

**'One Chatham' has 12 goals, 111 strategies. It's coming together**, PAGE A7

# Chatham News + Record

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**WILL TECH LAYOFFS IMPACT US?**

## County's growing economy, location boosts optimism

**BY BILL HORNER III**  
News + Record Staff

Large-scale layoffs among U.S. technology companies — including more than 58,000 cuts in January alone — and recession fears are painting a gloomy jobs forecast across the U.S.

Not here, though.

That's even after 3M Co., which owns a 95,000-sq.-ft. plant just south of Pittsboro, became the latest company to announce layoffs. In its case, 3M said two weeks ago it would cut 2,500 manufacturing jobs — just over 2.6% of its workforce — after seeing its profits in the last fiscal year drop from \$1.34

billion to \$541 million.

The company didn't say where jobs would be eliminated. Given rising interest rates and a widespread slowdown in the housing boom that's helped drive the economy since mid-2020, though, the Chatham plant — it produces materials used in making asphalt shingles — could be a target.

**200,000 jobs gone**

3M isn't alone: rising interest rates, inflation and a pullback from a pandemic-driven hiring splurge has led

some of the nation's largest tech companies to cut payrolls. Google's

parent company, Alphabet, announced recently it was cutting 12,000 jobs — about 6% of its workforce. It joined Amazon (18,000), Facebook parent company Meta (11,000), Microsoft (10,000), Twitter (4,000) and IBM (3,900)

in making job cuts.

Technology firms have eliminated nearly 200,000 jobs since the start of 2022, according to Layoffs.fyi, which tracks the tech industry. Many of those 58,000 January layoffs came from com-

panies that underwent hiring binges in the latter part of 2020 and 2021.

"We hired for a different economic reality than the one we face today," Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai wrote in a note to employees posted on the company's website.

**A different reality here**

But that's tech. The reality in Chatham County looks different, observers in the county contend — and it's not just because of the large-scale hiring VinFast and Wolfspeed plan here.

"Our existing industries, along with

See **OPTIMISM**, page A9

**PITTSBORO'S LAWSUIT**

## Town sues 20 manufacturing companies over contamination

**BY LISA SORG**  
N.C. Policy Watch

PITTSBORO — The town of Pittsboro has sued more than 20 companies, including Chemours, DuPont and 3M, BASF and several other manufacturers of PFAS, for allegedly polluting its water supply with the toxic compounds.

The lawsuit was filed last Thursday in Chatham County Superior Court. It asks the court to force the companies to reimburse the town for expenses related to reducing PFAS in drinking water, plus damages related to "loss of use" and the degradation of natural resources.

The town is requesting a trial to determine additional punitive damages, which can be assessed if a judge or jury finds the conduct was intentional, fraudulent or malicious.

PFAS, also known as perfluorinated and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are widespread in the environment. They are used in manufacturing or are byproducts of that process.

The compounds are present in Teflon-coated cookware, water- and stain-proof clothing, cosmetics, furniture, fast food packaging, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes and some types of firefighting foam, known as AFFF.

Pittsboro's drinking water supply, the Haw River, have some of the highest levels of PFAS in the state, according to sampling conducted by scientists with the NC PFAS Testing Network.

See **LAWSUIT**, page A7

**BUILDING A LIVELY DOWNTOWN**

## Brewery and Irish pub-style restaurant coming to SoCo



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

SoCo Pittsboro will be the home of Havoc Brewing Company and Doherty's Irish Pub and Restaurant. Pictured above, from left to right: Donavon Favre, Sami Taweele, Greg Peacock, Greg Stafford, Michael Pipkin, Molly Pipkin, Holly Benton, Dianne Chatterton and Scott Chatterton.

**BY TAYLOR HEEDEN**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — At the southwest corner of the town's traffic circle, SoCo Pittsboro aims to bring a return to the bustling downtown lifestyle that "originally put Pittsboro on the map," in the words of its developer.

With the additions of Havoc Brewing Company in July and Doherty's Irish

Pub and Restaurant — announced last week — coming to the complex, SoCo developer and co-owner Greg Stafford hopes to continue his vision of creating a lively downtown scene.

"We hope that corner would become really, really a neat place to be and keep downtown Pittsboro a neat place to be," Stafford said. "They're [his tenants] putting a very significant

investment in downtown Pittsboro and turning that corner into an even more inviting space ... it's going to be pretty cool."

The SoCo space previously housed the Justice Motor Company, which was owned by brothers Frank and Fred Justice. Stafford and his wife Paula bought the building from the Justice family in 2016. Since then, the Staffords have worked to bring

unique eateries to downtown Pittsboro, including The Mod and now, Havoc and Doherty's.

"Mr. Justice decided to sell the property and was kind enough to sell it to us," Stafford recounted. "What he wanted and what we want is a place to do something in Pittsboro ... We want it to become a

See **SOCO**, page A6

**TOWN OF SILER CITY**

## Gallimore makes switch to code enforcer

**BY TAYLOR HEEDEN**  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Chris Gallimore spent the last eight years working as a patrol officer for Siler City's police department.

In his new role, he's still patrolling — only now as the town's code enforcement officer, responsible for ensuring its rules and ordinances are observed.

Gallimore was seeking a job with a more regular work schedule, so when the town transitioned away from having code enforcement services performed by an outside contractor, he



Chris Gallimore, Siler City's new code enforcement officer, moves to his position from the town's police department.

Staff photo by Nikki Witt

## Assault charges dropped against Hudson

**BY BEN RAPPAPORT**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A Chatham County District Court judge dropped all five charges of assault with a deadly weapon against a Pittsboro Elementary School teacher last Wednesday after reviewing the case and hearing character references from his neighbors.

On July 30, Eric Hudson was arrested and charged after an incident that had occurred on July 10. Two teens involved — a brother and a sister — told the News + Record that on that day, Hudson chased after the car in which they and three others were traveling on Pleasant Hill Road. Hudson is accused of chasing the teens, passing them in his car, and stopping suddenly in front of them, causing a collision. The teens

say Hudson appeared to brandish a gun in the process of confronting them. Hudson continued to follow the teens, they say, until they were able to elude him.

After further investigation into the incident, the District Attorney's Office said it was unlikely Hudson had a gun in the incident. While the Chatham County Sheriff's Office listed a handgun as a "weapon" on its official report,

a copy of the original arrest warrant for Hudson, dated July 30, lists the "deadly weapon" as a gray Lexus and doesn't refer to a gun.

At a Jan. 25 court appearance, the assault charges were dropped, but Hudson did accept the charges of injury to personal property.

See **CHARGES**, page A7

**IN THE KNOW**

Parks & recreation master plan could boost Siler City's amenities.

**PAGE A3**

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## ON THE AGENDA

• The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 6, at the Wren Memorial Library's multipurpose room.

• The **Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors** will meet on Thursday, February 9, at 7 p.m. at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, 1192 US 64 W. Business, Pittsboro (west side entrance) in the conference room. All meetings are open to the public. To be added to the agenda or for more information, please call (919) 545-8440.

## OTHER

• **Siler City's City Hall** is currently under renovation. The Planning and Community Development Department is now located on the first floor and can be accessed through the front door to City Hall (door facing North Second Avenue). Public parking is available in the town parking lot located along the 100 block of East 3rd Street (parking lot is located between North 2nd Avenue and North Chatham Avenue).

• Join the **Siler City Lions Club**. Come see how you can make a difference in the world and your local community. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Dry Dock Seafood. For more information, visit Silercitylions@gmail.com or call 910-624-5784. Together we serve!

• The **Goldston Public Library** will host Valentine's Day card making sessions on Thursday, February 2 and 9, at 11 a.m. Families with children are invited to create handmade cards that will be distributed to a local nursing home in Siler City on Valentine's Day. The craft sessions will be held in the E. M. Harris Jr. Conference Room at the Goldston Public Library located at 9235 Pittsboro-Goldston Road, Goldston. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call the library at (919) 898-4522 or email goldston.library@chathamlibraries.org. Information about all Chatham Library branches can be found at www.chathamlibraries.org.

• **Chatham Community Library** is offering free in-person classes on internet skills in February. Class info can be found at www.chathamcountync.gov/ComputerClasses. Call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org for more information. - Internet Basics, Part 1: February 9, Thursday, 3:00 pm. Learn how to use a web browser, follow links, use a search engine, print from a website, and more. Participants should have prior basic computer experience. - Internet Basics, Part 2: February 16, Thursday, 3:00 pm. Build on the concepts learned in Part 1. Work with browser tabs, bookmark favorite websites, view and delete browsing history, download files, find driving directions, and more. Participants should have prior basic internet experience. • **Wren Memorial Library**

**In Siler City** invites community members to join its Friends of the Library group. The library will host a Friends of Wren Memorial Library meeting on Monday, February 13, at 6 p.m. Attendees can learn about library updates, input their thoughts, and help grow the Friends of Wren Memorial Library. They participate in activities such as creating and conducting book sales, promoting library events and programs in the community. Friends of Wren especially needs community members to serve in the group's leadership roles. The Library is located at 500 North 2nd Avenue, Siler City. For more information about the library, individuals may contact wren@chathamlibraries.org or (919) 742-2016. Information about all Chatham Library branches can be found at www.chathamlibraries.org.

• **Haw River Christian Academy** will host author David Goodwin on Monday, February 6 at 7 p.m. He will be speaking about the book he co-authored with Pete Hegseth, Battle for the American Mind, in the Emmaus Baptist Church Sanctuary, 2430 Silk Hope-Gum Springs Road, Pittsboro, and is open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

• **Cambridge Hills Assisted Living** hosts a Community and Family Dementia Support Group. We meet the first Wednesday of each month unless stated otherwise. You are invited to join us at 1:30 p.m. in our private dining room at 140 Brookstone Lane, Pittsboro. Come and meet some other family members who are on a similar journey. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8. RSVP to: angela@silver-thread.com or 919-545-9573. You don't have to be on this journey alone.

• The annual **Chatham Landscape and Green Industry Conference** will be held on February 21, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center located at 1192 US 64 Business West in Pittsboro. Facilitated by the N.C. Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center, the conference targets landscapers, landscape contractors, arborists, homeowners, and gardeners interested in the latest recommendations from NC State Extension and other subject matter experts. Topics include underutilized native plant species, tree selection in the context of climate change, pruning techniques and methods, root-rot resistance annuals and perennials, business succession planning, and responsibilities as a pesticide applicator. NC Landscape Contractor, NCDA Pesticide Applicator, and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Arborist Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered. There is a \$20 fee which includes lunch catered by Angelina's Kitchen. For information, including schedule and registration, individuals may visit: https://go.ncsu.edu/chatham-landscape.

• **Chatham County Public Libraries** will host the Winter Reading BINGO Challenge - Children and teens are invited to partici-

pate at all Chatham County Public Libraries branches through February 11. The Challenge, sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, is open to youth ages 2 thru 18. Readers participate by picking up a reading BINGO sheet at their local library branch and completing a 5-in-a-row BINGO to earn a free book (one book per participant, while supplies last). All readers who complete at least one BINGO will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Gift Card to McIntyre's Books. For more information about the Winter Reading BINGO Challenge, or other youth events and programs at the Public Libraries, contact youth.services@chathamlibraries.org or visit www.chathamlibraries.org.

• **Mt. Vernon Masonic Lodge #143** has its Slated Communication the 3rd Tuesday of each month, with supper at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:30. The February meeting is scheduled for February 21. All Master Masons are welcome. Location: 185 Bonlee/Bennett Road, Bonlee.

• The **Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District** invites students in grades 3-12 to participate in the 2023 conservation contests. The categories are poster, essay, and public speaking, and the theme for this year is "Water... The Cycle of Life." - Contests are open to public, private, charter, and home school students. The poster contest is open to students in grades 3, 4, and 5. Essay and public speaking contests are open to grades 6, 7, 8, and 9-12. Entries are judged by grade level, with the exception of grades 9-12. Grades 9-12 will be judged together for each contest. - Poster and essay contest entries are due to the Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District office located at 1192 US 64 W Business, Pittsboro, NC, 27312 by February 28. - For complete details, rules, study materials, and NC curriculum standards correlation information, individuals may contact Ms. Oldham at (919) 545-8440 or brandy.oldham@chathamlibraries.org. Information also can be found by visiting the Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Contests web page under the Education Programs link, www.chathamlibraries.org/swcd.

• **NC Cooperative Extension Conference** to Offer Continuing Education for Landscape and Green Industry Professionals with the annual Chatham Landscape and Green Industry Conference will return to an in-person format for 2023 on February 21, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center. Facilitated by the N.C. Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center, the conference targets landscapers, landscape contractors, arborists, homeowners, and gardeners interested in the latest recommendations from NC State Extension and other subject matter experts. Topics include underutilized native plant species, tree selection in the context of climate change, pruning techniques and methods, root-rot resistance annuals and perennials, business succession planning,

and responsibilities as a pesticide applicator. NC Landscape Contractor, NCDA Pesticide Applicator, and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Arborist Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered. There is a \$20 fee which includes a lunch catered by Angelina's Kitchen. For more information, including a complete schedule and registration, individuals may visit https://go.ncsu.edu/chatham-landscape.

• **Community Meals: St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** in Pittsboro distributes two meals each week for the benefit of the community. From 12 to 1 p.m. each Thursday, the Pittsboro Community Lunch (in its 15th year!) provides healthy, ready-to-eat meals to all who come.

Just arrive hungry! Then from 4:30 to 6 p.m. each Tuesday, the Chatham Chuckwagon provides cooked/frozen entrees that are ideal for quick dinners. These meals are provided at no cost (though donations are welcomed!). Our volunteers invite you to join our efforts to preserve a caring and sharing community spirit. The church is located at 204 W.

Salisbury St., Pittsboro. For more information, call 919-542-5679.

• **The Chatham Historical Museum's** permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history and are appropriate for adults and children. The Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.; no admission fee. The current short-term exhibit features the art of Pittsboro native Frank Marsden London, 1876-1945, Pittsboro, New York, Paris. The Museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the Circle. More info at https://chathamhistory.org.

• **The Chatham Arts Council** has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers

called CAARE: Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort. For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit ChathamArtsCouncil.org.

• **Second Bloom** announces their winter hours from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesday until Saturday. Credit cards are accepted. We are located at 630 E. Street, Pittsboro, in the Food Lion shopping center. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

• **Foster and/or adoptive information:** Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more.

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### Residential

4301 Amberwood Rd (Haw River) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$600,000  
82 Williams Pond Rd (Pittsboro) 5 Bdrm, 4 Bath \$698,000  
1698 NC 42 Hwy (Moncure) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$1,000,000

### Land

1388 Henry Oldham Rd (Bear Creek) 4.840 acres \$150,000  
170 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$150,000  
188 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$150,000

1388 Henry Oldham Rd (Bear Creek) 4.840 acres \$150,000  
Lot 1 T C Justice Rd (Pittsboro) 5.272 acres \$200,000  
Lot 2 T C Justice Rd (Pittsboro) 5.279 acres \$200,000

800 South Wind Rd (Siler City) 10.511 acres \$225,000  
889 Old Stone House Rd (Chapel Hill) 6.461 acres \$225,000

373 J C Corner Rd (Pittsboro) 7.382 acres \$295,000  
5663 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 1.771 acres \$325,000

00 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 36.000 acres \$350,000  
0 Hal Clark Rd (Siler City) 29.730 acres \$360,000

37 E Cotton Rd (Pittsboro) 0.996 acres \$377,000

Tract 2 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres \$400,000

Tract 3 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres \$400,000

1406 Jessie Bridges Rd (Siler City) 25.500 acres \$450,000

147 Oldham Estate Dr (Chapel Hill) 12.591 acres \$499,000

5645 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 3.584 acres \$625,000

0 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 64.720 acres \$750,000

7587 Siler City Snow Cam p Rd (Siler City) 50.000 acres \$1,200,000

13120 Strickland Rd (Raleigh) 16.250 acres \$1,500,000

499 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 15.158 acres \$1,750,000

00 Alston Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 176.000 acres \$2,288,000

00 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 33.662 acres \$3,366,200

### Commercial Improved

56 Sanford Rd (Pittsboro) Retail/Rental \$7,000

### Commercial Unimproved

58 Buffalo Lake Rd (Sanford) 6.70 acres \$650,000

## CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

### Residential

1474 Alston Bridge Rd (Siler City) 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$150,000  
261 Ridge View Rd (Pittsboro) 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$525,000

### Land

0 Hudson Rd (Siler City) 5 acres \$40,000  
Lot 2 Buckhorn Rd (Sanford) 6.636 acres \$80,000  
0 Hal Clark Rd (Siler City) 29.730 acres \$360,000

0 Callicut Rd (Bear Creek) 60.375 acres \$500,000

0 Hamlets Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 42.804 acres \$1,200,000

12190 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 15.158 acres \$1,894,750

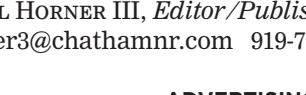
0 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 6.70 acres \$9,051,600

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## SILER CITY PARKS &amp; RECREATION

## New 'master plan' set to help study programs, amenities

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Anticipated growth from new economic development projects have given town staff in Siler City the opportunity to re-examine its roadmap for the future.

The town's Parks and Recreation Department is one of the primary beneficiaries.

Director Jack Clelland said his department selected — and commissioners approved — a contractor to assist in drafting a new comprehensive master plan to lay out parks and recreation goals for the next 30 years.

"The comprehensive master plan is going to take a look at the parks and recreation department as a whole," Clelland said. "It's going to look at our programs, our special events, our current amenities, and it's going to compare that to a national standard, as well as other areas of similar populations."

The Siler City Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan will be drafted over the next year or so through a process involving community engagement, analyzing Siler City's recreation amenities and needs, and assessing best practices in comparable communities.

Clelland said the resulting plan will also look at incoming growth from economic development — especially from Wolfspeed's proposed Siler City facility — to see how parks and recreation will need to adapt.

"We want to make sure that we're complementing the community as well," he said. "So the master plan really is a roadmap — it's really cool, and they're fun to do because you learn a lot from them."

He and his staff will meet in coming weeks with the contractor — WithersRavenel Civil & Environmental Engineering, based in Cary — to lay out the process for drafting the plan.

That meeting will officially kick off the process and lay out the steps needed to draft the plan, including surveying the community, hosting informa-



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Boling Lane Park in Siler City on a foggy morning.

tion sessions, analyzing what other growing municipalities are doing and more.

"We want to get a baseline of where the community is with these facilities or amenities, or what they're looking for in the department," Clelland said. "Then, they (WithersRavenel) will take that information and compile it into a report with recommendations, potential financial costs of amenities or programs, etc."

Clelland said the plan will include a list of milestones to complete, ranging from building new parks and amenities to renovating current facilities and more.

"You want to try to achieve or need to strive to achieve certain benchmarks within those years," Clelland said. "This gives us the tools and information to guide you on that path of developing our department."

Benchmark achievements within the master plan range from renovations to adding new facilities (such as a recreation center) or new programming and athletics teams. To prioritize projects, Clelland said it's crucial for residents

#### PARKS

Boling Lane Park, 302 S. Fir Ave.

- playground, walking track, charcoal grill, picnic shelter, restrooms and open greenspace.

Landrus Siler Park, 406 E. Ninth St.

- playground, restroom, picnic shelter, soccer field and basketball court.

Paul Braxton Park, 111 S. Third Ave.

- soccer field, basketball court and Paul Braxton Gymnasium.

Bray Park Sports Complex, 200 Bray Park Complex Drive

- four lighted baseball/softball fields, two soccer fields, tennis courts and sand volleyball court.

Collins Park, 303 N. Second Ave.

- a small shelter with historical commemorative bell and time capsule from 1987.

Washington Avenue Park, 1305 Washington Ave.

- picnic shelter, charcoal grill, walking track, playground and basketball court.

#### GREENWAYS/TRAILS

- Loves Creek Greenway, 623 S. Second Ave., features a 1.4-mile paved path

• Boling Lane Park, 302 S. Fir Ave., features a 1/5-mile walking track

• Washington Avenue Park, 1305 Washington Ave., features a 1/6-mile walking track

#### AMENITIES

- Bray Park Aquatic Facility, 700 Alston Bridge Road

• Paul Braxton Gymnasium, 115 S. Third Ave.

- Fitts Community Center, 111 S. Third Ave.

to provide input on what they want in parks and recreation opportunities.

"It's very crucial to have public input, crucial to have your commissioners involved with the process and understand what's being suggested as we go through the process as well," he said. "We want them (the public) to come to parks and recreation for stuff that they enjoy ... We don't want to create something or design something that doesn't benefit

the community."

Clelland said he hopes to be able to have a final draft of the comprehensive plan in front of commissioners for approval within 18 months.

