

Happy New Year

Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C.

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Pastor Wesley Thomas stands at the door listening to music from New Direction at Cowboy Church in Asbury. Every Tuesday night at a barn in the Asbury Community and at Carolina Stockyards in Siler City, folks gather to hear the Gospel, sing and listen to special music. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

COWBOY CHURCH IN CHATHAM

They're saddling up to ride the Gospel trail

BY BOB WACHS
News+Record Staff

The seats aren't padded. There are no pews or stained-glass windows. And there's not a tie in sight.

But the crowd that's on hand is having church, make no mistake about it.

There's singing, a sermon and prayers. Folks shake hands and embrace, all the things associated with Sunday morning church services across Chatham County, indeed across much of the nation and world.

Here, though, it's not Sunday morning and the worship services aren't taking place inside a church sanctuary. Instead it's 7 o'clock on a Tuesday night at Carolina Stockyards west of Siler City and at Joe Mason's barn at Cool Water Stables in the Asbury community near the Chatham-Lee county line. "Cowboy church," it's called. There are two of them in Chatham County and there some honest-to-goodness cowboys on hand, but there are a host of other folks as well. Some of them aren't able to make a Sunday morning service. Others prefer the informality of the stockyard sale ring or the folding chairs on a dirt floor. And some just flat like going to a different style

of service where they're comfortable in their jeans and caps and maybe think they're not welcome in a traditional setting.

Cowboy churches have been around for 50 years or so in the Midwest but in recent years the idea began to pick up speed and spread across the country. Some of the churches are non-denominational, as is the Stockyard Cowboy Church, while others are outgrowths and "plants" by denominations, especially Southern Baptist. That's the case with Cool Water Cowboy Church.

But whatever the origin, church leaders say they have one goal in mind: to point people to Jesus. On a recent Tuesday night at Stockyard Cowboy Church, pastor Willie Pickard welcomed those in attendance — "We've got a good group tonight," he said — and then proceeded to pray for a number of people and needs, including a 19-month old child with pneumonia.

As he prayed to God, he noted that prayers were intended "to bring honor and glory to You, to show how much you love us ... as we celebrate Christmas, we know there had to be Easter but Jesus had to be born to be the Savior of the world."

He then preached a sermon on prayer, pointing out that "prayer is a powerful weapon we often don't use, sometimes only when things

are bad but God wants us to talk with Him all the time." Mixed in the service were several songs, including "Mary, Did You Know?" sung by Willie's sister Sherry Duncan, who manages the restaurant at the stockyard.

Pickard, who is a farrier by profession, has been pastor of the group almost as long as the three years it's been in existence but, he says he had nothing to do with it starting. "I found out after it got going that for a couple of years two men had been praying for a cowboy church at the stockyard," he says. "They approached Sherry — she lived in Oklahoma several years and there are lots of cowboy churches there — and she asked Robert (stockyard manager Robert Crabbe) about meeting here and he said we could. He's been very kind to let us meet here."

What some people might call luck or coincidence but what Pickard sees as divine guidance was the next step for the church and for him.

"There was a meeting of 10 or 12 folks on a Monday night to talk about organizing a church," he says, "and I hadn't planned to go. I was supposed to take my youngest son to basketball practice but when we showed up no one was there. I found out later that someone sent an email canceling practice but we didn't get it. On the way

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IN NORTHERN CHATHAM

Flooding roads have residents needing boats

BY JOHN HUNTER
News + Record Staff

Depending on the weather, Todd Massey has to decide whether he'll drive — or kayak — to his house.

Massey is one of 26 residents of Jeremiah Drive in northeastern Chatham County who has been dealing with severe flooding on their road for several years.

"It depends," Massey said. "I have a big truck, so I can get further than most people. I'll drive until the water is up to my doors. Otherwise I boat home."

When the flooding is bad, as it was again last week, "nobody can get to their house by car," Massey said. "They have to park up the street and boat in."

The problem is a portion of the road, Massey said.

"We are talking about 800 feet at the bottom of a hill," he explained. "But when it floods, it can get six to eight feet deep at that point. You can't get past. It takes over two weeks normally for the flooding to clear each time. It doesn't just go right away."

Last Thursday, Jeremiah Drive residents received the latest flood warning from Chatham County Emergency Management. The warning stated that water from Jordan Lake was expected to rise 231 feet — or four feet deep over Jeremiah Drive — and prevent vehicle access to the neighborhood.

While last week's flooding was the most recent, such conditions aren't new to the residents on Jeremiah Drive, who have been dealing with flooding for the last three decades, according to interim Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne.

"This has been going on since the 80s," LaMontagne said during the Dec. 17 Chatham County Board of Commissioners meeting. "This has been talked about and talked about, and then it stops raining. It gets dropped and people don't think about it again until it gets flooded."

Instances of flooding have intensified in recent weeks be-

cause of Hurricane Florence.

According to Jeremiah Drive resident Faye Stanley, the entire neighborhood was cut off by more than five feet of water covering the roadway. The neighborhood did not receive mail for 16 days. During the Florence flooding, one of the residents had a medical emergency and had to be paddled out to get help.

In November, Chatham County Emergency Management Director Steve Newton wrote an open letter

See 'Residents' page A6



Jeremiah Drive resident Maja Kricker uses a kayak to get to her car after flooding stranded families. (Staff photo Jeff Davis)

N.C.'s VOTER ID LAW

It's in place. So what's next?

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

As of now, North Carolina voters will be required to show some form of photo identification when they go to the polls.

The law is in place once again after both chambers of the N.C. General Assembly overrode Gov. Roy Cooper's veto last week. The votes, mostly along party lines, enacted a constitutional amendment approved in November by the same voters that will be affected by it.

The approval came after heated debate in the legislature and was met with a lawsuit less than an hour after the House voted to override the veto.

Here's a breakdown of a few observations from the final bill, a competing piece of legislation that went nowhere and the aforementioned lawsuit:

Chatham Voted Against It

State voters supported the November amendment by a 55.5 percent to 44.5 percent margin, which didn't reflect Chatham County's 54.3 to 45.7 percent vote against it. Both of

Chatham County's representatives in the General Assembly voted against the bill that put the question on the ballot,

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Community Calendar

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

- The town of Siler City offices are closed for the New Year holiday on January 1.
- The town of Pittsboro offices are closed for the New Year holiday on January 1.
- With a few exceptions, Chatham County offices are closed for the New Years holiday Jan. 1. The exceptions are:
 - PUBLIC SAFETY: Public safety offices remain open 24/7, including holidays.
 - COUNTY PARKS: County park facilities (not the main Parks & Recreation office) are open throughout the upcoming holiday. You can go walk off your New Year's Eve calories at the parks on New Year's Day.
 - WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION CENTERS: The Collection Centers will all day on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

SUNDAY

- Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy's Christmas luminary service that was canceled on Dec. 16 because of the snow storm has been re-scheduled. The event now will be 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 30, at Siler City's First United Methodist Church. A number of area choirs and musicians will be performing with a time of refreshments and fellowship afterwards.

MONDAY

- Tommy Edwards & the Bluegrass Experience will ring in the New Year Dec. 31 at the Temple Theatre in Sanford. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the 8 p.m. show. Tickets can be booked at TempleShows.com or by calling the Temple Box Office at 919-774-4155

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ABOUT US

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TUESDAY

- Start your New Year off on a good foot with a First Day Hike! Join Friends of Lower Haw on Jan. 1, 2019, for a "Discover the Winter Landscape" walk in the Lower Haw River State Natural Area led by botanist Ken Moore, retired Assistant Director of the NC Botanical Garden. Contact lowerhawevents@gmail.com to pre-register.

ALSO HAPPENING

- New Hope Audubon Society will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, January 3. Join us for our monthly meeting at the NC Botanical Garden (100 Old Mason Farm Road on Hwy.15-501 at the intersection with Old Mason Farm Rd.) in Chapel Hill. David Blevins will inspire us on the topic of Photography of the North Carolina Barrier Islands. There is no charge for admission and all are welcome, members and non-members alike.
- The Council on Aging will host a Health & Wellness Discussion Group on the Third Friday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro. To sign up for information, contact Alan Russo at 919-542-4512 or alan.russo@chathamcoa.org.

- Chatham County Rescue Squad Blood Drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24, at 201 South Second Avenue, Siler City. To schedule your life-saving appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: ChathamRescue or call 1-800-REDCROSS. Give more life! Donate blood.

- Wake Up Wednesday, the local forum for sharing news about your products, services, skills, or non-profit events and programs, is held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Carolina Brewery near Lowes Home Store in Pittsboro. Doors open at 8 a.m. The program starts at 8:30 and ends at 9:30. \$5 gains you entry, a fresh hot breakfast with coffee, and access to approximately 50 people looking for new clients and customers in the community.

- Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive Parent in Chatham County. Call 919-642-6956 to learn more about the Foster or Adoption Program.

- For Drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps! Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, NC District 33, Meeting schedules available at 866-640-0180 for Chatham, Alamance, Caswell and Orange Counties.

- CORA invites the public to the 9th Annual Chatham Empty Bowls Fundraiser on Sunday, February 24, at Galloway Ridge at Fearington in Pittsboro. Empty Bowls is an event designed to raise awareness and funds for our battle to end hunger in Chatham County. Artists of all ages, skill levels, and mediums will donate hundreds of handmade bowls. The bowl then serves as a reminder that someone's bowl is always empty and that we need to continue our efforts to end hunger in our community. Dinner and bowls will be available for purchase at various levels. Visit www.corafoodpantry.org for more information.

- The Caregiver Support Group meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Pittsboro Senior Center. For more information, contact Susan Hardy at 919-542-4512.

Opportunities for Scouting

- Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstrop93.org for more information.
- Pack 924 of Siler City First United Methodist Church meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cob Scouts.
- Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's United Methodist Church following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information

Program promises free tuition to CCCC for Chatham grads

BY CASEY MANN

News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners last week unanimously approved Chatham Promise, a program giving qualifying graduates from Chatham County High Schools up to two years free tuition on Monday

A similar program has been in place in Lee County since the spring, with more than 80 students already taking advantage of the opportunity. Harnett County recently passed a similar program as well.

Graduates of any Chatham County high school who have taken at least 12 credit hours of courses at CCCC while attending high school would be eligible for the program. Both career and technical education courses and college transfer courses taken through CCCC by Chatham County students would qualify. Students would have access to curriculums on each of CCCC's three campuses.

The Chatham Promise program will cost the county about \$1,050,000 over the next five years. The program, which CCCC President Dr. Bud Marchant expects to help about 200 students its first year, will be paid for by the county using a reimbursement program.

CCCC will invoice Chatham County at the end of each semester for applicable tuition and fees. Along with invoices, CCCC will provide the county with a breakdown of the study areas of the students as well as other data that will inform the board about the students receiving assistance.

High school students scheduled to graduate would first need to apply for financial aid at CCCC. Prospective students would begin meeting with advisors as early as their junior year of high school

to ensure all financial aid requirements are met, according to Jim Crawford, a Chatham County commissioner and trustee for CCCC.

Students would also need to apply for CCCC Foundation scholarships. For those accepted into the program, tuition costs not covered by Pell Grants or other scholarships would be covered by Chatham Promise. Students who do not qualify for financial aid would still be able to qualify for Chatham Promise and would not be required to take out student loans.

Marchant emphasized that the agreement is only for a five-year pilot program, noting CCCC would come before the board after the fourth year to allow the board time to

determine if it wants to continue the program.

"At the end of the period, you can evaluate and determine if you want to keep it or change it," Marchant said. "You can see the benefit and evaluate it to determine if it was worth it."

When asked by the board what type of students this program would likely help, Marchant stated that he did not yet have data from the Lee Promise program.

"Anecdotally, these students were on the cusp," Marchant said. "Their families made too much to qualify for the federal program...but still didn't have enough to afford college. This will allow them to live in our community, to work in our community,

to pay taxes in our community, and be part of our community."

This opens the door for someone who maybe never thought about college because of finances," Crawford said. "This opens the door to reduce their debt-load."

"The sooner we do this the sooner these young people can get good jobs," Crawford said.

The program received an endorsement from the Chatham County Board of Education in September and the Chatham Economic Development Corporation endorsed the program last spring.

The program will be available for qualifying Chatham County high school graduates beginning in May.

Gas prices drop 6 cents

CN+R STAFF REPORT

Gasoline prices in North Carolina have fallen 6.0 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.18/g on Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 6,092 stations in North Carolina.

This compares with the national average that has fallen 5.9 cents per gallon versus last week to \$2.31/g, according to GasBuddy.

Including the change locally during the past week, prices on Sunday

were 13.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago and are 25.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago.

The national average has dropped 23.1 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 12.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

Lottery offers theme prizes for the holiday season

CN+R STAFF REPORT

RALEIGH - North Carolinians have the chance to win \$615 million dollars in holiday jackpots in the Mega Millions and Powerball games.

The Mega Millions jackpot on Christmas Day offers a \$321 million annuity worth \$193.7 million cash. The day after Christmas, the Powerball

jackpot stands at \$294 million annuity, or \$177.6 million cash.

"Mega Millions and Powerball jackpots give people a reason to dream a little," said Mark Michalko, executive director of the N.C. Education Lottery. "The games offer life-changing prizes. We'd love to see someone from North Carolina bring home a holiday jackpot."

Players can buy their Powerball and Mega Millions tickets at any lottery retail location. Many stores that sell lottery tickets are open on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. People can also buy them through Online Play on the lottery's website www.nclottery.com.

Area Obituaries

LOUISE PHILLIPS JESSUP

Louise Phillips Jessup, 85, of Siler City died Friday, December 21, 2018 at Laurels of Chatham, Pittsboro.

Mrs. Jessup was born in Chatham County on April 2, 1933, the daughter of Sam R and Rosa (Daughtry) Phillips. Louise was a member of Rives Chapel Baptist Church, the Silver Saints, and Joy In The Morning Ladies Sunday School Class. She was a 1951 graduate of Bonlee High School and was a member of the Ladybird Bowling League. She enjoyed bird watching, cross stitching, duck woodworking, going to the beach and was a fantastic cook. Mrs. Jessup was a retired telephone operator. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Bob P. Phillips; and sister, Sarah P. Tillman.



She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Rex T. Jessup; daughter, Wendy Jessup Bullis and husband Michael of Siler City; one sister, Frances Dowd and husband Jim of Siler City; two brothers, Earl Phillips and wife Ann of Siler City and Clarence Phillips and wife Sue of Siler City.

The family received friends Monday, December 24, 2018 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City. The funeral followed Monday at 2 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Dr. Tripp Foltz officiating. Burial was in Rives Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery, Siler City.

Memorials may be made to Rives Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 4338 Rives Chapel Church Road, Siler City, NC 27344.

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

CARNER GLENN "SID" ANDREW

Carner Glenn Andrew "Sid", 89, of Sanford passed away Monday, (12-17-2018).

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday (12-20-2018) at Rogers Pickard Funeral Home. Burial followed at Hickory Grove Baptist Church Cemetery in Bear Creek.

Mr. Andrew was born in Chatham County, a son of the late Arthur Monroe Andrew and Lela Tally Andrew. He was preceded in death by his twin brother, William Lynn Andrew, siblings, Arlene Gilliland, Donald Andrew, and Howard Andrew. Glenn was a Veteran of the US Army and worked at Sanford Motor Sales and later at Godfrey's Body Shop until his retirement. He was a member of the Mt Vernon 143 Masonic Lodge since 1954.

Mr. Andrew is survived by his wife of 64 years, Anne Bailey Andrew; daughters, Cathy Andrew of Sanford, Jan Andrew of Sanford, and Julie Marsh of Cameron; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to DAV, 251 North Main Street, Room 151, Winston Salem, NC 27101-3914.

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

Arrangements were by Rogers-Pickard Funeral Home.

SAMUEL LEE COVINGTON

Samuel Lee Covington, 68, of Sanford passed on Sunday (12-16-2018) at Liberty Commons Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

Funeral services were held Saturday (12-22-2018) at 11 a.m. at Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford. Burial followed at Lee Memory Garden

TRACY QUINCY ALSTON

Mr. Tracy Quincy Alston, age 52, of Garner, departed this life on Thursday, (12-20-2018).

The funeral will be held at 12 Noon on Thursday, (12-27-2018) at Lincoln Park Holiness Church, 13 Heath Street, Raleigh, with Overseer William Ratcliff, Pastor, officiating. Visitation will be from 11:30 to 12 p.m., prior to the service.

Survivors include his wife, Jennifer Cousins Alston; daughters, Adrianna Alston, Deandria Alston, Jakerrah Alston, Semarah Alston, all of Siler City; step-children, ShaVonte Cousins of CA, Kimberly Cousins, Sharita Cousins-Harris, Van Harris, Jamie Belcher, Hamadi Holloway and Antonia Belcher of Durham; parents, Thelma Alston-Ferguson and Dewey Ferguson of Siler City; and 11 grandchildren.

ANNIE RUTH BREWER KIDD

Mrs. Annie Ruth Brewer Kidd, 87, of High Falls, died Friday, (12-21-2018) at the First Health Hospice House in Pinehurst.

The funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, (12-27-2018) at High Fall U.M.C. with Rev. Tom Hallberg and Rev. Vanlene Nelson presiding. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation was held Wednesday, (12-26-2018) at 6 to 8 p.m. at Joyce-Brady Chapel.

Ruth was born on August 26, 1931 to Eli Dewy Brewer and Annie Alexander Ritter. She was a member of High Falls U.M.C. where she sang in the choir. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Howard Kidd; brothers, Bob Brewer, Francis Brewer; sisters, Mittie Lee Phillips and Peggy Phillips.

She is survived by her daughter, Vickie Kidd Parsons of Calabash; brother, Curtis Brewer of Robbins; sister, Betty Jean Seawell of Robbins; two grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Flowers are welcome or memorial contributions made to be made to First Health Hospice, 1 Campground Road, West End, NC 27376 or High Falls U.M.C. General Fund, 324 Frieson Road, High Falls, NC 27259.

Condolences may be offered online at www.joycebradychapel.com.

ALDA EUGENIA PEAK

Alda Eugenia Peak, 59, of Sanford, passed on Monday, (12-17-2018) at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Funeral service was held Saturday, (12-22-2018) at 11 a.m. at Fair Promise AME Zion Church.

TAMMIE GAIL DOBY

Tammie Gail Doby, 52, of Sanford, passed away at her home on Thursday, (12-20-2018).

The family will receive friends on Thursday, (12-27-2018) from 12 to 1 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. A memorial service will follow in the chapel at 1 p.m. with Pastor Brad Marona officiating.

Tammie was born in Lee County on July 29, 1966 to Russell Doby and the late Patsy Cothran Doby. Tammie worked for many years with her family at Doby's Trailer Sales.

She is survived by her father Russell Doby; daughter, Jennifer Brooke Honeycutt of Sanford; and sister Pansy Pope of Sanford.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

DEBORAH JOYCE KIDD

Ms. Deborah Joyce Kidd, 55, of Seagrove,

died Friday, (12-21-2018) at the Randolph Hospice House in Asheboro.

A graveside service was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, (12-23-2018) at Mount Olivet U.M.C. Cemetery in Seagrove with Rev. Scott Walker presiding.

Deborah was born in Chatham County, daughter of Jerry Lea and Marie Smith Kidd. She worked in various restaurants in the area as a cook. She raised goats and rabbits and operated a small business known as Cocoa's Goat Milk Soap.

She is survived by her son, Brian Silverthorne; mother, Marie Kidd; her brother, Darin Kidd, all of Seagrove; her father, Jerry Lea Kidd and wife Bernette of Bennett.

Condolences may be offered online at www.joycebradychapel.com.

CLAUDIA LOUISE MULLEN WEBSTER

Mrs. Claudia Louise Mullen Webster, 72, of Sanford, passed away Friday, (12-21-2018), at her home.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, (12-29-2018), at 11 a.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Charlie Hickman officiating.

She was born in Richmond, IN on May 14, 1946, to the late Claude and Barbara Halsey Mullen. She was also preceded in death by a son, Rob Kyler.

