

Chatham News + Record

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CN+R file photo by Peyton Sickles

Volunteers with 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.

A closer look at some highlights from 2021 State of Chatham report

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A year of response, recovery and resiliency.

That's the opening tagline to the 19-page 2021 State of Chatham County Report, presented at last week's board of commissioners meeting by Commissioner Mike Dasher.

The report — which covers the county government's fiscal

year, from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021 — highlighted Chatham's response to COVID-19, including campaigns to vaccinate the community against the virus. Dasher also highlighted the county's response to and recovery from the October 2020 cyberattack that incapacitated many of the county's business systems for two to three months, along with the county's yearlong celebration of its 250th anniversary.

"It has been quite a remarkable year in Chatham County, and my fellow commissioners and I are extremely grateful to the staff and their perseverance," Dasher said. "The staff's adaptability during these major events is a testament to their resilience and commitment to serving our community."

The report also includes up-

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THIRSTY SKULL BREWING

Siler City's first taproom and brewery opens to customers

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — After 20 years making his own ales and lagers as a hobbyist and beer enthusiast, Eric Stevens began classes at Wake Technical Community College in 2016 to better his brewing skills through the school's craft brewing program.

"I thought I would work for a couple of years at a local brewery and then pursue opening something," Stevens said.

But a year later, while interning at The Mason Jar Lager Company in Fuquay-Varina, he was approached by Stephen and Brandon Russell — the father/son owners of Pittsboro's 580 Craft Beer shop — with an idea: to create a new drinking spot in Chatham County.

Now, he's joined the Russells to become one of four partners (along with Chris Hackney) in Thirsty Skull Brewing, serving as brewmaster at Siler City's first brewery and taproom.

Thirsty Skull, which formally opened Dec. 3, started out as a small operation with a one-barrel brewing system — making 31 gallons of beer at a time — and no physical taproom of its own. Instead, Stevens and his partners sold his creative brews in the 580's taproom, as well as in other restaurants and breweries across the county.

"We started out in Pittsboro and kind of focused on the Pittsboro market and getting into taprooms there," Stevens said. "We were very well received there."

Thirsty Skull started to pick up



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Thirsty Skull Brewing owners (from left to right) Brandon Russell, Eric Stevens, Chris Hackney and Steve Russell (not pictured) stand in front of the new brewery and taproom, which opened on Dec. 3.

a steady customer base across the county and even won Best Craft Drink in Chatham Magazine's "Best of Chatham" contest in 2020. By then, Stevens and his partners had begun to look into opening their own location to enable Thirsty Skull Brewing to brew and sell its own beer.

They cast their eyes toward Siler City, where Stevens knew of

an available property — a vacant building at 915 N. 2nd Ave. — that would be suitable for a taproom and brewery. The timing was ideal: in November 2019, a referendum passed in Siler City's municipal election allowing the sale of alcohol without the purchase of food within town limits. After its

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'I JUST HAD MY FINAL STRAW'

From pollution to potential solution: What Pittsboro has done to address water quality

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

Editor's note: Second of a two-part series.

PITTSBORO — Back in 2011, Katie Bryant found her dream home near downtown Pittsboro after falling in love with the community's unique small-town vibe.

By 2020, though, she'd moved outside the town limits. The fear of negative impacts that contaminants in Pittsboro's water were having on her children and her husband's health had reached a tipping point.

"I just had my final straw, and we had to move," Bryant said. "I just couldn't sleep at night."

Bryant is one of many Pittsboro residents calling for legislative action against the release of unregulated industrial chemicals into the Haw River — Pittsboro's only source of drinking water. Increased amounts of per-fluorinated chemicals, also known as PFAS, and 1,4-Dioxane have been found in the Haw River and in Pittsboro's treated drinking water. PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane have been deemed as likely human carcinogens and are linked to various health problems, including liver disease, kidney disease and even cancer.

Bryant's husband, Wes J. Bryant, retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2018 after serving as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller. He started drinking the water in Pittsboro on regular basis for the first time since moving into their downtown home. A year after his retirement, he suffered from complete gallbladder failure.

"PFAS prevents you from processing fats properly, so you'll see a buildup of bile in the gallbladder and stones developing," Bryant

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Tips for coping with grief this holiday season

If you're grieving, you're not alone.

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

During a normal year, the holidays can accentuate grief, mental health experts say, largely due to the emphasis on spending time with family or reflecting on memories. But during the second holiday season in a pandemic, that grief is compounded for many people.

This week, the News + Record spoke with Ashleigh Glover, Chatham Counseling & Wellness' co-founder and psychotherapist, about grief — why it intensifies for many people during the holidays,

strategies for coping with it and ways to help grieving friends and family.



Ashleigh Glover

new clients. Glover received her Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Campbell University, Bachelor of Social Work degree from Campbell University and an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Alamance Com-

See **GRIEVING**, page A6

PROPERTY IN CHATHAM: IT'S HOT

When it comes to land, Chatham's in high demand

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

MONCURE — A regional developer who just bought 193 acres of land near Triangle Innovation Point — the latest in a series of high-acreage purchases in Chatham — says location and vision make the county ripe for growth and "hot" for sellers.

Ray Covington, a Sanford native who lives in Whitsett, and business partner Mark Lyczkowski, paid \$3 million for the land along Old U.S. Hwy. 1 through their MAD Pea Ridge LLC in early December, as reported by the Triangle Business Journal.

"Our properties are adjacent to Triangle Innovation Point [TIP] East and West and U.S. 1 with current zoning of Light Industrial," Covington told the News + Record. "Our goal is to work closely with the leadership of Chatham County and TIP to complement their vision for the jobs coming to this area."

That acquisition fits a strong recent pattern. Michael Smith, the president of Chatham's Economic Development Corporation, said the EDC had a record year in 2021 for interest in, and visits to, the county's two megasites — the Chatham Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) site in

Siler City and the TIP site in Moncure.

"We've had a number of large projects consider both sites, and we hope to be able to share more information soon," he said.

A multibillion semiconductor chip manufacturer is eyeing Triangle Innovation Point, it has been widely reported. Business North Carolina reports that project details haven't been disclosed because no decision has been made by the unnamed company considering an operation, although dozens of state and regional economic development offi-

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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

ON THE AGENDA

The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 3, in the multipurpose room at Wren Library.

OTHER

Chatham County Public Libraries to host a 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.

Chatham Community Library will host a virtual film screening of Dreamcatcher (2015), beginning Thursday, January 13, and continuing through Thursday, January 20 in recognition of National Slavery and Human

Trafficking Prevention Month in January, This program is free and open to the public. Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning Thursday, January 13, by visiting: <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/dreamcatcher-watch-page-chatham-community-library>. A password is required at the time of viewing. Those who are interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information. The library has purchased a hard copy of the film if residents who wish to see the film miss the virtual screening window.

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 Histor-

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 **JMA-CoronaConcert** 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.bstrop93.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.

Retired Judge Carl Fox to headline 'Jubilee Day' observance, set for Jan. 2

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Community Branch of the NAACP will host a celebration in observance of Jubilee Day — President Abraham Lincoln's Jan. 1, 1863, signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, releasing American slaves from servitude — on Sunday, Jan. 2.

Jubilee Day is observed on the first Sunday of each year, giving NAACP branches across the country the opportunity to reflect on the past and set goals for the new year.

The event will be held at 3 p.m. via Zoom and will feature

the retired Superior Court Judge Carl Fox as keynote speaker.

From living under Jim Crow as a child to battling cancer as an adult, Judge Fox has made a lifetime habit out of overcoming obstacles. His legal career began with being appointed as an assistant district attorney by former DA, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and good friend, Wade Barber, in 1978. Judge Carl Fox became the first Black district attorney in state history in 1984 with the appointment by former Governor Jim Hunt Jr. in the same district. He then went on to

become the first Black judge in the Chatham-Orange District 15B with an appointment by former Governor Mike Easley in 2005.

Judge Fox became the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for 15B Judicial District on January 1, 2006, following the retirement of Judge Barber. He was elected Superior Court Judge in November 2006. He retired as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge October 1, 2020, and now works in private practice.

The Chatham Community NAACP Branch #5377 meets every fourth Monday afternoon at 2:15 pm on Zoom.



Submitted photo
Retired Judge Carl Fox, center, retired on Oct. 1, 2020. Fox has battled bone cancer, inspiring 'Save the Fox' which encourages people to register to be a bone marrow match, especially minorities. In this photo, Fox poses with Joshua F. Zeidner, MD (left) and Fox's wife, Julia Kemp Fox (right) at a fundraiser to raise awareness for the cause. Fox will keynote the 'Jubilee Day' observance on Jan. 2.

NEWS BRIEF

Chatham Community Library presents virtual film screening: Dreamcatcher

PITTSBORO — In recognition of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January, Chatham Community Library will host a virtual film screening of the 2015 film "Dreamcatcher" from Jan. 13 through Jan. 20.

This program is free and open to the public. Sundance award winner "Dreamcatcher" takes viewers into a hidden world of prostitution and sexual trafficking through the eyes of one of its survivors, Brenda Myers-Powell. A former teenage prostitute with a drug habit, Brenda defied the odds to become a powerful advocate for change in her community and works to help women and young girls break the cycle of sexual abuse and exploitation. With unprecedented access, award-winning director Kim Longinotto paints a vivid portrait of a community struggling to come to terms with some of its most painful truths and of the extraor-

dinary woman who uses her past to inspire others to survive. With warmth and humor, Brenda gives hope to those who have none.

Film highlights and awards include Sundance Film Festival, Directing Award, World Cinema Documentary; San Francisco Film Festival, "Persistence of Vision" Award; DOC NYC, Robert & Anne Drew Award for

Documentary Excellence; and Social Impact Media Award, Best Director, Documentary Feature.

Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning Thursday, January 13, by visiting <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/dreamcatcher-watch-page-chatham-community-library>. A password is required at the time of viewing.

Those who are interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information. The library has purchased a

hard copy of the film if residents who wish to see the film miss the virtual screening window.

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

HOLIDAY HOURS

Friday, Dec. 31: closed in observance of New Year's Day

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STATE

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dates on activities within the Chatham Comprehensive Plan, county-wide initiatives such as economic development, and achievements within county departments and programs.

Here's a closer look at the some of the events included in the report, along with reporting from the News + Record throughout the year:

Oct. 28 ransomware attack

Stolen Chatham County government files posted online following an Oct. 28 ransomware attack contained personal information — including data such as Social Security and bank account numbers — of some local residents, in addition to current and former county employees.

The News + Record learned about the posting of sensitive data files by the criminal enterprise responsible on Feb. 8; county officials later confirmed to the newspaper that sensitive data had been released by the ransomware group known as DoppelPaymer.

This news came after more than three months of county staff working diligently to mitigate the impact of the “cyber incident,” with many staff reportedly working nights and weekends to ensure services to county residences went uninterrupted.

“That’s why I said our ‘Employee of the Year’ was every single, solitary employee we have,” Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne told the News + Record in February. “You can’t pick one. There’s too many good people. And everybody went through a lot of tough things. Each individual, each individual department and each individual employee in those departments just stepped up in the way they needed to, and has been through a lot of adversity with the pandemic and this event. It’s been a big challenge.”

DoppelPaymer’s first data upload was made Nov. 4, a week after Chatham County officials announced the breach; it contained “mostly innocuous” files, LaMontagne, told the News + Record at the time, including files that fall under North Carolina’s public records laws; a second upload in late January contained more sensitive data.

After learning about the leaked information, the county worked to identify and notify every individual whose personal information may have been shared, LaMontagne told commissioners as part of a report he made on the attack at the board’s regular meeting one week after learning

about the posting of the sensitive files. The county encouraged people to monitor their accounts for any suspicious activity, and to consider placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on their credit report.

The stolen data files were posted after Chatham County failed to pay a 50 bitcoin ransom — the cryptocurrency was worth roughly \$708,000 on Nov. 4, a week after the attack. Cybersecurity experts routinely warn businesses and entities not to pay ransomware demands, saying it incentivizes cybercrime.

In a February report, LaMontagne confirmed that the county’s network was breached through a “phishing” email in October — leading to the county losing its computers and network, email, telephone and voicemail systems. As a result, the hard drives of nearly all of the county’s desktop and laptop computers — more than 550 of them — had to be wiped clean, stripped down and reimaged.

The county’s State of Chatham report didn’t mention the posting of sensitive files. It did include comprehensive efforts by county MIS staff to rebuild its network, including the reimaging of more than 700 staff devices along with the recovery of data for more than 30 county business systems and applications.

“Along with the extensive mitigation efforts taken by the county during the cyber incident,” the report reads, “Chatham County MIS also evaluated the existing security protocols in an effort to further build upon the security of the county network.”

Such efforts included a training on security awareness and email, using multi-factor authentication, implementing additional network security monitoring and Next Generation Anti-Virus Software (NGAV).

2020 Census

In 2019, Chatham started its efforts to educate the community about the importance of completing the 2020 Census, primarily through the Chatham Complete Count Committee — made up of county, municipal and church organizations, the Hispanic Liaison and business leaders across Chatham.

The 2020 Census was the 24th census in U.S. history, and due to the pandemic, the deadline to respond to the Census was extended to Oct. 16, 2020. At its close, 70.8% of Chatham County households had completed their 2020 Census without a census worker arriving at their door. In comparison, N.C.’s self-response rate was 63.4%.

“County leaders hope that census workers reached the remaining

29.2% of Chatham County households that did not respond to the census on their own,” the report reads.

By August 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau released some census data which revealed that Chatham’s population grew over the past 10 years, including growth in the Latino population by one percentage point. The population counts are important, the report says, for determining how much funding Chatham County will be allocated for federal programs like the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Head Start.

Chatham County’s population increased by about 20% from 2010 to 2020, the News + Record previously reported — and much like the majority of the U.S., most of that growth came from Chatham’s minority populations.

Using updated Census Bureau data, plus data from past censuses dating back to 1990, the News + Record compiled five key takeaways about Chatham County’s 2020 demographic trends in September:

- Chatham is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse.
- Chatham’s white population isn’t shrinking, but its share of the county’s population is.
- Chatham’s Hispanic population grew by a quarter from 2010 to 2020. Now it’s the county’s largest minority population.
- Chatham’s non-Hispanic Black population has been incrementally decreasing for the past 30 years.
- Chatham’s multi-racial population had the highest growth rate between 2010 and 2020.

Because of the pandemic, along with the Census being completed by residents online for the first time, some politicians and advocates have questioned how accurate 2020 Census results are. This concern was not raised in the report, but the topic was discussed at multiple previous board of commissioners meetings.

The 2020 election

Chatham had the highest voter turnout in the state, at 84.26% of registered voters.

“The Chatham County Board of Elections and the elections staff held a successful historic Presidential Election amid the COVID-19 pandemic,” the report says, “with record voter turnout during a countywide cyber incident, which did not interrupt or compromise the voting process.”

Chatham had a record number of curbside voters in 2020, added two early voting sites and provided Sunday voting for the first time. The

county’s Board of Elections hired 120 new election officials — a record number — and held 40 in-person election official training sessions, in addition to providing personal protective equipment at polling places and carrying out multiple other COVID-mitigation protocols.

After traditionally straddling party lines, Chatham voted for nearly all Democratic candidates in every major political contest in the 2020 election — with the exception of Rep. Ted Budd (U.S. House, Dist. 13 incumbent), who led throughout the reporting of results.

Breaking from the state at large, Chatham’s voters favored Joe Biden for president instead of Donald Trump, and the trend continued down the ballot. Gov. Roy Cooper was the county’s top vote-getter, and incumbent state legislators Robert Reives II and Valerie Foushee, also Democrats, maintained their seats with comfortable margins.

The county’s closest race was for the Dist. 5 county commissioner seat. Democratic Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores narrowly beat then-Republican incumbent Andy Wilkie, who was appointed to the seat in May 2019. Gomez Flores, who was elected to a two-year term in 2020, is seeking a full four-year term in 2022. He is the board’s first Latino commissioner, and last week, was elected as the board’s 2022 vice-chairperson.

Economic development

Chatham County retains a large agricultural base with “a mixture of industrial, tourism, and service businesses helping support the county’s economy,” the report reads. The county is impacted by economic booms in surrounding areas like Cary, Chapel Hill, Raleigh and Durham, particularly in its northeastern areas.

“A large number of Chatham County residents commute outside the county for employment, with the urban areas being the top destinations for jobs,” the report says. “The regional prosperity has enabled Chatham County to rank fifth among the state’s 100 counties in median household income. The county experienced a 20% growth rate from 2010-2020 according to U.S. Census data and is among the 10 fastest growing counties in the state.”

The report highlights the following industry developments:

- Charter Furniture expanded its operations into a new facility in Siler City, bringing 101 jobs into Chatham with a \$1.5 million investment in its new facility (in addition to the purchase of the existing building). The new facility is 260,000 square feet and located off of Industrial Park Road.
- PolarOnyx, a laser 3D manufacturing company, relocated from California into the former Performance Bicycle building off 15-501 near Chapel Hill, generating additional jobs and investments in the county.
- The Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is working to find companies to do business at Chatham’s megasites.

Michael Smith joined Chatham County as president of the Economic Development Corporation in January, and told the News + Record in May his goal from the jump was to tie the long-term megasite projects with Chatham Park.

Chatham has two megasites: The Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing (CAM)

site, a 1,802-acre industrial megasite in western Chatham County; and Triangle Innovation Point (TIP), previously the Moncure Megasite, a 2,150-acre life science and advanced manufacturing park in Moncure. Both have been under development for several years, and their infrastructures are almost complete, Smith said.

“Those have been 10-year projects or more, maybe a little longer,” he said in May, “and I’m fortunate now to be here in 2021 at the end of those 10-year phases and moving into a phase where I think we’re really poised for truly exciting things to happen.”

Affordable housing

Chatham County continues to see growth in single family homes — 25% increase FY20 to FY21, the report says — and a sustained increase in the number of multi-family units.

Amid that housing boom, the report says “Affordable Housing continues to be a top priority in Chatham County.”

Affordable Housing is typically defined as housing that does not cost, through rent or mortgage payments, more than 30% of a person’s gross annual income, including utilities and insurance.

“Everyone deserves affordable housing,” the report says, “which is why the county continues to invest in the creation and preservation of safe and affordable options for all residents.”

In August, Wallick Communities Inc. was selected for tax credits to build 72 units in Siler City behind UNC Hospital in Chatham Business Park. This income-restricted development, which is expected to come online in 2023, is receiving \$85,000 from the Housing Trust Fund (2020-2021 cycle) and will be built on formerly county-owned land.

The Chatham County Housing Trust Fund (HTF) was created in 2018. Since then, the HTF has provided nearly \$600,000 in grants and low-interest loans to projects that create and preserve affordable housing units across Chatham. The HTF helped create 162 new affordable housing units, 90 of which are now open and online. The remaining units are expected to open in 2023, the report says.

In 2021, the Emergency Housing Fund (EHF) served over 40 households, at the time the report was written, “by working with community partners, the Department of Social Services and Court programs to assist with emergency hotel stays, utility assistance, as well as eviction and foreclosure prevention.”

On Nov. 22, the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 to approve the last of Chatham Park’s “additional elements” components — requiring 7.5%, or 1,650, of the planned community’s 22,000 market-rate housing units — to be affordable housing.

Only Commissioner John Bonitz dissented, saying he didn’t feel comfortable voting on it without further discussion on concerns from the public, as well as changes suggested by board members regarding not requiring parks or recreational space among affordable units.

“This is highly inappropriate policy making to be editing an important document like this that has massive implications for decades to come,” Bonitz said at the time. “I am astonished that the board went along with it again — approving an element based on verbal edits not yet put in writing, I’m just astonished. I’m kind of horrified, really.”

Affordable housing was the final element of 12 approved for the Chatham Park development after the initial approval, back in 2015, of Chatham Park’s master plan.

In the original proposal in 2016, Chatham Park offered to make 1% of its residential developments affordable housing units; November’s approved plan had Chatham Park agreeing to 7.5% of residential properties being affordable homes. Of those, the News + Record previously reported, 90% of the units will be multi-family homes, such as duplexes, apartments and more, while the other 10% will be allocated for single-family homes.

Bonitz recognized the gains from 2016, but stressed that many experts said the town needed 15% of the Chatham Park developments to be affordable housing units.

COVID-19 and public health

“From mass-vaccination clinics and visits to those who are homebound to vaccination events at churches, schools, long term care facilities, workplaces, and the detention center,” the report reads, “Chatham County Public Health Department staff and volunteers worked hard to make the vaccine available across Chatham County, including addressing disparities among marginalized communities.”

The CCPHD administered more than 7,000 doses of the COVID vaccine from Jan. 1 to June 30, the report says. In Chatham, 57% of people received at least one dose of the vaccine and 54% are fully vaccinated, according to state COVID-19 data as of Tuesday.

“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,” CCPHD Director Mike Zelek previously told the News + Record. “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.”

The department has emphasized equity in its vaccine outreach efforts throughout the pandemic — leaning heavily on community partnerships with local churches and organizations such as the Hispanic Liaison.

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, 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.

“We are glad to see these disparities narrow over time,” Zelek 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.”

You can read the full report here: chathamcountync.gov/government/state-of-the-county-report

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

A YEAR IN REVIEW

OVER THE COURSE OF 2021, THE ROTARY CLUB OF PITTSBORO HAS:

- Welcomed 12 new members
- Volunteered at Covid vaccine clinics
- Donated 92 turkeys & over 2,000 lbs of dry goods to CORA
- Facilitated donations of non perishable items for area families facing food inequity
- Distributed new books to hundreds of local elementary children
- Resumed a weekly Meals on Wheels route
- Collected and assembled backpacks containing art supplies for area children
- Sent cards to residents of long-term care facilities
- Assisted Second Bloom with preparing for the opening of their relocated thrift store
- Coordinated a school supply drive to benefit Chatham County educators & students
- Hosted themed online bingo fundraisers designated as scholarship funds for seniors at Northwood High School
- Scheduled community-based social hours to meet individuals interested in joining or learning more about Rotary
- Constructed a pollinator garden work bench
- Offered multiple noteworthy guest speakers at meetings
- Presented the annual Trike Rodeo & Street Fair
- Adopted a Highway for cleanup

We look forward to serving our community in more ways in 2022 & wish you ALL a healthy & happy New Year!



VIEWPOINTS

Jacob Marley and the art of redemption

Considering — much less debating — the eternal fate of a secondary character from classic literature seems an exercise in ineffectiveness, but nonetheless it's something I seem to do every year at this time.

Jacob Marley, that character, inspires the act. Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" opens with his demise: "Marley was dead, to begin with." And it's Marley's post-cessation of life escapades in the novel, starting with his nocturnal Christmas Eve visitation exactly seven years after his death, which fuels the journey of Ebenezer Scrooge — and has helped inspire readers to extend kindness and practice acts of generosity for 178 years.

With Marley's intervention and the help from the ghosts

of Christmas past, present and Christmases to come, Scrooge transfigures, over the course of a night, from "a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone" to a hero, a friend and benefactor to his community and a second father and savior, in a way, to Tiny Tim.

But what of Marley? Hither-to in chains of his own creation and bound to travel ethereal planes without rest? Does his ghostly act save him, too, or just get him a few bonus points in purgatory?

It's a question of redemption. We know Ebenezer Scrooge was weighed down with the same kind of chains worn by Marley, but he was ultimately redeemed. Dickens tells us so. But Dickens fails to tell us of Marley's Christmas morning, of his next act.

I made my last read for the season of a few pages from "A Christmas Carol" on Christmas night, and in drifting off to sleep afterward, found myself pondering the question of redemption for a year soon to

be past.

Two years into a pandemic, a year removed from January 6, struggling through a year of failings and frustration, and reeling still from deaths in 2021 of people I loved dearly, what can I say about 2022? What can we collectively say?

We end the old year feel aggrieved and, in a modern phenomenon we may not have imagined a few Christmases ago, trolled.

It was an unattractive, vulgar year. "Decency," to quote a recent story in *The Atlantic*, "is for suckers." Not as a way of suggestion, but as an observation of 2021 and the modern world — a world where "norms and guardrails need to be smashed."

Pandemic aside, the ethic of the day seems indeed to be ruthlessness, vengefulness and whatever else that justifies your means.

Throw in a little Omicron and things don't bode well for 2022.

But then I think of Ebenezer,

and of his business partner Jacob, and I think: why not throw open the window sash on 2022 with a change of heart? Haven't we lived long enough to see the folly of the past and the present? Instead of throwing out the rules, like we seemed to do in 2021, why not adopt a few simple ones for '22?

What came to mind as Christmas night drew to a close were a few words penned 125 years ago by a Canadian missionary to China. On the flyleaf of his Bible, Dr. Jonathan Goforth wrote seven rules for himself. They guided him until his death, and have served as a beacon for many since. I've made a few minor revisions below (you can Google the original version) as a suggestion for all of us for 2022. We may not be able to change much of what 2022 brings to us, but we can certainly bring something different into the new year.

The 7 rules:

1. Give generously; expect nothing in return.

2. Regardless of the circumstances, put the very best construction on the actions of others.

3. Never let a day pass without at least a quarter of an hour spent in the study of the Bible or other texts which inspire you. Build a foundation from something outside yourself.

4. Take time every morning and every night to pray, reflect, and meditate on why you're here. Everyone man who's walked the earth dies; don't leave with a long list of regrets.

