

Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | MAY 19 - 25, 2022 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

ELECTION DAY 2022

'Unity' bloc, board seats pique interest

CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — More than 9,000 voters cast primary ballots in early voting — which ended Saturday — across Chatham County, but on Tuesday in Siler City, the town's two precincts drew plenty of Election Day voters, candidates and observers.

Many voters who came out said the four contested seats on town's board, including the vacant mayor seat and three commissioner slots, sparked their interest on a warm and

ELECTIONS: For local election results, go to chathamnewsrecord.com

CANDIDATES HARASSED: State investigates texts sent to Gallardo, Reddick. **PAGE 13**

sunny day.

All told, 1,148 Siler City voters cast ballots during the two-week early voting period, including 457 in the town's municipal election.

Some Siler City voters que-

ried at the town's precincts say they turned out to have their say on the abortion debate and education; others say they came out to save democracy.

"Our democracy is in danger, and we want to preserve it," said Vicky Justice, 68, who cast her ballot at the National Guard Armory on Alston Bridge Road in Siler City.

Many, too, turned out to support a particular party: at the Armory, an elderly couple leaving the polls echoed similar sentiments — "We've got to vote the Republicans back in,"

each said independently.

Leonard Smith of Silk Hope said he always voted on Election Day. Asked what was on his mind as he cast his ballot, he said: "As long as the Republicans get back in."

Many of the town's board of commissioners candidates were greeting voters walking into the Armory. Mayoral candidate Nick Gallardo staked out a position nearest the parking area before polls opened at 6:30 and engaged with most who came out to vote throughout the morning.

"We've had a good amount of people coming out," he said. "It's been pretty good so far."

Gallardo said some voters he'd spoken to mentioned news reports about harassing messages he'd received. (See related story, page A13.)

"A few people saw me on the news," he said. "They said they were sorry to see what's happening, but some people aren't surprised."

As Gallardo spoke with the News + Record, one voter

See **ELECTION**, page A8

Remembering Chatham's lynchings and a call for justice

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Members of the Chatham County community gathered Saturday to remember the five Chatham County residents lynched in the county more than a century ago.

Jerry Finch, Harriet Finch, John Pattishall, Lee Tyson and Henry Jones were memorialized through a soil collection and libation ceremony by the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham and both Chatham County NAACP branches. Local officials, including Chatham County Commissioner Karen Howard and Sheriff Mike Roberson, attended the event, held Saturday morning at the Chatham County Agricultural & Industrial Fair Association's fairgrounds east of downtown.

"The truth of these lynchings was never documented," Roberson told the 80 people in attendance. "Justice can never be achieved without truth. We mourn the lives of those unjustly lost."

Roberson said the victims of these lynchings — which includes Eugene Daniel, who was the county's last lynching victim and honored in a similar ceremony on the 100th anniversary of that murder last September — were not protected by their constitutional rights because none were provided a fair trial or granted presumption of innocence.

The dark history

On July 4, 1883, three women were found beaten with the handle of an axe outside of their home in Pittsboro. Two — Olive Gunter and Mary Jane Gunter — died, and



Staff photo by Ed Lallo

Soil from the lynching sites was sifted and refined in preparation for placement in display jars.

only Henrietta Gunter, who was 8 years old at the time of the attack, survived.

Police records from the time pointed toward Baxter Gunter — Olive's son, Mary Jane's sister and Henrietta's father — as the primary suspect. In December of 1883, however, Baxter was ruled not guilty. Prominent Chatham County philanthropist Joseph F. Womble was on the jury that ruled Baxter not guilty, and he penned a letter to local newspaper editors advocating for the release of the suspect prior to the court ruling.

Once Baxter was set free, the search for the murderer continued. Eighteen months after the Gunter murders, an elderly white farmer named Edwin Finch — along with his wife Sallie and his farmhand

See **JUSTICE**, page A7



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Soil from Jerry Finch's lynching site filled two identical jars. One will remain in Chatham County, while the other will be displayed at EJ's Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama.

Chatham County takes home Scholastic Cup at statewide education awards

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

GREENSBORO — Chatham County Schools was awarded the School District Scholastic Cup on Saturday night at the North Carolina Association for Scholastic Activity (NCASA) awards.

The award honors the district whose schools earn the most points through participation and excellence in NCASA competitions. Districts earn points by winning competitions like quiz bowl or science olympiad — basically, any non-athletic academic competition

CCS won the mid-sized district cup award at the ceremony, which took place at the UNC-Greensboro auditorium. Three district cups were given out based on size of school district.

NCASA has hosted award events in the past, but nothing to this scale. Previous events were held in high school auditoriums or multipurpose rooms with limited fanfare, but this year organizers pulled out all the stops: guests at the ceremony walked down a red carpet dressed to the nines as a balloon arch and complimenting photographers greeted them. They were then ushered into a reception room filled with hors d'oeuvres and a student jazz band playing.

In the first award-show-style event hosted by NCASA, educators, students and schools were meant to feel honored for their outstanding performances throughout the academic year.

The awards ceremony, titled "Metrographics Printing North Carolina Showcase," included live performances from 10 different state champion performing arts students and groups including a cappella, show choir and dance.

Superintendents, volunteers, teachers and students of the year were also recognized for their dedication to education.

See **AWARDS**, page A3

Mixed use development raises questions for Pittsboro officials

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham Park may become home to another large mixed-use development, but it could take longer than initially anticipated.

Developers approached commissioners during the board's regular meeting last week with plans for a 212-acre neighborhood — Robeson Walk, originally brought to the board in 2019 — with between 600 and 900 housing units and up to 50,000 square feet of commercial developments south of the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 64

Business and East Street and adjacent to Industrial Drive.

Commissioners, however, raised concerns regarding affordable housing and loss of industrial land, resulting in the indefinite tabling of the project.

Parts of the Chatham Park development where Robeson Walk is targeted for is zoned as an M-2 region, designated for industrial developments under Pittsboro's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Commissioner Jay Farrell raised his concerns regarding

See **PITTSBORO**, page A6

'KEEP OUR HISTORY LIVING'

CSSE students design interactive walking tour of downtown Pittsboro

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham School of Science & Engineering history teacher Anna Blackwell began the spring semester with a challenge to her 9th and 10th grade students: to learn about the history of the place they lived.

She wanted them to make the historical sites of Chatham County — places they passed every day without realizing the significance — come alive.

The school encourages

See **WALKING**, page A6



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Students in Anna Blackwell's local history class have been researching historical sites around Pittsboro to create an interactive walking tour.

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 **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center. The meeting will be livestreamed.
The **Chatham County**

Board of Commissioners are scheduled to hold budget work sessions at 9 a.m. each day May 24-26 at the Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center.

OTHER

Siler City Lions Club meets at Dry Dock Seafood, at 408 N. 2nd Ave., on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The meal begins at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30. The next meetings is scheduled for May 24.
The **Chatham Chamber of Commerce** invites you to join us from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, as we celebrate the relocation of the Pittsboro office of Harris & Company Insurance, in the MOSAIC at Chatham Park, 60 Mosaic Blvd, Suite 130. The event begins at 6 p.m. with the Ribbon Cutting at 6:15. Networking continues until 7 p.m.
The **Silk Hope Ruritans** host a Benefit Bingo on

the first, third, and fifth Thursday of each month. Next on the schedule is May 19 at the Silk Hope Community Center.
Horton High School Alumni Assn., Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for 2022-2023 HHSAA Scholarship. Descendants of any Horton High School alumnus or attendee may apply online, at hortonhighalumni.com; then click on "scholarship." Applications must be accepted by August 1, 2022.
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church provides a healthy meal at no cost to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.
The **Chatham Historical Museum** is open Wednesday, Thursday

and Friday, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. We will be following the governor's directive on occupancy, masks, and social distancing. Adult and kid friendly; no admission fee. Our permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history. The Museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the Circle. More info at <https://chathamhistory.org>.
Second Bloom hours are 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. We are located at 630 East St., Pittsboro, in the Food Lion Shopping Center. We are accepting donations of gently used men's and women's spring clothing and accessories. Credit cards are accepted. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence, 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.
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.
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 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.
Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

NEWS BRIEF

N.C. announces plan to join broadband equity, access, and deployment program

RALEIGH — Gov. Roy Cooper has declared North Carolina's intent to participate in the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.
"State and federal partnerships are critical to helping us close the digital divide and North Carolina is all in on getting internet for all," Cooper said last week. "This effort will pave the way toward a future where everyone will have access to high-speed and high-quality internet."
"North Carolina's participation in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program will bring additional funding to connect un-

served households and businesses across the state with high-speed internet service," said N.C. Department of Information Technology's Deputy Secretary for Broadband and Digital Equity Nate Denny. "We look forward to working with both our federal and local partners in this initiative so more North Carolinians can benefit from crucial access to online work, education and healthcare resources."
On May 13, Cooper joined U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo to announce the launch of the Biden-Harris Administration's Internet For All initiative in Durham. Administered and implemented by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Internet for All initiative will invest \$45 billion to

provide affordable, reliable, high-speed internet for everyone in America by the end of the decade. The BEAD Program is one of the three Internet for All Notices of Funding Opportunity.
The BEAD Program expands high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs across the country. To participate in the program, eligible entities must submit a letter of intent and a planning funds project to allow states to begin creating their five-year action plan.
Governor Cooper has designated the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT)'s Division of Broadband and Digital Equity as the recipient and administering agent for BEAD Program awards and NCDIT Deputy Secretary of

Broadband and Digital Equity Nate Denny as North Carolina's point of contact. The Governor

has requested \$5 million in initial planning funds for the state. Expanding access to

high-speed internet in North Carolina is a key priority for state officials. —CN+R staff reports

How did you LAND here?



Eric Andrews
Accredited Land Consultant

HAS ERIC SOLD A PROPERTY NEAR YOU LATELY?

96 PROPERTIES SOLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS!

LAND (Representing Sellers) 42 units

- 911 Gollers View (.586 Acres)
- 00 Jim Gilliland Road (35.4 Acres)
- 000 Jim Gilliland Road (18,598 Acres)
- 1431 NC 42 Hwy (23.26 Acres)
- 8457 Pike Road (22.43 Acres)
- 3097 N NC 87 (2.845 Acres)
- 0 Caviness Town Road (7.41 Acres)
- 0 Pleasant Hill Church Road (90.788 Acres)
- 69 Hazelwood (.62 Acres)
- 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)
- 59 Colonial Trail (.476 Acres)
- 0 Diane Street (9.21 Acres)
- 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)
- 3095 N NC 87 (2.269 Acres)
- 2453 Marthas Chapel Road (2.052 Acres)
- 419 Hickory Pond Road (3.208 Acres)
- 435 Hickory Pond Road (2.72 Acres)
- 275 George Brooks Drive (184 Acres)
- 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)
- 0 Jim Gilliland Road (64.882 Acres)
- 218 Pete Thomas Road (109.11 Acres)
- 0 Roselle Road (46.2 Acres)
- 323 Patterson Drive (5.46 Acres)
- 106 Caley Wilson Road (2.185 Acres)
- 0 Pete Roberson (61.21 Acres)
- 180 Thompson Street (.30 Acres)
- 1562 Hadley Mill Road (15.489 Acres)
- 0 Stone Street (50.72 Acres)
- 1604 Bonlee School Road (110.49 Acres)
- 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
- 1447 Old US 1 (.870 Acres)
- 0 Chicken Bridge Road (10.051 Acres)
- 00 Manns Chapel Road (49.41 Acres)
- 2328 Andrews Store Road (24.385 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)
- 271 Talon Drive (11.97 Acres)
- 1835 Lewter Shop Road (3.24 Acres)
- 0000 Jim Gilliland Road (57.284 Acres)
- 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres)
- 4931 Old Graham Road (2.774 Acres) units

LAND (Representing Buyers) 12 Units

- 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)
- 0 Hawkins Avenue (9.7 Acres)
- 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)
- 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)

COMMERCIAL (REPRESENTING SELLERS) 3 Units

- 219 East Street (Pittsboro)
- 45 West Street (Pittsboro)
- 175 East Salisbury Street (Pittsboro)

COMMERCIAL (REPRESENTING BUYERS) 1 Units

- 45 West Street (Pittsboro)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 23 Units

- 570 Abeyanca Road (Moncure)
- 2221 Brisbayne Circle (Raleigh)
- 427 Fenton Place (Charlotte)
- 52 Gentle Winds Drive (Pittsboro)
- 1475 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
- 550 Callie Lane (Bear Creek)
- 3871 S. Plank Road (Sanford)
- 76 Millbrook Drive (Pittsboro)
- 5144 Rives Chapel Church Road (Siler City)
- 200 Valley View Lane (Pittsboro)
- 1822 Chandellay Drive (Durham)
- 5631 Swanns Station Road (Sanford)
- 4233 NC Highway 902 (Pittsboro)
- 130 Estes Drive (Chapel Hill)
- 117 Foxwood (Sanford)
- 1136 Sanford Road (Pittsboro)
- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)
- 1429 Van Thomas Road (Pittsboro)
- 1315 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
- 745 Merl McManus Road (Bear Creek)
- 2349 S. Main Street (Goldston)
- 206 Olympia Street (Siler City)
- 8798 Sylvan Road (Liberty)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 6 Units

- 427 Fenton Place (Charlotte)
- 4513 Bumphus Road (Chapel Hill)
- 107 Hawks Spiral Way (Pittsboro)
- 85 Herndon Creek Way (Chapel Hill)
- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)
- 6490 Snow Camp Road (Snow Camp)



Submitted photo

Certificate of Appreciation

The Siler City Lions Club presented a certificate of appreciation to Lee Copeland, co-owner of Dry Dock Seafood Restaurant in Siler City, for supporting the club. From left are club President Barbara Ernst, Copelan, and club Treasurer Juanita Brown.

CORRECTIONS

In the story "Commissioners get first look at FY22-23 budget," published in the May 5-11 edition, the county's proposed property tax rate was incorrectly provided at 67 cents. The actual rate is 66.5 cents per \$100

valuation. In addition, the story reflected total projected county tax revenues of \$94.6 million; that number reflects only property tax revenues. In the story "From Troop 93, a flock of Eagles are hatched,"

published in the May 12-18 edition, Scouts Anthony Trotter and Andrew Trotter were referred to as Anthony Logan and Andrew Logan in portions of the story. The News + Record regrets the errors.

Chatham News + Record

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Featured CN+R YouTube Video of the Week
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzZYGocX0I8>

VIDEO TOPIC: Selling Land in the Information Age. Are Brokers Still Relevant?

The Andrews Team is proudly introducing Broker and Buyer Agent **Andy McPherson**. Andy's career covers four decades of real estate expertise. He will focus on Andrews Team listings and assisting buyers to find suitable properties.



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SCE's Estevez named CCS' April Equity Champion of the Month

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff



Courtesy of Chatham County Schools' Twitter account

Chris Poston (right), Chatham County Schools' executive director for excellence and opportunity, recognizes Siler City Elementary School ESL teacher Alirio Estevez as the district's April Equity Champion of the Month.

above and beyond." First on the list? Deanna Fox, a 5th grade teacher at Virginia Cross Elementary. The criteria qualifying her and other award recipients derive from the district's definition of equity, which Poston recited in part as "reducing the predictability of who succeeds and who fails," dismantling practices hurting diverse students in school settings, and providing all students whatever they need to succeed. "All of our nominees have one thing in common: They advocate for students fiercely," Poston

said. "In addition to advocating for students, they also seize opportunities to support diversity, and they lead equity initiatives in their respective schools." Other recipients include Lindsay Phillips, a school counselor at Seaforth High School, and Cheryl Whitehead, who teaches English at the Chatham School of Science and Engineering. All awardees received a certificate honoring their work, "a balloon bouquet," one paid registration for a conference of their choice, and recognition during school board

meetings. Most, Poston said, received nominations from multiple colleagues within their schools. SCE principal Tania Poston nominated Estevez for April's award, describing him as a "true asset to SCE" and an advocate for marginalized students. "He ensures that every student he serves has the resources and support needed to be successful by communicating with the classroom teacher and building home to school connections," she wrote. "Mr. Estevez in conjunction with the Equity team wrote morning meeting lessons for Hispanic Heritage Month. He also submitted biographical information of notable local and famous African Americans for Black History Month. Mr. Estevez believes that representation matters and arranged for Rep. Robert Reives II to do a whole school read aloud during this month as well."

But his equity efforts aren't just limited to the classroom; outside of school, Tania Poston said Estevez also "works tirelessly" to register voters. Estevez is also a member of Chatham County Literacy Council's board of directors. "I want to promote and breathe equity not only in my classroom but my whole school and my community," Estevez said. "I strive to recognize our differences and use them as strengths. For instance, I encourage my Latino students and families to be proud of their language as well as their culture while learning English."

As to what advice he'd offer other teachers seeking to create an equitable learning environment, he pointed to something he thinks most teachers already apply — "Love and respect your students and their families." "I deeply believe that we should love and value every one of our fellow human beings because of and in spite of our similarities and differences," he said. "Hatred, racism, sexism, bigotry are regrettable ideas that may lead us — as it has in the past — to painful outcomes."

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



Photo courtesy of Melissa Leftwich

Chatham County's Assistant Superintendent Amanda Moran and board Vice Chairperson Del Turner pose with the Scholastic District Cup. Chatham County Schools won the award at the North Carolina Association for Scholastic Activity Showcase on Saturday night.

AWARDS

Continued from page A1

Once the award show began, guests were welcomed to their seats by an orchestra. Each award's finalists were announced by members of the NCASA board with kitschy phrasing like "the Eddie goes to..." Winners would then give a brief speech and pose for pictures. The whole event was meant to feel like the academy awards of education.

Chatham County Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services & Instructional Support, Amanda Moran, and board of education Vice Chairperson Del Turner attended as the representative award winners from Chatham.

"We are so excited to be able to take the Scholastic Cup home," Moran said. "We would like to thank our students, our parents, and all of our group leaders for all of their hard work. This cup is for them."

While she wasn't in attendance, Jordan-Matthews High School quiz bowl coach Rose Pate was also nominated for a coach of the year. She finished runner-up for the award for her outstanding dedication to the team and Jordan-Matthews High School. Her son, Kirby Pate, tweeted out his congratulations. "JM has punched above our weight in Quiz Bowl competitions for decades," Kirby said. "She is an all time great

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or [@b_rappaport](https://twitter.com/b_rappaport).

Quiz Bowl coach who is finally getting recognition for literal generations of excellence." NCASA competitions include Quiz Bowl, Science Olympiad, Odyssey of the Mind and more. Schools earn points through participation and winning in these various competitions. More than 250 schools across the state participate in NCASA competitions. The competitions are meant to prepare students for college and beyond, as well as give them confidence through life skills. The organization is open to all middle and high schools.

Leon Pfeiffer, the executive director of NCA-SA, had been organizing Saturday night's award ceremony since before the pandemic began.

"We've never done something so big," Pfeiffer told the News + Record. "I just wanted to shine a brighter spotlight on the great students, and schools, and educators. That's what we set out to do and that's what we did."

Pfeiffer said by providing a spotlight, he hopes educators and students will improve themselves. He called the night an absolute success and said he hopes to make it bigger and better next year.

For more information about the event and NCASA visit ncscholastic.org.

Sponsored by
The NC Arts Incubator and The Chatham Rabbit Coffee Shop

SILER CITY DOWNTOWN MUSIC SERIES

2022

HOMEGROWN, LOCALLY SOURCED BANDS
(Bluegrass, Blues, Folk, Jazz, Rock and everything in between)

May 21
The Radio

June 18
THC
(Tommy, Hank & Cecil)

July 16
The Simon
Dunson Quartet

August 20
Whoop

September 17
Saludos Compay

October 15
Impulse Machine

APRIL–OCTOBER, 2022
EVERY 3RD SATURDAY

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Liles Plumbing and Heating Co, Inc | Caroline Liles Hudson, Broker/Realtor Jon York Realty

SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Siler City approves budget for 2022-23 fiscal year

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City Commissioners unanimously approved the town's \$19.2 million budget for fiscal 2022-23 Monday after a brief public hearing.

The budget includes a \$9.6 million general fund allocation — an almost 12% increase from last year — along with almost \$9 million reserved for water and sewage work and nearly half a million dollars for street repairs across town.

The proposed tax rate for this year's budget is set to remain unchanged from last year's \$0.54 per \$100 of valuation. Property valuation throughout the town increased by 1.9%, from \$571.7 million to \$582.8 million.

Interim Town Manager Bill Zell presented the budget to commissioners, which goes in force on July 1.

"I believe this budget will allow each department to do their job at a level that you, the board of commissioners, and our citizens have come to expect of them," Zell said.

Other business:

• Hank Raper was sworn into his

new position as Siler City's new town manager on Monday evening. He said he was excited to get to work at his new job and work with Siler City staff and residents.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity," Raper said. "It's a privilege to be town manager for the town of Siler City, and I've been looking forward to it for the last several weeks."

His first day was Monday; the town will host a meet and greet event with Raper from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, May 23, at Cowboy Cafe.

Commissioners honored Tony Siler for his time as a town commissioner serving Siler City's District 1. He served in the role for almost 20 years and is not seeking reelection this year.

"We're honoring someone who has been a friend of mine for a long time," Mayor Pro Tem Chip Price said. "He has dedicated himself to being on the board and working for all of the good for the people."

A reception was held in his honor after Monday's meeting.

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@HeedenTaylor](https://twitter.com/HeedenTaylor)

VIEWPOINTS

Our obligation to free speech

Earlier this month, Adrienne Westenfeld wrote a piece in Esquire magazine about the recent rise in the number of banned books.

According to the American Library Association, the number in the United States surged to 729 books in 2021, the highest total since the statistic was tracked.

Westenfeld believes this increase reflects the larger cultural war concerning sexuality and gender. Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas wants to ban books with “overtly sexual” content, which has been widely interpreted as those with references to LGBTQ material. In Florida,

Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a law requiring public elementary schools to post searchable library databases that would allow books to be targeted and removed by outside groups. And in Wyoming, a prosecutor considered seeking criminal charges against public librarians who stocked books with LGBTQ themes. Imagine locking up librarians for doing their jobs!

Political conservatives have put libraries in their cross-hairs. However, banning books is a culture war loss, even if proponents claim victory in a particular battle. In the Esquire article, Westenfeld cited a recent poll by CBS News that said 87% of Americans are against banning books.

Still, the same unpopular arguments are used as justification. Censors claim that books and other printed

media influence behavior by reshaping opinions. It is true that the aim of certain writers is to persuade. Let’s suppose reading this humble column in your local newspaper might actually change your mind...

But if that were to happen, you would not have been brainwashed. You would still have a moral compass. Words can be persuasive, yet your opinion is ultimately yours.

Of course, as a parent, I have discretion over what materials I give to my young readers, including books with mature themes and graphic content. But that doesn’t mean I should control what other people read. That would infringe their right.

Let me offer a metaphor. My dear friend is a devout Muslim. For religious reasons, Ahmad abstains from eating pork. While I do not meet him

for BBQ sandwiches at lunch, neither does my friend insist that those restaurants close down. He understands that his right to religious freedom, while guaranteed in this country, does not curtail the rights of others. Despite his personal position on pork, Ahmad is a good citizen for recognizing that I enjoy it!

Scott Hershovitz, director of the Law and Ethics Program and professor at the University of Michigan, clarifies that “rights are relationships. ... At least two people are party to every right: the right holder and the obligation bearer.” I appreciate the language of “relationships” and “obligation” because democracy is a duty and citizenship a responsibility. In terms of free speech, you have a right to publish; others have the right to read you. I

have an obligation to allow your book in the public space, even if I don’t agree with you. Therefore, public libraries should not be censored by partisan politicians.

In response to the record number of banned books, Patricia Wong, president of the American Library Association, issued this statement: “Despite this organized effort to ban books, libraries remain ready to do what we always have: make knowledge and ideas available so people are free to choose what to read.” That is democracy at work.

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.”



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

Please come back, Saturday morning

Throughout my lifetime, I’ve been exposed to much in the way of cartoons and their characters. Some of that was by choice; some was by circumstance.



BOB WACHS
Movin’ Around

In thinking about all that, though, I’ve come to a conclusion about the difference between those of my innocent youth and today’s offerings.

Today’s aren’t funny. Many of them are social commentaries or attempts to espouse a point of view. And while I do appreciate the power of the pen over that of the sword in trying to form or sway public opinion (since fewer people are hurt by a pen than by a sword), I’m like the Statler Brothers in their song, “Whatever Happened to Randolph Scott?” There’s a line in the lyrics that says, “Everybody’s trying to make a comment about our doubts and fears.”

I prefer cartoons that just entertain. What’s wrong with that?

But today, it’s not just the cartoons but movies and comic strips, as well. I think the shift started when some of the censors determined that Saturday morning cartoons featuring Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner were “too violent” and that some impressionable youth might try to duplicate some of their antics. Never mind that what took their place were not only cars and trucks that “transformed” into fire-spitting androids, but also shooters and shootees that shed blood — but always managed to rise from the dead. I’m pretty sure that’s been done only a time or two in the last 2,000 and only at Jerusalem in Israel, but that didn’t stop some impressionable youth from pulling out weapons and firing them randomly at large numbers of victims to see if real life imitated those cartoons.

Granted, there are some calmer ones today like “Paw Patrol” and “Bluey,” which my grandchildren have introduced me to. But often, they aren’t “funny,” at least to me, and they’re on 24/7 somewhere. Perhaps familiarity really is breeding contempt.

Long ago and far away when dinosaurs roamed the face of the earth and I watched Saturday morning cartoons, the lineup included Mighty Mouse, Heckle and Jeckyll, Merrie Melodies, Woody Woodpecker and a few other equally harmless offerings. You’d get up early in the morning, pull out a big bowl and box of sweet cereal and hunker down until noon or so when a ball game or dance party came on, then repeat it all again the next Saturday.

Today, few commercial networks show much of anything on Saturday mornings other than local programming, while the expansion of cable television has led to a bonanza of “infomercials,” which is fine if you want to order a truckload of pots and pans or artificial jewelry, but not if you’re yearning for Porky Pig.

Most of the death knell for the cartoons are traced to changing morals of society, federal rules requiring television stations to produce three hours of educational programming weekly and limits on children’s advertising. Throw all that in with the increased amounts of computers, video games and other electronic devices, and there you have it. Add to that mix that many of today’s youth — and children — are far more “sophisticated” and hip than we “Baby Boomers” and cartoons are no longer good things, and you see and get what we’ve got.

Still in all, today’s viewers don’t know what they’re missing with that big box of cereal, even if most of it was sugar and not much nutritional value, as in Sugar Corn Pops or Sugar Smacks. Somewhere in a stack of CDs, I have a collection of a number of cartoons spanning the years, which is another reason they went off the air since countless other folks also have similar CDs.

Now my only problem is my CD player has bit the dust; if it were a horse, I’d have to shoot it. One day soon, I’m going to have to bite the bullet and buy another one. I hear the Road Runner beeping my name.

Only problem is, I can’t find any Sugar Smacks on the shelves.

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.



Do we live in the most uncertain of times?

I was born in 1951, so my seven decades of life now make me a senior citizen.

As I think back, our country has been through many crises in those 71 years. In 1951, we faced the uncertainty of a war in Korea. Later came the Cuban missile crisis,

John Kennedy’s assassination, the Vietnam War, eleven recessions, the largest single percentage stock market drop in 1987, the 9/11 attacks, the COVID-19 pandemic and numerous others. My point is that, as a country, we have faced many challenges just during my lifetime.

While not taking anything away from the previous tests to our country, I think a strong case can be made that this year — 2022 — may be the most traumatic and uncertain for our country, at least since World War II. A big reason is we don’t just face one or two uncertainties, but we are confronted with many.

Indeed, I count at least five big uncertainties, each one of which would be enough to make us worry. Ranked in no certain order are high inflation, the possibility of a recession, the Ukraine War, the talk of a nuclear conflict and significant changes to work.

The latest reading on inflation shows an annual increase in the typical consumers’ market basket of goods and services of 8.5%, the largest jump since 1981. Since most households are not receiving comparable increases in their wages and salaries, today’s inflation rate means the average standard of living — measured by what people can buy — is falling. This hasn’t happened in three decades.

The problem of high inflation directly leads to the next challenge of today — the possibility

of an upcoming recession. The typical way inflation is corralled is for the U.S. central bank — the Federal Reserve (“Fed”) — to slow the pace of spending. The Fed does this by increasing interest rates and pulling cash out of the economy. The current Fed has already said they will use these methods to reduce today’s high inflation rate.

The Fed’s goal is to slow the economy just enough to moderate price increases without causing businesses to significantly reduce production and employment. If production and jobs were to plunge for at least six months, then economists would consider the pullback an official recession. While the Fed would not want its strategy to lead to a recession, there’s always the possibility — some say likelihood — it will. Just within the last couple of months, many economists have increased their chances of recession occurring this year.

Although the Ukraine War is foremost a geopolitical conflict — with the U.S. and its European allies backing Ukraine against Russia — it also has broad economic implications. The conflict has already caused many commodity prices, like oil, gold and wheat, to rise well above their levels at the beginning of the year. The price hikes reflect fears of shortages in supplies for many of the commodities. We’ve especially seen the impact of these higher commodity prices at the gas pump and in supermarkets.

But the higher commodity prices reflect another worry — the fourth uncertainty I mentioned — which would be the most worrisome of all. This is the possibility of a nuclear conflict.