Mrs. Webster is survived by her husband, Lloyd H. Webster of the home; a daughter, Tracy Murphy of Abington, MA; a sister, Carol Riese of Colorado and four grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

JAMES THURMAN MCKENZIE

James Thurman McKenzie, 86, of Oak Island, died Thursday, (12-20-2018) at Liberty Lane Hospice in Salisbury.

A funeral service will be held in the chapel of Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home on Thursday, (12-27-2018) at 3:30 p.m. with Rev. Jack Kivett and Pastor Ed Kivett officiating. Burial will follow in Lee Memory Gardens with Pastor Adam Beddingfield officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

He was born in Marlboro County, SC on September 27, 1932 to the late Dan and Carlee Prevatte McKenzie. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife Janie Mae McKenzie. Mr. McKenzie worked for the Department of Transportation as a driver until his retirement. He served his country in the US Army.

James is survived by his sons, Gary McKenzie of Seagrove, Donald Thurman McKenzie of Cameron; a daughter, Tammy Kivett of Salisbury; a brother, Hugh Hargrove of Whiteville; sisters, Sarah Williams of Hamlet and Margaret Shimata of Hawaii; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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

VIDA MINTER SMITH

Vida Smith, 94, of Sanford passed on Thursday, (12-20-2018) at Westfield Rehabilitation & Health Center.

Funeral services were held Sunday, (12-23-2018) at 2 p.m. at New England AME Zion Church with interment following in Lee Memory Garden.

ARCHIE LEVON CROSS

Mr. Archie Levon Cross, 63, passed on Wednesday (12-20-2018) at his residence.

Funeral service was held Monday, (12-24-2018)

at 11 a.m. at Mitchell Chapel AME Zion Church with burial following in Pittsboro Community Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Rev. Jewell K. Cross; children, Anthony Levon Cross of Cary, Adrienne Kelli Cross, Kristy Leigh Cross-Williams, Sharon Denise Cross and Melanie Kay Cross, all of Pittsboro; five grandchildren, four step-grandchildren; brother, Wayne Cross of Brown Hill; and sisters, Mary Alma Catts and Lora Ann Bradley, both of Pittsboro.

GLORIA MAE PAYNE

Mrs. Gloria Mae Payne 80, of Bear Creek passed away at UNC Hospital on Friday, (12-14-2018).

Arrangements by: Knotts Funeral Home, Chapel Hill.

CALLIE HAWKINS

Callie Hawkins, 62, of Sanford passed on Thursday (12-20-2018) at her residence.

Arrangements by: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

JOHN HENRY SMITH

John Henry Smith, 82, of Sanford passed on Friday, (12-21-2018) at his residence.

Arrangements by: Knotts Funeral Home.

EUNICE G. MORRIS

Eunice G. Morris of Broadway passed on Friday (12-21-2018) at her residence.

Arrangements by: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

ARMANDO VALLE NAVEZ

Armando Valle Navez, 51, passed on Thursday (12-20-2018) at his home. Arrangements by: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

Torch Run awarded honor

CN+R Staff Report

RALEIGH – North Carolina received a diamond level of excellence award by the executive council of the International Law Enforcement Torch Run for raising \$1.259 million during the 2017 Law Enforcement Torch Run campaign year, according to Keith L. Fishburne, president/CEO of Special Olympics North Carolina.

The award was presented during the annual International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference, which was held in Las Vegas, NV Nov. 8-10.

Nearly 1,200 law enforcement officials and Special Olympics staff from around the world, including 32 from North Carolina, attended.

The North Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run delegation at the International Torch Run Conference consisted of officers from numerous law enforcement agencies, including the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

The LETR began more than 30 years ago with founder, Chief Richard LaMunyon, and five law enforcement officers who carried the Torch for the Special Olympics Kansas Summer Games in Wichita. The LETR has since become much more than an annual run for Special Olympics Summer Games. For the many involved with the LETR it represents honor, respect and pride. It has become a worldwide community of Law Enforcement officers rallying to support Special Olympics, the impetus for millions of new friendships around the world, and a series of events including Torch Runs, Polar Plunge® fundraisers, and Tip-A-Cop® events.

The LETR is the largest grassroots fundraiser for Special Olympics with more than 100,000 law enforcement participants around the world.

District's Pre-K classes will see cost increase

BY ZACHARY HORNER News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO – Parents of children attending preschool through Chatham County Schools should prepare for a price increase.

Tuition for the program will rise by an average of \$525 per year starting in the 2019-2020 school year. District officials say they are meeting the state market rate for the services.

The Chatham County Board of Education approved the change Dec. 17.

The fee for the district's Pre-K program has not increased since 2015. But increases in teacher salaries, food expenditures and the cost of supplies have forced the program's administrators to seek the fee adjustment.

Carrie Little, the school district's executive director of federal programs and school improvement, said the county has to reduce money for supplies

this year by \$40 a student due to a lack of funds.

Currently, the cost per student at one of the seven locations where the program is offered — North Chatham Elementary, Perry Harrison School, Siler City Elementary, Virginia Cross Elementary, Moncure School, Bennett School and Pittsboro Elementary — is \$6,000 a year, based on a \$575/month tuition and \$250 deposit.

Pittsboro, North Chatham and Perry Harrison also offer after-care for an additional \$135 per month, leading to a total cost of \$7,350.

The increase will put non-after-care costs at \$6,450 per year and tuition with after-care at \$7,950 per year.

There are also 11 facilities that operate the N.C. Pre-K program — a state-funded and free preschool initiative designed for lower-income families — including the seven elementary schools and four private preschools.

AAA illuminates dangers of cloudy headlights

CN+R Staff Report

New research from AAA reveals that clouded or yellowed headlights generate only 20 percent of the amount of light that new headlights do, leading to dangerous nighttime driving conditions.

"This information is so important," said Tiffany Wright, AAA Carolina spokesperson. "If you are driving on a poorly lit highway and your headlights are only giving off 20 percent of light, you are vulnerable to unforeseen collisions."

Most headlights are made of plastic and exposure to sunlight breaks down the plastic coating, causing discoloration that obscures the amount of light produced. Depending on where and how the vehicle is used, headlights can begin showing signs of deterioration as early as three years to five years.

With 50 percent of crashes occurring at night, AAA urges drivers to check their headlights for signs of deterioration and invest in new headlights or, at a minimum, a low-cost service to boost the safety of driving after dark.

AAA broke down the findings for the best options if your headlights are deteriorating:

-Replacing headlights with original equipment manufacturer parts is the most effective method to restore light output back to 100 percent.

-Aftermarket parts also performed well, restoring light output between 83 and 90 percent, however these did fail to meet certain requirements for light intensity and were found to be more likely to produce glare for oncoming traffic.

-Restoring headlights, while the most cost effective option, offered less of an improvement in light output than replacement.

-Professional and DIY restoration returned light output back to approximately 70 percent. Both restoration methods, however, produced more glare than is acceptable according to DOT criteria.

Unlike batteries or tires, most drivers are not in the habit of routinely inspecting their headlights. AAA suggests drivers check their headlights for changes in appearance such as yellowing or clouding and if the bulb is difficult to see, it is time to have the lenses replaced or restored as soon as possible. AAA recommends replacement since this method offers the most improvement in the amount of light produced.

State employment data unchanged over past month

CN+R Staff Report

The state's seasonally adjusted November unemployment rate was 3.6 percent, remaining unchanged from October's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 3.7 percent.

North Carolina's November 2018 unemployment rate decreased 0.9 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 3,415 over the month to 4,814,098 and increased 68,418 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 4,294 over the month to 177,230 and decreased 44,690 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 3,400 to 4,537,900 in November. The major industries with the largest over-the-month increases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities at 4,800, fol-

lowed by Information, 700; Financial Activities, 600; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 300; Government, 300; Education & Health Services, 200; and Manufacturing, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Professional & Business Services, 1,700; Construction, 1,500; and Other Services, 400. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the month.



Opinion

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

At the library with bin Laden and Garfunkel

I actually started AND finished a book last week while on vacation, and as we move into 2019 I'm once again adding "read more books" to my list of resolutions for the New Year.

Actually, my resolution should be "finish more books."

I start plenty of them; when I finished my last book ("Hunting Eichmann," by Neal Bascomb, the story of the pursuit, capture and trial of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann) I perused my Kindle for a "next" read. There were a dozen or so books I've started but never finished, lacking the interest or inspiration to get through them. And when you add to that the number of books by my bedside bookshelf that are half-read, well...you get the point.

Thinking about reading always reminds me of the Osama bin Laden and Art Garfunkel book lists.

You may recall the U.S. government's release of "Bin Laden's Bookshelf," the books discovered at Osama bin Laden's Pakistan hideout after he was killed there in 2011. It was a treasure trove of reading material.

In addition to books, Navy SEALs also found publications from think tanks, treatises on international relations, news clippings and religious texts – as well as some smut (an "extensive" collection of pornography, plus some herbal Viagra) and guides to some military-style video games.

It was a curious list. The books found were what you might expect an evil international terrorist mastermind to read – tomes with titles like "America's Strategic Blunders," "Bounding the Global War on Terrorism," "Killing Hope: U.S. Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II," "New Pearl Harbor: Disturbing Questions About the Bush Administration and 9/11," and "Rogue State: A Guide to the World's Only Superpower."

No Tom Clancy or John Grisham as far as I can tell, or Harry Potter, for that matter, but no real surprises.

Our reading choices say a lot about us, which brings me to singer Art Garfunkel's collection of every book he's read since June 1968.

Garfunkel is the taller, curly-headed half of the legendary singing duo Simon & Garfunkel, and he's posted on his website a complete list of those books – 1,281 of them to date. Few of us can match an uninterrupted 50-year run of two or more weighty books a month, and the diary of his literary conquests is full of the kind of classical, schol-

arly stuff that intellectual people read.

I counted among Garfunkel's list only 25 or books that I've read and hundreds of classics I'm familiar with, but feel guilty having never read.

I felt pretty shallow the first time I saw the Garfunkel collection and compared it with my bookshelf. I'm an avid reader, but I never developed a taste for the classics during my high school days. High brow I definitely wasn't.

While my wife Lee Ann read classic after classic in her rural Kentucky classroom, the lone literary experience I remember from high school was reading "Catch-22" – which, ironically, was adapted into a film in which Garfunkel made his acting debut. (To this day, Garfunkel blames the film for the breakup of Simon & Garfunkel; Paul Simon also had a role, but his part never made it into the final version of the film, and it helped sour their relationship.)

When it came to books, I was more into Stephen King. For sophistication, I would read the dust jacket of one of the Leon Uris historical novels my brainy sister Belinda regularly checked out of the high school library.

If bin Laden, Garfunkel and I somehow found our way into the same library together, we still wouldn't have bumped into each other.

A cursory glance on my Kindle at what I've finished or am reading now goes like this: bicycle book, celebrity memoir, cyclist autobiography, leadership book, bike adventure book, true crime book, tornado chaser book, golf history book, meditation instruction book, cycling fitness book, UFO book, end times book, tornado book, China history book, civil rights history book. I pretty much abandoned fiction 25 or so years ago, and the Civil War is the only war I read about, so there's not much there that would appeal to Osama or Art.

I don't know what Garfunkel is reading this month – his running list stopped at August – but re-thinking his list has me re-examining mine. I don't know if I'll dive into the classics – which Mark Twain described "a book people praise and don't read" – but I know I'll keep reading. I love it too much.

Like Groucho Marx said, "I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book."

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Change is inevitable but not always easy

An ancient Greek philosopher named Heraclitus centuries ago observed, perhaps on a blustery day, that change is the only constant.

To prove the Greek thinker right, a few decades ago, to confirm Heraclitus as the author of the famous observation on change, I would have gone to a library or consulted an encyclopedia.

But because things change all I had to do this morning to accomplish that research goal was Google the quote on my smartphone, which promptly offered all the information I needed on ancient Heraclitus.

Not being Nostradamus, Heraclitus would, I imagine, have been hard-pressed to understand such a thing as a smartphone while strolling around making observations on blustery days in Greece.

While change is inevitable for everyone, and not just long-gone philosophers, knowing that

established fact doesn't necessarily make change easy to embrace.

And so it has been with some degree of discomfort I've found myself adjusting over the past couple of months to a major change in the way we make coffee in our kitchen.

We bought a Keurig.

The single-serving coffee maker, introduced (according to my smartphone) 20 years ago but really growing in popularity in more recent years, is a nice innovation to the range of coffee-making techniques – drip, percolated, pressed, instant – already widely available.

I don't dislike the Keurig. I like that it brews one cup, cutting down on waste.

But it's taken me a bit of time to get used to the new way.

No longer do I brew a

pot of coffee and leisurely return to it two or three times in a morning to refresh my cup.

Now, being a single-serving coffee household, I feel guilty and wasteful, not to mention overly indulgent, brewing a third cup of coffee.

So the amount of coffee I'm consuming these days – and I've been drinking coffee since my teens – has seen a decline.

That probably isn't a bad thing.

Perhaps the biggest adjustment I've had to make since we introduced a Keurig to our countertop is on the recycling side.

For years, I've supplemented our compost bin with used coffee grounds and filters and I prided myself on the wholesome, rich fertilizer that resulted.

But Keurigs, as wonderful and convenient and

modern as they are in some ways, aren't made with the composter in mind.

In fact, they appear to me to be a recycler's nightmare, with their single-serve plastic K-pods.

Those boxes of K-pods, by the way, aren't cheap, so I feel as if our coffee budget has also changed since we began brewing our coffee in this most 21st century way.

Some day, using a Keurig and accepting its pros and its cons, may be second nature to me. But today, finding myself still in a period of adjustment to this change in coffee-making, I remain a bit circumspect.

I still haven't thrown out our old coffee-maker.

The old unit now sits unused atop a shelf in a corner of our kitchen, gathering dust.

I don't know that we'll ever use it again, but sending my old friend to the landfill is one change I'm not ready for yet.

Randall Reflects

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE



Mixing days of old with 'toys' of today

Nobody has ever accused me of being in first place in the world of technology. Actually, I'm not much of a fan of it, except for the part that comes with medicine and doctors and such like the part that helped me out with heart surgery earlier this year.

Basically, to me, too much technology isn't a good thing. In and of itself, it's just a thing but it's the hold it has on our lives that's something to pay attention to.

Ever notice how many people walk around staring at the gizmo in their hands? Ever see a family of four at a restaurant table and instead of talking with each other they're all tapping away? And all this doesn't even take into consideration the opportunities for hacking and identity theft.

Consequently, I don't tweet or twitter or twerk or tango or any of that stuff. But in the interest of full disclosure, let me talk out of both sides of my mouth and give homage to a part of it that has recently touched me deeply.

I speak here of Facebook, which I've been told is ancient history in the world of electronic social media and technology. My better half has Facebook account, but I don't. I'm what's called, I think, a troll, meaning I'll look at stuff and occasionally add a comment to someone I know but to

live on it isn't my thing.

However, a few days ago I ran across a short video posted by a cousin about a slice of life in our ancestral stomping ground of Bynum.

Bynum today is like Bennett or Moncure or most anywhere else in Chatham County or the world. It's changed... and is changing. As Dorothy told Toto in "The Wizard of Oz," "We're not in Kansas anymore." All that, of course, is proof positive of the saying that "the only thing that's constant is change."

Anyway, this video opened with an old friend and high school buddy wearing a Santa hat and strumming his ukulele while singing "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas." As long as I've known him, I didn't

know he had it in him. It was dang good.

But what really got to me were scenes from about 1970 inside the little Methodist church up on the hill above the cotton mill. As I watched video – it had to be 8-millimeter – of Santa making his way through a packed sanctuary, I thought some of the folks looked really familiar. Watching it over and over again and hitting the pause button I was sure of it.

There in the crowd were my parents, several aunts and uncles and some cousins. My dad was in his mid- to late-50s; I'm 10-plus years beyond that now. My mama and her sisters...well, it was easy to tell they're related. And on the front row, a young cousin had her gift snatched by a friend and they both laughed.

It was only a few days later that during another trolling period, I ran across some pictures of "Christmas in the 1960s." There, in all their radiant glory were cedar trees like the ones my dad and I cut down in the woods. Then they were decorated with big multi-colored lights. Garlands were wrapped around the tree and here and there were tinsel ice icicles. Underneath the tree were those stockings with the mesh covering that let you see the wad of candy inside.

It was a great trip down memory lane, this look at a time when I wore a younger man's clothes. But I still don't get all there is about technology. While, at least so far, the video is saved I've looked and looked for the other pictures.

Nowhere to be found. Maybe they're living in outer space.

If so, I hope they had a good Christmas.

Mevin' Around

WITH BOB WACHS



Will the economy retreat in '19?

By Dr. Mike Walden

It's that time of year when economists are looked to as fortune-tellers. The fortune, in this case, is our collective well-being tied to growth in the overall economy.

Of course, no economist – no matter how well-

trained – can perfectly predict the future of a \$19 trillion economy like we have in the U.S. It's just too big with too many moving parts. A good example of my profession's shortcomings was our inability to predict the depth of the Great Recession

of 2007-09. So any economic forecast has a large dose of an educated guess and not of certainty.

With this caveat, let me get started. The most asked question I receive today about the economy

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Retreat

(Continued from Page A4)

is whether growth will continue, or if we're about to slip into another recession. Part of the reason for recession worries is that, come next June, the current period of sustained growth will be the longest in the nation's history. Therefore, are we living on borrowed time? Are we overdue for a recession?

To see if a recession is imminent, economists look for imbalances that can tip the economy off course. The major cause of the Great Recession was debt payments that overwhelmed household budgets. Today, household debt payments are a much more modest share of household income. Some measures have the debt payment share at a historic low. The same is the case for business debt when measured against business net worth.

Large increases in oil and gas prices were behind two recessions in the 1970s. Most of the additional revenue for oil and gas flowed outside the country since we were a big importer of oil. When households spent more for oil and gas, they spent less on products made in this country, which directly led to an economic downturn.

Our energy situation today is much different. First, oil prices have been falling in recent months due to an abundance of oil worldwide. Second, the U.S. is now a leading — in some months the leading — world producer of oil. We are also a net exporter of oil. So, if oil and gas prices rise — which many analysts think will occur in the first half of 2019 — the increases can actually pump money into the U.S. economy, not out of it.

Therefore, current trends in household debt, business debt and oil prices don't suggest an oncoming recession. However, there are three parts of the economy that could give us recession worries — international trade disputes, Federal Reserve policies and the stock market.

The key trade dispute is with China. The U.S. has long complained China has not opened its economy as much to our companies as we have to theirs. We have also charged China with using tactics to access (some say "steal") our intellectual property and business secrets.

The Trump Administration has tried to get China's attention to these matters by levying higher tariffs (taxes) on products they sell in the U.S. China has retaliated by also raising tariffs on U.S. products sold in their country. These tariffs have disrupted trading patterns and supply chains and have also hurt exporters in both countries. U.S. farmers — who sell large

quantities of farm products to China — have been particularly harmed.

The worry is that if the trade dispute continues and possibly intensifies, it could lead to significantly slower economic growth. Most economic analysis agrees, although the reduction in growth rates might not be enough to spark a recession. Still, the "trade war" should be watched.

After keeping short-term interest rates effectively at zero percent for five years, the Federal Reserve (the "Fed") has been gradually inching them higher. The Fed wants rates higher so that — whenever the next recession occurs — they can lower rates to stimulate the economy. The Fed also worries recent strong economic growth is causing higher inflation. The Fed is using higher interest rates to moderate economic growth and so keep a lid on inflation.

The problem is the effects of the Fed's policy is not an exact science. Higher interest rates reduce borrowing (we're already seeing this in the housing market), and with reduced borrowing goes reduced spending. If spending drops too much, then — yes, you guessed it — a recession could result.

I don't see the Fed's interest rate policy causing a recession in 2019, mainly because I think the Fed will back off its policy. Already some Fed officials have said they may have raised interest rates enough. The Fed is often purposefully unpredictable though so they could surprise me.

The stock market reacts to economic news and to how that news might impact the financial future. In this sense, trends in the stock market are a composite of all the factors I've already discussed. If those trends are positive, the market should gain; if they're negative, expect the market to fall. Falling wealth in the stock market also causes reduced spending.