5. Always do the right thing; always do your best.

6. Cultivate a peaceful spirit with your fellow travelers.

7. Seek each day to do or say something to make someone's life better.

Here's to 2022. I'll pick Marley and Scrooge back up sometime after Thanksgiving next year and once again be inspired and hopeful, and look back on another year.

In the meantime: God bless us. Every one.

Who says Christmas has to end Dec. 25?

All the gifts are gone from under the tree and soon my better half will disassemble the artificial tree we've used for several years. It's been our tree of choice for some time now, mainly after the real ones got too heavy for my long-gone shoulders to deal with, plus it was getting harder to stand a real one straight in the stand.

Funny how time moves — or doesn't, it sometimes seems. It wasn't so many days ago that we had right many days to prepare for the day. Then it came and like the wind that's been whistling around some lately — whoosh — and Christmas Day was gone.

When I was a little guy it took forever and a day for Christmas to come. Maybe the difference lay in the level of my responsibilities. When you're 8 years old, nobody really expects you to do much in the way of preparation. You're just sort of there to take in Santa and the sweets and say your part in the church's young folks Christmas program.

But when you wind up somewhere on the other side of oh, say 31, you have phrases like "some assembly required" and "Caution! Sharp objects" to deal with. They're enough to make a grown man cry. Then comes the time where I live now that no longer requires putting bicycles together and such.

Actually I kind of miss that.

In many ways, I think, I get my Christmas groove now from anticipating as much as from the actual events. The gifts are nice, the shopping can be, the thoughts that go into the gifts that finally make the cut exciting or at least interesting. And the music ... outstanding.

One year, the former little guy now a teenager who used to think I hung the moon played Santa Claus for us. Although he was kinda tired by the end of the day, he did his best to open his gifts and help other folks with theirs. His little sister, new that year since the previous Christmas, crawled from one torn paper pile or ribbon to the next while his little cousin, new since the previous day before Halloween, spent most of her time on the sofa taking in the bright lights. Shining bright eyes of children really do seem like a good way to look at the world and everyone and everything in it.

But it's really the feeling, the feeling that for a moment the world can stop being hard to get along with, that people can rise above terrorism and meanness and hate and finally do the right thing. Then when that euphoric reality strikes we're overcome with the feeling of "Why can't we do this all year?"

Indeed. Why not?

Well, here's how to do it. If I do some of that where I am and you do some where you are and Fred does some where he is and Mabel does some where she is and so on and so forth, then pretty soon most everybody will be doing it and we'll be living that spirit instead of drinking spirits.

Try it.

You might like it.

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.



How are we? A tribute to Desmond Tutu

How are you, gentle reader?

As 2021 comes to a close, I am



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

saddened by the loss of one of our greatest leaders, Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This diminutive man was a moral giant. Tutu was a theologian who connected his Christian faith with African spirituality and became an activist for human rights, beginning in South Africa during apartheid and extending to quite literally the entire planet. He was famous around the world.

Yet, Tutu insisted that you and I can start where we are and do what we can today: "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

This is helpful to remember at the start of a new year when many of us are making resolutions. Such resolutions can be inwardly focused, such as quitting a bad habit or starting a healthy one.

But what if we resolved to do more for the health of our community and do more for others?

In "The Book of Joy," which records conversation with the Dalai Lama, Tutu cites the example of the Dead Sea, located between Jordan and Israel. Clean water flows into the sea from many rivers, yet the water goes bad because it has no outlet. Tutu summarized, "It receives and does not give."

By contrast, Tutu explains the African concept of ubuntu: A person is a person through other persons. To practice ubuntu is to prize community and work toward harmonious relationships through cooperation with others. Tutu explained, "You show your humanity by how you see yourself not as apart from others but from your connection to others."

Tutu acknowledged that seeking this human connection is risky: "Resignation and cynicism are easier, more self-soothing postures." It is easier to receive and not give back. I can isolate myself from suffering in the larger community and ignore the pain of others.

Tutu taught the moral and spiritual value of seeing ourselves as part of a greater whole. This may sound like a lofty goal, even unattainable, except for modern day saints like Tutu. But we start making human connections where

we are and by what we do.

I commonly greet friends and strangers, even readers, with the question, "How are you?" Tutu pointed out that, in many African villages the greeting is, "How are we?" This small change in wording prompts a great shift in perspective: We meet one another not as two separate individuals but as people bound together in a common fate.

In 2022 and every year of my life, I don't want to be a Dead Sea that only receives. I want to flow with living water and give to others for the good of my community. As Tutu poetically phrased it, "Be a reservoir of joy, an oasis of peace, a pool of serenity that can ripple out to all those around you."

Gentle reader, let us resolve to start with a small change and greet one another by asking, "How are we?" And let us see how little bits of good put together can overwhelm the world.

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."

What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

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VIEWPOINTS

On becoming a political advertiser

It's not personal, it's just business — or so Facebook assures me.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

On this matter, I'm inclined to believe the company (now called Meta by its CEO and nearly a dozen other human beings). That doesn't make my latest encounter with the social-media giant any less frustrating, however. I just spent many days jumping through its authorization hoops so I could run political ads on a Facebook page I manage. And even after finishing the process, I still had my ad rejected and had to appeal the decision multiple times.

Before you accuse me of burying the lede, let me clarify. I am not abandoning my long-time role as political commentator in order to run for office. I am, of course, unelectable.

Thousands of highly opinionated newspaper columns and TV appearances over more than three decades will do that to the best of men, and also to me.

No, what set off Facebook's alarm was something else entirely. It flagged me as attempting to use boosted posts on a non-political page in order to promote a political cause. That's a no-no, according to the policies Facebook adopted amidst criticism of the role its ads played in the 2016 election and subsequent controversies.

The company now requires special authorization and disclosures in order to run "ads made by, on behalf of, or about a candidate for public office." Facebook imposes the same requirements for ads about "social issues" that are "sensitive topics that are heavily debated" and "may influence the outcome of an election or result in/relate to existing or proposed legislation."

Earlier this year I published my first novel, "Mountain

Folk." It's a historical fantasy set during the Revolutionary War. To promote the book, I set up a Facebook page and occasionally spend a few dollars boosting posts about its characters, settings, and themes.

It was one of those boosted posts that Facebook rejected multiple times. The post consisted almost entirely of review excerpts. As best I can determine, this was the offending passage, taken from a magazine review:

"Fairies, elves, dwarves, water maidens, monsters, and more. Soldiers and heroes of the American Revolution. Founding Fathers of our country like Washington and Jefferson. Cherokee and Shawnee women and warriors. A minister turned soldier and politician who is unembarrassed to quote Scripture. Throw all these ingredients into a stew pot of fiction, turn up the burner, and you soon have bubbling on the stove John Hood's Mountain Folk."

See the problem? The

reviewer described George Washington and Thomas Jefferson as "Founding Fathers of our country." That could be construed as an implicit endorsement of candidates for public office — assuming Facebook readers possess time machines, that is, or that some evil genius is reanimating the corpses of dead presidents to effect a zombie takeover of the federal government (which would, I admit, be something of an improvement).

Another explanation may be that the post described a Revolutionary War hero as a minister "unembarrassed to quote Scripture." The role of devout Christians in the founding of the country could be construed as a "sensitive topic," as could the roles of Cherokee and Shawnee leaders. Or perhaps the post was deemed an attempt to hinder the legislative prospects of the Elf Liberation Act.

OK, I know perfectly well that algorithms are involved, and that Facebook felt com-

pelled to tighten up its advertising policies after a slew of politically charged attacks by powerful individuals and activist groups. But the absurdity of my case merely serves to illustrate the greater absurdity of the present moment.

Upset by claims you consider baseless or ideas you consider objectionable? The proper remedy is neither government restrictions on political speech nor heavy-handed policies by social-media platforms. Don't hinder debate. Encourage it.

"We are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead," Jefferson famously said, "nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it." (Official disclaimer: this is not an endorsement of Washington/Jefferson '24.)

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).

Almost nobody knows he lives in North Carolina

North Carolina not only grows great writers, like Jill



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

McCorkle and Clyde Edgerton, for instance. It also imports them from all over the place. One of the most prolific imports, Jeffrey Deaver — who lives in Chapel Hill — released his latest book, "Midnight Lock," on November 30.

"Midnight Lock" is the 15th book in his Lincoln Rhyme series. His first book in that series, "The Bone Collector," was adapted for a film starring Denzel Washington and Angelina Jolie.

From reading "Midnight Lock" or the other books in the series, you would not guess about Deaver's North Carolina connection. In fact, most people do not know where he lives.

His main character, Rhyme, lives in New York City, where Deaver went to law school. Rhyme works as a consultant to the New York Police Department even though he is wheelchair bound. In addition to the Rhyme books, Deaver has written about 15 other thriller novels. He covers a wide territory and tries different formats that make his books interesting challenges. For instance, "The October List" (2013), starts with chapter 36 at the end of the story and then takes the reader back to its beginning in chapter one. It is tricky business, but Deaver makes it work.

In another book, "Carte Blanch" (2011), commissioned by the Ian Fleming Foundation, the central character is James Bond, made younger and living in modern times.

The Evening Standard newspaper in London wrote, "The most impressive feature of 'Carte Blanche' is the ingenuity of the breathless, blood-thirsty plot. A master of misdirection, Deaver manufactures more surprises than anyone flogging an old warhorse can be expected to produce."

Somewhere, Deaver can take us anywhere in his novels — except to North Carolina where he lives and writes.

But informally he has written about some of his favorite places in our state.

For instance, writing in the FT Property Listings newsletter in 2019, Deaver gives a reason why he lives in Chapel Hill.

Hill is the University of North Carolina, and the epicenter of that sprawling campus is Coker Arboretum. As someone who's lived in downtown Chicago and Manhattan, I'm the first to admit that Chapel Hill is hardly a churning and chaotic town. Nonetheless, during school term, 30,000 students swell the ranks of the population and the word 'bustling' applies quite nicely.

"A few steps off Franklin Street — the main thoroughfare on campus — Coker Arboretum transports you into a serene world of nature, just right for contemplating the environment, reflecting on your latest exam performance or, in my case, conjuring up my next thriller plot."

Maybe Deaver could set his next thriller in the Arboretum, even using the unsolved 1966 murder of Suellen Evans as a backdrop.

Presently, he is concentrating on promoting "Midnight Lock." There is a lot to promote — 434 pages of Lincoln Rhyme's complicated adventures, beginning with his chemical testimony that meant to tie a murder defendant to the site of the crime. His careful analysis failed to convince the jury. The NYPD terminates his position as a consultant and forbids him from working on any case.

That situation handicaps him but does not ultimately keep him from solving the book's central and most interesting crime.

A man who becomes known simply as "The Locksmith" has gained entrance to the heavily locked homes of two women. Undetected by the women, he leaves messages that taunt his victims, the police, and Rhyme.

In several chapters, Deaver uses Locksmith's voice to tell his side of the story and to educate readers about the inner workings and history of locks. Locksmith also describes how he uses Facebook-like computer programs to get detailed information that helps him select his victims and plan his exploitation of them.

At the end of the book the reader has been entertained, educated, and amazed, just as Deaver, the North Carolina author, intended.

D.G. Martin hosted "North Carolina Bookwatch," for more than 20 years.

To view prior programs: <https://video.pbsnc.org/show/nc-bookwatch/episodes/>.

GUEST COLUMN | MICHAEL CHARLES

If education is a priority, make classroom sizes smaller.

I am a 7th-grade social studies teacher here in Chatham County. Last school year afforded me an opportunity unlike any previous year in my career to observe and reflect on my job as a teacher and my understanding of "the state of public education."

This is partly due to the fact that on Wednesdays I did not meet face-to-face with students, but I'll leave that potential rabbit-hole of a discussion at that for now. The primary reason I was able to observe and reflect on my profession in a measured way was due to my role as a cooperating teacher with UNC's School of Education, supervising a Master's degree candidate and student teacher.

One school day last year, I observed my student teacher lead a classroom activity where he had 100% of students on task. Now, to the general public, this may not seem particularly noteworthy — isn't that what teachers should be able to do regularly? But let me put it to y'all this way: as a professional educator of eight years who prides myself on a commitment to "good teaching" and actively seeks to improve my effectiveness as a teacher, I can count on one hand the number of times in my career that I have had 100% of my students on task during an activity.

Experienced teachers struggle with full student engagement, and if they tell you they don't, I suspect they're lying. So, with that in mind, what I observed last year — a student-teacher leading a lesson with 100% participation — was extraordinary. I'll grant you he was a stellar student teacher, but even the best student teachers should struggle during their practicum. (Right of passage or flaw in our teacher-training system's design? I don't know, but in my experience it is the truth.)

So, what was the secret behind my student teacher's success? I know there are many factors, from tangible ones to esoteric, psychological ones that lead to a teacher's individual success or failure while instructing a group of students. However, accounting for all of those factors, I believe the one that most directly led to 100% student engagement in class on that day was the small number of students in the room.

During Chatham County's hybrid remote learning last year, my four class periods each day had between 8-15 students. In the group activity I observed, my student teacher was not only able to better promote engagement

I would argue that statement and the reality of 30+ students in a classroom are antithetical to one another; if education is a top priority and if student success is our ultimate goal, then class sizes between 25-40+ (yes, I taught a class of 38 in Charlotte one year) cannot be the standard. And, before we start thinking about aiming for half-measures let me say this: yes, class sizes of 20-25 are better than 25-30, but why stop there?

with the activity, but was also able to assist students with the executive functioning required for successful group collaboration. This executive functioning seems like it would just be naturally occurring in group work, right? But in my years of experience managing group work, I can tell you that adolescents are often overwhelmed by these executive components related to group collaboration and it leads many well-intentioned activities to "fall flat."

So, what is this column? An educator complaining they have too many students? We've all heard that one before, right? "Hey, man, what'd you expect? To be a teacher and not have students?"

Let me explain. In addition to the smooth facilitation of instructions on classroom activities, a second function of smaller class sizes I observed throughout "Plans A and B" last year is this: throughout the course of last year, given the smaller class sizes, my colleagues and I were able to much more consistently tailor and differentiate activities and instruction to meet the individual needs of our students with special needs.

Again, to outsiders this seems like a given: "Oh, Student X's IEP says that he/she should get two check-ins per class period from his/her teacher. What's the big deal?"

When you have four other students (at least) with similar accommodations built into their IEP, now the teacher has 10 individual check-ins to perform in a class period in addition to teaching the other 25 students in the class. Let me be clear: The takeaway here should not be that "teachers want less students." The takeaway is that the expectations put on teachers, as a result, are downright unfair, unrealistic, and most importantly unproductive toward the ends of ensuring student success.

I am sure that there is not a lawmaker within this country who wouldn't agree that education is important. Furthermore, I'd venture to say that all of our representatives — local and national — would argue that education is a top priority of theirs.

I would argue that statement and the reality of 30+

students in a classroom are antithetical to one another; if education is a top priority and if student success is our ultimate goal, then class sizes between 25-40+ (yes, I taught a class of 38 in Charlotte one year) cannot be the standard. And, before we start thinking about aiming for half-measures let me say this: yes, class sizes of 20-25 are better than 25-30, but why stop there? If, as my observations suggest, classes of around 15 students are best, why settle for anything less than what is best for our students?

Two major questions, ones that I've long suspected this country really needs to have a think about, are these: Do we really value public education? Is public education really a top priority of ours? If it is, let's stop with the contradictory words of support coupled with the de facto realities of unattainable demands placed on school faculty and staff.

My desire for smaller class sizes is simply an extension of that logic. Why do we have to accept a seemingly immovable reality that class sizes of 15 in public schools are unattainable? Does it require a monumental rethink about our entire education system? If so, great! If education is our top priority, surely it is worth our time to figure out solutions to the numerous and complex problems that strain the system, and surely we cannot quantify such solutions monetarily anymore than we should make access to viable solutions based on family income and social capital.

What's best for all American youth doesn't have a price tag. Do you want to look a student in the face and tell them, "Sorry, sport. What you need just wasn't in the budget this year," or "Sorry, kiddo. I know you're reading several grades below grade level, but while I've got your attention can I tell you about the wonders of fiscal austerity?" In a roundabout way, that's what I feel like I'm doing on a daily basis. I have a hard time coming to terms with that. I think the public should, too.

Here's to education!

Charles is a social studies teacher at Margaret B. Pollard Middle School.

BREWERY

Continued from page A1

passage, the partners acquired the property, and in late 2020, Thirsty Skull's Facebook announced that construction on the brewery had begun.

Stevens said the entire building had to be gutted and renovated on the inside to create the perfect space for Thirsty Skull Brewing.

"There was one old bathroom in there we tore out, there was a little narrow front room with a wall that we cleared out and put a big beam in to open up the taproom," he said. "Now the building is split in half with a taproom in front and the brewery space will be in the back."

Inside, the taproom is adorned with bright orange walls, a skull-themed decor and retro-esque furniture; outside, it features a patio area for customers and a giant Thirsty Skull Brewing logo visible from the street.



Courtesy of Thirsty Skull

Thirsty Skull's taproom features an array of original brews.

Stevens said the community came out to support the new location during the taproom's opening week, and they continue to do so even one month later.

"We had a great turnout from old friends from Pittsboro and a lot of new faces from Siler City as well," he said. Stevens says he and his part-

ners want to provide a place where Siler City residents can try new brews they've never had before. Whether it's the Pittsboro Pilsner or the California Dreaming West Coast IPA, customers can find something new to sample at Thirsty Skull Brewing.

"You're gonna have some people where they're set in

their ways and they drink Budweiser, Coors or something like that, and just don't want to try it," he said. "But for the most part, we've had a lot of people come in and they'll say something like that, and I'll tell them to try my pilsner. I just have to break through where there hasn't been a craft beer scene."

The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive, said Steven, who wanted to create a space where everyone is welcome.

"We wanted to go into it with a really open mind and hopefully attract everyone and not be exclusive," he said.

The taproom features 16 brews on draft — ranging from amber-colored lagers to hazy India pale ales — all made by Stevens. Thirsty Skull operates on a limited schedule for the time being — it's open Thursdays through Sundays. Stevens hopes he can add Wednesdays to the days of operation soon, especially if business continues to grow the way it has since

opening day.

"It was hard to turn any kind of sizable profit on a one-barrel system," Stevens said. "It was really more about just establishing the business and getting our name out there."

Stevens said he's grateful for Thirsty Skull's success so far, ranging from the support the business has received from the Siler City community to the positive feedback he's earned for his brews. And he can't wait to unveil new creations he has been developing, including a Siler City-inspired brew still in the works.

"It's been a lot of hard work trying to grow," Stevens said. "To hear how well the beers were received and that people really enjoy it — that's really the biggest part right now."

Thirsty Skull Brewing is open from 3 to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday and noon to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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

GRIEVING

Continued from page A1

munity College. Prior to her career as a licensed counselor, she was a social worker for child protective services for five years and now specializes in treating clients with depression and anxiety through the use of cognitive behavioral therapy.

The following interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.

Can you talk about navigating grief during the holidays, and what sorts of things contribute to that?

Holidays are like the memories of the good times, and the togetherness that we've kind of had, and they kind of remind us of our loss — it can be very triggering. That time with your grandparents or with your parents, you have this expectation, and then they're taken away, and they're not there anymore. So that in itself can just serve as a reminder of our loss, the holiday itself. Sometimes the anticipation of the holiday can be more daunting than the holiday itself — just like, "Oh, gosh, you know, it's going to be Christmas without my parents for the first time, without my child" or whoever, whatever that loss might be.

And watching others who are feeling thankful when we're celebrating these holidays can be really hard, like, "Why am I not feeling this way? What is wrong with me?" And just to know that there's nothing wrong with you, there's nothing wrong with being overwhelmed or sad or lonely — those are all very normal experiences and human experiences. Sometimes, we're looked at like we have to celebrate and we have to do this and we're not living up to those expectations, but it's OK to create some boundaries for yourself and participate in what you want to participate in and feel up to doing. It's OK to say "no" and to take care of yourself.

That part of it is hard, like figuring out how to say no to going to a Christmas eve dinner where you're not feeling up to your best and you're feeling sad and you're having all the feelings, like, it's OK to take yourself out and say, "You know what, I'm just going to go hang out with a friend, or I'm going to go walk in the park, or I'm going to stay in my bed and it'll be OK." So, I think that is important.

What about this year, during the second Christmas and holiday season taking place during a pandemic, when those normal dynamics might be exaggerated or emphasized?

Some people find comfort in the traditions, and other people find them really painful. What do

you do during those times and how do you reflect and celebrate the loss of a loved one, because I think that's very important, too. The person grieving may not be ready for that, but they can be ready in their own way. And when they are ready, because at one point, they're going to become ready — because that's how the cycle of grief works — keeping that person's memory alive and not burying it but celebrating them even more. Maybe even lighting a candle in honor of them, or going to visit them at the gravesite, you know, bringing them in instead of pushing it out. As hard as it is, how do you pull it closer to you and embrace their memory and try to keep that alive?

Christmas this year, during a pandemic — again, for the second time, we've had to deal with this — it's just like oh my God, with Omicron and all the things, it's like, how do you take care of yourself, keep yourself healthy and put yourself first — really focusing on that self care aspect? Are you making sure that you're safe and that you're healthy? And are you getting your vaccinations? Are you taking care of yourself so that you can be there for others and be there as a support person for somebody else that might be grieving? So really, I think, this year during the second Christmas of the pandemic it's taking care of yourself, putting a lot into self care, making sure that your cup is full, and how to refill when your cup gets depleted. I think that that's the most important thing to remember during the second year of COVID.

For those grieving, what are strategies or practices they might try to ease the difficulty of the holidays?

I think that allowing yourself to feel, whatever that is. It's OK to feel joy, it's OK to feel sadness, it's OK to feel anger, it's OK to allow yourself to grieve. It's important to remember that everybody's grief experience is unique, and so everybody has different needs when celebrating the holiday, and there's no right or wrong answer.

Experiencing that joy and that laughter does not mean that you've forgotten the person that you love; it doesn't mean that any of that is going away. Sometimes people can feel a lot of guilt associated with, "I'm not allowed to be happy, because my mom's not with me anymore. I shouldn't feel this. I should be sad." But it's kind of like taking a step back and saying, as cliché as it sounds, "What would my mom want?" And truly embracing it and saying that it's OK to feel a gamut of emotions, and acknowledging the feelings and trying not to avoid them.

I see that with a lot of

male clients; they're much more closed and much more guarded and they kind of bury all these feelings inside. So how do we acknowledge those feelings and pull those feelings out and say it's OK to talk about them? And to talk to somebody, whether it's a close person, a friend or a co-worker, to have a person that you can call and talk to, and just be able to get all these positive and negative feelings out during the holidays, because both of them exist.

And knowing that feelings can coexist and that's OK, that it's OK to kind of find that balance to have those times, but if you're feeling like the sadness is not going away, that it's lingering, that you're losing interest in things and that the grief is really taking a turn and you're going through some depression then it'll be time to seek help from a professional at that point, and be able to recognize what is just grief and sadness versus true depression.

What about those wanting to care for friends and family members who might be grieving?

I think that the one thing that you can really do is help them to keep their memories present. Do they feel comfortable talking about the death or even the memories of the person? It kind of comes in waves, and it depends on how close the death was and it really depends on where that person is at, but meet that person where they're at. Just an ear to listen and to be there and to hold someone's hand and to say, "You know what, it's OK and I'm here for you," and just be an ear. We don't always need unsolicited advice. We don't always need somebody to tell us how to feel better. We just want them to listen to us.

It's important to be understanding, too. If you've had someone in your family that's experienced a loss, don't be upset with him because they cancel holiday plans. And for whoever is kind of suffering that loss, to want to be there to support them the best you can, whether that is a phone call, checking in with them, inviting them out or checking in on them one-on-one.

It's also important to know who your audience is, and who you're talking to. Sometimes bringing up God may not be the best thing at that moment. To say, "You can lean on God," when they're saying, "Well, God took my mom away, why do I want to lean on God?" could be very triggering for a person who may not have the same beliefs or who may have that belief, and they may be doubting it at that moment. People mean well by that — there's no doubt in my mind — but it's important to be very sensitive to that because telling them to

lean on God when they think God just took their loved one away is not the best answer. If they are leaning into the belief of God and leaning into that, then absolutely be there to support with that message. But as far as telling them to go to church or to pray about it, or those kinds of things, you may be missing the mark with that.

Some people absolutely find comfort in God and Christian counseling and leaning on God and their faith through the grieving process. If that's what brings your soul peace, and you can find that kind of that refuge in prayer, then I think that would be a good way to start healing and start doing that if that's part of your life, but there's no right or wrong way to way to go into it — it's just whatever you personally believe.

Everybody wants to be cared for. And I think that feeling is really important when we're talking about grief and caring, and truly being a support. One of the best things that's ever helped for so many of my clients is helping others, like volunteering to do something charitable during the time — helping others will lessen your sadness, and it'll bring joy to someone else's face to really be out there and to be able to do that.

What do you think is important to understand about grief and how it impacts us?

Everyone experiences grief differently. Sure, we have the stages of grief, but to know that you might feel angry some days, and you might feel sad some days, and you might feel relieved some days, and you might feel happy some days, and to know that it's a cycle, and it doesn't go in any particular order is very import-

ant. Find comfort in others and be able to talk about what you're going through, because all of us have experienced grief and death in some way. It's important to really be able to share that and to share your story, because you never know when your story is going to help someone else.