Until now, the Ukraine War has been fought with conventional weapons. Yet, as Russia’s military goals have been stymied by the Ukrainians, Russian leaders have openly hinted about the possibility of using nuclear weapons both

against Ukraine and countries backing Ukraine. This would be unprecedented. It raises images of a full-fledged nuclear world war, which would likely destroy most of civilization. As a youngster, I remember the last time the world was brought to the brink of a nuclear war during the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, and it was a tense and scary time.

The fifth worry — the swift changes happening in the labor market — are a feature of the post-COVID economy. COVID prompted three big shifts in the labor market. One was a reassessment of life motivating a surge in retirements of older workers and a departure from the labor market of many younger workers, especially those with children. The second was an up-skilling of numerous workers during the height of the pandemic, meaning when they returned to the workforce they left lower-paying jobs and moved to higher-paying jobs.

The third emerging labor market shift is a result of the first two. It is the accelerated use of technology and automation by companies that have not been able to eliminate their labor shortages. We will see much more labor-saving technology in coming years that will keep many workers guessing if they will continue to have jobs.

Every one of these uncertainties is important and hard to predict. They also have impacts that affect virtually everyone, but to have five of them together is, at least in my lifetime, extraordinary. This makes me believe 2022 is a unique year. It may very well go down in history as the “year of enormous worry,” yet hopefully — fingers crossed — with positive outcomes. As time passes, we’ll be able to decide!

Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

VIEWPOINTS

Telehealth genie has escaped its bottle

Before the onset of COVID-19 in early 2020, patients who preferred to obtain medical services through video chats or phone calls were unlikely to be reimbursed for those expenses. Medicare, for example, covered telehealth visits only for patients in remote rural areas and only if they journeyed to some other institution — a doctor's office, say, or a clinic — to consult with a provider based elsewhere. Other third-party payers followed similar protocols.

The pandemic loosened these constraints, for a time. Private insurers expanded coverage to include many more telehealth services. The federal government adopted temporary rules to allow its programs more latitude, as well. In March, Congress enacted a budget bill that, among other things,

extended Medicare's broader coverage of telehealth for a few more months.

Why not make the status quo permanent? I think we ought to, although I grant that the issue isn't a simple one. There are plausible objections that deserve careful consideration.

For example, some policymakers believe reimbursing patients to "see" providers from home rather than going to medical clinics or physician offices will result in worse health outcomes. Some services can only be delivered effectively in person, they argue, which is clearly true. In addition, while being examined, patients who come in for one condition or procedure may exhibit signs of something else that requires immediate attention — something that may not be detected in a video chat or telephone call.

And as far as the already exorbitant cost of medical care is concerned, some policymakers worry that expanded access to telemedicine will make it easier for patients to consume services of little incremental

value, thus increasing revenue to providers without any noticeable gain in outcomes.

Notice that these objections are practical ones, not philosophical ones. Pretty much everyone grants that telehealth has the potential to lower costs and improve the patient experience. For many routine visits, check-ups, and monitoring sessions, that potential to deliver the service without travel times, waiting times, and excessive overhead ought to be of great interest to all concerned.

So, does the practice of telehealth deliver on that potential? Real-world experience during the pandemic looks promising to me. In a new research paper jointly published by the Progressive Policy Institute and Americans for Prosperity, researchers found big cost savings. Before COVID, only 134,000 Medicare patients were receiving weekly care via telehealth. After the reimbursement policy was temporarily broadened, that number shot up to an astounding 10.1 million.

"Between January 2020 and February 2021, the average telehealth patients' health care expenses fell 61%, from \$1,099 per month to \$425 per month," the authors found. "Furthermore, telehealth patients purchased fewer in-person health care services such as emergency care during this time period. This suggests virtual care improves patient health and allows individuals to purchase fewer expensive procedures."

Other research predicts similar benefits. A March 2022 paper in the journal *Pain Management Nursing* found that offering telehealth to veterans resulted in a gigantic 83% reduction in missed doctor visits, which likely had salutary effects on both cost and health outcomes.

"The findings from this project demonstrate that telehealth can be used as an alternative to in-person care for people in pain," the authors wrote. "Telehealth is also a long-term sustainable option for patients with higher probability of missed appointments or people

who may have transportation challenges."

Other studies show positive results for diabetes monitoring, post-surgical rehabilitation, anxiety disorders, and the evaluation and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders. In the diabetes case, the research team concluded that "digital health interventions" appear to "improve glycemic control and reduce the need for caesarean delivery." Both outcomes represent major improvements not only in the health of diabetics and their families but also in controlling the costs associated with the disease.

In surveys, most patients receiving virtual care report high levels of satisfaction. Let's face it: The telehealth genie will never be crammed back into its pre-COVID bottle. Time to give it more explicit — and lasting — instructions.

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



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

How did Trump's endorsements do in North Carolina?

How are we going to use the results of the May 17 primary to measure Donald Trump's influence over the North Carolina Republican Party? The outcomes of three primary races give us a good chance to judge how much the former president's great popularity with Republicans translates into power to win GOP primaries. Also, we can begin to make judgments about how much Trump-endorsed winners owe their patron.

In the recent Ohio U.S. Senate Republican primary, the Trump-endorsed J.D. Vance won even though he secured only about 31% of the total vote. He will be the Republican candidate in the fall.

But can Vance's primary victory prove Trump's overwhelming power even when his candidate received less than one-third of the total primary vote?

I don't think so. The North Carolina primary results in the three races featuring Trump-endorsed candidates could raise the same question.

Ted Budd

First, in the U.S. Senate Republican primary Trump-endorsed U.S. Rep. Ted Budd faces former Gov. Pat McCrory, former U.S. Rep. Mark Walker, first-time political candidate Marjorie Eastman, and several others.

Budd also got the endorsement and millions of dollars in spending by the powerful Club for Growth super PAC, which is arguably even more important than Trump's endorsement.

If Budd wins at least 40% of the primary vote, Trump can legitimately brag about his influence. But anything less would be a disappointment for him.

Madison Cawthorn

Madison Cawthorn is running for re-election to the U.S. House with Trump's support. Interestingly, when he first ran for Congress two years ago, Cawthorn's primary opponent got Trump's support.

Cawthorn won anyway. This year, Cawthorn got Trump's endorsement in March at Mar-a-Lago. Trump called Cawthorn a friend who has "done an incredible job in Congress."

"He has my endorsement," he said. "He has my complete and total, as I like to say, endorsement. And he's a very special

guy and let's back him all the way, whatever he wants to do."

Since then, Cawthorn has faced a wave of unfavorable news coverage of irresponsible behavior and inattention to duties in Congress. At least two credible candidates opposed him. A win by either would be due largely to Cawthorn's antics. A primary loss would be on his shoulders, not Trump's.

However, if Cawthorn wins nomination with more than 30%, look for Trump to claim credit.

Bo Hines

Meanwhile, a third candidate for the U.S. House with Trump's backing is, according to *The New York Times*, "the purest test of the former president's influence yet."

That candidate, Bo Hines, also has support from Club for Growth, which planned to spend \$1.3 million for him in the primary.

The 26-year-old Hines was a star football player at N.C. State before transferring to Yale and then, as he put it: "After graduating from Yale, I pursued a law degree from the Wake Forest School of Law to escape the leftist propaganda of the Ivy League."

He does not lack for ambition. As early as 2005, he confessed his hope to be "governor of North Carolina, and the ultimate goal would be president."

Nor does he lack for money. His parents are Charlotte-based wealthy entrepreneurs, but his reports show almost no contributions from Johnston, southern Wake, and other counties that make up the congressional district where he is running.

His main opponent, Kelly Daughtry, has deep connections to that district. Her well-known and respected father, Leo Daughtry, a lawyer, served in both the North Carolina Senate and House, and on the UNC Board of Governors. Kelly Daughtry herself has contributed almost \$3 million to the campaign.

Summary:
• Big win for Trump if Budd gets 40% or more.
• Big win for Trump if Cawthorn survives his primary and no big loss for Trump if Cawthorn loses.
• Very big loss for Trump and the probable end of Hines' political career if Kelly Daughtry beats him and wins nomination even at just over 30%.

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

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



LETTERS

Some questions about our strategy with Ukraine

TO THE EDITOR:

Three months into the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine, I am as horrified as everyone else by the constant stream of wartime images and reports. I am also dismayed, however, that the U.S. — like NATO in general — now frames its goal not simply as supporting Ukraine but as weakening and even defeating Russia. This approach raises some huge questions.

Is this aim of pushing Russia into defeat (and Putin from power) even logical? Does it make sense to characterize Putin as a megalomaniac monster while simultaneously assuming that he won't resort to nuclear weapons if cornered? Public statements about "weakening Russia" (from Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin) and being "fundamentally at war, although somewhat through a proxy, with Russia" (Rep. Seth Moulton, D.-Mass.) serve really to confirm Putin's assertions that it's Russia vs the West. Accepting Finland and Sweden into NATO seems likely only to push Putin further towards retaliation rather than guaranteeing any country's safety.

There's also the staggering amount of money involved. Congress is passing a \$40 billion aid package for Ukraine,

mostly aimed at military rather than humanitarian assistance. Meanwhile, in our country today, 14.4% of Americans (42.5 million people) currently live below the poverty line, according to the U.S. Census. Thirty million lack health insurance. Baby formula is scarce. Student debt is escalating, and fewer than ever of our bright young people feel they can afford to go to college. Fire season is starting early in the parched West, with hurricane season not far behind here in the East. COVID cases, hospitalization, and death rates are rising, but funding for vaccines and treatment has stalled. Why are we willing to commit huge sums of money to the weapons industry rather than to the infrastructures we so desperately need as a society and as a planet?

Finally, why doesn't President Biden — leader of the richest, most powerful nation the world has ever known — convene an urgent peace summit to bring an end to the dreadful suffering in Ukraine and to the enormous threat of nuclear catastrophe hanging over all our heads? Isn't it possible to condemn Russian aggression but yet work skillfully for a negotiated peace? Do we really want to fight Russia to the last Ukrainian, and possibly to the last vestige of life on earth? If not, we as responsible citizens need to

raise our voices, and say no.
Chris Mayfield
Pittsboro

Candidate Reddick did participate in Sierra Club process

TO THE EDITOR:

Perhaps Reverend [Albert] Reddick is disappointed that he didn't get the Sierra Club endorsement ("Reddick knocks Sierra Club over missed endorsement opportunity," Letters to the Editor, May 12-18 edition) but he knows all about our process, because he participated in it.

We ask all registered candidates if they would like to be considered for our endorsement based on their answers to our questionnaire, evaluation of their campaign materials, experience, and performance in candidate events — but can only consider them if they say "yes" to the invitation.

In the Pittsboro race, Pamela Baldwin didn't. In the past, we have — successfully — endorsed African American candidates, including Carl Thompson and Karen Howard. Of those that responded this cycle, we chose David Delaney and Katie Kenlan as the most environmentally responsible choices for Chatham County. We hope that advice helps voters pick their candidates wisely.

Judith Ferster
Political Committee, Orange/Chatham Sierra Club Group

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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.

WADE BARBER JR. | 1944 - 2022

Beloved attorney, judge Barber dies at 78

CN+R Staff Report

Wade Barber Jr., a revered local attorney and judge, was remembered fondly as a respected attorney, jurist and friend following his death last Friday.

Barber, who grew up in Pittsboro, died Friday after a short battle with ALS. His obituary said he passed away surrounded by family members — his wife Marina, his daughters Claire and Liz, their partners Lois Bukowski and Danny Spiegel, and his son James Riley.

Retired journalist and editor Ted Vaden recalls Barber serving as a judge, presiding over a trial in which he was the plaintiff.

“His ruling went against me, but I came away respecting the fair way he conducted the trial and his careful reasoning on



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Wade Barber, shown here with family members after receiving the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in March, died Friday at the age of 78.

the merits of the law,” Vaden said. “Later, I came to know Wade better as he and his wife Marina hosted at their home a

regular gathering of thinking people — lawyers, journalists, academics, a preacher or two — to discuss issues of

the day. Those were evenings from which I emerged always refreshed and enlightened.”

Barber had a special love for Chatham County and the folks who grew up there and lived there.

“Maybe it came from his father, who had that as well,” said attorney and former legislator Joe Hackney. “He was proud to serve Chatham and Orange as District Attorney, and later as Superior Court Judge. But I think his favorite times were those years when he was practicing law in Pittsboro with his father, with Ed Holmes, and later with daughter Liz.”

On Facebook, commenters remembered Barber as “a true gentleman,” a “real class act,” and “a gentleman of the highest order.”

Barber served on the boards of a long list of

organizations, including the Golden Leaf Foundation, the North Carolina Environmental Defense Fund, the North Carolina Bar Association and many other legal panels and advisory groups. His awards included the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union Award, the North Carolina Mediation Network Service Award, the North Carolina Bar Association’s Dispute Resolution Section Service Award, and the Chatham County Smart Start Distinguished Service Award.

He was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease) in January, and in March he was inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the state’s highest civilian honor.

A memorial service was held Monday. Barber’s obituary can be found in this week’s edition.

PITTSBORO

Continued from page A1

the potential loss of industrial land in town.

“We would have 212 acres that we would be losing to residential,” he said. “I know our amount of M-2 is dwindling; there are other developments that are coming, and it really concerns me because we are limited in acreage for M-2.”

Farrell wasn’t alone in his concern.

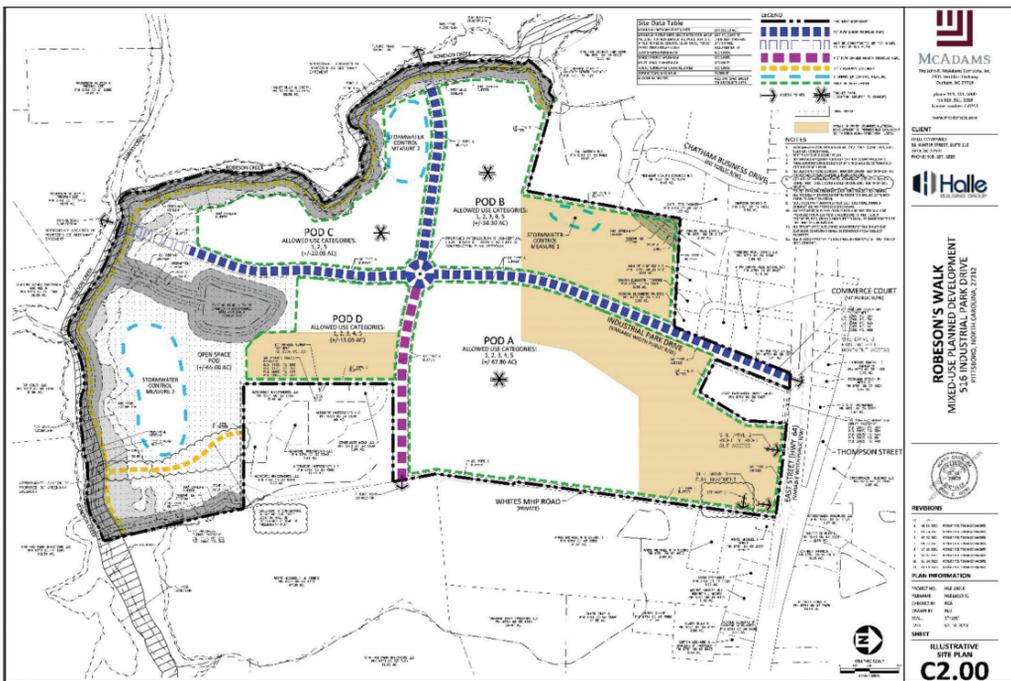
Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin also sounded the alarm regarding the conversion of the industrial land to townhomes, single family homes and multi-family homes.

“I would like to see some manufacturing, even though it seems as if we are going towards residential,” she said. “There are reasons that towns do have industries, of course, it expands your tax base. So I would certainly like to see that.”

Chatham Park attorney Mac McCarley addressed Farrell’s and Baldwin’s concerns, saying he believes industries would rather pick a site outside of a municipality’s corporate limits.

“Industries typically prefer to be outside of a city so they are only paying county taxes,” McCarley said. “Since the water and sewer infrastructure is probably going to be delivered to the Vinfast project in the Moncure area before anyone else, I would suspect that most industrial development is going to end up out there.”

Pittsboro Planning Director Teresa Thompson oversees the approval process for development proposals such as Robeson Walk. She said when the board approved the town’s UDO, that approval included a recommendation from the



Courtesy of town of Pittsboro

The site plan for Robeson Walk was presented to Pittsboro commissioners on May 9.

planning department to hold off on rezoning the parcels of land for Robeson Walk.

“When we proposed adopting the UDO staff included in our recommendations what we could do with our M-2 districts,” Thompson said. “We recommended waiting until we update the land use plan and include the heavy industrial zoning district as a more of a focus area or small area plan of the larger land use plan.”

Industrial land zoning wasn’t the board’s only concern.

Commissioners were wary of the proposed affordable housing element for Robeson Walk. Developers offered at least 10% of the residential properties to be for “qualified individuals” who make between 80% and 120% of the area median income (AMI); affordable housing is defined as housing

costing no more than 30% of an individual’s total gross annual income.

Chatham County uses the Durham-Chapel Hill Metro FMR Area’s AMI as a basis to calculate the percentages to determine a definition for low income for the region. The AMI for Chatham County according to the county’s Housing Trust Fund was \$90,900, with 80% of the AMI being \$50,900 for one person and \$72,700 for a family of four.

The county’s housing trust defines affordable housing to be “affordable to households with annual incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.” The proposed affordable housing element for Robeson Walk would be considered workforce housing by Chatham County standards — housing costing below 120% of the AMI,

which would be \$109,080 for the county.

Commissioner Kyle Shipp asked McCarley why the developers decided to not follow the town’s approved affordable housing incentives, which would allow developers to build more units per acre and provide fee rebates and expedited plan reviews.

“We spent a lot of time developing the incentive policy in November modified in February,” Shipp said. “I am curious to know from your perspective why that’s not a valuable policy to take note of. We imagine it’s valuable, but no one has taken advantage of it yet.”

The Robeson Walk project was initially brought before commissioners and planning staff in 2019, prior to the passage of the Chatham Park Affordable Housing incentives.

McCarley said expedited review and fee rebates were not as important to the developers, given that the project has been in the planning stages for over three years.

“We did not want smaller lot sizes or density bonuses,” McCarley said. “We are aiming for quality development, and we’re willing to add affordable housing despite not getting incentives.”

No matter what issues commissioners and planning staff have with the rezoning request for the Robeson Walk development, Pittsboro Town Manager Chris Kennedy said it was ultimately the commissioners’ decision about what was best for the town.

“The applicant is seeking to convince (the board) that this is a better vision for the town, and that’s what every rezoning is,” he said.

“We have something in front of us today that we did not have in 2012, so I think the conversation for the board is what is your vision for the town in general,” he said.

The board voted unanimously to table the rezoning request indefinitely for Robeson Walk. Shipp said commissioners didn’t feel comfortable granting while there were still details developers were sorting out.

“I don’t understand from the developer’s perspective of wanting to lock this land for this purpose at this point without a defined timeline for when you’d be able to start development,” Shipp said. “I think with the recent announcement of Vinfast, we need to take a much more careful look before we rezone anything M-2 away from that designation.”

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

WALKING

Continued from page A1

project-based learning with the end goal of those projects being public-facing. That challenge and academic philosophy were the impetus for an interactive walking tour of downtown Pittsboro created by the students.

“There’s a lot of pressure on them and me to make sure we get this right,” Blackwell said. “It’s going to be visible by the students, their parents, but mostly it’s for the community and visitors to the community to learn more about our town.”

The walking tour will involve six of the most prominent historical buildings in downtown Pittsboro: the Historic Courthouse, the Lewis Freeman House, the Mathiesen Clinic, the Yellow House, the Manly Law Office and the Blair Hotel Building. Students in Blackwell’s class were split into groups of two or three and tasked with creating a written brief about the history of each site and a slideshow video with audiovisual aspects.

Visitors to the tour can get maps from the Pittsboro Welcome Center.

Each site will then have a QR code with the student-created visuals and written histories.

Each group dug through historical archives from the library and met with property owners of their sites to learn more about its complex history.

The idea to engage in such a community focused project came when a parent from CSSE approached Blackwell with a way to bridge students with the town of Pittsboro. That parent was Maria Parker-Lewis, president of Main Street Pittsboro — an organization aimed at improving the vitality of the historic downtown area. Parker-Lewis originally pitched the idea in the spring of 2019, but the project was delayed due to the pandemic.

“This idea has been a long time coming and I’m very excited to see it finally come to fruition,” Parker-Lewis said. “I’ve been thrilled with how into it the students have gotten and it’s really cool how it’s all coming together.”

Parker-Lewis said she hopes the walking tour will become a permanent fixture here, adding that

projects like that add depth and richness to Pittsboro’s downtown area.

The community engagement with the project goes beyond just Parker-Lewis. The walking tour is also partnering with the Chatham County Historical Association — an organization sharing the history of Chatham County through exhibits, tours and outreach programs and located inside the Historic Courthouse downtown.

The videos for each site are also accompanied by music composed and mastered by local musicians. One of those musicians is John Wilson who said he jumped at the opportunity to help the students because it combined his love of local history and making music.

“This is such a cool way for these kids to keep our history living,” Wilson said. “Music and history are the things that transcend time so getting to make the soundtrack with these kids has been a blessing.”

Wilson collaborated closely with the students of each group to ensure each group’s song had the rhythm and style of

the building. For example, students in charge of researching the Manly Law Office found a piece of music composed for Governor Charles Manly when he was running for office in the 1840s called “Manly’s Quick Step.” They then gave the piece to Wilson, who recreated the song with his band.

“We tried to tap into that old feeling through the songs,” Wilson said.

Other musicians also helped along the way, including Ruth Slates, who composed the song to be used at the Yellow House. Her song got added to the project after Wilson saw her perform it at a talent show in Slates’ retirement home.

“As soon as I heard it, I just knew it would fit perfectly,” Wilson said. “The smile on Ruth’s face when I asked her to be part of this was just priceless. That’s really what it’s all about.”

With the backing of musicians, local tourism leaders and their teacher, the students dove head first into the research process. By and large, students from Blackwell’s class said they found the project challenging, yet rewarding.

For example, sopho-

more Nayeli Martinez has been researching the Historic Courthouse. She said while there’s a lot of information available about the courthouse, it’s been a challenge to find new information to make the description and video interesting.

“The further we dug into it, it was difficult to find things that aren’t repetitive,” Martinez said. “We really had to start talking to people to find the information we were looking for.”

Her partner on the research, Jordan Taylor, echoed that sentiment. Taylor said she was surprised how helpful people were willing to be and how much knowledge was held by locals.

“We thought it would be simple — get it and go,” Taylor said. “But soon, the people provided us with all this in-depth information and stories about the courthouse we couldn’t find anywhere else.”

There seemed to be widespread consensus among Blackwell’s students — the community members and property owners gave the most fascinating pieces of information. Students

said in a small, rural county like Chatham, there are limited resources available online about local history. So, talking to people who know the land is often the next best thing, and also the most rewarding.

Freshman Mattie Buckner, who is researching the Mathiesen Clinic, said the worked helped her feel like part of the community because she came to realize Chatham County has a deep history.

“People will get to see Chatham County and Pittsboro isn’t sleepy,” Buckner said. “They’ll get to see Pittsboro is rich in history. It’s kind of cool to be part of something that people are going to see and we will have made it.”

Blackwell said the students are putting the finishing touches on the walking tour project as the semester comes to a close. She hopes the combination of written, audio and visual elements will be available to the public at each historic site by the end of June.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or [@b_rappaport](https://www.facebook.com/b_rappaport).

JUSTICE

Continued from page A1

Ephraim Ellington — were murdered in a similar fashion, each found dead from blows from the handle of an axe.

Law enforcement then arrested a series of Black suspects, beginning with Jerry Finch and his wife, Harriet Finch, followed by Lee Tyson and finally, John Pattishall. During the time the men were held in custody, members of local law enforcement worked to protect the prisoners from lynching attempts. The coroner's jury, however, issued a report suggesting the four people were guilty of the murder. Court documents show the convictions made by the jury were largely hearsay from white witnesses.

On September 28, 1885, a white mob of more than 20 disguised men stormed Pittsboro's jail. They then abducted and lynched Harriet Finch, Jerry Finch, Lee Tyson and John Pattishall; later, their four bodies were found hanging from trees less than a mile from the jail.

In 1899, Henry Jones was accused of raping and murdering a white woman named Nancy Welsh in Bear Creek. The day after Welsh's body was found, a white mob of more than 50 disguised men abducted Jones while he was sleeping in his home and lynched him.

'Tears in the soil'

These five victims represent a fraction of the more than 120 lynchings across North Carolina during the period from the mid-1800s to 1950.

CRC-C worked to honor their lives and memories through a soil collection ceremony. Ten labeled jars, two for each of the five victims, were filled with soil. One jar will remain in Chatham County and the other will be given to the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, for display in its Legacy Museum. EJI's Community Soil Collection Project gathers soil at lynching sites for display in haunting exhibits bearing victims' names; more than 800 jars of soil are on display at the museum.

The jars were filled with soil from the lynching sites by CRC-C members and volunteers as onlookers watched in silence. The deliberate process of scooping the dirt from the large plastic tubs into the jars seemed to create a solemn tone among those in attendance — first for Harriet, then Jerry, then John, then Lee and finally Henry.

"In the soil, there is the blood of the victims of racism," Larry Brooks, president of the West Chatham NAACP, said Saturday. "There are tears in the soil, but in the soil there is also the opportunity for new life."

Mary Nettles serves as president of CRC-C and the East Chatham NAACP. She said the lynchings of Chatham County, like many across the country, displayed the failure of white institu-



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Volunteer and CRC-C member Linda Batley holds the jar for the soil collection in memory of John Pattishall, who was lynched in Pittsboro on Sept. 29, 1885.



Staff photo by Ed Lallo

Kenneth Turrentine helps prepare soil from the lynching sites of the five Chatham residents honored and memorialized in Saturday's ceremony.



Staff photo by Ed Lallo

CRC-C members and volunteers who helped prepare the soil from the lynching sites of five Chatham residents murdered more than 100 years ago included, clockwise from top left, Deborah Turrentine, Kenneth Turrentine, Sandra Daye, Adele Kelly, Marty Goodman, Mary Nettles, Beverly Bland, Linda Batley, Rose Krasnow and (sitting) Vickie Atkinson.

tions to protect Black lives.

"During this era, deep racial hostility that permeated southern society burdened Black people with a presumption of guilt," she said.

'We shall overcome'

Following the soil collection, Howard, the chairperson of the county's board of commissioners, led a libation ceremony meant to release the souls of the victims. Each person at the ceremony sprinkled water outside the fairgrounds as an offering of spirits.

"I pay homage to the generations of children, mothers and fathers brothers and sisters who were left behind," Howard said at the ceremony. "In these lives, we see our own, ashe."

Howard recited lines about peace and togetherness throughout the ceremony, with each phrase ending in a

resounding "ashe" — an African phrase of power and upliftment.

She said it was important to uplift this dark history so we don't repeat it.

"We can change the rules, we can change the laws, we can change the circumstances," Howard said. "But if we don't change the minds and hearts of the people, then we haven't made a lasting impact toward change."

Writing a new story

The final piece of Saturday's remembrance event was honoring the local winners of an EJI and CRC-C-sponsored racial justice essay contest. Students across Chatham County Schools wrote essays tackling topics of racial justice issues of the past and present and possible solutions to those injustices in the future.

Prizes for the contest totaled \$7,500. Student finalists also received prize

EJI RACIAL INJUSTICE ESSAY CONTEST

The Scene of Racism's Death

BY HANNAH AJAYI

Sophomore, Seaforth High School

Editor's note: The Equal Justice Initiative, based in Montgomery, Alabama, in partnership with the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham (CRC-C) and Chatham County NAACP branches, sponsored an essay contest for local 9th through 12th graders attending public high school in Chatham County. Prizes of more than \$5,000 were awarded to the participants. Students are asked to examine the history of a topic of racial injustice and to discuss its legacy today. Here's the winning entry.

The human brain can store essentially unlimited amounts of data.

During our lifetime we'll fill our minds with memories of those we care about, different situations we've been in, big questions, and our own assessment of life itself. Unfortunately, some important stories are forgotten or never

reach the light of day, whether it be due to those in power silencing the minority, a lack of resources, or simply not having one million followers to shed light on a situation. Racial injustice is prone to be swept under the rug; therefore, it is a responsibility of us all to ensure injustices are seen and race conversations are discussed. Because once they're out they will set the stage to weaken racism in our society.

Since the early days, the voices of minorities have been silenced. Maria was an enslaved woman captured by Sir Frances Drake who was raped and then left on 'Crab Island' of the Indonesian Archipelago. In the words of historian and author Jennifer L. Morgan, Drake leaving Maria behind gave the white crew the advantage of "hereditary freedom that would not be sullied by the birth of a dark-skinned baby." From the beginning, the intention was to erase the sins of injustice to avoid repercussions. Undoubtedly, there are still challenges to face even if 'the evidence' survives. Isabel de Olvera was a mulatto woman who lived during the 1600s who sought to gain the required permission for women, especially women of color, to travel alongside Juan de Oñate and his expedition through Central America. She went through an eight month process, in which she needed others to vouch for her to prove she didn't belong to anyone, either by slavery or marriage. The credibility of non-white voices has always been questioned. Due to rationalization and generations of avoiding or ignoring racial undertones and tensions, these issues leave legacies still hurting minorities today.

