

Chatham News + Record

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HANDCRAFTED

New food truck brings BBQ to Bennett

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

The Britt family owns and operates Handcrafted, a barbecue food truck in Bennett. From left: Gail Britt, her daughter-in-law Melanie Britt, and son Timmy Britt.



town Bennett, often closes early — shutting down when the food's all gone. Just because the truck operates regularly only three days per week, make no mistake: it's a full-time operation. Between prepping food, cleaning the truck and hauling the 42-foot trailer to events across the county, Handcrafted has taken over the lives of the Britt family.

Family ties

The idea for the food truck first began with a big, red offering. Timmy's uncle Mac was looking to get rid of the trailer, and the Britt had been considering venturing into the food industry. It seemed like the perfect fit.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Britt had been looking to open a restaurant in Bennett. They had put those dreams on hold, but when Mac — who also had years of experience in the competitive barbecue scene — offered to sell the food truck, they knew there was an opportunity.

When the Britt brought the trailer down to Bennett it was already an operational food truck equipped with a kitchen and food storage areas. After throwing around name ideas, they landed on "Handcrafted" because they wanted each food item to be made by hand, and crafted with love.

Shortly after the truck opened, Timmy realized he needed more than just his wife, Melanie Britt, to keep the operation going. So, he enlisted a veteran of the food industry — his mom, Gail Britt.

The matriarch serves as the kitchen manager of Handcrafted. She previously worked as a school cafeteria manager and nursing home kitchen manager so her

See **HANDCRAFTED**, page A7



Courtesy of Wolfspeed

A rendering of Wolfspeed's proposed plant planned for Siler City.

Wolfspeed factory would emit 203 tons of air pollutants per year

BY LISA SORG
N.C. Newline

SILER CITY — Wolfspeed, a manufacturer of key components for electric vehicles, would emit a half dozen air pollutants at its new Chatham County plant, totaling 203 tons per year, state documents show.

The Durham-based company is behind the \$5 billion project, located on 352 acres near Siler City. It would manufacture silicon wafers that would be then used in semiconductors for electric vehicles and mobile phones. The factory is expected to create 1,800 jobs.

The projected air emissions were included in an environmental justice report released this week by the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. The Division of Air Quality is still reviewing the permit, which will be subject to public comment, and with enough community interest, a public hearing.

The estimates applied to emissions after reductions controls were installed. If that technology were not in place, emissions would be nearly double — 395 tons. With or without controls, concentrations of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide would stay the same.

The environmental justice report analyzed census data for a one-mile radius from the Wolfspeed site. That encompasses not only parts of Chatham County, but also a sliver of Randolph County.

The report found that six census tracts within one mile of the facility have a higher percentage of Black and Latinx residents than the county and/or state average. In two census tracts, more than half of residents are persons of color.

Rates of persons with disabilities were also higher in several census tracts, as were those of people whose primary language is Spanish and who speak English as a second language — in some cases, less than fluently.

Based on the number of Spanish-speakers DEQ recommends meetings and printed materials be presented in that language as well as English.

INSIDE:

• Public comment period opens for Wolfspeed's air quality permit. **PAGE A3**

AN EXCLUSIVE LOOK

A tour of the renovated Siler City town hall

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

Kimberly Pickard, Town Manager Hank Raper and various department directors.

A video version of the tour is posted on chathamnewsrecord.com, but here are some highlights:

The Basement

The first stop on the tour was the basement, which is where the Public Works Department is housed. Because renovations are still ongoing, it's still off-limits to the public.

Public Works Director Cal Pettiford showed the News + Record the updated public works department, which has new carpets and paint. Major work had to be completed in the base-

See **BUILDING**, page A6

CELEBRATING 101 YEARS

Goldston's Ida Mae Barrett celebrates milestone birthday

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

GOLDSTON — It was Saturday, but Ida Mae Barrett was dressed up in her Sunday best — highlighted by a queen's crown and a gold "Birthday Girl" sash, all done in honor of her 101st birthday.

Barrett, five generations of her family and several friends gathered at her home to celebrate, complete with remarks from family members, friends recounting special memories and the reading of a letter of recognition from



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

Ida Mae Barrett smiles as she greets family and friends who gathered at her home Saturday to celebrate her 101st birthday.

See **MILESTONE**, page A3

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 **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 24, at the Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center in Pittsboro.

OTHER

• **Chatham Community Library** to Host Poetry Off the Page - In recognition of National Poetry Month in April, Chatham Community Library will host "Poetry Off the Page" facilitated by author and instructor Robin Hall. This program is free and open to the public. Thursday, April 20, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Chatham Community Library, Holmes Family Meeting Room, 197 N.C. Hwy. 87 N., Pittsboro.

• There will be an open-house at **Coldwell Banker, Howard Perry and Walston - Pittsboro** on Wednesday, April 19, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. They are located at 32 Industrial Park Drive, Suite 120. Mayor Cindy Perry will conduct the ribbon cutting at 11 a.m. Open house, beverages, and lunch will follow until 1 p.m.

• Chatham Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend the grand opening of **Rachel's Native Plants** on Friday, April 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. Please join us, First Lady Kristin Cooper, Mayor Cindy Perry and Commissioner Katie Kenlan in welcoming this new business to The Plant in Pittsboro. The Big Fat Gap band will perform. Rachel's Native Plants is a Southeastern Native Plant Nursery and Landscaping company. Their landscape team is also skilled in Pollinator and Bird Friendly Landscaping.

• Community members of all ages are invited to join the Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District for **Creek Geeks Field Day** on Saturday, April 22, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at Boling Lane Park located at 302 South Fir Ave., Siler City. This event is free and open to the public. The rain date for this event is April 23. The Town of Siler City installed Best Management Practices (BMPs) at Boling Lane Park such as wetlands and riparian buffers. Chatham Soil and Water Conservation staff will provide tours of the park, where they will discuss the BMPs, native vegetation, and the overall benefits for the Loves Creek Watershed. Attendees will be able to participate in several interactive activities. Residents who wish to attend are asked to register online at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPpUYRYY-oF7hx8ljY0jX9DEr_mnI-AeEjBoiDzIE79NQcviUw/viewform?usp=sf_link.

Please be prepared to sign waivers at check-in on the day of the event.

• The **Siler City Lion's Club** meeting for April at Dry Dock Seafood Restaurant, 408 N. 2nd Ave., will be April 25 at 6 p.m. Join the Siler City Lion's Club. 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. Together we serve!

• The **Goldston Public Library** is excited to announce the Goldston Book Club, every 2nd Monday of each month, from 2 to 3 p.m. Individuals who are interested in joining a book club can stop by the Goldston Public Library. For the month of April, the Club is reading Dreamland by Nicholas Sparks. For more information about the Goldston and other Chatham County Book Clubs, visit the following link: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/library/adult-services/book-clubs-book-club-kits>.

• **Chatham Community Library** is offering free in-person classes on Microsoft PowerPoint and Facebook in April. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found at www.chathamcountync.gov/ComputerClasses. Call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org or for more information.

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arts performances, music, family friendly activities, and giveaways including interactive arts and crafts and much, more! Of course, free bilingual books will be given away along with a take-away picnic lunch for families. All of these fun activities will be happening at Bray Park in Siler City Center on Alston Bridge Rd. This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

• **The League of Women Voters** of Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties (LWVODC) invites the community to learn about citizen initiatives, a powerful tool of direct democracy that can enable voters to collect signatures and put a law, or even a constitutional amendment, on the ballot for citizens to vote up or down. Citizen initiatives have been critical in other states' success in ending gerrymandering and strengthening voters' voices. Our Democracy: Do We Need the Power of Citizen Initiatives?" is the next in LWVODC's State of our Democracy lecture series. The virtual program will be held Thursday, May 4, at 7 p.m. Registration is required. The featured speaker is Asher Hildebrand, Associate Professor of the Practice, at Duke University's Sanford School for Public Policy. This online presentation is free and open to the public.

• **The Chatham County Council on Aging** will host a "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" support group the first Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Western Chatham Senior Center, 112 Village Lake Road, Siler City. This group is geared toward older adults who are primary caregivers and providers for their grandchildren. For more information, contact William Riggsbee at 919-742-3975 ext. 223 or email william.riggsbee@chathamcountync.gov.

• **The Chatham County Council on Aging** hosts a Caregiver Support Group each Monday. The group meets the first and third Mondays of the month at 3 p.m. at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center, 365 Hwy. 87 N., Pittsboro and the second Monday at 3 p.m. at the Western Chatham Senior Center, 112 Village Lake Road, Siler City. The fourth Monday of each month is a virtual meeting via the Zoom platform starting at 6 p.m. This group is geared toward family members who are currently providing short- or long-term care to loved ones. For more information or to obtain virtual meeting login information, contact William Riggsbee, Family Caregiver Specialist, at 919-742-3975 ext. 223 or email william.riggsbee@chathamcountync.gov.

• **Basic Photoshop Classes for Seniors - The Chatham County Council on Aging** is currently accepting registrations for a class where older adults can learn the basics of Photoshop, the popular photo-editing program. Photographers over 55 years of age who want to learn how to manipulate their photos and older adults without basic Photoshop experience are encouraged to attend. The class will be

held each Wednesday from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center, 365 Hwy. 87 N., Pittsboro. For more information or to register, contact Alan Russo at 919-542-4512 ext. 238 or email alan.russo@chathamcountync.gov. Space is limited.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

AMOS LEWIS TYSOR

Daniel and Kallie Tysor of Rupert, Idaho, announce the birth of their son, Amos Lewis Tysor, on April 4, 2023.

He weighed 9 pounds and 10 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

He is the grandson of Joanna and Michael Tysor of Bear Creek.

Siler City Fire Department's

ANNUAL Barbecue PLATES

11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
\$10⁰⁰ / Plate
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APRIL 19TH

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CURRENTLY FOR SALE

<p>Residential</p> <p>4377 N Old US 421 (Siler City) 4 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$530,000</p> <p>Land</p> <p>170 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$125,000 188 Cherokee Dr (Chapel Hill) 1.150 acres \$125,000 1388 Henry Oldham Rd (Bear Creek) 4.840 acres \$150,000 108 Spring St (Apex) 3.670 acres \$150,000 821 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 13.829 acres \$180,000 955 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 11.566 acres \$185,000 1277 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 12.550 acres \$195,000 1049 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 11.548 acres \$200,000 1223 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 12.737 acres \$225,000 1710 Roberts Chapel Rd (Goldston) 17.643 acres \$225,000 267 Marshall Rd (Pittsboro) 10.049 acres \$250,000 351 Bluffwood Dr (Pittsboro) 7.618 acres \$300,000 5663 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 1.771 acres \$325,000</p>	<p>893 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 24.938 acres \$325,000</p> <p>00 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 36.000 acres \$350,000</p> <p>37 E Cotton Rd (Pittsboro) 0.996 acres \$350,000</p> <p>0 Hal Clark Rd (Siler City) 29.730 acres \$360,000</p> <p>Tract 3 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres \$400,000</p> <p>5645 NC 751 Hwy (Apex) 3.584 acres \$625,000</p> <p>00 Alton King Rd (Goldston) 87.169 acres \$1,179,900</p> <p>7587 Siler City Snow Camp Rd (Siler City) 50.000 acres \$1,200,000</p> <p>499 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 12.619 acres \$1,500,000</p> <p>00 Alston Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 176.000 acres \$2,288,000</p> <p>00 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 33.662 acres \$3,366,200</p>
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CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

<p>Residential</p> <p>1689 Lydia Perry (Bear Creek) 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath \$350,000</p> <p>47 McLaurin Rd (Siler City) 2 Bdrm, 1 Bath \$500,000</p> <p>321 Miles Branch Rd (Pittsboro) 4 Bdrm. 3.5 Bath \$600,000</p> <p>4301 Amberwood Rd (Haw River) 4 Bdrm, 3 Bath \$600,000</p> <p>Land</p> <p>1544 Roberts Chapel Rd (Goldston) 17.632 acres \$225,000</p> <p>373 JC Corner Rd (Pittsboro) 7.382 acres \$275,000</p> <p>58 Mint Springs Rd (Pittsboro) 5.400 acres \$279,900</p>	<p>Tract 2 Thomas Kelly Rd (Sanford) 32.360 acres \$400,000</p> <p>1406 Jessie Bridges Rd (Siler City) 25.500 acres \$400,000</p> <p>0 Hamlets Chapel Rd (Pittsboro) 42.804 acres \$1,200,000</p> <p>13120 Strickland Rd (Raleigh) 16.250 acres \$1,500,000</p> <p>12190 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 15.158 acres \$1,894,750</p> <p>0 Olives Chapel Rd (Apex) 75.430 acres \$9,051,600</p> <p>Commercial Unimproved</p> <p>10681 E US 64 Hwy (Apex) 3.97 acres \$1,500,000</p>
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Takeaways from the 2023 National Land Conference
<https://www.youtube.com/c/ericandrewsrealtor>



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NEWSROOM

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theeden@chathamnr.com
 Ben Rappaport, Reporter/Social Media Editor
brappaport@chathamnr.com
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 Valeria Cloes
vcloes@live.unc.edu

NEWSROOM INQUIRIES, PRESS RELEASES AND WEBSITE QUESTIONS
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ADVERTISING

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KAREN PYRTLE
karen@chathamnr.com
 DORIS BECK
doris@chathamnr.com
 FLORENCE TURNER
billing@chathamnr.com

BILL HORNER III, Editor/Publisher
bhorner3@chathamnr.com 919-774-2728

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N.C. Dept. of Labor fines Wolfspeed for accidental worker death

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

Wolfspeed team members,” Melinda Walker, Wolfspeed’s director of corporate communications, told the News + Record Friday. “We believe providing a safe work environment is the most fundamentally important thing that we do for our employees. Their safety, health and overall wellbeing has been — and will continue to be — our number one priority.”

According to the investigation, Farrell contacted an exposed coil with his hand as he entered a substation alone and “became the path to the ground,” meaning the electrical current went through his body. He was declared dead at the scene when emergency personnel arrived. Investigators said Farrell

“did not put on his ARC flash gear to include gloves as he attempted to test the buss conductors.”

“The penalties are in no way designed to make up for loss of life,” said NCDOL Director of Communications Erin Wilson.

Wolfspeed now has 15 days to request an informal conference with the Labor Department, to file a notice of contest with the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission of North Carolina (an independent board appointed by the governor to hear appeals of OSH citations), or to pay the penalty.

NCDOL said Wolfspeed “did not select and require employee(s) to use appropriate hand protection when employees’ hands were exposed to hazards.”

“Working in areas where there were potential electrical hazards were not using electrical protective equipment that was appropriate for the specific parts of the body to be protected and for the work to be performed,” the NCDOL report added.

In a statement to the News + Record Friday, Wolfspeed said it remains committed to workplace safety.

“We appreciate the care, dedication and collaboration that the North Carolina Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety & Health division exercised throughout every stage of this investigation and the opportunity we had to share the steps Wolfspeed has taken to ensure our facility meets or exceeds all standards,” Walker said.

A full copy of the 12-page NCDOL report is available at chathamnewsrecord.com

Wolfspeed plans to build a facility at the CAM site in Siler City with a promise of \$5 billion in economic investment and 1,800 new jobs over the next two decades.

The company was also highlighted in a recent visit to Durham by President Joe Biden, who praised the chip manufacturer and toured the Durham facility. Biden touted the CHIPS and Sciences Act, which incentivizes more American-made silicon carbide chips.

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

Public comment period opens for Wolfspeed air quality permit

From N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality

SILER CITY — The N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality’s Division of Air Quality (DAQ) is seeking public comment on a draft air quality permit for Wolfspeed’s Siler City Factory.

Comments will be accepted until May 13. The air quality permit would allow Wolfspeed to construct and operate a new semiconductor manufacturing plant in Chatham County. The facility will be considered a major source under Title V of the Clean Air Act because potential emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) will be 113 tons per year, which is above the 100 tons per year major source threshold.

The draft permit would require the facility to use a gas scrubber system to control emissions of volatile organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants and toxic air pollutants. A gas abatement system and particulate matter collection devices will control emissions of additional pollutants.

Air dispersion modeling reviewed by

DAQ shows the facility’s emissions will comply with applicable standards. The draft permit includes conditions that ensure ambient levels of all pollutants beyond the facility’s fence line comply with emission standards, including applicable health-based standards. The facility would also be subject to recordkeeping requirements and regular inspections.

Copies of the public notice, draft permit, draft permit review, draft environmental justice report, permit application, and a one-page project fact

sheet are available online. Comments or requests for a public hearing will be accepted until 5 p.m. on May 13. Comments can be emailed to daq.publiccomments@ncdenr.gov with “Wolfspeed.22A” in the subject line, or left via voice mail by calling 919-707-8714. Comments can also be mailed to NCDEQ Division of Air Quality, 1641 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1641. The Division will consider all public comments before making a final decision on the proposed permit.

MILESTONE

Continued from page A1

N.C. House Rep. Robert Reives II.

Barrett has lived in Goldston for almost all of her life. She has remained an integral part of the community, and Barrett’s granddaughter Lynnette Jones organized

the event with her family, wanting to recognize her grandmother’s milestone. “We’re thankful she’s here with us and has been here with us for this long,” Jones said to the guests. “We’re so grateful for this, everybody that’s come out and showing my grandmother how much you love her.” Family members present were recognized during the party. Jones said Saturday was the first time the entire Barrett family has been able to get together since the Covid-19 pandemic. “There’s a lot of family and friends here we haven’t seen in years,” she said. “So we just want everybody to just enjoy themselves.” Barrett’s great-grand-

daughter Tori Barrett reminisced on her memories with the person she knows as “Granny.” “It is truly a blessing to have Granny as my granny,” she said. “I remember just running around coming over to her house. She’s always been the sweetest, most kindest person ... We love you so much. We appreciate you, all the blessings that you have brought to this family and all of your prayers. They have reached every single one of us.” Barrett’s young great-great-granddaughter, Ari, recited a special poem she prepared for the party. “A grandma always understands the things you say and do,” she said. “She overlooks all of your faults, and she’s the best at knowing you.” The Rev. Dr. Carl Thompson, who’s known Barrett for years, was also there. He said “Mother Barrett” wasn’t just an important person in his church’s congregation, but someone the entire community looks up to.



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

A party guest sings a hymn at Barrett’s 101st birthday party.

“That crown on your head is very appropriate because she is a queen and has been a queen ever since we met her,” Thompson said. “She brings a light whenever she comes (to church). She’s such an inspiration, and even if she doesn’t say anything, her just being there is an inspiration in itself.” Guest Joyce Spruill said Barrett and her grandmother were close, and when her grandmother would go to work, Barrett would watch over Spruill and her siblings. “I remember walking

down here, and we’d have a bag in our hands,” Spruill said. “It would have red-eye gravy and grits, and I remember that’s what we’d always bring when we were walking down here to stay with her.” Amy Jones-Stedman said when she was a young girl, Barrett always treated her as if she was her own daughter. She attended the party “to show her how much I appreciate her and her kindness ... She’s still the same way now ... She hasn’t changed a bit.” Barrett told guests she was thankful for her 101 years. When asked what her secret was to living life to the fullest, she pointed to the sky, thanking God for her life. “You better follow that Lord,” she said. “You better follow Him, He’s the one who doesn’t make a mistake.” Barrett said she has “the best family in the world.” “Lord have mercy, I love them all,” she said. “We need to get together more often.”

Introducing Siler City’s Newest CHR Agents!

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yajairarealtorch@gmail.com
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Brandy Alexander
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brandyalexanderproperties@gmail.com
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ON-LINE AUCTION

ON-LINE Bidding from April 19th - May 2nd at 7pm

583 Eden Hills Rd, Siler City NC

Personal Property of Bobby Thornburg, (Moved to Assisted Living)

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Plus LOTS MORE. House and Outbuildings are Full!!

Preview Friday April 21st 3-6pm and Tuesday May 2nd 3-6pm

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | ALLI GOLD ROBERTS & ZACH FRIEDMAN

N.C. is taking advantage of the Inflation Reduction Act. Strong state policy is playing a major role.

President Biden recently kicked off his “Investing in America” tour with a visit to North Carolina. It’s no wonder why the state was selected as a showcase: already a regional leader in growing the clean energy economy, the state is now riding the nationwide wave of investment in clean energy manufacturing, supply chains, and deployment.