"It's good to hear your community members and what they're wanting from the department and what we may be missing and what we need to work on," Clelland said. "We want to make sure that what we're anticipating and what we're going to offer is what

the residents and community want."

Public input for the master plan hasn't been announced yet, but if residents have ideas or concerns regarding the town's Parks and Recreation Department, they can email [recreation@silercity.org](mailto:recreation@silercity.org) or call 919-742-2699.

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

## GALLIMORE

Continued from page A1

sought the opportunity.

"I'm still in what I would call the transition phase," Gallimore said. "I'm not used to the office type of work, so it's a learning experience."

Gallimore's role with the town is to enforce codes and ordinances, so the job is to ensure code and ordinances are adhered to, and to step in to tackle violations when he sees them or when they're reported.

Siler City's "code of ordinances" is a lengthy

list of the town's laws and regulations addressing such issues as building standards, noise, abandoned and junked cars, solid waste collection, the use of guns or fireworks in town limits, whether smoking is permitted in town-owned vehicles (it's not), littering, loitering, regulations that govern pawnbrokers and cab drivers and much more. The town's municipal code, found on its website, is 27 chapters long, some of which have more than 100 sections.

Before Gallimore was named the code enforcement officer, his

job was done through a third party — State Code Enforcement Inc. — contracted by the town. Town Manager Hank Raper approached the board of commissioners with a proposal to create a code enforcement officer position in town hall, bringing the process back in house. The board approved the motion on Oct. 3 last year.

Gallimore's new job is to ensure residents and businesses adhere to the long list of dos and don'ts, and addressing violators and violations — in part by doing what he did in his old position:

enforcing the law of the land.

"Somebody may call in and say their neighbor has a junk car in their yard that looks bad, and I go out there to see if there's a violation," Gallimore said. "Different violations have different timeframes for fixing them. If there's a junk pile in somebody's front yard or something like that, they've got 10 days to clean it up, or I would start sending them civil penalties or hire a contractor to go out there and bill the residents for that."

As a patrolman, Gal-

limore would hand out violations in the form of tickets or make arrests.

In the new role, he does things like posting citations on condemned buildings, mailing warnings to homes with unkempt yards and finding ways to fix things that negatively impact the health and safety of the town and its residents.

"When I was in the police department, there was this different kind of relationship (with residents)," Gallimore said. "They didn't want to talk to you because I could arrest them ... Now I can

get out of the car and talk to them about how they can correct these civil violations."

Gallimore said his previous experience as a police officer comes in handy. He knows local residents and town staff, and knows his way around town hall.

"It feels like I've had to deal with everybody in town on one way or the other, whether it's been a traffic stop or just going to their house to respond to a 911 call," he said. "Now, I'm able to get rapport with people in a different way."

Gallimore wants to establish a regular routine to go out with town commissioners to visit their respective districts, and to host town hall-style meetings with residents to hear concerns.

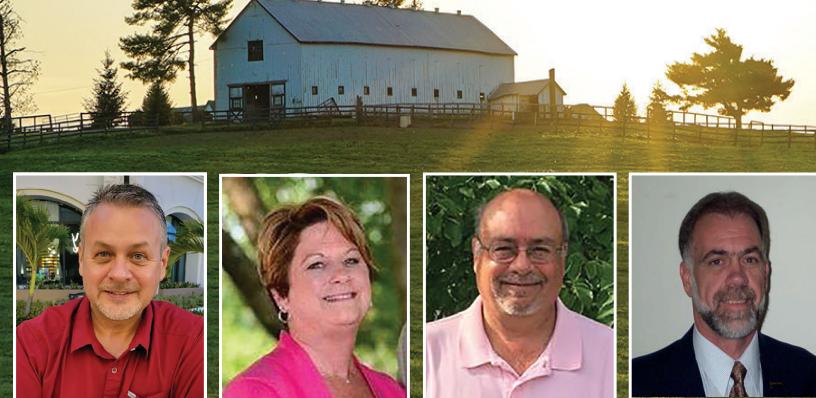
"It might be one church in this district one time, and then another church or another district," he said. "They can come, and it's a way for the community to ask questions once every other month."

Ultimately, he wants residents to take pride in their community. Ensuring buildings and green spaces adhere to high standards is a first step to making that happen.

"I want to make it so when somebody is driving through town, they don't look at it and think this is a trashy town," Gallimore said. "I don't want that to be said, so that's one reason why I think it's a good position to be in ... I want people to take pride in our communities."



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

# VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | DENNIS STREETS

## An unrealized vision

I will soon be traveling to Seminole, Florida, where I spent my youth. As you might imagine, I am filled with memories.

I will be attending the wedding of the daughter of one of my best childhood friends who passed away several years ago.

In 1970, he heard me give the graduation address to our high school class. As seniors, we had witnessed the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy. We felt and feared the divisive Vietnam War. We heard U.S.

Astronaut Neil Armstrong say, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind," as he became the first human to plant his feet on the moon.

I used my remarks that day to express my hopes and share words to inspire our future endeavors.

I expressed my desire to see an end to war, yearning for peace around the world.

I also challenged us to come to know what we had not experienced. My Florida high school was all-white (even though we had students of color in our district) and most of us baby boomers lived in middle-class families.

Among what I suggested was that we needed to know what it means or doesn't mean to:

- be old and discarded by labor and family;
- have a skin that is not white; and
- eat or not eat the same mea-

ger foods every day.

I cautioned my classmates that until we understand such things, we will neither have the will nor create the means to change what needs changed and preserve that warranting preservation.

Although more than 50 years have passed, sadly we still face many of the same issues.

Per the Council on Foreign Relations, there are currently more than 25 conflicts around the world, including the war in Ukraine. We also regularly feel the pain of mass shootings, including those in schools.

According to an October 2020 report of the Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis, "Unemployment rates for workers 55 and older exceeded

those of mid-career workers for the length of the pandemic — the first time since 1973 such an unemployment gap has persisted for six months or longer." The analysts found that "older workers who are Black, female, or lack a college degree experienced higher rates of job loss and are more exposed to retirement risks."

While families really are the backbone of long-term care; it cannot be ignored that the perpetrators of nearly 6 in 10 cases of elder abuse and neglect are family members.

And then there is the lingering issue of malnutrition. As the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture reported in 2021, 33.8 million people lived in food-insecure households. It is estimated

that 12.5% of households with children are food insecure. The risk is twice as high among Black and Hispanic children.

While we have seen progress since 1970 — and in some cases may have helped bring it about — this boomer remains committed to helping our younger generations achieve greater success.

I concluded my graduation address by paraphrasing words of the late U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy. "The future is not a gift; it is an achievement" — a challenge and struggle to be won.

Dennis W. Streets is the retired director of the Chatham Council on Aging.

## Furry little rodent vs. high-tech gadgets



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around

Throughout my young life, there have been many things I wanted to be and do, both professionally and personally.

It's been interesting how some of them turned out happening while others were far from the mark.

For instance, on the professional level, as a youngster when I realized I would never pitch in Yankee Stadium

or even be on the grounds crew or sweep the stands or clean the toilets, I decided I wanted to be the next great sports writer. I did write some sports stories as a youngster, most notably Pittsboro High School football and basketball game recaps for the Chatham Record in the 1960s when Mr. Willie Morgan was the editor.

In the early 1970s, after I had flunked out of Carolina for the umpteenth time and Alan Resch had hired me to replace Mr. Willie, I covered Northwood games. When the late Jack Shaner was coaching football there, he called me "Grantland Rice" (look it up if you don't know). I, in turn, called him Knute Rockne (again, look it up if you don't know who he was). While in that period of my life, I saw what I think is the best high school football game I ever saw — Northwood vs. Jordan-Matthews in 1971. Northwood came back from a 13-7 fourth-quarter deficit to win 20-13. All the stands were packed and fans were standing around the field five- and six-deep.

As things turned out, I never made it to my dream job upon graduating from high school — a job with the Durham Morning Herald to cover UNC football, sit in the Kenan Stadium press box on Saturday afternoons, eat fried chicken box lunches and get paid for it all. Forty years in vocational ministry was nowhere on my radar at the time.

I've often wondered about that turn of events, not that I'm unhappy. Quite the opposite. But as Ol' Man Winter cranks up toward high gear, I wonder about some other professions, namely Weather Geek, especially as folks pay attention to the groundhog around now.

You know the story. When Punxsutawney Phil in Pennsylvania or Sir Walter Wally in Raleigh or whomever sticks his furry little nose out of the ground on Groundhog Day, if he sees his shadow we're in for six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, well, then, better days are coming. The issue with all that is some folks put more stock in the little guy than in the weather forecasters with all their high-tech gadgets.

That has to drive them bonkers.

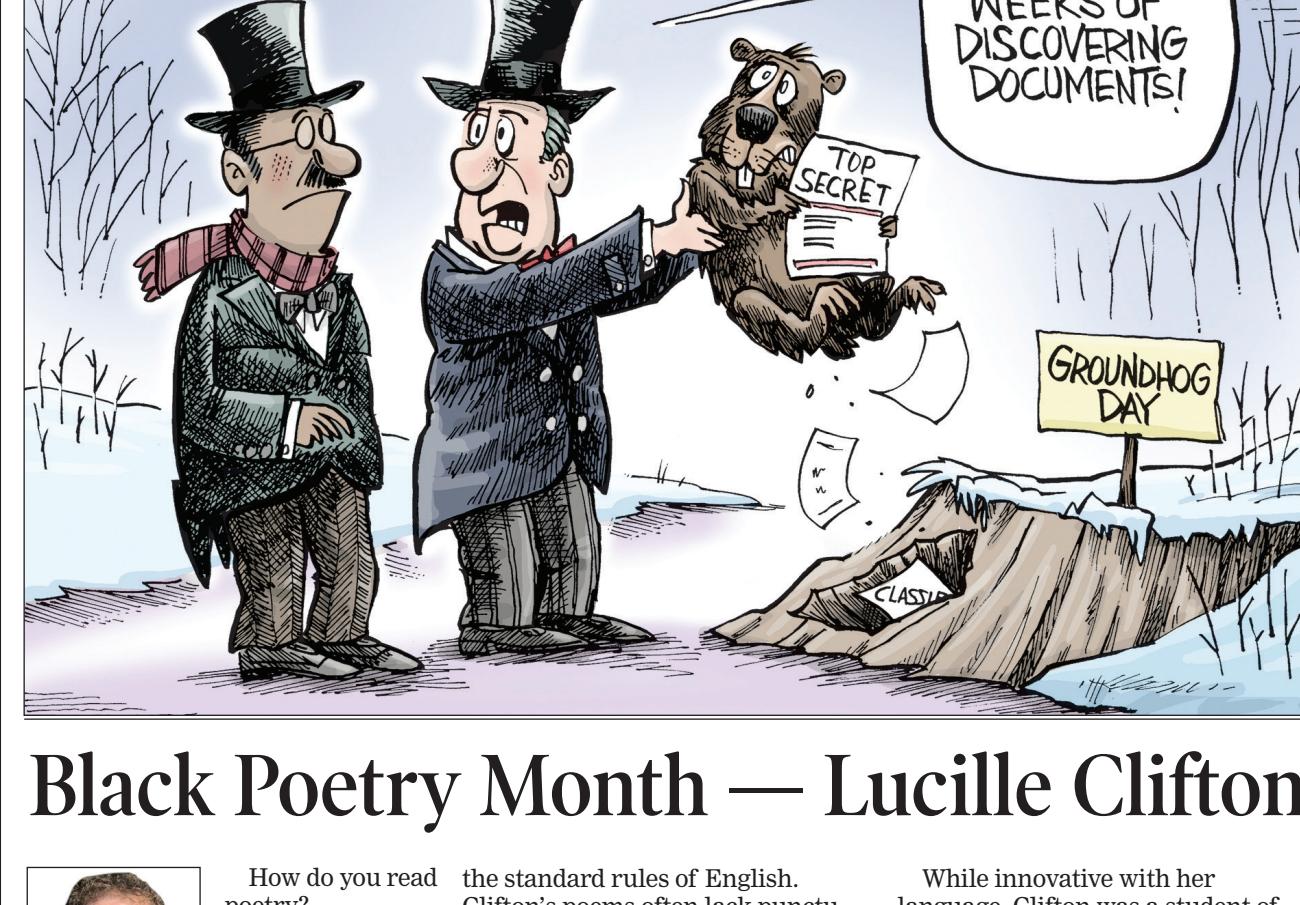
In an effort to do my part and be a good citizen, I would like to suggest a more accurate forecasting system than the groundhog. I call it "Bob's Weather String" and it works like this:

I have a piece of string tied to a tree limb right outside my study window. That way I can forecast the day's weather without having to go outside; instead I just sneak a peek at the string.

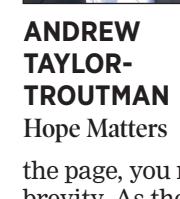
If it's hanging sideways, that means we're going to have high winds. If it's wet, expect rain. If it's hanging all frayed, that means dry conditions. If it's all white, we're having snow. If there is smoke coming from it, it's hot enough to fry an egg on the sidewalk. If it's gone, watch out for tornadoes or hurricanes.

I hope this brief explanation will be a help to those considering meteorology as a career and to the rest of us who just want to know tomorrow's weather.

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



## Black Poetry Month — Lucille Clifton



**ANDREW  
TAYLOR-  
TROUTMAN**  
Hope Matters

How do you read poetry?

This February, I'd like to help you explore that question through the work of four of my favorite Black poets. First up is Lucille Clifton (1936-2010).

Encountering a Clifton poem on the page, you might first observe the brevity. As the mother of six children, her early poems were written in her head throughout the day as she cooked, cleaned and cared for others. The poems had to be short enough to memorize!

But don't let the apparent simplicity fool you; anyone who has held a seashell in the palm of her hand knows something small can be intricate. In a few words, Clifton plumbs the profound. For instance, in describing chopping collard greens, she senses "the bond of living things everywhere." Her phrase "poem this" attests to the mystic encounter of discovering the extraordinary in the ordinary.

The phrase "poem this" also makes a noun into a verb. It breaks

the standard rules of English. Clifton's poems often lack punctuation or capitalization. The deeper meaning is that, writing from her racial and social location, she broke the rules of a language that so often denigrated Black people, particularly Black women: "how dangerous it is to be born with breasts ... how dangerous it is to wear dark skin." Clifton sought new forms and expressions of language to affirm Black life — "listen you a wonder."

In her poem "slaveships," Clifton notes that the names of ships in the Transatlantic slave trade were often theological, such as Jesus, Angel and Grace of God. In response, Clifton used her poetic imagination and inhabited the voice of religious figures, like John the Baptist and Mother Mary, to invent new metaphors like "blackness of a star" and "green of jesus" (an image of rebirth in spring).

In turn, Clifton's poetry frequently invites readers to use their imaginations and consider her experience as a Black woman. Her poem "homage to my hips" is a delightful example! In the poem "won't you come celebrate with me," she proudly declares, "i have shaped ... a kind of life."

While innovative with her language, Clifton was a student of tradition and rooted in the wider community. I am indebted to my study with scholar J. Cameron Carter for elucidating Clifton's use of lower-case "i" throughout her work. In terms of the Afro-Caribbean worldview, the oft-repeated "i" generally meant "we" and was indicative of the belief that the divine connects all of life — "the bond of living things everywhere."

In an interview, Clifton remarked, "Writing ... is a way of remembering I am not alone." Reading Clifton can provide this reminder for all of us. In perhaps her most famous poem, "blessing the boats," Clifton encouraged readers, "may the tide ... carry you out beyond the face of fear." Clear-eyed about the historical abuses and present racial injustices, Clifton also evokes words of hope for every month of the year — "today we are possible."

*Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church. His newly-published book is a collection of his columns for the Chatham News + Record titled "Hope Matters: Churchless Sermons."*

## LETTER

### Questions for a grim anniversary in Ukraine

#### TO THE EDITOR:

As the grim anniversary approaches of the tragic Russian invasion of Ukraine, mental health almost requires numbness. We train our eyes to flash quickly past disturbing headlines, such as "Ukraine Under New Missile Barrage as Russia Warns West about Tank Pledges." After all, upsetting events abound right here in the U.S.

But some questions about this disastrous war seem urgent. For me, these questions boil down essentially to this startling uncertainty: What actually are our government's aims in Ukraine, and how are they being justified by our leaders?

Unfortunately, clarity is hard to come by. President Biden and his administration maintain that their aim is solely to enable Ukraine to defend itself against a brutal invasion — surely a noble goal. The purpose, these leaders say, of allocating over

\$100 billion and pouring increasingly controversial weapons into Ukraine has been to put our ally in a strong position for peace negotiations.

This fall, however, Ukraine was "winning," by many accounts, having retaken key cities and pushed the Russian army back. Why, then, didn't the U.S. and NATO use this "inflection point" to press for a cease-fire and serious peace negotiations? Why, instead, has the U.S. started encouraging Ukraine to attack Crimea, an essential part of Russia for most of the past 300 years? Why have NATO countries pressured Germany to abandon its post-World War II stance of military restraint and to send its Leopard tanks into battle against Russia — a move that is clearly awakening painful memories in both nations of the historic Soviet battles against the Nazis in which some 20 million Russians died?

Current events within Ukraine also raise some thorny questions. Since Ukrainian journalist Yurii Nikolov broke a story recently about

massive corruption in the Ukrainian defense department, four deputy ministers and five regional governors have resigned or been fired. Ukrainian democratic structures also appear increasingly sketchy. Even before the war, President Zelensky had banned most TV stations; now he has also banned 11 political parties and has rolled back important labor protections. Why is the U.S. willing to escalate support under these conditions?

These questions bring us back to where we started: What, truly, ARE our government's aims? Only to support a vulnerable ally? Or — as Biden and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin both said openly back in the spring — to "weaken Russia" and unseat Putin? I feel I must demand a response from our leaders. I need them to answer, also, how many innocent lives these goals are worth, and exactly how far they are willing to push the risk of nuclear Armageddon.

Chris Mayfield  
Pittsboro

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

# VIEWPOINTS

## North Carolina economy continues to excel



JOHN HOOD

John Locke

Foundation

North Carolina faces many challenges. You and I may disagree with how to rank those challenges, or what to do about them, but we share

a belief that our state could be a better place than it is today.

This reformist impulse is proper and useful. But we shouldn't let it make us unduly and unrealistically dour. Few states can match what North Carolina already has to offer — which is why few states match or exceed our growth rate.

The latest population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, for example, show that North Carolina's population grew by some 133,000 last year, to 10.7 million residents. Only Texas (471,000) and Florida (417,000) increased more in population during the period. In terms of annual growth rate, North Car-

olina ranked 9th at 1.3%, with Florida (1.9%) topping the list.

America's fastest-growing states are primarily in the Southeast and Mountain West. That's been true for some time now. Similarly, the places with the largest drops in population last year were also rather predictable. There were six-figure population declines in New York, California, and Illinois. In percentage terms, the fastest-declining states were New York, Illinois and Louisiana.

As for gross domestic product, North Carolina's economy has since the beginning of 2020 posted a compound annual growth rate of 2.8%, adjusted for inflation. That's significantly higher than the national (1.6%) and regional (2.1%) averages. Idaho (4.2%) ranked first in this category, followed by Tennessee (3.8%), Florida (3.6%), Utah (3.6%) and New Hampshire (2.9%). Our state ranked 8th.

Which states are slackers in economic growth? Well, Louisi-

ana's GDP actually shrank by an average annual rate of 3%. Other places with net negative growth since January 2020 included Alaska, Wyoming, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Hawaii, New Mexico, West Virginia and Maryland.

As should come as no surprise to no one, I believe that the past decade of free-market reforms and fiscally conservative policies made North Carolina a more attractive place to live, work, invest and create new jobs. We went from having one of the worst-designed tax systems in the country to one of the best. Under laws already enacted by the General Assembly, our tax rate on personal income will decline to 3.99% by 2027. Our corporate tax will disappear entirely by 2029. I also credit infrastructure improvements and a series of regulatory-reform measures for improving North Carolina's business climate.

A Canadian think tank, the Fraser Institute, provides

a handy way to track these changes over time. In the most recent iteration of its Economic Freedom of North America index, North Carolina ranked 9th. That represents a marked improvement from its 2010 rank of 19th. By the way, what state currently ranks first in economic freedom by Fraser's measure? Florida.

It is important to keep in mind, however, that government is not the primary driver of economic decisions — whether for good or for ill. All other things being equal, states with smaller, less-intrusive, and more-effective governments tend to grow faster than average. That's the finding of most (though not all) academic studies published over the past several decades.