Addressing racial issue in classrooms is key to breaking the aforementioned legacy. Angelina Castagno of Northern Arizona University published data collected in 2004-05 on two schools in the same district, one with a demographic of predominantly white and upper-class students and the other majority lower class and people of color. They observe patterns in education that perpetuate silence around race and in turn keep racist views alive. Castagno says "within a framework of equity in which social justice and fairness are sought, silence is both indifference and highly problematic." They say this in reference to racially charged situations and topics that pop up

in the classroom and the teachers' responses of either indifference, actively silencing, or appropriately addressing. Many of the teachers would see inappropriate behaviors, statements of ignorance, and curious questions about race and respond with silence or active condemnation with statements such as "it's not polite to ask about race." These responses subconsciously validate and reinforce racism without the need for outright intent or hate for a race, and with this, the cycle continues to send a clear message to minorities; that is, people of color and non-white injustices are not of relevance or importance to be addressed in the same measure as whites.

The big-ticket question is how to soothe this issue. What are practical ways to advocate and make sure injustice isn't hidden, forgotten, or gone unnoticed? Increased quality in education and increasing political activity will not only decrease the amount of 'looked over' incidents, but also take jabs at racism itself as a whole. The previously mentioned social norm of silence upon race education approach must be changed and made better. This can be done by decreasing class sizes and appropriately training teachers. Helen Ladd and Ronald Ferguson, economists of Duke University and Harvard, found in analyzing 900 Texas school districts that high and low test scores were explained by teacher qualifications and class sizes. The quality of education must be increased by training teachers in ways to respond to racial questions and how to address racist behaviors or comments. If teachers can connect with students on a more personal level, are provided with smaller classes, and provided with resources and methods to respond to race, we are more likely to see positive effects.

Another effect of better education will be an increase in political participation. Researcher Mikael Persson's article 'Education and Political Participation' supports the concept of education aiding and increasing political involvement, as it can trigger participation and spark interest. With more eyes watching, those in power will be discouraged to do or support anything that may be viewed as negative, which could include racism. In turn, more social justice issues can be pushed to the forefront. The more pressure placed on political leaders and media outlets the more likely injustices will be seen and racial conversations will lead to the weakening of racism itself.

Throughout history, violence, atrocities and hurt were committed against minorities by those in power. It is time that the story doesn't just end there — that our society knows of the systemic racism in the United States, its past, and how whites have hurt the Marias, Olveras, and others in history. But also, our society needs to know how racial injustices and systemic racism are surviving today in our institutions with voter suppression, poor funding distribution, etc. To know how all of this goes unnoticed due to color muteness and hesitation to address the white elephant in the room. Let us improve our education to bring up a generation that isn't afraid to claim their responsibility to push minority stories and justice. Although talking itself will not 'end' racism, the more people on board with racial activism will set the scene for racism's death.

bags, plaques and flowers to accompany their prize money.

This year's finalists were Hannah Ajayi, Ladeja Angelica Charles, Skylar Donner, Cesia Ramirez Rodriguez, Spencer Smith and Maggie Thornton. Ajayi took home first prize in the contest with her essay about cycles of racial

silencing and the importance of racial consciousness in education, which she recited Saturday. A copy of Ajayi's full essay can be found in this week's edition.

The six lynching victims in the years between 1885 and 1921 in Chatham County were Harriet Finch, Jerry Finch, Lee Tyson, John Pattishall,

Henry Jones and Eugene Daniel. For more information from the University of North Carolina about the history of lynching in the state, go to <http://lynching.web.unc.edu/>

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or [@b_rappaport](https://twitter.com/b_rappaport).

CHURCH NEWS

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Community Baptist Church will host a youth revival Thursday and Friday, May 19 and 20, at 7 p.m. each night. The guest speaker will Dr. Kenny Baldwin, pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church in Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia.

Special music will be provided by the Daughters of Calvary and the Hanes Baptist Youth Choir.

Everyone is welcome to attend. The church is located at 2575 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City.

EDWARD HILL FRIENDS MEETING

Homecoming will be held at Edward Hill Friends Meeting on Sunday, May 22, at 11 a.m. with a covered luncheon following.

The church is located on Ed Leonard Road, off from Edward Hill Church Road, Bonlee.

MT. VERNON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The annual memorial service will be held at Mt. Vernon U.M.C. at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 22. Pastor Jason Dickerson will bring the message. (There will be a brief business meeting at 10:45 a.m.)

A picnic lunch will follow that service.

THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

The Church of God of Prophecy invites you to help us celebrate Rev. Richard Covington's 16th pastoral

anniversary on Sunday, May 22, at 3 p.m.

The church is located on 90713th Street, Siler City.

SILER CITY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

We will host a Community Block Party on Saturday, May 21, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church.

Come and enjoy free popcorn, Snocones, inflatables, and games.

We are located at 314 North Second Avenue, Siler City.

OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Memorial Sunday and Homecoming will be held at Oakley Baptist Church on Sunday, May 22. Special music starts at 10 a.m.

The service begins at 10:30 and concludes in the cemetery. (Added COVID precaution — no covered dish meal following services).

LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

A free archery camp and unique Vacation Bible School is planned for ages 3 to 18, June 6 through June 9 at Loves Creek Baptist Church. The archery camp is for ages 8 through 18, with age appropriate games for ages 3 to 7. There will be snacks, a Bible lesson, and games each night. On Thursday evening, there will be an archery tournament for the children, their parents, grandparents, and friends.

The church is located at 1745 East 11th Street, Siler City.

FAQ: What the Supreme Court action on abortion means for North Carolina

The leaked U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade has created political waves across the country, but what would it mean for abortion in North Carolina?

BY KATE MARTIN
Carolina Public Press



Photo courtesy of Gayatri Malhotra via Unsplash

Abortion rights supporters rally in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 3, 2021.

This summer, the U.S. Supreme Court may overturn the nearly 50-year-old legal precedent upholding the legal right to an abortion. If that happens, North Carolina is one of the few Southern states where abortion would remain legal after six weeks.

Where does the U.S. Supreme Court stand on the issue?

According to a draft opinion authored in February that was leaked to Politico, five Supreme Court justices intend to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, a decision that has upheld the right to an abortion for nearly 50 years.

In an Opinion of the Court brief written by Associate Justice Samuel Alito, the court intends to overrule the precedents of *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. “It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people’s elected representatives,” Alito’s draft opinion says, seemingly leaving it up to each state to decide how or whether to regulate abortions.

Chief Justice John Roberts confirmed the authenticity of the draft the following day and vowed to open an investigation into the identity of the person who leaked it to Politico.

What happens if the court overrules *Roe* and *Casey*?

If the high court overrules the two precedents upholding the right to an abortion, 26 states are expected to attempt to immediately ban abortion, but North Carolina is not among them, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

Many of those states have so-called “trigger bans” tied to the high court overturning *Roe*. Eleven states have a ban on abortions after the sixth week of pregnancy — before many people know they are pregnant. Four state constitutions specifically say abortion is not allowed.

Every Southern state except North Carolina, Maryland and Virginia is expected to ban abortion or significantly restrict the procedure as soon as possible, the institute says.

Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee — states bordering North Carolina — all have a ban on abortions after six weeks. Tennessee also has a provision in its state constitution banning abortions, which may trigger when the official opinion is released.

Some states are attempting to bar travel across state lines to obtain abortions.

If so — many states ban abortion or restrict it to a functional ban — “there could be a whole host of implications, most of which have not been carefully thought out,” said Dr. Richard Shannon, chief quality officer for Duke Health.

“What does this mean for the concept of individual rights?” Shannon asked.

“What does this mean for the growing public health crisis of maternal morbidity and mortality? What does it mean to the child welfare state? What does it mean to foster care? There are broad implications.”

What laws will govern abortions if *Roe* and *Casey* are overturned?

If the Supreme Court’s opinion holds close to the draft released earlier this year, it will be up to the states to regulate abortion for their citizens, said Ann Webb, senior policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina.

“Ultimately, if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, it puts immense power in the hands of the General Assembly, and it puts a lot of weight on upcoming elections,” Webb said.

It is also possible for the U.S. Congress to pass a nationwide ban on abortion, if the political balance of power shifts, Webb said.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell intimated as much in an interview with *USA Today* when he said a national ban “is something worthy of debate.”

How many more people will travel to NC to get an abortion?

So far clinics have not seen an influx of patients, said Molly Rivera, spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood South Atlantic.

“That’s because the people we are seeing this week already made their appointments a while ago,” Rivera said. “They had to call to get in on the schedule.”

Dr. Beverly Gray, founder of the Duke Reproductive Health Equity and Advocacy Mobilization team, said abortion bans in surrounding states mean more people will travel to North Carolina to get care once the court overturns *Roe v. Wade*.

“We’re already seeing an increase in cases from the spillover effect,” Gray said.

“Bans in Texas and Oklahoma influence where those patients can get care, so they’re going to surrounding states. Those folks in surrounding states are getting delays in care ... and they come to other states.

“We’re seeing this tidal wave effect of folks seeking care. The vast majority of

abortions happen in the first trimester. If you have delays in care due to access, that is going to shift.”

What do North Carolina’s laws say about abortion?

State law caps abortions at 20 weeks. It also bans abortions if the reason for the abortion is to select the sex of the baby. There is no trigger ban in North Carolina.

North Carolina has mandatory counseling and a 72-hour mandatory waiting period before a woman can get an abortion, one of the longest in the nation, said Dr. Jonas Swartz, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Duke Health.

“When we want to perform an abortion for someone whose health is highly at risk before that three-day window, we need the certification of two doctors,” Swartz said. “Those sorts of restrictions make people scared to practice good medicine.”

Women “travel long distances and pay for their airfare, gas, lodging and other accommodations, especially if they have to stay multiple nights,” Rivera said.

“Not everyone has paid sick time. They have to find and pay for child care for the family they already have at home.”

Girls under age 18 must also get permission from one parent or a judge to get an abortion.

Who is having abortions in North Carolina and how?

Most women who get an abortion already have at least one child, according to statistics from the state Department of Health and Human Services. Data from 2020, the most recent information available, shows that two in three women who get an abortion are already a parent. More than a quarter of abortions are for women ages 20-24, while less than 8% are for women and girls ages 19 and younger.

Nearly 80% of women who got an abortion in North Carolina were unmarried.

And nearly 60% of women used a medical, or medication-assisted, abortion. It’s a series of two pills that halt the pregnancy and then cause contractions.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the Food and Drug Administration allowed patients to meet with a doctor via telehealth to get a prescription for the medication. North Carolina and 18 other states require patients to acquire the pill after an in-person visit with a doctor, while in neighboring Virginia, patients can have the medication mailed to them, Rivera said.

How would overturning *Roe* affect victims of abuse?

Many state laws do not make exceptions for victims of rape or incest. In North Carolina, a minor must get parental permission before getting an

abortion, although a judge may allow a minor to get an abortion if she is a victim of rape or “felonious incest.”

In a domestic violence situation, an abuser may tamper with birth control, remove a condom without permission (called “stealthing”), or coerce someone to not use birth control, said Kathleen Lockwood, policy director for N.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

“Reproductive coercion is a common form of abuse that includes trying to get a person pregnant against their will, tampering with birth control and controlling the outcome of a pregnancy, including forcing or coercing someone to carry a pregnancy to term,” Lockwood said.

“Limiting abortion access will prevent many survivors from escaping their abusers and, in some cases, will result in escalated violence and death.”

Where can women in North Carolina get an abortion?

Any doctor can provide abortion care to their patients as long as their offices meet state requirements for abortion facilities. In addition, there are 14 providers in eight counties throughout North Carolina, all in urban areas from Buncombe County to the coast.

Contrast this with Mississippi, which has one abortion clinic in the entire state, which will likely close once the court releases its opinion.

Which is more dangerous, pregnancy or abortion?

Pregnancy can be a joyous occasion, but a woman can also face significant risks while pregnant, Swartz said.

“Abortion is an incredibly safe procedure,” Swartz said.

“It gives people the right to autonomy over their bodies. ... For people who have an unwanted pregnancy, often abortion can be a much safer option.”

Swartz said women are 14 times more likely to die during childbirth than during an abortion.

That is partly because the United States has a high maternal mortality rate compared with other developed countries. There are about 24 deaths per 100,000 live births in the United States, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“When we take away the right to a safe and legal abortion, it means they try to access it in ways that are less safe,” Swartz said.

Gray said she cares for patients every week who at times have grave medical issues related to their pregnancy.

“We receive referrals, we have patients who are transferred in, and these are hard cases,” she said.

“Luckily, we have skilled providers. If you walk in the doors of Duke Hospital and you have an emergency in pregnancy, we are skilled to take care of that. I do worry about the impact over time if people aren’t able to access care when it’s safest.”

ELECTION

Continued from page A1

walked by and exchanged fist bumps with him, saying: “Good stuff — proud of you guys.”

Jared Picot, seeking the Dist. 5 town commissioner seat, said it was good to see the steady turnout.

“It’s people just doing their civic duty,” he said. “I really love this process. A lot of people are coming out doing what they think is necessary.”

Nearby, Steve Lowman and his wife Pat stopped late Tuesday morning to talk with Siler City Commissioner Norma Boone, who was sitting under a tent speaking to poll workers. Lowman, who’s lived in Siler City for 67 years, said Siler City’s town commissioner races — four seats were contested — was a main factor in drawing him to the polls.

The candidates he voted for “are Siler City,” he said. “They *are* Siler City. I’ve been knowing them for years and they’re good people.”

Boone, running unopposed in the Dist. 2 seat, said the town’s election was particularly important because Siler City “is on the cusp of something special.”

“It’s important to have candidates who are going to be able to help move

things along,” she said. “That’s one of the most important things. You’ve got to know what you’re working for. You’ve got to have lived it a bit. A short time here isn’t going to give you a feel for the town. There should be a little more experience — then being able to know your platform, making sure you’ve hit all the areas of town, not just particular pockets.”

In response to a question about the “Unity 2022” candidates — Gallardo, Jared Picot and Samuel Williams, who were at the Armory, and Dean Picot II, who was campaigning at the Western Chatham Senior Center precinct — she said: “I know someone who’s supporting them because they say they’re bringing something new to town. How do you know what the town needs when you haven’t been here to experience what the town needs? Knowledge is the key — if you’re not knowledgeable about what you’re getting into, then wait awhile and make that step.”

Voters shared Boone’s concerns on the other side of town at West Chatham. There, Pamela Hawe was one of the people trying to encourage people to vote.

“There’s a lot of confusion about people on the ballot and who they are

and what they stand for,” Hawe said. “That opposes the citizens that have been here all along.”

She manned a tent for the Chatham County Democratic Party outside the Senior Center from the time polls opened at 6:30 a.m., with plans to stay until they closed at 7:30 p.m. She said this year’s election was an intriguing primary because many Siler City residents had questions about the views and objectives of the people on the ballot.

“We basically have a nonpartisan election on a partisan ballot,” Hawe said, referring to Siler City’s nonpartisan town election occurring during a primary. “We just need to make sure people understand what they see when they go in there. It’s an unusual circumstance — doesn’t normally happen, but it did.”

Hawe has been involved with helping the Chatham Democratic Party since 2009, and she said helping people sort through the candidates and their values this year was especially challenging in Siler City.

Despite the confusion, though, poll observers remarked on the increased turnout. Hawe said this year is the most voters she’s ever seen for a primary election.

One of those was Joy Barker. She said she

came out to vote because it was an important expression of patriotism.

“People can’t complain if they’re not going to vote,” Barker said. “It takes a lot to get done what needs to get done. People can’t just expect things.”

The people protecting that right to complain are poll watchers like Joshua Jacoby. He volunteered

to monitor the polls at the Western Chatham location through El Pueblo — a nonprofit Latino community organizing group. He said he and other volunteers came to the polls spurred by hearing about threats of voter intimidation.

“We want to make sure things go smoothly, nobody gets harassed, no-

body gets turned away due to language difficulties,” Jacoby said. “In Siler City, it’s not crazy to say the Hispanic population may be intimidated if there are radical people here.”

You can find winners of this year’s elections on the *News + Record’s* website — chathamnewsrecord.com.

OBITUARIES

FRANCES NELLIE HART DOWD NORRIS

Frances Nellie Hart Dowd Norris, 77, of Bear Creek, passed away on Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

The family will have a private service at a later date.

Frances was born in Clearwater, Florida, on August 23, 1944, the daughter of Arthur Joe and Betty Poe Hart. She was a member of Rives Chapel Baptist Church. Frances retired from Zurn Industries.

In addition to her parents, Frances is preceded in death by her husband, David Dowd; and brother, Joe "JC" Hart.

Survivors include daughters, Diane Dowd Burns of Siler City, and Donna Dowd Maness of Bear Creek; son, Michael David Dowd of Wake Forest; sister, Elizabeth Hamer of Siler City; eight grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to UNC Hospice, PO Box 1077, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Norris family.

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

ADDIE MARIE GLADDEN

Addie Marie Gladden, 82, passed away Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

A graveside service was held Saturday, May 14, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Ephesus Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Robert Thomas officiating.

She was the daughter of the late Haywood Gibson Cooke and Jennie Lee Cooke. She was also preceded in death by her son, Kenneth Lee Phillips; husbands, Billy Thurn Gladden, Sr. and Carey Barrentine; one brother, Robert Dexter Cooke and sister, Doris Jean Oglesbee. She was a member of Ephesus Baptist Church, and retired from Four Seasons Apparel.

She is survived by her son, Roger Wayne Phillips Jr. and daughter, Rose Phillips Fenton, both of Sanford; five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

ROSELLA TODD HARRINGTON

Rosella Todd Harrington, 94, of Fuquay-Varina, formerly of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at Windsor Point Retirement Community.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Jonesboro U.M.C. with Rev. Trent Jones officiating. Burial followed in Buffalo Cemetery.

Mrs. Harrington was born in Lee County on July 24, 1927, to the late John Edward and Rosa Matthews Todd. In addition, she was preceded in death by her husband, Johnnie Harrington; siblings, Henry Todd, James Todd, Willie Todd, Samuel Todd, J.E. Todd, Eddie Todd, Eva Jordan, Lizzie Mann, Joyce Arnold and Sallie Jordan. She was a member of Jonesboro U.M.C.

She is survived by son, Troy Allen Harrington of Durham; daughter, Sarah Harrington Mitchell of Willow Spring; and one grandchild. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Jonesboro U.M.C., 407 W. Main Street, Sanford, N.C. 27332.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

JAMES MADISON BROWER

June 24, 1959 ~ May 10, 2022
James Madison Brower, 62, of Fayetteville, passed away on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at his residence.

The funeral service was held Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 1 p.m. at the Church of God in Christ, with burial following in Johnsonville Community Ceremony.

BETTY KATHERINE BALDWIN



Betty Katherine Baldwin, 84, of Apex, died Monday, May 9, 2022, at the Jim and Betsy Bryan SECU UNC Hospice in Pittsboro, N.C.

She was born in Chatham County, N.C., to the late George Francis Farrell and Ruby Lee Byrd Farrell. A graduate of Bell's High School, she was employed by UNC Hospitals retiring with 29 years of service. Betty was a member of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. Betty was preceded in death by her brothers Ronald Farrell and

G.R. Farrell.

She is survived by her sons, Felipe Wilkie and his wife Dee, Garry Wilkie and his wife Connie; sisters, Owana Goodwin and Sylvia McGhee; five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at 12 p.m. Friday, May 13, 2022, at Apex Funeral Home, 550 W. Williams St., Apex, NC 27502. The family received friends from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be sent to the American Cancer Society.

Condolences can be forwarded to the family at www.ApexFuneral.net.

KATHLEEN HILLIARD BURKE



Kathleen Hilliard Burke, 97, of Siler City, passed away on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at Moses Cone Hospital.

Kathleen was born in Chatham County on October 16, 1924, the daughter of John Gordon and Ethel Dunlap Hilliard. She was a graduate of Bonlee High School. She had many jobs which she loved including Sweater's USA, A.J. Schneier, and retiring as a co-manager for Wes Care Senior Center. She was the oldest member of Rives Chapel Baptist Church, where she was a member of the Joy in the Morning Sunday School Class, had previously served as the President of the WMU, and also as the Church Financial Secretary. She loved gardening, tending to her flowers, and cooking a delicious meal. In addition to her parents, Kathleen is preceded in death by her husband, Winfred Burke; sisters, Margaret Phillips, Ruby Fesmire and husband Paul; and brother, Howard Hilliard and wife Rachel.

She is survived by her son, Dennis Burke and wife Bonnie of McLeansville, N.C.; one granddaughter, Tabitha Ekeberg and husband Brian of Winnsboro, Texas; and great-grand dog whom she adored, Annie.

Memorials may be made to Rives Chapel Baptist Church, 4258 Rives Chapel Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344. Dennis and Bonnie would like to thank Dr. James Davis, Dr. Byron Hoffman, Coventry House of Siler City, Clapp's Nursing Center of Pleasant Garden, and Moses Cone for their wonderful care of his mother.

Kathleen laid in repose on Sunday, May 15, 2022, from 12 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Burke family.

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

SANDRA MONROE ELIXSON

Sandra Monroe Elixson of Siler City passed away peacefully at her home May 14, 2022.

Sandra was a homemaker. She will surely be missed by her family and friends. She enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren. She was predeceased by her loving husband Kenneth.

Survivors include her mother, Opal Spivey of Reidsville; children, Jennifer Yacobellis of Fuquay Varina and husband Brian, James Elixson of Reidsville and wife Ashley; grandchildren, Jeremy, Madalynn and Kenneth Elixson; brother, Ronnie Spivey of Kernersville; sister, Elaine Helms of Charlotte; and a host of nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests the memorials be made to your local S.P.C.A.

DARRELL C. HILLIARD

Darrell C Hilliard, 74, of Sanford, passed away Sunday, May 8, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

The funeral service was held Saturday, May 14, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Grace Chapel with Rev. Joel Murr officiating. Burial will follow at Buffalo Cemetery.

He was born in Dillon County, S.C., on October 19, 1947, to the late June and Lillie Coates Hilliard. Darrell worked for Sears and Kendale Pawn Shop as a Salesman. He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Dickens Hilliard and a sister, Judy Webster.

Darrell is survived by daughters, Jamie Oldham of Sanford and Stacie Marley of Lewisville; a sister, Sue Tighe of Sanford; and four grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

JANIS MCNEILL MARTINDALE

Janis McNeill Martindale, 75, of Sanford, died Monday, May 9, 2022, at First Health Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Graveside funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 15, 2022, at Holly Springs Baptist Church with Rev. Scott Yow officiating.

She was born January 11, 1947, daughter of the late Alfonso and Louise Coore McNeill. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Dwight McNeill. A graduate of Methodist College, she retired from Broadway Elementary School after many years of teaching. She was a member of Holly Springs Baptist Church.

Surviving is her husband, Albert Martindale of the home; daughter, Dana Graham of Vass; and three grandchildren.

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

PATRICIA FAYE COOLIDGE (STEWART) COOLIDGE

July 25, 1945 ~ May 11, 2022
Patricia Faye Coolidge, 76, of Sanford, passed away in on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at her residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

WADE BARBER JR.



Wade Barber Jr., lawyer, judge, and son of Chatham County, died at home Friday, May 13, 2022.

His family was with him — his wife Marina, his daughters Claire and Liz, their partners Lois Bukowski and Danny Spiegel, and his son James Riley. He is survived by his grandchildren Fanya, Yaakov, Simi, Maayan, Sam, and Levi, and beloved nephews and nieces. He is remembered among lawyers in North Carolina as a leader.

In 1916, his father (Wade Sr.) founded a law practice in Pittsboro and practiced there continuously until his retirement in 1982. Wade joined his father in that practice in 1971 and, with interruptions to be of broader service to the community, Wade practiced law there until 2022.

In Wade's Pittsboro boyhood, it was a short walk to school, to the grocery store, to the barber shop, to the Presbyterian Church, to the courthouse (where his father could often be found), to Miss Martin's house across the street (where she had a television long before the Barbers did), and to the hard-dirt baseball field (where boys of all backgrounds played together). As a teenager in that place at that time he was told never to take the keys out of the car's ignition. It would make them too hard to find for the next driver—his mama Agnes or his sisters Betty Scott and Mary Hayes.

At Davidson College, Wade made friendships that lasted all his life, and he reveled in the school's academic opportunities, all except Spanish, an obstacle to graduation overcome just in time.

In law school at Chapel Hill, Wade found that the intellectual demands of the law — logic, reason, clarity of thought, and precision of expression — comported with his way of thinking. He was good at these things and he liked them. In the years ahead, Wade encountered another set of demands that the law requires of good lawyers. These demands are empathy, compassion, a willingness to try to understand another person's burdens, an ability to guide a person through deeply challenging times, the shouldering of responsibility that is intrinsic to the representation of a client, and humility. He was good at these things, too. His clients also found that he was good at these things and they admired him. He developed a mature respect for the dignity of each individual.

In 1977 the legislature split Chatham and Orange Counties off to be their own prosecutorial district. Governor Jim Hunt appointed Wade to be the chief prosecutor (that is, the district attorney) for the new district. Wade was elected by the voters to a full term in 1978. His respect for the dignity of individuals showed itself when he prosecuted people for crimes. He worked always to understand how this person came to be in this bad spot. It also showed itself, clearly and brightly, in his efforts to protect the victims of crime and ease their loads.

In 1985 Wade returned to his Pittsboro practice, representing a wide range of clients and expanding his work in land use law and the creation of attractive, practical, environmentally mindful residential developments.

In 1998, Governor Hunt appointed Wade as a judge of the North Carolina superior court. He ended his service as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for District 15B in 2006. He returned to his Pittsboro practice — his third stint — and in 2010 was joined by his daughter Liz, forming the firm of Barber & Barber. It was a very happy and fulfilling time for him.

Four of Wade's grandchildren, Claire's children, live in California. The physical distance has been great, but the bonds of affection have been close. His two Chapel Hill grandchildren, Liz's boys, are physically closer, and the bonds of affection are the same. Wade brought his creative energy and many talents to his role as Grandpap — whether spontaneously erecting a zipline in his front yard one Thanksgiving, catching critters and building dams in creeks, constructing bows and arrows, or providing rotten stumps and pint-sized tools to use to smash them up.

Wade and Marina met on a canoeing trip in 1976, and they were married six weeks later. They dedicated themselves to each other. They loved a winter evening at home watching Tar Heel basketball and a summer afternoon in the shade of an umbrella at the beach. They also loved adventure, and they opened the world of daring to their children. They camped in the Andes Mountains at 14,000 feet, where the campsite stream froze overnight. They sailed their Flying Scot often on Jordan Lake and taught their girls to sail and navigate on trips in the Chesapeake Bay and Abaco Islands. They amused the boatmen on a river in Kenya with the news (which the boatmen may not have believed) that there are no monkeys in North Carolina.

Wade was a skilled woodworker, and the exquisite bowls he turned are the treasured possessions of those lucky enough to have them.

Wade and Marina built a home in Ashe County. They designed it specifically as a place where they could gather with family sometimes and with friends sometimes and with both sometimes. For a decade it has been a comforting and welcoming haven in the mountains.

Wade's career was one of service. He served on the board of directors of the Golden Leaf Foundation and the North Carolina Environmental Defense Fund. He served on the board of governors of the North Carolina Bar Association. He was chairman of the North Carolina Task Force on Dispute Resolution and the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. He served on the North Carolina Courts Commission, the North Carolina Criminal Code Commission, the Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration, and the Chief Justice's Advisory Committee on Court Personnel.

He received the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union Award, the North Carolina Mediation Network Service Award, the North Carolina Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section Service Award, and the Chatham County Smart Start Distinguished Service Award, and, in March of 2022, he was inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Wade was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease) in January 2022, and its progression was swift. Through his months of illness, he maintained grace and courage. He had, by his own description, "a thick skin and a sense of humor." He lived his last allotted time as he had lived his life.

For memorial details and online condolences, please visit www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Environmental Defense Fund.

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

WALLACE D. COOK

Wallace D. Book, 65, of Siler City passed away on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at his home.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

See **OBITUARIES**, page A10

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A9

JOYCE FAYE (TURNER) BENSON

Joyce Faye Benson, 70, of Pittsboro, passed away on May 9, 2022.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

MARY HUNSUCKER LAMBERT HUSSEY

Mary Hunsucker Lambert Hussey, 93, of Robbins, passed away on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at her home.

The graveside service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at Pine Rest Cemetery.

Mary was the daughter of Edgar and Verbena Hunsucker. She was a member of Smyrna Methodist Church and retired from Ithaca Industries. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by husbands, Robert Lambert and Vernon Hussey; sister, Virginia Granna and brothers, W.A. Hunsucker and James Hunsucker.

She is survived by her daughter, Becky Martindale; son, Eddie Lambert; sister, Brenda Hare; and brothers, Paul Hunsucker and Sam Hunsucker.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Samaritan's Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, N.C. 28607.

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

GERALD RAY SMITH

Gerald Ray Smith, 81, passed away Monday, April 18, 2022, at the Laurels of Chatham in Pittsboro.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at Browns Chapel U.M.C. with Rev. Ray Gooch officiating.

He was the son of the late Margaret Kelly and Pete Smith. For four years, Gerald served under the Strategic Air Command, servicing planes in the United States Air Force. His final career was with UNC Hospital. Surviving is his wife, Frances Scott Smith; sons, Michael Ray Smith and Gregory Clark Smith; three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Brown's Chapel U.M.C. Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 1048, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Online condolences may be left at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

MARGARET WAGNER BURNETTE

Margaret Wagner Burnette, 84, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at her home.

Graveside services were conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at Center Church Cemetery in Sanford with Evangelist Timothy Burton officiating.