The president’s visit included a tour of the Durham campus of semiconductor manufacturer Wolfspeed. He also highlighted the company’s commitment to build a \$5 billion facility in Siler City making silicon chips — a crucial electric vehicle component.

And that is just one example of the clean energy boom in the Tarheel State. At a 272,000-square-foot plant in Wendell, Siemens is ramping up electric vehicle charger production for buses, trucks, and other large vehicles. In Liberty, Toyota has dramatically expanded its plans for a battery plant, and is now committing \$3.8 billion to the project, which will employ 2,100 workers.

These investments have been boosted by a powerful mix of federal and state policies that are highlighted by the Inflation

Reduction Act.

Passed last year, the Inflation Reduction Act represents the largest-ever investment in U.S. history to tackle the climate crisis, fortify domestic clean energy manufacturing, strengthen U.S. energy security, and slash costs for consumers and businesses. Built on a broad mix of tax credits, rebates, and grants, it has already unleashed a nationwide clean energy investment rush, with companies announcing projects worth tens of billions of dollars that are generating tens of thousands of jobs in states across the country. It has provided example after example of how the public and private sectors are working closely together to fully seize the economic opportunity of the clean energy transition.

North Carolina is especially well-positioned to capitalize on this opportunity because it has made clear to all those looking to invest in clean energy that the state is open for business. North Carolina was one of the earliest adopters of a renewable portfolio standard that sets increasing targets for clean resources to power its electricity, establishing a strong foundation for the

state’s clean energy industry that today employs 88,000 people.

Additional policies — including a 2021 law that establishes a binding goal to reduce carbon emissions from the power sector 70% by 2030 and achieve 100% clean electricity by 2050 — have helped North Carolina set a benchmark in the Southeast for clean energy policy. And Gov. Roy Cooper has bolstered these efforts with executive action to set an economy-wide net zero emissions goal by 2050, incorporate environmental justice into state decision-making, and encourage the widespread adoption of electric vehicles that are better both for the climate and for the bottom line of companies and consumers.

Now, with the clean energy manufacturing boom underway, we’re seeing all this work begin to pay off.

The economic benefits of the clean energy transition go to show why major companies were among the top champions of these policies as North Carolina and the U.S. charted this path. Business leaders know that deploying domestically produced clean energy at scale is a major engine for job creation, economic

growth, energy security, and utility cost stabilization and reduction. What’s more, they know that taking action that prevents the worst impacts of climate change — which threatens the facilities, workforces, supply chains, and infrastructure that companies rely on — is a critical risk management strategy that protects their investors and other stakeholders.

The private-sector enthusiasm extends well beyond companies that are directly in the clean energy and clean transportation industries. For example, apparel company VF Corp. — whose globally recognizable brands include The North Face, Timberland, and Vans — announced plans to build four utility-scale solar projects in Greensboro to churn out nearly a quarter of the electricity the company uses.

Earlier this month, companies with headquarters or major operations in North Carolina — including Gaia Herbs, Nestlé, SAS, and Sierra Nevada Brewing Company — reaffirmed their commitment to robust clean energy policy by urging state policymakers to expand access to clean power and transportation

technologies. At the national level, thousands of businesses of all sizes and industries — including dozens of S&P 100 companies — were among the strongest advocates for the Inflation Reduction Act’s climate provisions. Businesses and trade groups were also major supporters of 2021’s bipartisan federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which includes several important clean energy, clean transportation, and climate resilience measures.

With a solid policy framework in place, North Carolina is already reaping the benefits of the federal laws. But with the Inflation Reduction Act rolling out and states across the country competing for major projects, this is not the time to rest on our laurels. It’s time for North Carolina to double down on this economic opportunity with additional policy action that ensures the state remains a leader in the crucial decades to come.

Alli Gold Roberts and Zach Friedman lead the policy program at Ceres, a sustainability advocacy nonprofit that works with companies on climate solutions and polices in North Carolina.

Getting real for Earth Day



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

“I walk, all day, across the heaven-verging field,” wrote poet Mary Oliver. If “all day” is perhaps poetic liberty, her understanding of heaven in the world is not. Oliver’s writing is abounding with awe and astonishment in nature: the wild music of the waterthrush, the chesty, fierce-furred bear, the field of sunflowers like a host of haloed angels.

“Teach your children to walk upstream,” she advised, meaning not only in nature but against the current of culture. As a parent, I most often feel that I am swimming against the forces of virtual reality.

As part of our trip to Disney World, my sons and I rode a simulator that “flew” past some of the world’s most spectacular landscapes: glaciers in the Arctic, rainforests in the Amazon, and the Grand Canyon. It was incredible.

And yet, it bugged me when my son declared, “I feel like I’ve been to all those places!”

Perhaps the sci-fi dream of virtual reality is not as far-fetched as when I was a boy. Disney World is its own alternate reality. What worries me more is the encroachment of the virtual in my day-to-day life. Like my walks in the woods.

My younger son plays a video game called Pokémon Go on my wife’s iPhone. Using the GPS, the game shows our actual neighborhood and surrounding woods, but on the screen, adds Pokémon — cartoon characters — in real-life locations. The result is that my boy walks through the actual woods with his gaze affixed to a screen in his hand. He misses the gray squirrel’s acrobatic leap because he’s feeding pretend fruit to something called a Ponyta, a fire-horse. A Ponyta? What the ... ?

I am no Luddite. I use technology every single day.

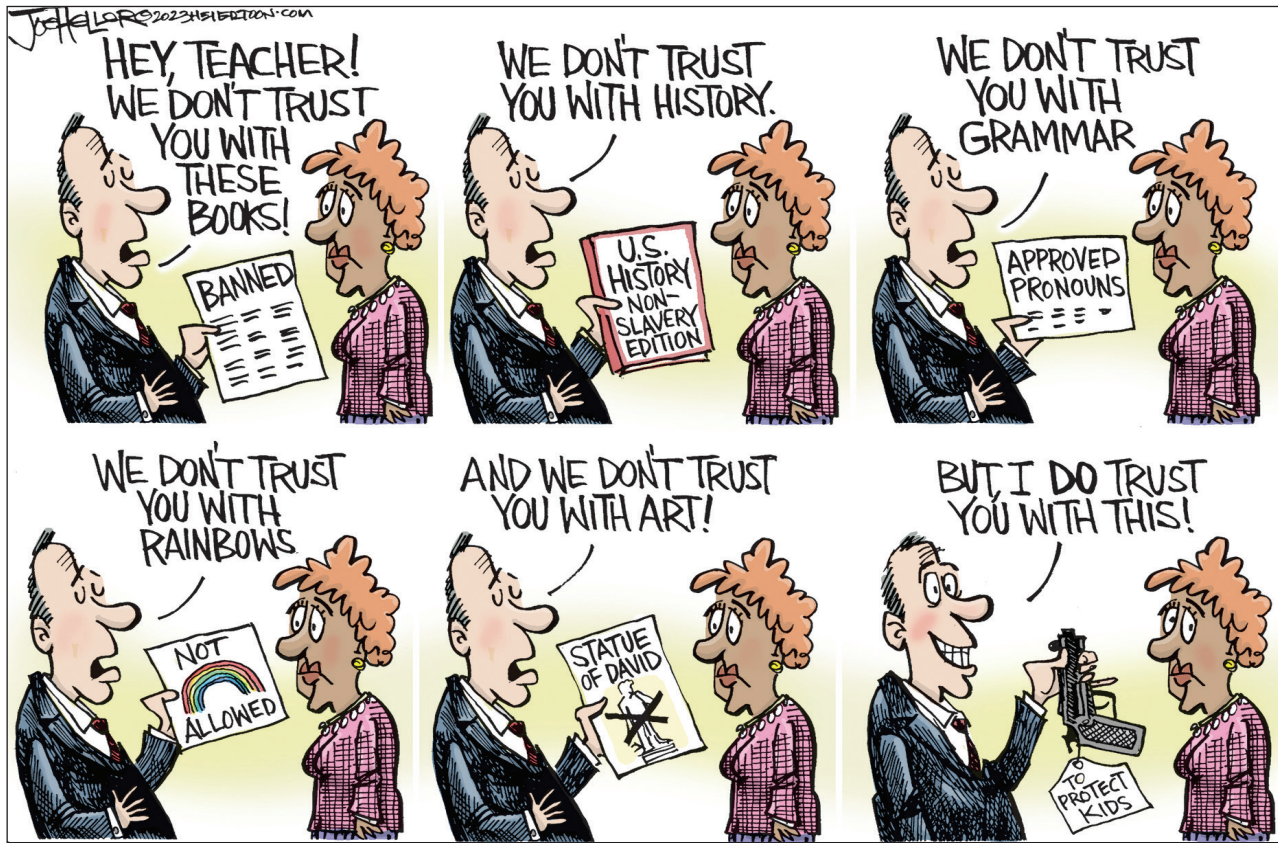
But when poet Ross Gay labels the supposed “smart phone” an “alienation device,” he’s not simply bemoaning technology. Gay’s thesis is that joy is about connection — “joy is the mostly invisible, underground union between us.” By “us,” he means everything that is natural, not virtual. Those daredevil squirrels, rascally crows and big bumblebees, the Mack Trucks of the insect world.

The other day, I’d had enough of Pokémon Go. I snatched the phone from my son, causing him to howl in protest. Then, he continued to talk about those virtual creatures, something about a Bulbasar with a flower petal blooming from its back. I was patient for a few steps.

“Look here,” I interrupted. “This pretty purple wildflower is called a violet wood sorrel.” As he crouched to examine the tiny petals, I remembered that the species was endangered; yet another life threatened by the intrusion of humans into a natural habitat. Who knows how long they will exist in the world?

Yet, that day, there was this gorgeous flower in our woods. The real thing.

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.”



Our canine friends teach us some doggone good things



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

My next-door neighbors are my son, daughter-in-law and their brood. They bring us much pleasure, partly because the little folks still think I hung the moon. The adults, of course, have figured out that’s not so, but we manage to peacefully co-exist and go on with life.

They also bring us other things, in this case a dog ... or dogs. I think the idea is ... or was ... that the dogs are really theirs and serve a multitude of

functions including barking at the deliveryman or any other unrecognized vehicle that pulls into the driveway, and to be playmates for the little folks.

The good news for them — the dogs — is that on their most recent performance reviews they did well in those two areas. Were we to grade them in other areas, such as leaving things where I put them, well, the scores might not be so good.

Part of that behavior is because the two have quickly learned the short distance across the pasture between our houses. They often like to go out to eat, as in at our place, and are especially fond of fried chicken skin, assorted leftover cuts of beef and pork and week-old biscuits. It wasn’t unusual on the cool mornings of a few weeks ago that when I went out to the heater to put in wood that the dynamic duo would emerge from a night in the sawdust filled barrels under the woodshed left over from pups of my own through the years.

Let me hasten to add I don’t mind them visiting; actually I rather like it. I am a sucker for a dog, and dogs know it.

Dogs are many things. They’re much cheaper than a \$100/hour therapist. They do bark when noticing something — the mail carrier, the dog across the road, a squirrel, the cows who sometimes they have just seen for the first time and the assorted visions they apparently have. To me, a dog is an ambassador from God, a reflection if you will. Think about it: spell those two words backwards and what do you get? You get the other; there’s got to be a connection somewhere.

All of those traits are significant, but the other day I realized one I hadn’t seen before. The younger of the two is still in puppyhood, although leaving it fast. As I sat on the porch watching her sniff the yard for the reasons dogs do that, it struck me as I looked at her that she’s almost a carbon copy of the first dog I had in my life — and for a brief moment, I was 10 again.

Tootsie was her name. My dad brought her home in his shirt pocket years before he brought me home from the hospital’s maternity ward. She was older than me but we grew up together.

When we moved from Apex to Pittsboro she rode in the car. As the years went by, she began to suffer from the ravages of time. Aching joints. Poor eyesight. Loss of hearing. But still she was mine and I fed, played with and loved her dearly.

She was 16 the day she wandered across the highway one Sunday morning; I was 12. As I stood at the edge of our yard and my dad did his best to get her back to us, a car that had barely been moving decided to increase speed and swerve not to miss her but to hit her. I saw it all and still can.

That day I learned several lessons. One is that whoever told the world that bull about boys don’t cry never knew me or my dog. I’ve since carried that ability with me into adulthood and Senior Citizen Land.

Secondly, on that day and often since, I’ve wished bad things on the driver, things like a flat tire, an IRS audit, redbugs in his pants, having to listen to hours of Barry Manilow records. I often said had I been of driving age I would have chased him down and we would have had prayer meeting right there on U.S. Hwy. 64.

Now it’s been so long I don’t feel that way anymore. Tootsie wasn’t in great shape, so maybe it was best. I’ve forgiven him, the nameless individual who wrecked a little boy’s world — but still, I wonder why the driver acted that way.

Time, forgiveness and a vision of the past in something of the present makes for a great lesson. Woof!

VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS

Mr. Streets needs a new perspective

TO THE EDITOR:

Whoa!! For a minute I thought I was reading an article in the New York Times. Dennis Streets' guest column in the News + Record ("Next national emblem?", April 13-19) reads like most so-called leftist media columnists. He seemed to be looking for a story with a problem. I mean, aren't all shooting deaths tragic? Losing

a loved one to a homicide would be terrible whether by shooting, bludgeoning, stabbing, or whatever. But to scrape the bottom of the barrel by using his example of several obscure congressmen supporting a national gun emblem is a real push.

First of all, lets understand what an AR-15 is ... it is not a lot different than my Winchester semi-automatic 22 rifle. It shoots a .223 cartridge vs. my .22 cartridge. It, like my .22,

requires pulling the trigger with each shot (not a machine gun) and holds a specific number of cartridges like my 15-cartridge Winchester. The AR designation, in fact, does not stand for "assault rifle" but for the manufacturer, the Armalite Company. It started with the AR-5, a bolt-action 22, in the 1950s. Over time the design took on a really "bad" look. One might compare it to Chevrolet building a Cavalier versus a Corvette. Thus, the

pit-bull look: it's meant to look aggressive and mean.

But it can kill. All guns, with rare exception, kill.

My problem is that Mr. Streets' column is geared towards an argument that only Republican wild-eyed politicians support guns, i.e., the Second Amendment. I think he knows, as do most of us, that this issue has been debated for at least 30 years. Like other issues including the border, abortion, crime,

and economy, Democrats have been at various times a part, if not majority, of the decision makers.

Democrats, Mr. Streets, are as much a part of the problem as any other party. You need to get a new perspective on the issue and start looking to the left for their participation and shortcomings that you identify as solely Republican.

Philip H. Johnson
Siler City

Few institutions inspire public trust



JOHN HOOD

John Locke Foundation

presented respondents with a list of 15 institutions. Mirroring a long-running Gallup question for the nation as a whole, HPU asked whether North Carolinians had "a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little" trust in each of the institutions.

Only the military and small business earned a high level of trust from a majority of North Carolinians. The same was true for Gallup's latest national sample. As for the police, 48% of North Carolinians said "a great deal" or "quite a lot," vs. 47% who said "some" or "very little." For the nation, those shares for the police were 45% and 54% respectively.

For all other institutions on the list, a plurality or majority of both groups

The three most-trusted social institutions in North Carolina are the military, the police and small business. Make of that what you will. I made the following column.

Last month, the polling unit of High Point University expressed low levels of trust. Examples from the North Carolina poll results include banks (54% "some" or "very little"), public schools (56%), the U.S. Supreme Court (58%), the presidency (63%), television news (68%), Congress (69%), big business (69%), and, alas, newspapers (66%).

If political partisans squint really hard at these results, they may see patterns they find reassuring. Democrats can point to declining levels of trust in the U.S. Supreme Court (from 36% in 2021 to 25% in 2022) and blame the court's overturning of Roe v. Wade. Democrats can also cite public suspicion of big business as a justification for the Biden administration's ramped-up antitrust investigations and tax-increase proposals.

For their part, Republicans can point out that, despite all the attention on specific cases of police misconduct, most North Carolinians don't hold law enforcement as a whole responsible for them. "Defund the police" remains both a preposterous public policy and a disastrous electoral message. Republicans can also take comfort that the public largely agrees with their suspicion of the mainstream media.

As I pondered the survey findings, however, I found myself drawn to a different set of questions. First, when it comes to the public institutions on the list, do people truly distinguish between trust in the institution and support for what its current occupants may be doing? I suspect the answer is no. If Democrats tend to express distrust in the presidency when a Republican is in the White House, and vice versa, that doesn't really tell us what they think of the institution.

Second, when it comes to the media institutions, did they always have such low credibility? The answer is no. In the 2022 Gallup poll, 49% of Americans said they had very little trust in television news, while 43% said the same about newspapers. Before the turn of the century, those percentages typically stayed in the teens or 20s.

That suggests it may be possible for the news media to recover their footing. Partisan cheerleading won't do it, however. I think there remains plenty of room in the market for straight reporting, and for providing audiences with balanced diets of news, analysis, and commentary. As for outlets with a phil-

sophical lean, I think they can build credibility, too, by being transparent about their leanings while demonstrating a willingness to call strikes against batters with whom they might normally agree.

Finally, is there anything new about the public's evident preference for small business over big business? No — but like some of the other polling gaps, it's gotten wider. In 1997, just 24% of Americans said they had very little trust in big business. In 2022, 40% did. During the same period, the public's view of small business barely changed.

Now, a healthy skepticism of large institutions is entirely consistent with the preservation of freedom, order, and self-government. What troubles me is the extent to which healthy skepticism has in recent years evolved into a corrosive cynicism. Does this trouble our leaders, too? If so, actions would speak louder than words.

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).

Watch for changes at favorite restaurants



D.G. MARTIN

One on One

popular regional food to appreciative patrons: Mama Dip's in Chapel Hill and Howard in Kinston.

Both earned lavish praise in the popular press and from writers in food and travel publications. Both authored successful books about food. Council wrote "Mama Dip's Kitchen," which UNC Press says is one of its best-selling books. Howard's "Deep Run Roots: Stories and Recipes from My Corner of the South," published by Little, Brown and Company, was a New York

Times best seller. The late Mildred "Mama Dip" Council and Howard were natural stars on television. Council and her smile sold her books on television and appeared on numerous programs. Howard's PBS program, "A Chef's Life," ran for five successful seasons.

Now both of their restaurants face challenges. Howard's Chef and the Farmer in Kinston has closed at least temporarily.

Mama Dip's restaurant, now owned by her children, has put its building at 408 West Rosemary St. in Chapel Hill on the market for \$3.6 million.

WRAL News reported the listing last week; Spring Council, Mildred's daughter, told reporter Matt Talhelm that she and the other owners were at retirement age and revealed their plans for a new site after the current building is sold.

"We said what's the best thing for us to do?" Spring Council said. "It's going to be fast-casual, so it will reduce the size of the restaurant and put it out there so other folks can come to Mama Dip's. Not necessarily making it a destination spot, but a place where people can come from other areas and experience our food."

Spring Council said they hope to reopen "somewhere else in Chapel Hill as more of a fast-casual or takeout restaurant and franchise the Mama Dip's brand to open more locations."

She said their biggest priority moving forward is preserving the Mama Dip's brand. "The property is for sale, but not the brand," Spring Council told Raleigh News & Observer food writer Drew Jackson. "We're going to keep the brand and switch it out to do a fast-casual model."

Just what the fast-casual model will turn out to be is not clear, but it is likely to be something quite different from the current arrangement where customers sit down, check the menu, place their orders, wait and visit with other customers while the kitchen staff prepares the meal. Then they eat when the wait staff has served the food.

The new fast-casual model could develop something quite different with less time for the customers at a table and less contact with the serving staff. Even if the food is as good as Mama Dip's in the old days, that experience will not be the same and will be jarring for some customers. Keeping them happy may turn out to be as big a challenge as finding a \$3.6 million buyer for the property.

Howard is planning similar changes. As I wrote in this column in January, when she

reopens Chef & the Farmer she says, "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."

She plans to open just four days a week and will cut costs in other ways.

I wish Howard and Spring Council all the best and look forward to enjoying their special food offerings.

But in the same breath I must warn them that a big part of eating out for many of us is the social experience of enjoying good food with contact with owners, staff and other customers.

To Howard and Spring Council, good luck and success with your new program, but be careful.

What makes North Carolina popular?



MIKE WALDEN

You Decide

5 million people in the labor force, which includes people working plus people looking for work. Our state now has the ninth-largest labor force among all states, and we're just behind the eighth-largest state, Georgia.

