

Chatham News + Record

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NC's 2022 primary, filing delayed to May. Who filed in Chatham before then?

Filing for all candidates was halted as gerrymandering lawsuits play out that could lead to redrawn districts

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

temporarily blocked filing for the U.S. House, N.C. Senate and N.C. House races shortly before filing was set to begin. By last Monday evening, that order was reversed, allowing candidates to again file in those state races.

But by Wednesday, filing for all candidates — not just for primaries using the disputed maps — was halted as gerrymandering lawsuits play out that could lead to redrawn districts that would change the breakdown of state races.

Rep. Robert Reives II, Chatham's representative in the N.C. House, said in a release before filing was resumed Monday 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."

All the new maps would give Republicans a sizable advantage in future elections even if the two parties roughly split the statewide vote 50-50, outside political analysis shows, with the new Congressional map expected to give Republicans a 10-4 or 11-3 advantage in

See **ELECTION**, page A8

MADE IN CHATHAM

Still looking for last-minute gifts? Here are 10 great ideas — and you won't have to go far to find them

CN+R Staff Report

The Christmas gift-giving season is upon us, and while the "it's the thought that counts" sentiment may ring true for some, there's something to be said for thoughtful giving that also supports Chatham County's economy.

As the holiday countdown gets closer and closer to the 25th, we've helped take some of the pain and pressure of shopping off with a selection of unique, local gifts for those family and friends on your "nice" list. The best news: you don't have to go far to get them.

Cackalacky Cheerwine Gift Pack

From: Cackalacky in Pittsboro

The Cackalacky Cheerwine Gift Pack includes a 16-oz. mason jar of Cackalacky's Cheerwine Sweet Sauce, a 12-oz. Cheerwine soft drink in classic glass bottle, and official Cheerwine and Cackalacky stickers.

Description: The folks at Cackalacky believe that everyone agrees that Cackalacky eats are always best enjoyed with friends and proper drink. And, in the case of



Cackalacky's Cheerwine Sweet Sauce combines two favorite flavor creators.

Cheerwine, they actually took this maxim quite literally by developing a sweet 'n savory "tomato-based" dipping-grilling sauce and marinade that's actually made with the original Cheerwine secret formula and the company's "Famously Original" secret Cackalacky spice blend. The result: Cack-

alacky Cheerwine Sweet Sauce, something they call a "legendary handshake between lively Southern food and drink."

Why gift it?: Two uniquely tasty North Carolina brands joined together for one great local gift.

Price: \$7.95
Coordinates: Pittsboro

retailers carrying Cackalacky products include Pittsboro Feed, Chatham Marketplace, Carolina Cravings, Fair Game and Deep River Mercantile. In addition, you'll find them at Lowes Foods, Food Lion, Harris Teeter, and Publix store throughout N.C. and S.C. You can shop online at cackalacky.com. Use this discount code at checkout for 10% off (through Dec. 30): ILOVECHATHAM

Starrlight Mead's Sliced Apple Mead

From: Starrlight Mead in Pittsboro

Description: Mead is wine made from honey, and the Honeyed Spiced Apple is perfect for the holidays. The Sliced Apple Mead has flavors of honeyed apple with cinnamon, clove, allspice, nutmeg and orange peel. Enjoy it warm by the fire for a real treat. Or get a trio of meads and include Cranberry Orange and Traditional Off-dry for really special meads to share.

Why gift it?: It's Starrlight Mead's best selling mead every year for the past 11 years.

See **LOCAL**, page A6

THE CN+R Q&A | MIKE ZELEK



CN+R file photo

Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek speaks with Alirio Estevez during a COVID-19 vaccination clinic earlier this year.

ONE YEAR LATER: A reflection on the anniversary of the first COVID vaccines

Just over a year ago, 90-year-old Margaret Keenan rolled up her sleeve at a British hospital and made history: she became the first person, outside a clinical trial, to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

Eight billion doses later, the vaccines — from Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca Plc, Johnson & Johnson and others — have significantly reduced hospitalizations and deaths in countries where they've been rolled out widely. Although more than 5 million have died during the pandemic, vaccines are credited with saving lives and reducing the severity of illness from the vaccinated who've experienced "breakthrough" cases.

To mark the approaching one-year anniversary of the administering of the first vaccines in Chatham County, the News + Record spoke with Mike Zelek, the director of the Chatham County Public Health Department. The goal: to look back on the past year, to assess efforts to reduce COVID in Chatham County, and — in the age of Omicron — cast a cautious look ahead.

See **VACCINES**, page A7

After initial disparities, Chatham's Hispanic vaccination rate nears 50%

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

Just eight months ago, vaccination rates among Chatham's Hispanic community trailed those of most other demographic groups by double-digit percentage points.

Now, a year after several COVID-19 vaccines received Emergency Use Authorization, that disparity has all but disappeared — and in North Carolina as a whole, a higher percentage of Hispanic residents are at least partially vaccinated than the non-Hispanic population.

"We are glad to see these



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Noemi Mora (right) and Selina Lopez of the Hispanic Liaison register people for COVID-19 testing or vaccination at the Liaison's COVID-19 Health Fair in downtown Siler City in August. The event vaccinated more than 200 people.

See **HISPANIC**, page A6

PITTSBORO'S TAINTED WATER

She offered a glass of Pittsboro's water to Greensboro's City Council. Here's what happened next.

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

GREENSBORO — Cindy Perry walked to the podium at Greensboro's City Council meeting last Tuesday evening with a water bottle — and some paper cups — in hand.

The bottle contained potable water from Pittsboro's treatment plant, the same water which has, for the last few weeks, contained traces of 1,4-Dioxane contamination

resulting from a discharge into the Haw River of the likely carcinogen from Greensboro.

Perry offered some to each of the sitting members of the city council. No one took her up on the offer.

Perry — along with three other Pittsboro residents — spoke during the public comments period of the council's meeting, sharing concerns about the dangers associated with the 1,4-Dioxane discharge.

See **WATER**, page A3

IN THE KNOW

Siler City Police Department completes fair policing training. **PAGE A8**

Fiocco reflects on Pittsboro, his service as commissioner. **PAGE A14**

CCS approves substitute raises, extension of some bonuses. **PAGE B6**

Social Justice Exchanges highlight CORE's busy activities slate. **PAGE B9**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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

ON THE AGENDA

The **Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet next Monday, Dec. 20 at 2:00 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse Courtroom.
 The **Chatham Hospital Board of Trustees** meeting will be held virtually at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 21. The public is invited to attend. If interested, contact Donna Trautman in advance at 919-799-4012 for the access information.
OTHER
 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.

Chatham Resource Hub (Centro de Recurso Moviles) announces free meals provided by Pete Da Heat and free chicken provided by Mountaire on Saturday, December 18, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at Corinth AME Zion Church, 401 MLK Jr. Blvd., Siler City. Sponsored by Cardinal Innovations Health Care.

Chatham County Public Libraries to Host Winter Reading BINGO Challenge. Children and teens are invited to participate in the Winter Reading BINGO Challenge at all Chatham County Public Libraries branches from January 3 through February 14, sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, is open to children ages 2-18. Readers participate by picking up a reading BINGO sheet at their local library branch and completing a 5-in-a-row BINGO to earn

a free book (one book per participant, while supplies last). All readers who complete at least one BINGO will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Gift Certificate to McIntyre's Books. For more information about the Winter Reading BINGO Challenge, or other youth events with Chatham County Public Libraries, contact youth.services@chathamlibraries.org.

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 2: December 15, Wednesday, 3 p.m.

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.

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

Scout News

Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information.

Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.

Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See http://pack900.com for more information.

CORRECTIONS

The story "We're getting there": A road map to optional masking for Chatham's schools," (Dec. 2-8 edition) did not include the correct date that children who were vaccinated the first week of eligibility would be fully vaccinated. Those children, vaccinated the weekend of Nov. 6-7,

were considered fully vaccinated Dec. 11-12.

In a photo caption ("A display of nativity scenes") on page B8 in the Dec. 9-15 edition of the News + Record, Teri Berrier's name was misspelled.

The News + Record regrets the errors.

NEWS BRIEF

Edward Jones' Clapp of receives Accredited Asset Management Specialist designation

Financial Advisor Laura Clapp of the financial services firm Edward Jones in Chatham County has achieved the professional designation

of Accredited Asset Management Specialist.

Clapp successfully completed the Accredited Asset Management Specialist, or AAMS, professional education program from the Denver-based College for Financial Planning.

This advanced training offers investment professionals the hands-on information needed

to provide comprehensive financial services. Study topics include understanding the asset management process and understanding asset allocation and strategies.

Clapp's office is located at 301 E Raleigh St in Siler City. You may also visit Clapp's website at www.edwardjones.com/laura-clapp.

— CN+R staff reports

FINANCIAL FOCUS

What are your financial resolutions for 2022?

As you know, 2021 was full of challenges. We were still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic when supply chains shut down and inflation heated up. So, if you're like many people, you might not be sorry to see the year come to a close. But now it's time to look ahead to a brighter 2022. And on a personal level, you may want to set some New Year's resolutions. You might resolve to improve your health and diet, and possibly learn some new skills, but why not make some financial resolutions, too?

Here are a few ideas to consider:

Prepare for the unexpected. If you haven't already created an emergency fund, now may be a good time to start. Ideally, you'd like to have three to six months' worth of living expenses in this fund, with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid account. (If you're retired, you may want your emergency fund to contain up to a year's worth of living expenses.) Once you've got this fund established, you may be able to avoid dipping into long-term investments to pay for short-term needs, such as costly home or auto repairs or large medical bills.

Boost your retirement savings. The pandemic caused many us to reevaluate our ability to eventually enjoy the retirement lifestyles we've envisioned. In fact, 33% of those planning to retire soon said they started to contribute even more to their retirement savings during the pandemic, according to a study from Age Wave and Edward Jones. This year, if you can afford it, increase your contributions to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Reduce your debt load. The less debt you carry, the more money you'll have available to support your lifestyle today

and save and invest for tomorrow. So, this year, resolve to cut down on your existing debts and avoid taking on new ones whenever possible. You can motivate yourself by measuring your progress — at the beginning of 2022, record your total debts and then compare this figure to your debt load at the start of 2023. If the numbers have dropped, you'll know you were making the right moves.

Don't overreact to the headlines. A lot can happen during a year. Consider inflation — it shot up in 2021, but it may well subside in 2022. If you changed your investment strategy last year to accommodate the rise in inflation, would you then have to modify it again when prices fall? And inflation is just one event. What about changes in interest rates? How about new legislation coming out of Washington? And don't forget extreme weather events, such as wildfires and floods. Any or all of these occurrences can affect the financial markets in the short term, but it just doesn't make sense for you to keep changing the way you invest in response to the news of the day. Instead, stick with a strategy that's appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. You may need to adjust this strategy over time, in response to changes in your own life, but don't let your decisions be dictated by external events.

These aren't the only financial resolutions you can make — but following them may help you develop positive habits that can help you face the future with confidence.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Notice of Intent to Apply for Community Services Block Grant Funds

Central Piedmont Community Action, Inc. (CPCA) intends to apply for federal Community Services Block Grant funds in the amount of \$1,430,891. Community Services Block Grant is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Economic Opportunity. CPCA plans to use the funds to provide comprehensive case management services to 170 low-income families in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Randolph counties towards the goal of poverty eradication and self-sufficiency attainment. Services include guidance and counseling, employment support, educational support, urgent assistance, and assistance with other needs.

The CPCA Board will meet on January 7, 2022 at 4pm at the CPCA Central Office located at 1401 Ross Avenue, Siler City, NC 27344 to approve submission of the 2022-2023 Community Services Block Grant Anti-Poverty Application.

CPCA is an equal opportunity employer.

Pittsboro
 Chad Virgil, CFP®, ChFC®, CLU®
 630 East St Suite 2
 919-545-5669

Governors Club
 Sharon A Dickens, AAMS®
 50101 Governors Dr Suite 118
 919-967-9968

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 Lee Shanklin, AAMS®
 120 Lowes Drive Suite 107
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 919-542-3020

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PITTSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

New mayor, newcomer and incumbent sworn in

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — New Pittsboro Commissioner James Vose and Mayor Cindy Perry were sworn in as members of the town's governing board during a ceremony held prior to Monday's regular meeting. Vose won a four-year seat on the board in the November election by finishing second in a three-person race for commissioner and unseating 12-year board veteran Michael Fiocco. Pamela Baldwin, who finished first in that contest, was also sworn in Monday began her fifth consecutive term. Perry, who served as mayor from 2015-19, then didn't seek reelection, returns to that seat after defeating incumbent Jim Nass.

The ceremony took place at Forest Hall, inside Chatham Mills in Pittsboro, at 6 p.m.; the board recessed and began its regular session via Zoom at 7.

Nass opened the meeting following standard procedure — complete with the Pledge of Allegiance led by a local Girl Scout troop and a moment of silence.

Nass and Fiocco addressed the board before the swearing in of new commissioners, thanking residents for giving



The newly-constituted Pittsboro Board of Commissioners met for the time Monday night.

them the opportunity to serve.

"I want to thank the commissioners and staff of the town of Pittsboro for all of the support over the last few years," Nass said. "It was a honor and privilege to serve the town during this period, so thank you."

Fiocco — who served on the board of commissioners for three four-year terms — echoed Nass' sentiments.

"I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve Pittsboro," he said. "It has been an honor, and I look

forward to the work this new board does on behalf of the citizens."

Fiocco and Nass were presented resolutions from the new board for their service to the town, and Town Manager Chris Kennedy gave the two outgoing officials an apple to represent the apple trees they'll receive for their contributions to the town.

"We're going to provide some of the Chatham County apple trees, and we'll have a tree for each one of you as a memento and also as a symbol of your time as commissioner and mayor," Kennedy said.

After the ceremony, Vose said the evening felt "surreal."

"None of this was something I ever felt I was going to do," he said. "I feel the weight of the responsibility, and I am ready for the challenge."

Vose said he was ready to tackle the issues facing the Pittsboro community, including finding a way to better communicate with residents.

"I think we're a bit remiss about the way we put out information as a town," he said. "Not any one person, not any one thing, I just think it is something we can do better."

Vose also said he wants to work toward finding a solution to the water quality issue in Pittsboro.



New Pittsboro Commissioner James Vose is sworn in by Town Clerk Cassandra Bullock on Monday.

"Will it all be said and done in four years, no, but I'd really like to think four years from now we'll be on the road to clean water and keeping it that way."

Perry said she was looking forward to serving after being off the board for two years.

"It was wonderful to have friends and family with me to watch the installation and join in the celebration of my third term as mayor," she said. "Pittsboro is such a special place and I am honored to have the confidence of our citizens moving forward."

The board's meeting

During the meeting that followed on Zoom, Baldwin was selected for another term as mayor pro tem.

"I appreciate the faith and trust you all have in me," Baldwin said.

Other appointments made Monday included:

- **Bank Signatories (alternates):** Pamela Baldwin (alternate one) and Jay Farrell (alternate two)
- **Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO):** James Vose
- **Chatham County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), ex officio:** Kyle Shipp
- **Main Street Pittsboro (MSP-BO):** Kyle Shipp



Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry is sworn in by Judge Joe L. Webster on Monday.

- **Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG):** Pamela Baldwin (delegate) and John Bontiz (alternate)
- **Chatham County Climate Change Committee:** Cindy Perry and John Bontiz (alternate)
- **Fairground Association:** Pamela Baldwin
- **Arts Council:** James Vose
- **Pittsboro Business Association (PBA):** Jay Farrell

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



Pittsboro Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin was sworn into her fifth term on Monday by Judge Carl R. Fox.

WATER

Continued from page A1

es. "It's a health crisis for our children, vulnerable citizens and all of us," Perry said.

Pittsboro is the first municipality downstream from Greensboro to draw water from the Haw River and the only municipality using the river as its exclusive source of water. Just this year, Pittsboro experienced two discharges of 1,4-Dioxane — an unregulated chemical often used as an industrial solvent — in a five-month period. It is believed to be linked to a variety of illnesses, including liver disease, kidney disease and even cancer.

Perry said that while progress and agreements have been made on new regulations and higher fines for breaking the new rules, Pittsboro residents are still concerned about future contamination.

"There is not a solution yet, and the source of the poison is still unknown," Perry said. "It is not an exaggeration to say it is a matter of life and death."

Katie Bryant — former chairperson of the Pittsboro Water Quality Task Force and member of the Clean Haw River initiative — spoke after Perry at the Greensboro meeting. She talked about the health risks associated with 1,4-Dioxane in drinking water, as well as discussing how she has felt the community has

been tossed aside. "Pittsboro has not been given a voice or a seat at the table in the discussion of clean drinking water," Bryant said.

Bryant thanked Greensboro officials for their implementation of stricter regulations, but she said that wasn't enough to combat the overall issue of pollution in the Haw River.

"For years, Pittsboro's water has been contaminated with 1,4-Dioxane by industries here in Greensboro," she said. "Because we don't have regulatory standards, nobody knows how much we should consume and can't set a safe standard."

Bryant emotionally conveyed to Greensboro's City Council that according to the Clean

Water Act, in order to adhere to a one in one million risk of cancer, the amount of 1,4-Dioxane in water should not exceed 0.35 micrograms per liter, or 0.35 parts per billion. However, a source in Greensboro — as yet not identified — has discharged amounts of 1,4-Dioxane exceeding way beyond that 0.35 parts per billion threshold Bryant discussed and beyond the EPA's recommendation of 35 parts per billion based on a 1 in 10,000 risk for cancer.

"You've continually exposed Pittsboro to 1000 micrograms per liter," Bryant said. "Just this year, we had two dumps — one of 600 micrograms per liter and in November, more than 700 micrograms per liter. It's appalling."

Pittsboro residents Laura Peterson and Jennifer Platt also spoke, via Zoom. Peterson said Pittsboro has among the highest concentrations of 1,4 in the United States.

"We had a dump in August 2019 that we were not notified of, and we all drank that water unknowingly," Peterson said. "This has happened twice now this year...1,4-Dioxane is not just dangerous through injection but also through transdermal contact. My family is afraid to even step into the shower each

day." Platt — a member of Pittsboro's Water Quality Task Force — said it would benefit everyone to treat water pollutants such as 1,4-Dioxane at the source, rather than leaving it up to municipal water treatment plants downstream to wait for the pollutants to reach them.

"It is by far the most cost-effective option to treat water pollutants at the source," she said. "It should be up to them, the industries."

Platt warned if Greensboro did not have a strict pretreatment program requirement for its offending industries, its own residents would eventually face some of the financial consequences pollution causes.

"Your taxpayers will eventually face the tremendous financial burden in order to meet increasingly strict water quality standards that are likely to happen in the coming years," Platt said.

Perry told the News + Record after the meeting she believed confronting Greensboro's commissioners in-person was more than beneficial.

"We were called to the front of the chamber by several council members, expressing total support for Pittsboro," Perry wrote. "The assistant manager indicated that

Greensboro is paying for our current water testing, that they are switching to a new lab to get quicker results from their testing and they wanted to hear from us on what else we needed."

Greensboro City Council At Large Marikay Abuzaiter told the News + Record she was thankful for Pittsboro residents making an appearance at the meeting.

"We appreciated hearing from Mayor-elect Perry and the others when they expressed their concern to us at our Greensboro City Council meeting," Abuzaiter wrote in an email.

"I have full confidence that our city staff is working diligently and expeditiously to do everything they possibly can to make sure the drinking water supplies of our downstream neighbors are safe to drink," she wrote. "We affirm our commitment to abiding by all of the provisions and amendment made to the SOC (Special Order of Consent), and this includes finding out the source of the most recent discharge and doing everything in our power to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Perry said she wants to continue to work with Greensboro in finding a solution to the 1,4-Dioxane discharges and ultimately, put an end to the contamination of Pittsboro's water.

"It was a remarkable session," Perry wrote. "I believe we made a very favorable impression — we were not confrontational, but frank and urged collaboration and cooperation."

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

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | AMANDA ZRUBEK

Land of the free? More like the land of PTSD.

Content warning: topics of mental illness, suicide, abuse and trauma.

America's idea of freedom resembles a unicorn.

Perfect on the outside and many think that it's real and true, but in reality, it's fiction — a lie.

According to the World Population Review, the U.S is the world's 7th richest country, yet it's 30th out of 100 for its healthcare. How is that possible? One large reason the country's healthcare system is inadequate is because of its limited and inaccessible mental health treatment options. Keep reading, and I'll tell you why if those in our country suffering from the worst mental health disorders aren't free, then you aren't either.

For example, many adolescents in the United States who've stayed in a psychiatric hospital end up with more severe mental health issues than before they went in. According to a study published by the U.S. National Library of Medicine, among "children and adolescents with PTSD symptoms, 60% required longer hospitalizations and need acute care treatment." The study shows that patients who showed signs of trauma and PTSD before they were admitted to the hospital showed worsened symptoms when they were discharged.

Why does this happen?

Adolescent patients in psychiatric units all across America are sometimes forcefully given medicine against their will.

Patients are often left in the dark as to what the effects of the medication are. This is just as horrifying as it sounds. Imagine having to get surgery against your will, and being told little about what's going to occur. It's very unethical. I know all of this because I've seen it with my own two eyes, as I was previously a patient myself.

Speaking of medicine, patients who are deemed too hostile or disobedient are given a sedative, the effects of which can last several hours. Not only is this too much power to be used freely by nurses, but it is also traumatic to the patient.

When I was in the psych ward, I witnessed a kid being dragged away kicking and screaming — then all of a sudden it was quiet. The room then erupted in shouting and fighting, the kid saying it wasn't fair and he didn't deserve it because the other red-haired girl started a fight for no reason. I was just as upset as them, but I was also terrified. I stayed curled up in my chair, watching, waiting, thinking.

I've always felt so angry that about a dozen kids, including myself, had to experience something like that. The fear

lumping up in your throat, the hairs on your skin sticking up, being ready to run at any moment, like a frightened doe.

Some may say that something like this isn't "traumatic," but they haven't been through this. They haven't seen this happen multiple times; they haven't been in that place, and they certainly haven't had the nightmares I've had.

While I was at the psych ward, I got a chance to talk to some of the other kids there. One was previously locked up in isolation for two days, and a few months later was sent back to the ward. The major problem with his story is that he was in isolation for having severe depression and suicidal ideation, and he wasn't violent towards others as far as I know. Anyone who knows anything about depression knows that isolation only makes everything worse. So why would they lock him up for 48 hours, just to send him back home?

Another kid had been in the psych ward for three months; he had one of the longest visits recorded at that hospital. He was nice, and would come out of his hiding place to play the card game "Exploding Kittens" with me. He couldn't go home because of his mental illnesses; he was told that when a residential facility accepted him, he would leave the psych ward and go live there.

About a week into my stay, he attempted suicide. Nurses rushed in, caught him, and dragged him away to be given a sedative. I didn't see him until two days later, at breakfast. A year ago I gave him my number before I was discharged so that he could contact me and give updates on his health. I haven't received a text yet.

This system doesn't help many adolescents. The Medical School at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens found that of all the psych ward patients with PTSD symptoms, "60% required longer hospitalizations and needed acute care treatment." Along with that, mental illnesses are constantly misdiagnosed or not even diagnosed at all. The Rosenhan experiment proved this theory by sending participants to a psychiatric hospital to fake hallucinations for a day, then act normal afterward. The average patient that psychologist David Rosenhan sent spent an average of 19 days in the hospital. (For reference, I spent 14 days in the hospital, while most patients only stay 3 to 5 days.) All but one were diagnosed with schizophrenia and were forced to take anti-psychotic medications. His results concluded that "it is clear that we cannot distinguish the sane from the insane in psychiatric hospitals."