I think it's so important because so many times we feel isolated and we feel like there's no one there to understand. Sometimes you're the voice that needs to be there to say, "I know, I went through this too and this is what I did and I'm here for you."

What would you say to anyone who is particularly struggling with grief right now, especially those people who feel isolated by those feelings?

As we've discussed, it's important to share the feelings that you are having, like, do you have a support person that you can kind of lean on? I think that to take that isolation away, you need to take the loneliness away and find someone — whether that's a therapist, whether that's a friend, whether it's a family member — we need to take that loneliness away, so you don't feel so isolated, and find someone that you're comfortable with sharing what you're going through. I think that is important, because it is sensitive and it's intimate, and you feel like people might judge you, like people might not understand. If you feel like that person is going to judge you, and they're not going to understand, then they're not your person to be able to talk to.

And it's such a fine line between grief and depression, and we see the grief turn into depression all the time. We want to prevent it from going to that next level, and I think that the best

thing to do is talk about your feelings and be able to express them.

I tell my clients — and people in general, you know — you know yourself better than anyone else. So you know when you're not getting better, and I think that it's time to, whenever you're not starting to feel better, to reach out and find even a professional to kind of help navigate that.

We do see suicide rates climb as the holidays approach and through the holidays suicide do increase, and so I think it's very important to not shy away from that. And it is scary for someone to say, "I'm feeling suicidal, I'm feeling so sad that I don't want to live here anymore." You hear these stories and are chilling, but it's so important to say, "I see you, and I hear you, and we're going to get you some help."

Anything else?

There's just no right or wrong way to approach the holiday season after a loss. If you do experience happiness, allow it to enter your grief space, allow that happiness to enter and don't shy away from it and keep their memories alive. There's so many different things that you could kind of do to do that, whether it's planning a meal with your loved one's favorite food, or playing their favorite music or playing a game that they always used to play. But if that's too hard, then there's things that you could do to kind of exclude that; some people find it too painful because it's too close and they're not in that space yet.

Glover's clinic is located in downtown Siler City at 123 E. Raleigh Street. You can reach the clinic by phone at 984-265-8505.

TRIANGLE INNOVATION POINT

Sanford mayor sees Chatham megasite as a big winner

Semiconductor chip manufacturing project may become the biggest economic development project in N.C. history

BY DAVID MILDENBERG
Business North Carolina

The N.C. state budget approved last month included dozens of appropriations to N.C. municipalities, but a \$34 million outlay to Sanford stands out as a signal of a potentially gigantic economic development project.

The earmark is tied to a planned \$270 million expansion of Sanford's water plant to support a possible semiconductor chip manufacturing project in adjoining Chatham County that Sanford Mayor Chet Mann says may become the biggest economic development project in N.C. history.

The line item reflects the ambitious approach by the Lee County city to continue pro-business strategies that have attracted more than \$2 billion in investment in recent years, Mann says.

The multibillion semiconductor chip plant is being considered at Triangle Innovation Point on the eastern side of Chatham County near U.S. 1 between Raleigh and Sanford. Project details haven't been disclosed because no decision has been made by the unnamed company considering an operation. Dozens of top N.C. political and economic development officials are familiar with the project.

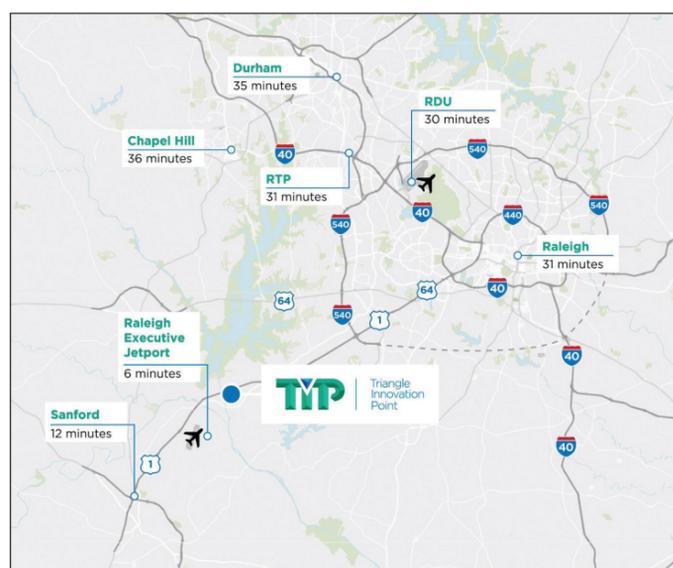
Triangle Innovation, re-branded earlier this year from the Moncure megasite, is a joint venture involving Denver-based Kaplan Brokerage Group, Greensboro-based contractor Samet Corp., and Lee-Moore Capital, a Sanford-based developer led by Kirk Bradley. It is about 30 miles from Raleigh-Durham International Airport and 10 miles from the Triangle Expressway, which will someday loop Raleigh.

Chip plants require significant water and Sanford is positioned to be the source because of decades of plan-



Courtesy of the Chatham EDC

A screen grab from a video promoting the Triangle Innovation Point.



Map courtesy of TIP

Moncure's Triangle Innovation Point has been re-branded and will likely host a new life sciences campus. It was formerly known as the Moncure Megasite.

ning by city officials, including Mann's grandfather, who was the town's mayor in the 1960s. The city's water plant on the

Cape Fear River is about 10 miles south of Triangle Innovation and 10 miles northeast of downtown Sanford.

"We're preparing for the possibility of a chip plant, but some other major manufacturing players are also interested in that same site. We think that may be more of a reality," Mann says.

Sanford has negotiated a plan in which it could receive as much as 20% of the property tax revenue from Triangle Innovation's development. The city's investment may total about \$80 million, with other private and public sources making up the balance, Mann says.

"We don't want to be the banker, we want to be an equity player," he says. The goal is to help lower the water and sewer rates for its citizens while promoting regional economic growth.

Sanford's water treatment plant is near the headwaters of the Cape Fear where the Deep, Haw and Rocky Rivers converge. It has a capacity of 12 million gallons per day, which would be significantly expand-

ed with the new investment.

In 2016, the Golden LEAF Foundation provided Sanford a \$4 million grant to extend wastewater to the megasite in a joint effort with Chatham County. In 2018, the city awarded \$12 million in contracts to extend the city's wastewater collection system to the Moncure site.

Investment in Lee County has surged in recent years highlighted by expansions by pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, British biotech Abzena, India-based auto parts maker Bharat Forge and San Francisco-based Audentes Therapeutics, which is now called Astellas Gene Therapy.

"We're learned to survive without a dependence on Raleigh-Durham," says Mann, who has been mayor since 2013 and plans to run for reelection next year. "We've also been fortunate to have created a lot of entrepreneurs who believe in making things. We're not a bedroom community."

LAND

Continued from page A1

cialists are familiar with the project. One such official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told the News + Record an announcement about the project was expected in January or February.

Covington, for one, thinks it'll be the first in a series of announcements for Chatham in 2022.

"Location and vision," he said when asked why

Chatham was primed for industrial and commercial growth. "The Research Triangle Park is quickly running out of viable land for significant employers who want to capitalize on our location to some of the best colleges and universities in the country."

Another part of the attraction, Covington said, was working with Chatham County staff and other developers on a long-range plans.

"We really like to work

with Dan [County Manager Dan LaMontagne] ..." he said. "Chatham County is very fortunate to have some great leaders. And we just like to work within the process and the system and the leaders. It just makes life so much easier to try to be a part of that vision versus trying to do something different."

And what are Covington's plans for the 193 acres?

"We already have a number of different con-

cepts that we're working with," he said. "And we're thinking through and we're getting feedback from leadership. And the feedback has been very positive."

The 2,150-acre Triangle Innovation Point, formerly known as the Moncure Megasite, was rebranded recently. It was under consideration as a manufacturing site for Peloton, which makes internet-connected stationary bicycles and treadmills and streams

remote workout classes for subscribers. That plant — and its 2,100 jobs — went to Ohio, and now the TIP site is being marketed as a tech and life sciences hub.

Covington pointed to North Carolina's success in creating transportation networks as a key to its statewide job growth. And Chatham County, he said, is right in the middle of that — literally and figuratively.

"Over the last 60 years, we're fortunate that we've become a focal point for distribution across the country and across the East Coast," he said.

The recent announcement of the U.S. Hwy. 421 corridor from Greensboro to I-95 potentially becoming a new interstate — I-685, as a part of a newly passed federal infrastructure bill — will also help boost Chatham County, according to Covington. The proximity of that and other highways and rail transportation is part of what's drawing the interest of so many developers, including some with conservation in mind.

That list includes Epic Games CEO Tim Sweeney of Cary and his conservation LLC, which just completed a purchase of 227 acres just southeast of Siler City for about \$1.1 million. All told, Sweeney owns 16,000 acres in Chatham County, according to TBJ, which quoted Sweeney as saying that all of his land purchases in Chatham are part of a nature conservation project focused on the Rocky River and Bennett Flatwoods. Covington said that

while "it's been kind of quiet through the years" in Chatham County — aside from Chatham Park's massive, 7,000-acre development — it's not quiet now, particularly with the growth of housing projects within the county.

Chatham is a "high growth corridor," he said.

Bob Atkinson, who's been brokering land in and around the region since the 1970s, said he's been telling people that for 10 years — and adds another highway within Chatham will spur some of that growth.

"I've been saying that U.S. Hwy. 64 will also eventually 'blow up' between Cary and Charlotte," he said.

Atkinson says interest from his customers — investors from New Jersey, Texas, California and even buyers from as far away as India — are keeping him as busy as he's ever been.

"The people from the outside, they can see it," he said. "It's location, location, location. Get on Google Earth and look at Siler City, for example — there's a fantastic road system. You have the megasites. It looks like the handwriting is on the wall."

Would Covington consider additional land purchases in Chatham?

"Absolutely," he said. "Always."

COMING NEXT WEEK: a conversation with the EDC's Michael Smith addressing what 2022 may hold for Chatham County.

Bill Horner III can be reached at bhorner3@chathamnr.com or @billthethird.

Chatham Charter School

Chatham Charter School is now accepting applications for openings in kindergarten and limited openings in first through eleventh grade for the 2022-2023 school year. Kindergarten applicants must be five years of age on or before August 31, 2022. The application period ends on January 28, 2022. Applications may be submitted online (www.chathamcharter.org) under the "Admissions" link, at the school (2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City) or by calling (919) 742-4550.

Chatham Charter School is a nonprofit, nondenominational public school providing quality education for children of all races, creeds, handicaps, and national origins.

La Escuela de Chatham Charter

La Escuela de Chatham Charter ahora está tomando aplicaciones para espacios del kinder y algunos espacios desde el primer grado hasta el grado once para el año escolar 2022-2023. Los niños que asistan al kinder deben tener cinco años de edad antes del 31 de agosto, 2022. El periodo de aplicación termina el 28 de enero, 2022. Puede completar una aplicación al Internet (www.chathamcharter.org) al enlace Admissions, a la escuela (2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City) o por una llamada (919.742.4550).

La Escuela de Chatham Charter es una escuela pública, multidenominacional, y no lucrativa que provee una educación de la calidad para los niños de todos las razas, los credos, una condición de discapacidad, y los orígenes nacionales.

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WATER

Continued from page A1

said. With her previous work as a microbiologist, Bryant felt she could help find a solution to the water pollution and be a voice for her fellow community members. She started becoming more involved in water advocacy and co-founded the Clean Haw River initiative with Dr. Jessica Merricks, a biology professor at Elon University. “I still meet people every day who don’t know about the water,” Bryant said. “It’s irritating for me, and I try to stay level-headed, but it’s hard at times because I still have friends and family who are still drinking it.”

The establishment of the Pittsboro Water Quality Task Force

In December 2019, Pittsboro town officials acted to address pollutants and contaminants by establishing the Pittsboro Water Quality Task Force — a 17-person group entrusted with developing recommendations for what steps town staff and commissioners should take to address PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane.

Bryant was one of the members selected by then-Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry on the task force, along with Pittsboro resident Dr. Jennifer Platt. Platt’s area of expertise is in health policy and environmental management, and she’s spent her career traveling to developing countries such as India and Kenya to help them advocate for legislative policies to address water quality. Platt also worked to develop a water efficiency program in Cary, which received several national awards.

Platt never imagined she would have to advocate for clean water in her home country, let alone serve on a board in Pittsboro to create recommendations to solve the water quality issues.

“Developing countries are dealing with bacteria and viruses that are easily treatable,” Platt said. “We’re not so lucky.”

The group’s first meeting was in February 2020. They met in-person meeting before COVID-19 forced them to go online. The task force continued to meet on Zoom through the pandemic and created a final report of recommendations for town staff and commissioners, which was presented in October 2020 and consisted of short-term and long-term options to address the PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane contamination.

It concluded the most efficient way to knuckle down on these contaminants was to stop them at the source.

“There are multiple known sources of contamination stemming from within the municipalities of Reidsville, Burlington and Greensboro,” the report said.

The report said it was unlikely those municipalities would prevent industries releasing the chemicals, so the group suggested a more attainable long-term solution — to continue to work with four neighboring communities to build a regional water treatment plan.

The four partners in this endeavor are Pittsboro, Durham, Chatham County and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA). They’re collaborating on plans for a water treatment facility on Jordan Lake’s western front. But the plant, if built, wouldn’t be in operation until 2031.

The task force acknowledged the water treatment facility wouldn’t be an immediate solution, so it also provided a short-term option

Developing countries are dealing with bacteria and viruses that are easily treatable. We’re not so lucky.

JENNIFER PLATT, member, Pittsboro Water Quality Task Force

until the plant can be completed: install reverse osmosis (RO) filtration systems across the town for all residents to access treated water.

That didn’t happen until Dec. 1, when Pittsboro announced its partnership with the local co-op grocer Chatham Marketplace. The partnership allowed for Pittsboro water customers — including renters in Chapel Ridge — to access the grocer’s RO water filling station at no cost to them. Platt said that while it was frustrating to have to wait over a year to have this first step enacted, she’s thankful the town took action.

“At their December 2020 meeting, I really implored them [the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners] to do something now,” Platt said. “One of the key recommendations we made to the board was to offer an interim water source, and so I’m certainly thrilled that they’re doing it.”

What’s the next step for Pittsboro?

The town is working to expand its water treatment capabilities by installing granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration systems. These GAC systems would allow for treatment plants to remove PFAS and PFOS from contaminated water.

Town Manager Chris

Kennedy said the project was supposed to be completed by December, but was delayed due to supply chain shortages.

“We were shooting for the end of this calendar year — we were pushing hard for that,” Kennedy previously told the News + Record. “We knew that was ambitious, but we really wanted to try to kind of make that more to settle the minds and the hearts of our citizens and residents and customers, but we weren’t able to meet that target.”

Until the water treatment facility can get the GAC filtration system installed, Pittsboro water customers can access the RO water filling station at Chatham Marketplace at no cost to them. However, pollution events have continued to threaten the water quality in town.

Multiple releases of 1,4-Dioxane from industries upstream have continued to jeopardize Pittsboro’s drinking water. The most recent 1,4-Dioxane release of over 21 times the EPA recommended amount came from the City of Greensboro’s water treatment facility on Nov. 3, and the effects of the spill were felt for weeks.

A month after the spill, then-Pittsboro Mayor-elect Perry and Bryant attended a Greensboro City Commissioner meeting to confront Greens-

boro city officials about Pittsboro’s water crisis. Platt also spoke virtually at the same meeting.

Bryant believed Perry’s act of confronting Greensboro officials was a necessary step in moving forward in addressing the water contamination in Pittsboro.

“Overall if anything’s gonna change from the water, this is a promising move to have Cindy back on, encouraging change and encouraging involvement,” Bryant said. “The fact that she just went and spoke in Greensboro — it’s huge.”

Pittsboro Commissioner John Bonitz said challenging those responsible for contaminating the riv-

er will force change and prevent further damage.

“I think we need to pursue compensation for our costs and damages by suing the polluters or manufacturers,” he told the News + Record. “Simultaneously, we can work with others to pass stronger laws to protect our water.”

For Bryant, potential solutions are too late. She and her family now reside about 10 minutes outside of Pittsboro’s town limits. Her new home is equipped with an at-home GAC filter and an RO filtration system for her sink, and her water now comes from a well instead of the Haw River.

Bryant — who also

lives outside of Pittsboro’s town limits — wants to continue to work with other activists to encourage Pittsboro and state officials to take more steps to address the water contamination.

“It’s important for people to understand this is not somebody rolling up to our river with a bucket and dumping waste into the river — this is waste flowing out of industries into our wastewater treatment facilities upstream, who are ill equipped to handle organic solvents,” Bryant said. “It should be on the industries to treat their wastewater, remove it safely and then send their water to our plants to process and send downstream.”

The health risks of PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane

- 💧 **Liver and kidney damage were found in rats chronically exposed to 1,4-Dioxane contaminated water**
Source: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-09/documents/1-4-dioxane.pdf>
- 💧 **Liver and gallbladder cancer were found in mice and rats with chronic exposure to 1,4-Dioxane in a National Cancer Institute study**
Source: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-09/documents/1-4-dioxane.pdf>
- 💧 **PFAS exposure has shown to have adverse health effects, including liver damage, thyroid disease, decreased fertility, high cholesterol, obesity, hormone suppression and cancer**
Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/14/health/what-are-pfas-chemicals/index.html>



Chatham News + Record

Graphic created by Taylor Heeden

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Happy New Year

As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.

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OBITUARIES

EVELYNE FRAZIER MCDANIEL



Evelyne Frazier McDaniel, 86, of Siler City passed away on December 28, 2021, surrounded by her loved ones at her home.

Mrs. McDaniel was born in Chatham County on October 12, 1935, the daughter of Jessie M. and Ester Needham Frazier. Evelyne was a member of Moon's Chapel Baptist Church, where she attended the Adult Ladies Sunday School Class. She loved children, and was the owner/operator of a home day care.

Evelyne loved spending time cooking, and loved puzzles and word searches. She was always talking with her friends, and would do anything for others. Evelyne is preceded in death by her parents, and siblings.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years, William T. McDaniel; daughter, Darlene Lemons and husband Johnnie Lemons IV of Siler City; and granddaughter, Courtney Lemons of Raleigh.

The family received friends on Wednesday, December 29, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 30, 2021, at Moon's Chapel Baptist Church, 175 Moon's Chapel Rd., Siler City, with Dr. Patrick Fuller officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Moon's Chapel Baptist Cemetery Fund, 175 Moon's Chapel Road Siler City, N.C. 27344 or the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 42040, Oklahoma City, Ok. 73123.

Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneralhome.com.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the McDaniel family.

NANCY MOZELLE MCBROOM

Nancy Mozelle McBroom Williams, 89, of Sanford, died Monday, December 20, 2021, at home.

Mozelle was born in Orange County on April 21, 1932, to the late Charlie Edward McBroom and Ruth Hall McBroom. She was also preceded in death by her husband Clarence Emory "Dutchman" Williams, three brothers, James McBroom, Henry McBroom and Herbert McBroom; and four sisters, Nell Sechrist, Evelyn Terrell, Ruth Ray and Brenda Hilton. The loves of her lives were her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, crocheting, music, and dancing!

Surviving relatives include one son, Leon Williams and wife Sandy of Apex; one daughter, Janet Brown and husband Don of Sanford; six grandchildren, Canaan Kidd and wife Amber, Colton Kidd and wife Sarah, Joseph Brown and wife Brennah, Jake Williams, Sam Williams, and Chelsea Williams and fiancé Cody King, and four great-grandchildren, Layla Kidd, Bennett Kidd, Holden Kidd, and Estelle Brown.

A graveside service was held Monday, December 27, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Hanks Chapel Church with Rev. Bob Wachs presiding.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Mozelle's memory to Liberty Hospice, P.O. Box 66, Sanford, N.C. 27330.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

SANDY LEE MINTER

Sandy Lee Minter, 80, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at his home.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at 7 p.m. at Knotts Funeral Home.

SHEREECA ALLEN

Shereeca Allen, 33, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

MARY LOIS CHERRY

Ms. Mary Lois Cherry, 79, passed away on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, in Stamford, Connecticut.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

BARBARA RUTH RYALS DODSON

Barbara Ruth Ryals Dodson, 75, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at her home.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

She was born on September 4, 1946, daughter of the late Charles Henry and Ruth Elmira Norris Ryals. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband Bobby Lynn Dodson.

Surviving is her daughter, Tammy Guin Barger of Sanford; sons, Charles Wayne Guin of Sanford, Terry DeWayne Guin of Raleigh, Christopher Lane Guin of Sanford, Barry Mitchell Dodson of Sanford; ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com.

DOROTHY STURDIVANT BRAXTON

Dorothy Sturdivant Braxton, 91, of Pittsboro, died Monday, December 27, 2021, at Swift Creek Health Care Center in Cary.

Mrs. Braxton was born in Chatham County on June 20, 1930, to the late George Bailey Sturdivant and Ila Mitchel Sturdivant. She was also preceded in death by her husband Wilson Braxton, and one brother, Nelson Sturdivant.

Surviving relatives include three sons, Vernon Braxton and Robin Badders of Apex, Glenn Braxton and wife Penny of Garner, Robert Braxton and wife Robin of Goldston; one daughter, Jane Dougherty and husband Richard of Whispering Pines; four grandchildren, Brian Braxton and wife Crystal, Chris Braxton and wife Danielle, Kirby Ellis, and Eric Braxton and wife Ashley, and six great-grandchildren, Parys, Addie, Camden, Hayden, Henley, and Finleigh.

The family will receive friends Thursday, December 30, 2021, from 10 to 10:45 a.m. at Pittsboro Baptist Church. The funeral service will follow at 11 a.m. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for memorial contributions to be made in Dorothy's memory to Pittsboro Baptist Church Children's Ministry, P.O. Box 696, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312 or Transitions Lifecare, 250 Hospice Circle, Raleigh, N.C. 27607.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

LEWIS DEAN MEDLIN

Lewis "Dean" Medlin, 81, of Siler City, N.C., passed Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at home.

Dean was born November 19, 1940, in Malden, Missouri, the son of Lewis Almon Medlin and Reba Loraine "Pippin" Medlin. He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran, serving his country proudly. He moved from Parma, Mo. to Siler City in 2012. Dean was a man of deep faith in God and a passion for sharing the Good News. He was called to the ministry later in life where he pastored at North Fenton Baptist Church in upstate New York and churches in Missouri: Duck Creek Baptist, Faith Baptist and Leora Baptist. He always had a song in his heart, stories to tell and didn't hesitate to do both.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Barbara Miller Medlin; daughters, Yvonna Frazer and husband Jim of Richmond, Virginia, Penny Shoun and husband Pete of Siler City, Cindy White Eagle of Midlothian, Virginia; grandchildren, Aubrey Duerksen and husband Joe of Richmond, Joey Shoun of Charlotte, N.C., Abbey Shoun of Richmond, Cassidy Mailand and husband Randall of Richmond, Logan Shoun of Richmond, and two great-grandchildren, as well as a host of additional family and friends.

The family would like to thank the many caregivers from Hospice.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Medlin family.

AUDIE HOOVER MANESS

Audie Hoover Maness, 93, of Robbins, passed away on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at FirstHealth Hospice.

The memorial service was held at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 24, 2021, at Joyce-Brady Chapel with Rev. Dr. Jerome Smith presiding.

He was born in Moore County on October 10, 1928, to Teddy and Rosa Ritter Maness. He was a member of Smyrna U.M.C. and the Elise Masonic Lodge. He worked in road construction operating heavy equipment.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Nell Ritter and brothers, Kelly Maness, Monroe Maness, J.L. Maness, Lloyd Maness and Archie Maness.

He is survived by his children, Kathy Martindale of Robbins, Alvin Lawson of Jacksonville, Florida, Mitchell Maness of Seagrove, Diane Maness Brown of Pinebluff; sister, Alene Myrick of High Falls; nine grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

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

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

GLENN HERBERT SMITH

Glenn Herbert Smith, 78, of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at Sanford Health and Rehab.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

He was born in Chatham County, son of the late Jessie Clarence and Annie Parker Smith.

Surviving is his wife, Shirley Cagle Smith of Sanford; daughters, Cheryl Baker of Cameron, Kelli Homesley of Mebane; sister, Nancy Gaines of Sanford; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com.

PEDRO JUAREZ

Pedro Juarez, 53, of Sanford passed away on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at his residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

MICHAEL DANIEL HOLT

Michael Daniel Holt, 70, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at FirstHealth Hospice House.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, December 29, 2021, in the Chapel at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home at 11 a.m. with Pastor Wesley Thomas officiating. Burial followed in Grace Chapel Cemetery.

He was born on July 14, 1951, to the late Daniel Solomon "Sol" and Pauline McDuffie Holt. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Ava Holt Coley and grandparents, Daniel and Ava McDuffie. Mike retired from Hanes Manufacturing.

Mike is survived by his sister, Sola Edwards of Sanford.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

DARRYL EDMOND PERDUE SR.

Darryl Edmond Perdue Sr., 61, of Sanford, died Saturday, December 25, 2021, at Moore Regional Hospital.

Funeral service was conducted on Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Swanns Station Baptist Church with Pastor Russell Blackmon and Pastor Curtis Norris officiating. Burial will follow in Cameron Grove Cemetery.

He was born in Guilford County, on March 12, 1960, to the late Edward and Jeanne Perdue. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, David Perdue.

