending and a bittersweet coda that hints at more interesting events than the ones witnessed. You won't necessarily love this Lucy biopic, but it's a pleasurable primer.



Jay Parker, Gary Phillips, Miranda Parker, Crystal Fisher, Don Basnight, Adam Phillips, Terri Turner, Mary Maloney, Ken Tunnell

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LAFF - A - DAY

"No, no, put it back! You have to cook that!"



Staff photos by Peyton Sickles

Celebration of Lights

Chatham Cares Pharmacy's 'Celebration of Lights' drive-thru luminary services on Saturday helped raise funds for Chatham County's only nonprofit pharmacy. The event was held at St. Julia Catholic Church in Siler City. For more information and to make a donation, go to www.ChathamCares.com.



Chatham Charter School hires new secondary administrator

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Chatham Charter School has hired a new secondary grades administrator as part of its next phase of growth, the school said in a news release last week.

Tom Griffin, an educator with 35 years of experience, will join the Chatham Charter administrative team in January. He's worked as a teacher, principal, district head of Exceptional Children services and as a state level administrator.

"I am looking forward to the next chapter in my life and joining the team here at Chatham Charter," Griffin said.

Chatham Charter will replicate its academic program through a new charter school, Central Carolina Academy, which will open next August in Lee County.

Beth McCullough, the school's current executive director of secondary programs & communications, said her communications role will continue for Chatham Charter and expand to include the new Central Carolina Academy.

Chatham Charter, located in Siler City, is a K-12 public charter school founded as a private K-8 school in 1993 and chartered in 1996. The school has nearly 600 students. The new Lee County school will replicate Chatham Charter's middle and high school programming.

"I'll also have a leadership role with the Career and College Promise partnership that our upperclassmen participate in," McCullough said. "We're all excited about this new opportunity."

Griffin, along with the school's elementary administrator, Etta Foushee, will lead Chatham Charter at the building level.

McCullough will move into a role on



Submitted photo

Tom Griffin

a central services team to work with both Chatham Charter and Central Carolina Academy. McCullough, Julia-Brent Milholen and Chatham Charter Head of School John Eldridge will form the central services team, the school's release said, that will allow the building-level administrators to "concentrate more fully on traditional school administration responsibilities versus balancing district level duties along with school level ones."

"Our administrative team quickly recognized the expertise that Tom can bring to Chatham Charter, particularly in the areas of Exceptional Children services and students who struggle with non-academic issues," Eldridge said. "We have been focusing on these challenging areas already and are pleased that an educator of Tom's caliber will be able to bring added insight and leadership."



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Staff photos by Kim Hawks

A display of nativity scenes

More than 200 Nativity scenes were displayed at Chatham United Methodist Church in Moncure on Sunday. Teri Berringer manages this holiday event for the community after starting it back in 2017. Every year, she says, more nativities are added to the collection.



Communities In Schools

Chatham County

Our Mission

The Communities In Schools Chatham County (CISCC) mission is to surround students with a network of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

More explicitly, Communities In Schools Chatham County (CISCC) aims to provide assistance in five critical areas; a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult, a safe place to learn and grow, a marketable skill to use upon graduation, a chance to give back, and a healthy start for a healthy future.

Our programs target and provide support to referred students with the highest risks for underachievement due to poverty and instability by attending to the holistic needs of the individual youth which are required to overcome adversity and find success through sustained resiliency.

Wish List

Menors, Lunch/Reading Buddies, Tutors, Sustaining donors, Resource Providers and Partners, Increased funding to expand services to more students and schools in need of support across Chatham County.



Background

Since 1989, CISCC has made a positive impact on the lives of 1000's of Chatham County youth and families through our 7 unique school and community based programs. We fuel personal potential, so every student can take charge of their story and define their success for life. We sustain our mission by supporting all referred youth in reaching their full potential by:

- 1. Unlocking Potential:** we help every student see their potential so they can fearlessly unlock it in ways big and small.
- 2. Building Relationships:** we amplify the power of each student's potential by fostering transformative relationships in their lives.
- 3. Breaking Down Barriers:** we empower students to break through any personal challenges in their lives so they can define the future they want.

Brag Lines

CISCC continues coordination of whole child and family supports in the form of basic needs (food, toiletries, clothing), academic enrichment and tutor, bi-lingual programs and services for parents and schools, mentoring, safe spaces to learn and grow, mental and physical health, and restorative justice programs to build sustained resiliency and social emotional connectedness. Our data driven programs use evidence based curricula to achieve consistent outcomes for program participants based on their individual needs and goals.



Upcoming Event

Help us reach our End of Year Fundraising Campaign goal of raising \$40,000 to expand services in Chatham County!

