

Chatham News + Record

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'LITERALLY IN MY FRONT YARD'

Residents voice concern over NCDOT roadways for VinFast plant

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Harold Haden has seen the impact of Chatham County's growth firsthand.

His once-quiet property just north of Pea Ridge Road is now buzzing with construction workers. The trees across the street that he once saw from his window have been replaced by bulldozers and leveling equipment.

"It's literally in my front yard," Haden said. "This is going to impact my quality of life."

Haden, who has lived north of Pea Ridge Road for more than 25 years, is one of the few

people who have already felt the burden of the construction from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation in preparation for VinFast, which plans a massive electric vehicle manufacturing plant nearby. He said he's already seen increased traffic in front of his property and expects to see much more in the near future as work in and around Triangle Innovation Point — the former Moncure Megasite — ramps up.

"It's all so unknown," Haden said. "Well-intentioned folks have given us educated guesses of what they expect to happen, but it's not necessarily what's really going to happen ... I'm very skeptical that once all the growth has happened, there

will be a dramatic effect on my property."

NCDOT held an open house meeting at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center on Aug. 16, where residents saw maps of the planned construction for roads leading to the sites of the facilities for recently-announced Chatham industries: VinFast and FedEx.

More than 250 local residents attended the meeting. Some, like Haden, are in the direct path of construction for NCDOT. They see the project as deeply concerning and significantly disruptive to their lives; NCDOT says the expanded highway interchanges along

See VINFAST, page A6



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

N.C. Dept. of Transportation officials held a public input session at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center last Tuesday. Officials explained the current plans for roadway improvements and received feedback about the potential housing and community impact of construction.

'A NEVER-ENDING SENSE OF WONDER'

A buzzing Chatham Park pollinator program looks to expand in Pittsboro

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

Tucked off the highway is a community of hundreds of thousands at work.

Their office, near U.S. Hwy. Business 64 East, is nestled between holly trees and blueberry bushes, and their busy schedule keeps them confined to a number of tasks at hand — so blink too quickly and you might miss an appearance.

Who are these workers? Honey bees at Pittsboro's Water Recovery Center.

The bees are at the heart of a series of pollinator gardens that Chatham Park has planned, the first of which was installed at the WRC last summer. A second installation with beehives was put into place at Mosaic at Chatham Park this spring.

"What we're trying to do is establish these pollination stations all throughout Chatham Park to provide honey bee pollination coverage to the entire development," said Bill Oestereich, a property manager with Preston Development, Chatham Park's developers.



Photo by Bill Oestereich

One of eight hives along with a bee smoker at the pollination station at Chatham Park's Water Recovery Center in Pittsboro.

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ELECTIONS 2022

Chatham's unaffiliated voters now outnumber party

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

Christine Mayfield has been a registered Democrat since she was old enough to cast her first ballot.

Now, at 70, she's decided to make the switch from "D" to "U" — becoming a registered unaffiliated voter after coming to the conclusion that her political party of choice failed to make meaningful change, even when it had power in the legislature.

"I wanted to send a signal to both parties that I don't see them as representing my true interests," Mayfield, a Pittsboro resident, told the News + Record. "In particular, I wanted to signal to the Democrats that I don't identify with the centrist, neoliberal forces that dominate the Democratic Party now. I am 70 years old and have been a Democrat since I was 18 years old, but I am fed up."

Following a statewide trend, unaffiliated voters like Mayfield now outnumber the number of registered Democrats and Republicans in Chatham County, according to the most recent data from the Chatham County Board of Elections.

The data, released on Aug. 1, shows Chatham County with 23,599 unaffiliateds — more than its 21,286 registered Democrats and 14,133 registered Republicans. Pandora Paschal, director of the Chatham County Board of Elections, said the figures headed into November aren't surprising.

She said across North Carolina, unaffiliated voters are the fastest growing group, outpacing both parties. Just because they aren't regis-

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'WE WILL FAIL OUR COMMUNITY'

Nurses fear potential closure of hospital's Maternal Care Center

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

A coalition of maternal care advocates, midwives and nurses are sounding the alarm about what they're fearing as the "impending closure" of the Maternity Care Center at UNC Chatham Hospital in Siler City.

The group began to rally around the

issue and press for action just prior to Chatham Hospital Board of Trustees meeting last Tuesday, Aug. 16. At the meeting, Eric Wolak, the chief operating officer and chief nursing officer of Chatham Hospital, told the nurses and others who attended last week's online meeting the MCC is just one nurse

See MATERNAL, page A3

CN+R INTERVIEW | HANK RAPER

Siler City's town manager reflects on his first few months on the job

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town of Siler City has a lot on its plate, which means that Hank Raper — just three months into his new position as town manager — does, too.



Hank Raper

Among his most pressing challenges: the town has been placed under a water

moratorium by the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality, complicating Siler City's efforts to attract industries to the Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) megasite, which anticipates landing a large employer in the coming weeks.

And managing growth where it's a certainty, but infrastructure is limited, is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg of to-dos on Raper's list.

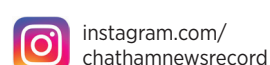
The News + Record recently spoke

See MANAGER, page A6

IN THE KNOW

Making sense of Chatham's wastewater crisis. PAGE B8

STAY UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST CHATHAM COUNTY NEWS



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ON THE AGENDA

• The **Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet on Wednesday, August 24, at the Historic Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro. A work session will begin at 2 p.m. The regular session will begin at 6 p.m. Commissioners are also scheduled to meet at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 29, in a special meeting.
 • The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet Sept. 12 in a regular session at 7 p.m. at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

OTHER

• **Siler City Lions Club's** special emphasis is on helping visually impaired and children with childhood diabetes. The club will be at Old Fashion Farmer's Day on Saturday and Sunday, September 3 and 4. Vision and hearing tests will be held Saturday, and they'll be collecting used children's books, eyeglasses and hosting other fundraising projects both days.
 • **Siler City Lions Club meetings** for the month will be held on Tuesdays, September 13 and 27, at Dry Dock Restaurant, 408 North Second Avenue.
 • **Chatham County Democratic Party** will host a "Chatham Dems Together" fundraiser on Friday, Sept. 9, at the C.C. Agricultural and Conference Center in Pittsboro. The evening's guest speakers include N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls, N.C. House Democratic Leader Robert Reives, and Dr. Ronda Taylor Bullock, a local anti-racist educational specialist. The festivities kick off at 6 p.m. with a gumbo meal prepared by 401 Main in Carrboro, guided by Melton, who besides being a musician

is also a local celebrity Cajun chef. Vegan options are available. Ticket options include event only, event/dinner, or event/dessert. All proceeds will go to support Chatham County Democratic Party's 2022 Get Out the Vote activities. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: ccdpc.org/ event.
 • The **Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department** invites community members of all ages to create a masterpiece at the second annual Sidewalk Chalk Festival on Saturday, September 10, (rain date September 11th) at The Park at Briar Chapel, located at 1015 Andrews Store Road, Pittsboro. For more information, visit the Chatham County Parks and Recreation website at www.chathamcountync.gov/parks-rec, or contact Mallory Peterson at the Parks and Recreation Department at 919-545-8553 or mallory.peterson@chathamcountync.gov.
 • **Chatham Community Library** will host a virtual film screening of "Ways of Being Home." This program is free and open to the public. Access to the virtual screening will be available Thursday, September 8 through 15 by visiting: <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/ways-of-being-home-watch-page-chatham-community-library>. A password is required at the time of viewing. Those who are interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information. The library has purchased a hard copy of the film if residents who wish to see the film miss the virtual screening window. Residents may also visit the libraries' website www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org for information.

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.
 • **Tarheel Challenge Academy**-New London is currently accepting applications for the October 2022 class. This is a FREE educational program for accepted applicants, ages 16-18. Challenge is the Choice for Change! For more information contact Angelina Wilson at 704-960-9347 or visit our website at <https://nc-tarheelchallenge.org>. We offer our services to students who are not faring well in their current school setting. Our free program includes a 5 ½ month residential phase, followed by a 12-month post-residential phase. While attending the 5 ½ month residential program, our students work on the program's core components: Academic excellence, Life-coping Skills, Leadership and Followership, Responsible Citizenship, Job Skills, Service to the Community, Physical Fitness, and Health & Hygiene. To refer a student or if you have any questions, please call/text me directly at 704-960-9347 or email me at angelina.wilson@ncdps.gov.
 • **League of Women Voters to Speak:** In honor of the 75th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties (LWVODC), Deborah Ann Turner, MD, JD, currently serving as the 20th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), will be coming to Chapel Hill. She will speak at The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History on the UNC Campus at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 15. The Stone Center is located at 150 South Road, Chapel Hill. This program is free and open to the public. Free parking is available at the adjacent

Bell Tower Parking Deck from 5 to 9 p.m.; registration is required: Register via our online calendar: <https://my.lwv.org/north-carolina/orange-durham-and-chatham-counties-inc/calendar>
 • **The Silk Hope Ruritans** host a Benefit Bingo on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of each month. This month's events will be held September 1, 15, and 29, at the Silk Hope Community Center. All are welcome.
 • **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 directives. 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. at 630 East St., Pittsboro. 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, Or-

ange 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.

How did you LAND here?



Eric Andrews
Accredited Land Consultant

HAS ERIC SOLD A PROPERTY NEAR YOU LATELY?
80 PROPERTIES SOLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS!

LAND (Representing Sellers) 28 Units

- 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)
- 4831 Old Graham Road (2.774 Acres)
- 1571 Lydia Perry Road (3.007 Acres)
- 208 Stonewall Road (3.810 Acres)
- 1456 Hadley Mill Road (28.353 Acres)
- 1475 Lewter Shop Road (4.445 Acres)

LAND (Representing Buyers) 9 Units

- 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)
- 388 Wade Bright Road (10 Acres)
- 0 Roselle Road (46.204 Acres)
- 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
- 685 Revmont (3.893 Acres)
- 0 Mays Chapel Road (365 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)

COMMERCIAL (Representing Seller) 1 Units

175 East Salisbury Street (Pittsboro)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 26 Units

- 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 Meri McManus Road (Bear Creek)
- 2349 S. Main Street (Goldston)
- 206 Olympia Street (Siler City)
- 8798 Sylvan Road (Liberty)
- 488 NC 87 N (Pittsboro)
- 76 Fox Chapel Lane (Pittsboro)
- 354 A Mountain View (Pittsboro)
- 138 Oakwood Lane (Pittsboro)
- 218 A Poplar Street (Chapel Hill)
- 58 Lily McCoy Lane (Pittsboro)

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)

PROPERTIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

LAND (Representing Sellers) 6 Units

- 13120 Strickland Road (16.25 Acres)
- 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
- 0 Old Graham Road (161.97 Acres)
- 0 Moons Chapel Road (86.599 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague Road (23.1 Acres)
- 0 Alston Chapel Road (10.23 Acres)
- 10681 E US 64 Hwy (3.97 Acres)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 3 Units

- 298 CD Thomas Road (Siler City)
- 1637 Briar Chapel Parkway (Chapel Hill)
- 390 New Salem Church Road (Pittsboro)

Featured CN+R YouTube Video of the Week:
<https://youtu.be/0UuNsUVQGLU>



NEW TOPIC--Less Paperwork for Cash Buyers

Now Hiring! Administrative Position in a fast paced real estate office. Experienced preferred, but will train. Call 919-542-0523 for an interview.



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GRATIS **Sáb~Sat** **9.17.22** **FREE**
 12-6 pm

Hispanic Heritage FLESTA
 de la Herencia Hispana

200 N. Chatham Ave, Siler City, NC

Bandas ~ Music:
 Mariachi México 2000 Descendientes de Tierra Caliente

Diversiones: Comida sabrosa | Bandas
 Bailes folclóricos | Juegos | Desfile
 Exposición de arte | Mesas informativas
 Vacunas de COVID-19 | ¡Rifa y más!

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ESPAÑOL ENGLISH

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VOTERS

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tered to a particular party, however, doesn't mean they don't lean one way or another, Paschal said.

"It really only matters in the primary," she told the News + Record. "[Unaffiliated voters] have been rising ever since I took over as director in 2016. As long as I can remember it's been trending up throughout the state."

Increased polarization leads to pushback

One reason more people may be registering as unaffiliated as opposed to choosing a political party is due to increased polarization. According to a 2020 study from Brown University, polarization in the U.S. is accelerating much faster than in other countries.

The study found that in 1978, the average American rated the members of their own political party 27 points higher than members of the other major party. By 2016, Americans were rating their own party 45.9 points higher. In that time polarization had also risen in Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland but to a lesser extent. In the U.K., Australia, Germany, Norway and Sweden, polarization decreased.

The U.S. is a unique case and North Carolina is no exception. Chatham County Republican Party Chairperson Terry

Schmidt agrees. He said he believes more people are registering as unaffiliated voters on the local level because of that perceived polarization.

"One of the reasons people are leaning unaffiliated right now is because their perceptions, driven by the major media news organizations, is that both political parties are too extreme," Schmidt said. "People want to be able to pick and choose their candidates."

The News + Record queried readers about why they chose to switch their registrations to unaffiliated; many said they agreed with Schmidt. They said the parties are becoming too polarized, and voting "straight ticket" isn't as appealing as it once was.

"I don't want the party telling me who to vote for," said Siler City resident George Fowble. "I'm a Conservative. That being said there are people I view as Conservatives in the Democratic party, though right now it's hard to find them. I still want the choice of picking from either party. That to me is the American way."

Several readers said they recently changed their registration because they see neither party as making effective progress; nowadays, they're more inclined to vote for candidates on either side of the aisle.

'No such thing as unaffiliated'

As November draws nearer,

Schmidt said he isn't looking at unaffiliated voters as swing votes. He said he believes most unaffiliated voters usually have their minds made up when they step in the voting booth.

Liz Guinan, the director of the Chatham County Democratic Party, agreed with Schmidt. She said a big reason people choose to be unaffiliated in North Carolina is because voters can choose which party to vote in for primary elections. "There really is no such thing as unaffiliated," Guinan said. "Your values are always your values and you're going to vote your values. Those don't typically change just because you went from Democrat to Unaffiliated or vice versa."

N.C. is considered a partially closed primary state. This means state law permits political parties to choose whether to allow unaffiliated voters to participate in their nominating contests before each election cycle. In this type of system, parties may let in unaffiliated voters, while still excluding members of opposing parties. This system gives the parties more flexibility from year to year about which voters to include.

Guinan said the increasing number of unaffiliated voters isn't a concern because neither major party sees unaffiliated as conflating with swing voters. She said parties pay more attention to surveys and data that show values, more than voter registration totals.

People change their affilia-

tions for a litany of reasons. Several readers who reached out to the CN+R said they switched from Republican to Unaffiliated in the wake of the Jan. 6 riot in Washington, D.C. Others said they switched from Democrat to Unaffiliated because they lost belief in the party's ability to govern well.

"Both parties have gotten too extreme," said Sue Crook, a reader who reached out. "Eighty percent of America is not extreme right or left wing, yet our representatives vote to the extreme every time. It is ridiculous."

Every election is local

Schmidt said party affiliation and registration is often tied to national issues, but he believes every election is local, regardless of who is on the ballot. He said regardless of party, most people care about having good schools, clean water and putting enough food on the table — all policies that get predominantly created and approved on a local scale.

"A lot of people are trying to put [former president Donald] Trump on the ballot in one way or another," Schmidt said. "He is not on the ballot. We need to focus on local issues — school excellence, housing, water, the environment, growth, new industry — unaffiliateds should know that's what our party stands for."

He said voters need to understand issues that impact

the individual, then choose the candidate based on if they align with personal values.

Guinan agreed. She said all elections matter, even if the candidates lack big name recognition. For the upcoming November election, Chatham County Democrats are prioritizing their efforts on "mid-term skippers," or people who ordinarily wouldn't vote in the midterm election.

"We want those skippers to be a lot more energized to come out and vote," Guinan said. "We are doing everything we can to get the candidates out there. We want everyone to sit down, shake hands and get to know this year's candidates."

Voter registration for the upcoming election closes on Oct. 14 with early voting set to begin Oct. 20. For more information on November's midterm election, visit the Chatham County Board of Elections website, www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections. Voters must complete a Voter Registration Application and mail or deliver it to the elections office at least 25 days prior to an election.

The News + Record plans to host two local candidate forums, one in September and another in October.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b_rappaport.

MATERNAL

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resignation away from needing to close its doors.

No decisions about that have been made, but that didn't stop more than 70 nurses and community members from attending last week's hospital, which was held via Zoom.

The MCC is currently the only medical facility in Chatham County for people to give birth. Since it opened two years ago, the unit has delivered more than 210 babies, but has been forced to, on occasion, limit its hours of operation because of staffing shortages related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, the MCC

is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Wolak said if laboring patients come after hours they will still be cared for until point of discharge.

The center is operating with a 35% staffing vacancy rate. To combat the vacancies, the MCC has utilized traveling nurses who rotate between hospitals within the UNC Health network, the hospital has also used nurses from outside that network as short-term solutions. Without those nurses, the MCC would have a vacancy rate of close to 44%, according to Wolak.

These operations represent an improvement from where the hospital was a year ago, Wolak

If we do not fight against this passivity — the ideas that things will continue working themselves out — we will fail our community.

FAREEDAT OLUYADI, nurse at UNC Chatham Hospital Maternal Care Center

said. In November 2021, the MCC was only operating Monday through Thursday. Wolak said the center needs at least two nurses per shift to operate and ensure safety in baby delivery.

UNC Chatham Hospital was recently identified as a Critical Access Hospital — meaning it receives federal funding to ensure it remains open. The CAH designation is designed to reduce the financial vulnerability of rural hospitals and improve access to healthcare by keeping essential services in rural communities.

Recent trends, however, show nationwide closures of labor and delivery units, like the MCC across the country. In North Carolina, eight rural maternity care units have closed since 2017.

The Chatham MCC is especially valuable because of the people it serves. Despite Census numbers showing that Chatham County is 82% white, 88.8% people delivering through the MCC are people of color, according to data from UNC Chatham Hospital.

Current state of flux

Last week's meeting

left more questions than answers for some nurses at the MCC.

One of those frustrated nurses was Fareedat Oluyadi. She wrote a letter to Chatham Hospital President Jeffrey Strickler sharing her concerns this week. The letter was cosigned by more than 60 community members — many of whom were nurses or doctors in maternal care — and shared during the public comment period at the Chatham County health board's meeting held Monday night.

"It is with deepest fervor that we write in protest of the impending closure of the Maternity Care Center (MCC) at UNC Chatham Hospital," the letter said. "We are voicing our concern as not only healthcare workers of the maternity care center, but also as representatives of the community we serve and are committed to caring for."

The MCC doesn't regularly share updates before the Board of Health, but they were asked to do so because of public concern following last week's trustees' meeting.

"The board of health invited them to provide

an update given questions that were coming up around the MCC," Mike Zelek, director of Chatham County Public Health Department, told the News + Record. "They were added to the agenda before the Hospital Board meeting last week. While there haven't been regularly scheduled updates, there have been presentations to the Board of Health about the MCC in the past, especially as it was coming to fruition."

Oluyadi's letter concluded with a call to action asking the hospital to commit to a moratorium on the decision to close the MCC. Nurses called for engagement with the community and for the hospital to do everything in its power to keep the center open.

At Monday's health board meeting, however, Strickler characterized the urgency of the letter as "misinformation," reiterating that no decision had been made about the MCC's future.

Strickler also announced the creation of a community task force, which would embark on a 60-day investigation into the long-term viability of the MCC. The task force will consist of 17 members, each from different community health organizations; the members of the task force have not been announced.

While the center will

remain open for the time being, Strickler did say staffing shortages are hurting the department. The MCC had three nurses resign in July, which makes a significant impact to a staff of 11 total nurses who don't work remotely, but must work on-site. He also said since the clinic opened two years ago, turnover has created ongoing staffing shortages.

Based on exit interviews conducted by UNC Chatham Hospital, nurses are leaving the MCC for a variety of reasons including taking other travel assignments — positions which typically pay much higher compensation rates — or transferring to different hospitals.

Strickler said exit interview data did not show systemic problems within the hospital that led to MCC nurse resignations.

Nurses who have seen the resignations firsthand, however, call the consistent turnover "nothing short of heart-breaking."

Oluyadi said she felt unseen, silenced and powerless in a clinic she believed has the necessary resources and power to sustain itself.

"The impending closure of the unit is a hazardous event with rippling adverse outcomes," Oluyadi's letter said. "If we do not fight against this passivity — the ideas that things will continue working themselves out — we will fail our community."

Oluyadi was joined by members of local healthy equity organizations — Equity for Moms and Babies Realized Across Chatham (EMBRACe) and Community Organizing for Racial Equity (CORE). Jean Medearis Costillo, an EMBRACe member, told the Board of Health the MCC is critical to Chatham County because of its rural geography.

"The MCC came about as part of a need identified and supported by many agencies," Costello said. "And just like other problems, the answer to this problem isn't always in the hallways of one agency. It sits in the space between our agencies — in the collaborative space."

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b_rappaport.



Chatham County Farm Bureau's "Food Drive for Chatham Raffle" at Silk Hope Old-Fashioned Farmers' Days September 3rd and 4th, 2022

- Chatham County Farm Bureau will provide raffle tickets in exchange for food:
- 5 cans of food or \$5 donation for 1 ticket.
- \$20 donation for 5 tickets.

All food and money collected will be divided between Chatham's CORA food pantry and West Chatham Food Pantry.

RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDE A BLACKSTONE GRILL, LOAD OF GRAVEL AND BIRD HUNT AS A GRAND PRIZE AND OTHER PRIZES.

Prizes to be given away hourly



Prizes donated by Chatham Co. Farm Bureau, Lutterloh Trucking, Hickory Mountain Upland Preserve, Quality Equipment in Pittsboro, Southern States, Liquidambar Gallery and Gifts, Guiding Hand Woodturning, 2911 Boutique, Tractor Supply, Pittsboro Feed/Pittsboro Pet Supply, Liberty Farm and Garden, Country Farm and Home, San Felipe Siler City, Siler City Country Club, Best Foods and others.

You do not have to be present to win. You may get tickets at the Chatham County Farm Bureau office or at Old Fashioned Farmers Day.

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What is Rotary? What do Rotarians do? We're so glad you asked! We invite you to join us for an informal gathering so you can meet local members, learn about our service projects, & how we're making an impact in our community & worldwide.

Thursday, September 15 @ 5:30pm
Red Moose Brewing Company
90 East St., PBO

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VIEWPOINTS

THE CHATHAM SCENE | MAYDHA DEVARAJAN

Reflecting on the Downtown Pittsboro Community Vision Forum



Maydha Devarajan

I'm a product of the Triangle area. I was born in Cary, went to school in Raleigh and have family in Durham. And despite spending the last four years in college just 15 minutes down the road at UNC-Chapel Hill, I can count on one hand the number of times I've visited Pittsboro prior to working at the News + Record.

To be frank, the extent of my time wandering along the streets of downtown has mostly been limited to family trips to the town to renew my passport. I remember being charmed by Circle City Books & Music and French Connections, and delighted by the bakeries and knick-knack shops we stopped into.

But I feel like I'm slowly gaining a better understanding of Pittsboro, its community and its issues. So in more ways than one, last Tuesday's Downtown Pittsboro Community Vision Forum felt like a crash course in general sentiments surrounding Pittsboro's development and downtown.

For two hours, attendees — who ranged from residents and business owners to commissioners and members of the Pittsboro Downtown Advisory Board — sat around tables in a room at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

Over the course of the forum, attendees were asked in small groups to brainstorm lists of Pittsboro's economic drivers, the town's strengths and assets and the downtown's weaknesses and liabilities — a process led by Mike Dougherty, downtown development specialist with the N.C. Main Street & Rural Planning Center.

The event was sponsored by the Chatham Chamber of Commerce, and commenced with introductions by the Chamber's Cindy Poindexter, Mayor Cindy Perry and Downtown Development Director Theresa Thompson, who underscored the importance of community engagement in shaping the future of Pittsboro's downtown.

"We need you beyond tonight," attendees were asked to repeat aloud by Thompson.

I noticed that a select number of words used to describe Pittsboro continued to crop up in brainstorming sessions or when attendees were asked

to come up with a town vision statement.

"Quaint." "Small-town." "Historic." "Eclectic."

Perhaps the words were a reflection of those present — as well as those who were absent — that night, but as a newcomer to the county, I was fascinated to see what attendees pulled to highlight about their beloved downtown — both the good and the bad.

To my younger self, Pittsboro seemed right out of an episode of "Gilmore Girls," with its quirky shops, single main street and historic landmarks. I'd wondered whether that was a quick assessment on my part, but it was interesting to observe the confluence of how the town has marketed itself and how some residents internalized those identifiers.

At the forum, attendees also underscored economic drivers like Chatham Park and VinFast, Central Carolina Community College, the Ag Center, Shakori Hills and other festivals, and Pittsboro's proximity to RTP and UNC-Chapel Hill. They were quick to highlight the Haw River and Jordan Lake, the town's farming community, Fearington Village, a plethora of places to buy art and pottery and antiques.

But participants also shared

frank criticisms of the downtown's infrastructure and parking, of Pittsboro's overloaded water and sewer systems. They pointed to poor internet connectivity, short hours of operation for businesses, a lack of public transportation, a desire for more food options and restaurants (something my table was particularly enthusiastic about).

What I found especially interesting was a note in a packet handed out to all attendees. The last page contained a SWOT analysis, listing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats with regard to Pittsboro and its development. Under opportunities was one bullet that read: "How to not be Cary & Apex 20 years ago."

Taking aspects of similar cities in the Triangle that I know more intimately — the artsy nature of Carrboro, the swaths of green fields in Apex or the cuteness of Cary's downtown — and mapping it onto Pittsboro is something I've certainly done.

But I found it interesting that those comparisons, and particularly a notion of not modernizing fast enough, are things that Pittsboro is actively trying to stay away from. Over the course of the night, I generally got the sense that forum attendees

welcomed innovation but had a deep desire to preserve the small-town qualities of Pittsboro that they loved so much.

Ultimately, in listening to the conversations shared at the forum, I saw the value of and need for community engagement.