Surviving is his wife, Brenda Godwin Perdue of the home; daughters, Brooke Wickman and Eliza Perdue; son, D.J. Perdue; three grandsons; and siblings, Karen Perdue, Sharon Mason, Sheryl Smith and Douglas Perdue.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com.

RICHARD WINFORD ALSTON

Richard Winford "Hemi" Alston, 69, of Pittsboro, passed away Friday, December 24, 2021, at UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

ANGELA LILES SALMON

Angela Liles Salmon, 52, of Sanford, died Friday, December 24, 2021, at her home.

The family will receive friends on Friday, January 7, 2022, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Smith Funeral Home in Broadway.

Angela was born in Lee County, daughter of the late John Davis Liles and Joann Alice Kirby Liles, who preceded her in death.

Surviving is her husband, Michael "Mike" Salmon of the home; daughters, Michele L. Herring of Benson, and Felicia Salmon of Sanford; sons, Greg James Salmon of Kansas City, Missouri, Michael Gray Salmon and Eddie Byrd, both of Sanford; sisters, Anita L. Blakely of Sanford, Nancy Liles of Fayetteville, Lorie L. Britt of Rogersville, Tennessee; and 10 grandchildren.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com.

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

LUCILLE GRAHAM CANNADY

Lucille Graham Cannady, 88, of Olivia, passed away Sunday, December 26, 2021, at her home.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, December 31, at 11 a.m. at Olivia Presbyterian Church with Rev. George Walton officiating, with burial following in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Cannady was born in Harnett County on August 9, 1933, to the late Owen and Florence Cameron Graham. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers, James, Roland, Robert, Lacy, Lee Graham and granddaughter, Allison Anderson. Lucille graduated from Campbell University with a Master of Education degree. She was a retired math teacher and a member of Olivia Presbyterian Church, where she served as an Elder, treasurer and choir director.

Survivors include daughters, Jeanne Anderson of Sanford, Susan Cooper of Olivia; sons, William Cannady of Cameron, Jeffrey Cannady of Olivia; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Consider donations to Children's Hope Alliance, P.O. Box 1, Barium Springs, N.C. 28010.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

GRACE BROWN WOOLARD

Grace Brown Woolard, 100, died December 27, 2021 at her home.

A graveside service will be held at Caribton U.M.C. Cemetery on Friday, December 31, 2021. The family will greet friends in the church fellowship hall after the service.

Mrs. Woolard was born in Harnett County on Feb. 7, 2021, to the late Joseph Lamar and Katie Thomas Brown. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Woolard; brothers, Fred and Hulon Brown; and sisters, Stella Mashburn and Nellie Gilmore. She worked as a secretary for a gas company.

Surviving relatives include her daughter, Grace Seawell of Goldston; a sister, Dorothy Yarborough of Sanford; two grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Caribton United Methodist Church, 5442 Goldston Caribton Rd., Goldston, N.C. 27252.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

DEMOND COLE

Demond Cole, 44, of Cameron passed away on Monday, December 20, 2021, at UNC Hospital, in Chapel Hill.

The family will receive friends at the home of his sister, LaTasha Cole at 142 Lakeland Port, Sanford. Please call prior to approaching the gate: 704-754-2575. Please wear a face covering.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

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Mays Chapel pastor Greg Lamb achieves his Ph.D. dream, nearly 10 years in the making

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — The first Sunday Greg Lamb preached at Mays Chapel Baptist Church, he asked the seven people in the congregation apart from his family a strange and difficult question: “Would God even care if this church were to close its doors?”

Lamb, now the pastor at Mays Chapel, was preaching that Sunday as part of the church’s final search process for a new pastor. After Lamb asked the question, one man stood up in the middle of his sermon and with tears in his eyes, said, “No, God wouldn’t.”

“You could see tumbleweeds going down the aisle — I felt very lonely in that first week,” he said. “But when I went home that night, I told my wife, ‘You know, there’s something different about these people here. I think they really want to change.’”

“Then they asked me to come back the next week, and then the next week — I came back and I felt, God’s up to something.”

On Nov. 6, 2016, the Mays Chapel congregation unanimously called Lamb as their pastor. Up from the seven in attendance his first Sunday, 60 people were present during the vote.

Andy Siegner, the deacon who brought Lamb to Mays Chapel, said Lamb’s sermon that first Sunday confirmed in members’ minds that he should be the church’s next pastor.

“It was just like magnetism with the whole church,” Siegner said. “I mean, everybody just knew that he was the right person for the job.”

Five years later, Lamb believes Mays Chapel is “a lot healthier church now than it was then,” and that’s after weathering a pandemic and



Submitted photo

Greg Lamb pictured with his family at his Dec. 10 graduation from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received his Ph.D. in biblical studies. Lamb is a pastor at Mays Chapel Baptist Church in Bear Creek.

national political turmoil on top of myriad personal responsibilities. On Dec. 10, Lamb graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with his Ph.D. in biblical studies — concluding a nearly 10-year journey started in 2012, but put temporarily on pause when he became Mays Chapel’s pastor.

As a high school dropout and the first person in his family to graduate from college, having a doctorate is still sometimes difficult for Lamb to grasp.

“I didn’t think that I would ever graduate high school, much less college. So all of this, I have to pinch myself, right,” he said. “This is like a dream, I never would have imagined in a million years that I would learn Greek, or Hebrew, or German, or Latin and all the different things that I was required to learn through this.”

‘I don’t know where he gets the time’

Lamb’s father was a preacher, and Lamb was a “boy preacher” when he was 16 and 17 years old. Even then, he felt God urging him to be a pastor

— someone who not only gave sermons on Sundays sometimes, but who also shepherds people, and walks with them through life’s problems.

“From the time I was 17 years old until I was 34 years old, I ran around from that calling,” he said. “So my bachelor’s degree is not in divinity, it’s not in religious studies. It’s in advertising, which is what I’ve done for a living to pay for my schooling and everything, so I didn’t go to seminary until I was 34 years old.”

If completing a Ph.D. while pastoring a church wasn’t enough of an accomplishment, Lamb did more.

As a bivocational pastor, he technically works part time at Mays Chapel, in addition to working at Lamb Designs, a marketing company he founded in Sanford in 2000, and where he still manages a few hours a week. He’s been published in more than 50 peer-reviewed books, journal articles and book reviews, and gives lectures internationally 10 to 12 times a year. (This summer, he’ll travel to Austria for the International Society of Biblical Literature — the

“crème de la crème of biblical studies.”)

And of course, up until earlier this month, Lamb also made time to complete his research and doctorate studies, in addition to keeping up with various volunteer commitments and spending time with his wife, Tamara, and five children.

“We hired him as a part-time minister, bivocational, but we’ve never had a pastor that spends as much time with our church and gets in as involved,” Siegner said. “I don’t know where he gets the time.”

“This has just been really a whirlwind kind of season in my life right now,” Lamb added. “I thought that when I would defend that everything would just kind of go into slow motion and be easier, but it seems like it’s gotten busier and more fast-paced.”

The church opened its doors just in October for the first time since the pandemic started, though it began drive-in church services by the end of March 2020.

As was the case for many faith leaders, navigating the pandemic was not without its challenges. But Lamb sees it as “the very best thing” for the Mays Chapel congregation.

“As awful as that sounds — I mean, I’ve lost a lot of friends, a lot of my friends died from this thing, I had it and felt like I was dying from it — but it brought our church together,” he said, adding that he took the pandemic very seriously from the beginning, deciding early on (and against the preference of many in his congregation) to preach outside.

“That was the best decision I’ve ever made in my ministry, because what that did was it showed for a year and a half, I preached outside when it was cold, I was cold, and it was hot,” he said. “And the people saw me suffering out there, and it did something spiritually in

their hearts, in terms of just knowing that I loved them.”

The church is much “more energized with the community” since Lamb’s arrival, Siegner said, fundraising to support local organizations and to do things like giving gifts to children in the community.

Mays Chapel has also since partnered with Taylor’s Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and Union Grove A.M. E. Zion Church — two nearby predominantly African American churches — to help restore the local community center, and assist with their food drives.

Tom Cribb, a pastor and professor at Anderson University, befriended Lamb during their time in Southeastern’s Ph.D. program together. Cribb said he isn’t surprised by all Lamb is doing at Mays Chapel.

“We became good friends; Greg’s a real passionate guy about what he’s doing. He’s just a genuine Christian guy that cares about people,” he said. “And anybody who wants help, Greg will try to help them. He’s just a great guy. And I don’t know anyone else like him, I don’t think.”

For Lamb — or rather Dr. Lamb — his accolades are more of an opportunity than a personal accomplishment. The opportunity to serve others, and to preach and research in a more meaningful way.

“I’m able to, with the skills God’s given me, to be the best I can be for King Jesus — that’s what being a pastor theologian means to me,” he said. “And I think that applies to whatever, whether you’re a medical doctor, whether you’re a janitor. I think that we can all show the excellence of Christ when we do the best we can with what God’s given us.”

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

Chatham County property listing forms must be submitted in January

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Tax Office reminds those owning real estate that personal and business property as of Jan. 1, 2022, must ensure that the property is listed with the Tax Office no later than Jan. 31, 2022.

Listings received after this date will be subject to a late listing penalty equal to 10 percent of taxes owed.

Property Listing Forms will be mailed out, but property owners also can pick up forms at the tax office located at 12 East St. in Pittsboro (Chatham County Government Annex) or download a listing form at www.chathamcountync.gov/taxlisting.

Property owners who do not receive their listing form by Jan. 20 should call 919-542-8250 to make arrangements to list their property by the deadline.

Individuals can mail their completed listing forms, and they must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than Jan. 31, to avoid penalties. Property also may be listed in person at the tax office. Owners must bring all detailed information necessary to identify their property and its value, including forms that were mailed.

Note that personal property listing forms are not used to list real estate property and any registered motor vehicles with tags. Registered motor vehicles are handled by the N.C. Division of Motor

Vehicles.

Individuals who made any non-permit changes valued at \$100 or more to real estate property during 2021 or those who need to change the registration status of a vehicle should contact the tax office. Examples of changes to real property impacting the value include destruction, acquisition, erection and damage.

Owners must list such property as unlicensed vehicles, trailers with multi-year registrations, mobile homes not designated as real property, all types of watercraft, aircraft and items used in a business. Business property also includes items used for farming, a trade or profession, or furnishings or appliances provided to a tenant.

For businesses wanting an extension, owners should contact the tax office at 919-545-8475 to request a business listing extension form that extends the deadline up to April 15 or go to <https://chatham.civisys.com/BPREQUEST.HTML>. However, the business extension form must be completed and submitted no later than Jan. 31.

Unpaid 2021 Property Taxes: Tax bills mailed in 2021 for real and personal property are due by 5 p.m. on Jan. 5. Interest will accrue on all unpaid balances starting Jan. 6.

Once tax bills become delinquent, the tax office can begin collection procedures for late bills through such methods as garnishing wages (removing taxes from paychecks), attaching

bank funds form bank accounts and income tax refunds, attaching rental income, placing levies on personal property and foreclosing on property.

Also, unpaid real estate property taxes will be advertised in the Chatham News + Record at an additional cost to the taxpayer. The taxes owed will be advertised in the current owner’s name.

Tax Relief Options for Specific Property Owners: North Carolina law provides a few property tax relief options for the elderly and permanently disabled, disabled veterans and certain low-income property owners. Information about these options and how to qualify can be found at www.chathamcountync.gov/taxrelief. Those who no longer meet the require-

ments of these programs must notify the tax office. Persons receiving the tax relief options are by North Carolina law required to have a periodic compliance review. Those responsible for listing the property of someone who is deceased and who had qualified for the program last year, must notify the tax office.

Taxpayers are encouraged to review their personal property information online at ustaxdata.com/nc/chatham or visit the tax office to verify information on file.

For more information about any of the items listed above, or payment of taxes in general, individuals may contact the Chatham County Tax Office at 919-542-8250 or 919-542-8260.

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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 21E685

The undersigned, having qualified on the 16th day of November, 2021, as Executor of the Estate of **ROBERT W. ANDERSON**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of March, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 9th day of December, 2021.
Jeffrey W. Anderson, Executor of the Estate of Robert W. Anderson
Post Office Box 57579
Durham, North Carolina 27717
G. Rhodes Craver
Kennon Craver, PLLC
4011 University Drive, Suite 300
Durham, North Carolina 27707
D9,D16,D23,D30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 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

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **ANNE MAXWELL DELLINGER**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before March 9, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 9th day of December, 2021.
Walter E. Dellinger III,
Limited Personal Representative,
c/o Tanya D Hervey,
Hervey & Hervey, P.A.
1151 Executive Circle, Suite 102
Cary, N.C. 27511
D9,D16,D23,D30,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E685

All persons having claims against **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



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Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.

Blind ads
No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.

Errors
In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E584

All persons having claims against **SHIRLEY ROBERTA MOFFITT SILER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 9th day of December, 2021.
Edward Herman Siler, II, Executor of the Estate of Shirley Roberta Moffitt Siler
c/o J. Ray Deal, Attorney Deal Law Firm, PLLC
3017 South Church Street
Burlington, NC 27215
D9,D16,D23,D30,4tc

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,D30,4tc

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 Gertrude 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,J6,4tc

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

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Please email resume and references to Jason Justice at jjustice@chathamnr.com

Chatham News + Record

EOE

D16,D23,D30,J6,4tp

**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 plead 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 Ainsdale Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
D16,D23,D30,J6,4tp

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
SALE
21 SP 100**

Under and by virtue of the

power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust made by Deborah J. Cox and John Paul Cox, Jr. (PRESENT RECORD OWNER(S): Deborah J. Cox and John Paul Cox, Jr.) to CBC Services Inc., Trustee(s), dated August 13, 2009, and recorded in Book No. 01476, at Page 1008 in Chatham County Registry, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the promissory note secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Substitute Trustee Services, Inc. having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust by an instrument duly recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds Chatham County, North Carolina and the holder of the note evidencing said indebtedness having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee **will offer for sale at the courthouse door in Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina, or the customary location designated for foreclosure sales, at 1:30 PM on January 6, 2022** and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following real estate situated in Siler City in the County of Chatham, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows: Being all of Lot 2, containing 0.626 acres, more or less, as described on a Plat entitled, "Survey for Shane H. Tolliver and wife, Gloria B. Tolliver", dated January 25, 1988, prepared by Van R. Finch - Land Surveys, and recorded in Plat Slide 88-23, Chatham County Registry, to which Plat reference is hereby made for greater certainty of description. Together with improvements located thereon; said property being located at **135 West Dolphin Street, Siler City, North Carolina**. There is also conveyed here-with all rights and interest in and to the use of the existing driveway as it encroaches on adjoining property and is shown on the above Plat. Trustee may, in the Trustee's sole discretion, delay the sale for up to one hour as provided in N.C.G.S. §45-21.23. Should the property be purchased by a third party, that party must pay the excise tax, as well as the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (\$0.45) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a) (1). The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust/security agreement, or both, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of either the Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed. Also, this property is being sold subject to all taxes, special assessments, and prior liens or prior encumbrances of record and any recorded releases. Said property is also being sold subject to applicable Federal and State laws. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00),

whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in its sole discretion, if it believes the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Additional Notice for Residential Property with Less than 15 rental units, including Single-Family Residential Real Property

An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may after receiving the notice of foreclosure sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in this notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. **SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC.**
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE
c/o Hutchens Law Firm
P.O. Box 1028
4317 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311
Phone No: (910) 864-3068
https://sales.hutchenslawfirm.com
Firm Case No: 5101 - 19572
D23,D30,2tc

AMENDED NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY 19-SP-172
UNDER AND BY VIRTUE of the power and authority contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed and delivered by Justin Tyler Haynes dated May 24, 2017 and recorded on May 24, 2017, in Book 1924 at Page 522, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Chatham County, North Carolina; and because of default in the payment of the

indebtedness secured thereby and, pursuant to demand of the holder of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust, the undersigned Goddard & Peterson, PLLC (Substitute Trustee) **will offer for sale at the courthouse door in the City of Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina, or the customary location designated for foreclosure sales, on January 5, 2022 at 10:00 AM** and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following real estate situated in the County of Chatham, North Carolina and being more particularly described in the above referenced Deed of Trust, together with all improvements located thereon:
Address of Property: **338 Lonnie Fields Road, Bear Creek, NC 27207**
Tax Parcel ID: 0060977
Present Record Owner: Justin Tyler Haynes Trustee may, in the Trustee's sole discretion, delay the sale for up to one hour as provided in N.C.G.S. §45-21.23. Said property is sold subject to applicable Federal and State laws. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or seven hundred fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. Should the property be purchased by a third party, that party must pay the excise tax, any Land Transfer Tax, as well as the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (\$0.45) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a)(1). The real property described above is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS" and will be sold subject to all superior liens, unpaid taxes, and special assessments. Neither the Substitute Trustee nor the holder of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representatives of either the Substitute Trustee or the holder of the Note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed.

The sale will be held open for ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law. If the Trustee or Substitute Trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey title include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the sale and reinstatement of the loan without knowledge of the Substitute Trustee(s). If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the

Substitute Trustee(s), in its/their sole discretion, if it/they believe(s) the challenge to have merit, may declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Additional Notice where the Real Property is Residential with less than 15 Rental Units: An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the Clerk of Superior Court of the County in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the Notice that is at least ten (10) days, but no more than ninety (90) days, after the sale date contained in the Notice of Sale,

provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the Notice of Termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of such termination. This is a communication from a debt collector. The purpose of this Communication is to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose, except as stated below in the instance of bankruptcy protection. If you are under the protection of the bankruptcy court or have been discharged as a result of a bankruptcy proceeding, this notice is given to you pursuant to statutory requirement and for informational purposes and is not intended as an attempt to collect a debt or as an act to collect, assess, or recover all or any portion of the debt from you personally.
FN# 3130.00419 58970
D23,D30,2tc

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **EDWARD L. SMITH-WICK** aka Edward Lee Smithwick of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 5th day of November, 2021, are notified to present them to Carol Blackman Smithwick, Executrix of the Estate of Edward L. Smithwick aka Edward Lee Smithwick in c/o David R. Frankstone, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before March 29, 2022. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executrix, and the devisees of Edward L. Smithwick aka Edward Lee Smithwick. Those indebted to Edward L. Smithwick aka Edward Lee Smithwick are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. David R. Frankstone Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 D23,D30,J6,J13,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E716
All persons having claims against **TAVIN DANIEL HOWARD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 23rd 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 23rd day of December, 2021. Hollie Anne Howard, Administrator 316 Culvert St., Apt 5 Apex, N.C. 27502 D23,D30,J6,J13,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ANGELA MOSS**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 20th day of December, 2021, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before the 25th day of March, 2022, or this Notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 23rd day of December, 2021. Tami Boardman, Executor c/o Holly Martin, Attorney for the Estate McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson, & Hinkle, PLLC 3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400 Durham, NC 27707. D23,D30,J6,J13,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
HAVING QUALIFIED as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **MARGIE BRAY PHILLIPS**, 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 31st day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 21st day of December, 2021. Amanda Oldham, Administrator CTA of The Estate of Margie Bray Phillips 1624 Siler City-Glen-don Road Siler City, North Carolina 27344 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 1806 PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312 (919) 542-5605 D30,J6,J13,J20,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E732
All persons having claims against **BETTY MITCHELL JOHNSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th 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 21st day of December, 2021. Rodney V. Goldston, Administrator 2503 Fernwood Dr Greensboro, NC 27408 D30,J6,J13,J20,4tp

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS - CDBG-I PROJECT Town of Goldston Phase II Sewer System Improvements Redesign CDBG-I Project No. 18-I-3045
Separate sealed bids for the **Town of Goldston Phase II Sewer System Improvements project will be received at the Goldston Town Hall, 40 Coral Ave, Goldston, NC 27525 on February 3, 2022, at 2:00 P.M.**, then at said office to be publicly opened and read aloud. Bidders must be licensed contractors in the state of North Carolina. The bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying his or her current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope

in which the proposal is delivered. **Bids may be hand delivered to the bid opening on February 3, 2022, or delivered via USPS to Town of Goldston, PO Box 527, Goldston NC, 27525.** The Town of Goldston is not responsible for delays in delivery and will not open bids delivered to the PO Box after 1 pm on February 3, 2022. **Do not have bids delivered via FedEx to Town Hall.** The Project will extend sewer to a currently unsewered area by installing approximately 2,350 LF of 8-inch gravity sewer and 2,850 LF of 2-inch force main along Pinecrest Road and Pittsboro Goldston Road in Goldston, NC. The project will also construct a new pump station on Pinecrest Road and abandon several septic systems. The Information for Bidders, Bid Form, Contract Plans, Specifications, Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at https://www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital documents for \$15 by inputting Quest project 7892975 on the Quest website's search page. All bidders must obtain bidding documents through Quest to be a valid bidder and receive project addenda. Please contact QuestCDN at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. **A Pre-Bid Conference will be held in-person and virtually on January 10, 2022, at 2:00 pm at Town Hall.** Attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged. A link to the virtual pre-bid conference meeting can be obtained from kgriggs@withersravenel.com before 10 am January 6, 2022. Plan holders prior to the pre-bid meeting will be emailed the link directly. This project is being funded in whole or in part by the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). All federal CDBG requirements will apply to the contract: Bidders on this work will be required to comply with Section 109 and E.O. 11246 which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Davis Bacon Act, Anti-Kick-back Act, and Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. The Town is committed to and supportive of efforts to effectively maintain and/or increase the use of Small and Minority/Women-Owned Business and Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) contract participation for Construction Projects, services (including professional and consulting services) and commodities purchases, AND increase contract participation to offer employment, training and contracting opportunities in accordance with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (24 C.F.R Part 135). All bids must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or bid bond in the amount of 5% of the total amount bid made payable to the Town of Goldston. No bidder may withdraw their bid within 60 days after the actual date of the opening thereof. The Town of Goldston reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Michael Wicker at 919-469-3340 or at WithersRavenel, 115 MacKean Drive, Cary, NC 27511 for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Michael Wicker al 919-469-3340 o en WithersRavenel, 115 MacKean Drive, Cary, NC 27511 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. This municipality is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This project is an EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. Authorized Representative: Jonathan Hensley, Mayor Date: December 30, 2021 D30,1tc

NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE
Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. WILLIE D. ALSTON A/K/A WILLIS D. ALSTON and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of WILLIE D. ALSTON A/K/A WILLIS D. ALSTON and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, JERRY ALSTON and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of JERRY ALSTON and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, PHYLLINDA H. BALDWIN A/K/A PHYLLINDA FAYE BALDWIN and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of PHYLLINDA H. BALDWIN A/K/A PHYLLINDA FAYE BALDWIN and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, JOSEPH L. RIGGSBEE and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of JOSEPH L. RIGGSBEE and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, **17-CVD-591**, the undersigned Commissioner will on the **12th day of January, 2022**, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction at the **courthouse door in Chatham County, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina at 12:00 o'clock, noon**, the following described real property, lying and being in Williams Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: All of that certain tract or parcel of land situated in Williams Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows: Being Lot 5, containing 2.6 acres, more or less, as surveyed by Stephen E. Wilson of Freehold Land Surveys, Inc., and recorded in Plat Book 30, Page 10, Chatham County Registry. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. Parcel Identification Number: **0018765** The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 17th day of December, 2021. Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 D30,J6,2tc

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13 degrees East 590 feet to a stake in the line of R.G. Hancock; thence with Hancock's line, North 85 degrees West 609 feet to a stake, the south-east corner of the Mary Bivins 7 3/4 acre lot; thence with the line of said lot, North 5 degrees East 576 feet to the point and place of beginning, containing 6.9 acres, more or less. LESS AND EXCEPT so much of the above described parcel conveyed to Joe Danny Bivens and wife, Emma Jean Bivens in Deed Book 427, Page 106, Chatham County Registry. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. Parcel Identification Number: 0008985 The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 17th day of December, 2021. Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 D30,J6,2tc

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13 degrees East 590 feet to a stake in the line of R.G. Hancock; thence with Hancock's line, North 85 degrees West 609 feet to a stake, the south-east corner of the Mary Bivins 7 3/4 acre lot; thence with the line of said lot, North 5 degrees East 576 feet to the point and place of beginning, containing 6.9 acres, more or less. LESS AND EXCEPT so much of the above described parcel conveyed to Joe Danny Bivens and wife, Emma Jean Bivens in Deed Book 427, Page 106, Chatham County Registry. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. Parcel Identification Number: 0008985 The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 17th day of December, 2021. Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 D30,J6,2tc

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13 degrees East 590 feet to a stake in the line of R.G. Hancock; thence with Hancock's line, North 85 degrees West 609 feet to a stake, the south-east corner of the Mary Bivins 7 3/4 acre lot; thence with the line of said lot, North 5 degrees East 576 feet to the point and place of beginning, containing 6.9 acres, more or less. LESS AND EXCEPT so much of the above described parcel conveyed to Joe Danny Bivens and wife, Emma Jean Bivens in Deed Book 427, Page 106, Chatham County Registry. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. Parcel Identification Number: 0008985 The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 17th day of December, 2021. Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 D30,J6,2tc

