

Chatham News + Record

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Pittsboro Pool League cues up community and fellowship

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Squaring up the white cue ball on the pool table at the Sycamore at Chatham Mills, Jay Niver hunches over and — eye level with the ball — pulls back his brown wooden pool cue. Then, in rapid succession he moves it back and forth toward the cue ball, as if winding up. Once, twice, three times, then four: his target makes loud contact with the red 3 ball, sinking it into the corner pocket.

As the ball clunks into the leather netting, onlookers cheer and say “nice shot” in what’s become a weekly scene near downtown Pittsboro.

Niver is the founder and president of the Pittsboro Pool League. The group plays weekly games at the Sycamore or at one of the member’s homes. Numbering around 30, the league has continued to grow since its inception in March 2019.

A good break

The skill level of the players ranges from amateur to former professionals, which according to Niver is part of the community the league has created.

“I discovered there were people like me who just like to play,” Niver said. “The beauty of it is there are good losers here; so I’d say it’s really 75% fun and 25% competition.”

Living in Canada, Niver said it was common to go out to bars and have everyone be part of a pool league. He wanted to bring that same spirit to Chatham County when he moved back.

“I grew up with a table in the basement,” Niver said. “Anytime any-



Staff photo by Anna Connors

Bruce Hively, member of the Pittsboro Pool League, lines up a shot during a match against Antonio Sloan at The Sycamore at Chatham Mills.

one came over in high school or whenever we just played. But when I joined a league that’s when I really learned what to do and really fell in love with it.”

He said the only public table in town was at the former Pittsboro Roadhouse, owned by Greg Lewis — who now also owns The Sycamore.

“I introduced myself to Greg and asked if he would be interested if we could play there if I got a group together,” Niver said. “He was very supportive and said we could play for free.”

After some posts on social media, flyers around the Roadhouse and email blasts to neighbors, Niver had the league racked and ready to go.

Solids and stripes

One of the early members was another frequenter of the Roadhouse, Jimmie Vaughn. He bought a used pool table online and

donated it to the Roadhouse so the league could grow even further. With two tables in one spot, members of the Pittsboro Pool League could play games simultaneously. From those two tables came more players and more competition.

While Pittsboro Roadhouse shuttered its doors during COVID-19, PPL lives on in its new home. Last season, the league played 12 weeks with four teams of six to seven players each. The league also holds open tournaments with small cash prizes.

“At first I was skeptical of it, but my dad dragged me out to the Roadhouse for an open 8-ball tournament,” said Antonio Sloan.

At 25, Sloan has been nicknamed the Smokin’ Tony — he’s the youngest player in the league but the most calculated and competitive. He can play with the big boys and frequently wins tournaments in PPL.

“I remember Antonio and his dad pulling up to this tournament and we thought surely one of our members would win it,” Niver, also referred to as Weasel, said. “But next thing we knew, he and his dad were taking out our best players and walking

away with the money so we said, ‘We gotta get this kid to join us.’”

Sloan said he likes to test himself and see how good he can get, but the most fun part of the game is learning its intricacies. He said being part of the PPL with players who are more experienced helps him learn those nuances on a higher level.

“I played competitively for nine years and that was probably the best I’ve ever been,” Sloan said. “But I don’t think I’ve ever had more fun playing than I have in this league right now.”

Other members, like the Bear — a.k.a Bruce Hively — have trickled in along the way and made the league what it is today, and it hopes to expand even further in the near future.

“The competition here is increasing every year,” Hively said. “There’s opportunities for everyone to grow their game here. It’s just a good group of folks who know and enjoy this game.”

Sinking the 8-ball

Niver also keeps the stat sheet every week for the league. He knows which

See **POOL**, page A7



COMING NEXT WEEK:
The brand-new edition of Chatham Life magazine, published by the News + Record, will be included in the Dec. 8-14 edition of the newspaper. The magazine includes features and snapshots of Chatham County and much more.

10 YEARS LATER Pittsboro closer to new Land Use Plan

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

In a single decade, Pittsboro has seen major growth in town and its surrounding areas. The establishment of two megasites and one of the largest planned communities in the region within close proximity in the county means land use and infrastructure investment in Pittsboro will reckon with rapidly growing development across Chatham and the challenges of pressing sewer capacity and affordable housing issues.

Over the past several months, the town of Pittsboro, in collaboration with engineering and planning firm Stewart Inc., has been working toward updating a crucial policy-guiding document that touches on all these issues: its Land Use Plan. Now, Pittsboro residents are only a few months away from seeing the adoption of a new plan — more than 10 years after the first one was implemented.

See **PLAN**, page A3

‘TRAGIC AND ALARMING’

New coalition forms to keep Maternity Care Center open

Members urge Chatham Board of Health to issue public statement of support amid an uncertain future for the clinic

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County has been described as a maternity care desert, meaning services for pregnant women are absent or sparse either through lack of services or barriers to access within the county.

According to the 2021 Chatham Community Assessment, the county ranks in the state in infant mortality at a rate of 9.4 infant deaths per 1,000 births. Figures are even worse for Black and Hispanic residents — with Chatham’s Black infant mortality rate at 19.4 deaths and Hispanic at 11.2. The state average is 7.0 and the national average is 5.7.

See **CENTER**, page A12

THE CN+R Q&A | DAKOTA PHILBRICK, LOVE CHATHAM

Love Chatham continues focus of serving county’s neediest

Love Chatham, a non-profit organization established in Siler City in early 2021, is a common banner under which churches, businesses and people from Chatham County can come together to serve and love those in our community suffering from homelessness and hunger. This week, we speak with its executive director, Dakota Philbrick, about its work.

Philbrick, a Chatham native, is a graduate of Chatham Central High School. He earned a degree in business management and computer information systems from Appalachian State University. Over the last 15 years he has gained experience in accounting principles, project management, information technologies and small business entrepreneurship all



over the southeast before moving back to N.C. in 2020.

Let’s get a quick update on Love Chatham. You’re one of a number of great nonprofits providing much-needed support here in Chatham. Can you share about some of what you’ve done and are doing, and what kinds of needs you’re seeing?

The greatest need is for emergency housing resources. We’re seeing a growing need.

See **LOVE**, page A7



Courtesy of Love Chatham

Love Chatham’s executive director, Dakota Philbrick.

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 at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5, at the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro for the Oath of Office and Organization of the Board for newly elected county commissioners.
- The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5, at the Wren Memorial Library in Siler City

OTHER

- **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: 100 block of E. 3rd St.
- On Sunday, December 4, the **Pittsboro Business Association's** monthly **First Sunday Street Fair** will be featuring arts and crafts vendors, other businesses and civic organizations, music, food, and children's activities. Many downtown businesses will also be open, along with the Historical Museum. Come enjoy this family-friendly event from 12-4 pm!
- The **Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors** will meet on Thurs-

day, December 8th, at Haley Bales Steakhouse, 220 E. 11th St, Siler City, NC 27344. All meetings are open to the public. To be added to the agenda or for more information, please call (919) 545-8440.

- The **Chatham Chamber of Commerce** is announcing the Siler City Christmas Parade will be held Thursday, December 8 at 7 p.m. with the theme: Christmas: Past, Present and Future. This will be down S. Chatham Avenue from 4th Street and North Chatham Avenue to Chandler Concrete (804 S. Chatham Avenue), Siler City.
- On Saturday December 10 from 2 - 6 p.m., the **Silk Hope Rurians** will have their 3rd annual Ruritan Country Christmas with Santa and kids giveaways. There will be lots of things for kids to do at 4221 Silk Hope Road.
- **Chatham Community Library** Presents Virtual Film Screening: Defiant Lives. In recognition of Universal Human Rights Month in December, Chatham Community Library will host a virtual film screening of Defiant Lives (2017). This program is free and available to the public. WHAT: Virtual Film Screening: Defiant Lives; WHEN: Thursday, December 8 - Thursday, December 15 - WHERE: Virtual Program (see registration details below) - WHO: Defiant Lives is a triumphant film that traces the origins of the world-wide disability rights movement. It tells the stories of the individuals who bravely put

their lives on the line to create a better world where everyone is valued and can participate. Featuring interviews and rarely seen archival footage, the film reveals how these activists fought to live outside of institutions, challenged the stigmas and negative image of disability portrayed by the media, demanded access to public transportation, and battled to re-frame disability rights as a social responsibility relevant to us all.

- The public is invited to join **Chatham Community Library** on Saturday, December 10, for a special event called Death and Cupcakes. The event will provide a safe space to share stories and ask questions about sorrow, grief, and love around death, dying, and beyond. The goal is to bring positive awareness around death and to provide community support around living and dying. Death and Cupcakes: Coffee, Cake, and Conversation on Saturday, December 10 from 10:30 a.m. in Holmes Family Meeting Room at Chatham Community Library. - This program will be facilitated by the clinical director of heart2heart, Cathy Brooksie Edwards and by Abundance NC with music by Amy Durso. The mission of heart2heart is to support individuals, families, and communities as they navigate the living path during the dying time and beyond. Abundance NC works to create events that connect people to one another in a world less connected than ever. Coffee, tea,

and cupcakes will be served. Coffee is provided by Aromatic Roasters of Pittsboro, and cupcakes are provided by Carolina Cravings Co. of Pittsboro. This program is free and open to the public and made possible with funding from the Friends of the Chatham Community Library. Residents may also visit the libraries' website www.chathamlibraries.org or contact the Library at (919) 545-8084 or rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org for more information on this and other events and programs.

- 'Tis the season to celebrate with **Chatham County Parks and Recreation** at the fourth annual Holiday in the Park. The evening will be packed full of fun, family-friendly, free activities for the community to enjoy. Holiday in the Park will take place on Friday, December 9, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Northwest District Park, 2413 Woody Store Road, Siler City. This free event will include pictures with Santa, holiday-themed crafts, letters to Santa station, warm drinks and cookies, a hayride around the pond, and more holiday fun. The event will kick off with a tree lighting near the pond at 5:15 p.m.
- The **Teen Advisory Board (TAB) of the Chatham Community Library** is excited to announce its first-ever Teen Writing Contest. Local teens, ages 12-18, are invited to submit a work of fiction, non-fiction, or poetry (max 3000 words) in response to one of the TAB-crafted

CORRECTION

In the story "Here's where some of your Thanksgiving ingredients originate" (Nov. 24-30 edition), In Good Heart Farm co-owner Ben Shields' last name was misspelled on second reference. The story also mischaracterized Shields' farming background; Shields is a fourth generation farmer, and made a return to his agrarian roots when establishing In Good Heart Farm. The online version of the story has been updated to reflect this information.

The News + Record apologizes for the error.

writing prompts. Submissions will be accepted from November 18 to December 18, 2022. Participants should email their submission to Kathleen Pierce, Youth Services Library Assistant and TAB advisor. TAB members will judge the submissions. First, second, and third place winners will be awarded gift cards to McIntyre's Books in Pittsboro. Prizes for the Teen Writing Contest are sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library. For more information, visit the Chatham County Public Libraries website, or contact Youth Services at youth.services@chathamlibraries.org.



2022-23 SEASON

presents

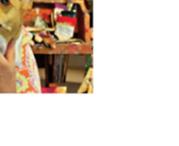
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- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)
- 271 Talon Drive (11.97 Acres)
- 1835 Lewter Shop Road (3.24 Acres)
- 0000 Jim Gilliland Road (57.284 Acres)
- 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres)
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- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)

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- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)

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- 1 Village Lake Drive (Siler City)
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- 3 Village Lake Drive (Siler City)
- 4 Village Lake Drive (Siler City)
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- 210 N. Chatham Avenue (Siler City)

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- 5631 Swanns Station Road (Sanford)
- 4233 NC Highway 902 (Pittsboro)
- 130 Estes Drive (Chapel Hill)
- 1136 Sanford Road (Pittsboro)
- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)
- 1429 Van Thomas Road (Pittsboro)
- 1315 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
- 745 Mert 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)
- 1637 Briar Chapel Parkway (Chapel Hill)
- 9849 Twisted Oak Trail (Snow Camp)
- 5470 US 15 501 Hwy (Pittsboro)
- 5472 US 15 501 Hwy (Pittsboro)
- 390 New Salem Church Road (Pittsboro)
- 211/298 C D Thomas Road (Siler City)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 7 Units

- 107 Hawks Spiral Way (Pittsboro)
- 85 Herndon Creek Way (Chapel Hill)
- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)
- 6490 Snow Camp Road (Snow Camp)
- 94 Pine Cone Loop (Pittsboro)
- 903 Woodland Drive (Siler City)
- 34 Carriage Court (Pittsboro)

PROPERTIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

LAND (Representing Sellers) 5 Units

- 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
- 10681 E US 64 Hwy (3.97 Acres)
- 0 Olives Chapel Road (75.43 Acres)
- 12190 E US 64 Hwy (15.158 Acres)
- 0 US 64 Hwy W (11.396 Acres)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 1 Unit

- 650 Half Dollar Road (Chapel Hill)

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Can NC Homeowners Leave Cameras on When Selling a House?



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‘EXPERIMENT IN EQUILIBRIUM’

Chatham Arts Council to hold Pittsboro showcase featuring 10 local artists

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham is home to a rich, vibrant community of artists and musicians, and this Saturday, 10 creatives from across the county will be showcasing their craft in an experimental walkabout installed at The Plant and hosted by the Chatham Arts Council.

The “JumpstART Walkabout :: An Experiment in Equilibrium” is a free public sharing of work funded by the Chatham Arts Council’s artist relief JumpstART grant. This year marks the second time that the CAC has hosted a showcase for artists awarded JumpstART grants, which was intended to

support artists and arts-workers impacted by the pandemic.

All artists were challenged with the prompt of “equilibrium,” which managed to take grantees down drastically different paths of exploration, said CAC Artistic Director Cheryl Chamblee.

“So the genesis of this prompt was this feeling that we’re all in a place of trying to find balance after a really big upheaval for the last two-ish years,” Chamblee said. “... And then the other piece is just that Chatham is changing really rapidly right now and so there’s a bit of an equilibrium search for the community.”

Earlier in the pandemic, when COVID-19 put a hold on

performances and gigs, the arts council launched the Chatham Artists and Arts-workers Relief Effort (CAARE) — weekly emergency funding for artists in the county. As things started to improve and performance opportunities returned, the CAC transitioned to the JumpstART grant in 2021.

That year, CAC partnered with Main Street Pittsboro to present a showcase with JumpstART grantees as part of First Sunday. Visual artists installed work in storefronts along Hillsboro Street and performing artists took up residence on a stage at the Pittsboro Welcome Center, but there was no theme requirement that wove the works together.

CAC staff are clear to indicate that this year’s showcase is unique in many ways, with Chamblee describing it as a “choose-your-own-adventure” experience. The grant is based on artistic merit, financial need and the agreement to participate in the upcoming public sharing of creations, Chamblee said.

“One of the things that I like best about art-making and one of the things that I love most about artists is that artists create something where there was nothing before,” she said. “And so six months ago, none of these projects existed. This sort of loose collaboration among this group didn’t exist. This partnership with The Plant didn’t exist yet. And I’m so

looking forward to seeing what a community can create in six months to celebrate artists and explore a topic that is relevant to the whole community.”

Artists applied to the JumpstART grant in the spring, with grants between \$250 and \$750 available for individual projects and \$500 to \$1,500 available for collaborative projects. Applications were reviewed by a panel composed of artists from the community and board members from the arts council, and grantees were announced in June of this year.

The 10 artists featured in the event also represent widely varying mediums, from audio-
See **SHOWCASE**, page A12

PLAN

Continued from page A1

‘Community conversation’

Staff from the town of Pittsboro and Stewart Inc. held two meetings on Nov. 15 at the Old Chatham Agriculture Building as part of a series of efforts to solicit feedback

from the community.

Benjamin Cotton, a senior planner with Stewart Inc., discussed where the Land Use Plan update currently stands, noting that the project is now in “draft mode,” which they hope to wrap up by early 2023.

A Land Use Plan is meant to provide policy guidance on development issues such as design and

intensity of land use, as well as investments in infrastructure and general town needs. In addition, it provides a long-range vision of a community’s future — looking even 10 to 20 years in advance. In accordance with N.C. Gen. Statute 160D, all municipalities must have a Land Use Plan to guide future development as part of the requirements

for zoning.

The plan is intended to be collaborative in nature, much like a “community conversation,” Cotton said.

Throughout the update process, the town has held a series of community stakeholder interviews and steering committee meetings and distributed a community survey, which was posted on the town’s Land Use Plan update webpage and closed on Nov. 20. The feedback from residents is being incorporated into the plan and draft recommendations and goals.

“That’s one of the best parts about the comprehensive planning process, is just giving a chance for the city to come together and hear what citizens are interested in, what their issues are, what they’re excited about,” Cotton said. “And the important thing is that it’s a policy document. This is intended to help guide the city, but it’s not regulatory. It can lay the groundwork for future regulations.”

The Land Use Plan will also include a Future Land Use Map, which showcases the “intended development pattern for the town’s future,” according to the LUP update’s webpage.

Aside from the presentation and opportunity to engage with both Stewart Inc. and town staff, the Nov. 15 community meetings also featured a series of boards spread across the room, depicting drafts of goals, recommendations and the Future Land Use Map and other elements related to the LUP. Individuals were encouraged to write comments on sticky notes and place them on some

of the boards.

In general, staff said several key themes were recurring in community feedback, including a desire for increased access to green spaces, more affordable housing and mixed housing unit types, preservation of town character and improvement of utilities and infrastructure. The full results from the survey, which received 573 responses, are expected to be posted to the town’s website later this week.

The six draft goals included:

- Grow strategically by investing in infrastructure, facilities and programs that improve the quality of life for all residents
- Collaborate with public and private partners, state and regional agencies, and neighboring jurisdictions to address cross-boundary opportunities and constraints
- Support a vibrant and energetic downtown with housing, entertainment, employment opportunities, and gathering spaces
- Opportunities for creative placemaking, entrepreneurship, innovation, and the arts
- Balance the preservation of existing neighborhoods with the need to increase housing and diversify housing opportunities
- Protect natural resources with best practices in land use planning, green infrastructure, low-impact development, and conservation design

Looking ahead

Pittsboro’s water and wastewater capacities are facing challenges, as demand threatens to outpace space — an issue that is crucial to continuing development. Though

the town is looking to regionalize its water and sewer capacities through a partnership with the City of Sanford — which should by 2026 increase both capacities by several millions of gallons — the current limitations are a looming problem.

Jake Petrosky, a planning manager with Stewart Inc., said he was surprised by just how unanimous community feedback was regarding the need for improved utilities.

“I think everybody realizes the sewer issue needs to be addressed,” Petrosky said. “... And that came out loud and clear.”

The development of downtown is a crucial part of the LUP as well, and Petrosky said there are several elements that need to work together in order for it to be successful, noting that downtown is “not monolithic.”

“We want businesses downtown but we’ve got to have sewer capacity to keep them,” he said.

Ultimately, the goal is for the LUP to be updated perhaps every five to seven years, Petrosky said, to grow alongside changing elements of the town.

“So it’s really difficult to anticipate everything,” he said. “[It’s] the reason why, like, this is not meant to be a plan that is set in stone. I mean, we really need to do this every five years or so, and have that conversation — ‘OK, what changed? How can we make this more appropriate for what we’re dealing with right now, and what we see coming and we didn’t see coming last time?’”

As the LUP moves forward, next steps include compiling feedback and analysis into a completed draft, which Petrosky said staff aim to have ready by the end of December. The draft will be available for public comment as the engineering firm works with the town’s planning board on the document at the start of the new year. The board of commissioners and planning board will then give final approval on the LUP.

Again, Petrosky emphasized the importance of community and staff input in shaping the update, which will look to the next decade of Pittsboro’s future.

“It’s a living document,” he said.

A draft of the Future Land Use Map, a project overview, land use suitability analysis, and other documents created by staff working on the project are available to view at nc-pittsboro.civicplus.com/391/Public-Engagement.

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



Christmas: Past, Present, and Future

CHRISTMAS PARADE

presented by the Chatham Chamber of Commerce
SPONSORED BY: MOUNTAIRE FARMS

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 08
7:00 pm | Float Prizes

LIVE OUT BAND will perform in the courtyard on Chatham Ave. before and after the parade.

SANTA will visit with children in the courtyard after the parade.

Need More Information? | Want to Submit a Parade Entry?
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VIEWPOINTS

I went to the Happiest Place on Earth. A guy there threatened to beat me up.



BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

My last fistfight, if you can call it that, was during my sophomore year of high school. It was with Mike Stoudt, a fairly good friend and a classmate, and it happened after Mr. King's typing class.

I haven't the foggiest notion now what our tussle was about, but somehow we ended up in a shoving match in the hallway. One of us may have even tried to throw a punch. Mr. King emerged from behind rows of typewriters to break things up as other students looked on; Mike and I got dispatched to the principal's office and spent an hour after classes ended picking up trash around the outside of our school building — chatting, as I recall, as if we'd not nearly come to blows hours earlier.

Definitely an "wasn't that stupid?" type of vibe. Boys have always been boys, but posturing and preening are at an altogether different level nowadays. My Instagram

feed is peppered with videos illustrating proof of the erosion of civility, showing us what would have been hard to imagine 40 years ago: "Karens gone wild" (with apologies to our own sweet-natured Karen Pyrtle here at the newspaper), customers throwing fits (and furniture) in coffee shops or overturning displays in convenience stores, frightening incidents of road rage, and 3-year-olds dropping "f" bombs — near-standard fare in today's culture, now featured on highlight reels in the palm of your hand.

What I've not seen are videos of brawls at Disney World.

Granted, I've not searched for them, but I nearly found myself starring in one.

My wife and I spent two pre-Thanksgiving days in Disney parks (Hollywood Studios, then EPCOT) in Orlando with our family (our three children, our two sons' wives). We had a splendid time, despite our daughter Karis' need to experience the magic from the seat of a motorized scooter — courtesy of an ACL tear in her right knee. She's 25 now and got around fine on her own, but late on the second day, at

EPCOT, Lee Ann and I hooked up with her to do a few things together before calling it a day.