The discussion and input offered by participants, as well as the responses from a survey they were asked to complete, will directly shape a one- to three-year work plan that the Downtown Advisory Board creates. The goal is for the board to come up with an economic development strategy and a set of main actions by October, Thompson told me.

If you want to have a hand in shaping perceptions of the town, if you have concerns about development that you feel are being overlooked, or if your version of Pittsboro isn't particularly quaint or cute, then I'd encourage you to reach out to the Downtown Advisory Board and the town government to voice those opinions.

As Pittsboro looks to the future, I don't doubt that you're needed beyond one night.

Reporter Maydha Devarajan can be reached at mdevarajan@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @maydhadevarajan.

Back to school is for the dogs



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

It is that time of year when students return to classrooms and all manner of pundits and politicians have instructions for young people. I think there is a place and time for experts and educators to pontificate ...

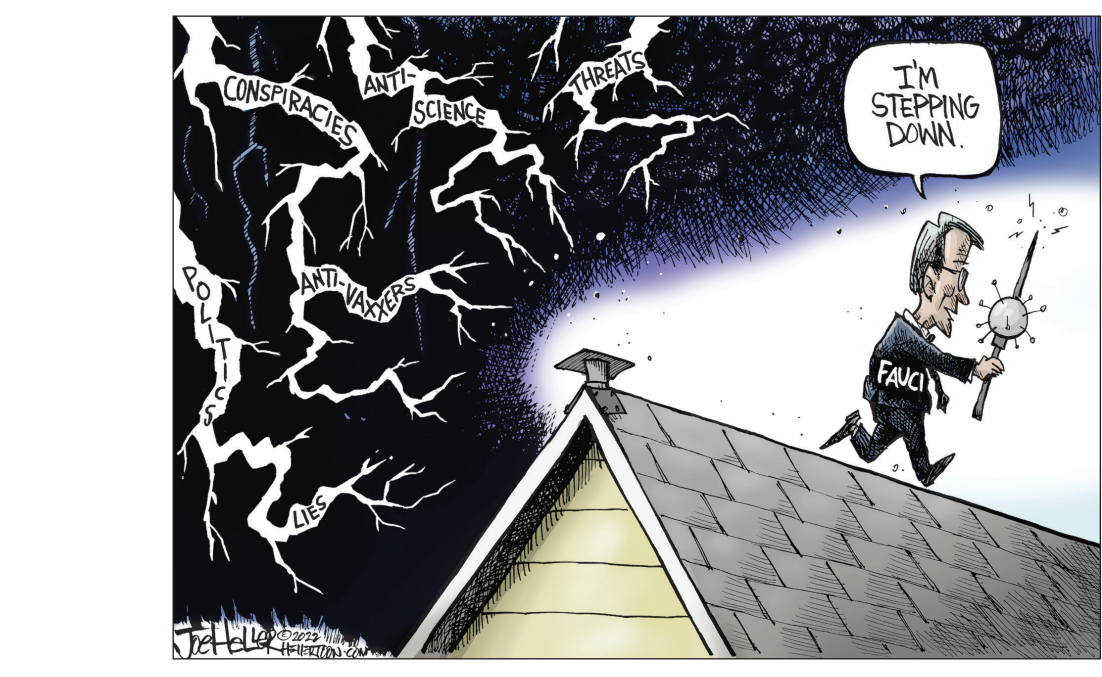
But what about other opinions from our four-legged best friends? Canines have advice for students that a cat or even a senator could understand.

So, without further ado, the Top 10 Back-to-School Advice from Dogs!

1. Be excited! New class, new teacher, new friends, new school supplies, new collar, I mean, new clothes. ... It's all wonderful! Don't be afraid to wag your tail and hang your tongue out!
2. Be curious! Your nose is not as good as a dog's sniffer, but you can still investigate and explore your surroundings. Be on the hunt for new ideas!
3. Listen when you are told to "Sit!" (and obey other commands, too). You may not understand why, but the adult instructing you has the bigger picture in mind and your best interest at heart. So, listen to what you are told and, ...
4. Play when you can! When you get the chance to go outside, romp in the sunshine! Roll around in the grass! Fetch the ball! Chase squirrels! (But leave the mail carrier alone. Seriously.)
5. Know that things might not always seem fair. Why does the cat nap on the bed and use the bathroom inside? It might seem like a double standard, but adults know what they are doing (see No. 3). Comparison is the thief of joy, so be cautious about judging someone else's experience. After all, the cat doesn't have the joy of rolling on the dead squirrel in the road!
6. Eat snacks, snacks and more snacks. ... Woof 'em up!
7. Speak up! Do you need to go to the bathroom? Then whine at the door! (Or, maybe raise your hand.) Teachers and other staff are there to help you. You don't have a tail to put between your legs, but if you are scared or hurt, use your words and let someone know.
8. Trust that your family will always come back. The people you live with will leave you and go somewhere else to do unexplainable things with computers or commuters or something like that. Once again, you don't always know why. But know this: You will see them again ... and they come back with snacks!
9. Make friends of all shapes, sizes and colors. If a Lab can be buds with a poodle, and a Great Dane can chill out with a Chihuahua, then you can make friends with kids who don't look like you. Maybe even best friends.
10. And finally, when you meet someone new, sniff their rear end!

Not all advice from dogs is to be followed exactly, but you get the idea. Take it from Robert Benchley, a newspaper columnist more famous than me: "A child can learn a lot from a dog: obedience, loyalty and the importance of turning around three times before lying down."

Have a great school year!



Start of school unlike any other time of the year



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

At the risk of stating the obvious, it's that time of year again. Unless you're involved in a year-round school, students have or will be heading to classrooms around the time you read this.

For some, it's back to school; for others, it's a first-time. Some will go with a clear goal while others may be not so sure. Some are excited; others ... well, you know.

It's been a short summer. Always is, especially if you're young. All across the land there are shrieks and cries and moans and groans as the start of the year nears ... and that's just from the teachers and staff.

Reminds me of the story of the mother who came to her son's bedroom door on the first day of school for the new year. He hadn't arisen despite her repeated pleas and threats that he was going to be late getting there.

Again and again she knocked on the door and called to him and threatened to pour cold water on his noggin and all manner of other things designed to get him out of bed, all to no avail. Finally she stood in the doorway and yelled at

the top of her lungs, "Young man, you get up ... right now!"

"Why, Mama?" he pleaded.

"Well, for one thing," she said, "it's almost 8 o'clock and I've got your breakfast ready. For another, you're 42 years old and for the third, you're the only principal the school has."

The farther away I get from that first day of the year the more I see it with rose-colored glasses. It's been awhile since those days for me, for either the 3rd grade or the third time I was a freshman in college. Still, no matter what, I think there's something good and needed about the start of the year and it has to do with starting over.

Seems like the older I become the more I need or think I need to start over on some things ... sometimes lots of things. And that's what the new school year means.

It means you can forget the unfinished plans, the unrealized dreams and the mistakes and downsides of the previous year. Of course, conversely it means you can remember the good stuff and that's good because you can build on that. It's sort of like I couldn't do multiplication until I learned the numbers.

And I know it's a different world today but, to me, there's something really beneficial about the social dimension of back to school. When

I was a young boy, about the time dinosaurs were roaming the earth. I wanted to start the new school year. One reason was to learn in whose room I would be laboring. Would it be "The Teacher from the Black Lagoon" or would it be Pearl Pureheart?

And with which of my running buddies would I be sharing the year? Would this be the year I push the envelope too far or would it be the one where I finally learned not only some English and history and math but also some sense?

So while the details may change somewhat the principles remain close to the same. And as the 2022-23 academic year gets underway, wish your students well, think kind thoughts about and say a prayer for the teachers and find a way, even if you're not a student, to go back to school this year.

Especially if it's the school of life.

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.

Chatham News + Record

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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."

VIEWPOINTS

The 's' word ... and risking transparency

On a late Saturday morning, I was participating in a Zoom workshop. Suddenly, there was pounding at my door — and I do mean pounding. I'm very reactive to loud noises and quickly slipped into fight-or-flight mode, threw down my laptop and rushed toward the door. I didn't make it. In my haste, I tripped over the leg of the ottoman in front of me and fell on my dominant right arm.

Broken.

A wonderful neighbor took me to an urgent care center. There, I was splinted and became a new virgin to the world of having no right hand to do just about anything.



JAN HUTTON
This Being Human Thing

Sigh. (Well, if we're going to get into sob stories, another neighbor had to scissor off my T-shirt — a favorite — because the good urgent care folks made the splint much too large to be pulled through the sleeve. Sigh.)

Oh, but wait, more fun's a-comin'! Ten days later, I stood up from a chair, slightly twisted my body and a degenerative meniscus tear in my right knee suddenly intruded into my already physically-challenged life.

Victimhood becomes so seductive at points like this. I used to be oh-so-good at victimhood. OMG, OMG, look what happened to me! (Wait, wait, is this something about which to be proud?) However, the joy of adding more gray hair has also brought the realization that victimhood can be incredibly toxic to my mental health — and to the mental health of those having to listen to me

again, again and again.

Victimhood aside, my current mental health strategy in difficult situations is to learn whatever I can from the challenge. It's rather like composting — taking the crappy experience and turning it into something useful eventually.

When people began asking how I broke my arm, I would sagely reply, "I wasn't being mindful of where I was going." I thought that sounded pretty cool and mindfulness is certainly au courant these days. Yay, Jan! Leaning into mindfulness as a lesson from breaking my arm. Five gold stars...

Then, along comes a wise friend of mine. Having heard my mindfulness response, she noted that I made the broken arm episode sound like a moral failure (I wasn't mindful! What kind of human being am I, not being mindful?) Oops. Initially

defensive, I had to admit she was right. I was startled by the loud pounding at my door and tripped over the ottoman in my haste to find out what the heck was going on. Not so much lacking in mindfulness, but scared into fight-or-flight mode by the frenzied knocking.

Instead of self-flagellation for not being mindful, how about just allowing myself to be vulnerable and share my oh-so-human tripping foible with all you other humans? (I'm sure none of you have ever tripped or been clumsy and caused damage to yourselves, right?)

So here comes an "s" word (not the one you think, however.) Let's just spit it out: self-compassion — offering kindness to oneself for being, well, human, with all our frailties. In my case, the frailties included tripping over an otto-

man because of an adrenaline rush. Oh, yeah, I wish I could keep voicing the culturally admirable mantra about learning mindfulness as a result of my broken arm (and there is truth to that.) However, what if I just offer myself kindness for having been a panicked human being who tripped over an object because of a loud noise that scared me?

Risking transparency in our humanness.

Come on out and join me...

"Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and right-doing, there is a field. I'll meet you there."
— Rumi

Jan Hutton is a retired hospice/hospital social worker who believes in living life with heart and humor. She has happily lived in Chatham for 20 years.

GUEST COLUMN
REP. ROBERT REIVES II

Bring back the sales holiday tax weekend

As students go back to classes in Chatham County, I know that families like mine are preparing to buy new supplies, clothes and everything else that goes along with a new school year. I also know that the prices for some of those items have gone up, and for working folks, every dollar counts.

That's why I supported the idea of bringing back the sales tax holiday weekend in North Carolina. Republican leaders repealed it nearly a decade ago and refused to consider bringing it back this year. That hurts families who need every dollar to help make ends meet.

The sales tax holiday is not — or should not be — a partisan issue. States around the country stepped up this year to help ease the burden on families. Virginia, South Carolina and Tennessee all have tax-free weekends that just concluded. All told, there were 20 states that either lowered or removed their sales tax for a few days. At a small cost for the state, we could provide real benefits to North Carolinians.

Lowering the sales tax would help more than just the families with students going back to class. We all know that North Carolina teachers deserve more pay and respect. Many of these educators invest their own money to improve classrooms and provide supplies for students who lack what they need. Slashing the sales tax would help them, many of whom have kids going back to class themselves.

It would also be a boon for the many adult learners who are going to further their education, especially at Central Carolina Community College. Sanford faith leaders just held an event to help provide supplies for CCCC enrollees. A tax-free weekend would have made the reach of their event stretch even further. And for adults who are going back to school, saving some money on supplies they would not otherwise need would be significant.

Finally, it helps our local businesses. Families are planning to make these purchases anyway, so freeing up a bit of spare money means they can afford to spend it in the many small businesses in Chatham County. These local businesses thrive with the support of our communities. Extra traffic during the busy weeks at the end of summer and right before school starts back can make all the difference for them.

Other states stepped up to provide this financial relief to families as schools started back. Working families deserve more attention and more results from their leaders in Raleigh. I support a tax-free weekend because I know what sort of difference that extra money in your pocket can mean. I will continue to work toward a North Carolina where families have more support and more compassion from their state government. You deserve leaders who fight for everybody, not just the wealthy and powerful.

Rep. Robert Reives, a Goldston resident, represents Chatham County in the N.C. General Assembly.

Surge in violence demands attention

While North Carolina continues to outperform the rest of the country on a range of economic and social indicators, its leaders can't afford to overlook a flashing red light on the state's dashboard: violent crime.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

According to the latest FBI data, our urban areas continue to experience rising rates. Comparing the first quarter of 2022 to the first quarter of 2021, violent crime was up 23% in Raleigh, 22% in Greensboro and Fayetteville, 7% in Durham and Wilmington and 6% in Winston-Salem. Charlotte's 2% increase looks comparatively tame, but it came after a bigger jump the previous year.

More generally, North Carolina's rate of violent crime was significantly below the national average from 2009 to 2018. It shot up dramatically in 2019 to 379 reported crimes per 100,000 residents, close to the national average of 381, and then again in 2020 to 419, blowing past the national average of 399.

The immediate victims were those murdered or attacked, plus family members, friends and neighbors. But the damage extends beyond them. Many North Carolinians now feel less safe. That, in turn, affects their decisions about where to live, work and spend money. And if violent crime remains more prevalent in our state than in the rest of the country, that will likely have serious economic and social consequences

for North Carolina down the road.

So, what should we do about this? Let's start with two reality checks. First, the problem is multifaceted and not easily jammed into a partisan political frame. The surge appears to be confined to violent crimes, for example, and more specifically to homicides and aggravated assaults.

When it comes to property crimes — burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, etc. — North Carolina's rate went down in 2020, not up. Indeed, our property-crime rate has been declining fairly steadily since the early 1990s. It's down 35% in the past decade alone. While violent crimes are more likely to be reported to law enforcement than property crimes, the effect isn't large enough to explain such a divergence in the trend lines.

Did the tumultuous events of 2020 contribute to the surge in violence? That's certainly plausible. The raucous protests we saw in the aftermath of George Floyd's death may have been well-intentioned, but they created incentives for law enforcement to pull back from neighborhoods where a disproportionate share of violence occurs.

The COVID-19 pandemic itself could have contributed to the problem, as well, by reducing "eyes on the street" and accentuating the mental stresses that lead some to lash out violently.

My second reality check is about guns. Most violent crimes are also gun crimes, yes, but the weapon of choice is almost always a handgun. Whatever you think of banning "assault weapons," its effect on violent

crime would be negligible. As for banning or radically restricting the ownership of handguns, I'd view the constitutional and political barriers as insurmountable even if I favored such a policy, which I don't.

More practical solutions exist. Even when it comes to guns, most North Carolinians would likely favor stronger measures to keep guns out of the hands of minors and the mentally ill, to crack down on "straw purchases" and other illegal trafficking and to toughen penalties for those who use guns to commit crimes.

Speaking of behavioral health, I believe there is broad support for spending more tax dollars on community-based treatment for mental illness and drug addiction, including for the kinds of faith-based programs that tend to produce the most-lasting results. North Carolina communities can also employ such bread-and-butter solutions as installing more streetlights, keeping existing lights in better repair, installing gates in alleyways and restoring vacant lots to productive use or at least "greening them over" with grass, trees and gardens.

We were never going to "defund the police." As Manhattan Institute analyst Charles Fain Lehman put it, policing remains "the heart of American crime control" because of its "proven efficacy." Still, there are other tools in our toolbox. Let's use them.

John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest books, Mountain Folk and Forest Folk, combine epic fantasy with early American history (FolkloreCycle.com).

Sheriff Andy still lives in Mayberry — or does he?

Last week's Sunday's CBS-TV's Sunday Morning show featured a repeat of a feature hosted by former news anchor Ted Koppel and bringing the country's attention to North Carolina again.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Reporting from Mount Airy, Koppel noted that it had been almost 55 years since Sheriff Andy left the popular "Andy Griffith" show, along with other favorite characters such as Ron Howard, who played Andy's son, Don Knotts, who played Andy's deputy Barney Fife, and the actors who played Aunt Bee and Floyd the barber. All are dead now except Howard.

With all these important actors gone, Koppel said, "It may come as something of a surprise to learn that Mayberry is doing just fine even though its actual name is Mount Airy, and its only genuine link to the Andy Griffith show is that Andy was born and grew up here."

Randy Collins, president and CEO of the Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce, explained how important the memory of the Andy Griffith show has been to his town, especially, Koppel added, "after tobacco and textile industries had the stuffing knocked out of them and the mills closed."

Koppel continued, the TV show

"captured a memory that never was true. Mayberry is fictitious."

Collins agreed, "most everyone knows that except maybe some of the rabid fans of the show, they believe it's real."

Today, people from all over the country visit Mount Airy to see Mayberry, but the connection did not happen automatically.

Collins continued, "I think a lot of the town fathers and the business owners got together and said, hey, you know, what about this Mayberry thing? Maybe we can do something with it, and businesses were born or reinvented. It's a little bizarre, isn't it?"

Koppel explained, "It went off the air more than 50 years ago. Yes sir, it captured a reality that never was true."

In fact, as Collins explained, "We are constantly looking at other ways that we could promote the community because we know the Mayberry generation won't be here forever. But now with streaming television Andy will be forever with us and we hope the younger generation will pick it up."

One visiting family explained they liked Mayberry so much because they could get clean comedy. "Yeah, good clean comedy with moral values. You don't see that a lot today in TV."

Another said that Mount Airy's real Snappy Lunch played a part even though it only got a few mentions on the TV show: "We drove

from Louisiana for the famous pork chop sandwich."

Another visitor explained, "I think the generations now long for that simplicity of the episodes of Andy being real with his son about stealing or doing the right thing and as a godless society that we see today is longing for simple life that when neighbors were neighbors and they provided for everybody else."

Koppel tried to measure the political views of a group of visitors on a trolley bus. When he asked if they thought the 2020 presidential election was fair, only two hands shot up.

One visitor explained, "We don't even watch news on TV. We don't feel like that we are being told the truth, and we found our truth in other ways, and I won't say what those other ways are, but I feel like we're not being told the truth because we're trying to be swayed in a direction that we know is not the right direction."

Another complained, "This conversation about politics is what people come here to get away from. We don't care what color you are. We don't care what your politics are. We just want to be good neighbors and treat everybody alike and that's why they're coming here."

If only Mayberry were real.

D.G. Martin, a lawyer, served as UNC-System's vice president for public affairs and hosted PBS-NC's North Carolina Bookwatch.

What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

VINFAST

Continued from page A1

U.S. 1, New Elam Church Road and Pea Ridge Road are necessary to facilitate access to the major industrial sites.

All told, NCDOT expects it will need to displace 27 homes, five businesses and relocate Merry Oaks Baptist Church for construction; the construction and related work is necessary to reroute roadways for the 2,150-acre Triangle Innovation Point site — the future location of VinFast and FedEx.

To ease access to the planned VinFast electric vehicle plant NCDOT wants to replace Exit 84 from U.S. 1 with a new interchange at New Elam Church Road, which would be relocated and extended over Old U.S. 1 into the site.

Kay Hinsley lives in the Merry Oaks community, just off Old U.S. 1. She says she's directly impacted by the construction. Her property is at the point where the road resurfacing and widening is slated to start, just off U.S. 1's Exit 84.

"This is definitely going to be an inconvenience," Hinsley said. "It's going to take part of my property to widen that road. It also impacts a church I went to for most of my life and I don't think that's right. I cannot believe they could not accommodate the needs of the local residents."

Hinsley believes Exit 84 serves a critical role in the community because of the church and the residents who

This is definitely going to be an inconvenience. It's going to take part of my property to widen that road. It also impacts a church I went to for most of my life and I don't think that's right. I cannot believe they could not accommodate the needs of the local residents.

KAY HINSLEY, Merry Oaks resident on NCDOT's construction plans for the VinFast site

live there. She said she's frustrated that the current maps didn't receive community input from those affected by the development and construction.

"These are families with generational land," Hinsley said. "We've seen this before with the U.S. 1 Bypass, which split my family farm in half. Then again with the Jordan Lake Dam, which unsettled residents. Now, this manufacturer is coming in."

Hinsley said she and her neighbors were shocked when they saw the proposed maps because nobody expected this level of interruption to the land to happen this fast. She first saw the maps just two weeks prior to the meeting, when the first public announcement of the input session was released.

The construction will take place in two phases. The first phase includes widening and resurfacing existing routes around the site including Christian Chapel Church Road, Pea Ridge Road, and Old U.S. 1.; it's expected to be completed by the summer of next year.

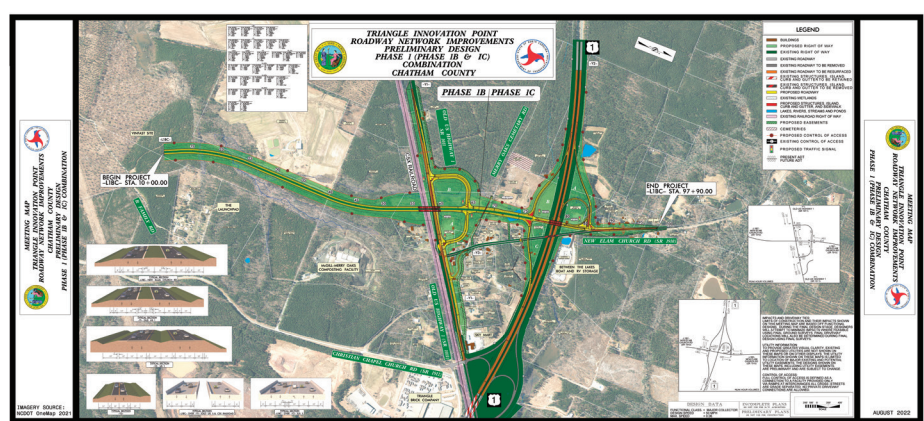
The first phase also includes widening New Elam Church Road from two lanes to a four-lane divided road from the

VinFast site to U.S. 1. That development will start in early 2023 and finish in spring 2024. The final part of the road widening, which includes building access roads to U.S. 1, is expected to be completed by the winter of 2025.

Phase two of the road construction by NCDOT, which includes improvements to the new access road from the VinFast site to U.S. 1 on Pea Ridge Road, does not have a definitive timeline right now; construction is tied to the creation of 3,875 jobs by VinFast. Chatham County and the state offered VinFast \$1.2 billion in tax incentives, including \$250 million for road improvements near the site.

"We want folks to see the plans as they are and make comments if they have any," said Harris Kay, NCDOT communications official. "A lot of people just want to understand this complex process and we get that. People want to know when they'll start to see the changes and what to do if they see the development will impact them directly."

Kay said if people are concerned about the project they should further engage with the public process because con-



Courtesy of N.C. Dept. of Transportation

N.C. Department of Transportation wants to replace Exit 84 from U.S. 1 with a new interchange at New Elam Church Road, which would be relocated and extended over old U.S. 1 into the site. This plan is being considered to ease access to the VinFast site.

struction plans are still incomplete. That means signing up for NCDOT mailing lists and submitting feedback through public forums or online at www.publicinput.com/Chatham-TIP-Road-Improvements.

NCDOT accepts comments throughout all phases of project development. Comments on this phase of project development are requested by Sept. 1.

After last week's input sessions, NCDOT says it will read through feedback, make necessary changes and evaluate how the project is being received by the public. After that process, Kay said if properties are still impacted then landowners will be directed to the NCDOT Right of Way Unit for land acquisition negotiations.

NCDOT said the existing highway system can't accommodate VinFast's needs in order to fulfill its promise of 7,500 jobs by 2027, which is why these roadway improvements need to be made. Colin Mellor, environmental policy official with NCDOT, said VinFast's timeline is aggressive and fast-paced, but NCDOT is working to accommodate it. The Vietnamese EV manufacturer has promised vehicles off the factory lines as soon as July 2024, but Mellor said it should be clear that timelines are tentative.

"Since the project was announced in March, we've hit the ground running," Mellor said.

"We believe that this is a reasonable timeframe but these things do take time. We aren't going to cut corners and will be sure to continue dotting all of our I's and crossing all of our T's"

Mellor said the benefits of the VinFast site won't be realized for several years, once the plant is fully operational. That's why he believes it is important to ensure all community voices are heard. He said while he can't guarantee anything, the NCDOT does take everyone's feedback into account and if there is enough commonality in the feedback, it will refine its road designs. After the meeting, he said comments will be analyzed in a spreadsheet and grouped for common concerns.

"We work to avoid right of way concerns as much as possible," Mellor said. "Unfortunately, it's often impossible to eliminate all of them. We want the input and we will address the concerns as best we can."

'Going to affect everybody'

Sheila Lassiter's family has lived in Moncure for three generations, and she said her neighbors have similar stories. She came to the meeting because she fears NCDOT and VinFast will disrupt the character of her community.

"We are used to Moncure being a small town where everybody knows everybody," Lassiter said.

"This place is going to be major and it's really unclear how it's going to affect everybody around me."

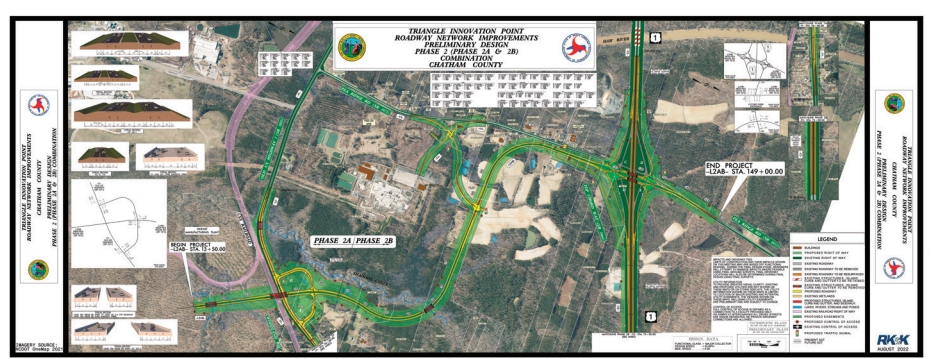
While the site plans don't cross directly through Lassiter's property, she believes her proximity to the facility will change her neighborhood. She believes small businesses and local communities in Moncure will suffer the most from this development, which she said isn't fair.