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13 degrees East 590 feet to a stake in the line of R.G. Hancock; thence with Hancock's line, North 85 degrees West 609 feet to a stake, the south-east corner of the Mary Bivins 7 3/4 acre lot; thence with the line of said lot, North 5 degrees East 576 feet to the point and place of beginning, containing 6.9 acres, more or less. LESS AND EXCEPT so much of the above described parcel conveyed to Joe Danny Bivens and wife, Emma Jean Bivens in Deed Book 427, Page 106, Chatham County Registry. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. Parcel Identification Number: 0008985 The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 17th day of December, 2021. Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 D30,J6,2tc

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NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE
Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. ROY STOUT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC. and all possible assigns and successors of ROY STOUT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC. or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, **08-CVD-1217**, the undersigned Commissioner will on the **12th day of January, 2022**, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction at the **courthouse door in Chatham County, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina at 12:00 o'clock, noon**, the following described real property, lying and being in Matthews Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: TRACT 1: All those certain lots or parcels of land in Matthews Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, and described as follows: Being all of Lot Numbers 26, 27 and 28 of Greenwood Acres Subdivision, as shown by a plat of the same made by Clotus Craven, Surveyor, and recorded in Plat Book 8, at Page 50, Office of the Register of Deeds of Chatham County, North Carolina. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. Parcel Identification Number: **0014241** The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 17th day of December, 2021. Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 D30,J6,2tc

NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE
Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. THE HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES of CHARLES GLENN HARRIS and spouse, if any, which may include LINDA H. WHITESSELL and spouse, if any, JEAN H. SUMNER and spouse, if any, SARA H. HOOPER and spouse, if any, and THOMAS G. HARRIS and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, THE HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES of LUCILLE H. EVANS and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, RUTH RAMSEY and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of RUTH RAMSEY and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, LOUISE KIRKPATRICK and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of LOUISE KIRKPATRICK and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, ROBERT LEE ATWATER and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of ROBERT LEE ATWATER and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, **08-CVD-456**, the undersigned Commissioner will on the **12th day of January, 2022**, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction at the **courthouse door in Chatham County, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina at 12:00 o'clock, noon**, the following described real property, lying and being in Matthews Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: All those certain lots or parcels of land, lying and being in Matthews Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, and described as follows: Being all of Lots Numbers 95, 96, and 97 of Crestview Subdivision, Property of Hancock Homes, Inc., and C. Whid Powell, as shown by a plat of the same made by Dunn Engineering Company November 16, 1962, and recorded in Plat Book 8 at Page 58, Chatham County Registry. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. Parcel Identification Number: **12949** The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 17th day of December, 2021. Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 D30,J6,2tc

NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE
Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. THE HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES of DAVID L. ATWATER and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, **08-CVD-456**, the undersigned Commissioner will on the **12th day of January, 2022**, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction at the **courthouse door in Chatham County, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina at 12:00 o'clock, noon**, the following described real property, lying and being in Matthews Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: TRACT 2: All those certain lots or parcels of land in Matthews Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, and described as follows: Being all of Lot Numbers 122, 123 and 124 of Greenwood Acres Subdivision, as shown by a plat of the same made by Clotus Craven, Surveyor, and recorded in Plat Book 8, at Page 50, Office of the Register of Deeds of Chatham County, North Carolina. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. Parcel Identification Number: **0076456** The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 17th day of December, 2021. Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 D30,J6,2tc

NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE
Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. THE HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES of MARY E. BIVINS A/K/A MARY E. BIVENS and spouse, if any, which may include JOE D. BIVENS, INCOMPETENT, and spouse, if any, and THE HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES of WILMA JEAN BIVENS and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, INC., GUARDIAN OF THE PERSON FOR JOE D. BIVENS, INCOMPETENT, et al, **19-CVD-739**, the undersigned Commissioner will on the **12th day of January, 2022**, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction at the **courthouse door in Chatham County, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina at 12:00 o'clock, noon**, the following described real property, lying and being in Gulf Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a stake in the southern line of E.M. Harris land and in S.R. No. 2306, said stake being the northeast corner of the Mary Bivins 7 3/4 acre tract of land and running thence with the line of Harris, South 84 degrees East 431 feet to a stake, the northwest corner of the Ola Smith lot; thence with Smith's line, South

13 degrees East 590 feet to a stake in the line of R.G. Hancock; thence with Hancock's line, North 85 degrees West 609 feet to a stake, the south-east corner of the Mary Bivins 7 3/4 acre lot; thence with the line of said lot, North 5 degrees East 576 feet to the point and place of beginning, containing 6.9 acres, more or less. LESS AND EXCEPT so much of the above described parcel conveyed to Joe Danny Bivens and wife, Emma Jean Bivens in Deed Book 427, Page 106, Chatham County Registry. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. Parcel Identification Number: 0008985 The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 17th day of December, 2021. Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 D30,J6,2tc

NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE
Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. THE HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES of MARY E. BIVINS A/K/A MARY E. BIVENS and spouse, if any, which may include JOE D. BIVENS, INCOMPETENT, and spouse, if any, and THE HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES of WILMA JEAN BIVENS and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, INC., GUARDIAN OF THE PERSON FOR JOE D. BIVENS, IN



HAPPY NEW YEAR

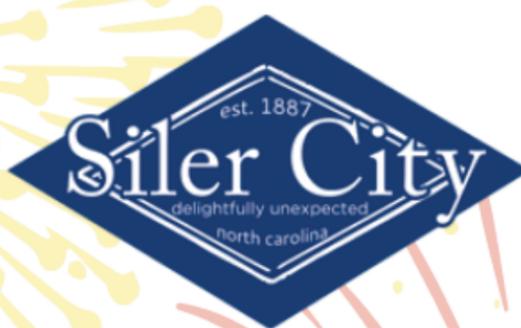
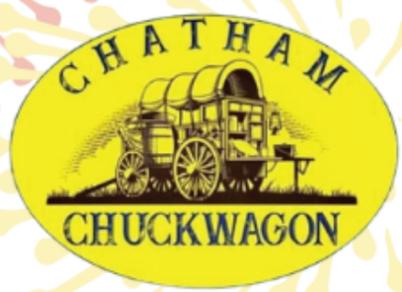
THE GIFT OF A NEW YEAR IS ONE OF GOD'S MANY BLESSINGS

WE'RE THANKFUL FOR ALL OF THE ORGANIZATIONS WHO HELPED US BLESS THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS PAST YEAR



A movement of the Chatham County NC Homeless Shelters

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CHATHAM CHARTER 60, RESEARCH TRIANGLE 59

'It was electric': Knights down Raptors in 1-point thriller to claim 2021 Winter Slam title

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Playing against Chatham Charter is a bit like Christmas shopping for the guy who has everything.

It takes creativity, talent and a complete knowledge of your subject to pull it off.

The Knights' plethora of scoring options — ranging from their constantly improving young bucks to their solid, consistent veterans — make them a dangerous team to compete against, necessitating a plan to neutralize them in order to have a shot at victory.

In the 5th annual Chatham Charter Winter Slam, held Dec. 20-22, the Knights' opponents learned that the

hard way as Chatham Charter took the crown on its home court thanks to an undefeated run in the four-team, round-robin tournament.

The Knights turned in a 3-0 record, starting with a 62-39 victory over the Neuse Charter Cougars, followed by a 83-51 thumping of the Cornerstone Charter Cardinals and capping it off with a one-point win, 60-59, over the Research Triangle Raptors last Wednesday in the de facto championship game.

The Knights' head coach, Jason Messier, credits most of that success to the team's depth.

"How do you stop a team that has a bunch of guys who can contribute at a high level?" Messier asked. "Those types of teams are really tough to stop."

This tournament was an excellent

showcase for the Knights' talent from top to bottom.

Junior forward Aamir Mapp played a phenomenal tournament, leading the team in scoring two out of three contests, including a 20-point performance — nearly one-third of the team's points — in the championship game against the Raptors.

Mapp was joined by fellow junior Adam Harvey, who proved his own versatility during the Knights' three-game stretch with two double-doubles over three categories, one against the Cougars in the opener (11 points, 11 assists) and the other versus the Raptors in the championship (19 points, 10 rebounds).

"Our veterans are constantly there,

See **KNIGHTS**, page B4



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter freshman Brennen Oldham (42) evades a Research Triangle defender and scores in the Knights' 60-59 win over the Raptors in the championship game of the 2021 Chatham Charter Winter Slam last Wednesday. Oldham nearly had a triple-double on the day with 8 points, 10 rebounds and 7 blocks.



Submitted photo

Jordan-Matthews athletic director Josh Harris loads holiday boxes from Mountaire during the company's 'Christmas for Thousands' event on Dec. 11. The Jets handed out 100 boxes to Siler City residents in need.



Submitted photo

Jordan-Matthews volunteers (from left to right: Rodney Wiley, Ryan Johnson, Donna Barger (in pink), Calvin Schwartz, Kenyon Burns, Coach Mason, Chip Millard and Josh Harris) pose for a photo beside the loaded trailer full of holiday boxes from Mountaire for their 'Christmas for Thousands' giveaway on Dec. 11.

Jets, Mountaire pair up to spread holiday cheer as part of J-M's charitable efforts

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — While Ryan Johnson has touted the idea of a "new era" on the football field, he and his players are working on building an even larger — and more impactful — legacy off of it.

Once Jordan-Matthews' football season ended on Oct. 29 with a shutout win over East Chapel Hill, avoiding a second-straight winless season, the team shifted its focus from watching film and practicing daily to helping members of

its own community.

Since then, the Jets have been a part of two holiday-themed food drives supported by Mountaire Farms — "Thanksgiving for Thousands" on Nov. 13 and "Christmas for Thousands" on Dec. 11 — both of which have seen the company give away thousands of holiday boxes to families in need, packed with "a plump Mountaire roaster chicken and all of the fixings for a delicious holiday meal," according to the company, which has a large processing facility in Siler City.

"Coming in, the coaching staff really wanted to implement, of course, the X's and O's and team stuff, but also give back to the community," Johnson, the Jets' first-year head coach, told the News + Record. "For Thanksgiving and Christmas ... we helped box it up (at Mountaire), then transported boxes back to our facility and passed them out to anybody that needed those."

In total, the Jets distributed 200 holiday boxes to families in Siler City — 100 during each event — on behalf of Mountaire.

"There were families that were kind of shocked, saying, 'Thank you so much,'" Johnson said. "Everybody was so appreciative. ... I think it made (the players) feel good."

In addition to J-M's partnership with Mountaire, the Jets have also hosted their own canned food drives to benefit Chatham Outreach Alliance (CORA), based in Pittsboro, which focuses on those facing food insecurity in Chatham.

For Johnson, a Siler City native, it's all about carrying on the tradition he took part in as a J-M student-athlete

decades ago.

"Growing up, we gave back because my dad was huge in the community, he did the Big Brother program, helped the needy, worked at thrift stores, helped kids and he was a teacher, as well," Johnson said. "He kind of instilled that in me when I was young. And then once we got to school, especially at Jordan-Matthews, our coaches did the same thing."

"It was like a no-brainer for us to give back," he added. "This

See **CHARITY**, page B2

My top sports stories of 2021

With 2021 coming to a close, it's time to reflect on the storylines that rocked the sports world this year. Some were inspiring, some were mind-blowing and others were downright fun.

From the mat to the field to the vaccination site, here are my top sports moments of 2021:

1. Simone Biles reminds us that it's OK to not be OK

On the world's biggest stage, gymnast Simone Biles sparked a conversation about prioritizing mental health. After developing the twisties, a mental block that causes someone to lose track of where they are midair, Biles decided to withdraw from both the team and individual events at the 2020 Summer Olympics. Some people called her a quitter and others said she was abandoning her team, but Biles is everything but that. A survivor of sexual abuse from former team doctor Larry Nassar, Biles' actions showed that even the greatest athletes in the world can struggle with their mental health. She showed that she was human and, in a time where COVID-19 has impacted

so many people around the world, she became a powerful voice for many.

2. Tom Brady wins his seventh ring

In February, Tom Brady won his seventh Super Bowl title and first with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in a dominating 31-9 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs. Despite not winning the division, Brady and the Bucs knocked off the Washington Football Team and the division rival New Orleans Saints before taking down Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers in the NFC Championship Game. Not only did Brady become the first player with seven NFL rings, but he earned Super Bowl MVP honors for the fifth time.

Now Brady, at age 44, is in year 22 and is showing no signs of slowing down. The Bucs sit at 11-4 and could be primed for yet another Super Bowl run. Can he get his eighth ring in 2022?

3. Shohei Ohtani wins MVP, takes Major League Baseball by storm

What Ohtani did this past season is something that we may never see again. Not only did he pitch and hit, but he shined in both areas. Ohtani was the Los Angeles Angels ace, going 9-3 with a 3.18 earned run average. At the plate, he was one of the most dominant

hitters in the league. He hit 46 home runs, knocked in 100 RBI and stole 26 bases. His season-high nine wins above replacement ranked more than a full point higher than any other player.

Unsurprisingly, he received all of the first place MVP votes. After battling injuries in his first few years in the league, Ohtani is the most exciting player in baseball. While what he did on the field is remarkable, it also gave the baseball world a new superstar to rally behind.

4. Name, Image and Likeness enters college sports

In June, NCAA college athletes were able to start benefiting from their name, image and likeness in what was a monumental moment in collegiate athletics. For years, college athletes were unable to profit and were seen as amateurs, but this is a positive step. NIL has changed the landscape of college sports.

Alabama quarterback Bryce Young reportedly received close to \$1 million in deals before even starting a game. Others have benefited from food deals and some have donated chunks of their money to charity. While much remains to be seen how much of an impact NIL will have on recruiting and the future of college sports, this was the major storyline in college sports this year.

5. COVID-19 vaccination controversies with star athletes

The intersections of COVID-19 and sports have been spotlighted for more than a year now. In 2020, COVID-19 impacted crowd sizes, bubbles and mask mandates, among other protocols. In 2021, the main story was the introduction of vaccines. Whether a player was vaccinated or not had impacts on their playing ability and what measures they must take. In the NBA, Brooklyn Nets point guard Kyrie Irving has not appeared in a single game because he is unvaccinated and is not allowed to participate in home games. In the NFL, the rules are different.

Aaron Rodgers, the Green Bay Packers' quarterback, told reporters that he was "immunized," but it was later revealed that he had not received a vaccine for COVID-19. For months, some athletes answered and others dodged questions surrounding their vaccine status, causing it to become one of sports' largest storylines throughout 2021.

Honorable Mention: Giannis Antetokounmpo leads the Milwaukee Bucks to their first NBA title in 50 years

CN+R Intern Max Baker, a student at the University of Missouri, can be reached at max@chathamnr.com and @maxbaker_15.

SEASON IN REVIEW

'A lot of fun': A look back at Los Jets' 20-win anniversary season

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Plenty of North Carolina's bigger cities and smaller towns ooze with their own sports lore, their own athletic legends and their own storybook-worthy tales.

Add Siler City to that list. And move it near the top.

In 2006, Paul Cuadros, UNC-Chapel Hill professor and long-time head coach of the Jordan-Matthews men's soccer team, wrote a book, "A Home on the Field," detailing his journey to form a school-sanctioned soccer team at J-M and its eventual run to a state title just a few years later.

During a time riddled with division and racial tension as Latino migration to Siler City skyrocketed, Cuadros overcame a plethora of obstacles to create the first predominantly Latino program at J-M, labeled "Los Jets," which has since captured the heart of Siler City and become one of the county's most successful programs.

"You are the first," I started," wrote Cuadros in his book, detailing his speech to the team a week before their first-ever game against Chatham Central. "Remember that you are getting the chance that many other Latinos at this school wanted but never got. You are the ones who are making history today. You are the first Latino Jets."

Since the team's inaugural season, Cuadros — acting as the men's team's head coach for nearly its entire existence — has amassed a 320-92-19 record with 1,598 goals scored and just 532 goals against.

The Jets have won 12 conference titles, had 90 all-conference selections, had eight all-state selections and made the postseason every year in its program history (20 consecutive appearances), including nine quarterfinal appearances and one state title (2004).

For his accomplishments, Cuadros has been named an all-conference Coach of the Year 10 times and Regional Coach of the Year eight times, along with one State Coach of the Year in 2008.

In other words, the Jets have had no shortage of success over the last 20 years.

It was said by J-M officials in the 1990s that fanfare and attendance for soccer in Siler City wouldn't be able to touch that of basketball and football, but soccer has since become one of J-M's most popular sports as the community around both the men's and women's teams have flourished.

And while the Jets have had plenty of reasons to celebrate and a boatload of successful, impressive and special seasons,



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews junior Zander Ocampo (7) dribbles down the field in the Jets' 6-0 win over the Cummings Cavaliers on Oct. 18. Ocampo was the Jets' lone All-State selection this season.

this past year — which marked the 20th anniversary of Los Jets' creation — was nothing short of spectacular.

The climb and the finale

The Jets opened the season at home against the in-county rival Northwood Chargers in a match that saw plenty of opening-half struggles on J-M's part.

At the halftime break, it was a 1-1 game, with Cuadros saying he was unhappy that his players weren't winning as many balls as he thought they should've been.

In the second half, that all changed as the Jets came out strong, scoring three goals in the final 40 minutes to seal a 4-1 victory.

It may not have been pretty, but it was clear that J-M was putting together something special.

"This is our first game," Cuadros said after the win. "Guys are learning new positions, guys are learning how to handle their feelings and nerves. ... We have the four C's, which are communication, cooperation, coordination and composure. It was really about composure tonight."

J-M went on to tie with Asheboro, another top-tier 3A school, with a 1-1 score in the following contest.

Then, the winning streak began.

The Jets won a blowout over Raleigh Charter (8-0) and two close ones over East Duplin (3-2) and Union Pines (2-1), propelling them to a 4-1-0 start in their non-conference slate.

Their 8-1 road win over Eastern Alamance on Sept. 9 then sparked a stretch of 11 straight games over 46 days in which the Jets didn't score fewer than 6 goals.

They won all 11 of them.

On Sept. 23 against Providence Grove, perhaps an even more impressive streak began: the shutout spell.

From Sept. 23 to Oct. 25, J-M didn't give up a single goal.

Their defense — which had already been impeccable, having given up no more than 1 goal in any game — turned up the

heat.

When asked about the shutout spell in October, Cuadros laughed and chalked it up to his team being tired of giving up a single goal in many of their blowout wins. So they just ... stopped doing that.

Both of the Jets' goal-related streaks came to an end with a 3-1 win over Cummings in the regular season finale on Oct. 26, but the most important one remained: the team's, at the time, 16-game winning streak.

They had officially finished the regular season unbeaten with a 17-0-1 record and were headed to the postseason.

Since the Jets' newly aligned conference, the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A, consisted of just five teams this season — including Chatham's Seaforth High School, consisting of only freshmen and sophomores and which went winless in the conference, and another which played just 10 total games due to COVID-19 issues (Cummings) — their RPI (Ratings Percentage Index) — taken from MaxPreps, which primarily takes into account a team's strength of schedule to seed teams in the playoffs — ranked them No. 6 in the 2A East despite their undefeated record, forcing them to take a playoff road trip after just two home playoff wins over Southwest Onslow (3-1) and East Bladen (9-0).

The Jets then knocked off the No. 3 N.C. School of Science & Math Unicorns, 3-1, in an emotional road overtime win to advance to the Elite Eight, just two games shy of the state title game.

Then, it all came to an end on Nov. 10 in a 3-2 loss to the No. 2 Greene Central Rams in the state quarterfinals, stunning the Jets and halting their attempt at a perfect season.

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Emotional celebration

If you ask Cuadros to describe this season, his response likely won't surprise you.

"The journey that was this year, it was a lot of fun," Cuadros said. "I enjoyed myself."

The significance of this season — with it being

the 20th anniversary, a major feat for a program that almost didn't exist — wasn't lost on Cuadros as the season went on.

In fact, he embraced it.

Before the season, he had stickers made with the logo of the Jets' 20th-anniversary crest on them. After each game, he'd hand them out to players "that ignite us, that spark us during the game" and players began striving to earn them.

As Cuadros put it, those stickers are representative of the program's 20-year history. And if a player earns one, that cements their spot in Los Jets' legacy.

Whether it was stickers given out as rewards, halftime celebrations featuring former Jets players or traveling mobile exhibits telling the story of the program's creation, Cuadros, his team and Siler City as a whole made sure this year felt special.

After all, a program infused with this much passion and history deserves it.

Even if the Jets had been 1-20-1, the celebrations would've likely remained unchanged and the community still would've come out to support and celebrate the team and its history.

"It's a successful program that has a tradition of excellence and winning and there's an investment by the community," Cuadros said. "The Jets are a special program because of the culture we've created with it."

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

CHARITY

Continued from page B1

is more than football."

Many of the Jets' charitable efforts have taken place on Saturdays, with the coaching staff and players taking time out of their week-end schedules to put these events together.

And while their main purpose is to assist the community, Johnson said it also helps the student-athletes learn valuable lessons about the importance of giving back.

"Once you graduate from Jordan-Matthews, we make sure that we've given them steps to be great young men to move on and be great fathers," Johnson said. "During your freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years, each year you should learn and you should build and improve your character."

The Jets' football team isn't the only program that has been in the giving spirit this holiday season.

From Nov. 17 to Dec. 10, the men's and women's basketball teams competed to see which program could receive the most toy donations for Toys for Tots — with a pizza party incentive to the winning team, of course.

"It's been really fun to watch this stuff happen and see that come together and see our school and our athletics really take root in the community and make a difference there," Josh Harris, J-M's athletic director, told the News + Record on Monday. "That's what's most important, even more than wins and losses, is the kind of impact we can have on our community."

Looking ahead, Johnson plans for his team to participate in Mountaire's "Easter for Thousands," where the Jets will continue to distribute holiday boxes, along with hosting

clothes drives throughout the spring.

He's also worked out a partnership with Chatham Middle School, where he'll help open Rudy's Closet — named for his father — which will allow students without a washer or dryer at home to have their clothes cleaned by school staff.

It'll help provide outfits and shoes for students in need of school clothes, too.

"Sometimes, kids go through things and they don't want to say anything, so this is a place they can come and get clothes," Johnson said. "If they don't have a washer and dryer at home, they can wash their clothes there or give them to a faculty member and they'll give them back at the end of the day. We're working on that right now."

Rudy's Closet is expected to open at Chatham Middle sometime this winter, likely late January or February, according to Johnson.

With all of the positive work the Jets have done around Siler City this holiday season, it has Harris excited about what's to come and how they'll be able to expand their efforts.

"It feels good because this is my alma mater, it's the town I grew up around," Harris said. "I'm all for it because it's great for our kids to get that service in there, but it's great when they see our coaches doing it, too, whenever they see them serve and realize, 'Hey, it's not just about showing up at practice every day and going home as soon as you can.' They're doing stuff outside of the gym that's not even related to sports."

"I think it's big when we set that role model and set that precedent for kids," he added. "Then, hopefully, they follow along."

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



Chatham COA Events & Announcements

December 30th through January 5th

Thursday, December 30th

- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM (Chatham Grove Community Center (Pittsboro) and on Zoom)
- [Take Off Pounds Sensibly \(TOPS\)](#) at 1:00 PM
- [Geri-Fit w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (at WCSC Aerobic Room)

Friday, December 31st

- [Friday Night Dance](#) at 7:00 PM (on site at WCSC - Siler City)

Monday, January 3rd

- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (at Western Chatham Senior Center, Siler City)
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM (Chatham Grove Community Center (Pittsboro) and on Zoom)

Tuesday, January 4th

- [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, January 5th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (at Western Chatham Senior Center, Siler City)
- [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/

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- Fee Required for Participation**

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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.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Looking back at Chatham's top sports stories of 2021

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

As 2021 comes to a close this Saturday — or Friday evening at midnight, if you can stay awake that long — we thought it'd be fitting to take a look back at the top Chatham sports headlines of the last year.

This year has been defined by title-winning performances, championship runs, perfect regular seasons and even an addition to the Chatham sports family.

Here's a look at the top 5 stories of 2021:

The return of sports

As cliché as it may sound, the biggest storyline in all of sports — locally, nationally or internationally — was the fact that sports were actually played throughout 2021.

While they technically returned from their pandemic-forced hiatus in 2020, this year marked the re-emergence of most local sports and the playoffs/championships for high school sports that began in late 2020.

The early part of 2021 was hectic, eerie and a tad muted as crowds were limited in indoor events with the pandemic raging on, sometimes swapping potentially electric atmospheres for toned-down shells of themselves.

The NCHSAA crammed the start of 14 sports into a four-month period, causing multi-sport athletes to either choose what sport they'd rather play or multi-task a little more efficiently.

There was football in February, men's soccer in the dead of winter and a plethora of sports that went well into the summer just to fit them all in. Yet, despite all of the challenges that arose with teams not having a typical offseason, games being postponed or canceled due to either COVID or weather issues and things being all out of wack, Chatham and its student-athletes prevailed.

Even with the distractions, many teams found their way into the



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood senior guard Rae McClarty emotionally embraces her teammate and fellow senior Jamaría Faucette (45) after the Chargers' 58-51 first-round playoff win over E.E. Smith, 58-51, on Feb. 23.



Submitted photo

Jordan-Matthews' Jennah Fadely poses with the two medals she won at the NCHSAA 1A/2A Swimming State Championships on Feb 12 in Cary. Fadely would take the state title with a record-setting time of 1:02.11 in the women's 100 breaststroke.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood junior Caroline Murrell crosses the finish line and looks into the stands moments after her record-setting championship performance in the girls 3,200-meter run at the NCHSAA 3A Track & Field State Championships at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro on June 26.