Now is the time to take action. It's time to contact the federal government and demand equal rights for psych ward patients. They are humans, after all. I would like to host a formal discussion between the federal government, psychiatrists and advocates about improvements that can be made. If we can agree without fighting, then we win. If not, then we will draw up a list of things we disagreed on and reconvene in a few weeks to try to prove our point again. Here's what you can do:

- Share this article; get as much attention as you can. The more people aware of the issue, the better.

- Research about what goes on in psychiatric hospitals. The more you know, the stronger your argument is.

- Check in with people you know. The more mental illness is destigmatized, the stronger our community is. Be supportive and open-minded!

- Share your ideas of how to help! My email is below. If we can all come together to fix this issue and refuse to give up, then I'm sure we'll be able to reach freedom for our fellow Americans.

Zrubek is a student at the Chatham School of Science & Engineering. She can be reached at amandamariezrubek@gmail.com.

Do unto others and return your shopping cart

'Twas the week before Christmas and if you're like me,



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

you've not bought all the presents for under your tree.

To get the gifts on your list for each one on it, you will have to fly like a reindeer named Comet!

There are your children's friends and teachers to think of,

your cousins and neighbors to gift a little love.

With all the recent problems in the supply chain, you better shop in-person

for old-what's-his name!

So I get it that you have got no time to waste; in your rush, you'd like to cut corners and make haste!

But although it might seem like the smallest of parts, always remember to return your shopping cart.

What is this, you say? Surely, I can't be for real!

Leaving behind an empty cart's not a big deal! You push it to the curb, hurry off on your way

... but do you actually believe the cart stays?

No, of course, not! People are paid to push it back;

some employee has to wheel it into the stack; a person you do not know from Adam or Eve; yet someone has to deal with the things that you leave.

Come to think of it, every thing you spill or drop,

has to be picked up, either by hand or by mop; must be cleaned or swept or shined by somebody else,

and — let's be real, friends — it's not one of Santa's elves!

Cleaned up by a soul just trying to make it through,

who's likely as busy and bedraggled as you.

So let us empathize, put ourselves in their shoes,

and do unto others what we would have them do.

While few can do great things, said Mother Theresa,

every one of us can do small things with great love.

Even if it's tiny, like returning a cart, a gesture of goodwill can lift up someone's heart.

You also might believe, as you go on your way, that empathy is why we celebrate this day.

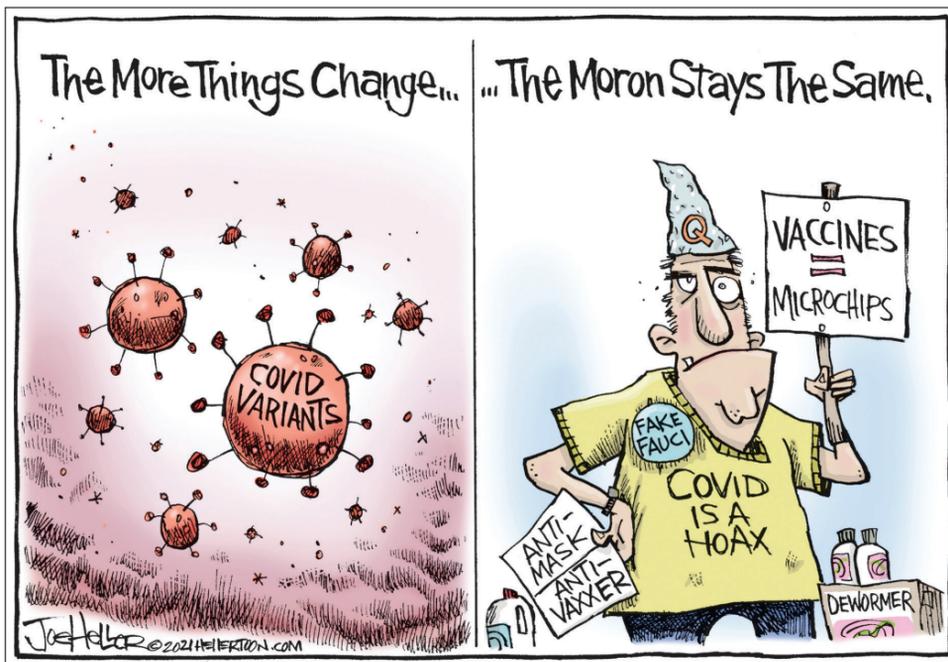
Christian or not, you might think of a newborn babe,

and remember that the smallest can mean the most.

Well, darn, that didn't rhyme like it was supposed to!

But I've not forgotten how much I have to do! So let us all be on our way, merry and bright; please return shopping carts, and to all a good night!

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."



Traditions, old and new, big part of Christmas

Mr. Webster, in his book of words, defines "tradition" as "an inherited,

established or customary pattern of thought, action or behavior" and as "the handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instruction."

He actually goes on to say a few more things but that about seems to cover the big picture.

And nowhere, it seems, is tradition more alive and active than at Christmas. We all have traditions and they cover the gamut from the sublime to the silly. Some are years — even decades and generations — in the making, while others may be as fresh as the snow we can't see to get any of lately, especially when it's springtime in December.

They revolve around family and friends and faith. Some are short and simple while others take a bit longer to come to pass. But regardless of the who, what, when, where how and why, they all add to the fabric of our lives and make them richer.

I remember that as a little guy we got our Christmas tree from the woods. Dad would go out on the appointed day and in time come back with a cedar tree he'd found on land he knew he could explore. They always smelled so good when Mama would bring them into the house and set them in the living room in front of the corner windows. We had those big multi-colored bulbs that in time the paint would peel from, turning them into two-toned versions.

Today the tradition at our place is small white bulbs, mostly at the request years ago of the two 40-some-things who used to be teenagers who lived at my house. And while it's always a work of art when their mama finishes the task, I wouldn't mind seeing those big gaudy bulbs one more time ... especially if we could add the shiny metal strings of garland and the loose icicles I used to throw at the tree.

Mama would also tape all the Christmas cards she and Daddy got onto the doors in our dining room. It was always interesting to see how many of the same cards came in the mail from different folks. It was also always interesting to try to figure out who sent a few of them, because there was either no name signed on the card or nobody knew who "Clem and Sally Jo" were, or how they knew us. Today most of the cards that come in — and there aren't as many as before — look strangely like photo albums, and many times there's no reference to Christmas. Not saying that's a bad thing. It's nice to see how the kids have grown but sometimes it does make me wonder just what that has to do with the birth of Jesus.

Another tradition at my childhood home was that someone — Santa or Mama or Daddy or somebody — would leave shoe boxes full of nuts and fruit and candy and such under the tree. Talk about smelling good; sometimes I'd wait about 10 minutes before tearing into the Milky Way or Three Musketeers candy bars there. After a few days the supply of the good stuff would be getting thin and inevitably my two older brothers would fulfill another family tradition by raiding my box, leaving just a Brazil nut or two or some shriveled raisins in its place.

We also had a tradition that

allowed us to open one present on Christmas Eve. Why? I don't know. Just like Mr. Webster said, there weren't any written instructions. Today my group still sort of practices that tradition.

As time has moved on others have been added. For several years the folks in the congregation where I am have had a candlelight Christmas Eve Communion service. As we gather in the chill of the night outside the church doors and sing and hear "Silent Night" I get just a glimpse of what I think the night outside Bethlehem was like that night long ago.

For years, each Christmas I would read and reread "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" when this newspaper ran it on these pages. And for the longest time local radio station WNCA had Mrs. Mattie Walden read the Christmas Story — the real one — from the Book where it first appeared. Miss Mattie now spends her Christmases in the Place where it originated in the company of son Bill but I wonder if Barry Hayes saved a taped copy of her reading. Maybe so; I just haven't caught it since she went on to her new home.

There are others, of course, and no doubt you have yours. They are important; savor them. Treasure them. Enjoy them.

And, by all means, be sure to pass them on ...

Bob Wachs is a native of Chatham County and retired long-time managing editor of the Chatham News/Chatham Record, having written a weekly column for more than 30 years. During most of his time with the newspapers, he was also a bi-vocational pastor and today serves Bear Creek Baptist Church for the second time as pastor.

VIEWPOINTS

Generosity and freedom go together

In places where governments are smaller, taxes are lower, regulations are lighter, and property rights are more secure, people tend to be more generous, trustful, and tolerant. Although progressives may find this proposition hard to accept, there's an ever-increasing stack of empirical evidence to support it.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

Consider a recent study published in *The Independent Review*. Comparing the scores of 145 countries on the Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom of the World Index to an index of private giving and volunteering, authors Lawrence McQuillan and Hayeon Carol Park found a strongly positive relationship. By itself, the freedom index explained 20% of the variance in charitable giving. Other studies by Swedish economists Niclas Berg-

gren and Therese Nilsson show powerful connections between economic freedom and measures of social trust, mutual respect, and tolerance.

To discover a correlation, however, is not necessarily to determine which way the causal arrows point. For example, there is already an extensive literature showing that freer economies tend to grow faster. Perhaps as free-market policies help places grow wealthier, their residents become more charitable. Or perhaps as places grow wealthier for other reasons, such as achieving high levels of education and innovation, they both become more charitable and more likely to adopt freedom-enhancing policies.

Still another possibility is that places where civil society is already "thick," where healthy families and other private institutions help their residents build character and find meaning, citizens tend to be both more economically productive and more resistant to expansive government.

It's an interesting social-sci-

ence puzzle. But for my colleagues and I at the John William Pope Foundation, it requires no ultimate solution. For us, it's enough to know that freedom, human development, compassion, and other important values are associated with each other. They form a virtuous circle. And over the past 35 years, the Pope Foundation has donated more than \$200 million to nonprofits found at every point on that circle, from humanitarian relief and civic vitality to think tanks and educational institutions.

Our giving reflects the philosophy of our co-founder, retail pioneer John Pope. "Self-reliance, self-confidence, and integrity are the keys to success," he said. "Endurance is also critical, and the responsibility for success lies on the shoulders of the individual." Our virtuous-circle approach to philanthropy also reflects the wisdom of America's Founders, whose fierce defense of freedom came not just from classical learning and Enlightenment principles but also from practical experience.

As George Washington put it, "the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the republican model of government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people." But neither Washington nor his colleagues believed liberty was an all-encompassing good. They recognized — as have prudent conservators of America's classical-liberal revolution ever since — that it will always prove fleeting unless it's bundled with the complementary good of virtue.

Of course, the two values can also be in tension. When government respects our freedom to seek virtue, we may instead practice vice. Human beings are inherently flawed creatures vulnerable to temptations. Yielding to them can create the very adverse consequences for ourselves and others — addiction, corruption, violence, child abuse and neglect — that so often lead to demands for more government.

That's why building and maintaining strong social

institutions are so important. When we exercise our personal freedom within dense networks of families and other associations, we make better choices. We're nudged in the right direction by words loving or stern, by glances approving or reproachful, by examples inspiring or cautionary.

When the Pope Foundation invests in life-changing programs to combat poverty, illiteracy, addiction, and homelessness, we help to create the conditions most likely to preserve freedom. And when we invest in thinkers, communicators, and institutions that strengthen the intellectual and moral case for freedom, we make it possible for more individuals to pursue their passions, live their best lives, and build virtue — including, as it happens, the virtue of charity itself.

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).

This year, give them North Carolina

Face it. Everyone has someone on their list for whom it is difficult to shop. What do they like? Is it the right color or size? Do they already have it? More likely than not you wander around the mall, or more recently the Internet, hoping something to get an inspiration. Gift cards seem so impersonal and how do you know they eat there or shop there anyway? You have to get them something so too often, in desperation you spend the dollars, knowing that the day after Christmas has become the second largest retail day of the year. Long lines prove folks get presents they don't want or can use.



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

For years our adult children complained about how hard it was to shop for us. I'm not sure whether they collaborated or not but they each came up with the most wonderful idea and we love it. They gave us North Carolina. Not the whole state, but each decided to give us a North Carolina experience.

We once lived in Wilson, so our daughter gave us a trip back to visit the Whirl-a-gigs, the baseball museum, antique stores and lunch at the always wonderful Dick's Hot Dogs. Our son and his wife gave us a weekend visiting Yadkin Valley wineries that concluded in a three-hour concert featuring The Embers. And the very best part icing of these experiences was that they shared them with us. What could be more magical than happy time with your children? We begged them to repeat the idea again this year.

What other state has so many opportunities for experiences? There's no place more wonderful than Biltmore at Christmas, but the Candlelight Christmas Tour of Tryon Palace comes close. It doesn't have to be Christmastime to enjoy a tour of the USS North Carolina and stroll through the waterfront in Wilmington. We love the front porch music festival at picturesque Oriental but Wilkesboro's Merlefest or Raleigh's Bluegrass festival are also hard to beat. If you love beach music, Atlantic Beach's annual event attracts shaggers from all around. An evening at the North Carolina Symphony or Ira David Wood's "A Christmas Carol" is a delightful experience.

Did you know we have 35 museums in our state, ranging from topics like baseball, cats, trains, motorsports, fossils, the U.S. Army Airborne, country doctors, Ava Gardner and, of course, our state museums of Natural Sciences, Art, and History? Just about every village, town and city has something unique and interesting to see. And no state has such wonderful state parks as does North Carolina. We're not known at the Variety Vacationland for nothing.

Some good friends comb through the pages of "Our State" magazine each month to learn about events and interesting places they might choose to visit, but there are several books on day trips, camping, hiking trails and historic buildings. Our daughter gave us an old-fashioned picnic basket (which are back in style), complete with plates, glasses and silverware. We're thinking about a ride on the Piedmont or Carolinian with a stop for a picnic lunch.

There's nothing wrong with buying presents, especially if you know something the recipient wants. But if you want to give someone something meaningful, something in which they will know that you really thought specifically about them, let me suggest you give them a North Carolina experience this year ... and go with them if you can. I promise they will look back on the experience — and you — with fondness for many years.

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.



Move the university headquarters?

Should the UNC System headquarters be moved from Chapel Hill to Raleigh, where it could be conveniently closer to other state educational agencies and the state legislature that has ultimate control over it?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

In its recently adopted budget bill, the legislature provided for this move. Nobody argues with its power to direct such a move. But there is a widespread difference of opinion about the wisdom of this action.

I will share some of these different views and then tell you my own thoughts.

Respected columnist and longtime observer of North Carolina government and culture, Tom Campbell, writes that the move would be a good development. Despite disagreeing with the senate majority leader, Phil Berger, about many educational issues, Campbell thinks a university move to Raleigh would be positive.

Even though Campbell supports the move to Raleigh, he criticizes legislators for meddling in university life, writing that "their hackles have really been raised by our state supported universities, which they contend doesn't offer enough conservative philosophy to balance liberal teachings."

But after his harsh criticism of the legislature, Campbell writes "there is one initiative in which they are on the right track. Prompted by Sen-

ate 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."

On the other hand, Art Padilla, author of "Portraits in Leadership: Six Extraordinary University Presidents," and former UNC System associate vice president of academic affairs, recently wrote, "The move appears to be about politics and control and not about vaguely described synergies."

Padilla remembers the late university President William Friday's "philosophy about institutional freedom and independence."

"As Mr. Friday was wont to say, the university was of the political process, but it was not in politics. In part, it is why we insisted that individual campuses not pressure the legislature on their own."

Padilla recognizes that, "Some may think the university should be treated like another state agency."

But he uses Friday's words to challenge that view. "No society can survive without an institution at its heart dealing with values, teaching the importance of history, and revealing

the relationship between man and nature. It's there, in the beating, human heart of the university where you get sustenance for the soul, where you find out what's making your heart sing, where you are motivated to go against the odds to do something."

For almost 10 years in the 1980s and '90s I worked as the UNC System's lobbyist, driving the 25 miles from Chapel Hill to Raleigh almost every day.

That distance served the university and the people of the state. It discouraged legislators from probing directly into the day-to-day details of university or campus life and viewing it as a state education agency rather than a real university.

Along the way, I had to respond to numerous complaints and inquiries about the political views expressed by some faculty members and activities of university affiliated projects. But even the harshest critics usually understood that the vigorous and free conflict of ideas is part and parcel of a strong university where the preparation of a thinking citizenry goes hand in hand with the creation of new ideas and new solutions to society's problems.

I hope the legislature will do itself a favor: save money, protect the university system, and keep the system's headquarters away from Raleigh.

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.

LETTERS

Hood misses the real point TO THE EDITOR:

In his recent column ("Infrastructure deal did us no favors," Dec. 2-8) in the News + Record, John Hood once again missed the real point. He states that the federal government shouldn't be involved in local and regional issues, and goes on to write that roads, bridges, broadband and water systems should be paid for with local user

charges and taxes with state and local representatives making the decisions.

The low tax policies instituted by recent Republican majority legislatures and their decision to hoard money in a rainy day fund are exactly why the federal government had to step in. Our roads are not the ones for which our state was once famous, our bridges are deteriorating rapidly, and broadband is not reaching a significant proportion

of our population. And that's not to mention the other positive elements in the Democratic infrastructure law. His adding broadband is especially egregious as it is the Republican-led legislature that has bowed to pressure from the large internet providers and prohibited local governments from making their own broadband arrangements.

Michael W. Cotter
Chapel Hill

LOCAL

Continued from page A1

Price: \$22
Coordinates: You can order online at starrlightmead.com/buy-our-meads-online or at the shop at 130 Lorax Lane. Hours: Monday-Saturday, 12-6 p.m.; Sunday 1-5 p.m. 919-533-6314



One of the many hats focusing on 'local' at J.R. Moore & Son.

J.R. Moore & Son Custom Hats

From: J.R. Moore & Son in Gulf
Description: Gulf's unique country store carries an array of hats with monogramming of surrounding localities and graphics that are related to the region.

Price range: \$18-\$30
Coordinates: The store is located at 865 Thrift Road, just off U.S. Hwy. 421 near the Lee County line. Website: jrmoore-son.com. 919-898-2998.

BMC Brewing Gift Certificate

From: bmc brewing in Pittsboro

Description: For all your holiday gift giving needs, bmc brewing merchandise is available. The beer lovers — or explorers — will love a gift from Pittsboro's first nanobrewery located in the heart of The Chatham Beverage District. All of their beers are made on site and are available in cans or growlers for take out. Winter favorites include Baby's Oatmeal Stout, Uisce Móna Stout or Barrel Aged Uisce Móna Stout. But if you don't know what your beer lover's favorite, try a \$20 gift certificate!

Price: \$5-\$80
Coordinates: bmc is located at The Plant, 213 Lorax Lane, Pittsboro. Website: bmcbrewing.com. 919-704-8567

Southern Supreme Fruitcake & More

From: Southern Supreme in Bear Creek

Description: Southern Supreme's fruitcakes aren't just your average fruitcakes, they're a legacy of a Scott Family tradition. Southern Supreme's famous fruitcakes come in sizes ranging from 8 oz. to 4.5 lbs., depending on



Starrlight Mead's lineup of tasty creations make an ideal Christmas gift.



From its facility in Bear Creek, Southern Supreme ships fruitcakes all over the U.S. — and to many other countries.

your serving needs. Their fruitcakes are moist, chewy and full of nuts, perfect for a holiday treat. Their old fashioned cake is made in their kitchen with the best of everything a proper fruitcake should have. And, plenty of it too; with rich English walnuts, fresh pecans, golden raisins, dates, pineapple and candied cherries, each cake is hand decorated and beautifully packaged.

Note: Fruitcakes ordered after Dec. 12 won't be ready to ship until after the holidays, but they'll be a nice post-holiday goodie.

Price: \$8.25-\$51.50
Coordinates: The showroom is located at 1699 Hoyt Scott Road in Bear Creek; Order online at southern supreme.com; 1-877-815-0922



An example of a custom coffee themed gift bags from Aromatic Coffee Roasters.

Custom Coffee Themed Gift Bags at Aromatic Roasters

From: Aromatic Roasters in Pittsboro

Description: Aromatic is creating custom gift bags for the coffee lover. They generally all include a half pound or more of one of single-origin coffees roasted right here in Pittsboro, as well as other coffee related items which could include coffee brewing equipment, locally made mugs by Stillman Browning-Howe, local honey and more.

Something unique/special about it: Aromatic sources and roasts some of the best coffee around, offering coffees from 10 or more origins, including Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Guatemala, Honduras, Java and Costa Rica — meaning there's something for any coffee lover.

Price: \$25-\$100
Coordinates: Custom gift bags and more available at 697 Hillsboro St., Ste. 101, in Pittsboro. Website: aromaticroasters.com — but the custom gift bags will need to be in-person or call in for purchase. 919-228-8345.



Tienda Hispana El Rayo in Pittsboro is selling 40 oz Cazuelitas for \$15.99. The bowls are hand painted in Mexico and oven safe.

Tienda Hispana El Rayo's Cazuelitas

From: Tienda Hispana El Rayo in Pittsboro

This authentic Mexican restaurant's 40-ounce Cazuelitas make the perfect holiday gift. This beautiful bowl is hand painted in Mexico and oven safe. Make it extra special and bake your favorite comfort food or dessert in it to give as a gift.

Price: \$15.99
Coordinates: visit the store at 119 Hillsboro Street in Pittsboro to purchase.



A crew neck sweatshirt from The Chatham Rabbits highlights one of the band's songs: 'The Good Things (Outweigh the Bad).'



Carolina Brewery's Sriracha Steak Sauce is the perfect gift for the grill master, home chef or foodie in your life.

Carolina Brewery's Sriracha Steak Sauce

From: Carolina Brewery in Pittsboro

Description: Carolina Brewery's Sriracha Steak Sauce is perfect for steaks, sausage dogs, scrambled eggs or any dish that needs some extra Carolina zing! Their bold steak sauce kicks things up a notch with a sriracha blend of fresh chili peppers, vinegar and garlic. Tangy, savory, and spicy, it's the perfect sauce for steaks, but don't be surprised if you find yourself putting it on everything. It's the perfect gift for the Grill Master, Home Chef, or Foodie in your life.

Price: \$6
Coordinates: Pick up a bottle (or two) at either of Carolina Brewery's brewpubs — 120 Lowes Drive #100, Pittsboro, or 460 W Franklin Street, Chapel Hill — or on their website (carolinabrewery.com/shop) or on Amazon.

FireClay Cellars' Mulled Chambourcin

From: FireClay Cellars in Siler City

The owners of FireClay Cellars picked out land on Bowers Store Road — off U.S. Hwy. 64, between Siler City and Pittsboro — back in 2010 because of its unique terroir. The site is perfectly suited for certain types of grapes. Erik Mitran and his team harvest and process the grapes and turn them into wonderfully balanced Chambourcin and Chardonnay wines



Chambourcin Mulled wine from FireClay Cellars.

and blends.

Description: FireClay's Mulled Chambourcin is a perfect holiday wine. It's made from oak-aged Chambourcin, but with a special touch: natural blueberry, orange peel, anise, clove and cinnamon were added to create a semi-sweet, balanced mulled wine — which can be served warm or used in a variety of holiday recipes.