It wasn't always like this. Historically, southern states struggled in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as the national economy shifted from an agricultural base to a manufacturing base.

In the last half-century, North Carolina has remade its economy. Sectors like technology, pharmaceuticals and finance have surpassed the traditional mainstays of tobacco, textiles and furniture. A potential new energy sector is in the making.

The state's success can be seen in the numbers. Econ-

omists' go-to measure of economic growth, the annual increase in real gross domestic product — translated, the increase in the value of all goods and services made or provided, after removing inflation — has been greater in North Carolina than in the nation for most of the last 45 years.

What has made North Carolina such a popular state for growth-minded businesses in search of a location, and for out-of-state workers and families looking for a new home? There are several factors, some of which are well accepted. Others can spark debate.

Let's begin with the noncontroversial factors. North Carolina has a wonderful natural geography and amenities. One side of the state has spectacular mountains, and the other side has the ocean and beaches. While summers can be toasty and humid, the state usually avoids long and cold winters.

North Carolina also has good access to markets, especially on the East Coast via several interstate highways. Interactions with global markets have also improved in recent decades with many new direct international flights, particularly from Charlotte Douglas

and RDU international airports.

It's also less expensive to live in North Carolina. The latest data from the federal government show average prices are 6% lower in the state than in the nation. Some interstate comparisons show even bigger differences — for example, average North Carolina prices are 19% below California prices and 16% less than New York prices.

North Carolina benefits from its geographic location. The southern part of the country, starting at the Atlantic Ocean and going west to Arizona, has for decades been attracting retirees seeking sun, businesses desiring bigger sales and households seeking new starts.

Of course, businesses want a well-trained workforce. When it comes to higher education, including community colleges and universities, North Carolina has one of the best bargains in the nation. Due to the generous state financial support of North Carolina's public colleges and universities, North Carolina ranks very high among states for the affordability of those public educational institutions. For businesses, North Carolina's

higher education public institutions are known for developing specialized programs for emerging economic sectors.

Now I'll dive into the more controversial factors, which revolve around K-12 education and worker pay. North Carolina ranks low among states for per-pupil spending in K-12 schools. Although North Carolina compares reasonably well on national reading and math test scores compared to the nation, our scores still rank below proficient.

This has caused an ongoing debate about whether the state's tax rate reductions in recent years — while attractive to businesses and many earners — may be hurting North Carolina's competitiveness in the future. One side says the answer is yes, and they want to reverse some of the tax rate reductions, while the other side says numerous nonmonetary factors are important to student success. This debate will likely continue.

North Carolina has a low minimum wage and deters unionization by being a "right to work" state. While these policies may be good for businesses that benefit from lower labor payments and

greater control over workers, critics say these benefits sacrifice worker well-being. Both average per-capita yearly income and average hourly earnings in North Carolina are lower than in the nation, even after accounting for the 6% lower cost of living in the state.

Of course, the state could raise the minimum wage and eliminate the "right to work" provision, and many are in favor of these moves. Significant economic research over several decades suggests these moves could not only deter some new business locations and startups but might also motivate existing firms to use less labor and more technology for their tasks.

One alternative option would be to reinstitute an earned income tax credit (EITC) in North Carolina. The EITC is a program that refunds some, all or even all of a worker's income tax payments plus additional funds, providing more money to increase the worker's standard of living. The federal government has an EITC and more than half the states have an EITC for state income taxes. North Carolina had an EITC until 2014.

CCPFC's 'Day of the Books' set for April 29

Live performances, book giveaways, lunch to highlight event

Each spring, the Chatham County Partnership for Children hosts a "Day of the Books" (or "El Día de los Libros") children's festival in Siler City. The event promotes literacy, the arts, early childhood education and multiculturalism — and on top of that, all children who attend receive free books.

This week, we spoke with CCPFC's Genevieve Megginson, who led the effort to establish the organization and has served as its executive director since its founding in 1994, about this year's "Day of the Books." Megginson was recently named a member of the inaugural class of Chatham's "6 Over 60" by the Chatham Council on Aging and the News + Record.

Why have a "Day of the Books"? What's the goal for the day and the event?

Day of the Books was established in 2011 based on the "Day of the Child" celebration in Mexico and Central America. The event is a bilingual literacy festival that celebrates the many cultures in Siler City. Community is the heart of Hispanic culture; our event is an opportunity to connect with the community in Siler City, one of our main goals for the day. We offer free food,

fun activities, and an opportunity to connect with family support and literacy resources in the county. We are also putting bilingual books directly in the hands of families.

Obviously, the day centers around books. Why is putting books in the hands of children and families vital?

Research tells us that having books available to children is vital to developing pre-literacy skills. Even if the child or the caretaker are unable to read, it gives opportunity to connect and bond while looking at pictures and talking about what they see. Families can make up their own words or infer what is happening in the book from the pictures. Children are still getting exposure to literature whether the books can be read or not.

What have been the take-aways from previous "Day of the Books" events, and what impact have you been able to see?

We have had a great response to this event over the years. Families attending appreciate the focus on the importance of community involvement in the raising of children. The activities have varied each year



Day of the Books
EL DÍA DE LOS LIBROS

IF YOU'RE GOING

What: CCPFC "Day of the Books"
When: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 29. (Rain date: Sunday, April 30.)
Where: Bray Park, located at Alston Bridge Road in Siler City

but the focus on books and the ARTS has been consistent. Local artists provide fun and engaging activities that really enhance this event. The collaboration with all our community partners is what really makes this event special. The day is set up in a "market-style" arrangement with lots of interaction between vendors and visitors, just like you might find on market day in a city in Latin America!

Tell us about the kinds of books that will be given away ...

We give away new and lightly used books for all ages. There will be bilingual books as well as books in just one language. We collaborate with our partners at Chatham Literacy and the Chatham Education Foundation/Chatham Reads to ensure we have an ample supply of books for our families.

What do families plan-

ning to attend need to know before they come?

Families should be prepared for the possibility of getting messy. We provide a variety of hands-on opportunities

See **BOOKS**, page A7



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

Genevieve Megginson

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127 E. Raleigh Street, Siler City

North Carolina Association of Free & Charitable Clinics
Medical | Pharmacy | Dental | Social Services



BUILDING

Continued from page A1

ment after contractors discovered water coming into the basement from the walls.

According to town officials, the water would seep from the gutters and roof into the walls, flowing between the exterior and interior walls and down to the basement. Because of this, contractors installed grates, water pumps and drainage systems to prevent water from flowing and collecting in the basement floors.

Also located in the basement is a room with a billing counter, old carpeting, a brick divider and more; it's where the License Plate Agency used to be located. The carpet will be replaced with the same carpet used in the initial basement renovations, and the counters will be extended out so they're big enough for patrons to use. The brick divider will also be removed at a later date.

The department will also have a break room across from Pettiford's office.

The First Floor

The first floor of town hall is home to water billing, the Community Development Department, Code Enforcement and the Planning Department. This is where the public can get a first glance at what renovations were completed in the last three years.

Those familiar with the building will notice new light blue-gray paint and woodgrain flooring throughout both the first and second floors. The renovations help brighten the space, staff said.

The offices on the first floor were also renovated, meaning department and staff were moved around. The Planning Department is still located on the right when upon entry at the front of the building, but now the office is occupied by Planning Director Jennifer Baptiste. The former



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Siler City's town hall has been undergoing renovations since 2020. The second and third floors are close to completion, according to Town Manager Hank Raper.

occupant, Community Development Director Jack Meadows, is down the hall in a conjoined office with Code Enforcement Officer Chris Gallimore.

The water billing department is still located on the first left from the front door; it hasn't yet been renovated.

The back entrance to town hall — which serves as the entrance for the Siler City courtroom — will have an ADA-accessible wheelchair ramp installed in the coming months.

The courtroom and manager's office

The second floor of town hall houses the courtroom — it's where commissioners hold their meetings. It's also home to the offices of the town manager, town clerk and budget manager.

The courtroom is one of the most renovated spaces in the building. Most of the divider between the gallery and the judge's bench was removed, leaving room for additional seating and flexibility for the room's use.

The Chatham County District and Superior Court use the Siler City courtroom as a second location for legal proceedings, and there are still ongoing projects in process to get the space ready to hold court again. The main renovation left to complete is installing the state-mandated AV systems all

courts in North Carolina utilize. The AV system will also improve the sound quality of board of commissioners meetings for residents who watch them on Zoom or YouTube.

The manager's wing, located to the left of both of the staircases leading to the second floor, was repainted and redecorated. Pickard's office and Budget Manager Jenifer Johnson's office are located to the left and right, respectively, as one enters the short hallway leading to Raper's office.

Raper's office and the conjoined conference room attached to it are located at the end of the small hallway to the left of the staircase. The new carpet and paint smell still permeate through the space, but one of the newest additions to the space is located in the conference room attached to the main office.

A large screen television and AV system were installed in the conference room, which Raper said is designed to help host meetings with out-of-town entities. He said the conference room had been utilized to negotiate the Special Order by Consent with N.C.'s Dept. of Environmental Quality, meeting with Wolfsped officials and more.

The News + Record's Taylor Heeden recorded a video tour of town hall, which is viewable on www.chathamnewsrecord.com.

FREE ADMISSION ... CELEBRATING 40 YEARS CHATHAM ARTS COUNCIL

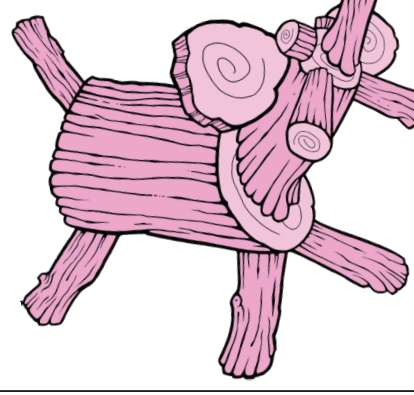
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11AM - 4PM



NEW LOCATION
Chatham County
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SPONSORED BY
BAIRD
Private Wealth Management
The Jester Group



Rain date: Sunday, April 23



HANDCRAFTED

Continued from page A1

qualifications, and family ties, made her perfect for the job.

"She really keeps us going," Melanie said.

It was working with Timmy's mother at the nursing home that first inspired the couple to look into entering the food industry.

All the smoke

The other big inspiration for the barbecue food truck was Timmy's love of cooking. His wife said he's always experimented with different ideas and recipes, trying to perfect the flavor combination.

"I made her try a lot of bad barbecue before we opened this," Timmy said. "But now, people seem to be going crazy for the stuff."

The most popular item on the menu is a brisket sandwich, smoked for 12 hours before being served on a brioche bun, topped with pickled onions and slathered in the secret Britt BBQ sauce. The menu also features pulled pork, fried tots, mac and cheese, baked beans and other sides.

Gail has also recently added salads to the menu, which have been a big hit. And because of the space limitations inside the truck, all the food is made fresh daily.

Britt also likes to mix things up. For example, in the coming weeks, they'll be experimenting with brisket nachos at select events. They've also brought the truck to several local farm tour events where



Courtesy of Handcrafted

Handcrafted offers tasty brisket and barbecue and traditional fixings as sides.

local farmers provide the ingredients for Handcrafted to cook with.

"Every time we would visit my uncle, it was always a BBQ competition," Timmy said.

It was in those friendly competitions where Britt tinkered with the meat smokers and the perfect mix between vinegar and sweet barbecue to hone his craft. Now, he's reaping the rewards of all those experiments.

"We have people who have been here every day since we opened," Timmy said. "It's really been unreal to me."

On average, the team smokes five briskets and four pork butts each day they're open.

Along with their other menu offerings, the team says that typically serves their 400-plus daily customers. Those regulars also come more than just the days the truck is in Bennett. Britt said they've traveled to Siler City, Pittsboro

and elsewhere just to savor a brisket sandwich.

Beyond the grill

When the Britts aren't running the barbecue truck in Bennett, Timmy is a firefighter with the North Chatham Fire Department and Melanie works at the loan office in Bennett. The couple has lived in Chatham for seven years, and said they've never felt more connected to their community than when they opened this truck.

Melanie said Handcrafted hopes to offer something different than the traditional grill, and so far it's been a hit.

"I keep thinking they're going to get tired of us in this small town," Melanie said.

She said the mission of Handcrafted is simply to give good food to the people they love, in the place they love.

"We're not trying to get rich



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Handcrafted, a new barbecue food truck, sits next to The Grainery in downtown Bennett.



Staff photo by Ben Rappaport

Timmy Britt gets slices of brisket, which have smoked for 12 hours, for his signature Handcrafted barbecue sandwich.

off this," Melanie said.

Sandwiches sell between \$10 and \$13 depending on the event, and most sides are \$3. For a full menu visit handcrafted919.com.

"It's pretty simple," Timmy said. "We just like brisket."

And it is with that love of

meat, and the community, that the Britts have turned the big red truck into a successful restaurant for the people of Bennett and Chatham County.

To find upcoming events and locations for Handcrafted, follow them on Facebook at handcrafted919.

BOOKS

Continued from page A6

to get involved in the artistic process. If their child is sensitive to loud noises, they should plan to come earlier in the day. There will be aerial performances, music and several opportunities for artistic expression.

Aside from book giveaways, what else will happen?

We are very excited for the artists and performers who are planning on attending this year. We will have canvas painting, drum making, and weaving available for families to participate in. There will be music, performances and story-telling in English and Spanish. There will also be family support agencies

passing out information. Along with the books this year we have a great selection of children's lunch boxes that have been donated. We will give those out on a first-come basis until they run out. We are also moving to reusable string backpack-style bags instead of plastic bags for our events; we hope to have a specially designed bag ready for this event.

How is Day of the Books being funded?

This event is funded by Smart Start and a Chatham Arts Councils Grassroots Grant to support the artists and performers for the event and by our Champions for Children sponsors, Connie Fenner State Farm agent and Mountaire Farms. Chatham County Schools contributes to the cost of the food and this

year we are receiving donated chicken from Mountaire Farms that will be cooked by Bestfood Cafeteria for the hot lunch that will be provided to all attendees.

Day of the Books is a great example of how well our county comes together for our children and Partnership for Children is proud to continue to host this event annually.

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OBITUARIES

PATRICK AARON CONNELLY



May 17, 1982 ~ April 8, 2023
Patrick Aaron Connelly of Sanford, was born May 17, 1982, in Durham County, North Carolina. He passed away on April 8, 2023, at the age of 40 after a long illness.

He attended the Chapel Hill School System. Patrick was involved from a young age with Special Olympics Basketball and Bocce, his most passionate sport. Patrick was known for his love of Golden Corral and Pizza Hut "Supreme Stuffed Crust"

was his favorite. Patrick could dance all night and sing to his heart's delight. He was quick with a joke. Patrick was preceded in death by his mother Lucia Durso Connelly, and his maternal grandparents Leonard and Nora Durso of Fairfax, Virginia. His paternal grandparents were William J. and Sara Connelly of Annadale, Virginia. His special grandparents were Harvey and Pat White from the Charlotte, North Carolina, area.

His life will forever be cherished by his father and stepmom, Robert Sr. and Colleen Connelly; his sister Beatrice Sterchak of Sacramento, California; his brother and his wife, Robert Jr. and Emily Connelly of Arlington, Virginia; and Patrick's one and only niece, Rose Connelly.

There will be no service at this time. Patrick's celebration of life service will be in the near future in Fairfax, Virginia.

Online condolences can be made to www.smithfuneralhomeoncure.com.

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Moncure.

HARVEY WILLIAM 'RED' DUNLAP



June 15, 1938 ~ April 11, 2023
Harvey William Dunlap, known by his friends as "Red," passed away peacefully Tuesday, April 11, 2023, following a long illness.

Red was born in Walnut Cove, North Carolina, on June 15, 1938, to George William "Willie" Dunlap and Hattie Smith Dunlap. He grew up in Liberty, and attended Liberty Elementary School and Alamance School. Red left school early to help support his family, and thanks to a

few lucky games of pool and the mentorship of local cattlemen, including his father-in-law KM Sharpe, Red got his start in the cattle industry. With the help and support of his partner and wife Ann, Red subsequently enjoyed a 70-year career as a successful order buyer, livestock dealer, and cattleman. He loved traveling throughout America visiting stockyards and farms, listening to live country and bluegrass music, and attending auctioneering contests. Red had a talent for turning strangers into friends and loved spending time and sharing meals with friends, old and new.

Red is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ann Sharpe Dunlap; his sister, Marie Dunlap Petty (Don); his daughter, Laurie Dunlap Scotton (David); son, Benjamin Dunlap (Jamie); grandchildren, Emily Scotton, Daniel Scotton (Guin), Savannah Dunlap Coffey (Ryan), Sage Dunlap, and great-grandchildren, Waylon Coffey, Georgia Coffey and Swayze Coffey; devoted friend and sidekick Pablo Salazar, and many cherished extended family members and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents and great-grandchild, Bexlee Coffey.

A graveside service occurred at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 16, at Alamance Presbyterian Church.

A celebration of life will held at Red and Ann's Siler City Farm on Sunday, June 11, beginning at noon for all those who knew and loved him. Further details will be announced.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Heifer International, which provides livestock to families around the world as a way of addressing economic disparities and hunger.

TODD PHILLIP MCNEILL

September 2, 1963 ~ April 11, 2023

Todd Phillip McNeill, 59, of Broadway, passed away at his home on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

Visitation was held Thurs-

day, April 13, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home in Broadway. Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Friday at Mount Pisgah Presbyterian Church with Rev. Doug Houston officiating. Burial followed in the

PAUL LEON REITZEL



August 13, 1942 ~ March 29, 2023
Paul Leon Reitzel, 80, of Greensboro, North Carolina, passed from this life on March 29, 2023, in his home. His wife and children were by his side.

Paul was born on August 13, 1942, in Sternberger Hospital for Women and Children in Greensboro to Paul Jewel Reitzel and Eugenia Lane Reitzel. Paul's grandfather, Leon T. Lane, served as Sheriff of Chatham County and he was a great-grandson of John

Randolph Lane, Colonel of the North Carolina Twenty Sixth Regiment. His grandfather, O. B. Reitzel, served as Mayor of Siler City for many years. Paul was very proud of his family, heritage and country.

Paul graduated from Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City, North Carolina. He was an Eagle Scout. Paul proudly served in the Army National Guard from February 1965 to February 1971.

Paul graduated from North Carolina State University with a degree in Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering. He spent his career working in manufacturing plants in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Durham and Sanford, North Carolina, and Knoxville, Tennessee. Paul relocated to Greensboro in 1973 and worked the next 25 years for Amp Inc. He retired in 1998. Captain Paul received his Master of Motor Vessels in 2002 and enjoyed delivering sailboats.

The most important thing in Paul's life was his family. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Jean King Reitzel; daughter Elizabeth Lane Fortin (Joe), and son Leo King Reitzel (Judy); granddaughters Grace Reitzel and Disa Fortin; brother-in-law Jeffrey Lynn King (Sharon), six nephews, one great-niece and many cousins.

Paul loved to cook and especially grill with a cold beer in his hand. He loved to create and enjoyed gifting his creations to family and friends. He loved the beach, boating, cruising and traveling with Jean. He enjoyed walking his dog Ginger Ann, listening to beach music, dancing and watching the tide and time go by.

2 Timothy 4:7 - He fought the good fight. Finished the race. Kept the faith.

I know Paul will always be smiling down at us from Heaven and his light will always be with us.

Paul was a member of First Lutheran Church in Greensboro. A Celebration of Paul's Life will be held April 23, 2023, at 2 p.m. There will be a reception at the church following his Celebration. Memorials can be made to First Lutheran Church at 3600 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro 27410 (pastor's discretionary fund), Old North State Council, Boy Scouts of America, P.O. Box 29046, Greensboro, N.C. 27429 or Authora-Care Collective 2500 Summit Avenue Greensboro, N.C. 27405.

church cemetery with full Masonic Rites by Friendship Lodge #763.

Todd was the son of the late Phillip Lee McNeill and Bonnie Waymon Thomas McNeil, who preceded him in death. He was self-employed. He and his wife Susan started Todd's Maintenance and Construction Inc. doing industrial millwright and construction services.

Surviving is his wife Susan McNeill of the home; son, Bryan McNeill of Broadway; daughters Cameron McNeill of Sanford and Ashley Longman of Broadway; a sister, Joanie Tyree of Broadway; his brothers, Thomas McNeill of Shallotte, Rodney McNeill of Miami, Florida, and Jeremy McNeill of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; and three grandchildren.