Chatham's 2021 by the numbers

325 all-conference selections

30 Conference Players of the Year

27 Conference Coaches of the Year

102 state-title competitors (individuals/teams)

2 individual state title winners

postseason, plenty of individual athletes qualified for regional and state championship events and some programs had their best seasons to date.

Whether you're a Bear, Charger, Hawk, Jet, Knight, Wolf or weird concoction of more than one, you had something to cheer about in 2021, even if it's just that your team actually got to suit up and play again.

Rise of the Hawks

You'd be hard-pressed to find a more impactful sports story in Chatham than the creation of the Seaforth Hawks, who played their first-ever varsity contests — a volleyball match (3-0 win over Southern Wake Academy) and a men's soccer game (5-0 loss to Northwood) — on Aug. 16.

In 2021, Seaforth became the first public high school to open in Chatham since Northwood in 1970, completely altering the sports landscape of Pittsboro and the county at-large.

Led by Jason Amy, N.C.'s Athletic Director of the Year in 2021, the Hawks have thrived athletically in their first semester.

While the school's only housing freshmen and sophomores for its inaugural season, that hasn't prevented the Hawks from taking off this year, with successful seasons in cross country, women's golf, women's tennis and volleyball.

Hawks freshman Jack Anstrom (16:24.09) stole the show with a state runner-up finish in the 2021 NCHSAA Men's Cross Country 2A State Championships, just seven seconds away from a state title. He was the only 9th grader to place

inside the top 23 of the men's race.

Seaforth had two state qualifiers — freshman Avery Fauth (41st, +56) and sophomore Olivia Dennis (T-62nd, +72) — in women's golf, while the Hawks' women's tennis team had one state qualifier (sophomore Evelyn Atkins) and made an appearance in the 2A dual-team playoffs.

And as great as the student-athletes have been competing at a varsity level as underclassmen, Seaforth deserves even more kudos for its ability to foster an already tight-knit community, create a ton of excitement around every sport and cultivate an environment that allows athletes to blossom as soon as they step foot on campus.

That Northwood-Seaforth rivalry — no matter the sport — is going to be a thing of beauty for years to come.

Racing for the gold

While there have been more than 100 individuals/teams around Chatham that have competed for a state title, only two of them took home the gold.

It all started with J-M senior swimmer Jennah Fadely, who made history with a record-breaking, title-winning performance in the women's 100 breaststroke event at the NCHSAA 1A/2A Swimming State Championships with a time of 1:02.11 (.03 seconds faster than the previous record) on Feb. 12.

After a second-place finish in the same event her junior year — along with a fourth-place finish in the women's 200 IM — she returned the following season and wrapped up her high school career by winning both a gold (100 breaststroke) and a

silver medal (200 IM).

"When I was a freshman, I still had a long way to go," Fadely said following her win in February, "so when I realized how far I'd actually come, it just made me really happy, really proud of myself."

Four months later, on a heat-filled afternoon at N.C. A&T University in Greensboro, Northwood junior distance runner Caroline Murrell waxed the floor with her competition in the women's 3,200-meter run at the NCHSAA 3A Track & Field State Championships as she finished with a 3A record time of 10:51.83, nearly seven seconds faster than the second-place finisher, to secure the state title.

In January, she placed in the top 10 of the 3A women's race at the NCHSAA Cross Country State Championships, but on the track, she ensured there was no way she'd finish anywhere but first place.

"I wasn't exactly going into this race expecting to be a state champion," Murrell said after the race in June. "I was really just going for the time, which I got, luckily, but I wasn't counting it out of my abilities because I've dropped a lot of time this year; I've gained more confidence."

When they entered high school, both athletes seemed to have no idea they'd eventually become state champions, but their hard work and dedication to their craft culminated in them reaching the pinnacle.

Unsurprisingly, both Fadely and Murrell plan to race at the next level as members of championship programs.

Fadely committed to Kenyon College last school year — the most decorated swimming program in the entire NCAA — and Murrell announced her decision last month to join the N.C. State cross country team — the 2021 national champions — when she graduates in 2022.

Charging toward the championship

As strange as the pandemic-shortened season was for athletes

everywhere, including every corner of Chatham, one school in particular seemed to thrive in gyms with limited capacity: Northwood.

The Chargers made headlines last school year for their dominance in both men's and women's basketball, with each team punching its ticket to the Final Four and having a shot at the state championship game.

The men's team — striking a balance between newcomers and veterans with a trio of jaw-dropping freshmen and a solid upperclassmen nucleus — made it all the way to the 3A state title game, where they lost a heart-wrenching finale to the unbeaten Weddington Warriors, 56-47, in front of a fairly small crowd in Providence Grove's gym in Climax.

However, while the Chargers didn't come away with any hardware, their journey to make it to the title game deserved its own award.

After concluding the regular season with a 10-2 record and a Big Eight 3A conference championship, the Chargers got unlucky as they were slotted as the No. 13 seed in the playoffs.

But that didn't seem to faze Northwood, which rattled off four-straight road wins (as part of its larger 10-game winning streak) against No. 4 Rocky Mount, No. 5 D.H. Conley, No. 1 Terry Sanford and No. 6 West Carteret in a stretch that included late-game comebacks, thrilling overtime finishes and a boatload of resiliency.

The same could be said for the women's team, which had a much different path to the Final Four than its male counterpart.

All season long, the tight-knit Chargers were undoubtedly one of the favorites to win it all, finishing the regular season with a perfect 11-0 record and a Big Eight 3A conference title of their own.

The Chargers were well-known for their tenacious defense, their intense playing style and

their ability to use their size and grit to their advantage.

They earned the No. 5 seed in the postseason and played all but one playoff game at home — a second-round barnburner against No. 4 Terry Sanford, which the Chargers eked out, 46-43, on a late 3-pointer by junior guard McKenna Snively — defeating No. 12 E.E. Smith (home), No. 4 Terry Sanford (away) and No. 16 Person (home) before falling in the Final Four to the No. 7 Asheville Blue Comets and their team full of seniors in an emotional home loss, 54-44.

While both the men's and women's teams fell just short of becoming the first-ever team state champions in Northwood history (in any sport), it was one heck of a ride.

And with the two teams combining for a 17-3 overall record halfway through the 2021-22 season, there's a decent chance either or both of them will be able to take another crack at it very soon.

20 wins for 20 years

Over the last two decades, the most consistent team in Chatham has been Jordan-Matthews men's soccer.

And it isn't even close. The 2021-22 season marked the 20th anniversary of the Jets' inception, which allowed fans, players and coaches a chance to celebrate the program's rich history and vast success over 20 years.

It was important that the Jets make this season one to remember. And they surely delivered.

Jordan-Matthews was a force to be reckoned with for most of the season, putting up near-perfect numbers all the way to the state playoffs, which they entered with a 17-0-1 record.

As the season progressed, it appeared as if the Jets has no weaknesses, scoring at an incredible clip — 110 goals in 18 regular-season games — and shutting down just about every offense they faced, allowing just 11 total goals in that same span.

The Jets hit their peak during a stretch in September and October where they went 12 straight games scoring 6 or more goals while simultaneously shutting out their opponents in eight straight games, both of which came to an end in a 3-1 win over Cummings on Oct. 26.

However, despite their stellar season that saw them crush nearly every team they faced, they didn't quite have the strength of schedule to stack up with some of the state's other top teams, earning them the 6th seed in the 2A playoffs.

J-M won its first two playoff games, both at home, against No. 27 Southwest Onslow, 3-1, and No. 22 East Bladen, 9-0, before taking a road trip to Durham for a bout with N.C. School of Science & Math, which the Jets won in overtime, 3-1.

In the Elite Eight, the Jets' season came to an end with a 3-1 defeat to the No. 2 Greene Central Rams, halting the team's quest for a perfect season.

Despite not winning it all, though, the Jets' storied season — one that will stick with Head Coach Paul Cuadros for years to come — remains perfectly intact and was fitting for the program's 20th anniversary season, especially since they finished with a 20-1-1 overall record.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Seaforth freshman Jack Anstrom strolls along the sideline of Northwood's football field after taking first place in the men's race at the Chatham County Championships cross country meet on Aug 26 in Pittsboro. This was Anstrom's first official race since he was in 7th grade.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews senior Alexis Ibarra (19) attempts to knock-in a shot with a header during the Jets' 6-0 win over the Cummings Cavaliers in Siler City on Oct 18.

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

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CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

This is known as Holiday Tournament Week as, across the county, six teams — Chatham Central women, Jordan-Matthews men/women, Northwood women and Seaforth men/women — are participating in local holiday tournaments while the rest of their classmates continue to relax on their respective winter breaks.

Northwood is hosting its own women's tournament, called the First Bank Charger Classic, which has both the Bears and the Chargers participating, but all other tournaments are taking place outside of Chatham. Next week, the schedule will look a little more normal, but until then, enjoy a wintery mix of basketball, basketball and more basketball. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, December 29
Basketball: Northwood, Chatham

Central women vs. TBD (First Bank Charger Classic at Northwood), time TBD

Basketball: Seaforth vs. TBD (North Iredell Winter Classic, played at North Iredell), time TBD

Basketball: Jordan-Matthews vs. TBD (Davidson-Randolph Christmas Classic; women at 6 p.m., men at 7 p.m.)

Thursday, December 30

Basketball: Northwood, Chatham Central women vs. TBD (First Bank Charger Classic at Northwood), time TBD

Basketball: Seaforth vs. TBD (North Iredell Winter Classic, played at North Iredell), time TBD

Friday, December 31

No events scheduled; Winter Break

Saturday, January 1

No events scheduled; Winter Break

LAST WEEK

Monday, December 20
Basketball: The Chatham Charter

men crushed the Neuse Charter Cougars, 62-39, in the first round of the 2021 Chatham Charter Winter Slam. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Aamir Mapp (13 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 1 block), freshman Beau Harvey (12 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals), junior Adam Harvey (11 points, 8 rebounds, 11 assists, 2 steals) and freshman Brennen Oldham (10 points, 10 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals, 1 block).

Tuesday, December 21

Basketball: The Chatham Central men fell to the Southwestern Randolph Cougars, 61-48, at home. The Bears are now 2-5 on the season.

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men earned a 32-point win over the Cornerstone Charter Cardinals, 83-51, in the second round of the 2021 Chatham Charter Winter Slam. Leading the Knights on the evening were freshman Beau Harvey (21 points, 8 rebounds, 6 assists, 4 steals) and junior Adam Harvey (16 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 1 block).

Wednesday, December 22

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men earned a close win over the Research Triangle Raptors, 60-59, to win the 2021 Chatham Charter Winter Slam with a 3-0 record. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Aamir Mapp (20 points, 4 rebounds), junior Adam Harvey (19 points, 10 rebounds, 6 assists, 1 steal) and freshman Brennen Oldham (8 points, 10 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 7 blocks).

Thursday, December 23

Basketball: The Northwood men fell in a close game to the Terry Sanford Bulldogs, 49-46, in the first round of the John Wall Invitational in Raleigh.

Friday, December 24

No events scheduled; Winter Break

Saturday, December 25

No events scheduled; Winter Break

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

KNIGHTS

Continued from page B1

as well," Messier said. "In that championship game, Aamir had 20 (points) and Adam had 19 (points), so we continue to have our leaders show up."

But the beauty of having so many options comes when one of your best players has a tough night. It just allows others to step up in their place and shine.

Against the Cardinals, Mapp had just four points on 33% shooting from the field. He was virtually nonexistent when it came to scoring the ball.

Yet, his lack of offense gave way to Adam Harvey (16 points) and his brother, freshman Beau Harvey (21 points), having stellar performances on the offensive end and leading the Knights to the 32-point win.

Beau Harvey is one-half of the freshman duo that's taking the team by storm.

Despite his brother leading the team in total points (46) and assists (19) in the tournament, Beau was named the 2021 Winter Slam Most Outstanding Player for his ability to

successfully run the Knights' high-scoring offense throughout all three games.

"People will look at his stats for that last game and say, 'Well, he only had 6 points,' but all day long, he was just handling that trap," Messier said. "He scored early when he needed to, but then he just facilitated the offense. We ran a little 1-4 high and put Adam up on the elbow spot and he was just constantly looking to get him the ball, just handling the trap defense."

Entering last Wednesday, the Knights and Raptors both held on to a 2-0 tournament record, setting up a winner-takes-all finale on the tournament's final day.

Messier likened the title game to a playoff atmosphere, citing the number of fans from both schools which made it out to the game — despite being on their respective winter breaks — that brought the intensity.

"You could feel the excitement in the air, it was just a big game," Messier said. "It was electric."

With the Knights having already seen the Raptors once this season — Chatham Charter won, 58-45 — and having been

conference mates up until this year, they knew what to expect.

Research Triangle is known for its half-court 1-3-1 trap defense, using its length and athleticism to make it tough for teams to set up their offenses comfortably.

But even with a freshman running their offense against a tenacious defense, the Knights still managed to shoot better from the field (48%) than in its previous two games and turned the ball over 15 times, on par with their numbers against Cornerstone (14 turnovers) and Neuse Charter (19).

The Knights held onto a six-point advantage at half-time, 28-22, but by the end of the third period, the Raptors had managed to cut that deficit down to just a single point.

In the end, though, Chatham Charter's youth prevailed, ekeing out the one-point victory thanks, in part, to a three-point play by sophomore Aiden Allred that sealed the game late.

"They were an experienced team; within their starting lineup, they start four seniors ... who are all battle-tested," Messier said. "But we were ready

for that playoff atmosphere. My guys loved it. They soaked it up. And there were moments where we did show our inexperience and our youth, but they executed down the stretch to pull out that victory."

Part of the Chargers' youth movement is led by freshman big man Brennen Oldham, who arguably had one of the most impressive performances in the tournament when he came close to posting a non-traditional triple-double in the championship (8 points, 10 rebounds, 7 blocks).

He was just 2 points and 3 blocks away.

"Seven blocks, that's on another level, especially against a team as athletic as Research," Messier said with an awe-inspired chuckle. "He was just in that right place, playing aggressive, smart defense."

It's clear that the future of the Knights' program is in good hands.

"Having freshmen at those two key positions, your center and your point guard, that's the thing," Messier said. "For those two young men to continue to grow in such big games is huge because playing in big situa-

tions is only going to benefit them when we get into the conference tournament or when we get to the state playoffs."

At about the season's midpoint, the Knights have a strong 13-1 record, with their one loss coming by just one point to Uwharrie Charter on Dec. 3.

But after winning their first piece of hardware of the season, Messier seems to have hope that it might not be his team's last.

"Right now, we've got three guys averaging double-digits and we've got Oldham averaging 9.3 (points per game), so there are probably a lot of coaches looking at our stats on MaxPreps like, 'How do we stop this team?'" Messier said. "We're excited for the rest of the season. We're excited to see where we can go."

Chatham Charter takes the court again on Jan. 4, where it'll face Research Triangle at home for the third installment of this classic rivalry.

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

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Chatham County recognizes Ocampo Ruiz as employee of the year

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Cristal Ocampo Ruiz has been named Chatham County's employee of the year for 2021.

Ocampo Ruiz is an interpreter and the immunization tracking coordinator at the county's public health department. She's worked with Chatham County since 2016 and is a 2020 Chatham Leadership Academy graduate.

"I am so glad to see Cristal recognized as employee of the year — she is so, very deserving," said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek. "Cristal has been such an important part of our team for the past several years. During the pandemic, she has been critical to our efforts to reach the Latinx community. From translating information to tracking immunizations, we wouldn't be where we are

without her." Assistant County Manager Carolyn Miller made the presentation to Ocampo Ruiz at the commissioners' meeting on Dec. 20. Chatham County staff were asked to submit nominations for the award, and the person who nominated Ocampo Ruiz said they could not do their job without her.

"We are so fortunate to have Cristal as an employee, and she is a great example to her colleagues," said Miller. "Cristal embodies the true spirit of Chatham County with her hard work, commitment, and passion to serve the people of our community."

Last year, all 533 Chatham County government employees received the designation as 2020 Employee of Year after an unprecedented year navigating two major crises — the COVID-19 pandemic and a cyber incident.



Submitted photo

Chatham Commissioner Mike Dasher presents Cristal Ocampo Ruiz with the Chatham County employee of the year award at the board's meeting Dec. 20.

Chatham Chamber launches Spark program for entrepreneurs

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Chatham County Chamber of Commerce is launching an eight-week program in partnership with Central Carolina Community College's Small Business Centers and Mountaire Farms aimed towards individuals who want to start their own business.

The Chatham Spark program will feature eight classes geared

towards Siler City-based entrepreneurs. The classes will cover a variety of topics, including marketing, zoning and planning, business legal practices, financial literacy and more.

Chamber President Cindy Poindexter said people interested in opening a business, or have opened a business in the last two years, can apply for one of the 12 slots available in the program.

Spark program par-

Spark program participants will develop a business plan throughout the eight weeks and will present the plans to the selection committee at the end of the class. A winner will be selected and will receive a \$5,000 grant from Mountaire Farms to start their new business.

Participants will develop a business plan throughout the eight weeks and will present the plans to the selection committee at the end of the class. A winner will be selected and will receive a \$5,000 grant from Mountaire

Farms to start their new business.

"You have to be somebody who doesn't already have a brick and mortar building, and you have to actually start your business in Siler City to win the grant," Poindexter

ter said.

Poindexter said Chatham Spark will help new entrepreneurs gain knowledge about the ins and outs of starting a new business. She hopes the program will become an annual event for new and aspiring Chatham business owners to engage in.

"They'll gain a lot of knowledge through the speakers that we have who are experts," Poindexter said. "They will work throughout

the program to develop a good business plan. This program will be a tool and a resource to help them be successful in their business."

Classes will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays at the Siler City campus of CCCC from March 1 through May 3. The application window for the program closes on Jan. 31.

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

Leake to be Installed as Pastor at Lambert Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Kevin Leake will be installed as the 14th pastor at Lambert Chapel Missionary Baptist Church Sunday, January 2, 2022. He is a native of Chatham County and is the son of Reverend Larry W. and Mrs. Brenda Leake. His father is the former Pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church of Siler City, NC and currently serves as the Pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church of Monroe, North Carolina. Reverend Leake is a graduate of Monroe High School, Elon College, and High Point University. Currently he is the Principal at Thomasville Middle School, Thomasville NC, serving in that capacity since 2014. Prior to serving as Principal, Reverend Leake was a teacher for 10 years. Working with youth most of his professional career, Reverend Leake has served as an athletic coach, coaching high school football, boys' and girls' middle school basketball as well as youth mentoring.

In September of 2018, under the leadership of Pastor Mike Ferguson and Dr. Anthony Higgs, Reverend Leake accepted the call into the ministry. He preached his initial sermon at Cornerstone Community Church in Lexington, NC. Leake received his BA degree from Elon College in 1999. He furthered his education by receiving a Masters of Education degree in Educational Leadership from High Point College, High Point, NC in 2011 and was ordained as a minister in February of 2020.

In addition to his humility, Reverend Leake has an amazing zeal and is a trailblazer in every sense of the word. With over 3 years of experience in his young ministry Reverend Leake has been committed to teaching and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ focusing on the spiritual and physical growth of a newly planted multiethnic, multi-generational non-denominational church. As the new pastor Reverend Leake prayerfully looks forward to serve Lambert Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and the surrounding community. If it is God's will, he desires to lead Lambert Chapel through continued spiritual growth while prayerfully and intentionally seeking ways to show God's love by being active and visible in multiple aspects of the community ranging from being involved in the school system to being active in civic organizations. Reverend Leake is the father of four children: Mikayla, Steven, Brittney, and Sasha (Nick) and four grandchildren: Jacari, Iliyah, Imani, and Brielle. He looks forward to bring about the desired change, by leading Lambert Chapel Missionary Baptist Church family to have a seat at the table where decisions are made. Reverend Leake's former pastor, Mike Ferguson, will deliver the installation message Sunday, January 2, 2022 at 2:30 pm.



Democracy on the docket: Major N.C. elections cases slated for 2022

Litigation on redistricting, felony disenfranchisement and voter ID pending in state court

BY JORDAN WILKIE
Carolina Public Press



Photo courtesy of Carolina Public Press

Dorothy Taylor, right, places her 2020 primary election ballot in the scanner while her grandson Julian Taylor and poll worker Georgia Everett looks on at the Edgecombe County Administrative Building polling place in Tarboro in 2020.

In the culmination of years-long fights, the courts in 2022 will decide the future of the state's democracy. In the process, the court itself could change.

Civil rights and good-governance groups like the North Carolina NAACP and Common Cause have brought a series of lawsuits, some also backed by the Democratic Party, addressing key structural issues underpinning the state's democracy.

Both the groups bringing the lawsuits and the Republican majority in the state legislature, who are named as the defendants in the cases as they set many of the laws being challenged, claim democracy hangs in the balance.

Whether it's challenging the voter ID constitutional amendment or the way lawmakers drew congressional and legislative district maps, the plaintiffs say Republicans are trying to rig the process in their favor and to the detriment, disproportionately, of Black voters.

"Republican map drawers were clearly more focused on achieving artificial majorities in both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly than they were on producing a map that actually reflects the will of the people," said Marina Jenkins, director of litigation and policy for the National Redistricting Foundation, which is backed by the Democratic Party.

Republicans, in turn, reply that voters put them in power and that actions by the court to overturn a constitutional amendment or interfere in the drawing of political maps is itself anti-democratic.

"As they have done for a decade now, the Democrats continue to focus on legal battles when they cannot win at the ballot box," House Speaker Tim Moore said in a statement after a recent lawsuit was filed.

Redistricting

The most recent, and perhaps the most consequential, lawsuits question whether partisan gerrymandering is allowed under the state's constitution.

In North Carolina League of Conservation Voters, et al. and Harper, et al. v. Hall, the league and the National Redistricting Foundation, which backs the Harper plaintiffs, argue Republican legislators illegally drew political maps in their favor.

Already in the case, which is a combined lawsuit from the two separate groups, a request to delay the 2022 primary elections went all the way to the state Supreme Court. After the lower courts flip-flopped on the decision, the N.C. Supreme Court postponed the 2022 primaries from March 8 to May 17 to give the state courts time to hear the cases.

A panel of three Superior Court judges is slated to hear the matter Jan. 3-5. Then, per the Supreme Court order, the Superior Court judges need to issue their decision by Jan. 11.

Should either side appeal the trial court's decision, the Supreme Court set out an expedited plan to hear the case. The Supreme Court would need to make its decision around mid-March for the N.C. State Board of Elections to have enough

time to prepare for the May elections, should the court order new maps to be drawn.

If the plaintiffs in this case win, it will mean that there is a limit on how politicians can draw political maps in their own favor.

Following the 2020 census, North Carolina has 14 congressional districts, and the maps legislators drew earlier this year all but guarantee Republicans will win 10 of those seats, with a possibility for 11, according to the expert analysis submitted by the plaintiffs in the case. Similarly, expert analysis shows Republicans are likely to win a majority, and even a veto-proof supermajority, of the state legislature under the current maps.

Yet the two parties are roughly equal in voting across the state, as seen in the 2020 elections, when Republican former President Donald Trump won a narrow plurality to carry the state, while Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper won a slight majority in his reelection effort.

If the Republican defendants win this case, it will mean that the state constitution allows some

partisan interest in drawing political maps and that Democrats, should they ever want legislative power in the state again, will need to dramatically increase their political appeal across the more suburban and rural parts of the state.

Voter identification

The N.C. Supreme Court is also set to hear North Carolina NAACP v. Moore in early 2022, a complicated case that could strike the voter ID amendment North Carolina voters passed in 2018 from the state constitution.

A Republican supermajority in the North Carolina legislature passed several constitutional amendments, including voter ID, over Democrat Cooper's veto, and North Carolina voters then passed the amendment in a midterm election.

After the courts ruled that the state legislature at the time was the result of a previous illegal gerrymander, Republicans lost their supermajority under the new, court-supervised maps. This case asks whether an illegally elected legislature can legitimately modify the state constitution.

If the state Supreme Court rules in favor of the plaintiffs, the state's voter ID provision will be struck from the state's constitution. If the decision favors the Republican defendants, the requirement for a voter ID will stay on the books, though it would not be enforced until challenges to the laws enacting it are resolved.

The N.C. NAACP and other groups are suing in state and federal courts to stop North Carolina's current voter ID laws from going into effect. Currently, an injunction against voter photo ID in the state courts prevents that from happening. An earlier injunction in federal courts was overturned. Both cases are moving toward a full trial, and both courts are waiting to see what happens in the Moore case to decide the next steps.

A complex legal interplay exists between each of these cases, as they all focus on the power of the legislature and the authority of the courts to intervene.

Felony disenfranchisement

North Carolina may

have an additional 55,000 people eligible to vote by the end of 2022. That's about how many people there are in North Carolina who have been convicted of a felony and are not in prison but are still under some kind of state supervision.

In 2019, the N.C. NAACP and affiliated groups filed *CSI v. Moore*, which challenges the constitutionality of North Carolina's law blocking this group from voting.

The lawsuit claims that once people are released from prison, their right to vote should be automatically granted again.

In August, a three-judge panel made a ruling from the bench that the current law is racially discriminatory and should be blocked with an injunction, but the judges still have not released a written ruling on the actual full decision for the case.

The Court of Appeals overturned the trial court's preliminary injunction. The verbal ruling indicated that when the full ruling is released, it will favor the plaintiffs.