It was Friday afternoon and the park was pretty crowded. We trailed behind Karis and her scooter. As Karis rolled along, a big guy staring at his cell phone was walking backward — from the side of the wide walkway, cutting across foot traffic without looking — from Karis' right.

"Watch out!" my wife said. It got his attention — Lee Ann's emphatic orders always get my attention, too — and he stopped in his tracks. Thankfully, a collision was avoided.

We kept going, relieved. A moment or two later, though, we heard a bellowing voice: "Hey, are you tellin' everyone to watch out? There's 100,000 people here today!"

At first that didn't register as being directed at us. Curious, I turned back. There the cell-phone man stood, with his wife and two young daughters nearby, glaring in our direction. "There's 100,000 people here," he yelled again.

Lee Ann — who'd by now had also turned around — and I just shrugged and kept going. I admit a little confusion

here: I wasn't sure if he'd actually done a guest count and was in charge of informing those around him of the park's attendance, or something else entirely.

Surely he couldn't have been upset with us.

Then — loudly enough for us and probably 1,000 of those 100,000 people to hear — he said: "That's right, that's right. Keep going ... you wouldn't want any of this!"

This? By "this," I wasn't sure if he was talking about his bulk, or his penchant for numbers, or what. Maybe it was his older daughter's Mickey Mouse ice cream bar — could he have been tempting me to take a bite?

Just to make sure, I turned around again.

"Hey big man," he smirked. "You sure you want to do this?"

Actually, I was. I had no vision of pounding him into submission — I didn't mention this before, but Mike Stoudt wasn't stout, but skinny as a rake, and our bout was a draw — and no intention of squaring off with him. But as someone who, in the words of my wife, has a "need to overexplain," it was important to me

that 1) he knew we'd simply been trying to keep him from being run over, and 2) he was made aware he was a jerk and a blowhard.

The next 30 or 40 seconds were a bit of a blur; I remember voices from others directed at us as I walked straight toward him. Then the wives got involved — his wife got in his face and said, "THAT'S ENOUGH!" whilst Lee Ann stepped in front of me and used her patient mom/teacher explaining voice to admonish the dude for not fully grasping the intention of her "watch out!" warning.

With eyebrows raised and an open palm at a 45-degree angle to the ground (much like she uses to command our dog Atticus to "stay"), she leaned forward, made sure he was listening, and said, "Sir, it wasn't an angry 'watch out.' I was trying to keep you from tripping over the scooter so no one would get hurt. That's all it was."

To his credit, his rage quickly turned to acquiescence. He apologized — score one for civility — and we rejoined Karis, who'd been watching all that from a safe distance.

Not filming with her iPhone, I might add.

A baseball fan's soccer strategy



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

I have tried to get into football this year. Not the old American pigskin, but the international version currently being played at the World Cup in Qatar. It's a struggle for me.

I did not play the game as a child or youth. I knew soccer players, but they tended to keep to their tribe. I assumed they bonded over their love of running and other such activities. Maybe sticking forks

in their eyes? I was a baseball player. My teammates and I would groan when our coach asked us to run to the outfield fence and back. One gains an insightful perspective about the difference between these two sports by comparing umpires — soccer referees look like they have just completed a triathlon, while your typical baseball umpire looks as though he has just completed a third run through the all-you-can-eat buffet.

Admittedly, baseball is no longer America's pastime. The sport is so less popular than football and basketball that it is vying for attention with soccer ... of all things! Major League Baseball has now resorted to imposing time limits between pitches to speed up the games and appeal to younger generations.

But fans like me know that players, coaches and rotund umps are not merely spitting in the dirt between pitches. Baseball is a game of strategic thinking — deciding where the infielders are positioned, the type of pitch to throw and the toppings for hot dogs.

From my limited World Cup research (I keep dozing off in front of the TV), soccer strategy involves somebody kicking the ball down the sidelines, then someone else kicking the ball to the center of the field and finally somebody trying to kick it in the goal. The point seems to be to run as fast and far as you can for as long and hard as you can.

There must be more strategy! Surely, soccer fans could enlighten me just as I might regale them about the back door curveball, sacrifice bunt or sauerkraut.

I emailed a high school friend who, other than his love of soccer, is a perfectly reasonable guy. He explained that the strategy was to kick the ball down the sidelines, then kick the ball to the center of the field and finally try to kick it in the goal. The point was to run as fast and far as you can for as long and hard as you can.

I would rather stick a fork in my eye. I enjoy the rare occasion when someone actually scores a goal. In fairness, is this not like watching a home run? Does soccer have the equivalent of the Home Run Derby when players try to kick the ball into the net as many times as possible? I'd watch that!

My son and I tried to watch the paint dry that was the recent match between the U.S.A. and England. Later, he asked me about the result — of the game, not my nap. I told him it ended in a tie. He looked blankly at me. Zero to zero, I added.

"But Dad, who won?"

Maybe not everything has to be win or lose. I don't have to compare sports to each other. They can just be different and unique. Neither better nor worse.

But if you need me, I'll be waiting for spring over here with the mustard and relish. No forks required.



Have you ever been Elfed?



JAN HUTTON
This Being Human Thing

You ever been Elfed?
Yes, *E-l-f-e-d*.

Assuming this has nothing to do with a visit from Will Ferrell, c'mon, Jan, what do you mean by "elfed?"

Thanks for asking! Here's my story and I'm sticking to it.

In December 2020, pre-COVID vaccine and socially quarantined, people were feeling very un-holiday like. What holiday? Too many dark clouds over our heads. It was in this context that I stepped out onto my front porch and almost tripped over a wrapped package. The attached card said "From an elf." Caught by surprise, delighted, my mind flipping through possible "elf friends" in my neighborhood, I suddenly felt so much lighter.

Didn't want to embarrass myself (or others) by contacting individual neighbors and asking "are you the elf?" So, I did the next best thing — jumped on our neighborhood listserv, described my experience, and hoped my elf might come out of the closet. Well, dang, that's not what happened. It was much better!

A couple of blocks away, another neighbor replied saying his family had also been "elfed." THEN, another neighbor, and another neighbor (getting hot and heavy here) and another ... Well, you get the picture. As other neighbors responded on the listserv sharing their elf experiences, it was almost as if the lights on a darkened Christmas tree began lighting up, one by one. The pandemic darkness and uncertainty in our lives was suddenly in abeyance, and joy, curiosity, and light took over for a while.

Over the course of the next five or six days, "elfing" and being "elfed" became a daily occurrence on our listserv. I have good evidence (but will not blow anyone's cover) that several copycat elves manifested in the neighborhood as well. The gifts were small and inexpensive, but their value to our spirits was priceless. And, being "elfed" has now become part of our neighborhood lexicon and history.

By the way, I do not believe there are seasonal limits on elfing. If your inner elf is calling, listen!

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.

States should take lead on welfare



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

I'm a fiscally conservative North Carolinian — and I think state taxes should be significantly higher.

No, I haven't lost my head, or my spine. And while I'm a committed supply-sider, I'm not referring here to projected revenues from a fast-growing economy.

I truly mean North Carolina ought to levy higher state taxes. But only if federal taxes go down by at least as much. That is, I believe large swaths of the federal budget

represent an illegal use of the tax and spending powers granted to Congress by Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution. The programs in question provide for neither "the common defense" nor the "general welfare."

What we call "welfare" spending is a prime example of the problem. When the constitution was drafted and ratified in the 18th century, the prevailing public understanding of the phrase "general welfare" was that it strictly limited the fiscal authority of Congress. As James Madison later put it, the phrase referred to "general and national," not "local or state" benefit. It was certainly never meant to describe a

program giving private individuals money, shelter, food, or other direct benefits.

As originally written, then, the constitution allowed Congress to fund a road or port facility if its main purpose was military, for example, but not if it was to facilitate commerce. Madison and other constitutionally minded presidents repeatedly vetoed bills that violated this principle.

The principle applies only to the federal government, however. Most state and local governments, including those here in North Carolina, operate under no such constitution-

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VIEWPOINTS

Philip Gerard: great teacher of great writers



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

When Philip Gerard died November 7 in Wilmington, North Carolina lost one of its most productive and multitalented writers.

His students and colleagues in the creative writing department at UNC-Wilmington would remind us of his great talent as a teacher and mentor to other writers.

As an engaging fiction writer, he was careful to keep his stories' underlying factual basis strictly accurate. For instance, his 2016 novel, "The Dark of the Island," weaves a story line that brings together facts about German submarines and spying along our coastline together with fictional efforts to find and exploit oil deposits off those same shores.

The main character, Nick Wolf, is a researcher and publicist for the fictional NorthAm Oil Co., which is searching for oil off the North Carolina coast. NorthAm sends Wolf to the Outer Banks to persuade the locals that oil drilling off their coast would be a good thing for them.

Wolf's grandfather was a German immigrant who died off the coast of Hatteras Island in 1942 reportedly while serving in the U.S. Merchant Marines, but possibly as a part of the German military.

Out of this intriguing background, Gerard's fiction emerges as an entertaining and provocative read.

As a talented writer of non-fiction, he knew how to weave the facts into compelling stories that held the attention of his readers.

In one of my favorites, "Down the Wild Cape Fear: A River Journey through the

Heart of North Carolina," I learned a lot about history, nature, environmental protection and degradation, public policy, human nature, and man's search to find a proper place in the world he did not create.

Thanks to Gerard's great writing, I experienced the drama, the challenges, the joys and the setbacks that are the seasonings of any journey through unfamiliar parts.

Starting a few miles below Jordan Lake where Haw River joins Deep River to form the Cape Fear, Gerard canoes downstream, passing by Raven Rock State Park before reaching the bridge at Lillington, getting through three sets of dams and locks, all the way to Fayetteville. Then, with the rapids behind, switching to a powerboat to follow the river as it passes Elizabethtown, he is on the way to Wilmington and into the ocean beyond Bald

Head Island.

We can still benefit from Gerard's stimulating writing. In May Blair/Carolina Wren Press published his latest book, "North Carolina in the 1940s: The Decade of Transformation."

Based on a series of articles Gerard wrote for Our State Magazine, his new book, in 13 short chapters, takes a look at North Carolina in the 1940s. No one book, especially a short one, can adequately cover an entire decade. But Gerard's selection and description of important topics gives his readers an informed introduction to the entire period.

Gerard's small book covers: the 1940 hurricane that brought deathly floods to the mountains of North Carolina, the origins of the "Unto These Hills" (a theatrical extravaganza depicting Cherokee life and history), challenges of land ownership for black

North Carolinians, the polio epidemic, construction of the Fontana Dam and the painful relocation of local residents, the powerful 1944 storm that lashed the Outer Banks, strikes at Reynolds Tobacco in 1943, Black Mountain College and its shocking liberalism in conservative North Carolina, the establishment of the Marine Corps training facility at Camp Lejeune, and finally the "sensitive, steady, and reliable leadership" of Gov. Mel Broughton.

If these topics are not enough for you, there is some good news. Gerard left another book for us, "North Carolina in the 1950s: The Decade in Motion," set for publication in March 2023.

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

Gracious winners



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

Just when you thought that politics — and those who participate in it — couldn't sink any lower, along comes Kevin McCarthy, the man who wants to be the next Speaker of the House in Washington.

Before all the mid-term votes were counted and certified, McCarthy appeared on Fox News boasting, "We have fired Nancy Pelosi."

That was only partially true — Pelosi was elected to a new two-year term. But truth didn't matter. Obviously lacking was common decency. McCarthy demonstrated once more the ill-mannered, hyper-partisan and disrespectful condition of politics today.

Not too many years ago Pelosi's announcement that she would not seek to serve as leader of her party would have been met with expressions of gratitude for her many years of service. To be sure, it would have been permissible for Republicans to add that, even as they disagreed with her politics, they could appreciate her leadership during some interesting, even perilous times like Jan. 6, the pandemic and personal threats.

It was one thing that neither McCarthy nor members of his party spoke forcefully against the vicious and horrendous attack from a MAGA nutjob on Pelosi's husband Paul, but to continue that silence when she relinquishes her leadership speaks volumes about the civility and goodwill of the members. It calls into question just how they define patriotism. A true patriot, it is commonly understood, vigorously supports his or her country, as well as the institutions and systems of government. We yearn for the days of Bob Dole, John McCain, Ronald

Reagan, Gerald Ford and Margaret Chase Smith, Republicans with decency, civility, love of country, respect for our institutions and any who offer public service. We are failing to teach civility, acceptable behavior or appropriate speech.

You don't have to be a Democrat or even a fan of Nancy Pelosi's to appreciate the octogenarian's service to this nation. Pelosi served as Speaker during two different periods, helping to pass the Affordable Care Act, among other major legislative efforts, and guiding the 435 members of the House during the worst pandemic in a century, dealing with the biggest attack on the Capitol since the War of 1812 and serving with poise during the worst division since the Civil War. Speaker Pelosi always demonstrated a calm and measured presence, a true lady and skillful operative who was masterful in leading through the nuances of House rules and norms. If you can't give credit to her accomplishments and her service, then there's little hope for you.

The words were barely out of Pelosi's mouth before the wannabe speaker and his tribe were boasting of what their agenda would be in the coming year.

Their first action will likely abolish the Jan. 6 Committee. Out of the gate, they must decide to either shut down government or raise the debt ceiling. They are expected to raise the ceiling but only if cuts are made to Social Security and Medicare, a mandate that will be dead on arrival in the Senate. Look for another New Gingrich-like government shutdown.

The new plurality wants to open investigations into everything, including the pullout from Afghanistan, border policies by Homeland Security, the origins of COVID-19, the FBI search of Mar-a-Lago, business dealings by Hunter Biden and decisions made during COVID over school closings and vaccine mandates.

Wait. There's more. There is a growing

demand to cut the new IRS agents Biden has hired to prevent tax fraud and extend the 2017 Trump tax cuts. Expect serious consideration of measures to ban schools from teaching about LGBTQ issues, student debt forgiveness, work requirements for those receiving welfare and border security, especially illegal immigration.

It makes you dizzy to even consider this agenda, but don't get too excited for two reasons. First, McCarthy has just a few votes over a majority and a caucus filled with the Freedom Caucus and other right-wing crazies. Managing them will require masterful leadership. Secondly, the Senate remains in Democratic control (especially if Raphael Warnock wins the Georgia runoff) and few, if any of the above items will be considered there. McCarthy knows this. Taking an example from Trump, he wants airtime and discussion on cable talk shows.

My unsolicited, unwanted and probably ignored advice to the new Speaker would be along three lines. First, accept victory graciously, understanding that revenge is a dish best served cold and with sweeteners. A dash of humility and humanity will go far. Second, better to focus on a few priorities and seek to get them passed, rather than firing shotgun blasts in too many directions and getting little done.

Finally, heed the wise advice of Frederick H. Hartmann, professor of political science, acclaimed author and longtime professor at the U.S. Naval War College. Former N.C. House Speaker and NC SPIN panelist Joe Mavretic, one of his students, frequently recites what he calls "Hartmann's Law." It simply states, "Never create more enemies than you can handle at the time."

It is good advice for a new House Speaker and equally good for those in business, people in public life and for us as members of the human race.

LEAD

Continued from page A4

al limitation. They enjoy a broad "police power" that Washington lacks — a power not just to enact civil and criminal statutes and enforce them but also to levy taxes to fund a wide variety of expenditures.

In other words, regardless of whether you think government should provide a safety net of cash and non-cash benefits, or how such a system should be designed and administered, you ought to be addressing your arguments to governors, state legislators, county commissioners, and the like, not to presidents or federal judges or members of Congress. State and local officials ought to be at least the primary decisionmakers, if not the sole decisionmakers, when it comes to welfare programs.

That's what the federal constitution requires, properly understood. When during the 20th century progressives argued that public pensions for single mothers and the elderly, unemployment compensation, and other welfare programs should be provided by the federal government, they should have used the amendment process to ask the American people to revise Article 1. Instead, progressives ignored the constitution, enacted whatever they wanted, and then reshaped the federal judiciary until it became sufficiently deferential to federal power.

Their gambit worked. Before the 1930s, most federal spending went to the current armed forces, payments to veterans of prior wars, and payments on federal debts that were overwhelmingly incurred during those wars. Today, entitlements and welfare programs comprise most of the (vastly larger) federal budget.

I'm enough of a realist to concede there's no way to cram the genie back into the bottle. But the current Washington-dominated safety net is unaffordable, unaccountable, and unconscionably destructive of families and the work ethic. In a new book, American Enterprise Institute senior fellows Angele Rachidi, Matt Weidinger, and Scott Winship describe a creative way to strike a better balance between the federal government and the states.

They propose to phase in a 50%-50% match for some \$300 billion worth of safety-net programs other than Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. States would shoulder more fiscal responsibility for such functions as cash welfare, nutrition assistance, and housing subsidies — but they would also receive vastly more authority to reshape and repackage the programs, along with financial incentives to move families off public assistance altogether (because doing so would count toward a state's matching requirement).

Such a strategy would make American government as a whole smaller as well as more effective. I'd take that deal in a heartbeat.

John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member. His latest



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LOVE

Continued from page A1

We've been receiving more and more phone calls from families, single mothers and victims of domestic violence. We're aware of 50-60 people right now who are in crisis mode, many of whom remain unsheltered. Last year during the winter Love Chatham supported almost 50 people at its peak by paying for their hotel rooms. While we have benefited from resources, we know the system won't be able to handle that this winter. Sadly there will be families, children, men, and women out in the cold this year. I wouldn't wish that on anyone. It's the reality we're facing.

We have community members who are hurting. Unsheltered. Or they don't know where their next meal is coming from. Operating in this space, with emergency housing needs, has really been an eye-opening experience for me and many members of our community who have given back by being generous with their service, time, energy and resources. There are so many gaps right now for those experiencing homelessness.

Does the community at large understand and appreciate the depth of the need? And can you share what you're seeing?

There's still this stigma out there that I see sometimes where folks can't get help because they're being labeled. Or because of a general lack of community education and support. But what about the family that was burned out of their home? Or the single mother fleeing an abusive partner? Or what about the handicapped lady in a wheelchair who has absolutely nowhere to go because there's such a lack of affordable housing?

Or what about the time where Love Chatham got a call in the middle of the night because another community member locked a disabled lady out of their home, after changing their mind about giving this person a place to stay? What about the rising costs where the average family has to spend an extra \$460/month in N.C. to cover basic costs — housing and food?

What about the person that missed work because of sickness or COVID and fell behind and was unable to make up the difference? What about the person waiting for affordable

housing — knowing that many of those wait lists are 30-50 people long? What about the family that was living in a house that wasn't habitable because of major problems with the home, or the family that had their rent increased so much and they were pushed out? What about the apartment that decided not to staff their office or the landlord who never returns a call, text or email? Or what about the landlord or management company that forced their tenants to go online to pay their rent when not everyone has access to a checking account — further causing delinquency?

Every single one of these has a story behind it. Every single one of those situations are examples of what we've seen.

Are we really doing this to each other? Are we really turning our backs on each other like this? There are a lot of great people willing to help. Folks that we work with every day. However, we also see a lot of systemic problems that have absolutely nothing to do with the person that might be experiencing homelessness.

We've got to do better.

Right now the only option available is to put someone in a hotel. That is really expensive. It's not practical. It's not a long-term solution. It's also not the best use of community resources — although we're grateful to have the opportunity to put someone up in a hotel — we also are keenly aware that we need better solutions that are more cost effective and more efficient. We need more stable housing solutions and we also need more emergency housing options. I challenge myself and my community to do the right thing. The truth is, we're supposed to love our neighbors. Mark 12:31 says "...Love your neighbor as yourself." And further in Matthew 5:42 "Give to those who ask, and don't refuse those who wish to borrow from you."

What I'd really like to challenge ourselves on is to look at your neighbor, to look at yourself, and to know that if you had an emergency need that you could count on one another. To know that your community would be there to love you and also to know exactly where you could go and who you could reach out to during your time of need.

It's all about relationships. Everything is relational. Love your neighbor. Share one another's bur-

dens. Galatians 6:2 "Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ."

And what's being done right now, at this point, for those who are struggling with homelessness? What's the recourse, the kind of help, available?

The area has some resources available through the non-profits as well as county level resources. We've been blessed with this great energy that the service providers bring and this push that's happening right now to center ourselves on creating solutions for the community. Love Chatham, an agency of United Way of Chatham County, partners with so many wonderful folks and organizations like Salvation Army, United Way, CPCA and the Department of Social Services, Second Bloom, CORA, Food Lion, Mountaire, as well as other county resources looking to provide solutions. We've received support from the Lions Club in Siler City, PUMC and First Fruits Harvest, and New Salem Church. So many more that I wish I could list and name them all. All these things matter. It adds up. It's a cumulative effect.

There is some transitional housing available through the housing authority. Housing voucher programs are also available. Affordable housing exists. Rapid Rehousing through CPCA. Emergency assistance through Love Chatham and Salvation Army is available. DSS will also step in to alleviate some emergencies and has programs available for those that are experiencing hardships. Second Bloom is a resource available for Domestic Violence victims. Here's the deal though, these programs are tapped out. There are so many more people needing assistance than there is capacity to serve. United Way recently shared that 211 has had a 180% increase in calls coming in requesting emergency housing assistance. The gap that we see, it's obvious, that a lot of that could be solved by connecting our programs even more through better overall emergency housing solutions — transitional housing programs and emergency shelter options. In this way, our community can come together and love those neighbors that are experiencing homelessness or have another basic need being unmet.

You've just wrapped up a diaper and coat drive. Tell us

about those needs ...

We get numerous requests for things during our distributions and these are items that frequently come up that are needed. As a matter of fact, about 80% of our ministry wait-list for folks experiencing homelessness are women and a good number of those are single mothers. Our distribution events are open to the public so we're not just serving those experiencing homelessness, but we have crossover between ministries and we know that families are struggling to keep up. This is just one way we can help. The pandemic disproportionately affected single working mothers and it has made it hard for community members to meet basic needs. I really think it's important for the community to continue to find ways to rally around each other, and our hard working mothers and families just need a little assistance with basic items right now.