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

DORA MAE STRICKLAND THOMAS

March 14, 1937 ~ April 12, 2023

Dora Mae Strickland Thomas, 86, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at First Health Hospice House in Pinehurst. Funeral services were held on Friday April 14, 2023, at Haywood Bible Church with Rev. Terry Plesants and Rev. Mike Oldham officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

She was the daughter of Hurbert Neal Strickland and Alva Laylon Mills Strickland. She is preceded in death by her parents, a son, Terry Goodwin, sisters, Katie Lee Strickland, Ardell Alvah Strickland Hendricks, brothers, Melvin Bandon Strickland and Johnnie Tyree Strickland.

She is survived by her sons Larry Goodwin of Broadway and Danny Goodwin of Sanford, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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

LARRY BLUE SMITH

December 25, 1940 ~ April 11, 2023

Larry Blue Smith, 82, passed away on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at Oak Harbor Healthcare in Mt. Pleasant.

The family received guests on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. A funeral service followed at 11 a.m. in the Chapel with SFD Chaplain Father Craig Lister officiating. Burial was at Jonesboro Cemetery.

Larry was the only child of the late B.G. Smith and Nannie McNeill Smith. He joined the Sanford Fire Department in 1966 and retired as a Captain in 1997 after 30

years of service. He had also been a member of the Army National Guard.

Larry is survived by his wife, Brenda Griffin Smith, his daughter, Victoria "Tori" Smith Lewis; and two grandsons, all of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Lee County Firefighters' Burned Children's Fund, c/o David Nance, President, 2668 Steele Bridge Road, Sanford, N.C. 27330.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com

JACK BLALOCK

April 26, 1948 ~ April 14, 2023

Jack Blalock, 74, of Broadway, passed away on Friday, April 14, 2023, at his home surrounded by family.

The family received friends on Tuesday, April 18, at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. The funeral service followed in the chapel with Rev. Robert Thomas officiating. Burial followed in Holly Springs Baptist Church Cemetery.

He was the son of the late Joseph Victor Blalock and Margaret McDuffie Blalock. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by daughter, Jennifer Ann Blalock and two brothers, Jerry Blalock and Larry Joe Blalock. Prior to retiring, Jack worked for Cooper Oil and was a long-distance truck driver.

Jack is survived by his wife of 34 years, Deborah Barnes Blalock; daughters, Sherry Adkins, Shawn Hobson and Shannon Martinez, all of Sanford, and two grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to Alzheimer's Association, 5171 Glenwood Ave., Suite 101 Raleigh, N.C. 27612 and/or Amedisys Foundation, 3854 American Way, Suite A, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

ROY WILSON GARNER

Roy Wilson Garner, 85, of Sanford, passed away at his home on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

The family received friends on Sunday, April 16, 2023, at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. The funeral was held on Monday, April 17, 2023, in the Chapel with Rev. George Stallings officiating. Burial followed in Broadway Town Cemetery.

He was the son of the late William Claude and Esther Wood Garner. In addition, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Shirley Daniel Garner; sons, Thomas Roy Garner Sr. and James Wilson Garner; sister, Frances Holt; and a grandson. Roy retired as plant manager from Gaylord Brothers Furniture Company.

Roy is survived by his wife of six years, Alesia Gunter Garner; children, Sandy Stone, Pete Garner, Mandy Garner Buchanan and Mickey Garner, all of Sanford; brother, Clyde Garner of Sanford; step-children, Scott Thomas of Bunnlevel and Crystal Thomas of Spring Lake; 13 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren and six step-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

See **OBITS**, page A9



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CLARA JEANETTE ‘GOODIE’ ADCOCK LANGLEY

October 24, 1933 ~ April 12, 2023
 Clara Jeanette “Goodie” Adcock Langley, 89, of Siler City passed away Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at her home.
 Clara was born October 24, 1933, daughter of the late Paul Chester and Pauline Marie Smith Adcock. Mrs. Langley retired as chief operator from Carolina Telephone in Siler City. She was a collector of many different types of dolls. Working in her flower bed and going to Badin Lake were the things she enjoyed most.
 In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Tommy Earl Langley; grandson, Christopher Allen Langley; brothers, Patrick “Pat” Adcock, Archie P. Adcock, Billy Jackson Adcock; infant brother, Paul Kenneth Adcock; and sister, Cathren A. Tillman.

Clara is survived by her son, Kenneth Earl Langley of Mebane; daughter, Janet L. Lambert of Siler City; grandchildren, William Thomas Lambert and Molli Claire Lambert; sisters, Judy Carol Hammer and husband Garrett, Elizabeth Ann White and husband Bob, and Brenda K. Fields and husband Gary, all of Siler City; sister-in-law, Louise B. Adcock of Siler City; and special friends, Alma Rosa Balderas and her family, hospice nurse, Brooke Tucker; and CNA, Nina Harris.
 A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Chapel in Siler City with Rev. Linda Yow officiating.
 Memorials may be made to West End Methodist Church or the hospice facility of your choice.
 Online condolences may be made at www.smithbucknerfh.com.
 Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is serving the Langley family.

HENRY CLAYTON STUART

April 28, 1958 ~ March 29, 2023
 Henry Clayton Stuart, 64, departed this life on March 29, 2023, at his residence.
 He was born April 28, 1958, to Mr. Henry M. Stuart and Ms. Virginia Kime. Clayton was a small engine mechanic specialist. There was nothing too big or too small for him to repair when being called upon to do so. Clayton will be truly missed by all of his friends and family.
 He leaves to cherish in his memory a son, Brandon Daniel Stuart (Melissa) of Siler City; brothers, Ronnie Stuart (Becky) of Siler City, Alan Stuart (Elaine) of Snow Camp; sisters, Dail Stuart (Barry) of Liberty, Diann Clapp (Jamie) of Mebane, Michele Stuart (Wendell) of Burlington; granddaughters, Armecia Tapp and Miranda Sparks; special nephew Tod Riddle (Laura) and many other nephews, nieces, and other family members.
 A celebration of life will be held on April 28 at First Missionary Baptist Church, 914 Martin Luther King Blvd., Siler City, with visitation from 2 to 3 p.m. with service beginning at 3.
 In lieu of flowers, please send donations to First Missionary Baptist Church, 914 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Siler City, N.C. 27344 (919-742-4614).
 Triad Cremation and Funeral service will assist the family with services.

Gerrity; sister, Ellen Gerrity; and two granddaughters. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Mary Ellen Cawley, her sister, Mary Togher and her brother, John Gerrity.

Kathleen was born in Liverpool, England, the daughter of Edward “Ned” Gerrity and Ellen Munnely Gerrity. They lived in the Bronx, New York, until 1972 and then moved upstate to Wappingers Falls, New York. She was truly a servant to the Catholic Church. Patt and Tom were able to retire early and moved to Pinehurst in 1996, where Patt became involved with Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the Wounded Warriors Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675, or to a local Hospice of your choice.
 Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

JOHN RAY ROBERSON

March 8, 1943 ~ April 5, 2023
 John Ray Roberson, 80, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at

his residence.
 Viewing was held on Thursday, April 13. The funeral was held Friday, April 14, at Knotts Funeral Home.

JAVIER HERNANDEZ LOPEZ

December 13, 1971 ~ April 7, 2023
 Javier Hernandez Lopez, 51, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, April 7, 2023, at Central Carolina Hospital.
 Viewing was held on Wednesday, April 12, at Knotts Funeral Home. The funeral was held at 3 p.m. Thursday, April 13, 2023, at Primera Iglesia Bautista De Sanford, with burial following in Lee Memory Gardens.

TAYLON JAMAR MORRISON

September 14, 2006 ~ April 3, 2023
 Taylon Jamar Morrison, 16, of Pittsboro, passed away on Monday, April 3, 2023, at his residence.
 Visitation was held on Friday, April 14, 2023, at Liberty Chapel Church. The funeral followed.

WILMA ANN (PALMER) CAMERON

Wilma Ann (Palmer) Cameron, 74, of Charlotte, passed away on Monday, April 10, 2023.
 Viewing was held on Monday, April 17, at Knotts Funeral Home. The funeral service was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

DELORIS (FERGUSON) ELLERBY

December 17, 1956 ~ April 15, 2023
 Deloris (Ferguson) Ellerby, 66, of Cameron, passed away on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at her residence in Sanford.
 Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

FREDDIE HARRISON REYNOLDS, III

December 20, 1961 ~ March 31, 2023
 Freddie Harrison Reynolds

III, 61, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, March 31, 2023, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.
 The funeral service was held Saturday, April 15, 2023, at Knotts Funeral Home.

WILLIE LEE (WHATLEY) MATTHEWS

December 3, 1941 ~ April 8, 2023
 Willie Lee (Whatley) Matthews, 81, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at Central Carolina Hospital.
 The funeral service was held on Sunday, April 16, 2023, at House of Refuge with burial following in Lee Memory Gardens.

PERRY LEE

January 23, 1957 ~ April 11, 2023
 Perry Lee, 66, of Cameron, passed away on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation.
 The funeral service was held on Monday, April 17, 2023, at Blandonia Presbyterian Church.

GEORGE WENDEL HARRIS JR.

August 22, 1963 ~ March 31, 2023
 George Wendel Harris Jr., 59, of Spring Lake, passed away on Friday, March 31, 2023, at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville.
 The wake service was held Saturday, April 15, 2023, at Knotts Funeral Home.

CAROLINE FOLASADE (OGUNDIPE) AKINOSHO

January 21, 1955 ~ April 10, 2023
 Caroline Folasade (Ogundipe) Akinosho, 68, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, April 10, 2023, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.
 Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 22, at Cool Springs Baptist Church in Sanford.

RAYMOND ELLINGTON CLARK HODGE

September 30, 1947 ~ April 8, 2023
 Raymond Ellington Clark Hodge, 75, of Aberdeen, passed away on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at First Health Hospice and Palliative Care in West End.
 Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

DELORIS (FERGUSON) ELLERBY

December 17, 1956 ~ April 15, 2023
 Deloris (Ferguson) Ellerby, 66, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at her residence.
 Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

OBITS

Continued from page A8

ROY ANDERSON JONES

Roy Anderson Jones, 87, died Monday, April 11, 2023, at SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan UNC Hospice House.
 A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date at Bynum Baptist Church.
 He was the son of the late Millard and Thelma Williams Jones. He was also predeceased in death by his siblings, Clarence Jones, Clyde Jones, Raymond Jones, Bill Jones, Eddie Jones and Marie Zedaker. Roy was an iron worker, working for Flour Daniels Contractors until he retired and then he went to work for the Chatham County Sheriffs Department as a bailiff. He retired from there after 14 years.
 Surviving is his wife, Clarice Durham Jones of Pittsboro; sons, Randy Jones of Sneads Ferry, Rusty Jones of Pittsboro, Ray Hackney of South Carolina; and daughter,

ter, Mona Hackney Thomas of Sanford; eight grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Nancy Dodd of Raleigh.
 In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to UNC Hospice House at UNC Health Foundation, Attn: Tina 123 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, N.C. 27516.
 Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com

KATHLEEN PATRICIA GERRITY CAWLEY

March 6, 1944 ~ April 11, 2023
 Kathleen Patricia “Patt” Gerrity Cawley passed on Thursday, April 11, 2023.
 A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pinehurst.
 She is survived by her husband, John Thomas Cawley and sons, Thomas Cawley and Edward Cawley; also her brother, Edward



**TOWN OF SILER CITY
 CDBG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 – WATER IMPROVEMENTS –
 TO SERVE THE CAM SITE
 REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR
 ENGINEERING SERVICES**

The Town of Siler City anticipates receiving notification of their award of a **Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Application** submitted for funding. The CDBG grant will provide \$2,500,000 to assist with water improvements to serve the new facility constructed by CAM site project in Siler City, North Carolina. The total project cost is estimated to be \$12,252,860.

The Town of Siler City is hereby soliciting qualifications to provide engineering services to aid in the implementation of the proposed project. Persons or firms interested in submitting a statement of qualifications for these services may contact Chris McCorquodale, Director of Public Utilities of Town of Siler City for an information packet, which outlines the scope of work for the services solicited. All qualifications are due by April 20, 2023, at 5:00pm.

The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Local, minority, female owned, historically underutilized businesses and small businesses are encouraged to submit qualifications. The Town of Siler City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Chris McCorquodale, Director of Public Utilities of Town of Siler City at 919-726-8614 or at 311 N. Second Ave., Siler City, North Carolina for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Chris McCorquodale of Ciudad de Siler al 919-726-8614 o al 311 N. Segunda Avenida., Ciudad de Siler, Carolina del Norte de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

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Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project is open to the public for review and comments during the days of May 15 through May 19, 2023, in the office of Julie Franklin, located at 2200 Hamp Stone Rd, Siler City, NC 27344. The school phone number is (919) 742-4550.

A13,A20,2t,c

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 216
All persons having claims against **JULIA WINCHELL LACK-KEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 13th day of April, 2023. **ROBERT S. LACKEY, JR.**
507 OAK AVENUE
CARRBORO, NC 27510
c/o Epting & Hackney
410 Martin Luther King, Jr. PO Drawer 1329
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

A13,A20,A27,My4,t,p

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 2023 E 000183
All persons having claims against **FRANCES T. GOODWIN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 13th day of April, 2023. **Tina Gale Goodwin, Executor**
2611 Tody Goodwin Road
Apex, NC 27502

A13,A20,A27,My4,t,p

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF MARTHA ANN HARTSHORN CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO. 2023 E 217
All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against **MARTHA ANN HARTSHORN** deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before July 22, 2023 or be barred from their

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recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 20th day of April, 2023. **Jennifer Anne Grant, Administrator**
2026 Terry Road
Durham, NC 27712
Attorney, Walter Brodie Burwell, Jr.
Envisage Law
2601 Oberlin Road, Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27608

A20,A27,M4,M11,4tc

Notice to Creditors NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **JEAN S. HORNEY**, late of 1434 Sunset Dr., Siler City, NC 27344, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at Gavigan Law, PLLC, 10700 Sikes Place, Suite 375, Charlotte, North Carolina 28277, Attn. Timothy B. Gavigan, on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 20th day of April, 2023. **Patricia H. Neinast**
The Estate of Jean S. Horney
Timothy B. Gavigan
Gavigan Law, PLLC
10700 Sikes Place, Suite 375
Charlotte, North Carolina 28277

A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Special Proceedings No. 22 SP 177
Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass
Date of Sale: MAY 1, 2023
Time of Sale: 3:00 p.m.
Place of Sale: **Chatham County Courthouse**
Description of Property: See Attached Description
Record Owners: Heirs of Mary Pattishall Alston, aka Mary Pattishall Alston
Address of Property: **36 Pattishall Road and commonly known as 36 Pattishall Road Pittsboro, NC 27312**
Deed of Trust Book: **1681, Page: 452**
Dated: **April 17, 2013**
Grantors: **Mary Pattishall Alston**
Original Beneficiary: **State Employees' Credit Union**
CONDITIONS OF SALE:
This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax. A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law. Residential real property with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to 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 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 not 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. 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. Dated: 4/4/23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO: 23 E 197
All persons having claims against **NEWBY JUDSON DARK, III**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 20th day of April, 2023. **Justin Casey Dark, Administrator**
8321 Hobhouse Circle
Raleigh, NC 27615

A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
David G. Romeolotti qualified before the Chatham County Clerk of Court on April 3, 2023 as Ancillary Administrator of the Estate of **DANA PORCH ROMEOLOTTI**, 2679 Building E. Sable Circle #102, Clearwater, FL 33761.
This is to notify all persons, firms and corporations, as required by NCGS 28A-14-1, having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the attorney designated below on or before the 19th day of July, 2023 or this notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payments to the undersigned. Payments and claims should be presented to: **Eddie S. Winstead, III**
P.O. Box 1045
Sanford, NC 27331-1045.

A20,A27,M4,M11,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified on the 11th day of April 2023 as Executor of the Estate of **DOROTHY K. MILLER**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 20th day of April 2023. **Mark Miller, Executor of the Estate of Dorothy K. Miller**
C/o Gwendolyn C. Brooks Kennon Craver, PLLC
4011 University Drive, Suite 300
Durham, North Carolina 27707

A20,A27,My4,My11,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM
The undersigned, **Scott Palkoski**, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ZENON PALKOSKI**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present such claims to the undersigned in care of the undersigned's Attorney at their address on or before July 20, 2023, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said Estate will please make immediate payment to the above-named Executor. This the 11th day of April 2023. **Scott Palkoski, Executor**
Estate of Zenon Palkoski
Blaire D. McClanahan, Esq.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
FILE NO: 2023 E 000124**

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

This the 20th day of April, 2023. Meagan Moore Frank, Administrator
1286 Sandy Branch Ch Road
Bear Creek, NC 27207
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tp

**REQUEST FOR ENGINEERING SERVICE
TOWN OF SILER CITY
Water Tank/Tower for Cam Site Project
March 9, 2023**

The Town of Siler City is soliciting requests for qualifications (RFQ) for professional engineering services to prepare; 1) a preliminary engineering report (PER), 2) an Environmental Assessment, 3) engineering design and bid package services and construction inspection services. The project scope would consist of the services needed to add a water tank/tower to the CAM Site to supply adequate storage, volume, and pressure of water to the users of the CAM Site property.

Scope of Work: Engineering services shall include, but are not limited to, standard tasks necessary for the implementation of the project:

1. Prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) outlining the scope of the project.
2. Preparing the final Design and Construction bid package in conformance with applicable regulations and requirements associated with ARPA funds.
3. Supervising the bid advertising, tabulation, and award process, including preparing the advertisements for bid solicitations, conducting pre-bid meeting, conducting bid opening, and issuing the notice to proceed;
4. Conducting the pre-construction conference;
5. Surveying, field staking, on-site supervising of construction work, and preparing inspection reports;
6. Reviewing and approving all contractor requests for payment, change orders, and submitting approved requests to the governing body;
7. Providing reproducible plan

drawings to the Town/City/County upon project completion;
6. Conducting final inspection and testing;
7. Submitting certified "as-built" drawings to appropriate authorities; and
8. Preparing an operation and maintenance manual (if applicable).
Engineering Firms are to submit three (3) paper copies and one (1) digital copy of their qualifications to prepare the Engineering Report and subsequent design and construction services to Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director, Town of Siler City, 311 N Second St., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 by 5:00 pm March 23, 2023. Bids will be awarded at the Board of Commissioners meeting April 3, 2023.

For more detailed submittal requirements contact Chris McCorquodale, Public Utilities Director at 919-726-8614 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org. RFQ submissions must include at a minimum:

1. Individual or Firm Information: firm's legal name, address, email, and telephone number, the principal(s) of the firm and their experience and qualifications;
2. Experience: The specialized experience and technical competence of the staff to be assigned to the project with respect to water improvements or related work, description of firm's prior experience, including any similar projects (in particular those funded by NC State Revolving Fund Program), size of community, location, total construction cost, and names of local officials knowledgeable regarding the firm's performance on related work. Include at least five references within the past five years;
3. Firm Capacity and Capability: The capacity and capability of the firm to perform the work in question, including specialized services, within the period of the grant, the past record of performance of the firm with respect to such factors as control of costs, quality of work, and ability to meet schedules; description of firm's current work activities, capability of carrying out all aspects of NC State Revolving Fund related activities, and firm's anticipated availability during the term of the project;
4. The proposed work plan and schedule for activities to be performed; and
5. Documentation of compliance with state and federal debarment/eligibility requirements. Each rater should complete an evaluation for each firm submitting a statement of qualifications. The highest number represents the most value for each column. WEIGHT column: 1-10 points depending on value

to the project and level of importance (assigned by rating group and must be identical on all evaluations), in each area, to the particular project. RATING column: 1-5 points. In this column grant recipients rate the firm based on each qualification. Multiply the rating by the weight for each category and enter the total. Add all totals to establish final score for firm.