Price: \$19/bottle
Coordinates: Visit FireClay in person (open daily except Tuesday and Wednesday; check website for tasting details) or order online at fireclaycellars.com. 919-663-2599.

Chatham Rabbits' Good Things Crewneck Sweatshirt

From: The Chatham Rabbits

Description: Austin and Sarah McCombie, the Americana husband-wife duo from Bynum, is selling a comfy crewneck is a nod to the song, "The Good Things (Outweigh The Bad)" by Flatt and Scruggs, latered covered by the couple on their 2019 album, "All I Want from You." The song has become their theme since quitting corporate jobs to play music full-time, their website says, adding their hope that "the sweatshirt keeps you warm and cozy and reminds you that the good things outweigh the bad!"

Price: \$40
Coordinates: shop online at chathamrabbits.com. (And of course the band's music is available there, too.)

HISPANIC

Continued from page A1

disparities narrow over time," Mike Zelek, director of Chatham County's Public Health Department, told the News + Record. "To me, it is a testament to the hard work of community organizations like Hispanic Liaison and our staff who carried our critical efforts to make the vaccine accessible and share reliable information."

According to data compiled by CCPHD data scientist Maia Fulton-Black, 51% of the county's eligible Hispanic population — 5 years and older — is at least partially vaccinated, while 47% are fully vaccinated, as of Dec. 1. In comparison, 50% of Chatham's non-Hispanic population over age 5 has received at least one dose while 47% have been fully vaccinated.

Of the total Hispanic population in the county, at least 47% have been partially vaccinated while 42% are fully vaccinated. Among Chatham's total non-Hispanic population, 48% have received at least one dose while 46% have received

the complete vaccine regimen.

The county health department receives updated information from the state around the end of each month, and Fulton-Black compiled the data based on Census 2020 Vintage estimates.

"(We) know that the Hispanic population skews younger in Chatham than the general population, so there would likely be some narrowing of the gap as younger populations became eligible," Zelek said. "That said, it is also, and I would say even more so, the result of intentional efforts by staff and partners. And I am so proud of these efforts because they are saving lives while addressing deeply rooted disparities."

Both Fulton-Black and Zelek warned, however, that the data may not present the complete picture. The state's data only includes data reported to the North Carolina COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS), which may lack data from some vaccine providers, as well as demographic data from those who did not or chose not to report their ethnicities and/or ages.

"So, the demographic numbers ... are helpful to see if certain groups are falling behind but with the caveat that all figures are actually higher," Zelek said.

"Things have been very successful"

Chatham's Hispanic community was hit hard at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, before vaccines were available. Though Chatham's population is about 13% Hispanic, 32% of its total confirmed coronavirus cases were among Hispanic residents earlier this fall, according to the state's COVID-19 data.

Now, Chatham's most recent vaccination data reflects a statewide and even nationwide upward trend. According to the state vaccinations dashboard, 53% of the state's total Hispanic population (who account for nearly 11% of North Carolina) are at least partially vaccinated compared with 52% of non-Hispanic residents, as of Dec. 14. Likewise, 70% of the state's Hispanic population over 12 has had at least one dose; for non-Hispanic residents, that same figure is 58%.

Where did these gains come from? According

to a survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, a national health news nonprofit, the percentage of partially vaccinated Hispanic adults across the U.S. rose 12 percentage points between July and September — and Chatham took part in it.

Will Mendoza, the Hispanic Liaison's COVID-19 project manager, pointed to summer as the time when "all that effort was done" to significantly increase the vaccinated Latino population across Chatham and North Carolina.

"We got really lucky to find good partnerships and sort of got on a roll," he told the News + Record. "We had enough demand from people in the community, so we sort of got busy real fast ... There's more availability for the community to get vaccinated on their own terms, so we are planning the next steps on how to reach the people that still are not comfortable with vaccines or have limitations in access to vaccines. Things have been very successful, I feel."

In collaboration with Greensboro-based medical provider Better Care, the Hispanic Liaison

vaccinated more than 300 people at its COVID-19 Health Fair in August, he said, plus its follow-up vaccination clinic in September. Throughout the summer, the Liaison also held Sunday clinics at Iglesia El Camino in downtown Siler City.

"We did it from June all the way till September, almost every other week," Mendoza said. "We had good attendance — good in terms of, you know, 10 to 15 people. They were never huge events."

Now, however, they're working on switching things up. The Liaison's COVID-19 response strategy is three-pronged: education, testing and vaccination. Now that the CDC has recommended boosters for all adults — and vaccines have become available to 5- to 11-year-olds — they've cycled back to education.

"Boosters are coming up, vaccinations for youth are coming out, so there's a lot of questions," he said, "and we are working closely with the health department and heavily with the community to try to understand where they are at and what's their need to start preparing for what's coming, which I think

after the education, we run up again with vaccination and testings."

To that end, the Liaison plans to host a Facebook Live chat in Spanish at 4:30 this Saturday alongside UNC Health, Piedmont Health and the CCPHD. They'll be discussing COVID-19 booster shots, vaccine mix-and-matching, and pediatric vaccines for 5- to 11-year-old children.

Come January, Mendoza sees two key areas that the nonprofit will work toward: booster shot and pediatric vaccine clinics in Siler City, as well as neighborhood COVID-19 information visits, plus pop-up testing and vaccination events if needed.

The health department, too, plans to continue its bilingual outreach efforts, particularly when it comes to vaccinating children and empowering parents to make informed decisions.

"We are hopeful that the vaccine uptake among this young population will be high and will continue our efforts to get there," Zelek said, "with a focus on equity."

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Council on Aging to hold public board meeting

The Chatham County Council on Aging Board of Directors will hold its annual public meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 6, virtually on Zoom. If you are interested in providing comments at the beginning of the meeting, contact Dennis Streets at dennis.streets@chathamcoa.org or call 919-542-4512. The

board will also be electing its officers for 2022.

TJCOG housing repair assistance applications now open

Chatham County's low-to-moderate income homeowners can now get assistance with home repairs, including accessibility modifications and weatherization through

the Triangle J Council of Governments.

To qualify, a household must include a veteran, a disabled person or anyone 62 years of age and older. TJCOG can also assist households with children six years of age and under living in homes with lead exposure.

To apply, contact TJCOG's Jack Watson at 919-558-9394 or email jwatson@tjco.org. For more information, log onto the

TJCOG website at <https://www.tjco.org/focus-areas-housing-home-maintenance-home-repair/chatham-county>

Chatham County Public Libraries to host Winter Reading BINGO Challenge

PITTSBORO — Children and teens are invited to participate in the

Winter Reading BINGO Challenge at all Chatham County Public Libraries branches from Jan. 3 through Feb. 14.

The Winter Reading BINGO Challenge, sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, is open to children ages 2-18. Readers participate by picking up a reading BINGO sheet at their local library branch and completing a 5-in-a-row BINGO to earn a free

book (one book per participant, while supplies last). All readers who complete at least one BINGO will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Gift Certificate to McIntyre's Books.

For more information about the Winter Reading BINGO Challenge, or other youth events with Chatham County Public Libraries, contact youth.services@chathamlibraries.org.

— CN+R staff reports

VACCINES

Continued from page A1

What's one word you would use to summarize Chatham County's experience, or your experience personally, when it comes to the last year?

Adaptability. No public health department in the last century has dealt with something of the magnitude and longevity of COVID-19, including an unprecedented vaccination campaign that is now a year in. From the earliest days of mass vaccination clinics and priority groups to the current focus on booster shots and vaccines for younger children, we have had to evolve many times throughout the last 12 months. I think back to the first months of the vaccine being available and how hectic that was, and I'm thankful for how far we've come. These safe and effective vaccines are now available at many locations across the county with three different vaccine options to choose from. We're not in the same place we were a year ago.

Most of the Chatham community is now vaccinated against COVID-19, and that is a remarkable

achievement. I'm so thankful for all our staff, healthcare workers, community partners, and Chatham residents for their dedication and support. I am also grateful to public health professionals around the world for the work they've done. We will never know exactly how many lives were saved because of these vaccines, but all that challenging work was worth it because of each of those lives. Chatham residents are alive today because of COVID-19 vaccines.

Walk us through the experience of that first COVID-19 vaccination clinic, back in January. What was it like that day, and where have you been since then?

While we administered our first COVID-19 vaccines in late December, our first mass vaccination clinic was on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 18th. To many, this is a day of community service, and the service of our staff, along with dozens of volunteers, to begin vaccinating a community against a pandemic on a holiday is something I will always remember. While we couldn't see at

Chatham residents are alive today because of COVID-19 vaccines.

MIKE ZELEK, director, Chatham County Public Health Department

that point where things would be a year later, this was clearly a pivotal moment in our pandemic response.

I can't say enough about our staff. We've got so many highly skilled public health professionals from different disciplines and backgrounds, and they've come through time and time again to keep the Chatham community safe and healthy.

From our clinic team who administered shots and entered data, to environmental health and administration staff who planned the clinics and built an online appointment system on the heels of a cyberattack, to health promotion and policy staff who coordinated call centers and promoted the clinics, it really was a full team effort. I like to say public health is a team sport, and it takes and entire community to respond to a pandemic. Every one of these clinics required so many people to pull them off, including part-

ners like the Ag Center, Emergency Management, the Chatham Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), N.C. National Guard, county staff, medical volunteers, and the Sheriff's Office, just to name a few.

In the months since those first clinics, we have conducted many outreach clinics at churches and sites across the Chatham community, working closely with partners like Hispanic Liaison and the Council on Aging, set up regularly scheduled events at our clinic in Siler City, and worked with other providers like pharmacies and doctor's offices, as well as state-contracted entities like StarMed and Optum, to expand vaccination and testing options around Chatham. As a public health department, we have administered over 8,100 vaccinations. This is a tremendous accomplishment.

How would you assess Chatham County's vaccine uptake one year in?

Most public health professionals will tell you they would like to see a higher vaccination rate in their community, and we are no different here in Chatham. That said, we're pleased that more than 42,000 Chatham County residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and that nearly 40,000 are fully vaccinated. They're a critical portion of the more than six million people in North Carolina who have rolled up their sleeves. That's something we can celebrate. But we can't be complacent. There's still work to be done, especially with booster shots now recommended.

From the beginning, you spoke about the importance of equity in vaccinations. It was something you as a department highlighted in a press release in early 2020 about how COVID-19

was disproportionately affecting marginalized communities, particularly the Hispanic population. How have you approached equity in vaccinations, and how do you evaluate that part of the work one year in?

Equity is core to public health and has been central to COVID-19 response and vaccination efforts. Focusing on equity requires us to look at the underlying factors, like structural racism, that make some more likely to have access to resources like healthcare than others, and to make intentional efforts working with community partners and community members to address these issues and the resulting disparities. For example, we saw early in the pandemic that Hispanic/Latinx residents were more likely to get COVID-19 and knew an equity-centered approach was key during the vaccination campaign.

When we look at the vaccination rates, thanks to the hard work of so many, we do not now see disparities where we often see them, namely among African-American and Hispanic/Latinx residents. This has been a team effort and follows the lead of the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services, who invested in an equity-focused vaccination campaign. Local partners, like The Hispanic Liaison, and many churches have played pivotal roles as well, and we wouldn't be where we are without them.

It takes a village, especially when it comes to health equity. We've accomplished a lot, but we have more work to do in all areas, particularly in communications and community engagement. This is an ongoing focus of our work, COVID-19 and beyond.

What's next? We're a year into vaccination efforts. What is on the horizon, and what should we expect with Omicron?

COVID-19 has kept us on our toes for nearly two years, and this remains the case today. Vaccinations continue to be the main focus of our efforts, especially the

younger children who recently became eligible and getting more folks a booster shot.

A COVID-19 vaccine is the best tool we have for preventing severe illness and death from this virus, and it's been very good at preventing infections as well. Getting vaccinated and getting a booster shot is especially important as we move through winter. We are seeing an uptick in cases and are now back and high community transmission. We are also beginning to see an increase in hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

While there is much we are still learning about Omicron, it reinforces the importance of the strategies we have been talking about for a long time. Omicron does appear to spread more easily than previous variants, including among those who have already had COVID-19 and those who have received two doses of vaccine.

We expect it will show up in Chatham in the near future and will likely account for more and more cases around the state and country. That said, boosters appear to continue to work well, and we expect the vaccine will continue to offer a good amount of protection against severe illness and death. This is ultimately what matters most and what vaccines are designed to do.

For those who are at least six months out from their second dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or two months out from their J&J shot, go ahead and get your booster shot if you have not yet done so. This will boost protection and can bring you some piece of mind as we move through the colder months. While we are eager to get more data on Omicron, we can find some reassurance knowing that we have tools that can help to protect us.

Note: Zelek will be a guest on an upcoming edition of "The Chatcast," the new podcast from the News + Record. It will be released on the CN+R's social media platforms in the coming week.

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-Blake Hogg,
General Manager

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- Welds the trophies for the Trike Rodeo
- Graduate of Northwood High School
- Won a state championship at Northwood in cross country; ran track and cross country at UNCC
- Deeply appreciates music, collecting records, and going to concerts
- Studied history in undergrad - considered teaching high school history (*currently a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones*)
- Loves cooking and eating new foods
- Became an uncle in November 2020

Siler City Police Department completes fair policing training

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Officers in Siler City’s police department have completed a training course focusing on ensuring fair and equitable policing across the community.

Police Chief Mike Wagner said each officer in his department has completed coursework from Fair and Impartial Policing, an organization focusing on teaching officers about recognizing their own biases when out in the line of duty. Training took place over a full day and included interactive exercises.

“Fair and impartial policing is a renown, scientific approach that’s used by departments all across the country,” Wagner said. “It’s a systematic approach recognizing that, as humans, we have a bias, and it’s good to understand that dynamic

the human psyche so we can eliminate it from our policing methods.”

Lt. Andrew Freeman of the Siler City Police Department was enrolled in the same training last year and played a role in implementing the training for the entire department this year. He said the training opened his eyes to biases he didn’t realize he had.

“It was a different type of training than I had ever been to,” Freeman said. “It was interesting to see how biases work and recognizing those biases so you can adjust how you approach people and dealing with them in this line of work. It was an eye-opening experience.”

One of the training examples given, he said, involved an active shooter incident in Las Vegas. One officer was responding to a call from two others who had been ambushed by an armed

individual. The officer assumed the shooter was a white male, since 54% of shootings are committed by white males.

Freeman said the officer went to the site where the shooter was and started looking for an armed white male. When he arrived on the scene, however, he was surprised to find a white woman toting the firearm.

“When he saw the white female, he never associated her as being a threat,” Freeman said. “It was she and her husband who had ambushed the officers.”

This story stuck with Freeman because there was a similar incident which occurred in Siler City.

While the Siler City case didn’t involve an active shooter, it did involve an armed individual. Officers were called to McDonald’s after a subject armed with a gun

tried to climb through the fast-food establishment’s drive-thru window.

When the officers pulled up to the scene, the car with the suspect took off. Officers didn’t have identifying information for the suspect, so Freeman said the two responding officers assumed the armed individual had to be a male.

“They assumed it was a male because, not too often, females are not going to crawl through a window with a gun,” Freeman said.

Officers were able to locate the vehicle with the suspected armed individual, where they found a couple — a male and a female. The driver, a Black male, was pulled from the car and interrogated by police. The female, who was white, was asked to go stand with the deputies while officers continued to question the driver.

What officers failed to notice was the female was the one who was holding the gun.

“Going back and watching the dash cam video, you can see her pull the gun out of her pocket and then put it in her hoodie,” Freeman said. “Going back and watching that, hearing that guy’s story from the class and seeing it in real time here, it was a really eye-opening experience for a lot of us.”

Wagner said by having his officers take this course, he hopes they can bring more equitable policing to the Siler City community and in turn, build trust with the people the department serves.

“It is any police department’s goal to make sure their staff does everything they can do to deliver fair and equitable services,” he said. “When we take our personal biases out of the equation,

then that delivers fair, equitable and respectful policing.”

According to the police chief, it’s critical officers are able to recognize their own biases when they are responding to calls. For Wagner, “fair policing” creates respect from the community, which is crucial to effectively protecting the community.

“In today’s world, our community demands that type of policing,” Wagner said. “It’s not a want or a need — it’s a demand from our community that any time they have interaction with our law enforcement that we’re going to listen to them, we’re going to tell them what we can and cannot do and we’re going to explain to them the expectations of whatever issue they may have.”

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

CCS Board of Education extends universal masking, 4-1, looks toward optional masking

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Education again voted 4-1 to require universal masking on all CCS campuses at its meeting Monday night — with board member David Hamm again dissenting.

Since September, the board has taken a vote regarding its masking policy each month, in accordance with state law. District administrators and local health officials have long followed public health guidance recommending that mask mandates remain in place until the county’s transmission rates fall below the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s suggested levels.

“Case rates are on the rise. We’re back under high community transmission, when I spoke last we were at substantial — so that has been picking up,” Mike Zelek, director of the Chatham County Public Health Department, told the board Monday. “Positivity rate is about twice what it was a month ago — 6% versus 3%, so the reality is we’re trending in the wrong direction. It’s getting colder, it’s winter, it’s the holidays. I’m not trying to cause undue alarm — it’s just where we are right now.”

CCS has followed public health guidance from the beginning of the pandemic, specifically partnering with CCPHD and Duke University’s ABC Science Collaborative — both of which often defer to the CDC and World Health Organization.

According to the CDC and the state health department, schools should continue requiring universal masking in counties where there are higher levels

of community transmission.

County spread is calculated in two ways: its total new cases per 100,000 people and percentage of positive COVID-19 tests in the last seven days. According to recommendations from the state and CDC, counties with substantial and high transmission should require masking in schools; counties with low and moderate transmission can opt for optional.

With 116 cases per 100,000 people and 5.76% positivity rate, according to CDC county data on Tuesday, Chatham is an area of high transmission. Here is the breakdown for how county transmission levels are determined:

- Low transmission: 0-9.99 cases per 100K, 0-4.99% tests positive
- Moderate transmission: 10-49.99 cases, 5-7.99% positive
- Substantial transmission: 50-99.99 cases, 8-9.9% positive
- High transmission: more than 100 cases, greater than 10%

A few teachers present at the meeting Monday thanked the board during the public comments portion for requiring masks; parents who spoke almost exclusively asked that the district remove its masking policy and make masks optional.

Chief Operations Officer Chris Blice said that even under an optional masking guideline, per state guidance, unvaccinated students are supposed to keep masking. Only when community transmission levels are low — which hasn’t been the case in Chatham since the beginning of the pandemic — should unvaccinated and vaccinated students and staff alike be allowed to not wear a mask.

Blice said other districts with option-

al mask policies have said that telling who is unvaccinated and then enforcing a mask policy is “impossible.”

Hamm raised questions about the mandate, which he eventually again voted against continuing.

“Yes, time to move on. Some may want to wear their masks the rest of their lives, that’s their choice,” Hamm previously told the News + Record. “For those who don’t, that too should be their choice.”

He said most people who aren’t vaccinated at this point won’t get vaccinated.

“Those are the people who are prolonging this pandemic,” board member Del Turner said in response. “They’re the people who are exacerbating the problem and why we have to continue this mess — they are the reason.”

Following a Nov. 2 recommendation by the CDC, children ages 5-11 are now able to get vaccinated. If children were vaccinated the first weekend they were eligible, they were fully vaccinated Dec. 11 — six weeks after their first doses.

Regardless, the mandatory masking guidance in schools from the state doesn’t depend on vaccination rates in a county but transmission rates.

“I don’t think the current trends warrant a change of course,” Zelek told the board.

“I recognize that the COVID mitigation strategies that have been in place cannot and should not go on forever,” Zelek previously told the News + Record. “The key question is how to evolve our approaches in a thoughtful, scientific way. We have done this throughout the pandemic, and it will continue to be important moving forward.”

After the motion to continue the

mask mandate was passed, Hamm made a motion to remove the requirement for masking among athletics — a point raised during public comments. The motion did not get a second.

CCS administration has long cited masking as the most important tool to keeping students in the classroom by keeping case transmission within school buildings low. There have been 356 cases among students and staff since the first day of school, and just two clusters, according to the district’s COVID dashboard on Tuesday. The district’s positive case rate has lingered well under 1% the entire school year, which has consistently been lower than the transmission rate in Chatham as a whole.

“I’ve said from the beginning, this is not a perfect situation,” Superintendent Anthony Jackson addressed the board. “Our primary core work is teaching and learning, so our role and our focus — the only thing we promised at the start of the school year was to provide a regular routine, we tried very hard to do that.”

“If I had my way it’d be over tonight,” Jackson said of the mask mandate. “I don’t have my way. So, Mr. Chair, it is our recommendation that, consistent with state law, we ask the board to continue the universal masking until our next meeting where you might be able to, at that time, adjust your positioning.”

The board meets next for its mid-year retreat on Jan. 10.

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

ELECTION

Continued from page A1
2022.

Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper said in a statement last Wednesday that the court order “restores faith in the rule of law.”

“...it is necessary for the Court to rule on the constitutionality of these unfair districts before the next election,” he said.

Dates for a new filing period have not been set. The primary, along with any rescheduled municipal elections from November 2020, will now take place on May 17, 2022, instead of March 8.

Read the order here: <https://bit.ly/3oVhoZv>

In Chatham, six Democratic candidates filed for local contests on the first day of filing last Monday, with two more candidates filing each on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Candidates for the following offices were eligible to file during this period for Chatham County. Additional candidates representing Chatham along with other districts filed for office at BOE buildings outside of Chatham.

Now that filing is suspended, this list will be updated online (chathamnewsrecord.com) as new candidates announce

intended 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. She filed for the office last Wednesday.

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.

Reives filed for the office last Wednesday, before filing was suspended.

“I am proud to file for re-election to continue serving the people in House District 54. I have been humbled by the opportunity to represent my friends and neighbors in Raleigh, and I look forward to continuing that service,” he said in a release. “Chatham County is my home, and I understand the issues families are discussing at the dinner table because my family does the same. I want to serve for another term to ensure that we are creating a community and state that is better off for our children.”

N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 03: Dem. Lucy

Inman and Rep. Richard Dietz both filed last Monday.

N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 05: Republicans April Wood and Trey Allen filed for the seat on Monday, so did Dem. Sam Ervin IV.

N.C. Court of Appeals Judge - Seats 08, 09, 10, 11: Rep. Julee Tate Flood filed for Seat 8 on Monday. Republicans Beth Freshwater Smith and Donna Stroud filed for Seat 9 on Monday.

Dem. Gale Murray Adams and Rep. John Tyson also filed for Seat 10 on Monday; Dem. Darren Jackson and Rep. Michael Stading filed for Seat 11 that day as well.

N.C. Superior Court Judge District 15B Seat 1 and 2: Dem. Alyson Grine filed for Seat 1 on Wednesday and Dem. Allen Baddour filed for Seat 2 on Tuesday.

N.C. District Court Judge District 15B Seat 1: No one filed for this office during the brief filing period.

District Attorney District 18: Dem. Kayley Taber filed Tuesday.

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 the first day of filing.

Chatham County Board of Commissioners Dist. 4: Currently held by Dem. Commissioner Jim Crawford, who tells the News + Record he will resign at the board’s Dec. 20 meeting. Last Monday, two Democratic candidates filed for the seat: Albert Reddick and Katie Kenlan. On Tuesday, Democrat Travis Patterson also filed for the office.

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; the board of education race is nonpartisan.