Taken together, my assessment is the combination of all these factors will still result in economic growth — that is, no recession — in 2019. Production, income and jobs will all increase, but likely at less robust rates than in 2018. But do remember economists' checkered track record, so you decide how valuable these forecasts are!

Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook and public policy.

Lottery issues scam warning

From N.C. Education Lottery

RALEIGH — The N.C. Education Lottery is issuing a new warning to players to buy lottery tickets only from authorized lottery retailers after receiving additional reports of a scam involving scratch-off tickets altered to appear as a "winning ticket."

In the scam, non-winning scratch-off tickets are altered to make them appear to have matching numbers that win a prize. The altered ticket is then sold, usually at a discount, to unsuspecting players. The victims find out they were scammed when they attempt to claim a prize.

As of Friday, Dec. 21, the lottery had received 13 reports this year of such altered tickets at its offices across the state. The victims in the scams are those who buy the altered tickets from the scammer and lose the money they paid.

"This scam is easy to avoid by only buying un-

scratched lottery tickets from an authorized lottery retailer," said Mark Michalko, executive director of the lottery. "If someone offers to sell you a prize-winning ticket for much less than it is worth, that's a big red flag. Don't fall for these made-up stories about why someone can't claim a prize. You'll end up as a loser instead of a winner."

Consumers can protect themselves from scams like this by: Only buying unscratched lottery tickets from authorized lottery retailers for the cost of the ticket; never paying anyone for a "winning ticket"; not believing someone who claims they can't claim a prize because they are out-of-state or they are not a U.S. citizen. People from other states and from other countries can claim lottery prizes in North Carolina as long as they have proper identification.

The Education Lottery keeps information about lottery scams in a section of its website at <https://www.nc lottery.com/>

We need a little Christmas

Have you driven around North Carolina recently? More people have decorated with outdoor lights, blowups and festive displays than we've seen in years.

I believe I know why. It's been a really hard year. Folks feel beaten up, burned out and bankrupted. They are weary, pessimistic and don't much trust anyone or any organization.

Our state has had an especially troubled 2018. Hurricanes, floods and even a snowstorm battered us badly. Our farmers are experiencing the worst conditions since perhaps The Great Depression. Just as crops were ready for harvest, Hurricane Florence drowned many of them. This "perfect storm" was completed by the combination of tariffs and a crash in the price of corn, soybeans, pork and other farm products. Other businesses, like tourism, retailing and fishing also suffered losses and it will be years before we forget roadsides piled high with family possessions ruined by flooding.

For a short time we

came together as a state to help those affected. Neighbor helped neighbor, strangers showed up providing acts of kindness and people opened their pocketbooks and their hearts for others. It gave us hope there are indeed better angels among us. Sadly, that help and spirit waned too soon.

Political storms were as bad. In my 50-plus years covering North Carolina I cannot remember a time when the public discourse was worse. Political leaders seem more consumed by tribal politics than by common sense or the common good. Compromise has become so rare that we marvel on those occasions when it actually occurs. "Gotcha" politics rules the day; one can only win if the other loses. Disruptions, lawsuits, name-calling and ugliness are the new normal.

We are so accustomed to the current climate that we don't realize how numbed

we've become. We can't seem to remember when it was commonplace to speak a kind word, to let someone in line ahead of us, to reach out a hand of help, to genuinely care for others or to live in the belief that tomorrow will be better.

I leave it to you to decide if these are just ramblings from a septuagenarian who longs for simpler, happier times or if, as I suspect, they are accurate representations of the life and times in which we live today.

After the year we've just experienced we want to believe, we long for warm relationships and want respite from the stream of what we see and hear around us. And maybe it is a false hope, but even if for just a few days, we yearn for that feeling of rightness with others and our world. So we string lights and decorations, wear tacky sweaters and other clothing, binge out on Hallmark movies and listen to continuous

Christmas music on the radio.

In his wonderful adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, North Carolina's great showman Ira David Wood, portraying Ebenezer Scrooge, leads his character and the audience to the conclusion that we need a little Christmas. Indeed, we do.

For Christians, Christmas means hope on the horizon, but people of all faiths seek the hope that believing in something bigger than ourselves brings. Our wish is that you find the joy, peace, hope and contentment of this season.

As Tiny Tim says, "God bless us, every one."

Tom Campbell is former assistant North Carolina State Treasurer and is creator/host of NC SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of NC issues that airs on UNC-TV main channel Fridays at 7:30pm, Sundays 12:30pm and UNC North Carolina Channel Fridays at 10:00pm, Saturdays at 4:00pm and Sundays at 10:00am. Contact him at www.nc-spin.com.



My Spin
By Tom Campbell

Public won't accept green taxes

By JOHN HOOD

RALEIGH — I know that environmental activists don't want to hear this, but a core component of their preferred strategy for combatting global warming — substantially raising the price of fossil fuels through higher taxes — is not going to happen.

Don't take my word for it. Look at recent events in two left-leaning political constituencies: the state of Washington and the country of France.

In November, even as Washington Democrats were winning most of the competitive races in that state, 56 percent of Washington voters said no to a ballot proposition that would have imposed a carbon tax to combat global warming. The tax would have started at \$15 a metric ton and then increased \$2 a year until the state's goals for greenhouse-gas emissions were met.

After a previous carbon-tax scheme failed in 2016, activists had retooled the plan to draw more support. But Washington's voters said no, anyway. They didn't judge any environmental benefits that might flow from the carbon tax in the long run to be worth the cost, and they didn't trust that the resulting revenue would have been spent effectively. The voters were right on both counts.

In France, the recent revolt against green taxes played out not in polling places but on the streets. The "yellow vest" movement began as opposition to higher "green taxes" on gasoline and diesel, with hundreds of thousands ultimately turning out in protests that produced widespread economic disruptions, political disaster for President Emmanuel Macron and his coalition, and even several tragic deaths. In response, Macron has walked back scheduled hikes in motor-fuels taxes and may soon be forced to go further than that.

In neither case can the opposition be characterized as tea-party conservatives or climate-change skeptics. There aren't enough such voters in Washington to have defeated the carbon tax multiple times. In France, the yellow-vest protesters are advancing a range of demands, including traditionally left-wing fare such as raising minimum wages.

If activists can't find the votes to jack up green taxes enough to matter in places such as Washington and France, you can be sure they will fall far short in North Carolina, where public opposition to tax increases of any kind is broader and deeper.

A few weeks ago, Gov.

Roy Cooper announced a goal of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions in North Carolina 40 percent by the year 2025. Cooper's target is quite a bit less than initially meets the eye, since the 40 percent reduction is from the 2005 baseline, not from 2018. Our emissions have already fallen by 25 percent since 2005, so Cooper's real goal is an additional 15 percent.

While North Carolina

has been tipping the scales heavily in favor of renewables, that's not the main reason emissions have declined. Wind and solar remain a very small part of our energy mix. The big stories are gains in energy efficiency plus a large-scale replacement of coal-fired power plants with electricity from cleaner-burning natural gas.

Activists still dream of carbon taxes and a mas-

sive abandonment of fossil fuels. Once they awaken, a realistic conversation may be possible.

John Hood (@JohnHoodNC) is chairman of the John Locke Foundation and appears on "NC SPIN," broadcast statewide Fridays at 7:30p and Sundays at 12:30p on UNC-TV.



The staff of Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation would like to wish everyone a

Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year

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Residents

(Continued from page A1)

expressing concern for the lack of emergency access to the roadway during the flooding.

"With normal road conditions, first responders routinely arrive on Jeremiah Drive within five minutes," the letter said. "It took the fire department 28 minutes to reach the patient's side, and an additional 24 minutes to evacuate the patient to an ambulance. A response that normally requires three responders, one ambulance and a utility truck required 11 responders, an ambulance, five fire department vehicles, emergency management, and a rescue boat to achieve safety."

Out of the 21 residents whose ages are known, 81 percent are more than 50 years of age. Nearly 40 percent are over 60. One resident has Parkinson's disease, one has controlled diabetes, and one elderly resident requires daily home health aide services, Stanley said.

Less than a month later from the Hurricane Florence flooding, Jeremiah Drive was under five feet of water again because of strong rains from Hurricane Michael. According to Stanley, the water levels reached over five feet, and residents had no access to their homes for five days.

In the 74 days since the September flood began until the November flood ended, residents had no access for 33 days, according to Stanley.

"We spent Thanksgiving cut off from our homes," she said.

Jeremiah Drive serves

as part of an overflow basin for Jordan Lake, a detail that homeowners were not informed when purchasing land, according to Stanley.

The Jeremiah residents presented their concerns

In the 74 days since the September flood began until the November flood ended, residents had no access for 33 days.

to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners in October. State Sen. Valerie Foushee wrote a letter in October to Jordan Lake officials, Chatham County Board of Commissioners, and the Department of Transportation seeking a response outlining a plan of action.

The residents of Jeremiah Drive have also contacted attorneys and discussed options, but are awaiting responses from governmental organizations before moving forward.

Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson also wrote a letter in November to state Rep. Robert Reives expressing his concerns about safety of Jeremiah residents.

Mark Ashness, of CE Group, a Raleigh-based firm licensed to practice landscape architecture, civil engineering and land surveying, emailed the Jeremiah Drive residents about the situation.

"This situation is created by the ACOE's [Army Corps of Engineers] need to make use of the complete temporary flood

pool," the message read. "It is reasonable that use of the full flood pool is required for ACOE management of the lake. It is also reasonable that the residents of Jeremiah Drive have either a second point

of access or the existing road raised to allow safe access when the ACOE needs full use of the flood pool."

Chatham County officials are currently working with the N.C. Dept. of Transportation to get cost estimates to elevate the affected part of the roadway.

"Once we get the cost estimate for that, then we have to figure out how we will pay for that," LaMontagne said during the Dec. 17 meeting. "I don't believe that DOT will fund that initially. They could certainly apply some pressure and try to get some funding from the state."

LaMontagne said that the NCDOT will explore different options and elevations and will bring the results to county officials after the holidays.

"Each elevation will have different costs likely," LaMontagne said. "It may be that raising it one elevation will fix the flooding 100 percent, but will come at a high price. Then another option may fix 99 percent of the flooding at half the price. Those are all factors that we will

look at."

To elevate the road, the NCDOT will have to remove soil from that same elevation near the lake.

"If you bring in fill, you're removing potential (overflow) storage of the lake," LaMontagne said. "By Army Corps rules, you have to remove that equal soil somewhere else."

Officials are also looking at the option of creating an emergency access to the road as a second option.

"If [elevating the road] doesn't work, we are looking at a plan B," LaMontagne said. "We are trying to find a back road in there that we would just give a key to

the fire department and emergency management to gate off both ends, so it's not a through-road. It's only open when we say it's open. There would still be a required funding for that. We'd also have to talk to the residents at that time to see if they'd like to have that road."

The road would not be a state road, LaMontagne said.

"It would just be a gravel road," LaMontagne said. "There would be maintenance requirements as the road would grow over, but we were really focusing on it being for emergency management access."

"There's a lot that we

have to do after we get these two options laid out," he added. "One thing that (NCDOT Division 8 Engineer) Brandon Jones and I agreed on is that we will not let this slide this time. We're both committed and we're not just going to leave it this time."

"We do need to something as soon as we can, because it is going to happen again," Commissioner Jim Crawford said.

Officials are also looking at releases right now downstream.

"But the Cape Fear and Fayetteville are at such high stages right now, there's only so much release we can do," LaMontagne said.

Incident occurred in 2017

Mother, ex-boyfriend charged with murder of 14-month-old

BY JOHN HUNTER
News + Record Staff

The mother of a 14-month-old boy and her ex-boyfriend have been charged with murder more than a year after the infant's death.

The Pittsboro Police Department arrested 39-year-old Ricky Devon Adams, of Durham, charging him with first-degree murder and felony child abuse in connection with the July 2017 death of De'Andre Emmanuel Cotton.

Adams was being held in the Durham County jail on unrelated charges at the time of his arrest last week.

A warrant was also issued for the boy's mother, 28-year-old Josalyn Upchurch of Moncure, who surrendered to authorities last Wednesday and is being held at the Chatham County Detention Center without bond.

First responders were called to an apartment on Broadmoor Drive in

Pittsboro on July 16, 2017, regarding an unresponsive child. When medical personnel arrived at the home, they found De'Andre had died.

His body was transported to the North Carolina Medical Examiner's office, where an autopsy was performed. Last February, the Medical Examiner determined the cause of death was blunt force trauma to the chest and abdomen.

Multiple bruises were found on the boy's head and face, according to the report. The infant had multiple contusions on his torso, broken ribs and internal bleeding caused by a large cut to the liver.

Adams is currently being held in Durham County jail without bond.

Both he and Upchurch appeared in court last Thursday for first-appearance hearings on the charges. Neither spoke during the hearing. They are scheduled to appear in court next on January 7.

Voter

(Continued from page A1)

flect Chatham County's 54.3 to 45.7 percent vote against it. Both of Chatham County's representatives in the General Assembly voted against the bill that put the question on the ballot, Senate Bill 824's original passage and the motion to override the veto.

Rep. Robert Reives II, a Democrat representing all of Chatham County and part of Durham County, had a litany of issues with the legislation. Primarily, he said, he believes that the amendment was not "candidly presented to the people" and that voters didn't understand what it was supposed to do.

"I don't think they were voting for the 20-page enabling legislation that we did that picks winners and losers," he said. "That's my candid belief. That was a problem."

Reives also said the bill didn't attack actual voter fraud that is taking place, like the recent absentee ballot fraud allegations in North Carolina's 9th Congressional District that has left that race without an official winner more than a month and a half after the election. Reives also suggested that the penalties put in place for attempted and successful voter fraud weren't enough if that were indeed the real problem.

"When you look at our drug laws and things of that sort — the drug crimes that we really started ramping up the penalty for, they got reduced," he said. "If voter fraud by using fake identification represents .002 percent of the problems that we're having right now, I would say that ramping that up to automatic jail time gets you to zero. Why aren't we trying those things if that's what our point is?"

Sen. Valerie Foushee, a Democrat representing Chatham and Orange counties, voted against the measure and the veto override.

Following the Public's Mandate

Republican leaders in the legislature pointed to the vote of the people to enact the amendment.

"Delivering voter ID to the strong majority of North Carolinians who support this simple yet essential election integrity measure has been a long time coming," House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) — a primary sponsor on the legislation putting the question on the ballot — said in a statement. "I'm proud of the commitment House lawmakers made to finish this accomplishment and keep our promise to the people of North Carolina who approved voter ID in our state constitution."

Both Rep. David Lewis (R-Harnett) and Senate Leader Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) criticized Cooper in their statements for opposing what they claim was the will of the citizens.

"My district is full of good, hard-working, well-intentioned people — there is nothing sinister or cynical about them," Lewis said. "The governor does not have a problem with this legislature, he has a problem with his citizens. This bill does exactly what the people of this state wanted us to do."

Berger added, "On Election Day, voters made their desire for voter ID very clear. By choosing to ignore the people of N.C., Gov. Cooper has shown his personal beliefs supersede a democratic vote of the people. North Carolinians deserve leaders they can trust to carry out their will, and that is why I am happy we were able to override the Governor's veto."

Despite disagreeing with the concept of voter ID, Reives was one of several Democrats who signed on to support House Bill 1115, legislation that would implement a photo voter ID requirement but added some concepts absent from the final, accepted version. The Democratic bill called for, among other things:

Automatic and universal voter registration at

certain agencies, upon citizenship being bestowed and registration for classes at state community colleges

Additional forms of acceptable ID, including an employee identification card from any employer (not just a governing entity) and student ID from any "institution of higher learning," not limited to state colleges, community colleges or an "eligible private postsecondary institution"

much as we can to more flexibility that this statute doesn't give us," he said. What we tried to do is get rid of questions and make this as open and as simple as possible, and answer what I believe people really voted for."

It was filed on Dec. 3, placed in the House Rules Committee the next day and stayed there.

Implementing SB824 is expected to cost the state \$17.83

A Quick Lawsuit

Marked as filed at 3:51 p.m. on Dec. 19, the first lawsuit against SB824 came just 12 minutes after the final veto override vote by the House. It was filed in Wake County Superior Court.

Six North Carolina voters are listed as the plaintiffs in the complaint, which is levied against Moore, Berger, Lewis, Sen. Ralph Hise

in a statement. "Just because the North Carolina Constitution now authorizes, with exceptions, the presentation of a picture ID when voting does not mean those other long-standing protections can be ignored or violated."

The SCSJ also represented plaintiffs who challenged the state's 2013 voter ID law, which was struck down by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit for, among other things, targeting minorities with "almost surgical precision."

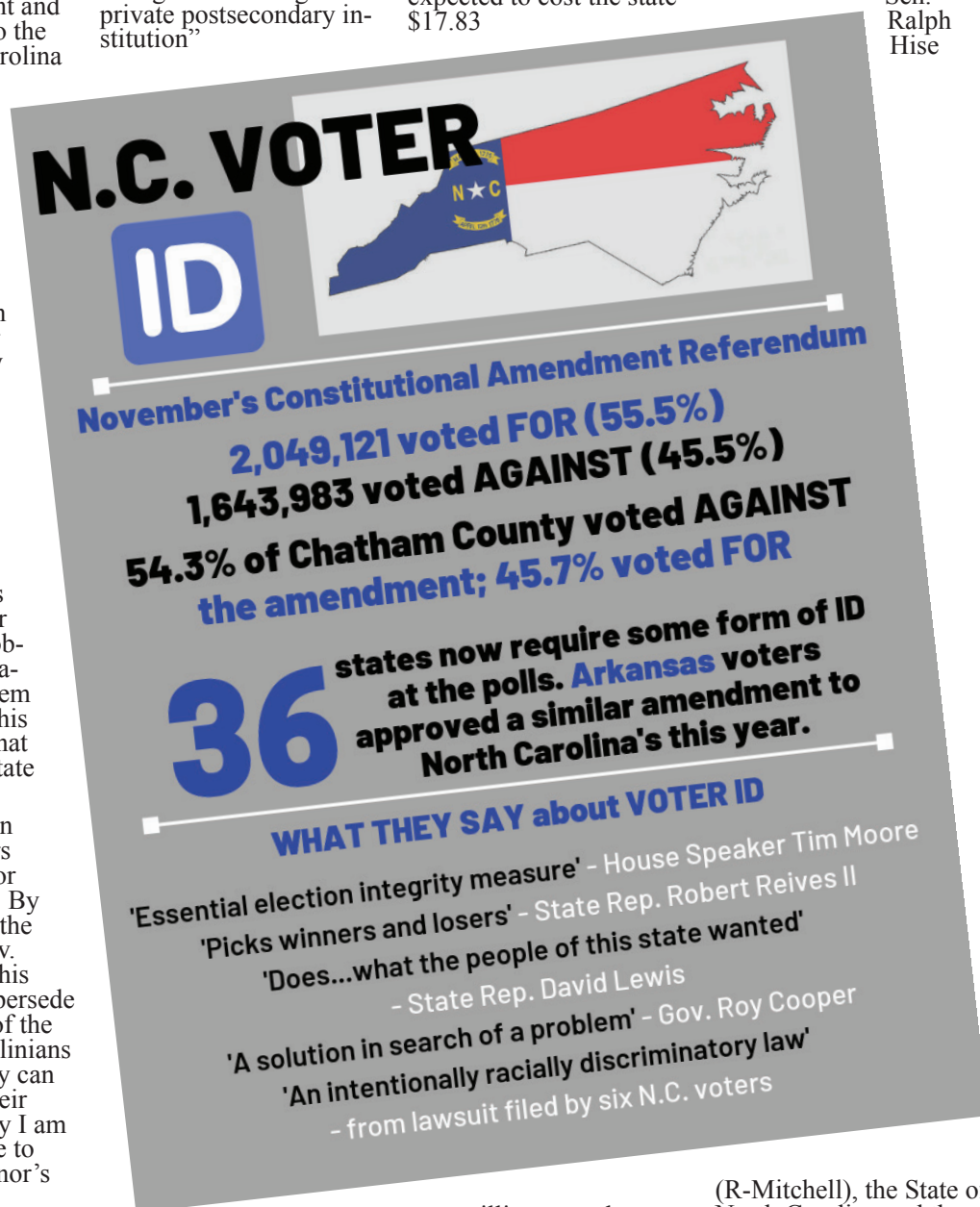
The complaint alleges that the General Assembly "has simply reproduced the court-identified racial-discriminatory intent it manifested a mere five years ago when it enacted a very similar voter ID requirement." It also says the law "unconstitutionally and unjustifiably burdens the right to vote" of registered and qualified NC voters "who lack acceptable photo ID."