Where the rubber meets the road, however, all other things are never equal. States differ significantly in geography, natural resources, population density and economic structure. Many factors that determine growth over time can only be

modestly influenced by public policy, if at all.

Look again at that list of states with shrinking economies. While some of them are "blue" states with relatively high tax and regulatory burdens, others such as Wyoming and North Dakota don't fit that description. States overly reliant on industries such as oil drilling, mining and tourism have had a rough few years. Even Texas, a popular destination for migrating families and business alike, managed only to match the national average in GDP growth (1.6%).

North Carolina's economic portfolio is more diverse — and becoming more so over time. Is there room for improvement? Sure. But we already have a lot to be thankful for.

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

## Why did we elect Thom Tillis?



TOM CAMPBELL

N.C. Spin

Our Senior Senator, Thom Tillis, has a target on his back. Angry, disillusioned partisans are calling him a traitor, a betrayer. Curiously enough, those name-callers aren't Democrats, as might be expected, but Republicans — members of his own party!

Why so angry? They are calling Senator Tillis a RINO, Republican in Name Only, because he doesn't go along with everything the far right espouses. If you won't quote scripture and verse on demand you can't be in their club. You have obviously deserted the Grand Old Party.

Make no mistake. Thom Tillis is a Republican, a conservative Republican, and not for one minute should we believe he will forsake his bedrock beliefs. But neither is Thom a "go-along to get-along" guy. A former business consultant, Tillis became House Speaker in 2012 and immediately demonstrated he knew how to make the trains run in our legislature. Never the flashy, back-slapping pol, Tillis eschewed the klieg lights in order to work more effectively. It was no secret he was a Republican and made no apologies for it. As Speaker, Thom was adept at knowing the pulse of his Republican caucus and counting votes with the best of them. He knew what he could and couldn't get passed on the N.C. House floor and wouldn't allow a floor vote if he wasn't sure about its outcome. He is respected as one of the best House Speakers we've had in recent years, even by many Democrats.

In his first term in the U.S. Senate, it took Tillis a while to find his footing and voice. He took some controversial stands, specifically opposing President Trump about declaring a national emergency so he could build a wall along the border. Later he reversed his position after strong opposition and vitriol from Republicans. I believe this episode was a moment of truth for the freshman Senator. Maybe I'm reading too much into it, but I think this was the moment Thom Tillis realized he didn't have to be just a voice for the Right but was sent to Washington to voice what he thought was right.

Yes, Tillis' voting record will show he supported Trump and voted the Republican way on a high percentage of votes. He certainly followed the party line enough to have earned his bona fides as a party loyalist. If anything, the stinging criticism from the far-right wing of his tribe should be a badge of honor, not shame.

The Senator believed that immigration demand more than just a slogan to build a wall, so he

**The Senator believed that immigration demanded more than just a slogan to build a wall, so he joined forces with Democrats and other Republicans to find a solution for those wanting to enter our country, crafting a resolution that ultimately failed in the dying moments of 2022.**

joined forces with Democrats and other Republicans to find a solution for those wanting to enter our country, crafting a resolution that ultimately failed in the dying moments of 2022. But in this failure, Thom Tillis earned a large measure of respect among leaders in both parties. They recognized a new leader was emerging, discovering that Tillis is straightforward, tells his truth, isn't a grandstander seeking media attention or favor. He's pretty much of a "what you see is what you get" kinda guy.

Over the past year Senator Tillis has moved from the back bench into becoming a leader, a conciliator and mediator, willing to reach across the aisle for honest, civil discussion, finding agreement where possible and seeking compromise to pass legislation on issues like immigration, same-sex marriage and guns. And don't be surprised to hear his name among those finding a consensus position for passing the budget and dealing with the debt ceiling debate.

So why did we elect Thom Tillis? For that matter, why do we elect anyone to public office? I am convinced there are some (I hope very few) who vote for someone, hoping they will get elected and go burn the place down, figuratively and literally. Others perhaps cast their ballots in hopes that the individual will further gum up the already slow-moving wheels of government, believing the less done is better. But I believe the majority of us vote for a person because we hope he or she will play a part in actually getting things done for the betterment of all. Isn't that why we have a representative government in the first place?

It is apparent that our Senator, in his quiet, respectful and even-tempered way, is morphing from politician to statesman.

Stay on course, Senator. You are making a difference.

*Tom Campbell is a former assistant N.C. State Treasurer and was the creator/host of N.C. SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of N.C. issues that aired on UNC-TV until 2020. Contact him at [tomcamp@carolinabroadcasting.com](mailto:tomcamp@carolinabroadcasting.com).*

## Vivian Howard plans her return



D.G. MARTIN

One on One

Are the days of the roadside eateries gone? My book, "North Carolina's Roadside Eateries," celebrated the barbecue and country cooking family friendly restaurants near the interstates.

Now, one of North Carolina's most famous restaurateur and food expert argues that the days of restaurants as we know them may be over.

Vivian Howard, famous across the country for her television program, "A Chef's Life," and as author of two beautiful books about food ("Deep Run Roots: Stories and Recipes from My Corner of the South" and "This Will Make It Good"), tried to explain why food establishments across the country are struggling. Writing in The New York Times on Jan. 20, she explained, "I recently closed my flagship restaurant in Kinston, N.C. For more than 15 years, Chef & the Farmer was a star in the farm-to-table sky. Our food exalted my region's little-known cuisine, and the level of service we provided was an anomaly for miles."

"Even so, Chef & the Farmer closed, in large part because the inefficiencies, stress and fatigue brought by an unsustainable business model became impossible to ignore. Our industry needs to evolve or else more full-service, cuisine-driven restaurants like mine will languish their way to extinction."

Her New York Times essay was not her first warning about the unsustainability of restaurants like Chef & the Farmer.

In "This Will Make It Good," she wrote, "In 2019 my professional life was a vat of turmoil. The mountain of projects I had taken on had slowly distanced me from the day-to-day operations at my restaurants, and my prolonged absence was notable in every part of the business. The restaurants were understaffed, guest counts were down across the board, and morale was at an all-time low. My team members used to feel they were part of something."

"Now that 'something' just felt like a job. I had hired a consultant and a chef with a pedigree to help figure things out, but somehow that made it worse. I fired people, rehired people, and to save a marriage decided I could no longer work with my husband. We moved under a tall mountain of debt that caused finger-pointing, infighting and backstabbing, and I couldn't tell who was doing what."

Howard has acknowledged that she is now divorced.

"All of it was stuff that, on some level, I was doing for other people. I had never wanted to run a restaurant empire, and suddenly I was running one into the ground. Every day I let more and more people down. I felt lost."

She is planning for a sustainable future for her restaurant.

She plans to reopen Chef & the Farmer this year. "We won't rely on the diners to pay servers; the chefs will serve, cafeteria style, at our retrofitted kitchen bar. The energy we put into elevated service and its trappings will flow directly into the only 'program' we have chosen to keep — our food."

The restaurant will open just four days a week, because, she says, "that's the kind of schedule that nurtures staff retention."

Howard is looking at other ways to reduce the costs of serving prepared food. For instance, under the brand name "Viv's Fridge," she is stocking high-end food packages in refrigerators at convenient locations in cities near Kinston ready to be picked up, paid for, taken home, and reheated.

Are there lessons from Howard's experience that can help my favorite country cooking and barbecue places survive these tough times?

Maybe they can expand their carry-out options to reduce staff costs just a little bit.

But they should remember that many of their country cooking and barbecue fans come not only for the good food but also for the social experience of visiting with other customers and staff.

It is something I hope Howard will remember, too.

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



## SO CO

Continued from page A1

destination where you'll find something you like."

Havoc will be housed at 39 West St. next to The Mod. The brewery is set to open its flagship location at SoCo early this year, according to Havoc's Facebook page.

The Chatham County-based brewery will have a large outdoor patio where patrons can get a view of the historic county courthouse nearby and a venue for local musicians to play. Stafford said Havoc will bring a unique experience to downtown and complement many surrounding businesses.

"We hope that it makes downtown cool because there's room for several hundred people on that patio," Stafford said. "It's a big outdoor seating area, and so there will be a lot of room to do a lot of cool stuff on there — live music, bouncy castles, car shows or whatever they want to do. It will be really awesome."

Doherty's will be located on the other side of The Mod and is expected to open later this year, according to Stafford. Doherty's is known for its Irish pub fair, ranging from brisket to fish and chips, as well as a wide array of Irish-inspired cocktails and Guinness beer.

Doherty's co-owner Donavon Favre said before the COVID-19 pandemic, he and his business partner Sami Taweele were looking to open a third location of their award-winning restaurant. When Favre walked through downtown Pittsboro toward SoCo, he said he felt the environment was perfect.

"Our restaurant has a family feel to it," Favre said. "As soon as we got to Pittsboro and started walking downtown, meeting with friendly people, it fit with exactly what we do and who we are."

Favre said he, along with Stafford and the owners of The Mod and Havoc, want to work to have collaborative events to create a one-of-a-kind experi-



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

**Doherty's Irish Pub and Restaurant** owners Sami Taweele (left) and Donavon Favre.



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

**Michael Pipkin, owner of Havoc Brewing Company, which will be located in SoCo.**

ence downtown. That could include working with Havoc to deliver food to their customers, holding joint events on the patio space outside of SoCo and more.

"We don't want it to be competitive, we want it to be collaborative because the more we can make it a destination spot for all of us, the better off we all will be," Favre said.

Favre said another factor in choosing Pittsboro as the location for the new Doherty's was incoming growth. Stafford's dedication to his town, Favre said, also helped him and his business partner decide to call Pittsboro their third home.

"One of the big things Greg and I connected on was he said he wanted something people are going to want to go to that's higher end, delicious food that's going to be different than what we have right now," Favre said. "He has enthusiasm for downtown Pittsboro and he wants this to be a destination spot, not just for us, but for the community."

Stafford said Chatham Park, the massive planned community north of downtown, had a



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

**Greg Stafford, owner of SoCo in Pittsboro.**

role in what types of businesses he hoped to draw to SoCo; he wants to create a place where both long-time residents and new ones can enjoy.

"There are times when people want to go to the kind of restaurant that's going to be in a major development, like Chatham Park, and there are times when people want to go to the hipster, all downtown, cool place," Stafford said. "One of the mistakes I made was when I started this, I was

**"We hope that it makes downtown cool because there's room for several hundred people on that patio. It's a big outdoor seating area, and so there will be a lot of room to do a lot of cool stuff on there — live music, bouncy castles, car shows or whatever they want to do. It will be really awesome."**

**GREG STAFFORD, owner of SoCo in Pittsboro.**

seeing it as 'us' versus 'them' ... It's not us or them because the same people are going to be going to both."

SoCo now has all its tenants, but Stafford said he still owns other properties he's looking to lease out. While Stafford and his wife have plans for their remaining development properties and projects in the Pittsboro area, they can't do anything until Pittsboro fixes its pause on additional sewer allocation.

"There isn't any sewer left in Pittsboro so unless and until Pittsboro can provide infrastructure, nothing else is coming downtown," he said. "If we can get the infrastructure we need, we are in a position where downtown Pittsboro is in a position to be a great complement to Chatham Park, and vice versa."

SoCo will provide a special space for these new restaurants to work together, Stafford says. What's most important to him, though, is SoCo's ability to bring added life to a downtown area and to enhance the incoming growth coming to the Pittsboro community.

"When the Christmas parade goes by, you can stand on the patio and watch the whole thing, or when Carolina beats Duke each and every time they play, it's a place to gather and enjoy their demise ... It should be a cool place, and I hope people love it," Stafford said.

*Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamn.com or on Twitter at @Heeden\_Taylor.*



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# LAWSUIT

Continued from page A1

Blood sampling of 206 Pittsboro residents who are on public water showed PFAS levels well above the national median, and even higher than that found in people living downstream or near the Chemours plant in Fayetteville, according to a 2021 study.

"Defendants knew or should have known that PFAS present significant risks to human health and welfare if released to the environment," the filing reads.

"Nonetheless, they continued manufacturing, distributing and selling large volumes of PFAS products to industrial facilities and consumers in the Haw River watershed, knowing that ordinary use and disposal of those products would result in significant PFAS contamination" of the river, the town and its drinking water.

A 3M spokesperson provided a statement to Policy Watch via email:

"3M acted responsibly in connection with products containing PFAS – including AFFF (aqueous film-forming foam) – and will vigorously defend its record of environmental stewardship. AFFF was a critical tool developed to serve an important need for military service members and other responders facing potentially life-threatening challenges."

A Chemours spokesperson said the company can't comment on litigation.

PFAS are toxic at extremely low concentrations — at parts per quadrillion — according to recent EPA health advisory levels. Exposure to PFAS has been linked to kidney and testicular cancer, low birth weight, high blood pressure during pregnancy, thyroid disorders, elevated cholesterol and other serious health conditions.

There are at least 10,000 types of PFAS. They are known as "forever chemicals" because they don't break down in the environment, where they can linger for hundreds of years.

These compounds enter the Haw River from upstream sources, such as industrial dischargers, wastewater treatment plants and biosolids — sludge from those plants that is applied on land as fertilizer. PFAS can then seep into the groundwater and when it rains, can enter rivers and streams.

Airports are also a source of PFAS because of firefighting training exercises that use AFFF.

Traditional water and wastewater treatment technologies can't remove PFAS. Last year Pittsboro installed a granular activated carbon system, known as a GAC, which reduced PFAS levels in drinking water by 86-88%, according to town sampling data.

However, those systems are expensive. Pittsboro spent \$3.5 million on the system; the funding came from grants and town coffers — taxpayer money.

The lawsuit alleges that the defendant companies knew their products were toxic. Yet they still marketed and sold large volumes of PFAS Products" to industry and consumers in the Haw River watershed, "while simultaneously concealing and misrepresenting the human health and environmental risks posed by those products."

As early as 1960, 3M knew that PFAS could leach into groundwater and contaminate the environment, according to the court filing. An internal memo from that year concluded that PFAS manufacturing "would eventually reach the water table and pollute domestic wells."

3M announced last month that it would no longer manufacture PFAS and "work to discontinue the use" of the compounds in its products by the end of 2025.

Likewise, DuPont knew in the 1960s and 1970s that PFOA, one of the thousands of types of PFAS, could harm human health, according to internal company data cited in the filing. By 1980, DuPont "had internally confirmed that PFOA is 'toxic,' and that 'continued exposure is not tolerable.'

Facing millions of dollars in damages from previous lawsuits in Ohio and West Virginia. DuPont spun off a separate company, Chemours, in 2015. Chemours is responsible for polluting the Lower Cape Fear River Basin, from Fayetteville to Wilmington, with GenX, a type of PFAS, and other similar compounds.

The NC Attorney General's office has sued Chemours and "Old DuPont" — the entity before the break up — demanding that they pay "all past and future costs to assess, remediate and remedy environmental harms" as a result of operations at the Fayetteville Works plant.

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## CHATHAM CHAT | DR. AMANDA MORAN, CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

# 'One Chatham' has 12 goals and 111 strategies. Here's how it's coming together.

*'By far the most rewarding, most comprehensive approach to strategic planning that I have ever seen'*

*Editor's note: first of two parts.*

Chatham County Schools' strategic initiative, called "One Chatham," is an ambitious five-year plan with 111 specific strategies used to measure progress toward achieving goals in five key areas. This week we speak with Dr. Amanda Moran, the assistant superintendent for academic services & instructional support for Chatham County Schools, about One Chatham — and to get a progress report on the plan.

Moran has also a resident of Chatham for almost 20 years. She received her undergraduate degree in elementary education from UNC-Greensboro and has a Master's degree from Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee and a Doctoral degree from East Carolina University.

Moran has served in education for the past 26 years as a classroom teacher, lead teacher, instructional technology facilitator, assistant principal, principal, technology director, chief academic officer, MTSS director, and assistant superintendent. She's worked in five districts across N.C. including Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools and Orange County Schools.

**For those unfamiliar with "One Chatham," can you provide a refresher overview about what it is and how it became the framework for Chatham County Schools' strategic plan?**

One Chatham is the name of our new strategic plan that we launched in August of this school year. It outlines the direction for the district for the next five years. It provides our mission and vision for what we want to be and where we want to go. It has a set of core beliefs central to what we believe about our work. Finally, we have goals for the outcomes we hope to achieve and the specific steps on how we plan to get there.

The "One Chatham" theme came from Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson. From the moment he arrived, he kept saying "One Chatham," reflecting his desire to ensure all students had the same educational opportunities and pathways to find success in school. Prior to his arrival and before ever meeting him, I had also been working on a theme for the year that would focus on the Power of One, examining the difference one person can make in the lives of others and in improving our community. Over the years, we have heard feedback that Chatham has different areas or zones in the district, and some individuals have felt that these different areas are treated differently. We have seen schools all operate in different ways, which made it feel like we were more a district of schools and not one school district. We wanted this new plan to be about unifying the district and helping us work together on a single vision ensuring ALL our students are successful.

**"Preparing ALL students for a bright and prosperous future" — what will that look like for students, and for the community?**

Our vision is that we want all students to be prepared and ready for whatever their future holds. That can mean many different

## CHARGES

Continued from page A1

"He came in and he pled and took responsibility for careless and reckless driving and injury to personal property," Assistant District Attorney Lynn Kelly told the News + Record. "He has been ordered to do an anger management class and community service."

The injury to personal property amounted to about \$200 worth of damage to a vehicle driven by one of the teens.

The DA's office also said it received several

letters and references from people who live in Hudson's neighborhood on River Bend Road. Neighbors also vigorously defended Hudson in letters to the editor in the News + Record. They said youngsters had been encroaching upon their property in cars and speeding along the private gravel roadway for decades, trespassing and vandalizing.

"I don't think that the evidence showed that he (Hudson) tried to run them off the road rose to the level of assault with a deadly weapon, which is one of the reasons that

we did what we did," Kelly said.

Kelly said Hudson, who had no previous criminal record, acknowledged wrongdoing in the incident. She also acknowledged that decades of curious trespassers — some exploring rumors of an alleged Satanic church along the road, a falsehood Hudson's neighbors say has plagued them and their tranquility — played a role in Hudson's actions.

Pursuant to Hudson's engagement in community service and anger management courses, the five counts of assault

heartbeat of our work. I am a little biased because this is the area I oversee! We know quality instruction and innovative programs will ensure our students are ready for their futures.

**Faculty and Staff** is critical because we know that research tells us that a high-quality teacher is one of the most important factors that ensures students' success. So we must invest in developing our workforce through professional development and support programs. We must also work to recruit and retain high-quality staff. Staff will not thrive in an environment that is not healthy and supportive.

**Student Health and Safety** was a category that came up consistently in focus groups and surveys. We also have seen growth in mental health needs in our community, in addition to concerns across the country about school security and violence in the world today. We want our stakeholders to know that we take security, health and safety seriously.

**Facilities and Infrastructure** is a very timely focus area. Chatham is on the cusp of unprecedented growth, and we need to have facilities and the infrastructure to support this growth. This can mean the facilities themselves as we build new schools, and it can also mean ensuring we have appropriate cybersecurity measures in place or the most up-to-date fiscal systems in place.

**Communication and Information Sharing** is an area that our listening sessions made clear we needed to do a better job in. Parents asked for more two-way modes of communicating. We also recognized we needed to do a better job educating the community about what we have to offer and sharing the success of our students. We have amazing community partners and this focus area also looks at how we can best leverage those resources for our students and the community.

If you look at all the feedback we received from the community, you can find a way to link it all to one of these five areas. In the end we came up with five areas that will help strengthen an already strong district and meet expectations for what our students, families and staff want our district to become over the next five years. We did have some debate about including technology or equity as individual focus areas. As we talked through our core beliefs and received feedback, it became clear that technology is embedded in all we do now. It is how we do business, and it is authentically built into all aspects of our work. Equity is also something that we feel is not a stand-alone area, but a way of looking at things to ensure that we are ensuring multiple perspectives, that we are ensuring access, and we are elevating all voices. That is something that should be a common thread through all of our priority areas. It should be who we are and how we do our work. So we made a conscious decision to embed technology and equity across all five of our focus areas.

## How's it going? How's it coming together?

Throughout my career in education, I have worked in five districts from the western part of the state to the Triad. Across all of these districts and various roles I have participated in strategic planning processes in every district

*See GOALS, page A9*

with a deadly weapon will be dropped.

Hudson had worked as a 4th-grade teacher at Pittsboro Elementary until around Jan. 6, when he was apparently suspended from his position after Chatham County Schools officials learned of his case. Hudson's employment status with Chatham County Schools is unclear as of Tuesday. CCS would not comment on Hudson's employment status.

*Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @b\_rappaport.*

# OBITUARIES

## CHARLES WILLIAM HINTON



January 4, 1943 ~ January 23, 2023  
Charles William Hinton, 80, of Pittsboro died on January 23, 2023, at the UNC SECU Hospice House in Pittsboro. Charles was the son of the late Henry Hinton and Kathryn (McLaird) Hinton. He was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, in January of 1943. Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Tom Hinton and his uncle, Preston McLaird.

Charles served in many local communities as a Law Enforcement Officer including Pittsboro, Smithfield, Carrboro and lastly, the Sanford Police Department.

In 1979, Charles married Betty Jean (Griffin) and they have spent the last 43 years together enjoying spending time in the mountains, camping and traveling.

Charles proudly served in the United States Air Force for four years before obtaining his Associate in Applied Science degree in Police Science from Guilford Technical Institute. He was an avid member of the NRA and loved collecting and showing guns. When not collecting, he loved his time blacksmithing and restoring antique, visible gas pumps and tractors.

Charles is survived by his loving wife, Betty Jean Hinton, his stepdaughter, Renee Wilder and husband Rodney; grandchildren, Ryan Wilder (Carlee Whitt) and Reice Wilder, one great-granddaughter, Ryleigh Wilder; two sisters, Gina (Jay) Stancil and Mary Lou (Alex) Barker, all of Maine; cousins, Pat Fuson and Jane Fuson, both of Kentucky; nephews, Matthew Hinton of Pennsylvania and Joe Hinton of N.C.; sister-in-law, Ngoc Hinton of N.C. and mother-in-law, Mary Margaret Griffin of Pittsboro. He also adored his feline fur babies, Winnie and Barney.

A memorial service will be held on February 4, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the Pittsboro Baptist Church at 121 West Salisbury Street, Pittsboro.

Memorial contributions can be made to CARA of Sanford at 42 Deep River Road, Sanford or to UNC Hospice, 100 Round Tree Way, Pittsboro, N.C.

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

Memorial tributes can be left at [www.Donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.Donaldsonfunerals.com).

## BERNICE GORDON ELLIS

August 2, 1939 ~ January 28, 2023

Bernice Gordon Ellis, 83, of Bynum, died Saturday, January 28, 2023, at UNC hospital.

Bernice was born in Chatham County on August 2, 1939, to the late John Ellis and Edna Johnson Ellis. She was also preceded in death by one granddaughter, Whitney Ellis, six brothers, Cleodis Ellis, Willie Ellis, George Ellis, Grady Ellis, Gilbert Ellis, James Ellis, and four sisters, Fayedine Tisdale, Etta Mae Mann, Margaret Oakley, and Annie Ring.

Surviving relatives include three sons, Marty Ellis and wife Marilyn of Bynum, Ricky Ellis and wife Penny of Ramseur, Donald Ellis and wife Tammy of Pittsboro; six grandchildren, Martin Ellis, Christy Ellis, Richard Ellis, Christopher Ellis, Samantha Miller, Trevor Ellis; and 11 great-grandchildren, Ace Ellis, Teagan Ellis, Kynlee Johnson, Briley Ellis, Nevaeh Latham, Allen Ellis, Hope Ellis, Jase Ellis, Fallon Ellis, Benjamin Harris, and Stratton Miller.

A graveside service will be held Friday, February 3, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Hickory Mountain Chapel with Rev. Bob Wachs presiding.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Bernice's memory to Hickory Mountain Chapel Cemetery Fund, Attn. Floyd Bowers, 911 Shannon Drive, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Condolences may be made at [www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com).

Donaldson Funeral Home and Crematory is honored to serve the Ellis family.

## ASHLEY 'POSSUM' THOMAS BINKLEY

May 9, 1930 ~ January 22, 2023

Ashley "Possum" Thomas Binkley, 92, of Siler City, passed away on Sunday, January 22,

2023.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 5, 2023, at the Siler City Pentecostal Holiness Church with Pastor William Fields officiating.

## KEVIN JOSHUA 'KJ' SQUIRES

December 13, 1983 ~ January 22, 2023

Kevin Joshua "KJ" Squires, age 39, of Moncure, died Sunday, January 22, 2023, at UNC Hospital.

KJ was born in Norway, Maine, on December 13, 1983, to Kevin W. Squires and Darlene Westfall Squires.

KJ is also survived by his fiancé, Kerie May; one son, Klyde James Squires; one brother, Travis Squires of Sanford; and his maternal grandmother, Mary E. Vernagia of Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, James S. Westfall, and paternal grandparents, William and Evelyn Squires.

There are no services planned at this time.

Condolences may be made at [www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com)

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

Hillmon Grove Baptist Church

on Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Wayne O'Quinn presiding. The family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. No graveside will be held but the family requests friends to join them in the fellowship hall.

Born in Riverside, West Virginia, she was the daughter of the late Hubert Bascom Garretson and Annie Burnett Garretson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Gene Bowe; a sister, Jerry Ann Tipton; brothers, Hubert Bascom Garretson Jr. and William Chilton Garretson. She was a head cook at Galion Community Hospital in Galion, Ohio.

Surviving relatives include her son, Murel Bowe of Sanford; daughters, Retha Jean Bandy of Florida and Frances Loretta Sygowski of N.H.; brother, Glenn Irvin Garretson of Florida; sisters, Ruby Vina Arcuri of Ohio and Dreama Virginia Jenkins of Virginia; nine grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and several great-great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

## WILLIAM 'BILL' CARLTON SHACKLEFORD

September 17, 1934 ~ January 29, 2023

William "Bill" Carlton Shackleford, 88, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, January 29, 2023, at his home.

The family will receive friends on Friday, February 3, 2023, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

The funeral service will follow in the Chapel at 3 p.m. with Pastor Paul Backlund officiating. Burial will follow in Center United Methodist Church Cemetery.

He was the son of the late James and Edith Simms Shackleford. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Louise Holt Shackleford and siblings Georgia Bailes, Pearl Hensel, Edward Shackleford and Milton Shackleford. Shackleford served his

country in the United States Army which included a tour of duty in Korea. He retired as a vice president from Bandag Corporation.

He is survived by his sons, Dale Shackelford of Sanford and Dwayne Shackelford of Asheboro; siblings, Barbara Hobson, Raymond Shackelford, Bruce Shackelford, Ernest Shackelford; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home, Inc.

Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

## CHRISCAL LYSHA QUICK

July 13, 1969 ~ January 20, 2023

Chriscal Lysha Quick, 53, of Pittsboro, passed away on Friday, January 20, 2023, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

The funeral service was held at noon on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

## HELEN LEE (ELLBA) HICKS

August 2, 1930 ~ January 23, 2023

Helen Hicks, 92, of Cameron, passed away on Monday, January 23, 2023, at her residence.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Sunday, January 29, 2023, at Works for Christ Christian Center with burial following at Lee Memory Garden.

## IRWIN STRICKLIN

October 15, 1932 ~ January 26, 2023

Irwin Stricklin, 90, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at his residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## NECHOL RASHAWN CLARK

December 28, 1979 ~ January 23, 2023

NeChol Rashawn Clark, 43, passed away on Monday, January 23, 2023, in Charlotte.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

## SUSAN RUTH (HAVENSTEIN) LOWE

June 20, 1967 ~ January 24, 2023

Susan Ruth (Havenstein) Lowe, 55, of Moncure died January 24, 2023 following a long battle with cancer.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial service will follow at 12 noon, with Pastor John Petry presiding.

She is the daughter of Gerald and Joyce (Withbroe) Havenstein of Raleigh, who survive, along with her two sons, Benjamin and Bryce Lowe, and her brother, Greg Havenstein of Cary.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Douglas Lowe.

Condolences may be made at [www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com).

## CHURCH NEWS

### GUM SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

The Rev. Barry Lawrence, Associational Missionary from Sandy Creek Baptist Association, will deliver

the 10 a.m. message at Gum Springs Baptist Church, 227 Gum Springs Church Road, Moncure.

Come enjoy a time of worship and fellowship.

## CARD OF THANKS

The family of Jessie L. Jordan wishes to thank each and everyone for their thoughts, visits, and prayers for our loss.

May God continue to bless all of you.

Thank you!

*The Jordan Family*

## CCCC FALL 2022 GRADUATES

The following Chatham County students graduated with the Fall 2022 graduating class at Central Carolina Community College: Patricia Aguilar Teutle, Rachel Bradley, Emma Brown, Jaxson Burke, Thomas Cantwell, Alfred Chavez, Jacob Cohen, Kaio Cowherd, Nelson Cruz, Grayson Culberson, Samuel Demian, Sara Dunn, Jonae Fochtmann-Lange, Rosario Gaytan, Jonathan Gregory, Kayleigh Jackson, Rosalba Jaimes Tapia, James Keith,

Cristiano Lagreca, Molli Lambert, Sarah Lawter Jordan Lee, Melissa Lima Ryan, Lorenti Elisa Luna, William Maag, Gabriella Milliken, Sarah Moore, Noemi Mora Marcial, Victor Nambo Avila, Toni Olds, Hailey Ostenfeld, Brooke Perrell, Jordan Phillips, Alex Rastenis, Michael Ray, Jennifer Rios, Bradley Roberts, Rebecca Samuel, Walter Scott, Sarah Stacy, Bradley Svirik, Jason Tillman, Mikaela Uptmor, Kenneth Vickers and Kristin Wiley.



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# Pittsboro Youth Theater co-founders opt to sell business, cite financial hardship

BY BEN RAPPAPORT  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — After 10 years of providing a home on the stage to youth across Pittsboro and the entire Chatham community, Tammy Matthews and Craig Witter have decided to sell Pittsboro Youth Theater.

The couple announced the intention to sell the business after returning from a stellar performance at the Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta where PYT earned multiple awards for their performances of Peter Pan Jr.

Matthews and Witter said they no longer have the financial resources or "personal energies" to continue the program.

"We are very sorry that our decision to close Pittsboro Youth Theater will cause sadness for a great many kids, parents and other supporters," the couple wrote on the PYT website. "We love you very much."

The impending sale of the business means all spring 2023 shows at PYT will be canceled and deposits made for those shows will be refunded to supporters.

PYT was also intending to move into a new space in Bynum — North Chatham Performing Arts

**"We're sorry that things came to this so suddenly, and we hope that we can find some way for PYT to continue to provide services to our patrons soon."**

**CRAIG WITTER AND TAMMY MATTHEWS, co-founders of Pittsboro Youth Theater**

Center — later this year. The co-founders had been fundraising for the move to the new facility but fell short of their fundraising goal. They said, however, they hope the future buyers will continue with NCPAC, and that all donations made toward the effort will go to the new owners.

"If no buyer is found who wants to continue with NCPAC by Feb. 20, 2023, then all donations made to help build NCPAC will be refunded to those who donated as soon as possible thereafter," Witter said.

All assets of PYT are currently for sale, according to the organization's website. This includes the theater company, Center for the Arts Music School, the 15-year lease on the unfinished NCPAC facility and all necessary equipment

for continuing operations.

Taking on the lease for NCPAC would be \$3,000 per month with a 1% annual increase for the duration of the lease for the 5,000-square-foot building.

Witter said he aims to have the business sold by Feb. 20. According to the overview of sale plans, PYT hopes to sell the assets in bulk, rather than individually. He said the goal of the sale is to transfer ownership to "new, younger and more capable owners and/or operational staff."

In the pitch to potential buyers, PYT said its currently has close to zero debt because the entire effort has been self-funded by Matthews and Witter.

"We're sorry that things came to this so suddenly, and we hope that we can find some way for PYT to continue to provide services to our patrons soon," Matthews and Witter wrote.

For more information on the sale visit [www.pittsboroyouththeater.com](http://www.pittsboroyouththeater.com). For serious sale inquiries contact Craig Witter at CFTA. Cwitter1@gmail.com.

*Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at [brappaport@chathamnr.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter @b\_rappaport.*



Staff photo by Anna Connors

**Tammy Matthews, left, and Craig Witter, right, are co-founders of the Pittsboro Youth Theater.**

## OPTIMISM

Continued from page A1

those throughout N.C., are having some challenges with attracting workforce," said Michael Smith, the president of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation. "We continue to work with Central Carolina Community College and the school system to find ways to help educate the public on what jobs are available, and the free training that exists to help people gain new skills to then work for a number of our industries here in Chatham County."

VinFast, an electric vehicle manufacturer, and Wolfspeed, which makes semiconductors — and their combined 2022 announcements, bringing \$9 billion in investment and 9,000 new planned jobs here — are only a part of Chatham's 2023 formula, he said. In addition to workforce training provided by CCCC, the county has the benefit of the large number of four-year colleges and universities in close proximity, highly-trained military personnel leaving Ft. Bragg and new residents seeking opportunity. They contribute to making the region, and the state, attractive for those who are hiring.

"North Carolina gained the third-most new residents [in the U.S.] in 2022

and we do not see that trend changing," Smith said. "The new jobs we have announced, our great quality of life here in Chatham County, the Chatham County School system, the award-winning CCCC and the growth to

come over the next several years — they're all positive reasons for our citizens to be hopeful for this new year."

### The brightest horizon'

Still, the new jobs projected for Chatham (not including 300 at FedEx's shipping hub under construction near the future home of VinFast) in the coming years are certainly a boost and a safeguard. Mike Fox, the president and CEO of the Piedmont Triad Partnership, paints a sunny employment picture — beginning with this year.

"We see the brightest horizon for Chatham County and the Carolina Core region in 2023," he said. "With state and national attention on the record-breaking year of new job and capital investment attraction, the job opportunities in Cha-

tham County are more well-known than ever."

Economist Mike Walden, the Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at N.C. State, told the News + Record he's predicting a "mild and short" recession at the end of 2023, and that he sees the local unemployment rate "rising between 1 and 2 percent-age points."

It's a jump he described as "very modest."

"Long-run economic growth in the Triangle region — including Chatham County — is still very robust," Walden said.

### The Core's boost

The county benefits from being a part of the Carolina Core, a 120+ mile stretch of central North Carolina stretching from west of Winston-Salem to Fayetteville, all along future Interstate 685. It includes Greensboro and High Point, has close proximity to Charlotte and the Research Triangle, and is home to four megasites — including Moncure's Triangle Innovation Point, where VinFast will build, and Siler City's Chatham Advanced Manufacturing site" — where there's still 1,700 acres available for development — "there is no reason to doubt that additional employers will be attracted to the excellent location and business environment in Chatham County," he added. "While we are hearing that recruiting and retaining talent remains a concern of our employers, we know that growing the regional economy, especially with innovative technology employers, is the path to continued prosperity for our region."

Attention from Chatham's record-setting announcements and the innovation VinFast and

Wolfspeed will drive, Fox believes, will keep the interest, and the focus, on Chatham and the region for years to come.

"I believe that existing companies there will benefit from the talent and suppliers that those two 'mega-projects' can attract," Fox said.

"We hear from the state that North Carolina's pipeline of potential new business is strong, and with well-positioned industrial real estate like the Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing site" — where there's still 1,700 acres available for development — "there is no reason to doubt that additional employers will be attracted to the excellent location and business environment in Chatham County," he added. "While we are hearing that recruiting and retaining talent remains a concern of our employers, we know that growing the regional economy, especially with innovative technology employers, is the path to continued prosperity for our region."

**The role of CCCC, universities**

Like Smith, Fox noted the contributions of nearby community colleges and universities — which are responding in their own ways to the state's positioning in the job market.

They are also working to "attract talent to their programs, some developed with these innovative new employers," Fox said. And while massive projects like VinFast and Wolfspeed are driving the training programs, there is no reason, he said,

"that other local employers cannot benefit from the new and growing training programs serving Chatham County."

"Anytime we are investing resources in

upskilling our residents," Fox said, "this is an investment that is bound to pay off in the short term and long run."

Dr. Lisa Chapman, the president of CCCC — with campuses in Chatham, Lee and Harnett counties — said she's not seeing broad impact from the tech layoffs, noting the immediate staffing needs some local and regional companies have.

"Our region has a diversity of employers who have talent needs now and talent need projections going forward," she said. "The projects [VinFast, Wolfspeed] obviously will include growth of varied suppliers, but in addition to that we have a growing biotech sector as well as ongoing needs in the construction and logistics-related industries. Healthcare workforce also continues to be a need in our region."

Chapman added it was important to recognize CCCC's footprint area has "strong incumbent employers who have made this region their home for many years and they have excellent careers in which our local residents can engage."

"Most of these careers require education and training beyond high school, but not all of them require the same type of credential," she said. "We want to ensure our community knows about and is prepared to participate in these opportunities. The college is working alongside our secondary and university partners to provide the needed education options."

### Workforce development

CCCC's and Chatham County Schools' commitment to adding value to workforce development can only help keep Chatham's future positive, according to Cindy Poin-

dexter, the president of the Chatham Chamber of Commerce.

"Much of the work that needs to be done does center around educating the public about opportunities and training available and working with regional and local partners," she said. "We all need to part of the solution. There has been a bit of a stigma associated around manufacturing jobs, but these jobs create great opportunities and room for advancement."

The national seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 3.5% in December. The Bureau of Labor Statistics put Chatham's December unemployment rate at just over 3%, up from 2.8% last January. It had reached a recent high of 9.3% in April of 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered many businesses.

Even so, Chatham's wage gap — which contributes to the county's affordable housing conundrum and high food insecurity in some pockets of the county — tempers the jobs picture, at least for now. Helping it: VinFast said its average annual

wages will be \$51,100, while Wolfspeed said its employees would earn an average of \$77,753 annually. Both are well above existing average wages in the western portion of Chatham of around \$41,600, which is more than \$15,000 a year under average wages across North Carolina.

Knowing that the jobs picture will improve, and bring higher wages, is even more reason to be optimistic.

"Chatham County has much to offer," Poindexter said. "We have a bright future ahead of us."

*Bill Horner III can be reached at [bhorner3@chathamnr.com](mailto:bhorner3@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter @billthethird.*

## GOALS

Continued from page A7

and each of them was different. This process has by far been the most rewarding and the most comprehensive approach to strategic planning that I have ever seen.

We sought to develop a living, breathing document that would become the guiding light for who we are as a district, and we see that happening

already in the short amount of time since the plan was adopted. We have almost every strategy in our plan underway and many completed.