Name of Firm:
Contact Person:
Project Description:

INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION Evaluation Factors for each of the following: WEIGHT (1 - 10) x RATING (1-5) = TOTAL

6. Individual or Firm Information: (firm's legal name, address, email, and telephone number, the principal(s) of the firm and their experience and qualifications);
7. Experience: The specialized experience and technical competence of the staff to be assigned to the project with respect to water improvements or related work, description of firm's prior experience, including any similar projects (in particular those funded by NC State Revolving Fund Program), size of community, location, total construction cost, and names of local officials knowledgeable regarding the firm's performance on related work. Include at least five references within the past five years
8. Firm Capacity and Capability: The capacity and capability of the firm to perform the work in question, including specialized services, within the period of the grant, the past record performance of the firm with respect to such factors as control of costs, quality of work, and ability to meet schedules; description of firm's current work activities, capability of carrying out all aspects of the NC Commerce Infrastructure Grant Program, and firm's anticipated availability during the term of the project;
9. The proposed work plan and schedule for activities to be performed; and
10. Documentation of compliance with state and federal debarment/eligibility requirements.

References:
Met requirements for submittal:
Name of Reviewer:
Grant Total:

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
FILE NO: 23 E 220**

All persons having claims against **JACK JUNIOR HENSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are

notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 20th day of April, 2023. Jack Gregory Henson, Executor
296 Howard Gilliland Road
Siler City, NC 27344
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
FILE NO: 23 E 222**

All persons having claims against **COLETTE WILLIAMS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 20th day of April, 2023. Erskine R. Glover, Administrator
24 Quince Place
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
FILE NO: 23 E 230**

All persons having claims against **WALTER J. ECKROTH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of July, 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 April, 2023. Barbara L. Bass Co- Executor
8596 Safflower Way
Leland, NC 28451
Sherri E. Chasnovitz, Co-Executor
317 Waverly Hills Drive
Cary, NC 27519
A20,A27,My4,My11,4tp

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
Town of Siler City
Community Development
Block Grant Economic Development: Water Improvements to serve CAM Site**

SERVICES SOLICITED: Professional Administrative Services for the implementation of the project specified herein.
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: April 20, 2023

II. PURPOSE OF SOLICITATION

The Town of Siler City anticipates receiving notice of award from the North Carolina Department of Commerce of their CDBG Economic Development application. The CDBG grant will provide \$2,500,000 to assist in providing water improvements to serve the

CAM site project. The total project cost is estimated to be \$12,252,860, 20% of which will be provided with CDBG grant funds.

III. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The following will outline in detail the services to be provided by the administrative consultant:

- General Administration:
1. Finalize the Environmental Review process, publish all required notices and send necessary documentation to the necessary funding agency(s) in order to receive release of funds.
 2. Establish and maintain a filing system in accordance with the required standards as established by the funding agency.
 3. Assist the Town in establishing a financial management system. Preparation of all requisitions, disbursement documentation, and preliminary approval of disbursements. The Town will approve and sign all requisitions and disbursement checks. All posting of checks will be performed by the Town.
 4. Prepare general policy documents to be adopted by the Board/Town Council to insure compliance with all aspects of Certification submitted to the State.
 5. Perform all tasks necessary to procure professional services, including legal, appraisal, and engineering to meet the program objectives. This will include the development of advertisements, Requests for Proposals, and contract documents meeting federal requirements.
 6. Coordinate with all third party professional contracts for the implementation of the project and provide assistance as needed.
 7. Oversee performance on engineering contract. Upon receipt of required survey maps, procure appraisal services and initiate right-of-way acquisitions (to be in conformance with Uniform Act or Real Property Acquisition and Relocation). Coordinate negotiations up to point of condemnation. If condemnation becomes necessary, work with Project Attorney to carry out this process. Review bid advertisement, bid procedures, and contract documents prepared by engineer to assure conformance with all federal and state laws. Assist in bidding project. Attend pre-construction conference to advise contractor of all labor regulations. Request appropriate wage decision, monitor payrolls for compliance with applicable labor regulations. Review requests for payment. Handle all related citizen complaints.
 8. Prepare all Annual Performance Reports required by the N.C. Department of Commerce.
 9. Represent the Town

on all monitoring visits or any related visits by the funding agency and prepare any responses to the funding agency as may be required.

10. Provide necessary assistance during formal audits to the program.

11. Handle all aspects of Program Close-out including but not limited to public hearing notices, preparation of Final Performance Report, and Certificate of Completion.

12. Prepare progress reports on accomplishments and expenditures of the project.

13. Assume all administrative responsibility for the N.C. Department of Commerce program compliance and completion of all activities defined in Town of Siler City CDBG Economic Development application.

IV. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Award of a contract for administrative services for this project shall be made to the responsible individual or firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the Town of Siler City. Special consideration will be given to experience, familiarity with the services to be provided, reputation, and quality of work. Proposal evaluation will be based on five evaluation factors, to be rated on a point system. The Town will select the most qualified individual or firm based on points awarded and attempt to negotiate with that consultant.

1. Previous administrative management experience on Community Development Block Grant Projects and the success of the projects. (25 Points)

2. Ability to successfully complete projects as approved by the N.C. Department of Commerce. (25 Points)

3. Experience of the firm's proposed Project Manager and project staff on previous Town and Community Development Projects to also include the level of training and certifications by the administrative team. (25 Points)

4. Understanding of needs of the Town and responsiveness of firm to elements in Requests for Proposals. (20 Points)

5. Lump sum or hourly not-to-exceed fee and hourly fee schedule (for evaluation purposes only). (5 Points)

V. PROPOSAL CONTENTS

If you are interested in performing the services defined, herein, please submit your proposal on or before April 20, 2023, at 5:00pm. Your proposal must specifically address each of the following items:

1. A listing of previous Community Development Block Grant experience.

2. Provide your proposed staff plan by listing each individual who will work on the project. Provide a brief explanation of the specific function of each individual and the role each will play in carrying out the project and the CDBG experience of each individual. A resume for each individual to be assigned to the project should be attached including copies of certificates of training and certifications.

3. Describe how the firm is prepared to be responsible to the local needs and local preferences. Include any special knowledge of the local area needs of the jurisdiction.

4. Lump Sum Fee or Hourly Not to Exceed Fee.

5. Please include three paper copies and one digital copy of your proposal.

VI. LOCATION TO MAIL OR DELIVER PROPOSAL TO:

Mail to: Chris McCorquodale, Director of Public Utilities, PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344
Deliver to: Chris McCorquodale, Director of Public Utilities, 311 N Second Ave., Siler City NC, 27344

VII. GRANTEE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

The Town of Siler City anticipates receiving award from the North Carolina Department of Commerce for their CDBG Economic Development grant application. The CDBG grant will provide \$2,500,000 for a total estimated project cost of \$12,252,860, 20% of which will be provided with CDBG grant funds.



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FRESH LEG QUARTERS 40 LB. CASES \$30 Each (\$.75/LB)		FRESH BONELESS THIGHS 10 LB. CASES \$30 Each (\$3.00/LB)


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14. Provide necessary assistance during formal audits to the program.

15. Handle all aspects of Program Close-out including but not limited to public hearing notices, preparation of Final Performance Report, and Certificate of Completion.

16. Prepare progress reports on accomplishments and expenditures of the project.

17. Assume all administrative responsibility for the N.C. Department of Commerce program compliance and completion of all activities defined in Town of Siler City CDBG Economic Development application.

18. Award of a contract for administrative services for this project shall be made to the responsible individual or firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the Town of Siler City. Special consideration will be given to experience, familiarity with the services to be provided, reputation, and quality of work. Proposal evaluation will be based on five evaluation factors, to be rated on a point system. The Town will select the most qualified individual or firm based on points awarded and attempt to negotiate with that consultant.

19. Previous administrative management experience on Community Development Block Grant Projects and the success of the projects. (25 Points)

20. Ability to successfully complete projects as approved by the N.C. Department of Commerce. (25 Points)

21. Experience of the firm's proposed Project Manager and project staff on previous Town and Community Development Projects to also include the level of training and certifications by the administrative team. (25 Points)

22. Understanding of needs of the Town and responsiveness of firm to elements in Requests for Proposals. (20 Points)

23. Lump sum or hourly not-to-exceed fee and hourly fee schedule (for evaluation purposes only). (5 Points)

24. Provide your proposed staff plan by listing each individual who will work on the project. Provide a brief explanation of the specific function of each individual and the role each will play in carrying out the project and the CDBG experience of each individual. A resume for each individual to be assigned to the project should be attached including copies of certificates of training and certifications.

25. Describe how the firm is prepared to be responsible to the local needs and local preferences. Include any special knowledge of the local area needs of the jurisdiction.

26. Lump Sum Fee or Hourly Not to Exceed Fee.

27. Please include three paper copies and one digital copy of your proposal.

28. LOCATION TO MAIL OR DELIVER PROPOSAL TO:
Mail to: Chris McCorquodale, Director of Public Utilities, PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344
Deliver to: Chris McCorquodale, Director of Public Utilities, 311 N Second Ave., Siler City NC, 27344

29. GRANTEE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS
The Town of Siler City anticipates receiving award from the North Carolina Department of Commerce for their CDBG Economic Development grant application. The CDBG grant will provide \$2,500,000 for a total estimated project cost of \$12,252,860, 20% of which will be provided with CDBG grant funds.

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SPORTS NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

APRIL 20 - 26, 2023 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

Chatham County athletics officials voice opposition to Senate Bill 636

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

N.C. Senate Republicans have introduced Senate Bill 636, titled "An Act to Revise Oversight of High School Interscholastic Athletics," a wide-ranging piece of legislation that would strip power away from the N.C. High School Athletic Association, the governing body of prep sports in the state.

Among its many provisions — one of which looks to limit the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) to four classifica-

tions — the bill, introduced on April 5, would prevent transgender athletes from competing on sports teams at the high school level that align with their gender identity. Instead, the bill requires "interscholastic teams or sports shall be designated as biological sex." It defines biological sex as "based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth."

Since its introduction, the bill has created quite the debate, especially alongside the news that state Rep. Tricia Cotham from Charlotte switched parties from Demo-

crat to Republican, giving the latter a supermajority in the state legislature. With a supermajority, Republicans have enough votes to overturn any vetoes Gov. Roy Cooper might impose.

In Chatham, those associated with high school athletics seem to agree about one thing: they see S.B. 636 as unnecessary and ultimately harmful to the state athletics scene.

"I think the association has the best interests of the student-athletes in mind, and they know the most about sports

See **BILL**, page B2



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Introduced in the N.C. Senate on April 5, Senate Bill 636 would, among other things, ban transgender girls from competing on girls sports teams.

BASEBALL

Bears embrace small ball in win over Jordan-Matthews

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

BEAR CREEK — It might not be the sexiest way to win games, but playing "small ball" can be quite effective.

Just ask the Chatham Central baseball team, which employed the strategy to perfection last Thursday night in a 4-3 home win over conference- and county-rival Jordan-Matthews.

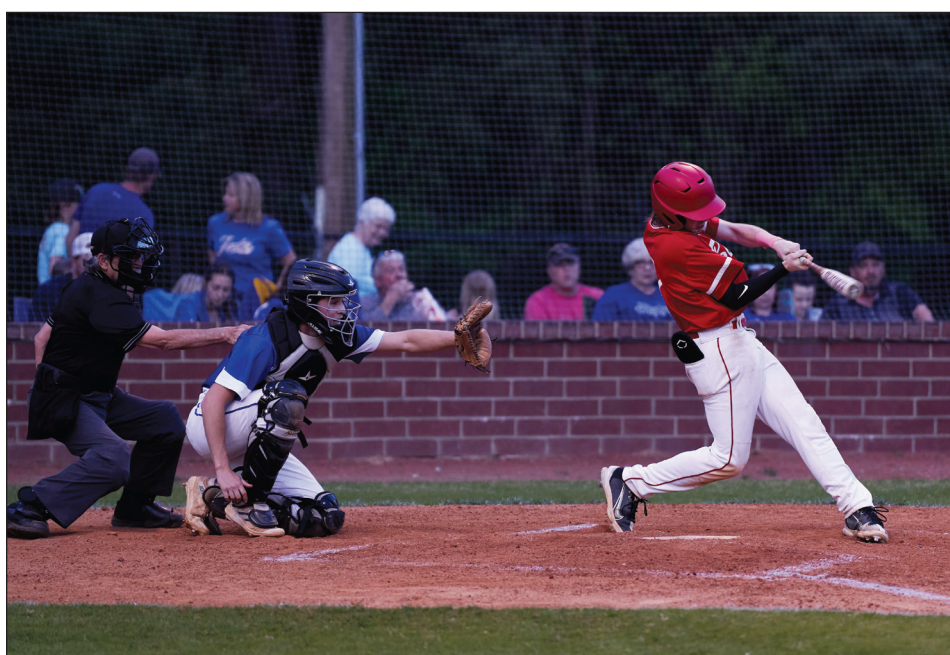
Leading by one run, 3-2, in the bottom of the fifth inning and needing some insurance, the Bears had their first two batters reach base on singles before sophomore Zane Overman attempted a sacrifice bunt to advance the runners. The Jets forced an out at second base, but sophomore Matt Murchison managed to make it to third base on the throw.

Junior Wesley Clewis then stepped into the batter's box with the sole mission of plating Murchison. Head coach Brett Walden called for a safety squeeze, and Clewis executed his sacrifice bunt perfectly, pushing it down the first-base line — giving Murchison plenty of time to reach home and extend the lead to 4-2.

"I really was just focused on seeing the ball and making sure I got the bunt down," Clewis said. "Matt is more than fast enough to score from third, but I really just focused on getting it down the first-base line so he'd have a chance to get there."

Clewis also served as a relief pitcher for Central on Thursday, spelling fellow junior Anthony Lopossay after he allowed five hits and two runs while striking out six batters over 4.1 innings. While he gave up a run on a sacrifice fly in the top of the sixth that cut the lead to 4-3, he eventually closed the door in the seventh to secure the victory.

The Jets managed to get the winning run on base in the final frame after Clewis gave up a two-out single to J-M sophomore Quinn Woolford and walked junior Payton White. But rather than folding under the pressure, Clewis struck out the final batter he faced after



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

The Chatham Central baseball team defeated Jordan-Matthews, 4-3, at home last Thursday.



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

Central sophomore Brady Phillips runs to first base during the Bears' 4-3 win over Jordan-Matthews last Thursday.

going behind in the count, 3-1.

"I like having multiple guys out there I can trust," Walden said of his junior pitchers. "They complement each other well. Anthony throws a little bit harder,

and Wesley has better breaking stuff. It's a pretty good change of pace."

Chatham Central finished Thursday's game with three sacrifice hits/bunts, its most in a game since totaling three in a 13-7 win over Grace Christian back on March 7. This ability to move runners in untraditional ways is a welcome sign for the Bears, who entered the game against the Jets having lost their past two conference games.

Central totaled just three runs in two games against Bartlett Yancey — which ended in scores of 5-3 and 1-0, respectively. In the second game, the Bears managed just three hits. Prior to that outing, Walden's team hadn't had fewer than seven hits in a game this spring.

The hope is Thursday's performance will lead to more like it. The Bears aren't an overpowering team at the plate. Across their first 17 games, they hit one total home run. But what Central

See **BEARS**, page B5

NBA deserves praise for marijuana policy

In the spirit of April 20, or 4-20, I thought it was the right time to applaud the National Basketball



JEREMY VERNON
Sports Editor

Association for its recent reforms regarding drug testing.

Announced at the beginning of April, the NBA reached a new agreement with its players' union that includes a stipulation that the league's players will no longer be tested or penalized for marijuana use. The NBA is the third major sports league in the United States to adopt similar policies, joining Major League Baseball (MLB) and the National Hockey League (NHL).

Under the NBA's previous weed policy, players who were caught using were entered into a treatment and counseling program for their first violation. They would then be fined \$25,000 for their second violation and given a five-game suspension for the third violation.

The changes are a long time coming for a sport where athletes use marijuana for both mental and physical recovery. In an interview with GQ back in 2022, former NBA star Al Harrington estimated that around 85% of the league's players used on a regular basis. Harrington, along with former NBA player J.R. Smith, both lobbied for

See **POLICY**, page B3

BOYS TENNIS

Propelled by lucky sneakers, Margrinat leading charge for Seaforth tennis

BY SHELBY SWANSON
News + Record Sports Correspondent

When Seaforth junior Walker Magrinat bought his neon green shoes, they were initially a joke. After wearing them once, he realized he couldn't return them and so they stuck around — through 11 straight singles wins this season.

Now, Magrinat claims his shoes — which his teammates call "the Grinches," since they somewhat resemble the popular Nike Kobe 6 Protro basketball shoes — have

"definitely" played a role in his success.

After a loss earlier in the season to Northwood's Jio Sumogod, Magrinat discovered a big hole in his old shoes, traded them in for the Grinches, and hasn't lost since.

On Monday, the Seaforth boys tennis team beat Jordan-Matthews 8-1. Playing at the No. 1 spot in singles, Magrinat dominated his opponent Paul Lujan, 6-1, 6-0.

Magrinat's calmness was on display throughout his singles match, as the junior nonchalantly bounced the ball behind his back during

breaks in play, or even exchanged jokes with his teammates who sat just outside the fence surrounding Seaforth's tennis courts. Every now and then, when the boisterous behavior of his friends became too much, he snapped back — "stop making me laugh!"

While Magrinat was in control for the majority of the match, at one point, a well-placed ball by Lujan forced Magrinat to drop-step and sprint to the back line.

He whiffed.

Without missing a beat, the junior laughed, made a joke about the wind and

immediately resumed play. Later, when Lujan nearly played a ball between his legs, Magrinat called over to his opponent — "that would've been sick!"

This mental game has garnered respect from Magrinat's teammates — some of them called him a "killa," although Magrinat isn't claiming that nickname — and praise from his coach, who considers him the "rock" of the team.

"The biggest thing that I've seen is he's got much better

See **SEAFORTH**, page B4



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Seaforth junior Walker Magrinat won his singles match, 6-1, 6-0, over Jordan-Matthews' Paul Lujan on Monday.

BILL

Continued from page B1 and what it entails,” Woods Charter Athletic Director Dena Floyd said. “Not for all the constituents, but most importantly the student-athletes, the coaches that are leading these student-athletes and the administrators in the schools. I think they know a lot more than the (legislature). It should be about more than just control. It should be about the student-athlete and giving them the best experience.”

Transgender ban

Provisions banning transgender athletes in S.B. 636 have also been introduced elsewhere in the N.C. General Assembly as Senate Bill 631 and House Bill 574. If passed, the legislation — dubbed the “Fairness in Women’s Sports Act” — would keep transgender student-athletes from playing sports for a team of the gender they identify with.

On Tuesday morning, the “Fairness in Women’s Sports Act” passed a Senate panel. The House debated its version of the bill Wednesday, which occurred after press time.

“It’s super alienating,” said Aiden Vigus, a former Northwood wrestler who is now a sophomore at Appalachian State. “A lot of people don’t have any other form of community, or their family isn’t there for them. Sports build a community, and to rob people of that is really, really wrong, especially at the high school or middle school level. It’s not justifiable to take that away from people.”

Right now, the NCHSAA offers a process for transgender student-athletes to apply to compete based on their gender identification. According to NCHSAA commissioner Que Tucker, 18 applications have been received by the association’s Gender Identity Committee since 2019; 17 of the applications have been approved.

Vigus, who identifies as non-binary, told the News + Record they thought the proposed bill was “fear-mongering” on part of the legislature to try and paint transgender females as a threat to women’s sports.

Vigus brought up an incident oft-cited by supporters of the bill in which a transgender girl competing for Highlands High’s volleyball team spiked a ball off an opponent’s face, causing head and neck injuries. After that game, Cherokee County Schools canceled all games between Highlands High and other schools in the district over safety concerns.

“Let’s not pretend that injuries don’t happen anyway or that having a ball spiked on your head wouldn’t hurt if it was a woman doing it,” Vigus said. “I just think it’s silly ... The way I see it, if you can have co-ed wrestling and not care about those things, I don’t understand why you care about other sports. People are being thrown around (in wrestling). It’s just confusing to me.”

Oliver Ewy, a senior at Northwood and president of the school’s Pride Club, said he wasn’t surprised when S.B. 636 was introduced because of similar legislation that has been signed into law in other southern states like Tennessee and Florida. He worries, though, about the affect taking high school sports away from transgender students may have on their mental health.

“I think sports and other extra-curriculars are extremely important, especially for transgender students who might not have a strong support

system at home, to have a stronger support system outside of the home at school or in sports if they desire that,” Ewy said. “I think that anyone playing sports that seeks it out for fun or to find a community, their team is extremely important to them, and they want to feel like they’re supported by their teammates and their coaches. I think this bill makes it a lot harder for students to feel that support.”