We're also accepting adult diapers. Chatham County has an aging population — 25% over 65 years old — and it's also an area of need. We've been blessed with some adult diaper donations already, but those are another item that frequently gets requested. I was a bit surprised by that when seeking feedback on requested items for the clothing closet and this came up as an area that has some need that we would like to cover some ground on for our adult community members that need diapers.

Coats are being asked for because it's a seasonal need, and at this time we're limited in our clothing closet choices for coats because of the high demand. With our Nov. 5 distribution event some coats were brought in, and before we could get them through the door to sort through what was being donated, all the coats were already spoken for and distributed to the public within just a few minutes of receiving them. Folks that were there at the distribution event saw me bringing coats in and immediately jumped on the opportunity. So it's an area of need.

We'll be doing more drives in the future around other things that we hear from our community where there's a need. It's important to us that we keep this going so we can continue to pivot and be flexible in meeting the needs of the community. We've been blessed with

some donations already. The Goldston Rotary Club blessed us with some coats. And we'd certainly like to thank them for those donations.

Donations can be delivered to Freedom Family Church — Siler City, which is located at 421 N. Holly Avenue during our distributions from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Dec. 3 and Dec. 17.

For folks who can't make it to those drive, how can they help contribute?

Just reach out to me on the dedicated Love Chatham line at 919-726-9976 or by email dakota@lovechatham.org. Lou Giovenco is available as well for making donation arrangements at 941-468-5130 or email loughiovenco@gmail.com.

Our schedule can be a little more sporadic during the week as we work to meet community needs, so it's recommended to reach out to make arrangements.

The newest part of Love Chatham's outreach is a sewing ministry — what can you share about that?

I have to say that in my time as the executive director for Love Chatham that we've been blessed to be surrounded by and supported by some exceptionally dedicated and talented folks.

Rose, who is one of our dedicated and talented volunteers, started to notice that we were throwing away clothing donations that came in that couldn't be circulated in our clothing closet. Too many holes or too many stains. It's a small percentage of donations but still enough that started to catch the attention of some of the volunteers that are dedicated to the clothing closet ministry. So her idea was to take the old cloth and make something new. She's started working with other like-minded volunteers who want to make the most of the resources we've been given. We're a frugal organization and we don't like throwing things away. The sewing ministry will focus on turning those old items into blankets and gloves and scarves and so forth. It's still early on so we don't know how everything will turn out. That's not stopping us from trying though. The community is invited to participate and volunteer toward this ministry. Contact Rose — 908-887-9578 or email rosekish3@gmail.com to connect with this ministry.

What else do people who want to help need to know?

First, for anyone that has offered assistance or supported the programs available, you need to know that your contribution has made an impact in someone's life. You may not know that person. You may not get to see the outcome of your contribution, but I can promise you, it matters. That shirt you gave clothed a neighbor. That can of food you donated to your local food bank — it fed a neighbor. The dollars that you contributed — they may have housed a neighbor or provided a meal or offered additional financial assistance to keep the power from being turned off. The time you contributed to volunteering — it not only directly gives back to the community, but also strengthens our grant writing capacity and helps us expand our programs and our community reach. It's this outpouring of love that makes the community a better place to live. As the old adage goes, be the change that you wish to see in the world.

You could set up a donation drive right at your church or your business or in other areas of your community like at your school. Last year we were blessed with donations from a local "socktober" drive that one of the local schools completed. 3M, from the Pittsboro facility, is donating to us this year as well by providing a pair of socks, comb, bar of soap and a granola bar in what they're referring to as a "sock bundle." There are so many ways to contribute. We have a group sponsoring a fundraiser to buy a new stove for an older couple that lives in Pittsboro. We received matching donations to help supply someone in need with a generator to run her refrigerator and to help provide her with heat during the colder months. We received matching donations to provide a working washer and dryer for a community member. There are so many ways to get involved.

It doesn't have to be diapers and coats. We take all kinds of donations like clothing, food, furniture donations for our growing furniture ministry, and certainly monetary and many other types of donations. We have community members that let us use their trailers, box trucks, personal vehicles, RVs and the list goes on. I just encourage you to consider giving. It's a blessing to the community.

POOL

Continued from page A1

players have the highest shooting percentages,

which teams are projected to win and the standings of each team. Last season Vaughn's team, which Sloan was also on, won the league and they're

looking to repeat their success this winter.

The stats and standings get sent out in the weekly PPL newsletter entitled "Breaking balls and en-

joying racks." While politically off-color, it's part of the lax and fraternal energy of the group.

"The great thing about this league, though, is that

nobody — with the exception of a few — gets too upset whenever they lose," Niver said. "We just have fun. The reality is some of us are straight up not very

good at all. You don't have to be good to join our league."

There's joy in the league outside of the 16 balls on the table, Niver said. Often the best part in his mind is sitting around and watching others play as you sip a beer and shoot the breeze with people who quickly become close friends.

Watching the PPL shoot at the Sycamore, you'll find members congregating around the table as two people play — commenting on the next move, "ooing" and "awwing" at the angles of the cue ball and taking notes on certain billard strategies. Nerdy, maybe, but it's also a unique community in Pittsboro that has made itself a weekly home.

At its season orientation at the beginning of November, that sense of community was especially evident. Niver went around the room with each member trying to map out logistics for the upcoming season, listening to each player's schedule trying to find days when the league could play together.

That's what PPL is about: leaving nobody out and making sure every player, regardless of skill, feels included.

To join PPL or learn more information, contact niver@earthlink.net

Chatham Artists Guild

30th Annual Studio Tour

Dec. 3-4 & 10-11

Sat. 10 to 5pm, Sun. Noon to 5pm



celebrating
30 years
1992 - 2022

54 Professional Artists - 39 Open Studios



A Sampling of Work by Artists on the Tour
ChathamStudioTour.org

OBITUARIES

WILLIE CHESTLY FREEMAN



August 27, 1929 ~ November 19, 2022
Willie Chestly Freeman, 93, of Bear Creek died Saturday November 19, 2022, surrounded by his loved ones.

Mr. Freeman was born in Alamance County on August 27, 1929, to the late Pearl Freeman. In addition to his mother, Willie is preceded in death by his wife, Annie Mildred Brewer and daughters Kathy Hefner and Janice Lambert, a sister Maxine

Brewer and grandson Kevin Gaines.

Willie served in the Army during WWII. He was a mechanic and an all-around handyman for many in the community. He enjoyed farming and working on cars.

Mr. Freeman is survived by daughters: Ann and Dale Ray of Bear Creek, Betty Stephens of Wendell, and Tina and Steve Gaines of Goldston; brother, Raney Porterfield of Graham; 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Smith and Buckner Funeral Home. The funeral service was held on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Hickory Grove Baptist Church, 17721 NC 902 Bear Creek with Rev. Darrell Garner and Rev. Neal Kight officiating. Burial followed at the Freeman Family Cemetery, 1688 Vander Oldham Road, Bear Creek.

Smith and Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Freeman family.

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

CODY ALLEN MILES



November 12, 1991 ~ November 25, 2022

Cody Allen Miles, age 31, died at his home on November 25, 2020, after a battle with cancer.

Cody was born on November 12, 1991, to Timothy and Cynthia (Bell) Miles. He graduated from Northwood High School and received an Associate's Degree from Central Carolina Community College. Cody loved his family and he was a wonderful son, husband, brother, uncle

and friend.

He is survived by his parents, his wife Daiany (Guimaraes) Miles of Pittsboro; sister, Lena Miles (Chris) of Wilmington; brother Jeremy Miles (Meghan) of Fuquay-Varina; and niece Addyson Wilkins of Wilmington; grandparents, Jerry and Bobbie Johnston of Rome, Georgia, and Louis and Dot Bell of Calhoun, Georgia.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Verda Miles of Woodhull, N.Y. Cody was employed by UNC Hospitals as a Security Officer. He loved the Lord and being involved with his church, he treated others with kindness and compassion. Cody was an avid reader and had started writing his own book before being diagnosed with cancer. He loved his dog Hemi and was a die-hard Carolina Hurricanes fan. Cody loved his travel to Brazil and meeting Daiany's family. We will forever miss his smile and sense of humor.

A "Celebration of Life" will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. at New Hope Church, 7619 Fayetteville Road, Durham, N.C.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Venmo to @Dayane-miles to help with expenses.

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to be serving the Miles family.

Memorial tributes can be left at www.DonaldsonFunerals.com.

RONNIE J. CLEARY

November 9, 1941 ~ November 18, 2022

Ronnie J. Cleary, 81, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, November 18, 2022, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

He was born in Joppa, Maryland, to the late Johnny and Isabella Wagner Cleary. In addition

to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Ronnie J. Cleary Jr. and daughter, Virginia Lynn Cleary, as well as sister, Mary Cleary and brother, Keith Cleary. Ronnie served three years in the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne and after 35 years retired from Civil Service.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ella; siblings, Ben

DONALD ROBERT MILLENBAUGH



September 4, 1949 ~ November 24, 2022

Donald Robert Millenbaugh of Goldston, previously of Swanton, Ohio, went to be with the Lord on November 24, 2022.

Don was born in Cleveland, Ohio, to Robert and Elaine (Fortin) Millenbaugh on September 4, 1949. He was the second boy born out of a family of 10 children. He was a 1967 graduate of Swanton High School. He served in the Air Force and then was employed by Conrail. After moving to N.C., he worked with Noble Oil Services. He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Elaine (Fortin) Millenbaugh; first born brother, Robert D. Millenbaugh; youngest sister, Cathy Thomas; and nephews, Eric Millenbaugh and Scott Thomas.

Don was an active member of Tyson's Creek Baptist Church. He enjoyed singing in the choir, as well as his Men's Prayer Group and working with the Dental Ministry, for the N.C. Baptist Association. Don also loved working in his yard and any type of maintenance to his home and vehicles.

Don is survived by his wife, Vickie Freeman Millenbaugh; siblings, Raymond (Sue) Millenbaugh, David (Sharon) Millenbaugh, James (Bonnie) Millenbaugh, Linda (Alan) Kubiak, John (Diane) Millenbaugh, Tom (Suzanne) Millenbaugh, and Alan Millenbaugh; sons, Chris (Angela) Millenbaugh, Anthony (Michelle) Millenbaugh, Derek Millenbaugh, and stepson, Jeff Merritt; grandchildren, Hannah, Taylor and Auston Millenbaugh, Brandon and Mayson Merritt; god daughter of Vickie Millenbaugh, Raven Langley; and great granddaughter, Phoebe Millenbaugh; as well as 22 nephews and nieces.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, December 3, 2022, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Tyson's Creek Baptist Church, 10891 Siler City Glendon Road, Bear Creek, N.C. A funeral service with Military Honors will be held at 11:30 a.m., at Tyson's Creek Baptist Church. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Jude Hospital, Shriners Hospital, Wounded Warrior Project, Tunnel to Towers or Tyson's Creek Baptist Church.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Millenbaugh family.

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

SHIRLEY CHRISTINE CAMPBELL MAUER

December 25, 1939 ~ November 24, 2022

Shirley Christine Campbell Mauer, 82, passed away on November 24, 2022, with her two sons, Alan and Russell Mauer by her side.

She was born December 25, 1939, in Pittsboro, N.C., to the late Wade and Allene Tripp Campbell. Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Wade Campbell, Allene Tripp Campbell her and brother, Larry Wade (L.W.) Campbell.

She is survived by her two sons, Alan Mauer and Russell Mauer; her granddaughter and husband, Angela and Chris White, and their daughters, Savannah and Katelyn; as well as her grandson, Christopher Mauer and his daughter, Hazel Mauer.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, 1785 Mt. Gilead Church Rd., Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to UNC Hospice, P.O. Box 1077, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Condolences may be shared at CremationSocietyNC.com.

Cleary of Sanford, Virginia Petty of Virginia, Sheba Smith of Maryland, Harrison Cleary of Maryland, Carrie Perkins of Maryland, Jerry Cleary of North Carolina, Kyle Cleary of Maryland, Willard Cleary of Sanford and Bobby Cleary of Pennsylvania.

The family received friends on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

A funeral service will follow in the chapel at 2 p.m. with Pastor Billy Norris and Pastor

Linwood Johnson officiating. Burial followed in Lee Memory Gardens.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

DANNY LEWIS HANCOCK SR.

January 21, 1954 ~ November 23, 2022

Danny Lewis Hancock Sr., 68, of Goldston, passed away on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, at his home.

The family received friends on Monday, November 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at Antioch Baptist Church, with Rev. Doug Griffith and Rev. Mike Garner officiating.

Mr. Hancock was born in Chatham County, the son of Roy and Doris Cheek Hancock. After retiring from Townsend, he started a lawn care business, Hancock Lawn Care. He was a member of Antioch Baptist Church, and a dedicated community volunteer, serving on the Goldston Lions Club, as a Traffic Officer, and Safety Officer for the Bonlee Fire Department, for over 20 years with Bonlee Fire Department. Danny was a member of Pack 900 Boy Scouts.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Donna Boggs Hancock; daughter, Crystal Hancock Mishoe of Goldston; son, Danny Lewis Hancock, Jr. of Goldston; sisters, Ann White, Sue Brewer, Jean Dowdy, and Bonnie Scott, all of Goldston; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

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

MARY 'POLLY' WHITE MARLEY

July 10, 1927 ~ November 22, 2022

Mary "Polly" White Marley, 95, of Siler City, passed away on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at Chatham Hospital.

The family received friends Friday, November 25, 2022, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Brush Creek Baptist Church. The funeral service followed at 2 p.m. with Rev. Timmy Strider officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Ms. Marley was the daughter of Rufus and Emma Paige White. She was a member of Brush Creek Baptist Church. In addition to her parents, Polly is preceded in death by her husband, Paul Franklin Marley; son, Wayne Marley; brothers, Bill, Pete, James White; and sister, Louise Gordon.

She is survived by her sons, Michael Marley of Siler City, and David Marley of Bear Creek; two grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

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

MARY MEEKS DICKERSON

August 14, 1936 ~ November 19, 2022

Mary Meeks Dickerson, 86, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at UNC Hospital.

Graveside services were held on Saturday, November 26, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Buffalo Cemetery Mausoleum.

She was born to the late David and Lucy Odell Meeks. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Thomas Coleman Dickerson and sister, Catherine Stanley. She had worked many years at Roberts Company and retired from COLTS of Lee County.

She is survived by a son, Dale Dickerson of Snow Camp; daughters, Mitzi Johnson, Terry Lynn Dickerson and Tonya Bourgeois, all of Sanford; a sister, Helen Stephenson of Texas; 13 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

CHARLES LINDBURG CAMERON

October 31, 1933 ~ November 22, 2022

Charles Lindburg Cameron, 89, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at his home.

Graveside service was held on Monday, November 28, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Broadway Town Cemetery with Rev. Doug Houston officiating. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the Smith Funeral Home in Broadway.

He was the son of the late James and Sarah McNeill Cameron. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Vivian H. Cameron, a sister, Catherine Adcock and brother John Hugh Cameron.

Surviving are his sons, Tony Lindburg Cameron and Michael Ray Cameron of Broadway; sisters, Frances Regan of Raleigh, Barbara Jean Hester of Wilson, Rachel Lewis of Fuquay Varina, Ruth Cox of Mamers, and brother, James

See **OBITS**, page A9

This time of the year we are remembering with you and hoping you're surrounded by all the warmth and love you need to fill your heart with gentle memories of your loved-ones.



From December 11th-30th, we invite families who have lost a loved-one to join us in a remembrance gathering by our holiday tree. You will take home a special ornament and light a candle in memory of your loved-one while ornament supplies last.

Delicious holiday delights and warm beverages will be available on Sunday, December 11th, at 4pm.

Plan to come in and join us after the Pittsboro Christmas Parade.

www.donaldsonfunerals.com



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Give the Gift of Music this year!

We are collecting iTunes gift cards for the Chatham Council On Aging, "Music and Remembrance" program. Please consider donating some gift cards for our seniors who suffer from Alzheimer's and other memory loss diseases.

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GUY FUNSTON



July 11, 1936 ~ November 19, 2022
Guy Funston, 86, of Newport, passed away Saturday, November 19, 2022, at Carteret Health Care.

His Celebration of Life was held at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, November 27, 2022, at Munden Funeral Home officiated by Rev. Patrick Whaley.

Guy was born on July 11, 1936, in Mt. Kisco, New York, to the late William and Emma Funston. He was a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corp. Guy had a knack for selling vintage items and antiques. In his spare time, he was a member of the Lions Club in Chatham County, and a past member of the Moose Lodge in Sanford. Guy was awarded the N.C. State Young Farmer of the Year award. He will be cherished as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

He is survived by his loving wife, Daryl of the home; daughter, Sharon Kemp (Tommy) of Franklinton, N.C.; son, Steve Funston of Stuart, Florida; brother, Pete Funston (Joy) of Stuart, Florida; grandchildren, Brandi Glidewell, Megan Hamilton; great-grandchildren, Allison Glidewell, Samuel Glidewell, Madison Hamilton, Gabby Hamilton; and many sweet cats.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sons, William Kent Funston and Todd Funston.

As an expression of sympathy, flowers are welcome. Family and friends are welcome to submit online condolences at www.mundenfuneralhome.net.

Arrangements by Munden Funeral Home & Crematory in Morehead City, N.C.

OSTIA RALPH SELF



Ostia Ralph Self, 86, died Thursday, Nov. 24, at Rex Hospital, after a long illness. "Ralph" Self was born in Chatham County to Ralph C. Self and Lucy Elmore Self. He graduated from N.C. State University in Civil Engineering (June 1, 1958) and later earned a master's degree in Structural Engineering (July 19, 1963). He was in the ROTC at NCSU, served in the Army, and the Army Reserve until he retired as a Lt. Colonel.

After graduation from NCSU, Ralph joined the N.C. Dept. of Education, School Planning Division, where he was instrumental in the structural approval of many local schools. He brought his passion for engineering to the design of his own acclaimed mid-century modernist home, working in partnership with architect Truman Newberry. In 1995 Ralph received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Society from N.C. Governor James B. Hunt, the highest award given for state service.

Throughout his life, he was an excellent travel planner and enjoyed cooking gourmet meals for his family and friends. He was a proud father and grandfather, always encouraging his family to Dream Big.

He was predeceased by his parents; his brother, Leroy Self, and sister-in-law, Helen Marie Self; sister, Luta Self White and brother-in-law K.C. White; brother-in-law, Claude Johnson; and niece, Pamela Ann Self.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joanne Johnson Self; daughter, Sally Self West (Eric); granddaughter, Emily Kate West; brother, Dwight (Maryann); sister-in-law, Lib Johnson; nephews, Wayne White (Carol), Martyne Self (Leslie), Chris Self (Crystal), and Stan Self (Lisa).

A private memorial celebration of life will be held at a future date, to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to World Central Kitchen (www.wck.org) which feeds and helps people in conflict zones.

Condolences may be shared at CremationSocietyNC.com.

Burlington, passed away on Friday, November 11, 2022.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Sunday, at Knotts Funeral Home in Pittsboro.

CLARISTINE MATILDA DANIEL BRYANT

October 22, 1934 ~ November 23, 2022

Claristine Matilda (Daniel) Bryant, 88, of Moncure, passed away on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, at her home.

The funeral service was held Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 12 noon at Mt. View A.M.E. Zion Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

WILLIS SARAH (CRUMP) THOMAS

June 30, 1930 ~ November 27, 2022

Willis Sarah Thomas, 92, of Moncure, passed away on Sunday, November 27, 2022, at her residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

CHRISTOPHER ANTONIO WICKER

Christopher Antonio Wicker, 23, of Broadway, passed away on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, in Harnett County.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

ANNIE RUTH WHITE NELSON

Annie Ruth White Nelson, 89, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, at her residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

JAMES LEWIS ALSTON SR.

June 18, 1957 ~ November 22, 2022

James Lewis Alston Sr., 65, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at his residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

CHARLES W ROGERS

July 28, 1926 ~ November 13, 2022

Charles W. "Judge" Rogers passed away on November 13, 2022, at UNC Hillsboro.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

ANNIE M. (MARTIN) DOWDY

October 5, 1939 ~ November 20, 2022

Annie M. Dowdy, 86, of Ramseur, passed away on Sunday, November 20, 2022, at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

OBITS

Continued from page A8

Cameron of Lakeland, Florida.

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

MARILYN BOONE TUCKER

June 9, 1956 ~ November 24, 2022

Marilyn Boone Tucker, 66, of Bear Creek, passed away on November 24, 2022, at her home.

The family received friends on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held Thursday, December 1, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home with Pastor Tim Qualls officiating. Burial will follow in Chatham Memorial Park.

She was born in Pearl River, Mississippi, on June 9, 1956, the daughter of Troy and Blanche Hemphill Boone. She was a member of Old Paths Baptist Church in Gulf. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her son, Christopher Seal, and brothers, Michael and Rodney Boone.

She is survived by her husband of 26 years, Gary Tucker; sons, James D. Seal of Bear Creek, and David M. Seal of Mississippi; brother, Timothy Boone of Mississippi; and a sister, Candy Hinton of Mississippi; 21 grandchildren and 31 great grandchildren.

Online condolences may be

made at www.smithbucknerfh.com.

NANCY JEAN SEMON JASANY

July 29, 1943 ~ November 23, 2022

Nancy Jean Semon Jasany, 79, passed away at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill on November 23, 2022.

A celebration of life mass was held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Sanford, N.C.

She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, to the late James F. and Margaret Kupan Semon. Nancy worked as a bank teller and travel agent for many years.

Nancy is survived by her husband Bob of 60 years; daughter, Lori Schwarze of Durham; son, Scott Jasany of Wake Forest; brother Richard Semon of South Carolina; sister, Barbara Cady of Florida; and her four grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home, Inc. Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

MARGIE REE SILER MILLIKEN

Margie Ree Siler Milliken, 79, of Pittsboro, passed away on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

The funeral service was held Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Mitchell Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church with burial fol-

lowing in the church cemetery.