The plaintiffs include a wheelchair-bound man with cerebral palsy who has difficulty traveling and an elderly man unable to drive who can't get his South Carolina birth certificate because of an administrative misspelling of his mother's name.

The complaint asks for an injunction on the bill and a "declaratory judgment" saying that SB824 violates "constitutional rights."

There's no indication as of yet to when the complaint will move forward or reach a conclusion. The 2013 bill met its end in May 2017 after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal on the Fourth Circuit's ruling, so if history is any indication, a conclusion may take a while.

If there is no legal action on the bill, Chatham County voters will be required to use their photo IDs when they return to the polls in fall 2019 for municipal elections.



Broader acceptance of expired identification cards

Institution of online voter registration with verification via driver's license or state-issued ID card number

Reives said that the goal of HB1115, which he co-sponsored, was intended to make voter registration "simple."

"It tries to move as

million over the next five years, including \$2.25 million this fiscal year, in according to the General Assembly's Fiscal Research Division. The legislature appropriated \$2.25 million for this fiscal year, but included nothing about following years. The bill also allocated \$850,000 to be used for maintenance grants for printing equipment and other items at county boards of elections.

(R-Mitchell), the State of North Carolina and the State Board of Elections. The plaintiffs are represented by lawyers from the Southern Coalition for Social Justice including Allison Riggs, senior voting rights attorney for the organization.

"The North Carolina Constitution provides numerous and inviolable protections for the fundamental right to vote of all its citizens," Riggs said



Dan LaMontagne, interim Chatham County manager

This week, we speak with interim Chatham County Manager **Dan LaMontagne** about the county's Capital Improvement Plan, which provides an outline for the county's future capital needs. The current plan addresses needs for period beginning in the year 2020. LaMontagne came to work at Chatham County in 2010 as director of Waste Management (now called Solid Waste & Recycling). In July 2011, a new budget combined several environmental functions within a new department and he was selected to lead the new Environmental Quality Department which included Solid Waste and Recycling. LaMontagne then took over the position of Public Works and Utilities Director while still keeping all of the duties of the Environmental Quality Department. After Renee Paschal became county

manager in November 2015, she named LaMontagne assistant county manager. Chatham's board of commissioners named him interim county manager upon Paschal's retired on Oct. 1. He has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering from N.C. State University, where he graduated magna cum laude. He is certified as a Professional Engineer by the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. Prior to coming to Chatham, worked in both the private and public sectors, including serving as Wake County's manager of facilities and operations for solid waste in the Environmental Services Department. LaMontagne and his wife have two daughters.



Chatham's CIP: what will it do for us?

What's the current status of the Capital Improvement Plan?

The CIP is a long-term plan for funding the county's major capital needs. It shows how facilities, equipment, and other projects that cost \$100,000 or more could be scheduled and funded over the next seven years, beginning in Fiscal Year 2020. The 2020-26 CIP was approved on Nov. 27 by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Budget staff will use this as part of the budget development process, which is already underway. Funds needed for approved projects will have to be allocated through the adopted budget, which is presented to the Board of Commissioners in early May. Any projects slated for completion in the coming year, could require operating funds that would be part of the budget process as well. The CIP also serves as a year-round guide for our work, especially those involved in specific projects.

It is important to state up front that this is a plan, not a budget, since a budget controls the actual spending of allocated funds. Staff attempts to be as accurate as possible, but it is difficult to estimate project costs exactly, particularly early in the planning process. Bids for projects may come in higher or lower than originally planned. Before funds can be spent they must be budgeted through the operating budget or, in most cases, through a separately adopted project ordinance. The same is true for operating costs. As facilities are being planned, staff attempts to identify operating costs, such as staffing and utilities. The cost of these items depends on final square footage and operational issues that may not be apparent until the facility is far along in planning.

The CIP addresses capital projects from around the county, but let's start with education. At the public school and Central Carolina Community College level, what projects will the CIP provide – and when?

Several projects for Chatham County Schools and CCC are included in the plan. For CCC, the plan includes a new 40,000 square-foot Health Sciences Building at Briar Chapel, planned to open in August of 2019; Pittsboro Campus roof replacement on building 42, planned for FY 2023; repairs to the walking trail at Pittsboro campus (now complete); and connecting CCC to the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center via a hiking trail – planned for FY 2021.

The list for Chatham County Schools is longer. Projects include:

- Indoor bleacher replacements: Chatham Central and Jordan Matthews high schools are complete. J.S. Waters, Moncure, and Horton Middle are scheduled for FY 2019.
- Chatham Grove Elementary School: New elementary school in the northeastern area of the county, planned to open August 2020.

- Locker room renovations: Locker room renovations are scheduled for Jordan Matthews and Chatham Central High School in FY 2019. J.S. Waters, and Moncure School are scheduled for FY 2020, and Northwood High School for FY 2021.
- Mobile Classrooms: Purchase modular classrooms to alleviate overcrowding. Four were purchased and set up during summer of 2015. Twelve additional classrooms are planned to be available through FY 2024.
- New Central Services Building: Construction of a new two-story 34,000 square-foot building is planned to begin in FY 2020.
- Northwood High School Paving Overlay project will repair pot holes and cracks in the pavement at Northwood High School. This project is planned for FY 2019.
- Perry Harrison Elementary Traffic Pattern: The traffic pattern will be improved in FY 2019.
- Resurface Tracks: Resurfacing of tracks at each of the three high schools will begin in FY2020 and continue in FY 2021 and FY2022.
- Roof Replacements: Roofs have been replaced/ repaired at J.S. Waters, SAGE, Moncure School, Administration Building, Horton Middle School, Bennett, Pittsboro Elementary School, Chatham Central, North Chatham, Perry Harrison, and Siler City Elementary. Jordan-Matthews and Northwood High School are planned for FY 2019.

- Seaforth High School: A new 209,000 square-foot high school is underway with a planned opening of August 2021.
- Wastewater System Replacement at Silk Hope School is planned to begin in FY 2023.

One topic you highlighted in a recent board meeting was a new project to upgrade the county's emergency communications system. Can you address the radio system upgrade and talk about why it's important? And can you touch on the Emergency Operations Center expansion?

The radio system upgrade is necessary because the existing VHF/UHF radio system is approximately 30 years old. Interoperability with other counties and agencies is limited due to disparate radio systems. The system will be upgraded to a P25 700/800 MHz system and connect to the NC VIPER radio system. Three new tower sites will also be built. The Emergency Operations Center expansion is needed because the existing building was completed in 1994 and the communications room was originally built to hold only four telecommunicator consoles. Since that time the number of consoles has increased to six, with one of those being placed in a corner of the EOC meeting room because the communications room is full. Expansion is required to accommodate growth,

and scheduling the project to coincide with the radio system upgrade will offer efficiencies and cost effectiveness.



DAN LaMONTAGNE

You mentioned some future projects in the CIP. What are they and what does it mean to be a "future project"? Future projects are projects where the county lacks sufficient data, revenue, or debt capacity to schedule them. If these issues are resolved, these projects may be added to future CIPs. A few of the more notable future projects identified in this CIP are:

- Develop a long-term master plan that will address long-term space needs for county buildings currently at the government annex campus in downtown Pittsboro, while being responsive to the desire for a clear vista between the Justice Center and the Historic Courthouse that would contribute to a vibrant downtown setting. A concept plan

was presented to the BOC and more work is needed to solidify the plan.

- Expand the current Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center (CCACC) to include Phase II additions, including a multi-purpose event arena, outdoor classroom space, farmers' market venue, office space, demonstration plots, and storage buildings.
- New Elementary School at Chatham Park. During the next 10 years, the current Northwood attendance zone is projected to grow by almost 1,900 students. Over 600 of these students are expected to be generated by Chatham Park. We will need to construct schools in Chatham Park to meet the projected growth in population. We will be monitoring student growth projections and Chatham Park build out on an annual basis and schedule this project accordingly.

The CIP's total is in excess of \$211 million. Can you briefly speak to the county's use of LOB (limited obligation bonds) to fund projects, as well as other funding sources – and of course any potential impact on the county's ad valorem tax rate?

Our financial policy which is reviewed every year by the Commissioners at their retreat in January includes a section on debt. It states the following: "Debt is an important tool for financing capital facilities. Over reliance on debt, however, is negatively perceived by bond rating agencies. The

County should exhaust all possible resources, such as grants and pay-as-you-go funding, before borrowing funds. Debt should only be used for the construction of capital facilities and the purchase of capital assets." Coupled with the establishment of a formal debt funding model, the County has created the means to evaluate and plan appropriately for future debt funded capital needs and to examine options that create the least impact on the County's financial strength and taxpayers. The funding model was first established in 2005. When new debt funded projects are considered they are entered into the funding model to establish impact on taxpayers. We also have a pay-as-you-go reserve fund. These funds have been used for projects such as school capital improvements and the upcoming improvements to the animal shelter. As noted in the CIP presentation, an additional 1½ cents will need to be contributed to the debt model to accomplish the Radio System Upgrade, Emergency Operations Center Expansion, and the Chatham County Schools Central Services Building Construction projects. During preparation of the next budget, we will determine if a tax increase will be needed.



CCCC graduates 8 from BLET program

FROM CCCC

SANFORD — Eight Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training Cadets graduated from the fall day class during a Dec. 17 graduation ceremony at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center.

Graduates were Raun Beard (Sanford), Kate Bolick (Apex), Anna Hardy (Aberdeen), Shannon Parker (Sanford), Jeb Rector (Apex), Austin Scott (Apex), Jordan Simons (Vass), and Michael Wise (Greenville).

Several of the graduates were recognized for outstanding achievement during their training. They were:

- Most Improved Physical Fitness – Shannon Parker; Fastest Police Officers Physical Abilities Test (POPAT) – Chase/ Apprehension – Jordan Simons, Anna Hardy; Fastest Police Officers Physical Abilities Test (POPAT) – Rescue – Jeb Rector, Austin Scott, Anna Hardy; Jimmy Collins Top Gun Award – Raun Beard; Highest Course Grade Point Average – Kate Bolick; and Highest State Exam – Kate Bolick.

For more information about the college's BLET program, visit www.cccc.edu/blet or contact Robert Powell at rpowell@ccc.edu or 919-777-7774.

Area educators attend NCCAT at Cullowhee

CN+R STAFF REPORT

CULLOWHEE — Several area educators recently attended programs held at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, a recognized national leader in professional development programming for our state's teachers.

Participating educators from Chatham County Schools included Leisa

Rumley of Bon-lee Elementary School; Jennifer Gibson of Chatham Middle School; Cynthia E. King and Mary Kate Stack-house of Silk Hope School; Sharon Messer of Chatham Youth Development Center; Carol A. Bartholf of Northwood High School and Me-lessa L. Henry of Horton Middle School.

Free computer classes offered at Community Library

CN+R STAFF REPORT

PITTSBORO – Chatham Community Library is offering a series of free computer classes in January and February.

Classes include:

- Drop-in Computer Assistance: January 9, Wednesday, 4 to 5 p.m.
- eBook Assistance: January 15, Tuesday, 3, 3:30, & 4:30 p.m.

(30-minute, one-on-one sessions)

- Find Your Next Favorite Book!: January 23, Wednesday, 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- Microsoft Word Basics, Part 1: February 5, Tuesday, 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- Microsoft Word Basics, Part 2: February 12, Tuesday, 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- Drop-in Computer Assistance: February 13, Wednesday, 4 – 5 p.m.

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Living in Chatham

The Year in Movies

Best and worst in 2018 films

Kitchen Kapers

(or Good Grief, It's supptime again')

By Mary John and Alan Resch

By Mary John Resch

I tried this recipe and thought about putting it in the paper in February but because Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day both fell on the same day in 2018, I used a chocolate recipe that week instead.

The shrimp are delicious prepared this way and I certainly won't wait until Mardi Gras to prepare this again. The recipe will work best if your shrimp are the same size and as I have cautioned so often, don't overcook the shrimp - when they turn pink remove them from the oven, otherwise you will probably wind up with tough shrimp.

This is good served over rice or even just with a green salad and crusty bread to dip in the juice.

MARDI GRAS SHRIMP

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce (I prefer low sodium)
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 2 tablespoons Creole seasoning
- Dash of cayenne pepper or to taste
- 1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined

Mix all ingredients, except the shrimp, in a 9 x 13 inch baking dish. Add shrimp and coat well with the sauce. Let it marinate for 1 hour. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Bake until the shrimp are cooked, stirring a few times, about 10 minutes. Garnish with lemon slices when you serve the shrimp.

Chatham County School Menus

What's For Lunch?

Served at Elementary and K-8 Schools only

** Middle and High School Menus

Wednesday, January 2

- Breakfast: Sausage Biscuit, Applesauce (**Bacon, Egg, & Cheese Biscuit, Applesauce)
- Lunch: Orange Chicken w/Rice, Salisbury Steak w/Gravy & Rice, Ham & Cheese Combo, Seasoned Green Beans, Sweet Potato Fries, Chilled Pineapples (**Orange Chicken w/Rice, Salisbury Steak w/Gravy & Rice, Chicken Tender Wrap Combo, Seasoned Green Beans, Sweet Potato Fries, Chilled Pineapples, Fruit Choice)

Thursday, January 3

- Breakfast: Cinnamon Bun, Pineapples, Hashbrowns (**French Toast Sticks & Sausage, Fresh Fruit)
- Lunch: TexMex Beef w/Chips & Cheese, Chicken Alfredo w/Breadstick, Chicken Tender Chef Salad, Fiesta Black Beans, Steamed Broccoli, Fresh Fruit (**TexMex Beef w/Chips & Cheese, Chicken Alfredo w/Breadstick, Deli Club Wrap Combo, Chicken Tender Chef Salad, Fiesta Black Beans, Steamed Broccoli, Fruit Cocktail, Fresh Fruit)

Friday, January 4

- Breakfast: Chicken Biscuit, Fresh Fruit (**Sausage Biscuit, Fresh Fruit)
- Lunch: Hot Dog in Bun, Fish Filet in Bun, PB&J w/Cheese Stick Combo, Baked Beans, Marinated Tomatoes, Fruit Explosion (**Bacon Cheeseburger on Bun, Fish Filet in Bun, PB&J w/Cheese Stick Combo, Baked Beans, Marinated Tomatoes, Fruit Explosion Fresh Fruit, Lettuce & Tomato)

Breakfast: Offered Daily at Breakfast - Choice of Cereal w/Grahams, Yogurt Smoothie w/Muffin, 100% Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk
Lunch: Offered Daily at Lunch - Choice of 1% or Skim Milk



BRANCHES CELEBRATE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Bishop Gilbert and Delores Branch of Siler City celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Tuesday, December 25, 2018.

Here are my best and worst films of 2018, along with the most unexpected surprises and disappointments this year. Most of the comments are drawn from my written reviews:

Top 10

Best Film of 2018: "First Man"

Adapted from James R. Hansen biography of Neil Armstrong, director Damien Chazelle's latest film brilliantly conveys the grimy, harrowing mechanics of the early space program. Almost every rocket launch is shot from the claustrophobic perspective of being inside the spacecraft, where every roar, shutter, and creak of the capsule carries palpable dread. Aided by cinematographer Linus Sandgren's handheld camerawork, the film is also a meditative portrait of a taciturn yet resolute hero, one whose achievements are less about one small step for a man than a giant leap for mankind.

2. "Roma"

Although shot in luminous black-and-white, Director Alfonso Cuarón's semi-autobiographical remembrance of his childhood in early 1970s Mexico is one of this year's most visually vibrant films. The bustle and brio of Mexico City, with its street vendors and neon nightlife and opulent movie houses, is one of the film's headliners. This personal reflection also attempts to unravel the familial and cultural complexities Cuarón was once too young to grasp.

3. "The Favourite"

Director Yorgos Lanthimos relishes in the ugly side of courtly manners, wallowing in the excesses of aristocratic hedonism, a milieu full of bacchanalia and backstabbing in the court of Queen Anne (Olivia Colman). All three lead performances, including Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone, are awards-worthy—their gender-switching triumvirate is a misanthropic joy ride.

4. "First Reformed"

Ethan Hawke gives an aching, penetrating performance as small-town pastor in upstate New York struggling with despair and a crisis of faith on multiple fronts. Director Paul Schrader's best film in years skewers religion, politics, and even environmentalism.

5. "Widows"

This polished, taut heist film by director Steve McQueen does it the

old-fashioned way: reclaiming Hollywood's



Neil Morris Reviews

6. "If Beale Street Could Talk"

Director Barry Jenkins follows his Oscar-winning "Moonlight" with an adaptation of James Baldwin's 1974 novel. The result is a tone poem that contemplates the African-American experience, particularly the strong and strained bonds of family, full of lives felled by constantly dashed hopes.

7. "Mission: Impossible - Fallout"

It isn't a good action film. It's a great one, rivaling genre exemplars and surpassing (while also drawing upon) the previous entries in the "Mission: Impossible film" series.

8. "Leave No Trace"

Director Debra Granik's feature film follow-up to "Winter's Bone" is an engrossing parable about an Iraq War vet (Ben Foster) and his teenage daughter (Thomasin McKenzie), who live in the forest, far from the demands and expectations of civilization. When the world comes calling, we're left with a portrait of parenthood and maturation in which there is no good or bad, but thought-provoking shades of gray.

9. "Eighth Grade"

Writer-director Bo Burnham, who rose to fame as an Internet sensation, skewers the very modern-day milieu that serves as his celebrity platform. The film's ingenue is Kayla (15-year-old Elsie Fisher), who is in her final week of eighth grade, which has devolved into an alternate reality of photo filters, web chats, and school shooting drills. It's a searing portrait of a social dystopia in which, thanks to the Internet, everyone is connected yet no one feels connected.

10. "Black Panther"

In the hands of director Ryan Coogler, the film's real attraction is its milieu, an exquisite, searing crossroads of race, gender, age, class, politics, and culture. With its resplendent representation of African regalia, it also defiantly

reclaims Hollywood's

historically racist depiction of tribal Africa.

The Best of the Rest (alphabetically):

"The Ballad of Buster Scruggs"; "Can You Ever Forgive Me?"; "Cold War"; "Game Night"; "Hereditary"; "The Old Man and the Gun"; "A Star is Born"; "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse"; "Won't You Be My Neighbor?"

The Bottom Rung

Worst Film of 2018: "Fifty Shades Freed"

The previous two installments of the "Fifty Shades" trilogy were each ranked among my worst films of their respective years, so it's fitting and deserved that the final chapter takes the title. The core fault with the entire trilogy remains the lack of chemistry between the two leads, already crippled by having to portray a dysfunctional, discomfiting relationship featuring a possessive sociopath and his emotionally arrested prey. Meanwhile, the recurring scenes of soft-core porn are erected around a wisp of a plot and achieve a level of banal sameness — call it "Fifty Shades Skinemax."

"The Commuter"

The best hope for this lunkheaded thriller is that it might finally derail the litany of Liam Neeson "Taken" ripoffs.

"The Meg"

This film was described as "Jaws on steroids." If that means the movie is a bloated behemoth that betrays the legacy of its forebears before fading away in disgrace, then they're correct.

"Night School"

Kevin Hart and Tiffany Haddish are very funny, but here they deliver a failing comedic grade, squandering a gifted and talented cast on a remedial script, incomplete direction, and a tacked-on life lesson that rings as genuine as an after-school special.

"The Nutcracker and the Four Realms"

As sweet and insubstantial as

the Sugar Plum Fairy's pink cotton candy hair, it's a confounding confection, full of pretty clothes, pretty music, pretty scenery, and pretty much nothing else.

"Peppermint"

This gender-switching, reprehensible revenge fantasy starring Jennifer Garner is more sour than sweet, a pile distasteful agit-prop that could have been produced by the most radical recesses of an alt-right think tank.