The daughter of the late C.G. and Okie Morgan Wagners, she was also preceded in death by a son, William Daniel Burnette Jr., grandson, William Daniel Burnette III; brothers, C.G. Wagner Jr., Curtis Wagner and sister, Louise Wagner Walden.

Surviving is her husband, William Daniel Burnette Sr. of the home; daughter, Katie Burnette Raines of Cameron; son, Elbert Charles Burnette of Canton; sister, Sinda Conrad of Cameron; brothers, Lawrence Wagner of Florissant, Mo. and Ray Wagner of Lexington; six grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

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

Arrangements are by Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

RICHARD WAYNE 'CHARLIE' BROWN

Richard Wayne "Charlie" Brown, 50, of Robbins, passed away Saturday, May 7, 2022.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 22, 2022, at Joyce-Brady Chapel in Bennett.

Charlie was born in Moore County on June 1, 1971. He attended Elise Presbyterian Church and had worked as a long distance truck driver. He was preceded in death by his mother, Judy Morgan Brown; and his grandparents.

He is survived by his children, Damon Storm Brown of Bear Creek, Chelsea Marie Bosworth; father and step-mother, Richard L. and Linda Brown, of the home; sisters, Donna "Pebbles" Brown Smith of Robbins, Wendy Lowe of Troy, Carol Jean Wood of Robbins and Belinda "Runt" Britt of Spies; brother, Terrill "Turtle" Morgan of Robbins, and two grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family, P.O. Box 1209, Robbins, N.C. 27325.

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

Joyce-Brady Chapel is honored to serve the Brown Family.

MARGARET (MAGGIE) KEEVER OLIVE

Margaret (Maggie) Keever Olive, 98, of Olivia passed away on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at her home.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at Olivia Presbyterian Church with pastors Bob Johnson and George Walton officiating.

She was the daughter of Carl and Nanny Keever. She was preceded in death by her husband Julian Grayson Olive, her sister Doris Burton, and brothers Jack and Clarence Keever. During the early years, Maggie was the CEO of Alderman Studios in High Point, and was later employed by Sprott Brothers Furniture. She was an active member of Olivia Presbyterian Church, where she had served as a deacon, elder, moderator of Women of the Church and served in the church nursery. She was an active Girl Scout leader.

Survivors include her son Mike; daughters, Melanie McBryde and Julie Olive Hughes; three grandsons, and six great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be made to the General Fund of Olivia Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 88, Olivia, N.C. 28368.

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

LINDA MASON CHILDRESS

Linda Mason Childress passed away Wednesday, May 11, 2022.

The burial was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 15, 2022, at New Elam Christian Church Cemetery.

Linda was the daughter of Robert and Helen Mason. Her children, Chad, Brandy, and Nicole are survivors, along with grandchildren, and siblings.

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

BOBBY CARSON TOLLERSON

Bobby Carson Tollerson, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, May 1, 2022, at his residence.

The funeral service was held Friday, May 13, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Gospel Lighthouse Word Ministries with burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

VIOLET FARLOW HORNEY



Violet Farlow Horney passed away on April 29, 2022, at age 86. She was a birthright Quaker, born into the Centre Friends Meeting community in southern Guilford County, which was the home meeting of her mother, Rachel Osborne. Her father, Theodore Farlow, was a member of Marlborough Monthly Meeting in Sophia. Violet grew up, one of six children, on a dairy and tobacco farm in Pleasant Garden. There, in addition to helping on

the farm, she attended school, and after graduating high school in 1953, she worked at Jefferson-Pilot Insurance Company at their headquarters on Elm St in Greensboro.

Shortly thereafter she met Homer Horney, also from a farm family in southern Guilford County. After his service in post-war Korea, they married and settled in Mt. Gilead, N.C., where Homer worked with his brothers in their livestock business. Violet worked part-time while attending to their growing family — three children by 1964. By then the family had moved to Siler City, the home base of the Horney brothers' growing business.

She remained dedicated to her family above all else, continued to work part-time at the stockyard and auction, and stayed involved with her church and neighbors — she enjoyed the company of people who laughed and enjoyed life. She embodied the best of her Quaker upbringing, truly living the qualities of humility, simplicity, and tolerance. In 2004, Violet and Homer moved to Greensboro.

Violet is predeceased by her beloved husband, Homer Horney, who passed away in 2015. She is survived by her sister, Sarah Haack of Maine as well as her children, Cheryl Scott, Tony Horney, and Chris Horney, all of Greensboro; two grandchildren, Brittany Brann of Louisiana, Frances Harvey of Greensboro; and one great-grandchild, the delightful Brea Brann of Louisiana.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Forbis & Dick, Pleasant Garden Chapel with visitation to be held one hour before the service.

Forbis & Dick Pleasant Garden Chapel is serving the Horney Family.

MAURICIO TRUJILLO VARGAS

September 20, 2983 ~ May 7, 2022

Mauricio Trujillo Vargas, 38, of Carthage, passed away on Saturday, May 7, 2022.

Funeral Mass was held at 1 p.m. Monday, May 16, 2022, at 1 p.m. at St. Stephen Catholic Church.

DAVID EARL CASEY

David Earl Casey, 61, of Sanford, passed away Sunday, May 15, 2022, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

The family will receive friends on Friday, May 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

The funeral service will be Saturday, May 21, at 11:30 a.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Jeff Pierce officiating. Burial will

follow in Broadway Town Cemetery.

He was the son of Donnie Casey and the late Helen Ruth Jones Casey. Dave was a Veteran of the United States Navy. He worked in the HVAC industry, but was best known for his mechanic skills.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Rhonda Newton Casey; his father, Donnie Casey of Sanford; son, David Casey of Sanford; daughter, Rebekah Pearson of Florida; three grandchildren; brothers, Curtis Casey of Washington, N.C., and Johnny Casey of Sanford; and one sister, Donna Casey of Sanford.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

COA receives caregiver respite support grant from Home Health Foundation

From the Chatham Council on Aging

The Chatham County Council on Aging is pleased to announce continued support from Home Health Foundation of Chapel Hill in the awarding of a grant to help fund its family caregiver respite program.

Valued at \$23,700, the grant extends a multi-year partnership between the COA and Home Health Foundation in providing relief for family caregivers of Chatham County — who are often taxed mentally and physically in the effort to keep loved ones at home as opposed to being placed in a facility.

Since 2018, the council's family caregiver respite program has served 100 families. In that timeframe, only 6% of caregivers have had to place their loved ones in a long-term care facility. The grant will also aid the council in its efforts to increase the number of respite hours available per client.

"We are pleased and honored to continue our association with Home Health Foundation of Chapel Hill in the funding of our family caregiver respite program," COA Executive Director Ashlyn Martin said. "Caregiver respite is among our core services at the council, and it is through the generosity of partners such as Home Health Foundation that

allow us to keep the older adults of Chatham County where they desire to be the most — safe and secure in their homes."

Through the grant, the council will seek to serve additional family caregivers who are awaiting service and launch the

start of the "R.E.S.T." (Running Errands and Sleep Time) program, a form of group caregiver respite held in churches throughout Chatham County, with trained volunteers. This service was on the precipice of launch, but was suspend-

ed due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Family caregivers have been considered the backbone of long-term care, but the constant stress of caregiving takes a toll on the caregiver. A 2016 report of the National Association of States United

for Aging and Disabilities revealed that nearly half of caregivers felt they had no choice in taking on the role.

Additionally, a 2019 AARP survey of 800 North Carolina voters aged 40 or over revealed that 53% of respondents

were current or former caregivers, with 56% likely to be caregivers in the future. The typical family caregiver in the survey was a 60-year-old female, who also represents the initial age of entry into Council on Aging services.

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FOR SALE

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JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfnc

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HELP WANTED

IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR PART-TIME MAINTENANCE CARETAKER - Seeking mature, reliable person with basic plumbing, drywall and carpentry knowledge to work 20 hours/week at The Retreat at Pittsboro Apartments, a 48-unit apartment community in Pittsboro. Duties include routine maintenance, preparing vacant units, cleaning common areas, etc. Ideal candidate will be well-organized, pro-active, knowledgeable in troubleshooting maintenance needs and coordinating contractor services. Skilled trade replacements and extensive repairs are made by third party service contractors. Must have reliable transportation and provide your own hand tools. Must be on-call for after-hours emergencies. Credit and criminal checks required. Equal Opportunity Employer. Please send resume/ letter of interest to kstevens@partnershippm.com or Partnership Property Management, C/O Kim Stevens, PO Box 26405, Greensboro, NC 27404. My19,My26,2tc

SECOND BLOOM OF CHATHAM seeks Bilingual (Spanish/English) Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate. Go to www.secondbloomofchatham.org/employment. My19,1tc

FLOORAZZO TILE is hiring machine operators. No experience required. Excellent starting wage and a review in 6 months. We will consider a team of two people to share one job. Apply at 1217 Harold Andrews Road, Siler City. An Equal Opportunity Employer. My5,12,19,3tp

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

East St. in Pittsboro. O21,tfnc

HOMECARE SEEKING, Now hiring for immediate positions in Pittsboro/Siler City: Certified Nurse Aides - Competitive weekly pay, CNAs start at \$10.00/hr. & up for extra care cases - Total LifeCare, Call 919-776-0352 or visit 824 South Horner Blvd., Sanford for more info or to apply. A29,tfnc

MISCELLANEOUS

All heirs of the Spencer/Harvey Taylor family that have an interest in this property should contact phone # 910.494.0155 on or before June 4th, 2022, to learn more about action taking place to move forward on bringing the heir property to final resolution. Failure to respond can jeopardize your ability to be a part of the action taking place to resolve this situation. My5,12,19,26,4tp

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 210

All persons having claims against **JAZZ W. SILER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of July, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 28th day of April, 2022. Norman V. Siler, Administrator 1401 42nd PL S.E. Washington, DC 20020 A28,My5,My12,My19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 182

All persons having claims against **TOMMIE L. FOXF AKA TOMMIE LEROY FOXF**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of July, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 28th day of April, 2022. Randy L. Foxx, Administrator 875 Brower Road Siler City, NC 27344 A28,My5,My12,My19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 537

All persons having claims against **LINDA DHANENES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of July, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 28th day of April, 2022. Lisa P. Spencer, Administrator 601 Hicks Lane Siler City, NC 27344 A28,My5,My12,My19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22-E-230

All persons having claims against **CHARLES COUNCIL CLARK, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of July, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 28th day of April, 2022. Christopher Clark, Administrator c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC PO Box 31205 Raleigh, NC 27622 A28,My5,My12,M19,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 239

All persons having claims against **ROGER GRAY GORDON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 5th day of May, 2022. Phyllis Gordon Clark, Executrix 1780 Devils Tramping Ground Rd Bear Creek, NC 27207 My5,My12,My19,M26,4tp

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified on the 21st day of April 2022, as Executor of the Estate of **GLENN GEOFFREY WILLIAMS**, 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 3rd day of August 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 5th day of May, 2022 Pauline Williams, Executor of the Estate of Glenn Geoffrey Williams 1995 N. West Cary Parkway Apt. 326 Morrisville, NC 27560

Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330 My5,My12,My19,My26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 98

All persons having claims against **BETTY ALEXANDER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make

immediate payment. This the 5th day of May, 2022. Sharla Alexander, Limited Personal Representative 5624 Samter Ct. Tampa, FL 33611 c/o Eunoia Law Firm P.O. Box 42 Holly Springs, NC 27540 Tel: 919-925-3320, ext. 8616, My5,My12,My19,M26,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **GARY ALAN SPIRDUSSO**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before August 8, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 4nd day of May, 2022. Craig D. Spirduso, Executor c/o Clarity Legal Group PO Box 2207 Chapel Hill, NC 27515 My5,My12,My19,My26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations holding claims against **WEBB NASH MORRISON**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC are notified to exhibit same to the undersigned on or before August 8, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 4nd day of May, 2022. Victoria Hassink, Executor C/o Clarity Legal Group PO Box 2207 Chapel Hill, NC 27515. My5,My12,My19,My26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 195

All persons having claims against **CHARLES RICHARD KUHN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 5th day of May, 2022. William Louis Rubin, Administrator, CTA 1903 Glendale Ave Durham, NC 27701 My5,My12,My19,M26,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Joanna David Jovanovich, having qualified as the Administrator of the Estate of **CLIFFORD BAYNES DAVID**, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on April 28, 2022, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned attorney of the Personal Representative on or before August 3, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate please make immediate payment. This the 3rd day of May 2022. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandever, 101 Conner Drive, Suite 402, Chapel Hill, NC, 27514. This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1. Austin C. Vandever, Attorney of Record 101 Conner Drive, Suite 402, Chapel Hill, NC, 27514 My5,My12,My19,M26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA

Having qualified as the Executor of the Estate of **ANN KIRKMAN DOWDY** 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

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

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CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 203

All persons having claims against **EARL DAVID DOWD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of May, 2022. Kimba Dowd Hockenberry, Co-Executor 1033 Alston Bridge Rd Siler City, NC 27344 Kathy Lorraine Dowd, Co-Executor 510 Easy Street Pittsboro, NC 27312 My12,My19,M26,Jn2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 265

All persons having claims against **MARY LATHAM SUESS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of May, 2022. Allen Sueess, Administrator 210 Holly Ridge Rd Chapel Hill, NC 27516 My12,My19,M26,Jn2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 257

All persons having claims against **JOEL A. CASH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of May, 2022. Bart T. Cash, Executor 140 Anterbury Dr Apex, NC 27502 My12,My19,M26,Jn2,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **ANN KIRKMAN DOWDY** 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

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If you want an honorary degree in U.S.-China relations, all you need to do is watch Spider-Man

BY BUCK RYAN & LEI JIAO
News + Record Correspondents



Courtesy of Sony Pictures

Can you guess what part of this image cost Sony Pictures millions of dollars in box office receipts from China for 'Spider-Man: No Way Home,' whose global box office is approaching \$2 billion?

up our ports through 'unequal treaties' — money grabs, really — to gain access to Chinese products and markets.”
“Oh.”
“They cut us up like a mincemeat pie. Did I mention pillaging, Buck?”
“Nope.”
“After ransacking the old Summer Palace in Beijing in 1860 — and setting it ablaze — British and French soldiers completed their act of revenge by making off with centuries of treasure. Many of the spoils are still in the British Museum for shameless display.”
“Easy now, Lei. I've learned a valuable lesson from studying China.”

Journalism professor Buck Ryan in Kentucky and English lecturer Lei Jiao in Wuhan, China, pursue cross-cultural understanding through journalism — this time the secret behind why censors blocked Spider-Man from movie theaters in China.

“Something is really worrying me, Buck.”
“What's that, Lei?”
“U.S.-China relations.”
“Aw, Lei, don't worry.”
“Buck, I'm serious. I don't think I've seen anything worse.”
“Lei, you mean worse than China's relations with Great Britain.”
“Huh?”
“I mean after the First Opium War in 1839 — or maybe after the Second Opium War in 1856?”
“Ha! Yeah, Britain was not great to us, for sure.”
“I'll say.”
“But neither was France and the rest of you bullies in the West.”
“Bullies, eh?”
“Yes, Buck, they forced us to legalize the opium trade, allow Christian missionaries to roam freely and open

“What's that?”
“Historical perspective.”
“Oh?”
“After those Opium Wars, and the loss to Japan in 1895 in the First Sino-Japanese War, China became known as the 'Sick Man of Asia.'”
“No, Buck, not a 'first' war. We prefer the term 'Japanese invasion.' And don't remind me of our last emperor and the corrupt and incompetent Qing Dynasty (1644-1912). That's when we lost our dominance over East Asia to Japan — not to mention Taiwan.”
“But, Lei, today China has made so many gains that it makes other countries sick — especially the U.S.”
“Sorry about that, Buck, but we Chinese people are very proud of our nation's accomplishments.”
“Feeling better?”
“Not really, Buck. I guess I need more historical perspective.”
“Well, there's the story from 1972 when our president, Richard Nixon, with Henry Kissinger at his side, was so thrilled to finally meet Mao Zedong and his wingman, Zhou Enlai. Remember that?”
“Yes, of course. That was the great opening of U.S.-China relations. It was your successful Cold War play against the Soviet Union.”

“Right. And do you remember what happened when small talk turned to the French Revolution?”
“No.”
“Well, as the story goes, when he was asked about the revolution's implications, Zhou said it was 'too early to say.'”
“LOL. Nixon's interpreter thinks Zhou was responding to the 1968 uprisings in France, but I get the point — China takes the long view.”
“Lei, as Mark Twain said, 'Never let the truth get in the way of a good story. So you feel better, right?'”
“No, Buck. I really don't understand what's going on now between our two countries. It's a little scary.”
“What has you worried?”
“I feel the pain of your Asian people there — literally. The reports about rising hate crimes and violence are chilling.”
“I know, it's so sad.”
“And, if you believe public opinion polls, Americans' distrust of Asians is bad and getting worse.”
“Really?”
“Have you ever heard of the STAA-TUS Index?”
“No, Lei, what's that?”
See **WATCH**, page A13

the 11th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
This the 9th day of May, 2022.
Jenny Oldham Williams, Executrix of
The Estate of Ann Kirkman Dowdy
Reno Sharps Store Road
Bear Creek, North Carolina 27207
Moody, Williams, Atwater & Lee
Attorneys at Law
Box 1806
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
(919) 542-5605
My12, My19, M26, Jn2, 4tp

meeting of the Finance Committee at 3:00 p.m., and the Board of Directors at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday May 26, 2022. The budget will be available for public review beginning May 23, 2022 at <http://vayahealth.com/>.
The Vaya governing Board will hold a public hearing on the budget at 4:30 p.m. on June 23, 2022. Any persons wanting to offer public comment about the proposed budget may do so during the Public Comment portion of the June 23 meeting. Board meeting agendas with connection information are posted at <https://www.vayahealth.com/get-to-know-us/board-of-directors/>.

of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 19th day of May, 2022.
Judith Ann Jackson, Executrix
126 Ellis Creek Dr
Pittsboro, NC 27312
My19, M26, Jn2, Jn9, 4tp

Jere Julian, Jr.
My19, My26, 2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 274
All persons having claims against **THOMAS MARTIN, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 19th day of May, 2022.
Cornelia Doretha Martin, Executrix
198 Chatham Business Drive, Apt. 101
Pittsboro, NC 27312
My19, M26, Jn2, Jn9, 4tp

Greensboro, NC 27401
Kenneth M. Johnson
Attorney at Law
PO Box 21247
Greensboro, NC 27420
(336) 272-8273
My19, My26, Jn2, Jn9, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 248
All persons having claims against **MARVIN W. HEDGEPEETH aka MARVIN WILLIAM HEDGEPEETH**, deceased,

late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 19th day of May, 2022.
Michelle Hedgepeth-Smith, Executrix
1208 Chowan Ave.
Durham, NC 27713
My19, M26, Jn2, Jn9, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM 22-E-244
All persons having claims against **DOUGLAS JOHN SEDLAK**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 19th day of May, 2022.
Drew-Anne Carson Sedlak, Administrator
c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC
PO Box 31205
Raleigh, NC 27622
My19, My26, Jn2, Jn9, 4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 227
All persons having claims against **GREGORY ALEXANDER HUBBARD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 19th day of May, 2022.
Alicia Hubbard, Administrator
263 Clover Thatch
Pittsboro, NC 27312
My19, M26, Jn2, Jn9, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 267
All persons having claims against **JOANNE SROCZYNSKI**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of August, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 19th day of May, 2022.
Harold Sroczynski, Executor
1714 Mitchells Chapel Rd
Pittsboro, NC 27312
My19, M26, Jn2, Jn9, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS
File No: 22-E-199
ON ESTATE OF: Donna Marie Peoples
NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
ALL persons, firms and corporations having claims against **DONNA MARIE PEOPLES**, deceased, are notified to exhibit them to Tiera Sellars, c/o Kenneth M. Johnson, P.A. 701 E. Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27401, Administrator for decedent's Estate, on or before the 19th day of August, 2022, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Administrator.
This 19th day of May, 2022.
Tiera Sellars, Administrator
c/o Kenneth M. Johnson
701 E Market Street

MONCURE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL MEETING
The Moncure Fire Department will be holding its annual meeting on Monday, June 6, 2022 at Moncure Fire Dept Station #8, 2389 Old US 1, Moncure, N.C. 27559. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and cover the state of the Fire Department, financial report, and Board of Directors elections. If you reside in the Moncure Fire District and are a taxpayer, you are a member and invited to attend.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The proposed annual budget of Vaya Health LME/MCO for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 will be presented to the governing Board in a public

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 294
All persons having claims against **ROBERT EDWARD JACKSON, JR.**, deceased, late

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On eve of election, candidates report harassment, slurs

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — An online tabloid news site published a story last week detailing harassment of “Unity 2022” mayoral candidate Nick Gallardo, saying he, his mother and friends had been subject to hateful text messages and various types of harassment, and that police officials haven’t intervened.

The state’s board of elections and the FBI are investigating the incidents, some of which were also directed at county commissioner candidate Albert Reddick — who says he was sent a text message with the image of a gorilla in a noose.

The Raw Story article, published Saturday, and a new story published Tuesday on WRAL.com say candidates and others subject to the harassment contacted the Siler City Police Department.

Chief Mike Wagner, meanwhile, told the News + Record none of the Unity candidates “have contacted my department in any way” regarding incidents of “intimidation, threats or harassment.”

The Unity bloc also includes Samuel Williams and brothers Dean Picot Jr. and Jared Picot, who are seeking seats on Siler City’s board of commissioners.

Raw Story’s article — “Latin and Black candidates

targeted by racism in NC town where racism still ‘runs thick’” — was published on rawstory.com. The publication, based in Washington, D.C., is described in two studies of internet content as “junk news.” It was written by reporter Jordan Green and is found under the menu heading “Extremism.”

The story says Gallardo, who’s seeking the vacant mayor seat in a race against incumbent town Commissioner Thomas “Chip” Price III and Donald Matthews, “was caught off guard by the level of vicious hatred that escalated as the primary election season progressed: more than 100 text messages, including his photo with a noose drawn around his neck and an image of a mock lynching, and crudely sexual text messages and at least one pornographic image. Beyond digital harassment, Gallardo, his mother and friends have been tailed in their vehicles.”

“To be honest with you, through the county, there were some issues that have happened,” Gallardo told Raw Story. “I wouldn’t think I would be directly attacked because of my ethnicity and sexuality; I have a girlfriend. I don’t understand why someone would draw a noose around my neck. It’s upsetting

for me, but it also affects my family.”

StartUp Siler’s Kristen Picot was also quoted in the story: “Even at my job, I have had someone come in and call me the C-word. My boss has been called an ‘uppity’ N-word. It’s the old patriarchy and racism that runs thick. It’s been escalating.”

Earlier this month, Kristen Picot, in a text message to the News + Record, said a “fringe group” of local residents felt “empowered to aggravate hatred and to leave notes that are racially motivated on cars, deface property, sent text messages with racist, sexist and homophobic slurs. This fringe group have called me the c word, the b word and everything other word under the sun. People stopping at Walmart and yelling at me over things that are untrue from the article [referencing a story in the May 5-11 edition of the newspaper about the Unity ticket; Picot did not respond to multiple requests for specifics about the allegations]. They have followed me home.”

The News + Record asked to see photos of the vandalized property and notes and screenshots of text messages. Kristen Picot declined, saying via text: “I will not comment on a group, that in my opinion has led to the racial, sexist and homophobic attacks directed

at myself, staff and volunteers both on and offline. As well slanderous and wild idle gossip. We have all blocked and moved on past that group.”

The News + Record first contacted Wagner on May 6 regarding Kristen Picot’s claims about vandalism, lewd messages and hand-written notes she and others had received; he said he’d not been contacted about them.

“We’ve received not one report from any of the [Unity] candidates,” he confirmed again Tuesday.

Wagner said the digital communication to and regarding Reddick contains “nothing criminal — no threats. Some troubling statements, yes, but nothing criminal.”

Wagner said he understood some information had been gained in tracking the source of the text messages, but declined further comment.

And one of the photos in question he was shown — the one Reddick claims showing a noose — could be a mannequin.

“You don’t see a noose, you don’t see skin color,” he said. “You can’t see anything from the shoulders up. We have no idea where this picture is from. There’s nothing in the photo that would lead to a criminal case.”

Wagner said a second photo in question shows Reddick

“sitting on a porch.” Reddick contacted the state board of elections and the board reached out to the FBI, according to Wagner.

“We’ve had conversations with the agent who has responded,” Wagner said, declining to provide any additional information.

The Raw Story piece briefly touches on some of the recent racial tensions in the county, including the mock slave auction at J.S. Waters in March, the removal of a Confederate monument in 2019 and clashes between opposing protesters in Pittsboro, and the history of lynchings dating to the late 1800s.

WRAL reported Tuesday the state’s board of elections is “looking into racist and homophobic threats and slurs” directed at Gallardo and Reddick. Reddick was on Tuesday’s ballot for the Dist. 4 county commissioner seat, along with Travis Patterson and Katie Kenlan.

Gallardo told Raw Story he’s received close to 100 homophobic text messages and images. The News + Record asked Gallardo for copies or screenshots of them Tuesday but didn’t receive them by press time Tuesday evening.

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

WATCH

Continued from page A12

“Social Tracking of Asian Americans in the U.S. It’s new. The first assessment of attitudes and stereotypes of Asian Americans came out in 2021 from a poll of adults across the U.S. It just released its second annual poll.”

“What did it say?”
“More people blame Asian Americans for the pandemic and believe they are less loyal to the U.S. than to their ancestors’ homelands.”

“And that poll came out when?”
“Just the other day, in May, during your Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.”

“Ouch. What’s the view of Americans from your perch in China?”
“Just as bad.”

“I see.”
“I’m getting anxious, Buck.”

“OK, my friend, kick back. I can explain all you need to know about U.S.-China relations in the easiest possible terms for you.”

“How’s that?”
“Through your favorite Spider-Man movies.”

“OMG, go!”
“OK, so Peter Parker was a nerdy youngster who got bullied all the time, like China in the 19th century.”

“Gotcha, Buck. That sounds like the original ‘Spider-Man’ film in 2002—the start of the first

trilogy.”
“So you see the Peter/China connection?”

“Sure, Buck. Peter goes through an identity crisis. In this sense, he’s like China, figuring out his place in the world.”

“With an insecurity streak, eh?”

“Right, Buck. The Opium Wars marked the beginning of our ‘one hundred years of humiliation’ (1840-1949). The biggest lesson profoundly imprinted in the Chinese nation’s collective memory was ‘those who fall behind will be beaten up.’ Go on, please.”

“So the girl next door, Mary Jane, seems unattainable to Peter/China, like becoming a global economic power. Foremost in his way is the U.S., which looks to him like Dr. Otto Octavius, you know, the supervillain with mechanical hands.”

“I’m right there with you, Buck: ‘Spider-Man 2’ in 2004. Peter, like China, is an underdog who is just embarking on his journey to greatness. He’s the nerdy, shy guy who hides and bides.”
“Hides and bides?”
“Yes, Buck, that was China’s approach to the world, per Deng Xiaoping’s maxim.

Deng took over after Mao died in 1976. As the ‘Architect of Modern China,’ under his leadership from 1978 to 1989, Deng thought China should hide its strength and bide its time.”

“I see.”
“Sorry, please go on.”
“OK, so things get worse for Peter/China when he’s confronted with a trilogy of problems — high poverty rates and low literacy rates in the countryside and an infrastructure that made Shanghai’s airport look like a Greyhound bus terminal.”

“Buck, I’m seeing New Goblin, Sandman and Venom like it was yesterday, only we’re talking about ‘Spider-Man 3’ in 2007. Then what happens?”

“The Beijing Summer Olympics in 2008, Lei.”

“Ah yes, China’s coming out party! That combined with the World Expo in Shanghai in 2010 gave China a confidence boost that turned it from Spider-Man to ‘The Amazing Spider-Man’ (2012).”

“No more hide and bide for you, Lei Jiao.”

“Yes, Buck, you can now call me a Wolf Warrior.”

“And something else happened in 2008, Lei.”
“What’s that, Buck?”
“The Global Financial Crisis following the Wall Street stock market crash.”

“Indeed, Buck. That fed China’s narrative: ‘The East is rising while the West is declining.’ Not to rub it in, but I just saw a Wall Street Journal article about how inflation is raging across the world — except in China.”

“Oh, Lei, please stop

it with that socialism-with-Chinese-characteristics thing. You are weaving a web of discontent in me. I’m just trying to help you here.”

“Sorry, I digress. Maybe an ancient Chinese expression can cheer you up?”

“OK.”
“This one goes to the heart of China’s foreign policy built on sovereignty, security and self-interest.”

“And the expression is ...?”

“Each one sweeps the snow from his own doorsteps and does not bother about the frost on his neighbor’s roof.”

“That’s chill, Lei. But I can’t help but think of China’s embrace of Russia at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, like Peter Parker befriending Harry Osborn, eh?”

“Holy Green Goblin, Buck! How that becomes a happy ending is a real cliffhanger.”

“OK, Lei, let’s jump ahead. Do you remember seeing the last Marvel Studios epic, ‘Spider-Man: No Way Home’ (2021), in movie theaters there in China?”

“No way.”
“Funny, Lei.”

“Buck, don’t you remember what we said in our film review about how Spider-Man won the end-of-the-year world box office?”

“Remind me.”
“It was a great victory for Disney-owned Marvel Studios and Sony-owned Columbia Pictures. Sony handled distribution of the film, remember?”