"People in Moncure have all been here forever," Lassiter said. "They don't deserve to have their properties taken or their small businesses taken just because a bigger business wants to come in. That shouldn't have to happen."

Lassiter said she understands it's difficult for Moncure to have the benefits of development while preserving the neighborhood, but that doesn't mean NCDOT and VinFast shouldn't try. She and many of her neighbors are scared right now because so much of the future remains up in the air.

"How can you ask for support from the community if you're coming in and taking from the community?" she said. "People shouldn't have to lose their place and their livelihood just so we can gain something they say is a bigger and better opportunity."

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b_rappaport.



Courtesy of the N.C. Dept. of Transportation

The second phase of construction, seen above, would create a new interchange at Exit 81 and turn Pea Ridge Road into a four-lane divided road leading to the VinFast plant.

MANAGER

Continued from page A1

with Raper to discuss his first few months on the job — his first day was back on May 16 — and get a sense of how he's responding to the town's challenges.

These questions and answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

You arrived at a busy time — you started work a day before the town's municipal election and in the midst of growth (and potential growth) that would put a strain any town and its administration. You have a new mayor (albeit a veteran member of the commission) and some other new faces. Can you make any comment on your and your board's approach to addressing all the challenges and opportunities the town has before it?

RAPER: I've gone around trying to talk with the staff, talk to members of the community and the board individually, trying to learn the community, learn the issues and challenges that we're facing before trying to take a lot of big initiatives, while also having to deal with a lot of challenges.

So it's been a lot going on, all at one time, but I think it's great. With just having had an election, it's new people coming on board. With new key staff hires that we've had and a new town manager, I think it's a great opportunity to hit the "reset button" with the strategic plan together and start the course for where we want to go as a team of the next few years.

We know the CAM site is poised and teed up for landing a tenant that will certainly change the landscape for Siler City. What's your long-term outlook for how a major company choosing to locate here might make significant

positive differences?

A company coming here brings an opportunity for that company to get involved as an organization itself to contribute to the needs of the community. Beyond that, any type of project that lands there would lead to opportunities to create jobs, which could lead to more housing opportunities in Siler City.

When we have additional housing and additional residents, that leads to secondary and tertiary levels of business growth, which can mean more service, jobs and opportunities, more restaurants, all those sorts of things.

There will be additional needed jobs to support the people who work at the CAM site. They're going to want things to do when they're not working — they're going to need assistance. That's going to be a need for additional schools, potentially; it all depends on what the growth pattern looks like. So that's a potential opportunity there.

You're looking at additional revenue for the town. It doesn't mean in any way a reduction of cost of service, but it does present the opportunity of allowing residents to revisit what types of services they want the town to provide.

One issue you're dealing with is the moratorium — what's the latest update on that?

We're actively working to get out from under it.

Our expectation is that we will have to enter something called a Special Order by Consent or an SOC, and that is basically a contractual agreement between DEQ and the town saying that we will agree to these things, which can exchange for relief from the moratorium. As long as we're continuing to make progress and compliance with the SOC, we will begin to be granted grace from the moratorium and also get us

out from under further penalties and fines. We're working through that process.

With the town working toward developing an SOC, what does that process look like and how long will it be before the moratorium is lifted?

The one question I can't answer is when it's time to get out from under the moratorium — that falls completely in the hands of the state.

I would prefer them to tell us, "These are the problems. We want you to correct these things and we'll let you have the moratorium." They're not that up front — instead of them telling us what to do, they want us to get a plan of what we plan to do.

I feel like that's a little backwards. They're the ones telling us we're under the moratorium, but that's their process. So that's why we're having to go through the business plan, because the business plan is essentially this is what we would do under an SOC should you accept it, and then you'd go through the legal process of drawing that up and negotiations beyond that. So they would have to choose to accept what we're proposing.

One change you recently suggested was splitting the town's public works and utilities department into two separate departments — how's that going?

That's going really well.

Chris McCorquodale, who was the director of works and utilities, is now the public utilities director. He's enjoying that role and having the opportunity to focus on water and sewer issues, which has been one of the major challenges that our city has faced in recent years. It gives him that opportunity to focus in that area and give it the attention that it deserves.

Cal Pettiford has worked for us as the Public Works director

for over a month now. He comes from Fayetteville, where he was the street superintendent and was responsible for overseeing all their street maintenance and paving projects for the city of Fayetteville. If I'm not mistaken, Fayetteville has the second most amount of lane miles of road of any municipality in the state — only Charlotte has more lane miles of road. So, we're gaining someone with 20 years of experience in that field. I'm very happy with his skill, expertise and ability that he brings to lead that initiative. I don't think the transition there could really have gone better than it has.

City hall has been seeing some renovation for some time now. What's the status of that?

I'll just say that the project is approximately 90% complete, but the license plate agency and the courtroom are significant areas of the town hall facility left to complete, along with completing HVAC work and the elevator.

The last date they gave us was Aug. 18, so obviously, that didn't happen. We'll have another monthly meeting, and they will give us an update.

What else is on your radar and your lists these days in terms of Siler City and its future?

We need help from the public, from the community and anyone who is interested in having a career in law enforcement. That is an ongoing struggle for our city. It's a problem across the nation, but it's really hitting us particularly.

Our salaries statewide are competitive, but within driving distance are so many places that are larger than us and certainly economically better off than Siler City. Due to that geographic market, we're not competitive. We may be competitive when it comes to other towns of our size

across the state, but we're not competitive with Greensboro or Chapel Hill or Durham.

The downside of that is ... there just aren't enough people going into the law enforcement career for the number of positions that are available.

The George Floyd incident and other incidences of misconduct and brutality by police have damaged the reputation of law enforcement across the entire country, particularly amongst the African American community.

We, as all municipalities, face increasing demand for community policing with a diverse collection of the community serving in law enforcement roles. We are struggling to meet that need. We have several vacancies now, and we have taken proactive steps to try to remedy the problem is just to this point. The problem has been greater than the resources we have to address it.

We have also made the decision to hire individuals as trainees to go through Basic Law Enforcement Training because we recognize that as someone may be interested in the law enforcement career — but they haven't gone through BLET. Because of that, we could not hire them. When they go through the BLET, they're snatched up by an agency who can pay more money. But we're trying to get ahead of that by hiring an individual as a trainee, paying them a salary while they go through that process. So this is giving us an opportunity to step in and help subsidize them while they go through this process.

Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III contributed reporting to this story.

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BEES

Continued from page A1

“By the time we’re done, we’ll have these stations all over the place.”

A pollinator garden — dubbed a “pollination station” by Jody Moore, the N.C. Master Beekeeper on the project — is intended to attract bees, butterflies, birds, moths and other insects with the goal of supporting pollinators by providing them a source of nectar and pollen.

The garden at the WRC has eight bee hives — each with 30,000 to 40,000 bees, depending on the time of the year — that have been shaped to mimic a hollow tree trunk. In addition to hives, Chatham Park has also implemented native pollinator condos like birdhouses for bees and other pollinators.

‘Little safe spaces’

The bees at both sites were raised by Moore, the owner of Rocky River Bee Farm and the former president of the Chatham County Beekeepers’ Association. Moore, who has been keeping bees since 2000, transported the bees from his 15-acre farm south of Pittsboro.

For Moore, beekeeping began as an “expensive hobby” but eventually turned into a full-time gig. More than a decade ago, he set up Rocky River Bee Farm; now, through the registered business, he raises bees, sells local honey, offers consultation services to local beekeepers and even performs bee extractions — the most recent was off the ledge of a roof at Mosaic a few weeks ago.

In the case of the Chatham Park pollination stations, Moore appreciates that native plants are being incorporated



Photo by Bill Oestereich

Honey bees hard at work in a hive at the Water Recovery Center’s pollination station in Pittsboro.

as a requirement into the gardens.

Honey bees also typically have a range of a couple miles from their hive, Moore said, a factor that was taken into consideration when planning the locations for the stations.

“It’s great that they’re given a chance for these pollinators that would otherwise just have been pretty much wiped out,” he said. “And it’s pretty cool that they’ve got these little safe spaces within the area to thrive.”

The idea for incorporating the stations into Chatham Park started even before the COVID-19 pandemic began, according to Oestereich. He said the pollination stations follow along with a set of core beliefs at Chatham Park — namely the idea of “stewardship.”

“We wanted to see if in a project as large as Chatham Park, where

we’re developing almost 8,000 acres, if we could do something on a large scale that would make a difference with pollinators and honeybees,” Oestereich said.

Bees as pollinators

One in every three bites of food a person takes is because of the work of pollinators, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And within that group, honey bee colonies managed by humans are the primary pollinators, responsible for increasing the country’s crop values annually by more than \$15 billion.

Managing honey bee colonies is no easy task. Rocky River Bee Farm has about a dozen bee yards across the county, and Moore pays regular visits to each.

In the spring, he goes into the hives every seven days to make sure the bees aren’t swarming — a

natural process in which a honey bee colony reproduces to split into more colonies, but something that beekeepers try to avoid because the bees often don’t survive due to lack of forage or being overcome by pests, and because they may take up residence in someone’s home.

During a visit to the WRC’s pollination station, Moore carefully pulled out frames in one of the hives to show the honey bees at work.

The drones and worker bees remained clustered closely together, but were clearly busy, crawling up and down the plastic honeycomb foundation to fulfill their duties. An onlooker would be able to spot larvae, tucked like little grains of rice in cells (the only one to remain hidden was the elusive queen bee).

In spending time out in the garden with Moore, it’s clear he was in his element, rattling off facts about bees and answering what were probably elementary-level questions with a never-ending supply of patience. But it’s also clear he has a great deal of respect for the pollinators.

“Going into a hive, and just to understand how much goes on in there, and that it’s all coordinated — there’s so many individuals, but, ‘Wow, they work as a single unit,’” he said. “It’s really mind-blowing. And the more you learn about them, the more you realize what you don’t know.”

A tricky time

At the moment, the bees are in a summer dearth, a dry period between spring and fall flowers in which there is a shortage of nectar sources.

Late summer is a tricky time to be a beekeeper, Moore said, because he’ll need to maintain enough food for the bees, manage high mite counts and ensure the bees being raised now are strong enough to raise the bees that have to survive through the winter.

Rebekah Gunn, a veterinary pathologist and the president of the Chatham County Beekeepers Association, said two of the biggest challenges faced by honey bees are varroa mites and a lack of forage.

The mites, first identified in North Carolina in 1980, have contributed significantly to cutting back honey bee populations in the state, according to the N.C. Cooperative Extension. The red-brown parasites have decimated wild honey bee colonies.

Moore uses organic treatments in his colonies, implementing “Integrated Pest Management” with the Chatham Park hives. IPM is applied through multiple tactics to target pests and minimize risks, keeping sustainability and effectiveness in mind, the N.C. Cooperative Extension states.

When it comes to a lack of forage, Gunn said honey bees are “phenomenal” at regulating their own environment inside a hive, but they still need food, regardless of where in the country they might be located.

“I mean, it doesn’t matter if you’re a bee in Alaska, or you’re a bee in Florida, or you’re a bee in North Carolina, or any other pollinator — you need a food source,” Gunn said.

On an individual scale, she said people don’t often realize that their green manicured lawns or knockout rose bushes — common in many suburban front yards — have no nutritional value to pollinators (and in the case of lawns, have plenty of harmful chemicals).

Instead, Gunn recommends growing native plants, which offer forage and support to pollinators.

Pollinator gardens also provide a greater awareness to the public, she believes.

“It’s amazing to me to watch the quote-unquote ‘general public’ or non-beekeepers walking out at Chatham Mills [which has its own pollinator garden],” she said. “They walk past a plant that’s full of things like paper wasps and honey bees, and all kinds of other things that out of context might elicit a fear response in people, but yes, they see them on these beautiful flowers and they’re not scary. And so I think then that people begin to have this awareness about pollinators around us.”

For people looking to keep bees, it’s important to be aware of the work involved and to provide regular maintenance to the colonies, she said. From overharvesting honey to keeping too many bees in one spot, Gunn said there’s little sometimes done in managing bees “that’s actually what bees would prefer to do.”

“More and more people are getting into it, which is both good and bad,” she said.

Ultimately, it’s crucial to keep in mind native pollinators and a balance of quantity with quality when it comes to managing honey bees, she said.

Pollinator gardens

In designing the WRC pollinator garden, the landscape architects on the project pulled a great deal of information produced by the N.C. Cooperative Extension, Oestereich said.

Debbie Roos is an agricultural extension agent with the Chatham County Center of N.C. Cooperative Extension. Moore calls her the “go-to person” in the area when it comes to pollinator gardens.

Roos, who began working on a pollinator garden at Chatham Mills in Pittsboro more than 14 years ago, now has over 225 species of pollinator plants in the demonstration garden, which is maintained by volunteers and is open to visitors for tours. Her website, growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu, has resources on everything from apiculture and pollinator conservation to pest management and crop production.

Roos was part of early conversations about the pollination stations across Chatham Park, but wasn’t involved in the development of the project. She said she’s glad to see Chatham Park put in the gardens.

“Absolutely, I mean, if they’re building out all these places, we want them to be able to ben-

efit wildlife, especially considering they had to take down habitat to put Chatham Park in,” Roos said.

She also emphasized the educational aspect of pollination gardens. The past 15 years of her work in this area has largely been working towards one goal: to empower people, whether it’s on an individual or large scale, to incorporate native and pollinator plants into their environments.

“So that’s the idea of it, is looking at how we can help,” Roos said. “Even in urban settings, whether it’s your backyard or in a natural area, or downtown Pittsboro, how we can provide floral resources, nesting resources, shelter, protection from pesticides, of course is important, and how we can provide all of that for pollinators.”

Anyone can make a difference to support pollinators, she said.

“It doesn’t have to be huge, you can make a difference by planting milkweeds in your yard to help monarchs, that kind of thing,” Roos said.

Similarly, Moore said there are several things homeowners can do to assist pollinators: planting different types of native plants (like fruit trees, ornamentals and flower gardens), avoiding pesticides or restricting use to the late evenings, and keeping a bird bath.

“You’d be amazed how many honey bees you could draw to a bird-bath,” he said. “And that really does help them this time of year.”

Eventually, the WRC plans to host educational tours of the center and the pollination station. In the past year, Oestereich said they were able to harvest 248 pounds of honey from the hives, which they’ve given out at realtor events and to business associates. At some point, Chatham Park developers may sell the honey that was harvested from the hives, but Oestereich said they also want to avoid being in competition with Moore.

Preston Development is also in talks with Strata Solar to potentially install Chatham Park’s third pollination station.

Oestereich, who worked closely with Moore on the project, said he didn’t have such an intimate knowledge of honey bees prior to the program as he does now. Over time, the bees have become “[his] family.”

It seems like the goal for visitors to Chatham Park’s gardens is to develop a similar appreciation for the pollinators around them.

“It’s a never-ending sense of wonder,” Moore said. “It’s this really fascinating thing.”

Reporter *Maydha Devarajan* can be reached at mdevarajan@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @ [maydhadevarajan](https://twitter.com/maydhadevarajan).



Photo by Bill Oestereich

N.C. Master Beekeeper Jody Moore pulls out a frame from one of the Water Recovery Center’s hives in Pittsboro.

Look Past These Life Insurance Myths

Most people recognize the need for life insurance – but many of them still don’t have it. Why?

People offer a variety of rationales for remaining uninsured. But these reasons may just be myths. Here are a few of them:

- “I’m single (or married with no children), so I don’t need life insurance.” Even if you’re single, you may still have financial obligations that could be met by life insurance proceeds if something happened to you. Perhaps you have taken out some loans with a co-signer who would be on the hook for the balance, or maybe you have a business partner who might be in trouble without your resources. And if you’re married but don’t have children, you’d still want to provide support for your spouse, particularly if student loans or a mortgage is involved.

- “Life insurance is too expensive.” Different types of insurance carry different costs. If you purchase permanent insurance, such as whole life or universal life, your premiums are paying for a death benefit and a savings component. Consequently, this type of policy is more expensive than term insurance, which just provides a death benefit for a certain number of years. Term insurance is usually quite affordable, and, generally speaking, the younger you are, the less expensive the policy – and, of course, you can shop around for the best rates.

- “I get enough life insurance through my employer.” Many employers do offer life insurance as an employee benefit, but there are two possible issues with this coverage. First, it may be for a minimal amount and not enough for your needs, especially if you have several dependents. And second, an employer’s life insurance policy is not necessarily portable – if you leave your job, you might lose your coverage.
- “I have a pre-existing condition, so I’m sure

I couldn’t get life insurance.” Some pre-existing conditions don’t automatically disqualify you from getting life insurance, although you might end up paying higher premiums than someone without any health issues. In any case, it’s a good idea to look at what various companies might offer, as insurers use somewhat different underwriting processes and may view pre-existing conditions differently.

- “Insurers don’t want to pay out the proceeds.” Actually, there’s a fairly straightforward process for paying out death benefits. Your beneficiaries must file a claim and submit the death certificate – and that’s about it. An insurer must have a strong reason to deny a claim, and, in fact, the company is typically motivated to pay as soon as possible to avoid incurring interest charges for delayed payments.

Don’t let any of these myths deter you from obtaining life insurance. Then, when you’re ready to act, you’ll need to ask some questions: How much coverage do I need? Should I get term or permanent insurance? How should I designate my beneficiaries? You may want to work with a financial professional to determine the type and amount of insurance you need. Once you’ve gotten your coverage in place, you’ll know that you’ve done what you could to help protect your loved ones – and that’s no myth.

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

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM JAMES 'WHEEL' PHILLIPS



August 24, 1953 ~ August 18, 2022
William James "Wheel" Phillips, 68, of Bear Creek, was called home to be with his Lord on August 18, 2022. He was born on August 24, 1953, a native of Chatham County, N.C. Wheel was a 1971 graduate of Chatham Central High School and a graduate of Wake Technical Community College. A faithful Christian, he was a member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Bear Creek.

Wheel was a self-employed carpenter. He was always there to lend others a helping hand. He built a log home with his own hands from the ground up for he and his wife. Wheel enjoyed his workshop and gardening with his Farmall tractor. He enjoyed fishing and loved to hike in the Great Smokey Mountains. He loved hiking to waterfalls and especially the one in Valle Crucis. A kind a gentle soul, he loved to spend time with friends and family. Wheel and his wife Lynn were passionate over their nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his father James Madison Phillips.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Patricia Edwards "Lynn" Phillips; mother, Shirley Austin Phillips; siblings, Cathy Phillips Brewer and husband Samuel, Beckie Phillips Spivey and husband Danny, and Darrell Phillips; brother-in-law, Allen Edwards and wife Robette; nieces and nephews, Shalon Matthews, Bristin Brewer (Ashley), Haley Phillips, Sumner Reaves (Andrew), Daniel Spivey (Brooks), Stephanie Edwards, Perry Spivey (Tammy), and Wesley Spivey (Heather); and 10 great-nieces and nephews.

The family received friends on Tuesday August 23, 2022, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City. A funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at Smith & Buckner Chapel. Rev. David Hicks and Daniel Spivey will share tributes to Wheel, and Rev. Darrell Garner will officiate the service. Burial followed at Hickory Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, 17721 N.C. Hwy 902, Bear Creek.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hickory Grove Baptist Church.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Phillips family.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithbuckner-fh.com

We will send our love to Wheel as he celebrates his 69th birthday with his Heavenly Father this Wednesday, and what a celebration that will be!

CHARLES JAMES CALDWELL

February 19, 1944 ~ August 17, 2022
Charles James Caldwell, 78, of Siler City, passed away on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at UNC Hospitals.

Mr. Caldwell was born in Bryson City, on February 19, 1944, the son of Pauline Caldwell. Charles held many jobs throughout his life, from his time as a manager with Service Distributors, working for Selig Manufacturing, then retiring after years as a repairman with Baird Sales. He later became the owner of Caldwell Lawn Mower Repair Shop, where he took pride in his work. Charles was a member of Community Baptist Church in Siler City. He was a homebody who loved watching cowboy movies on the television. He enjoyed going on trips to the mountains. In addition to his mother, Charles is preceded in death by his wife, Betty Lineberry Caldwell; and daughter, Patsy Watson.

He is survived by his daughter, Brenda Lipofski of Siler City; grandchildren, David, William, Jessica, Katie and Thomas; great-grandson, Billy; brother, Francis Caldwell of Siler City; and son-in-law, Ray Watson.

The family received friends on Friday, August 19, 2022, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, and other times at the home of his daughter, Brenda. A funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 20, 2022, at Community Baptist Church, 2575 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City, with Pastor Mark Agan officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Caldwell family.

Online condolences may be made at www.smithbuckner-fh.com.

He was born in Queens County, N.Y., son of the late John Brice and Henrietta Hulse Brice. George served as an Ordained Minister of the Good Shepherd Baptist Church. He served his country in the U.S. Navy. Rev. Brice was preceded in death by his first wife Betty Jean Brice; brothers, John and Robert Brice; and a sister, Henrietta Soogoff.

He is survived by his wife, Libby Reading Brice of the home; sons, Bill Winfree Brice of Greenville, Ricky Brice of Sanford; daughters, Cindy White of Hope Mills, Jackie Bauer of Fayetteville, Karen Anderson of Charleston; sister Elmira Petersen of Concord; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

HAZEL BISHOP GRIFFITH

April 11, 1934 ~ August 18, 2022

Hazel Bishop Griffith, 88, of Siler City, went to be with her Heavenly Father on Thursday, August 18, 2022.

The family received friends on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at Fellowship Baptist Church. A funeral service followed at 2 p.m. at the church with Rev. Jason Golden officiating. Burial will be at the church cemetery.

Mrs. Griffith was born in Green County, Georgia, the daughter of Melvin and Leila King Bishop. She was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir, taught Ladies Sunday School Class, and was the assistant piano and organ player. She spent her working years as a teacher for special needs classes at the community college. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her son, Brian Griffith; and several brothers and sisters.

Hazel is survived by her husband of 66 years, Rev. Robert "Bob" A. Griffith; children, Douglas Griffith of Asheboro, and Krista Blackburn of Kokomo, Indiana; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and brothers, Jack Bishop of Hull, Georgia, and Gerald Bishop of Buckhead, Georgia.

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

GARY BROOKS FAIRLEY JR.

Gary Brooks Fairley Jr., 52, of Southern Pines, passed away on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at Mt. Calvary Church of God with burial following in the church's cemetery.

ODESSA FREZZELL (HARRIS) PARTRIDGE

December 5, 1920 ~ August 20, 2022

Mrs. Odessa Harris Partridge, 101, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, August 20, 2022, at Sanford Health and Rehab.

ROSA MICHELLE ANDREWS

January 5, 1979 ~ August 19, 2022

Rosa Michelle Andrews, 43, of Pittsboro, passed away on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

FREDERICK 'ROD' RODRIKER MURDOCK

October 29, 1965 ~ August 17, 2022

Frederick "Rod" Rodriker Murdock, 56, of Bear Creek, passed away on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at his home.

DESHAUN QUANTE BROOKS

July 13, 1994 ~ August 13, 2022

DeShaun Quante Brooks, 28, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, August 13, 2022.

REV. GEORGE FRANKLIN BRICE

March 4, 1935 ~ August 16, 2022

Rev. George Franklin Brice, 87, of Cameron, passed away Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at his home.

A funeral service was held Friday, August 19, 2022, at 3 p.m. at Good Shepherd Baptist Church with Chaplain Randy Beasley officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery with full military rites.

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

As vacancies boom, international teachers may be a solution

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

From Bangkok, Thailand, to Margaret Pollard Middle School, Francis Salmazan has seen a lot in his time as an international teacher.

He's entering his fifth year as an 8th grade science teacher at Pollard and he says teaching there has been almost like a dream come true.

"Before I left college, I knew working in the U.S. was something I always wanted to do," he said.

Salmazan grew up in Tarlac, in the Philippines, before spending 10 years as a teacher in Bangkok. He says he's loved seeing the world through the eyes of young people, exploring the culture and getting to teach students about his own home.

In Chatham County Schools, Salmazan is one of 53 international teachers. It's a figure that only continues to grow year after year. In fact, North Carolina leads the nation in international teachers and the number has quadrupled in the past decade. The boom in international teachers may be a solution to workforce shortages that have hurt the county and the state.

According to an analysis by WRAL-TV, North Carolina has allocated \$121.4 million in this year's budget to pay international teachers, six times what it did a decade ago. That funding is why international teachers now make up more than 2% of the total teachers in the state, and 8.5% in CCS.



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

International Teacher Coach JoAnna Massoth (left) poses with Chatham County Schools international teachers Shirley Rojas, Jacqueline Aguiluz, Sandra Rincon and Francis Salmazan in front of the CCS administrative office in Pittsboro.

Salmazan is able to teach in CCS through a J-1 visa, which allows exchange visitor programs between countries. The visa lasts three years, but is frequently extended by two years if the teachers meet performance goals.

At the conclusion of this school year, Salmazan will have to return to the Philippines because his visa will expire.

He wound up finding Pollard through a North Carolina-based international teachers company called Educational Partners International (EPI). The company helps teachers file visa papers, find housing and other basic needs in their new schools and help identify jobs they're qualified for.

EPI is one of several programs utilized by CCS. Others include the Chapel Hill-based company Participate Learning, which is how Siler City Elementary 2nd grade teacher Sandra Rincon ended up in CCS.

"We came here to teach the students, but it's more fulfilling than I could've imagined," Rincon said.

Rincon is from Colombia and teaches at a dual language school, meaning half the education is in Spanish. She said bringing her culture into the classroom has helped the students grow.

"I have a student who entered 2nd grade not knowing any Spanish, even though her family is Hispanic," she said. "By the end of the year, her mom called me and said she was finally able to speak to her grandma — that's more important than any lesson I could teach, because that's going to last forever."