LOLA MAE (SMITH) PARTRIDGE

May 1, 1936 ~ November 17, 2022

Lola Mae Smith Partridge, 86, passed away on Thursday, November 17, 2022.

Funeral services were held Saturday, November 26, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Liberty Chapel Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

CHARLES EDWARD GRAHAM

Charles Edward Graham, 69, of Biscoe passed away on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at FirstHealth Hospice House in West End.

The memorial service was held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

DEANNA ELIZABETH ALSTON PEOPLES

Deanna Elizabeth Alston Peoples, 81, of Carrboro, passed away on Friday, November 18, 2022, at her residence.

Memorial service was held at 12 noon on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home in Chapel Hill. Burial followed at Westwood Cemetery.

ELMER WILEY CHESNEY SR.

Elmer Wiley Chesney Sr., 73, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, November 11, 2022, at UNC-Rex Hospital in Raleigh.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m., Saturday, November 19, 2022, at Poplar Springs A.M.E. Church with burial following at Lee Memory Garden.

MALWOOD ODELL REVELS, SR.

Malwood Odell Revels, Sr., 78 of Chapel Hill, passed away on Monday, November 7, 2022, at UNC Hospitals.

Funeral services were held at 12 noon Saturday, November 19, 2022 at Knotts Funeral Home in Pittsboro. Burial followed at Markham Memorial Gardens in Chapel Hill.

ANGELA HAZEL REAVES

Angela Hazel Reaves, 35, of Spring Lake, passed away on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville.

Funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Friday, November 18, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford. Burial followed at Chapel Hill A.M.E. Zion Church.

CHAD ANTONIO MILLER

Chad Antonio Miller, 46, of

BRIEFS

VinFast ships first vehicles to U.S.

The Vietnamese electric car manufacturer shipped its first 999 EVs to the United States Monday. VinFast executives called the shipment "a significant event" and a "historical milestone" for the company.

Nguyen Viet Quang, vice chairman and CEO of Vingroup, said he hopes this shipment is the first of many as the company attempts

to break into the global EV market.

The company held a large celebration as the vehicles were loaded onto the ships headed across the Pacific Ocean including patriotic music, dancers, flags and a visit by the Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh.

VinFast, which is building a 1,700+ acre facility in Moncure, said the vehicles should arrive stateside in about 18 business days. This means the first U.S. customers can expect to drive their cars by the end of 2022, VinFast said. Those first customers are largely based in California where the company has six showrooms across the state and is planning three more.

Across the country, close to 17,000 orders have already been placed for a variety of

models, VinFast said.

N.C.'s first car manufacturer will continue to build vehicles in Vietnam and ship them overseas until the Chatham facility is operational, which is expected to be by the summer of 2024. VinFast then plans to produce 200,000 electric SUVs each year in Chatham by 2027.

Twitty & Lynn show postponed

The Dec. 8 concert featuring Tayla Lynn and Tre Twitty, the grandchildren of Loretta Lynn and Conway Twitty, at the Mann Center of North Carolina in Sanford, has been postponed.

The two have been touring together to sold out shows for the past six years. They are fresh from their second Grand Ole Opry appearance,

but the Sanford show will be re-scheduled.

Chatham Community Library to host special event: Death and Cupcakes

PITTSBORO — The public is invited to join Chatham Community Library from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 10, for a special event called Death and Cupcakes in the Holmes Family Meeting Room.

The event will provide a safe space to share stories and ask questions about sorrow, grief and love around death, dying and beyond.

The goal is to bring positive awareness around death and to provide community support around living and dying.

Students, get your applications in for the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour!

Each year, Central Electric sponsors two rising high school juniors or seniors on the trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C in connection with the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. While in D.C., you'll join 1,800 other students from across the country to meet members of Congress and learn more about American history and electric cooperatives.

The 2023 trip is June 17-23 and the deadline for all applications is Jan. 23.

Visit CEMCPower.com to apply or to find out more information on this incredible opportunity. Central Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



128 Wilson Rd SANFORD, NC | CEMCPower.com | 919-774-4900 | 800-446-7752

Celebration of Lights

St. Julia Catholic Church
210 Harold Hart Road, Siler City
Saturday, Dec. 3, 6:15-7:15 PM

Celebrate the season under the stars with live entertainment, a bilingual Christmas message, and luminaries lighting the way. **This event is free**, but luminaries can be purchased in advance for \$10, in person or online. The parking lot opens at 6:15 pm. **100% of luminary sales is used for prescription drug purchases for our low income clients.**

ChathamCares.com/Celebration-of-Lights

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OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT, Approximately 2,000 sq. ft. reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, 919-930-1650. Jn15,tfnc

RENTAL APARTMENTS

APT RENTAL, Siler City, In the country, 1 Bedroom Apt., Upstairs. \$450 + Deposit 919-773-0722, Fully furnished, All utilities paid, Single person or couple. D1,8,2tc

POWELL SPRINGS APTS. Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD #1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, A2,tfnc

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. No security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. Jy14,tfnc

YARD SALE

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE, Saturday, 6 a.m. December 3, 2022. - Household/Kitchen, clothes, women's shoes, Toddler shoes, Baby/Toddler Essentials and more. Toys. D1,1tp

LUCKS PINTO BEAN POT -- Not many made, asking \$2,000.00, 336-879-5921 D1,1tp

2003 BMW - \$3,500 -- Runs good, Call for information, 910-986-7135. D1,8,15,22,4tp

FOR SALE - Collards for sale - \$4 to \$5 per head; Broccoli and Brussels sprouts are available too. Crutchfield Crossroads area. 984-265-0402 or 919-663-5780, N10,17,24,D1,4tc

AUCTIONS

RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS - Equipment, business, liquidation, estates, land, houses, antiques, personal property, coins, furniture, consignments, benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, J6,tfnc

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call...We sell it all!!! Real estate, personal property, estate settlement, farms & land, business liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.Jerry-HarrisAuction.com, (919) 498-4077, J6,tfnc

SERVICES

CASH PAID - For Junk Cars and PickUps - Call 336-581-3423. N10,17,24,D1,4tp

RAINBOW WATER FILTERED VACUUMS, Alice Cox, Cox's Distributing - Rainbow - Cell: 919-548-4314, Sales, Services, Supplies. Serving public for 35 years. Rada Cutlery also available. Au26,tfnc

AUTO BROKERS RECYCLERS - Cash paid for Junk/Wrecked vehicles. Call 919-545-0194. My13,tfnc

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

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

HELP WANTED

HOUSE CLEANING - \$15/hr, plus travel allowance - Must have two references. 919-548-2943. D1,1tc

CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Active relationship with Christ and membership in a church of like-faith required. 20-25 hrs/wk to manage office, prepare publications, and maintain

records. Computer proficiency required. Submit resume and hourly salary requirement to: Personnel Committee, Tyson's Creek Baptist Church, 10891 Siler City-Glendon Rd., Bear Creek, NC 27207 or email to tysonscreek@tysonscreek.com. N24,D1,2tc

FOOD SERVICES STAFF, Pittsboro Christian Village is accepting applications for Server, Pantry Cook, and Cook. Apply in person 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday, at 1825 East St. in Pittsboro. Jy14,tfnc

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 585

All persons having claims against **EZZIE LEE SMITH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 10th day of November, 2022.

Teresa Kearns, Co-Administrator
1346 Epps Clark Rd.
Siler City, NC 27344
Sharon Elkins, Co-Administrator
1305 Henderson Tanyard Rd.
Pittsboro, NC 27312
N10,N17,N24,D1,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 484

All persons having claims against **HOWARD LEE BADDERS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 10th day of November, 2022.

Jeffrey Lee Badders, Administrator
700 English St
Thomasville, NC 27360
N10,N17,N24,D1,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 625

All persons having claims against **SHERRIE FANETTE RIVES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 10th day of November, 2022.

Hannah Reynolds Clewis, Administrator
8240 Old US Hwy 4215
Bear Creek, NC 27207
N10,N17,N24,D1,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 620

All persons having claims against **TRUDY KAREN JONES AKA TRUDY PEARCE JONES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 10th day of November, 2022.

Aaron Bradley Jones, Executor
2388 Fall Creek Church Rd.
Bennett NC 27208
N10,N17,N24,D1,4tp

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons having claims against the estate of **VAHAN PARSEGHIAN** of Chatham County, NC, who died on December 7, 2021 are notified to present them on or before February 17, 2023 to Tanya Dellolio, Ancillary Administrator, c/o Maitland & English Law Firm, 2 Couch Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Michele L. English
MAITLAND & ENGLISH LAW FIRM
2 Couch Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Attorney for the Estate
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Landis James Phillips qualified before the Chatham County Clerk of Court on October 31,

2022, in File 22 E 612 as Executor of the Estate of **ELMO LOU PHILLIPS**, 5885 NC 42 Highway, Bear Creek, NC 27207. This is to notify all persons, firms and corporations, as required by NCGS 28A-14-1, having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the attorney designated below on or before February 17, 2023, 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. Payments and claims should be presented to Robert Gilleland, Attorney, P.O. Box 1045, Sanford, NC 27331-1045. Sanford Law Group
PO Box 1045
Sanford, NC 27331
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 04 E 346

All persons having claims against **GEORGE WILLIAM BROWN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 17th day of November, 2022.

Carol J. Hall Brown, Administrator
2666 Corinth Rd
Moncure, NC 27559
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 635

All persons having claims against **VIVIAN CATE BOWMAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 17th day of November, 2022.

Steven K. Bowman, Administrator
2013 Peninsula Lane
Hillsborough, NC 27278
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 625

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **JOHANNA WINTERWERP PRINS** deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before March 17th, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 17th day of November, 2022.

JOHANNA H. PRINS and JONATHAN F. KESSLER, Co-Executors
Estate of Johanna Winterwerp Prins
c/o Roberson Law Firm
1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **NANCY MORGAN WORTHINGTON**, of Chatham County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before 90 days from this date, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This, the 17th day of November, 2022.

Christina Patskoski, Executor
c/o Vail Gardner Law
732 9th St., #621
Durham, NC 27705
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 633

All persons having claims against **MARGARET ANNELL BRAZZELL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 17th day of November, 2022.

June Thomas Woodall, Executrix
107 Granite Ridge Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

22 E 600
All persons having claims against **VIRGINIA QUILLEN PORCH AKA VIRGINIA KATHRYN QUILLEN PORCH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 17th day of November, 2022.

Donna P. Tucker, Executrix
908 Pebblebrook Drive
Raleigh, NC 27509
N17,N24,D1,D8,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 644

All persons having claims against **GLENN RAY MURPHY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of February, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 24th day of November, 2022.

Donna B. Murphy, Administrator
232 Moody Loop Rd
Siler City, NC 27344
N24,D1,D8,D15,4tp

ENGINEERING REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS Town of Siler City Water Treatment Plant Expansion

October 31, 2022
The Town of Siler City is soliciting requests for qualifications (RFQ) for professional engineering services to prepare; 1) a preliminary engineering report (PER), 2) an Environmental Assessment, 3) engineering design and bid package services and construction inspection services. The project scope would consist of the expansion of a 4 MGD water plant to a 6 MGD water plant.
Scope of Work:
Engineering services shall include, but are not limited to, standard tasks necessary for the implementation of the project:

1. Prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) outlining the scope of the project.
2. Preparing the final Design and Construction bid package in conformance with applicable regulations and requirements;
3. Supervising the bid advertising, tabulation, and award process, including preparing the advertisements for bid solicitations, conducting pre-bid meeting, conducting bid opening, and issuing the notice to proceed;
4. Reviewing and approving all contractor requests for payment, change orders, and submitting approved requests to the governing body;
5. Providing reproducible plan drawings to the Town/City/County upon project completion;

Engineering Firms are to submit their qualifications to prepare the Engineering Report and subsequent design and construction services to Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director, Town of Siler City, 311 N Second St., PO Box 769, Siler City NC 27344 by 5:00 pm November 28, 2022. Bids will be awarded at the Board of Commissioners meeting December 5, 2022.

For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-742-4733 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org. ADDENDUM #1
Town of Siler City
311 N. Second Ave
P.O. Box 769
Siler City NC 27344
RFQ TITLE: Water Treatment Plant Expansion
OPENING DATE: December 5, 2022
ADDENDUM NUMBER: One (1)
DATE: November 18, 2022
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES ARE APPLICABLE TO THE ORIGINAL SPECIFICATIONS OF THE ABOVE REFERENCED RFQ. This addendum includes the following:

1. Change of submission date.
2. Change of awarded date.
- The new submission date:

December 5, by 5:00 pm. Awarded date December 12, 2022, at Board of Commissioners meeting
This addendum now becomes part of the original RFQ.
PROPOSER:

BY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

CITY, STATE: _____

DATE: _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

D1,1tc

ENGINEERING REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS Town of Siler City Water Treatment Plant Solids Handling Improvements

October 31, 2022
The Town of Siler City is soliciting requests for qualifications (RFQ) for professional engineering services to prepare; 1) a preliminary engineering report (PER), 2) an Environmental Assessment, 3) engineering design and bid package services and construction inspection services. The project scope would consist of additional equipment for improvement of solids handling and/or removal of solids to assist with pretreatment requirements.
Scope of Work:
Engineering services shall include, but are not limited to, standard tasks necessary for the implementation of the project:

1. Prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) outlining the scope of the project.
2. Preparing the final Design and Construction bid package in conformance with applicable regulations and requirements;
3. Supervising the bid advertising, tabulation, and award process, including preparing the advertisements for bid solicitations, conducting pre-bid meeting, conducting bid opening, and issuing the notice to proceed;
4. Reviewing and approving all contractor requests for payment, change orders, and submitting approved requests to the governing body;
5. Providing reproducible plan drawings to the Town/City/County upon project completion;

Engineering Firms are to submit their qualifications to prepare the Engineering Report and subsequent design and construction services to Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director, Town of Siler City, 311 N Second St., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 by 5:00 pm November 28, 2022. Bids will be awarded at the Board of Commissioners meeting December 5, 2022.

For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-742-4733 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org. ADDENDUM #1
Town of Siler City
311 N. Second Ave
P.O. Box 769
Siler City NC 27344
RFQ TITLE: Water Treatment Plant Solids Handling
OPENING DATE: December 5, 2022
ADDENDUM NUMBER: One (1)
DATE: November 18, 2022
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES ARE

1. Submitting certified "as-built" drawings to appropriate authorities; and
8. Preparing an operation and maintenance manual (if applicable).

Engineering Firms are to submit their qualifications to prepare the Engineering Report and subsequent design and construction services to Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director, Town of Siler City, 311 N Second St., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 by 5:00 pm November 28, 2022. Bids will be awarded at the Board of Commissioners meeting December 5, 2022.

For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-742-4733 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org. ADDENDUM #1
Town of Siler City
311 N. Second Ave
P.O. Box 769
Siler City NC 27344
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For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-742-4733 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org. ADDENDUM #1
Town of Siler City
311 N. Second Ave
P.O. Box 769
Siler City NC 27344
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OPENING DATE: December 5, 2022
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For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-742-4733 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org. ADDENDUM #1
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For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-742-4733 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org. ADDENDUM #1
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311 N. Second Ave
P.O. Box 769
Siler City NC 27344
RFQ TITLE: Water Treatment Plant Solids Handling
OPENING DATE: December 5, 2022
ADDENDUM NUMBER: One (1)
DATE: November 18, 2022
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES ARE

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Line ad deadline
Tuesday — Noon

Display ad deadline
Monday — 5 p.m.

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

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

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

drawings to the Town/City/County upon project completion;

6. Conducting final inspection and testing;
7. Submitting certified "as-built" drawings to appropriate authorities; and
8. Preparing an operation and maintenance manual (if applicable).

Engineering Firms are to submit their qualifications to prepare the Engineering Report and subsequent design and construction services to Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director, Town of Siler City, 311 N Second St., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 by 5:00 pm November 28, 2022. Bids will be awarded at the Board of Commissioners meeting December 5, 2022.

For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-742-4733 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org. ADDENDUM #1
Town of Siler City
311 N. Second Ave
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311 N. Second Ave
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For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-742-4733 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org. ADDENDUM #1
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P.O. Box 769
Siler City NC 27344
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OPENING DATE: December 5, 2022
ADDENDUM NUMBER: One (1)
DATE: November 18, 2022
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For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-742-4733 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org. ADDENDUM #1
Town of Siler City
311 N. Second Ave
P.O. Box 769
Siler City NC 27344
RFQ TITLE: Water Treatment Plant Solids Handling
OPENING DATE: December 5, 2022
ADDENDUM NUMBER: One (1)
DATE: November 18, 2022
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES ARE

Engineering Firms are to submit their qualifications to prepare the Engineering Report and subsequent design and construction services to Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director, Town of Siler City, 311 N Second St., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 by 5:00 pm November 28, 2022. Bids will be awarded at the Board of Commissioners meeting December 5, 2022.

For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-742-4733 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org. ADDENDUM #1
Town of Siler City
311 N. Second Ave
P.O. Box 769
Siler City NC 27344
RFQ TITLE: Water Treatment Plant Solids Handling
OPENING DATE: December 5, 2022
ADDENDUM NUMBER: One (1)
DATE: November 18, 2022
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES ARE

Engineering Firms are to submit their qualifications to prepare the Engineering Report and subsequent design and construction services to Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director, Town of Siler City, 311 N Second St., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 by 5:00 pm November 28, 2022. Bids will be awarded at the Board of Commissioners meeting December 5, 2022.

For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-742-4733 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org. ADDENDUM #1
Town of Siler City
311 N. Second Ave
P.O. Box 769

APPLICABLE TO THE ORIGINAL SPECIFICATIONS OF THE ABOVE REFERENCED RFQ. This addendum includes the following:
 1. Change of submission date.
 2. Change of awarded date.
 The new submission date: December 5, 2022, by 5:00 pm.
 Awarded date December 12, 2022, at Board of Commissioners meeting
 This addendum now becomes part of the original RFQ.
 PROPOSER:

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

 D1,1tc
ENGINEERING REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
Town of Siler City
CAM Site sewer line and pump station project
 October 31, 2022
 The Town of Siler City is soliciting requests for qualifications (RFQ) for professional engineering services to prepare 1) Bid package services and construction inspection services, 2) Additional services that may arise related to the project.
 Scope of Work: Engineering services shall include, but are not limited to, standard tasks necessary for the implementation of the

project:
 1. Preparing the final Design and Construction bid package in conformance with applicable regulations and requirements;
 2. Supervising the bid advertising, tabulation, and award process, including preparing the advertisements for bid solicitations, conducting pre-bid meeting, conducting bid opening, and issuing the notice to proceed;
 3. Conducting the pre-construction conference;
 4. Surveying, field staking, on-site supervising of construction work, and preparing inspection reports;
 5. Reviewing and approving all contractor requests for payment, change orders, and submitting approved requests to the governing body;
 6. Providing reproducible plan drawings to the Town upon project completion;
 7. Conducting final inspection and testing.
 Engineering Firms are to submit their qualifications to prepare the Engineering Report and subsequent design and construction services to Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director, Town of Siler City, 311 N Second St., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 by 5:00 pm November 28, 2022. Bids will be awarded at the Board of Commissioners meeting December 5, 2022
 For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-742-4733 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org
 ADDENDUM #1
 Town of Siler City
 311 N. Second Ave
 P.O. Box 769
 Siler City NC 27344
RFQ TITLE: CAM Site sewer line and pump station project
 OPENING DATE: December 5, 2022
 ADDENDUM NUMBER: One (1)
 DATE: November 18/2022
 PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES ARE APPLICABLE TO THE ORIGINAL SPECIFICATIONS OF THE ABOVE REFERENCED RFQ.
 This addendum includes the following:
 1. Change of submission date.
 2. Change of awarded date.
 The new submission date: December 5, 2022, by 5:00 pm.
 Awarded date December 12, 2022, at Board of Commissioners meeting
 This addendum now becomes part of the original RFQ.
 PROPOSER:

ADDRESS: _____
 PHONE: _____
 CITY, STATE: _____
 DATE: _____
 AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

 D1,1tc
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF BILLY G. TWEEDY, DECEASED.

The undersigned, having heretofore qualified as Executor of the Estate of **BILLY G. TWEEDY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before March 1, 2023 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of any recovery thereon. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 1st day of December, 2022.
 Glenna Jean Orr, Executor
 Estate of Billy G. Tweedy,
 Deceased
 c/o Ronald P. Johnson, Esq.
 Carruthers & Roth, P.A.