Equality NC, a state-wide LGBTQ nonprofit, has been a vocal opponent of the bill since it was introduced. On its website, the organization claims S.B. 636 is an “attack on trans youth.”

“Despite the absence of any evidence for competitive advantage for trans athletes, lawmakers are attempting to bully trans kids — even though fewer than 20 trans students have even applied to participate in sports congruent with their identities in N.C.,” the organization said in a statement. “We need to raise our voices in defense of these kids.”

Classifications and charters

Prior to S.B. 636’s introduction, there were plans for NCHSAA-member schools to vote on increasing classifications from four up to seven.

On Tuesday, the association announced the amendment increasing classifications from four to seven was approved by a vote of member principals, with plans for it to take affect beginning the 2025-26 school year. An approval means at least 324 principals out of 424 member schools voted in favor of the resolution.

But if passed, the bill would limit the association to four classifications based on Average Daily Membership (ADM), which is the current arrangement. This, several Chatham athletic directors believe, is a bad move considering the growing nature of the state as a whole.

“North Carolina’s population is one of the fastest growing populations in our country,” said Northwood Athletic Director Cameron Vernon. “With that population increase comes new high schools into the NCHSAA. As we increase the number of high schools, it only makes sense to increase classifications. It will provide more opportunities for our student athletes to compete for championships. I think elected officials need to stay out of this and allow coaches, athletic directors and administrators to make the call by the vote that recently took place.”

The NCHSAA has operated with four classifications — 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A, tied school size — in many sports since 1969, with 1A being the smallest school classification and 4A being the largest school classification. Several smaller states like South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia all have at least five classifications. Many involved in state athletics feel like a move to more classifications is a long time coming.

Others have taken issue with how S.B. 636 would require charter schools to play in the next-highest classification based on their Average Daily Membership, a figure the NCHSAA uses to separate teams into classifications. ADM is calculated by taking the total number of days within a given term a student’s name is on the current roll of a class divided by the number of days school is in session. Woods Charter, which has an ADM of under 200, competes at the 1A level right now, but the Wolves would have to move up to

2A if the bill is passed.

“I’m not sure why they’re putting up charters into a higher classification,” Floyd said. “Every charter is different. Putting us up in 2A would be pretty tough. I think there needs to be change so there’s equality between all the schools, but I also think there’s also a lot more involved than just ADM numbers.”

Charter and parochial schools have long been the target of state lawmakers, who have claimed the schools have competitive advantages over their public counterparts based on their ability to admit athletes from different counties, whereas students in public schools must attend solely based on geography. In 2021, N.C. House Republican John Bell publicly expressed his concerns about charter schools after watching a school in his district — Rosewood High — lose to Uwharrie Charter in the 1A state baseball finals in 2019.

While Floyd said she understands the point about parochial schools, she said it doesn’t apply to charter schools because they normally don’t have say over which students come into the school via the admission lottery.

The NCHSAA has been criticized for taking a neutral stance on the issue of charter schools, but several county athletic directors agreed that the association has been crucial in providing member schools guidance and regulations regarding the health and safety of their student athletes, coaches and administrators.

If passed, S.B. 636, which is currently being heard in committee, would prevent the NCHSAA from issuing monetary penalties to schools for rules violations and providing grants to schools or scholarships to players, unless the scholarships are funded by donor-directed funds. It would also ban the association from taking any gate money other than from state tournament games and require the NCHSAA to agree to annual audits.

Jason Amy, Seaforth’s athletic director who previously held the same position at Northwood, told the News + Record that the NCHSAA has done an admirable job governing high school sports across the state.

“It’s just like any athletic organization,” Amy said. “You’re not going to satisfy everybody, right? You’re going to have people who are going to be very happy with the way that things are, and you’re going to have other people who have different opinions. But ultimately the NCHSAA has been the guiding light for all of us in what we’re doing and they’ve given us good morals and principles to follow. To me, they’ve done a great job, honestly.”

Fewer opportunities

Perhaps an unintended consequence of the legislation, S.B. 636 would also seemingly prevent girls playing traditionally boys sports like football and baseball. The language of the bill states that “sports designated for males shall not be open to students of the female sex unless there is no comparable female team for a particular sport and the sport is non-contact.”

There have been instances of several girls playing football at public high schools in North Carolina over the past decade. And in 2020, Providence Day’s Sydney McCorckle became the first female to play for an N.C. private school team.

“In football, if I’m able to be a kicker and can do it, why not?” Floyd said. “It’s the same with baseball. Some girls grew up

just playing baseball and never have played softball. I think they should be given the opportunity if they want to.”

Vernon echoed that sentiment, and also said he believes the legislature is biting off more than it can chew when it comes to governing state-wide high school athletics.

“Just like anything else in life, we may not like every decision that is made, but it’s made to keep integrity in high school athletics,” he said. The NCHSAA is one of the most respected organizations in the country when it comes to high school athletics ... Politicians do not understand the scale to which the NCHSAA works with schools on a daily basis. I think they would take on a responsibility that they are not ready for.”

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POLICY

Continued from page B1

the legalization of recreational cannabis use in New York State back in 2019.

Playing 82 games over the course of six months can have long-lasting effects on a player's physical and mental well-being. Especially during long road trips or after playing on back-to-back nights, NBA players have used marijuana to try and combat both physical ailments and the stress and anxiety that come with being a professional athlete.

The NFL has made changes to its marijuana policy over the years and now allows players to consume during the offsea-

son. They also did away with suspensions for positive tests during the season in favor of just fines.

While the move by the NFL was a wise choice, it could also be considered too little, too late. Numerous players have had their careers derailed thanks to positive weed tests, including former receiver Josh Gordon. After breaking out with the Cleveland Browns in 2013, Brown played five games in 2014 before being handed two year-long suspensions in 2015 and 2016. Brown wasn't officially reinstated into the NFL until November 2017, and by that point his prime was already behind him.

I believe the NFL should

also allow for players to use marijuana in season. Football is unique among the major American pro sports because of its physical demands. Many liken getting tackled by a professional football player to being in a low-speed car crash. In a league where pain is the name of the game, players need to have safe pain-killing alternatives so they're not forced to turn to opioids.

In a story published in 2017, Bleacher Report found that many NFL players were using Toradol to deal with pain on gamedays. While there was no definitive link unearthed, doctors told BR that Toradol might put players at greater risk of concussion because of

its blood-thinning properties.

Still, other players said Toradol played second fiddle to other pain-killers like OxyContin and Vicodin, which are both highly addictive substances and can be dangerous when abused.

Marijuana, on the other hand, provides the pain-killing and stress-relief that prescription opioids offer without many of the negative side effects.

Back in 2022, the NFL pledged to give \$1 million toward funding research into the benefits of cannabis and cannabidiol (CBD) on pain-management for players. Thanks to this donation, the University of California San Diego and the University of Regina are now conducting a three-year study

into the topic.

It might be a years before the results of that study are published, but I hope the league is more proactive in listening to its players and understanding why they choose to use cannabis and the benefits it offers.

And while it might be controversial, the NCAA should discuss similar changes to their drug testing and determining which drugs affect a student-athletes eligibility. In a country that's dealing with a vast opioid epidemic, finding safe pain-killing alternatives could be a life or death dilemma.

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

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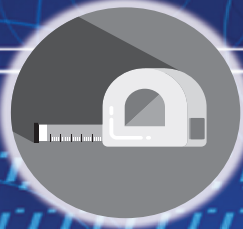
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SCORES & SCHEDULES

SCORES

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Boys tennis

North Moore 6, Chatham Charter 3

Baseball

Chatham Charter 18, Southern Wake Academy 7

Girls soccer

Franklin Academy 1, Woods Charter 0

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Boys tennis

Southern Wake Academy 7, Chatham Charter 2

Baseball

Southwestern Randolph 18, Jordan-Matthews 6

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Baseball

Chatham Central 4, Jordan-Matthews 3

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

Track and field

Seaforth sophomore Jack Anstrom finishes seventh in boys 1,600-meter run with time of 4:20.31 at Apex Relays. Seaforth finishes fourth in boys distance medley relay with time of 11:00.79.

MONDAY, APRIL 17

Boys tennis

Seaforth 8, Jordan-Matthews 1

Girls soccer

Woods Charter 10, Clover Garden 1
Jordan-Matthews 7, North Moore 0
Seaforth 9, Bartlett Yancey 0
Williams 4, Northwood 2

Girls lacrosse

Carrboro 14, Seaforth 12

SCHEDULES

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

Boys tennis

Northwood vs. Jordan-Matthews (4:30 p.m.)
Chatham Central at Graham (4:30 p.m.)

Softball

Chatham Charter vs. River Mill (5 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. Graham (6 p.m.)

Chatham Central vs. North Moore (6 p.m.)

Boys lacrosse

Seaforth vs. Western Alamance (6 p.m.)
Northwood at Eastern Alamance (6 p.m.)

Baseball

Northwood at Orange (6 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. Chatham Central (7 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews vs. Bartlett Yancey (7 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

Boys golf

Northwood in Central 3A Conference match (3 p.m.)

Track and field

Mid-Carolina Conference meet at Chatham Central (4 p.m.)

Boys tennis

Seaforth vs. Orange (4:30 p.m.)
Northwood at Western Alamance (4:30 p.m.)
Chatham Central vs. North Moore (4:30 p.m.)

Girls lacrosse

Northwood vs. East Chapel Hill (5 p.m.)

Girls soccer

Chatham Charter vs. Woods Charter (4:30 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. Graham (6 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews vs. Bartlett Yancey (6 p.m.)
Northwood vs. Cedar Ridge (6:45 p.m.)

Softball

Northwood vs. Southern Lee (6 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews at Graham (6 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. Chatham Central (6:30 p.m.)

Boys lacrosse

Northwood vs. Orange (7 p.m.)

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Boys golf

Northwood vs. Western Alamance at Indian Valley (2 p.m.)

Track and field

Northwood hosts 3A Central conference meet (4 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews vs. Chatham Charter, Graham (4:30 p.m.)

Boys tennis

Chatham Charter vs. Research Triangle (4 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. Northwood (4:30 p.m.)

Girls soccer

Northwood vs. Union Pines (6:30 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. Orange (6:45 p.m.)

Softball

Chatham Charter at Ascend Leadership (4 p.m.)

Baseball

Chatham Charter at Triangle Math & Science (3:30 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews at Chapel Hill (7 p.m.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Girls lacrosse

Northwood vs. Chapel Hill (5 p.m.)

Softball

Seaforth at Bartlett Yancey (6 p.m.)
Northwood vs. Orange (6 p.m.)
Chatham Central vs. Jordan-Matthews (6 p.m.)

Boys lacrosse

Seaforth vs. Williams (6 p.m.)
Northwood vs. Western Alamance (7 p.m.)

Baseball

Northwood vs. Orange (6 p.m.)
Chatham Central vs. Seaforth (7 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews at Bartlett Yancey (7 p.m.)

MONDAY, APRIL 24

Boys golf

Chatham Charter vs. Clover Garden at The Valley (3 p.m.)
Chatham Central vs. Seaforth vs. at Siler City Country Club (3:30 p.m.)

Boys tennis

Chatham Charter at River Mill (4 p.m.)
Seaforth at Orange (4:30 p.m.)

Girls soccer

Chatham Charter vs. River Mill (4:30 p.m.)
Northwood at Person (6 p.m.)
Seaforth at Cummings (6 p.m.)
Jordan-Matthews at Graham (6 p.m.)

Girls lacrosse

Northwood at Carrboro (5 p.m.)
Seaforth vs. Riverside (7 p.m.)

Softball

Chatham Charter at Gray Stone Day (6 p.m.)

Baseball

Jordan-Matthews vs. Cummings (5 p.m.)
Chatham Central at Providence Grove (7 p.m.)



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Seaforth junior Walker Magrinat is 11-1 in singles play so far this season.

SEAFORTH

Continued from page B1

confidence than he had last year,” Seaforth coach P.J. Petrides said. “Last year was more of a feeling-out process for him. This year, he’s back. He’s stronger. He’s been a lot

more consistent.” As a junior, Magrinat now has a solid idea of his style of play. He’s a pusher. He doesn’t go for big shots often, preferring to make the simple play and force opponents to commit errors.

“I always try to make my opponent hit the extra shot,” Magrinat said. “So if they hit a perfect shot, I’ll try to just lob it and make them hit the last volley. Sometimes when they miss, you’ll get in their head and then you sort of have the mental advantage, which is really key.”

In addition to Magrinat’s tactical approach, an area of major improvement has been his serve.

This season, with an improved hammer grip on the racket and a toss that is further in front, Magrinat is able to use his momentum to immediately rush the net and be set to return.

Junior Felton Burleigh,

the No. 2 singles player for Seaforth, joked that this adjustment is something Magrinat’s picked up from him over the course of their intense battles in practice.

“Walker’s the guy I got to beat at some point, and Walker’s got to keep his spot from me — that’s his motivation,” Burleigh said to the amusement of his teammates.

Whether it’s Magrinat’s green shoes, his mental game, or the preparation from competing against Burleigh, it’s clear that the Seaforth star is in prime position for the postseason.

Magrinat’s goal is to advance to the round of eight, moving up a step from his round of 16 exit in last season’s 2A singles championships. Petrides

has the bigger picture in mind — if Seaforth makes a significant push in the playoffs, they can join the ranks of successful programs like Franklin Academy, Research Triangle High School and N.C. Science & Math.

With the talent and poise of Magrinat, Seaforth may be primed to make that leap this season.



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GIRLS SOCCER

Woods Charter shakes off 1st loss; Seaforth, J-M pick up wins

BY JEREMY VERNON
News + Record Sports Editor

The Woods Charter girls soccer team suffered its first loss of the 2023 season last Tuesday to Franklin Academy, 1-0.

Losing for the first time in the regular season since a 2-1 loss to Jordan-Matthews on April 29, 2021, the Wolves could have let the defeat stick with them the rest of this spring. Instead, head coach Graeme Stewart's team has put the result fully behind them and is focused on what else the year will bring.

That was evident Monday night, as the Wolves dismantled Clover Garden School, 10-1. Two players — juniors Leyla Noronha and Sienna Gray — both tallied hat-tricks, while junior Carolina Mitchell had

a brace and freshman Amelia Cherry and senior Lucy Miller had one goal each.

For the season, Woods Charter (11-1 overall entering Wednesday's game at Chatham Charter) has outscored its 13 opponent by an average of 4.1 goals per game. Offensively, Gray (20), Cherry (18) and Noronha (13) all have at least 10 goals.

The Wolves have eight games remaining in the regular season, but their sights are set on making another deep run in the state playoffs. Last spring, Woods Charter made it to the 1A state final before falling to Christ the King, 3-0.

Another Chatham County team that looks ready to make noise in the postseason is Seaforth, which came into Tuesday's game against Graham with a 7-5 overall record and a

perfect 5-0 mark in Mid-Carolina Conference play.

The Hawks defeated Bartlett Yancey by mercy rule, 9-0, on Monday thanks to four goals from freshman Sofia Viana. Playing varsity soccer for the first time this spring, Viana leads the Hawks in both goals (17) and assists (15) this spring.

Seaforth has four conference games remaining on its schedule before the end of the regular season. If the Hawks win at least three of those games, they'll earn at least a share of the conference title for the first time in program history.

Trying to play spoiler to the Hawks will be Jordan-Matthews, which was 6-3-3 overall and 4-1 in conference play entering its Wednesday game vs. Bartlett Yancey. The Jets were victorious over North Moore

on Monday, 7-0, behind a hat trick from sophomore Jessica Parroquin.

Parroquin is J-M's leading scorer by a wide margin with 23 goals. She has scored at least three goals in five games this spring, including a five-goal performance against Southern Lee on March 6.

The Jets lost their first meeting with Seaforth this season, 4-0, back on March 16. The two teams will meet again in Pittsboro on May 8 in a matchup that could decide who wins the conference's regular season title.

Elsewhere in Chatham County, the Northwood girls soccer team failed to carry over any momentum from its 2-2 tie against Woods Charter last Thursday. The Chargers played Williams on Monday and lost,

4-2, to drop them to 5-6-2 overall and 3-4 in league play.

Northwood has struggled defensively this spring, allowing 3.3 goals per game to their opponents so far this season. The Chargers' leading scorer is sophomore Sarah Anne Murrell, who has nine goals and seven assists so far this year.

Playing with Woods Charter in the Central 1A Tar Heel Conference, the Chatham Charter girls soccer team was 1-6 heading into Wednesday's game against the Wolves. The Knights have not had a winning season in program history. The closest they came was going 5-7-2 overall last spring.

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

CHURCH NEWS

CORINTH A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

The Corinth Usher Board will observe their anniversary on Sunday, April 23, at 3 p.m. Our guests will be Rev. Joseph Robbins, pastor of Fair Promise A. M. E. Zion Church of Sanford, along with his choir and congregation.

You are cordially invited to worship with us as we offer praise and Thanksgiving for God's blessings.

The church is located at 491 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Siler City.

CHATHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Hyssongs are coming to Chatham County on Friday, April 21, at 6 p.m. for a free concert at Chatham UMC.

Please join us for a night of inspirational Southern Gospel music! Chatham UMC is located at 1826 Chatham Church Road, Moncure. A love offering will be received during the concert to help offset the costs of the Hyssongs' travel to Chatham County.

2023



SAVE the DATE
April 28 — May 11, 2023

Early Bird Registration March 3 - 17, 2023
Registration Deadline: March 31, 2023
Register Online: <http://torch.ncseniorgames.org>

For More Information:
Liz Lahti, 919-542-4512 ext. 228
liz.lahti@chathamcountync.gov

Events Offered

April

- 18 Archery
- 24 SilverArts Intake
- 28 T-Shirt and Packet pickup
- 29 Track & Field

May

- 1 Golf
- 1 Basketball Shoot
- 1 Cornhole
- 2 SilverArts Open House & Reception
- 2 Swimming
- 2 Tennis—Women's Singles/Men's Doubles
- 3 Cycling
- 3 Tennis—Men's Singles/Women's Doubles
- 4 Women's Bocce
- 4 Horseshoes
- 4 Fun Walk
- 4 Tennis—Mixed Doubles
- 5 Disc Golf
- 5 Football/Softball Throw
- 5 Bowling
- 8 Croquet
- 9 Pickleball—M/W Singles, M/W Doubles
- 9 Table Tennis
- 10 Pickleball—Mixed Doubles
- 11 Men's Bocce

Teachers, get your applications in for a Bright Ideas education grant!

Teachers, are you looking for new opportunities to fund projects for your classroom? Central Electric is awarding up to \$15,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to local educators in K-12 classrooms for the 2023-2024 school year.



The final deadline for all grant applications is Sept. 15, but don't wait to apply. Applications submitted prior to the early-bird deadline on Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa® gift cards. Scan the QR code or visit NCBrightIdeas.com for more information or to apply!



128 Wilson Rd
SANFORD, NC
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919-774-4900
800-446-7752



Staff photo by Matt Ramey

Entering Tuesday's game against Seaforth, the Central baseball team boasted a record of 12-5 overall.

BEARS

Continued from page B1

lacks in slugging it tries to make up for in fundamentals — playing good defense, getting on base in timely situations and being smart on the basepaths.

When the strategy is executed well, the Bears normally win. And when

it doesn't, the results speak for themselves.

The key for Central over the next few weeks will be finding more consistency at the plate.

"Sometimes for our guys, seeing is believing," Walden said. "We were down big Monday night against Western Guilford and got back into it with some bunts and applied some pressure.

It can create chaos and it makes the other team have to do something. We don't have a lot of speed, so we've worked a lot on getting down well-placed bunts where nobody's at and making them have to move to make a play."

Central entered this week at 12-5 overall and 6-3 in Mid-Carolina Conference play. At the same point last season, the Bears were only 9-8, but they found a groove over the final stretch of the season that allowed them to make a run to the fourth round of the state playoffs.

As things stand this spring, Central is ranked as the No. 11 team in the 1A East, meaning they could host a first-round playoff game if they finish the regular season on a strong note. The Bears entered last season's 1A tournament as the No. 21 seed in the east and won three straight road games before falling to eventual state-champion Perquimans in the regional semifinals.

Walden's team played Seaforth on the road Tuesday night (game occurred after press time). Central will play four more games during the regular season, including another matchup with the Hawks at home Friday at 7 p.m. The Bears won their two matchups with Seaforth last spring by a combined score of 29-1.