Of the 111 strategies we are using to measure our progress to achieving our goals, 72 we've begun work on and 25 we have completed. We have also worked to ensure that every board item, meeting items for various departments, and professional de-

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## REAL ESTATE

**LEARN ABOUT LAND** - Chatham Land Experts - [www.learn-aboutland.com](http://www.learn-aboutland.com) - 919-362-6999. Jy2,tfnc

## RENTAL APARTMENTS

**SILER SCHOOL SQUARE APARTMENTS** is accepting applications for the waiting list for 1BR & 2BR units. Save \$\$, water incl in rent !! Visit us at 511 W Fourth St in Siler City or call (919) 799-7557 (TTY 711) for more information. \$25 application fee per applicant, credit/criminal check reqd. Section 8 accepted. Accessible units designed for persons with disabilities subject to availability. Equal Housing Opportunity. This institution is professionally managed by Partnership Property Management, an equal opportunity provider and employer. F2,1tc

**THE RETREAT AT PITTSBORO APARTMENTS** is accepting applications for the waiting list for 1BR & 2BR units. Visit us at 196 Chatham Business Drive in Pittsboro or call (919) 704-8090 (TTY 711) for more information. \$25 application fee per applicant, credit/criminal check reqd. Section 8 accepted. Accessible units designed for persons with disabilities subject to availability. Equal Housing Opportunity. This institution is professionally managed by Partnership Property Management, an equal opportunity provider and employer. F2,1tc

**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

## FOR SALE

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE** - Dry, ready to burn. Call 919-742-4561, F2,9,16,23,4tx

**TV ANTENNAS** - Come by MacPage Communications at 102 N. Third Avenue, Siler City, 919-227-6698, F2,F9,2tc

## AUCTIONS

**RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS** - Equipment, business, liquidation, estates, land, houses, antiques, personal property, coins, furniture, consignments, benefits, etc., NC#J7706, 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

**DIGGING AND DEMO** - Land improvements, mini-excavating, stump removal, mobile home and building tear down, al digging. Call John Hayes, 919-548-0474,J19,Ju1,20tp

**CASH PAID FOR JUNK** cars and pickups, 336-581-3423, J12,19,26,F2,4tp

**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

**CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** - Active relationship with Christ and membership in a church of like-faith required. 18-20 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-Glenwood Rd., Bear Creek, NC 27207 or email to [tysonscreek@tysonscreek.com](mailto:tysonscreek@tysonscreek.com). J19,26,F2,9,4tc

**PART TIME HOUSE CLEANING**, near Siler City. \$19/hr plus travel allowance, 910-773-0722. J12,19,26,F2,4tp

**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 691

All persons having claims against **CAROL PITTMAN RIGSBEE AKA CAROL JEAN RIGSBEE**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of January, 2023. Nancy R. Brown, Executrix 239 Rocky Ridge Rd Leasburg, NC 27291 J12,J19,J26,F2,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 691

All persons having claims against **VICTORIA LYNN DOWLING**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 12th day of January, 2023. Anthony W. Vaughan, Administrator 379 Winding Rd. Fries, Va. 24330 J12,J19,J26,F2,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 651

All persons having claims against **TERRI LITCHY**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 12th day of January, 2023. Todd Lituchy, Executor 17640 Rhoda St Encino, CA 91316 J12,J19,J26,F2,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 651

All persons having claims against **IDY LEE COTTEN**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 12th day of January, 2023. Crystal Gisele Josey Davis, Executrix 1205 Barman Ct Summerfield, NC 27335 J12,J19,J26,F2,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 22 E 681

All persons having claims against **KATHY SUE HEFNER AKA KATHY FREEMAN HEFNER**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 12th day of January, 2023. Andrea Paula Judge, Executor 35 John Laurel Dr Murphy, NC 28906 J26,F2,F9,F16,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 22 E 681

All persons having claims against **KATHY SUE HEFNER AKA KATHY FREEMAN HEFNER**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 12th day of January, 2023. Andrew B. Hefner, Co-Administrator 1526 Vander Oldham Rd Bear Creek, NC 27207 J12,J19,J26,F2,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 26

All persons having claims against **ALLENE H. HARMON AKA ANNIE ALLENE HARWARD HARMON**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of January, 2023. Jane Harmon Pendergrast, Executrix 140 West Newman Rd Chapel Hill, NC 27517 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, having qualified as **Executrix of the Estate of TROY M. HANCOCK, JR.**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the said decedent or his estate to present them to her at 2755 Bonlee-Bennett Road, Siler City, NC 27344 on or before the 20th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All of those indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned. This the 19th day of January, 2023. Ann P. Hancock Executrix of the Estate of **Troy M. Hancock, Jr.** 2755 Bonlee-Bennett Road Siler City, N.C. 27344 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2022 E 000711

All persons having claims against **MARTIN PALMER ODOM JR.**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 19th day of January, 2023. Margaret T. Odom, Administrator 5128 Bonlee Carbonton Road Goldston, NC 27252 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2022 E 000711

All persons having claims against **ELIZABETH BROOKS COBB**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 19th day of January, 2023. Christopher William Cobb, Co-Executor 6368 Waterway Drive Falls Church, VA 22044 Anna Lees Cobb, Co-Executor 1315 Langdon Place 1315 Fearington Post Pittsboro, NC 27312 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 8

All persons having claims against **ELIZABETH BROOKS COBB**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 19th day of January, 2023. Christopher William Cobb, Co-Executor 6368 Waterway Drive Falls Church, VA 22044 Anna Lees Cobb, Co-Executor 1315 Langdon Place 1315 Fearington Post Pittsboro, NC 27312 J19,J26,F2,F9,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000018

All persons having claims against **HELEN MARY KNAPP**, deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of April, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 26th day of January, 2023. Andrea Paula Judge, Executor 35 John Laurel Dr Murphy, NC 28906 J26,F2,F9,F16,4tp

### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 SP 129

Under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed by F. NORTON DICKMAN, III to Trust, Inc., Trustee(s), which was dated April 10, 2007 and recorded on May 1, 2007 in Book 01331 at Page 1169, Chatham County Registry, North Carolina.

Default having been made of the note thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Trustee Services

of Carolina, LLC, having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust, and the holder of the note evidencing said default having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned **Substitute Trustee** will offer for sale at the courthouse door of the county courthouse where the property is located, or the usual and customary location at the county courthouse for conducting the sale on February 7, 2023 at 01:00 PM, and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described property situated in Chatham County, North Carolina, to wit:

**ALL THAT REAL PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF CHATHAM, STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA:**

BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO THE GRANTOR BY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 630, PAGE 465 CHATHAM

**COUNTY REGISTRY**, TO WHICH DEED REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE FOR A MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROPERTY.

And being more particularly described by metes and bounds according to said Deed as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pipe in the eastern margin of NC Highway No. 87, said stake being situate southwardly along said highway .11 miles from intersection of said highway with NCSR 1546, and being a corner with property owned by Joseph W. DeGraffenreidt and running thence from said beginning point North 72 degrees 04 minutes 22 seconds East 142.69 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence South 23 degrees 30 minutes East 331.08 feet to an existing iron pipe in the line of William B. Bland; thence with Bland's line South 72 degrees 47 minutes 32 seconds West 157.64 feet to an established iron pipe situated in the eastern margin of NC No. 87; thence with the eastern margin of Highway 87 North 21 degrees 24 minutes 09 seconds West 306.77 feet to the point and place of BEGINNING, containing 1.123 acres, according to a survey and plat prepared by Smith & Smith Surveyors entitled "Survey for F. Norton Dickman, III" dated November 29, 1993.

Save and except any releases, deeds of release or prior conveyances of record.

Said property is commonly known as **7610 Hwy 87 N, Pittsboro, NC 27312**.

A Certified Check ONLY (no personal checks) of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, will be required at the time of the sale. Following the expiration of the statutory upset bid period, all the remaining amounts are immediately due and owing.

**THIRD PARTY PURCHASERS MUST PAY THE EXCISE TAX AND THE RECORDING COSTS FOR THEIR DEED.**

Said property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS WHERE IS". There are no representations of warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at, or relating to the property being offered for sale. This sale is made subject to all prior liens, unpaid taxes, any unpaid land transfer taxes, special assessments, easements, rights of way, deeds of release, and any other encumbrances or exceptions of record.

**To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the current owner(s) of the property is/are All Lawful Heirs of F. Norton Dickman, III.**

An Order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold.

Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but no more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination [NCGS § 45-21.16A(b)(2)]. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit.

Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of

the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in their sole discretion, if they believe the challenge to have



(919) 663-2850  
F2,F9,F16,F23,4tc**NOTICE TO CREDITORS****NORTH CAROLINA****CHATHAM COUNTY****FILE NO: 23 E 56**

All persons having claims against **LEON DAVIS LEE, SR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 2nd day of February, 2023.

Cledia Lee Holland, Executrix  
181 Lee's Point  
Moncure, NC 27559

F2,F9,F16,F23,4tp

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE AN AIR QUALITY PERMIT STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

The North Carolina Division of Air Quality (DAQ) hereby gives notice of its intent to issue an Air Quality Permit to: Duke Energy Progress, LLC - Cape Fear STAR Facility, 500 C P and L Road, Moncure, NC 27559, Chatham County, Application ID: 1900134.21A, Permit No.: 10583T02.

This facility applied for an Air Quality Title V Operation Permit which meets the requirements specified in 15A, North Carolina Administrative Code 02Q .0500.

Persons wishing to submit written comments or request a public hearing regarding the Air Quality Title V Operation Permit are invited to do so.

Requests for a public hearing must be in writing and include a statement supporting the need for such a hearing, an indication of your interest in the facility, and a brief summary of the information intended to be offered at such hearing.

The Public comment period begins on February 2, 2023 and will run through March 4, 2023. Written comments or requests for a public hearing should be postmarked no later than March 4, 2023 and addressed to Betty Gatano, Division of Air Quality, 1641 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1641.

Written comments may also be submitted during the public comment period via email at the following address: daq.publiccomments@ncdenr.gov

Please type "Duke STAR.21A" in the subject line. All comments received prior to this date will be considered in the final determinations regarding the Air Quality Permit. A public hearing may be held if the Director of the DAQ determines that significant public interest exists or that the public interest will be served.

Interested persons may obtain additional information, including copies of the permit, application, all other relevant supporting materials, and all other materials available to DAQ that are relevant to the permit decision by writing to the above address or calling Betty Gatano at 919-707-8736. Interested persons are encouraged to review these materials during normal business hours at either of the following locations: NCDEQ, Division of Air Quality, 217 West Jones Street, Suite 4000, Raleigh, NC 27603. -or- Raleigh Regional Office, 3800 Barrett Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609.

Mark J. Cuilla, EIT, CPM, Chief, Permitting Section

Division of Air Quality, NCDEQ

F2,1tc

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **CHARLOTTE RICHARDS HALL** 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 4th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This the 26th day of January, 2023.

William Valmer Hall,

Executor of

The Estate of Charlotte Richards Hall

2525 Harleston

Green Drive

Florence, South

Carolina 29505

MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER

& LEE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BOX 629

SILER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

27344

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **LIZZIE VALERIE MCLAURIN, LIZZIE W. MCLAURIN, LIZZIE WOMBLE MCLAURIN**, 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 4th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This the 26th day of January, 2023.

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **LEON DAVIS LEE, SR.**, deceased, 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 4th day of May, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

This the 2nd day of February, 2023.

Cledia Lee Holland, Executrix  
181 Lee's Point  
Moncure, NC 27559

F2,F9,F16,F23,4tp

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **KARL KUO-LIANG CHANG**, also known as **KARL L. CHANG**, of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on December 20, 2022, are notified to present them to Cynthia Chang Donovan, Executor of the Estate of Karl L. Chang, in c/o Michael S. Munson, Attorney for the Estate, at Munson Law Firm, PLLC, P.O. Box 4312 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27515, on or before May 10, 2023. Failure to present a claim in a timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar or recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Karl L. Chang. Those indebted to the deceased are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.

Michael S. Munson

Munson Law Firm PLLC

P.O. Box 4312

Chapel Hill, NC 27515

F2,F9,F16,F23,4tp

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Chapel Hill, NC 27515

F2,F9,F16,F23,4tp

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **KARL KUO-LIANG CHANG**, also known as **KARL L. CHANG**, of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on December 20, 2022, are notified to present them to Cynthia Chang Donovan, Executor of the Estate of Karl L. Chang, in c/o Michael S. Munson, Attorney for the Estate, at Munson Law Firm, PLLC, P.O. Box 4312 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27515, on or before May 10, 2023. Failure to present a claim in a timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar or recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Karl L. Chang. Those indebted to the deceased are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.

Michael S. Munson

Munson Law Firm PLLC

P.O. Box 4312

Chapel Hill, NC 27515

F2,F9,F16,F23,4tp

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# SPORTS

NEWS &  
ENTERTAINMENT

FEBRUARY 2 - 8, 2023 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

## Northwood junior Powell, county's most recent 1,000-point scorer, continues rise



BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record Sports Editor

PITTSBORO — One of the best basketball players in Chatham County, and one of the hottest prospects in the Class of 2024, Northwood junior Drake Powell passed a major personal milestone last week.

Playing in front of a raucous home crowd last Tuesday, Powell scored a game-high 24 points, passing 1,000 for his career and leading the Chargers' boys basketball team to a 70-17 win over conference opponent Cedar Ridge.

In 65 career games at Northwood, the junior guard has 1,026 career points, an average of 15.8 per game.

"Going into the game, my coach told me I needed 23 points to surpass 1,000," Powell said. "I really wasn't too worried about it. I just wanted to play my game, rebound, pass, score, play defense, do everything I normally do and let it come naturally. I didn't want to go out there gunning for it, really. But when it happened, and I scored the point leading to 1,000, it was a great moment. All my teammates congratulated me and the fans



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood junior Drake Powell (32) scored his 1,000th career point in a win over Cedar Ridge last Tuesday.

Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood junior Drake Powell (32) is averaging 18.9 points, 7.0 rebounds and 4.1 assists per game this season.

See POWELL, page B4

### WRESTLING

## Seaforth freshman Rosenmarkle turning heads as one of top girls in state

BY DAN E. WAY  
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — Keira Rosenmarkle laughs and blushes a bit when asked whether she's a trendsetter for girls wrestling in North Carolina.

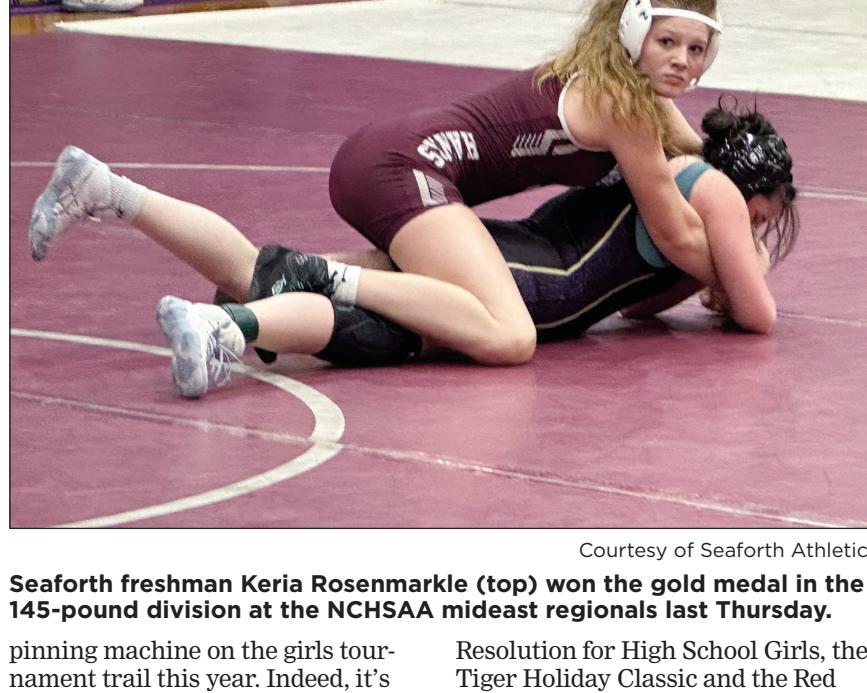
A blonde bulldog at center circle, the Seaforth freshman is decidedly more timid discussing her mat prowess. After a pause to reflect, she humbly admits that her success has made some waves in the wrestling world.

"I guess at the beginning of the season I was winning most of my matches against the guys and you don't normally see that around here," Rosenmarkle said.

Her victory against cross-county rival Northwood put a punctuation mark on her wrestling resume. As her opponent stood up, Rosenmarkle followed. Staying close, she tightened a body lock from behind, lowered her level and dropped straight backwards, her foe helplessly being tossed head over heels into the air and onto his back for the pin. It was the sort of acrobatic, crowd-thrilling throw one might expect from a seasoned freestyle or Greco-Roman grappler.

"That's how people started to find out about me, through that match," she said.

In addition to her varsity role with Seaforth, Rosenmarkle has been a



Courtesy of Seaforth Athletics

Seaforth freshman Keira Rosenmarkle (top) won the gold medal in the 145-pound division at the NCHSAA mideast regionals last Thursday.

pinning machine on the girls tournament trail this year. Indeed, it's a rare opponent that can go the distance with her. So far this season, she has seized the gold at the Jolly Roger Girls Invitational, the Wakefield Girls Winter Rumble, the Elite Resolution for 15 and Under Girls and the Elite

Resolution for High School Girls, the Tiger Holiday Classic and the Red Wolf Girls Invitational.

"My season has been pretty successful," she said in a classic case of understatement.

See FRESHMAN, page B2

Ossai's error offers a lesson in empathy



The aftermath of Sunday's AFC Championship game between the Kansas City Chiefs and Cincinnati Bengals offered a clear glimpse into what it means to be both a good and a bad teammate.

The game — which ended in favor of the Chiefs, 23-20 — was a welcome competitive contest after Philadelphia blew out San Francisco, 31-7, in the NFC Championship earlier in the day. But it was mired by a costly late mistake by Bengals' defensive end Joseph Ossai, who was called for a late hit on Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes with less than 10 seconds left, setting up the Harrison Butker's game-winning field goal.

Ossai was visibly upset right after the play, and it truly hurt watching him cry at the end of the bench as Kansas City lined up for the kick that sent his team home. You could plainly see Ossai understood the gravity of his mistake, and the emotions of Cincinnati being so close to making a second Super Bowl undoubtedly weighed heavy in those moments.

In the immediate aftermath of the game, as the Bengals returned to their locker room, Cincinnati linebacker Germaine Pratt shouted out to no one in particular as cameras rolled.

"Why would you touch the f---ing quarterback?" Pratt yelled, obviously referencing Ossai's penalty.

Pratt eventually apologized for his remarks Monday morning, but deserves every bit of criticism thrown his way in the first place. Good teammates are supposed to build each other up and empathize when they make mistakes. Instead, Pratt decided to light up Ossai, knowing a camera would likely pick up what he said.

Luckily, a few minutes later, Cincinnati defensive lineman B.J. Hill stepped to the plate and showed Pratt and the rest of the NFL what it means to stand by one of your brothers. As media swarmed around Ossai, trying to get his comments on the penalty that led to the game-winning kick, Hill stood right beside him, daring any reporter to ask an unfair question or place blame on Ossai for the team's season ending.

I would encourage any local athletes reading this to act as a Hill, and not a Pratt. If your teammate makes a mistake, be the first

### BOYS BASKETBALL

## Chatham Central upsets Seaforth

BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record Sports Editor

Fighting to stay alive for the Mid-Carolina Conference regular season title, the Chatham Central boys basketball team pulled off one of the upsets of the season Friday night by defeating Seaforth, 74-68.

The Bears were led by a career-high 33 points from senior Brandon Toomer, who knocked down 12-of-19 shots, including seven-of-13 three-pointers. Joining Toomer with at least 10 points were junior Wesley Clewis (21) and sophomore

Reid Albright (10). The win improved Central to 11-6 overall and 5-3 in league play.

"It felt great," said Bears head coach Robert Burke. "The guys came out and had a really strong offensive night. And the difference, I thought, was that we played a lot better defense than the last time we played them."

In their first matchup with the Hawks (13-6, 8-1 MCC) on Jan. 3, the Bears lost 69-56. Burke admitted his team put too much of an emphasis

See CENTRAL, page B4



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central senior Brandon Toomer (4) scored a career-high 33 points Friday night in a 74-68 win over Seaforth.

See EMPATHY, page B4

**SCORES****TUESDAY, JANUARY 24****Girls basketball**

Northwood 58, Cedar Ridge 34  
 Seaforth 43, Bartlett Yancey 27  
 Cummings 45, Jordan-Matthews 32  
 Chatham Charter 61, River Mill 16  
 Woods Charter 42, Southern Lake Academy 31

**Boys basketball**

Northwood 70, Cedar Ridge 17  
 Seaforth 54, Bartlett Yancey 51 (OT)  
 Cummings 85, Jordan-Matthews 57  
 Chatham Charter 78, River Mill 34  
 Southern Lake Academy 42, Woods Charter 41

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25****Swimming**

Northwood boys finish third, girls finish fourth at Central 3A Conference Championships

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 26****Girls basketball**

Chatham Charter 61, Clover Garden 36

**Boys basketball**

Chatham Charter 84, Clover Garden 24

**Swimming**

Seaforth wins both boys and girls Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Championships

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 27****Girls basketball**

Northwood 70, Person 9  
 Seaforth 30, Chatham Central 28

**Boys basketball****SCORES AND SCHEDULES**

River Mill 67, Woods Charter 33  
 Northwood 82, Person 63  
 Chatham Central 74, Seaforth 68

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28****Wrestling**

Seaforth wins first round of 2A dual team state playoffs over Ayden-Grifton, 54-24. Seaforth lost in the second round to Manteo, 36-34.

**SCHEDULES****TUESDAY, JANUARY 31****Indoor track**

Northwood, Seaforth at Eastern Alamance Polar Bear (4 p.m.)

**Girls basketball**

Northwood at Burlington School (6 p.m.)  
 Seaforth vs. Jordan-Matthews (6 p.m.)  
 Chatham Central at Cummings (6 p.m.)  
 Chatham Charter vs. Southern Wake Academy (6 p.m.)  
 Woods Charter at Triangle Math & Science (6 p.m.)

**Boys basketball**

Seaforth vs. Jordan-Matthews (7:30 p.m.)  
 Chatham Central at Cummings (7:30 p.m.)  
 Chatham Charter vs. Southern Wake Academy (7:30 p.m.)  
 Woods Charter at Triangle Math & Science (7:30 p.m.)

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1****Swimming**

Northwood boys finish third, girls finish fourth at Central 3A Conference Championships

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2****Girls basketball**

Seaforth vs. Chapel Hill (6 p.m.)

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3****Girls basketball**

Northwood vs. Orange (5:30 p.m.)  
 Seaforth vs. North Moore (6 p.m.)  
 Jordan-Matthews vs. Chatham Central (6:30 p.m.)  
 Chatham Charter vs. Triangle Math & Science (6 p.m.)