Attorneys & Counselors at Law
 235 North Edgeworth Street
 (27401)
 Post Office Box 540
 Greensboro, North Carolina
 27402
 D1,D8,D15,D22,4tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
 SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
 CHATHAM COUNTY

BEFORE THE CLERK
 FILE NO: 22-E-642
 IN RE: ESTATE OF ROSANNA MOOREHEAD DAVID
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 THE UNDERSIGNED having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ROSANNA MOOREHEAD DAVID**, 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 Dec6Gedent to present them to the under-

signed on or before March 3, 2023, 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 1st day of December, 2022.
 ESTATE OF ROSANNA MOOREHEAD DAVID
 Rhianna B. Wells
 240 The Preserve Trail
 Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Taylor Avioli
 Narron Wenzel, P.A.
 5400 Glenwood Ave., Suite 201
 Raleigh, NC 27612
 D1,D8,D15,D22,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
22 E 474
 All persons having claims against **ELLEN MORROW LIGHTSEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of March, 2023, 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 December, 2022.
 Kelley Lynn Knight, Executrix
 127 Sagebrush Rd
 Chapel Hill, NC 27516
 D1,D8,D15,D22,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
22 E 623
 Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **BETH SCHUBERT KRICKER**, late of 224 Buteo Ridge, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-9326, the undersigned do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of the decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before February 1, 2023 or this Notice will be pled in bar of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 1st day of December, 2022.
 Joshua R. Kricker, Marcia C. Kricker,
 Co-Executors-Estate of
 Beth Schubert Kricker
 224 Buteo Ridge
 Pittsboro, NC 27312-9326
 D1,D8,D15,D22,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
 HAVING QUALIFIED as Administrator of the Estate of **DEWEY DALE HEFNER** 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 first day of March, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
 This the 23rd day of November 2022.
 Scarlett M. Robinson, Administrator of
 The Estate of Dewey Dale Hefner
 3141 Campbell Road
 Bear Creek, North Carolina
 27207
 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 BOX 629
 SILER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA
 27344
 (919) 742-5614
 D1,D8,D15,D22,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
22 E 648
 All persons having claims against **JOHN DANIEL MURPHY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of March, 2023, 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 December, 2022.
 Denise Popeo-Murphy, Executor
 913 Homestead Park Dr
 Apex, NC 27502
 % Monroe, Wallace, Morden & Sherrill, P.A.
 3225 Blue Ridge Road, Suite 117
 Raleigh, NC 27612
 D1,D8,D15,D22,4tp

Senior Education Conference returns to Council on Aging calendar

From the Chatham County Council on Aging
 Following a two-year absence from the calendar due to COVID-19, the Chatham County Council on Aging held its first Senior Education Confer-

ence since 2019 on Nov. 18 at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.
 Attendees were treated to 11 distinctive educational sessions plus an afternoon keynote address from Dr. Tiffany Long of the UNC Division

of Geriatric Medicine. Long, a Winston-Salem native, presented to the attendees on "The Art of Aging Well."
 Other sessions included "Finding Your Unclaimed Funds" from North Carolina Treasurer Dale Folwell. Folwell, a certified public accountant, gave remarks on nccash.com — which is home to over \$1 billion in North Carolina's unclaimed property fund. Carolyn Miller and Bryan Thompson, Chatham County assistant managers, presided over an "Ask The County Executive" session, where session goers engaged with county leaders regarding the county's present and future. According to the North Carolina State Demographer's Office, Chatham ranks 10th among the state's 100 counties in percentage of residents over the age of 65.
 "It has been quite some time since our last Senior Education Conference in the fall of 2019," COA Grants and Communications Specialist Jimmy Lewis said. "Among our priorities at the Council was the reinstatement of this popular event as soon as it was safely feasible, and we were happy to welcome an eager group of individuals with an interest in

senior-related topics. We have started digesting feedback and will strive to deliver another exceptional experience for attendees in 2023."
 Among the presenters were Eastern Chatham Senior Center manager Liz Lahti ("Meditation and You"), Chatham Hospital physical therapist Sandra Rende ("Making Your Home Senior Friendly"), Chatham YMCA's Lorraine Messner ("Staying Fit"), Chatham County Cooperative Extension Family & Consumer Sciences Agent Tara Gregory ("Food Safety In The Kitchen"), Janna Deegan and Nina Lloyd of Opus Financial Advisors ("Financial and Estate Planning"), Investigator Amy Marris of Chatham County Sheriff's Office ("Fraud and Scam Awareness), Tracy Lynn of Truckin' For Seniors ("Is It Time To Downsize?"), Betsy Barton of Transitions LifeCare ("Taking Care of the Caregiver") and Chatham County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Agent Matt Jones ("Gardening Tips and Resources").
 Sponsors included Carolina Meadows, UNC Health Chatham, Alignment Healthcare and FirstCarolinaCare, while lunch was provided by Allen & Son Bar-B-Que.

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Courtesy of the Council on Aging

State Treasurer Dale Folwell presents on the topic of 'Finding Your Unclaimed Funds' during the Chatham County Council on Aging's 2022 Senior Education Conference on Nov. 18 at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro.

SHOWCASE

Continued from page A3

visual performance and rock banjo opera to oil painting and wood sculpture.

"I will say that one of the reasons that we are experimenting with the form [of the showcase] this year, and it looks differently, is because of that really wide spread, that wide diversity of art forms," Chamblee said. "We wanted to create an experience where audiences could just get a taste of each of those art forms but where the event itself would still hang together and feel like a cohesive experience or have some connection for the experience."

From 5 to 7 p.m., event attendees can walk through The Plant on Lorax Lane in Pittsboro, stopping at various points throughout the property where artists will be scattered. Beverages and food will be available to purchase on-site, and attendees are recommended to dress appropriately for cooler weather and to bring flashlights as they move from artist to artist. Volunteers and staff will be present to serve as guides throughout the exhibition.

Diali Cissokho is one of the 10 artists who will be present on Dec. 3. Cissokho, originally from Senegal, moved to Pittsboro more than 10 years

ago. Shortly after, in 2011, he established his band Kaira Ba, which combines "traditions and rhythms of West African music with subtle timbres of the American South," according to his website.

Cissokho specializes in the kora, which is a stringed instrument that he describes as an "African harp," and will be performing new songs on Saturday. In addition to performing with his band, the musician and griot storyteller also teaches music and offers life lessons to students in Chatham schools, and has worked with the CAC for years.

The personal impacts of the pandemic were tough for Cissokho, he said, as he was unable to visit other family back in Senegal. He was encouraged by his wife to apply for the JumpstART grant — his interpretation of equilibrium is rooted in extending love and support to one another.

"Because that's what my mission [is], try to bring people together, try to make peace, try to build community," Cissokho said. "How people can support each other, not looking like color [of your skin], who you are, where you from, [or] where you're born."

Now, Cissokho notes that being able to return to in-person opportunities to share art and community with others has

been a truly special experience.

"I'm excited, because that's my medicine," he said.

Brenda Linton, another artist featured in this year's walkabout, will be doing a reading from a collection of memoir essays she's developing, called "Hurricanes and Other Natural Disasters." Linton is also a musician and songwriter, and may sing a new piece called "Flatlands," that draws from her experiences of growing up in eastern North Carolina. a

"So that is what I'm trying to do, is reach out and show just one person's view of very universal themes that all of us have gone through, and to make sure that folks know they're not alone, when we're trying to deal with the difficult things in our lives and the challenges," Linton said.

Linton also teaches music lessons, and during the early months of the pandemic, was forced to instruct her students via Zoom. She said the JumpstART grant was helpful in freeing up her time to draft an essay that she read at last year's showcase.

This year, her essay intentionally uses both past and present tenses, drawing from the equilibrium prompt.

"And so the way that I think of that, as far as equilibrium is concerned, is that we have memories that really are important

to us," she said. "And we don't know exactly how they affect us, but the importance of the past and the importance of our future expectations and dreams need to be balanced so that we are really living a rich life in the present."

Linton, who lives in Pittsboro, was also quick to speak to the supportive nature of the arts community in Chatham — both among her fellow artists and the friends and family of creatives.

"It's just extraordinary that it's everywhere," she said. "So I would say our art is diverse and rich and everywhere. And people appreciate it."

The artists featured in the walkabout include:

- Alexander Percy and Jenn Von Egidy, presenting jewelry art from Cataleya Jewelry Studio
- Brenda Linton, sharing music and writing from her memoir
- Diali Cissokho, performing new kora music
- JR Butler, presenting wood sculpture
- Julia Kennedy, showcasing a new oil painting
- skintape, sharing an audio-visual performance
- Stephan Meyers, or Breadfoot, performing rock banjo opera
- Tanja Lipinski Cole, sharing mixed media visual art
- Taz Halloween, performing new music
- Virginia Ralston, showcasing

ing fiber art

Artists and organizers alike spoke to their eagerness at the chance to physically bring people together through the walkabout.

"As always, I'm looking forward to having an audience," Derrick Ivey, the installation director, said with a laugh. "In theater, which is my main art form, you spend so much time theorizing and working in solitary places, and then it doesn't really come to life until you bring the audience in. So I'm just excited about having people experience the art and meet the artist and seeing those connections."

Ultimately, investing in artists is crucial, Chamblee said, as the CAC's mission is to nurture creative thinkers. And combining that investment with community engagement leads to an interconnectedness unlike any other.

"I really believe that Chatham County is absolutely chock full of creative thinkers and really extraordinary, unique artists," she said. "And community connection happens when we come together and celebrate that. The arts are unparalleled for forging community connection, giving us a sense of our shared humanity, and allowing us to be together in a way that is both fun and healing and inspiring."

CENTER

Continued from page A1

In September 2020, UNC's Chatham Hospital in Siler City had hoped to address all that with the opening of its \$2.6 million Maternity Care Center. The MCC largely achieved its goals, especially for people of color: more than 75% of women giving birth at the MCC have been Black and/or Latino.

But after COVID-19, the "Great Resignation" that followed, nationwide nursing shortages and financial struggles, the future of the MCC now appears uncertain. Less than three years after the center opened, UNC Health says it will likely have to close the center if another nurse resigns.

No official decision has been made about the future of the MCC by UNC Health, but community members have taken action to ensure its continuity.

Unclear future

At an August Chatham Board of Health meeting, Chatham Hospital President Jeffrey Strickler established a 17-member task force that would embark on a 60-day investigation into the long-term viability of the MCC. Those findings were set to be presented to the public next Monday, Dec. 5.

Jen Medearis Costello was one of the community members on the task force and a member of the operational leadership team of Equity for Moms and Babies Realized Across Chatham (EMBRACe), which seeks to ensure successful and equitable birth outcomes for women and babies in the county. She said she believes the work of that original task force has "essentially been disbanded."

UNC Health spokesperson

Alan Wolf said the taskforce still consists of both community members and teammates from Chatham and UNC Health.

"We are incredibly grateful for the time and effort they've put into the recommendations they plan to present next week," Wolf said. "We all share the same goal of creating a sustainable maternity care program at UNC Health Chatham."

The taskforce members were supposed to meet with Strickler and other UNC Health officials to discuss the direction of the MCC at a midpoint meeting on Oct. 17. Strickler and other executive leadership did not attend the meeting, according to Costello. The only UNC Health employee who attended was Audrea Caesar, UNC Health's chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer, who was also chosen to lead the task force. This means no member of UNC Health with operational responsibilities was present at the meeting.

Wolf said Strickler and others were not present because of a misunderstanding.

"They believed their presence was for the December 5 meeting and it got removed from their calendars," Wolf said.

Strickler did not directly respond to requests for comment in time for publication.

'It is a choice'

After UNC Health leaders were absent from the midpoint meeting, Costello, other members of EMBRACe, members of Community Organizing for Racial Justice (CORE) and others formed their own new coalition — The Coalition to Keep the MCC Open.

Stephanie Terry, a member of CORE, said forming the new organization from among members of the various com-

munity groups was necessary because no single entity was stepping up to the plate to keep the MCC open.

"What we (the Coalition) continue to ask for is a full and public commitment from UNC to support a thriving MCC for at least three more years," Costello told the News + Record. "The narrative of lack of volume, that staffing problems are solely related to the Great Resignation, etc., are all false. There is a great need and desire for this unit, and we need Chatham and UNC leadership to stand up for it."

Costello said the volume of the MCC — the number of people giving birth in the unit — has increased in recent weeks and she says the data shows when the MCC is operating at consistent hours, the outcomes are exceptionally good.

Wolf said leadership at UNC Health remained fully engaged in the discussions regarding the Chatham Maternity Care Center and were briefed by Caesar, Strickler and others after the midpoint meeting, North Carolina Health News reported on Oct. 27 (the story was also published in the Oct. 27-Nov. 2 edition of the CN+R).

The coalition has circulated a petition to show support for the MCC that has generated more than 350 signatures so far. The petition hopes to drum up public support for the MCC and urges UNC Health officials to keep the clinic open for at least three more years.

"The racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes for moms and babies in North Carolina are tragic and alarming," the petition reads. "We believe UNC Chatham Hospital MCC does not need to close, it is a choice."

More than the money

The new coalition urged members of the Chatham

Board of Health at the board's meeting Monday in Pittsboro to sign the petition and issue a public statement of support. While the board did not vote to sign the petition as a body, several members said they would sign it individually. The board also created a committee to draft a statement to be released to public following the Dec. 5 presentation by UNC Health.

At 12 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5, at Central Carolina Community College in Pittsboro, the presentation by UNC Health will be given to the full community taskforce and executives from UNC Health. Several members from the Chatham Board of Health said they plan to be in attendance. Wolf said the meeting is "for members of the taskforce, but they won't stop others from attending."

Wolf added that UNC Health wants this to be a transparent process.

At Monday's BOH meeting, new coalition members also informed the health board that a smaller, UNC-only internal group was created to take all the suggestions from the various community task force committees and distill them for the presentation Dec. 5.

Alisha Bailey, a certified lactation consultant with Piedmont Health and member of the coalition, said the task force was structured according to internal UNC understanding of need, rather than community input.

Costello, one of the coalition members who presented to the health board, said the board has power to do the right thing.

"The bottom line is it can't be about money," Costello told the board's members. "UNC is really pushing on finances right now and they're making a decision not to prioritize moms and babies."

She said she believed by choosing not to fund the MCC,

UNC Health was making a financial decision to not prioritize families.

UNC Health employees at Monday's health board meeting said the Chatham Hospital had restructured its finances for fiscal year 2023 and was now operating closer to even margins than previous years — while exact figures were not provided, officials said they estimated Chatham Hospital was earning about \$800,000 in annual revenue with about \$1.5 million in annual expenditures.

Bailey also said incoming growth to the area — including near the MCC with Wolfsped and its \$5 billion investment coming to Siler City — would bring an inevitable population boom. That means more families in need of maternal care.

"There is so much growth that's coming to this area," Bailey said. "There are going to be so many women and families who are going to give birth here in the next 10 years. This is not the time to take away a service."

Incoming growth, current disparate racial outcomes and a need for rural maternal health are all reasons Bailey, Costello, Terry and other members of the coalition are fighting to keep the MCC open. Terry said the coalition is committed to the cause and will continue to bring attention to the issue.

"We are definitely committed to growing this coalition," Terry told the health board. "And are steadfast in ensuring that we keep this vital service available for the Chatham that we are today and the Chatham we are in the future."

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



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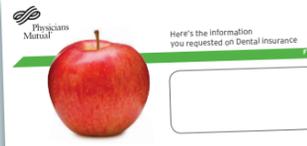

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SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

DECEMBER 1 - 7, 2022 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

BOYS BASKETBALL

Chatham Charter, Northwood look like top county teams

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor



Chatham Charter senior Aamir Mapp is averaging 9.1 points, 3.0 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game this season.

Staff photo by Simon Barbre

— senior Adam Harvey (16.0), sophomore Brennen Oldham (12.0) and sophomore Beau Harvey (11.1). The younger

Harvey brother is also averaging a team-high 5.9 rebounds and a county-high 5.1 steals per game so far this season.

The Knights will play four more non-conference games before the holiday break, including a meeting with

Northwest Guilford at the Tyler Lewis Hoopfest at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Chatham Charter is the reigning 1A East region champion. The Knights fell in the 1A state final in overtime to Hayesville and finished the year 33-2 overall.

The only other two teams that had played multiple games entering Tuesday night were Seaforth and Woods Charter.

The Hawks were 1-1 ahead of Tuesday night's home game vs. J.F. Webb. Seaforth is coming off a 57-37 loss to Seventy-First on Saturday afternoon, a game in which the Hawks shot 13-of-39 (33.3%) from the field and 2-of-15 (13.3%) from 3-point range. Seaforth also plays Thursday at home at 6:30 p.m. against Southern Lee.

Seaforth's top player this season has been junior Jarin Stevenson — the No. 1 player in North Carolina in the Class of 2024, according to 247Sports. Stevenson averaged 20.5 points, 8.5 rebounds, 2.0

See TOP, page B4

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Defending champ Northwood starts 0-2; Walden leads Charter

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

The defending 3A champion Northwood girls basketball team has had its hands full early on this season.

Entering Tuesday night's game at Wakefield (which concluded after press time), the Chargers were 0-2 overall. Northwood opened the year with a 60-52 loss to Apex Friendship on Nov. 18 before falling again four days later to Panther Creek, 62-46.

Despite the rough start to the year, Northwood purposefully scheduled difficult opponents to open the year, something it hopes will help the team down the line if it makes another deep playoff run. The combined record of the Chargers' first two opponents — both of which are 4A schools — in 2021-22 was 51-9 overall.

Northwood also plays Thursday on the road at Apex. The Chargers' first home game of the season is Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. against Jordan High.

All six girls basketball

teams in the county have played at least one game this season. The team with the most wins entering Tuesday night's games was Chatham Charter, which sported a 3-1 record ahead of its game at Research Triangle on Tuesday.

The Knights have been led by senior Tamaya Walden, who averaged 23.0 points, 6.5 assists and 3.8 steals per game in her first four games of the season. Walden is coming off a junior season where she averaged 22.0 points, 4.9 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 3.8 steals per game. She is currently the only active Chatham County girls player with at least 1,000 career points (1,231).

Last season, Chatham Charter reached the second round of the 1A state playoffs before falling to Clover Garden School. The Knights finished the year with a 19-9 overall record.

The only other Chatham County girls team with multiple wins entering Tuesday night was Seaforth, which was 2-0 ahead of its game against

See NORTHWOOD, page B3

VOLLEYBALL

3 Chatham girls make all-state teams

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

After another highly competitive high school volleyball season, three Chatham County athletes received all-state honors for their play.

At the end of the state playoffs, the North Carolina Volleyball Coaches Association released its all-state teams for the various classifications. Earning all-state honors were Chatham Central sophomore Karaleigh Dodson, Seaforth sophomore Maris Huneycutt and Jordan-Matthews junior Reagan Smith.

Huneycutt and Smith were named to the 2A all-state team after stellar individual seasons with their teams.

Huneycutt, playing her second season of high school volleyball, led the Hawks to a regular season record of 14-3 overall. In the playoffs, the Hawks reached the second round before falling to No. 1 seed, Midway, 3-0.

Serving as the team's setter, Huneycutt led all Mid-Carolina Conference athletes with 574 assists, more than 130 higher than the next closest player. She also contributed 48 kills, 75 service aces, 18 blocks and 139 digs.

Smith, meanwhile, was her team's top player in kills, boasting 188, more than 100 more than the closest teammate. She also had 62 service aces, 90 blocks and 191 digs.

Jordan-Matthews had an up-and-down year as a team, going 7-14 overall and 3-7 in Mid-Carolina Conference play. The Jets failed to make the state playoffs in their first year under head coach Johnny Alston.

See ALL-STATE, page B4



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The Northwood basketball girls basketball team has started the year 0-2 after winning last season's 3A state title.

WRESTLING

Seaforth ready to make big jump in Year 2

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

Last year, in its first season as a varsity sport, the Seaforth wrestling team sent four athletes — Layne Armstrong, Chance Cody, Lockard Bowen and Judge Lloyd — to the 2A individual state wrestling tournament.

Now, with a full season under their belt and everyone returning, the Hawks are ready to make some noise at the team level.

"This group we've got, they're special," said Seaforth head coach Ryan Armstrong. "We came in last year and took it really, really slow, and as

we progressed throughout the season things started to get harder and harder and harder. This year, we were able to start where we left off last year."

This year's Seaforth team has already started the season on a high note. At a quad match with Northwood, Chatham Charter and Southern Alamance on Nov. 16, the Hawks were victorious, picking up wins over each team — including 3A school Northwood, which sent three wrestlers to last year's individual state tournament.

This year, Armstrong said he will be able to field a full roster, which means the Hawks will have at least one wrestler for each of the 14 designated weight classes. He credits the quick growth of

the program to his fellow coaches at Seaforth, who have encouraged their players to try new sports during the offseason.

"Our future looks bright," Armstrong said. "If it wasn't for (football) Coach (Terrance) Gary, we wouldn't have had the numbers we had the first year. He pushed his guys to get out there and try out, and we made them fall in love with the sport. It just kind of got contagious after that."

Seaforth should be able to continue to build on its solid foundation beyond this season, as the Hawk currently don't have a senior on their roster. Armstrong's lineup is made up mostly of freshmen and sophomores, including

a few newcomers who could become household names over the next several months.

One name to watch for in particular is freshman Gabe Rogers, who comes into Seaforth as one of the most decorated middle school wrestlers in the entire state.

Competing at the 2022 Middle School state championships in February in the 90-pound weight class, Rogers won first place. Since the start of the 2021-22 season, Rogers has an overall record of 48-4 with 29 pins, seven tech falls and four major decisions, according to TrackWrestling.com.

See WRESTLING, page B3

SCORES AND SCHEDULES

SCORES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Girls basketball

Southern Lee 42, Jordan-Matthews 27

Boys basketball

Southern Lee 67, Jordan-Matthews 39

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Girls basketball

Panther Creek 62, Northwood 46
Chatham Central 44, South Davidson 38

Boys basketball

Chatham Charter 75, Voyager Academy 33
Chatham Central 60, South Davidson 45

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Girls basketball

Seaforth 45, Leesville Road 26

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Boys basketball

Seventy-First 57, Seaforth 37

SCHEDULES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Swimming

Seaforth at Cary Academy (11 a.m.)

Girls basketball

Chatham Charter at Research Triangle (6 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews vs. Trinity (6 p.m.)
Chatham Central at South Davidson (6 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. J.H. Webb (6 p.m.)
Northwood at Wakefield (5:30 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Chatham Charter at Research Triangle (7:30 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews vs. Trinity (7:30 p.m.)
Chatham Central at South Davidson (7:30 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. J.H. Webb (7:30 p.m.)
Northwood at Wakefield (7 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Wrestling

Chatham Central vs. Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Charter (5 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. Graham (6 p.m.)
Northwood at Cedar Ridge (6 p.m.)

Girls basketball

Woods Charter vs. Vance Charter (6 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Woods Charter vs. Vance Charter (7:30 p.m.)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

Girls basketball

Chatham Central at Southwestern Randolph (6 p.m.)
Northwood at Apex (6 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Chatham Central at Southwestern Randolph (7:30 p.m.)
Northwood at Apex (7:30 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. Southern Lee (7:30 p.m.)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Girls basketball

Jordan-Matthews at Western Guilford (6 p.m.)
Chatham Central vs. Ocracoke (6 p.m.)
Woods Charter at Franklin Academy (6 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Jordan-Matthews at Western Guilford (7:30 p.m.)
Chatham Central vs. Ocracoke (7:30 p.m.)
Woods Charter at Franklin Academy (7:30 p.m.)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

Swimming

Northwood vs. Eastern Alamance and Orange at Orange County Sportsplex (8 p.m.)