Rincon said especially at her school, which has a high Hispanic population, she can be an asset because she connects students back to their cultural roots in Latin America. She said international teachers are given the freedom to in-

fuse their home cultures into lesson plans through dances, presentations and holidays.

"We provide a unique mindset," Rincon said. "We can teach culture as part of the curriculum or teach the curriculum as part of the culture."

That kind of impact and cultural awareness is something CCS sees as a major benefit to its students and it's why the district continues to bring in international teachers. JoAnna Massoth is an international teachers coach with CCS. She's seen firsthand the benefits of increasing international teachers in the district.

"I started doing this work in 2018 and I had 10 dual language teachers," Massoth said. "Last year, I had 46 international and dual language teachers and there are even more in the county."

Massoth helps supplement the role of the companies by assisting with housing and helping

the international teachers get acclimated with specific cultural challenges in CCS.

While the growth in international teachers has overall been successful, it isn't without its challenges. Those challenges have been exacerbated by COVID-19 and the rapid growth in the county. Massoth and teachers both said helping teachers find housing and transportation became much harder this year due to rising costs in both markets.

"Last year, it was a nightmare to find a car or make the necessary paperwork appointments we needed," Rincon said. "It was not easy for us."

Massoth said these challenges are likely short term and caused by the immediate fallout from COVID-19. Overall, she believes the district will be able to continue growing its international teacher program, and the state supports them doing so.

CCS recently announced it was adding three more international teachers from Colombia ahead of the new school year to help at Jordan-Matthews High

School. The district is able to support international teachers through Massoth and an additional coach, which is something that most districts don't have.

North Carolina had the most new J-1 visas last year, with 830 new visas for teachers. Each year, North Carolina receives about one in five to six of the new visas granted.

With fewer people graduating from N.C. college teaching programs, the state is looking at international teachers to help fill the need. According to federal data, 4,228 students completed a North Carolina teaching program in 2020, down 36% from 2012.

"As an international teacher you're already different from others," Massoth said. "We want to support creating a community here for them to thrive. When we do that we really help the district, these teachers and most importantly the students be more prepared to be global citizens."

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b_rappaport.

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Mountaire plant overwhelming Siler City's wastewater facility

State imposes moratorium for chronic noncompliance, levies fines

BY LISA SORG
N.C. Policy Watch

SILER CITY — Downstream from the Siler City wastewater treatment plant, sickness had beset the Rocky River.

At least 30 fish, including the Eastern shiner and some species of chub, “were observed with lesions and appeared stressed,” Tim Savidge, an environmental scientist, wrote in his field notes to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. “Gasping, irregular swimming, etc.”

On that cloudy, warm day last October, Savidge, who works for Three Oaks Engineering, and his team were conducting a freshwater mussels survey when he observed an even more disturbing phenomenon. “Large concentrations of poultry organs, gizzards, intestines, hearts,” he wrote, were played over the river bottom and at the base of the banks where the water level was low.

“It was too much for fish bait,” Savidge told Policy Watch. “And it wasn’t concentrated in one place. As we were moving up the river, we’d see eight or nine parts, then another pile. It seemed kind of unusual.”

The provenance of the chicken parts is unknown. Mountaire’s poultry processing facility is also upstream from where the entrails were found. A company spokeswoman told Policy Watch that “no one from the town or the state have been in contact with us about it. We do not discharge chicken parts to the town’s wastewater facility.”

Siler City’s wastewater treatment plant is an unlikely source for the organs — they would not pass through the filter system — but it could be responsible for the sick fish. Since 2019, the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality has cited the plant for nearly 80 violations, including exceedances for fecal coliform, nitrogen, ammonia and aquatic toxicology standards.

In just the last two years, DEQ has fined Siler City more than \$118,000 related to these and other violations. The plant has been designated by the EPA as a “significant non-complier.”

Many of the violations stem from the effluent the wastewater treatment plant receives from Mountaire, one of the largest poultry processors in the nation. Since the facility opened three years ago, it has sent more than 1 million gallons of effluent per day to the plant. In turn, the plant discharges treated wastewater into Loves Creek, which feeds the Rocky River less than a half-mile downstream.

“Mountaire is bombarding them with waste,” said Connie



Photo by Lisa Sorg

Mountaire, a poultry processing plant in Siler City in Chatham County, is a main contributor to the town's wastewater plant, which has been cited by the state for nearly 80 water quality violations since 2019.

Allred, a founder of the environmental group Friends of the Rocky River. She lives in Siler City, along the waterway. “Mountaire makes money on the back of the environment, public health and safety.”

Siler City’s attempts to rein in pollution from Mountaire has far-reaching environmental, public health and economic ramifications: Parts of the Rocky River and Loves Creek are on the federally impaired waters list because aquatic habitats have been damaged. People also use these waterways for kayaking, wading and fishing. Farther downstream, the Rocky River joins the Deep and the Haw to form the headwaters of the Cape Fear River, the drinking water supply for the city of Sanford.

In May, conditions at the Siler City wastewater treatment plant and in its discharge were so severe and the violations so chronic, that DEQ imposed a statutory moratorium on new sewer connections. (See Q&A with Town Manager Hank Raper, page A1.)

No new housing developments can tap in. No new industry, including a computer chip maker that state lawmakers are trying to woo with \$57.5 million in incentives in the most recent state budget. No new connections for prospective tenants of the Chatham-Siler City megasite.

Of the 120 wastewater treatment plants under DEQ’s purview, just nine have a statutory moratorium.

As for the mystery of the dying fish and sundry poultry parts, it remains unsolved.

Savidge said he called DEQ’s Raleigh Regional Office and left a message on the same day that he spotted the problem, last Oct. 4. No one called him back, he said. A DEQ spokeswoman said the agency has no record of the call. Wildlife Resources didn’t learn of the problem until April, when Savidge entered his field notes.

By then, the evidence was gone.

When Mountaire announced it would buy the former Townsend processing plant in 2016, Siler City officials rejoiced. The town’s economic fortunes had suffered after two chicken slaughterhouses — Townsend and Pilgrim’s Pride — had closed.

Buoyed by \$1.5 million in incentives from Chatham County and \$800,000 from Siler City, Mountaire would create more than 1,250 jobs and contribute millions of dollars to the region’s economy, the company said in a press release when the plant opened in April 2019.

“To be good stewards of all the assets God has entrusted to us is part of our Mountaire creed,” company executive vice president Dee Ann English said at the time.

(While English was lauding the company’s stewardship, Mountaire was facing a class-action suit in Delaware over groundwater contamination; the company last year agreed to pay \$65 million to settle the litigation. A separate federal consent decree requires Mountaire to spend \$140 million to upgrade and maintain its treatment plant.)

In Siler City, behind the scenes, town officials and state regulators knew that Mountaire, in slaughtering 1.4 million birds each week, would significantly increase pollutant loads — nitrogen, ammonia, phosphorus and fecal coliform — to the wastewater treatment plant, which was ill-equipped to handle them.

Officials also expected that without a wastewater treatment plant capable of removing or significantly reducing levels of these contaminants, they would enter — and harm — Loves Creek and downstream waters.

“Allowing the town’s nitrogen load to rise for the next three to four years is less than ideal,” wrote Linda Culpepper, then the director of the Division of Water Resources, in 2019. “Allowing it to exceed historic levels is not acceptable. We cannot ignore predicted increases in nitrogen loads [that will happen] until upgrades are complete.”

One of the many pollutants leaving Mountaire and the wastewater treatment plant, Total Nitrogen is of particular concern. There are many types of nitrogen, such as ammonia, nitrates and nitrites. Total Nitrogen is the sum of those types. High levels are toxic to fish, mussels and, in some cases, even humans.

Siler City’s wastewater treatment plant had always struggled with Total Nitrogen, which for years had regularly polluted Loves Creek. Only after Townsend and Pilgrim’s Pride closed, and Total Nitrogen loads from those operations stopped, did contaminant levels in Loves Creek drop — by 70% — state records show.

Nonetheless, Siler City didn’t require Mountaire to install pretreatment equipment that would have reduced the amount entering the wastewater treatment plant. It was an expense the company could have well afforded: Mountaire’s gross revenues in 2019 were \$2.1 billion; last year they increased to \$2.4 billion.

Instead, the town’s wastewater treatment plant, funded by taxpayer dollars, has borne the burden of removing the contaminants.

Only last year did Siler City limit the amount of Total Nitrogen that could leave the Mountaire facility. DEQ has also capped how much Total Nitrogen the wastewater treatment plant can discharge into Loves Creek, but the amounts are still astronomical: 182,646 pounds per year through Dec. 31.

Once the wastewater treatment is upgraded — a year and half behind schedule — its annual Total Nitrogen discharge will be limited to 54,800 pounds in 2025.

To meet those benchmarks Mountaire will have to limit its nitrogen as well. Cathy Bassett, a company spokeswoman, told Policy Watch in an email that “we consistently look at ways to improve our sustainability efforts and are in the midst of designing a wastewater system upgrade.”

However, nitrogen isn’t the only pollutant harming Loves Creek and the Rocky River. Siler City’s wastewater treatment plant has consistently blown past its average weekly and monthly limits for several other contaminants. This includes exceedances of 1,220% for ammonia and 1,093% for fecal coliform, bacteria that is found in human and animal waste, according to EPA data.

As recently as July 25, DEQ again cited the wastewater treatment plant for violating its “duty to mitigate” pollutants earlier this spring. Siler City could be fined as much as \$25,000 per day.

If DEQ fines Siler City even a portion of that amount, the total penalties assessed since 2019 could approach \$200,000. That is nearly twice the amount — \$105,000 — the town spent on the first phase of the wastewater

treatment plant upgrade, town records show.

“For Siler City, the fines don’t seem to be a deterrent,” Allred of the Friends of the Rocky River said. “And Siler City has to work with Mountaire, so having an adversarial position with them is problematic. This used to be the state’s responsibility. Now it’s the town’s.”

Local governments are in a difficult spot. DEQ issues discharge permits to, and regulates, wastewater treatment plants. The governments are responsible for regulating their industrial customers.

Yet industrial customers actually have the upper hand. They pay fees and taxes that help local governments stay afloat. They create jobs, even low-paying and physically demanding ones, like those at Mountaire. For a small and low-wealth town like Siler City, they must penalize the very entities on which their economic well-being depends.

Siler City town records filed with DEQ show wastewater treatment plant officials did cite Mountaire for eight violations unrelated to nitrogen in 2021. No fines were listed in the town’s annual report to DEQ.

However, Siler City gave Mountaire a pass on several other violations. DEQ cited the town last year for failing to enforce pollutant limits on the company, records show. The town failed to determine that Mountaire was “in significant noncompliance.” Nor did it penalize the company, a violation of town’s permit, according to DEQ records.

This spring, the company failed to notify wastewater treatment plant staff that it changed its disinfectant from bleach to peroxide. When peroxide entered the treatment plant, it killed all the beneficial microorganisms that help break down the waste, state records show. “Mixed liquor” — raw wastewater and activated sludge that are key to the treatment process — “turned septic,” state records say.

Wastewater treatment plant superintendent Brittany York wrote to DEQ this month that utilities officials had “discovered” Mountaire had also been sending high amounts of chlorine to the facility. The town has since asked the company to begin monitoring and decrease its levels of chlorine in the discharge.

“No one is fixing the problem,” said Blakely Hildebrand, an attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center. SELC represented the Friends of Rocky River

in contesting the wastewater treatment plant’s discharge permit. “It’s a vicious cycle with a lot of finger-pointing.”

In written correspondence with DEQ, Siler City officials regularly explain why the wastewater treatment plant continues to violate the law. All of it speaks to a wastewater treatment plant on the brink.

Planned upgrades are 18 months behind schedule. The town has justified the delays based on pandemic-related supply chain disruptions and other “unforeseen circumstances,” according to state records, and won’t be finished until December 31, 2024.

When finished, the improved plant will accept 6 million gallons of wastewater per day, up from the current 4 million gallon per day limit, and will include other pollutant controls, at an estimated cost of \$21 million, according to 2019 board of commissioners minutes.

Siler City has cobbled together enough to cover the cost of the plant upgrade and other sewer system improvements: a total of \$9.6 million in grants from the Golden Leaf Foundation, the state Department of Commerce, Chatham County, a state budget allocation and the USDA. The town also received a \$14.5 million low-interest loan from the USDA, board minutes show.

Not all of the money has yet been released. For example, the Golden Leaf Foundation has not yet given Siler City the \$2 million award to the WWTP, according to a foundation spokeswoman. Funds are available for improvements and expansion of the facility which will include engineering and construction expenses.

Chatham County Commissioner Diana Hales, who lives in Siler City along the Rocky River, said she is “very troubled by the number of violations” that led to the moratorium, both from an environmental perspective and an economic one. “The investment that the state and town is about to make at the megasite — it could jeopardize a tenant choosing to locate there.”

[Editor’s note: Siler City officials told the News + Record the town has been in close contact with the state environmental department regarding wastewater treatment plans and has taken immediate action to aggressively address water treatment needs over the next 90 days. In a statement provided to the newspaper, the town says its action plan has an aggressive timeline of 90 days and will optimize performance of the Siler City WWTP and the Siler City Water Treatment Plant.

“We are confident that these combined actions will achieve compliance with regulations,” the statement said. “We have, and will continue to meet frequently with state regulators to work through requirements for lifting the moratorium. State regulators have recommended a short term action plan to implement operational improvements and capital improvements which is expected to provide a clear path forward to remove restrictions and provide certainty to our economic partners.”]

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 417

All persons having claims against **HARVEY LLOYD BROWER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 1st day of August, 2022. Susan Belle Brown Sloan, Executrix 347 S. 2nd Avenue Siler City, NC 27344 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 420

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **J. WAYNE STROWD**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at his address, 4041 Mt. Gilead Church Road, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before

the 4th day of November, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 27th day of July, 2022. John Wayne Strowd, Jr. 4041 Mt. Gilead Church Road Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC P.O. Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **TERRY R. THALMAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to John G. Kelso, Esq., Van Winkle, Buck, Wall, Starnes and Davis, P.A., Attorneys-at-Law, 11 North Market Street, Asheville, NC 28801, on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. Patricia A. Thalman, Executor Estate of Terry R. Thalman John G. Kelso, Esq., Van Winkle, Buck, Wall, Starnes and Davis, P.A., Attorneys-at-Law 11 North Market Street Asheville, NC 28801 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 416

All persons having claims against **SHELIA ASHLEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 1st day of August, 2022. Misty Squires Peeler, Executrix 197 Gallup Rd. Chapel Hill, N.C. 27517 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **LYMAN DARDEN JARMAN**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina,

this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 29th day of July, 2022. Pamela Joyce Jarman, Executor of The Estate of Lyman Darden Jarman 3165 W. Third Street Siler City, North Carolina 27344 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE Attorneys at Law Box 1806 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 (919) 542-5605 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executrix of the Estate of **WADE HERMAN PHILLIPS** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 29th day of July, 2022. Heather B. Doucette, Executrix of The Estate of Wade Herman Phillips 822 Fitts Street Sanford, North Carolina 27330 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE Attorneys at Law Box 1806 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 (919) 542-5605 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executrix of the Estate of **MARTHA LOIS SMITH PHILLIPS** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This the 29th day of July, 2022. Heather B. Doucette, Executrix of The Estate of Martha Lois Smith Phillips 822 Fitts Street Sanford, North Carolina 27330 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE Attorneys at Law BOX 1806 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 (919) 542-5605 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, Thomas William Andrew and David Herbert Andrew, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **RUTH THAMES ANDREW**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 4th day of August, 2022. Thomas William Andrew 14108 Flint Rock Road Rockville, MD 20853 1-301-455-3027 David Herbert Andrew 975 Melody Lane Roswell, GA 30075 1-770-371-6077 W. Ben Atwater, Jr. Moody, Williams, Atwater & Lee P.O. Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2850 benatwater@chathamlawfirm.com Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, Steve Clark Phillips, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **SUSAN SILER PHILLIPS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate pay-

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ment to the undersigned. This the 4th day of August, 2022.

Steven Clark Phillips 7431 Silk Hope Liberty Road Siler City, NC 27344 1-336-622-4963 W. Ben Atwater, Jr., Attorney Moody, Williams, Atwater & Lee P.O. Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2850 benatwater@chathamlawfirm.com Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executrix of **BERTHA FOY RIDDLE MANN**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms or corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at Amy Mann Meacham, 134 Riddle Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312, on or before the 9th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please

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make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 1st day of August, 2022. Amy M. Meacham, Executrix of the Estate of Bertha Foy Riddle Mann 134 Riddle Rd Pittsboro NC 27312 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 413

All persons having claims against **GERALD HARVARD BARKSKY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 1st day of August, 2022. Barbara Barsky, Executor 719 Birstall Dr. Cary, NC 27519 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 408

All persons having claims against **DERRY EDWARD MATTHEWS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 1st day of August, 2022. Hilda Lauretta Ewald Mat-thews, Executrix 16140 U.S. Hwy 421 South,

Sanford, NC 27330 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 390

All persons having claims against **JAMES ERVIN DIXON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 1st day of August, 2022. Stuart Lee Dixon, Executor 99 Runa Ct. Pittsboro, NC 27312 Au4,Au11,Au18,Au25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, having qualified on the 28th day of July, 2022, as Executor of the Estate of **DONNA MARIA LLOYD** aka Donna M. Lloyd, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of November, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 11th day of August, 2022. Kelly D. Farrell, Executor Donna Maria Lloyd aka Donna M. Lloyd c/o J Alan Campbell LawcPO

Box 850 Hillsborough, NC 27278 Au11,Au18,Au25,S1,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Estate of Kearney Hill Andrews FILE NO. 22 E 405

All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against **KEARNEY HILL ANDREWS**, deceased, Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of November, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 11th day of August, 2022. Clara Perry, Executor NC Estate Solutions PO Box 3006 Raleigh, NC 27602 Au11,Au18,Au25,S1,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Estate of Thomas Elvin Hinton, Sr. File No. 22 E 282

All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against **THOMAS ELVIN HINTON SR.**, deceased, Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of November, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 11th day of August, 2022. Michelle Hinton, Administrator NC Estate Solutions PO Box 3006 Raleigh, NC 27602 Au11,Au18,Au25,S1,4tc

1109 West Pope Street Benson, NC 27504 Au11,Au18,Au25,S1,4tp

CREDITORS NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **HAZEL PATTERSON STONE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate of the deceased will please make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022. Pattie Stone Turner, Executrix 2978 Butterwood Drive Jamestown, NC 27282 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons having claims against **CLINTON PEARCE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022. Ronald Pearce, Executor 6205 Buckhorn Rd Greensboro, NC 27410 Au18,Au25,Au1,Au8,4tp

22-SP-98 NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTION TRUSTEE'S FORECLOSURE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF THE power and authority contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed and delivered by David Shaw dated October 3, 2017 and recorded on October 3, 2017, in Book 1950 at page 125, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Chatham County, North Carolina; and because of default in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby and, pursuant to demand of the holder of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust, the undersigned Goddard & Peterson, PLLC (Substitute Trustee) will offer for sale at the courthouse door in the City of Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina, or the customary location designated for foreclosure sales, on August 30, 2022 at 10:30 AM and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following real estate situated in the County of Chatham, North Carolina and being more particularly described in the above referenced Deed of Trust, together with all improvements located thereon: Address of Property: 3638 Bonlee Bennett Road, Bear Creek, NC 27207 Tax Parcel ID: 0004279 Present Record Owner: David Shaw Trustee may, in the Trustee's sole discretion, delay the sale for up to one hour as provided in N.C.G.S. §45-21.23. Said property is sold subject to applicable Federal and State laws. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or seven hundred fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 379

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **WILLIAM ROBISON**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at her address, P.O. Box 1225, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 11th day of November, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 8th day of August, 2022. Tunney Lee LeVac P. O. Box 1225 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC P. O. Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880 Au11,Au18,Au25,S1,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons having claims against **LINDA MARIE LEE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 9th day of August, 2022. Vickie Lee Jimenez, Administrator

at the time of the sale. Should the property be purchased by a third party, that party must pay the excise tax, any Land Transfer Tax, as well as the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (\$0.45) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a)(1). The real property described above is being offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS" and will be sold subject to all superior liens, unpaid taxes, and special assessments. Neither the Substitute Trustee nor the holder of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representatives of either the Substitute Trustee or the holder of the Note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed. The sale will be held open for ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law. If the Trustee or Substitute Trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey title include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the sale and reinstatement of the loan without knowledge of the Substitute Trustee(s). If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the Substitute Trustee(s), in its/their sole discretion, if it/they believe(s) the challenge to have merit, may declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Additional Notice where the Real Property is Residential with less than 15 Rental Units: An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the Clerk of Superior Court of the County in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the Notice that is at least ten (10) days, but no more than ninety (90) days, after the sale date contained in the Notice of Sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the Notice of Termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of such termination. This is a communication from a debt collector. The purpose of this Communication is to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose, except as stated below in the instance of bankruptcy protection. If you are under the protection of the bankruptcy court or have been discharged as a result of a bankruptcy proceeding, this notice is given to you pursuant to statutory requirement and for informational purposes and is not intended as an attempt to collect a debt or as an act to collect, assess, or recover all or any portion of the debt from you personally. FN# 3130.01222 59142 Au18,Au25,2tc

in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporation indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022. Melissa Young Allen, Executrix 210 Hillsborough Street Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK FILE NO: 22-E-448 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY JOHN RESCH A.K.A.

MARY L. RESCH **NOTICE TO CREDITORS** THE UNDERSIGNED having qualified as co-Executors of the Estate of **MARY JOHN RESCH, a.k.a. Mary L. Resch**, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the said Decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before November 21, 2022, said date being at least three months from the date of the first publication or posting of this Notice as indicated below, or the same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment. This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 28A-14-1. This the 18th day of August, 2022. Mary Resch Lloyd Margaret Resch Morgan ESTATE OF MARY JOHN RESCH a.k.a. MARY L. RESCH 3853 Philip Ludwell Williamsburg, NC 23188

Taylor Avioli Narron Wenzel, PA 5400 Glenwood Ave., Suite 201 Raleigh, NC 27612 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HUGH FRANCIS BRESLIN IV a/k/a HUGH FRANCIS BRESLIN, JR.**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 18th day of August, 2022. HUGH F. BRESLIN V, EXECUTOR ESTATE OF HUGH FRANCIS BRESLIN IV Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of **MARVENE L. HILKEY**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 10th day of August, 2022, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before the 20th day of November, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 18th day of August, 2022. James Harold Hilkey, Personal Representative c/o Larry H. Rocamora, Attorney for the Estate, McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson & Hinkle, PLLC

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Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tc

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NOTICE OF SALE
The petitioner will be selling a 2018 SUBARU FORESTER, Under Lien, on Wednesday, 08/31/2022 at 11:00 a.m. at 506 West Street Pittsboro, NC 27312
Au18,Au25,2tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 450
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **MARY STROWD WARD RIGGSBEE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of November, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 18th day of August, 2022.
Lunday A. Riggsbee, Executor of the Estate of Mary Strowd Ward Riggsbee
3868 Mt. Gilead Church Road
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Au18,Au25,S1,S8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 460
All persons having claims against **ELIZABETH MCCOY MASON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022.
Pattie Mason Sturdivant, Executrix
3867 Crawford Dairy Rd

Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Au18,Au25,Au1,Au8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 459
All persons having claims against **DONALD LEE BRAY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 15th day of August, 2022.
Sara Neal Bray, Administrator
295 Henry Bray Dr
Siler City, NC 27344
Au18,Au25,Au1,Au8,4tp

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
The Town of Siler City is seeking general contractors for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of homes funded under the Town's Community Development Block Grant - Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) program. The bidder must be licensed as a NC General Contractor if the individual unit bid is greater than \$30,000. Contracts will be awarded based on a competitive bidding process. You may obtain a copy of the bid package (rebid) for the rehabilitation of one (1) unit and the reconstruction of three (3) units by emailing Insight Planning & Development at crico@insight-pd.com. A pre-bid conference is not being held for this rebid. There is no charge for receiving bid packages. Bids will be due by Thursday, September 1, 2022, at 11:00 AM, and opened and read promptly thereafter, at the Multipurpose Room, Wren Memorial Library, 500 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, NC. The Town of Siler City is an equal opportunity employer/service provider and encourages participation by historically underutilized businesses, including small, minority, and female-owned businesses.

Au25,1tc
NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as the Executor of the Estate of **STANLEY DEE FORESTER**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 82 Patton Avenue, Suite 500, Asheville, NC 28801 on or before November 28, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 15th day of August, 2022.
Maxine C. Forester, Executor of the Estate of Stanley Dee Forester
Attorney for Estate:
Richard J. Kania
The Kania Law Firm, P.A.
82 Patton Avenue, Suite 500
Asheville, NC 28801
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 442
All persons having claims against **JOHN ROSS DOWDY, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.
Lura D. Broadie, Administrator
4301 Holstein Dr.
High Point, N.C. 27265
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

22 E 466
All persons having claims against **JEAN H. RUSH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.
Ricky Rush, Executor
302 Rush Rd.
New Hill, NC 27562
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against **STANLEY JOHN GIROUX**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 25th day of August, 2022.
Cheryl Ann Giroux, Co-Administrator
6 Crown Dr., Unit 110
Quincy, MA 02169
Andrea Marie Hayes, Co-Administrator
593 Canal Town St.
Brunswick, MD 21716
c/o John M. Perna, Attorney at Law
202 Davis Grove Circle, Suite 105
Cary, N.C. 27519
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tc

NOTICE OF SALE
Siler City Self Storage ("Lienor"), P.O. Box 143, Siler City, North Carolina, will hold this public sale of personal property at its storage facility on Tuesday, September 13th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in Siler City, NC. The sale will start at 1407 E. 11th St (behind Sir Pizza), then to 500 West 2nd St (behind Maxway), then to 1112 S. Chatham Ave.