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GIVE BACK: HERE'S HOW CHATHAM HELPS OUT

GIVE BACK | CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY ACTION

‘Providing supportive services to those who are the most vulnerable in our community to help them become self-reliant’

Describe the give-back program of Central Piedmont Community Action (CPCA):

CPCA’s Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program provides community members with a chance to spend time with their families through our Hot Ride Holiday event and fundraiser, and our Share Your Table Project — which provided a Thanksgiving meal to those who may not otherwise have received a hot nutritious meal.

What’s unique about your program?

Our CSBG program provides case management and

supportive services to address barriers to those who are the most vulnerable in our community to help them become self-reliant and productive citizens in their community.

What do your customers say about it?

“Everything, I mean everything, the CSBG program states is true. The staff goes over and above to help people set goals and help them to achieve them. I believe that if a person really wants a better way of living and has the willingness, this is the best program ever.”

How can our readers support you and your program?

Readers can support our program by going to our agency’s website www.cpcanc.org and making an unrestricted donation to help us further our mission of helping people and changing lives.

Natasha J. Elliott, Executive Director
 Central Piedmont Community Action Inc.
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 1401 Ross Avenue | P.O. Box 626, Siler City



GIVE BACK | YOUR CHOICES RANDOLPH

‘Providing compassion, hope, and help to men and women facing a critical pregnancy decision’

Describe Your Choices Randolph:

Your Choices Randolph is a non-profit based in Randolph County with clients in multiple counties, including Chatham. We provide compassion, hope, and help to men and women facing a critical pregnancy decision. We offer STI testing, pregnancy testing, limited ultrasound screening, and other services free of charge in a safe, confidential, judgment-free setting. We walk with our clients through and after the decision process.

Did COVID-19 affect how you think about giving back to the community?

COVID-19 definitely affected how we give back to the community! As the pandemic ramped up, we heard from many clients how difficult it was to find diapers, wipes and formula on grocery store shelves. As a result, we began offering those items, normally kept for clients, to anyone in the community with children in that age group. Each child was eligible for a pack of diapers, wipes and formula weekly. Some families received multiple packs each week to provide for each child. Ministry partners rallied behind us and provided these items so our outreach could continue.

Throughout the course of the give-back program, we have given out over 750 packs of diapers, 600 packs of wipes, and 250 cans of formula.

Any memorable experiences to share?

The most memorable experience that comes to mind is the case of Hannah. As we deliver these critical items to each family at their car, we take the opportunity to determine how they were doing, their life circumstances, and how else we might help them. In the car-side visit with Hannah, we learned that she and her four children



were living in her car. We connected with organizations who helped her find housing, childcare, and addressed other situations in her life. She is now thriving and grateful!

How can our readers support you and your program?

Readers can partner with us by providing diapers (Amazon Mama Bear diapers are great!) in sizes 3-6, baby wipes, and formula as we continue our outreach to the community.
 Thank you!!
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GIVE BACK | RALEIGH IMMIGRATION

Providing detention and deportation defense in the Carolinas and Georgia

Describe Raleigh Immigration’s give-back program of:

We’re holding a contest where we are giving away one free immigration case!

How do people enter the contest?

Contestants will write up a brief description of their situation and why they think that their case should be picked.

Who will choose the winner?

A panel of three local nonprofit leaders will choose the winner. They will only see the entries, and not the names of the contestants.

Who’s eligible to enter?

Any immigrant who currently lives in North Carolina or South Carolina is eligible to enter.

Are there any limitations on what sorts of cases can win?

Only cases that meet the eligibility criteria under our current immigration law are eligible to win.

Once someone enters the contest, we’ll screen them to ensure that their case qualifies, and then they’ll move to the final round where their story will be submitted to our panel of judges.

What sorts of cases can or can’t win?

This contest is open to any of the following types of cases: family-based (U.S. citizens or residents who want to file for their immediate family member), U or T visas, TPS, DACA, humanitarian parole, asylum, or any other type of deportation defense, including for anyone who’s detained or has immigration court in Charlotte or Georgia.

This contest is not open to people who want an employer to file for them, who want an investment visa, or for



Beckie Moriello
 any other type of temporary visa.

How can our readers support you and your program?

Spread the word! Tell every immigrant that you know. This is an amazing opportunity, and we want everyone who qualifies to have a chance to win.

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Senior attorney Beckie Moriello is a Board Certified Specialist in deportation defense in the Charlotte, Atlanta, and Stewart Immigration Courts.

Fully bilingual, Beckie regularly gives presentations in Spanish to community groups on developments in immigration law.