Board of Education Dist. 4: Currently held by board member Jane Allen Wilson, who filed for the seat on Wednesday and will also not be listed on the ballot in the primary.

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

Delayed Municipal Elections

Town of Cary Town Council At-Large: Ken George and Ed Yerha filed Monday.

Delayed Municipal Elections Filing (Filing was scheduled for Jan. 3, 2022, noon - Jan. 7, 2022, noon, but is likely delayed by the court order)

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 commissioner for 10 years. If he were to win his election bid for mayor, the seat would be wide 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).

OBITUARIES

ROBERT VAN PATTERSON



Robert Van (Bobby) Patterson, 72, of Siler City died Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at the home.

Bobby was born in Texas, October 2, 1949, the son of James Anderson and Hazel (Willett) Patterson. Bobby attended Edward Hill Friends Meeting and was a retired logger. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, James Anderson Patterson Sr., Gerald W. Patterson and a step-daughter, Tonya A. Sigmon.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Patterson; a daughter, Suzane Forshy and husband Gene; stepson, Jerry Thompson; three grandchildren, Kasey Hash and husband Chris, Cody Wolfe and wife Holly, Dustin Sigmon and wife Tiffany; four great-grandchildren, Charlie Hash, Ash Wolfe, Dom and Safie Mae Sigmon; sisters, Janice P. Shelton of Liberty, Sharon P. Walker and husband Darrell Walker of Franklinville.

Bobby loved his family and friends way beyond compare and would lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

There will be no services at this time.

There will be a Celebration of Life a year after his passing for all family and friends at Edward Hill Friends Meeting. A candle light service and covered dish will be held at the home after December 10, 2022.

JOSEPH EARL THOMAS



Joseph Earl Thomas, 87, of Pittsboro, died Thursday, December 9, 2021, at the SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan UNC Hospice Home.

Earl was born in Chatham County on September 7, 1934, to the late Joseph Arthur Thomas and Mattie Emily Poe Thomas. He was also preceded in death by one brother-in-law, Marcus Clark.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Etta Brooks Thomas; three sons, Eddie Thomas and wife Jo Ann of Pittsboro, Scott Thomas and wife Donna of Pittsboro, Jeff Thomas and fiancé Sheri Haney of Greer, South Carolina; one daughter, Joette Springle and husband Jim of Pittsboro; ten grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; one brother, Arthur Thomas Jr. and three sisters, Cornelia Clark of Apex, Boots Atkinson and husband Don of Pittsboro, and Valinda Thomas and husband James of Pittsboro.

The funeral service was held Sunday, December 12, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Emmaus Baptist Church with Pastor Steve Moore presiding. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Immediately following the committal service, the family received friends in the church fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Earl's memory to Emmaus Baptist Church Missions Fund, 2428 Silk Hope-Gum Spring Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312 or the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC Health Care, 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

The family would like to express their appreciation and gratitude to two special caregivers, Audrey Parker and Lisa Braxton.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

ROCHELLE LYNETTE GREEN

Rochelle Lynette Green, 46, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at her home.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at Sandhills Veterans Cemetery in Sanford.

ALEXANDRIA OCTAVIA BAKER

Alexandria Octavia Baker, 42, of Sanford passed away on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

KEITH BARRON FOX

Keith Barron Fox, 69, of Sanford passed away on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

ROBIN PICKARD MATTHEWS

Robin Pickard Matthews, 58, of Sanford, passed away Thursday, November 25, 2021, in Gaffney, S.C.

A private memorial service will be held.

She was born in Guilford County on October 29, 1963, to the late Worth Fields Pickard and Nancy House Pickard. She worked as a secretary for Carolina Well and Pump Company. In addition to her parents she is preceded in death by a grandchild, Allen Roberts, and a sister, Wendy Perez.

She is survived by her son, Ricky Dean Patterson of Sanford; a daughter, Robin Renee Roberts of Sanford; a sister, Melody Godfrey of Albemarle; and four grandchildren.

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

MATTHEW TYLER MARTIN

Matthew Tyler Martin, 29, of Siler City, passed away on Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

A funeral service was held Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Oakley Baptist Church with Dr. Jeff Johnson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Matt was born in Alamance County on December 16, 1991, the son of Billy and Wendy Martin Rinaldi. Matt worked as a roofer for Top Tier in Burlington. He was preceded in death by his brother, Jeremy Martin; and grandmother, Emma Martin.

Survivors include his wife, Emelia Wicker Martin; children, Clayton Wicker, Wyatt and Waverly Martin; his parents, Billy and Wendy Martin Rinaldi; brother, Dean Rinaldi of Haw River; sister, Ashley Moreno of Haw River; grandparents, Jerry Martin of Burlington and Patty Lamb of Mebane.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a fund set up for his children at Carter Bank & Trust in Siler City.

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

MARY ESTELLE HAIRE PERRELL

Mary Estelle Haire Perrell, 88, of Bear Creek, passed away Monday, December 6, 2021, at the Hospice House in Pittsboro.

A funeral service was held at Kendale Acres Free Will Baptist Church on Friday, December 10, 2021, at 2 p.m. with Pastor Doug Western, Pastor Richard Barnes, Pastor Billy Keith, and Pastor Johnnie Lewis presiding.

She was born in Harnett County on April 25, 1933, to the late William Wilson Haire and Sarah Denning Haire. Mary worked as an assembler for Eaton Corporation.

Surviving is her daughter, Kay Lewis of Bear Creek; sister, Peggy Tickle of Sanford; two grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

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

TAMMY LYNN STALEY

Tammy Lynn Staley, 54, of Siler City, passed away on December 10, 2021, at Siler City Center.

No services are planned at this time.

Ms. Staley was born in Chatham County on September 15, 1967, the daughter of Arthur and Lillian Haithcox Staley. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brothers, Larry Franklin Staley and Dale Wayne Staley.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family.

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

CONNIE MARIE NEWSOME RODGERS

Connie Marie Newsome Rodgers, 63, of Vass passed away on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 11, 2021, at Fries Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, with burial following in the church cemetery.

ANNETTE 'ELAINE' HEAD SUTTON

Annette "Elaine" Head Sutton passed away on December 9, 2021, at her home in Pittsboro.

Funeral services were held at Orange United Methodist Church on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 10 a.m. followed by a graveside service at Pineview Cemetery at 2 p.m.

Elaine was born January 21, 1937, in Seven Springs, N.C., the daughter of Burke and Cora Smith Head. She spent her career working in clothing retail including owning the Fashion Corner and 24 years with Belk's as a buyer and supervisor. Elaine was preceded in death by her first husband, Benjamin Warren "Tom" Britt, her parents Burke and Cora Head, and siblings Lorene Sutton, Lois Hardy, Blanche McKenzie, Ross Head, and Kent Head.

She is survived by her husband William Brent Sutton; children, Lewton Steve Britt, Connie Elaine Samaniego, and Lisa Gay Britt; three grandchildren; siblings, Beth Jackson and Brenda Killelte; stepchildren, Bill Sutton, Debby Moyer, and Liz Shelton; and many step-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to Orange United Methodist Church, 1220 M.L.K. Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

KENNETH KELLY 'ACE' CAMERON

Kenneth Kelly "Ace" Cameron, 65, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, December 9, 2021, at Duke Regional Hospital.

A celebration of Ken's life was held at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 2 p.m. with Pastor Brad Simpson officiating. Burial followed at Buffalo Cemetery.

He was born in Lee County on January 2, 1956, to Lucille Cameron Cameron and the late James Elton Cameron. He attended East Carolina University. For 53 years he worked in the family business, Godfrey Body Shop, becoming the owner in 1997. He was a member of Pocket Fire Department, the Sanford Elks Lodge and served as a deacon at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his wife, Janet Combs Cameron; daughters, Whitney Cameron Cope of Mechanicsville, Virginia, and Kenleigh Cameron Stafford of Summerville, S.C.; and four grandchildren.

Consider donations to American Heart Association, 3131 RDU Center Drive, Suite 100, Morrisville, N.C. 27560 and/or Lee County Burned Children's Fund, 2668 Steelbridge Road, Sanford, N.C. 27330.

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

MARY CATHERINE SWANN

Mary Catherine Swann, 79, of Sanford, passed away Monday, December 6, 2021, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 11, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home, with burial following in New Hope AME Zion Church Cemetery.

BETTY SMITH HICKS MURRAY

Betty Smith Hicks Murray passed away on Saturday, December 11, 2021.

A graveside service was held at Tyson's Creek Baptist Church at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, with Rev. Brent Smith presiding.

Betty was born March 20, 1934, to John Arlie and Dora Wilma Kidd Smith. She was a member of Tyson's Creek Baptist Church and retired from Collins & Aikman, where she was a cloth inspector. She was preceded in death by her parents; her late husband, Sammie Hicks; infant brothers, Wilbert Arlie Smith and Jessie Burns Smith; brothers, Clarence (Bill) Smith, Ronnie Smith; sister, Julia (Judy) Smith Maness and a stepson, Bobby Murray.

Betty is survived by her husband, Nathaniel (Nat) G. Murray Jr.; daughters, Joyce H. Binkley of Siler City and Loretta Hicks of the home; son, Kenneth Hicks of Bear Creek; sisters, Clara Jean Hussey of Robbins, Mary Ruth Powers of Bennett, Carol Hicks of Siler City; brothers, Johnny Smith of Carthage, Jimmy Smith of Cameron; step-daughters, Angela Murray of Bear Creek, Pam M. Brady of Robbins; five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

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

GEORGE KEITH CAMERON

George Keith Cameron, 50, of Cameron, passed away on Sunday, December 12, 2021, at FirstHealth Hospice House in Pinehurst.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Cameron Baptist Church with Rev. Jared McNeill presiding. Visitation will be held at the church one hour prior to the service. Burial will follow in the Pineywood Cemetery.

Keith was born in Moore County to Brenda Murphy Cameron Holder and the late George H. Cameron. He worked for First Health Hospital in the mail room as a lead clerk.

Keith is survived by his mother, Brenda Murphy Cameron Holder of Cameron; and a sister, Doris McLaughlin of Covington, Virginia.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

JOHN HAYWARD FOX

John Hayward Fox, 93, of Moncure passed away Monday, December 6, 2021, at Wake Med Hospital in Raleigh. The funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Monday, December 13, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home with burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

ROBERT ERVIN HECK

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

Funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Friday, December 10, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

CHURCH NEWS

LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

The Adult Choir of Loves Creek Baptist Church will present their message in music, "Christmas Is In The Heart," on Sunday, December 19, during the 10 a.m. worship service.

All are invited to join us for this beautiful message in song. The church is located at 1745 East 11th Street, Siler City.

SANDY BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

Sandy Branch invites you to join us during the 11 a.m. worship service on December 19 as we celebrate The Christmas Story through hymns and scripture. We are located at 715 Sandy Branch Church Road, Bear Creek and you are always welcome!

You can also watch on Facebook Live or check our website for videos.

Chatham Charter earns Heart Safe school designation

With the successful completion of an AED (automated external defibrillator) drill on simulating a cardiac emergency on Nov. 22, Chatham Charter qualified to become the third school in the state to earn the designation of a Project Adam Heart Safe School. The school received an official banner the week of Dec. 6 that now hangs in the gym.

Project Adam was created by the parents of Adam Lemel, a Wisconsin student who died at school in 1999 as a result of sudden cardiac arrest. They are strong advocates for AEDs and cardiac emergency preparedness in schools.

School Nurse Dawn Murphy led the effort over the past year to complete a comprehensive plan that is an essential part of the initiative. She conducted a special training session during a November faculty meeting. In addition, there are currently nearly 30 staff

NEWS BRIEFS

members and athletic coaches trained in CPR/first aid. The campus has six AEDs spread across its buildings and athletic facilities in an effort to be as prepared as possible in the event of a cardiac emergency.

"This preparation is very real for our staff," said Dr. John Eldridge, head of school. "We experienced an emergency of this type on our campus several years ago and, because of trained staff who responded quickly, we were able to intervene until the rescue squad arrived. Against the odds, the individual survived. Nurse Murphy and Vanessa Thompson were honored by the American Red Cross for their heroic efforts that day. The additional training measures along with the number of AEDs we have are important in our campus health and safety efforts."

A medical team from Duke University and Project Adam North Carolina evaluated the Chatham Charter staff's emergency response during the November drill.

Hear an audio podcast interview with team leader Dr. Salim Idriss here: <https://bit.ly/3oTys0z>

Learn more about Project Adam here: <https://www.projectadam.com/Heartsafeschools>

Chatham Literacy seeking Events Committee members

Nonprofit Chatham Literacy invites the public to join in with efforts to promote and engage the community as a member of our Events Committee. Committee members can help with event planning and execution, press releases, promotional planning and ticket sales.

Please email admin@chatham-literacy.org to find out more the opportunity to help this significant community nonprofit plan and host major fundraising events. Or call us at 919-742-0578 for more information.

— CN+R staff reports

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Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



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St. Julia's Virgin of Guadalupe celebrations return

One of 16 dancers who illustrated the conquest of Mexico last Saturday at St. Julia Catholic Church.

A horse rider carries a Mexican flag with the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe during the procession on Harold Hart Road last Saturday.

A cavalcade (or cabalgata in Spanish) of horse riders follow the procession of the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe to St. Julia Catholic Church's plaza last Saturday.

Lotteries open now through January at Chatham's four charter schools

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN

News + Record Staff

Registration for Chatham County's public charter schools is open through varying dates in January, with lottery applications available online at each school.

Charter schools are "public schools of choice," the North Carolina Dept. of Public Instruction's website says, authorized by the State Board of Education, operated by independent nonprofit boards of directors and primarily funded through state and local tax dollars.

In recent years, more North Carolina charter schools — including those in Chatham — have set aside seats for "educationally disadvantaged" students in their often competitive admission lotteries. Charter schools have open enrollment "and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge tuition," the DPI website says, but waitlists to enroll typically greatly outpace the number of available seats.

In Chatham, three charter schools are open to students: Chatham Charter School, Woods Charter School and Willow Oak Montessori, with a fourth, School of the Arts for Boys Academy (SABA), opening to students next fall. Of those schools, only Chatham Charter doesn't have a "weighted" lottery for educationally disadvantaged students.

A weighted lottery, as dictated by the state Dept. of Public Instruction's Office of Charter Schools, gives students with various education disadvantages — economically disadvantaged students, migrant and immigrant students, students with disabilities, English

learners and students experiencing homelessness — extra consideration for acceptance.

Historically, charter schools have been criticized by some as being more segregated than traditional public schools, though education experts say that's hard to definitively say, since many charter and traditional schools alike reflect the areas they're located in, if not the county's overall demographics.

All weighted lotteries must be approved by the state board of education.

Here is more information on each of Chatham's four charter schools, as well as where they stand on weighted lotteries:

Chatham Charter School

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 school will replicate its academic program through a new charter school, Central Carolina Academy, set to open next August in Lee County. Chatham Charter's lottery opened in September and will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 28. A public drawing will be scheduled on campus approximately two weeks after the application period closes.

You can find more information to apply at chathamcharter.org/admissions

Willow Oak Montessori

Willow Oak is a Montessori school located in Pittsboro which utilizes the educational philosophy rooted in the research of Maria

Montessori. The public K-8 school serves around 200 students.

Montessori teachers are trained to observe each child's interests and development level and prepare the classroom so that each child is free to independently choose his or her work throughout the day. Classrooms are a mixed-age environment; each child typically stays with the same teacher for three years.

Willow Oak's weighted lottery prioritizes economically disadvantaged students based on free and reduced lunch status at up to 40% of the available spots in a grade level — after other priorities are met (children of employees, siblings of students and students enrolled in the previous two years but left, under specific circumstances).

Registration for the lottery will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 18. The school will host open houses from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8, and 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 6.

The lottery link is on a banner at the top of the school's website: willowoakmontessori.org.

School of the Arts for Boys Academy (SABA)

SABA is a public charter school, to be located in Pittsboro, focused on using the arts and culturally responsive teaching to close the achievement gap and empower Black and brown boys.

As a public charter school, SABA will be open to all boys who wish to attend.

Though the school isn't currently open, it's on schedule to open in August 2022 and is chartered by the state to begin operation with 110 boys in 3rd-5th grade.

The school will reserve 60% of its lottery

enrollment each year to students who are educationally disadvantaged.

Official enrollment for the 2022-23 school year will begin in January 2022. You can learn more about the school and its enrollment at sabacademy.org.

"We are thrilled by the enthusiastic support we are receiving in the community and look forward to being a valued educational home for those we serve," SABA Head of School Valencia Toomer said on the school's website.

Woods Charter School

Woods Charter, located in Chapel Hill, has about 200 students. It was founded in 1998 as a college preparatory secondary school, but has grown to include grades K-12. Registration opened

Oct. 15 and runs until Saturday, Jan. 15. The school's lottery will take place Feb. 1.

Woods Charter implemented its weighted lottery for the first time last February, after being approved in October.

Woods Charter has a relatively incremental approach, setting aside 25% of its available slots after accounting for sibling and faculty applicants. Last year, that meant four slots in Kindergarten and one in 9th grade. Every year the lottery will also include 3rd and 5th grades, marking the grades in which school class sizes increase.

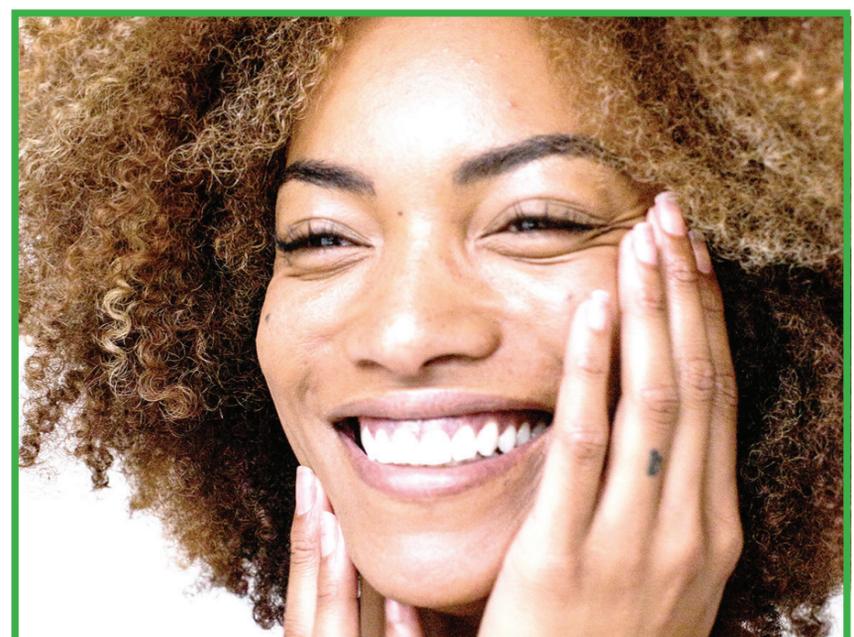
When the school began its process looking at weighted lotteries, 8.4% of Woods Charter families qualified for free and reduced lunch, based on a financial needs survey

with 83% respondent rate. On average, the average free and reduced percentages from the five geographically closest traditional public schools for 2019-20 was 25.54% — with Pittsboro Elementary at the highest with 34.55% of students and Perry Harrison the lowest at 17.22%.

"Over time, we will look like a regular public school for this area in our demographic makeup," Bryan said. "It's a stretch goal for us. It'll happen over time, we'll have to be patient."

You can find more information here: woodcharter.org/content/admissions

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



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TV ANTENNA SALE - Come by MacPage Communications at 102 West Third Avenue, Siler City, 919-227-6698. D9,16,23,3tc

SILK HOPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT will be accepting sealed bids for a used generator, Briggs & Stratton, Vanguard 993cc, 20KW LPG, 120/240V. All bids must be mailed to: Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department, 8110 Silk Hope-Gum Springs Road, Siler City, NC 27344 by 12-31-2021. Bid opening on 12-18-2021. \$2,000 reserve. For questions, call 919-742-5874. N18,25,D2,9,16,23,6tc

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DATA ANALYST - Randolph Electric Membership Corporation is currently seeking a Data Analyst. The successful candidate is required to have a bachelor's degree in Com-

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TOWN OF SILER CITY - WATER TREATMENT PLANT SUPERINTENDENT: Performs difficult skilled technical work planning, organizing, and directing the operations, maintenance, and laboratory analysis at a water treatment plant. Required Education and Experience Qualifications: High school diploma or high school equivalency. Extensive experience in water treatment plant operations. Considerable supervisory experience. Possession of Grade A Surface Water Treatment certification upon hire. Possession of a valid NC driver's license. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Pesticide Applicator license upon hire. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. - Additional Employment Requirements: Must obtain Pesticide Applicator license within one year of hire. All required certifications and licensures must be maintained with no lapse during the course of employment. - Annual Hiring Salary \$57,438. -- **METER READER:** Performs basic semi-skilled work reading water meters on an assigned route and connecting and disconnecting water; replaces meters as needed; provides assistance to Water/Sewer Maintenance and Street Department as needed and available. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications: High school diploma or high school equivalency. Basic computer skills involving data entry and use of an email system. Basic mathematical skills including addition, subtraction, and multiplication. Possession of a valid NC driver's license. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Possession of a NC Class B commercial driver's license upon hire. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. - Additional Employment Requirement, Must obtain NC Class B commercial driver's license within six months of hire. All required certifications and licensures must be maintained with no lapse during the course of employment. - Annual Hiring Salary. \$33,583 -- **To Apply:** These postings are open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application is required for consideration for all positions. The application may be found on our website at www.silercity.org or picked up at City Hall. The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, Attention: Human Resources, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to dritter@silercity.org. Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job

offer. EOE. -- The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. -- The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. -- The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided necessary accommodations. Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. - This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler 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. D16,1tc

FOOD SERVICES STAFF - Pittsboro Christian Village is accepting applications for Server, Pantry Cook, and Cook. Apply in person 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday, at 1825 East St. in Pittsboro. 021,tfnc

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 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 Fearrington 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, Executor
845 Lakewood Falls Rd
Goldston, NC 272525
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, Executor
514 Carolina Meadows Village
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27517
D2,D9,D16,D23,4tp

NOTICE OF SERVICE 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 Sep-

tember 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 EM-

ERSON JR., KYNDLE EMERSON, LISA M. BITTLE, LYDIA LO-RAINE 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

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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

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 BRITTAIN STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **BETTY WARD BRITTAIN**, 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 21E564

All persons having claims against **BOBBY LEE ARINGTON**, 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,D23,4tp

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,D23,4tp

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,D23,4tp

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,D30,4tp

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 **SHEILA G. BELL**, 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.

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,D30,4tp

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,D30,4tp

CREDITOR'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,D30,4tp

TOWERCo 2013, LLC proposes to construct a 199-foot monopole tower located at 1000 Big Hole Road, in Pittsboro, NC 27312, Chatham County (N 35-46-55.667, W 79-04-33.229). No lighting - Not Lit. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) filing number is A1205792.

We invite your comments pertaining to the effect of the proposed tower on historic properties. Please submit comments within 30 days to Amy Perrine c/o MartinEnviro at 3830 Crown Point Road Suite F, Jacksonville, FL 32257, aperrine@martinenviro.com, or call (904) 737-1034. D16,1tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

HAVING QUALIFIED as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **GERTRUDE S. ROGERS** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 10th day of December, 2021.