“Tell me more.”
“That box office battle was with China’s explosively patriotic epic, ‘The Battle at Lake Changjin,’ so we Chinese citizens could enjoy watching our heroic soldiers defeat yours on the Korean War battlefield.”

“Enjoy?”
“Yes, Buck, I mean as China challenges the

West on the global stage, internally it continues to cultivate a strong nationalistic streak among the public.”

“Aw, Lei, we should have used that line in our review, ‘2 blockbusters fight a box office war across a U.S.-China political divide,’ published in this epic newspaper in January.”

“Right. Western soft power won that fight for Sony Pictures, Buck, showing it didn’t need receipts from the newly anointed world box office leader — China.”

“Bingo, Lei.”
“Buck, ‘No Way Home’ was a great movie.”

“You’re telling me. It’s the only Hollywood film since 2019 to top \$1 billion at the global box office, and it’s now headed for \$2 billion.”

“And, Buck, by not being able to see ‘No Way Home’ in our movie theaters in China, I broke my record of going to see the other eight with overpriced popcorn in hand.”

“And why was that?”
“OK, Socrates, get to the point.”

“Well, Lei, the mystery has been solved. Turns out China’s censors couldn’t stomach the grand finale of ‘No Way Home’ because of one character.”

“Who?”
“The Statue of Liberty.”

“Buck, that’s ridiculous. The Statue of Liberty is in all the films.”

“Well Lei, Sony Pictures rejected the demands of China’s censors to delete — or at least blur out — Lady Liberty. The film was banned and Sony lost millions in box office receipts from loyalists like you in China.”

“How many millions?”
“Well, the guesses range from \$199 million — the box office receipts in China for ‘Far From Home’ in 2019 — to \$340 million.”

“Buck, need I add that

Sony is a company based in Japan?”

“The enemy of my enemy is my friend, Lei.”

“Buck, I’m losing track of the number of what you call Sino-Japanese wars.”

“Now, Lei, I hope you see our U.S.-China relations hit rock bottom in 2021.”

“Wait, Buck, I thought Trump was Dr. Octopus.”

“Well, were you able to see the Statue of Liberty in ‘Homecoming’ (2017), ‘Into the Spider-Verse’ (2018) and ‘Far From Home’ (2019) at movie theaters there?”

“Yes.”
“So I guess Donald ‘China, China, China’ Trump was not so threatening to Beijing after all.”

“Well, we were able to cut ‘historical’ trade deals with him — and not live up to the agreements. Despite the bluster and the tariffs, I see the U.S. trade deficit hit a record in 2021 and the gap with China widened.”

“Uh-huh.”
“We had so hoped for change in the Biden Administration, but so far no cigar.”

“And Spider-Man took the hit.”
“Buck, now I’m even more worried.”

About the authors: Buck Ryan, a University of Kentucky journalism professor, and Lei Jiao, an English lecturer at Wuhan University of Technology, Hubei Province, China, collaborate on articles to advance cross-cultural understanding.

You can read more about Spider-Man in their film review, “2 blockbusters fight a box office war across a U.S.-China political divide,” here:

<https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/2-blockbusters-fight-a-box-office-war-across-a-us-china-political-divide,11950>



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GREENSBORO COLLEGE

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- Aaron T. Partin of Pittsboro won the Hunt Family Music Scholarship
- Tyler M. Smith of Siler City earned the Hardee Christian Service Award in Religion

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Jeffrey Ninnemann of

HONORS

PITTSBORO COLLEGE

Pittsboro was named to the Spring 2022 Semester Dean’s List. The school is located in Columbia, Missouri

PHI KAPPA PHI INDUCTION

Matthew Streets of Pittsboro graduated with a M.A. in Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi, and was welcomed into the Phi Kappa Phi honor

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

Courtney Frazier of Siler City graduated from Bob Jones University with an AS degree in Culinary Arts. The university is located in Greenville, S.C.



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STORMY SHUT-OUT

Jets provide thunder in 46-minute rain-soaked blowout, advance to 2nd round

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The rain may have cleared up just in time for Jordan-Matthews' playoff game on Monday evening, but the Jets continued pouring it on.

The No. 4 Jets (13-3-3) scored eight goals in the first half against the No. 29 James Kenan Tigers (8-7-2), making room for a mercy-rule, walk-off goal early in the second half to secure the 9-0 win in the opening round of the NCHSAA 2A women's soccer state playoffs.

Jordan-Matthews is awaiting its second-round opponent after the first-round game between No. 13 Raleigh Charter

and No. 20 Washington was rained out on Monday, pushing the game to Tuesday evening (after the News + Record's press time). The Jets will play at home for at least the first three rounds, barring an upset loss.

From the jump, it was clear that Jordan-Matthews was, as Jets Head Coach Josh Harris put it before the game, "weirdly locked in."

"It was just a little different vibe, it was a different kind of focus, but it wasn't a tense focus, it was loose," Harris said after the win. "They were ready to go. And they had good energy all day."

Freshman striker Jessica

Parroquin Vallejo undoubtedly brought the energy, scoring a hat trick (plus another) in the opening half — draining four of the Jets' first six goals — to cap off an exceptional performance in her first-ever playoff game.

She was the main contributor to a well-oiled J-M offense that saw five different players make floats for the scoring parade.

Despite the field's slick conditions — with deep puddles acting as remnants of the mid-afternoon storms stashed around the perimeter of J-M's raised pitch — the Jets never

See **JETS**, page B3



Staff photo by David Bradley

Jordan-Matthews junior Maricarmen Landa (in blue) rockets a shot toward the James Kenan goalkeeper during the Jets' 9-0 blowout win in the first round of the 2A state playoffs on Monday. Landa was one of five goal scorers on the night for J-M.

'ANOTHER DREAM COME TRUE'

Chatham sees 62 athletes qualify for states in dominant regional showing in Franklinton

BY DAN E. WAY
News + Record
Correspondent

FRANKLINTON — You don't want to blink when Tamaya Walden is on the track. You might miss her championship run.

The Chatham Charter speed demon qualified for the NCHSAA 1A Track & Field State Championships in the women's 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes by winning gold in all three events at the 1A Mideast Regional at Franklinton High School last Saturday. She was the only contestant at the 1A regional competition to win three individual events.

"It's another dream come true," Walden said of her tour de force, acknowledging its source. "Thank God for my ability."

She wasn't the only Chatham Charter athlete to celebrate a figurative day in the sun, while rain showers literally doused the Franklinton High School facilities, delaying the competition's start and periodically disrupting the flow of events.

Knights senior Brandon McKoy won the men's 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs with stunning ease, Meredith Reese won the women's 3,200 and Brooke Garner topped the women's triple jump field, giving the Knights seven first-place finishes. Their third-place women's ranking in



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Chatham Central freshman Landry Allen clears a hurdle during a women's 100-meter hurdles prelim during the NCHSAA 1A Mideast Regionals on Saturday at Franklinton High School. Landry went on to place ninth in the event.

the team results was the best of the six Chatham County schools competing among three classifications over the weekend. The Chatham Charter men's team finished 10th in the title chase.

"Tamaya is just an amazing athlete. Everything she does, she does with her whole self," said Chatham Charter co-head coach Tina Rakes, noting that the speedster scored her

1,000th career point in basketball this past season and that she and McKoy were named school athletes of the year. McKoy, she said, is incredibly hard-working, always lending a helping hand where needed and a high-level student — he's headed to Columbia University in the fall.

"We had a great day today, our tiny little team," which doesn't have enough members

to field any relay teams, a void that hurts them in scoring, Rakes said. "We just have such talent. That's all I can say. It's paid off, all the hard work that they've done."

Other Chatham County regional champions were Caroline Murrell of Northwood in the women's 3,200-meter run; Noah Nielson, Jackson Adams, Marco Sanchez and Christian Glick of Northwood



Submitted photo via Tammy Walden

Chatham Charter junior Tamaya Walden poses with her three gold medals following her performance at the NCHSAA 1A Mideast Regionals at Franklinton High School on Saturday. Walden took first place in the women's 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes, qualifying for states in all three events.

in the men's 4x800-meter relay; Rachel Woods, Charley Lemons, Cassidy Deshazo and Jasmine Basilio of Jordan-Matthews in the women's 4x400-meter relay; and Woods Charter's Ellie Poitras in the 1,600-meter run and Analise De Leon Villanueva in the women's 300-meter hurdles.

To qualify for the state

See **REGIONALS**, page B4

'THIS IS WHY YOU PLAY'

J-M earns first home playoff win in 14 years before falling in 2nd round

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — John Headen took one look around Jimmy Warford Field, soaking in his surroundings with a faint smile on his face.

A few minutes earlier, Jordan-Matthews sophomore pitcher Ian McMillan downed the final Southwest Edgecombe batter on strikes, ending the game and catapulting the Jets to the second round of the NCHSAA 2A men's baseball playoffs.

For Headen, the win meant more than your average playoff victory.

"I'm getting a little emotional," Headen said with a laugh following the win.

After all, in seven seasons being the Jets' head coach, he hadn't won a single playoff game on Jimmy Warford Field.

Or anywhere else, for that matter. Tuesday's 3-1 victory over the No. 24 Cougars marked the first home playoff win for the Jets since 2008, well before Headen's first season in 2016.

It was also his first playoff win as head coach of the Jets. He was 0-1 in

the playoffs at J-M entering this year's tournament.

"It would've been nice to win a conference championship, but that's not our goal. Our goal was getting into the playoffs and trying to do something," Headen said. "I'd trade that for conference wins any day of the week. This is why you play high school baseball."

On the surface, it's a little surprising that this year's Jets team was the one to break the 14-year drought.

Entering Tuesday's playoff game, J-M had a 7-16 overall record (5-7 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference) and had lost seven games in a row with its last win coming on April 12, nearly a month earlier.

Headen, however, sees it differently. And he isn't the least bit surprised.

"We've tried to have a playoff atmosphere for the past three weeks and we've played some tough teams and put ourselves in these situations," he said. "We were setting ourselves up for this right here."

The Jets' eight losses in April came at the hands of some pretty stiff compe-

tion, including two close losses to the Morehead Panthers (19-5), a 5-1 loss to the 4A Chapel Hill Tigers (15-13), two blowout losses to the 3A Lee County Yellow Jackets (18-9) and a few narrow defeats to a couple of 1A/2A opponents.

While the losses may not look pretty on the schedule, Headen said the experience gained from those games was crucial, as shown by the team's first-round performance.

It was clear that the Jets were prepared for a playoff atmosphere — in fact, they welcomed it.

Their first-round matchup with the Cougars (10-13) was a defensive slugfest as the two teams' starting pitchers combined for 14 strikeouts and six hits, allowing just one total earned run.

Conner Martin, one of the team's most consistent arms, was on the mound for the Jets and threw a gem, allowing five hits and an earned run in 5.1 innings pitched.

His nerves got the best of him at first, putting himself in a tough situation from the get-go.

In the top of the first, Cougars junior

Eli Alston smacked a line drive to center field to start things off, followed by a groundout that advanced him to second and another line drive by senior Jake Fuller to put runners on the corners with just one out.

But, in a puzzling turn of events that favored the Jets, senior Zack Carroll flied out as Alston trotted to home plate from third, originally appearing to give the Cougars an early 1-0 lead on a sacrifice fly.

However, while the play looked dead and most of the players were standing around once Alston touched home, Headen and the dugout began screaming for the Jets to throw the ball at third. They obliged, prompting the umpire to throw up his fist, calling Alston out at third for failing to tag before taking off, allowing the Jets to escape without any damage.

Martin proceeded to lock in.

In each of the second and third innings, he faced four Cougar batters, striking out a pair of them and allowing

See **PLAYOFFS**, page B2

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

This is the week where dreams may come true, hearts may break and champions will be crowned. Chatham County has plenty of local postseason action coming up, including the No. 1 seeded Woods Charter Wolves (1A) and No. 4 Jordan-Matthews Jets (2A) in the women's soccer playoffs on Thursday, along with a whopping 62 student-athletes participating in the NCHSAA Track & Field State Championships on Friday and Saturday. While Tuesday's baseball and softball playoff games will be played after the News + Record's press time, there's a chance that Friday may also see either Chatham Central or Northwood playing in the 4th round of their respective tournaments (as long as they're able to force upset wins on Tuesday). It's an exciting week for all corners of the county, so make sure to get out and enjoy it before summer break coming up soon. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, May 18

No events scheduled.

Thursday, May 19

Soccer: (1) Woods Charter women vs. North Moore (2nd round of NCHSAA 1A state playoffs), time TBA

Soccer: (4) Jordan-Matthews women vs. TBA (2nd round of NCHSAA 2A state playoffs), 6 p.m.

Friday, May 20

Track & Field: Jordan-Matthews, Seaforth at NCHSAA 2A State Championships (at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro), 10 a.m.

Track & Field: Northwood at NCHSAA 3A State Championships (at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro), 10 a.m.

Baseball: (19) Northwood at TBA (4th round of NCHSAA 3A state playoffs; depending on Tuesday's results), time TBA

Baseball: (21) Chatham Central at TBA (4th round of NCHSAA 1A state playoffs; depending on Tuesday's results), time TBA

Softball: (8) Chatham Central at TBA (4th round of NCHSAA 1A state playoffs; depending on Tuesday's results), time TBA

Saturday, May 21

Track & Field: Chatham Central, Chatham Charter, Woods Charter at NCHSAA 1A State Championships (at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro), 10 a.m.

LAST WEEK

Monday, May 9

Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews women earned a shut-out win over the Southwestern Randolph Cougars, 2-0, on the road.

Soccer: The Northwood women fell in a close one to the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 5-3, at home. Scoring for the Chargers in the loss were sophomore Isabella Rogers (2 goals)

and junior Sydney Cox (1 goal).

Tuesday, May 10

Golf: The Northwood men had one golfer at the NCHSAA 3A State Championships at Pinehurst No. 6 in Pinehurst: senior Jake Conklin, who tied for 7th place (152, +8), among the 84 participants.

Golf: The Jordan-Matthews and Seaforth men had three total representatives at the NCHSAA 2A State Championships at Foxfire Golf Club in Pinehurst: Seaforth freshman Griffin Ching (T-11th, 158, +14), Jordan-Matthews junior Noah Snyder (T-42nd, 174, +30) and Seaforth freshman Gray Stewart (T-44th, 175, +31).

Golf: The Chatham Central men had two golfers at the NCHSAA 1A State Championships at Longleaf Golf & Family Club in Southern Pines: junior Allen Corbin (T-56th, 197, +53) and freshman Jake Poe (T-69th, 208, +64).

Baseball: The No. 21 Chatham Central men upset the No. 12 Northwest Halifax Vikings with a 17-0 shellacking in the 1st round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. Leading the Bears in the win were junior Travis Crissman (4-for-4, 2B, 2 R, 2 RBI), freshman Zane Overman (4-for-4, R, 3 RBI), junior Hasten T. Paige (3-for-3, 3B, 4 R) and sophomore Anthony Lopossay (4.0 IP, H, 0 ER, BB, 8 K).

Softball: The No. 20 Chatham Charter women thrashed the No. 13 Weldon Chargers, 19-0, on the road in the 1st round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs.

Baseball: The No. 9 Jordan-Matthews men downed the No. 24 Southwest Edgecombe Cougars, 3-1, in a defensive slugfest in the 1st round of the NCHSAA 2A state playoffs.

Baseball: The No. 19 Northwood men upset the No. 14 Currituck County Knights, 3-0, on the road in the 1st round of the NCHSAA 3A state playoffs. Leading the Chargers in the win were senior Mason Bae (2-for-4, 2B, R, RBI), freshman Kaleb Howell (1-for-1, R, BB) and junior Zach Barnes (7.0 IP, 5 H, 0 ER, 2 BB, 4 K).

Softball: The No. 8 Chatham Central women earned a shut-out win over the Union Spartans, 10-0, in the 1st round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. Leading the Bears in the victory were sophomore Cassie McKeithan (1-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI), junior Jaylee Williams (2-for-4, 2 R) and junior Mary Gaines (6.0 IP, H, 0 ER, 0 BB, 10 K; 0-for-3, RBI).

Softball: The No. 32 Jordan-Matthews women fell handily in a battle with the undefeated No. 1 Washington Pam Pack, 10-0, in the 1st round of the NCHSAA 2A state playoffs.

Softball: The No. 30 Northwood women were shut out by the No. 3 Cape Fear Colts, 11-0, in the 1st round of the NCHSAA 3A state playoffs.

Baseball: The No. 14 Chatham Charter men stomped the No. 19 KIPP Pride Pride, 18-2, in the 1st round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs after scoring 15 runs in the second inning.

Soccer: The Northwood women were shut out by the

Riverside-Durham Pirates, 3-0, on the road.

Wednesday, May 11

Tennis: The No. 12 Chatham Central men fell to the No. 3 Voyager Vikings, 6-3, in the 4th round of the NCHSAA 1A Dual-Team State Championships, ending the Bears' Cinderella run one stop short of the state title match. Winning their singles matches for the Bears were sophomore Jacob Gilliland (6-3, 6-2) and senior Landon Hackney (6-3, 6-4), while the duo of Gilliland/Hackney also won its doubles match (8-2).

Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews women crushed the North Moore Mustangs, 8-1, on the road to end the regular season with a 12-3-3 overall record.

Soccer: The Seaforth women were dominated by the Jordan Falcons, 9-0, on the road.

Soccer: The Woods Charter women defeated the Research Triangle Raptors, 4-1, to complete the regular season with an unbeaten overall record (15-0-2) and conference record (8-0). Scoring for the Wolves in the win were sophomore Leyla Noronha (3 goals) and sophomore Cate Czyzewski (1 goal).

Soccer: The Northwood women fell to the Western Alamance Warriors, 3-1, to finish the season with a 7-13 overall record. Scoring the lone goal for the Chargers in the loss was sophomore Isabella Rogers.

Thursday, May 12

Baseball: The No. 21 Chatham Central men earned their second-straight upset win in a row with a victory over the No. 5 East Wake Academy Eagles, 11-8, in the second round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. Leading the Bears in the win were junior Travis Crissman (2-for-4, 3 RBI), sophomore Joaquin Gordon (2-for-3, 3B, BB, 2 R, RBI), senior Nick Jourdan (2-for-4, 2B, BB, 2 R, 2 RBI) and senior Colin Lagenor (5.1 IP, 5 H, 2 ER, 0 BB, 6 K; 2-for-3, 2B, 2 R, RBI).

Softball: The No. 20 Chatham Charter women lost to the No. 4 Northside-Pinetown Panthers, 6-2, in the second round of NCHSAA 1A state playoffs.

Baseball: The No. 14 Chatham Charter men suffered a lopsided loss to the No. 3 Bear Grass Charter Bears, 9-1, in the second round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs.

Baseball: The No. 9 Jordan-Matthews men lost a close one to the No. 8 Roanoke Rapids Yellowjackets, 9-6, in the second round of the NCHSAA 2A state playoffs.

Baseball: The No. 19 Northwood men eked out a win over the No. 3 C.B. Aycock Golden Falcons, 6-5, in the second round of the NCHSAA 3A state playoffs. Leading the Chargers in the win were junior Jackson Shaner (2-for-3, BB, R, 3 RBI), junior Luke Smith (1-for-3, 3B, RBI), junior Seth Davis (3-for-3, 2B, BB, R) and senior Mason Bae (3.0 IP, 4 H, 0 ER, 0 BB, 2 K; 1-for-4, R).

Soccer: The Seaforth women shut out the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 4-0, to finish the regular season with an 11-7 overall record.

Softball: The No. 8 Chatham Central women throttled the No. 9 North Duplin Rebels, 14-4, in the second round of the NCHSAA 1A state playoffs. Leading the Bears in the win were sophomore Katherine Gaines (3-for-4, 3 R, RBI), freshman Caleigh Warf (1-for-2, 2B, BB, 2 R, 3 RBI) and junior Mary Gaines (6.0 IP, 6 H, ER, 3 BB, 2 K).

Friday, May 13

Track & Field: The Northwood Chargers competed in the NCHSAA 3A Mideast Regionals at Franklinton High School, where they placed eighth in both the men's (36 points) and women's (38) events. Qualifying for states from the Chargers with top-4 finishes were senior Caroline Murrell (1st, women's 3,200-meter run, 10:59.13; 2nd, women's 1,600-meter run, 5:05.65), junior Jack Nicholson (3rd, men's discus throw, 134-06.00), senior Bentley Brooks (4th, women's discus throw, 90-00.00), junior Ethan Wilson (4th, men's 110-meter hurdles, 16.26), along with three relay teams: the men's 4x800-meter relay (sophomore Noah Nielson, junior Jackson Adams, senior Marco Sanchez and junior Christian Glick; 1st, 8:14.78), men's 4x400-meter relay (Nielson, senior Jack Spatz, Glick and Sanchez; 3rd, 3:29.51) and the women's 4x800-meter relay (senior Emma Serrano, sophomore Rokia Sissoko, freshman Avery Adams and Murrell; 4th, 10:34.52).

Saturday, May 14

Track & Field: The Chatham Central Bears, Chatham Charter Knights and Woods Charter Wolves competed in the NCHSAA 1A Mideast Regionals at Franklinton High School, where the Bears took 6th in the women's scoring (53 points) and 8th in the men's (35.50), the Knights claimed third in the women's scoring (69.50) and 10th in the men's (20) and the Wolves were 5th in the women's (61) and 6th in the men's (45.50). Qualifying for states from the Bears, Knights and Wolves were: Knights junior Tamaya Walden (1st, women's 100-meter dash, 13.14; 1st, women's 200-meter dash, 27.05; 1st, women's 400-meter dash, 1:02.41), Knights senior Brandon McKoy (1st, men's 1,600-meter run, 4:54.52; 1st, men's 3,200-meter run, 10:42.97), Knights sophomore Meredith Reese (1st, women's 3,200-meter run, 15:23.70), Knights senior Brooke Garner (1st, women's triple jump, 32-00.00; 3rd, women's long jump, 15-06.00), Wolves sophomore Ellie Poitras (1st, women's 1,600-meter run, 5:56.65; 3rd, women's 800-meter run, 2:43.80), Wolves senior Analise De Leon Villanueva (1st, women's 300-meter hurdles, 52.04), Wolves freshman Isabel Wood (2nd, women's 100-meter dash, 13.27; 2nd, women's 200-meter dash, 27.87), Wolves junior Wiley Sikes (2nd, men's 800-meter run, 2:11.24; 2nd, men's 1,600-meter run, 4:57.69), Bears sophomore Samantha Scott (2nd, women's 1,600-meter run, 6:02.09), Bears freshman Mattie Caviness (2nd, women's shot

put, 26-11.75), Wolves junior Collin Thompson (3rd, men's 400-meter dash, 53.51), Bears junior Kailey Green (women's high jump, 4-08.00), Bears senior Carleigh Gentry (3rd, women's high jump, 4-08.00; 3rd, women's triple jump, 31-01.00), Bears senior Malachi Moore (3rd, men's long jump, 20-03.00), Knights sophomore Ariana Rivera-Roma, women's 3,200-meter run, 18:06.89), Wolves freshman Anna Peeler (4th, women's 1,600-meter run, 6:15.05), Wolves freshman Jesse Sikes (4th, men's 800-meter run, 2:17.64) and Wolves senior Peter Ising (4th, men's shot put, 37-09.50), while the Bears also qualified in four relay races: the women's 4x400 (Green, freshman Hannah Gullely-Moore, Scott and freshman Carlee Callahan; 4th, 5:01.95), the men's 4x200 (senior Trey Clay, Moore, sophomore Devonte Johnson and sophomore River Warren; 4th, 1:40.48), the men's 4x400 (sophomore Javonte Johnson, Davonte Johnson, junior Brycen Edwards and junior Davis Griffith; 4th, 4:14.67) and the men's 4x800 (Warren, Edwards, Javonte Johnson and Griffith; 4th, 12:07.56).

Track & Field: The Jordan-Matthews Jets and Seaforth Hawks competed in the NCHSAA 2A Mideast Regionals at Franklinton High School, where the Jets placed 7th in the women's scoring (38 points) and 20th in the men's (7), while the Hawks placed 11th in women's (26) and 7th in men's (41). Qualifying for the state meet from the Jets and Hawks were: Jets junior Madelyn Eubanks (2nd, women's discus throw, 82-03.00), Hawks freshman Jack Anstrom (2nd, men's 3,200-meter run, 10:28.86; 3rd, men's 1,600-meter run, 4:46.65), Jets freshman Rachel Woods (3rd, women's 400-meter dash, 1:06.41), Hawks sophomore Chris Scanlon (3rd, men's pole vault, 6-06.00), Hawks freshman Nathan Smith (3rd, men's pole vault, 6-06.00), Hawks freshman Claire Morgan (3rd, women's pole vault, 6-06.00), Hawks freshman Gabby White (3rd, women's long jump, 17-04.00) and Hawks freshman Will Cuicchi (4th, men's 800-meter run, 2:07.47), while the Jets also qualified in the women's 4x400 relay (Woods, sophomore Charley Lemons, sophomore Cassidy Deshazo and senior Jasmine Basilio; 1st, 4:43.39), women's 4x100 relay (Woods, Deshazo, freshman Sedessa Green and junior Jaylyn Baldwin; 4th, 53.05), women's 4x800 relay (Basilio, junior America Cuanalo, freshman Sophia Kopela and sophomore Jessica Parroquin; 4th, 12:50.90) and the men's 4x400 relay (senior Calvin Schwartz, senior Carlos Rojas, junior Elian Herrera and senior Jacorey Coats; 4th, 3:43.48), while the Hawks qualified in the women's 4x800 relay (freshman Lily McFall, freshman Charlie Ann George, freshman Katie Johnson and Morgan; 3rd, 12:48.00).

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PLAYOFFS

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just two baserunners on walks. He relinquished no hits and no runs.

He admitted there were nerves before he took the mound for his first-ever playoff start, but that it didn't take long for him to settle in.

"I was very nervous," Martin said of his pre-game jitters. "I took a lot of deep breaths in-and-out (before the game), but it just felt good to release everything and let it go."

The Jets finally got on the board with two outs in the bottom of the third thanks to some heads-up baserunning from McMillan, who capitalized on an errant throw to second base — which allowed him to get all the way to third on a stolen base attempt from first — and promptly score following an RBI right-field knock from junior

Jackson Headen.

Fuller struck out senior Carson Whitehead in the next at-bat to quickly extinguish the Jets' offensive flame, but J-M had officially drawn first blood, holding onto a 1-0 lead heading into the fourth inning.

Martin and Fuller continued to battle over the next couple of innings, with Fuller turning a four-pitch lead-off walk into three straight outs in the bottom of the fourth, followed by back-to-back 1-2-3 innings for both pitchers in the fifth with Fuller striking out the side in the bottom of the inning.

However, the Cougars got their first break in the top of the sixth when — after a single from Fuller through the 5 hole that prompted John Headen to switch out Martin in favor of McMillan — an error by Jackson Headen at shortstop allowed Carroll to reach first base

untouched, placing runners at the corners with one out.

Southwest Edgecombe took advantage of Jordan-Matthews' mistake, tying things up at a piece on a liner from junior Dustin Lawson that scored Fuller, but suffered from a strike out and flyout in the next couple of at-bats to send it to the bottom of the sixth, giving J-M its opportunity.

While the Jets were no stranger to mishaps — dealing with bobbled balls in the infield, failed stolen base attempts and ice cold bats — they made sure to redeem themselves whenever possible.

"We know we're going to make mistakes, we've proved that if you look at our stats, we're going to make mistakes," John Headen said, laughing. "It's what we do after the mistake, which we've shown that we can overcome."

One of the game's final examples of the Jets fixing their mistakes came in the bottom of the sixth where, after giving up the tying run a half-inning earlier, they had their best offensive inning with seven total baserunners in a game-winning effort.

They reached base in myriad ways, with McMillan getting to first on an error to lead off the inning, followed by a bunt single from Jackson Headen and an intentional walk of Whitehead that loaded the bases with no outs.

But, in back-to-back plate appearances, the Jets saw senior Brenden Rivers and sophomore Kelton Fuquay ground into fielder's choices, with a runner being thrown out at home each time, preventing the go-ahead run from scoring.

And just when it seemed like the Jets' offense may squander the opportunity, junior Mason Phillips played

first-round hero, slicing a single past the shortstop to score Whitehead and give J-M a 2-1 lead.

Jets freshman Quinn Woolford added an insurance run in the following at-bat, using his plate discipline to earn a bases-loaded walk on a full count to make it 3-1 and effectively seal the deal for J-M.

McMillan struck out two batters in the top of the seventh, including the final Cougar batter of the night, which prompted an emotional scream from the Jets' sophomore as he propelled his team to postseason glory.

"We just try to scrap," John Headen said. "We scrap, and if you take us lightly, that's what's going to happen."

A couple of days later, Jordan-Matthews traveled nearly 140 miles to Roanoke Rapids to take on the No. 8-seeded Yellowjackets (13-8), where the Jets' season ended in

a 9-6 battle in the second round of the 2A playoffs.

It was a tough ending to an otherwise memorable season for J-M, one that saw its program take on plenty of formidable opponents, lock up a postseason spot midway through the year and break a decade and a half-long drought in an emotion-filled barnburner.

And even though his team was bounced in the second round, John Headen has a message for anyone considering playing baseball for the Jets next season.

