

# Chatham News + Record

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## 'Your outlook on life changes'

### Chatham first responders talk about work's impact on their mental health

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Nearly 30 years in any profession gives someone stories they can tell. Law enforcement, according to Mike Wagner, is no different.

Wagner was part of responding to 26 traffic fatalities in one year while working in Albemarle County, Virginia. Now the chief of the Siler City Police Department, Wagner said responding to an accident scene can be a harrowing experience in many ways.

"You see young, old, kids, mothers, fathers, grandmothers," he said. "It's about them, but then you have to deliver that message to the extended family. It's really hard. You deliver that message 26 times, it's tough. You live through it because you have to

process the scene, you have to see the fatality itself."

Seeing some of these things, he said, makes it understandable that first responders and law enforcement community members deal with mental health conditions at a higher rate than the general population. Thankfully, as Wagner and others attest, the conversation around mental health in these professions is changing, but it hasn't always been that way.

#### A shifting dynamic

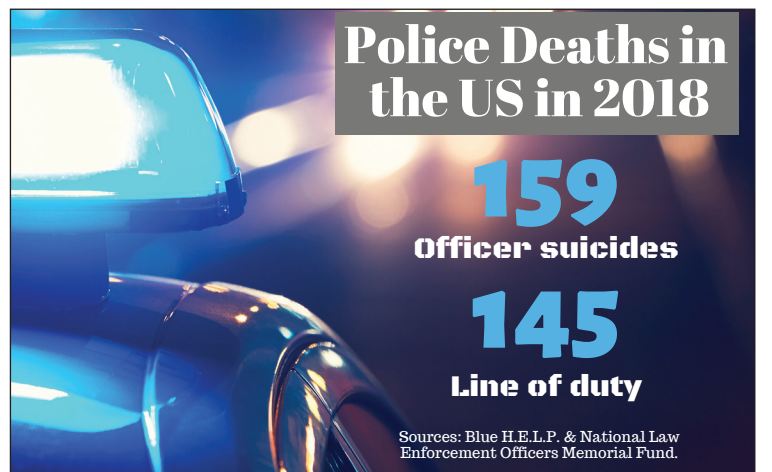
Gary Blankenship was the chief deputy at the Chatham County Sheriff's Office from 2002 to 2013. He had served in the department from 1984 to 1999 and spent a few years with the Carrboro Police Department before returning to Chatham.

Now a criminal justice instruc-

tor at Central Carolina Community College, Blankenship said he had to learn "early on" that it was best to "withdraw my emotions from the scene" of a particularly gruesome crime.

"Sometimes you could have a scene and you can relate to maybe the victims," he said. "Maybe they were the age of your children or they look like a family member or they experienced something maybe a family member of yours experienced. I realize I could not connect myself to that if I was going to be able to survive and do what I was expected to do."

First responders — whether they be police officers, firefighters, Emergency Medical Services personnel or others — are on the front lines of responding to some of society's most violent and devastating incidents: murder, rape, child abuse, horrific car crashes among them. Matthew Carmody, who is the medical director for FirstHealth EMS, which serves Chatham County, said



Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

his paramedics "see people at their worst, both from a medical standpoint and often from a traumatic standpoint."

Robert Powell, the head instructor of the Basic Law Enforcement Training program at CCCC, talked about one incident from his career. A child choked on a hot dog in a

Shoney's, and one of Powell's co-workers "tried everything" to help the child, but it didn't work.

"In all these professions, you sign up because you want to help people," Powell said. "That's your ultimate goal. But at the

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### CHATHAM'S ROAD FROM FARM TO FORK

## Complexities of meat processing make things harder for farmer and restaurants



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Some locally raised meat products from First Hand Foods, such as pork and other products, and other local providers are available at the Chatham Marketplace in Pittsboro, Oasis Market in Siler City and more.

BY CORBIE HILL  
News + Record Correspondent

*Editor's note: Chatham County's farmers and restaurants have a unique partnership, one that's designed to appeal to the palates of locals with discriminating — and healthy — tastes. In the second of a two-part series, the News + Record looks at what transpires along the winding road from farm to fork. Last week's story looked at produce. This week: meat.*

Pork is the other "white meat," right?

Well, not exactly — or at least not always.

This phrase, which entered the lexicon after a 1987 National Pork Board ad, may describe the meat from animals raised on large-scale factory farms, says Ryan Walker, but it's not so easy to generalize past that. When a pig's growth isn't accelerated, when it grows more gradually by the small farm model rather than the factory farm model, the meat is reddish pink.

Walker, the marketing and communications director at the Livestock Conservancy, sits at the conference (and

lunch) table at the nonprofit's cozy Pittsboro office. Laqueshia Varn, who will be picking up the lion's share of Walker's responsibilities upon his move out-of-state is here, too, as Walker outlines differences between factory farms and the small-scale ones that were the norm for most of human history.