Jeffrey N. Rogers, Administrator CTA of

The Estate of Geraldine S. Rogers P.O. Box 415 Siler City, North Carolina 27344 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 1806 PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312 (919) 542-5605 D16,D23,D30,J6,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E707

All persons having claims against **WILLIE JOHNSON AKA WILLIE W. JOHNSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 16th 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 16th day of December, 2021.

Cindy Allen, Executrix 1668 Lystra Rd Chapel Hill, N.C. 27517 D16,D23,D30,J6,4tp

NOTICE TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS TAX LISTING NOTICE

All persons owning real, personal and business property on January 1, 2022, have the duty to list property that is subject to Chatham County property taxation. Certain personal property must be listed every year. Real estate listing is not required unless buildings or other improvements having a value in excess of \$100 have been acquired, begun, erected, damaged, or destroyed in the year prior to January 1, 2022. Listing Period Begins - January 2, 2022 Listing Period Ends - January 31, 2022

For Business Listings only, requests for an extension must be received in writing by January 31, 2022. Extensions will only be granted until April 15, 2022. Listing Assistance is available at: Chatham County Tax Department 12 East Street, Pittsboro NC 27312 Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Except Holidays

WHAT TO LIST? You are required to list un-licensed vehicles, trailers with multi-year registrations, mobile homes not designated as real property, all types of water craft, aircraft, and items used in a business. Business Property also includes items used for farming, a trade or profession, or furnishings or appliances you provide to a tenant.

Except for trailers with multi-year registration, exempted from listing are licensed vehicles, mobile homes (considered real estate,) and household items used for your own residence. Forms may be picked up at the office or obtain from our website www.chathamcountync.gov. You may list in person. Bring all detailed information necessary to identify your property and its value. If forms were mailed to you, please bring them with you. Listing by mail is permitted. Listings must bear a U.S. Postal Service postmark on or before January 31, 2022. Penalties apply to late listings. If you have not received your listing forms by January 20, you should make satisfactory arrangements with this office so that you may make a timely listing.

Persons who fail to comply are subject to listing penalties and other penalties which are prescribed by N.C. General Statutes. **PROPERTY TAX RELIEF:** Persons at least 65 years of age or persons that are permanently and totally disabled whose income does not exceed the maximum, may apply for a tax reduction or tax deferral on their permanent residence. The maximum income to qualify for the 2022 tax reduction is \$31,900, the maximum income to qualify for 2022 tax deferral is \$47,850.

If you meet the qualifications your taxes could be significantly lowered. Please contact our office or visit our website for more details on this program and to obtain an application. **PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR DISABLED VETERANS:** This program excludes the first forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) of the appraised value of a permanent residence owned and occupied by a North Carolina Resident, who is an Honorably Discharged 100% Disabled Veteran, or the unmarried surviving spouse of an Honorable Discharged 100% Disabled Veteran. Please contact our office or visit our website for more details about this program. Chatham County Tax Department P O Box 908 Pittsboro NC 27312 (919) 542-8251 D16,D23,2tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E722

All persons having claims against **MARJORIE ABIGAIL RUMMELL aka GAIL M. RUMMELL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 16th 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 16th day of December, 2021.

Robert Mackenzie Rummell, Jr., Executor 1441 Prairie Ave Lawrence, Ks 66044 D16,D23,D30,J6,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 711

The undersigned, Lea Cramer, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **MICHAEL KURT WILLIAMS**, 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 17th 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 16 day of December, 2021.

Lea Cramer, Administrator c/o Shanelle K. Edmonds, Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 D16,D23,D30,J6,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E719

All persons having claims against **EDWINA ANN ZAGAMI** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 16th 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 16th day of December, 2021.

Sarah McWay Boling, Executrix 2102 Woodbury Dr Hillsboro, NC 27278 D16,D23,D30,J6,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E717

All persons having claims against **CLARENCE ADRIAN GOINS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 16th 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 16th day of December, 2021.

A. Frank Goins, Executor 2327 Innsdale Road Charlotte, NC 28226 D16,D23,D30,J6,4tp



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MAYORS ON MICHAEL

Current, former Pittsboro mayors sound off on Michael Fiocco

I didn't know Michael well, not socially, but simply as the man seated to my right at the council table.

His preparations for each meeting were meticulous. Only once in four years did I hear him say he had not completed his study of our agenda package, and that occasion was when he had returned from vacation.

He sat next to me and it was easy for me to see his notes, always in red pen, and always thoughtful and thorough. His questions were keen, often based on his own experience in the design/building profession. He anticipated and analyzed. Every page on the agenda had margin notes with his red pen. Hardly any set of minutes came to the board without his edits, sometimes punctuation or more often clarification for the record.

His legacy will undoubtedly be his preparations and his ability to absorb huge amounts of information. He was board liaison to five different committees, and was equally prepared in attending those ancillary responsibil-

ities. After his 12 years on the board, it might become routine for some, but not Michael. He remained as precise and prepared as ever in his service to the town.

- Cindy Perry, who served two terms as Pittsboro's mayor beginning in 2015, didn't seek reelection in 2019 and was elected again as mayor in November. She began her third term this week.

Michael has been the absolutely hardest working commissioner I have seen in all my time here. His preparation is amazing, and he attends just about every important committee or advisory board meeting as well. His focus has never changed in all the years he has served the town and that focus is what is best for the town of Pittsboro now and into the future. He is truly the GOAT [the greatest of all time] as a public servant in this town!

- Jim Nass, who was Pittsboro's mayor from 2019-2021.

I got to know Michael Fiocco through a mutual friend from the Chatham ARTS Council, Gilda McDaniel, who had known Michael for many years. She mentioned that he wanted to run for office in 2007 and in 2009 he first put his name on the ballot in a three-way race against Pam Baldwin and Andrew Allden. I was the incumbent and had run with Pam in 2005 so we ran together and as a friend to Andrew and Michael I told them both that it would be close and whoever worked harder would prevail. Michael won that race by seven votes and never looked back.

Michael is known as the hard-working commissioner with the red pen. He replaced Commissioner Chris Walker in 2009 and sat to my right for four years. Every meeting he would arrive on time with a red-lined agenda packet, his reading glasses and a good attitude. As the leader of the board I was always confident that Michael had taken the time to read the documents, dig into the issues

and bring a prepared perspective to the business of the day. Whether you agreed with him or not on the issue and policies, Michael was always ready to discuss the issues of the day and conduct the people's business. He never looked to take a timeout or cry foul. He just played on with a consistent work rate, which is what I expected and appreciated from a former captain of his UNC Tarheel soccer team.

He was willing to stand his ground on what he believed was right and sometimes did it with a twinkle in his eye.

Once when we were in the throes of a long board discussion he looked at me and said "Mayor, you have a lot of ideas ... and some of them are even good."

Pittsboro will miss his knowledge, wisdom, wit and consistent presence.

- Randy Voller, who served as Pittsboro mayor from 2005 to 2013.

12 YEARS A COMMISSIONER

Fiocco reflects on Pittsboro, his service

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Michael Fiocco recalls visiting with some friends a year or two after being elected to the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners and being asked: So, what have you accomplished? "And I think the only thing I had to say was, 'Well, we renegotiated our trash and recycling pickup,'" he said. "So we went from 24-gallon recycle cans to a 96-gallon roll-out cart. And I was proud of that."

It was a small achievement. But it was also early during his 12-year tenure as a member of the board. The Pittsboro of 2009 — the year Fiocco was elected, and pre-Chatham Park — was very different from the Pittsboro of today. And as of this week, the town's governing board is different as well: Fiocco's stretch of service as an elected official ended with the Nov. 2 election that saw newcomer James Vose and incumbent Pamela Baldwin win seats, and with Vose's swearing-in on Monday night.

For Fiocco, who helped usher Pittsboro forward — often with small steps — even minor achievements mattered.

"I recall a day when I had to really, really badger the town council to hire an engineer," he said. "For the longest time to town didn't have an engineer. Well, it's pretty important to have an engineer. And you know, that's the small little thing that maybe was accomplished that headed us got us headed in the right direction."

As he spends his first week as Citizen Fiocco, rather than Commissioner Fiocco, the 59-year-old reflects about the "lots of little things" the board accomplished while he served, particularly improvements to the look and feel of Pittsboro's eclectic downtown and business district.

"I've got friends who live out of town," he said. "They come through Chapel Hill, and they come through Pittsboro. And they are kind of a barometer of change for us, because we see it every day ... But folks who see you periodically, they say, 'Oh, that's a change.' And lots of folks who come through town say, 'Hey, things are really changing in Pittsboro. It's looking great.'"

"So that's always fun to hear," he said, "and having been a part of that for the last 12 years, I take pride in the changes that are occurring and

the positive ones."

The News + Record spoke with Fiocco last week to get his perspective about his time as a commissioner and his thoughts about the board's operation moving forward without him. The interview has been edited for clarity and length. A longer version can be found at www.chathamnewsrecord.com.

NEWS + RECORD: Being on the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners has been a part of your life for the last dozen years. What's it going to feel like to not be there and not be a part of the proceedings?

FIOTTOCO: It'll be interesting. In those 12 years, there's been a lot of time devoted to the work required for being on the board to process the volume of information, to try to make wise decisions. Every other weekend, essentially, for the last 12 years I've holed up in my office, at home, and for the weekend, to try to make sure I'm best equipped as possible to digest the information provided by staff and to do independent research.

So I imagine I'm going to have a lot more free time, and I'm looking forward to it.

I'm curious how Michael Fiocco as a citizen will follow the proceedings of the board ...

Oh, I definitely plan to stay involved. One of the passions I've had is the Main Street Pittsboro program, and trying to make sure that downtown is as vibrant as it can be.

I live just up the street [from the center of downtown] so [my wife] Jamie and I often walk downtown to do things, and we want to continue to be able to do things that interest us downtown. I'll continue to be an advocate for downtown revitalization and growth. And I imagine I will weigh in on some other matters.

When you look back and reflect on those 12 years as a board member, is there anything that's most prevalent to you ... are there any specific memories, board votes, accomplishments that you take a lot of pride in, or things that maybe you wish had done differently?

Well, I think the big

one has got to be Chatham Park. We spent a lot of time in those 12 years working on Chatham Park. And in 2013, the Master Plan was trying to get approved. And they'd been working on it for a couple of years prior to that, and, you know, people don't recall that.

I was first elected in 2009, and the economy was in a shambles. And it continued to be in a shambles for many years after that. And Chatham Park had come in with a Master Plan that wasn't quite ready for primetime. But we recognized the opportunity that was presented with a Chatham Park to do something holistic, and not just piecemeal. So one of the things that I'm really proud of in being able to get their Master Plan approved was the agreement that they would do these things called "Additional Elements."

There were 12 Additional Elements to the plan, and it was really the guts and fine points of the Master Plan. And honestly, I think they are a remarkable development group because I can't think of another one that would agree to the commitment that they agreed to — which was they had to get the board to approve these 12 elements, or they were going to be limited in their development to 5% and 15% of commercial and residential, respectively. So not many people would take such a risk and trust that the town would do business forthrightly.

Pittsboro is certainly a different place than it was 12 years ago, Chatham Park notwithstanding. What's the potential for Pittsboro when you when you cast a vision forward? What do you see as the future and the characteristics of the community in the next 15 or 20 years?

Well, I think growth is a proposition for Pittsboro. And I think that will change its character. I think we've got a very engaged citizen citizenry now. It's an eclectic, artistic, intelligent, engaged community. I think that will continue.

There's a lot of big business going on around Pittsboro, I think, combined with the county's long range plan that says, "Let's preserve the rural character of Chatham County." And one way to do that is to focus growth into municipalities. With the megasites, I think it's go-

ing to be quite a dynamic area. And I think not only for Pittsboro, but for Siler City as well. So, you know, I think it has a very bright future.

You know Cindy Perry, and you've worked with her when she was mayor before. And aside from James Vose, you know the rest of the makeup the board very, very well. What do you think will characterize the new board? How different will it be from the board you served on these last 12 years?

So it's hard to know exactly where the board will go. I think they will have the benefit of having Chatham Park behind them. From the regulatory, structural perspective, there's a lot of work coming their way with the growth and development of Chatham Park, but so much time was spent on establishing what the rules were, and now that the rules are set, I think they can focus on a lot of other things in town — not the least of which, of course, is our water quality issues. Cindy was a leader as mayor in addressing that issue earlier on, so I think she'll fall right back into being an effective advocate for the town. James has campaigned on that issue. So I think that's a benefit to this new board that they'll have that runway to address other issues in town, because Chatham Park did consume quite a bit of time.

What will the board miss, and what will Pittsboro miss, about Jim Nass not being mayor?

Through my observation of his work there

[on town committees, as well as mayor], I've recognized what a good administrator he is — because he does keep things moving, he does put his thumb on the scale when he feels it needs to be done. I admired his ability to do that. He did that as mayor. I respect him tremendously as an administrator. I thought he did a really good job. The board will obviously not have him in that position, so it's hard to know if board will run like he ran it.

What advice would you give to James Vose about sitting in that seat as he begins his term next week?

I would say: be prepared to make decisions. Government moves extremely slowly. And in order to accomplish things, I think you've got to make decisions as timely as you can because just the natural mechanisms will produce things on a slower timeframe than probably the private industry is used to doing. So it's important to be prepared and to honestly do the people's business of making those decisions. ... Not to honor that obligation is not doing people's work.

You've had about a month to reflect on the race and the loss of your seat. How much do you think about not winning the seat? And have you thought maybe about anything you could have done differently? Is there a reason that more people voted for James, and is that on your mind at all?

... I will still be here, I'll still be participating. But I obviously will not

have a vote in those matters. But I can still bring my knowledge or perspective to the table for consideration. And honestly, that's all I ever did as a commissioner as well — to bring my perspective for consideration. And if folks believed in what I had to say, and then they would vote with me, and there were plenty of times when they voted not with me. So I'm looking forward, as I said, to really honestly spending more time with my family and my businesses. I've got two small businesses and Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill. I've probably not done as much as I should in those endeavors, being pulled away by my volunteer work, which included not only being commissioner, but as liaison to so many other organizations. So, yes, I'll have a lot more time for private business and family.

When I spoke with James, one of the things he said is, "I hope we see Michael Fiocco again." Can you say anything about the possibility of you seeking office on the board at some point in the future?

Well, the conversation has come up with some folks who are suggesting that I'm only taking two-year hiatus. [Laughs.] And I tell them, "We can talk about that later." Honestly, at this point, I'm focusing on this transition. And I think the next couple of years will tell. I am committed to Pittsboro. If I think I can contribute, then I will find ways to get involved. Whether that's in an elected position, it's too early to say.

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CHATHAM CHARTER 61, CHATHAM CENTRAL 35

'A big-time moment': Knights' Harvey brothers combine for 33 points in rivalry win

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — If you arrived at Chatham Charter's gym even a minute after tip-off last Friday, you would've been hard-pressed to find a spot to watch the action comfortably.

The stands were filled to the brim as the Knights' men's basketball team earned a 26-point win over the Chatham Central Bears, 61-35, in one of the latest installments of Chatham's in-county rivalries.

And if there were any questions about whether or not the Knights and Bears were true rivals, look no further than Friday to settle the debate.

The Knights may have earned a double-digit win once

the final buzzer sounded, but it was far from comfortable, with Chatham Charter having to fight and claw — and press — its way to a large first-half run that buried the Bears in a hole too deep to escape.

"Central's well-coached," Knights Head Coach Jason Messier said following the win. "They're scrappy, they get after it. Our size advantage was something that bothered them a little bit, but it was a big win for us."

Knights junior Adam Harvey, last year's Central Tar Heel 1A Conference Player of the Year, had himself a night against the Bears, scoring 21 points (on 70% shooting) to go along with 8 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals and 2 blocks as

he carved the Bears up inside the paint.

Harvey was one of three Knights that scored in double figures — along with junior Aamir Mapp (13 points) and freshman Beau Harvey (12 points) — but was undoubtedly the most efficient, missing just three shots on the night and thriving on both ends of the floor.

"Obviously, Adam stepped up and had a big game tonight," Messier said. "It was a big-time moment against a county rival."

"The biggest thing was No. 20 (Harvey)," Bears Head Coach Robert Burke said after the loss. "We were so concentrated

See **KNIGHTS**, page B4



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham Central freshman Brennen Oldham (42) rises up in the paint to score a bucket in the Knights' 61-35 win over Chatham Central in Siler City last Friday.

'FELT LIKE A FAMILY'

Northwood's Murrell set to run for defending champs N.C. State

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Next fall, the defending national champions are adding one of Northwood's most decorated athletes.

After a storied high school career in both cross country and track & field for the Chargers, Northwood senior Caroline Murrell has announced her commitment to N.C. State, where she'll run cross country for the Wolfpack — winners of the 2021 NCAA Women's Cross Country National Championship a little less than a month ago — once she graduates in the spring.

"When I went on my official visit, I was really scared at first because I was like, 'I'm about to go on an official visit and be around the best team in the country,'" Murrell told the News + Record on a Zoom call on Monday. "(I thought), 'Are they going to be nice? Am I going to feel welcomed?' And I definitely did. It was just like that team environment and it really felt like a family."

"The coaches really seemed to care about every athlete individually and didn't just care about winning national titles and doing well," Murrell added. "They cared a lot about the process and getting runners that can win national titles. That was really important to me."

Murrell, who described her recruitment period as "a little stressful," started reaching out to schools last January and before narrowing her choices to N.C. State, Furman and UNC-Charlotte.

She said she ended up making her decision "on a whim" last month.

"My gut was kind of like, 'I think



Submitted photo

Northwood senior Caroline Murrell (center, red shirt), surrounded by her family and Northwood staff, signs her letter of intent to attend N.C. State next fall, where she'll run cross country for the Wolfpack.

I want to go to N.C. State," she said. "It was really nice, and definitely a weight off of my shoulders, to make that decision."

A championship resume

It's only fitting that a champi-

onship athlete runs for a championship program. Over the last few years, Murrell has earned all sorts of accolades for her achievements as the Chargers' top distance runner.

See **MURRELL**, page B2

No, Trevor Lawrence isn't a bust ... yet

Sometimes, as sports fans, analysts and "experts," we come to conclusions a little too quickly.

If a player has the most TD passes through the first two weeks of the NFL season, a million columns will be written about how he's the MVP favorite, despite 16 weeks (and 15 games) still left on the schedule.

If a sub-par MLB team sweeps their opening two series in April/May, starting 5-0 or 6-0, they'll be deemed a potential dark horse to make the World Series, with plenty of "Did we count out the (insert team here)?" headlines popping up in the process.

And, as I've learned this year, if a quarterback struggles in their rookie season — even if they were drafted into a terrible situation — we're quick to call them a bust.

But in all of the above cases, judgment is premature.

Even if, in the end, we turn out to be right.

In recent weeks, I've begun seeing more and more tweets, articles and discussions centered around the following question: Is Trevor Lawrence a bust?

The answer is, to put it simply, no.

And here's why.

Lawrence, selected as the No. 1 pick in the 2021 NFL Draft out of Clemson by the Jacksonville Jaguars, has been given a nearly impossible task: to lead the Jaguars out of the dark, disappointing abyss they've been trapped in for years.

This year, the Jags are 2-11 and are one of the laughingstocks of the league.

But that's not all Lawrence's fault.

He's been handed a defense that ranks 27th in points allowed per game (24.8), 21st in yards allowed per game (357.2) and is dead last in total takeaways (6).

He's been a part of an offensive group with the 21st-ranked offensive line (according to

See **LAWRENCE**, page B4



VICTOR HENSLEY
Sports Editor

College football's most intriguing under-the-radar bowl games

College football bowl season is upon us. This year, there are 42 postseason matchups — and while that might seem overwhelming at first, it provides a deep selection of under-the-radar-games. So here's a look at some of the most intriguing early matchups that not a lot of people are talking about.

RoofClaim.com Boca Raton Bowl: Western Kentucky vs. Appalachian State; Saturday, Dec. 18, at 11 a.m. on ESPN

Western Kentucky quarterback Bailey Zappe might be the best quarterback that not many people are talking about. His 5,545 passing yards led the nation by more than 1,000 yards and he threw 13 more touchdowns than Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young. Unsurprisingly, the Hilltoppers were No. 2 in the nation in yards per game. They enter the bowl game, however, as underdogs to Appalachian State, which

posted an impressive 10-3 record. Prior to its conference championship loss to Louisiana, App. State had won six games in a row and has only allowed 30 points once this season. This early bowl matchup could be a close one.

PUBG New Mexico Bowl: UTEP vs. Fresno State; Saturday, Dec. 18, at 2:15 p.m. on ESPN

Another Saturday sleeper game. However, it's not because it is expected to be a close one. UTEP holds the nation's longest bowl drought (54 years) and will look to make its mark against a talented Fresno State offense. Originally, star quarterback Jake Haener entered the transfer portal and seemed bound to head to the Power Five, but he later announced that he was staying in Fresno. This game is a chance to watch Haener and a Miners team trying to finally win a bowl game.

Tailgreeter Cure Bowl: Coastal Carolina vs. Northern Illinois; Friday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m. on ESPN2

Northern Illinois has had one of the more remarkable turnarounds in college football this season. After going winless in 2020, the Huskies won nine games and a conference championship behind former Michigan State quarterback Rocky Lombardi. Coastal Carolina, one of college football's darlings from last year, still remains one of the more fun offenses to watch despite not winning its division this year.

Myrtle Beach Bowl: Old Dominion vs. Tulsa; Monday, Dec. 20, at 2:30 p.m. on ESPN

This game might be the ugliest out there. Tulsa quarterback Davis Brin threw 16 interceptions, the most among bowl-eligible teams and the Hurricane began the year with a 1-4 record. They enter having won three straight, but their 26.1 points per game ranks No. 147 in the country. Old Dominion didn't play in 2020 and went 1-11 in 2019, but here they are. The Monarchs have won five consecutive games following a quarterback change. Their offensive

numbers don't impress much so if you like defensive showdowns, this might be for you.

Tropical Smoothie Cafe Frisco Bowl: UTSA vs. San Diego State; Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN

San Diego State's Matt Araiza might be the most exciting player in this game. His position? Punter. His 51.37 yards per punt is the highest in the nation and would break the all-time collegiate record set in 2018. He even has multiple punts that went longer than 80 yards. SDSU finished the season ranked in the top 25 and holds one of the best defenses in the Mountain West Conference. UTSA was one of college football's surprise teams this year after it began the season 11-0. The Roadrunner offense, led by running back, Sincere McCormick will be fun to watch. This game should be close and the point spread of UTSA -2.5 reflects that.

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MAX BAKER
CN+R Intern

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

Not only is the holiday season in full swing, but so is the winter sports season. Across the county, all six high schools have been competing in a mixture of basketball — including the two unbeaten women's squads, Northwood (7-0) and Woods Charter (6-0) — indoor track, swimming and wrestling. Offerings will be limited in the coming weeks as school's get into their holiday breaks, so take advantage of the plethora of basketball options this week while you still can. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, December 15

Swimming: Jordan-Matthews at Asheboro, 5 p.m.
Basketball: Chatham Central women vs. Uwharrie Charter, 6 p.m.
Wrestling: Jordan-Matthews at North Moore (Cummings also participating), 6 p.m.
Wrestling: Seaforth at Graham, 6 p.m.

Thursday, December 16

Swimming: Seaforth at Walter M. Williams (Orange also participating), 8 p.m.