**Boys basketball**

Northwood vs. Orange (7 p.m.)  
 Seaforth vs. North Moore (7:30 p.m.)  
 Jordan-Matthews vs. Chatham Central (8 p.m.)  
 Chatham Charter vs. Triangle Math & Science (7:30 p.m.)

**Wrestling**

Girls wrestling state championships in Greensboro (All day)

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4****Wrestling**

Girls wrestling state championships in Greensboro (All day)  
 Northwood in first round of 3A dual team tournament (9 a.m.)

**Swimming**

Seaforth at 1A/2A mideast regional championships at Greensboro Aquatic Center (1:30 p.m.)

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7****Girls basketball**

Northwood at Eastern Alamance (6 p.m.)  
 Chatham Central vs. Bartlett Yancey (6 p.m.)  
 Woods Charter vs. Chatham Charter (6 p.m.)

**Boys basketball**

Northwood at Eastern Alamance (7:30 p.m.)  
 Chatham Central vs. Bartlett Yancey (7:30 p.m.)  
 Woods Charter vs. Chatham Charter (7:30 p.m.)

**WRESTLING**

# Missed opportunities haunt Seaforth in 2nd round of dual team state playoffs

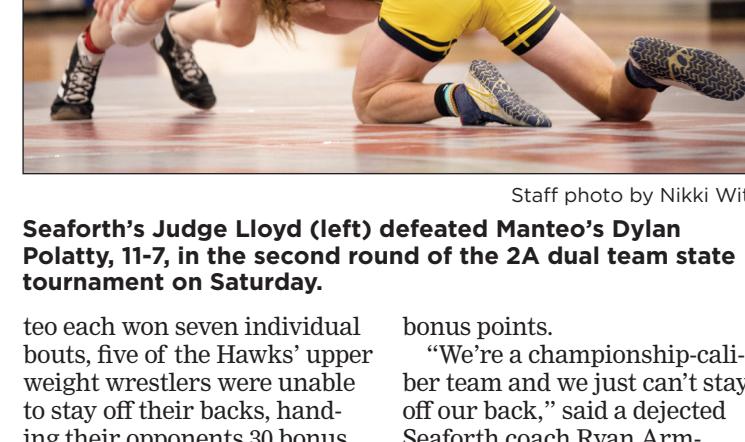
**BY DAN E. WAY**

News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — The Seaforth wrestling team had glory on their minds, but lead in its shoulders. After advancing to the second round of the N.C. High School Athletic Association team dual state tournament for the first time in the school's short history Saturday afternoon, the Hawks lost a 36-34 heart-breaker to Manteo which bounced them from their chase for the crown.

Wrestling on their home mats, the No. 4 seed Hawks dominated Pitt County's Ayden-Grifton, 54-25, in the first round, while Dare County's No. 6 Manteo crushed Pasquotank County for Northeastern, 70-9, in the first round to set up the second round match.

Although Seaforth and Man-



Staff photo by Nikki Witt

**Seaforth's Judge Lloyd (left) defeated Manteo's Dylan Polatty, 11-7, in the second round of the 2A dual team state tournament on Saturday.**

teo each won seven individual bouts, five of the Hawks' upper weight wrestlers were unable to stay off their backs, handing their opponents 30 bonus points that determined the outcome. Seaforth collected only four wins by fall for 24

bonus points.

"We're a championship-caliber team and we just can't stay off our back," said a dejected Seaforth coach Ryan Armstrong. "We've been fighting with the boys all year: If we don't get pinned, we win. If we

get them in that third period we win. ... There's no reason we're not going into the third round."

In a team showdown replete with "what-ifs," Alex Hinchman at 170 and Palmer Moad at 285 were both controlling their bouts, but both ended up decked. Had they won, there would have been at least an 18-point shift in the scoring, giving the Hawks an easy victory.

The outcome also could have been different if 145-pound standout freshman Keira Rosenmarkle had been in the lineup. Armstrong held her out of competition after she had a bruising women's regional tournament where she captured gold Thursday. He wanted to make sure she was healthy and focused for this weekend's state tournament, and substituted Caden Brewer in the lineup.

"It probably would have made a difference with her in the lineup today," Armstrong said. "Caden wrestled very hard, but came up just short."

The Hawks also juggled their lower weights, which might have cost them points. Armstrong put backup Jordan Miller in at 106, moved Gabe Rogers up to 113, Josh Miller to 120, and Layne Armstrong to 126.

If Miller had been able to pin his opponent, Seaforth would have walked out of Saturday's second round with the victory. Instead, he won by major decision against Thalia Aguirre Gomez, who qualified for the women's state tournament with a bronze at Thursday's East Regional Tournament.

"I think we underestimated her," Armstrong said. "We probably could have made a

See **WRESTLING**, page B5

**FRESHMAN**

Continued from page B1

Her favorite move?  
 "Definitely a hip toss," she said.

Last Thursday, Jan. 26, Rosenmarkle added to her impressive credentials by winning gold at the Mideast Regional Tournament, qualifying her for the NCHSAA's third annual girls wrestling invitational state tournament.

"She had two pins and a very decisive finals match with a girl that kind of used her head to talk, gave her two black eyes, but the (9-5) score looks closer than what the match was," said Seaforth coach Ryan Armstrong. "That girl placed second at state last year, so we have high hopes for Keira."

"That girl" is Sumaiya Aamoud of Jack Britt,

this year's No. 1 seed and champion at the United 8 Conference tournament who was runner-up at the 2022 NCHSAA Invitational at 145. It was the second victory Rosenmarkle claimed over Aamoud this season, along with an 8-3 victory at the Tiger Holiday Classic.

Armstrong held Rosenmarkle out of the state team duals over the past weekend to allow her to recover from her bruising regional tournament and to stay mentally sharp for her state tournament. But she found a way to stay involved. She worked a scoring table while sporting a pair of shinners.

The two-day state tournament will be split between preliminary matches at the RISE Sports Complex in Bermuda Run in Davie County on Friday, with the final rounds taking

place at the Greensboro Coliseum on Saturday.

"We're excited to watch her wrestle this weekend," Armstrong said.

"The work she's putting in the room, I'm not going to jinx her, but I think her chances are good."

"Hopefully I'll place at girls state," Rosenmarkle said. "I need to work on my mindset — a lot, definitely — before my matches. That's the main thing. As far as my technique goes, I need to be more aggressive."

She does not believe she is at a disadvantage wrestling against the boys in terms of upper-body power, but concedes more strength would be beneficial. She is not afraid of stepping onto the mat with a boy, but is looking forward to next season when the NCHSAA will have sanctioned girls teams.

Seaforth started this

season with eight girls wrestlers, but the numbers have fallen off as the season progressed.

Armstrong expects to put a good squad together next year and get a girls coach.

Rosenmarkle said she has been welcomed into the Seaforth wrestling family.

"I love being on the team. I definitely feel a part of it," she said. "It's like I'm one of the guys. They don't treat me any differently."

Rosenmarkle doesn't come from a wrestling family. But her father owns a jiu-jitsu dojo in Wisconsin where she used to hang around.

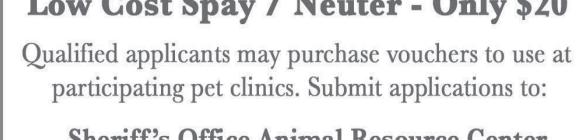
"One of the coaches there, when I was 9, said you ought to get into wrestling. So I tried it and I've been doing it for about five years now," said Rosenmarkle, who moved to North Carolina in 2020.

Armstrong is happy she landed at Seaforth.

"She's going to be something. This young lady is beating boys at her weight, if not above her weight," Armstrong

said. "She's undefeated in girls wrestling this year.

We've got high hopes for her. We're going to see her on the podium at states for the girls this year."



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## GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Seaforth on fire as season draws to close; Chargers, Knights not far behind

BY JEREMY VERNON  
News + Record Sports  
Editor

With only a handful of games left in the regular

season, the girls basketball team with the best record in Chatham County is Seaforth, which carried a 16-2 overall record and a 9-0 conference

mark into its matchup with Jordan-Matthews on Tuesday, which occurred after press time.

Competing as a varsity squad for the second

season, the Hawks have far surpassed expectations under head coach Charles Byrd. Last season, Seaforth also had a solid showing, going 19-8 overall and winning the Mid-Carolina Conference with a 12-0 league record. This year's Hawks will be able to clinch their second straight regular season conference title with a win against North Moore at home on Friday at 6 p.m.

Seaforth's top scorer this season has been sophomore Gabby White, who is currently leads the team in points (15.5), rebounds (9.5), assists (3.1) and steals (3.8) per game. Also averaging double-digit points is fellow sophomore Peyton Collins (12.1), while junior Hannah Ajayi and freshman Katherine Leonard are both averaging 8.5 points per game.

The Hawks have been particularly stingy on the defensive end, allowing their opponents an

average of 29.2 points per game, by far the best mark in the county. Across their current six-game winning streak, Seaforth has allowed less than 20 points four times and less than 30 in all six games.

The highlight of Seaforth's remaining schedule is its regular-season finale on Feb. 11 against Chatham Charter, which is 15-4 overall and 6-0 in conference play. The Knights entered Tuesday's game against Southern Wake Academy on a four-game winning streak, during which they've outscored their opponents by an average of 30.3 points per game.

Chatham Charter has had the top individual player in the county this season in senior Tamaya Walden. The 5-foot-7 guard recently passed 1,500 career points, and in 19 games this season she is averaging a county-high 21.4 points per game to go with 4.9

assists and 3.4 steals. One other Knight — junior Meah Brooks (13.1) — is currently averaging at least 10 points per game.

Led by head coach Jeff Patterson, Chatham Charter is just a few wins away from clinching the conference regular season title for the fourth straight season. Last season, the Knights made it into the second round of the 1A state tournament before falling to Clover Garden School. But in two meetings with CGS this season, Chatham Charter is 2-0 with an average margin of victory of 16.5 points.

The only other Chatham County girls basketball team other than Seaforth and Chatham Charter with at least 15 wins is Northwood, which entered Tuesday's game against the Burlington School with a 16-4 record and a 9-0 mark in Central 3A Conference play.

See SEAFORTH, page B4



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Seaforth junior Hannah Ajayi works against two defenders in the Hawks' 30-28 win over Chatham Central last Friday.



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## POWELL

Continued from page B1

had a lot of energy. I enjoyed it."

Powell was the fourth Chatham County basketball player to pass 1,000 career points this season, and he was the third to do so in a one-week span. On Jan. 18, Seaforth junior Jarin Stevenson hit 1K in the Hawks' 53-36 win over North Moore, and three days later Northwood senior Te'Keyah Bland passed the mark in a 69-35 win over New Hanover.

Entering Friday's game against Orange, Northwood has an 18-2 record through its first 20 games. The Chargers' only losses this season have come against Cannon Academy, ranked as the No. 6 team in North Carolina by MaxPreps, and Camden (N.J.), ranked No. 11 in the entire country.

Powell has been part of successful Northwood teams before. As a freshman in 2020-21, he averaged 11.4 points per game for the Charger team which made it all the way to the 3A semifinals before falling to Weddington. And last winter, Powell upped his scoring average to 16.4 points per game while leading Northwood to the fourth round of the state tournament.

Winners of their past eight

games, the Chargers look primed for another deep postseason run, one Powell hopes they can finish off on top this time around.

"This is normally the time where some may get tired physically and mentally," Powell said. "We just need to stay locked in and keep stacking days like we've been doing."

Regardless of how this season ends, or the next one, Powell's brighter days still figure to be ahead of him. A four-star recruit committed to UNC, the 6-foot-6 guard is one of the top players in North Carolina in the Class of 2024.

Powell recently rose to No. 35 nationally in ESPN's player rankings for the Class of 2024, a jump that can be attributed to several different factors. The first and foremost is his lock-down defense, which has been on display against some high-quality competition this season, including D.J. Wagner — the No. 1 player in the Class of 2023 who is committed to Kentucky.

"I've said it before, and I'll say it again — Drake is the best two-way player in the nation," Northwood head coach Matt Brown told the News + Record earlier this

season. "He takes so much pride on the defensive end. I think that's what makes him so special."

The offensive parts of Powell's game haven't been ignored, though, and he's continuing to make strides both as a shooter and a distributor. In 20 games, he's made 24-of-71 threes (33.8%). He's also been a fixture at the free-throw line, where he has made 79.2% of his 106 attempts, more than twice the next closest player.

Powell's 4.1 assists per game are also up from the 3.2 he dished out a game a year ago. He's had at least four assists in each of his last five games, including a career-high 11 in a 71-40 win over Williams on Jan. 20 and eight in a 82-63 victory over Person last Friday.

Powell figures to be a key piece whenever he arrives in Chapel Hill, along with the other members of the Tar Heels' 2024 recruiting class, which is ranked No. 1 in the nation. Powell is one of four top-50 recruits currently committed to UNC, along with Ian Jackson (No. 3), Elliot Cadeau (No. 13) and James Brown (No. 48).

"It feels great being the No. 1 class," Powell said. "I think we can have success as soon as we set foot on campus. I think we can make an immediate impact, whatever that role may be. I think the whole class has a winning mentality."

North Carolina is also after another Chatham County junior to pair alongside Powell and the others — Seaforth's Jarin Stevenson. The 6-foot-10 forward is ranked as the No. 16 player in the class, according to ESPN, and he owns an offer from UNC, as well as ones from Virginia, N.C. State, Georgetown and Missouri, among others.

Joining Powell and Stevenson — who were teammates at Northwood as freshmen back in 2020-21 — would be a coup for the Tar Heels when it comes to in-state recruiting. But before then, both Stevenson and Powell will play the rest of this season, and the next, for hundreds of excited local fans in Pittsboro and the surrounding area.

Those who wish to see Powell play this season have a few more opportunities left in the regular season. Northwood's next game is this Friday at home against Orange at 7 p.m. The Chargers defeated the Panthers, 72-47, back on Dec. 14.

*Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo\_vernon.*

## CENTRAL

Continued from page B1

on shutting down Seaforth junior Jarin Stevenson, who still managed 26 points, 17 rebounds and five assists, in that game. This time around, he told his players that the junior was likely going to "get his" no matter how they played him, and to instead focus on shutting down the Hawks' other players.

The gameplan worked to perfection, as Seaforth players outside of Stevenson — who scored 39 points on 15-of-18 shooting to go with 14 rebounds — combined to shoot just 11-of-32 (34.4%) from the field. The Bears also totaled 13 steals while turning the ball over just six times themselves.

Outside of Tuesday's game against Cummings, which occurred after press time, Central has three more games left in the regular season. The Bears already have a better record this winter than they did in 2021-22 (9-12), and look more and more dangerous every day.

Burke, for his part, has plenty of postseason experience. Prior to the 2021-22 season, Central has won at least one playoff game in each of the previous four seasons with Burke as head coach. As far as this year is concerned, Burke believes his team is starting to find its stride.

"I think they're coming together," he said. "For the most part, we have a young team. I think they're finally buying in, and understanding that we need to play both offense and defense ... We're in a good place right now. We're getting hot at the right time."

A big part of Central's success this season has been the play of Albright, who leads the team in points (18.9), rebounds (9.9), assists (4.6) and steals (2.5) per game as a sophomore. A 6-foot-1, 175-pound guard, Albright is shooting 54.2% from the field and 36.4% from 3-point range this season. He started his season with at least 20 points in four of his first five games, and he recently hit a season high with 33 points in a 96-93 loss to Eastern Randolph on Jan. 25.

"He's probably going to be one of the best shooters that's come out of Central by the time he leaves here," Burke said of Albright. "Last year as a freshman, I think he just wasn't quite in his element, and he didn't totally understand his role, as a lot of young guys don't. But he's the catalyst of the team this year. I'm glad he's a sophomore. I'll have him for two more years."

### Chatham Charter stays undefeated

Playing on the road Thursday



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Chatham Central sophomore Reid Albright (30) leads the Bears in points (18.9), rebounds (9.9), assists (4.6) and steals (2.5) per game this season.**

night at Clover Garden, the Chatham Charter boys basketball team kept its undefeated record intact with an 84-24 victory over the Grizzlies. Ahead of this Tuesday's game against Southern Wake Academy, which happened after press time, the Knights were 24-0 overall and 6-0 in conference play.

Sporting the best record of any Chatham County team this winter, Chatham Charter have been getting it done on both ends of the floor. The Knights are averaging 73.8 points per game — the top mark in the county — and are shooting 53.5% from the field and 31.4% from 3-point range. Defensively, the Knights are allowing their opponents just 30.2 points per game this season.

Leading the way statistically for Chatham Charter this season has been senior Adam Harvey, who is averaging a

team-high 17.2 points per game to go with 3.8 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 3.0 steals. Sophomore Brennen Oldham (12.7) and senior Aamir Mapp (10.5) are also averaging double-digit points, while sophomore Beau Harvey is averaging 8.9 points, 5.1 assists and 4.5 steals per game.

The Knights hope to once again play as late into the post-season as possible. Last winter, Chatham Charter lost just one game all season before falling to Hayesville, 54-43, in the 1A state championship game. This year's Knights are ranked as the No. 4 team in the 1A East region by MaxPreps, behind Bertie, Washington County and Wilson Prep.

*Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo\_vernon.*

## EMPATHY

Continued from page B1

to pick them up and let them know things are going to be OK. You know you would want the same said to you if you made a similar error.

Ossai, for his part, stood there and answered every question posed, fighting through tears the entire time.

I can't imagine what that must have been like; knowing that Ossai is just 22 years old makes me empathize with him even more.

Ossai didn't intend to commit a penalty on the final offensive snap Sunday. He was just trying to make a play, one he thought could be the difference between playing for a title in Arizona or heading back to the couch in Cincinnati.

This one dark moment should not define Ossai's season. Playing in his first NFL campaign after missing 2021 with an injury, Ossai provided key depth for Cincinnati along the defensive line, totaling 17 tackles, 3.5 sacks and two fumble recoveries in 2022.

As he continues his career, this moment should serve Ossai well. At the very least, it has shown him who his true

friends on the team are. I hope he's able to find a little bit of peace in that, and understand that there will be plenty of more opportunities to make an impact in big games.

The Bengals are coming off back-to-back AFC Championship games, and enter the offseason with the third-most cap space of any team behind Chicago and Atlanta. Cincinnati should be a major player

in free agency, as it looks to bolster its roster for another deep playoff run next fall.

Expect Ossai to be part of the plan going forward. And I would count on him to make the right play when the time comes.

*Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo\_vernon.*

## SEAFORTH

Continued from page B3

The Chargers extend their win streak to 11 games Friday night with a 70-9 victory over Person. Head coach Kerri Snipes' team has won 16 of its last 17 games overall after starting out the year 0-3.

Northwood is getting contributions from

several players this sea-

son, including seniors

Gianna McManaman

(13.0 points per game)

and Te'Keyah Bland

(12.4) and junior Skylar

Adams (10.7). The Char-

gers currently lead all

Chatham County girls

teams with 58.5 points

per game this season,

which is down slightly

from the 62.5 they aver-

aged last winter en route

to winning the 2022 3A

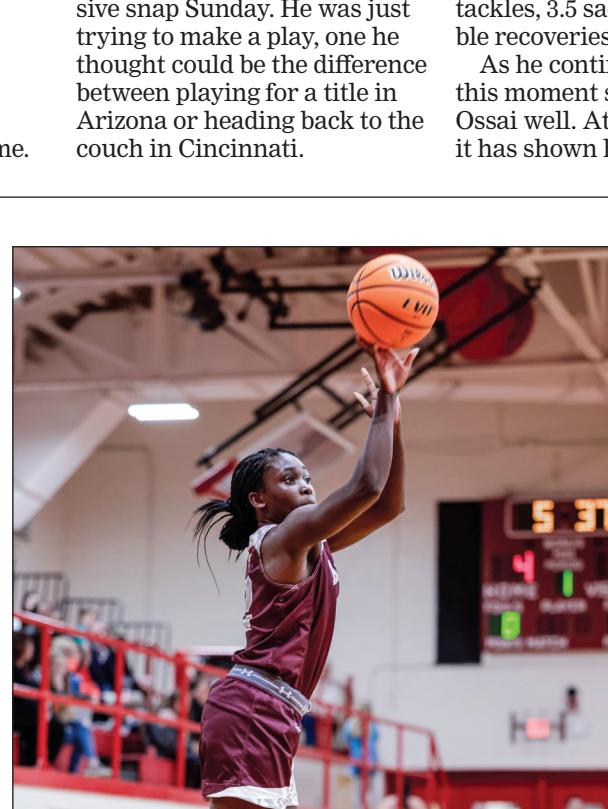
state championship.