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



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CHATHAM COMMISSIONERS

State broadband grant to connect 1,900 Chatham homes

BY BEN RAPPAPORT
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Lack of adequate rural broadband in Chatham County has long hindered residents' access to the internet. There may, however, be some resolution on the horizon.

At Monday's Chatham County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro, commissioners approved \$350,000 of local funding to go toward the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Grant. The funding was approved in a 3-1 vote with Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores dissenting. Commissioner David Delaney was absent from the meeting.

The state grant program through the N.C. Dept. of Information Technology (NCDIT), provided \$206 million in state funding toward improving broadband access across the state. The money aims to bring high-speed internet to rural counties in North Carolina, including Chatham. Providers in the county are eligible for up to \$8 million in funding per fulfilled application through the GREAT grant.

In Chatham County, the winning bidder, Brightspeed, was awarded \$4 million and will connect 1,914 homes. While the funding was initially awarded by Gov. Roy Cooper in August, working out the logistics of which homes would be connected and the exact cost of the local match required caused the delay in approval.

Brightspeed will provide four-gigabyte download speeds using two-way fiber-optic internet.

The grant requires a total of \$1.6 million in matching cost. The county will pay \$350,000 of that cost; the rest will be paid by Brightspeed. Final maps of the awarded locations show most of the homes connected using GREAT Grant funding are in the Pittsboro area.

Steve Brewer, director state government affairs at Brightspeed, presented to the board before approval Monday. He said most of the connections through the GREAT program had to be built from "population hubs," meaning Pittsboro and Siler City in Chatham County.

In Brightspeed's initial grant application, it proposed connecting more than

5,000 Chatham homes. During NCDIT's approval process, that was reduced to 1,900 homes. Brewer said, however, just because homes were not approved for connection through GREAT Grant, Brightspeed still has other plans to partner with the county.

"Using this grant funding we're going to build from these wire centers," Brewer told the board. "And from those centers we can pick up, and connect, a lot of those units that didn't get grant approval."

In the two-year timeline of the GREAT Grant, Brewer said the company has plans to connect a total of 8,149 locations throughout the county. The figure, however, may be an overestimate because of potential overlap between proposals and approved connections, he added. Those planned connection locations would have the same download speeds (four gigabytes) as the approved locations.

In addition to the state grant, Brewer shared that Brightspeed has also applied for the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households. Brightspeed said it will provide an additional \$30 off per month for those households, meaning approved locations could connect for a low cost or for free.

"This is going to serve significant parts of the community who did not see the opportunity before," Karen Howard, chairperson of the Chatham Board of Commissioners, said following the approval of local funding Monday. "We look forward to making Brightspeed a true partner in our connectivity efforts because we know this continues to be an issue for folks across Chatham."

Once the county, NCDIT and Brightspeed sign a contract, the GREAT Grant provides a two-year timeline for the completion of the connectivity efforts. Brewer said, however, Brightspeed plans to build its fiber network within a year, and locations will be connected as the network is built.

Other business

• The board heard an informational presentation from county planning staff about joining the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO). Chatham is currently in two

other metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs): Durham-Chapel Hill-Carboro MPO (DCHC MPO) and the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO). An MPO is a regional planning network for transportation connectivity.

Brandon Dawson, Chatham County conservation and transportation planner, told commissioners joining a third MPO would help the county plan for future transit, pedestrian and roadway projects. He said this may become especially necessary as the county grows due to economic opportunities in Moncure and Siler City.

Dawson said CAMPO is also a larger MPO than the other two Chatham County is currently a member of, meaning there may be access to more funding for desired transportation projects. No action was taken on this item.

• Commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution proclaiming May 2023 as Older Americans Month in Chatham County. "Chatham County can work to build an even better community for our older residents," the resolution stated. "By not limiting our thinking about aging, exploring and combating stereotypes, emphasizing the many positive aspects of aging, inspiring older adults to push past traditional boundaries, and embracing our community's diversity."

The next Chatham Board of Commissioners meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 1, at 2 p.m. for a presentation of the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 county budget. The regular session will begin at 6 p.m.

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



Your local Rotary Club was well represented at the District 7690 Training Assembly in Asheboro! These leaders of our community were in attendance to learn more about how we, as a club, can bring BIGGER & STRONGER programs and services to Pittsboro. Come learn more about us at a weekly lunch meeting, every Wednesday at 12 noon at Postal Fish Company.



Community Forum

Town of Siler City Commissioner District 2

The Town of Siler City Board of Commissioners recently adopted a Strategic Plan.

One of the strategic priorities is to enhance community engagement.

The Town of Siler City is inviting the public to attend an informal community forum to share community projects, questions, comments, and concerns.

Forum Date:
Thursday, April 20, 2023

Forum Time:
6:00pm

Forum Location:
Corinth AME Zion Church (Fellowship Hall)
491 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

Since this is a public meeting, a quorum of the Board of Commissioners may be present, but no town business will be conducted.

If you have any questions, please contact Jack Meadows
Community Development Director @
919-726-8627 or jmeadows@silercity.org

Earth Day Lessons for Investors

It's almost Earth Day, when people around the world focus on ways of protecting and preserving the environment. And the lessons from this occasion can be applied to other areas of life — such as investing.

Here are some themes to consider:

• **Sustainability** — From an environmental perspective, sustainability encompasses a range of issues, such as using natural resources wisely. As an investor, you, too, need to protect your resources. So, for example, to sustain a long-term investment strategy, you won't want to dip into your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k), to pay for major home or car repairs or other unexpected, costly bills before retirement. You can help prevent this by building an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. And once you're retired, you need to sustain your portfolio so it can help provide income for many years. For that to happen, you'll need to maintain a withdrawal rate that doesn't deplete your investments too soon.

• **Growth potential** — Many people plant trees to celebrate Earth Day, with the hope that, as the trees grow, they'll contribute to cleaner air. When you invest, you also need growth potential if you're going to achieve your goals, including a comfortable retirement. So, your portfolio will need a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented vehicles, such as stocks and stock-based mutual funds or exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Yet, you do need to be aware that these investments can lose value, especially during downturns in the financial markets. You can help reduce the impact of market turbulence on your holdings by also owning other types of investments, such as bonds, government securities and certificates of deposit (CDs). While these investments can also lose value,

they are typically less volatile than stocks and stock-based mutual funds and ETFs. The appropriate percentage of growth and fixed-income investments in your portfolio depends on your risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term objectives.

• **Avoidance of "toxins"** — At some Earth Day events, you can learn about positive behaviors such as disposing of toxic items safely. And in the investment world, you'll also want to avoid toxic activities, such as chasing "hot" stocks that aren't appropriate for your needs, or trading investments so frequently that you run up commissions and taxes or jumping out of the markets altogether when there's a temporary decline.

• **Consolidation** — Getting rid of clutter and unnecessary possessions is another lesson some people take away from Earth Day. All of us, when we look around our homes, could probably find many duplicate items — do we really need two blenders or three brooms or five staplers? When you invest, it's also surprisingly easy to pick up "clutter" in the form of multiple accounts. You might have an IRA with one financial company and brokerage accounts with two or three others. If you were to consolidate these accounts with one provider, you might reduce correspondence — even if it is online — and possibly even lower the fees you pay. But perhaps more important, by consolidating these accounts at one place, possibly with the guidance of a financial professional who knows your needs and goals, you may find it easier to follow a single, unified investment strategy.

Earth Day only happens once a year — but it may provide lessons for investors that can last a lifetime.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Pittsboro
Chad Virgil, CFP® ChFC®, CLU®
630 East St Suite 2
919-545-5669

Governors Club
Sharon A Dickens, AAMS®
50101 Governors Dr Suite 118
919-967-9968

Pittsboro
Lee Shanklin, AAMS®
120 Lowes Drive Suite 107
919-545-0125

Penguin Place
Eric C Williams, AAMS®
114 Russet Run Suite 120
919-542-3020

Pittsboro
Kevin C Maley, AAMS®
984 Thompson St Suite E2
919-444-2961

Chapel Hill
Jessica L Villagrana, CFP®
180 Providence Rd
Suite 1c
984-219-6635

Siler City
Laura Clapp, CFP®, AAMS™
301 E Raleigh St
919-663-1051

Pittsboro
Blake Stewart
114 Russet Run Suite 120
919-542-3020

POLICE REPORTS

ARREST BLOTTER

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

On April 11, William James Lipofski, 31, of 2734 Old U.S. 421 N. Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Reid Allshouse for identity theft, obtaining property by false pretense and misdemeanor financial card fraud. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on April 24.

On April 11, Jesus Gonzalez, 46, 1636 Siler City Snow Camp Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for assault on a female and interference with

emergency communication. He was issued a written promise to appear and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on April 26.

On April 12, Jonathan Garrett Hart, 34, of 195 Paw Paw Road, Gulf, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for obtaining property by false pretense and larceny of motor vehicle. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on April 24.

On April 12, Teresa Kathryn Kirby, 30, of 1104 Brenda Ct., Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for

failure to appear. She was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court on May 3.

On April 13, Mark Anthony Dunn Jr., 24, of 380 W. 11th St., Apt. 5D, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Wesley Chafa for communicating threats. He was issued a \$2,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on April 26.

On April 14, David Ronald Black Jr., 29, of 315 Fontana Circle, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Andrew Gray for robbery with a dangerous weapon. He was issued a

\$50,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Alamance County District Court in Graham on April 24.

On April 14, Marquise Daquan Black, 27, of 315 Fontana Circle, Siler City, was arrested by SSgt. Ashley Ellington for failure to appear-release order. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Onslow County Superior Court in Jacksonville on April 24.

On April 15, Claudia Marcela Martinez, 44, no address, was arrested by Deputy Conner Lee for simple assault and child abuse. She was issued a \$1,000

secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 25. On April 15, Martinez was also arrested by Deputy Conner Lee for two counts of misdemeanor probation violation. She was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 10. On April 15, Martinez was also arrested by Deputy Conner Lee for simple assault and communicating threats. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 25.

Siler City OKs rezoning for new subdivision

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town's board of commissioners, meeting Monday, granted a rezoning request for a new major subdivision.

The proposed subdivision, Fox Haven, would

be located south of W. Third Street, east and west of Lane Jordan Road and north of W. Green Hill Road. Fox Haven will be about 168 acres and is planned to be a mixed housing community, with 296 single-family units, 192 townhomes and 288 apartments. The

subdivision will be built in five phases and will also include green spaces, trails and more.

Developers for Fox Haven said the single-family houses could range in price from \$275,000 to \$350,000, depending on how the market is once the houses are built.

Developer Tim Booras — co-owner of Siler City's Chatham Advanced Manufacturing site — told the News + Record last year his intention with Fox Haven Village "is to tee up a residential/mixed-use concept to allow a shorter time to market

by a quality production home builder and quicker build-out in the event a project comes to CAM."

Other business:

Town Manager Hank Raper announced the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality and

Mayor Chip Price had signed the Special Order by Consent (SOC) for the wastewater moratorium placed on Siler City. He said all that's left is to hear an official announcement for when the town can receive its first allocation of additional sewer capacity.

NEWS BRIEFS

Grand Trees of Chatham to lead May 3 hike

Grand Trees of Chatham plans a guided hike to begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 3, at the White Pines Nature Preserve.

The preserve, featuring white pines, mountain laurel, hardwoods and steep, rocky slopes, is managed by the Triangle Land Conservancy. You can find information about the preserve

and a map at <https://www.triangleland.org/explore/nature-preserves/white-pines-nature-preserve>.

The two-mile hike, expected to take up to two hours, will be led by Phil Cox and Rouse Wilson and will be limited to the first 24 individuals who sign up. White Pines has moderate terrain so it's recommend that hikers wear sturdy footwear. Pets are not allowed.

Pittsboro Gallery of Arts announces 'Tandem: Art & Poetry in Motion'

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro Gallery of Arts is collaborating with the North Carolina Haiku Society for a one-time merging of mediums.

Poets create haiku, written interpretations of the notable fine art on display at the gallery. In this exhibit, you'll find fine art and crafts created

in many mediums: oil, acrylics, watercolor, collage and fiber arts. You'll also find pottery, fine jewelry, and even sculptural ceramics and woodwork.

Meet the artists and poets, and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres at an opening reception from 5 to 8 p.m. on June 9. The show runs from June 7 to July 2.

The Pittsboro Gallery of Arts is located at 44-A Hillsboro St., a few steps from the County Court-

house circle. For more information, to go www.pittsboroarts.org.

Application deadline extended for Soil and Water Conservation District's Resource Conservation Workshop

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District is extending its application

deadline to May 15 for the Resource Conservation Workshop scheduled for June 25-30 at N.C. State.

The Resource Conservation Workshop involves study and hands-on participation in a wide range of conservation topics. Students are housed at NC State campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors. Students should come prepared

See **BRIEFS**, page B8



TOWN OF SILER CITY CDBG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT — WATER IMPROVEMENTS — TO SERVE THE CAM SITE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CDBG ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Town of Siler City anticipates receiving notification of their award of a **Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Application** submitted for funding. The CDBG grant will provide \$2,500,000 to assist with water improvements to serve the new facility constructed by CAM site project in Siler City, North Carolina. The total project cost is estimated to be \$12,252,860.

The Town of Siler City is hereby soliciting qualifications to provide grant administrative services to aid in the implementation of the proposed project. Persons or firms interested in submitting a statement of qualifications for these services may contact Chris McCorquodale, Director of Public Utilities of Town of Siler City for an information packet, which outlines the scope of work for the services solicited. All proposals are due by April 20, 2023, at 5:00pm.

The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Local, minority, female owned, historically underutilized businesses and small businesses are encouraged to submit qualifications. The Town of Siler City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Chris McCorquodale, Director of Public Utilities of Town of Siler City at 919-726-8614 or at 311 N. Second Ave., Siler City, North Carolina for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Chris McCorquodale of Ciudad de Siler al 919-726-8614 o al 311 N. Segunda Avenida., Ciudad de Siler, Carolina del Norte de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Council on Aging Weekly Activities Calendar

Monday, April 17
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)**
- 10 a.m. - **Arthritis Exercise w/Jackie**
- 11 a.m. - **Sr. Games Practice w/Alan (Bocce, Cornhole, Horseshoes); Golf at Siler City Country Club**
- 2 p.m. - **Table Tennis; Senior Games Croquet Practice (Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro)**
- 3 p.m. - **Caregiver Support Group**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 10 a.m. - **Cornhole**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Brody McCurdy, Voices of Chatham**
- 2 p.m. - **Geri-Fit**

Tuesday, April 18
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 9 a.m. - **3G's Men's Group**
- 10 a.m. - **Woodcarvers; Bingo w/Joe**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Gym Orientation**
- 11 a.m. - **Chatham Striders Walk & Learn**
- 1 p.m. - **Rummikub**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:45 a.m. - **Chair Exercises (in-person and Zoom)**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Ping Pong**
- 1 p.m. - **Rook/Phase 10/Rummikub; "Bring Your Own Project" Gathering**
- 2 p.m. - **Fitness Room Orientation**

Wednesday, April 19
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 10:00 a.m. - **Chair Yoga w/Liz; Coffee & Games w/Pittsboro Police Department**
- 1 p.m. - **Open Art Studio (Learn to Basket Weave w/Carolyn, RSVP with Jackie required)**
- 6:30 p.m. - **League of Women Voters: "How the Court System Works" (via Zoom)**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 10 a.m. - **Bible Study**
- 11:30 a.m. - **Nutrition Education w/Ann Clark**
- 2 p.m. - **Crafting w/Kathryn**
- 3:30 p.m. - **Beginning Quilting**

Thursday, April 20
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 10 a.m. - **Crafts & Chat; Chair Volleyball**
- 11 a.m. - **NC Legal Aid w/Allison on Wills, Healthcare Proxy, Power of Attorneys, Living Wills**
- 1 p.m. - **Games/Cards**
- 1:30 p.m. - **Line Dancing**
- 3 p.m. - **Gentle Yoga w/Liz**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9:00 a.m. - **Men's Coffee & Conversations**
- 10 a.m. - **Bocce & Horseshoes; Music Jam Session**
- 1 p.m. - **Book Club**
- 2 p.m. - **Geri-Fit**
- 3 p.m. - **Thursday Social (Bocce and Horseshoes)**

Friday, April 21
Eastern Chatham Senior Center

- 8:15 a.m. - **Body Conditioning w/Jackie**
- 10 a.m. - **Arthritis Exercise w/Jackie**
- 11:15 a.m. - **Cornhole & Shuffleboard**
- 1 p.m. - **Games/Euchre**

Western Chatham Senior Center

- 9 a.m. - **Strong & Fit w/Olivia**
- 10 a.m. - **Shuffleboard, Beginning Quilting; Grief Support Group**
- 10:30 a.m. - **Drawing with Lacy**
- 1 p.m. - **Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, Ag Center**
- 7 p.m. - **Friday Night Dance (fee required for participation)**



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

Eastern Chatham Senior Center
919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center
919-742-3975

Visit our website at www.chathamcoa.org

VinFast ships second batch of vehicles to U.S.

CN+R Staff Reports

HAI PHONG, Vietnam — VinFast announced the shipment of the second batch of 1,879 VF 8 vehicles to the U.S. and Canada. The vehicles are expected to be delivered to U.S. customers in May and to Canadian customers in June.

The ship carrying the Vietnamese electric vehicles left port Sunday and will travel more than 20 days before arriving on the California coast with 1,098 VF 8 cars for U.S. customers.

The VF 8 is an all-electric SUV. The company shipped its first 999 cars to California in November, but were not provided to customers until March after disclosing the car would have a lower battery range

than it had flagged to buyers, according to Reuters.

For the European markets, the first exported batch is expected to commence in mid-July 2023 with 700 VF 8 vehicles.

Currently, VinFast is offering a monthly lease price of \$399 for the VF 8 City Edition model for a 24-month lease.

The Vietnamese auto-manufacturer is building a facility in Moncure; it's expected to open in 2025.

VinFast recently announced a delay from its initial 2024 opening plans last month, attributing the change in schedule to the need for "more time to complete administrative procedures" at its 1,756-acre site. Company officials said they remain fully committed to the project.



Courtesy of VinFast

The Silver Queen departed from the MPC Port in Haiphong, Vietnam on Sunday for North America. The ship is expected to arrive in California after more than 20 days at sea. Upon arrival, VinFast will hand over 1,098 VF 8 vehicles to the US market and will continue the journey with the remaining 781 vehicles to Canada afterwards.

PROTECTING THE PLANET ONE PLANT AT A TIME

New native plant nursery to host grand opening on Saturday

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — When Rachel Nelms started working at Cure Nursery — which used to be located on Buteo Ridge in Pittsboro — in 2020, she never imagined she would open a native plant nursery of her own.

Fast forward three years, and Nelms is now preparing to host a grand opening event at her own plant nursery — Rachel's Native Plants — on Friday, April 21, at The Plant in Pittsboro.

"We are a place people who want to change the way they think about conventional landscaping can come to," Nelms said. "As more people learn about native plants, I want them to know that we've got a wide selection that we're working with other native plant nurseries to provide local ecosystems that would do well in our area."

Nelms's passion for native plants started in 2016 after her three children returned to school after summer break. The stay-at-home mom decided to look for something to do for work.

"I remember I was sitting at a stoplight thinking about what I was going to do, and my options were to go into landscaping ... or bartending and waitressing," Nelms said. "With little kids, I knew

I didn't want to go back into the bar business, so it just occurred to me to do landscaping."

After purchasing a lawn mower and a leaf blower, Nelms became a plant grower. She started her own landscaping business, and not long after she was contacted by someone wanting landscaping done in exchange for sharing knowledge on a new subject for Nelms: landscaping with native plants.

"She said, 'I'll pay you for four hours, and at the beginning of every shift, we'll walk around the property and I'll show you all the native plants,' and that's what we did," Nelms said. "I would probably spend an hour or two every Saturday, just walking around all of her different microclimates ... and she would just point out all the native plants ... that's when it clicked for me that I should do native plant landscaping."

From there, Nelms learned more about pollinating plants and native flora through Facebook groups and other online resources. She started to grow milkweed — the only plant monarch butterflies will eat — in milk jugs and began to incorporate more native species into her landscaping jobs.