Friday, December 17

Basketball: Chatham Central vs. Chatham Charter (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)
Basketball: Jordan-Matthews vs. Cummings (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)
Basketball: Northwood vs. Cedar Ridge (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)
Basketball: Seaforth at Bartlett Yancey (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)

Saturday, December 18

Track: Northwood at JDL Holiday Invitational, 8 a.m.
Basketball: Northwood at Dexter Cooley Showcase (played at Wakefield), 6 p.m.

LAST WEEK

Monday, December 7

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women earned their first win of the season against the North Moore Mustangs on the road, 60-49. Leading the Jets on the night were senior Eillia Wright (22 points, 8 rebounds, 12 assists, 6 steals), senior Taty Siler (19 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals) and junior Maggie Thornton (12 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals).
Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men nabbed their first victory of the season with a close game against the North Moore Mustangs, 54-52, on the road.
Basketball: The Woods Charter women downed the N.C. Leadership Academy Falcons, 39-19, to stay unbeaten at 4-0 on the season. Leading the Wolves were sophomore Lexi Smollen and senior Emi Hutter-Demarco, each with 16 points.
Basketball: The Woods Charter men lost to the N.C. Leadership Academy Falcons, 50-34, to remain winless on the season at 0-3.

Tuesday, December 8

Basketball: The Chatham Central women lost a blowout game to the Southwestern Randolph Cougars, 58-24, to fall to 0-4 on the season.
Basketball: The Chatham Central men lost to the Southwestern Randolph Cougars, 71-60, on the road.
Basketball: The Seaforth women earned a lopsided win over the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 63-23, to improve to 2-2 on the season. Leading the Hawks on the night were freshman Peyton Collins (20 points), freshman Gabby White (14 points) and sophomore Hannah Ajayi (14 points).
Basketball: The Seaforth men waxed the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 72-13, for their first win in program history.
Basketball: The Northwood

men crushed the Chapel Hill Tigers, 55-26, to improve to 4-1 on the season. Leading the Chargers on the night were sophomore Drake Powell (11 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, 3 steals, 2 blocks) and sophomore Jake Leighton (10 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 4 steals, 1 block).
Basketball: The Northwood women defeated the Chapel Hill Tigers, 63-42, on the road to stay undefeated at 5-0 this season.

Wednesday, December 9

Track: Northwood in the first Eastern Alamance Polar Bear indoor track meet of the season against 14 other schools. Placing in the top 10 of the men's events were senior Marco Sanchez (3rd, 55-meter dash, 6.91; 3rd, 300-meter dash, 37.98), senior Declan Leigh (5th, 300-meter dash, 40.54), junior Jacob Acker (8th, 300-meter dash, 40.94), freshman Trey Hudson (8th, 1000-meter run, 3:16.24) and sophomore Jack Bachelor (9th, 1000-meter run, 3:18.18). Placing in the top 10 of the women's events were sophomore Rokia Sissoko (8th, 500-meter dash, 1:32.07; 3rd, high jump, 4-02.00), senior Erin Lippers (8th, 1000-meter run, 4:14.96; 9th, 1600-meter run, 7:01.00), senior Evelyn Lippers (10th, 1000-meter run, 4:17.77; 5th, 1600-meter run, 6:48.00).
Wrestling: The Chatham Central Bears took on the Cummings Cavaliers (loss, 48-18) and Graham Red Devils (win, 30-24) on the road, splitting the matches.

Basketball: The Northwood women cruised past the East Chapel Hill Wildcats, 57-11, to remain undefeated at 6-0 on the season.

Basketball: The Woods Charter women shellacked the Cornerstone Charter Cardinals, 50-6, to remain unbeaten on the year at 5-0. The Wolves allowed just 1 point in the entire second half to cruise to the victory. See game report in this week's edition.

Basketball: The Woods Charter men fell to the Cornerstone

Charter Cardinals, 59-49, to stay winless on the year at 0-4.
Wrestling: The Northwood Chargers won both of their matches against the Person Rockets (39-28) and Durham School of the Arts (54-18).
Wrestling: The Seaforth Hawks won both of their matches (48-33 against Bartlett Yancey, 51-30 against North Moore) to improve to 6-0 on the season.

Thursday, December 10

Basketball: The Seaforth women were drubbed by the Grace Christian Crusaders, 85-46, on the road. The Hawks are now 2-3 on the season.
Swimming: Northwood defeated the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 160-151.

Friday, December 11

Basketball: The Chatham Central women earned their first win of the season against the Chatham Charter Knights, 60-49, on the road. Leading the Knights in the loss was junior Tamaya Walden (29 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 block).
Basketball: The Chatham Charter men earned a comfortable win over the Chatham Central Bears, 61-35, at home to improve to 9-1 on the season. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Adam Harvey (21 points, 8 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals, 2 blocks), junior Aamir Mapp (13 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists) and freshman Beau Harvey (12 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists, 3 steals). See game report in this week's edition.
Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women fell to the Union Pines Vikings, 63-27, at home. Leading the Jets in the loss were senior Eillia Wright (12 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals) and senior Taty Siler (10 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals).
Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men fell to the Union Pines Vikings, 70-35, at home.
Basketball: The Woods Charter women dominated the Research Triangle Raptors,

53-11, to improve to 6-0 on the season. Leading the Wolves on the night were sophomore Lexi Smollen (17 points) and sophomore Chloe Mitchell (16 points).
Basketball: The Woods Charter men lost a lopsided game to the Research Triangle Raptors, 77-28, to remain winless on the year at 0-5.

Saturday, December 12

Basketball: The Seaforth men were routed by the East Forsyth Eagles, 69-18, in the Healthy Blue Tournay Town Showcase.
Basketball: The Northwood women crushed the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 76-16, to stay undefeated on the season at 7-0. Leading the Jets in the loss was senior Eillia Wright (8 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists).
Basketball: The Northwood men defeated the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 74-36, at home for their second-straight win over their county rivals. Leading the Chargers on the night were junior Max Frazier (15 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals, 2 blocks), sophomore Drake Powell (14 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals) and sophomore Gus Fisher (11 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 4 steals).
Wrestling: Northwood and Seaforth competed in the 2021 Nick Sgroi Memorial Invitational at Bishop McGuinness, where the Chargers placed 5th (103.0) and Hawks placed 8th (39.0). Placing in the top four of their respective weight classes for the Chargers were Sunday Oo (1st place, 113 lbs), Coltrane Northington (2nd place, 120 lbs.), Ron Walker (3rd place, 145 lbs.), Ethan Kuball (4th place, 160 lbs.), Cliff Davis (2nd place, 182 lbs.) and Jake Dunning (1st place, 220 lbs.). Placing in the top four for the Hawks were Layne Armstrong (1st place, 120 lbs.) and Lloyd Judge (4th place, 152 lbs.).

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

MURRELL

Continued from page B1

ner, both on the track and the cross country course. She's a regional champion, a conference champion, a Conference Runner of the Year, a two-time all-state selection, a four-time all-region selection and a four-time all-conference selection.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood junior Caroline Murrell stood on the podium with her first-place medal around her neck after her title-winning performance in the girls 3,200-meter run at the NCHSAA 3A Track & Field State Championships in June.

raw talent and speed, a lot of it stems from the work she's put into the sport — including her ongoing training, during which she strives to get better daily.

Murrell's been running competitively since she was in 5th grade, when she ran club track for Triangle Champions Track Club in Durham.

As the years went by, Murrell improved as a runner and ended up competing in youth national championships with her club team in middle school, a major experience boost for someone at such a young age.

"I just think it was a really great way to introduce myself to the sport," Murrell said, "because I just had really great teammates and really great coaches that made it a lot of fun."

By the time she was in 8th grade, she said she got a little tired of "just running" and took a break to avoid burning herself out — a decision that helped her come back refreshed when she went out for Northwood's cross country team her freshman year. Since then, she's set nu-

merous personal records, improved on her skills year-to-year and added a plethora of records, accolades and achievements to her imaginary Wikipedia page.

This year, however, she took an otherworldly jump in both cross country and track, breaking down barriers and solidifying her legacy as a Northwood great.

"I definitely feel like I've made a lot of improvement over the past year," Murrell said. "And I guess that's just a testament to my hard work, but also the love I have for the sport."

During the season, Murrell runs between 30 to 40 miles per week on her own time, working out two or three times each week, with "recovery runs" in between and a longer run on the weekend.

"(She) really understands how to make sacrifices," Isenhour said, "which leads to excellence and exhibits really hard work and dedication to your craft."

A member of the Pack

In January, Murrell will be entering her last semester as an active Northwood Charger. She's already done what she can to make the most of her last year in Pittsboro, including a recent trip to Huntsville, Alabama, with Isenhour and her Northwood teammates,

where they competed in the Garmin Running Lane National Cross Country Championships.

In the women's race, Murrell ran a 17:38.92, smashing her previous personal record by 14 seconds, which gave her the third-fastest time in N.C. — and No. 1 among 3A runners — this season.

"It was honestly an amazing experience, one of my most fun cross country trips," Isenhour said. "It was just the most excitement I've seen on a cross country course ... (it was) just history-making."

"It was definitely fun, some good team bonding on the ride over there," Murrell added. "It was definitely a good way to close out my senior cross country season. The part that was the most special for me was probably watching all of my other teammates run and PR because it just made me want to run and it was super cool for them."

Throughout the winter, Murrell will be running indoor track with the Chargers before starting the outdoor track season in the spring with a chance to defend her 3,200-meter state title from last year.

"(Repeating as state champion) is definitely the goal," Murrell said. "There's one girl who's pretty fast, but as long as I train smart and stay healthy and run smart, try my best and leave it all out there, it could be a

good day. ... She's going to have to run really fast."

Then, it'll be time for Murrell to graduate and head on to Raleigh, where she plans to major in Psychology, minor in Spanish and run under 15-year head coach Laurie Henes, who was recently named the National Women's Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) after winning the national title.

The Wolfpack's title win came in Tallahassee, Florida, on Nov. 20, where the women's team had five top-32 finishes, compiling 84 total points, to take the crown for the third time in program history.

That means Murrell will be walking into a program with a championship pedigree.

As a first-year student in 2022, Murrell said it'll be unlikely that she'll be placed on the national championship squad, but she'll get there.

"Something that Coach Henes made really clear was that, 'We don't bring in fast girls and just run them really hard. It's a process. We build people up, no one's running

their peak mileage at first,'" Murrell said. "I'm just excited to run with the team and run with a really strong group of girls, but also just meet new people and have the college experience."

But for now, she remains a Charger — one of the most decorated athletes to put on a Northwood uniform in recent history.

Isenhour says he plans to sit back and enjoy the time he has left coaching her in her final indoor and outdoor track seasons.

"We've pretty much accomplished what we wanted to (together)," Isenhour said of he and Murrell. "We've set PRs in all of our events, we've rewritten the record books, we won a state title, we set a state record, we're all-state. (She's) obviously the most successful athlete that I've probably ever coached, so I'm just going to sit back and kind of take a backseat and watch her do her thing because it's just beautiful to see."

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WOODS CHARTER 50, CORNERSTONE CHARTER 6

Howlingly hot: Wolves claim 6-0 start after back-to-back 40-point routs

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — It wasn't the prettiest of sights.
Last Wednesday night, Woods Charter's women's basketball team had amassed a 30-point lead at halftime and was well on its way to continuing its undefeated season.

The score was 35-5. And the Wolves' morale was through the roof.

Woods Charter went on to crush the visiting Cornerstone Charter Cardinals, 50-6, in a never-in-doubt contest that not only exhibited the talent on this year's roster, but proved that its hiatus in 2020 only made the team stronger.

"(Morale's) pretty high right now," Wolves' senior Emi Hutter-Demarco said after the win. "We're coming off of that win and we're 5-0 right now. Once we face some tougher competition, I think it's good to go in with positive spirits and just try to build the team up since we haven't played with each other in two years."

During its six-game winning streak to start the season — having beaten the Research Triangle Raptors handily last Friday — Woods Charter hasn't won by fewer than 11 points, coming in the form of 11-, 36-, 27-, 20- and now 44- and 42-point victories.

While it may be early in the year, the Wolves are clearly a pack that's hot and getting hotter, even with the lack of experience and chemistry on their roster entering the season.

Woods Charter's women's basketball program took the year off during the pandemic-shortened



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Woods Charter senior Emi Hutter-Demarco (5) goes up for a layup in the Wolves' 53-11 win over Research Triangle in Chapel Hill last Friday. Hutter-Demarco, the team's lone senior, scored 7 points on the night.

2020-21 season, leading Hutter-Demarco — now the team's lone senior — to opt to play with the men's team, an experience she said helped make her stronger and more prepared for her team's return this year.

"It was a lot tougher competition with the guys because, obviously, they're physically bigger than me," Hutter-Demarco said. "So coming back into girls' basketball, I just feel like I'm stronger and ready to drive into the paint. I can take those hard fouls. Actually, with the guys, it was more fast-paced, so it's kind of slowing down with the girls and I have myself under control better."

Hutter-Demarco is the team's second-leading scorer (12.0 points per game) through her first six games, with her head coach, Princess Alston, calling her one of the "coaches on the court" alongside sophomore forward Lexi Smollen (15.3 points per game).

She's also one of just two players left from the Wolves' 2019-20 team, which went on an 11-7 campaign that ended in a first-round playoff loss.

The other is junior Avis Lavinder.

Seven of the team's 10 players are either freshmen or sophomores without a lick of high school basketball experience.

But despite the Wolves' two-game losing skid to end the 2019 season, nearly two years away from the court and a youthful roster, they haven't missed a beat.

"(A lot of us) played together in middle school, so that's helped a little bit," Hutter-Demarco said on building the team's chemistry. "And during practices, we're focused, but we want to get that social aspect going, especially outside of school. ... It's nice doing team-building activities."

Against the Cardinals, it was obvious those team-building activities had a purpose.

From the opening tip, the Wolves controlled every aspect of the game.

Early on, they jumped out to an 18-1 lead behind 10 points from Smollen — a 6-foot sophomore who took the region by storm with her play this past volleyball season — and a strong defensive presence



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The Woods Charter women's basketball team celebrates after their 53-11 win over Research Triangle in Chapel Hill last Friday. The Wolves head into their holiday break with a perfect 6-0 record.

from both their front and backcourts.

The Cardinals scored just before the end of the first quarter on a mid-range jumper from sophomore Rachel Hunt to make it 18-3, but that'd be the penultimate field goal for Cornerstone on the night.

From there, the Wolves' defense went on to force 27 turnovers in the final three quarters, including 15 steals, to shut down their opponent's offense entirely and allow just 3 points for the rest of the game, which included a stretch early in the third quarter where Hutter-Demarco managed to collect five steals in the first five minutes.

The most notable sequence along that stretch came around the five-minute mark, where she stole the ball, handed it off to her teammate Caroline Mitchell — who traveled — then she promptly picked off the inbound pass, put up a shot that was just off the mark, got the offensive rebound and scored on the put-back.

It may not have been the most polished sequence, but it was

a prime example of the team's grit and persistence, which is exactly the way that Alston prefers her team be known.

"We try to be as much like wolves as we can be (on defense) and stay on our toes," Alston said. "And the biggest thing is, we try to let the girls know that defense turns into offense, so we want to play defense first and that makes the game a whole lot more fun."

At the end of the first half, junior Lucy Miller drilled a long jumper at the buzzer to give the Wolves that 35-5 lead.

As soon as the shot went in, she turned, wide-eyed, to her teammates on the court with a look of both joy and shock on her face as they corralled her to congratulate her on the shot.

For Alston, that camaraderie and support is something she's come to expect from her underclassman-rich squad.

"We're really like a family," Alston said. "We want to get everybody involved. Nobody on this group is selfish at all. Even my senior (Hutter-Demarco), she's al-

ready got a spot to play in college, but she's already the most unselfish player that I've ever coached. ... Everybody on our squad has scored, so we want to just build confidence."

The Wolves' 46-point win bled into another strong showing against the winless Raptors last Friday, where they were led by Smollen (17 points) and Mitchell (16 points) to a 53-11 victory.

Woods Charter is on its holiday break for the next couple of weeks, which means the Wolves (6-0) won't take the floor again until Jan. 4 against the Triangle Math & Science Tigers (4-1).

But Alston and her team are fairly used to long breaks.

"We understand the season's going to get a little tougher as we go along, so we want to take advantage of every second in the gym," Alston said. "We've got to stay focused, stay grounded and just take care of business. ... Eyes on the prize."

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KNIGHTS

Continued from page B1

on shutting No. 20 down. I don't think their big man (freshman Brennan Oldham) did that much damage to us, but it was the play off of No. 20 that gave us the damage. But we're going to figure something out for the next game for him."

From the opening tip, it was obvious this game would be a battle.

Early in the first quarter, Chatham Central senior Nick Jourdan (13 points, Bears' leading scorer) stole the ball — one of 6 steals on the night for the Bears — fought his way through contact, drew the foul and got his layup to fall, igniting Central's portion of the crowd.

A layup from Mapp and a floater from Beau Harvey gave the Knights a 4-point lead and quieted the travelers from Bear Creek, but the Bears responded with a 7-0 run that included Jourdan draining a 3-pointer to steal the lead right back, 11-8.

But as the old cliché goes, basketball is a game of runs. And it was the Knights' turn to have the hot hand.

Mapp scored in the paint to put the Knights behind by two, 11-10, before Beau Harvey got a steal and hit a floater on the opposite end to take a 12-11 lead.

A couple of possessions later, the Harvey brothers — first Beau, then Adam — hit a pair of 3-pointers to capture their biggest lead of the night, 18-11.

After a technical foul on Central, Adam Harvey downed two free throws, then the Knights got the ball back, where Mapp splashed a corner 3-pointer just before the first-quarter buzzer to give the Knights a 23-11 lead after the opening period.

Chatham Charter's three 3-pointers in the final three minutes of the first period were the only shots they'd hit from behind the arc for the rest of the night. But they couldn't have come at a better time.

The Knights' 20-0 run ex-



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham Charter men's basketball team huddles up before the team's 61-35 win over Chatham Central in Siler City last Friday.

tended into the second quarter, when Bears freshman Aiden Johnson hit a free throw to snap the scoreless run with 5:37 to play in the half.

By then, Chatham Charter had amassed a 28-12 lead and was fully in control.

"They jumped out in the second quarter and got that big lead and they really didn't extend that much on it," Burke said. "So, we played better (after the run)."

The Knights focused the rest of their efforts on gaining the upper hand in the paint and effectively shutting the Bears down inside, which has been one of the strengths of their team up to this point.

Central scored just 14 points in the paint — compared to Chatham Charter's 30 — as the Knights created a logjam for the Bears on offense, clogging up the middle and trapping ballhandlers, making it difficult for them to spread the things out, which led to plenty of turnovers and missed shots.

"They've got a great defense ... they were in a man (defense) but we were making it look like

a zone," Burke said. "Against a good defensive team, you can't sit there and catch the ball and check, you've got to know where that next pass was going and we're just not there yet."

Down by 18 at the break, 38-20, the Bears came out of the locker room with a plan to fix their offensive woes. They started to spread the floor, make passes along the perimeter and found a couple of open shooters behind the arc, leading to a couple of early 3-pointers by Reid Albright and Matthew Smith, respectively, to try and get them back into the game.

But the Knights tightened up and allowed just 4 points for the rest of the quarter, nursing a 55-30 advantage at the start of the fourth period.

"We were able to put our press on at the right time, get some things going and get into a little 1-3-1 (zone)," Messier said. "We came out after halftime and they hit a couple of big threes and so we came back out of it and went back to grinding them in that half-court man (defense)."



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham Charter junior Adam Harvey (20) and freshman Beau Harvey (22) walk down the floor after a whistle in the Knights' 61-35 win over the Bears in Siler City last Friday.

While the Knights polished things off with a strong fourth quarter to clinch the 61-35 win, it was clear this was a rivalry game.

The passion oozed off of both the fans in the stands — including those looking atop the elevated wall behind the two benches — and the players, with hard fouls, lots of contact and expressed emotion being the norm throughout the contest.

Those emotions sometimes boiled over, as was the case late in the third quarter, when Mapp scored a bucket in the paint and let out a fiery yell in celebration, earning him a technical foul.

But when you're playing in a rivalry game packed with intensity, sometimes you just have to let it out.

"If you look back at our games (against Central) throughout the years, there have been overtime games, triple-overtime games, we've had those," Messier said. "I always liken it to the UNC-Duke rivalry in that it doesn't matter what the other team has, we're

going to bring it, they're going to bring it and we're going to play at a high level. I'm glad that the fans got to see that."

The Knights, now 9-1 on the year with their lone blemish coming in a one-point overtime loss to Uwharrie Charter on Dec. 3, will face Chatham Central (1-3) in their next game on Friday, Dec. 17.

That's back-to-back games against their in-county rival, while the Bears faced Graham (1-2) in between on Tuesday, Dec. 14 (a game which ended after press time of this week's edition).

"We talked about how we want our boys to celebrate the win this weekend, then we get back after it Monday," Messier said. "They're well-coached and they're going to come back with a game plan to come at us in a different way, so we've got to be ready for that. It's always hard to beat a team twice, especially a county rival."

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

LAWRENCE

Continued from page B1

Pro Football Focus), a depleted receiving corps — which includes Marvin Jones Jr. and Laviska Shenault Jr. as his top two targets after the losses of DJ Chark Jr. and Jamal Agnew earlier this season — and a serviceable running back in James Robinson, who is severely underused by head coach Urban Meyer.

(It's worth noting that Lawrence also lost his college teammate in running back Travis Etienne Jr., who was selected by the Jaguars with the No. 25 pick in this year's Draft, to a foot injury in the preseason.)

And, worst of all, he's been stuck with a worse-than-incompetent head coach in Meyer who's brought dysfunction everywhere he's coached (despite his championship rings) and was clearly not NFL-ready when he was hired on Jan. 14 of this year.

In less than a year as the Jaguars' head coach, Meyer has:

- hired a former University of Iowa strength coach, Chris Doyle, who had been accused of making racist remarks along with bullying his players at Iowa, then defended the hire when backlash arose. Doyle resigned the following day.

- made national headlines after a video of him getting ... a little too close ... to a woman (who wasn't his wife) at a bar in Columbus, Ohio, following the team's loss to the Bengals on Thursday Night Football in Week 4. The worst part: He let his team fly home to Jacksonville without him while he stayed behind in Ohio, an unprecedented move for an NFL head coach.

- been accused of perpetuating a toxic workplace culture with both players and coaches alike, calling

his coaches "losers" and getting into heated arguments with players.

And plenty, plenty more.

Meyer likely won't be the Jaguars' head coach once the season ends in January — if he is, it proves the organization is far more doomed than already suspected — and for Lawrence and his teammates, there couldn't be better news.

The bottom line is, Lawrence has been given next-to-nothing to help him thrive during his first season in the NFL.

He was thrown into the fire immediately, starting Week 1 against the Houston Texans, and never got a chance to sit and watch NFL action before partaking in it.

He never got to study behind a veteran or play alongside a great group of skill position players.

None of it. But let me be clear: Lawrence hasn't played well in his first 13 games. And I'm not trying to hide that.

In fact, he's been pretty terrible, ranking toward the bottom of the league in every major statistical QB category.