"We have seen a rapid decline in the number of farms and a rapid increase in the size of farms," Walker says. "The heritage breeds do not fit into the model of the large-scale industrialized agriculture — living in very, very large numbers or close confinements. Not to say that they couldn't, but they wouldn't thrive in those conditions."

The Livestock Conservancy protects rare heritage breeds of livestock, varieties such as the crevecœur chicken or the Navajo churro sheep (one of Varn's favorites) that have been endangered by large-scale farming's dependence upon a small handful of breeds. Granted, these animals grow slower, Walker explains. Heritage cows produce less milk and mature more slowly. By one view, they're less efficient. By

See MEAT, page A12

### RAVEN ROCK'S CHATHAM TIES

## State park's creator recalls the 50-year-old effort to preserve Raven Rock land

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Growing up in the rural Cabarrus County town of Midland, the nearby Rocky River his childhood playground, Dr. Robert Soots developed an early and lasting love and respect for the wild world around him.

"I was always interested in nature," said the retired professor of biology.

His mother, too, was influential, her values helping shape the young boy's views of the natural world and its many and varied inhabitants.

She, for instance, warned him and his siblings never to aim their air rifles — every boy had one at the time — at a bird.

"You don't kill them," she told us. "They're a thing of beauty and if you ever shoot one of those birds, you're going to be in trouble," Soots recalled. "Her idea was more to protect nature and not abuse it. That had a big influence on me."

Now 85 and retired and living with his wife Sharon in Pittsboro, Soots' love of nature hasn't diminished. It remains close as he sits at the desk in the tidy office space in his home,

See ROCKS, page A6



Randall Riggsbee photo

Dr. Robert Soots discusses the work he undertook in the late 1960s to help create Raven Rock State Park in Lillington. The park celebrates its 50th anniversary this month and Dr. Soots will be honored for his work on behalf of the park at a Sept. 14 event.

### THE CN+R Q&A: 'ONE CHATHAM,' SEPT. 11 @ JORDAN-MATTHEWS

## How can we minimize poverty's impact on public education?

CN+R Staff Report

*Editor's note: Chatham County's second "One Chatham" event — a community conversation sponsored by the News + Record and the Our Chatham program of the UNC School of Media and Journalism's Reese News Lab — will tackle the subject of poverty's impact on public education outcomes. The 90-minute public forum, sponsored by Mountaire Farms and scheduled for Sept. 11 at Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City, will feature a conversation with five local panelists and an audience question-and-answer session. With the event just days away, Our Chatham Editor Eric Ferkenhoff of UNC-Chapel Hill and Bill Horner III, the publisher of the News + Record, discuss One Chatham's objectives and what*

audience members can expect at the event. The public is invited to One Chatham and there's no admission charge.

#### What's the purpose behind the One Chatham events?

Ferkenhoff: Chatham is a large county with such a diverse population, and the needs of each town and neighborhood are different. But the overall issues for most Chathamites are similar — good education, worries about poverty, taxes, health, housing. The list is huge, and these events give us, as journalists, a chance to gather the community together in a common place to talk about what can lift the county up through identifying problems — like poverty's impact on educational

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### IN THE KNOW

Chatham Gridiron: local teams look to rebound after tough losses. **PAGE B1**

Chatham@Work: Librarian Wes Collins' turn from music to books. **PAGE B7**

As Chatham tourism revenues grow, hospitality folks expecting more. **PAGE B8**

Carbonton Bridge: new contractor's work to be done by year's end. **PAGE B9**





## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ON THE AGENDA

• The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will have its regular board meeting at 7 p.m. on September 9 at Pittsboro Town Hall located at 635 East Street in Pittsboro.

• The **Chatham County Board of Education** will have its regular monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. on September 9 at the Chatham County Historic Courthouse at 9 East Street in Pittsboro.

• The **Chatham County Soil and Water Conservation District** will be Thursday, September 12 at 7 p.m. in the conference room downstairs in the new Agriculture Building in Pittsboro. This is an open meeting. To confirm the meeting or for additional information, call the office at 919-542-8240, Brenda at 919-542-8440 or Suzannah at 919-542-8228)

• The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will have its regular board meeting at 7 p.m. on September 16 at Siler City Town Hall Courtroom located at 311 N Second Avenue in Siler City.

• The **Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will have its regular monthly meeting and work session on September 16 at the Chatham County Historic Courthouse at 9 East Street in Pittsboro. The regular meeting will start at 6 p.m., while the time for the work session is TBA.

• The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will have its regular board meeting at 7 p.m. on September 23 at Pittsboro Town Hall located at 635 East Street in Pittsboro.