Forward Justice, the law firm representing the plaintiffs, expects the decision to be appealed to the state Supreme Court, the firm told Carolina Public Press.

If the state courts ultimately rule in favor of the plaintiffs, it will immediately grant the right to vote back to roughly 55,000 North Carolinians. Because of constant turnover in the number of people convicted of felonies and released from state supervision, a ruling in favor of plaintiffs would likely mean that over the next decades, hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians would be restored their right to vote years before the current law would allow.

Recusals at the Supreme Court

Politics do not stop at the court's doors. Expect to see pundits and politicians attacking the courts as partisan depending on how they rule in high-profile election cases.

As it stands now, the Court of Appeals holds a 10-5 Republican-Democrat edge, while Dem-

ocrats hold a 4-3 edge in the state Supreme Court. The November 2022 elections could flip that advantage in favor of Republicans.

In both the *NCLCV v. Hall* and *NC NAACP v. Moore*, the groups bringing the cases asked the Supreme Court to prevent at least one Republican justice from voting on the decision. In both cases, plaintiffs asked the court to recuse Phil Berger Jr., as his father, Phil Berger, is the Republican leader of the state Senate that passed the laws being challenged.

In *Moore*, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the arguments for recusal in late January.

Current Supreme Court rules say justices can recuse themselves if they perceive they have a conflict of interest, but there are no rules about when a justice must step back or procedures to force a justice off a case.

"A judge should not allow the judge's family, social or other relationships to influence the judge's judicial conduct or judgment," according to the N.C. Code of Judicial Conduct.

If the plaintiffs are successful, they will set a precedent that will significantly limit what Berger Jr. may rule on, as some of the highest-profile cases involve laws passed by his father.

The plaintiffs in the *Moore* case are also asking for Tamara Barringer to be recused, as she was a Republican member of the legislature at the time it passed the constitutional amendments. If she ruled on the case, the plaintiffs argue, she would effectively be ruling on the legality of her own actions.

It is not uncommon for former legislators to be elected or appointed as judges across the different levels of the state court system. A ruling in the plaintiffs' favor could limit the scope of actions by legislators-turned-judges.

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chatham magazine

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BEST OF CHATHAM 2021 READERS' FAVORITE

BEST OF CHATHAM 2020 READERS' FAVORITE

BOLD CONSTRUCTION

BOLD FOUNDATION

BOLD REAL ESTATE

EXPLORING CHATHAM

He visited each of the county's 31 communities. Here's what he learned.

BY ORLANDO DOBBIN JR.

Special to the News + Record

Editor's note: Orlando Dobbin, a Chatham County school counselor, shares this story of his exploration of what Chatham has to offer.

Special — better, greater, or otherwise different from what is usual, as defined by Oxford Languages.

I moved to Chatham County about two years ago. And when I moved here, I felt like I had landed in a special, better or otherwise different from what is usual, place.

My feeling that Chatham is special birthed the first time I went to do some shopping for my new apartment. As I was leaving the store a man stopped me and asked if I was new to the area. I was a bit suspicious, but when I told him I was, he enthusiastically invited me to come to his farm so that he could treat me to pie and coffee and welcome me to the community.

The next day, I went grocery shopping and filled my cart with way too many items. As I was going to the cash register, items were falling out to the left and right of me — I was a mess. When I finally went to get the items I had dropped, I turned around to find that a man had been following me the whole time picking up the items I had dropped. Before I could thank him, he'd already gone ahead to continue his grocery shopping. Then the next day at



Courtesy of Orlando Dobbin

Dobbin took selfies throughout his exploration of Chatham County.

my first training for my job with Chatham County Schools, I was vigorously taking notes when all of a sudden I had to use the bathroom. I went to the restroom lamenting how far behind I would be when I got back. When I got back to my seat, though, I found that the person I was sitting beside (whom I hadn't said a single word to) had taken my notebook and filled in all the notes I'd missed. Special.

Last summer I wanted to know if the magic I experienced my first few days in Chatham extended beyond those brief encounters. That's when I decided to go on a little journey to visit all of Chatham County's 31 towns and unincorporated communities to try to discover the history and stories that makes this place so special.

My journey started in Southwest Chatham where I visited the communities of Bonlee, Bennett, Ore Hill, Bear Creek and Mt. Vernon. At first, my friend and I could not find a sign for the community of Ore

Hill. We searched far and wide but found nothing. Just as we were getting ready to give up, we saw a sign in someone's yard that said "Welcome to Ore Hill." For a brief moment we hesitated to go into someone's yard to ask to take a picture of their sign, but immediately agreed it was worth it.

In Chatham County fashion, the couple not only allowed me to take a picture with their sign but was also generous enough to speak with us for 25 minutes about the local history of the area — pulling out old news articles and sharing stories about their home of 50 years.

As we were saying our goodbyes, the couple said we had to visit the natural springs of Mount Vernon just up the street. At Mount Vernon Springs, there was once a resort that attracted people from all over the South. Legend had it that the water from Mount Vernon Springs would heal any stomach or kidney issues one had. I can't say my stomach or kidneys are now immune



Courtesy of Orlando Dobbin

Part of Dobbin's exploration was done on two wheels. In this photo, Dobbin and two fellow cyclists stop to explore Chatham's Silk Hope community.

from future troubles after drinking the water, but I definitely appreciated the crisp refreshing water from the spring.

My travels then took me a little north to the community of Silk Hope. Silk Hope gets its name from Henry Lutterloh, who arrived in the community in the late 1800s with dreams of making the area an economic hub for the silk industry. Unfortunately, his silk worms weren't interested in the mulberry trees he planted, and his silk dreams never came to fruition. Silk Hope, though, would become the economic hub of agriculture in the county. Agriculture played such a large role in the community that community members decided to organize an event called "Old Fashioned Farmers Day" to commemorate its agricultural roots — Chatham's longest-running event.

I then traveled further north to the community of Crutchfield Crossroads — named for Jesse Crutchfield, who owned

a corner store in the community. Jesse's store wasn't just any corner store, though; it was also the local hot spot for a good game of checkers. Some of the best checkers players from all over the region would come to Jesse's store on the weekends for his famed checkers tournaments that would draw 30 to 40 people.

Lastly, I traveled to the southern portion of Chatham to visit the communities of Haywood, Moncure and Gulf. I learned that the little community of Haywood, just south of Moncure, was just one vote shy of being the capital of North Carolina and was initially proposed to be the location for UNC-Chapel Hill. Although Haywood wasn't chosen to be the site of our state's capital or North Carolina's first public university, it would become the site of another important institution in Chatham — the first school for Blacks in the county. One of the founders of Winston

Salem State University, Simon Atkins, was educated at the school.

My final destination on my adventure was the community of Gulf — home of the JR Moore & Sons store. The store's slogan is "a place where you can get a little bit of everything." While reading old news articles on the area, I discovered this quote someone said about the community: "It was the interdependence of individuals in group actions that gave my country community a special beauty, dignity, and charm."

I realized that while I appreciate the fascinating history to be found here in Chatham and love the rolling hills I experience on an afternoon bike ride, it's the people of Chatham that make it such a special place.

It's the people, like Jesse Crutchfield, who created space for community events like checkers tournaments in his store, or neighbors who so love and value their community that they put a sign of its name in their yard, or strangers who pick up a struggling man's groceries as he clumsily stumbles around the store.

It's the people of Chatham that make me smile every time I see the "Welcome to Pittsboro" sign and the people who have made me and many others feel so lucky to call this place home.

As things change here, may we, the people of Chatham, continue to make it the special — otherwise different than usual — place that it is.

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Dec. 20, Ashley Renay Person, 24, of 213 Sandstone Drive, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Welch for felony larceny. She was issued a written promise to appear in Alamance County District Court in Graham on Dec. 21.

On Dec. 20, Jessica Ann Forrester, 41, of 857 Bernard Purvis Road, Bennett, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for driving while license revoked. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 5. Ms. Forrester was also arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failure to appear on charges of driving while license revoked and operating a vehicle with no insurance. For these charges, she was also issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 5.

On Dec. 20, Wayne Lee Wilson, Jr. 24, of 2294 N Pea Ridge Rd., Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Shannon Parker for failure to appear on a criminal summons or citation. He was issued a \$1,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 5.

On Dec. 20, William Gregory Venable, 34, of 761 W. Dolphin St., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Chad Gaines for failure to appear related to child support. He was issued a \$300.00 cash payment and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County Child Support Court in Asheboro on Jan. 25.

On Dec. 21, Amanda Jane Davis, 40, of 336 Howard Gilliland Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, and larceny. She was issued a \$2,500.00 secured bond

and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 3.

On Dec. 21, James Edwards Adkins, 52, 160 S South Edwards Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Shannon Parker for pretrial release violation. He was issued a \$40,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 3.

On Dec. 22, Shawnace Lamont Yarborough, 26, of 1060 Willow Way, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Dominique York for possession of cocaine and possession of heroin. He was issued a \$5,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 3.

On Dec. 26, Michael Stephen Cole, 42, of 166 W Shannon Rd., Siler City, was

arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failures to appear on charges of possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a \$50,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Rockingham County Superior Court in Reidsville on Jan. 31.

On Dec. 26, Tara Michelle Barth, 39, of 1061 Dorsett Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Cpl. Michael Cox for felony larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. She was issued a written promise to appear in Moore County District Court in Carthage on Jan. 13.

On Dec. 27, Heather Renee Wilkins, 29, of 3814 Mary Martin Rd., Durham, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failure to appear on a charge of injury to personal property. She was issued a \$2,000.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Granville County District Court in Oxford on Jan. 13.

CHATHAM SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Stuff-A-Stocking toy drive and 'Sheriff's Sleigh' gift delivery partner for 2nd year

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

More than 110 children and their families received surprise holiday gifts on Dec. 21 thanks to the generosity of anonymous donors and a joint effort between the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and a Bynum resident.

The Sheriff's Office, which hosts an annual "Sheriff Sleigh" gift delivery program, teamed with Lesley Dean Matthews, who leads a yearly "Stuff-A-Stocking" toy drive. Their partnership has already brought joy and love to hundreds of children and families across Chatham County. "I'm not a non-profit," says Matthews, who connected with the Sheriff's Office at a community blood drive in November 2020. "I'm just a neighbor and a networker who believes in helping local children and families in need. I wish I had someone looking out for me when I was growing up — that's why I do it. I want to be that person for someone else who needs it."

Hundreds of donors contributed toys, clothing, gift cards, and basic care supplies for the event. Others pitched in to help transport supplies or spread the word. All items are transported to the Sheriff's Office for sorting and distribution ahead of Christmas. Special effort goes into providing recipients with gifts they wanted as well as items they desperately needed, like shoes, coats, backpacks or hygiene items.

In their first year of partnership, Lesley and the Sheriff's Office more than doubled the previous number of gift recipients; in year two, they shattered all previous donation records once again.

"I couldn't do what I do without the Bynum community, Galloway Ridge residents, and so many anonymous donors," says Matthews of her Stuff-A-Stocking Program. "I call them my 'Secret Elves' because they are the ones working behind the



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Gifts donated for more than 110 families line the hallways at the Chatham Sheriff's Office. They were collected during the department's annual toy drive with help from Bynum resident Lesley Dean Matthews.

scenes to make dreams come true." Matthews says she began her "Stuff-A-Stocking" program when her own daughter was 4 years old, and has watched it grow over the last 13 years. During that time, she has partnered with other agencies, like the Chatham County Department of Social Services, to obtain names of families who may be in need around the holidays. Now, the program has found a new home with the Sheriff's Office.

"It's a magical experience to walk into work and see the walls lined with gifts," said Lieutenant Sara Pack of the Sheriff's Office. "Everyone is smiling and laughing, rushing around with clipboards or presents and humming Christmas songs. It's like the Sheriff's Office is turned into Santa's workshop for one day each year!"

"Many of the recipients were victims of crime, trauma, or hardship over the last couple of years," said Sheriff Mike Roberson. "Although these presents may not restore what they have lost, it sends a message to these children and their families that they are loved and seen and have the support of this community. It's an honor to share in the excitement and experience all of the emotions that come with making someone's holiday wishes come true."

"I felt like an angel had walked into my office," says Sheriff's Office Vic-

tim Services Coordinator Lora Rinaldi, describing the first time she met Matthews. Rinaldi has spearheaded the project alongside Matthews for the last two years, reaching out to other agencies to gather names for children and families in need of a little extra cheer.

"When Lesley [Matthews] first came to us in 2020, she wanted to know more about the work we do at the Sheriff's Office and how she could help. By the time we finished talking, we had a plan — the whole thing just fell into place," Rinaldi explains. "Chatham County has such an amazing 'pay it forward' mentality. The community is so giving and helpful, and the families who received gifts were so incredibly appreciative. It means so much to so many."

For families who were unable to travel to collect their gifts, the Sheriff's Sleigh program can coordinate transport or delivery of toys to gift recipients. Roberson says he hoped to continue cultivating the program in years to come with the help of more residents.

"We can only achieve success as a community by pulling together and taking care of one another," he said. "In times like these, we don't want to see any family go without. If they can't come to us, we will go to them. What's important is the reminder that there is still hope and goodness in the world — and here in Chatham most of all."



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Chatham Sheriff's Office staff members help load gifts for transport to local homes.



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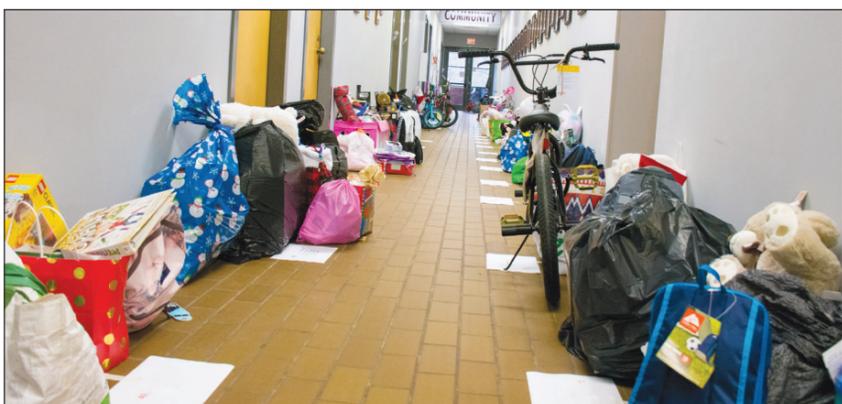
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Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Gifts line the hallways of the Chatham Sheriff's Office.

Evictions continue in N.C. as HOPE assistance program concludes

Eviction cases across the state reached 10,000 in October, a 31% increase since U.S. Supreme Court struck down national eviction moratorium

BY MARK DARROUGH
Carolina Public Press

After a slow start last fall, the state office tasked with helping tenants who are experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic has awarded \$678 million in rental assistance, but experts question whether the funds will be sufficient to stem the rising tide of eviction cases following the end of a national eviction moratorium in late August.

In October, Gov. Roy Cooper launched HOPE, the Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions program, tapping the N.C. Office of Recovery and Resiliency to distribute rental and utility assistance funds to 88 counties through local governments and nonprofits. Applications for the program closed Friday.

“When we stood up HOPE 1.0, it was a brand-new effort,” said Laura Hogshead, Office of Recovery and Resiliency chief operating officer. “None of us (at the state level) had ever done it. We were asked to stand up something new very quickly. And so we made some program design decisions that we then undecided for HOPE 2.0.”

The initial phase of the program was hampered by complicated, decentralized logistics and limited staff unable to process a “huge wave of applications” efficiently, according to Hogshead. The program shut down after three weeks.

Hogshead estimated an average turnaround period, from application to disbursement, of “weeks to months” during the first phase. She said her agency didn’t “have the transparency that we would need to make a good estimate on the number of days” because it was reimbursing community partners who were making the payments.

“Some awards got hung up for a very long time,” Hogshead said.

The office made changes that included centralizing payments and compliance procedures and adding 300 temporary employees to a full-time staff of about 70 at an agency primarily responsible for federal hurricane relief funds.

As a result of these changes, the average turnaround has been reduced to 14-21 days, according to Hogshead, who said it might have taken weeks or months in earlier days.

Office of Recovery and Resiliency officials were unable to provide a clear timeline for the \$133 million in HOPE 1.0 payments, saying reimbursements to 20 nonprofit community partners continued through the summer, and an exhaustive accounting process, dependent on reports from those partners, is still taking place.

The data is also skewed because some of those partnering organizations didn’t ask for reimbursements for several weeks or months following payments, officials said.

Since June, HOPE payments have rolled out at a much quicker pace. According to the U.S. Treasury Department, HOPE 2.0 disbursements to North Carolina households have averaged \$82 million per month from July through October. Spending peaked in August, totaling \$133 million for the month.

As of Dec. 13, the Office of Recovery and Resiliency has awarded \$744 million and paid \$585 million of those awards to landlords and utility companies, according to Hogshead.

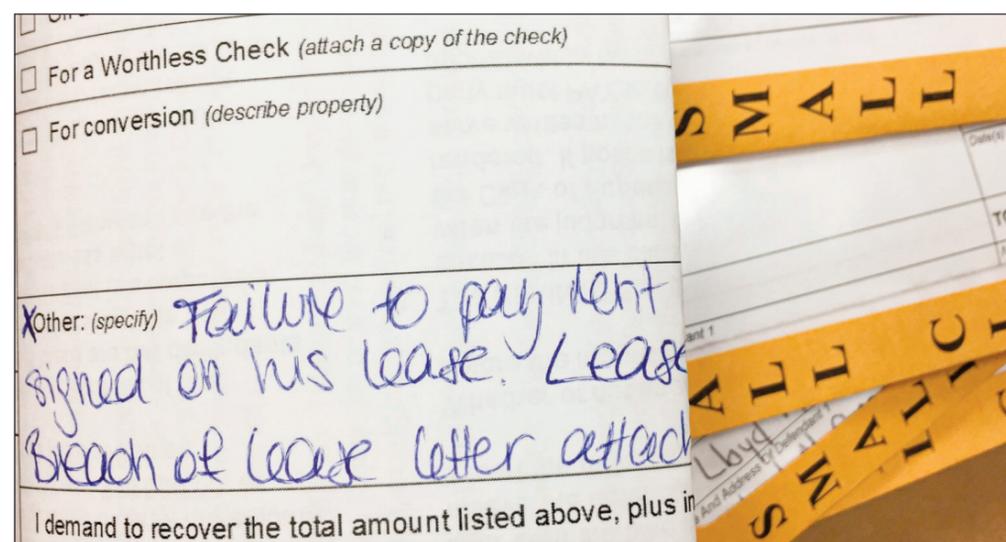
In late November, Hogshead said she expected to complete payments by early spring or summer 2022.

Funding for the second phase of HOPE initially came from a coronavirus relief act that Congress passed at the end of 2020. But the Treasury Department didn’t issue guidelines on how states and local governments could allocate that money until the end of February. Furthermore, those guidelines came in the form



Courtesy of Carolina Public Press

A foreclosure notice is displayed at a home in Wilmington’s Montgomery Place neighborhood.



Courtesy of Carolina Public Press

A stack of eviction summonses sits in the New Hanover County Courthouse.

of a nonbinding “frequently asked questions” document.

At the state level, Republicans in the General Assembly pushed to loosen restrictions on the flow of federal dollars to landlords and tenants.

A bill signed into law by Gov. Cooper late last week allows landlords to file HOPE applications on behalf of their tenants. It also opens applications to tenants applying solely for utility relief and to cover the cost of hotels for eligible tenants and late fees owed to landlords and hotel costs.

When asked about the bill hours before it passed, Hogshead said she favors “anything that will help get people assistance and keep them in their homes” but also worries that too many program changes could slow the process down.

“We don’t want those slow-downs to mean that someone gets evicted while we are making the back-end policy and system changes that are needed,” Hogshead said.

She said her agency would look to incorporate most measures of the bill but do so carefully to avoid “screwing up how fast the money can get out the door.”

Confusion abounds

From Sept. 4 2020, to July 31, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an eviction moratorium, preventing landlords from evicting tenants whom the pandemic had affected.

Confusion and controversy surrounded the moratorium since it took effect, according to Jesse McCoy, a Raleigh civil rights attorney and Duke University School of Law professor.

“When it came out, there was a lot of confusion amongst people working in this industry about what, exactly, are we halting,” McCoy said.

“Are we halting the ability to have our cases heard? Are we halting the ability to have eviction cases filed? Or are we simply halting the ability of

the sheriff to execute the writ? There wasn’t a lot of guidance at that time about what was happening.”

Kathryn Sabbeth, housing law professor at the UNC School of Law, said varying interpretations of the CDC order also added to the whirlwind of information.

“I think confusion is a gracious way of putting it,” Sabbeth said. “For some actors, there’s genuine confusion. And for others, there’s an agenda. And sometimes that agenda causes people to create confusion.”

To be eligible for protection, the CDC order required applicants to give signed declarations to their landlords that they met five specific criteria.

Sabbeth described lots of fights about whether the order allows landlords “to contest the veracity of the underlying statements about the five criteria.”

Gov. Cooper ordered a statewide eviction moratorium in October 2020, in part to strengthen and clarify the national moratorium.

On June 29, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against a group of landlords and real estate agents in Georgia and Alabama who argued that the CDC exceeded its authority by ordering the moratorium.

On the same day, however, the N.C. Council of State voted along party lines to reject a one-month extension of the governor’s moratorium. Six Republicans on the council voted against it and three Democrats voted to extend it one more month to match the CDC moratorium’s expiration date.

At the time, Cooper said many residents may, as a result, be “unaware of the protections available to them” under the CDC moratorium and be evicted unnecessarily.

Janae Moore, director of governmental affairs for the Apartment Association of North Carolina, said the CDC moratorium “created uncertainty and exacerbated hardships for property owners

and the renters it was intended to protect.” She said landlords rely on rental payments to cover mortgages, staff salaries, property taxes, maintenance and utility costs.

“During the moratorium, providers struggled to meet these obligations while being required to maintain and provide a continuous service at optimal levels,” Moore said.

“Small housing providers make up a significant proportion of rental property owners overall, and many housing providers, in general, could not sustain substantial losses of rental income.”

The situation has a disproportionate effect on particular communities. Black women with children are more likely to be evicted than anyone else, according to Sabbeth.

“This is an issue of racial justice and gender justice,” she said. “Empirical evidence indicates that children in the home is the single factor most highly correlated with eviction.”

When the eviction order expired, HOPE applications spiked. They flooded in again after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a second CDC moratorium on Aug. 26, according to Hogshead.

After the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision, the N.C. Judicial Branch website urged tenants and landlords to look toward HOPE to solve disputes without litigation and cautioned that courts across the state would “likely see an increase” in such disputes in coming weeks and months.

Cathy Robertson, chair of the N.C. Realtors Association’s property management division and vice president of T.E. Johnson & Sons, a large Winston-Salem property management firm, said in a statement to Carolina Public Press that she has not seen an evictions crisis in recent weeks.

“We are very happy that the crisis in evictions that was predicted after the moratoria were lifted did not come to pass,” Robertson said.

Furthermore, T.E. Johnson & Sons, which manages 850 condominiums, single-family homes and multifamily units throughout the Triad region, has seen “more rental assistance funds become available and a better process for obtaining those funds,” according to Robertson.

“Otherwise, business seems to have largely returned to normal,” Robertson said.

While some business owners like Robertson sense a return to normalcy, housing advocates and members of affected communities say they continue to feel the effects of the pandemic.

The Apartment Association of North Carolina has seen a shortage of rental housing availability and increasing operational costs due to a shortage of rental housing availability, according to Moore. The lack of supply has caused a widespread increase in rental rates.

Indeed, statewide rental rates have steadily increased since December 2012, according to data compiled by Apartment List, an online marketplace for apartment listings. From January to December 2020, the median rental estimate in North Carolina hovered around \$1,000 — never going above or below \$6 from that benchmark.

Beginning in January 2021, median rental estimates climbed steadily, reaching \$1,214 in October before tapering off to \$1,213 in November.

In Charlotte, many landlords and property managers are refusing federal rental assistance and simply not renewing leases of low-income families, according to Kenny Robinson of Freedom Fighting Missionaries, a nonprofit that helps formerly incarcerated, homeless and elderly populations find affordable housing.

The technique of not renewing leases allows landlords to avoid the eviction process while renting instead to individuals moving to Charlotte for high-paying jobs.

Although eviction cases are active in Mecklenburg County, only cases of “extraordinary circumstances” have reached a point where an actual eviction has occurred, he said.

“No apartment complex or property manager wants to be splattered on the news for being the person who kicked out a family of five.”

Sabbeth said she expects eviction numbers to continue climbing steadily, and contrary to popular belief, evictions did not cease during the moratorium.

“Combined with extraordinary advocacy, the moratoriums did stem the tide, but nonetheless disturbing numbers of families were evicted throughout the pandemic,” Sabbeth said.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Miracle on 34th Street - in Pittsboro

Activity Directors Lori Burt and Randy Abercrombie pose at their re-creation of scenes from the Christmas film 'Miracle on 34th Street' at Cambridge Hills Assisted Living in Pittsboro. Hallways of the facility were festooned with decorations celebrating the movie and the Christmas holiday.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The main hallway at Cambridge Hills transformed into New York City during the Christmas holiday.