Girls basketball

Jordan-Matthews at Southwestern Randolph (7 p.m.)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Indoor track

Northwood at Eastern Alamance Polar Bear (6 p.m.)

Girls basketball

Chatham Central at Eastern Randolph (6 p.m.)
Chatham Charter vs. Uwharrie Charter (6 p.m.)
Northwood vs. C.E. Jordan (6 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Chatham Central at Eastern Randolph (7:30 p.m.)
Chatham Charter vs. Uwharrie Charter (7:30 p.m.)
Northwood vs. C.E. Jordan (7:30 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Swimming

Seaforth, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central at Mid-Carolina Conference meet at Asheboro YMCA (6 p.m.)

Wrestling

Northwood and Chatham Charter at Northwood (6 p.m.)
Seaforth, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central at Seaforth (6 p.m.)

Girls basketball

Jordan-Matthews vs. Lee County (6 p.m.)
Woods Charter vs. Cornerstone Charter (6 p.m.)

Boys basketball

Jordan-Matthews vs. Lee County (7:30 p.m.)
Woods Charter vs. Cornerstone Charter (7:30 p.m.)

CLIPBOARD Q&A

Northwood sophomore Ritchey talks recruiting process, performance at recent camp

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

learned a lot and loved the competitiveness.

You picked up two more offers — from Maryland and Duke — over the course of the season. What has it been like for you going through the recruiting process?

It's been a really cool experience. I enjoy it a lot. Going on visits, especially at a school like Clemson, it was a great atmosphere and a great campus. Great facilities. Great coaches. Everything was amazing. Overall, it's just been a great, great year. I've definitely doing things like that, trying to build relationships and try to find the place that suits me the most. I'm looking for something where, if I come to a school, I know I can get something good out of it. I'm talking to the coaches and trying to see how they treat me. What do they have planned in the future for me? Those are the biggest things.

When you're talking to coaches at the schools that have already offered you, do they see you as more of a tight end or a defensive end?

It depends on my growth, they say, how tall and how big I get by my senior year. There are two schools that have offered me as a defensive end — Virginia Tech and Duke. The rest have offered me as an athlete. They don't know if I'm going to play defensive end or tight end. It's sort of up in the air. They want to see how I grow and develop. But right now, some coaches are telling me, "OK, right now, we see you as a tight end, but we'll see how you transform over the next few seasons and see where we put you after that."

You have offers from the current top two teams in the country — Georgia and



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood sophomore Gus Ritchey (left) reports scholarship offers from nine Division-I schools, including Georgia and Michigan.

Michigan. What is it like knowing you've caught the attention of some of the nation's top programs?

It's definitely an honor to receive attention from schools like that — Georgia, Oregon, Michigan. Big schools with big names. But I can't even explain what type of blessing it's been. I've come a long way just to get some sort of attention, and getting attention from schools like that, it's just an honor. I have a couple more years left. Then we'll see where I end up.

Do you want to have your college decision done before your senior year? Or is that still up in the air?

I'm taking more visits. I'll be taking more visits after school ends. I'll probably go back to other schools. I might camp out at some places. I know I'm going to Clemson during the summer. But it depends. It's just one of those things where I have to go, see if there's a connection, go again, see if I have that same

feeling, talk it out with my family and then from there on, make a decision about whether this is the school I want to go to or not. I look for coaches, how they get a feel of me. I look at facilities, seeing how this fits me. And also the players. I want to see players I can be around and can develop strong relationships with over the next three or four years.

This past season, Northwood went 4-6 and missed the state playoffs. What are some improvements you need to make individually, and as a team, this season to turn things around?

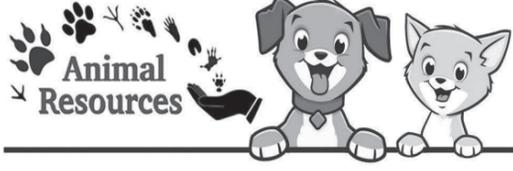
Personally, I'm still trying to develop as a young adult. As a player, there are definitely some things I need to work on to improve my game. I'm pretty fast for my size, but there's always room to improve on your speed. I'm also trying to get bigger and stronger. I have a pretty high IQ for a player, but there's always room for improvement, especially when

you know you're going to be playing at the college level.

As a team, we're a young team, but we have a couple more years together, and we think we can make something out of that. I'm excited. We're going to have something to prove next year. People will be like, "Oh, well, they didn't make it to the

playoffs." I think we'll be good enough next year to show those teams who we are. This year, we fell a bit short, but that's OK. I think next year we'll be fine.

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



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www.chathamsheriff.com

NORTHWOOD

Continued from page B1

J.F. Webb. The Hawks opened the year with a 61-38 win over Carrboro on Nov. 18 and followed it up with a 45-26 victory over Leesville Road in a Thanksgiving tourna-

ment last Friday. Seaforth is in its second year as a varsity program and features a roster made up of six freshmen, four sophomores and two juniors. The Hawks are led offensively by sophomore Gabby White, who had 15 points in the team's first game of the season and

averaged 15.6 points, 10.0 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 3.7 steals per game as a freshman in 2021-22, when Seaforth went 19-8 overall and 12-0 in conference play. The Hawks' next game is at 6 p.m. on Dec. 8 at home against Western Alamance. Seaforth has three games to play be-

fore participating in the Maroon Devils Christmas Classic at Swain County High beginning Dec. 28. The only 1-0 team entering Tuesday night was Chatham Central, which eked out a 44-38 win over South Davidson on Nov. 22. The Bears rematched the Wildcats on Tuesday and play at Southwestern Randolph at 6 p.m. on Thursday. Central had an up-and-down season in 2021-22, finishing the year with an overall record of 14-14 and a 9-2 mark in conference play — with its only two losses coming to Seaforth. The Bears made it to the third round of the

1A state playoffs before falling to Bertie, 58-31. The two teams outside of Northwood still searching for their first wins entering the week were Jordan-Matthews and Woods Charter. The Jets opened the year with a 42-27 loss to Southern Lee on Nov. 21 and played Trinity at home Tuesday. J-M's next game is Friday on the road at Western Guilford. The Jets are coming off a 2021-22 season where they went 5-17 overall and 3-8 in conference play. Jordan-Matthews last winning season came in 2014-15, when it went 19-8 overall under head coach Melody Dark.

Woods Charter, meanwhile, was 0-1 overall entering Wednesday's match against Vance Charter. The Wolves fell to Cornerstone Charter, 38-21, on Nov. 16, in their first game of the season. The Wolves are coming off back-to-back winning seasons and are in their third year under head coach Princess Alston. Woods Charter went 12-7 overall last season and made it to the second round of the state playoffs before losing to Bertie. *Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo_vernon.*



Council on Aging Activities Calendar

December 5th through December 9th

Monday, December 5

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz** (in-person and Zoom)
- 10 a.m. - **Ger-Fit w/Jackie**
- 11:15 a.m. - **Cornhole & Shuffleboard**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 10 a.m. - **Bingo w/Woodman Life**
- 2 p.m. - **Strength & Tone**

Tuesday, December 6

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9 a.m. - **3G's Men's Group**
- 10 a.m. - **Woodcarvers; Bingo w/Joe & Coffee**
- 11 a.m. - **Science w/Alan**
- 1 p.m. - **Rummikub; Trip to Southern Supreme Fruitcake Factory**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:45 a.m. - **Chair Exercises w/Olivia for Beginners**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Sing Along with "Mr. Goldston"**
- 1 p.m. - **Rook, Phase 10 & Rummikub; Bring Your Own Project Gathering**
- 2 p.m. - **Fitness Room Orientation w/Olivia**

Wednesday, December 7

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 10 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz; Coffee & Games w/Chatham County Sheriff's Office; Choir to Siler City**
- 1 p.m. - **Open Art Studio; Board Games and Cards**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 8 a.m. - **Veterans Benefit Assistance**
- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 10 a.m. - **Bible Study**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Gospel Choir**
- 1 p.m. - **Cornhole**
- 2 p.m. - **Crafting w/Kathryn** (Paper Angels)

Thursday, December 8

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9:30 a.m. - **Blood Pressure Screening**
- 10 a.m. - **Let's Move w/Jackie; Crafts and Conversation**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Diabetes Discussion Group**
- 1 p.m. - **Board Games & Cards**
- 1:30 p.m. - **Line Dancing**
- 3 p.m. - **Gentle Yoga w/Liz**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:30 a.m. - **Men's Coffee & Conversations**
- 10 a.m. - **Music Jam Session**
- 12:30 p.m. - **"A Christmas Carol"** (at Temple Theater, Sanford.) RSVP by Nov. 23
- 2 p.m. - **Tai Chi**

Friday, December 9

Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 10 a.m. - **Ger-Fit w/Jackie**
- 1 p.m. - **Card Games/Euchre**
- 3 p.m. - **Jukebox Live!** ("Music from the 50s and 60s")

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Stories with Neriah**
- 7 p.m. - **Friday Night Dance** (fee required for participation)

For more information on these and other programs, call our centers Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Eastern Chatham Senior Center
919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center
919-742-3975

Visit our website at www.chathamcoa.org



Staff photo by Lee Moody

Chatham Charter senior Tamaya Walden is the only active girls player in Chatham County with more than 1,000 career points.

WRESTLING

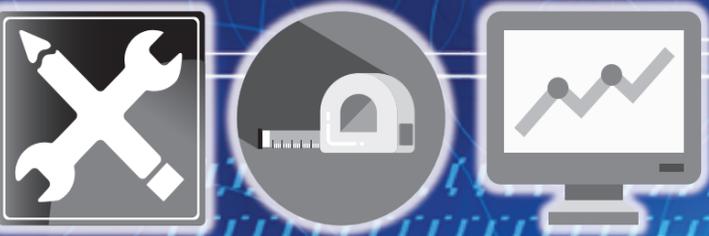
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Also expected to contribute for the Hawks this winter are sophomores Armstrong, Bowen, Lloyd and Cody, as well as juniors Josh Miller and Roger Eubanks. Of the group, only Armstrong was won a match at last year's individual state

championships. The Hawks had another match against Graham High on Wednesday night. Seaforth's next action is Saturday, as it travels to Carrboro High for the Rumble in the Jungle Tournament. Seaforth will compete throughout the winter in preparation for the Mid-Carolina Conference championships, which

take place on Jan. 21. The first and second rounds of the dual team state championships start the following week, with individual regional tournaments kicking off on Feb. 10. *Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo_vernon.*

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Don't let Deshaun Watson off the hook



JEREMY VERNON
Sports Editor

This upcoming Sunday marks Week 12 in the National Football League, and that means quarterback Deshaun Watson is eligible to return following an 11-game suspension, which was handed down after a settlement was reached by the NFL and the league's Players Association.

Over the past year, two dozen women came out alleging that Watson committed sexual misconduct during massage therapy sessions. Watson reached settlements with 23 of the 24 women, and after doing so, he didn't shy away from

proclaiming his innocence to anyone who would listen. Now, the next step in the saga is upon us, as Watson is slated to start for the Cleveland Browns against his old team, the Houston Texans, on the road. There's no telling what the reaction will be from Houston fans when he finally takes the field, but I hope they make him fully aware that no one has forgotten the situation that landed him here in the first place.

Cleveland, for its part, looks like it has moved on from questions of how they could possibly trade for Watson. They made abundantly clear when they signed him to a five-year, \$230 million, fully-guaranteed deal earlier this offseason. Now, it's time for everyone else to play their part.

I would challenge Texans fans to be the loudest they've ever been this Sunday. They need to let Watson know the damage he has caused the team, the city and the league, let alone the 24 women whose lives have changed from his alleged misconduct.

I hope the Houston faithful lets Watson have it. And I hope he feels the walls closing in around him. I hope he gets sacked, a lot. I hope he throws interceptions. I hope he plays so bad the Browns are forced to turn things back over to Jacoby Brissett.

But Sunday won't be the final step in this saga, regardless of performance. And as the days and weeks progress, it will be the job of fans, players and media to make sure Watson isn't allowed to slide back into

any sense of normalcy.

Reporters should hound the quarterback with questions in his availability after Sunday's game. They should also offer him a chance to make a real apology — not that I'm holding my breath. Failing to push Watson on this could create a chilling effect for other women who have been victims of sexual misconduct, as many will have to decide whether its worth it given the lack of accountability the quarterback has faced so far these past several months.

They should continue asking questions until they're cut off, and return to their inquiries at practice next week. But arguably the biggest step of all will come when Watson finally suits up at home — on Dec. 18 against the Baltimore Ravens.

Cleveland, as a franchise, seems content with moving on from the Watson situation and heading into the future like nothing ever happened. But Browns fans, I implore you not to let that slide.

When the time comes, you need to pile into FirstEnergy Stadium. Fill it up. Then you need to come together as a fanbase and boo the living hell out of this man.

He's shown nothing but a lack of contrition for the women his alleged actions affected. Now it's time for Cleveland fans to show him the same mercy.

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

TOP

Continued from page B1

assists and 2.5 blocks per game in the Hawks' first two games of the season. Seaforth is also getting solid play from sophomore Noah Lewis, who is averaging 7.5 points, 3.5 rebounds, 5.5 assists and 1.5 steals per game so far

this season.

Woods Charter, meanwhile, was 0-2 ahead of its Wednesday home game against Vance Charter. The Wolves fell to Ascend Leadership by five points, 29-24, in their season-opener on Nov. 14. Two days later, Woods fell to Cornerstone Charter on the road, 53-26.

Last season, Woods

Charter went 5-14 overall and 4-6 in conference play. The Wolves are in their first season under new head coach Leonard McNair after amassing a 10-57 record the previous four seasons under coach Tajj Cotten.

The two teams with 1-0 records entering Tuesday night's games were Northwood and Chatham

Central. The Chargers opened the year with a 75-63 win over Wayne Country Day on Nov. 19 and expect to be one of the top 3A teams in the east region this season.

Northwood — which played Wakefield on Tuesday and hosts Apex in its home-opener on Thursday — is led by junior Drake Powell, a UNC commit who is considered the No. 5 player in North Carolina in the Class of 2024 according to 247Sports' composite rankings. Powell scored 27 points in the Chargers' season-opening win, while junior Jake Leighton (17) and senior Max Frazier (13) were also in double figures.

Last season, Northwood reached the fourth round of the 3A state playoffs before falling to West Carteret. The Chargers had an overall record of 24-4.

Chatham Central

Last season, Woods Charter went 5-14 overall and 4-6 in conference play. The Wolves are in their first season under new head coach Leonard McNair after amassing a 10-57 record the previous four seasons under coach Tajj Cotten.

opened its season with a 60-45 win over South Davidson on Nov. 22, and the Bears played the Wildcats again on Tuesday night. Central's next game is Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Southwestern Randolph.

Last year, Central went 9-12 overall and 6-5 in Mid-Carolina conference play. This was the first time since 2016-17 the Bears had not finished a season above .500 under head coach Robert Burke.

Rounding out the boys basketball scene in Chatham County is Jordan-Matthews, which lost its season-opener to Southern Lee, 67-39, on Dec. 21 and was 0-1

ahead of its Tuesday home game against Trinity. The Jets also play Friday night at 8:30 on the road at Western Guilford.

Jordan-Matthews is in its first season under head coach Kermit Carter. The Jets had an overall record of 32-105 the previous six seasons under Rodney Wiley. Jordan-Matthews' last winning season came in 2015-16, when the Jets were 23-6 under former coach Paul Lowman.

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



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter senior Adam Harvey (20) leads the Knights with 16.0 points per game through their first seven games of the season.

ALL-STATE

Continued from page B1

Making the 1A team all-state team while also playing in the Mid-Carolina conference was Chatham Central's Dodson, now in her second year of varsity volleyball. Dodson led the Bears in kills (188), blocks (59) and digs (42). For her career, Dodson now has 390 total kills, 51 service aces and 80 blocks through two full seasons with Chatham Central.

Despite Dodson's strong play, the Bears were unable to make any noise during the regular season, going 9-14 overall and 3-7 in league play. Central eventually lost

to Falls Lake, 3-0, in the first round of the 1A state playoffs.

2022 ALL-CONFERENCE HONOREES

Mid-Carolina Conference

Maris Huneycutt, sophomore, Seaforth
Mia Kellam, sophomore, Seaforth
Keira Rosenmarkle, freshman, Seaforth
Karaleigh Dodson, sophomore, Chatham Central
Abby Johnson, senior, Chatham Central
Reagan Smith, junior, Jordan-Matthews
Janeyra Guerrero-Jaimes, junior, Jordan-Mat-

thews

Central Tar Heel Conference

Maya Sheridan, sophomore, Woods Charter
Josephine Valgus, freshman, Woods Charter
Emma Cope, junior, Woods Charter
Emerson Clark, senior, Chatham Charter
Ashlee Rains, senior, Chatham Charter
Alison Perez Hernandez, senior, Chatham Charter

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

Advice Can Help When Making Charitable Gifts

Now that it's the holiday season, gifts are probably on your mind — and you might intend for some of those gifts to go to charities. Although your intentions are good, you could be shortchanging both your recipients and yourself with your method of giving. But with some guidance, you can make choices that work well for you and those charitable groups you support.

Of course, you could simply give money to these groups. However, by donating other types of assets, can you increase the value of your gift and gain greater tax benefits, too?

It's certainly possible, but your ability to gain any tax advantages depends somewhat on whether or not you can itemize deductions on your tax return. Due to legislation passed a few years ago that significantly increased the standard deduction, many people may no longer be itemizing. But if you still itemize, you can generally deduct up to 60% of your adjusted gross income for cash donations to IRS-qualified charities.

Another contribution strategy involves donating other assets, such as stocks. You could donate stocks directly to a charitable group, but you might gain more benefits by making an irrevocable contribution to a donor-advised fund (DAF). Again, assuming you can itemize, you can deduct the full fair-market value of the asset, up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income, and your contributions can be invested in mutual funds or similar vehicles. The contributions have the opportunity for growth, and distributions to the charity are tax-free. You can then decide, on your own timetable, which IRS-qualified charitable groups you would like to receive the money. Furthermore, if you donate stocks that have risen in value, you won't incur potential capital gains taxes that you would have when you eventually sold the stocks.

These taxes can be considerable, especially if you've held the stocks for a long time. (You'll want to consult with your tax advisor on how charitable gifts can affect your taxes, especially if you're thinking of using a donor-advised fund.)

These charitable donation methods are not secrets, and they are available to many people — you don't have to be wealthy to employ them. Yet, here's an interesting statistic: Those who work with a financial advisor on charitable strategies are more than three times as likely to donate non-cash assets such as stocks than those who contribute to charities but don't work with an advisor, according to an August 2022 survey from financial services firm Edward Jones and Morning Consult, a global data intelligence company. These findings suggest that many more people could be taking advantage of tax-smart charitable giving moves — if only they had some help or guidance.

Also, by getting some professional financial assistance, you may find it easier to implement your charitable giving decisions within your overall financial strategy, which is designed to help you meet all your important long-term goals, such as achieving a comfortable retirement.

Your instinct to help support charitable groups is a worthy one — and by getting some help, you can turn this impulse into actions that may work to everyone's benefit.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Chatham County Schools requests parental permission for distribution of pocket Constitutions

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

At the Chatham Board of Education's Nov. 17 meeting Amy Kappelman, chairperson of Chatham's Moms for Liberty, expressed frustration to the board over the fact that the pocket Constitutions her organization presented to district offices in September hadn't been distributed.

The district has requested approval from parents and guardians before distributing them.

"The district received the pocket Constitution donations after Constitution Day in September, which is when it would have been timed well with curriculum," said Nancy Wykle,

public information officer for Chatham County Schools, told the News + Record. "We receive an array of donations, and how we distribute them varies by amount, time and resources. Once the donation is made to the district, how and when it is distributed is up to the district."

The official policy of CCS is outlined in Policy 5210: Distribution of Non-School Materials. The policy gives the district discretion regarding the distribution of materials, which can include asking for parental consent to distribute materials.

Parental consent is also required for other school-related activities and materials including athletics, field trips,

health education, surveys of students, social media portrayals of students and more. A full list of CCS district policies is available online.

Wykle said CCS heard from several concerned parents who did not want their students to receive the pocket Constitutions. Those parents "disagreed with positions taken by the donating organization," Wykle said. She said she did not speak directly with those concerned parents and was unsure whether their concerns were in regards to Moms for Liberty or 917 Society, which donated the Constitutions.

"Our decision was to contact all 8th grade families to let them know this resource

was available and allow them to make the decision about whether they would like for their child to receive one," Wykle said.

As of publication, Wykle said CCS has now begun distributing Constitutions to teachers with students who requested them.

917 Society, a nonprofit whose aim is to provide copies of the Constitution to 8th grade students across the country and "ensure our children learn the value in and the contents of the founding principles of our nation's most sacred document," according to its website. 917 has partnered with Moms for Liberty chapters across the country and lists several

chapters as some of its top donors on its website.

Recently, the national organization of Moms for Liberty made national headlines when South Carolina school board members, six of whom were endorsed by Moms for Liberty, in the Berkeley School District moved to fire the district's first Black superintendent and the district's lawyer, ban Critical Race Theory and establish a committee that would decide whether certain books and materials should be banned, NBC News reported.

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

Commissioners bid adieu to Diana Hales, Robert Logan at final meetings

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Commissioners bid farewell to two fellow board members last Monday, recognizing Diana Hales (Dist. 3) and Robert Logan (Dist. 4) and honoring them for their service to the board and the county.

Hales, who will be succeeded by Democrat David Delaney, did not seek re-election after eight years as commissioner. During her time in office, she was a staunch defender of the agricultural nature of the county and a visionary for Chatham's future, according to her colleagues on the board. She supported the opening of six different county buildings, the development of the county's megasites and oversaw future-oriented projects like Plan Chatham.