Northwood closes out

the regular season on

Feb. 10 at home against

Western Alamance, a



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Seaforth junior Hannah Ajayi takes a shot in the Hawks' 30-28 win over Chatham Central last Friday.**

conference opponent. The Chargers have won 42 straight regular season games against league

opponents since a 48-40 loss to Chapel Hill back

on Jan. 7, 2020.

*Sports Editor Jeremy Vernon can be reached at jeremy@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @jbo\_vernon.*

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**Friday 2/3**

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## Partners

Food Lion of Siler City is proud to partner with the Salvation Army helping them serve those in need in the towns and cities the grocer serves. 'The need is great here in Chatham County and we are happy to have partners like Chris Kelley and his Salvation Army team to help meet the needs of our neighbors,' said Chris Black, manager of Food Lion #1689 in Siler City. Black, right, poses with Chris Kelley, the regional development officer for the Salvation Army of N.C.



The national recommended ratio for school counselors to students is 1:250. The ratio in North Carolina is 1:367.\*

\*WestEd: Sound Basic Education for All, 2019

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## Watch Out For Tax Season Scams

It's that time of year when we do our taxes—but it's also the same time that tax scammers go to work. What scams should you watch for—and how can you avoid being victimized?

Sadly, the list of scams is pretty long, including demands for payment or requests for "additional information" pertaining to your tax refund, in which the sender asks for your Social Security number and other personal information. These scam emails can look quite official, often incorporating the IRS logo. You might also receive scam text messages containing bogus links claiming to be the IRS website or an online "tool" that can help process your refund faster.

But keep these points in mind:

• The IRS generally won't contact you by phone and won't contact you by email, text messages or social media channels to ask for personal or financial information. The IRS begins most correspondence to taxpayers through regular mail delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.

• The IRS won't call to demand you make an immediate payment through a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer. If you owe taxes, the IRS generally will mail you a bill. And the IRS won't threaten to bring in the police or another law enforcement group to arrest you for not paying your taxes.

In general, be extremely skeptical about any type of communication purporting to be from the IRS that sounds bullying or over-inquisitive—and certainly don't give out any personal or financial information. But these fake messages aren't the only tax-season scams out there. You might even receive a direct deposit from what appears to be the U.S. Treasury Department—but if you weren't expecting it, something's likely not right. This payment could be a sign that a fraudulent tax

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return was filed in your name, and it might be followed by a communication from a supposed IRS agent requesting this over-payment be sent to them. If this happens to you, you'll want to contact the IRS right away, and you could also ask your bank to return the deposit to the government.

Other scams don't claim to originate directly from the IRS, as scammers pretend to be from real or imaginary tax organizations. For example, you could get a message from the Taxpayer Advocate Service, an independent organization within the IRS, but this agency won't contact you without a legitimate reason. Or you could receive a message from the nonexistent "Bureau of Tax Enforcement." Your best bet is to delete these messages immediately or send them to your spam folder.

Not all tax season scams originate from fraudulent IRS representatives or fake agencies. You also need to be careful about whom you hire to prepare your taxes. If possible, get a recommendation from a trusted friend or family member. And keep in mind that a legitimate tax preparer must have a valid Preparer Tax Identification Number and must sign your tax return. If someone doesn't have this number or is reluctant to sign your return, it may well be a sign that this individual is a "ghost preparer" who only wants to pocket your fee.

Tax scammers are, unfortunately, here to stay—but remaining vigilant can help you keep them from causing problems for you in this tax season and all the ones in the future.

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

Edward Jones. Member SIPC.

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**Fearrington**  
Mantoe suffered a 30-second fall to John Riley Perciful, a career 100-win wrestler, with more than 40 of those coming this year, and Manteo's all-time pin leader with 35 entering the duals.

At 195, Nick Brewster,



Seaforth heavyweight Palmer Moad (top) attempts to pin his opponent in the first round of the dual team playoffs on Saturday.

## WRESTLING

Continued from page B2

different call (on who to put against her), but it was the call we made. I stick with it. I own it."

### MANTOE 36, SEAFORTH 34

Mantoe jumped out to a 6-0 lead with wins at 145 and 152. Brewer fought Sam Cage to a 5-5 tie in the second period, but then gave up a pair of 3-point near falls and was outscored, 9-2, down the stretch to drop a 14-7 decision. At 152, William Bass tied Caleb Harris, 3-3, in the final period, but gave up the winning escape with seven seconds left in the bout.

At 160, Judge Lloyd upset Mantoe's Dylan Polatty, 11-7. Polatty is one of three 40-win members of the Mantoe team and set the school's career takedown record earlier this year. Lloyd fought back from a 7-2 second-period deficit, matching Polatty's takedown output with two of his own. Lloyd also benefited from a locking hands penalty point, as well as two stalling points against Polatty.

Mantoe then rattled off five straight wins to lead 36-3, starting with Jeremiah LaCentra decking Hinchman at 170. Hinchman was leading, 6-3, but got too high on his ride, reversed and pinned at 3:40. At 182, Seaforth's

Cole Seder suffered a 30-second fall to John Riley Perciful, a career 100-win wrestler, with more than 40 of those coming this year, and Mantoe's all-time pin leader with 35 entering the duals.

At 195, Nick Brewster, Mantoe's third 40-win wrestler this year, was locked in a 6-4 battle with Seaforth's Harrison Compton when he hit a takedown and half-nelson for the pin at 5:24. Landon Spencer clamped Seaforth's Zachary Klingel in 49 seconds at 220, and Mantoe heavyweight Erlin Zavala showed

Moad the lights at 5:17 after trailing 5-1 after two periods.

Seaforth won all the

remaining matches. At 106, Jordan Miller scored

five unanswered points

in the third period with

a double leg takedown

and cradle for the 12-4

major decision over

Gomez. Then, Rogers got

a first period takedown

against Ben Hajtun and

slapped on a half nelson

for a 36-second fall at 113, while 120-pounder Josh

Miller rocked Hector

Calderon to sleep with a

cradle at 1:21 and Armstrong

nailed a single leg

against Zach Burgess at

126, slipped in a reverse

half and trapped the

far arm for a fall in 45

seconds.

Chance Cody picked

up a pair of takedowns

and a reversal for a

6-1 win over Jackson

Donahue at 132, and Ben

Johnson racked up four

takedowns against Tony Domingo, snaking in a half nelson for a fall with just 3 seconds remaining in the bout.

"Ben was getting pinned at the beginning of the year, and he really turned it on," Armstrong said.

### SEAFORTH 54, AYDEN-GRIFTON 25

Starting at 138, Johnson dropped a 3-0 decision to the Chargers' Conor Loflin, and Ben Allen pinned the Hawks' Caden Brewer at 145 to jump out to a 9-0 lead.

William Bass got Seaforth on the board at 152 despite trailing the entire bout, as he reversed Sawyer Norville, loaded up a reverse half and decked his opponent at 5:10.

"I kind of thought I was gone, but coach was saying keep going. Keep fighting. Don't give up," Bass said. "So I just kept going. I kind of just got his head and tried to turn him."

Lloyd gave the Hawks their first team lead, 12-9, when he powered through a double leg trip for a takedown and fall with a half nelson against 160-pounder Dashawn Folks at 2:44. Hinchman extended the lead to 18-9 at 170 when he crushed Keaton Guthrie with a far side cradle for a fall at 2:42.

Cole Seder won by forfeit at 182 to push the Hawks' lead to 24-9, but at 195 Ayden-Grifton's Jack Ewell earned a 16-7 major decision against Roger Eubanks. At 220, Compton widened Seaforth's

lead to 30-13, picking up

a pair of second-period

near falls before hammering a power half to flip Nasir Ingram to his

back, switching to a reverse

half for the fall.

Moad led Josh McCoy the entire 285-pound match, but was twice called for stalling before getting taken down, getting turned to his back and giving up the ghost with a half-minute remaining, as the Chargers crept to within 30-19.

The Hawks breezed to a trio of falls and a 48-19 lead in response. Rogers decked Makayla Wallace in 31 seconds at 106, Josh Miller used a balance

check into a half nelson for a second period fall at 113 and Armstrong squeezed a headlock onto Bailor Peebles to end the 120-pound bout at 5:37.

Cody ended the match on a high note for the Hawks at 132. Trailing 8-2 in the final period against Jemarion Folks, Cody came standing, Folks fell backwards, and the Hawk pounced, lacing up a double grapevine and double underhook for the fall at 5:48.

# CHATHAM IS BOLD!

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# POLICE REPORTS

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

On Jan. 11, Jeremy Lenel Palmer, 39, of 915 Taylors Chapel Road, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a \$1,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Jan. 11, Johnny Tovar Gomez, 46, of 448 Granite Mill Blvd, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for embezzlement and identity theft. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Durham County District Court on Jan. 25.

On Jan. 13, Roy Travis McLean, 43, of 3314 Kendale Drive, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for involuntary manslaughter. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Jan. 13, Tony Eugene Lee, 56, of 5202 Old Greensboro Road, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failure to appear regarding driving while license revoked. He was issued a \$300 cash bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Feb. 7.

On Jan. 13, Ryan Alexander Seymour, 30, of 1115 Mt. Gilead Church Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Chafa Wes for misdemeanor larceny. He was issued a written promise to appear in Wake County

District Court on Feb. 9. On Jan. 13, Brandon Spencer Leaird, 45, of 2290 Marthas Chapel Road, Apex, was arrested by SSgt. Ashley Ellington for failure to appear related to child support. He was issued a \$1,000 purge payment and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court on Feb. 3.

On Jan. 13, James Andrew Powers, 38, of 287 Howard Mill Road, Robbins, was arrested by Cpl. Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Feb. 1.

On Jan. 13, John Polido-Monroy, 31, of 23 Glendale Drive, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for driving while impaired, failure to maintain lane control, and failure stop at stop sign/flashing red light. He was issued a written promise to appear in Alamance County District Court on Feb. 8.

On Jan. 13, John Polido-Monroy was also arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for resisting a public officer. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Feb. 15.

On Jan. 13, Eder Rangel Garcia, 21, of 215 Elder Road, Siler City, was arrested by Cpl. Michael Cox for failure to appear. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court on Feb. 8.

On Jan. 14, Jon Reid Brooks, 41, of 1758 Jessie Bridges

Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for breaking and entering, larceny after breaking/entering, and possession of stolen goods/property. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Jan. 14, Linda Annette Liles, 57, of 1107 North Avenue, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for failure to appear regarding a citation. She was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court on Feb. 6.

On Jan. 14, Melissa Damian, 29, of 129 Miss Jane Way Unit B, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for failure to appear regarding a citation. She was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court on Feb. 1.

On Jan. 15, Alisha Marie Gut, 36, of 311 Lindsay Street, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Conner Lee for larceny. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Feb. 8.

On Jan. 16, Robert Leroy Mantooth, 38, of 4010 Hillman Grove Road, Cameron, was arrested by Deputy Andrew R. Gray for failure to appear. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Moore County District Court on Jan. 26.

On Jan. 16, Robert Leroy Mantooth was also arrested by Deputy Moises Carvajal for cyberstalking, communicating threats, trespassing, and harassing phone call. He was is-

sued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Feb. 1.

On Jan. 16, Savannah Leigh Jackson, 22, of 5420 Lafayette Drive, Fuquay-Varina, was arrested by SSgt. Chris Burger for exceeding the posted speed limit, failure to heed to blue lights and siren, and resist/delay/obstruction. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on Feb. 8.

On Jan. 18, Danny Joe Phillips, 48, of 277 Hudson Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Welch for Domestic Violence Protective Order violation. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Feb. 1.

On Jan. 20, Timothy Alvis Holt, 61, of 923 Horton Pond Road, Apex, was arrested by Deputy Reid Allshouse for intoxicated and disruptive. He was issued a \$250 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Jan. 20, Amanda Lee Jett, 42, of 2091 NC 42 Hwy, Monroe, was arrested by Deputy Reid Allshouse for Domestic Violence Protective Order violation and 2nd degree trespassing. She was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Feb. 8.

On Jan. 22, Brayan Aniel Serapio Infante, 22, of 235 Millennium Drive, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failure to appear related to driving while impaired. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond

and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court on Feb. 22.

On Jan. 23, Erik Freeman Rodgers, 46, of 2445 Maplevalley Drive SE, Kentwood, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for assault on a government official, resisting a public officer, and reckless driving to endanger. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County Court on Feb. 22.

On Jan. 23, Erik Freeman Rodgers was also arrested by Deputy Joseph Scott for driving under the influence. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Feb. 23.

On Jan. 24, Charles Winslow Chesley, 57, of 1315 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for stalking and Domestic Violence Protective Order violation. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Jan. 30.

On Jan. 24, Cornelius Jonte Fowler, 30, of 3 Shepherd Lane, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for failure to return rental property. He was issued a written promise to appear in Orange County District Court on Feb. 27.

On Jan. 25, Amanda Lee Jett, 42, of 2091 NC 42 Hwy, Monroe, was arrested by Deputy Moises Carvajal for Domestic Violence Protective Order violation. She was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on Feb. 8.



## YMCA LEPRECHAUN DASH 5K/10K

March 11, 2023 | Pittsboro, NC

### RACE TO SUPPORT OUR CHATHAM COUNTY KIDS!

The Chatham YMCA Leprechaun Dash 5K/10K is a fabulous, fun opportunity to support our community with friends, family and neighbors. Walk, stroll or walk the 5K or 10K courses through Chatham Park and back to the heart of downtown Pittsboro!



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## 'THE BEAUTY OF DUSK'

# Frank Bruni's new perspective on life

NYT columnist will visit Fearrington Village on Feb. 11 to discuss his new book

BY BEN RAPPAPORT  
News + Record Staff

When you're a reporter, your whole life is a potential copy.

The sentiment from journalist Nora Ephron rang in Frank Bruni's mind when he woke up one morning in 2017 and suddenly couldn't see out of his right eye.

He'd suffered a rare stroke that caused permanent vision loss in the eye. And he soon learned from doctors the same disorder could ravage his other eye, too. He could lose his sight altogether.

Out of habit, the New York Times columnist began taking notes on his experiences. What started as a coping skill soon became the basis for his recently released book, "The Beauty of Dusk: On Vision Lost and Found."

Bruni's memoir captures the struggle of relearning how he sees the world. But more than that, the book is a testament to the neuroplasticity of humanity and an ode to our ability to overcome what may feel like insurmountable challenges.

Bruni, a UNC graduate and Chapel Hill resident, has been a prominent journalist for more than three decades; he's worked more than 25 years at the New York Times, the last 10 of them as a columnist. He was also a White House correspondent, Rome bureau chief and chief restaurant critic. In July 2021, he became a professor at Duke University, teaching media-oriented classes in the Sanford School of Public Policy. He continues to write a weekly newsletter for the New York Times and write essays as one of the newspaper's Contributing Opinion Writers.

"The Beauty of Dusk" has already seen widespread success,

reaching fifth on the hardcover nonfiction and the combined print and e-book nonfiction New York Times bestsellers lists. To accompany the release of the paperback version, on Feb. 11 Bruni will visit McIntyre's Books in Fearrington Village to discuss his writing process and meet with readers.

The News + Record talked with Bruni ahead of the event about his writing process and what he learned through his memoir. The following has been edited for clarity and brevity:

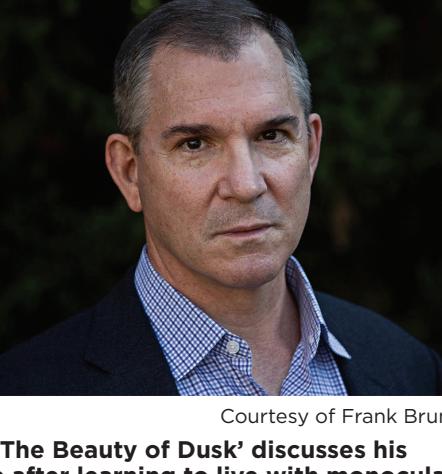
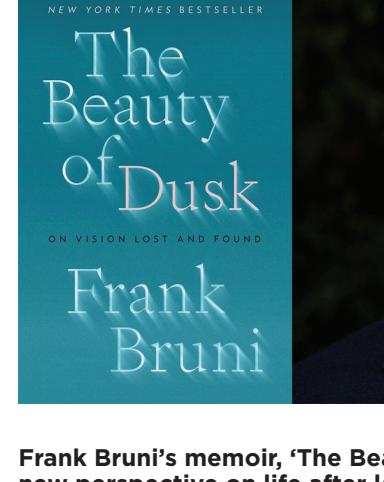
**What was your process in writing this book? What made you believe your personal story would stick with people?**

When you go through something unusual enough, upsetting enough, challenging enough, you realize that's a story. And as a storyteller, you don't overlook that stuff.

I had something really dramatic happen to me, which is I woke up and couldn't see clearly. Within a matter of days I was told I'd had this very rare stroke of my right optic nerve, and was told that I would live from that moment forward. I wouldn't have vision in that eye, and still live in danger of the same thing happening in my other eye.

So as I went through this medical odyssey of that and its emotional challenges, I instinctively just started taking notes. Pretty soon I realized that this dramatic event was worth writing about because it's also universal enough.

Almost all of us have these junctures where life deals us a physical setback or challenge that requires us to learn new things about ourselves. It can be an emotional or psychological thing, everybody has



Courtesy of Frank Bruni

**Frank Bruni's memoir, 'The Beauty of Dusk' discusses his new perspective on life after learning to live with monocular vision.**

#### IF YOU'RE GOING

Frank Bruni will be providing this discussion at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11, at McIntyre's Books in Fearrington Village. To attend this reading, the store requires proof of paperback book purchase (\$19) from McIntyre's. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.fearrington.com/events/frank-bruni-the-beauty-of-dusk](http://www.fearrington.com/events/frank-bruni-the-beauty-of-dusk).

these forks in the road. I felt like hopefully I could write something that would have resonance for any number of challenges we face in our lives.

**How does writing a book differ from your other reporting and writing work? What makes it unique?**

It's about such intimate and personal journeys, which differs from most of what I write because I'm not normally the star. As a columnist I mostly focus on politicians or educators or society, but rarely center myself in that narrative.

My previous memoir also differs from this because it dealt with my younger self and how that impacts me today.

(Note: the other memoir by Bruni, "Born Round," discuss-

es his struggles with eating disorders as a child and how he changed his relationship with food to eventually become a restaurant critic for the New York Times.)

This writing also felt different to me because I tried to talk with a lot of people throughout the process who had similar, yet definitively different struggles that at one time felt insurmountable. I talked with folks who experienced chronic pain, Parkinson's disease, hearing loss, any variety of things. All their struggles held lessons that resonated with me, and hopefully the readers. So it's bifurcated in that way — it's my story, but also other people's, too.

The premise of the memoir feels very based in resilience, and it seems that's a clear message you want people to gather. What other lessons do you hope people walk away with from this book?

I didn't want to write something that felt too self-indulgent. I wanted to write something that I felt would be instructive. I want people to see that we, as humans, are much more elastic than we realize.

This physiological concept of neuroplasticity is hugely underestimated in our day to day lives, except when we are con-

fronted with these curveballs, like losing our vision for example, that force that process to take shape. And of course, this concept is metaphorically true, too. You will find yourself more able to enjoy things and open up when you realize we have this astounding ability to adjust and adapt.

We can adjust in ways that maximize our joy. I think we fail to appreciate that until we are called to do it, but knowing it's there should be a great source of comfort and reassurance.

As doors close you really have a choice: you can tally the slights, or you can realize there's no joy in wallowing in that and there's no joy in it either. You can instead focus on the serious, emotional work of focusing on what remains, and all the blessings you still have. The ability to "accentuate the positives and eliminate the negatives," as Johnny Mercer would say, exists in many of us and is a real key to contentment in life.

**What can people who attend the Fearrington Village event on Feb. 11 expect?**

When I do events like this, especially when they're near where I live, I really let them be guided by the participants. My expectation based on experience is that they'll want to talk about the content of the book for about 20 minutes, but then the rest really dives anywhere and everywhere, which is the fun part for me.

People will want to talk about being a restaurant critic, some will want to talk about the media in the age of Donald Trump, others about the 2024 Presidential Election. It just varies widely and I look forward to seeing what the people of Fearrington and Chatham have on their minds.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at [brappaport@chathamnr.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter @b\_rappaport.

#### COUNCIL ON AGING | 1ST OF 4 PARTS

## For Dietrich, Senior Games is nothing but net

BY JIMMY LEWIS  
Chatham County Council on Aging

No matter where life has steered Rodney Dietrich, basketball is his universal language.