The following persons and property at 1407 E. 11th St., Siler City, NC, are subject to this lien sale:
Linda Carol Alston, Unit: 1071
24 Country Manor Est
Siler City, NC 27344
Shenika Alston, Unit: 1041
327 Duncan Farm Rd
Siler City, NC 27344
Jennifer Bradley, Unit 1023
13310 Hwy 902
Bear Creek, NC 27207
Brenda Blanco, Unit 1025
47 Crystal Lane
Siler City, NC 27344
Lori Cockman, Unit 1096
327 E Davis Dr, Apt 13B
Burlington, NC 27215
Micah Jenkins, Unit 1098
5202 Bedrock Rd
Julian, NC 27283
Samantha Johnson, Unit 2008
2527 Buffalo Church Rd, Unit #7
Sanford, NC 27330
Lucien Maynard, Unit 1034
295 Webb Creek Rd
Fairview, NC 28730
Margaret McKeiver, Unit 1060
911 12th St
Siler City, NC 27344
Anthony McIntosh, Unit 1127
1808 N Chatham
Siler City, NC 27344
Cristina Miller, Unit 1048
1601 Autumn Dr
Greensboro, NC 27405
Karen Simmons, Unit 1094
1825 Rocky Lane
Asheboro, NC 27205
Shenea Whiting, Unit 1044
103 Rose St
Hamlett, NC 28345
Candace Williams, Unit 2014
106 Hunters Court, Ste A
Siler City, NC 27344
The following persons and property at 500 W. 2nd St., Siler City, NC are subject to this lien sale:
Adrian Alston, Unit 190
115 S Dogwood Ave
Siler City, NC 27344
Eric Bair, Unit 175
106 Sunset Place
Carrboro, NC 27510
Falene Doolin, Unit 110
4539 Bunton Swain Rd
Liberty, NC 27298
Fernando English, Unit 166
1736 Mandeville Ln
Los Angeles, Ca 90049
Kanisha Goldston, Unit 111
747 W Dolphin St
Siler City, NC 27344
Kristen Gordon, Unit 106 & 133
2400 Bowers Store Rd
Siler City, NC 27344

Teresa Lynch, Unit 194
PO Box 103
Bear Creek, NC 27207
Nikia Peoples, Unit 158
463 Ed Clapp Rd
Siler City, NC 27344
Patricia Rumley, Unit 147
2312 Monroe St SW
Supply, NC 28462
Joy Smith, Unit 108
41 William Goins Dr
Siler City, NC 27344
Joan & Charles Underwood, Units 185, 186, and 187
117 N Chatham Ave
Siler City, NC 27344
Natalie Ussery, Unit 126
2833 W 3rd St
Siler City, NC 27344
Robert Willett, Unit 199
224 N East St
Raleigh, NC 27601
The following persons and property at 1112 S. Chatham Ave., Siler City, NC, are subject to this lien sale:
Pattie Cromer, Unit 244
6853 NC Hwy 49N
Liberty, NC 27298
Durwood Fuller, Unit 322
1206 April Loop
Siler City, NC 27344
Debbie Hatch, Unit 239
8245 Old Switchboard Rd
Snow Camp, NC 27349
Jocelyn Wallace, Unit 335
405 E 10th St
Siler City, NC 27344
Martha Yarborough, Unit 310
645 E 5th St
Siler City, NC 27344
Au25,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 363
All persons having claims against **JOHNNIE LONDON ALSTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of November, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of August, 2022.
Bryan Keith Alston, Administrator CTA
2 Wildrose Ct.
Greensboro, NC 27410
Au25,S1,S8,S15,4tp

WATER WOES CONTINUE

Pittsboro water filtration project moving ahead despite delays

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro residents are one step closer to having access to clean drinking water via the town's Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filter project.

At Monday's board meeting, town commissioners heard an update on progress with the GAC system from Reed Barton, an associate environmental engineer with CDM Smith.

The GAC system is the first phase of addressing PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, contamination in the town's drinking water. The town has faced delays in getting the system online; most recently, Pittsboro had hoped to activate the system in early August but had to postpone because the construction crew encountered an unexpected rock bed while finalizing underground pipe installation.

Barton said at Monday's meeting that supply chain issues and a holdup in the construction schedule due to late delivery of certain key components — like the second of two

pumps — have contributed to a delay in activating the filtration system, putting the town a month behind schedule.

In 2021, the treatment goal was a removal of at least 90% of all PFAS from the filtered supply.

The EPA updated to a temporary health advisory level (HAL) for PFOA and PFOS, chemicals within the PFAS family, in June. The updated levels are .0004 ppt for PFOA and .002 ppt for PFOS, a significant decrease from the previous level of 70 ppt for both chemicals combined.

Barton said the EPA is expected to set a maximum contamination level of how much PFAS can be in drinking water, and will have a draft by the end of 2022.

"So I think it's a wait-and-see-what-they-do [situation]," Barton said. "But hopefully in the next couple of months, we'll find out what the regulatory limit for PFOS and PFOA are, and we can evaluate what the system can do in terms of that new regulation."

The GAC system was in operation for the first time on

Monday for one hour, and was expected to be put into continuous operation by Wednesday, pending final checks. Barton said the system will initially be limited to 1 million gallons a day — though it's intended to be a 1.5 million gallons a day system — while the town waits for the installation of the second pump.

Barton estimates that homeowners in town will have purified water a day after the system goes online.

Town Manager Chris Kennedy also said the town had hoped to cease the partnership with Chatham Marketplace to provide clean drinking water to residents by Labor Day to coincide with the GAC system going online. The town now plans to run the program until Oct. 1, he said.

Other business

• Commissioners also approved Development Associates as the firm that will help recruit a new town manager and a \$25,000 line item increase to the town's budget for the contracted services. On Thursday, the board will meet at 3

p.m. to review the candidate for interim manager, though a location had not yet been finalized by Tuesday.

• The board heard an informational update from Billy Williams, the president of the Chatham 9/11 First Responders Memorial Foundation, on the memorial, which broke ground in 2014.

In his update, Williams asked commissioners to donate to the foundation, emphasizing the work of volunteers in establishing the memorial. Over the last four to five years, he said the foundation has asked Pittsboro, Siler City and Chatham County to budget \$1,500 each to assist in supporting the memorial, but is asking for \$2,000 each this year.

"The problem is, which y'all know, everything's going up fast and that's not going to cover all our stuff," he said. "And right now we have no other income other than donations."

The memorial will also have a service on Sept. 10 in commemoration of 9/11, and a survivor will speak at the event.

• After some discussion and disagreement among commis-

sioners with regard to lighting standards, the board approved three minor deviations to Northwood Landing, a multi-use planned development. The other deviations revolved around inconsistencies with parking space requirements and vehicular use area screening.

• The board also approved a resolution to establish a capital project budget for the merger of utility systems between the town of Pittsboro and city of Sanford of \$75,000. Commissioners also approved a contract between consulting firm Freese and Nichols Inc. (FNI) and the town; some of their services will include data development, systems evaluation and a comprehensive review of rates. The firm had previously prepared a scope of work for the potential utility merger.

The board's next regular session will be at 7 p.m. on Sept. 12 at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro.

Reporter Maydha Devarajan can be reached at mdevarajan@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @maydhadevarajan.

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SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

AUGUST 25 - 31, 2022 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

Inexperienced Bears open season with lopsided loss

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

BEAR CREEK — It looks like it's going to be another long season for the Chatham Central football team. Playing in their first game of the 2022 season, the Bears were dominated by Trinity High, 52-0, at home Friday night. Trinity outgained Central, 346-155, and found itself well in control early after putting up 22 first-quarter points. The Bears, who had only 24 players fully dressed, were hampered by inexperience and some untimely turnovers.

Things looked promising for Chatham Central out of the gate, as the Bears returned the opening kick into Trinity territory and eventually marched inside the Trinity 10-yard line thanks to some hard running by junior Devonte Johnson. But disaster struck on 2nd-and-goal from the 5-yard line.

On that play, a miscue on a handoff led to a fumble, which the Bulldogs jumped on to take over possession and end the scoring threat. Four plays later, Trinity fired the opening



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central junior running back Devonte Johnson (22) ran for 93 yards on 25 carries in the Bears' 52-0 loss to Trinity High last Friday.

salvo of the game on a 61-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback Dominic Payne to senior running back/receiver Dylan Hodges.

The flip in momentum left the Bears shellshocked, as they went three-and-out on their next possession and were sacked inside their own territory on fourth down to hand the ball back to Trinity. This time it only took one play for the Bull-

dogs to strike, as Hodges broke free for a 49-yard touchdown run aided by some poor tackling by the Central defense.

"You have to capitalize when you get a chance to," Howze said. "We get that (touchdown on the first drive), we're up 7-0, and that's the difference in the game ... We just took ourselves out of the game. I'm proud of the fight and the effort, but we have to play better."

After blocking a punt and scoring another touchdown on the following possession, Trinity took full control of the game and never looked back. The Bulldogs held Chatham Central to six first downs throughout the game, and over half of the Bears' 82 rushing yards came on that first drive before the fumble. It didn't help that one of Central's starting offensive linemen —

junior Aidan Holton — went down with a lower-body injury in the first half and didn't return to the game.

Defensively, the Bears were unable to contain Trinity on the ground or through the air. On several occasions, a Bulldogs' receiver found himself wide open behind Central's secondary. And the first time the Bears completely sold out for the pass — with Trinity driving down the field just before halftime — Payne called his own number on a quarterback draw and raced 53 yards untouched to the end zone to put Trinity up 36-0 heading into the break.

Despite the lopsided result on the scoreboard, there were a few encouraging things to take away from Chatham Central's postgame huddle. The first is that over a third of the Bears' roster played their first high school football game — JV or varsity — Friday night, meaning there should be plenty of room to grow as those inexperienced players get more reps.

See **BEARS**, page B3

FOOTBALL | WEEK 1

Chatham football teams go winless in opening week

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

Week 1 was one to forget for the four Chatham County high school varsity football teams, as they combined to go 0-4 while putting up just 26 points and allowing 199.

Two teams were shut out and all four teams lost their first games of the 2022 season by 30 or more points. Here's an extended look at three of the four games:

Purnell Swett 32, Seaforth 0

Week 1 action actually kicked off Thursday night, as Seaforth traveled to Purnell Swett for a JV-varsity doubleheader with rain in the forecast for Friday. Playing in their first varsity game ever, the Hawks were shut out by the Rams, 32-0.

Purnell Swett jumped out to a 13-0 lead in the first quarter and never looked back, extending the score to 25-0 just ahead of the halftime break. It was Purnell Swett's first win in a season-opening game since the 2017 season.

Despite the result, Seaforth head coach Terrance Gary told the News + Record that he was encouraged by



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Northwood senior quarterback Will Smith (2) ran for 110 yards in the Chargers' 53-20 loss to Lee County last Friday.

his team's effort Thursday night. "They played really hard, and I'm proud of them," Gary said. "The scoreboard doesn't really show how hard we played. We played our butts off the best we could, and that's all I can ask from the guys. We're playing varsity now, so we just have

some things we need to execute a little better."

Seaforth is competing in its first varsity season after playing as a junior varsity team for the first time in 2021. The Hawks went 6-3 under

See **ROUNDUP**, page B2

Deshaun Watson isn't sorry and neither are the Browns

The NFL, the Players Association, the Cleveland Browns and everyone involved with Deshaun Watson would like you to think justice has been done.

It hasn't. Don't be confused.

Last week, it was announced that a settlement had been reached by the league and the NFLPA to set the suspension for Watson — who was accused by 24 different women of sexual misconduct during massage therapy sessions — at 11 games with an additional fine of \$5 million.

There's also a third element to Watson's suspension that the NFL pushed for: mandatory counseling. This stems from the quarterback's attitude to the allegations against him. In a ruling last month, former federal judge Sue L. Robinson ruled that the NFL should suspend Watson six games, citing that Watson's behavior "posed a genuine danger to the safety and well-being of another person." She also described his actions as "predatory conduct."

See **WATSON**, page B2



JEREMY VERNON
Sports Editor

VOLLEYBALL

Chatham Charter volleyball coach Rains hopes to get most out of 6 varsity players

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

New Chatham Charter volleyball coach Dawn Rains hopes the old adage of "quality is better than quantity" will be true during the 2022 season.

Rains, who takes over as the team's head coach after acting as an assistant in 2021, told the News + Record that there are only six players currently on her varsity roster. During a match, a team must have six players on the court at all times, meaning every player is playing every set for the Knights right now.

"It's a good group of girls with some strong skills and talent," Rains said. "I'm eager to see them grow and play as a team. It's going to be a good season for them ... We're getting some JV girls ready as backups in case there's an

injury or illness, but it's just too soon in the season to see who's ready."

Through the first week of the season, the Knights have proven tougher than their numbers suggest. Entering Tuesday night's match at Eastern Randolph, Chatham Charter was 1-1 and had already earned a big win over a non-conference opponent. After shaking off a loss in their season opener against Eastern Randolph last Tuesday, the Knights picked up their first win of the 2022 season on Aug. 18 with a 3-0 sweep of North Moore.

The win avenged two of Chatham Charter's four non-conference losses in 2021. Last season, the Knights lost their first game of the year to North Moore, 3-1, and fell to the Mustangs again one week later.

Chatham Charter eventually rallied

to finish with a 17-7 record and tie for first in the Central Tar Heel 1A Conference standings in 2021 with county rival Woods Charter, which ended up defeating the Knights in the Central Tar Heel Conference Tournament. This year, expectations are that the Knights and Wolves will be among the top two teams in their conference once again.

Prior to the 2021 season, Chatham Charter had amassed an overall record of 51-75 in the six seasons previous under former head coach Johnny Alston. Alston is now the head coach at Jordan-Matthews, which has started the season 0-3 ahead of a Tuesday match vs. Thomasville.

In 2021, Chatham Charter was led by Emerson Clark, who had 332 kills, 90 aces and 25 blocks as a junior. Clark is back for her senior year in 2022 and she

has picked up right where she left off.

In the win over North Moore last week, Clark had a team-high 10 kills while also leading the way in serves received (21) and digs (19). Clark's 10 kills were four more than her next closest teammate.

"Emerson definitely has the experience and the passion for volleyball," Rains said. "She's going to be a great leader for this team and really help everyone with their skills."

The Knights also got a big performance from fellow senior Alison Perez, who dished out 18 assists as the team's setter. Last year, Perez was second in the Central Tar Heel Conference with 430 assists. The only player with more was current Woods Charter sophomore Maya Sheridan, who had 542 assists for

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page B3

COACHING HIRE

New Northwood baseball coach Kyle Robinson wants to be someone his players can trust

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor



Kyle Robinson

PITTSBORO — When Kyle Robinson took his first coaching job after graduating from UNC-Wilmington, he felt like he had something to prove. But shortly into his tenure as an assistant for the North Moore High baseball team, the Carthage native changed his approach to how he dealt with his players.

“When I started, I tried to be more of an authority figure,” Robinson told the News + Record. “We were successful and we were winning games, but I felt like I needed to change how I was as a coach. I needed to be someone they could lean on as opposed to someone they felt like they had to listen to every day.”

The success continued as Robinson began honing his style. He soon took over as the head coach of the junior varsity team, which went 9-1 each season he was there. As an assistant for the varsity program, Robinson helped

lead the Mustangs to a 16-2 record this past spring, a first-place finish in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference and a league tournament title.

Recently, Northwood named Robinson the new head coach of its varsity baseball program. Though he hasn’t had a chance to meet his players face-to-face yet, Robinson said he plans to bring over his more friendly approach.

“I think a good coach, a quality you have to have is you have to be someone that these players trust,” Robinson said. “You have to be someone who they can approach outside baseball, somebody they can lean on for support when they need it. I don’t want any player I ever coach to think the only reason this guy is there is for me to do something productive on the baseball field for him. I want them to know that they can trust me and that I’m more than just a baseball coach.”

Robinson, who will be 25 at the start of the 2023 season, has plenty of talent to work with at Northwood. In 2022, the Chargers finished the year with a record of 19-11 after finishing third in Central Tar Heel conference play

during the regular season.

In the 3A state playoffs, Northwood defeated higher-seeded teams Currituck County and C.B. Aycock before eventually falling in the third round to West Carteret. The Chargers only graduated two seniors from their roster over the offseason.

Several key players from the 2022 team are expected to be back this spring, including seniors Zach Barnes (.370 average, 30 hits, 14 RBI in 2021), Seth Davis (.281 average, 25 hits, 11 RBI) and Nate Davis (.300 average, 24 hits, 13 RBI). The Chargers will also return sophomore Kaleb Howell, who hit .253 with 19 hits and 19 RBI in his first high school season last spring.

On the mound, Northwood returns its top two pitchers in Barnes and fellow senior Salvador Delgado. Barnes was 3-2 with a 0.82 ERA and 40 strikeouts in 59.2 innings pitched this past season, while Delgado was 8-4 with a 2.98 ERA and 32 strikeouts in 47 innings.

Robinson is encouraged by the amount of returning players he has back. He knows having such a strong senior class should benefit the team as

they try to make another deep playoff run in 2023.

“I’m not coming in to try and reinvent the wheel,” Robinson said. “It’s baseball. These kids have played it their entire lives. I think the biggest thing for us is going to be work ethic. If we come out there and do what we need to do in practice and give our best effort in the games, I think we’ll be satisfied as a team. Every team has some struggles. Even if you win every game there are still going to be some hard times through the season, but I think if everybody is on board and everyone is giving their best effort, success will follow.”

The 2023 baseball season is set to begin in late February. The Chargers enter the year having finished 14 of the past 15 seasons with a record of .500 or better. The only year Northwood has had a losing season since 2008 was when the team went 6-8 in a year that was heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@jbo_ernon](https://twitter.com/jbo_ernon).

ROUNDUP

Continued from page B1

Gary last fall and ended the year on a four-game winning streak.

The Hawks only lost a handful of players over the offseason, meaning most of the team’s core from 2021 is back, now with a full year of experience under their belts. Gary said the program has made a lot of progress in a short amount of time.

“I’m very pleased (with our returning players,” he said. “Last year was about teaching them our standard of effort and how we play football, and this year compared to last year, the first game was like night and day. Guys were flying around. Our guys got a little gassed, but it is what it is. I didn’t have to tell them too much. They know what to do — pull your britches up and play ball.”

Lee County 53, Northwood 20

Northwood began the season on the road at Lee County, and the Chargers had trouble getting anything going against the Yellow Jackets, who also defeated Northwood by a score of 61-0 in both teams’ season-opener a year ago.

After forcing a punt on Northwood’s first drive, Lee County drove down the field and scored on a 23-yard touchdown run by junior Bradley Brown, who finished the day with 222 yards and two scores on 18 carries. After intercepting a pass on Northwood’s ensuing drive, the Yellow Jackets found the end zone again and entered the second quarter with a 13-0 lead.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Lee County senior Dayreon Jennings stiff-arms a Northwood defender in a 53-20 win over the Chargers last Friday.

“I saw a few positives to take away from it,” said Northwood head coach Chris Kenan. “The kids didn’t quit. It seems no matter how bad things got or how big the deficit was, the kids continued to fight until the end, and that was so encouraging to see ... I want to see the kids execute. That was probably the biggest negative takeaway from the game. No matter what the scoreboard entails Friday night, I just want to see my kids finish and execute every play the whole game.”

The Chargers gave up another touchdown on the ground on Lee County’s third drive, but Kenan’s team gained some momentum on the Yellow Jackets’ next possession. After Northwood forced fourth down, the ensuing snap went over the punter’s head. He was tackled at the Lee County 9-yard line, where the Chargers took over.

Northwood ended up capitalizing on the advantageous field position, as senior quarterback Will Smith found sophomore tight end Gus Ritchey for a

six-yard touchdown to cut the score to 20-7. Ritchey had a strong game, catching three passes for 46 yards and the score and picking up a sack from the defensive end position.

Things quickly turned back in Lee County’s favor, though, as the Yellow Jackets marched downfield and scored on their next drive. And on the following Northwood possession, Lee County forced a fumble and returned it 50 yards for a touchdown to make it 32-6 midway through the second quarter.

After halftime, Lee County scored on three of its final second-half possessions, the last of which came one play after a bad snap on a Northwood punt gave the Yellow Jackets the ball at the Chargers’ 23-yard line.

Northwood was led offensively by the duo of Smith and junior Carson Fortunes, who combined for 160 rushing yards on 38 carries. Smith had 110 yards and scored the final touchdown of the game on a one-yard keeper with 3:07 re-

maining in the fourth quarter.

“We’re going to try and take what the defense gives us every week, whether it’s run or pass ...” Kenan said. “I thought Will Smith displayed a lot of guts. He’s playing a lot of snaps offensively and defensively, but he was still willing to tuck it and run it through the duration of the game.”

The Chargers will try to turn things around Friday as they face Jordan-Matthews at home. Northwood defeated the Jets, 72-0, last season and has won eight straight games in the all-time series between the two teams.

Southwestern Randolph 62, Jordan-Matthews 6

Jordan-Matthews found itself in the path of a buzzsaw from the beginning of its Week 1 game Friday night, as Southwestern Randolph scored 35 points in the first quarter en route to stunning the Jets.

“We have a very young team, so when you come out and try to execute and things go south really early, it’s hard to kind of reel things back in,” said Jordan-Matthews head coach Ryan Johnson. “We have a lot of youth, and when you get down early it can be hard to get their mindset back to where it needs to be to compete.”

J-M had a hard time containing senior quarterback Easton Clapp, who ran for over 100 yards and two touchdowns and threw for two more scores. Clapp’s 40-yard touchdown run in the second quarter answered the Jets’ only touchdown of the game — a six-yard touchdown pass from freshman Nick Glover to junior William Brewer.

The Jets gave up another touchdown before half, ultimately entering the locker

room with a 56-6 deficit. Southwestern Randolph scored just once in the second half, which featured a running clock for the entire 24-minute duration.

Offensively, Jordan-Matthews was held to less than 100 yards of total offense — 79 rushing and 18 passing. On the other side of the field, the Cougars gained 472 yards of total offense, 348 of which came on the ground.

Johnson was pleased with the play of Glover, who filled in at quarterback for Brewer in the second half. The Jets’ coach hinted that the team is going to try and work in a package involving Glover at quarterback more often going forward.

“(Glover) was one of our bright spots,” Johnson said. “We didn’t start him on offense and just kept him on defense (at first) to get his feet wet ... I think he showed some glimpses of his athleticism and his decision-making. Going forward we’re going to make the game really easy for him, just give him a couple of things to look at so he can play fast.”

Despite the loss, the Jets hope to avoid a similar start to last season, when they lost their first nine games before defeating East Chapel Hill in their season finale. One glimmer of hope is that Jordan-Matthews scored points Friday, something it took them until the fourth game of the season to do in 2021.

The Jets travel to Northwood next week in what will be another tough matchup. Last fall, the Chargers defeated J-M, 72-0.

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@jbo_ernon](https://twitter.com/jbo_ernon).

WATSON

Continued from page B1

Robinson was also concerned with Watson’s lack of remorse, which is likely where the mandatory counseling portion of the settlement came into play. When the news of the settlement dropped last week, the Browns quickly tried to ensure their new quarterback was taking things seriously and ready to take responsibility for his actions.

Even before the settlement was reached, Watson took a half-step toward an apology, saying before his team’s first preseason game that he felt sorry for those whom he affected.

“I want to say that I’m truly sorry to all of the women that I have impacted in this situation,” Watson said. “The decisions that I made that put me in this position I would definitely like to have back, but I want to continue to move forward and grow and learn and show that I am a true

person of character.”

The timing of the press conference was curious, as the quarterback seemingly only made the impromptu statement to try and generate good will toward a more lenient punishment. The NFL repeatedly said it was pushing to suspend Watson for a whole year, but the settlement reached was undoubtedly impacted by the belief Watson would come clean and express remorse.

Then the circus that was last Thursday happened. Right after the suspension was announced, Watson released a statement saying, “I apologize once again for any pain this situation has caused. I take accountability for the decisions I made.”

Then, at the press conference, he said this: “I’ve always stood on my innocence and always said I’ve never assaulted anyone or disrespected anyone. I’m going to continue to stand on my innocence.”

Either Watson is confused or he never really

planned on showing any real contrition. The Browns have said Watson has started mandatory counseling already, but at this point I’m not sure he has the capacity to fully admit guilt or take responsibility for his alleged misconduct. Even if he comes around and issues a more sincere apology, his actions over the past several months lead me to think he’s just lying to appease the NFL.

Things somehow got worse from there, as Browns owner Jimmy Haslam harped on second chances. He even brought up Kareem Hunt as a redemptive success story. In 2018, Hunt was released by the Chiefs after video surfaced of him shoving and kicking a woman in an incident at a hotel. Cleveland signed him a few months later and he played for the Browns in 2019 after serving an eight-game suspension.

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CLIPBOARD Q&A

Northwood senior golfer Jordan looks to build on T7 finish at 2021 3A Tournament

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

One of the top returning golfers in Chatham County this fall is Northwood's Lillian Jordan.

Jordan, who enters what will be her final high school season in 2022, made a name for herself as a junior by finishing tied for seventh at last year's 3A state championship. Jordan shot an 85 in the first round and an 83 in the second round for a total score of 168, 24 strokes behind eventual winner Emily Matthews of Eastern Alamance.

On Monday, Jordan and the rest of the Northwood girls golf team kicked off the 2022 season with a match against Seaforth at The Preserve at Jordan Lake Golf Club in Chapel Hill. Jordan shot a 10-over par 46 in the nine-hole match.

Aferward, Jordan spoke with the News + Record about her first match of the year, her expectations for the upcoming season and some of the players she looks up to.

How did your first round go? What did it feel like to be in a competitive atmosphere again after a long offseason?

LILLIAN JORDAN: We

ended up playing Seaforth, so it was nice getting out and seeing some new faces. Score-wise, I just couldn't get my putts to drop. My coach has nicknamed me "Shorty" because all my putts have been short. Other than that, I was really proud of my drives and how my woods were working, and my iron approaches were strong. People who have played The Preserve will tell you that it's a pretty hard course to get the ball on the greens (in regulation), so I'm happy with that. But I'll definitely be spending some time on putting this week.

During your career at Northwood you had to play through the COVID-19 pandemic. How does it feel knowing the worst of the pandemic is in the rear-view mirror?

It's definitely a relief. During my sophomore season, we actually had to wear masks when we were playing outside. For safety reasons that was important, but, being on the golf course, one of my favorite things is being able to make those connections with girls I'm playing with or competing against. We're all part of the same community. Yesterday we shook hands after we played, and that's something we weren't able to do before.