### THURSDAY

• The **Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open with available items year-round on Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. It's located at 287 East St., Pittsboro.

### FRIDAY

• The public is invited to join us on Friday, September 6 from noon until 2 p.m. as we celebrate the addition of **Morgenstern Orthodontics** to the Chatham County community. The Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill - Carrboro and the Chatham Chamber of Commerce will celebrate their opening at 26 Knox Way, #100, Chapel Hill, with a Ribbon Cutting at 12:15 p.m. Refreshments will be available after the Ribbon Cutting.

• **Free Friday Music Jam** at the Oasis Open Air Market in Siler City from 4:30 to 6:30-7 p.m. every Friday. Get together with the acoustic community

of Siler City to play, and sing while enjoying a great time of Open Blue Grass, Old-time and County music. If you want to join, show up or email John Eichorn, johneichorn72@gmail.com. Come play corn hole, sit on the patio or stay inside. If weather permits, music is outside on the patio.

### SATURDAY

• A **NHAS Bird Walk** will meet at 7:30 a.m., September 8, across the entry road behind Bo-jangles at Oak Creek Village Shopping Center in Durham for about a 3 hour walk. The NHAS will meet at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 11, in front of the Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Shopping Center in Chapel Hill for about a 3 hour walk. Contact Tom Driscoll at: spttdrshnk@yahoo.com for either walk. (Applies to all walks: New birders and those of all skill-levels are welcome. Long pants and closed toe shoes with socks are requested. Bring snacks and water if you like. Heavy rain will result in cancellation.)

### MONDAY

• **Project Child Find in Chatham County Schools (CCS)** runs from September 9 through 20 to identify youths between the ages of 3 and 21 who have disabilities and require special education and other related services. Those knowing of such youths who are not in school or not receiving assistance are encouraged to contact the principal in your area. The following organizations have more information: Public Schools of North Carolina Exceptional Children Division, 919-807-3996; N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, 800-662-7030; and the Family Support Network at 1-852-TLC-0042.

• UNC Hospice welcomes you to our weekly writing workshop, "**Writing Toward Resilience.**" Facilitated by Carol Henderson, author and workshop leader, the group is provided at no charge for those who are grieving a loss or are a current caregiver. This is held every Monday from 12 to 1 p.m. at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC, 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro. For further information, contact Annie Ritter, UNC Hospice, ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu or at 984-215-2650.

• **Circle City Squares** is a square dance group in Pittsboro that usually dances on Monday afternoons, currently, from 2 to 5 p.m., but verify the exact time and place. The usual meeting space is the Old Agriculture Building Auditorium, 65 East Chatham Street, located downstairs in downtown

Pittsboro. Cost is \$5 per person each week. For more information or to verify the time/place, email: gunn-hsd@embarqmail.com.

• **Big Band swing and jazz sounds** every Monday at the Pittsboro Roadhouse and General Store, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The dance floor is open and bands rotate. 1st Monday: NC Revelers Orchestra, \$10; 2nd Monday: David Quick Jazz Combo, \$5; 3rd Monday: Triangle Jazz Orchestra, \$10; 4th Monday: Gregg Gelb Orchestra, \$10; and 5th Monday: TBA. For more information, see our website: www.pittsbororoadhouse.com.

### UPCOMING

• The **Fifth annual Critter Carnival** will be held at Southern Community Park in Chapel Hill from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to raise funds and awareness for a large variety of local animal rescue and rehabilitation charities who bring animals for people to meet. There will be live rock, folk and country music performances from Emily Musolino, John Saylor and Anita Lorraine Moore, plus vendors, snack trucks, a kids area and silent auction. Admission is free. More information is available at: www.CritterCarnival.org. The park is located at 1000 Sumac Road, northern entrance, next to the playground.

• **Swift Night Out with NHAS** will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, September 11 at the Post Office on E. Franklin St. in Chapel Hill to watch the Chimney swifts come in to roost. Meet at the top of the public parking deck at Rosemary and Henderson St., behind the Post Office. Information will be shared on this interesting bird on the spectacle they create when they gather in the evenings as part of their preparation for migration. Heavy rain will result in cancellation. For questions, contact Barbara Driscoll at btdriscoll@bell-south.net.

• **Chatham County Partnership for Children** will hold its Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, September 17 at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. All members should attend.

• The **Chatham Historical Museum** is open every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11 until 4 p.m. Admission is free and there's something for kids and adults. See our webpage for more info: chathamhistory.org.

• The **Circle of Support** for those who have lost a loved one to death meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m., the second Monday of each month at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home, 100 Roundtree Way,

Pittsboro. Come to one or come every month to give and gain support from others who have lost a loved one to death. Hospice staff and volunteers will facilitate the circle of support. Participants can bring pictures and stories of their loved one as well as questions and concerns. No need to register! Just come! If you'd like further information, contact Ann Ritter, 984-215-2650 or ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu. If you need directions, call the Hospice Home at 984-215-2675.