One of the places where Nelms would buy her plants

was Cure Nursery. Eventually, Nelms started to work with the owners and staff. Instead of working for a paycheck, Nelms was paid in plants.

Cure's owners were looking to retire, but they wanted to ensure there was still an initiative promoting the use of native in Chatham County. They talked to Nelms about starting a nonprofit or her opening her own business, and Nelms and her husband decided to pursue starting an nursery. The couple bought land in Staley, across from the Chatham Advanced Manufacturing site, and planned to start growing their new nursery they named Love Supreme.

Then, tragedy struck; Nelms's husband died unexpectedly in January 2022, putting her nursery dreams on hold for what she thought would be forever.

"We were going to live on the property, retire and all that stuff," she said. "I had resigned to the fact that I wasn't going to do the nursery anymore."

Nelms wasn't going to continue her native nursery dreams until Lyle Estill, co-owner of The Plant in Pittsboro, reached out to her after he heard Cure Nursery was closing its doors. Estill asked Nelms whether she would consider opening her own native

plant nursery at The Plant. She said that's when she decided to accomplish her dream and to honor her husband's memory.

"I think of him with almost anything that I do," she said. "So even though we're not at Love Supreme, I built this to look just like that because I wanted to remember him here."

From there, Rachel's Native Plants broke ground in September 2022 and officially opened earlier this month. The nursery is located next to the solar panels on The Plant's premises, and it's home to a wide array of plants including azaleas, dogwoods and more.

Nelms said native plants are crucial to supporting the ecosystems certain creatures depend on for survival.

"Things like oak trees support a larger number of beneficial insects than say, a non-native maple tree," Nelms explained. "It's not just about horticulture and having pretty landscaping, but with such a large farming community in Chatham County, specifically, we need these pollinators to pollinate our food. If we can plant things that are a little bit extra beneficial, not just any old pollinator plant, but things that serve a purpose later, we can all live together."

Since opening Rachel's Native Plants, Nelms said she's

received positive feedback from residents.

"[Some feedback] I've gotten is that it's stunning, that it's really well laid out, that there's a nice selection and that the plants look really good and healthy," she said. "It's a nice vibe at The Plant to begin with ... I think by being a company here in Chatham, we can be a place people can come to who want to help and who want to come to a place that is also trying to do the right thing."

A year ago, Nelms was grieving the death of her husband and what she thought was the end of her native plant nursery dream. Now, with her nursery open for business, Nelms said she's ready to see what this business has in store for her — including possibly expanding to the land she and her late husband bought in 2021.

"I had this tragedy happen, and I would have been fine just wallowing in my grief, but instead, my life had something else bigger planned," Nelms said. "I'm just this instrument ... I'm just trying to follow what I think is the next right thing to do, and I feel like in my world, there are no obstacles. It tells me this is what I'm supposed to be doing."

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

BRIEFS

Continued from page B7

to meet the primary objective of the workshop — learn about natural resources and their management in today's global environment. Awards

and scholarships can be won and are presented to students under several awards programs.

The Resource Conservation Workshop is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in conjunction

with the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation, N.C. State University Crop and Soil Science Department, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter.

The Resource Con-

servation Workshop is designed to accommodate up to 104 students. Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District will sponsor at least one student to attend. Eligible students include rising sophomore, junior and senior high school students who have demonstrated an interest in natural resource conser-

vation.

Applications can be found online at <https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/documents/APPLICATIONFORM.pdf> or by contacting Brandy Oldham, education coordinator, by phone, 919-545-8440 or via email, brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov.

Applications must be submitted to Oldham no later than May 15. Applications should be mailed to 1192 U.S. 64 W. Business, Suite 200, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312. If applicants prefer and are able to attach all required information, they may submit their applications via email to Oldham.

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BEST OF CHATHAM 2022 READERS FAVORITE

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

CHECK OUT THAT FLOCK OF BIRDS LOOKING AT US.

THERE'S AN AIRPLANE RIGHT ABOVE. I BET THEY CAN SEE US DOWN HERE.

OH LOOK, HERE COMES A WEATHER BALLOON.

OK, NOW I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING WATCHED.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

THE SPREAD OF PANIC: AN UPDATE

SOMEONE YELLING "FIRE" IN A CROWDED MOVIE THEATER

AGGGH! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

EVERYBODY RUN!

SOMEONE SNEEZING IN A CROWDED ELEVATOR

AH CHOO

AGGGH LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

RUN!

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

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PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ICKY ENDING

ACROSS

1 Brief ad
5 Resistance units
9 Circular paths
15 Imprison
19 Starfish-yielding plant
21 They may disturb sleep
22 — Seltzer
23 Nut acquired with great effort
25 Nail salon job, in brief
26 — box (TV)
27 Cathedral in London
28 R&B's Brown
29 Prohibits
30 Erfurt article
31 Sprinkle sofa shams with water drops?
35 Calf-roping event
37 Link with
38 Casino cube
39 "Boo!" shouter
43 French city on the Rhone
47 Tax org.
48 Stan of jazz saxophone
49 Catholic dignitary's vigorous strength?
52 West African country
54 Juneau native

55 Directives
57 Like Stoker's "Dracula"
61 Steal from
62 Liking a lot
64 Overly crooked?
66 Quite dry
68 Stock debut, for short
70 "Nope"
71 Often-twisted cookie
72 Long-billed wading bird that loves perching on flexed arm muscles?
78 Testing stage
81 Early 1960s atty. gen.
82 Navy engineer
83 Made airtight, say
85 Liken (to)
87 Joan of folk
89 Climate that promotes the growth of powdery fungus?
91 Pale-looking
94 "Get 'em, Fido!"
96 Model X carmaker
97 Runs after
98 Aussie leaper
99 Grand house
101 "You're — pall!"

103 Class teaching the techniques of Civil War photographer Brady?
108 Marcel Marceau's clown
109 — Cherry (Ocean Spray flavor)
113 Pretty good grade
114 Antennae and tentacles
116 Chicago airport
117 Unlatch, e.g.
118 Baseballer Rod when not using a chauffeur?
122 Indian bread
123 Literary afterthought
124 Great list
125 Small vortex
126 Literary journalist Gay
127 Syringe fluids
128 "liad" city

4 Big fusses
5 "... Mac — PC?"
6 Gooled (around)
7 Quebec city
8 Stair unit
9 At just the right time
10 Author Dahl
11 Actress Jacqueline
12 "Kinda sorta"
13 Golf peg
14 Detroit-to-Memphis dir.
15 Crawford of the NBA
16 In style
17 "Told ya so!"
18 — faire
20 Soggy
24 Pat gently
28 "Let's Get Loud" singer, familiarly
30 1996 presidential candidate Bob
32 2006 Nintendo debut
33 Salon service
34 "We have the OK"
35 Japanese "energy healing"
36 Thereabouts
39 Egyptian beetles
40 Dietary unit

41 Coffee type
42 Ave. crossers
44 Old Italian money
45 Stops
46 Look for base in Cuba, for short
50 Crazy caper
51 Small bird
53 Lav. to Brits
56 Sailor's mop
58 Victory cries
59 Lacking frost
60 Snug-fitting necklaces
63 Artistic work
65 "Rivendale" network
67 "You Light Up My Life" singer
69 City in Utah
73 Stir-fry tidbit
74 Teeter-totter
75 Café au —
76 Macpherson or Fanning
77 Gets hitched
79 Protective shoe tip
80 "— and the Night Visitors"
84 Oscar — Hoya
86 School org.
88 Galvanizing element

90 Cary Grant played a male one in 1949
91 Radius or ulna
92 S.O.S. or Brillo product
93 Vary helpful tip, informally
95 Pigeon sound
99 "Bonjour, — amis!"
100 Fashion frill
102 Michael formerly of Disney
104 Word on Winnie-the-Pooh's pot
105 Total overhauls
106 Suit fabric
107 Wallach of film
109 Intone
110 Less typical
111 "Am not!" retort
112 Full of the latest info
115 Spacewalks, in NASA lingo
116 Mo. #10
118 Tennis unit
119 Air quality gp.
120 — Mama (rapper)
121 School stat

DOWN

1 Polite title for an Indian man
2 Luxury handbag label
3 Longtime senator Hatch

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

D	O	G	T	R	E	A	T	S	Z	O	R	R	O	I	M	S	T
E	A	R	N	E	D	R	U	N	O	R	E	A	D	H	A	S	T
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G	E	L	P	G	A	U	S	E	R	T	R	I					
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P	R	O	V	I	D	E	S	S	U	P	E	R	V	I	S	E	D
U	N	T	A	M	E	E	E	L	O	E	R	R	E	E	C	E	
T	E	T	P	R	O	M	D	U	D	R	A	J	A	D	O	R	
E	R	O	D	E	D	O	M	G	A	P	O	T	T	A	W	A	
R	I	D	E	S	O	N	S	M	A	L	L	H	O	R	S	E	
A	L	T	A	I	R	A	N	I	S	P	O	O	N	I	N	R	E
C	O	R	N	E	A	I	T	S	A	E	R	A	S	P	E	E	R
T	O	Y	O	U	N	G	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	C	U	R
S	K	I	T	E	A	S	L	O	S	C	O	P					
F	I	N	L	E	S	S	L	O	T	H	O	U	L	O			
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T	O	N	N	E	T	E	P	E	E	T	E	S	T	E	D	F	O

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		9		4			3	
	5				8			6
4			3				1	
	1			8			3	
6			5					4
		5			9		6	
1			6		4			8
		8		9				7
	2				7	5		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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MAGIC MAZE ● ENDING IN "AX"

I H E B Y V S P M J H E B Y V
 T Q O L S X I G D B Y W T R P
 M K I F U D A B Y W U S Q O M
 K I F D P B Z F X W U X X S Q
 O P O L E A X X I X N A A L J
 H F D C R A A A A L T R K O Y
 X W V T M D S W Q R A O C P H
 N A L I A X R K U I H H I H F
 E C L O X A W S E E B T P B Z
 Y C R E E L W V U X A T N Y S
 S B R Q R F P N M L X A J A J

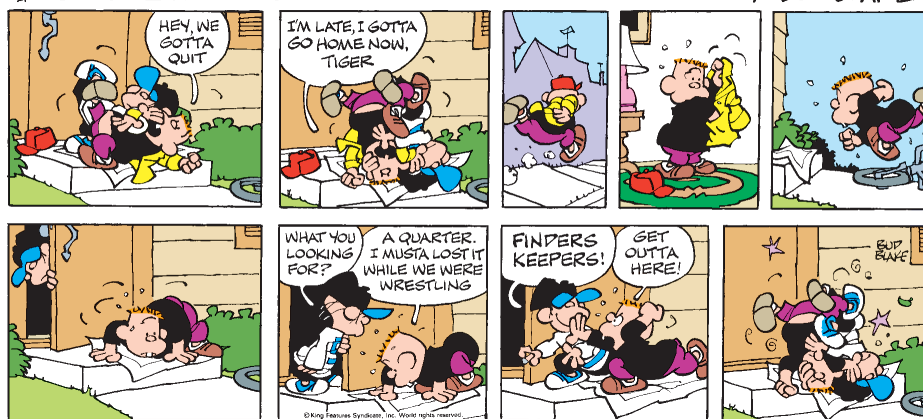
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: CAPITAL OF NOVA SCOTIA

- | | | | |
|---------|--------|----------|--------|
| Ajax | Climax | Pickax | Surtax |
| Anthrax | Earwax | Poleax | Syntax |
| Beeswax | Flax | Relax | Thorax |
| Broadax | Hoax | Supermax | |

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by BUD BLAKE



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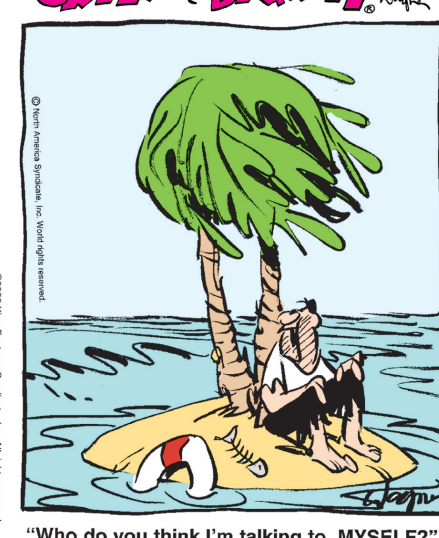
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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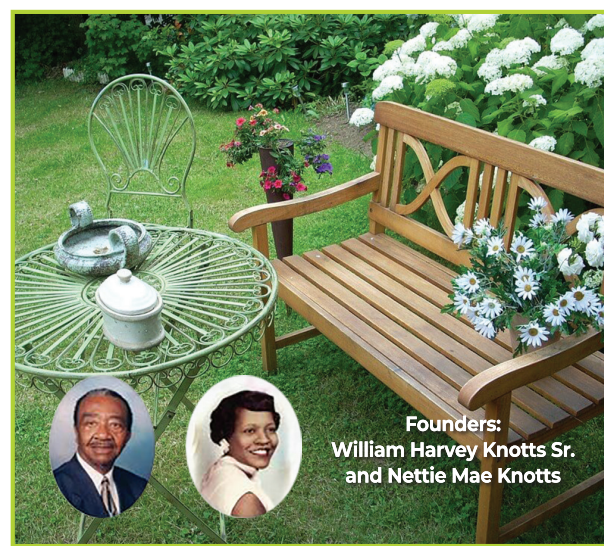
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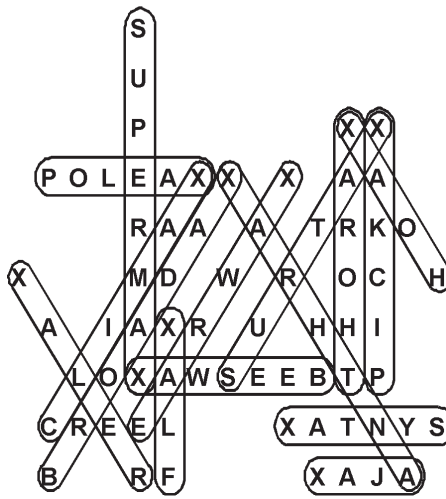
To-Do List:

- ✓ Carpentry
- ✓ Ceiling and Wall Repair
- ✓ Tile and Grout
- ✓ Cabinetry
- ✓ Doors and Windows
- ✓ Deck Maintenance
- ✓ Garage Organization
- ✓ Shelving and Storage



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ENDING IN "AX"



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

8	6	9	1	4	2	7	3	5
3	5	1	9	7	8	4	2	6
4	7	2	3	6	5	1	9	8
2	1	4	7	8	6	3	5	9
6	9	3	5	2	1	8	7	4
7	8	5	4	3	9	2	6	1
1	3	7	6	5	4	9	8	2
5	4	8	2	9	3	6	1	7
9	2	6	8	1	7	5	4	3

Meat Cute



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

Gentle Reader, I'd like to tell you about a friend of mine from my junior high years in San Diego.

Her name was Debbie Zinn.

In my eyes, she was fearless and glamorous. She was always brilliant without trying, and frequently trying to impress both teachers and her parents because she was brilliant.

In Spanish class, we each had to create an imaginary restaurant, then produce a real menu for it, and every word had to be in Spanish.

I called mine "El Camino Del Rey" (The King's Road); she called hers "La Mosca Verde" (The Green Fly). She was a cute, blond subversive and I thought she was cooler than Pinkie Tuscadero.

She introduced to me the gothic romance genre. These days gothic romances are more, "I married a werewolf and now live in a werewolf subdivision."

But back in the land of the lost a gothic romance, and especially our faves, the ones authored by Victoria Holt were pretty formulaic and followed the example set by the Brontës and Du Maurier: helpless orphan goes to live in mysterious castle-type place and falls in love with enigmatic master of the house.

They were read at a very impressionable time and have stayed with me as literary comfort food.

And in the vein of comfort food and because this is, in the end, a food column, I give

Steak House Sauces

The secret to these sauces is to go heavy with the sharp. Think of these sauces as the sauce that would be used in a historic Steak House during the Mad Man era, three-martini lunch; the dueling ground for mid-century city dwellers, pushing themselves for admiration and dominance within their pack of co-workers/rivals.

So hit those flavors until you think you went over the line just a bit too much. Then season a little heavier than you think you should. Let it rest in the fridge for at least thirty minutes, and taste it again. You may need to season a little more, but you'll find that the flavors have melded and while still pretty sharp, it's no longer too sharp.

Dijonnaise

1/4 cup mayonnaise (Hellmann's, homemade, or whatever other kind of mayo you may be mistaken about being the best)
Really sharp Dijon mustard (the kind that makes your eyes water when you take a big sniff)
Salt and pepper

Stir in mustard until smooth. Taste, and keep stirring in more mustard and tasting until you're afraid you ruined it.

Season until it's tap dancing on the knife edge between well-seasoned and, "OMG, it's so salty! My mouth is drier than a Wednesday Adams stand-up routine!"

Screw your courage to the sticking place, Gentle Reader, it's OK, cover, refrigerate, and walk away ... just walk away.

Horseradish Za'atar Cream

1/4 cup sour cream
1/8 teaspoon za'atar herb blend (every grocery carries this these days)
Horseradish (fresh or prepared is up to you, but never having used fresh, I have no idea about how it compares to prepared)
Salt and pepper

Stir together sour cream and za'atar, then add horseradish, just like you did with the mustard, a bit at a time until pretty darn spicy, and then a bit more, heavily season afterward, and rest in fridge.

you the Victorian, utterly sophisticated meal known as "The Cold Supper." In those books Debbie and I read, traded and reread, there were always "servants." Depending on the household it could be more than 20, and in smaller, poorer homes there was maybe a cook, and a maid-of-all-work, or a we-don't-have-enough-cash-for-more-than-one-maid-maid.

If one wanted something to eat after the fires had been banked and the kitchen closed, it was usually a cold supper. Unreheated leftovers that could be eaten cold: breads, cheeses, meats, cold veggie dishes.

To me, they are the hallmark of sophisticated British living. One has a cold dinner if the train carrying you and your mysterious new husband runs into a delay and your new mother-in-law frostily states that she's sent

the servants to bed. Or maybe you've returned extremely late to your extremely fashionable townhouse in Belgravia and the servants have left a cold supper along with bottles and bottles of chilled champagne as sustenance for you and your crowd of extremely amusing crowd of friends..

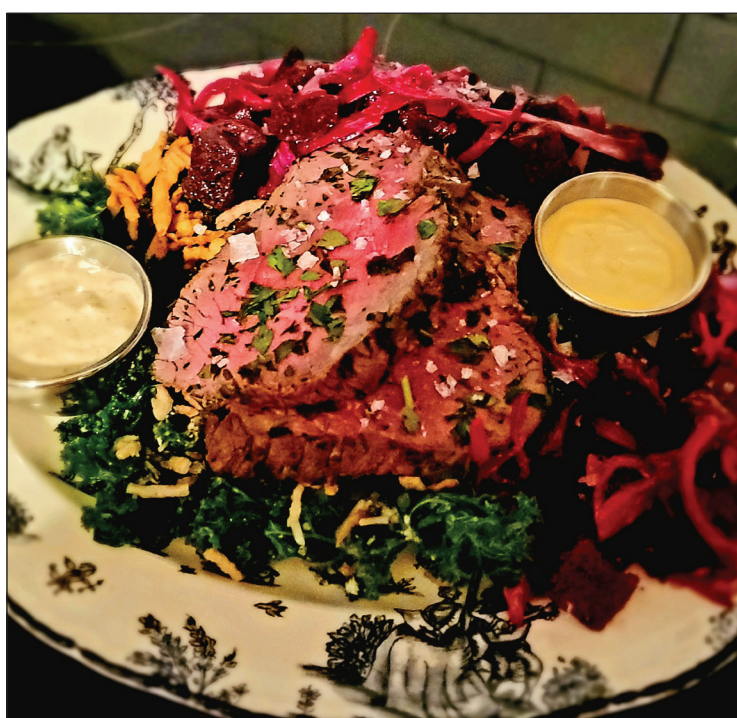
In a far less glamorous and noteworthy dinner, I brought home a plate from Whole Foods with two slices of their London Broil, garlic kale and sherry beets — all cold.

I decided to plate my meal and it turned out looking like a plate from a fancy steak house.

So, I made sauces, took pictures and had a milk chocolate Easter Bunny head for dessert.

Thanks for your time.

Contact *The Curious Cook* at dm@bullcity.mom.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

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