Staff photo by Tanner Bubeck

Northwood senior golfer Lillian Jordan takes her tee shot during a match at The Preserve at Jordan Lake Golf Club on Monday.

That's such an important part of it, the connection. It's more than a game. You're making friendships.

Tell me about your teammates ... I know your coach was scrambling to try and find a few girls to fill out the roster.

Compared to junior golf, it's definitely different going in and playing for a team. Especially since we're struggling for girls, it's been different as far as trying to recruit while also

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You had a very strong junior season in 2021. What are some of the goals you set for yourself for the 2022 season?

I'm looking to shoot pretty consistently through our matches and hopefully get some close-to-par rounds. And of course, qualifying for regionals and states is always up there. Maybe finishing higher at states this year? I'm trying to stay consistent, enjoy my senior year and try to make the most out of it. If I don't have a good round, I think I just need to push through and enjoy the time left I have in high school.

How does it feel knowing you have already competed and performed at a high level at last year's state championship tournament?

It feels good. It kind of makes me feel like an "O.G.," like I've been there and done that already. And knowing the

girls and how they score and the course ... it's nice going to an environment where you're comfortable. Freshman year states was definitely nerve-wracking, and having those nerves can make you not score great. It feels nice to have that under my belt already, and hopefully I can move up a bit in the rankings this year.

Are there any golfers you have looked up to or have tried to model your game after?

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VOLLEYBALL

Continued from page B1

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After losing in the first round of the state playoffs last season, Rains hopes she can lead the team further into the tournament this season. She admits, though, that she is still figuring things out as she goes.

"We're growing and learning together," Rains said. "The girls are very supportive. I have a great team to work with. They have the talent. I'm just trying to help them reach their goals."

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BEARS

Continued from page B1

"More reps will help with the tackling," Howze said. "We have 15 or 16 kids that have never played football before at all. But I'm proud of my guys that kept fighting. We'll get better. We'll get better in time."

The second was the leadership displayed by junior quarterback/linebacker Hasten Paige and senior slotback/linebacker Matthew Smith, who urged their teammates to take responsibility for their mistakes and vow to work harder in next week's practice. When you don't have the numbers, sometimes it helps to have the right attitude, and that's exactly what the Bears hope happens from here on out.

"Those guys, they're leaders," Howze said of Smith and Paige. "The kids will follow them. We just have to get it together. That's the main thing."

This Friday, Chatham Central will host South Davidson at home. The Bears have a 7-9 record against the Wildcats since the start of the 2004 season. The last meeting between the two teams saw Central fall to South Davidson, 32-20, on Nov. 1, 2019.

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TRINITY 52, CHATHAM CENTRAL 0

CC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — 0
T | 22 | 14 | 9 | 7 | — 52

SCORING SUMMARY

T — Dylan Hodges 61 pass from Dominic Payne (Chance Grogan kick)

T — Hodges 49 run (Grogan kick)

T — Brandon Campbell 25 pass from Payne (Pass good)

T — Xavier Horton 29 pass from Payne (Grogan kick)

T — Payne 53 run (Grogan kick)

T — SAFETY

T — Grogan 13 run (Grogan kick)

T — Bo Gibson 15 run (Grogan kick)

TEAM STATS

Chatham Central | Trinity
6 | First downs | 10

155 | Total yards | 346

34-82 | Rushing attempts-yards | 18-230

4-9-73 | Passing completions-attempts-yards | 4-7-116

0 | Interceptions | 0

2-2 | Fumbles-lost | 0-0

2-15 | Penalties-yards | 5-45

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing: CC — Devonte Johnson 25-93. Hasten Paige 6-(-4), Brandon Toomer 1-3, Brycen Edwards 1-(-5); T — Bo Gibson 7-55, Dylan Hodges 4-64, Dominic Payne 3-72, Aidan Goodwin 2-25, Chance Grogan 2-14

Passing: CC — Paige 4-9, 73; T — Payne 4-7, 116

Receiving: CC — Toomer 2-54, Matthew Smith 1-14, Raymond Zapata 1-5; T — Hodges 1-61, Grogan 1-29, Brandon Campbell 1-25, Gibson 1-1

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COACHING HIRE

New Northwood baseball coach Kyle Robinson wants to be someone his players can trust

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor



Kyle Robinson

PITTSBORO — When Kyle Robinson took his first coaching job after graduating from UNC-Wilmington, he felt like he had something to prove. But shortly into his tenure as an assistant for the North Moore High baseball team, the Carthage native changed his approach to how he dealt with his players.

“When I started, I tried to be more of an authority figure,” Robinson told the News + Record. “We were successful and we were winning games, but I felt like I needed to change how I was as a coach. I needed to be someone they could lean on as opposed to someone they felt like they had to listen to every day.”

The success continued as Robinson began honing his style. He soon took over as the head coach of the junior varsity team, which went 9-1 each season he was there. As an assistant for the varsity program, Robinson helped

lead the Mustangs to a 16-2 record this past spring, a first-place finish in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference and a league tournament title.

Recently, Northwood named Robinson the new head coach of its varsity baseball program. Though he hasn’t had a chance to meet his players face-to-face yet, Robinson said he plans to bring over his more friendly approach.

“I think a good coach, a quality you have to have is you have to be someone that these players trust,” Robinson said. “You have to be someone who they can approach outside baseball, somebody they can lean on for support when they need it. I don’t want any player I ever coach to think the only reason this guy is there is for me to do something productive on the baseball field for him. I want them to know that they can trust me and that I’m more than just a baseball coach.”

Robinson, who will be 25 at the start of the 2023 season, has plenty of talent to work with at Northwood. In 2022, the Chargers finished the year with a record of 19-11 after finishing third in Central Tar Heel conference play

during the regular season.

In the 3A state playoffs, Northwood defeated higher-seeded teams Currituck County and C.B. Aycock before eventually falling in the third round to West Carteret. The Chargers only graduated two seniors from their roster over the offseason.

Several key players from the 2022 team are expected to be back this spring, including seniors Zach Barnes (.370 average, 30 hits, 14 RBI in 2021), Seth Davis (.281 average, 25 hits, 11 RBI) and Nate Davis (.300 average, 24 hits, 13 RBI). The Chargers will also return sophomore Kaleb Howell, who hit .253 with 19 hits and 19 RBI in his first high school season last spring.

On the mound, Northwood returns its top two pitchers in Barnes and fellow senior Salvador Delgado. Barnes was 3-2 with a 0.82 ERA and 40 strikeouts in 59.2 innings pitched this past season, while Delgado was 8-4 with a 2.98 ERA and 32 strikeouts in 47 innings.

Robinson is encouraged by the amount of returning players he has back. He knows having such a strong senior class should benefit the team as

they try to make another deep playoff run in 2023.

“I’m not coming in to try and reinvent the wheel,” Robinson said. “It’s baseball. These kids have played it their entire lives. I think the biggest thing for us is going to be work ethic. If we come out there and do what we need to do in practice and give our best effort in the games, I think we’ll be satisfied as a team. Every team has some struggles. Even if you win every game there are still going to be some hard times through the season, but I think if everybody is on board and everyone is giving their best effort, success will follow.”

The 2023 baseball season is set to begin in late February. The Chargers enter the year having finished 14 of the past 15 seasons with a record of .500 or better. The only year Northwood has had a losing season since 2008 was when the team went 6-8 in a year that was heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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ROUNDUP

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Gary last fall and ended the year on a four-game winning streak.

The Hawks only lost a handful of players over the offseason, meaning most of the team’s core from 2021 is back, now with a full year of experience under their belts. Gary said the program has made a lot of progress in a short amount of time.

“I’m very pleased (with our returning players,” he said. “Last year was about teaching them our standard of effort and how we play football, and this year compared to last year, the first game was like night and day. Guys were flying around. Our guys got a little gassed, but it is what it is. I didn’t have to tell them too much. They know what to do — pull your britches up and play ball.”

Lee County 53, Northwood 20

Northwood began the season on the road at Lee County, and the Chargers had trouble getting anything going against the Yellow Jackets, who also defeated Northwood by a score of 61-0 in both teams’ season-opener a year ago.

After forcing a punt on Northwood’s first drive, Lee County drove down the field and scored on a 23-yard touchdown run by junior Bradley Brown, who finished the day with 222 yards and two scores on 18 carries. After intercepting a pass on Northwood’s ensuing drive, the Yellow Jackets found the end zone again and entered the second quarter with a 13-0 lead.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Lee County senior Dayreon Jennings stiff-arms a Northwood defender in a 53-20 win over the Chargers last Friday.

“I saw a few positives to take away from it,” said Northwood head coach Chris Kenan. “The kids didn’t quit. It seems no matter how bad things got or how big the deficit was, the kids continued to fight until the end, and that was so encouraging to see ... I want to see the kids execute. That was probably the biggest negative takeaway from the game. No matter what the scoreboard entails Friday night, I just want to see my kids finish and execute every play the whole game.”

The Chargers gave up another touchdown on the ground on Lee County’s third drive, but Kenan’s team gained some momentum on the Yellow Jackets’ next possession. After Northwood forced fourth down, the ensuing snap went over the punter’s head. He was tackled at the Lee County 9-yard line, where the Chargers took over.

Northwood ended up capitalizing on the advantageous field position, as senior quarterback Will Smith found sophomore tight end Gus Ritchey for a

six-yard touchdown to cut the score to 20-7. Ritchey had a strong game, catching three passes for 46 yards and the score and picking up a sack from the defensive end position.

Things quickly turned back in Lee County’s favor, though, as the Yellow Jackets marched downfield and scored on their next drive. And on the following Northwood possession, Lee County forced a fumble and returned it 50 yards for a touchdown to make it 32-6 midway through the second quarter.

After halftime, Lee County scored on three of its final second-half possessions, the last of which came one play after a bad snap on a Northwood punt gave the Yellow Jackets the ball at the Chargers’ 23-yard line.

Northwood was led offensively by the duo of Smith and junior Carson Fortunes, who combined for 160 rushing yards on 38 carries. Smith had 110 yards and scored the final touchdown of the game on a one-yard keeper with 3:07 re-

maining in the fourth quarter.

“We’re going to try and take what the defense gives us every week, whether it’s run or pass ...” Kenan said. “I thought Will Smith displayed a lot of guts. He’s playing a lot of snaps offensively and defensively, but he was still willing to tuck it and run it through the duration of the game.”

The Chargers will try to turn things around Friday as they face Jordan-Matthews at home. Northwood defeated the Jets, 72-0, last season and has won eight straight games in the all-time series between the two teams.

Southwestern Randolph 62, Jordan-Matthews 6

Jordan-Matthews found itself in the path of a buzzsaw from the beginning of its Week 1 game Friday night, as Southwestern Randolph scored 35 points in the first quarter en route to stunning the Jets.

“We have a very young team, so when you come out and try to execute and things go south really early, it’s hard to kind of reel things back in,” said Jordan-Matthews head coach Ryan Johnson. “We have a lot of youth, and when you get down early it can be hard to get their mindset back to where it needs to be to compete.”

J-M had a hard time containing senior quarterback Easton Clapp, who ran for over 100 yards and two touchdowns and threw for two more scores. Clapp’s 40-yard touchdown run in the second quarter answered the Jets’ only touchdown of the game — a six-yard touchdown pass from freshman Nick Glover to junior William Brewer.

The Jets gave up another touchdown before half, ultimately entering the locker

room with a 56-6 deficit. Southwestern Randolph scored just once in the second half, which featured a running clock for the entire 24-minute duration.

Offensively, Jordan-Matthews was held to less than 100 yards of total offense — 79 rushing and 18 passing. On the other side of the field, the Cougars gained 472 yards of total offense, 348 of which came on the ground.

Johnson was pleased with the play of Glover, who filled in at quarterback for Brewer in the second half. The Jets’ coach hinted that the team is going to try and work in a package involving Glover at quarterback more often going forward.

“(Glover) was one of our bright spots,” Johnson said. “We didn’t start him on offense and just kept him on defense (at first) to get his feet wet ... I think he showed some glimpses of his athleticism and his decision-making. Going forward we’re going to make the game really easy for him, just give him a couple of things to look at so he can play fast.”

Despite the loss, the Jets hope to avoid a similar start to last season, when they lost their first nine games before defeating East Chapel Hill in their season finale. One glimmer of hope is that Jordan-Matthews scored points Friday, something it took them until the fourth game of the season to do in 2021.

The Jets travel to Northwood next week in what will be another tough matchup. Last fall, the Chargers defeated J-M, 72-0.

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WATSON

Continued from page B1

Robinson was also concerned with Watson’s lack of remorse, which is likely where the mandatory counseling portion of the settlement came into play. When the news of the settlement dropped last week, the Browns quickly tried to ensure their new quarterback was taking things seriously and ready to take responsibility for his actions.

Even before the settlement was reached, Watson took a half-step toward an apology, saying before his team’s first preseason game that he felt sorry for those whom he affected.

“I want to say that I’m truly sorry to all of the women that I have impacted in this situation,” Watson said. “The decisions that I made that put me in this position I would definitely like to have back, but I want to continue to move forward and grow and learn and show that I am a true

person of character.”

The timing of the press conference was curious, as the quarterback seemingly only made the impromptu statement to try and generate good will toward a more lenient punishment. The NFL repeatedly said it was pushing to suspend Watson for a whole year, but the settlement reached was undoubtedly impacted by the belief Watson would come clean and express remorse.

Then the circus that was last Thursday happened. Right after the suspension was announced, Watson released a statement saying, “I apologize once again for any pain this situation has caused. I take accountability for the decisions I made.”

Then, at the press conference, he said this: “I’ve always stood on my innocence and always said I’ve never assaulted anyone or disrespected anyone. I’m going to continue to stand on my innocence.”

Either Watson is confused or he never really

planned on showing any real contrition. The Browns have said Watson has started mandatory counseling already, but at this point I’m not sure he has the capacity to fully admit guilt or take responsibility for his alleged misconduct. Even if he comes around and issues a more sincere apology, his actions over the past several months lead me to think he’s just lying to appease the NFL.

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News + Record Sports Editor

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Chatham Charter has three more non-conference games on its schedule before opening up league play at Southern Wake Academy on Sept. 6. The Knights swept both matches they played against Southern Wake last season.

After losing in the first round of the state playoffs last season, Rains hopes she can lead the team further into the tournament this season. She admits, though, that she is still figuring things out as she goes.

"We're growing and learning together," Rains said. "The girls are very supportive. I have a great team to work with. They have the talent. I'm just trying to help them reach their goals."

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo_ernon.

BEARS

Continued from page B1

"More reps will help with the tackling," Howze said. "We have 15 or 16 kids that have never played football before at all. But I'm proud of my guys that kept fighting. We'll get better. We'll get better in time."

The second was the leadership displayed by junior quarterback/linebacker Hasten Paige and senior slotback/linebacker Matthew Smith, who urged their teammates to take responsibility for their mistakes and vow to work harder in next week's practice. When you don't have the numbers, sometimes it helps to have the right attitude, and that's exactly what the Bears hope happens from here on out.

"Those guys, they're leaders," Howze said of Smith and Paige. "The kids will follow them. We just have to get it together. That's the main thing."

This Friday, Chatham Central will host South Davidson at home. The Bears have a 7-9 record against the Wildcats since the start of the 2004 season. The last meeting between the two teams saw Central fall to South Davidson, 32-20, on Nov. 1, 2019.

Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo_ernon.

TRINITY 52, CHATHAM CENTRAL 0

CC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | — 0
T | 22 | 14 | 9 | 7 | — 52

SCORING SUMMARY

T — Dylan Hodges 61 pass from Dominic Payne (Chance Grogan kick)

T — Hodges 49 run (Grogan kick)

T — Brandon Campbell 25 pass from Payne (Pass good)

T — Xavier Horton 29 pass from Payne (Grogan kick)

T — Payne 53 run (Grogan kick)

T — SAFETY

T — Grogan 13 run (Grogan kick)

T — Bo Gibson 15 run (Grogan kick)

TEAM STATS

Chatham Central | Trinity
6 | First downs | 10

155 | Total yards | 346

34-82 | Rushing attempts-yards | 18-230

4-9-73 | Passing completions-attempts-yards | 4-7-116

0 | Interceptions | 0

2-2 | Fumbles-lost | 0-0

2-15 | Penalties-yards | 5-45

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing: CC — Devonte Johnson 25-93. Hasten Paige 6-(-4), Brandon Toomer 1-3, Brycen Edwards 1-(-5); T — Bo Gibson 7-55, Dylan Hodges 4-64, Dominic Payne 3-72, Aidan Goodwin 2-25, Chance Grogan 2-14

Passing: CC — Paige 4-9, 73; T — Payne 4-7, 116

Receiving: CC — Toomer 2-54, Matthew Smith 1-14, Raymond Zapata 1-5; T — Hodges 1-61, Grogan 1-29, Brandon Campbell 1-25, Gibson 1-1

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Chatham News + Record Local Service Directory

'I was wrong' about The New York Times: Commentary on China's censorship squeeze was a lemon — and the mea culpa, too

BY BUCK RYAN & LEI JIAO
Special to the News + Record

Editor's note: Journalism professor Buck Ryan in Kentucky and English lecturer Lei Jiao in Wuhan, China, pursue cross-cultural understanding through current events — this time a critique of a noted author's view of censorship in China over the last 27 years.

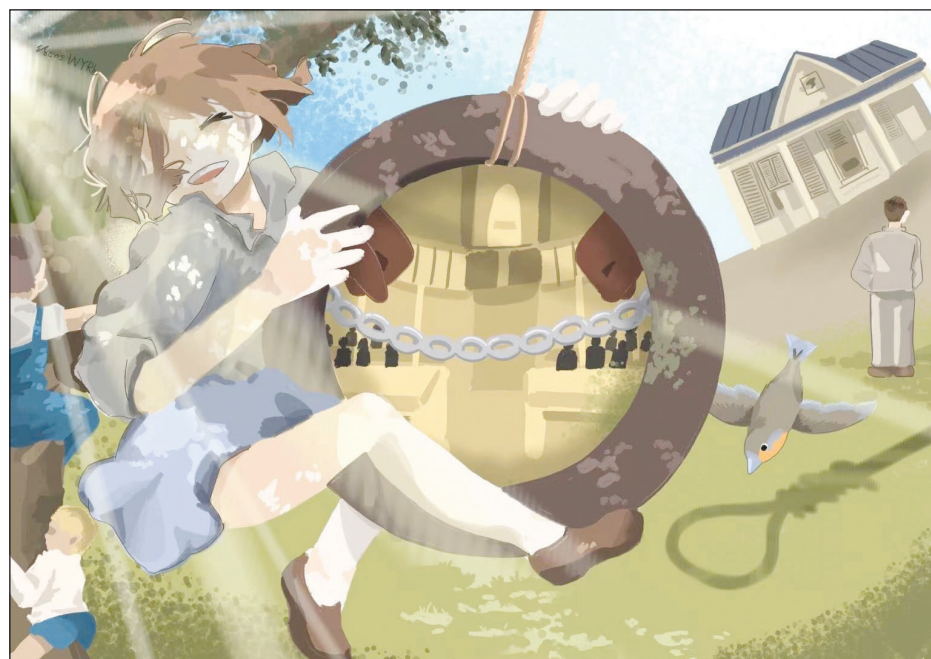


Illustration by Ruby Wang

'To Kill a Mockingbird,' the 1961 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, is banned by schools in Mississippi, Minnesota and Washington State. In China, where censorship isn't always what you might think, Lei Jiao's 15-year-old daughter, Ruby, was able to read the book for a class assignment, watch the film and capture its meaning in a drawing.

LEI: I was wrong, Buck.
BUCK: Thank you, Lei. It takes a big person to admit a mistake.
LEI: Well, The New York Times started it.
BUCK: What?
LEI: I guess you missed the Gray Lady falling on her sword. Eight opinion writers published "I was wrong" mea culpas about previous articles, explaining why they changed their minds.
BUCK: When was that?
LEI: A couple of weeks ago. Paul Krugman on inflation, Bret Stephens on Trump voters, Gail Collins on Mitt Romney, Michelle Goldberg on Al Franken, David Brooks on capitalism, Zeynep Tufekci on protests, Farhad Manjoo on Facebook. But you know the one that really got my goat?
BUCK: Nope.
LEI: "I Was Wrong About Chinese Censorship" by Thomas L. Friedman, Opinion section, July 21, 2022. I guess I was wrong, too, about The New York Times. I thought it was a reliable and credible source of news and information.
BUCK: Ha! I guess you never met Cal Thomas.
LEI: Who's Cal?
BUCK: One of America's most popular syndicated columnists. A real go-to guy for conservative thinkers and writers.
LEI: So what does he think of The New York Times?
BUCK: "Every morning when I get up I read the New York Times. Then I read the Bible to see what the other side says."
LEI: I think I like Cal. Wait, let me Google him.
BUCK: You're kidding, right? Google is blocked in China.
LEI: Buck, you're drinking the Friedman Kool-Aid.
BUCK: What do you mean?
LEI: Here's one of his erroneous lines from 2006: "I still believe it is very hard to produce a culture of innovation in a country that censors Google — which for me is a proxy for curtailing people's ability to imagine and try anything they want."
BUCK: Erroneous, eh?
LEI: True, censorship is repressive in its nature, but is censorship really possible in this day and age? China is not this giant censorship machine where everyone is silenced and living as robots.
BUCK: You mean, people in China can easily

jump that other Great Wall, right?
LEI: Right.
BUCK: I'm reminded of my early days of teaching in China when I naively wanted to show a YouTube clip. One of my students said, "Professor, YouTube is blocked in China. But wait, I'll help you." And within minutes I had the clip up on a classroom screen.
LEI: It's not that we can't find what we need, it's that we have too much out there. For those who want to know the outside world, they can. Most people just simply don't have the need or the drive for it.
BUCK: So China is not exactly "curtailing people's ability to imagine," eh?
LEI: From what I've seen, in the free world with the almighty Google and no censorship, there has never been a shortage of brainwashed trolls.
BUCK: Ha! What about that "culture of innovation" thing?
LEI: He's killing me, Buck. We didn't steal all your intellectual property, you know. We have a lot of bright, innovative, hard-working people here — and that was true for thousands of years before the U.S. existed.
BUCK: Funny, Lei, I saw a Wall Street Journal story about how Elon Musk and Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey are in a race to create a new "Super App" — looking to follow China's lead.
LEI: Oh, which app?
BUCK: WeChat, launched in 2011 by Tencent, is considered the model super app, starting with messaging and social media, then expanding to booking rides, doing e-commerce and even providing access to government services.
LEI: Friedman can rest easy about our culture of innovation and something else.
BUCK: What's that?
LEI: Elon and Jack are probably also looking to hire some of China's top graduate students. According to a Forbes article last year, Chi-

na's Ph.D. graduates in STEM fields (77,179) are expected to almost double those in the United States (39,959) by 2025.
BUCK: Huh, what else bothered you about Friedman's mea culpa?
LEI: He opens with wishful thinking about trying to unilaterally Americanize China into something China is fundamentally not. It's like he married a woman he hoped to change, then was shocked by a 50% divorce rate.
BUCK: What did he say exactly?
LEI: "Among the most important questions that I've wrestled with since becoming a columnist in 1995 are if, when and how fast China will open up its information ecosystem to allow a much freer flow of uncensored news — from both Chinese and foreign sources. I confess that I've been too optimistic. I plead guilty."
BUCK: Gee, he's talking about the last 27 years. That covers three different leaders in China and five U.S. presidents. What's he so worried about?
LEI: He says uncensored news is necessary "if China is intent on growing a high-tech economy."
BUCK: Wait, I thought you had one.
LEI: We do, Buck. Take a look back at the world's GDP picture in 2001.
BUCK: Why then?
LEI: That's when we joined the World Trade Organization. Your president was Bill Clinton and China's leader was Jiang Zemin.
BUCK: OK, here's what I found in trillions: the U.S. at \$10.6, Japan \$4.3, Germany \$1.9, UK \$1.6, France \$1.4, China \$1.3.
LEI: Right, Buck. The latest figures show the U.S. is No. 1 with \$20.9 and China is No. 2 with \$14.7.
BUCK: And Friedman worries about censorship holding China back.
LEI: That was Trump's job, being a bull in a China shop. He woke up America to what's happened under Clinton,

George W. Bush, Barack Obama and now Joe Biden.
BUCK: So you think Friedman is blinded by his own Western bias about the power of the press?
LEI: Right, and not just him. All the Friedmans out there need to deal with the realization that China is not Japan or another Soviet Union. It's not America's way or the highway.
BUCK: It sounds like there might be an ancient Chinese expression coming.
LEI: Yes, Buck, here it is: "A knave thinks of others in terms of his own desires."
BUCK: What else irked you?
LEI: How about this line from 2009: "If Beijing refused to permit a decent level of free-flowing information on the internet and in public speech — if for no other reason than to drive entrepreneurship and innovation — China would never be able to overtake the American economy in dynamism in the 21st century."
BUCK: What's the problem?
LEI: To directly connect a free press to innovation and entrepreneurship is like trying to run a car without an engine.
BUCK: What's the engine of business, Lei?
LEI: Greed, need and financial capital — whether you're in the U.S. or China. If a free press was the key to business success, why then would U.S. newspapers be dying at a rate of two each week?
BUCK: Touché, Lei.
LEI: Look, Buck, I don't like censorship — who does? We know information in China gets censored for political or moral reasons. But my daughter can read a book at school like "To Kill a Mockingbird" without worrying about political correctness.
BUCK: Are you seeing censorship in your work?
LEI: Yes. We're being asked to pull references and visuals, especially anything that suggests the red-white-and-blue, from our English textbook. Our U.S.-China relations are that bad.
BUCK: Lei, as A.J. Liebling famously wrote in The New Yorker, "Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one."

LEI: Ha! Honestly, Buck, we would all benefit from more humility and less hubris and arrogance.
BUCK: So did you complete your search for Cal Thomas?
LEI: Yes, I found his book "America's Expiration Date: The Fall of Empires and Superpowers ... and the Future of the United States."
BUCK: That's a good one. Cal was inspired by a British diplomat, Sir John Glubb, who found an interesting pattern for empires in human history.
LEI: What pattern?
BUCK: Superpowers last only 250 years with a few exceptions.
LEI: Hmm, then at 246 years old, the United States is approaching its "expiration date." I get it. It looks like a fun read this summer at the beach.
BUCK: Fun?
LEI: If I was wrong, I'll let you know.