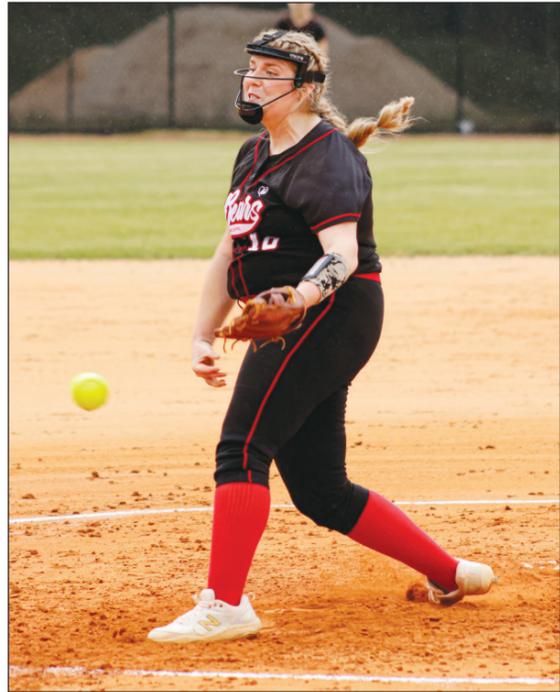
"We play a (tough) schedule for a reason," John Headen said before he walked off of Jimmy Warford Field for the final time this season. "If you want to play baseball against good teams, this is where you come to do it."

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Sliding into Round 3



Staff photo by Simon Barbre
Chatham Central junior Jaylee Williams (in black) slides across home plate, avoiding the tag, in the Bears' 14-4 win in the second round of the playoffs against the North Duplin Rebels last Thursday.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre
Chatham Central junior Mary Gaines slices a pitch toward home plate in the Bears' 14-4 win over North Duplin last Thursday. Gaines, who threw 6.0 innings and allowed one earned run on six hits, has started both playoff games for the Bears this season.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre
Chatham Central freshman Caleigh Warf connects with a pitch in the Bears' 14-4 first-round win over the North Duplin Rebels last Thursday. Warf went 1-for-2 from the plate with a double, a walk and 3 RBI.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre
Chatham Central senior Taylor Poe (5) waits patiently at third base as a North Duplin baserunner stands 60 feet away from home plate in the Bears' 14-4 win over the Rebels.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre
The Chatham Central softball team, all smiles, celebrates during the Bears' 14-4 rout of the North Duplin Rebels last Thursday.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre
Chatham Central junior Jaylee Williams (2) rounds second base during the Bears' 14-4 victory over the North Duplin Rebels last Thursday. Williams reached base three times in the win, all on walks.

JETS

Continued from page B1

faltered and rarely, if ever, slipped up.

"We haven't played on a wet field this whole season," said Guadalupe Perez, the Jets' assistant coach. "Usually you get one or two games where it's just rained or something, but it didn't happen this season ... so the girls had to warm up to the weather effects."

"We controlled the game most of the time," Harris added. "If you control, then you can kind of anticipate what movements you need rather than react, that's when you slip is when it's a last-second reaction instead of a planned set."

The Jets tested the Tigers' defense early and often, defensively sending shots in the direction of the net as they dominated time of possession and aimed to wear down James Kenan's backline.

They spent the first 7 minutes on the Tigers' end of the pitch to open the game, firing off shots and forcing their goalkeeper to make saves. And even when it appeared that the Tigers might finally send the ball across midfield — and create any sort of



Staff photo by David Bradley
Jordan-Matthews junior Jennifer Garcia Torres (2) gains possession of the ball during the Jets' 9-0 win over the James Kenan Tigers in the first round of the 2A playoffs on Monday. The Jets won most of the game's 50-50 balls in the victory.

offense — the Jets would track down the pass and force it right back in the other direction.

For James Kenan, it was exhausting.

For Jordan-Matthews, it was only a matter of time.

The scoreless tie was broken in an anticlimactic fashion for the Jets, however, with Parroquin Vallejo, bounding down the right side of the pitch toward the penalty area, attempting a pass to junior Maricarmen Landa, who stood just in front of the Tigers' goalkeeper.

But instead of the pass making its way to Landa, it smacked against the shoulder of a James

Kenan defender and ricocheted into the left corner of the net, past a diving goalkeeper to give J-M a 1-0 lead in the 9th minute.

That goal opened the flood gates for the Jets — a trend in many of their games this season — giving way to two additional goals in as many minutes.

In the 10th minute, Parroquin Vallejo struck again as she blocked a pass from Tigers sophomore Railei Mouton with her body, chased it down and rocketed it from the right side of the net, scoring her second goal of the game for a 2-0 Jets lead.

Then, around a minute later, Parroquin Vallejo secured her hat trick

on a quick shot off of a near-perfect crossing pass from Landa, giving J-M a 3-0 advantage just 11 minutes into the game.

The almost immediate three-goal swing — made possible by a mixture of Parroquin Vallejo's quickness and scoring finesse, Landa's soccer savviness and nearly the entire team's desire to shut down any ounce of offense from the Tigers — is evidence that speed kills as the Tigers were consistently burned by the Jets' swift strikers.

"It's a lot of pressure on teams because they're very cognizant of (our speed up front) and they know about it, so they tend to focus on it," Harris said. "It doesn't let them push it too much on us since they have to respect that because if they don't, they're going to get burnt."

The onslaught continued for J-M throughout the first half, with the Jets eventually tacking on four more goals from a mixture of freshman Citlaly Aguillon (18th minute), sophomore Janeyra Guerrero Jaimés (24th minute), Parroquin Vallejo (27th minute) and Landa (28th minute).

Then, in the 39th minute, Jets sophomore Iris Sibrian Zetino makes a

passionate push toward the goal, enduring a couple of bumps along the way, as she forced her way into the penalty area and slot a slow-rolling shot into the bottom-left portion of the net to give her team an 8-0 lead heading into the break, just one away from the nine-goal mercy rule.

While the Jets' offense was the clear-cut star of the game, they likely don't make it to nine goals in 46 minutes without the lights-out play from the team's midfielders and backline defenders, who rarely let anything get past them all night long.

Harris and Perez praised both Aguillon and junior Maggie Thornton in particular for their ability to lock things down against the Tigers.

"Citlaly, our center-mid, she went for every single ball. She didn't stop, she was taking it from them, she had no fear," Perez said. "She was running around and you saw her everywhere."

"Her and Maggie Thornton," Harris said. "Maggie's very consistent, so it's hard to say when she stands out, but there were multiple times when she just completely

controlled it and went and flipped the field."

Just six minutes into the second half, Sibrian Zetino banded in the walk-off goal off of a corner kick to propel her team into the second round, foregoing the final 34 minutes of game time as the mercy rule kicked in.

While it was clear they were having fun after the blowout win, the Jets' coaches were all business, spending little time celebrating the victory and more time looking ahead to their next foe.

For a team that started 0-2-2, won 12 of the regular season's final 14 games, went undefeated (10-0) in the newly formed Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference and earned the 2A East's No. 4 seed, a first-round playoff win is nice, but expected.

The Jets have bigger aspirations.

"Our process is about us. When we play well and we do what we do, it goes really well and we're really tough to beat," Harris said. "So if we do that, then it doesn't really matter who's on the other sideline. ... We've just got to stick to the process."

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REGIONALS

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meet, athletes must place in the top four of their respective events at regionals. In all, the Chatham County delegation qualified 62 athletes for the NCHSAA State Championships, which will be held at North Carolina A&T State University on Friday and Saturday. Chatham athletes will be competing in 11 women's events in 1A, seven in 2A and four in 3A, along with nine men's events in 1A, five in 2A and four in 3A.

The quest for a repeat

Northwood's Murrell, the returning 3A state champion in the women's 3,200-meter run, sent a strong message that she has no plans to relinquish the title, smoking the competition to lead the Chargers' women's squad to an eighth-place finish. The men's team also captured eighth place, paced by the first-place time of 8:14.78 for the 4x800-meter relay team of Nielson, Adams, Sanchez and Glick.

Murrell, still stinging from an earlier second-place time in the women's 1,600-meter run that she led at one point, left no doubt in the 3,200. She began lapping the competition in her fourth time around the track, and by the eighth lap was a full half-course ahead of Carrboro's second-place finisher Hannah Preisser. It was vindication for the Charger, who fell to Preisser in the 1,600.

"I'm glad I was able to come back after a performance that I didn't love in the mile and do something I was proud of," crossing the finish line just 8 seconds off her state championship personal record, Murrell said. "That's definitely the race I feel more confident in. I'm proud of the way that I pushed myself. I definitely was tired."

In the mile, Murrell drafted for two laps and then passed Preisser in the third, but couldn't fight off a determined Preisser down the stretch.

"I knew that she had a good kick," she said. "I thought maybe in that third lap I could get some distance, but I just didn't. I knew she was right there. I think she just matched my PR in that race."

Murrell was also part of the women's 4x800-meter relay team that took fourth place, and she had a PR in her leg. Senior Emma Serrano, junior Rokia Sissoko and freshman Avery Adams were the other squad members.

"I'm really proud of my team, and they put in a lot of hard work," breaking seed to qualify for states, she said.

"Even at the state (level), nobody's going to touch her (in the 2-mile). She's one of a kind, one in a million for a coach," Northwood head coach Cameron Isenhour said. "She just has that intangible that really nobody else in the state has of wanting it more than anybody and doing her best."

Isenhour was also thrilled with his men's relay teams. "We broke a very old 4x800 school record that I think stood for over 10 years," he said. "Definitely Noah Nielson exceeded expectations. He ran the first leg in our 4x800 and our 4x400. He PR'd in both."

"We won it in indoor, and we're hoping to repeat for outdoor," said Sanchez, who ran the third leg of the 4x800. The Chargers led the whole race, eclipsing their seed time by 15 seconds, and Sanchez wasn't about to



Submitted photo by Dan Loughlin/MileSplit

Northwood junior Ethan Wilson (in green) soars over obstacles in the men's 110-meter hurdles during the NCHSAA 3A Mideast Regionals at Franklinton High School last Saturday. Wilson took fourth place in the event, qualifying for states and prompting a shout out from his head coach, Cameron Isenhour.

get passed. "It's going to be a close one," he remembered thinking as he awaited the baton. "Adrenaline was rushing through me and I guess it helped me." Sanchez was also on the 4x400-meter relay team that took third place.

Isenhour gave "a big shout out to Ethan Wilson" in the men's 110-meter hurdles. He was seeded seventh, but captured fourth place and a trip to states "with a big PR."

"I think I was last at the start," said Wilson, a junior who ran the hurdles once in 6th grade but didn't compete in track again until this year. As the race progressed, Wilson closed ground. "I'm thinking, 'Oh, I might actually be able to get fourth. That's what I was thinking.'"

Wrath of the newcomers

The Jordan-Matthews women finished seventh as a team in the 2A meet, led by the 4x400-meter relay championship squad, and the men took 20th. Seaforth finished in seventh place in the men's team scoring, while the women came in 11th.

"I'm just happy for them," Jordan-Matthews head coach Lamont Piggie said of his Jets. It's always an experience for the kids to get to the state track meet and to run on a college campus and expose themselves (to) everybody else in the state."

Piggie said the women's team finished second at the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference meet, "so they had high expectations coming here and exceeded them."

"It feels good. Shocking, but good," Woods said of winning the 4x400 and qualifying for three events at states. She also qualified by taking third place in the women's 400-meter dash and fourth place with the women's 4x100-meter relay team.

"It's my first year running track. I've never run before so I came out here thinking I wasn't going to qualify for anything," Woods said, pleasantly surprised.

Basilio, Lemons and Deshazo were the other members of the 4x400 squad that was never behind in its gold-medal race.

"I was really nervous because I'm usually not last leg, and that last leg gets a lot of pressure," said Basilio, who had never run track before this year. She said she was thinking how embarrassing it would be if they lost on her leg. "I heard people yelling and I thought there was somebody right behind me, so I did not stop sprinting" until she led the pack across the finish line. Basilio also qualified with the women's 4x800-meter relay squad, which finished in fourth.

The Jets' Madelyn Eubanks took silver in the women's discus in her first year of track, too. "I'm proud of myself. I really didn't think I would go to states, but I surprised myself," the Jordan-Matthews junior said. She said she has worked hard to improve

on her form. "I've gotten better and I'm more confident," culminating in her best throw of the year at the regional meet.

Seaforth co-head coach Tommy Johnson said there has been a steep learning curve for his team this season in its first year as a program.

"If you look at some of our early-season meets and what they did today, it's pretty astounding to have 20 (at regionals) and we're sending 11 to states as a first-year program with no juniors or seniors," Johnson said.

Seaforth freshman phenom Jack Anstrom punched his ticket to states in the men's 1,600- and 3,200-meter events in his first full season of high school track.

Anstrom seized the lead against Lane Prochaska of Granville Central and Andrew Parker of North Carolina School of Science and Math in the 1,600, and briefly flirted with the idea of going all out. But he had second thoughts, knowing he would see them again in the 3,200, in which he thought he had a better chance of winning. Prochaska and Parker finished 1-2 in the mile, with Anstrom clocking a close third.

The trio again was bunched up in the lead for most of the 2-mile, but Parker blew it out after the seventh lap for gold. Anstrom took silver and Prochaska bronze.

"I'm OK with being a little bit incomplete because it gives me something to look forward to in the future," Anstrom said.

"I'm happy to be in states twice. Not many other freshmen can say that," Anstrom said. He planned to celebrate at a school dance Saturday night. "I can't wait to go back and high-five a bunch of people, go to states and try to win the mile, and hopefully I do well in the 3,200 and then nationals after that."

Seaforth freshman Gabby White flew through the air to a PR and bronze-medal finish in the women's long jump.

"This was really such a great experience just jumping over 17 feet for me" for the first time, said White, who hadn't run track before this season. She credited a tweak to her form — keeping her head up on the approach, "not looking down to see where I was stepping, just trusting that my steps were correct so that way I could jump my full capacity."

Seaforth freshman Katie Johnson said it is intimidating to compete against schools heavy on upperclassmen, but thinks they were impressed with the upstart me. She ran the third leg on the women's 4x800-meter relay team along with freshman Lily McFall, freshman Charlie Ann George and freshman Claire Morgan, that jumped from a fifth seed to a bronze medal.

"As soon as I got the baton, I just started running as fast as I possibly could, and I tried keeping that pace through the second lap," Johnson said, "and once I handed over the baton, I was tired, but happy with how I



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Jordan-Matthews freshman Dwight Headen competes in the men's 4x200-meter relay in the NCHSAA 2A Mideast Regionals in Franklinton on Saturday. The Jets' men's team earned three medals in the meet.

placed."

Qualifiers everywhere

In the 1A classification, all of Chatham's women's teams finished in the top 10 of the team scoring, with Chatham Charter capturing third place, Woods Charter claiming fifth and Chatham Central taking sixth. The men's teams also all had top-10 finishes, with Woods Charter in sixth, Chatham Central in eighth and Chatham Charter in 10th.

Walden said she was nervous coming into the meet, but wanted to make her father proud because he had to work and couldn't attend the meet.

Her winning 400-meter dash strategy was simple. "After the gun, I made sure I get out on the curve and just keep the lead, and the last 100 meters, just push," Walden said. She claimed she felt no pressure in the women's 200-meter dash "because I could tell once I was in that curve, I was booking it."

McKoy said he felt like he had something to prove this year.

"Ever since I got into track at Chatham Charter, which I started my freshman year, I really just haven't been able to win at regionals, and I thought this year was the year to do it, especially since I'm graduating," McKoy said. And he did it without trying to set a personal best time, but with an eye on simply qualifying for the state meet.

While he had to fight it out with Wiley Sikes of Woods Charter for four revolutions around the track in the men's 1,600-meter run, McKoy blew out the competition in the 3,200.

"I ran my first lap out kind of fast just to get pace and just to set my place," McKoy said. "But my second lap and the first half of my third lap were pretty slow, and when I finally got to that 600(-meter) mark I just kicked it in, and then kicked it again at 400 and 100," all while lapping other contestants.

Reese, a Chatham Charter sophomore, finished nearly two minutes ahead of the field in the women's 3,200-meter run.

"I was just thinking I've got to go fast, and I've got to meet my expectations, so I need to keep the same pace I'm going for and not deviate," she said. It does get lonely out in front, she admitted. "Throughout the whole race, I just imagined there was somebody in front of me and that kept me going."

Teammate Ariana Rivera-Roma finished fourth in the event.

"I think that was a good time for me. There's always room for improvement, but overall, I'm just happy I made it to states," Rivera-Roma said.

Woods Charter head coach Taylor Transue was pleased with her team's performance, noting there is only one senior among their state qualifiers.

"I think we have a couple of good years ahead of us, and we're kind of



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Chatham Charter senior Brooke Garner attempts to clear the bar during the women's high jump event during the NCHSAA 1A Mideast Regionals on Saturday at Franklinton High School. Garner placed sixth in the event, but qualified for states in both the women's long jump and triple jump.

just the tip of the iceberg right here," she said. "We're a small school, so when we have this type of representation at a state qualifier it just makes me extremely proud of the hard work they've put in."

Woods Charter sophomore Ellie Poitras had a scare from Chatham Central sophomore Samantha Scott before winning the women's 1,600-meter run.

"When she passed me, I kept trying to pass her doing little spurts. And then I was like, 'Oh, no, I'm not going to get first,'" as they got to the last 200-meter mark, Poitras said. "And then right there I was just thinking about all of the training I had put into it and sprinted as hard as I freaking could and somehow finished strong" with a kick that put her across the finish line first.

Poitras' teammate, freshman Anna Peeler, was also in the same race.

"My goal was third, but I'm also really proud of myself because I'm only a freshman and this is my first year running track, so I'm OK with winning fourth," Peeler said.

Transue was impressed with De Leon Villanueva's gold-medal performance in the women's 300-meter hurdles.

"She ran a super race. The last two hurdles were just fantastic," she said.

But it didn't start out so well. De Leon Villanueva, already dealing with a shin injury coming into the event, clipped the first hurdle with her knee, aggravating the injury and momentarily slowing her down, giving TaTeyawna Faison of North Duplin an opening.

"When that other girl started sprinting past me, I got worried for a minute because she was the closest one to me," De Leon Villanueva said. But she regrouped, telling herself this was her event to win, and thinking her coach would work her extra hard at practice if she blew it. "I started sprinting as fast as I could until I reached the end. At some point throughout the last 100 (meters), I couldn't see her anymore, so that's when I knew I was going fast enough."

Sikes had a big day, finishing second in both the men's 1,600- and 800-meter runs. It was a familiar scenario and opponent in the 1,600, running against McKoy.

"I'm not even sure if I'd call it a rivalry. Brandon is a good friend of mine. We're even both enrolled in online school at North Carolina School of Science and Math," Sikes said. McKoy called Sikes his "online sibling," and both agreed their fre-

quent duels in track and cross country make them better runners.

Sikes lost a heart-breaker in the 800 after appearing to have the race locked up. But Pender's Samuel Wheeler had other thoughts, sneaking up from behind with a powerful kick and passing him in the final few steps.

"I had no idea he was behind me," Sikes said. "I had pounding in my ears, sweat running down, etc. I couldn't hear anything. My coach said she was yelling at me. I'm sure my mom was yelling at me. ... He ran a great race and he deserved it."

There was a silver lining, though. Sikes got to run the race with his brother, Jesse, who claimed fourth place and qualified for states. "He really loves running," Wiley Sikes said. "He's so into it. For him, his freshman year, to qualify to go to regionals and then to states, I'm so proud of him."

Meanwhile, Chatham Central head coach Sherman Howze got hit with a surprise when seven qualifiers from his women's team did not show up for the meet.

"That's the thing about track. You've got to know how to run, but you've got to learn how to run," and not showing up doesn't lead to improvement, Howze said.

Nevertheless, he said, "I'm proud of the whole team. They had a good effort, field events, running events, they did what they had to do, and it will be interesting next week. I've got a good group going (to states)."

For a while, it looked as though Scott might give the Bears a gold medal in the women's 1,600-meter run.

"I thought I had it, but I went for the sprint (at the end) and there was nothing left for me" as Poitras passed her, Scott said. "But I was proud of myself. I took off 18 seconds from my PR and now I'm going to states (for the first time). I'm really excited."

Howze said freshman shot put silver medalist Mattie Caviness has been a blessing to the team.

"Mattie's a first-year girl," he said. "She's all-conference in the shot put. She won the conference in the shot put. She's a great kid. She's a hard worker out there every day, just wants to do better."

He said his high jumpers, junior Kailey Green and senior Carleigh Gentry, finished in unfamiliar territory. "They've been one and two all year. This is the first time they've finished third," he said. Gentry also took third place in the triple jump.

Community Career Night at Jordan-Matthews gives students ideas for the future

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Jordan-Matthews High School junior Lewis Graham and his mother walk from table to table through the hallways inside Jordan-Matthews. They hear from business professionals, chefs, electricians and more at the Community Career Night hosted by Central Carolina Community College.

“This is filled with really interesting things I haven’t really thought about before,” Graham said. “Now I’m starting to see what kinds of opportunities there are and I feel like they’ll really help me.”

Graham said the May 3 event was eye-opening for him because prior to attending he didn’t know many of these fields were potential employment options for him. His mother, Patricia Graham, also said the event was a good opportunity to help him make career plans.

“I was really excited speaking with the people in charge of the programs,” she said. “They were very well versed in their field. That’s very encouraging as a parent because they can get my child to a bright future.”

The career night at Jordan-Matthews featured more than a dozen businesses and postsecondary educational opportunities. The event was created as a collaboration between the Chatham County Schools Career and Technical Education program (CTE) and Central Carolina Community College, Lee County Schools and Harnett County Schools. The joint effort is part of the



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Siler City resident José Lopez, 26, visits a table at Central Carolina Community College’s community career night at Jordan-Matthews High School. Lopez hopes to educate Latino community members about employment opportunities.

“Central Carolina Connections” initiative.

“We have enjoyed a productive tri-county relationship for many years with CCCC in terms of our students accessing both college transfer and career/technical credential courses while still in high school,” said Dr. Kelly Batten, executive director of Chatham County’s CTE program.

Batten said he hopes the career night and other community events will increase economic prosperity among historically underserved populations. He said the program aims to achieve an increase of credential attainment for all students by 15% over the

next 10 years. The career night at Jordan-Matthews on May 3 was one of the action steps utilized by the CTE program.

That 15% figure comes from a gap seen in underrepresented communities, especially Black and Latino students. Batten said he wants to improve participation in programs like CTE and dual enrollment to improve equity. He said ideally the demographics in those programs should reflect populations in the county, but CCCC is far from that goal.

Sara Newcomb, the project facilitator for Central Carolina Connections, said one of the biggest problems plaguing Chatham County education’s

equity efforts is known as the attainment gap. The attainment gap refers to the gap in educational performance or achievement between different populations of students.

“Closing the gap on attainment creates more employment and postsecondary education opportunities for our community,” Newcomb said. “The gap represents the possibility for the economic health of our families.”

Newcomb said creating economic health and hitting some of the goals the organization has set for itself is a sign CCCC is connecting with families in a more tangible way. The career night at Jordan-Matthews reinforced that.

The event brought out students, parents and community members from across the county — and not just from Jordan-Matthews High School. Siler City resident José Lopez, 26, attended in an attempt to inform his community about further employment opportunities. Lopez is the program assistant for the Hispanic Liaison, which aims to empower Latino people in Siler City to overcome challenges. He said there are difficult obstacles for people in his community when it comes to employment.

“Many of our youth have financial hardships,” Lopez said. “This program is a way for them to overcome that through scholarships, apprenticeships and making networking connections.”

Lopez held a stack of flyers about various postsecondary programs and said he was impressed by opportunities like technician apprenticeships and industrial systems jobs, which

he was previously unaware of. He said he plans to distribute the information to his students at their next gathering.

One of the people responsible for putting the whole night together was DeLisa Cohen, the curriculum and instruction management coordinator for Chatham County CTE programs. She said bringing together other educational stakeholders like parents and community members makes the impact of these events far greater.

“There’s so much more to CTE than there was in these parents’ days,” Cohen said. “CTE has really changed and we know parents are big influencers which is why we have to let them know about the work we are doing.”

Cohen said she has seen many examples of students utilizing the CTE curriculum to become successful. She said she believes the programs help young people develop the necessary work experience, soft skills and networking capabilities to have thriving careers.

“I want our community to know how impressive these kids are,” Cohen said. “The door is wide open for these kids if they know it’s there. That’s what this event is about: making the community aware of what CTE can do for the kids.”

This is the first of several community career nights. Cohen said she hopes to bring these events to high schools throughout the county to ensure all students are future ready.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnc.com or [@b_rappaport](https://twitter.com/b_rappaport).

TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES

Tiny, annoying arachnids can cause big health problems

BY TERI SAYLOR
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — The long, hot days and warm evenings coming in the summer ahead make it a perfect season for being outside, doing yardwork,

hiking, playing recreational sports or just relaxing in a hammock.

But lurking among grass, weeds and shrubs in moist shady places are stealthy ticks in search of unsuspecting hosts, like dogs, cats, rodents, deer

— and humans.

Small but mighty, the common tick is much more than an annoying bug. The bloodthirsty creature carries a variety of diseases that can cause lifelong debilitating medical conditions, and in some cases death.

Jennifer Platt of Pittsboro, a Doctor of Public Health and adjunct professor at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill, has made it her mission in recent years to raise the alarm about tick-borne diseases and educate the public on ways they can protect themselves and their

families.

“I have found that many people don’t even know they’ve been bitten by a tick until they get sick,” she told the News + Record.

Platt knows firsthand what it feels like to be infected with a long-term illness. About 10 years ago, while working on her doctorate degree in public health, she got sick. Treatment for her flu-like symptoms led to a diagnosis of Ehrlichiosis, a bacterial illness spread by ticks.

“Actually, I was lucky because I had an aggressive health care provider,

who put me on antibiotics for a long time,” she said. “Later on, we found evidence that I had contracted Lyme Disease and Babesia from a tick bite.”

Recently a new and dangerous tick-caused condition has emerged on the landscape.

Alpha Gal Syndrome is a type of food allergy to red meat and other foods derived from mammals caused by a Lone Star tick bite. The bite transmits a sugar molecule called alpha-gal into the person’s body. In some people, it triggers an immune system reaction producing mild to severe allergic response.

Four years ago, Platt, along with Beth Carrison, co-founded Tick-borne Conditions United, a nonprofit organization dedicated to education, research, and advocacy on conditions such as AGS caused by ticks.

“A few years ago, we were commissioned to do a study and look at patient experiences and symptoms,” she said. “After the official study ended, we decided to keep it open, and today it has become the largest survey ever to look at AGS and its impact on people’s lives.”

Like Platt, Carrison has been diagnosed with tick-borne illnesses — Lyme Disease and AGS.

The Lone Star tick is found predominantly in the southeastern United States, where most cases of AGS occur. North Carolina has been identified as a hotspot for the disease.

Named for the trademark white dot found on the dorsal shield of the adult females, this type of tick has a round, reddish-brown body and is prevalent in places with high deer populations. Ticks are in the arachnid family, along with scorpions, mites and spiders. “Ticks across all life

stages thrive on deer, and as our towns expand and forestland declines, they are coming into contact with humans more frequently,” Platt said. “You know, I love deer — but when I look at one, I see a tick factory.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention put out a study last year showing that 35,000 people have been diagnosed with AGS, according to Platt.

“And I can tell you from the Facebook support groups I have seen, that the number is growing,” she said.

Severe AGS symptoms often sneak up on individuals after a tick bite, and it sometimes takes weeks for people to start showing signs of illness. These symptoms can range from gas and bloating, to hives, and even anaphylaxis.

“The reactions are not cumulative either,” Platt said. “You could have a mild upset stomach one day, and then the next day you can’t breathe.

Anybody that has been diagnosed with AGS should carry two EpiPens with them.”

Many people don’t get sick at all, which adds to the mystery.

“There’s just so much we don’t understand,” Platt said. “But the biggest thing about AGS is it significantly disrupts people’s lives, and their abilities go out and socialize, dine in restaurants, or spend time with their families and friends, and it can be really traumatic.”

She offers advice for follow-up for anyone who finds a tick on their skin.

“Make sure you remove it right away with tweezers and save it in a baggie, because there are companies that will test it for diseases,” Platt said. “And then consult with your doctor about what to do.”

Platt added that there are blood tests to help diagnose tick-borne diseases, including AGS, and she recommends adding that test to blood panels during routine check-ups.

The best way to deal with tick-borne diseases is to avoid tick encounters altogether, Platt says. Multi-prong tick protection including using repellents on skin, clothing, and gear, wearing light-colored long pants and long-sleeved shirts, performing daily tick checks and drying your clothes on high for 15 minutes after being outdoors in spots where ticks might be present will help keep tick-borne diseases at bay.

Practicing tick prevention measures on yards and pets will also help keep these dangerous bugs at bay and help you enjoy the great outdoors this summer and all year long.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

• <https://tic-nc.org/>
The Tick-Borne Infections Council of North Carolina is a non-profit organization working to improve the recognition, treatment, control, and understanding of tick-borne diseases in North Carolina.

• <https://tickwarriors.com/>
TickWarriors was created to help protect people, pets, property, and livestock from the potentially devastating effects of tick-borne diseases.

• <https://tbcunited.org/>
TBC United is dedicated to the urgent need to provide health care providers, affected patients and their families, and employers with the latest research, science-based knowledge, and innovations to diagnose and treat tick-borne diseases.

Two Chatham grads among latest CCCC BLET class

PITTSBORO — Four individuals are among the most recent graduates of the Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program.

The graduates are Sierra Martina Garcia of Siler City, Conner Elizabeth Bussey of Pittsboro, Moises David Carvajal-Fernandez of Raleigh, and Thomas John McKay of Apex.

A ceremony to honor the graduates was held May 6 at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro.