She’s also a regular speaker at AILA conferences and other CLEs, including at a conference with 3,000+ immigration attorney attendees.

GIVE BACK | SISTERS’ VOICES

‘The singers learn many songs, and they have multiple opportunities to practice their growing vocal skills using these songs’

What’s unique about Sisters’ Voices?

Sisters’ Voices is a community of young singers who meet in four ensembles by age, K-8th grade. There is no audition.

Sisters’ Voices’ repertoire is different from many children’s choruses in that we focus on world folk music, and in that we approach many of the songs without arrangement. The singers learn many songs, and they have multiple opportunities to practice their growing vocal skills using these songs. As singers gain experience, they learn songs in parts — first canons, then increasingly complex pieces with more vocal parts.

How is your organization involved in the community?

Prior to COVID-19, we sang for many community events, including Chatham Habitat for Humanity celebrations, Carrboro Music Festival, Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival of Music & Dance, Pittsboro Street Fair, Day of the Books/



El Día de los Libros, and others. We hope to return to performing in person, and to engaging in the community’s celebrations, as we reemerge in person after the COVID-19 crisis.

How has the pandemic changed your program and your organization?

Sisters’ Voices has always hoped to reach many young singers. “Expansion” meant including more singers. Today,

our vision includes smaller ensembles of singers where participants can make close friends and have a great deal of individualized attention. “Expansion” now means we develop our program more

deeply, meeting more frequently, deliberately including mindfulness exercises, a clearer progression of musical skills for individuals, and ways of using our voices that are not singing — writing, including the singers in the development of the repertoire and how it’s presented, and discussion sessions for the middle school singers that allow them to hear from each other and express their own ideas on topics that are important to them today.

How can people support Sisters’ Voices?

www.sistersvoices.org
 Sisters’ Voices is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Sisters’ Voices is also supported by generous grants from Strowd Roses, the Youth Pro Musica Fund of Triangle Community Foundation, and many individual donors.

We are deeply grateful for your interest and support of our work.



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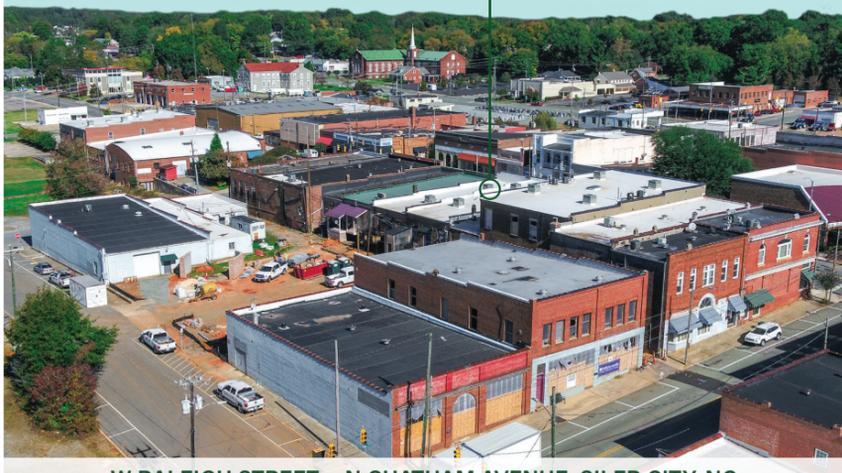
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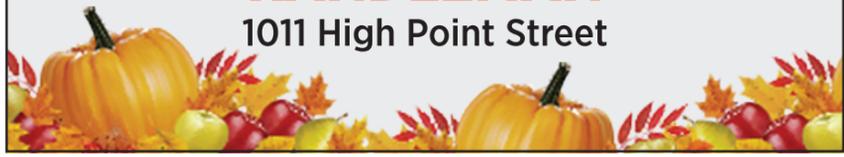


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Chatham's visitor spending decreased by 24% in 2020, but the jury's still out on 2021

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

For most people, the idea of tourism generates images of long trips to faraway places, thousands-year-old monuments and tacky fanny packs — not overnight occupancy taxes, parking fees and sales tax.

Yet, that's crucial to how Neha Shah, director of the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), explains tourism in Chatham County — and how both the county and residents alike benefit from it.

Funded primarily by the county's 3% occupancy tax, the CVB is a one-person department charged with marketing Chatham and attracting visitors.

"Our main charge is destination marketing and economic impact, so what we want to do is have visitors come, enjoy our areas, spend money, contribute to the occupancy tax, and the sales tax, and then leave without being a burden or taxing our human and social services," she said. "Essentially, that's how we're able to do the cost savings for each resident."