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 their last article ("Kissinger's new book raises Nixon's ghost and rattles skeletons. In China, on Mao's 70/30 scale, they're still revered.") here:


<https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/kissinger-new-book-raises-nixons-ghost-and-rattles-skeletons,13991>

SCHOOL HONORS

GRADUATES CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Central Carolina Community College celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2022 summer graduates as the school observed its 60th Commencement Exercises on August 9 at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center in Sanford. The Class of 2022 summer graduation ceremonies recognized the following Chatham County graduates: Carolina Acosta, Aaron Barnes, Lacie Clark,

Jagger Cole, Drew Cox, Gracie Culberston, Kelsey Dillon, Elizabeth Dorsett, Harrison Fogleman, Deontae Glover, Elizabeth Hamm, Avery Headen, Patrick Islip, Richard Joiner, Madalyn Justice, Cassidi Maness, Elmer Matteo-Estrada, Braden McIntosh, Chadwick Moore, Tamarr Moore, Madison Parks, Moises Peraza, Sarah Petty, Emily Pierce, Noah Rinell, Gabriela Ruiz, Lindsay Seitz, Marissa Spencer, Graham Stafford, Ashley Stanley, Haley Strickland, Julia Wieland, Tierra Williams, Leslie Wiseman, and Camia Woods.



Council on Aging Activities Calendar

August 29th through September 2nd

<p>Monday, August 29th</p> <p>Eastern Chatham Senior Center - 365 Highway 87 North, Pittsboro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie (masks required) • 9 a.m. - Chair Yoga w/Liz (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom) • 9:30 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Jackie (in-person and on Zoom) • 10 a.m. - Games and Coffee • 11 a.m. - Chair Volleyball <p>Western Chatham Senior Center - 112 Village Lake Road, Siler City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia • 10:30 a.m. - Bingo w/Woodman Life • 2 p.m. - Geri-Fit <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, August 30th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eastern Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie (masks optional) • 9 a.m. - 3G's Men's Group • 10 a.m. - Blood Pressure Screening; Woodcarvers; Games and Coffee; Bingo w/Jo • 10-10:15 a.m. - Moving w/Jackie • 11 a.m. - Chair Volleyball • 1-3 p.m. - Rummikub <p>Western Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 a.m. - Chair Exercises w/Olivia for Beginners • 1 p.m. - Rook • 2 p.m. - Crafting with Kathryn (Collage Canvases) <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, August 31st</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eastern Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 a.m. - Chair Yoga w/Liz (in-person and Zoom); Games and Coffee • 10:30 a.m. - 50's Music Fun • 1 p.m. - Open Art Studio <p>Western Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 a.m. to Noon - Veterans Benefit Assistance • 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia • 10 a.m. - Bible Study • 10:30 a.m. - Science w/Alan • 2-3:30 p.m. - Cornhole <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, September 1st</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eastern Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie (masks optional) • 10 a.m. - Crafts and Conversation; Hearing and Aging w/Dr. Jacob K. Buccini, UNC Hospitals • 10:30 a.m. - Calendar Review w/Jackie • 11 a.m. - Hearing Screenings • 1:30 p.m. - Line Dancing • 3 p.m. - Gentle Yoga w/Liz <p>Western Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 a.m. - Horseshoes; Music Jam Session • 1 p.m. - "Bring Your Project" Craft Club • 2 p.m. - Geri-Fit • 3 p.m. - Mocktails & Trivia <p style="text-align: center;">Friday, September 2nd</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eastern Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:15 a.m. - Body Conditioning w/Jackie (masks required) • 10 a.m. - Arthritis Foundation Exercise w/Jackie • 11 a.m. - Balloon Volleyball • 1 p.m. - Card Games <p>Western Chatham Senior Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 a.m. - Strong & Fit w/Olivia • 1 p.m. - Memory Makers Club • 7 p.m. - Friday Night Dance (fee required for participation) 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>For more information on these and other programs, call our centers Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Eastern Chatham Senior Center 919-542-4512</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Western Chatham Senior Center 919-742-3975</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Visit our website at www.chathamcoa.org</p> </div>
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New Food Lion opens at Briar Chapel

Daily operating hours: 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Neighbors in the Briar Chapel area of Pittsboro are now able to nourish their families at a brand new Food Lion, which opened Wednesday.

The new store, located at 70 Ballantrae Ct., is open daily from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m.

"I'm very excited to bring our easy, fresh and affordable shopping experience to more of our neighbors in Chatham County," said Jason Kiser, who's store manager of the Briar Chapel Food Lion. "I'm looking forward to providing the Briar Chapel community with our easy in-store checkout options, simple Food Lion To Go online ordering and convenient shopping at the best prices possible every day."

The new store features an extensive product assortment, including fresh sushi, in-store fresh-cut fruit and a wide variety of affordable

and easy "grab-and-go" options to help make any meal easier. Customers have a large selection of organic, gluten-free and plant-based items to choose from, including Nature's Promise-brand items, which are Food Lion's affordable brand of wholesome and organic products made with no artificial flavors, preservatives or synthetic colors. Additionally, the store features a walk-in produce cooler, ensuring the freshest items available, and a self-service hot wing and Asian food bar.

To make shopping easier for customers, the store offers self-checkout lanes and the Food Lion To Go grocery pick up service, which allows customers to place an order with the click of a button while experiencing the same low prices and fresh food items they receive in the store.

The store is proud to also offer a wide variety of great local offerings, such as freshly brewed craft beers from Pittsboro; North Carolina's Famous Bright Leaf Hot Dogs produced by Carolina Packers in Smithfield; and fresh local produce



Courtesy of Food Lion

The front of the new Food Lion grocery store near Briar Chapel, north of Pittsboro.

grown at Cottle Farms in Faison.

Furthering Food Lion's commitment to sustainability, the store features energy-efficient overhead LED lighting. Food Lion is the only company in the country to receive

the Energy Star Partner of the Year Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy for 21 consecutive years.

In another commitment to the Briar Chapel

community, Food Lion donated 30,000 meals to the food pantry at Haw River Baptist Church through Food Lion Feeds, the retailer's hunger-relief initiative. The church will also regularly collect food from the store to

distribute to neighbors in need through Food Lion Feeds' industry-leading food rescue program, in which food safe for human consumption is donated to a local feeding agency before the food spoils.

NEWS BRIEF

Chatham County reports untreated wastewater discharge

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Public Utilities experienced a discharge of untreated wastewater on Aug. 17. At 9:08 a.m., county staff

discovered the discharge at a manhole located along Renaissance Drive, approximately 1,000 feet north of N.C. Hwy. 64 in Pittsboro.

The discharge of approximately 1,800 gallons was abated at 10:10 a.m. The cause of the discharge was due to a pipe failure inside the manhole that

overflowed. Utilities crews immediately worked to repair the pipe and remediate the spill. The untreated wastewater from this pipe failure discharged into an unnamed tributary of Harlands Creek.

The N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality's Division of Water Quality

Raleigh Regional Office was notified of the event within the 24-hour requirement. For more information, please contact Chatham County Utilities Director Blake Mills at 919-542-8238.

—CN+R staff reports

Chatham's 2021 visitor economic impact up 41%

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Domestic and international visitors to and within Chatham County spent \$68.03 million in 2021, an increase of 41.4% from 2020.

The data comes from an annual study commissioned by Visit North Carolina, a unit of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina.

"We remained adaptable and have continued to support our small businesses in the tourism and hospitality industry both during and after the pandemic," said Neha Shah, director of the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau, which is the official destination marketing organization for Chatham County. "Our outdoor events, flexibility in places to stay, and guests working remotely, among other factors, con-

tributed to a resurgence of travel."

Tourism impact highlights for 2021

- The travel and tourism industry directly employs more than 576 in Chatham County.
- Total payroll generated by the tourism industry in Chatham County was \$19.1 million.
- State tax revenue generated in Chatham County totaled \$3.1 million through state sales and excise taxes and taxes on personal and corporate income. About \$2.7 million in local taxes were generated from sales and property tax revenue from travel-generated and travel-supported businesses.
- Visitor spending results in a \$74.45 tax savings per resident.

These statistics come from the "Economic Impact of Trav-

Following the devastating pandemic-related losses of 2020, the total fell just short of the record \$29.22 spent in 2019. Direct tourism employment increased 10.5% to 197,500.

el on North Carolina Counties 2021." The study was prepared for Visit North Carolina by Tourism Economics in collaboration with the U.S. Travel Association.

Statewide, visitor spending in 2021 rebounded by 44.9% to reach \$28.9 billion. Following the devastating pandemic-related losses of 2020, the total fell just short of the record \$29.22 spent in 2019. Direct tourism employment increased 10.5% to 197,500.

"Tourism and hospitality are a significant part of the growing economy in Chatham County, and we are thrilled that the county has been able to rebound and come back stronger since the height of

COVID-19," said Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne. "We will continue to highlight Chatham County's culture, history, and development to encourage previous visitors to return and new visitors to discover the greatness of Chatham."

Statewide highlights include: Total spending by domestic and international visitors in North Carolina reached \$28.9 billion in 2021. That sum represents a 44.9% increase over 2020 expenditures. The figure falls 1% below the record \$29.22 billion spent in 2019.

Domestic travelers spent a record \$28.6 billion in 2021. Spending was up 45.2% from \$19.7 billion in 2020.

- International travelers spent \$337 million in 2021, up 25.6% from the previous year.
- Local tax receipts grew 26% to \$1.1 billion.
- Direct tourism employment in North Carolina increased 10.5% to 197,500.
- Direct tourism payroll increased 18.9% to \$7.7 billion.
- Visitors spent more than \$79 million per day in North Carolina. That spending added \$6.4 million per day to state and local tax revenues (about \$3.3 million in state taxes and \$3.1 million in local taxes).
- North Carolina hosted nearly 45 million visitors in 2021.

The CVB is fully funded by revenues generated by the occupancy tax on lodging facilities in Chatham County. Additional information on the CVB and attractions and events in Chatham County can be found at <https://visitpittsboro.com>.

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BEST OF CHATHAM 2019 READERS' FAVORITE

BEST OF CHATHAM 2021 READERS' FAVORITE

BEST OF CHATHAM 2020 READERS' FAVORITE

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Marilee Renee Barton

Chloe and Tyler Barton of Jessup announce the birth of a daughter, Marilee Renee Barton. She was born July 28, 2022, in Chatham County, weighing 8 pounds. She was 19 inches in length.

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Aug. 15, Quamane Terrell Matthews, 32, of 104 Anthony St., Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for discharging a weapon into an occupied dwelling or vehicle, assault by pointing a gun and assault on a female. Matthews

was also arrested for possession of a firearm by a felon. He was placed on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Sept. 12.

On Aug. 15, Kansas Star Philbrick, 27, of 2974 DeWitt Smith Rd., Pittsboro, was arrested by Staff Sergeant Ashley Ellington for failure to ap-

pear regarding child support. Philbrick was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Aug. 26.

On Aug. 16, Ian Matthew Caffey, 36, of 82 Deer Corn Path, Moncure, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failure to maintain lane control and driving while impaired. He was issued a

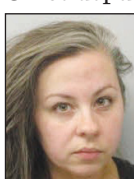
written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Sept. 7.

On Aug. 16, Randall James Fesel, 27, of 488 N.C. Hwy 87, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Jason Kane for failure to appear. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Johnston County District Court in Smithfield on Sept. 19.

Arrest made in 'Death by Distribution' case

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

Chatham County Sheriff's Office deputies have arrested



Samantha Caroline Biehl

Biehl is accused of illegally selling fentanyl pills to the victim, contributing to the victim's fatal overdose in March 2021.

The crime falls under North Carolina's "Death by Distribution" Act, which first took effect on December 1, 2019. N.C. Governor Roy Cooper signed the Act (NCGS §14-18.4) into law in response to the increasing number of deaths related to the opioid epidemic. The law allows for the prosecution of individuals who sell drugs to buyers who later overdose as a result of using those controlled substances.

"Death by distribution cases can be incredibly difficult to prove or prosecute, making it even more essential for authorities to conduct thorough investigations and follow all leads," explains Sheriff's Office Captain Ronnie Miller. "Acquiring autopsy and toxicology reports, conducting evidence testing, holding interviews, obtaining search warrants, reviewing phone and internet records, and so on — each phase of the process takes time, manpower, and resources from multiple agencies. Without teamwork and persistence, this outcome would not have been possible."

In Biehl's case, the Sheriff's Office reached out to the Siler City Police Department to gather information and explore available leads ahead of the arrest. Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson says taking a suspect into custody is only one step along the path to justice for surviving family members.

"We cannot arrest our way out of the crisis and we can't

end addiction overnight. No arrest can restore the life that was lost, but it is our hope that further deaths can be prevented through appropriate intervention and partnership with the community," says Roberson, who emphasizes the importance of working together toward shared goals to combat opioid abuse, addiction, and overdose. "We all have a responsibility to raise awareness and talk with our family members and friends about what addiction looks like and how to prevent it. We all have a choice to fight for the future and health of our county, not just in words, but through our actions."

Roberson made his stance against opioids clear when he co-founded the Sheriff's Prevention Partnership on Controlled Substances (SPPCS) with former Public Health Department Director Layton Long in 2017. The SPPCS is a collaborative effort among multiple agencies to provide a comprehensive approach to addiction, featuring stake-

holders and representatives from various professional and personal backgrounds. Law enforcement and first responders, health officials, medical professionals, educators, mental health service providers, counselors, survivors, and individuals in recovery all joined forces to formulate a plan; the group continues to work together to implement life-saving measures across Chatham County. Notably, the SPPCS is responsible for supplying all first responders in Chatham County with the life-saving opioid overdose-reversal drug Narcan, which to date has saved over 106 lives in Chatham County.

"Residents can play a powerful role in deterring drug abuse in their communities. It's important to recognize the warning signs when a friend or family member is struggling, and be brave enough to point them toward available resources," says Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Sara Pack. "But the most courageous

decision you make today may be calling 911 to report their dealer and provide evidence to help put them behind bars."

Biehl is currently charged with felony death by distribution, felony selling/delivering a Schedule II controlled substance, felony possession with intent to sell/deliver a Schedule II controlled substance, felony possession of a Schedule II controlled substance and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. She was assigned a \$275,000 secured bond and is due to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 31.

The investigation into the case is ongoing.

Roberson says the Sheriff's Office will continue to investigate criminal activity and arrest those found responsible for breaking the law. Anyone with information or who suspects criminal activity in their area should call 911 as soon as possible to share that knowledge with investigators.

Friends of the Chatham Community Library to host fall book sale

PITTSBORO — The Friends of the Chatham Community Library will host the library's annual fall book sale on Sept. 23 and 24 in the library's Mary Hayes Barber Holmes Meeting Room in the Chatham Community Library. This event is free and open to the public.

With over 20,000 books in 26 categories, there is something for everyone, including large selections of cookbooks, art and poetry. Most hardcovers are \$3 and soft cover books are \$2. Some books may be specially priced. A 10% member discount is available on both sale days. Cash, check and credit cards

are accepted.

Book sale hours will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 23, and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (it's half price day for all customers) on Saturday, Sept. 24.

For additional information visit [https://friendscl.org/Coming-Book-](https://friendscl.org/Coming-Book)

Sales or contact the Friends at book-sale@friendscl.org.

Note: For the safety of its customers and volunteers, the Friends will follow recommendations of the state and local governments regarding social distancing and the use of face masks in effect at the time of the sales.

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham Democrats to host 'Chatham Dems Together' on Sept. 9

Chatham County Democratic Party will host its "Chatham Dems Together" fundraiser on Friday, Sept. 9, at the Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center in Pittsboro.

Local Democrats and Democratic-leaning unaffiliated voters will gather for an evening of delicious Cajun cuisine, Louisiana dance hall music by the Zydeco/Cajun-flavored Blues favorites Mel Melton & The Wicked Mojos and dancing. The evening's special guest speakers include North Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls, North Carolina House Democratic Leader Rep. Robert Reives II and Dr. Ronda Taylor Bullock, a local anti-racist educational specialist.

The festivities kick off at 6 p.m. with a gumbo meal prepared by 401 Main in Carrboro, guided by Melton, who besides being a musician is also a local celebrity Cajun chef. Vegan options are available. Ticket options include event only, event/dinner, or event/dessert. All proceeds will go to support Chatham County Democratic Party's 2022 Get Out the Vote activities.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: ccdpc.org/event

Wren Memorial Library expands Monday hours

SILER CITY — Beginning Sept. 12, the Chatham County Library will adjust its hours of operation at the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 N. 2nd Ave., Siler City.

The library will open two hours earlier at 10 a.m. on Mondays. Effective Sept. 12, Wren Memorial Library will operate with the following hours:

- Mondays: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturdays: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

More information about Wren Memorial Library and other Chatham County Library locations can be found at: www.chathamlibraries.org.

Schedule changes at driver license offices: Road test waivers end Sept. 14

ROCKY MOUNT — As the summer peak season winds down, the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles will be making some changes to office hours at several driver's license offices across the state.

Saturday walk-in service hours at 16 offices, which began on May 21, will end at the close of business on Aug. 27.

Beginning Sept. 6, another 10 offices will join 25 offices opening at 7 a.m., an hour earlier than normal, to provide walk-in services. These additional offices are Concord, Durham East, Fayetteville South, Hickory, High Point, Lexington, Lumberton, New Bern, Salisbury, and Wentworth.

A current list of offices with Saturday and extended hours can be found here. Office hours for all locations can be found on NCDMV's office locations webpage.

"We have had a very busy summer at DMV offices across our great state," said NCDMV Commissioner

Wayne Goodwin. "Our staff continues to do its best to meet the needs of customers across our in the face of a severe labor shortage."

Customers can visit MyNCMDV.gov any time, day or night, for services including driver's license and ID renewals, ordering license or ID card duplicates, changing address (within N.C.), renewing vehicle registration and paying property taxes, ordering custom plates and completing a voter registration application.

"We continue encourage customers to skip the trip to the DMV and do their business online, if at all possible," Goodwin said. "If you must come into a driver license office for service, please make an appointment well in advance. And finally, make sure you bring all the needed documentation with you on appointment day."

Following the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency on Aug. 15, road test waivers will be discontinued on Sept. 14.

The lone remaining modification to DMV processes because of COVID-19, most recently extended under House Bill 650, is the temporary reduction in the amount of time a teen driver must hold a Level 1 Limited Learner Permit.

Following the adoption of the Graduated Driver Licensing system in 1997, and until May 2021, a 16 or 17 year old had to have their Level 1 permit for 12 months before they could advance to Level 2. That timeframe has been temporarily shortened to six months and will sunset at the end of the year.

Cooper directs new funding to support postsecondary students, new teachers

RALEIGH — Gov. Roy Cooper last Friday directed \$14.5 million in new federal funding to further support postsecondary students in completing their degree or credential and to support beginning teachers as they start a new academic year.

Cooper is investing \$7.5 million in funding for the Finish Line Grants program for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years. The Finish Line Grants program, launched by the Governor in 2018 with

federal funding from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, is designed to provide grants to community college students who face unexpected emergencies, including medical bills, car repairs and loss of childcare, that might prevent them from finishing their coursework.

"Finish Line Grants have helped thousands of students over the past four years stay on track toward completing a credential or degree," Cooper said. "This new funding will help even more students better their lives by making sure a hospital bill or car repair doesn't stop them from finishing their training."

Through a partnership between the N.C. Dept. of Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions, local workforce development boards, the North Carolina Community College System and local community colleges, Finish Line Grants totaling over \$4.7 million have been awarded to more than 5,400 community college students in the past four years.

With this new injection of funding, administration of the program will transition from the Commerce to the North Carolina Community College System. As with the original program, students will still be required to have completed at least 50% of their program of study and be experiencing an unexpected financial emergency to qualify for a grant. Given the increase in the amount of funding and greater flexibility of the funds, more community college students will be able to take advantage of the program.

—CN+R staff reports

LEADERSHIP CHATHAM OPEN ENROLLMENT

LEADERSHIP CHATHAM, a signature program of the Chatham Chamber of Commerce, is designed to develop informed, skilled, and involved leaders for Chatham County.

The Leadership Chatham class year begins with an Opening Reception and Orientation in September. Full-day sessions are held monthly from September through May. Graduation takes place in June. Lunch is provided on session dates.

Participants of the Leadership Chatham Program are taken on a journey through the social, cultural and economic makeup of Chatham County. The connections made and knowledge acquired throughout the class year are indispensable.

Will you take the journey with us?

Contact the Chamber of Commerce for more information or to enroll.

919-742-3333 | 984-265-9172
info@ccucc.net

<https://www.ccucc.net/sites/default/files/LeadershipChathamBrochureApp2022-2023.pdf>

We Are The... Siler City Lions Club

Our overall mission is to serve the Siler City community with emphasis on helping the visually impaired and children with childhood diabetes. We regularly do service projects to raise money to support our mission.

We will be at the Silk Hope OLD FASHION FARMERS DAY

Saturday & Sunday, September 3 & 4

See you in Silk Hope on Labor Day Weekend!

CCCC hosts 'Prep for Success Academy' for prospective students

BY CHIP PATE
CCCC Marketing
Correspondent

SANFORD — Everyone was transfixed on the computer monitor as Danielle Bruner gave a tour of the mouth.

Using a specialized camera embedded in a foot-long white wand — with one of her students as her patient — the dental hygiene clinical coordinator for Central Carolina Community College circled through the mouth and around teeth, stopping now and then to point out oral anatomy and even a tiny piece of lettuce left over from lunch.

Along the journey, Bruner answered plenty of questions. She talked about what she would tell her patient based on what she was seeing. She gave her perspective on what it's really like to work as a dental hygienist. There were plenty of stories along the way, too; some were funny and others, well, let's just say they were not for the squeamish.

This hour-long session on intraoral photography was part of Prep for Success Academy, a four-day, summer initiative designed to introduce prospective students to careers in dental assisting and dental hygiene — especially students representing various minority groups who are sorely needed in dental professions.

All of the students packed around the dental chair for this intraoral photography introduction are current CCCC students selected through an application process, complete with an essay and letter of recommendation. Once admitted, they get to participate all week in free workshops on a broad range of dental topics, techniques to become more successful in college and how best to navigate CCCC's competitive application process for dental programs.



With students Afia Sarpong, left, and LeeAnn Lilly watching the monitor, CCCC dental hygiene clinical coordinator Macy Woods demonstrates how to position the camera to get digital images that dental professionals use to treat patients.

CCCC photo by Chip Pate

Think of Prep for Success Academy as a mix of dental education, academic counseling and college recruiting.

Amy Gustavson, who delivered a one-hour session the previous day on time management and self-advocacy, said many of the participants are first-generation college students trying to navigate a highly competitive academic program. More than 100 students applied for 18 seats in CCCC's dental hygiene program last year, she said, and were selected based on a points system that rewards academic preparation and tangible activities demonstrating that students are serious about enrolling in college dental programs. By understanding the intricacies of the process, they can maximize their chance of admission.

But it's not just about exploring dental professions and gaining admission. As its name suggests, Prep for Success also helps students build a sense of community with each other

and make connections with college faculty and staff that will help them succeed on campus.

Linette Hernandez Rodriguez is entering her second year at CCCC and applied to Prep for Success after receiving an invitation by email — a message sounding so good that she almost dismissed the opportunity as some sort of scam. Though she's just halfway through the four days, Hernandez Rodriguez said the experience has already intensified her interest in dental hygiene. She's now focused on finishing one prerequisite class, continuing to build that all-important network for success and refining her application to submit in March.

In the back of her mind, she's playing with the idea of eventually becoming an orthodontist. Right now, though, she's focused entirely on preparing to work as a dental hygienist.

LeeAnn Lilly had already applied to study dental assist-



Danielle Bruner, left, helped introduce prospective students to careers in dental assisting and dental hygiene during the four-day Prep for Success Academy. One of the hands-on demonstrations was this intraoral photography session with academic coach Ashley Mullins and student Jenny Duke, at right, watching the process unfold.

CCCC photo by Chip Pate

ing and enrolled in Prep for Success after someone in the dental school called to see if it's something she'd like to try. The answer was a resounding "yes." From the time she had a good experience with braces as a child, she thought this might be something she'd enjoy as a career. It matched her interests and her personality. Plus, as she puts it, "The whole mouth-thing never bothered me." But this was a chance to see for sure.

For Lilly, the experience was captivating from the start. Going into the week, she expected to be fascinated by the "ins and outs" of dentistry. What she didn't anticipate was loving all of the dental instructors and students who have given their time to come through the classroom, get to know the participants and then share real encouragement and insight. "It's definitely given me more interest," she said, "and a drive to do better."

TRiO Student Support Services Director Jessica Rogers, who organized Prep for Success Academy, said this is the

first time it has been offered, but won't be the last. Already, plans are underway to offer this introduction to dental professions again next year — with the same hands-on labs, higher-education workshops and success coaching.

On the other hand, there could be even more to offer next year: insight from any incoming dental students who got inspired by what happened during this week. Because these students are already seeing themselves as part of a community.

After the intraoral photography clinic and just before the day ended, Bruner gathered students together in a circle. They went around one by one, each student saying something she was thankful for. And then they put their hands into the center and counted, "One. Two Three. Go, team!"

For more information on CCCC TRiO Student Support Services, visit www.cccc.edu/trio/sss/. For more information on CCCC Dental programs, visit www.cccc.edu/curriculum/majors/dental/.

Tara Rooks brings dance instruction back to Jordan-Matthews this fall

From JMArts

SILER CITY — Dance classes return to Jordan-Matthews High School this fall for the first time in decades, with Tara Rooks being named as the school's new dance teacher.



Tara Rooks as the school's new dance teacher.

As currently structured, the new faculty position will be shared

with Chatham Central High School, with Rooks teaching both semesters in Siler City and Bear Creek.

Though this will be her first full-time faculty position in schools, Rooks taught residencies for K-12 students over the past year as a dancer and instructor with Annex Dance Company in Charleston, S.C. Before that, she served as a dancer, choreographer or instructor with Burlington (N.C.) Dance Center,

West Virginia Dance Company and Infinite Dance Studios in Australia.