"Rampage"

Nothing makes sense in this brainless Dwayne Johnson vehicle, a CGI creature feature that's one part MonsterVerse, two parts "Transformers."

"Super Troopers 2"

Exuding the freshness of a vaudeville revue, this sequel arrives 17 years after its predecessor yet is still stuck in the early aughts. Broken Lizard had its day, and this new crowdfunded follow-up doesn't feel edgy or nostalgic.

"Welcome to Marwen"

This massive misstep is the runt of the prestige films season. Director Robert Zemeckis supposedly delves into the tortured psyche of his real-life protagonist, played by a bland Steve Carell. But it's Zemeckis's oddball fantasy indulgences that dominate this lifeless, meaningless mess, which consigns its subject to a creepy misfit.

"A Wrinkle in Time"

Director Ava DuVernay's adaptation of Madeleine L'Engle's acclaimed 1962 science fantasy novel is a tonal and thematic mess. It's a rotating series MS Windows screen savers, strung together by the labored delivery of leaden dialogue that intones hollow self-affirmations and mundane mantras ostensibly centered around whatever YA hot topics springs to mind.

Most Unexpectedly Pleasant Surprises

- "Game Night"
- "Halloween"
- "Instant Family"
- "A Simple Favor"
- "Uncle Drew"
- "Widows"

Most Disappointing

- "Ant-Man and the Wasp"
- "Aquaman"
- "The Front Runner"
- "Mid90s"
- "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms"
- "Vice"

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Chatham County Public Health Department
Holly Coleman, MS, RS, Health Director
www.chathamnc.org/publichealth

Church News

FIRECHOSEN MINISTRIES
Firechosen Ministries invites you to join us for our "New Year's Eve Celebration" being held Monday, December 31 at 10 p.m. Come help us bring in the New Year!! Breakfast "to go" will be served afterwards.
The service location is 190 Sanford Road, Pittsboro.

COWBOY CHURCH

(Continued from page A1)

est son to basketball practice but when we showed up no one was there. I found out later that someone sent an email canceling practice but we didn't get it. On the way home, we stopped at the stockyard to eat supper. Sherry came out of the meeting and saw me and said, 'Come in here; these people want to talk to you.' And that was it."

In that regard, Cool Water Cowboy Church has a similar birth story. There had been a small cowboy church meeting at Joe Mason's Cool Water Stables barn several years ago but it lasted only a short time.

Enter Wesley Thomas, pastor of Hunt Springs Baptist Church in Sanford, who knows a thing or two about horses himself from a lifetime of riding. Hunt Springs is a "church plant" itself, a term referring to congregations started by an established church in an area that may have few or no churches.

"I'd heard some folks were interested in planting a cowboy church," Thomas says. "One night, I went to the Stockyard Cowboy Church to see what was involved and in an example of God's sovereignty over all things, I sat beside Jeff Smith, the director of the Cowboy Church Association of North America.

"We started talking and I told him my testimony. I'd see him from time to time after that and he'd tell me, 'The Lord sent me to tell you to plant a cowboy church.' One day, he was coming to the (Sandy Creek Baptist) Association to talk to a group of pastors about a cowboy church. When he walked in and saw me, he pointed his finger and said I was supposed to start a church."

While the idea was appealing, Thomas says, there's more to making it happen than just saying so. Among the needs are a place to meet and someone to lead the effort. "At that meeting," he says, "I told Jeff if nobody volunteered I would if we could find somewhere to worship. It wasn't long that day until someone put me in touch with Joe Mason, who said we could use his barn. I got back in touch with

Jeff and all that happened within about six hours."

While enthusiasm was high, Thomas said he and other interested parties wanted to make sure they were on solid footing. "We had a series of five organizational prayer meetings," he says, "and launched the church on May 1. There were 34 people there; now there's an average of around 90 or so and we've baptized five people since starting."

Both pastors are assisted by a leadership team but neither they nor the folks attending are heavy on organization and committees.

"I'd felt a call to ministry 15 years or so ago," Pickard says, "but I didn't have a degree or education although I'd taken some courses at Greensboro Bible Institute."

Now he's convinced he's where he should be. During his sermon, he said to the congregation, "What's best for us is being in the will of Christ, what God wants for us is what we'd want for ourselves if we had sense enough to ask." Knowing what to ask for is an important consideration, he said.

"The Bible says in James chapter 4, verse 3, that sometimes we ask amiss, with the wrong motives. We can come to God directly through the Lord Jesus Christ and sometimes we have not because we ask not but our greatest prayer should be 'Thy will be done.'"

For Thomas, the effort to launch Cool Water has already made a difference, not only in Chatham and Lee counties but farther away as well. "We helped launch another cowboy church near Lillington," he says, "the Narrow Trail Cowboy Church. Churches need to be in the business of starting other churches."

"We're excited to be here," Thomas continued. "Doors have been opened and the Lord has blessed. Our purpose is to lead people to Christ and to impact the community and the neighborhood with the Gospel."

It was not without hard work and a testing of faith, he says. "But we need to remember faith is a decision we make before knowing how it will all work out."

Both churches have worship services on Tuesday night at 7 p.m. Stockyard Cowboy Church meets in the sale arena at Carolina Stockyard, located on Stockyard Road off US 64 just west of Siler City. Cool Water Cowboy Church meets at Cool Water Stables at 1852 Asbury Church Road, off US 15/501 just north of the Chatham-Lee county line at the Deep River bridge.

'There were 34 people there; now there's an average of around 90 or so and we've baptized five people since starting.'

- Wesley Thomas, pastor of Hunt Springs Baptist Church in Sanford



A mounted cow head hangs from the wall at Carolina Stockyard near Siler City as worshippers listen to a sermon.



Wesley Thomas makes a point during an address to the congregation in the Asbury Community of Chatham County.



Horseshoes, formed into a Christmas tree, light up at Coolwater Stables, where Cowboy Church is held almost every Tuesday night.



Zeke, the local canine on the farm, takes a break to listen to the music of 'New Direction' on a Tuesday evening in Asbury.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JEFF DAVIS



At Carolina Stockyard, near Siler City, Willie Pickard speaks to the congregation gathered in the same arena where cow and goat sales are held. Folks gather to hear music and worship on Tuesday night. Carolina Stockyard is located off of Highway 64, just west of Siler City.

Chatham Parks & Rec hires new assistant director

CN+R STAFF REPORT

PITTSBORO – In November 2018, Jina “J” Stamey started work as the new assistant department director for Chatham County Parks & Recreation.

She comes to the county with extensive and varied experience in the parks and recreation field with local governments in the Triangle.

“Chatham County is in the final phase of completing a Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan, which helps prepare us for the growth Chatham will experience and also help meet the existing backlog of recreation needs,” said Tracy Burnett, director of Parks & Recreation. “J’s past work experience includes successfully implementing several projects and programs that are found in the new proposed master plan. This will help us hit the ground running.”

Stamey’s prior work included grant writing, budgeting, park maintenance, parks and recreation programming, athletics and collaborations with school systems. “Given the new joint use community center that will be opening next year at Chatham Grove Elementary, her experience will be so helpful,” Burnett said.

Stamey was a col-

lege athlete and coach, but then went on to work with the City of Raleigh’s Parks & Recreation Department and most recently served nine years as director of parks and recreation for the Town of Louisburg.

In Louisburg, Stamey applied for and received a state PARTF grant to add new trails and facilities and renovate existing parks. She also secured other grants for facilities and new initiatives.

Stamey had a lead role in initiating two major events, Louisburg’s Friday Nights on the Tar Concert Series and the OkTARberfest Festival and Concert. She also oversaw the installation a new pickleball court and nine-hole disc golf course, which led the town to host the first River Bend Open for Disc Golf.

Stamey has a master’s degree in sports studies from High Point University. She has undergraduate degrees in sports management from Barton College and an arts degree from Louisburg College. She is a member of North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association and the National Recreation and Parks Association.



Land for the new Seaforth High School has been cleared and heavy machinery has been in the process of getting the next phase in shape. Chatham’s newest high school is set to open in 2021. The school is located on Seaforth Road, near Jordan Lake. Off of Andrews Store Road, near Margaret Pollard School, work on the new elementary school, Chatham Grove, has started construction and will have their opening in the fall of 2021. (Staff photos Jeff Davis)



On the alert: warning system to be tested at Harris Plant on Jan. 9th

CN+R STAFF REPORT

NEW HILL – The outdoor warning sirens around Harris Nuclear Plant will be tested between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 9. The 83 sirens within 10

miles of Harris Nuclear Plant will be tested at full volume for approximately five seconds. The test may be performed more than once to make sure each siren works properly.

The test is conducted in cooperation with the State of North Carolina as well as Chatham, Harnett, Lee and Wake counties. Because this is a test, local broadcasting stations will not interrupt regular programming to

broadcast Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages. If there were ever a real emergency at the plant requiring the sirens to be sounded, local radio and television stations would broadcast information

and instructions to the public. In the event of severe weather, the siren test will be postponed until a later date. Duke Energy Progress performs full-volume tests annually. Silent tests are conducted every two

weeks and short duration full-volume tests every three months. Questions about the tests may be directed to county or state emergency management agencies or to Duke Energy at 984.229.6261.

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Happy New Year

2019 SPORTS

Thursday, December 27, 2018

Charger Classic a bright spot

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

If the first time is any indication of the future of the First Bank Charger Classic Tournament, then the event will be a bright spot in Chatham County athletics for years to come.

The inaugural tournament over the weekend was nothing short of a well organized, efficiently planned out and staged event that highlighted some of the best that this area has to offer.

Northwood co-Athletic Director's certainly deserve a great deal of credit for the success which saw 12 competitive games over a three day stretch.

Vernon was quick to point out the efforts of many in the community.

"It was certainly a team effort, from Coach Brown who reach out to all the teams that were in attendance and worked so hard, to the parent volunteers, and to First Bank which provided their sponsorship," said Vernon. "Without all of them we could

See 'Spot' B2

Christmas break tournaments continue

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

Chatham County hoops fans are in for a treat this week as area high school basketball tournaments continue with four local teams in action.

In Siler City, Chatham Charter will be hosting its 2nd Annual Winter Slam.

On Friday, tournament action begins in the girl's bracket with North Moore and Cornerstone Charter doing battle at 3:00 p.m. with Chatham Charter and Faith Christian tangling later that evening in a 6:00 p.m. clash.

In the boy's bracket, action also begins on Friday with North Moore and Cornerstone squaring off at 4:30 p.m. before Chatham Charter and Faith Christian get after it at 7:30 p.m.

Final day action will take place on Saturday with

See 'Break' B2

Wheatmore tears by Lady Jets in CT Christmas tourney

BY R. C. 'DUCK' DUCKSON
News + Record staff

Wheatmore tallied the first 11 points of the third quarter to break open a tight contest and limited Jordan-Matthews to 11 total points following intermission as the Lady Warriors pulled away in the second half to claim a 53-33 victory and capture fifth place in the 28th annual *The Courier-Tribune* Christmas Invitational Tournament at Asheboro High School Saturday afternoon.

The triumph lifted Wheatmore to 6-4 for the season while J-M, which lost to the Lady Warriors for the second time in six tourney matchups, tumbled to 4-7 overall. The Lady Jets were playing for fifth place in this yearly event for the 13th time, including five out of the past six years.

Taylor Comer led the victors with 16 points and Ashlyn Linville added a dozen as Wheatmore shot a blistering 57% (20-of-35) from the floor, including a perfect seven-for-seven from behind the bonus arc, and held a 26-25 edge on the boards while committing 23 turnovers.

Ellia Wright came off the bench to pace Jordan-Matthews with 12 points while leading scorer Jocelyn Mitchell, who came into the game averaging around 18 points an outing, was limited to a season-low six points.

J-M connected on just 29% (14-of-48) of its field goal at-

See 'Tears' B2



Aaron Ross (0) skies to dunk this shot in the 1st Bank Charger Classic. NW went on to win this game against Southern Alamance but lost to eventual champion Westside in the finals. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

In the left photo Rich Trogdon, center stands with All-Tourney members, left to right, Paul Johnston, Traye Carson and Northwood's Deuce Powell (11) and Justin Brower, far right. (Submitted photo)

Over NW in finals

Talented Westside wins Classic Tourney

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

It was only fitting that the Northwood boy's basketball team advanced into the finals of the inaugural First Bank Charger Classic Tournament held last week in Pittsboro.

The Chargers opened the event with wins over Southern Alamance and Grace Christian on Thursday and Friday respectively, earning a shot at the title in the championship finals on Saturday evening versus Westside High out of Anderson, S.C.

The dream finish for Northwood was doused by the talented Westside squad, however, as the Rams rolled to a 72-53 victory to claim the 2018 First Bank Charger Classic title.

Northwood (5-4) by was paced offensively in the contest by All-Tournament performer Deuce Powell who closed a strong three-day tourney with 16 points.

Aaron Ross, also an All-Tournament selection for the Chargers, chipped in 11 points in the losing effort while Adam Omar just missed double figures on the night with nine.

Westside (9-2) was led by lightning quick Traye Carson, a 5'9" senior guard who struck for 16 points in the finale on the way to All-Tournament honors.

A balanced Rams scoresheet saw Odarius Cade chip in 16 points as well, while Kendarious Fant-Miles added 10, Xavier Thornton and Ty Danzy eight apiece, and Tyson Lewis seven.

To the delight of the large crowd on Saturday evening, the contest was fast-paced with both teams pushing the ball up the court while playing relentless pressure defense on the other side of the ball.

Northwood battled fiercely from the outset and trailed just 16-14 after one period of play. Omar drained a pair of long distance treys, which got the raucous Charger crowd on its feet, while Powell added a pair of field goals, and Jack Johnson a basket off a pull up jumper.

Carson answered Omar with a pair of three-pointers for Westside, while Ty Danzy chipped in four points, and Fant-Miles another trey.

The contest was back and forth in the second frame as well with neither managing more than a four-point bulge. Powell collected four more points for the Chargers in the second while Alex Snively drained a trey from the left corner, and Ross connected on three-of-four foul shots in the stanza.

The Rams managed a 28-26 lead at the intermission behind five points from Tyson Lewis, including a trey.

While the opening 16 minutes were even, the second 16 would not

See 'Talented' B2



Lady Jet Avery Headen (11) reaches in to tie-up Eastern Randolph's Kolby Snider as they both battle for a rebound Friday. The two teams were playing in the 28th annual Courier-Tribune Christmas Invitational in Asheboro. The Lady Jets won the game but went on to lose to Wheatmore on Saturday. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

Talented

(Continued from page B1)

be. The maroon clad Rams seized the momentum in the third quarter behind a three-point barrage, and never looked back after a 24-13 run in the period which extended the lead to 52-39.

Westside connected on 5-of-8 attempts from behind the three-point arc in the third quarter, which Carson canning a pair on the way to eight points, and Cade two more. Xavier Thornton added another trey on the way to five points.

Powell tallied four points for Northwood in the third while Omar chipped in his final trey of the night.

The Rams would put an exclamation point on the title in the fourth with a 20-point outburst to cap the 72-53 win. Cade collected seven points in the run while Fant-Miles added five, including a trey from downtown.

Ross had eight points for the Chargers in the fourth while Powell chipped in four more.

Johnson had five points in the contest for Westside and was selected to the All-Tournament squad for the Rams.

Tears

(Continued from page B1)

tempts while turning the ball over 19 times.

“We knew Mitchell has been their best player for the last four years and were aware she can drive to the basket and shoot three-pointers as well, so we rotated the defense on her and knew where she was at all times,” said Lady Warriors’ coach Pete Kilcullen.

“I’m extremely proud of our effort today as this was the best overall performance we’ve had all season. We made our focus one-and-done on the defensive end while we ran our offensive sets to get wide open looks at the basket.”

Lady Jets’ coach Mel Dark related her squad was taking this game as a learning experience.

“I told our girls Wheatmore was a team that could shoot the three-ball well so we needed to close out hard on the perimeter, but that was a detail they didn’t grasp,” said Dark.

“When we tried to feed the ball to Jocelyn they collapsed on her to prevent her from getting many touches. We weren’t aggressive enough overall on offense, while we need to do a better job reading the other team’s defense.”

Avery Headen’s trey from the right wing gave Jordan-Matthews its first lead at 7-6 with 3:10 to go in the opening quarter and J-M led once again at 9-8 following Mitchell’s jumper in the lane at the 2:34 mark before the Lady Warriors closed out the frame with Linville’s jumper off the right baseline and Comer’s fast break layup to forge a three-point advantage after one period.

The Lady Jets narrowed the gap to 17-16 on Wright’s lane jumper with 4:31 left in the second stanza prior to Comer’s fast break layup that sparked a 10-6 quarter-ending run to put Wheatmore up by five at the midway point.

Kennedy Powell and Linville combined for seven points during the Lady Warriors’ 11-point blitz to begin the second half that increased their lead to 38-22 before they settled for a 42-27 advantage entering the final eight minutes.

Wheatmore eventually seized its biggest lead at 53-28 on Comer’s jumper in the lane with 3:52 remaining to play prior to Jordan-Matthews closing out the contest with a Makayla Glover put-back in the lane plus Wright’s layup and free throw.

**Warriors 53,
Jets 33**

**J-M 9 13 5 6 - 33
WHE 12 15 15 11 - 53**

Jordan-Matthews (4-7) – Mitchell 3 0-0 6 Wiley 1 0-0 2 Scotton 2 2-7 6 Headen 1 0-0 3 Ray 1 0-0 2 Glover 1 0-0 2 Brooks 0 0-0 0 Wright 5 1-3 12 Artis 0 0-0 0. **Totals 14 3-10 33.**

Wheatmore (6-4) – Linville 4 2-3 12 Tucker 2 0-0 6 Powell 3 2-4 8 TComer 7 0-0 16 Swaney 3 0-0 7 KComer 1 2-4 4 Biggs 0 0-0 0. **Totals 20 6-11 53.**

Halftime-Wheatmore, 27-22. **Three-point goals**-Jordan-Matthews 2-11 (Headen 1-3, Wright 1-4, Brooks 0-1, Mitchell 0-3); Wheatmore 7-7 (TComer 2-2, Linville 2-2, Tucker 2-2, Swaney 1-1). **Fouled out**-None. **Rebounds**-Jordan-Matthews 25 (Scotton 7); Wheatmore 26 (Powell 13). **Turnovers**-Jordan-Matthews 19; Wheatmore 23. **Total fouls**-Jordan-Matthews 10; Wheatmore 8.

Spot

(Continued from page B1)

their sponsorship,” said Vernon. “Without all of them we could not pull it off.”

The tournament field in itself was set up nicely as host Northwood was joined by fellow 3A clubs Union Pines, Lee County and Southern Alamance, while GRACE Christian of Raleigh represented the private school sector.

Bringing a little down east flavor was well known Wallace-Rose Hill, while Apex Friendship brought a 4A team into the event, and is coached by former Jordan-Matthews coach P.J. Lowman, who was on a state title squad for the Jets.

Lowman also is assisted by former Jordan-Matthews players Jaylen Wiley and Paul Drumheller.

Finally, the eventual champions came from all the way down in Anderson, S.C. in the form of Westside High School.

Needless to say the well rounded field brought some intriguing matchups to the court, and providing some very entertaining games for the fans.

The hospitality of Northwood should also be noted at the players, coaches, officials, media members, and others were treated to a first class hospitality room which included bbq, fried chicken, hamburgers, deserts, and more.

In addition the players and coaches received t-shirts to commemorate the first time event while First Bank supplied awards for the All-Tournament selections.

The most exciting news of the event was that the tournament is looking to continue while adding at girl’s field next season.

“It was such a success that we’d like to bring a girl’s tournament to Northwood next year,” added Vernon. “It’s a lot of hard work and takes a great deal of time and planning. But for the kids and our area, there are so many positives that it’s so worthwhile to do. It just makes sense.”



Westside High School, from Anderson, South Carolina, pose with their championship trophy after defeating Northwood in the finals Saturday of the 1st Bank Charger Classic. The Rams defeated Union Pines, then Apex Friendship before beating Northwood 72-53. (Submitted photo)

Break

(Continued from page B1)

third-place in the girl’s and boy’s bracket at 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. respectively.