He's tied for the league lead in interceptions (14) with the Bengals' Joe Burrow after a four-pick performance in shutout loss against the Tennessee Titans over the weekend.

He's 30th in completion percentage (58.2%), 21st in passing yards (2,735), 28th in touchdowns (9), 28th in yards per com-

pletion (28th) and 31st in quarterback rating (68.9).

His numbers are nowhere near what you'd expect from a No. 1 overall draft pick.

But, because of all the reasons I listed above, there's no reason to call him a bust ... yet.

The quarterback position is the toughest position in all of sports to grasp. It's the position with the most nuance and the biggest need for patience and growth.

Yet, it's the position with the most scrutiny and impatience from fans and analysts alike.

For some guys, it clicks almost immediately. For others, it takes time.

Lawrence may never get it. He may be seen as a bust alongside the Sam Darnolds and Josh Rensens of the world and could be out of the NFL in a matter of years and only living inside of "Where is this guy now?" videos on YouTube.

Or maybe — just maybe — he'll get a new coach who wants him to succeed, his skill players will find their way back onto the field or he'll get traded to an organization that isn't a perennial bottom-feeder.

Maybe he'll get more experience, start to figure things out and develop a feel for the fast-paced action of the NFL after having so much success in college.

And if that happens, those of us who called Lawrence a bust before he even played his first full season in the NFL

at 22 years old will have some explaining to do, some columns to erase

and some tweets to delete.

Reporter Victor Hensley

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



Chatham COA Events & Announcements

December 16th through December 22nd

Thursday, December 16th

- [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 17th

- [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 20th

- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM 🧑🏻‍🦵
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM (Chatham Grove Community Center (Pittsboro) and on Zoom) 🧑🏻‍🦵 📶
- [Strength & Conditioning w/Olivia](#) at 10:00 AM (at Holly Brooks Room, WCSC) 🧑🏻‍🦵

Tuesday, December 21st

- [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 PM (at WCSC Aerobic Room) 🧑🏻‍🦵

Wednesday, December 22nd

- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM 🧑🏻‍🦵
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM (Chatham Grove Community Center (Pittsboro) and on Zoom) 🧑🏻‍🦵 📶
- [Strength & Conditioning w/Olivia](#) at 10:00 AM (at Holly Brooks Room, WCSC) 🧑🏻‍🦵

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**

Annual Public Board Meeting

Our Council on Aging's Board of Directors holds their annual public meeting Thursday, January 6 at 5:30 p.m., virtually on Zoom. If you are interested in providing comments at the beginning of the meeting, contact Dennis Streets at dennis.streets@chathamcoa.org or call 919-542-4512. The Board will also be electing its officers for 2022.

The Chatham COA is Here for You!

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Eastern Chatham Senior Center (ECSC)

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919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center (WCSC)

112 Village Lake Road
Siler City, NC 27344
919-742-3975



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Sawyer Shafer selected as director for JM's production of 'Oklahoma!'

From JMArts

SILER CITY — Sawyer Shafer, a theater professional based in Greensboro, has been selected to direct "Oklahoma!" the spring musical at Jordan-Matthews High School.

Dates for "Oklahoma!" will be confirmed by month's end with a possible one-week shift from the originally announced dates to accommodate the new director's schedule.

Before moving to North Carolina earlier this year, Shafer spent two years as director and producer of Finneytown High School's musical theater program in Cincinnati. Before that, he was founder and CEO of Sansami Creative Works, which produced plays and original sketch comedy, and volunteered as an acting and production consultant at Mechanicsburg High School in Urbana, Ohio. He holds a bachelor's degree in theater studies magna cum laude from Wright State University.

Shafer was introduced to stu-

dents in early December during a short lunch and overview of the musical, and was encouraged by that first impression.

"Having worked with student-aged performers in some capacity every year for the last seven years, I can honestly say that I have never had a group of students that has been this excited for auditions," he said. "I'm excited to see what they bring to the show, and extremely ready to get to work with my collaborators on the creative team."

Shafer is hoping that audiences will get a new perspective on the plot of this iconic musical that recently ran for 328 performances on Broadway in a re-imagined production that closed just weeks before the pandemic shutdown.

He succeeds Jessica Nunn, the longtime director at Jordan-Matthews, who relocated this fall to teach in England.

"I'm impressed with Mr. Shafer's qualifications, experience and outlook," said Rose Pate, who produces JM theater. "We

share the goal of providing a quality learning opportunity for students as well as a great theater performance for our community."

"Oklahoma!" is produced with assistance from JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation, which provides funding for the director, costumes, set supplies and incidental expenses. JMArts is supported by contributors throughout the community and occasional grants for special educational programs.

This year, those special programs include a Latin jazz clinic for student musicians and a free public concert on Jan. 28 by Gregg Gelb and La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet, as well as the third-annual JMArts Spring Theater Workshop for student actors that runs after school from Apr. 25 through May 6.

More information about JMArts, including a schedule of all upcoming arts events and information on membership, is available online at JMArts.org.



Courtesy of JMArts

Sawyer Shafer, who is directing the Jordan-Matthews production of 'Oklahoma!' this spring, provides an introduction to the musical for students interested in participating. About 70 students so far have expressed an interest to be part of the musical.

COA's 'Angel Tree' program serves 100+ homebound residents

BY JIMMY LEWIS

Chatham County Council on Aging

The angels were off the tree, seemingly packed away for another year.

Yet the residents of Chatham County still kept coming.

That was the experience of staff members at the Chatham County Council on Aging who oversaw the return of the live "Angel Tree" event for 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Angel Tree was held virtually in 2020.

The premise is simple and effective.

Prior to Thanksgiving, Council staff contacted its homebound clients to ask what three items they would like for the holidays. Those requests then find their way — in the form of angels — to miniature Christmas trees erected at the two centers in Pittsboro and Siler City. There, the public is asked to come collect as many angels as they desire.

"It's wonderful," Angel Tree coordinator Liz Lahti said. "They wrapped them up so nicely, and you can tell their hearts have really gone into it. It's very endearing to see. They bought the pres-

ents and came back, and there was a lot of care and attention that went into them. It was kind of neat to see it all."

The gifts are brought back and delivered alongside traditional visits, whether for Meals on Wheels or another Council service.

In some instances, the response was massive. Ebenezer United Methodist Church, for example, took away 18 angels. In all, Angel Tree, in its traditional form, delivered to 114 homebound clients this year. There was also an option to donate to an emergency

assistance fund that is designed to help seniors with urgent, pressing needs this holiday season.

In addition to wrapped Angel Tree gifts, a late social media call went out for \$10 gift cards to local stores. That produced a total of 160 such cards, many of which were received after deliveries were underway.

"They're very appreciative," Lahti assured. "A lot of them are homebound and don't get out. And so, it's neat to know that the volunteers are bringing Christmas cheer to the seniors."

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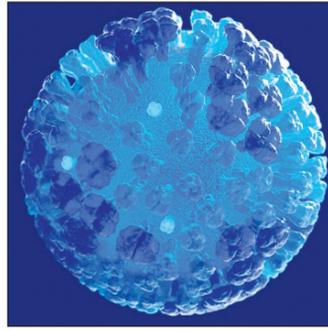
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Flu brings fear of 'twindemic' in NC

Health officials urge vaccination against influenza and COVID-19 to avoid respiratory illnesses

BY IMARI SCARBROUGH
Carolina Public Press



As the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus makes its way across the nation and Delta variant cases surge once again, North Carolina health officials see the possibility of another viral threat: influenza.

Last year, many health officials warned of the possibility of a "twindemic," in which high amounts of both flu and COVID-19 cases occur at the same time. Instead, the flu rate stayed low, a blessing many health experts attribute to greater precautions being taken during the pandemic than in a normal flu season.

This season, experts predict flu cases will increase as local governments relax restrictions and more people forgo masks and social distancing.

Flu deaths are tracked, but individual cases are not. The COVID-19 dashboard allowing the public to track COVID cases is unique to the pandemic.

The state does offer weekly snapshots of flu-like and COVID-19 activity across the state in the "Respiratory disease surveillance summary," published by the N.C. Dept. of

nessee and Virginia as "low." South Carolina and Georgia were listed as "moderate."

As of Thursday, there had been no flu-associated deaths reported this season in North Carolina. The flu reporting season began Oct. 3 and will conclude on May 21.

Possible protection

As cases of flu rise and temperatures drop, DHHS is encouraging residents to "layer up."

Just as residents can wear layers of clothing in the winter to protect themselves from chilly temperatures, DHHS recommends stacking different types of defenses against respiratory illnesses.

"It is possible to be co-infected with flu and COVID, and if you have both at same time, you are at an increased risk of severity of illness, because they are two different viruses, two different infections, and both at same time is an increased risk of disease severity," said Dr. Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson, state health director and chief medical officer for DHHS.

Many flu symptoms overlap with COVID-19 symptoms.

According to the DHHS web-

site, flu symptoms can include "fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle pain or body aches, headache, (and/or) vomiting and diarrhea, but this is more likely to occur with children."

Some people may notice different symptoms that might indicate a COVID-19 infection.

"Flu viruses can cause mild to severe illness, including common signs and symptoms listed above," DHHS states on its website. "COVID-19 seems to cause more serious illnesses in some people. Other signs and symptoms of COVID-19, different from flu, may include change in or loss of taste or smell."

Testing can help reduce uncertainty.

The flu shot doesn't always prevent infection, but even if an infection occurs, the shot can reduce the degree of the symptoms, Tilson said. Along with the COVID-19 vaccine, it represents a good first layer of protection.

The CDC recommends that members of the public receive a flu vaccine as quickly as they

are able to, practice proper hygiene and basic preventive steps, including staying home when ill, communicating with health care providers when symptomatic and following their provider's instructions regarding antiviral medications in the event of a flu infection.

Anyone presenting symptoms of the flu or COVID-19 can receive testing for a diagnosis and should seek treatment quickly, according to Tilson.

Masks are another layer, Tilson said. Social distancing when possible offers another protective tool.

Last year's low levels of flu illustrated how well those layers work, according to Tilson.

"We had almost no flu spread because hand-washing, masks and limiting crowds were effective in preventing the spread of respiratory viruses, COVID and flu," Tilson said.

According to the CDC, between 12,000 and 52,000 deaths were caused by flu each year nationally between 2010 and 2020. The 52,000 high point came in the 2017-18 season, but then dropped to 28,000 the following year.

CCS approves substitute raises, extension of some bonuses

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Effective Jan. 1, substitute teachers at Chatham County Schools will get a 30% daily pay raise — the raise required to satisfy the \$13 per hour minimum pay rate passed in the new state budget for non-certified school employees.

At the new rate, non-certified substitute daily pay rates will be \$104, up from \$80; certified substitute pay rates, also raised 30%, will go from \$103 to \$134. The 30% increase in substitute pay will result in an increase of approximately \$275,000 to the current budget.

The district will also extend its signing bonus program for newly hired permanent 11- and 12-month employees through the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, and reinstate the signing bonus for other permanent employees with two-year commitments employed for the 2022-23 school year through December 2022 — \$1,500 for classified employees and \$3,500 for certified employees.

The policies were approved by the CCS Board of Education at its meeting Monday night.

"Please understand that this move is necessary. But we're being very cautious on the front end, because it's go-

ing to create compaction in the scale that we've got to be prepared to fix," Superintendent Anthony Jackson told the board of the substitute raises, adding that the district must have the resources to get all employees up to \$13 an hour — not just new hires.

"What's going to end up happening is you're going to have people who've been in those roles for 10 years, earning either the same or sometimes less, as (new) people — that's what we're trying to avoid," he said. "You can't use temporary money to fix that. So we want to have a commitment that even if we have to use that (money) to start it, then we've got to be able to sustain it. I wish we could wave that wand tonight, but I think this first step is to get our substitutes to a place where we're competitive there and then get our other employees aligned shortly."

COVID-relief funds

The approval of policies follows a petition from the Chatham County Association of Educators (CCAIE) posted the first week of December asking the county's BOE to use federal relief dollars — the temporary money Jackson referred to — to recruit and retain staff during drastic staffing shortages across the state and county. By the time of the meeting,

it received nearly 450 signatures.

That petition calls for an additional \$2,750 bonus to be given to every staff member — which would total about \$3.3 million of ESSER funds. It also asked for an increase in classified staff wages to more than \$15 per hour, until the state wage levels passed in the new budget take full effect.

Lastly, the petition asked for a raise in rate for substitute pay to \$130 per day for certified staff with teaching licenses and \$100 per day for noncertified staff — which was passed in the district's proposal on Monday.

CCS had \$16.84 million remaining from its more than \$22 million COVID-relief-related funds in 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.

Edward Walgate, a petition organizer and Northwood High School teacher, told the board during public comments that though petition signers appreciate the district's goal of hiring

68-plus new staff members using ESSER funding, some of the funding should be reallocated to "rewarding existing staff for their efforts."

"I'll end by saying that we do not lay all of the challenges that face education at the school board's door," Walgate said. "Decades of underfunding at the state and federal level have put us in this difficult situation. But we believe that Chatham County has the ability to improve retention, improve hiring qualified personnel, and improve morale by compensating county staff. Please consider these three asks of nearly 450 educators and ensure that Chatham County remains one of the top school systems in the state."

Last week, Wake County Schools said it would raise the minimum salary for school support staff to \$15 an hour, with higher rates for positions such as instructional assistants and bus drivers. Under that new plan all support staff employees will get at least a 5.3% raise, with the biggest raises of more than 40% going to the lowest-paid workers — increasing the budget by \$36 million, Chief Finance Officer Tony Messer told the board Monday.

Though Jackson said the goal is to find ways to implement raises not dependent on COVID-relief funding, additional

bonuses for staff could be on the horizon.

"As you know, the ESSER plan was approved prior to my arrival," he told the board. "And so we are looking at some revisions to that plan that we will be discussing with the board in the next month or so ... we might use that funding to execute additional bonuses for staff."

Other meeting business

• During the board's reorganization, board member Gary Leonard was reelected as chairperson and Del Turner was reelected as the vice chairperson — both unanimously.

• The Chatham County Local Government Department Heads-Up document for 2022-23, which includes information pertaining to the 2022-2023 budget planning process, was approved.

That document includes information on a new supplement model for certified and classified employees, operational increase for the new Central Services building, the \$15 per hour minimum wage requirement included in the state budget and appropriations to the Chatham Education Foundation.

"As of today, there are numerous unknown variables that still remain, making the budgeting process somewhat dif-

ficult," the agenda item read. "As the budget season progresses, updates will be available as necessary."

• The board approved a calendar change for its mid-year retreat. That retreat was scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 10, at the Chatham Park Conference Center, but was extended by an extra half day for 1 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 11, to "accommodate for new superintendent and board relations."

• The district also presented its plan for remote learning expectations in the event of inclement weather.

CCS can offer remote learning options during inclement weather days for students. Teachers are not required to hold live Zooms, meaning work can be asynchronous. Due to the district's 1:1 initiative, every student has an electronic device assigned to them. Still, some students don't have reliable access to internet. To account for that, students have five days after an inclement weather day to turn in work.

The state allows for up to five remote learning days in the 2021-2022 school year calendar.

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

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Dec. 7, Cosette Laurie Wilkie, 20, of 305 N. Dogwood Dr., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for aiding and abetting larceny. She was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on Dec. 13.

On Dec. 7, Sierra Denise Headen, 20, of 30 Kivett Court, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for breaking and entering, larceny of a dog, and simple assault. She was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on Dec. 13.

On Dec. 7, Roy Dean Maness Jr., 58, of 67 Cobles Boy Dr., Siler City, was arrested by Corporal Michael Cox for 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 Jan. 5.

On Dec. 10, Brandon Sean Browne, 27, of 2828 Vanstory Street, Apt. 3C, Greensboro, was arrested by Deputy Cody DeViney for breaking and entering into a motor vehicle, possession of stolen goods, larceny, and larceny of a firearm. He was issued a \$15,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 3.

On Dec. 10, Joseph Marion Fulford Jr., 54, of 6550 Bonlee Bennet Rd., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for possession of stolen motor vehicle and injury to personal property. He was issued a \$1,500 secured bond and is scheduled

to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 3.

On Dec. 11, Mr. Fulford was also arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana up to ½ ounce, and possession of drug paraphernalia. For these charges, he was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 3.

On Dec. 10, Wendy Leigh Dunlap, 48, of 6550 Bonlee Bennet Rd., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for larceny of motor vehicle and larceny. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 3.

On Dec. 10, Rashawn French, 26, of 192 Breezewood Rd.,

Sanford, was arrested by SSgt. Anthony Norton for failure to appear on unsupervised probation and failure to appear. He was issued a \$760 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 19.

On Dec. 10, Ryan Chace Pittman, 33, of 675 Oak Leaf, Apt F, Asheboro, was arrested by SSgt. Anthony Norton for breaking and or entering and larceny after breaking/entering. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Guilford County District Court in Greensboro on Jan. 4.

On Dec. 11, Carl Lewis Blanton, 60, of 1410 Holland Chapel Road, Apex, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for ethnic intimidation, simple assault, common law robbery, assault and battery, and as-

sault by pointing a gun. He was issued a \$16,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Dec. 15.

On Dec. 12, Javier Lemus Martinez, 21, of 1110 Goldendale Dr, Durham, was arrested by Deputy Shannon Parker for assault by strangulation 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 Jan. 5.

On Dec. 12, Edith Mariana Salas-Ceballos, 20, of 344 A Mountain View, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Shannon Parker for simple assault. She was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 5.

‘WE DON’T HAVE TIME TO WAIT’

Residents tell DEQ it must quickly regulate toxic PFAS in drinking water

BY LISA SORG
N.C. Policy Watch

North Carolina lags behind several states in regulating PFAS, prompting residents with contaminated drinking water to again urge state environmental officials to regulate the toxic compounds.

“Lives are on the line,” said Emily Donovan, co-founder of Clean Cape Fear, at the Secretaries’ Science Advisory Board meeting last week. “DEQ and DHHS are not acting quickly enough.”

This is nearly verbatim of what Donovan, thousands of residents of the Cape Fear River Basin, scientists, advocacy groups and several lawmakers have told the agencies for more than four years, since GenX, a type of PFAS, was discovered in the Cape Fear River, the Haw River and others.

There are thousands of types of PFAS, also known as perfluorinated and polyfluoroalkyl compounds. They are widespread in the environment, where they linger for hundreds of years, earning them the nickname “forever chemicals.”

Most people have been exposed to some level of PFAS. They are found in drinking water, microwave popcorn bags, fast food containers, stain- and grease-resistant fabrics, and hundreds of other consumer products. Depending on exposure levels, the compounds have been linked to multiple health problems, including thyroid disorders, reproductive and fetal development problems, immune system deficiencies and kidney and testicular cancers.

Roughly 1,850 facilities in North Carolina could be handling PFAS and potentially discharging them into water, according to an EPA database. Yet unlike its counterparts in Michigan, New York, New Hampshire and New Jersey, the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality has not meaningfully regulated the toxic compounds in drinking water supplies.

Since 2017, when the PFAS crisis publicly emerged, DEQ has confirmed only a handful of dischargers of the compounds — Chemours Fayetteville Works Plant being the primary one. Nor has DEQ required industry to disclose the types of compounds discharged or their amounts.

DEQ officials have often said they were waiting for EPA guidance —

guidance that was scant and often politicized during the years of the Trump administration. They have also noted that North Carolina lawmakers have prohibited state agencies from enacting rules stricter than the federal government’s.

For affected communities, not just in the Cape Fear Basin, but statewide, those justifications are wearing thin.

New momentum in Washington

Under the Biden administration and EPA Administrator Michael Regan — the former head of DEQ — the scientific pace has quickened. The EPA is expected to announce a stricter health advisory goal for GenX this spring, with similar actions for two other contaminants, PFOA and PFOS, in late 2022. These goals are not legally enforceable, but can serve as baselines for states to set their own standards.

It will likely be at least 2024, however, before the EPA enacts a legally enforceable drinking water standard for some types of PFAS. It’s also unclear whether the EPA will regulate all 5,000-plus compounds as a class (which industry will likely oppose), in clusters (based on their chemical makeup), or individually. Because of the extended rulemaking process, reg-

ulating the compounds individually would take hundreds of years to accomplish.

“We know that [at the] federal level it will take time; the EPA has to look at national issues,” Assistant DEQ Secretary Sushema Masemore told the Science Advisory Board. “North Carolina will build on the EPA, but meet our needs.”

That includes identifying sources of PFAS discharges, Masemore said, as well as requiring additional monitoring. The agency plans to review existing permits and “take actions as needed to meet environmental standards.”

Those actions must include requiring industry to disclose all PFAS compounds — and chemicals that degrade and become PFAS, also known as “precursors” — in order to renew or receive a discharge permit, said Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton.

A growing statewide problem

In North Carolina, PFAS has been found in the air, soil, water, honey, compost and crops. In the last year, several residents have reported strange-looking foam — foam later found to contain PFAS — washing up on beaches, in driveways, home gutters, and even in mountain streams.

DEQ has yet to pinpoint the origins of the PFAS-containing foam, although in some cases it occurred close to the Chemours plant near the Cumberland-Bladen county line.

Masemore said a team of agency scientists is studying the frequency, location and chemical consistency of the foam, and has developed a testing and sampling protocol.

It’s unclear if any of the foam is related to AFFF, a type of fire-fighting foam that contains the compounds. The foam is often used in training exercises at military bases and airports, where it can run into the groundwater or streams.

Older types of AFFF contained PFOS, which has now been phased out. But newer foams are equally troubling. They contain “a mixture of non-disclosed PFAS that may or may not contain GenX chemicals,” said Sue Fenton, a toxicologist with the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences.

Two facilities in North Carolina make or blend AFFF: National Foam in Angier, in Harnett County, and Buckeye Fire Equipment in Kings Mountain, in Gaston County, according to DEQ.

The agency plans to require these facilities and other places where foam

is used to sample and monitor their discharges. DEQ could also inspect the facilities, Masemore said.

Detlef Knappe, an SAB member, is one of the scientists to first publish findings of GenX in the Cape Fear River in 2016. He told DEQ that PFAS “typically occur in mixtures,” meaning that people are likely exposed to many types in their drinking water. Those mixtures could affect health risks of exposure, he said.

Elizabeth Behl, director of the EPA’s Health and Ecological Criteria Division, said the agency is evaluating those cumulative risks in calculating health goals. “We know [mixtures] are what people are largely dealing with,” she said.

Regulatory challenges

Even with EPA data, Masemore said DEQ will need “additional authority” to regulate PFAS. That will require going before the Environmental Management Commission, which makes rules, and the General Assembly. Both avenues are time-consuming. In the case of the legislature, which over the past decade has weakened environmental laws, the outcome is also likely to be uncertain.

DEQ doesn’t need

legislative approval to regulate PFAS in waterways, according to the Southern Environmental Law Center. The center has long argued the agency has that authority under the Clean Water Act to require discharges to install technology to prevent PFAS from entering waterways.

(The agency does have some latitude to enact temporary limits. These are known as “IMACs,” and are set at the director’s discretion. DEQ has done that for PFOA. Earlier this fall, however, the EMC recommended against adopting a groundwater standard of 70 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS because it was deemed too lenient — a stance with which members of the public offering testimony overwhelmingly concurred. And once a standard is established, the process of changing it can take years.)