"I will unashamedly say that this small woman has packed the biggest punch on this board," said Karen Howard, the board's chairperson, at the Nov. 21 meeting. "She has an eye for detail, and her ability to grasp concepts and explain them well to others is second to none."

Howard and other county staff recounted Hales' apparently infamous Sunday night emails before commissioners' meetings — chock full of questions about the agenda items, and potential ponder-

ings about policies the board could implement. Howard said those emails spoke to the incredibly thorough nature of Hales and her serious attitude toward her role.

"All the things we all value about Chatham but many of us take for granted," Howard said, "— Diana has had the foresight and fortitude to stand up and defend those things."

Delaney takes Hales's seat after defeating Republican Tom Glendinning in the November election.

Logan — who will be succeeded by Democrat Katie Kenlan, who beat Republican Joe Godfrey in November — didn't seek election to the seat. The former Chatham County Schools superintendent was appointed to the role of commissioner following the resignation of long-time commissioner Jim Crawford last December. Logan was sworn into office in February, and in his brief nine months on the board, he had a hand in projects that will change the trajectory of the county. He supported economic development through the support of megasites that brought VinFast (at Triangle Innovation Point in Moncure) and Wolfspeed (at Siler City's Chatham Advanced Manufacturing site) and pushed for continued education through the Chatham Promise program. Chatham Promise ensures eligible



Photo courtesy of Chatham County Government

Commissioners Robert Logan (center right, tan suit) and Diana Hales (center right, purple blazer) pose with fellow commissioners and county staff. Logan and Hales were awarded plaques for their service to Chatham County in their final meeting as members of the board on Monday, Nov. 21.

residents who graduate from a public high school, private school, charter school or homeschool will be guaranteed up to two years of free in-state tuition at Central Carolina Community College.

"Robert Logan answered the call to civic duty," Howard said. "He has made Chatham County a better place for all residents and we wish him health, happiness and continued prosperity."

Hales and Logan were honored with individualized official ordinances thanking them for their service to the county. They each thanked county staff and called their time in office a "privilege."

"I've enjoyed this role more than I anticipated," Logan said. "I'm grateful for the opportunity and I feel good about the future

of Chatham County — where it's going and the leadership that it's under. A lot of great things are getting ready to happen."

Hales shared similar sentiments and listed the achievements the commissioners have accomplished in her eight years on the board. She said she was especially proud of the movement toward equity in the county including the removal of the Confederate monument in front of the Pittsboro Courthouse, commemorating June-teenth and honoring the legacy of the county's lynching victims with a historical marker.

"I don't have a single accomplishment I'm most proud of, I have a list," Hales said. "Thank you to my fellow board members, both present and past, it has been an honor

to serve with you."

Hales and Logan will officially end their duties when Delaney and Kenlan are sworn in at the next meeting, which takes place 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5, at the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro.

Preparing for VinFast growth: rezonings and more

Before they were allowed to say farewell, Hales, Logan and other commissioners covered several business items focused on the future of the county. Four public hearings came before the board last Monday, all dealing with land near the Moncure megasite, the future location of VinFast's manufacturing facility.

Three of the four public hearings were

rezoning requests along or adjacent to Old U.S. Hwy. 1 to turn private property into industrial business-ready ventures. None of the three had developed site plans for their future businesses, but all were preparing to maximize benefit for the seemingly inevitable future of growth along the corridor in Moncure.

"This is a growing area," said Angela Plummer, zoning administrator for the Chatham County Planning Board. "People want to get ahead of the curve to make this area into businesses and help property owners make money."

Plummer said she anticipated eight more rezoning requests to come before the commissioners at the board's December meeting, all regarding properties in the same area around the megasite.

The fourth public hearing in the area was an abandonment of Moncure Flatwoods Road. The road was owned by the county and the abandonment permanently closes a portion of the road and gives ownership of the right of way to VinFast. Giving ownership of the roadway to VinFast means 1.36 miles of the road will no longer be operable. The board unanimously approved closing the roadway and transferring ownership after they found it "not contrary to the public interest."

Other business

Last Monday's board meeting also featured updates on the financial standing of the county. First quarter budget updates showed the county is on pace with its revised budget. Thus far, the county has spent more than \$22.8 million, or 13.5% of total planned expenditures. Most of those expenditures came from salaries and benefits, which is similar to the Q1 spending of previous years for the county.

The county revenues in Q1 are on a similar pace, totalling \$22.2 million or 13.1% of total planned revenues for the year. The figure puts the county revenues up 4% from this time last year, but the distribution of those revenues is also different. For example, environmental health revenues are down 22%, but building inspection revenues are up 25%.

The budget updates also discussed year-end sales tax, which showed strong sales performance in the county. Chatham saw a growth of \$4.1 million in sales tax growth over the year prior. Overall, county staff said the budget is in good

CHATHAM IS **BOLD!**



POLICE REPORTS

FROM CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Nov. 15, Jody Wilson Harris, 27, of 535 McLaurin Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Conner Bussey for Domestic Violence Protection Order violation. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 7.

On Nov. 15, Donovan Bradley Dowdy, 33, of 1803 Old U.S. 1, Moncure, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for larceny, possession of stolen goods or property and felony conspiracy. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Harnett County District Court on Nov. 18. Donovan Bradley Dowdy was also arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for failure to comply with prosecution agreement. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 7.

On Nov. 15, Vincent Grey Schulster, 22, homeless, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for failure to appear. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court on Dec. 13. Schulster was also arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for failures to appear. He was issued a \$20,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Lee County Superior Court on Nov. 28.

On Nov. 15, Braxton Ray

Stirewalt, 32, of 9429 Horton Road, New Hill, was arrested by Deputy Andrew Gray for failure to appear. He was issued a \$100 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 7. Braxton Ray Stirewalt was also arrested by Deputy Andrew Gray for failure to appear and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court on March 9.

On Nov. 16, Michael Daemon Patterson, 45, of 2239 Hollands Chapel Road, Apex, was arrested by Deputy Yuridia Bahena-Robles for child support order for arrest. He was issued a \$450 purge payment and is scheduled to appear in Durham County District Court on Dec. 5.

On Nov. 17, Frank Wilson May, 31, of 601 Trift Road, Goldston, was arrested by Corporal Brandal Harrington for assault by pointing a gun. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 14.

On Nov. 17, Hubert Haywood Stone, 62, of 1743 Charlie Brooks Road, Moncure, was arrested by Deputy Alberto Estrada for failure to appear. He was issued a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 14.

On Nov. 17, Daniel Gervacio Meza, 22, of 608 Siler Street, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for driving while impaired and no operator's license. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham

County District Court on Dec. 13.

On Nov. 18, Aaron Steven Coble, 22, of 6258 Airport Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering and injury to real property. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30. Coble was also arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering motor vehicle, larceny of motor vehicle, injury to personal property, misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen motor vehicle. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30. Coble was also arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for two counts of failure to appear. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Nov. 18, Missy Jo Riddle, 46, of 235 Chatham Square, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen goods or property. She was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 14. Riddle was also arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for felony probation violation. She was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in

Wake County District Court on Dec. 13. On Nov. 19, Riddle, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for failure to appear regarding a criminal summons. She was issued a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 14.

On Nov. 18, Juan Carlos Beiza-Rebollar, 30, of 44 Lillie Lane, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen goods or property. He was issued a \$100 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 14. Beiza-Rebollar was also arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for failure to appear. He was issued a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 14. Beiza-Rebollar was also arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for failure to appear. He was issued a \$250 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Durham County District Court on Jan. 4. Beiza-Rebollar was also arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for failure to appear. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court on Jan. 11.

On Nov. 18, Tyler Morgan Winstead, 25, of 284 Fayetteville Road, Goldston, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for misdemeanor probation violation. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District

Court on Nov. 23.

On Nov. 18, Clinton Dwayne Lester, 31, of 1116 Brisson Road, Parkton, was arrested by Investigator Rebecca Madden for intimidating a witness. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Nov. 19, Luis Noe Ortiz, 20, of 3330 Grove Crabtree, Raleigh, was arrested by Deputy Zackary Gross for driving under the influence, flee to elude, careless and reckless and underage drinking. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Nov. 30.

On Nov. 19, Angela Gay Beal, 38, of 884 Pearleman Teague Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for failure to appear regarding a release order. She was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Nov. 30.

On Nov. 19, Danielle Jacklyn Krieh, 31, of 905 Pea Ridge Road, New Hill, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for failure to appear on a criminal summons. She was issued a \$100 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Dec. 7. Krieh was also arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for failure to appear on a release order. She was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County Superior Court on Dec. 12.

Siler City manager urges residents to be aware of bird flu

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — As cold winter months approach, so does flu season, for both Chathamites and their feathery friends. The discovery of several dead buzzards at Boling Lane Park has some suspecting avian flu, a virus affecting birds, especially in rural communities like Siler City.

Bird flu is often transmitted to poultry and wild birds from waterfowl, ducks, swans and other water birds. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 50 million birds have died from avian flu in the United States this year, marking 2022's outbreak as the deadliest in the county's history.

"This is the first time for me," Town Manager Hank Raper said. "We've always obviously had conversations about the potential of avian flu, but I've never actually dealt with a direct case of it."

Raper said the town was made aware of potential bird flu outbreaks in Siler City on Nov. 17 from residents calls, and his staff has been in touch with North Carolina Wildlife Resources.

"They told us that we could let nature take its course, or we could find a way to dispose of the buzzards," Raper said. "I instructed our Parks and

SYMPTOMS OF AVIAN FLU

- Reduced energy, decreased appetite, and/or decreased activity
- Lower egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, and wattles
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs
- Difficulty breathing, runny nares (nose), and/or sneezing
- Twisting of the head and neck, stumbling, falling down, tremors, and/or circling
- Greenish diarrhea

Rec director (Jack Clelland) to assign his staff to go collect the buzzards and dispose of them as the state has recommended."

Raper said he asked officials at N.C. Wildlife Resources if the deceased birds needed to be sent off for testing to determine if they indeed had bird flu. The state said testing isn't needed when it comes to wild birds.

Despite not knowing for certain if the buzzards died from bird flu, Raper said town staff are treating the situation as if it were confirmed to be.

"We're taking all the precautions, assuming that it is avian flu, and making sure that our staff is wearing gloves, double bagging and taking proper safety precautions to dispose of them," Raper said.

Unlike larger municipalities, Siler City doesn't have its own wildlife department, meaning its resources for handling issues like this are limited.

The county does have animal control, but Raper said the best thing to do if residents suspect their birds or wild birds have contracted avian flu is to report it to the state as soon as possible.

"[The state] helps dispel questions or concerns that the public may have because we're pretty limited," Raper said. "I'll also recommend contacting the town directly because we can assist them with getting in contact with the state directly."

Residents can contact the N.C. Wildlife Resources by calling 1-866-318-2401 if they find wild birds suspected of having avian flu. If residents are worried about their own flocks, they can contact the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at 919-733-3986.

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theaden@chathamnr.com and on Twitter at [@Heeden-Taylor](https://twitter.com/Heeden-Taylor).

MEETINGS

Continued from page B5

standing and on pace to meet the proposed plans for the fiscal year.

The board also heard updates on funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The act provided federal money to local governments to help relieve the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic and help reboot the economy. Chatham County has spent the funding on a variety of

public services including parks, vaccine incentives and community conversation events. So far, the county has already spent or obligated \$5 million of ARPA funding, with \$9.4 million available. The funds must be spent by December 2026 or they will expire. The plans for those expenditures must be submitted by December 2024.

The board will next meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5, at the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro to swear in and organize

the board. The next full general session, which will include the new commissioners, will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 19, at the Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro with the general session beginning at 6 p.m. For more information visit www.chathamcountync.gov/government/board-of-commissioners.

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

Teacher from Siler City arrested for sexual abuse of students

CN+R Staff Reports

SANFORD — A teacher at SanLee Middle School was arrested after reports he sexually abused students, according to the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

Andrew Braxton Allen, 32, of Siler City, was arrested on Nov. 17 after a weeks-long investigation. Allen has had multiple inappropriate relations with students over a 10-year period at the school, officials said.

The investigation began Nov. 2, with a report to the sheriff's office about an inappropriate relationship between a teacher and student at the school. Investigators said they have identified multiple children who were sexually abused by Allen.

Lee County Schools said Allen was immediately suspended without pay as soon as the allegations surfaced. Allen resigned Nov. 6, according to the district.

Charges against Allen include statutory sex offense with a child by an adult, indecent liberties with a child and sexual activity with a student, the sheriff's office said.

"The Board wants to emphasize that student safety is our highest priority," the Lee County Board of Education said in the statement. "We understand that there will be many questions and that our community will need time and support in order to process and respond to this terrible situation."

The board said it would provide additional support at SanLee Middle School

to help students and community members process the situation.



Allen

Bail for Allen was originally set at \$250,000, but adjusted to \$2,000,000 secured bond after further charges were filed. Allen will be held in Central Prison in Raleigh until he is expected to appear in Lee County court in January.

Allen was hired at SanLee in 2012 where he taught 6th-grade math and social studies.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office is requesting that any parents that had students that were taught by Andrew Braxton Allen during his tenure at SanLee Middle School to speak with their children about possible inappropriate conduct. If it is found or even suspected that your child may have been a victim, please contact the Lee County Sheriff's Office at 919-775-5531.

"Please understand how very important it is to speak with your children to ensure that no young person is left with an undiscovered, untreated, lasting and traumatizing memory," a Lee County Sheriff's Office statement said. "The second reason is to make sure that any possible victims have the opportunity to come forward and to have a voice that could lead to further prosecution."

This is an ongoing investigation and anyone with information should contact Lee County Sheriff's Office.

Pittsboro Rotarians are pleased to be partnering with Flyleaf Books for this year's event, A Book for Every Reader. We will be wrapping & delivering 721 books to Pittsboro & Moncure elementary students prior to their holiday break! We are grateful to them for their participation in this endeavor & encourage our community to give the gift of reading this holiday season. Flyleaf Books has a vast array of titles & genres, so you are sure to find something for everyone on your list!

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SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Board adopts comprehensive personnel policy after hours-long discussion

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Commissioners approved a comprehensive personnel policy — a first for the town — during the board’s Nov. 21 meeting.

The policy was created to help mesh together several related policies that had been created over the years, according to Town Manager Hank Raper.

“This is big because the town has not had a comprehensive personnel policy ... So now we have everything really in one place for all of our employees to read and understand,” he told the News + Record after the meeting.

Commissioners discussed the policy over the course of two hours, with Mayor Chip Price addressing several concerns — mostly around the proposed Article IX in the proposed document.

Article IX in the policy addresses disciplinary actions for town employees. The seven-

page-long section details how department heads would handle reprimanding or dismissing employees when situations require it.

Price said that because of past incidents involving employee disciplinary actions, he wanted to make sure the policy that’s adopted protects the board and town administration from any legal ramifications arising from termination of town employees.

“There have been some decisions that were made in the last year that were very poorly handled,” Price said. “I just don’t want it to happen any more ... that’s where I’m coming from.”

Price said the policy should reflect what he believes is Siler City’s vision and mission, which he said comes down to “dealing with people.”

“We don’t operate in a vacuum,” he said. “There’s a right way and a wrong way to treat people ... we’ve done some things that are questionable in my opinion.”

Raper said in an interview after the meeting the incident Price was referring occurred before he became town manager, but he said he couldn’t talk about the incident because he wasn’t familiar with the circumstances.

In addition to these claims, Price said he felt the proposed policy didn’t go far enough when it came to involving the board in personnel decisions, but there is a legal explanation in N.C. General Statutes.

North Carolina statute 160A-148 states town managers are able to “appoint and suspend or remove all city officers and employees not elected by the people, and whose appointment or removal is not otherwise provided for by law, except the city attorney.” The same statute in section 146 states municipal boards can “... create, change, abolish, and consolidate offices, positions, departments, boards, commissions and agencies ... to promote orderly and efficient administration of city affairs.”

Town managers, by law, aren’t compelled to consult the board or the mayor regarding personnel decisions, unless it may implicate the board in legal matters.

Mayor Pro Tem Bill Haiges reminded Price of that, saying there wasn’t a way to “put every possible situation” into the comprehensive policy; he said the board could lay out a process it wishes for department heads to follow.

“We’ve set the language that we will be brought into it (personnel discipline) if there’s a liability issue with the town,” Haiges told Price. “I understand what you’re saying, but I’m trusting things are going to get handled the way they should be and people be treated the way they’re supposed to be.”

Haiges also told the mayor that the board doesn’t have a say when it comes to personnel matters — the board is only responsible for approving the policy of how to handle personnel issues.

“If something happens, he

(the town manager) is accountable for it,” Haiges said. “It’s on him, and then we would hold him accountable via his contract.”

The board went on to pass the policy unanimously without Article IX, with hopes of returning the item back for discussion at its Dec. 5 meeting. Raper said after the meeting he hoped the last part of the policy could be approved as the town prepares for an increase in need for staff amid the anticipated growth in Siler City.

“We’re talking about the town evolving into this new community that is going to be with more people living here and more staff that we’re going to need,” Raper said. “The sooner we can get these policies and procedures and things in place that mirror what a larger community would have, the better off we’re going to be.”

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

DEVELOPMENT DEBATES

Pittsboro commissioners consider funding contribution project for Chatham Park Way

BY MAYDHA DEVARAJAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Commissioners spent an hour and a half debating the approval of a local government funding contribution project

with Chatham Park Investors during Monday night’s board meeting. It was a conversation that, at times, bordered on tensity and brought up questions about the financing of development in Pittsboro.

Eric Vernon, an

attorney representing Chatham Park Investors, presented the proposed bonus allocation agreement, which focuses on Chatham Park Way, a state road that serves the transportation needs of residents and businesses in the over-7,000-acre

development.

The N.C. Dept. of Transportation’s State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) allows for the acceleration of state roads upon the payment of a local contribution, and the reimbursement of a portion of local contributions that cut road construction costs. According to the resolution, NCDOT identified in the STIP the funding for and scheduling of construction for a new two-lane portion of Chatham Park Way spanning more than 2 miles.

Under the proposed bonus allocation agreement, Chatham Park Investors (CPI) would pay \$9 million on behalf of the town as the “local contribution.” The Town of Pittsboro is being asked to serve as a conduit for the funds paid to the NCDOT and to convey the right of way for the portion of the road on behalf of CPI. The value of the right of way would qualify as a bonus allocation of \$4.5 million, which has to be spent within five years and would allow CPI to draw on a credit for the construction of additional roads that belong to Chatham Park.

In his presentation, Vernon said the project has been on the town’s radar for a long time, referencing a 2018 letter that the Town of Pittsboro sent to Triangle J Council of Governments and Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization expressing support for the bonus allocation program.

“As I’ve experienced in communities that I’ve represented, as a general rule, growth exceeds the ability of a local government to provide for transportation infrastructure,” Vernon said to commissioners. “And this is one way to accomplish the goals of supporting the new development of Chatham Park Investors, while at the same time providing benefits to the citizens of the town of Pittsboro in the form of reduced pressure on your existing transportation system.”

However, the mayor and several commissioners voiced discomfort with the proposed agreement and allocating NCDOT bonus funds, and said they would like more time to understand

the specifications in the agreement.

Specifically, commissioners took issue that two roads, Suttles Road and Eubanks Road, were listed in the proposed agreement as potential projects that could be addressed with the bonus funds, instead pointing to concerns with the current infrastructure of and a need for a road widening on N.C. Hwy 87. Mayor Cindy Perry also referenced the establishment of the VinFast megasite in the southeastern portion of Chatham, and ensuing truck and construction traffic.

“In his interview, our last manager, Chris Kennedy said to us, ‘Development should pay for itself,’” Commissioner John Bonitz said. “And I believe that, and I believe that this is kind of turning that on its head, that truism.”

“I believe that your company needs this road,” Bonitz continued. “I believe that the Town of Pittsboro needs you to complete this road, and because of our entwined destinies, I am concerned about your success, but I am even more concerned about the profound needs and rotting infrastructure in the rest of the town.”

Vernon said the inclusion of the two roads in the proposed agreement were provided as examples and were a reflection of the evolution of the Chatham Park development. He said they could be taken out of the agreement. But, he emphasized, any roads included would be owned by Chatham Park, would benefit town residents and would have to be STIP-eligible to receive the bonus allocation.

“I would suggest that Chatham Park is ready to cooperate with the town anyway it can,” Vernon said, in response to a comment made by Perry earlier in the meeting regarding what she perceived as competing infrastructure projects. “...We would never see ourselves as being in competition with the town or its other interests.”

Commissioner Kyle Shipp also stated his support for the removal of the reference to the two specific roads in the agreement, as well as making more clear in

the agreement that any additional roads built with the bonus allocation would be controlled by Chatham Park, which Vernon agreed to.

“The way I look at this is a developer has agreed to give the town \$9 million to build roads in the Town of Pittsboro and their request is that the \$4.5 million rebate that comes back is used for roads in the PDD or controlled by Chatham Park,” Shipp said. “It’s 100% our decision to make, what happens with that money...but we don’t have that money and we don’t have any way to compel to give that money so it’s a negotiation of what happens with that.”

Ultimately, commissioners decided to revisit the proposed agreement at the next board meeting on Dec. 12, when CPI would have made the changes requested by board members.

Commissioners also approved the Downtown Pittsboro Work Plan for the 2023 fiscal year. The plan, which aims to synthesize goals and a vision for downtown, is the product of a series of efforts since July and collaborations between the Downtown Advisory Board, the North Carolina Main Street Program, the Town of Pittsboro and community members.

In July, Pittsboro commissioners created the Downtown Advisory Board. Shortly after, the board hosted a “Community Vision Forum,” disseminated a community survey and participated in several visioning workshops. Feedback from the community input process directly shaped the work plan, which Downtown Development Director Theresa Thompson presented an overview of. A draft version of the plan is available at nc-pittsboro.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/315?fileID=2937.

The survey, which received 353 responses, saw the top priorities for downtown revitalization as: attracting new businesses, more places to shop, more downtown events, more places to sit and socialize and more parking.