The Championship Finals area slated for 6:00 p.m. for the girls and 7:30 p.m. for the boys on Saturday.

The Jordan-Matthews boys will be making its annual appearance in The Courier-Tribune Christmas Invitational Tournament at Asheboro High School beginning on Thursday afternoon.

The Jets will take on host Asheboro at 1:00 p.m. with Providence Grove and Trinity squaring off at 2:30 p.m. that same day in the same half of the bracket.

In the other half of the bracket, Southwest Randolph and Wheatmore do battle at 6:00 p.m. before Randleman and Eastern Randolph battle at 7:30 p.m.

Games will continue at the same times on Friday and Saturday until all eight spots are decided.

The Northwood girls will be making the short trek over to Sanford for the annual Yellow Jacket Christmas Classic hosted by Lee County High School.

Northwood opens the event on Thursday with a 6:00 p.m. contest against Lee County before Apex and East Chapel Hill tangle at 8:00 p.m. on the same side of the bracket.

On the other side of the bracket, Apex Friendship and Raleigh Millbrook clash at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday before Hoke County and Western Harnett duke it out at 4:00 p.m.

Action continues with a pair of 2:00 p.m. games, and a pair of 4:00 p.m. games on Friday with the tournament utilizing the Main Gymnasium as well as Packard Gymnasium.

The same times are set for Saturday in the same two venues with all eight spots being decided.

Follow Chatham News + Record on



Christmas Break Tournaments

Chatham Charter Winter Slam Friday, December 28

N. Moore vs Cornerstone-3 pm Girls

Chatham Charter vs. Faith Christian-6 pm

N. Moore vs Cornerstone-4:30 pm boys

Chatham Charter vs. Faith Christian-7:30 pm boys

Saturday, December 30

Girls championship-winners of Friday games play at 6 pm

Boys championship-winners of Friday games play at 7:30 pm

Courier-Tribune Invitational

Thursday, December 27

JM vs Asheboro-1 pm

Friday December 28

JM boys, either 1 pm if lose, 6pm if win

Saturday, December 29

JM boys either 1pm, 2:30 if lose, 6pm or 7:30pm if win

Lee Sr. Yellow Jacket Classic

Thursday, December 27

Northwood vs Lee County girls 6 PM (Packard Gym)

Friday, December 28

NW girls either 4 pm if win (Main Gym) or 4 pm if lose (Packard Gym)

Saturday, December 29

NW girls- 6pm if win (Main Gym), 6pm if lose (Packard Gym)



Lady Jet Jaymonee Artis, center, gets covered up by Eastern Randolph’s Kolby Snider, left and Cournee Carter in the second round of the Courier Tribune Christmas Invitational. A foul was called on the play and JM went on to win the matchup between the two teams. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

Area Sports Calendar | Week of Dec. 26- Jan 1

Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Monday Tuesday

Dec. 26



Basketball
JM vs Asheboro-boys-1 pm at Courier-Tribune Tourney
NW vs Lee Sr. girls-6 pm in Sanford

Basketball
JM Boys in CT Tourney- 1 pm if lose, 6 pm if win
Thursday game NW vs TBA- in Sanford Tourny
Chatham Charter vs Faith Christian-6 pm Girls
Chatham Charter vs Faith Christian -7:30 pm-boys

Basketball
JM in Courier-Tribune Tourney-boys-TBA
Championship games at Chatham Charter- 6PM girls, 7:30 pm boys
NW at Lee Sr tourney-TBA Championship games at Lee Senior Tourney-girls game 6 pm, boys-7:30 pm

Jan. 1



Happy New Year



Charger Justin Brower scoops up a shot from the baseline against Southern Alamance in the 1st Bank Charger Classic. NW went on to win the game and advance to the championship round against Westside. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

Barwick, Canes take 5th at AAU National Championships

BY DON BEANE News + Record Staff
Stratton Barwick of Siler City continues to make a name for himself on the gridiron.

The 8th grader at Silk Hope School was an key figure in leading the Harnett County Hurricanes to a 5th place finish last recently at the 2018 AAU Tackle Football National Championships down in Davenport, Florida, a suburb of Orlando.

Playing quarterback and middle linebacker for the Hurricanes, Barwick and his squad posted a 2-2 mark against some of the top competition from across the nation in the 14U event.

"Stratton had a strong tournament as did the Harnett County team,"

said his father, E.J. Barwick. "The Hurricanes have played in about 8-10 tournaments this fall, and have been invited to a tournament in Gastonia this Saturday."

Barwick, at 6'0, 224 pounds, certainly made his presence felt on the field, and has been invited to an elite AAU All-Star Showcase down in Myrtle Beach in June.

"He loves football," said the elder Barwick of his son, who also doubles as a pitcher and slugger on the baseball diamond, and is a forward on the Silk Hope basketball team. "That's his passion and we wanted to find an outlet for him to play with the absence of a middle school program in Chatham County. It's been a good experience for him."



Former Jordan-Matthews basketball coach PJ Lowman works his new team, Apex Friendship, at the Charger Classic basketball tourney in Pittsboro. Apex won its first round game against Wallace-Rose Hill but lost to eventual champion Westside in Friday's second round. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

Powell nets 27 as NW races past GRACE 74-64

BY DON BEANE News + Record Staff
Deuce Powell scored 27 points here on Friday night in Pittsboro to lead Northwood to a 74-64 victory over GRACE Christian School of Raleigh in second round action of the inaugural First Bank Charger Classic Tournament.

The victory advances Northwood (5-3) into the finals on Saturday against a talented squad in Westside High out of Anderson, S.C.

Northwood coach Matt Brown was pleased with his club which opened the event 2-0 entering the finals.

"A great team effort and great team win," said Brown after the victory. "One of the

best games that we have played. We have been talking about putting together a complete game a lot lately, and this was a close that we have gotten this season."

Brown says his team is buying into the continued improvement as the season wears on.

"This team is really embracing the grind and the process of a long season," Brown added. "I love the make up of this team, from players 1 thru 13, they all contribute."

Powell was the main contributor for the Chargers as the slashing junior forward took over in the pain in a pivotal 3rd quarter despite the presence of 6'11 Jaylon Gibson inside for the Orange and Navy clad Eagles.

Powell torched GRACE (6-6) for eight points alone in a 21-13 run in the opening period before notching six more in the 2nd to help extend the Chargers advantage to 35-22 at the intermission.

The Eagles rallied in the third period behind six points from Gibson, and four more apiece from Luccas Pereira and Tony Brown to close to within 49-40 entering the fourth.

Eight more points from Powell, a pair of treys from Alex Snively, and four points each from Aaron Ross and Jalen McAfee sparked a 24-point outburst by Northwood in the fourth to cap the 74-64 victory.

Powell was 12-of-16 from the floor in the win while adding two re-

bounds and an assist to the cause.

Ross closed with 12 points, eight rebounds and three assists for the Chargers while McAfee chipped in 11 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and Snively 10 points and two boards.

Gibson was a man in the middle for GRACE, throwing down five dunks, including a monstrous one-handed jam off a rebound, on the way to 17 points, six rebounds, two assists, one steal and six blocks.

Torrey Brown chipped in 15 points in the loss while Pereira added 10.

BY DUCK DUCKSON News + Record Staff

Following a pair of early ties, Ellia Wright's three-pointer from the left wing with 58 seconds to go in the first quarter gave Jordan-Matthews the lead for good and the Lady Jets went on to earn a 53-34 triumph over Eastern Randolph in consolation round play of the 28th annual The Courier-Tribune Christmas Invitational Tournament Friday afternoon at Asheboro High School.

Snapping a four-game losing skid, J-M climbed to 4-6 overall with its third win over the Lady Wildcats in five tourney meetings and will next face Wheatmore Saturday afternoon in a clash for fifth-place hon-ors, while Eastern Randolph dropped to 2-7 for the year and will play Trinity for seventh place earlier in the day.

Jocelyn Mitchell notched 19 points and Wright collected 13 points off the bench for Jordan-Matthews, which connected on 33% (16-of-48) of its field goal attempts and commanded a 41-21 rebounding advantage while turning the ball over 22 times.

Courtnee Carter registered 14 points to lead the Lady Wildcats, who shot 27% (14-of-51) from the floor while committing 19 turnovers.

"I applaud our effort this afternoon, as we came out with a whole different attitude than the one we had against Southwestern Randolph last night," said Lady Jets' coach Mel Dark.

"While our shooting percentage wasn't great, we showed a desire to compete and win. Rebounding and boxing out is a want-to, and we have to do that consistently to be successful."

"We're also doing a better job learning when to push the ball and when to slow down, and that comes with maturity on the court."

Eastern Randolph coach Lynda Hooker-Ravenell commented the reality is her team needs a bonafide point guard.

"Our biggest hurt is we don't have a ball handler who can take charge and lead," explained Hooker-Ravenell.

"I think this outing was an eye-opener for us. We have good numbers personnel-wise this year but we lack role players with certain talents."

"It's been said insanity is doing the same thing and expecting different results. While the effort is there, we're not getting the full picture and completing the puzzle."

"Right now this is a developmental time for us, and I consider this a learning year in progress."

Wright's trey with just under a minute left in the opening stanza put J-M ahead 11-8, and Jordan-Matthews proceeded to stretch its advantage to five on Jasmine Scotton's layup with 11 seconds remaining in the first period.

The Lady Jets managed to extend their lead to 23-12 on Avery Headen's

free throw with 1:44 to go until halftime before Carter tallied four straight points to offset a Mitchell layup and draw the Lady Wildcats within nine at the break.

After Aniyah King's lane drive with 4:07 left in the third frame trimmed the gap to 28-25, Mitchell accounted for six points during an 8-0 quarter-ending Jordan-Matthews' burst that pushed the Lady Jets' advantage back out to 11.

Eastern Randolph could never reduce its deficit under double digits in the time remaining while J-M closed the contest on another 8-0 run, with Wright's backcourt steal and layup with 4.5 seconds to go accounting for the final margin besides giving the winners their biggest lead of the afternoon.

ER 8 8 9 9 - 34
J-M 13 12 11 17 - 53
Eastern Randolph (2-7) -

Carter 5 1-2 14 Rush 1 0-0 2
Jordan 2 0-0 4 King 3 0-0 6
0 ABrooks 0 2-2 2 Faulkner 0 0-0 0
0-0 0 Moore 0 0-0 0 Abrams 0 0-0 0
0-0 0 Presnell 0 0-0 0 Brower 1 0-0 2
Christian 1 0-0 2.

Totals 14 3-4 34.
Jordan-Matthews (4-6) - Mitchell 6 5-6 19 Wiley 0 0-0 0
0 Scotton 2 1-3 5 TBrooks 1 0-0 3
Headen 1 5-7 8 Ray 1 1-1 3
Glover 1 0-0 2 Wright 4 4-5 13
Artis 0 0-0 0. **Totals 16 16-22 53.**

Halftime-Jordan-Matthews, 25-16. Three-point goals-Eastern Randolph 3-7 (Carter 3-4, Whitaker 0-1, Faulkner 0-2);
Jordan-Matthews 5-13 (Mitchell 2-5, Wright 1-1, TBrooks 1-3, Headen 1-4). Fouled out-Carter. Rebounds-Eastern Randolph 21 (Jordan 7);
Jordan-Matthews 41 (Scotton, Mitchell 9). Turnovers-Eastern Randolph 19;
Jordan-Matthews 22. Total fouls-Eastern Randolph 18; Jordan-Matthews 10.



Lady Jet Seniah Wiley passes the ball from the floor after capturing control of a loose ball while Eastern Randolph's Lilly Whitaker looks on in the Courier-Tribune Invitational. JM went on to the win over Eastern Randolph but lost their game to Wheatmore on Saturday. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

Unbeaten Southwest too strong for Jordan-Matthews

**BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff**

Taking advantage of a slew of early Jordan-Matthews turnovers, unbeaten Southwestern Randolph opened up a double-digit lead in the first three minutes of play and was never seriously threatened while outscoring J-M every quarter in cruising to a 72-49 victory in first-round action of the 28th annual The Courier-Tribune Christmas Invitational Tournament Thursday evening at Asheboro High School.

Defeating the Lady

Jets for the seventh time in 10 tourney meetings, the defending tournament champions raised their season record to 9-0, while Jordan-Matthews fell to 3-6 overall.

Heaven Maness poured in 25 points and Ashton Maness added 10 for the Lady Cougars, while Jordan Claborn, Kenzie Whitson and Sarah Crews all finished with nine points apiece.

Southwestern Randolph shot 24-of-62 (39%) from the floor while only committing 11 turnovers. Jocelyn Mitchell topped

four J-M players in double figures with 13 points and Avery Headen chipped in 11, while Jasmine Scotton and Ellia Wright contributed 10 points each.

The Lady Jets connected on 16-of-37 (43%) of their field goal attempts but turned the ball over 29 times. Both teams pulled down a total of 31 rebounds.

"I thought we got a good run in the first quarter and pretty much controlled the game from there," remarked Lady Cougars' coach Seth Baxter.

"We've been living off our defense this year, and our full-court pressure created a number of turnovers at the outset that we were able to convert into easy layups, although we didn't shoot that well from the perimeter."

"Once we got a big lead we got lazy at times on defense, which allowed J-M to have some success at breaking our press when our defensive rotation wasn't where it needed to be, so we know we still have some mistakes to correct."

Jordan-Matthews coach Mel Dark stated her team's inconsistency breaking the press was a major factor in the outcome.

"We talked about the press during a shoot-around and about the things we needed to do to be successful against it, but then we tried to dribble out of traps, didn't make hard cuts or good ball fakes," said Dark.

"We need to do a better job pushing the ball up the court, looking for cutters to the basket and making the defender commit."

"Boxing out around the defensive boards was also a problem for us tonight, as we gave up way too many second and third-chance opportunities for Southwestern Randolph to put the ball in the hole."

Whitson and Claborn combined for seven points as the Lady Cougars raced out to a 12-2 advantage

after three minutes and expanded their lead to 19-6 by the end of the initial period.

Southwestern Randolph's advantage grew to as much as 35-13 following an Ashton Maness layup with 3:12 left in the first half before Wright tallied eight points during an 11-4 quarter-ending Lady Jets' burst that cut the margin to 15 at intermission.

A pair of Mitchell free throws got J-M as close as 46-32 with 3:21 remaining in the third stanza prior to Heaven Maness firing in seven points over the last 2:41 of the frame as the Lady Cougars increased their lead to 57-37 entering the final eight minutes.

The closest Jordan-Matthews got in the fourth quarter was 58-40 on Mitchell's inbounds layup with 6:44 to go before the winners maintained a 20-23 point advantage in the time remaining.

J-M 6 18 13 12 - 49
SWR 19 20 18 15 - 72
Jordan-Matthews (3-6) -
Mitchell 5 3-5 13 Wiley 1 1-2
3 Scotton 4 2-9 10 Headen 2
7-9 11 Wright 4 1-2 10 ARay 0
2-2 2 Glover 0 0-0 0 Brooks 0
0-0 0 Artis 0 0-0 0 Payne 0 0-2
0 **Totals 16 16-31 49.**

Southwestern Randolph (9-0) -
Brundage 1 1-1 3
Crews 4 1-3 9 Claborn 4 1-6 9
HManess 7 11-13 25 Whitson
3 3-5 9 AsManess 3 4-5 10
AlManess 0 2-2 2 Resor 0 0-0
0 Springer 1 1-2 3 TRay 0 0-0
0 Martin 0 0-0 0 Everhart 1
0-0 2 Mull 0 0-0 0 **Totals 24**
24-37 72.

Halftime-Southwestern Randolph, 39-24. Three-point goals-Jordan-Matthews 1-9 (Wright 1-5, Headen 0-2, Mitchell 0-2); Southwestern Randolph 0-6 (HManess 0-1, Brun-dage 0-1, Claborn 0-1, AsManess 0-3). Fouled out-Brooks, Brundage. Rebounds-Jordan-Matthews 31 (Mitchell 9); Southwestern Randolph 31 (Claborn 11). Turnovers-Jordan-Matthews 29; Southwestern Randolph 11. Total fouls-Jordan-Matthews 26; Southwestern Randolph 25.



Local youth Stratton Barwick and the Harnett County Hurricanes recently placed 5th overall at the 2018 AAU Tackle Football National Championships down in Davenport, FL. In the top photo Barwick makes a tackle from his middle linebacker spot while in the left photo Barwick takes the snap from the quarterback position in a tournament contest. Barwick is the son of E.J. Barwick and Andrea Smith of Silk Hope.

Balanced Chargers equals blowout tournament win

**BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff**

Northwood used a balanced scoring attack here on Thursday night to cruise past Southern Alamance 70-57 in opening round action of the inaugural First Bank Charger Classic Tournament in Pittsboro.

Deuce Powell led a Chargers contingent in scoring with 17 points on 8-of-12 shooting from the field.

Northwood coach Matt Brown was excited about the total team effort he saw on Thursday.

"I was extremely pleased with how we have been playing and progressing this year," Brown said after the big win by his Chargers. "We are playing more and more as a team."

Brown pointed out one stat could sum up that very statement.

"Just this one stat alone can tell you a lot about the type of team we have this year," continued Brown. "We had 23 assists off of 32 made shots against Southern Alamance."

Northwood built a 19-14 lead after one period of play, but saw that lead trimmed to a precarious 33-31 margin at the half.

Powell would collect eight points in a pivotal third, however, and Alex Snively canned a pair of clutch treys as the Charger won the stanza 24-14 to blow the game open at 57-45 entering the fourth.

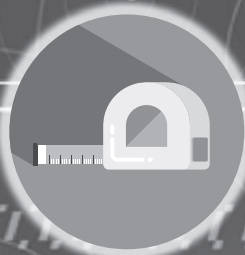
The Chargers cruised from there, securing the 70-57 win and spot in the winner's bracket semifinals versus GRACE Christian of Raleigh.

Snively closed with 14 points and five assists in the win while Jack Thompson chipped in 12 points, two rebounds and two assists, Aaron Ross nine points, nine rebounds and eight assists, McAfee eight points, five rebounds and four assists, and Justin Brower eight points and four rebounds.

Southern Alamance was led by 18 points from Larry Williams while Hasten Watson chipped in 15, and Dylan Brewer 11.



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From the left , Health Promotion and Policy Division Director Mike Zelek, Health Director Layton Long, and Child Care Health Consultant Dorothy Rawleigh accept awards from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Executive Director Marilyn E. Foote-Hudson (photo contributed)

County public health wins two statewide awards

CN+R STAFF REPORT

PITTSBORO -- At the North Carolina Public Health Association's Fall Education Conference last week, the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation recognized the Chatham County Public Health Department and staff member Dorothy Rawleigh with two prestigious awards.

Rawleigh, child care health consultant, received the Public Health Staff Award, which recognizes a public health professional from North Carolina for excellence and innovation in child health care. The award came with a \$1,000 prize.

"Dorothy has always been one to go above and beyond," said Genevieve Megginson, executive director for the Chatham County Partnership for Children. The Partnership is responsible for Smart Start programming in Chatham County, which includes Rawleigh's work at the Public Health Department. "I am very pleased to see her good work recognized in this way. Smart Start and the Chatham County Partnership for Children appreciate Dorothy."

In announcing the award, the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation noted that Rawleigh is "viewed as a model public health professional and an inspiration to all who work with her," adding that her colleagues "consider her the best child care health consultant in the state."

The Chatham County Public Health Department was also one of three health departments in the state to receive a Local Health Department Recognition Award for its efforts to increase immunization rates for young children, which are consistently among the highest in the state. These efforts are led by Rawleigh and Marsha Andrews, immunization tracking coordinator, who jointly work diligently to protect the health of Chatham's youngest residents.

"Marsha and Dorothy are shining examples of what dedicated public health workers can accomplish," said Chatham County Health Director Layton Long. "Protecting children from preventable disease through immunizations is core public health work and we are grateful for the hard work that Dorothy and Marsha accomplish every day toward this effort."



Members of the Central Carolina Community College Fire Academy Fall 2018 class. (photo contributed)

Fire Academy at CCCC graduates new class of cadets

SANFORD — Central Carolina Community College's Fire Academy graduation was held on Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center.