NEWS BRIEFS

41 new Driver License Examiners to help improve service at DMV offices

ROCKY MOUNT — As part of the effort to improve customer service at driver license offices statewide, the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles has added 41 new driver license examiner graduates to 32 offices. The new employees recently graduated from the DMV's Basic Examiner Training School and participated in a recognition ceremony on Tuesday. Retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Arnold Gordon-Bray gave remarks to the graduates and their families in attendance. "What you are doing is so important," he said. "You're an overlooked part of a broader team that works every day to keep us safe."

DMV is working to improve customer service with more examiners, express lines, dedicated road test teams and the use of customer service representatives to help people in line make sure they have the appropriate documents. "These 41 graduates will help fill voids at many driver license offices across North Carolina," said acting DMV Commissioner Portia Manley. "These new examiners will span across the state in various offices from Asheville to Wilmington with the one goal of delivering the best customer service of any state agency." The examiners graduated after five weeks of intensive classroom study at DMV locations in Rocky Mount and Huntersville. They will take applications for learner permits, driver licenses, REAL ID and basic identification cards

using modernized systems that create counterfeit-proof documents that protect against identity theft. They will also conduct road tests for new drivers. **Most state roadway projects halting for holidays** RALEIGH — Most state road construction projects have been suspended to help ease highway traffic during the holidays. Where possible, the N.C. Dept. of Transportation plans to open lanes that have been closed for construction on interstates or U.S. or N.C. highways from the morning of Friday, Dec. 31, through the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 4. Exceptions include bridges being replaced, long-term

lane construction that cannot be temporarily removed, and highway work that does not impact travel. A prime example is the Interstate 40 project near the Tennessee state line, where lane restrictions will remain in place for safety purposes. Drivers are being diverted to use the ramps at the Exit 7/ Harmon Den Road interchange to get around the closure, but NCDOT encourages drivers to consider using Interstates 26 and 81 to avoid this work zone. The heaviest traffic is expected Monday, especially on interstates, so people should plan accordingly. As always, drivers are urged to pay extra attention and be cautious when traveling — even in work zones where no construction activity is taking place. Make sure everyone is wearing seat belts, don't drive

impaired, and obey speed limits. Before traveling, people can check the status of their route at DriveNC.gov. Some other safety tips include: • Leave early. Travel at non-peak hours and use alternative routes to avoid the heaviest traffic congestion. • Stay alert. Even when highway work is paused, you may encounter narrowed lanes, shifts in traffic and lower speed limits through work zones. • Be patient. • Don't drive drowsy. For extended drives, take frequent breaks to remain alert. • Don't drive distracted. When drivers are not focused on the road, they react slowly to traffic conditions and are more likely to be involved in a crash. — CN+R staff reports

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So Farro So Good: 'Like hope in a bowl'

In Japan, food texture is very important. Often foods will be eaten because even though they have little taste, they're valued because of their interesting texture.



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

or chocolate melting on your tongue? Then some textures just make us sad, like cold fries, overcooked chicken and undercooked rice. My mom is a big fan of both cream of wheat and cream of farina. And while I love hot cereal, the Dickensian orphanage gruel-like mouth feel of those particular hot cereals make them a hard no for me.

although a member of the same family as cream of wheat and farina, it in no way resembles that off-putting pabulum consistency.

It's also very nutritious, with protein, fiber, and nutrients like magnesium, zinc and B vitamins. But it's a straight-up comfort food. While you're eating this pilaf it can just about make you feel that everything's going to be ok.

The rest of us value texture too. Who doesn't love the snap of biting through a sausage or a fresh, pillowy biscuit,

It resembles barley and is delicious by itself or in recipes with other things. It's chewy and nutty, and

It's like hope in a bowl. Thanks for your time.

Contact *debbie* at *dm@bullcity.mom*.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ACROSS

1 Golf tourney
7 "Nonsense!"
12 Wordplay bits
16 Jump
19 Tiny country in Europe
20 Similar
21 Woodwind instrument
22 Spring mo.
23 Prima ballerina who received the Kennedy Center Honors in 1989
26 Winning sign
27 Sinuous
28 2003 Tony winner for "Moulin" Out choreography
30 Vamp player in "Singin' in the Rain"
36 Choose
37 Writer Jaffe
38 Vast period
39 Doggy doc
40 Part of TNT
42 "The Wedding Singer" director Frank
44 Magical land of C.S. Lewis
46 Noted performer in a Greek tunic and bare feet

DOWN

1 Thurman of Hollywood
2 Fa follower
3 Undivided
4 — Romana (peace)
5 Digital money
6 Unreluctant to maritime armed forces
7 Sit down, slangily
8 Makes laugh loudly
9 Shrouded
10 Nickname lead-in
11 Proceeded
12 Coral colony member
13 Curved fastening bar
14 — Scotia
15 Marine fish of the western Atlantic
16 West Indies' largest city locale
17 Outerwear for some high-culture shows
18 Get ready
24 Have the gall
25 — Jima
29 Tooting thing
30 Trudeau's country
31 "About this large," informally

WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS

32 Original Mouseketeer — Tracey
33 Channel for Wolf Blitzler
34 Parts of city grids: Abbr.
35 Noted times
41 Tyrant Amin
42 Structure for storing music
43 Some ctrs. of learning
45 "You win"
46 Charged, as particles
47 From long ago
48 Autos from long ago
49 Kilty chip
52 Maven
53 "Rambo" war zone, in brief
57 Neuters, as a stallion
59 Smelting junk
61 GIF or JPEG
63 Throw a few back in a bar
64 52, to Livia
65 Kin of -ess
70 Goad
72 Baseball executive Joe
73 Jungian inner personality
74 Sticky, nutty treats
75 Endlessness
77 Onetime teen idol
78 Nevada city
80 Suffix with Caesar
81 Nutrition amt.
82 Texas city
83 1990s "caught on tape" series
84 Belgrade site
87 Dress in a pillared structure
91 In a pillared structure
92 Educ. org.
93 Onetime rival of Atari
95 Diagrams for brainstorming
98 Infatuated
99 Deep longing
101 — Kan (classic dog food brand)
104 Typewriter formatting aid
105 Apple tablet
108 Kind of navel
109 T-bone, e.g.
110 Brooks of film
112 A lack of musical skill
113 Actress Vivian
114 Jump
115 French river
116 Electric jolts
120 "OB-viously!"
121 NYSE event
122 — laude
123 Enabler of web access
124 Once named
125 Mutt's noise

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

A	S	K	E	D	A	L	T	A	R	B	O	Y	S	A	L	C	O	A
I	C	A	R	E	B	E	E	F	E	A	T	E	R	L	O	A	F	S
M	A	R	I	A	M	O	N	T	E	S	S	O	R	I	M	A	R	C
A	L	A	N	L	A	D	D	W	E	S	H	O	T	P	O	T		
T	A	T	J	E	S	S	R	O	S	A	B	O	N	H	E	U	R	
A	D	O	N	A	V	T	H	E	Y	D	D	R	E					
M	A	R	G	A	R	I	T	A	L	E	V	I	E	V	A	L	A	S
O	N	E	N	D	N	E	R	O	A	R	M	Y	M	A	T	E	S	
S	I	T	E	S	D	E	L	T	A	P	I	F	E	Z				
A	M	I	S	B	I	T	S	M	O	N	I	C	A	S	E	L	E	S
I	A	N	M	A	R	E	M	A	R	M	A	T	H	A	L	A		
C	L	A	R	A	B	A	R	T	O	N	T	H	U	S	S	P	A	Y
I	C	Y	R	O	A	C	H	E	S	P	E	P	P	Y				
B	O	T	C	H	F	E	E	L	H	E	R	A	R	E	E	S	E	
E	P	E	E	B	A	R	B	A	R	A	B	E	L	G	E	D	D	E
T	E	X	B	A	S	I	L	E	W	E	U	P	S					
A	N	A	G	A	S	T	E	Y	E	R	S	A	R	I	G	I	G	
A	S	S	U	R	E	L	E	S	M	E	L	T	O	R	M	E		
P	E	T	E	R	P	A	U	L	A	P	O	U	N	D	S	T	O	N
P	A	E	S	E	I	M	P	E	D	A	N	C	E	O	R	I	O	N
S	T	A	T	S	U	P	I	N	S	M	O	K	E	S	A	N	T	A

Beefy Farro Pilaf

- 12-16 ounces of inexpensive steak, like blade or eye of round, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 1 tablespoon corn starch
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 yellow onion chopped
- 12 ounces mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
- 1 teaspoon dry thyme
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 1/2 cups farro (not quick-cooking)
- 2/3 cups sherry or brandy
- 4 1/2 cups beef stock
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 teaspoons horseradish
- 1/8 teaspoon Chinese five-spice powder
- Salt & pepper

After cutting beef into cubes, toss in cornstarch. In a large, heavy pot with a lid, melt butter on medium (6-ish). Put about half of the meat into the pot. Season. When the first side gets browned and crusty, flip and let the other side brown. Remove and cook the rest. Remove and set aside.

Place mushrooms and onions into pot. Add thyme and season. Cover and cook for about 7 minutes to get the veg to release all their liquid. Remove cover and cook until all the liquid has cooked out and the mushrooms and onions have lightly browned.

Add the beef back in and stir in tomato paste and farro. When the paste has begun to darken, pour in sherry. Cook until almost all of the liquid has cooked off.

Pour in beef stock and add Worcestershire, horseradish, and five-spice. When it comes to a boil, cover and turn to medium-low. Cook for 35-40 minutes or until farro is cooked through, but still chewy.

Remove cover, turn up to medium and let cook until most of the stock has cooked out, but it's still moist and almost creamy (5-10 minutes). Remove from heat, cover and let sit, undisturbed for 10-15 minutes.

Serve in shallow bowls with carrots on top. Serves 6 and leftovers microwave well.

Five-Spice Glazed Carrots

- 2 pounds carrots, peeled and cut into slices with similar surface area
- 1/4 cup water
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons sweet, such as honey, maple syrup, jam, or jelly
- (the last batch I made I used peach passionfruit preserves)
- 1/4 teaspoon Chinese five-spice powder
- Salt & pepper

Stir everything into a skillet. Cover and cook on medium until carrots are tender but not mushy, adding more water if needed (10-12 minutes).

Remove cover, stir, and cook until the water has cooked off and the carrots are coated in the glaze. Check for seasoning and re-season if needed. Serves six.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		7	5			3		
	6				4		8	
5				8		1		9
		4	2					3
1				4		7		
	9	8			7		5	
		3		5	1			2
9			7			6		
	2			6			3	

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 ● EASTERN WORDS

U D A E X U R P M J G D A X V
S Q N K N I T S A E D I M F D
E A S T W O O D D A R X V T Q
O M J H S F B I C A E Y W T U
R N O R E A S T E R T P T S N
L J H F A T E D S B S S O Z
X V T R S Q O H M A A K A M I
H F D A T B Z Y T E E W E T V
T R E Q M O N L Y U L R R S K
E I T S A E B I H F O D B A C
A Z X W N V D R A W T S A E F

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: A LEAVENING AGENT

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Abreast | Eastman | Eastwood | Nor'easter |
| Beast | Eastmost | Feast | Oleaster |
| Beastie | Eastside | Least | Southeast |
| Breastbone | Eastward | Mideast | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

8	1	7	5	9	2	3	4	6
3	6	9	1	7	4	2	8	5
5	4	2	3	8	6	1	7	9
7	5	4	2	1	8	9	6	3
1	3	6	9	4	5	7	2	8
2	9	8	6	3	7	4	5	1
6	7	3	4	5	1	8	9	2
9	8	5	7	2	3	6	1	4
4	2	1	8	6	9	5	3	7

EASTERN WORDS

THE CN+R REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS

The best and worst films of 2021

Best Film of 2021: "The Power of the Dog"

Writer-director Jane Champion tackles the American West in this engrossing dissection of everything from masculinity to class, sexism, sexuality and expansionism. Exquisitely shot by cinematographer Ari Wegner and hauntingly scored by Jonny Greenwood, the film opens with an air of "There Will Be Blood" before morphing into full-blown "A Streetcar Named Desire," then flirts with "Call Me By Your Name" before landing somewhere between "The Beguiled" and "Basic Instinct."

2. "West Side Story" — The Jets and the Sharks never looked better or more relevant than in the capable hands of Steven Spielberg. This timely update of a timeless classic is part romance, part social commentary



NEIL MORRIS
 Film Critic

The leads are fine, but the superb supporting cast is led by Raleigh native Ariana DeBose, playing Anita in an awards-worthy performance.

3. "Nightmare Alley" — Director Guillermo del Toro strays from the supernatural in this glossy, gothic remake of the 1947 noir classic, both based on William Lindsay Gresham's 1946 novel of the same name. A terrific ensemble cast is led by Bradley Cooper, a nefarious grifter who leaves a traveling carnival before meeting his match in duplicitous shrink Cate Blanchett. The 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.

4. "Drive My Car" — This award-winning entry by Japanese director Ryusuke Hamaguchi follows a theater actor who goes searching for meaning in life after his beloved wife suddenly dies. Secrets about their troubled marriage serve as the backdrop when the actor takes a directing job in a re-

mote village and meets a young car driver (Toko Miura), who is also the product of a tragic past. This slow-moving film takes its narrative time but has a thoughtful, fully developed payoff.

5. "Don't Look Up" — The allegory for our COVID-19 zeitgeist is patently obvious in this latest sendup by writer-director Adam McKay, using the world's reaction to an impending global destruction by an approaching comet as metaphor. The satire remains too grounded to be farcical, and the lessons it imparts feel sadly familiar instead of dramatically jarring. But that does not make them any less true or relevant, and McKay's serrated wit is suitable searing.

6. "Licorice Pizza" — Paul Thomas Anderson's exudes 1970s LA youthful exuberance in this coming-of-age romance-drama, featuring breakout performances from Cooper Hoffman (son of the late Philip Seymour) and Alana Haim (of the band Haim). The flashiest scenes go to short turns by Bradley

Cooper and Sean Penn. But the film's hope-filled heart involves Hoffman's teenage child actor and his platonic/romantic affection for Haim's starry-eyed twenty-something.

7. "The Tragedy of Macbeth" — This latest update of the Bard's play by director Joel Coen is anything but cursed, a sublime portrait of tragedy on a sumptuous black-and-white canvas, with outstanding performances by Denzel Washington as the titular Scottish king, Frances McDormand as his ambitious wife, and Kathryn Hunter as the ominous, prophetic three witches.

8. "No Sudden Move" — Director Steven Soderbergh returns to his crime thriller wheelhouse in his neo noir about a heist gone bad. Don Cheadle and Benicio del Toro are outstanding as partners in crime propelled by their particular motives, aided by a sturdy supporting cast that includes David Harbour, Kieran Culkin, Julia Fox, Ray Liotta and more.

9. "Pig" — Nicholas Cage stars as a truffle forager who

returns to civilization, and the life he left behind, when his prized pet pig is stolen. While you let that description settle in, know that this feature film debut from writer-director Michael Sarnoski has the vibe of a revenge quest before transitioning into something far more plaintive and poignant. The joy for the viewer is in the discovery and Cage's understated effort.

10. "Candyman" — Who can take a horror sequel, sprinkle it with blood, cover it with social commentary and a minor misstep or two? The "Candyman" can.

Worst Film of 2021: "Space Jam" — A parody of itself, a remake and would-be commentary on corporate cynicism that becomes an exemplar of it. It's dizzying, exhausting, and leaves little room for star LeBron James's natural charisma, which is stifled by wooden dialogue and delivery.

The Worst of the Rest — "Dear Evan Hansen," "The Hitman's Wife Bodyguard," "Black Widow," "Jungle Cruise."

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

GERALD, HONEY, IT'S TIME TO TAKE YOUR VITAMINS.

I'M NOT A CHILD, I DON'T NEED THESE. BESIDES, I CAN'T EVEN OPEN THE BOTTLE.

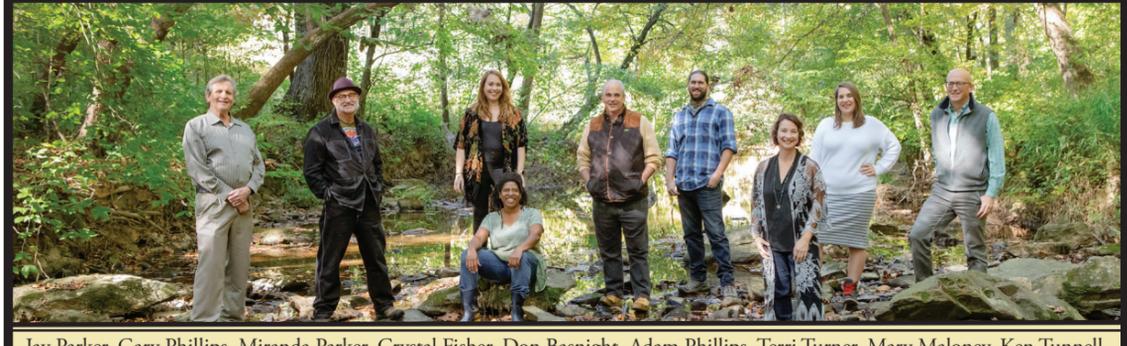
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE CHILDPROOF.....

GIVE ME THAT!

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

WOW, FOR A SPLIT SECOND THERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE REACHING OUT TO ME AS A SIGN OF AFFECTION.



Jay Parker, Gary Phillips, Miranda Parker, Crystal Fisher, Don Basnight, Adam Phillips, Terri Turner, Mary Maloney, Ken Tunnell

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LAFF - A - DAY

"Don't pet either one. They both bite!"

WHAT DO YOU WANT IN 2022?

Sounding off on the New Year

Where do you want to see Chatham County a year from today?
If one change could occur this coming year, what would it be?

My wish for Chatham in 2022 is that we successfully navigate through the pandemic to a safer environment where COVID-19 is under control and its worst impacts have been mitigated by thoughtful, kind residents who acknowledge that the health and well-being of the entire community is their responsibility. The change I most hope to see is more compassion for everyone involved in educating our children, from the board of education and superintendent to teachers, staff and beyond.

Karen Howard, Chatham County commissioner

In 2022 I am hopeful that COVID impacts will have been diminished in our schools, workplaces, and daily lives. Moving into 2022, we expect to provide more recreation opportunities, create more affordable housing, and preserve farmland and open space.

One change a year from now: We expect the broadband funding from federal and state resources will have attracted internet vendors to provide critical infrastructure to unserved areas in Chatham.

Diana Hales, Chatham County commissioner

One year from today we would like to be celebrating new large industry announcements at both the CAM site in Siler City and the TIP site in Moncure. Many Chatham leaders and regional allies have worked a long time to put our community in position to be ready at both sites. In 2021 we had record visits and activity at both sites, which led to the new announcements in 2022. Next December we will be working closely with CCCC to be putting together customized training programs to help provide a workforce from Chatham County for these new projects.

A change we would like to see is for our community to better understand and utilize the resources we have at CCCC. That is an excellent and affordable way for our citizens to get the training they need to join one of the many outstanding industries in this region.

C. Michael Smith, president, Chatham Economic Development Corporation

The one change that I hope for in the coming year is for all residents of Chatham County to be fully vaccinated. And, a year from today, I would like to see Chatham County as a place where no one is left behind nor disregarded as more and more economic growth and development comes our way.

Friar Julio A Martinez, pastor of St. Julia Catholic Church, Siler City

I would love to see Chatham County flourish in terms of bettering the lives of the average citizen. Such flourishing strives for more and better-paying jobs, affordable housing, and improved educational systems and improved support/pay for teachers, school staff, and administration.

I would love to see unity. Unity comes through seeing the world through the eyes of others and standing alongside them in service. It means following Christ's example of putting others ahead of ourselves and living purposeful lives for the

betterment of the whole world and not merely ourselves (Philippians 2:3-5).

Gregory E. Lamb, Ph.D., pastor, Mays Chapel Baptist Church

Mountaire Farms has been a strong community partner from the start, and we've invested in Chatham County. We have seen first-hand the positive impact that our Mountaire Cares program can have in the community, and we will continue to stay focused on helping address important issues like food insecurity. As a major employer, we will continue to hire and promote residents of Chatham County to help grow their careers in the poultry industry.

We continue to pray for an end to this pandemic, to allow families to be together and for life to return to some semblance of normalcy. We know we can't let our guard down even then, and we will continue to do everything possible to protect our workforce every day.

Sasha Duncan, community relations manager, Mountaire Farms of North Carolina

I'd like to see people coming together instead of being so divided; collaborating, sharing great ideas with the intent of helping one another; For Pittsboro: a bustling small town that has retained its charm, while embracing the growth that has been coming. And a county that has become a destination for small businesses and families to live, work and play.

Mike Walters, executive director, Cambridge Hills Assisted Living, Pittsboro

I endorse the idea of a "Healthy Chatham" — and have a broad view of this. I imagine a Chatham free of the effects of COVID-19; a sustainable and clean natural environment; and a caring and united community valuing diversity and promoting equity and social justice.

Dennis Streets, director, Chatham Council on Aging

Black History in Chatham is an essential part of the story of the county. More representation of the contributions of former and current residents of the black community should be a priority. It is our hoped to see a remembrance ceremony for the remaining five Black lynched in our county. We need to remember what our country has forgotten.

In 2022, it is important for more Chatham County residents to be aware of and accept the true history of the county.

Racism affects everyone, not just the Black and brown population. We must be willing to acknowledge the issues that dividing us and move forward. What's done is done but now everyone has the opportunity to do better and contribute to a future favoring equality and justice for all.

Mary Nettles, president, Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham & Chatham Community NAACP Branch #5377

Speaking for myself and on behalf of all local farmers who sell directly to the public, we'd love a permanent, covered farmers market building!

Meredith Leight, via Facebook

I would like to see the county go ahead and put into place regulations to protect the natural look of our countryside, so when the building begins, we can see more green and less parking lot and stone. I am not against new business coming in, but I don't need to look at the brick and mortar ... also, to prevent light pollution.

Shay Blakemore, via Facebook

True district voting and non-partisan local races so that the moderate and conservative portion of the county would have a voice at the table as well.

Michael Buckner, via Facebook

I'd like to see forward thinking and vision from our commissioners, with regard to managing water/wastewater. Our current flush and spray project propagation is killing the county. We need an OWASA (Orange Water And Sewer Authority) equivalent for Chatham County.

Larry M. Hicks, via Facebook

More places to eat other than fast food.

Judy Moore, via Facebook

Clean water.

Marj Dirk, via Facebook

I want to see Chatham County being seen by the larger population as a model for peace, local commerce, sustainability, and true community. Less polarization.

I would like to see folks changing patterns due to what we have learned during the pandemic. To truly put what's important over what the culture thinks is important.

Tami Schwerin, The Plant, Pittsboro

Change can be slow, but it would be great for Chatham County if a solution was at hand for the vexing issues of water quality, potable water and sanitary sewer. One change that could pay dividends for Chatham and Lee would be a merged utility system with Chatham and Pittsboro led by Sanford.

Randolph Voller, former Pittsboro mayor

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Larry M. Hicks, via Facebook

We hope for Brighter Futures for Chatham County children and schools. "Brighter Futures" is the title of a task force that documented the correlation between school discipline, on the one hand, and the race, ethnicity, and disability of disciplined students, on the other. We envision change to clarify who we are, who we want to be, and multiple actions to pursue equity and social justice in our

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schools, courts, and community.

Rud and Ann Turnbull, Fearington Village

If one change could occur this coming year, it's that we're better able to gather as a community. Because of the pandemic and a reticence to meet and mingle (understandably!) over these last two years, I've deeply missed the opportunity to meet new people and reconnect with old friends. We've certainly made adjustments to make it work, but my hope is that we're able to do so much more in the coming year (and safely!) to find joy in the company of another and rekindle what it means to be beloved community.

The Rev. D. Brent Levy, pastor, The Local Church

I want to see Chatham continue on a positive trajectory as we grow and prosper together as a community. I look forward to attending more events and festivals, and seeing more residents return to activities they love, like spending time in nature, playing sports and visiting parks with friends and family — fully and safely enjoying life. I want to see local businesses revived and thriving again, more community in-

Tych Cowdin, executive director, Communities In Schools Chatham County

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Tami Schwerin, The Plant, Pittsboro

volvement and inclusion ... and I look forward to continuing to serve as your Sheriff. I would like to see community members showing more respect for the good in others and more tolerance of differing opinions. We need greater acceptance of one another, less judgment, and more unity in 2022.

Mike Roberson, Chatham County Sheriff

I want to see Chatham flourishing — creating and filling new jobs, supporting local charities, and welcoming new additions and ideas to this amazing place we love so deeply. I look forward to seeing more immersion in community-focused activities and programs, especially those that serve our senior residents, students, and the environment. Chatham has always been rich in the spirit of giving, and I want to see that amplified as more people get back on their feet (and turn again to lift up their neighbors).

If 2021 taught us to build walls, I hope 2022 teaches us to break them ... May we embrace change, consider alternative viewpoints, celebrate our shared experiences, and move forward with a renewed love of life and one another!

Sara Pack, Chatham Sheriff's Office

More places to eat other than fast food.

Judy Moore, via Facebook

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One hope I have for Chatham County in the new year is reliable internet access for many of our neighbors. Over the course of the pandemic many have been struggling to stay connected to available resources and community support due to this lack of consistent connectivity. I'm looking forward to the day when every person in Chatham has access to the resources to help them reach their full potential.

Tych Cowdin, executive director, Communities In Schools Chatham County