She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance and Choreography in 2019 from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

A native of Lexington, S.C., Rooks describes herself as a professional dancer with a passion for creating and performing. Her strength is in jazz and modern dance, she

says, and that has been the focus of her professional performance. But she also loves musical theater and is interested in incorporating Latin dance into the curriculum.

"When I interviewed, I liked the feel of [Jordan-Matthews], and the idea of building a program from the ground up is very exciting," she said. "High school dance was where I got inspired to study dance in college and make it my career. I

want to bring this vibrant option to [Jordan-Matthews] students, especially those who've never had a chance to study dance. Maybe they can discover a passion they never knew existed."

JMArts President Rose Pate said this semester begins a new era for arts education at Jordan-Matthews, with theater and dance classes returning for the first time in many years. It comes at a time when students have been showing a real passion

for the arts.

"With the start of the Dance Club last year, it was clear we had students who are interested in learning more about this art form," she said. "I'm very excited that Ms. Rooks will be joining the Jets family and getting our dance program off to a flying start."

JMArts is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, charitable organization providing what JM students need to succeed in dance, music, theater and visual arts. All money raised through individual donations, admission fees, fundraising events and grants goes directly to providing performance showcases, educational opportunities, instruments and supplies for students.

The nonprofit is best known for JMArts Scholars. Scholarships are awarded each year allowing returning JM students to pursue intensive study over the summer, usually at weeklong, residential workshops offered on university campuses. Other major projects include the school's annual musical, a variety of public events and the New York Arts Adventure, where eight students travel to New York City for five days over spring break to experience the best in the arts and learn directly from several world-renowned professionals.

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

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Trying to make sense of the county's wastewater crisis — through the eyes of an expert

Hal House, Chatham 21st host session examining reusing wastewater and biosolids for fertilizer and irrigation in farming

Halford (Hal) House spent his early days on a self-sustaining farm in eastern N.C., followed by years in various roles in academia and business. Today, he's a member of the Chatham County Wastewater Study Commission, and his work in the county has created and extended his passion for clean water.

He'll help lead an information session Monday evening entitled "Balancing the Risks and Benefits of Agricultural Water Reuse." It'll be a presentation and discussion about the benefits and challenges of reusing wastewater and biosolids for fertilizer and irrigation in farming, and held from 6 to 9 p.m. at CCCC's Siler City campus, at 400 Progress Blvd.

You can preregister at chatham21st@gmail.com; Chatham 21st has organized the event. Through Chatham 21st, House has advised and formed an alliance of Chatham County neighbors committed to education and advocacy for healthy sustainable growth.

"Nothing was wasted on our 100-acre farm run by two mules and seven children," House recalls from his childhood. "Drinking water came from a bucket dropped into an open well and a privy out back provided natural relief. When we upgraded to indoor plumbing, my grandfather still preferred the privy since he did not believe in putting waste in good drinking water."

That thinking, he said, led to the Chatham County project that was the first reuse project in N.C. It uses plants to clean water and recycles it back into an office building to flush toilets.

"Ultimately observing and trying to mimic how nature puts the sparkle back in smelly polluted water has been my guide," House said. "Support from so many generous collaborators enabled me to provide critical pioneering development of nature-based solutions to providing clean water, its reuse and regulation. I have gained valuable knowledge through honest conversations with good people from all walks of life, especially my neighbors in Chatham County."

House has multiple science and ecology degrees from N.C. State.

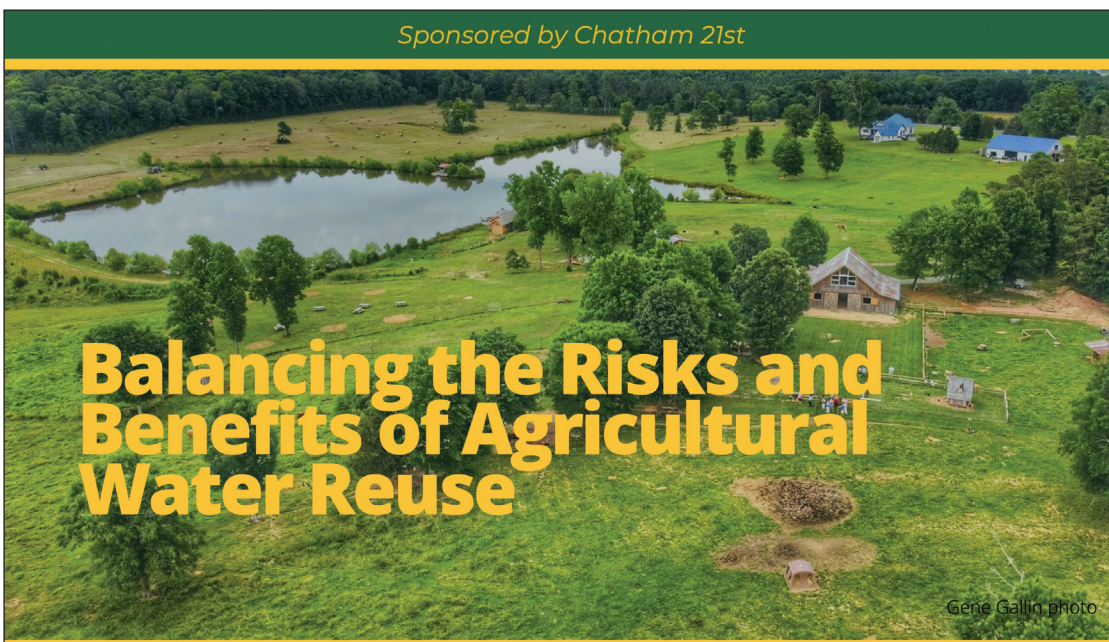
Here's more from our extensive conversation with Hal House; a full version of the Q&A can be found at www.chathamnewsrecord.com:

Chatham's rapid growth (20% increase in residents since the 2010 Census) has put demands on the county's existing infrastructure. We've seen over the last couple of years the impact that's had on water and wastewater systems in Pittsboro and Siler City. Add in the pollutants in drinking water sources, and you begin to get a feel for the challenge we have on our hands. Let's start, though, with a look at Chatham 21st – what does your organization do and in what broad ways is it addressing those challenges?

First, I want to say that I have been given both the pleasure and responsibility to serve as a member of the Chatham Wastewater Study Commission (WWSC). Part of our charge is to examine such issues and questions that you note within this interview. Therefore, it is very important to realize that any comments that I make during our conversation are mine and do not represent the opinions or knowledge of the WWSC.

Chatham 21st is a community organization begun in late 2021 by concerned neighbors across eastern Chatham County. Before having a name, this group presented education meetings about wastewater treatment and its safe uses. We are working to expand our membership throughout Chatham County by reaching out to people in all walks of life.

We figure you're never too young or too old to advocate for improvements in water quality



Please Join Us For:

A presentation and discussion about the benefits and challenges of reusing wastewater and biosolids for fertilizer and irrigation in farming.

Speakers:



Halford House PhD
Environmental Scientist and Entrepreneur



Laura Allen
UNC Gillings School, Environmental Health Solutions, MPH Candidate



Samantha Shapiro
UNC Gillings School, Environmental Health Solutions, MPH Candidate

Topics:

- Chatham County Waterways
- Innovative Wastewater Solutions
- Toxins and Forever Chemicals
- Alternative fertilizers
- Real life applications
- Health Impacts

Save the Date:

Monday, August 29, 2022
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Central Carolina Community College,
400 Progress Boulevard, Siler City, NC

Please Pre-Register:

Chatham21st@gmail.com

Faculty Advisor

Dr. Howard Weinberg
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

Public Health Preceptor

Dr. Halford House
Willow Rock Retreat, LLC

and reliable supply.

Our priorities are to promote education and advocacy. Education for the community that defines the challenges of conserving and using our water resources wisely through promoting comprehensive, fact and science-based information with a focus on the successful traditional and promising emerging technologies. And our members share a passion for advocacy on water issues at the local, state, and federal levels.

Water, contrary to what some of us may think, isn't an unlimited resource. Why is an understanding of water and the water cycle, and our use of water important?

As you suggest, how we view water is somewhat of a puzzling contradiction, a paradox. Even though we can't live without it and access to clean water has been declared a basic human right, we generally take it for granted.

We have evolved into a society that relies on specialists to manage many aspects of our lives, and we have lost important knowledge concerning the where and how of water. Scientists and engineers manage our water so well that we rarely need to think past turning the tap or flushing the toilet.

This loss of knowledge and the parallel denial of personal responsibility create the ideal conditions for exploitation and/or system failure due to the lack of oversight by the most important participant, the consumer of the resource.

Much of your work has been devoted to studying wastewater treatment within Chatham County. Give us an overview of how that's working now — and what happens when it doesn't work so well ...

In general, wastewater management technologies used in Chatham have evolved to reliably address the scale of growth and development demands. There is a wide range of effective technologies for every stage of growth but deciding what is appropriate during transitions is problematic.

Chatham County's expressed goals are somewhat in conflict. There is interest in maintaining rural character, promoting

selective high-density growth, and achieving balanced tax revenues to include additional industrial sectors. Policy-making that can achieve that goal in the presence of intense financial and political forces is daunting and dynamic depending on who holds the decision-making power.

We've reported and read lots about the problematic Briar Chapel wastewater treatment system and its spills. Is that isolated to just Briar Chapel?

I have seen similar situations around N.C. over what is a somewhat surprising span of time and of economic conditions. Problems have arisen in poor minority communities that are in the way of local political interest and on to communities with significant financial means faced with the vagaries of the prevailing government decision-making and management. Either case is a disservice to environmental justice and often an assault on the health of the communities involved.

Due to the N.C. Legislature's policy as expressed in 2013's HB 74 focus on economic growth and development over environmental issues, clean water, and wastewater system compliance do not get the needed oversight. Water regulatory bodies have lost funding, employees, and institutional memory. They have also had their regulations altered to minimize control of water pollution. Therefore, it is likely that these conditions have limited the ability of regulatory bodies to provide needed oversight of the problems at Briar Chapel and other communities due to a lack of personnel and support from state leadership.

Wastewater treatment systems that serve the communities of Chatham and elsewhere are highly mechanical and often receive poor maintenance. It is normal for mechanical systems to break down at points in their lifetime, but they should be repaired quickly.

What's the solution to problematic privately-owned Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTPs)?

Regardless of whether a WWTP is privately or pub-

licly-owned, it must be well designed, installed, and maintained.

We are fortunate to have an engineering community that designs with sound engineering practice, so design is rarely an issue. However, construction administration for very large and complex systems like, for example, the Briar Chapel WWTP, is a major challenge for engineering companies and may lead to a decrease in quality of materials and their installation.

One of the main limitations of privately-owned systems is that their operation and maintenance are typically managed by a separate business entity than the ownership. Due to the economic pressure of minimizing cost and maximizing profit, if the maintenance entity lacks competition in their business sector, the results can be a lack of preventive and routine maintenance. However, a privately-owned system with high quality operation and maintenance should operate as effectively as a publicly-owned system. The chosen technologies for both public and private approaches are selected based on the amount of wastewater and treatment level required. Either approach is effective if properly maintained.

How's Chatham doing as a county, and how are its municipalities doing, in terms of handling wastewater? What could be done better on a governmental level, and on a private level?

Chatham County, through the Environmental Health Department, has responsibility for on-site septic systems that are largely dependent on soil conditions for proper operation. Chatham County has an effective program that provides clear options even though some of the most limiting soils exist over much of the county.

Chatham County can develop a Memorandum of Understanding in the future with the state regulatory entities to permit some degree of oversight of state regulated wastewater systems at the county level if the state political interests shift to environmental protection.

Operation and maintenance can be improved by implementing centralized monitoring and decentralized management for residential and community wastewater systems. The process is much the same as employed by utilities that monitor our electrical and Internet networks in real time and dispatch maintenance when there are operational problems.

Management of biosolids needs improvement since they are created at many sources and distributed to farmers and ranchers as free and safe. Distribution to a central location for processing to remove toxic chemicals and define their fertilizer content is needed for quality assurance and safety.

Odor control of community wastewater treatment systems can be significantly improved by the implementation of simple strategies currently not utilized. For example, return of treated irrigation water to the beginning of the process decreases the creation of noxious sulfur gases. In addition, Chatham County can create a Nuisance Control Ordinance that would combine odor, lighting, and noise control as a part of the current policy tool upgrades.

What do homeowners and users of these systems need to know?

This of course relates to an earlier question. We must first realize that we are all a part of water supply and wastewater treatment systems through our everyday activities. Once we can acknowledge this, each one of us can take effective actions to conserve water and to limit the extent and type of pollutants that we add to either system. For homeowners, perhaps the most effective role is to learn about the wastewater or water supply technology that serves them and to monitor and report its reliability.

Your organization is planning a series of public presentations about Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) and wastewater. What's planned for those presentations, and why should people consider attending?

Our first public forum is entitled: "Balancing the Risk and Benefits of Agricultural Water Reuse."

The forum will include presentations and discussions about the benefits and challenges of reusing treated wastewater in Chatham County. For agriculture, the reclamation and reuse of water and the fertilizer value within it can play a major role in addressing the high cost of fertilizer and providing water supply assurance during drought.

Another segment of the forum focuses on Contaminants of Emerging Concern of which Forever Chemicals, or PFAS, the highly toxic fluorinated chemicals that build up in our bodies and never break down in nature are one type. According to the Environmental Working Group, "Today, nearly all Americans, including newborn babies, have PFAS in their blood and more than 200 million people may be drinking PFAS-tainted water." Emerging research indicates that Forever Chemicals are linked to a variety of cancer and endocrine disruptions as well as increased cholesterol levels, decreased vaccine response in children, and increased risk of high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women.

We will provide three presentations: 1) Overview and evaluation of the use of reclaimed water for agriculture in the United States and its potentials for Chatham County; 2) Potential challenges of "Chemicals of Emerging Concern" within reclaimed water and biosolids for agricultural use; 3) Intriguing options for management of Forever Chemicals in agriculture, communities and homes

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Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

YOU TWO GO PLAY, BUT NOT COWBOYS AND INDIANS. THAT IS CULTURALLY INSENSITIVE.

AND DON'T DO COPS AND ROBBERS AS THAT JUST GLORIFIES GUN VIOLENCE.

AND FORGET DODGEBALL AS THAT JUST PROMOTES BULLYING WEAKER KIDS.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING A KID? EVEN WHEN YOU'RE BEING GOOD YOU'RE BAD.

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

THURSDAY... *#!*

DARYL CURSES THE DAY HE BOUGHT HIS OUTDATED CALENDAR

R.F.D. by Mike Marland

SO, WHERE'S THE LEMONADE?

OUT OF STOCK. SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES.

BUT IF YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO HELP SUSTAIN MY BUSINESS THROUGH THESE DIFFICULT TIMES...

WOW, SHOULD WE REPRIMAND HER FOR BEING A NAUGHTY LITTLE SCAMMER OR PRAISE HER FOR HER INGENUITY!

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

WE NEED TO HAVE A TALK ABOUT THE BIRDS & THE BEES.

UH... I GUESS THAT'S OKAY...

...BUT I'D RATHER TALK ABOUT SEX!!

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

GOOD NEWS FELLAS, A FEW PEOPLE GOT LET GO TODAY SO THERE'S EXTRA DONUTS IN THE BREAK ROOM.

CRIM AND BEAR IT by Wagner

"Who owns the hybrid in the executive parking lot?"

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo **POSTPRANDIAL**

ACROSS

1 Male cats
5 "Unto the Sons" author
11 Perp's place
15 Overwhelm, as with
19 Getting the task done
20 Region next to Catalonia
21 Minnesota ex-governor
22 Something to belt out
23 "Save As," "Print" or "Select All"
25 Name as a source
26 Liturgical act
27 "Alas, it wasn't to be"
28 Africa's Amin
29 Destitute
30 Sponsorship
31 Small telescope
34 Diner classic
37 Ancient Celtic priest
39 Join together in a labor group
40 Message on a protective book cover
45 Breastbone

49 Holds fast (to)
50 Makes sure the task gets done
54 Kong or Koko
55 6/6/1944
56 Extracts via humor
58 Small gift for shindig guests
61 Purported psychic skill
62 — job on (messed up)
63 They propel parameria
65 Actress Dunne
66 Spot in a hotel to book a room
70 Happen next
73 South African grassland
74 — -edged pages
75 Positive vote
78 Certain fruit bar
81 Sheriff's aides
83 U.S. fort holding gold
84 Scarfed down
85 More restless
87 Miserly sort
89 Stationery store product
92 Ping-Pong

94 Sweet snacks on sticks
98 Cry to an attack dog
99 Source of music to accompany silent films
103 Big name in concert pianos
108 Drizzles or sprinkles
109 Dog botherer
110 Cereal grain
112 Guileless
113 Verdi opera heroine
114 Fish's respiratory structure
115 Where the starts of eight answers in this puzzle might appear

118 Street — (rep in the city)
119 War god
120 Senator Sanders
121 Low — diet
122 Model Banks
123 Heredity unit
124 See 95-Down
125 Kett of old comics

DOWN

1 Burial sites
2 Barely ahead
3 Like many toothpastes
4 Attacked like a bee
5 Confucian "way"
6 Upper limb with pews
7 Antifungal brand
8 "Good grief!"
9 Part of SST
10 British actor
11 British actor Derek
12 Melodic passage
13 While being shipped
14 Film's Spike or Ang
15 Person scattering seeds, say
16 Brother of Nintendo's Mario
17 Shenanigan
18 "Good grief!"
24 More chilly
29 Play on words
30 Wood-dressing tool
32 Twin of Apollo
33 Diminish
35 Engine oil, for short
36 — gritty
38 Twilight time
40 Precious green stone
41 Tosses in
42 British fellow
43 Lock unlocker
44 Alters in size, as a photo
46 Church area with pews
47 Resting atop
48 Nothing more than
49 Cut and dried soup veggie
52 "Dynamite" singer Cruz
53 Chimps' cousins
57 Future pupae
59 Clenched hand
60 Genesis boat
62 Low grades
64 "— be a shame if ..."
66 Really regret
67 Wang of dress design
68 Examine minutely
69 Person voted in to a seat
70 Cheese from Holland
71 Statistics expert Silver
72 Goblet part
75 Auth.
76 Bear or Berra
77 Past partners
79 Seismic occurrence
80 Being harshly criticized
82 Balls
83 "— Tiki"
86 "— deal!"
88 Actress Leah
90 Quebecois' national anthem
91 Butter bits
93 Takes heed
95 With
124-Across, dreaded time of the year for many allergy sufferers
96 Last words of a threat
97 Links org.
99 Land parcel
100 Fur-covered
101 Duck variety
102 Charge-free
104 "Twin Peaks" actor Jack
105 Be the champion of
106 Ward off
107 — Buena Island
111 Gillette razor
114 Choke
115 Crunchable muscles
116 — de Janeiro
117 Lion locale

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

S	I	D	E	S	A	L	A	D	S	C	A	L	E	S	P	A	C	T
I	T	I	N	E	R	A	T	E	H	U	M	E	R	O	E	V	E	S
C	R	A	V	E	R	S	O	F	T	H	E	M	O	O	N	T	A	L
S	Y	L	M	A	R	A	I	D	S	P	L	I	T					
T	H	E	B	E	S	T	O	F	I	N	V	E	N	T	I	O	N	S
C	L	O	S	E	L	Y	P	E	D	I	A	G	R	E	E			
D	O	N	T	K	E	E	P	M	E	W	A	I	V	I	N	G		
E	K	E	D	O	R	A	R	E	D	R	E	D	L	A	T	I		
F	I	S	T	S	F	I	V	E	S	T	A	R	R	A	V	I	N	G
W	O	M	I	R	T	H	A	I	R	I	N	D	I	A				
C	O	R	I	N	T	H	S	N	A	R	L	S	I	G	N	I	F	Y
O	P	E	N	A	T	A	B	S	P	E	E	D	D	I	E			
W	A	V	E	R	O	V	E	R	T	H	E	D	A	M	L	Y	C	R
S	L	E	D	E	R	A	T	W	O	S	C	R	O	N				
P	O	I	N	T	O	F	C	O	N	V	E	N	T	I	O	N		
I	S	H	T	A	R	S	R	A	E	R	R	A	N	D	S			
S	T	A	R	V	I	N	G	Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	B	A	C	K
A	R	T	I	E	A	U	T	A	D	L	T	E						
I	O	T	A	H	O	V	E	L	R	E	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	O
A	B	E	D	O	N	E	S	I	E	S	N	U	C	K	I	N	T	O
H	E	R	S	T	S	L	O	T	S	E	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	S

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 W L N V T R L I E O N M P N L
 E E L K I A O D N T T G I I E
 M C B Z G L X W R S S C E N U
 S R P O O S C U R I E N O M G
 L J I P G E E D B R N R I R A
 Y X W U T T Y A D A R A F E P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: — ARMSTRONG

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Aldrin | Faraday | McAuliffe | Proctor |
| Aristotle | Fleming | Mendel | Resnik |
| Curie | Galileo | Newton | Tesla |
| Einstein | Hubble | Polo | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2				9				7
	1		6			3		
	5	8			7		9	
		1			2		6	3
	3		9			7		
4				3				1
		5	1			8		
7				5				6
	9				3		4	

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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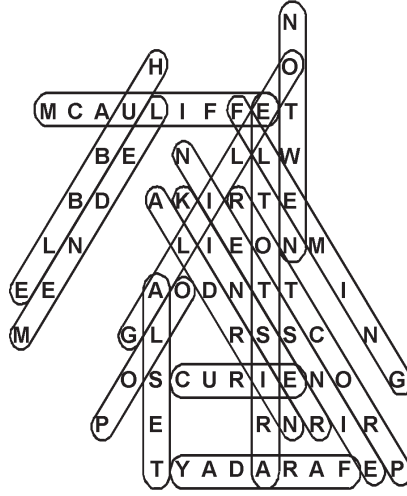
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MOON CRATERS NAMED FOR PEOPLE



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

2	4	3	5	9	1	6	8	7
9	1	7	6	4	8	3	2	5
6	5	8	3	2	7	4	9	1
5	7	1	4	8	2	9	6	3
8	3	2	9	1	6	7	5	4
4	6	9	7	3	5	2	1	8
3	2	5	1	6	4	8	7	9
7	8	4	2	5	9	1	3	6
1	9	6	8	7	3	5	4	2

A personal twist on bistec y arroz

When the Hispanic population got large enough in our area to support markets, my town started getting grocery stores which cater to them and carry many foods that are impossible to find in regulation American supermarkets.



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

I was thrilled.

All of the wonderful, delicious ingredients that I remembered from my time in Puerto Rico were there, the sort of ingredients that make one's dishes smell and taste like my memories of my time on that amazing island.

I was able to introduce all of those flavors and aromas to The Kid. Much to my delight, my child was as passionate about the new foods as I have always been.

Maybe it was genetics, or maybe it was just the fact that Puerto Rican food has the best ethnic food on the globe (Cuba's a close second, but those black beans of theirs don't come close to the red beans, or habichuelas rosadas that are eaten in Puerto Rico).

So, I shopped in these stores. The spices, the canned goods, the marinades, and the glorious produce.

The fruit and vegetables were as gorgeous, ripe, and tasty as gourmet grocers, but about half the price.

And, their meat departments are manned with real butchers, which means all the meats are cut fresh and not cut, pre-packaged, frozen, and shipped in.

I discovered one of the greatest cuts of meat for a quick, delicious dinner.

It's called flap steak. From Wikipedia: "Flap steak, or flap meat is a beef steak cut from the obliquus internus abdominis muscle of the bottom sirloin. It is generally very thin, fibrous, and chewy, but flavorful, and often confused with both skirt steak and hanger steak."

It's also known as bottom sirloin butt.

You must cook it quick and hot, then slice it against the grain or you will be faced with the toughest, chewiest piece of beef you've ever unhappily placed into your gob. The dog might eat it, but even he'll have

a time chewing it.

It makes delicious sandwiches and it's wonderful for soups and tacos.

The only bad part about the steak is when I first discovered it, it ran about \$1.99/pound. And then, folks discovered this wonderful cut of meat and it became popular.

All of this popularity came at a price; it runs about five bucks a pound now.

So, not only am I giving you a great tip, I'm also risking the price going up some more.

This great personal sacrifice is all for you, my Gentle Reader.

Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.com.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Flap meat, well-prepared.

Brown Rice Patties

1 ½ cups traditional brown rice
3 cups water
2 teaspoons salt pinch pepper
2 tablespoons butter
Place rice, water, salt, and 1 tablespoon of butter into a saucepan with a tight-fitting lid. Cook on medium high. When it comes to a boil, reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and cook until the rice is tender and all the water has cooked in (approximately 35-45 minutes). Leave pot covered and let it sit off the heat until the rice has cooled.

At this point, you can refrigerate up to overnight. Just microwave for a minute or so until the rice is no longer hard and can be worked with. Heat a skillet on medium and add the other tablespoon of butter. Once the butter has melted, add the rice and spread out into a thin, even cake about ½ inch thick. Cook on low until the first side is browned (around 30-45 minutes). Flip and cook the other side until browned. Slide onto a large plate and slice for service.

Peas

1 1/2 cup frozen baby peas
1 tablespoon fresh dill or thyme, chopped finely
Add everything except fresh herbs to a lidded saucepan and cook on medium low until the peas are hot. Remove lid and let water cook off. Take off heat and stir in fresh herbs.

2 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup water
cook on medium low until the peas are hot.

Flap Meat

1 pound flap meat, cut into very thin slices
2 tablespoons butter

Salt and pepper

Right before service, get a large skillet crazy, smoking, screaming hot. Also, place a plate in the oven which is just turned to warm.

Season the beef. Melt 1 tablespoon in the skillet and place slices in to pan, don't crowd them or they will steam instead of brown. Cook for about 15 seconds and flip, cooking the other side.

Remove from skillet and put on plate in oven. Cook the rest of the slices in the same way.

Place a slice of the rice cake on the bottom of the plate. Pile with slices of steak. Add peas in an attractive manner. Optional, place a piece of the fresh herbs on top for decoration.

Serves 4.



Adam Phillips, Miranda Parker, Mary Maloney, Gary Phillips, Jay Parker, Don Basnight, Ken Tunnell, Terri Turner, Crystal Fisher



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