For most of the last decade, Chatham County raked in record figures of visitor spending; 2019, in fact, brought in the county's highest amount of visitor spending since 2016 at \$63 million, according to Shah — an 8% increase from the year before.

As expected, though, the COVID-riddled 2020 brought that streak to a close: at just over \$48 million, visitor spending dropped by 24% from 2019 in Chatham County — a sum about \$5.5 million less than 2016's figures.

"We knew that in 2019, we were going to see an increase, and then in 2020, we received that confirmation," Shah said. "... We were kind of waiting



Staff photo by David Bradley

Mari Kearns and Liz Bliss, with Imagine Circus, stood high above the crowd of children attending Pittsboro's First Sunday festival in 2019 on Hillsboro Avenue. Visitor spending in Chatham County that year was a record-breaking \$63 million.

to see what would happen for the next year — and as expected, we're down 24%, which is pretty much in line with most of the state and definitely the industry as a whole globally, locally, nationally, regionally. COVID-19 impacted every single industry, including ours."

Yet, the figure didn't dip as far as many feared — and Chatham fared far better than more urban counties and North Carolina as a whole, where visitor spending dropped 32%, according to data from the U.S. Travel Association.

"During the pandemic, there was more awareness about rural areas because people were a little hesitant to go to more urban sites," Shah said, "so that helps us."

The figure — and Chatham's decade-long streak for record-breaking visitor spending — look especially impressive when it comes to accommodation in the county versus that of its neighbors.

"So our neighboring counties have anywhere from 10 to 12 to 15,000-plus rooms, and we have 225," Shah said, "so we basically have to compete for the share of those visitor dollars to have people spend the night."

What's more, as she sees it, 2020's visitor spending managed to save residents nearly double as much tax dollars as in years previous. Visitors, or travelers coming for leisure or business from 50 or more miles away, spend money during their day trips or overnight stays, which yields sales taxes. These visitor-contributed taxes, Shah said, then go to the general fund and relieve some of the tax burden for residents, particularly because visitors don't use resident services.

Thus, thanks to visitor spending, Chatham residents saved \$60.01 in taxes last year; in 2019, residents saved \$39.02, and in 2018, that figure was \$37.45.

"(The figure) shows that we have an economic impact, and that traveler sentiment has remained strong, even with periodic dips," Shah said.

Even during the pandemic before vaccinations, people had — or found — plenty of reasons to travel to Chatham.

"We're a central location," she said. "We have an abundance of nature-based assets, so a lot of that was fortunate for guests that just needed that break and wanted to get outside. Then



Submitted photo

Neha Shah is the director of the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau.

events were canceled, weddings were canceled, but there were still pop-up events that were done safely or hybrid."

The figures are conservative estimates, Shah added, because the formula researchers use to calculate tourism's economic impact doesn't always take into account a tourist's entire itinerary — even though 2020's methodology used an updated formula "that encompasses a more accurate picture of a visitor itinerary." The data comes from "Economic Impact of Travel on North Carolina Counties," an annual report prepared for Visit North Carolina by Tourism Economics.

So, how's 2021 looking so far, nearly a year after vaccinations first became available? According to Shah, it's still too early to tell, but things seem to be looking up — and moving forward, the CVB plans to continue emphasizing safe travel and providing information, plus resources, for their clients, who include the hospitality and tourism industry, Chatham's visitor businesses and visitors themselves.

During the pandemic, the CVB shored up its online marketing efforts by constantly updating its website and sending out weekly newsletters to the local hospitality and

tourism industry, among other initiatives. They've also earned certificates for safe travel and worked to educate local industry and guests about safety protocols.

"We never stopped planning for recovery, so we keep focusing on safe travel," Shah said. "Fortunately, our guests are tech-savvy, so the manner in which they receive information works well for our small budget — website, e-news, email, blog, social media, etc."

Coming up, Shah anticipates quite a few events on Chatham County's calendar, both private and public. The pandemic forced many to put meetings, celebrations and especially weddings on hold, she said, and while she expects to see them trickle back, she acknowledged they'll likely look different.

"A lot of the things that were smaller that people had to do alone — or that were, you know, partially indoors — will come back," she said. "They're just going to look different. There may be some staggered times. There may be limited capacity still. We're still kind of in that planning process, so I think everyone's just being cautious."

Planning's already in progress for sporting events like the Tobacco Road Marathon; several festivals, including the Fearington Folk Art Show and Piedmont Farm Tour, will come back next year as well.

"While we don't know yet the impact of visitor spending (in 2021)," Shah said, "we are seeing the travel patterns, website traffic, visitor inquiries, and social media engagement, and can say that approximately 20 months later, new and returning visitors are spending time and money in Chatham County."

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

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