Several of the graduates were recognized for outstanding achievement during their training. They were: Fastest Police Officers Physical Abilities Test (POPAT) - Chase/ Apprehension - Moises Carvajal; Fastest Police Officers Physical Abilities Test (POPAT) - Rescue - Moises Carvajal; Jimmy Collins Top Gun Award - Moises Carvajal; Highest Class Average - Conner Bussey; and Highest State Exam - Conner Bussey.

Lt. Joseph Birchett of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office was guest speaker. Class response was by Carvajal, class leader. Other speakers were by Wade Genthe, CCCC BLET director; CCCC Pres-

ident Dr. Lisa M. Chapman, and Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson. Graduation certificates were presented by Genthe and Capt. Tammy Kirkman of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and CCCC BLET Qualified Assistant.

Class sponsors were the Apex Police Department, Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Lee County Sheriff's Office, and Siler City Police Department.

To learn more about the Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training program, visit www.cccc.edu/blet.



Courtesy of CCCC

The most recent graduates of the Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program are, from left, Moises Carvajal-Fernandez, Sierra Garcia, Conner Bussey and Thomas McKay.

2022 Chatham County Senior Games go out in style

From the Chatham County Council on Aging

PITTSBORO — A history-making year for Chatham County Senior Games and SilverArts deserved a spirited sendoff.

That's exactly what Chatham's 50-or-better athletes provided last Friday with the 2022 Chatham County Senior Games & SilverArts Awards and Recognition Ceremony at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

Led by the "Chatham Charmers," consisting of Annie Alston, Elizabeth

Fridley, Olivia Harrington, Marylou Mackintosh, Rosemary Szydlek and captain Debbie Lee, Senior Games and SilverArts participants were celebrated with a program and luncheon in their honor.

With North Carolina Senior Games President and Executive Director Brad Allen serving as emcee, Chatham County's achievements were quickly highlighted.

Beginning in its infancy in 2008 with roughly 30 participants, the Chatham County Senior Games and SilverArts ballooned to 266 regis-

trants this year — the highest ever. Previously, Chatham County Senior Games boasted the highest five-year participation percentage increase in North Carolina. A total of 106 participants participated for the first time in 2022.

Attendees were welcomed by Chatham County Council on Aging Executive Director Ashlyn Martin.

In addition, award winners in the SilverArts portion were announced and revealed for the first time. Designed as "a celebration of the creative expression of

seniors in North Carolina," performers compete in literary arts, visual arts, performing arts and heritage arts.

Beginning in 1983, the North Carolina Senior Games have evolved into the largest senior Olympic program in the nation, serving eligible participants in all of the state's 100 counties.

Athletes who claimed gold, silver or bronze medals in the Chatham County Senior Games qualified to compete in the State Finals, beginning Sept. 1 with archery and concluding Nov. 13 in basketball.



Courtesy of the Council on Aging

Brad Allen, president and executive director of North Carolina Senior Games, served as emcee of the Chatham County Senior Games & SilverArts 2022 Awards and Recognition Ceremony last Friday at Chatham County Agricultural and Conference Center in Pittsboro.

SPARK program holds graduation for spring 2022 class

SILER CITY — The Central Carolina Community College Small Business Center presented seven participants from the spring 2022 SPARK entrepreneurship program with certificates May 3 at the CCCC Siler City Center.

One participant, Shamika Scotton, was awarded \$5,000 in startup funding to assist in opening their business, Mika's Sweet Creations, in Siler City.

The certificates were presented for completion of the SPARK program, an eight-class entrepreneurship series created in collaboration with the Chatham Chamber of Commerce and Mountaire Farms.

"Partnering with the CCCC Small Business Centers during our first year of Chatham SPARK has been a beneficial and rewarding experience," Chamber President Cindy Poindexter said. "I have been filled with excitement while watching our entrepreneurs grow in their walk to starting a business."

Participants in the program attend a series of seminars, create a business plan, have their business plans reviewed, and prepare a pitch on the final evening of the program to a review committee. Graduates of the program who open a retail business in Siler City may apply for a \$5,000 startup grant.

Sherrie Hatfield, one of the grant finalists, plans to open a restaurant in downtown Siler City.

"I really could not have gotten as far as I have without the help from the SPARK program," Hatfield said. "They helped me get my business plan written and taught me a lot about the ins and outs of the financial side of having my own business. I will be opening my restaurant by the first of June. A huge thank you to the SPARK program and all of the guest speakers they had."

SPARK graduates are preparing to open their businesses in a number of industries, including



Courtesy of CCCC

The Central Carolina Community College Small Business Center presented seven participants from the spring 2022 SPARK entrepreneurship program with certificates on May 3 at the CCCC Siler City Center. The certificates were presented for completion of the SPARK program, an eight-class entrepreneurship series created in collaboration with the Chatham Chamber of Commerce and Mountaire Farms.

restaurant and food service, photography, woodworking, and health care.

"Writing a business plan while attending a weekly, three-hour class and working full-time is no easy feat, so I commend our entrepreneurs

for seeing this program through to the end," said Phillip Pappas, CCCC's Small Business Center coordinator. "It's been a very rewarding experience, and I expect big things from our small group of SPARK certificate holders. I have no

doubt that in the not-too-distant future we'll see the real impact of Chatham SPARK — businesses started, jobs created and dreams materialized.

"I'm so grateful to those who helped make SPARK a reality: Central Carolina Community Col-

lege, Mountaire Farms, Cindy Poindexter from the Chatham Chamber and the esteemed list of industry professionals, subject matter experts and Chatham County personnel who provided our participants with the information necessary for a successful launch. Because of their efforts, Chatham SPARK is now a comprehensive blueprint for those with the initiative to launch their own enterprise."

Funding for the grant was received from Mountaire Farms. Catherine Bassett, Mountaire's director of communications and community relations, noted, "We are proud to sponsor programs that promote young entrepreneurs and new businesses. Our economy depends on small businesses and

everyone deserves a chance."

Grant finalist Shamika Scotton said, "Signing up and being accepted into the SPARK Program was one of the best decisions I could have ever made for my business. The information that we learned each week in class from the weekly speakers has been so helpful and taught me so much that I didn't know about opening a business."

SPARK is scheduled to begin a new session in early 2023. Individuals interested in starting a small business in Chatham County are encouraged to apply. Visit www.ccucc.net/Chatham_Spark_Program for more information, or contact Phillip Pappas at ppappas@ccc.edu or Cindy Poindexter at info@ccucc.net.

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DOWNTOWN MUSIC SERIES

'The Radio' highlight Saturday event in Siler City

CN+R Staff Report



Submitted photo

'The Radio' will perform in downtown Siler City on Saturday.

Ave. on the Rotary Stage in Historic Downtown Siler City. Event organizers say The Radio, a local

favorite, "defly tunes the radio dial, picking up phantom stations broadcasting roots rock, Americana, traditional

country/western and soul. And like the best road trip music, these songs make you want to boogie down the road and onto the nearest dance floor."

The Radio is comprised of Eck McCanless, a multitasking songwriter, guitar player and potter who runs his own pottery shop in Seagrove. Jared Zehmer, a fellow potter, plays bass, and Asheboro percussionist Vincent Parham is on drums.

The music-inspired boxed lunch being offered this month, courtesy of

The Traveling Café, is "The Radio Road Trip Picnic." You can preorder via the N.C. Arts Incubator Facebook Page or a limited number of meals are available on site by pay-what-you-can donation. The meal include buttermilk fried chicken and a biscuit w/hot honey sauce, Southern potato salad, black bean succotash, and picnic banana pudding

"We are excited to bring back live music back to downtown Siler City," said Michael Feezor, the executive director of the N.C. Arts

Incubator. "This series is the embodiment of our mission to incubate artistic, cultural and intellectual growth in North Carolina. It allows us to provide a stage for some of the most exciting and gifted performing artists in the state, while opening our doors and welcoming the community of Siler City in to our home. The last two years of the pandemic have taught us the importance of connections and community, and we are proud to be part of the rebirth of downtown Siler City."

County's wastewater study group, Chatham commissioners remain at loggerheads

BY KEITH T. BARBER
News + Record
Correspondent

there's a gap in the information there for me."

Howard was referring to a statement by the study commission that northeast Chatham's wastewater infrastructure needs could possibly double or even triple over the next 30 years, and the county's current strategy for managing wastewater in the area is not sustainable.

Study commission co-chair Liz Rolison stated the 14 package wastewater treatment plants currently operating in northeast Chatham County are handling roughly 1 million gallons of raw sewage per day, but that capacity could multiply by a factor of two or three over the next 30 years.

"We didn't do an engineering analysis," Rolison stated. "We took the land availability information that [County Planning Director] Jason Sullivan had provided us. We assumed that the parcels of land that are available that are between 50 and 100 acres — assumed 50% of that got developed and the parcels of land that were over 100 acres, 50% of that got developed, and that got us up close to the 4 million gallons per day. We backed off that and came back with the 2 to 3 million [gallons per day estimate]."

Rolison said the study group also utilized current population growth statistics in Chatham County to project future needs for the county's wastewater infrastructure.

"If we were to continue with the current strategy, we could see a doubling, maybe even a tripling of the number of package plants and with the kind of problems we're already seeing fairly early in the life of these systems, that's only going to multiply," Rolison added.

Rolison said the expansion of the existing system to meet demand would only exacerbate an already challenging situation. She pointed out that of the 14 wastewater package plants currently operating in northeast Chatham, three systems are regularly not meeting nutrient requirements for discharge, three systems are at or near capacity, three systems are approaching end of life status and one system has been responsible for 35 sewage spills into nearby waterways.

Rolison said the private package wastewater plants in Northeast Chatham regularly receive frequent NOV's, or notices of violation — letters sent to responsible parties giving notice of noncompliance with

environmental laws — from the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. The reason for the frequent citations is the fact the wastewater package systems were simply not designed for current nutrient requirements for discharge.

Study group co-chairperson Scott Peck responded to Howard's question with a declarative statement that underscored the environmental impact of maintaining the status quo approach to wastewater treatment in northeast Chatham County.

"Everyday we're taking a million gallons [of water] or more out of Jordan Lake and we're not putting it back, because we aren't treating the wastewater to a point where it can be responsibly placed back into it," Peck said. "That is one aspect of not being sustainable. To do nothing today restricts opportunities in the future."

The study group presented county commissioners with a list of potential solutions, including interim measures and long-term solutions. Potential interim measures included managed decentralized wastewater systems with oversight, and agricultural use of reclaimed water. Long-term potential solu-

tions included connecting with existing wastewater systems in Pittsboro, Sanford and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority. The final option on the list was the creation of a water and sewer authority for northeast Chatham County.

Study commission co-chairs Peck, Rolison and Perry James agreed the status quo approach of maintaining package wastewater treatment plants in northeast Chatham was simply not a feasible strategy going forward.

The trio advocated a forward-thinking approach of the county thinking 20 to 30 years ahead, and the needs of its citizens in the years to come.

Rolison outlined next steps for the study commission as follows: 1) Work in conjunction with County Manager Dan LaMontagne to gather information and make contacts with other municipalities in an effort to better assess each of the potential solutions; 2) complete a high level assessment of all wastewater solutions; 3) compose a final report of study commission findings for presentation to the board of commissioners next month.

The next meeting of the wastewater study commission is scheduled for 6 p.m. on June 21.

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POLICE REPORTS

FROM CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On May 5, Kendra Renae Glosson, 35, of 1874 Bonlee School Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for breaking and entering, larceny after breaking/entering, possession of stolen goods/property and conspiracy to commit felony larceny. She was issued a \$1,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 9.

On May 5, Joseph Stacey White, 42, of 1874 Bonlee School Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for breaking and entering, larceny after breaking/entering, possession of stolen goods/property and conspiracy

to commit felony larceny. He was issued written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 9.

On May 5, Allen King Wiggins, 40, of 600 Amity Park Road, Spruce Pine, was arrested by Staff Sergeant Anthony Norton for felony stalking and domestic violence protection order violation. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 6.

On May 5, Stephen Williams Baines, 23, of 527 Reynolds Avenue, Durham, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for fleeing to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, reckless driving to endanger, failure to heed light or siren, failure to stop

for stop sign/flashing red light, failure to stop for steady red light, speeding, resist/delay/obstructing an officer and rear lamp violation. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 6.

On May 5, Joshua Lee Smith II, 18, of 183 Stage Road, Carthage, was arrested by Staff Sergeant Anthony Norton for speeding, no operator's license and reckless driving to endanger. He was issued a \$300 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 18.

On May 7, Shawn Anderson Burnette, 41, of 7700 Atkins Road, Mebane, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin

for driving while under the influence and driving with a revoked license. He was issued a \$2,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Caswell County Court in Yanceyville on June 1.

On May 9, Christine Katherine Riley, 22, of 874 Jack Bennett Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for larceny by employee and safecracking. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 6.

On May 9, Fernando Exau Hernandez, 31, of 3212 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Yuri Robles for failure to appear/child support. He was issued a \$500 cash bond and is scheduled to ap-

pear in Durham County Child Support Court in Durham on May 13.

On May 10, Ashley Diane Hodgin, 31, of 4001 Western Hills Drive, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for cyberstalking and communicating threats. She was placed on a 48 hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 25.

On May 10, Ryan Neal Wood 42, of 6190 Bonlee Bennett Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for simple possession of a Schedule III controlled substance. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Moore County Court in Carthage on June 2.

RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO 'PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE'

Chatham law enforcement commemorates fallen officers in remembrance ceremony

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — At least 50 Chatham officials, residents and law enforcement officers came to the Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center — adorned in royal blue decor and flower arrangements — last Wednesday to honor those who died while on duty “to Protect and to Serve.”

The departments of Chatham Sheriff Mike Roberson, Pittsboro Police Chief Shorty Johnson and Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner joined forces to host a remembrance ceremony to remember their sacrifice in 2021.

“It really is important to remember every day a police officer, sheriff's deputy, any law enforcement (person) who puts their life on the line for our community,” Wagner said. “It's our duty to recognize those that paid the ultimate sacrifice.”

The Police Remembrance Day ceremony featured remarks from the three and a keynote speaker — Edgecombe County Sheriff Cleveland Atkinson — and a reading



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

A police officer places this year's Police Remembrance Week wreath during the county's observance last Wednesday.

of the names of 21 officers in North Carolina who laid down their lives for their communities in 2021.

Roberson gave the welcome address at Wednesday's event recognizing several elected officials, government staff and familiar faces who attended the ceremony. Some of the attendees included N.C. House 54 Representative Robert Reives' staff, former county commissioner Walter Petty, some members of the Siler City Board of Commissioners,

U.S. Congressman Tedd Budd's staff, county employees and more.

Roberson took a moment to recognize and thank police officers who came to the remembrance ceremony, saying he understands the risks of the job they each hold.

“We know the serious responsibility you take when you go to work each day to serve others,” Roberson said. “You are the ones that face the dangers each day, who literally put yourself

between the innocent and the guilty to go into places of turmoil and aggression, thinking only of whom you can help.”

Atkinson's remarks also touched on the sacrifice, speaking about the time and effort officers put into ensuring their communities are safe.

Sometimes, he said, it can be the last thing an officer does in their life.

“We are there to defend the weak, apprehend those who violate the laws and serve and help those who are helpless,” Atkinson said. “You deliver hope to the people even if we have to give up our lives.”

The ceremony included the display of a floral wreath, clad with a blue banner emblazoned with the words “Police Week 2022.” An officer from the sheriff's department placed the ceremonial garland at the front of the room, while several other officers stood at attention, honoring those who died while protecting their communities.

Wagner read the names of the 21 officers who died, as well as their departments and “end of watch” dates. Following the event, Wagner said he felt it was important to recognize not only the

officers but their families dealing with the loss of their loved ones.

“It's not only about those that have followed a lot of service,” Wagner said, “It's their extended families — the wives and the children, the moms and dads that are left behind. We're just asking for the community to recognize the sacrifice and appreciate what we do.”

Johnson thanked community members in attendance for coming to the remembrance ceremony, as well as for their continued support toward Chatham's law enforcement.

“What we do, we do with a servant's heart,” Johnson said, “and that's the only way that you get through is with the servant's heart...we do what we do for y'all (the community), and I'm just glad we've got y'all's support.”

After the event, Atkinson implored residents to support their local law enforcement, as well as to challenge some of the negative assumptions associated with police.

“Our local law enforcement — at the end of the day — is an honorable profession,” Atkinson

told the News + Record. “We don't always get it right, but we try to get it right. We try to train well, but our ultimate goal is to keep the citizens safe the best that we can.”

Wagner said the community support for the law enforcement agencies in Chatham County is abundant, and it was shown through the turnout at Wednesday's event. He also said events such as Wednesday's ceremony provide an educational opportunity for Chathamites to understand what officers face on a day-to-day basis.

Wagner urged the need for continued support from residents across the county, as he believes it will help officers provide the best service possible in their towns and cities.

“I think it's evident now how important law enforcement is in our community,” Wagner said. “As we strive to do things, the best practices per se, we need the community to continue to grow and support us — that's the way it works.”

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

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

First public hearing on Chatham proposed budget focuses on compensation for Board of Elections

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The first of two public hearings regarding the proposed Chatham County budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year took place during the Chatham County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Historic Courthouse Monday night.

At the hearing, members of the Chatham County Board of Elections told commissioners the proposed budget did not go far enough in providing them with competitive compensation. They argued the board is underfunded by the county. Only three members of the public signed up to speak at the hearing, all were from the BOE.

Mark Barroso, one of the members on the BOE, said the commissioners have an obligation to set the salaries of elections members based on its recommendations. He said the commissioners failed to do that.

“The Board of Elections, not the Board of Commissioners, has the statutory power to set the salaries,” he said. “Four different North Carolina judges have ruled the Board of Elections gets to set the salaries and the county gets to

pay them.”

Barroso and his colleagues said they made several written appeals to the commissioners office to approve requests for salaries. The board of elections voted unanimously to send requests to the commissioners for increased funding for the office.

In other counties like Graham, where similar concerns were raised in 2007, its board of elections took the county to court before winning rights to set salaries. The North Carolina Court of Appeals has also previously ruled compensation to the board of elections directors “shall be commensurate with the salary paid to directors in counties similarly situated and similar in population and number of registered voters.”

Barroso said he believes the county is feeling the negative impact of not complying with this ruling because elections workers are leaving office.

“Election staff around the county are quitting in droves because of physical and personal assaults by unhinged citizens,” Barroso said. “Chatham County must remain competitive to keep and attract good people.”

Barroso said county staff and

commissioners have ignored his requests.

Karen Howard, the chairperson of the commission board, said those issues were important conversations to have as the county works to finalize its budget over the next two months.

“I'm proud of Chatham County for having a bipartisan Board of Elections come forward and support this effort,” Howard said. “We did an independent pay study and I think that matters. It matters that the salaries are commensurate with other departments depending on the number of employees supervised.”

She said the proposed salary increases by the BOE were dramatic changes, but a good starting place for continuing conversation.

The proposed budget presented by the county to commissioners calls for a 7% increase in pay for all county employees to keep them competitive with neighboring counties. Howard said there was no request by the BOE director for a salary increase in this budget.

A second public hearing on the proposed budget was scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday in Siler City.

Work sessions for the budget will be held at 9 a.m. May 24-26 at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center. The budget committee said it aims to present a final budget by June 21. The state mandates all county budgets be submitted by June 30.

Prior to the budget public hearing, Monday's meeting also heard a presentation from the Wastewater Study Commission for Northeast Chatham County. The commission discussed possible intermediate and long term solutions for wastewater management issues.

The wastewater commission said there is a high level of discharge in the county related to infrastructure issues at the Farrington Village, Chatham County Water Treatment and Cole Park Plaza. Discharge from wastewater is poised to double over the next two decades due to growth in the county, according to the commission's presentation. More information about the wastewater commission and its presentation can be found in this week's edition.

In other action, commissioners unanimously passed a resolution to back the Leandro Plan, which advocates for more

funding in North Carolina schools to create a sound, basic education for all students.

Former state associate superintendent and current Commissioner Robert Logan said action by the state on this case was long overdue.

“This case is too long past,” Logan said. “It's time the state of North Carolina steps up to its judiciary responsibility and accepts the finance of equity in education to all children. Too many children do not receive the opportunities they are entitled to because of the zip code in which they live.”

Commissioners also unanimously passed a resolution supporting state trail designation for the Haw River Trail. The resolution means the Haw River Trail will be added to the North Carolina State Park System, allowing state park staff to aid in the development of the trail and purchase land from willing property owners to complete the trail corridor.

The next full meeting of the board will begin at 1 p.m. on June 6 at the Historic Courthouse. For more information visit chathamcountync.gov.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or [@b_rappaport](https://twitter.com/b_rappaport).

THE CN+R Q&A: EL FUTURO'S CHRISTA ATKINSON

El Futuro's Atkinson encourages parents to 'make mental health a priority'

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

The COVID-19 pandemic may have cast a spotlight on the importance of good mental health for most of America, but for some Siler City residents, it's been a priority for at least the past four years.

Throughout 2017 and 2018, a community planning project — called Building Integrated Communities — brought together 75 people of various ages and backgrounds to assess challenges facing Siler City's local immigration population and identify ways for town government to better serve its immigrants residents. After completing the needs assessment, project leaders then chose eight primary objectives.

One was youth mental health — a topic to which Siler City's recently formed Immigrant Community Advisory Committee dedicated half of its monthly meeting last Tuesday.

In light of Mental Health Awareness Month, and the Immigrant Advisory Committee's focus on youth mental health, the News + Record spoke with Christa Atkinson, a bilingual therapist with El Futuro, about challenges she's seen youth and families face, particularly in the Latino community.

This summer, Atkinson will complete 14 years at El Futuro, a mental health nonprofit that

El Futuro therapist Christa Atkinson will lead a virtual webinar next week in Spanish for parents of school-aged children in the Orange County, Chatham County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro school systems.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 24 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: By Zoom. Register at <https://bit.ly/3PqON9w>, or by texting the word "BIENESTAR" to 919-200-0803

TOPIC: How to support your children's emotional well-being

COST: Free



Christa Atkinson

serves the Spanish-speaking community with a bundle of bilingual services, including therapy, psychiatry, substance use treatment and case management. It has two clinics — one in Durham and another in Siler City, located on 401 North Ivey Ave.

As an outpatient mental health therapist, Atkinson works with children, families and adults of all ages in both the Durham and Siler City clinics. She estimated that she dedicates about a quarter of her work to serving youth and families in Siler City.

Here's what she had to say:

In your work, what sorts of mental health challenges do you see — or have you seen — Spanish-speaking youth or youth in immigrant families navigating, especially in the last two years?

I would say, overall, it's a lot of anxiety and depression, but you know, during the pandemic, a lot of the kids were kind of left — you know, not necessarily completely unsupervised, but really, parents had to go to work, and so kids were left to,

a lot of time, use devices, and just be on their own a lot, making decisions about their day-to-day activities — [but] they're not ready to make those decisions and make good choices.

So kids spent a lot of time plugged in, and as we know, that can change brains, and then coming back to reality, people are realizing that it's really hard to relate to other kids, especially when you don't have practice doing that and that they kind of like just being fine and just not participating in real life. So, that's been a big change, and I think it's really hard for parents to navigate how much screen time kids should have. So, that becomes a big conflict for kids and families. And I think there's a lot of people that normalize, "Well, I know, my kid wants to go and sit in his room, and, you know, be on his phone," and they do need some of that, but there's a time that they also need to come out and join.

... I mean it's been hard on all of us, but I think the kids, if you think about middle school — I mean, most of middle school is just learning

how to act with peers. You know, like, we're trying to learn how to be human beings, and so we make mistakes, and we do all kinds of things, but that's our learning time to do that, and they missed out on a lot of that.

What barriers to care, internal or external, have you seen these youth face?

Well, definitely, just access and awareness, and also stigma. I think there's still a lot of stigma, especially in the Latino community, about mental health. People don't really know what to expect when they bring their kids in, or — like I said before — how much is just normal average teenage irritability and what's depression. And then there's certainly, I think, people — you know, our clinic, our physical clinic in Siler City, has not been open, and so there's that barrier. We have our clinic open virtually, but we all know that it just does not work as well for kids and adolescents. There's all kinds of distractions online, and it's much harder to engage virtually with kids.

I heard a Siler City therapist mention that he worked with children who may not speak the same languages as their parents. Can you speak to that?

Yes, that's a big issue, and a lot of people do speak, you know, generally Spanish, but [it's] not the same kind of vocabulary. They're used to saying, "Here, we're going shopping," or, "Let's clean this up," but they're not used to talking about their emotions. And I'd say kids, adolescents, we need to learn just like we learn the basics of math, and then move forward, you know, building on top of that — a lot of times, we just need to learn the basics of emotions and learning: What are those things? And what do you call them? And then it starts to get more subtle? But yeah, some people just lack the basic building blocks of emotional intelligence.

... I mean, most parents want to avoid talking about difficult things, and so we do avoid [them], but I would say, especially in the Latino culture, there's the idea that you keep moving forward, and you don't show your kids that something affects you — and that actually can be difficult for children because then

they grow up thinking, "Well, what's wrong with me? Why am I having a hard time with it? Look at my mom, she had nine kids, and she could do it all."

Speaking of culture, what other cultural beliefs or dynamics within Spanish-speaking immigrant families might lead to these challenges or barriers of care?

Well, it's something that I mentioned earlier, but obviously, it's always been an issue — is that parents are working so much. And especially when kids are younger, they might be home more, but when they become preteens and teens, parents are like, "OK, I'm working." And so, they're just not available for their kids as much and of course, it's necessary to work, but there's not a lot of time spent with your kid. I think the other beliefs are kind of that they have it easy — that some life in the U.S. is just so kind of cushy, and they shouldn't have a difficult time, like they shouldn't be depressed because their life is not that hard. I mean, so many people, adults that I hear, they're just like, "We just didn't have anxiety when I was growing up. There wasn't such a thing."

So, how can youth struggling with mental health challenges seek help?

Youth themselves have a lot of opportunities using the actual technology that they know a lot more about. There are so many apps that have mood tracking, they have calming, meditation scripts, they have podcasts that have pep talks. So, I highly encourage people that are technologically savvy to access those things if they don't have access to a therapist. The other thing is that there are so many therapists online now, so even if they might not be able to get in person at El Futuro at the moment, there are multiple online platforms, and some that do take Medicaid, so people can access more services.

I would say for the parents who are seeing their kid struggle, it's really creating connection, trying to spend time with your kids, just listening, and also emotional expression, saying, "I'm overwhelmed right now," can really go a long way for showing kids that emotions come and go and they're just a

normal part of everyday life. Then also validating, like people have a hard time realizing that kids are struggling, and that invalidation of feelings can really be disheartening. And so, just validating even if you don't understand it, looking at them for how they're struggling and validating, "I'm so sorry that this is so hard. I'm so sorry that you're struggling," even if you don't understand why they're struggling or don't think that they should be.

Many youth often go to their friends for help, so in the same sense, how can friends offer support?

Validating their friends, telling them, "Wow, this is really hard — what you're going through," and most of all, just listening. People underestimate the value of someone feeling heard, so even if you can't feel like you can't do anything, being someone that listening is incredibly powerful.

Why is it important to seek out help, especially for youth?

The obvious is concerns for safety, and I would want to remind people that if anyone is saying even passive thoughts of suicide, or passive thoughts of death, I would really encourage parents to take that seriously, even if it doesn't seem like they would actually complete suicide. It's really important to take that seriously. And then, in terms of the importance of mental health, like I said before, we need these basic skills. I mean, you and I know that life really — it doesn't get easier, and so learning how to deal with stressors and things that come, this is the time when you're able to learn how to deal with things, and how you approach basically life, and so learning that early can really help to set the stage for being able to handle difficulties as they come.

What do you think adults, especially those in positions or institutions overseeing youth (i.e. schools), should keep in mind when they're trying to come up with solutions or programs to improve mental health among the youth they serve?

A lot — I can think of a lot of things. It's a hard thing, because I know,

See **HEALTH**, page B10

Chatham COA Events & Announcements

May 23rd through May 27th

Monday, May 23

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 9:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)
- [Strong and Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (at WCSC)
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom)
- [Hiking Group to Umstead State Park](#) at 12:45 PM (RSVP Alan Russo)
- [Geri-Fit w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC)
- [Caregiver Support Group](#) at 6:00 PM (Via Zoom, RSVP Lynn Parks)

Tuesday, May 24

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Walking at CCC with COA](#) at 12:30 PM (Meet at ECSC Parking Lot)

Wednesday, May 25

- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 9:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)
- [Strong and Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (at WCSC)

Friday, May 27

- [Strong and Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (at WCSC)
- [Friday Night Dance](#) at 7:00 PM (at WCSC)

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

RSVP Contacts:

Liz Lahti: 919-542-4512, ext. 228
Alan Russo: 919-542-4512, ext. 238
Lynn Parks: 919-742-3975, ext. 223

In-person - Pre-registration Required

Programming Hosted On Zoom

Fee Required for Participation

The Chatham COA is Here for You!

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

Eastern Chatham Senior Center (ECSC)
365 NC-87 N
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center (WCSC)
112 Village Lake Road
Siler City, NC 27344
919-742-3975

JOIN US FOR

SUMMER PINTS IN PITTSBORO

Tuesday, May 24

Sponsored By

Carolina Brewery

A Fundraiser for The Rotary Club of Pittsboro

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Fill The Bus Drive School Supply Drive, CORA Thanksgiving Donations, Holiday Book Wrapping for Local Students And Many More!