Division Chief Ronny Mizell, Deputy Director of Training, Raleigh Fire Department, was the keynote speaker.

The Fire Academy cadets and their sponsoring departments are: Mark R. Drumheller (Silk Hope Fire Department), Justin P. Fulcher (Spout Springs Emergency Services), Matthew R. Godley (Deep River Rural Fire Department), Kendall J. LaPann (Efland Volunteer Fire Department), Matthew G. Mead (Lillington Fire Department), Hunter C. Nadeau (Cypress Pointe Fire and Rescue), Michael JC Nelson (Flat Branch Volunteer Fire Department), Robert M. Nooney (Lillington Fire Department), Noah L. Perez (Deep River Fire Department), and Justin N. Smith (Deep River Fire Department).

Cadets receiving awards were: Hunter C. Nadeau, Most Improved; and Kendall J. LaPann, Captain's Award.

The Academy is a rigorous and challenging program of more than 800 hours of study and practice in fire and rescue scenarios and practicals. The cadets completed rigorous and intensive training in fire fighting, safety and survival, technical rescue, vehicle rescue, emergency vehicle driving, and hazardous materials response at the college's Emergency Services Training Center.

CCCC began offering fire fighter training classes in 1964. For information on CCC's Fire Academy, contact the CCC Fire and Rescue Coordinator at 919-777-7778.

TSWBD holds awards banquet in Lillington

CN+R STAFF REPORT

LILLINGTON — The 7th Annual Triangle South Workforce Development Board (TSWDB) Awards Banquet was held Wednesday, Dec. 5, at the Central Carolina Community College Harnett Health Sciences Center in Lillington.

The following awards were presented:

- * Outstanding Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) In-School Youth Award: Terence Leach (Harnett County).
- * Outstanding WIOA Out of School Youth Award: Shareka McKinnie (Harnett County).
- * Outstanding WIOA Adult Award: Dani Hearn (Chatham County).

- * Outstanding WIOA Dislocated Worker Award: Lisa Piekarski (Harnett County).
- * Outstanding Employer Award: House of Raeford Farms, Inc.
- * Outstanding Adult/Dislocated Worker Case Manager Award: Sherry Johnson (Harnett County).
- * Outstanding Workforce Center Staff

- Award: Gloria Morrisey (Sampson County).
- * Outstanding Board Member Award: Bob Kain (Lee County).
- * Team Member of the Year: Angela Nicholson.
- The Triangle South Workforce Development Board (TSWDB) is responsible for planning,

policy guidance, and oversight of the workforce investment system in Chatham, Harnett, Lee, and Sampson Counties. Its goal is to combine area employment, training and supportive services and programs into a consumer-based, market-driven system that meets the needs of job seekers and employers.



Restart program may be key for Chatham Middle's performance

BY JOHN HUNTER News + Record Staff

For the last few years, Chatham Middle School students haven't done well on the state's performance grades.

But a program called the "Restart Model" could allow the school the flexibility to improve performance scores.

The Chatham County Board of Education this week took action that will allow Chatham Middle School to apply for the Restart Program.

Public schools in North Carolina are designated as "low performing" if they receive a performance grade of D or F and a growth score that is lower than "exceeded expected growth."

"Recurring low-performing" schools have received the designation of low-performing for two of the past three years.

Chatham Middle School has received a D for the last three years, and is now eligible for the

Restart Program.

The North Carolina Restart Program provides an opportunity for some of the state's recurring lowest-performing public schools charter school-like flexibility with the aim of improving students' performance.

Some of the flexibilities given to administrators at Restart schools are hiring teachers for positions for which they are not licensed, extending the school day, using funds in ways not designated by the state, and flexibility in the calendar law.

Licensure flexibility would provide greater opportunities for ensuring that the schools are staffed with the most qualified teachers possible, according to Carrie Little, Executive Director of Federal Programs and School Improvement for Chatham County Schools.

Chatham Middle would be allowed to hire retirees whose license may have expired, teachers from out of state who have not yet

fulfilled North Carolina's requirements, as well as non-traditional candidates with content expertise under the Restart flexibility.

Flexibility with the calendar law would potentially allow for extra instructional time for at risk-students, according to Little.

But unlike charter schools, Restart schools must continue to provide transportation for students.

"We don't have the full flexibility of charter schools," Chatham County Schools Superintendent Derrick Jordan said. "For instance, charter schools are allowed to have as low as 50 percent licensed teachers. We will not be allowed nearly that flexibility."

Chatham County Schools has had experience implementing the program, as Siler City Elementary and Virginia Cross Elementary are currently restart schools and have been removed from

the "low performance" list.

"It's been hard, but I would like to credit the parents, the teachers, and the administrators," Jordan said.

After a school is named a Restart school, it can receive extra funding. The dollar amount that Chatham Middle would receive is unknown to administrators at this time. Siler City Elementary and Virginia Cross each received additional funding in the range of \$25,000 to \$38,000. The amount fluctuates each year depending on staffing, Little said.

In addition, calendar flexibility could potentially generate some new calendar and scheduling opportunities to further maximize instructional time. Any major changes would require more research, stakeholder (faculty, parents, etc.) conversations, and approval of the Chatham County Board of Education.



Rain, snow, winter weather woes! And what do you get? Potholes! A crew from the Department of Transportation were out filling up those holes in the driving lanes that cause realignment problems on your vehicle. But there's plenty more winter to go through. (Staff photo by Jeff Davis)

Drone safety program to be held at CCCC for Public Safety personnel

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Central Carolina Community College and Public Safety UAS Institute will present the Public Safety UAS Remote Pilot Prep Course Jan. 14-18 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at the Emergency Services Training Center, 3000 Airport Road, Sanford.

This class prepares public safety personnel to begin the process of starting a UAS (unmanned aircraft system)/drone program in their agency, as well as to sit for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 107 Remote Pilot exam and the NCDOT UAS Operator Permit test — both of which are required for a public safety UAS program in North Carolina.

The class will consist of five days of study for a total of 40 hours.

All hands-on training will be done flying aircraft similar to what they may actually use in the field.

Tuition may be waived for volunteer and municipal fire/EMS personnel, emergency management personnel, and sworn law enforcement personnel. Tuition is \$125 for non-waived students. There is a \$50 material fee per student payable on the first day of class. For those who are not an active public safety employee / volunteer, the course will be \$125 plus the \$50 material fee.

To register or for more information, people can contact Hampton Williams, CCC Fire & Rescue Training Coordinator, at 919-777-7778 or by email at hwill568@cccc.edu.

Nationally renowned author visits CCCC dental students

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — A nationally renowned, award-winning author visited Central Carolina Community College on a Friday morning in December, but she didn't speak in the civic center auditorium and it wasn't even about her book.

Mary Otto came to discuss social policy with a small group of Dental Hygiene students — and to search for solutions.

Otto spent eight years covering health care and poverty for *The Washington Post*, and now works as a freelance journalist still based in the nation's capital. She serves as the oral health topic leader for the Association of Health Care Journalists and is author of "Teeth: The Story of Beauty, Inequality, and the Struggle for Oral Health in America."

For more than an hour, Otto answered questions and sorted through issues with 18 second-year students. It began with what led Otto to become a champion for disadvantaged people who don't have access to dental care, but quickly shifted to nuances of social policy and dental care. It was a vibrant, give-and-take with students discussing their own research and asking the expert for her insight and suggestions.

Much of the discussion focused on how to get physicians and policy leaders to view oral health as part of people's overall well-being. "It's a big thing in our national healthcare system," Otto said after the roundtable ended. "Our system has been fragmented for generations and oral health belongs with the rest of the healthcare system. But integrating it is going to be challenging. There are

a lot of institutional barriers, not just for patients but for professionals.

The roundtable was arranged by CCCC Dental Hygiene Clinical Coordinator Danielle Bruner for her students in Community Dental Health, an advanced class designed to help Dental Hygiene students develop and offer initiatives that improve oral health for people across the entire community.

Bruner planned the roundtable so students could learn from Otto's experience researching and writing the book. But the author's passion and interest in the next generation of dental hygiene providers made an unexpected impact on everyone in the room. "It will be a fond memory of mine, as a dental hygiene educator," Bruner said. "And the students left inspired to continue their passion for helping improve oral and overall health."

THE CN+R Q&A / U.S. Rep. Mark Walker, N.C. Rep. Robert Reives II

Walker talks **FIRST STEP**, political scene

BY ZACH HORNER
News + Record Staff

Just last week, U.S. Rep. Mark Walker, a North Carolina Republican, went on MSNBC's Morning Joe to talk about criminal justice reform, particularly the FIRST STEP Act.

The legislation is designed to reduce America's world-high prison population by lowering some mandatory minimum sentences and offering judges more leeway in non-violent drug-related cases. Walker has pushed for the bill alongside Democratic Rep. Cedric Richmond of Louisiana.

Walker was asked by host Joe Scarborough why Sen. Mitch McConnell, a fellow Republican, wouldn't want to have the bill discussed. Walker said the delay was "preposterous" and the bill was truly "bipartisan" and "humanitarian" legislation.

Later that day, McConnell said he'd allow a vote in the Senate on the bill this month. Walker told the News + Record that he doubts he personally had any effect on that, but was pleased with the change of status.

Reached by phone on Monday, Walker spoke about that legislation, changes in D.C., what he promises for his Chatham County constituents and recent allegations against and investigations into President Donald Trump.

What's next for you in working for the FIRST STEP Act, and why should Americans get behind this bill?

We're still working today because you've got (Arkansas Republican Sen.) Tom Cotton and (Republican) Sen. (John) Kennedy from Louisiana that are going against it. We've got to push back against that. We think we've got a plan to get

it through, get it to the President's desk by the end of the year.

As much as it is a policy issue, it's a humanitarian issue. If you look at the prison growth (in the U.S.) since 1980, it's about quadrupled. You've gone from 700,000 to 2.3 million, which is more than Russia and China combined. It hurts us economically. It hurts the family. When children have an opportunity to grow up around parents, that prevents children from following that same poverty-stricken path. There's so many tangible reasons why this is a good thing.

As you're well aware, the House flipped to Democratic control for the next two years. Does that change strategy at all?

Absolutely. When you don't control the House or have the chairs of each committee, you

are stifled when you're guaranteed something to getting to the floor. I think that's where relationships come into play, whether it's through Cedric Richmond or others that we've worked on in areas like criminal justice or tax reform, those relationships matter. We'll just do our best to try to work around it.

What's on your personal goals list for 2019-2020? Is there any legislation you're looking to push for?



MARK WALKER

What can Chatham County residents — who voted 56.8 percent to

43.2 percent against you, remember — count on you for this term?

The same thing. Regardless of which county votes in which direction, our job is to be consistent in constituent services. That's why we have people in there working remote hours. As a minister, if somebody came to me, I didn't care what their background was. It's the same thing. If people walk into our office, I don't care if they're Republican or Democrat. Our job is to serve. Ultimately — I know there's a big Democratic continent in Chatham County — I hope that they can see our heart and serve all of those individuals.

You've been in Washington for four years now. What's something about Congress, D.C., the political scene that you've gathered that might surprise people?

How good people can differ on important issues. There are people, both Republicans and Democrats that I have met, that are principled people who are committed to fighting and standing up for what they believe in, even if I disagree with them or they disagree with me. There's people on both sides that are what we call "lifers" that are sitting on the back row pushing buttons. There are people up there that are engaged, trying to represent their districts, with fervor and energy. Before I arrived there, I just thought that they were a bunch of liberals. I learned that, for the most part, their heart is in the right place and they're trying to do the right thing.

There's been a lot swirling around President Trump regarding campaign finance violations and other allegations. Your thoughts?

His entire first two years has just been constant investigation after another. What I've tried to do is separate the policies versus the personality. Most of the president's history, if I'm being transparent, has not been very moral. It's not been someone that you necessarily want to model. There's some things he's done OK, but there's some things that I'd advocate against to my own children. But the things that happened years ago doesn't affect current policy. The focus should be more on the policy and not on the personality.

Reives talks N.C., district issues - and debunks a misconception

BY ZACH HORNER
News + Record Staff

This year was a different kind of year for Robert Reives II. He spent a month of it laid up, mostly immobile with a ruptured quadriceps tendon in his right leg.

"It rolled up like a window shade," he joked.

The injury is better now, but Reives said he had to learn to walk again and did much less campaigning than normal.

One thing that didn't change: he kept his seat as the state representative for North Carolina's District 54, which includes all of Chatham County and part of Durham County.

Reives, a Democrat, defeated Republican challenger Jay Stobbs by 15.5 points in Chatham County and more than 26.5 percentage points overall, his biggest margin of victory in his three elections in his first after his district shifted from covering all of Chatham and part of Lee County.

Reives spoke to the News + Record about the shift, about re-election and about a changed General Assembly heading into 2019.

Your district has included all of Chatham County since you first entered office, but do you feel like it's different now? How does that change things?

I've got a whole different set of priorities than when it was Chatham and Lee. Chatham and Lee, I think, were pretty synergistic in the priorities they had. That was a pretty consistent, easy lift in the sense of knowing that, if I talk to Pittsboro, I talk to Goldston, I talk to Siler City, I talk to Sanford, I was pretty much consistently getting the same answer about how they wanted to proceed on issues.

Durham is a city, and it's a real urban area and it's a very, very progressive urban area, and because of that they've got very different issues. One of the biggest issues in Durham right now is light rail. We're light years away from worrying about light rail (in Chatham). So I've got to balance those.

What does it mean to you that you've been re-elected to a third full term in office, especially after a district adjustment?

This election was really special, candidly, with the injury. To not be able to get out here and campaign. I had to be immobilized with my leg straight for about five weeks. I couldn't get in and out of the car because there's no car made for you to have your legs straight. Whereas I used to hit five to six functions in a day,

suddenly I'm doing one, maybe two a week. To get re-elected by the margin I did, in a new district, it was amazing.



Robert Reives II

This time around, you and the Democrats are not facing a veto-proof majority in either side of the General Assembly. For people who aren't keen N.C. political observers, does it matter, and if so, why?

Yes, it matters. It forces everybody to talk to each other. It gives the minority in this particular situation, where you have a governor of one party and a majority of the General Assembly in the other party, it provides an extra check and balance. This way, if a perceived bad idea goes through the General Assembly, the governor vetoes it, then we have to start back from the drawing board if everybody votes along party lines.

Your goal then changes as a General Assembly. Whereas before your goal was to just push ideas that you felt were great ideas and didn't really matter what anybody else thought, then that has to go away. Now you have to push ideas that you have now discussed with the minority party to try to work out legislation that works for everybody. Not that everybody's happy with, but that works for everybody, and it gets you closer to the point you're trying to make so it does not get vetoed.

I believe that, for both sides, when we talk to each other, we come up with 100-times better legislation. The worst form of government is when you have a government that makes state policy that is only done by about eight or nine people. The absolute worst is a dictatorship. Beyond that, I can't imagine worse.

As you go back in 2019 and 2020, what are you hoping to do for Chatham County, for the people that voted you in office convincingly?

I'm really keeping an eye on infrastructure for Chatham. Chatham

Park's moving, we're doing a lot of development here in Pittsboro, especially right here at this circle (in downtown). Projects like that have really gotten on my mind. The consistency with Chatham and its government and its people makes it so that the priorities really haven't changed from the last couple of years. My No. 1 priority personally for Chatham is internet.

It is just insane to me the internet problems that we have in rural areas when we've got so many municipalities and so many county governments that are ready to fix it. I really think that you're going to have to start looking at internet like any other utility. You can't keep letting that be held hostage by companies if companies don't want to serve the need. I'm not saying

companies should have to. I understand it's not profitable, I understand it's not profitable to come down to Goldston where I am and hook my internet up and hook my three neighbors up and go 10 miles down the road and run the T-1 line to four more people. But that's where we've got to allow government to be innovative and step in.

I want to explore what works. Most other states in the country are figuring out how to make it work. I'm not even at a point where I'm ready to say incentivize everybody. I'm at a point to say, "Is there anything that works?" If we do a full study, and I found out that nothing works, I'm at peace. But I'd be shocked that, if we did a full study, nothing works.

For the keen political observers this time — what's a common misconception or myth about goings-on in Raleigh that you want to debunk, or something that might surprise people?

I think they'd be very surprised about how cordially most of us get along, and how well the majority of us, left to our own devices, interact. I was surprised at that. Issues that are not partisan issues, issues that the leadership does not feel strongly about, you see what government's supposed to be. I think we're the best example of what government is supposed to be on those issues.

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Chatham News+Record

Culberson named to Dean's List

CN+R Staff Report
CONWAY, SC-- More than 2,400 students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2018 semester. That's more than 23 percent of the student body earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Among those students earning a spot on the Dean's List were Lexie Culberson, a Marketing major from Siler City.

Balan named to Dean's List

CN+R Staff Report
NASHVILLE, TN -- Laura Balan, a Pittsboro native, qualified for the Fall 2018 Dean's List at Belmont University.

Eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Approximately 35 percent of Belmont's 8,318 students qualified for the Fall 2018 Dean's List.

THE CLASSIFIEDS

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There is a minimum charge of \$5.00 made for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind ads."

NOTICE
 In advertisements that run more than one week, we will be responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. Classified ads payable in advance.

OFFICE SPACE RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT - Approximately 2000 sq ft reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, 919-930-1650, Jn15,tfnc

MOBILE HOME SALES

2011 SINGLEWIDE FOR SALE 16x76 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Ready to move-in. Financing available. Includes stove, over stove microwave, side-by-side refrigerator and dishwasher. 1216 sq. ft., \$39,200, 919-742-1250, Ask for Linda. S13,tfnc

MOBILE HOME RENTALS

NICE 3BR 2BA MOBILE Home private lot in Bennett School District: \$550/mo + deposit. 919-548-0086, D6,tfnc

3 BEDROOM S/W HOMES for rent - 919-742-1250 D10,tfnc

RENTAL APARTMENTS

1 BR at NORTHSIDE APTS. Laundry included, Rent: \$475. Deposit and references required. No pets., 919-548-2186. N8,tfnc

POWELL SPRINGS APTS - Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 - 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD #1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, O4,tfnc

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS Now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. \$460/mo, no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity, My24,tfnc

FOR SALE

82" PADDED CHURCH PEW; Large homemade Fisher-Style woodstove 8" Flue; Buckstove 8" Flue; Mobile Army generator; Mobile Beer Keg Cooler and Top - 919-542-2017, D20,27,J3,10,4tp

AUCTION

AUCTIONEER JERRY L. HARRIS - HARRIS REALTY & AUCTION - "Since 1989" - One call...we sell it all! Land, Houses, Equipment, Business Liquidation, Estates, Antiques, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, etc. www.jerryharrisauktion.com, 919-545-4637, 919-498-4077, O4,tfnc

LEGAL NOTICES

RICKY ELLINGTON Auctioneers - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, Jy5,tfnc

SERVICES

UPHOLSTERY!!! Top Quality furniture upholstery serving Chatham and surrounding counties since 1999. Southern

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

Now accepting applications for 1 and 2 BR apartments. Handicapped accessible/adapted units available. Rent based on income however; limited rental Assistance available. For more information, call 919-542-5410 or TDD 1-800-735-2962.