A key part of the Downtown Advisory Board’s strategic plan-

See **DEBATE**, page B8

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Chatham proposes 2024-2030 Capital Improvement Program, sets public hearing

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Manager’s Office presented the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) covering fiscal years 2024-2030 to the Board of Commissioners on Monday, Nov. 7. The seven-year CIP is updated every year as a process to plan for and fund major capital needs costing more than \$100,000.

A public hearing on the proposed CIP is scheduled at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 21, as part of the commissioners’ regular session at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro. To view the entire proposed CIP, visit the county website at www.chathamcountync.gov/CIP.

The following new projects are recommended in the proposed CIP:

Schools

- Chatham Park Elementary (Northern Village). Design and construct a new school to open in the fall of 2027 in the Chatham Park Northern Village. [\$47.6 million]

K-8 Gyms

- Construct new masonry/metal building gymnasiums at Bennett, Bonlee, and Silk Hope Schools. Existing gymnasiums to be demolished to create needed space. [\$21.6 million]

Pollard Expansion:

- Add two 6-classroom pods (behind each wing) to create additional capacity. [\$2 million]

Utilities

- Bynum Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade. Provide site security improvements, additional lighting and a possible working platform. [+ \$2.76 million]

- Water Treatment Plant Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) can be used to treat emerging contaminants such as PFAS. [+ \$12.1 million]

- Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center. Construct Phase 2a of the Agriculture and Conference Center site. [+ \$8.5 million]

Parks and Recreation

- Northwest Dam. Address the issues identified by the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality’s dam safety inspection. [+ \$1.1 million]

- Management and Information Systems (MIS). Install 11 miles of fiber between Renaissance Drive near Pittsboro and the backup Emergency Operations Center in Siler City. [+ \$1 million]

The proposed CIP also includes recommended revisions to projects already in the current CIP, based on changing needs or conditions:

New Emergency Medical Services Base

- Budget for this project has increased due to increased construction costs and the increased cost of materials (including furnishings and equipment). [+ \$425,000]

- Park Lighting at Northeast District Park. Budget for this project has been finalized because official bids have been received. Bids came in higher than previously estimated. [+ \$13,292]

The CIP also looks forward by including future projects that are not yet funded. This forethought helps Chatham County keep these needs in mind, even if a funding source has not yet been secured. The following new unfunded future project is expected to be added this year:

Schools

- New Elementary School at Chatham Park (Southern Village). Construct a new elementary school in the Southern Village of Chatham Park to meet the projected population growth in the Northwood/Seaforth attendance zones.

Residents may sign up in advance to speak at the Nov. 21 public hearing on the CIP, by completing the online form for public input and hearings. Following public input, commissioners will hold a work session Dec. 13 beginning at 9 a.m. to review the plan in detail. The goal is to adopt the CIP at the board’s regular session on Dec. 19.

Plenty to be thankful for at COA Thanksgiving program

From the Chatham County Council on Aging

SILER CITY – Two days before Thanksgiving, the sounds of hubbub and conversation permeated the Western Chatham Senior Center.

There was no question that this cavernous building was alive once more — just the way Kathryn Walters likes it.

Walters, the Western Center manager who normally can’t stop moving, welcomed Chatham County Council on Aging clients from both centers Nov. 22 for the agency’s annual Thanksgiving program.

“My happiest moments are when this place is full,” Walters said. “People are laughing and having a good time, so I’m very happy today. This time of year is always a time for me to reflect on my blessings, and I love Thanksgiving and that time of gratitude and reflection.”

Attendees enjoyed a meal, music from the Council on Aging Choir and a Thanksgiving-based skit entitled “Mr. Pancake Turkey” created by COA board member Neriah Edwards-Boone.

The resulting energy of Chatham’s older adults, gathered in celebration, boosted the spirits of Walters.

“If I could design the perfect job for me, this would be it,” Walters said. “If I could hand pick where I worked and what I did, this would be it. I love these people that come in this building. I love planning the activities and I’m thankful

for all the experiences that have prepared me for the business part of this job — which I do get to amongst all the playing! I’m thankful for this big, wonderful building that we have to create, to exercise, to take care of ourselves, to learn and to fellowship.”

Liz Lahti, manager of the Eastern Chatham Senior Center, assured attendees they had a second home at the Council’s two centers in Pittsboro and Siler City.

“Most importantly, we’ve got friends and we’ve got family,” Lahti said. “We’ve got the COA family. And you are all part of our family now. There are different types of people, and here they all are in the same building. It is a joy to come to work, every single day. You guys bring light to our lives, and thank you, thank you, thank you. Like Kathryn was saying, you never know how much you bless us — by your smile, by your song and your conversation.”

Ashlyn Martin, who has served as COA director since April, reiterated the joy the agency’s staff experiences daily with the return of clients to in-person events and activities.

“It’s such a blessing to wake up every day and know that we’re going to get to come and see each and every one of you,” Martin said. “The impact that you have on our lives, it means so much. So I want to thank each of you for choosing to come here and be with us each day.”

CHURCH NEWS

CHATHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We invite everyone in the community to stop by Chatham U.M.C. on Sunday, Dec. 4 between 2 and 5 p.m. for our 6th annual nativity display. We will have over 200 nativities on display to celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Light refreshments will also be provided.

Please stop by and drop off a shelf-stable food donation for CORA as well.

Chatham UMC is located at 1826 Chatham Church Rd., Moncure.

off time is 9 a.m., ending at 12 to 12:15. Make sure your child has appropriate clothing and shoes. (Sneakers are the preferred footwear and remember to send a coat in cold weather.)

A healthy snack will be provided mid-morning. Please note on your registration form if there are any food allergies. Our church takes special care to provide a safe, clean environment for our Parents Morning Out. The teachers clean and disinfect the surfaces in our classrooms. We are committed to limiting the spread of sickness from child to child.

Register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA9A723A2FEC16-parents>. We will email you a registration form after you register via the SignUp Genius.

Contact the church at 919-929-8845 with any questions. We are located at 269 Mann’s Chapel Rd., Pittsboro.

MT. PLEASANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parents Morning Out will take place on Saturday, Dec. 10, at Mt. Pleasant U.M.C. Pre-registration is required. Drop

DEBATE

Continued from page B7

ning process was also developing a vision statement, which aims to serve as an aspirational description of the community and should establish economic development goals.

The statement, which Thompson said should be revisited annually and updated every two to five years, is included in the work plan as follows: “Encircled by an eclectic and innovative economy and supportive of its rich agrocentric heritage, Downtown Pittsboro is a vibrant arts and cultural destination that inspires visitors and brings pride

to the community. With its own unique character, Downtown Pittsboro is an inclusive and welcoming place for everyone.”

The next steps would include extending the 2014 Downtown Vision Plan, by creating a more detailed strategic plan that would go hand in hand with the Land Use Plan, which is currently being updated.

Other business

- During his manager’s update, Interim Town Manager Hazen Blodgett briefed commissioners on progress with addressing water and sewer capacity in Pittsboro. Blodgett said he met with staff from Sanford and Chatham Park last week to discuss

the Sanford-Pittsboro merger to outline individual needs from each municipality.

The town manager also said staff plans to start looking for an attorney to assist in navigating the merger, and on Dec. 13, the board will hear from Freese and Nichols to discuss the merger and rates study conducted by the engineering firm. Blodgett said the presentation from Freese and Nichols will be helpful in considering how to close the gap between costs of the merger and the revolving loan fund and a grant the town has applied for.

“If I were a board member, what I would be

thinking about is right now we only have 21,000 customers, like how do you pay for these very expensive infrastructure costs?” he said. “But the way to look at this, look at it as a 20 and 30 year horizon, and there’s going to be 22,000 to 25,000 more residential units in our community, so you can do a lot of things with that kind of customer base.”

- The mayor began Monday’s meeting by honoring the retirement of Carroll Edwin Swain Jr. from the Pittsboro Police Department. The mayor, along with the board, also recognized

the life of Kenzie Wrenn Scoggins, 5, who was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor last year and passed away in September. The board resolved to recognize Dec. 17 as “Bushel & A Peck Day” in honor of Scoggins as a day of remembrance and to raise awareness of Childhood Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma.

- The board also approved \$4,000 from their special events line to fund a new Pittsboro Citizens Academy (or “PBO 101”), an eight-week program for around 15-25 people geared at helping residents become more

civically engaged and have a better understanding of local government proceedings.

The board is holding a special meeting in closed session Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. as commissioners conduct interviews with three candidates for the permanent town manager. The board will next meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

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

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BEST OF CHATHAM 2022 READERS' FAVORITE

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

BETWEEN WHITE AND RED

ACROSS

- 1 U.K. equivalent to an Oscar
- 6 Trinidad and —
- 12 Baggage screeners' org.
- 15 Moose kin
- 19 American poet — Baraka
- 20 Basra natives
- 21 Balloon pilot
- 23 Upon initial sight
- 25 Twilight time, to poets
- 26 Diplomacy
- 27 Performs an axel, e.g.
- 29 Arizona-to-Kentucky dir.
- 30 Mauna —
- 31 Square-cut building stones
- 34 Glossy fabric with an elaborate floral pattern
- 37 Rule, in brief
- 38 Atomic cores
- 42 Playpen toy
- 43 Baby's breath and cowherb are members of it

DOWN

- 1 Nanny's cry
- 2 City.
- 3 10-year-old student, often
- 4 Court hearing
- 5 Carrier with a Toronto hub
- 6 — for tat
- 7 Round bodies
- 8 Hesitate like a mule
- 9 Blue-green
- 10 Main points
- 11 Actor Milo
- 12 — Bo
- 13 Fourteen times five
- 14 Philosopher Hannah
- 15 Sinus doc
- 16 Boxer Ali
- 17 "Congrats!"
- 18 Rib-eye, e.g.
- 22 Actor Ryan
- 24 Walk cockily
- 28 Peel off
- 31 Site of rural peace
- 32 Mariner's distance unit
- 33 — fi flick
- 35 Suffix with resident
- 36 Michelle Obama's "Becoming," e.g.

ACROSS

- 47 "Gung Ho" actress Rogers
- 51 Sondheim's "Everybody Ought to Have —"
- 52 Like a laundromat washer, for short
- 53 Closer to now
- 55 Swam some pool lengths
- 58 Florida city near Miami
- 61 Bits of land in eau
- 62 Material on a Q-tip
- 65 Person howling
- 66 — Lingus
- 67 Ancient Palestine
- 68 Bamboo eaters
- 69 Jackson 5 #1 hit of 1970
- 72 — and pestle
- 73 Wage recipients
- 74 Leg midpoint
- 75 Alternative to apple pie
- 79 Jewish villages of old
- 81 Debonair
- 82 Greasier

DOWN

- 85 French cathedral city
- 86 Burger meat
- 87 Crispy-skinned fish dish
- 91 "Oz" co-star Walker
- 94 Having a saintly ring
- 95 "— minute!"
- 96 Noted presidential matriarch
- 101 Many KFC pieces
- 103 Singer DiFranco
- 104 Squeal (on)
- 105 Papal crowns
- 109 Job honcho
- 110 Cubic — (fake gem)
- 113 What seven key words in this puzzle are
- 117 Native of Fiji or Nauru
- 118 Well-reasoned
- 119 Four-page sheet
- 120 Lease topic
- 121 Green prefix
- 122 Auditory stimuli
- 123 Lieu

DOWN

- 39 Site: Abbr.
- 40 Brian of rock
- 41 Promiser's qualifier
- 44 Guitarist Lofgren
- 45 Strong as —
- 46 Country of NW Afr.
- 48 Tavern
- 49 Actress Ryan
- 50 1040 org., perhaps
- 53 Showy debut, perhaps
- 54 Tram rocks
- 56 "Memento" star Guy
- 57 — Domingo
- 59 Narrow road
- 60 Agrees (with)
- 63 Broccoli —
- 64 Native American feathered headdress
- 67 Singer Marc
- 68 Shunned one
- 69 Destroying Scuds, say
- 70 Triple Crown venue
- 71 Some light planes
- 72 VirusScan company
- 73 Brazilian soccer hero

DOWN

- 74 Ship's spine
- 75 Tavern
- 76 Before
- 77 Prez Lincoln
- 78 Fleur-de- —
- 80 Results of compromises
- 83 Notable time
- 84 Cath., e.g.
- 87 Fiero or GTO
- 88 Raggedy —
- 89 Feb. 29, for leap day babies
- 90 — Croatian
- 92 Goodyear's home city
- 93 Malicious sort
- 96 Schick item
- 97 In reserve
- 98 It'll stop traffic
- 99 Frisbees, e.g.
- 100 Big internet portal
- 102 In — (stuck)
- 106 Pasta sauce brand
- 107 Yemen port
- 108 Mail in, e.g.
- 111 Meowing pet
- 112 "I'll take that as —"
- 114 Aves.
- 115 Vardalos of the screen
- 116 Walloped in a boxing ring

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

TIP FOR PLAYING THE TAMBOURINE...

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R.F.D. by Mike Marland

WHAT'S WITH ALL THAT STUFF ON SIM'S SNOWMOBILE?

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The Spats by Jeff Pickering

I FLUNKED MY MATH CLASS AGAIN.

AGAIN?? ...HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU FAILED?

I DON'T KNOW... ...I LOST COUNT.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

YEAH, YOUR BROCHURE SAID YOU OFFERED A MULTITUDE OF DISTRACTIONS. THAT'S PRETTY BOASTFUL BEING I CAN ONLY GET 6 CHANNELS.

GRIN and BIAR IT by Wagon

"I'll be back when the turkey runs out."

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

A	M	E	N	A	B	L	E		O	D	E	R	H	O		S	C	A	M							
S	A	L	A	R	I	E	D		T	U	R	M	O	I	L		L	A	D	Y						
D	R	I	V	E	O	V	E	R	T	H	E	E	D	G	E		L	O	P	E						
O	O	Z	Y						I	N	E		M	E	H		R	A	R	E	R					
I	N	A	B	I	T				S	T	R	O	K	E	O	F	G	E	N	I	U	S				
									A	S	I	A		E	N	O	S		L	A	C	E				
M	I	S	S	I	N	G	L	I	N	K	S		T	O	L	L		O	U	R						
A	B	E	E	T		E	A	T	U	P		B	O	W		E	D	D	I	E						
R	I	M	S			S	T	Y	E			I	R	O	N	M	A	I	D	E	N					
C	S	I		S	A	W	A			L	E	N	A		A	G	A	S	S	I						
										D	I	A	M	O	N	D	I	N	T	H	E	R	O	U	G	H
A	T	O	N	C	E					O	S	S	O		M	O	R	E		A	A	H				
M	E	M	O	R	Y					C	H	I	P		L	I	L	I		A	P	S	O			
A	R	E	N	A						O	A	T		T	B	A	L	L		D	I	E	T	S		
D	I	S								M	I	N	T		B	Y	E	B	Y	E	B	I	R	D	I	E
										H	E	R	D		M	A	R	E		R	U	N	S			
G	R	E	E	N		V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E		S	T	P	A	U	L					
R	I	V	E	T		M	O	O				A	R	I		A	C	R	O							
O	V	A	L			A	N	Y	W	A	Y	Y	O	U	S	L	I	C	E	I	T					
W	A	D	E			B	E	A	S	T	I	E		P	L	A	T	E	L	E	T					
S	L	E	D			E	D	S		A	P	T		T	E	N	T	S	A	L	E					

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V T A Q D O L I G D B G Y W T
R P R L M K I F D B H Y W U S
Q T O O K M K E I O F D B Z X
W U U W S O Y H S Q O N L J H
F D N O C S F T A R Y W C V T
S Q D C B M P T N N O A N L F
K T E K R A M N H A P H A I O
H F E C B L N I Z E H Y E W T
V U S S E L R A H C R S B N U
Q P N M L J I P M O O B H F O

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: DESERTED SETTLEMENT

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Around | Charles | Old | Shanty |
| Bean | Cow | One-horse | Small |
| Boom | Man about | Out of | Talk of the |
| Cape | Market | Paint the | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		1			4	3		
4			2	3				8
	6		7					5
7				8	2	6		
		2		9			7	4
	4		5					1
		8			9		5	
	3		8					6
1	9			6		2		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



John Cheesborough, MD Dawn E. Kleinman, MD Mary Candace Seagle, PA-C



Brittany Atkinson, PA-C Candace L. Marin, APRN

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— TOWN

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

8	7	1	9	5	4	3	6	2
4	5	9	2	3	6	1	8	7
2	6	3	7	1	8	4	9	5
7	1	5	4	8	2	6	3	9
3	8	2	6	9	1	5	7	4
9	4	6	5	7	3	8	2	1
6	2	8	1	4	9	7	5	3
5	3	4	8	2	7	9	1	6
1	9	7	3	6	5	2	4	8

It's a Christmas Miracle Cookie!



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

This is the only recipe that I offer every year, because these cookies are spectacularly, astonishingly delicious.

But their very humble looks are infinitely deceiving. Finished, they look less like the cover girl of a food magazine, and more like a demented Kindergarten art project. They are simple round, lightly golden, a little-too-thick sugar cookies. They are then spread with way too much garishly hued frosting and sprinkled haphazardly with store-bought jimmies, sprinkles, and/or colored sugar.

Somewhat though, these cookies pack a flavor punch that will make even the most jaded cookie-lover melt.

The Kid and I discuss them each time we're lucky enough to get our mitts on some. We can't figure them out. How is it that this little, nondescript baked good can pack such an extraordinary punch? We joke that maybe she puts crack in them, or fairy dust.

While our little scholar was in college, Gramma baked a batch freshman year and shipped them up to the school in Vermont.

Those NECI (New England Culinary Institute) people had no idea what they were in for.

There were probably four dozen cookies in the box. The Kid ate some and then decided to share with a few lucky souls.

Nobody was very enthused to be offered boring baked goods from some random grandmother in North Carolina. My child didn't try to talk anyone into a sample. If they didn't want one, it was just more for

Mom's Christmas Cookies

Preheat oven to 400°.

1½ cups all-purpose flour	½ cup butter-flavored Crisco
½ teaspoon baking powder	1 egg
½ teaspoon salt	2 tablespoons milk (whole or 2%)
½ teaspoon baking soda	1 teaspoon vanilla
½ cup sugar	

Sift dry ingredients into bowl. With mixer, cut in shortening until it resembles coarse meal. Blend in egg, milk, and vanilla.

Roll out to 1/8 inch and cut into shapes.

Bake on parchment-lined cookie sheet for 6-8 minutes or until golden. Remove to cooling rack.

Frost cookies when completely cooled. Makes about 1 ½ dozen.

Winnie Chazaroo frosting

1-pound box powdered sugar	¼ cup of water (or less)
½ teaspoon salt	1 tablespoon vanilla
1 scant teaspoon cream of tartar	½ teaspoon fresh lemon juice
1/3 cup butter-flavored Crisco	*For decoration: colored sugars, sprinkles, and jimmies food coloring
1 egg white	

Dump all ingredients, except water, into mixer. Beat ingredients at low until it starts to come together. Put water in now, so you can judge how much to use. Beat until it's creamy, fluffy, and spreadable. Then very heavily frost each cookie (a 50/50 ratio is just about right), and decorate. Let cookies sit out overnight so frosting can set up and harden slightly. Then stack with parchment between layers. Lasts 3-4 weeks in airtight container.

The Kid. Then one person took one. Eyes lit up, and word got around. People came out of the woodwork wanting these miraculous confections. Chef-instructors approached The Kid to ask when Gramma would send more.

So, welcome, Gentle Reader, to my family's most treasured holiday tradition. Although your participation will be by way of proxy, I am still very pleased you will be joining us.

It is time for the 46th annual cookie frosting party. And honestly, I couldn't be more excited.

Each year, my mother and father bake dozens (this year it's 13 dozen) of her famous sugar cookies. The recipe origin has been lost to the mists of time. Then they're frosted using a

recipe which came from a cake decorating class she took in the 70's when we lived in Puerto Rico. It was taught by Winnie Chazaroo (I've always thought her name sounded like the moniker of a sassy cartoon horse from Australia).

A couple of weeks before Christmas we go to my parent's house for their annual frosting party.

Three or four trunk-sized bins are full of freshly baked cookies, awaiting their prom dresses in the form of ridiculous amounts of Chazaroo frosting topped with a corsage of sprinkles.

The mixer almost never stops whipping frosting, making the kitchen hazy with powdered sugar, leaving a sweet taste when you inhale. Everyone's fin-



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Christmas cookies, frosted and ready to enjoy.

gers are stained with the various food colors used to dye all of that creamy American butter cream. Each cookie artist sits in front of their own rimmed baking sheet so the stray sprinkles stray no further than the pan.

As the cookies are finished, they are carefully laid on the wax-papered dining room table to cure the frosting and give it the stability to be re-stacked into the bins. Then they will rest until they are gifted and served to guests.

They really shouldn't be disturbed until at least the next morning. But the final step in our process is to negotiate for a supply to take home with us. Once Christmas gets closer, Mom will beg us to take home as many as we carry. But as an Italian girl from Jersey, she never thinks, that first day, that there will be enough to go around.

So, this recipe is my Christmas present to you. And once you taste them you will know that it is a gift of far more value than any expensive, colossal-bow-clad car, shiny jewelry featuring stones formerly known as carbon, or even a pony.

Just make a batch, you'll understand.

A few notes about the recipes:

- You might want to fancy-fy the ingredients or procedure. Don't do it!
- The recipe is some brand of alchemy that only works if made as written. I've tried changing both ingredients and technique and was rewarded with mediocre cookies and regret. If you're an unrepentant fiddler, can't make it as written, with a tweak here and a nudge there, please, just make a different cookie.
- The frosting is really good and works on anything that needs frosting, and even stuff that doesn't. My dad and I have been known to eat a bowl of it, on nothing more than a spoon.

Thanks for your time, and from the Matthews Family Band to you and yours, have the happiest of Holidays, and a joyful and uncomplicated 2022.

Contact debbie at dm@bullicity.mom.



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