Whether strengthening the bonds with his older brother, reaching the at-risk youth population or building relationships in his current role as integrated services specialist and aging social worker at the Chatham County Council on Aging, every shot taken by the Buffalo, New York, native has been steeped in purpose.

Given Dietrich's position in the "50 or better" category — those who are eligible for Chatham County Senior Games — he was quickly approached by an interested party upon beginning work at the Council in January of last year.

It was Liz Lahti, manager of the Eastern Chatham Senior Center and co-coordinator for the Games, which set a participation record of 262 athletes in 2022.

"When I first started, Liz of course, she said, 'Why don't you join the Senior Games?'" Dietrich recalled. "I asked what they had, and she said that they had different categories. I said I liked the basketball, so I said I'll sign up for basketball."

While Dietrich never played on an organized team, he could be found putting shots up with his older brother constantly in the Buffalo driveway. The Harlem Globetrotters were frequent visitors to the area, allowing opportunities to see someone other than the hapless Washington Generals. From 1970-1978, the Buffalo Braves called the city home as an NBA franchise before ultimately becoming what are the modern-day Los Angeles Clippers.

"I was always fascinated by the way they handled the basketball," Dietrich said of the Globetrotters.

"I could never do anything like that!"

The many hours of shooting in the driveway — albeit with more misses than makes for the young



Courtesy of the Council on Aging

**Rodney Dietrich, Integrated Services Specialist and Aging Social Worker at the Chatham County Council on Aging, has used basketball to connect with both ends of the generational spectrum.**

Dietrich — paid off in his first Chatham County Senior Games experience. He won a gold medal in his age group for basketball shooting, which follows the "around the world" format from different areas on the court.

"It's around the world, but I'll tell you I didn't shoot it too well," Dietrich said.

On that day, it didn't matter.

Dietrich, a military veteran, was busy forming relationships — something that has served him well throughout his professional

career. At least one long trip was undertaken to see a competitor.

"The whole thing is doing it together with other people," Dietrich assured. "There was a lady who was doing it as well with me, and her family drove all the way from Virginia to come and support her. They had little signs for her. I like the togetherness of the games, but my older brother, he played. I looked up to my brother a lot growing up; he was a great guy."

See GAMES, page B8

#### HONOR ROLLS, 2023 SECOND QUARTER

##### HAW RIVER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 2ND QUARTER

**Principal's Honor Roll** (all grades 95% or above, upper school only):

Maddie Bodine, Hope Dunn, Isaac Harmon, Sarah Hull, Meredith Tetterton and Clara Zinn.

**Honor Roll** (all A's or all A's with one B and an average of 93 or above)

Jackson Batchelor, Raegan Fogleman, Nathaniel Hull, Connor Jacoby, Hannah Kelly, Sam Kratky, Amanda Mullaney, Madelyn Pallen, Lily Pintuff, Darby Powers, Jenna Smith, Braydon Timpy and Aidan Zinn.

#### COLLEGE HONORS - DEAN'S LIST

##### MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Mya Clark-Beadle of Pittsboro has been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Miami University, in Oxford, Ohio.

She is earning a Bachelor of Arts in English: Creative Writing.

#### COLLEGE HONORS - GRADUATES

##### JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Hunter Vogel of Pittsboro has graduated with a degree in Occupational Therapy - MOT from James Madison University during December 2022 commencement exercises.

Natalie Vogel of Pittsboro graduated with a degree in Occupational Therapy - MOT from James Madison University during December 2022 commencement exercises.

The college is located at Harrisonburg, Virginia.

#### ON 'RACIAL JUSTICE'

## CRC-C, NAACP sponsor essay contest

CN+R Staff Report

The Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham and the county's two NAACP branches are offering at least \$5,000 in prizes to Chatham students in an essay contest on the subject of racial justice.

Ninth- through 12th-graders from the following Chatham County high schools are eligible: Chatham Central, Jordan-Matthews, Northwood, Seaford, Chatham School of Science and Engineering, Woods Charter School and Chatham Charter.

See CONTEST, page B8

# 8th-grader Ryan Serem wins Chatham County Schools District Spelling Bee



Ryan Serem, the winner of the Chatham County Schools Spelling Bee Monday night, poses with his family and school board members Jane Allen Wilson and Del Turner. Serem is a student at Margaret B. Pollard Middle School.

From Chatham County Schools

PITTSBORO — Among the more than three dozen spellers who qualified to compete in the district-wide Spelling Bee Monday, Margaret B. Pollard 8th-grader Ryan Serem emerged as the top speller.

It's the second year the district has participated in the Scripps Spelling Bee, and Ryan's victory Monday night in the Seaford High School auditorium secured him a spot to compete in the Caroli-

**It's the second year the district has participated in the Scripps Spelling Bee.**

na Panthers Regional Bee in Charlotte.

"I am really excited about making it to the next level. I want to make my school and the school district proud," Ryan said. "There were some really great spellers in our district bee, and that has helped prepare me for the Regional Bee."

Margaret B. Pollard 8th-grader Lyra Benjamin placed second in the District Spelling Bee, and Silk Hope 8th-grader James Adkins placed third.

"I am proud of our students' hard work and poise," said Michael Triplett, CCS AIG instructional program facilitator and organizer of the event. "It's amazing how much work our students and Spelling Bee Coordinators put into preparing for the event. The dedication shows, and Chatham County Schools was

well-represented by our students at the spelling bee."

Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson applauded all the students who participated. "Our schools, our families and most of all our students should be proud of the hard work these young people put in to prepare for this competition," Jackson said. "They have put in hours and hours of preparation and I commend them for their efforts culminating in the District Spelling Bee."

## CONTEST

Continued from page B7

The 800- to 1,000-word essay should discuss how racial injustice has and continues to impact American society and democracy. Essays should examine the history of the chosen topic of racial injustice, discuss its legacy today and imagine solutions for a future free from racial injustice. Students are also encouraged to write about local injustices or local historic events to support their analysis of historical injustice. If possible, relate how this injustice has impacted their life experience. All submissions must be original.

To participate complete the essay interest form at <https://www.crc-c.org/essay-contest.html> by Feb. 20. Essays must be submitted by April 22.

At least \$5,000 will be split among the winning students.

The winner will be notified on May 5, and the Winners Presentation date is yet to be determined.

## CCS honors Education Foundation's Detzi with 'Power of One' award

From Chatham County Schools

PITTSBORO — Jaime Detzi, executive director of the Chatham Education Foundation, is the most recent recipient of Chatham County Schools' Power of One award.

The award is made monthly to honor an individual who has made an extraordinary difference through their actions.

"Ms. Detzi has worked tirelessly in support of Chatham County Schools," said Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson. "She is extremely deserving of this award and her advocacy work has had a tremendous impact on what we can do for our students. For instance, the Foundation is working to raise funds now to help our district expand our college readiness AVID program to include all middle and high schools."

In addition to fundraising for District needs, the Foundation also issues annual grants to assist teachers with innovative, engaging classroom resources and supports literacy in partnership with CCS through its Chatham Reads and Books on Break. Books on Break puts approximately 14,000 new, high-interest books into the hands of 2,200 Chatham County Schools' students each May.

"I am honored that the district has awarded me this honor. We have such a

**The district began awarding the Power of One award in conjunction with the launch of its new strategic plan at the start of the school year.**

strong partnership, and I hope my work continues to make a difference for students in Chatham County Schools," Detzi said. "Equitable educational opportunities are vital to a strong and bright future for this community, and I want to be part of ensuring that for all our children."

Detzi will be recognized at the school board's February meeting.

The district began awarding the Power of One award in conjunction with the launch of its new strategic plan at the start of the school year. Past recipients include Testing and Accountability's Susan Hussey, Bonlee Instructional Assistant and bus driver Mary Burke, Margaret B. Pollard band teacher Rebecca Clemens and Seaford sophomore Kyle Stinson.

Anyone who would like to nominate a student, staff member or community stakeholder for the Power of One award can find the form at [www.chatham.k12.nc.us](http://www.chatham.k12.nc.us). To learn more about the Chatham Education Foundation, visit [www.chathameducation-foundation.org](http://www.chathameducation-foundation.org).



Courtesy of Chatham County Schools  
Jaime Detzi (right), the executive director of the Chatham Education Foundation, was recognized by Chatham County Schools Supt. Dr. Anthony Jackson with the system's 'Power of One' award.

## GAMES

Continued from page B7

Despite that, the younger Dietrich would never sneak a one-on-one victory from his brother, the pride of Buffalo's Kensington High School. Every time there was a one-on-one battle, Dietrich would be the one retrieving the basketball after it swished through the net.

"Every time I played against him, he would never miss a shot," Dietrich said of his brother. "People, they do things, and it reminds them of something they did, the

good times that they had. Whenever I watch basketball or play basketball, it just reminds me of my time with my brother."

While Dietrich was growing up in Buffalo in the '60s and '70s, the city was undergoing a background of change. The son of a Black father and white mother, Dietrich's class was one of the first groups to go into an integrated school. His father was a bus driver for the city, and happened to be the driver for his son's first day of integration.

It was admittedly different for the multiracial Dietrich, but his family still experienced some of

the pushback to integration in the schools.

"My father was Black, but my mother was white," Dietrich said. "So it was a little different for me, but being in their family, I suffered the same things they had to go through. It was tough sometimes, but people were together and families were together."

Before arriving at the Council on Aging, Dietrich served as a facility director for at-risk teens. He was a unicorn in this particular field.

The turnover rate was high, with many unable to cope with the aggressiveness of youth

just one step away from the prison system. But Dietrich, despite being punched and spat upon in the course of his duties, became indispensable to operations and remained for 12 years.

Indeed, basketball became a primary vehicle for communication. Dietrich oversaw what was known as a Level 3 facility, which meant the next escalation involved lockup in a detention center.

The kids were quickly running out of time—and options. Some were kicked out of seven different schools and brought back report cards of all failing grades.

Via basketball, Dietrich intervened and turned

failing students into A/B honor roll recipients. They would then be allowed to play for their middle school and high school basketball teams.

"I think I got more out of them than a lot of the therapists did," Dietrich said. "In therapy, they're just sitting there across from somebody. But when you're playing a sport like basketball one-on-one or just shooting Around the World, you're playing and their minds are more at ease. They are more open to tell you things."

Dietrich interacted with a diverse population, and it was a ball and basket, plus the on-court antics, that de-escalated many situations.

"You talk about traveling, I used to have one kid that would just run around the whole court," Dietrich recalled. "He'd just hold the ball and start running. And then, he'd go and shoot it up and think that was it. None of the kids said anything to him, they just laughed."

Once Dietrich was discharged from the military, he had to spend some time in a VA hospital. His brother visited, and they went outside to a basketball court on site.

"We went out there, and we're still shooting, playing basketball," Dietrich said.

Years later, the elder Dietrich never missed a shot.

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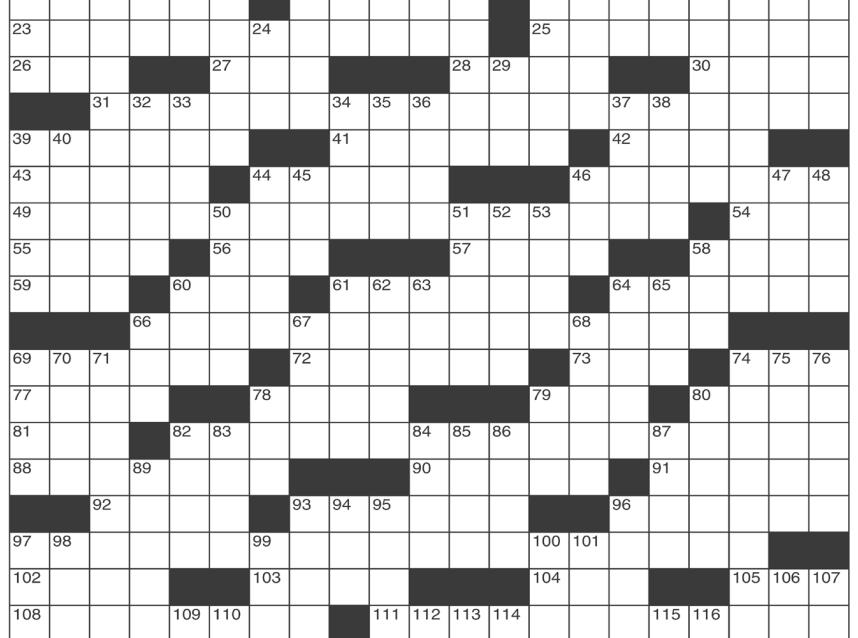
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**ACROSS**

1 Hoover, e.g.	59 Catch sight of	103 "I got — in	7 Cider fruit	47 All tied up	84 Partly open
2 Hertz rival	60 Ostrich's kin	104 Kalamazoo"	8 Chou En—	48 Sharp knocks	85 Newirth of
12 Military vehicle for recon	61 Big name in cosmetics	105 Toothpaste tube units.	9 Picnic pest	50 "You are not!"	"Cheers"
20 Roma's place	64 Big bees	108 O.J. Simpson trial judge	10 Emceeing aid	51 Noble acts	86 Nonclerical
21 Go into a major tizzy	66 Rainforests and such	111 Activity that will be unsuccessful when applied to this puzzle's theme?	11 Earthy hues, to Brits	52 "All booked up, sorry"	87 "Me? Never!"
22 Worth of a security at its face	69 Round one of the corners in Monopoly	117 Hans Christian —	12 Satirizes	53 Model Tequila	88 Husbands-to-be
23 Rare musical gift	72 Mets' div.	118 JFK Library architect	13 Division of a long poem	58 Catch sight of	93 Tots' haulers
25 Being filmed	73 Vast span	119 The Beach Boys' "Help Me, —"	14 Tolkien brute	60 Liverpool loc.	94 — discount
26 Aug. follower	74 Awful review	120 People giving rubdowns	15 Coll. in the Old Dominion State	61 Purple flower	95 Smartphone pic, often
27 Feel awful	77 First-aid plant	121 Printer brand	16 Home of the NFL's Bucks	62 — acid (fat substance)	96 Railing sites
28 Tree's anchor	78 Purplish berry	122 Motto	17 Symbol of a fresh start	63 Irish actor Stephen	97 Sunni's faith
30 Sandbox toy	79 Derby, e.g.	117 Hans Christian —	18 Gold-related	64 Allowance	98 Animated
31 Elicitor of a rave review	80 Buffalo's county	118 JFK Library architect	19 "Royal," in 20-Across	65 Sizable vase	2016 Disney film
39 Newton and Asimov	81 Aladdin's monkey pal	119 The Beach Boys' "Help Me, —"	24 Up to, in brief	66 Put to work	99 After a time
41 Beats of life	82 Excellent etiquette	120 People giving rubdowns	29 Metal in rocks	67 A single time	100 Sup at home
42 Klutz sorts	88 Wasn't penned up	121 Printer brand	32 Small error	68 Sports sides	101 Adobe Acrobat file
43 Naiad or dryad	90 Levi's, e.g.	122 Motto	33 German for "eight"	69 Early TV host Jack	106 Forever — day
44 Plant swelling	91 Start	117 Hans Christian —	34 Design detail	70 "Dark Angel" star Jessica	107 "Manhattan Beach" novelist Jennifer
46 Ben of "Zoolander"	92 Singer Celine	118 JFK Library architect	35 — wrestling	71 Healthy intellects	109 Sooner than, poetically
49 Mint quality	93 Green sushi condiment	119 The Beach Boys' "Help Me, —"	36 Strategy	74 Introducing	110 Sch. in Terre Haute
54 "13th" director	96 "M*A*S*H" actor David Ogden —	120 People giving rubdowns	37 Quaint newspaper section	75 Broadcaster	112 Gig hookup
55 Styne of song	97 Famed Steelers play of 1972	121 Printer brand	38 Primary	76 Aeries, e.g.	113 FedEx rival
56 TV spots	102 Cole Porter's "— Love"	122 Motto	39 Dressed for night-night	78 Big primate	114 Zodiac lion
57 Vaper's item	103 How-to-unit	117 Hans Christian —	40 IHOP topping	79 Clutch sitter	115 Dallas Stars' org.
58 How-to-unit		118 JFK Library architect	44 Result	80 Film scorer Morricone	116 "Yabba dabba —!"



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



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W U A D G E I A S U A Q O L R  
N L N J W A L M B T O H F L A  
D A V Y C A L C S N I K E E W  
H Y I E G D E L S W O V E B N  
T S L Q P N L K I U I R H E Y  
F E C B Z Y W V U V M S I R W

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: Device to Blow Air Into a Fire

Anvil	Hands	Sledge	Village
Brawny	Iron bands	Smithy	Week in
Chestnut-tree	Muscles	Sparks	Week out
Forge	Sinewy	Sweat	

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“We've lost communication until after the Super Bowl.”

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

5						9		1
	9		2				3	
3		8		4				2
		9			1	4		
	8		5					2
2			6			7	5	
		2	9					3
	6			7		5		
7				1	8		6	

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



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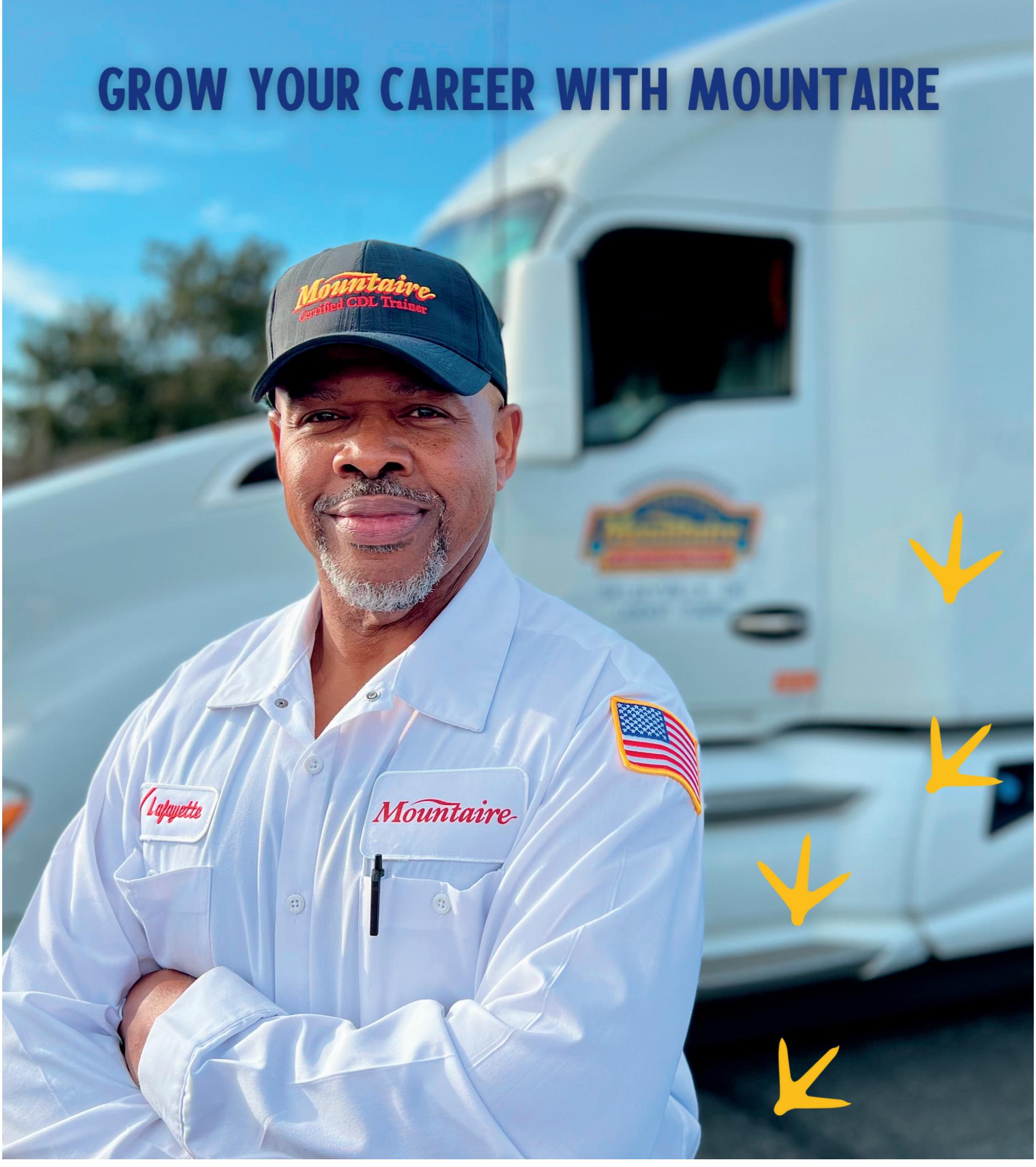
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