LEGAL NOTICES

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY - CNAs needed for CAP cases in Siler City and also Pittsboro. If you need work please contact us at 919-545-2027, F22,tfnc

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 The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of DORIS EDWARDS BROWN, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned at his address, 157 Manley Edwards Drive, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, on or before the 6th day of March, 2019, 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 3rd day of December, 2018.
 Dwight Bradley Brown,
 157 Manley Edwards Drive
 Siler City, North Carolina 27344
 GUNN & MESSICK, LLP
 P.O. Box 880
 Pittsboro,
 North Carolina 27312-0880
 D6,D13,D20,D27,4tp

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS 18 E 626
 The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of CHARLES MICHAEL TILLMAN of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before March 13, 2019 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 13th day of December, 2018.
 Barbara H. Poe, Executor
 153 Robert Poe Rd.
 P.O. Box 72
 Gulf, NC 27256
 D13,D20,D27,J3,4tp

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LEGAL NOTICES

Burlington, NC 27215
• Unit #1086
Jennifer Frost
5582 New Hope Church Rd
Asheboro, NC 27205
• Unit #1100
Rhonda Kinton
1409 East 11th St, Apt 1-B
Siler City, NC 27344
• Unit #1102
Beverly C. McLean
1917 Alston Chapel Rd
Pittsboro, NC 27312
• Unit #1117
Tamatha Mitchell
35 Eastway Dr
Bear Creek, NC 1117
• Unit #1125
Scott Murphy
1002 Lake Dr
Siler City, NC 27344
• Unit #1128
Joseph P Rogers
505 Vance St
Sanford, CN 27330
• Unit #1074
Kristie Rose
908 MLK Blvd
Siler City, NC 27344
• Unit #1002
Samantha Mae Stevenson
165 Huss Beal Rd
Goldston, NC 27252
• Unit #1136
Patricia Wall
303 W 6th St
Siler City, NC 27344
• Unit #1023
Trina Wiley
1204 York St
Siler City, NC 27344
D27,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
18 E 627
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of JAMES H. HOLLAND aka JAMES H. HOLLAND JR. of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before March 27, 2019 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 27th day of December, 2018.
Frances K. Holland, Executrix
527 Vickers Rd
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
D27,J3,J10,J7,4tp

NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED SEWAGE
The City of Graham had a discharge of untreated waste water from our Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 1204 East Gilbreath Street in Graham of approximately 19,500 gallons. The discharge occurred on December 20, 2018 for approximately 4.75 hours. The untreated wastewater entered into Town Branch Creek in the Cape Fear River Basin. A suspected malfunctioning pump was taken offline and a back-up pump was placed into service which ceased further discharges. This notice was required by North Carolina General Statutes Article 21, Chapter 143.215C. For more information, contact Tonya Mann, Utilities Director, or Kris Routh, Treatment Plant Superintendent, at 336-570-6721. D27,1tc

NOTIFICATION OF DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED WASTEWATER
The City of Graham had a discharge of untreated wastewater on December 20, 2018 of an estimated 360 gallons from Boyd Creek List Station, located at 1125 Ingold Dr. The SSO was a result of heavy rain overwhelming the pumping station. All functions of the lift station operated properly. The spill started at 7:05PM and ended at 9:00PM. The untreated wastewater was discharged into Bowden Creek which is in the Cape Fear River Basin. The North Carolina Division of Water Resources was notified of the event on December 21st, 2018 and is reviewing the matter. For more information, contact the City of Graham at (336) 570-6721. D27,1tc

Data shows more treatment options needed against opioids

From N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services
RALEIGH
— Unintentional opioid-related overdose resulted in 1,884 deaths in North Carolina last year, a 34 percent increase from the 1,407 deaths attributed to the same cause in 2016, and state health officials say the increase is due to the increase in potent illicit drugs like heroin and fentanyl.

While it is too early to report final numbers for 2018, preliminary data from the first quarter of 2018 showed a decrease in opioid overdose deaths compared to the fourth quarter of 2017. Provisional January to November year-to-date Emergency Department visits for 2018 are also seven percent lower (4,991 visits) compared to the same time period in 2017 (5,339 visits).

“While we are seeing progress in some metrics including Emergency Room visits, we still have a lot of work to do,” said Mandy K. Cohen, M.D., Secretary of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. “We need to close the coverage gap if we are to make serious headway against this epidemic, as they have done in other states.”

The North Carolina Opioid Action Plan, launched in June 2017, identifies specific, achievable steps that will have

the greatest impact on reducing deaths from the opioid epidemic. The plan also collects metrics tracking the scope of the crisis.

Reducing Oversupply of Prescription Opioid Drugs and Flow of Illicit Drugs
The number of opioid pills dispensed statewide decreased by 24 percent from the end of 2016 to the second quarter of 2018. In addition, the rate of patients receiving opioids from five or more prescribers dispensed at five or more pharmacies, an indicator of ‘doctor shopping,’ decreased over 70 percent. However, the percent of opioid overdose deaths involving illicit drugs like heroin, fentanyl or fentanyl analogues increased from 59 percent to 81 percent over the last two years.

Increase Naloxone Availability
There are now more than 1,700 retail pharmacies (85 percent of all statewide) dispensing naloxone, the opioid overdose reversal drug, under the statewide standing order. This order enables pharmacists to dispense naloxone to anyone who requests it and is at risk themselves, knows someone at risk of overdose or is in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an overdose.

As of October 2018, 249 law enforcement agencies in 90 counties across North Carolina carry naloxone. There are also over 29 active syringe exchange programs covering 39 counties across the state. Since July 2016, sy-

ringe exchange programs have reported more than 4,847 overdose reversals and made more than 4,780 referrals to mental health and substance use treatment.

Expanded Treatment Access and Recovery Support
The number of uninsured individuals and Medicaid beneficiaries with an opioid use disorder served by treatment programs increased from 15,282 (quarter 4 of 2016) to 19,202 (quarter 2 of 2018). During the same time, there has also been a 25 percent increase in the number of prescriptions for buprenorphine, a drug that is used in medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder.

Additionally, the number of certified peer support specialists has risen from 2,352 to 3,310. Peer support specialists are individuals in recovery for at least a year and have received certification and training in providing support to those who may benefit from their lived experience. Beginning in August 2018, DHHS announced a one-year peer support program, in collaboration with the NC Healthcare Association, to place Certified Peer Support Specialists in six hospital emergency departments in the state.

Measure Impact
The Opioid Action Plan Dashboard, launched in June 2018, provides county-level data on key opioid action plan metrics. This enables local, county and state partners to directly access the data to monitor the opioid epidemic in their counties.

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Siler City working to compete in tight job market to fill vacancies

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

Without a police chief since June, a Public Works Director since last December, short eight police officer positions and several operators in the town's water treatment plant, the town of Siler City is working aggressively to compete in an increasingly competitive job market to fill those roles.

In an effort to make the search for law enforcement candidates fruitful, the Siler City Board of Commissioners on Monday approved two salary incentives within the police department.

Officers with an Associate's Degree would receive a 2.5 percent raise over the base pay, Bachelor's Degree recipi-

ents would receive a five percent raise, and those with a Master's Degree would receive a 7.5 percent raise.

There will also be five percent incentive over base pay for a current or incoming officer that is bilingual in Spanish. According to Darden, Siler City is 49.8 percent Hispanic; however, only one police officer on the force speaks Spanish. This means that for every four shifts, only one includes an officer that can communicate with the Spanish speaking population.

"We are making headway in replenishing the ranks of the police department," Siler City Town Manager Bryan Thompson said. "Prior to spring, we hope to have as close to 100 percent as possible."

Darden told the Chatham News + Record the town has three candidates for the police department that she hopes will be able to fill some of the positions by January or February. There are interviews for additional positions at the department scheduled after the New Year.

The police chief search continues with the assistance of the MAPS Group, the consultant the town is using to facilitate the process. The town has received 43 applications for the position. That group has been narrowed down to 14 who will receive additional questions, according to Darden.

Those applicants will be again narrowed down to a smaller group for phone interviews. From there,

the top few candidates will participate in a assessment by the MAPS Group.

In addition, the town is currently seeking water treatment operators, a public works director, and an inspections officer. Darden notes that one of the water treatment positions was recently filled with a new employee starting this week. However, the inspections position will likely be a difficult one to fill.

Retiring Building Codes Administrator Charlie McLaurin is leaving a big hole. McLaurin is certified in all aspects of building inspections. He also performs fire inspections. Thompson noted during the Siler City Board of Commissioners meeting Monday that finding one

person qualified in all those areas is a steep task.

As such, the board agreed to enter into an agreement with Chatham County to perform those inspections as the town searches for a replacement. Siler City residents will still be able to apply for a permit at Siler City town hall. However, fees will go directly to the county as its staff will be performing the work.

In addition, the town approved recommendations from the Chatham County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee to increase the minimum housing code and enforcement to improve the quality of rental and affordable housing in town.

That increase in code enforcement would likely

make McLaurin's role even more difficult to fill by one person, according to Thompson. As a result, the board will be reviewing the inspections and code enforcement department during its budgeting process after the New Year.

"Across the board, especially in areas with niche disciplines which are more and more competitive, we are taking a critical look at changing job environment," Thompson said. "We are looking at ways to stay competitive rather than falling behind."

"We want to find and enact the best practices to recruit and retain high quality, talented employees," Thompson said.

First lawsuits challenge vote ID legislation

By Kari Travis
Carolina Journal News Service

RALEIGH — North Carolina's new voter ID law is headed to court.

This week the N.C. General Assembly overrode Gov. Roy Cooper's Dec. 14 veto of Senate Bill 824, Implementation of Voter I.D. Constitutional Amendment. Now, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice and the N.C. NAACP are suing over allegations of racial discrimination and burdens on voting rights.

S.B. 824 is the product of a new constitutional amendment passed by voters 55-45 in November. Accordingly, photo ID must be enforced by state law.

Such is the purpose of S.B. 824.

The bill, which had bipartisan sponsorship, still faced hard fire from some Democrats, who called it racist. It also disgruntled some Republicans, who thought the law should be stricter. That didn't prevent it from passing the

House and Senate.

Cooper vetoed, calling it "a solution in search of a problem." The bill was kicked back to the General Assembly, which holds a veto-proof supermajority until January, when Democrats will take control of several seats Republicans held in this year's legislative session.

"The North Carolina Constitution provides numerous and inviolable protections for the fundamental right to vote of all its citizens," said Allison Riggs, senior voting rights attorney for SCSJ. "Just because the North Carolina Constitution now authorizes, with exceptions, the presentation of a picture ID when voting does not mean those other longstanding protections can be ignored or violated." SCSJ filed its lawsuit Wednesday afternoon, minutes after the House override vote.

S.B. 824 is closely modeled after Indiana legislation upheld in 2008 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

But the law is purposefully discriminatory and

is "disproportionately impacting African-American and American-Indian qualified voters," SCSJ stated.

S.B. 824 also unduly burdens the fundamental right to vote, creates separate classes of voters, imposes a cost on voting, imposes a property requirement for voting, and impedes voters' ability to engage in political expression and speech by casting a ballot, the organization said.

"It is the legislature's duty to balance competing demands in the state Constitution. It has failed miserably in its exercise of balancing the new ID constitutional amendment, which explicitly allows for exceptions, with the numerous other state constitutional demands that have been interpreted to aggressively protect the right to vote," Riggs said.

"Any legislative scheme that requires voters to present ID when voting must have fail-safe measures to ensure that not one single eligible voter is disenfranchised. Our state

Constitution demands it. This legislation does not do that. It simply replicates a scheme that we know disenfranchised approximately 1,400 voters in the March 2016 primaries."

The claims are nonsense, said Sen. Joyce Krawiec, R-Forsyth, a primary sponsor of the S.B. 824.

"This is crazy. After suing to stop voters from even having the chance to amend the constitution to require voter ID, liberal activists are suing again saying the new constitutional amendment is unconstitutional," Krawiec said.

"It's clear nothing will ever appease them. Not the will of the voters, not the fact that a Democrat sponsored the bill, and not the broad additions based on Democratic feedback. We've seen this 'sue 'til blue' tactic before, only this time they're up against a clear mandate from 55 percent of voters who want common-sense protections against voter

fraud," she said.

SCSJ is representing six plaintiffs in the case, which was filed in Wake County Superior Court, along with a request for a preliminary injunction.

In 2013, SCSJ challenged a North Carolina voter ID law which ultimately was struck down by a three-judge federal appeals court panel.

The judges called it "the most restrictive voting law North Carolina has seen since the era of Jim Crow."

That bill nixed a week of early voting and ended out-of-precinct voting in addition to requiring specific forms of photo ID.

The provisions targeted "African Americans with almost surgical precision," the judges' 83-page ruling states.

Voters have multiple photo ID options under S.B. 824.

Driver's licenses, military IDs, student IDs from community colleges and public or private universities, tribal enrollment

cards, and state employee IDs are accepted. The law also provides free, state-issued voter ID cards for anyone who needs identification.

During debate over the veto override, Democrats asked to include other documents as acceptable voter IDs, including welfare benefit cards. Rep. David Lewis, R-Harnett, chairman of the House Elections Committee, said he was open to additional tweaks in the law, but didn't commit to specific changes.

The NAACP filed its lawsuit Thursday on behalf of voters across the state. Lead counsel Irving Joyner said, "This is a brazen effort by a lame-duck, usurper legislature to once again legislate voter suppression. This law is designed to suppress the votes of people of color. The federal courts have seen through this legislature's attempts to do this before and we are confident that they will see through this current attempt, as well."

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CRIME REPORTS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On December 18, Melinda Bernholz, 51, of 213 Bingham Ridge Rd, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for assault and battery. She was released under a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 16.

Samuel White, 80, of 1848 US 64 E, Pittsboro, was arrested on December 18 by Deputy Johnny Griffin for Sexual Battery. He was released under a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 16.

On December 18, Wallace Dowdy, 47, of 1021 Glovers Grove Church Rd, Siler City, was arrested by Corporal Chris Massey for second degree trespassing. He was jailed under a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 9.

Lucinda Dowdy, 49, of 95 Paw Paw Rd, Gulf, was arrested on December 18 by Corporal Chris Massey for failure to comply. She was jailed under a \$400 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 9.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On December 20, Lucinda Dowdy, 49, of 95 Paw Paw Road, Gulf, was arrested by SSgt. Feliciano Jimenez for malicious conduct by prisoner/throw, resisting public officer. She was jailed under an \$8,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 7.

John Berry, 51, of 304 Silver Bluff Rd, Holly Springs, was arrested on December 20 by Deputy Joe Reece for DV protective order violation. He was released under a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 2

NORTH CAROLINA HWY PATROL

On December 17, Joshua Beale of Triple Oak Dr, Morrisville, was travelling west on O Kelly Chapel Rd approaching stop light. Amber Shauder of Bruce Dr, Cary was travelling north on NC 751. Beale attempted a left turn onto NC 751 failing to yield to Shauder's vehicle causing a collision. Both vehicles came to rest on the shoulder of NC 75. Beale was cited for failure to yield.

NORTH CAROLINA HWY PATROL

David Lambert of Prison Camp Rd, Polkton was traveling north on US 15-501. Lambert crossed the centerline and ran off the roadway to the right. Lambert struck a ditch, crossed the driveway of Chatham Village Furniture and struck the ditch on the opposite side. The vehicle then overturned and came to rest off the right side of the roadway. Lambert's vehicle was cited for failure to maintain lane control.

On December 17, Robert McNeill, Jr., of Forest Creek Dr, Pittsboro was travelling west on Moore Mountain Rd. McNeill travelled off the road to the right striking a ditch. His vehicle continued travelling in the ditch and jumped across a private driveway. His vehicle came to rest in the ditch facing west. McNeill was cited for failure to maintain lane control and reckless driving.

Mary Sappick-Sprague of Mannsfield Crescent, Pittsboro was travelling east on Manns Chapel Rd on December 17. Her vehicle crossed the centerline and ran off the road to the right. Her vehicle overcorrected, travelled back across the centerline, ran off the road to the right down an embankment, and struck a tree. She was cited for driving while impaired.

Two behind bars after allegedly shooting into occupied vehicle

SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORTS

Two men are facing attempted murder charges after allegedly firing a gun into a car in November.

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office responded to a call about shots being fired at the 800 block of Rosser Road, Bear Creek on November 6.

A vehicle was driving on Rosser Road when the occupants opened fire on a nearby parked vehicle. One person was inside the parked vehicle at the time, but was not injured.

The vehicle traveled into Lee County. Lee County deputies attempted to stop the vehicle, but he driver refused to pull over. Eventually the driver pulled over in Harnett County. However, once the vehicle stopped, three black males fled the vehicle. One of the men was arrested at the scene.

Garron Taufeeq Sparks, 25, of 194 Artesian Spring, Dunn, was taken into custody and charged with felony attempted murder, felony discharging a firearm into occupied property, felony possession of a firearm by felon, felony assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, and going armed to the terror of the public. He was assigned a \$500,000 secured



SPARKS



MCDUGALD

bond and was scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on November 19.

On December 12, deputies served Jeremiah Devon McDougald, 32, of 289 Eric Thomas Road, Broadway, with identical charges in connection with the incident. He was assigned a \$2,000,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 7, 2019.

The investigation remains ongoing. Additional updates will be provided as they become available.

Carless presents live score for the Seashell and the Clergyman

STAFF REPORTS

On Saturday, January 19th at 8 p.m, The ArtsCenter presents Germaine Dulac's 1928 silent film *The Seashell and the Clergyman* with a live score by Tim Carless. This is the second of three live scores by Carless in The ArtsCenter's 2018-2019 Performance Season. Tickets are \$15 and are available here, by phone at (919) 929-2787, or in person at The ArtsCenter's Box Office.

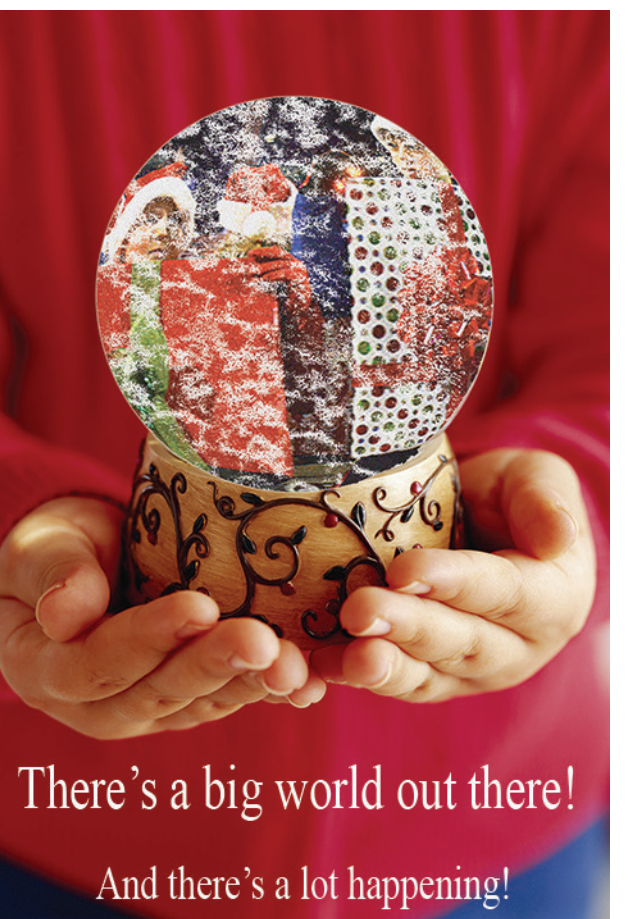
Directed by Germaine Dulac and based on an original scenario by Antonin Artaud, *The Seashell and the Clergyman* is a French surrealist short film with a runtime of 30 minutes. The film follows the erotic hallucinations of a priest lusting after the wife of a general and is considered one of the earliest examples of radical experimental feminist filmmaking. Preceding the main feature, Carless will present a live score to Cecil Hepworth and Percy Stow's 1903 *Alice in Wonderland*: a solo performance, 10 minutes in length, written by Tim specifically for this occasion.

Tim Carless has brought his skills for composition and arrangement to classic films several times in the past, from his ArtsCenter debut of *The*

General in 2014 to *It's A Wonderful Life* for the holidays later that year, and *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover and Safety Last!* in 2016. For The ArtsCenter's 2017-2018 Season, he presented three live film scorings. *The Seashell and the Clergyman* is one of three live scores for the 2018-2019 season, including *The General* this past October and Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* this coming April.

Tim Carless has been a working musician for the last 30 years. Having enjoyed tenures in London, New York City and Los Angeles, he has written, performed and recorded with people as disparate as Wreckless Eric, Paul McCartney and Aufgehoben. He also scored *The Hanging* for PBS in 2017. He's been based in Carrboro for the last few years. More information can be found at www.timcarless.com.

The Seashell and the Clergyman Live Score is part of The ArtsCenter's 2018-2019 Performance Season, featuring great local and international artists like Ellis Dyson & the Shambles with Katharine Whalen, Laurie Lewis and the Right Hands, La Patronal, and more. Visit artscenter.live/2018-2019Season to view the full season lineup.



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