“The EPA and DEQ have the tools today to find out who is discharging, said Jean Zhuang, a staff attorney at SELC. “These discharges can be controlled. The state doesn’t need more data on health effects. ... It will take many decades to have toxicity data for PFAS. That’s time communities don’t have.”

This story originally appeared in N.C. Policy Watch.

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Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity

CHATHAM CHAT | CORE'S KARINDA ROEBUCK

Social Justice Exchanges highlight CORE's busy slate of activities

CORE (Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity) is a Chatham-based volunteer-led organization working to build a broad-based coalition of individuals, nonprofits, and community groups. Its mission is to deconstruct systemic inequities and achieve equitable outcomes for everyone in Chatham County through education, organizing, and reconciliation.

This week, we speak with CORE's Karinda Roebuck about a new initiative the organization has launched: Chatham Social Justice Exchanges. The exchanges, she says, are just that — "an exchange focused on the brutal realities of racism and the desire to be part of changing that reality."

Roebuck, CORE's executive director, can be reached at karindaroe-buck@me.com.

How did the idea for Chatham Social Justice Exchanges come about?

The Chatham Social Justice Exchange (CSJE) is a collaboration and began from the successful model in Saxapahaw. The Saxapahaw Social Justice Exchange was created by a group of people that bring the community together to discuss and raise awareness about injustices in America. It was born out of the pain of incessant violence against people of color. Originally CSJE was hosted here in Chatham and facilitated by the fabulous LaShauna Austria of Kindred Seedlings Farm and Seeds of Change Consulting; however, due to funding restrictions it ended.

CORE recognized the importance of CSJE's work, and the space it held was sacred for relationship building. Rather than letting that work go to waste, CORE found a way to partner with LaShauna and bring CSJE within our organization.

Our first gathering was supported by community with 50 people registered and 42 in attendance as folks seem to be really eager to engage in conversations and collectively build together.

Our marketplace is a beautiful way for community to experience the abundance and support of community. Both the offers and asks were meaningful and lead to more connections within the group.

We plan to meet monthly and continue to build on this going forward.

What's the goal of these monthly gatherings?

The Chatham Social Justice Exchange is just that — an exchange. Specifically, it is an exchange focused on the brutal realities of racism and the desire to be part of changing that reality. It is an intentional space reserved for meaningful conversations, testimonies, and the exchange of ideas, resources, and actions for people who are committed to a path of racial equity and justice. The goal is to build community by fostering a deeper understanding of how these injustices affect all of us.

Our monthly gatherings are designed to meet people where they are, wherever that happens to be on their journey. We invite participants in the room to introduce and facilitate "table talks," which are engaging small group discussions around pressing topics, such as white privilege, environmental racism, local politics, food networks, and reconciliation processes.

What does "building community" mean to you, and why is it important?

Building community means bringing people together to develop and to deepen relationships through sharing stories about their experiences, concerns, and values. Sharing oral narratives is a long-honored tradition that fosters trust, dignity, and respect for our fellow community members. Building community leads to community organizing which is organizing ourselves around our common humanity and a common agenda to work together in achieving community-driven solutions to the issues in Chatham.

How do you hope to engage the Chatham community as a whole in this work?

We hope to create a space for Chatham residents who believe in equity and social justice to come together and learn to organize together and make changes for the issues impacting their families and communities. We hope to create space for the Chatham Community as a whole to engage in civil discourse around these difficult topics and how they affect all of us individually and collectively. CSJE is about active listening and active participation in the act of listening to one another and building the trust,

respect, and dignity that comes with our strengthened relationships.

Meanwhile, you've raised in excess of \$11,000 in your fall donor drive. How will those funds be used?

We are so humbled by the outpouring of support for our organization and would love to pause here and just say, "Thank you!" With the success of our first donor drive, we are able to enter 2022 with the inclusion of more programs, educational offerings, and potentially more staff.

CSJE is going to continue in the new year under our soon-to-launch Community Reconciliation Project. In an effort to advance behavioral health in Chatham County, CORE's Community Reconciliation Project is centered on supporting community members in increasing self-awareness and addressing the impact of racial trauma within themselves, their families and communities.

The project will address behavioral health holistically by sharing personal stories, identifying healthy coping skills and stress management techniques, advocating for rest and wellness, and creating community support systems. CORE will do this in collaboration with behavioral health practitioners and will work with partners to introduce alternative modalities of treatment for stress and trauma.

The Community Reconciliation Project will build healthy and sustainable relationships across communities, cultivating support and allyship, which will allow us to better manage the physical and psychological impact of structural racism.

Additionally, our education program will be able to offer four Community Conversations or lectures/webinars free to the public. We will also be able to offer more scholarships to our fall and spring Racial Equity Fundamentals workshops as well as begin offering our newest community workshop, Shifting Power Series.

We have also been able to increase the budget for our 5th annual Juneteenth in 2022. We have a very busy 2022 planned.

For more information: <https://corenc.org>; <https://www.facebook.com/ChathamNCforRacialEquity/>

Chatham News + Record

Spanish-language content online weekly and in print quarterly

GIVE BACK: HERE'S HOW CHATHAM HELPS OUT

GIVE BACK | TRIANGLE DISABILITY AWARENESS COUNCIL

'TDAC is proud to present disability-inclusive narratives of individuals who benefit from the ADA in their everyday life'

Describe how the Triangle Disability Awareness Council gives back to the community: We give back by helping citizens live independently within the communities they reside. Yearly events are hosted by the organization at various locations to raise concerns about disability issues that our communities face. Interested attendees should register on our events page and find the appropriate event. We offer services for health aides and informative technology; for now, we conduct our work virtually.

What's unique about your program?: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and



all public and private places that are open to the public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabili-

ties have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. Our organization helps train volunteers to work with people who have disabilities. There are technology, administrative and event planning positions available for potential applicants of all backgrounds. Our volunteers receive excellent mentorship to assist in running operations smoothly. Each volunteer who has a disability or not brings their own talents and sincere desire to learn and help others stay independent as well connected to their communities. Many of our volunteers have started because someone helped spur them on to help others.

Any memorable experiences to share?: One woman who lost total sight now walks freely with a cane, using technology

to give her access to the visual world. Another bed-ridden person gets up every day because we helped them find accessible and affordable housing.

What do your customers say about what you do?: "Without the Triangle Disability Awareness Council, I had little connection to the outside world. Learning from the staff and other volunteers, I gained a better understanding of teamwork."

How can our readers support you and your program?: We need donations for all components of our business.
Location: 2501 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill
919-245-4337 | info@triangle-dac.org
<https://www.triangledac.org>

GIVE BACK | EL FUTURO

Offering therapy, psychiatry and substance use prevention and culturally-responsive mental health treatment services

Describe the work of El Futuro: We are a non-profit outpatient clinic which provides bilingual, culturally-responsive mental health services to the growing Latino immigrant community in Chatham County and across the state. We offer therapy, psychiatry, and substance use prevention and treatment services.

How can people access your services?: Our largest clinic is in Durham, and

we have a clinic in Siler City as well. Our Siler City clinic has been operating entirely via telehealth since March 2020. We are working as quickly as we can to restore in-person services in Siler City, and in the meantime we are continuing to provide virtual telehealth services. People can access these services on their cellphones with Zoom, and they have actually proven to be just as effective as our

in-person services. In fact, for many people, it is easier to receive therapy sessions by phone because they do not need to miss work or school, or travel to the clinic.

How can people make an appointment?: The first step is calling our clinic at 919-688-7101. Our staff speaks Spanish and English and will walk people through the steps to get registered. We accept Medicaid, Health Choice,

and Medicare, and also serve individuals without insurance.

How can our readers support you and your program?: There are many opportunities to volunteer, donate, or become a sponsor. Visit our website for details! Visit our website at elfuturo-nc.org or follow us on social media: Facebook @elfuturoNC; Instagram @elfuturonc; or Twitter @ElFuturoNC.



December is always a special time of year to reflect on the milestones and achievements of the year. It is amazing to look back and see what has been accomplished during the past 12 months. This year has been one of development and discovery for Chatham Park as we continue to experience growth in so many ways. Here are just a few of our accomplishments in 2021:

- 500+ homesites were developed with more under development for both single-family homes and townhomes.
- Vineyards at Chatham Park welcomed approximately 50 families.
- Several builders joined our builder team including Lennar, Tri Pointe Homes, David Weekley Homes, and Homes By Dickerson. Chatham Park now offers new home designs from nine different builders including custom opportunities.
- Plans were finalized for a new phase that will feature homes from Encore by David Weekley Homes targeted towards 55+ active adult living.

- North Carolina based Lowes Foods committed to build a neighborhood grocery store in Northwood Landing. It is expected to provide a total of 150 full-time and part-time jobs to the Pittsboro community. Be on the lookout for the grand opening in late 2022.
- Garman Homes exemplified several of our community pillars by building the concept home for the America At Home Study. This national study was conducted to gain a better understanding of all that new home and community design requires in a post-pandemic world.
- Knight Farm Community Park was dedicated to the town of Pittsboro during the park's public opening on Memorial Day Weekend. The 10-acre park is one part of roughly 2,000 acres planned for open spaces, parks, and multi-modal trails within the Chatham Park community.
- Plans were shared for our next recreational venture, Paddles - a swim and pickleball amenity. Scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend 2022, Paddles will be located in Vineyards

- next to Knight Farm Community Park.
- Construction started on Thales Academy, the first onsite school at Chatham Park.
- In October, we celebrated the "MOSAIC Comes Alive" event series, highlighting the 44-acre mixed use destination known as the gateway to Chatham Park. The UNC Health Urgent Care and the Rheumatology opened along with Refuel Gas Station, Jersey Mike's Subs, Harris & Company Insurance, and the Chatham Park Information Center at MOSAIC.
- Both of our Parade Home builders were recognized at the 2021 Parade of Homes Gala. David Weekley Homes brought home Gold for the Careywood model and Garman Homes was awarded Silver for its No Little Plans design.

Chatham Park wishes you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Kitchen comfort and joy

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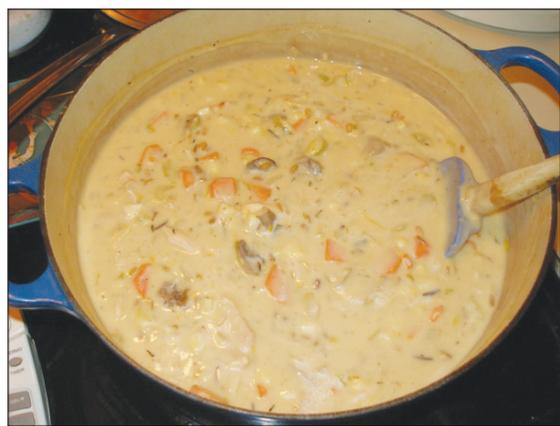


Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

body. Fun movies like Thin Man movies, National Lampoon Vacation films, and Simon Pegg productions are always enjoyable.

But time spent with loved ones in the kitchen has multiple benefits. For you this week I

'Almost' chicken chowder

have my favorite biscuit recipe and a thick, creamy chicken soup full of veggies and the perfect comfort food for those worrisome days ahead.

Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo "MM, GOOD!"

ACROSS

1 Kiddle-lit elephant
6 Seder bread
11 Warren in the Pro Football Hall of Fame
15 Numbered work of a composer
19 "I'd love to help"
20 Fictional town in an Edgar Lee Masters title
22 Intensity, with "up"
23 Aged female horse that has won lots of singing awards?
25 Dog food brand
26 Flimsy
27 Hive swarm
28 "Lie Down With Lions" novelist Ken
30 Romanov royal
31 -fi film
33 Michael of "Superbad"
34 Stephen of the screen
35 Time when everybody turned down their radios all at once?

DOWN

1 Strike with the horns
2 Court champ
3 Lead-in to "done that"
4 "Eek!"

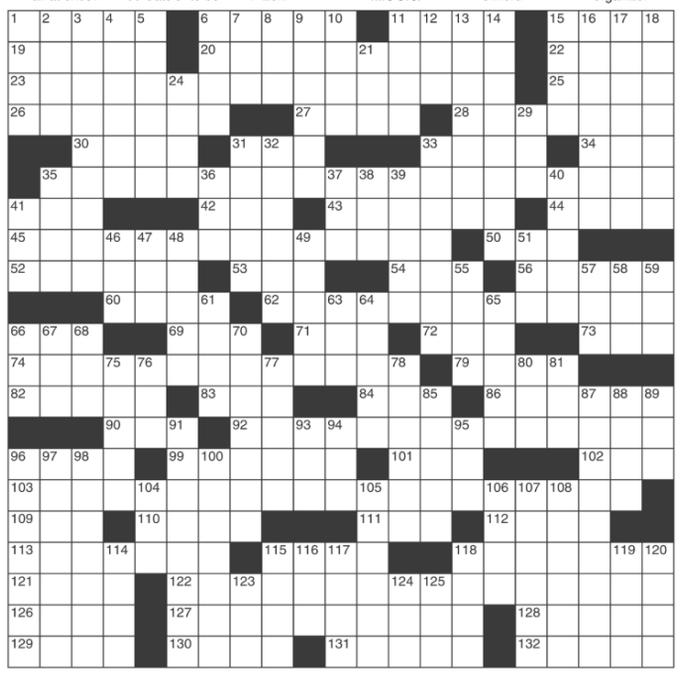
41 -v. Wade
42 Aussie critter
43 Soporific drug
44 Electrolysis particles
45 Reading quickly in the Scandinavian manner?
50 Novelist Stout
52 Hammer or Spade
53 History topic
54 Hot tub sigh
56 Tranquility
60 Brainchild
62 Big meeting to discuss protective metal gear?
66 Foot the bill
69 A-bomb, e.g.
71 "-dare?"
72 -Lilly
73 "Tamerlane" poet
74 Cold, damp park birds?
79 Declare
82 Apia locale
83 Elton John's '70s label
84 Figure skater
Midori -
86 Bet to win and place
90 Cloning stuff
92 Was an overly aggressive barber?
96 Cato's "to be"

99 - alla Scala
101 Intensity, with "up"
102 Antique auto
103 Trouncing in a number-adding contest?
109 Bullring call
110 Balcony box
111 "Send help!"
112 Netflix rival
113 Medium for burning data
115 Pork serving
118 Of sentence units
121 Cork's land
122 Decreed to be the most prudish?
126 Observes
127 Computer programming output
128 More skillful
129 Chances
130 Covered with bathroom
rolls, slangily
131 Outback
132 Fliers' homes

5 Add ammo to
6 Emails or texts: Abbr.
7 Wet mo.
8 Come - halt
9 Body not staying at rest?
10 "My treat!"
11 Family in computer games
12 DuVernay of "Queen Sugar"
13 Flawless
14 Request in advance, in a way
15 Spoken exam
16 Sicily's capital
17 A gazillion
18 Brief plugs for political candidates
21 Bread variety
24 -Lube (STP alternative)
29 Chou En-
31 Add fuel to
32 Groups on church risers
33 The Plame affair, informally
35 Hammer or spade
36 52-wk. units
37 Dad's partner
38 Longtime wire svc.

39 Moses' peak
40 Seltzer, e.g.
41 ICU VIPs
46 Imbibers' hwy. offense
47 "- be nice if ..."
48 Like taffy
49 Bea Arthur sitcom
51 Air-testing gp.
55 Hispanic "hello"
57 Intensity, with "up"
58 Loving sound
59 Previous to, poetically
61 12-hour clock toggle
63 Lowing sound
64 Fluid dram fraction
65 "Hawaii -" (Jack Lord series)
66 Acer offerings
67 Styled after
68 Orange tuber
70 Say aloud for transcription
75 Net access provider
76 Groom, e.g.
77 "The Dance" singer Brooks
78 Canned heat
80 Good Grips brand
81 Nursery cry
85 Dramatist Clifford

87 Merry-go-rounds
88 Not kosher
89 Hurry-scurry
91 For free
93 Furious state
94 Spill cleaner
95 Sony products
96 1962 Paul Anka hit
97 Tarnished
98 Tarnished
100 Chinese soup
104 Sort
105 Facet
106 "Surprised to run into you!"
107 University in Greenville, South Carolina
108 In a blazing brandy sauce
114 Fred Eliot
115 Ace or queen
116 Fruit drink brand
117 Tip jar bills
118 Nursery school, briefly
119 Play - (perform some songs)
120 Env. items
123 Receivable
124 John in court cases
125 High-tech organizer



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

SARAH F O B O F F N B A G A M E S
P R E G O U S U R E R E L D O R A D O
F E D E R A L C R I M E P I V O T M E N
A R E E L U R N S H A M E I N G
I M O B I O L O G I C A L P R O C E S S
L A B S T W A L O N I S U E
S P I N C O N T R O L N E T L O S S
A S N E R E A T P L I E G E N E T
A U L D H O U S I N G B U B B L E
M U S K D E E R M A S T O N S A L E
O N E T E S T P A T T E R N S I P
M Y G O S H V O O M L E G O S E T S
M O U N T E D P O L I C E C O P A
A K E L A A S T O R A P I N A W E
S E D A T E D W O R L D L E A D E R
T E N M A U I U R U A D A M
S C I E N C E E X P E R I M E N T I R A
T E C L A S E D A N T C H A N T
A L E G L A S S A F T E R T H O U G H T
S L U R O V E R T A I P E I U N T I E
H O P E L E S S E M O T E S S T O N E

Triumph Biscuits

2 cups all-purpose flour + more for kneading and rolling
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon baking soda

Big pinch of sugar
7 tablespoons butter, grated and frozen
1 cup cold buttermilk

Whisk flour, baking powder, salt, sugar, and baking soda together into bowl. Cut frozen, grated butter into flour mixture until it resembles coarse meal. Refrigerate for 90 minutes.

When ready to bake preheat oven to 425°.

Pour buttermilk into butter and flour mixture. Mix in buttermilk just until there's no liquid in the bowl. It will still need to come together more, but you'll do this on the counter with very gentle kneading.

Turn onto a floured surface, and mix by hand until it becomes a rough-ish dough, using only as much flour you need. Shape into rectangle. Fold the rectangle in thirds. Flatten back down and refold. Do this 3 or 4 more times.

Roll dough on a floured surface to about 1/4 inch thick. Cut out 12 biscuits using a 2 1/2-inch biscuit cutter. Transfer biscuits to parchment-lined cookie sheet. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown, rotating pan 180 degrees midway through.

Almost Chicken Chowder

8 tablespoons butter divided
1/2 cup flour
3 carrots, peeled and cut into same size pieces
4 stalks celery, leaves and all, chopped
1 small onion, chopped
3/4 cup dried mushrooms, reconstituted and chopped
2 bay leaves
1 teaspoon dry thyme
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper

zest of 2 lemons, divided
juice of 2 lemons
1 cup rice or grain mix
1 1/2 cups frozen shoepeg corn
1 cup white wine
5 cups chicken stock
1 1/2 cups skim milk
1 cup heavy cream
Make roux:
Melt 6 tablespoons butter in small skillet. Whisk in flour and cook over low until it's light blonde in color. This is your roux.

Soup

In a large heavy pot, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Place in pot: Carrots, celery, onion, mushrooms, thyme, bay leaves, half the lemon zest, salt, and pepper. Cook until there is some color on veg, and carrots are starting to soften.

Stir in rice and/or grains and let cook until they start to brown around the edges. Deglaze the pot with wine. Cook until it's all cooked in. Pour in stock and skim milk. Bring to boil. Add corn.

When it comes to a boil, whisk in roux until it's cream soup thickness.

Turn down to low. Pour in lemon juice. When the juice is thoroughly mixed in, stir in cream. Gently add chicken.

Check for seasoning, and keep warm until service.

Makes about 8-10 servings.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		2		4		8		
	5		3					2
4					7		1	
	9			5				4
1			2					3
		8			4	1		
	4			6		7		
		7			5			9
9			8				2	

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 ● WHITE —

Z X U Q S B N K H E B Y V S P
T M J H R U E B Y V T Q O L I
G N D E **C H R I S T M A S** N T
B Y A W T T R O S P M K I A F
D D E H S A W A H B Y W E I U
S Q O M P K L I F P D M D S B
Z X W U S E V O L G S R S S Q
O N L R N J L H C E A O F U D
C A Y I S O R E C O N I H R W
V T P C S Q P N B L H I K P I
H F E E L C S U P R O C W C B

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: THE STAFF OF LIFE

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|--------|
| Board | Elephant | Pine | Sale |
| Chocolate | Gloves | Rhinoceros | Washed |
| Christmas | Meat | Rice | Wine |
| Corpuscle | Phosphorus | Russian | |

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WHITE —

THE CN+R REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS, FILM CRITIC

Del Toro's 'Nightmare Alley' remake is a handsome, heady neo-noir

NEIL MORRIS
 Film Critic

NIGHTMARE ALLEY
GRADE: B +
DIRECTOR: Guillermo del Toro
STARRING: Bradley Cooper, Cate Blanchett, Rooney Mara, Toni Collette, David Strathairn, Willem Defoe, Richard Jenkins and Ron Perlman
MPAA RATING: R
RUNNING TIME: 2 hr. 30 min.

of a two-person clairvoyant act with her father, Pete (David Strathairn). Stan joins their team after he flashes a knack for reading people and learns the complex code Pete and Zeena use to execute their act. Stan also shows a proclivity for pushing the moral bounds of the act, especially when it comes to supposed mediumship and the emotional sway it holds on patrons. Pete, an alcoholic haunted by his past missteps, warns Stan to avoid the trappings of the “spook show” and not carry the illusion too far. Meanwhile, Pete has eyes for fellow performer Molly (Rooney Mara), whose carnival act basically involves letting electric currents run through her. When Pete passes away after Stan accidentally gives him wood alcohol instead of moonshine, Stan convinces Molly to run off and start their own mentalist act. Branding himself “The Great Stanton,” Stan works a nightclub act for Chicago elites, wowing them

with his talents. After Stan one-ups skeptical psychologist Lilith Ritter (Cate Blanchett), the two meet and hatch both an affair and a nefarious plan for Lilith to steer Stan to one of her wealth clients — armed with sensitive private information she learned during therapy sessions — and use that insight to fleece him. Matters spiral out of control when Stan is recommended to Ezra Ritter (Richard Jenkins), another of Lilith’s patients, who has money, a mean streak, and is seeking seance with his departed illegitimate lover, Dory, who died of a force miscarriage. Del Toro and cinematographer Dan Laustsen paint a luminous, exquisite canvas, full of rich dark interiors and carefully crafted set designs, making an elegantly foreboding aesthetic for this chilly neo-noir. Amid that surface lies a story without heroes. Everyone is hiding their own demons and/or inner immorality, whether it is the self-absorbed

Stan, the treacherous Lilith, or the heinous Ezra. Even the gregarious Clem, who befriends Stan early, gleefully operates a spectacle that subsists on luring in drifters, plying them full of booze and barbiturates, and then convincing the wretched twerkers to take a “temporary” job as a geek. Where del Toro falls short is establishing much, if any foundational character motivation, including the origins of Stan’s daddy issues, Lilith’s duplicity, and Molly’s codependency. That leaves the awfulness to exist in somewhat of a moral vacuum, which keeps “Nightmare Alley” from achieving cinematic greatness but not from being a pulpy film noir, where such motives and rationales are often as purposefully murky as the milieu. It is all very nihilistic, a feature-length waking nightmare, and a tremendous motion picture. In other words, exactly what you’d expect from Guillermo del Toro.

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