Rotary Club of Pittsboro

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Immigrant Advisory Committee discusses trust building with SCPD, youth mental health

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City Immigrant Community Advisory Committee heard subcommittee updates and discussed ways to better serve youth mental health needs during its monthly meeting last Tuesday.

Few subcommittees managed to meet following April's monthly meeting, but the Public Safety and Law Enforcement subcommittee — comprised of members Jisselle Perdomo, Danubio Vazquez Rodriguez and Shirley Villatoro — reached a major milestone: sitting down with Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner and starting the planning process.

"We met with the Chief (Mike) Wagner and Lieutenant Jason Boyd in April, and we had a very productive and informative meeting," Perdomo told the committee at-large during Tuesday's meeting. "... And from the presentation, the impression that we got as the committee is that a lot is being done in terms of engagement and building that relationship with the people of Siler City, and we were happy to see that and how there has been a notable change from the past administration."

The Immigrant Advisory Committee has five subcommittees: Communications and Leadership, Business & Entrepreneurship, Parks & Recreation and Youth Mental Health, Public Safety and Law Enforcement, and Housing and Public Transportation. Each holds up to three committee members, plus a town employee specializing in that topic.

All subcommittee topics derive from the town's 44-item Building Integrated Communities action plan, which community leaders finalized in early 2019 to address immigrant residents' needs based on information gathered during a two- to three-year community planning project. Residents may view it in full at uncplive.com/3Donqpl.

According to Wagner, who attended the meeting, the Siler City Police Department has since met most of the BIC plan's public safety and law en-

forcement objectives. Wagner first joined the SCPD in June of 2019, about four months after the BIC steering committee drew up the plan that the town board of commissioners entrusted the committee with spearheading.

"If you go through those initial objectives — and I got in on the end of that project in 2019 — the good thing is that based upon the agenda items and the objectives, we have met all of the objectives, other than the one of the classification as far as the stops," Wagner told the committee. "And as I explained to the group, that is a tricky thing to do as our Hispanic population grows, if you get one — it can be very distorted on paper and doesn't really reflect the interactions that we're having."

The second BIC strategy designed to build trust and communication between immigrant residents and law enforcement recommends that the SCPD "share traffic stop and investigative (stop and frisk) data on race, ethnicity and gender with (the) public via (the) SCPD website on a quarterly basis."

"So I think that would be a great idea and we would love to help facilitate that any way we can," Wagner added, "so we look forward to that opportunity because as Jisselle mentioned, I know that in house and out of house of the police department, I'm hearing from the community that we are doing things much differently, we are building bridges with all groups in Siler City."

Other objectives include offering bilingual officers a 5% pay increase, creating a town communications and disaster relief plan, participating in the Hispanic Liaison's annual Hispanic Heritage Fiesta and Spring Legal Fair, exploring the adoption of the FaithAction ID program, and having the SCPD participate in an implicit bias training, which they completed last December.

Town commissioners approved a 5% pay increase for all bilingual town employees last June. Likewise, the Liaison's executive director, Ilana Dubester, told committee members at a previous meeting that

a FaithAction ID sign-up event had been scheduled for April 2020 before COVID-19 forced them to cancel it.

The program framework, however, "is ready to go," she said, once the community can gather together again in large groups — and Perdomo said her subcommittee had just initiated conversations with the SCPD about bringing it to fruition.

During the meeting, Perdomo also proposed that the committee consider whether the town should conduct an updated needs assessment to survey the immigrant community's current relationship with local law enforcement.

"[The BIC assessment] was done about four years ago," she said. "I know that during these four years, a lot has been done by the police department, by the Siler City Police Department, so I would like to see what the community thinks about now and what ... changes that they would like to see implemented because there's always room for improvement, and as the subcommittee ... we also are open to help in any way that we can to continue to build trust between law enforcement and the town of Siler City."

Youth mental health

In the second half of its meeting, the committee invited several representatives of local youth-serving agencies to facilitate a discussion on youth mental health, one of the eight BIC priorities. Participating agencies included Renaissance Wellness Services, Communities In Schools of Chatham County, and the Chatham County Public Health Department, among others.

Leading the conversation, however, was Nikolai Lujan — a 12-year-old student at Chatham Middle School and son of committee chairperson Hannia Benitez.

Speaking for his peers and himself, he told the committee that most mental health challenges he sees in his school stem from family-related trauma, like "mental loss" or "separated parents," and bullying — either "for no reason," or over race, sexuality and beliefs.

"There's a lot of bullying between the youth," he said. "... There's, like, a lot of violence between the youth, and that goes back to mental health. Because of all this violence, there's a lot of stuff that's going into the 6th graders' to 12th graders' minds, so they do dumb stuff to get their mind off of it, like vape, smoking, sometimes even drinking alcohol. And they either harm friends or family to try to get their mind off of it — and harming themselves."

Compounding the problem, Lujan added, is youth's reluctance to talk to adults about mental health challenges, or situations leading to them.

"They just, you know, want to keep their problems secret with their friends," he said. "They don't really want it spreading to more adults and parents. Sometimes they don't want it spreading, like, through the whole school because, like, they don't want people to act differently around them."

Beyond that, he said, some stay silent to cover up their involvement in "start[ing]" a situation; others feel intimidated by teachers and parents and worry they'll face retaliation for admitting a problem.

"Sometimes they don't start it, but they're just scared that the bully's going to come back," Lujan said. "Because there's a lot of — people make fun of you if they think you're weak."

When navigating his own challenges, Lujan said he personally didn't feel comfortable sharing his feelings and kept his struggles hidden as long as he could before finally opening up — which, he recalled, helped him a lot.

"And also, usually, as a male, the problems that I faced made me feel weak and less masculine, and, you know, softer," he said. "But then at the same time, it also gave me a quicker temper, and kind of, like, just wanting everybody to back off on me."

To address these problems, Lujan suggested that schools carry out a weekly "check-in" sheet, digital or paper, to ask students to share with school counselors or their daily teachers how they're doing.

"Because if teachers know

what they're going through at the moment, that will really help them to understand how to cope with that situation, and try to help it," he said.

Following Lujan's speech, several agencies also shared other challenges they had come across. Communities In Schools of Chatham County, represented at the meeting by Executive Director Tych Cowdin, noticed many of their youth struggle with a lack of technology at home, inability to connect in person with therapists, and frequent turnover among therapists.

"So you may have a good relationship with one individual — say, John, in this case — and John finds another job and moves out of the community," Cowdin said. "And so, that trust and that relationship that you've built with that individual then is lost, and that youth goes back to maybe hesitation to put their trust in another adult that they would be speaking with."

As for solutions, Cowdin suggested creating a network of school staff trained in responding effectively to mental health crises — to which Benitez also recommended offering similar training for youth since they often rely on their friends to help them overcome challenges.

In discussing the SCPD's role in situations that often derive from juvenile mental health struggles, Wagner, meanwhile, went a step further: emphasize prevention over treatment.

"I teach my officers de-escalation techniques," Wagner said. "I teach them through fair and impartial policing that we all have human biases, they're natural; they occur. Why aren't we giving our youth a 2.0 of that same type of decision-making skills to address conflict? So that they can communicate effectively, instead of letting it bottle up, take it deep inside, and then turn to substance abuse or other issues to deal with it."

The Immigrant Advisory Committee will meet again at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, on Zoom at bit.ly/3JfKave.

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

HEALTH

Continued from page B9

school officials, people that are working in the school, they're already taxed and probably need their own support. What I would really encourage as a focus when I think about mental health as our community is creating more community spaces, where kids can be kids — you know, places and community centers, where they can recreate, play basketball, and be free to be adolescents, and, you know, sometimes make mistakes. And then, also, I guess, maybe if they had more peer-to-peer training — I know that they've had some different programs where these prosocial peers become kind of specialists in different arenas where other kids can go to them and seek help and get answers to their questions. Basically, the more kids who know about mental health and how to help your own mental health and they're spreading awareness amongst the kids, it's going to be more efficient than you know having a school counselor come in and do social emotional learning, yeah, having that trust, I suppose among people closer to your own age who you feel might understand your situation better than any others. Especially when you have more boys having more knowledge about mental health and making it an acceptable thing, making it a thing that is seen and aware, will just have a lot more

buy-in from other boys, for example.

One of the BIC plan objectives is to "increase availability of behavioral health services in Chatham County schools through partnership with El Futuro." According to your blurb on El Futuro's website, you participated in an in-school mental health program targeting mental health for Latino students in Durham's elementary schools. Can you tell me more about that program and how it worked?

We had wellness centers; Duke had official wellness clinics with a nurse practitioner in some of the schools, and then I would do mental health evaluations in the schools. That was a number of years ago, when I worked for the Center for Child & Family Health. But I would basically help teachers identify kids that might be in need, and [I was] doing education about anxiety and talking to teachers, because a lot of times teachers, the only kids that get flagged are the kids with behavioral issues. And you know, those are usually boys with maybe ADHD, but so we miss a lot of anxiety issues until teenage years when kids start self-harming. Some of that was educating teachers to identify kids that might need a little bit of extra help, and then talking with parents. It was kind of really just being an extra [set of] eyes for kids, being able to understand the kids that might need help,

and sometimes we would identify kids and their parents didn't want the help, so that's a whole other issue.

One of the things that I found difficult about that job was, especially with younger kids, if you don't have parents involved, you're really not able to affect much change. You can teach the kids some coping skills. But the way we work at El Futuro is family-centered, and so we never worked with kids in isolation. We're always meeting with families and trying to create a change in the supportive structure and not expecting the kids to just, you know, do it all themselves because obviously, kids live with their families, and so, if we're not addressing issues at the root, it's much harder. Now, of course, there are families that we can't affect change, but from that standpoint, I will say that is one of the great barriers to mental health in schools. And then, you know, I have parents come in and say, "Well, you know, they've been in therapy in school for a long time, but they still are acting like this." So, we need the parents to be involved, and I think that's one thing that El Futuro tries to recognize and honor, trying to utilize the strong nature of family to see the importance of family involvement in mental health treatment.

As far as the school partnerships go, one of the issues across the nation is that this is a very difficult job as a therapist, and when you

work in a nonprofit, and you do a difficult job, it can be quite taxing. So, it's hard to do this work, and we are often met with staff staffing shortages; we cannot find enough bilingual people to do the work, so we're always hiring therapists, and we will never be able to hire enough therapists.

I mean, fortunately, we don't have as much turnover as some of the in-school programs, and I'll attribute that to the nature of the difficult work that that is. It's very hard to affect change in that setting. Despite this

being difficult work, my heart is really with this community because it is so amazing to see just small changes and how they can affect the entire family system.

Anything else?

I guess I would encourage parents to really make mental health one of their priorities. People have the roof, they have the clothing — these are the things necessary to have kids, feed your kids. I would say mental health is right in there. That needs to be one of the things that

we do as parents, and in order to do that, we also need to take care of our own mental health.

I also want to point people to our website. We have some parenting videos [in Spanish only] that are just help for all parents navigating different issues, and so I really want to encourage people to have a look at those. They're really great resources to help people learn about specific issues.

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

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	5		9					8
		4		3	5	6		
3					2			7
1			4					2
	8			7		5		
		6				9		1 3
	9			1			2	
	2 8				4			1
5			3					8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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REMOVE THE MAGIC MAZE ● A'S TO MAKE A NEW WORD

E N H E N B Y W T R O L J G E
 B Y I W U O R P N K I G D B Z
 R X V A S W I Q O M K I G E C
 E A Y L H B W T U B S Q P D R
 A N L E A C J G A H L R F E E
 C F A I L I N G S C E O N T D
 T T T C A I R U Y X I A A A I
 O E W V Y U S E A Q O D P T A
 R N M A K J H F P L E S E O R
 C B L Z I Y X V U M T R Q R P
 O M L K I N H G G N I Y A R P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: A NUCLEAR —

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|-------------|---------|
| Baiter | Imperial | Praying | Rotated |
| Bloat | Launch | Predication | Twain |
| Chain | Laying | Raider | Wheat |
| Failings | Loaner | Roads | |

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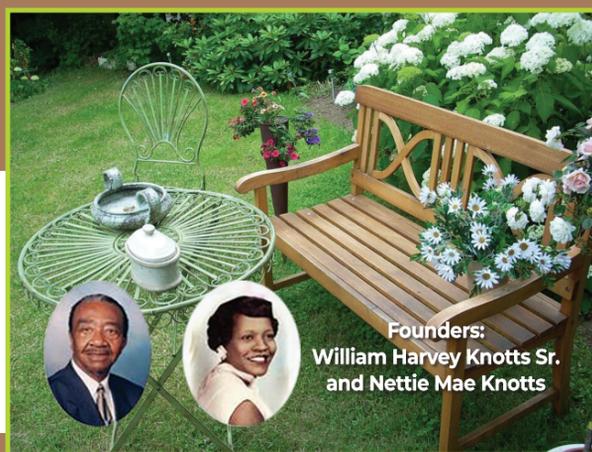
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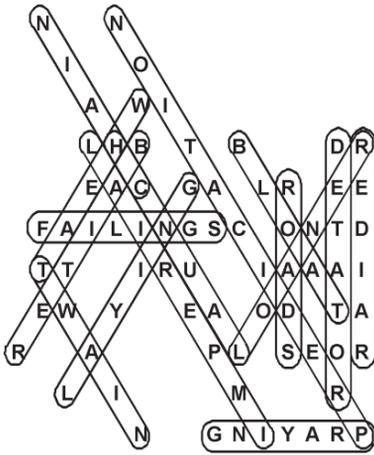
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REMOVE THE A'S TO MAKE A NEW WORD



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

2	5	7	9	6	1	4	3	8
8	1	4	7	3	5	6	2	9
3	6	9	8	4	2	1	7	5
1	3	5	4	8	6	7	9	2
9	8	2	1	7	3	5	6	4
4	7	6	2	5	9	8	1	3
6	9	3	5	1	8	2	4	7
7	2	8	6	9	4	3	5	1
5	4	1	3	2	7	9	8	6

2nd annual Holy Mother of Deliciousness, Batman

Spanakopita

Recipe from themediterraneandish.com
For the spinach and feta filling:
Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F.
Before you begin mixing the filling, be sure the spinach is very well drained, and squeeze out any excess liquid by hand.
To make the filling: in a mixing bowl, add the spinach and the remaining filling ingredients. Stir until all is well-combined.
Unroll the phyllo (filo) sheets and place them between two slightly damp kitchen cloths.
Prepare a 9 1/2" x 13" baking dish. Brush the bottom and sides of the dish with olive oil.
To assemble the spanakopita: Line the baking dish with two sheets of phyllo letting them cover the sides of the dish. Brush with olive oil. Add two more sheets in the same manner, and brush them with olive oil. Repeat until two-thirds of the phyllo is used up.
Now, evenly spread the spinach and feta filling over the phyllo crust. Top with two more sheets, and brush with olive oil.
Continue to layer the phyllo sheets, two-at-a-time, brushing with olive oil, until you have used up all the sheets. Brush the very top layer with olive oil, and sprinkle with just a few drops of water.
Fold the flaps or excess from the sides, you can crumble them a little. Brush the folded sides well with olive oil. Cut Spanakopita only part-way through into squares, or leave the cutting to later.
Bake in the 325 degrees F heated-oven for 1 hour, or until the phyllo crust is crisp and golden brown. Remove from the oven. Finish cutting into squares and serve. Enjoy!

Finikia or Melomakarona

From Mygreekdish.com
For the melomakarona:
1/2 cup fine semolina
4 cups flour
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/3 cup orange juice
3 tbsp cognac
1/3 cup sugar
1 flat tbsp powdered cinnamon
1/3 tsp nutmeg
1/3 tsp clove
1 tsp vanilla extract
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/3 cup water
1/2 cup olive oil
1/2 cup vegetable/sunflower oil
3 tbsp honey
zest of 2 oranges
For the syrup:
1 1/4 cup water
2 3/4 cup sugar
2 cinnamon sticks
3 whole cloves
1 orange, cut in half
10 tbsp honey
To garnish:
1 2/3 cups chopped walnuts
powdered cinnamon (optional)
powdered clove (optional)

To prepare this melomakarona recipe, start by making the syrup first. In a pot add all the ingredients for the syrup, besides the honey and bring to the boil. Boil for 3-4 minutes, until the sugar has dissolved and remove from the stove. Stir in the honey and set aside to cool completely.
Prepare the dough for the melomakarona. In a bowl add the semolina, flour and baking powder and mix with a whisk to combine.
In another large bowl add the orange juice, the cognac, the sugar and spices (nutmeg, cinnamon, clove, vanilla) and mix. Add the baking soda and whisk immediately for 5-10 seconds until the ingredients combine and the baking soda dissolves and starts to foam. Pour in the bowl the water, the oil, the orange zest and honey and whisk to combine.
Now it's time to combine the two mixtures. Add the mixed flour, semolina and baking powder (from step 2) in the bowl with the rest of the ingredients from step 3 and start kneading the dough for the melomakarona. Knead the dough for the melomakarona using your hands, until the ingredients combine and the dough is smooth and soft and slightly sticky. Be careful not to overwork the dough as they will become tough.
Preheat the oven at 350 degrees F. Layer the bottom of four large baking trays with parchment paper and start shaping the melomakarona. Pinch a portion of dough about the size of a walnut (~1 ounce) and shape with your palms into a smooth oblong shape, like a small egg. Place on the baking tray, push lightly the top with a fork and pierce three times on top about half way through the dough. Continue with the rest of the dough.
Depending on how large on oven you have when your first two trays are ready you can start baking them. Place the baking trays with the melomakarona in the oven and bake for approx. 15-20 minutes, until the melomakarona are lightly and evenly browned and cooked through. If you've made them bigger, you'll need to bump up the cooking time!!
When the melomakarona come out of the oven, dip them immediately in the cold syrup, flipping them with a slotted spoon to absorb the syrup for approximately 10-20 seconds, depending on how syrupy you like them. Remove the cookies using a slotted spoon, place on a platter and sprinkle with chopped walnuts.
While you are dipping your first couple in the tray of syrup add the next two in the oven to bake. Don't forget to set your timer!!
Store the melomakarona at room temperature in an airtight container.

Last week, for the second year, I attended the Greek Fest at Saint Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church.
Because we showed a little late on the final day, a lot of the dishes were sold out. But I was able to

score four classic Greek dishes — two savory and two sweet.
Most people have had at least one of the savory dishes.
I purchased spanakopita, which is layers of filo dough surrounding

spinach and feta cheese. Usually, it's folded into triangles like those footballs we used to make in school out of notebook paper. Then it's eaten with one's hands. It's a hugely popular street food in Greece. But this

was made in large pans and then cut into slabs which makes it much easier to make the amounts they needed for the fest.
I got dolmades, or stuffed grape leaves. Dolmades have been one of The Kid's favorite foods

since preschool. We actually took them to kindergarten at The Kid's insistence when it was our turn to bring snacks.
The grape leaves are usually stuffed with a lemony rice and then drizzled with olive oil and lemon juice before being simmered. Often, they're served with tzatziki, a dip made with yogurt and grated cucumber.
And then the sweets.



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

Last year I fell in love with finikia, a cake/cookie hybrid drenched in honey syrup and sprinkled with crushed walnuts.
And this year I bought some kataifi, very similar to baklava, but made with shredded filo dough.
The funny thing about Greek food for us? The Kid abhors dill. But dolmades and tzatziki are chock full of dill. I am the opposite of a fan of walnuts. But I will eat finiki every day and twice on Sundays (literally — as I write this, it's Sunday).
Go figure.
Thanks for your time.
Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.



Adam Phillips, Miranda Parker, Mary Maloney, Gary Phillips, Jay Parker, Don Basnight, Ken Tunnell, Terri Turner, Crystal Fisher



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Clockwise, from left: spanakopita, finiki, kataifi, and dolmas.

Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Bardac 208m spill leads to minor impact on Pittsboro's water system

From the Town of Pittsboro

PITTSBORO — Routine sampling of the water entering the Town of Pittsboro system last Tuesday revealed a higher-than-normal amount of free ammonia present in the sample. Upon discovery, town staff reached out to the city of Greensboro to find out if there had been a release of contaminants. City of Greensboro staff notified the town that between 62 and 106 gallons of Bardac 208M, a cleaning and disinfecting chemical, had spilled at a manufacturer on May 2, which the city could

not process before entering the river. Upon this notice, town staff took a sample of raw water from the river and found a free ammonia level of more than 2.5 mg/L. Out of an abundance of caution, town staff shut down the water plant to stop the flow of water into the town system to attempt to allow the free ammonia to pass the town's water intake. The water plant remained offline throughout the day, and town staff continued sampling. The samples taken from the finished water leaving the plant showed 0.93 mg/L of free

ammonia at its highest. Town staff also drained the water from the sediment removal basins and clear well to remove, as much as possible, the impacted water before it entered the system. Test results taken this morning indicate a lower amount of the substance in the river. Finished water entering the system showed a result of 0.10 mg/L, and numbers within the system were normal (at or below 0.01 mg/L). For Chapel Ridge, test results this morning showed concentrations of 0.28 mg/L at the booster, 0.09 mg/L at the tank, and 0.05 mg/L within the distribu-

tion system. There is no EPA limit for free ammonia in water systems. Higher levels of free ammonia can lead to poor taste and odor for water, but the concentrations the town is experiencing do not have adverse effects on the health of water consumers. If the water has a high level of free ammonia, you are likely to experience a moldy or earthy taste or smell when the ammonia removes too much oxygen from the water. For more information regarding the effects of free ammonia, please go to atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts126.pdf.

CHATHAM CHAT | REP. ROBERT REIVES II

Gov. Cooper's state budget has been submitted. Here's what Chatham's representative thinks about it

Reives says plan makes 'smart investments,' is good starting point for negotiations

Last Wednesday, N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper released his recommended budget for FY 2022-23, a proposal he calls "Building on Success." The \$29.28 billion spending plan, according to the governor, "builds on the state's success by investing in

North Carolina families, businesses, and communities." The 232-page budget document can be found here: <https://www.osbm.nc.gov/media/2569/open>

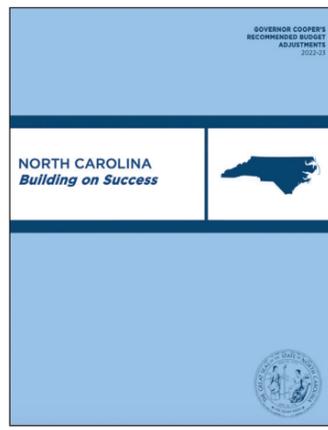
"Families have returned to their lives of work and school after tremendous challenges but find that they still struggle to find affordable healthcare and childcare," Cooper said upon releasing the budget. "North Carolina is emerging from the pandemic stronger than before, and we will sustain that only if we invest in a strong foundation for our people: A quality education, good jobs and infrastructure, and access to affordable healthcare. Let's use this historic opportunity to give families, businesses and communities the tools they need to thrive."

The News + Record asked Rep. Robert Reives II, a Goldston resident and N.C. House Minority Leader, for his perspective on the budget proposal. Reives, a Democrat, is the state's Dist. 54 representative.

What's your general impression of Gov. Cooper's budget?

Gov. Cooper's proposed budget makes smart investments at a time where North Carolinians need them most. The proposal builds upon some of the successes we have had and makes investments where they are needed most.

Raises for state employees will ensure that folks like teachers can afford to provide for their families. Investments in education will make certain that North Carolina lives up to its constitutional obligation to fully fund public schools. Expanding health care access will make certain that hard-working folks can get access to important medical treatment when



The cover of Gov. Roy Cooper's proposed 2022-23 state budget.

they need it, without breaking the bank. We have an opportunity to invest in North Carolinians in a responsible way.

What do N.C. residents need to know about the budget? And the process?

Coupled with unappropriated money from the previous fiscal year and a revised revenue forecast, we have an opportunity to make important investments in North Carolina in a financially responsible way. This document outlines Gov. Cooper's priorities for the short session budget. These proposals are a starting point for negotiations. I am optimistic that, based on our success in compromising on the big budget last year, we can iron out any differences and find a final document that nearly everyone will agree on.

Gov. Cooper has made education a priority. How will Republicans respond? And what parts of his education plan do you particularly like?

I can't predict what Republicans will do, but what we should do is fully fund public education in North Carolina. We have had the resources to do it for years, but the half-measures are not enough. Gov. Cooper's budget fully funds public education by ensuring students have the resources they need and by paying educators a fair salary. I fully support the increased

pay for educators, including restoring master's pay, and for support staff. We have consistently been behind the curve in terms of educator pay for the last decade and it's time to be an example for other states. I believe that having good teachers in every classroom is essential to providing our kids a great education.

We also know that it is vitally important for the development of a sound workforce. That means serious K-12 funding and post high school support. Our community colleges will be the most important cog in this machine for Chatham County and we need to pay community college educators and provide funding so they can make sure that local people can take advantage of these economic opportunities.

What happens next with the budget?

Leaders in the House and Senate will take a look at the proposed budget and work to see where there are areas of agreement and where there are disagreements. Republicans will either have an entirely different budget or will try to compromise on something the Governor will agree to, like we did last year. I will work with my caucus and Republican leaders to find a balance that everyone can agree to.

What role did you play in putting the budget together?

The budget proposed by Gov. Cooper was primarily compiled by his team and the Office of State Budget and Management. We have a budget team that we have put together to stay abreast of our caucus needs and priorities also. During this process our team leaders have opportunities to meet with the governor's team members to make sure these needs are included and priorities are aligned. The priorities contained in it are consistent with the priorities of my caucus and me. My larger role comes when it is time for the legislature to produce a final product that includes as many of these priorities as we can get, because

they represent an essential investment in North Carolina.

Give us brief feedback on some of these specific budget elements:

DPI funds (\$20 million) to help students in crisis and provide mental health training:

Schools should be a safe place for children to grow and learn. To do that, we need to ensure their health and well-being. These funds will go a long way in providing that support and getting our kids the counseling they need to thrive.

\$50 million for first-time home-buyers (for down payment assistance with enhanced help for eligible first-time homebuyers who are public school teachers, career firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, or sworn law enforcement officers):

Folks in Chatham know that housing affordability is top of mind right now as we continue to grow. I am glad to see the governor prioritizing this, because we know that local governments can only do so much. It has been a huge priority to me to help figure out how to make it possible for the people most essential to building and caring for our community are able to actually live here instead of just working here. There is no better example of how housing affordability impacts a community than when people like law enforcement officers and teachers cannot afford to live in the places they work. That is unsustainable and we have to do more to address it.

Expanded access to safe utilities (\$20 million in drinking water/infrastructure grants):

Again, this is a place where the budget addresses an issue that is all too relevant for Chatham County. Water treatment plants and other infrastructure regarding water quality can be expensive, and like we see in Pittsboro, not always something that is the fault of a specific municipality. The state can and should step up to help

fund projects like these because everyone deserves access to safe, clean water.

Workforce development:

North Carolina, and particularly our community and the ones around it, are experiencing tons of economic development. This is outstanding and we will reap long-term benefits from the expansion of companies like VinFast and Toyota in our backyards. But to ensure that we as a community are equipped for these jobs, workforce development is essential. The budget also includes large investments in our community colleges which are the backbone of local workforce development.

Pay increases for state employees/bonuses for teachers/educators:

For years, state employees and our educators have needed raises. They have received incremental bumps in pay but we are behind on paying them their full value. For educators and other school employees, counties can only bolster pay so much. I believe that investing in our state workforce is important to keep the best and brightest working on behalf of everyone to make a better North Carolina. Fundamentally, it is about respect. These folks work hard and deserve to be compensated for it.

Any other budget elements you'd like to speak about?

This budget also calls for expanding health care access to more than half a million North Carolinians. This is crucial, particularly after the last two years. Medical costs are out of hand and this is a simple step we can take to lower costs for folks on private insurance plans, to expand much needed medical access to rural areas, to ensure that rural areas have hospitals, and to make sure that we cover more people in an efficient way instead of paying for emergency room visits. It would also be a boon for our economy, creating jobs and keeping rural health care facilities afloat.

NEWS BRIEFS

Group hosts yoga, Zumba in Pittsboro

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro's Alpha Alpha Epsilon Zeta chapter will host a day of yoga and Zumba at Town Lake Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 5.

Cost is \$10. To register, go to <https://forms.gle/aPPMfZEhEmLZ4RiW9>. Participants are asked to bring their own water bottle, mat and towel.

County's FY 2022-23 budget has been translated into Spanish

PITTSBORO — The proposed budget for Chatham County for FY 2022-23 has been translated into Spanish and is available on the county webpage. The

document outlines the proposed spending plan for the county government for the upcoming fiscal year and provides background on many decisions made in the budget. The proposed budget is based on a maintained tax rate of 66.5 cents. The county continues to prioritize support for education and focus on growth.

The budget message in Spanish can be found online at this link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/60325>.

Bridge to be replaced in Alamance County

A primary bridge in Alamance County will soon be replaced thanks to a contract recently

awarded by the state Transportation Department. The bridge on N.C. 87 over Reedy Fork Creek is no longer cost effective to maintain.

NCDOT awarded a \$6.7 million contract to Smith-Rowe LLC to replace the bridge built in 1949. Work can begin as early as June and is scheduled to last until summer 2024.

The initial work

involves building a temporary bridge alongside the existing structure, so one lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained, eliminating the need for an off-site detour. Occasional lane closures may be needed at times when equipment is accessing the work site, or traffic is shifted into different patterns.

Drivers should antici-

pate this location becoming a work zone and be mindful of the crews working close to the travel lanes throughout

the project. For real-time travel information, visit DriveNC.gov

—CN+R staff reports

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