### ALSO HAPPENING

• Chatham County natives will be the focus of a new study by the **Language and Life Program** at NCSU. The research team is looking for Chatham County natives (born and raised in Chatham) who have lived in Chatham for most of their lives to interview. These will be recorded and the team will conduct analyses to look at the question of how language is changing in Chatham as it becomes less rural and more urban. The study will preserve the rich language heritage of Chatham County and our language changes. If you are a native of Chatham who has spent most of your life in the county and might be willing to participate in the project, contact WaltWolfram@ncsu.edu or call 919-218-5374.

• **Adult Volunteers Needed at Chatham Hospital in Siler City**, a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital located in Siler City and part of the UNC Health Care System. Adult community volunteers are needed to assist staff with miscellaneous tasks in the nursing unit and emergency department. Volunteers may assist with administrative tasks, patient diversion (group activities, arts & crafts, games, reading mail, writing letters, conversation), distributing fresh water and ice to patients, and answering patient call lights/bells. Volunteers commit to serving a 2-3 hour weekly shift for a minimum of six months. All prospective volunteers must complete an online application, a criminal background check, an orientation and have documentation of required immunizations. To learn more go to: www.chathamhospital.org/ch/about-us/volunteer.

• The **Carolina Mountain Dulcimer Players** meet the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Seymour Center on Homestead Road in Chapel Hill. Beginners, experts, and all stringed instruments are welcome. For more information and/or directions, contact Shirley Ray at ShirleyRay@aol.com or 919-929-5359.

• **Volunteers Needed** — Non-

profit agencies in Chatham seek teen volunteers to help with many projects. Teens can help at food pantries, in gardens, fundraising projects, office work, and care for animals. **Chatham Connecting** website lists many volunteer opportunities for youth. See where you are needed to help in the community: www.chathamconnecting.org.

• **Meals on Wheels drivers are needed in Chatham County.** Regular and substitute drivers are needed. We are looking for individuals or teams to deliver meals as a regular driver for our routes. Meals are delivered between 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon. Routes take about an hour. Substitutes will likely deliver 1 to 2 times per month. Contact Allison Andrews with Chatham Council on Aging, phone: 919-542-4512, ext. 226. Allison.andrews@chathamcouncilonaging.org.

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

• **Alcoholics Anonymous** - North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.

• **Motorcycle Association** - The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.

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

• **Al-Anon Meeting** - Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays, at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro.

• **Caregiver Support Group** meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Pittsboro Senior Center. For more information, contact Susan Hardy at 919-542-4512.

• **Scout News**  
• Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information.  
• Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.  
• Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at Meroney's U.M.C. following the school calendar. See http://pack900.com for more information.

# Study: Chatham received 8th best investment in N.C.

CN+R Staff Reports

According to a study from SmartAsset, Chatham County is among the state's top counties with the most incoming investment from a variety of sources.

The study, which rated each county with an "Incoming Investment Index score" based on several factors, ranked Chatham 8th with a 60.43 score. Brunswick County was first at 73.87. The study tracked business growth over a three-year period, growth in the county's gross domestic product (GDP), new building permits per 1,000 homes and federal funding per capita.

"There are several ways individuals, governments and businesses can invest money in a county or region," the study said. "Our study aims to capture the places across the country that are receiving the most incoming investments in business, real estate, government and

the local economy as a whole."

Chatham reported 7.7 percent business growth over the last three years, meaning that the number of businesses established in the county grew by that rate over that time period. Adjusted for inflation, Chatham's GDP increased by \$190 million, and there were 23.2 new building permits per 1,000 homes. The study also found \$24 of federal funding per capita, meaning "federal funding in the form of contracts awarded to businesses in each county" divided by the population, the study said.

SmartAsset said the index was created by charting the county with the most incoming investments in America was given a 100 score and the county with the least investment was given a zero.

Chatham was third in its immediate area, with Wake County ranking second in the state at 67.16 and Durham County finishing sixth at 61.1.

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# IMPACT: Education can lead people on productive paths forward

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outcomes — and look for solutions.

**Horner:** Our idea was to collaborate and leverage our respective audiences to provide a platform for constructive community dialogue about real issues and real solutions. We both agreed that you'll never develop a solution to any problem or situation unless you first identify it, examine it, talk about it. We really don't know what kinds of solutions might evolve or develop from these conversations and our One Chatham forums, but we figured, hey, let's get started with a real community conversation and give anyone interested a chance at "holding the mic" and addressing concerns and suggesting ideas.

## Why collaboration between Our Chatham and the CN+R?

**Horner:** Our partnership with Our Chatham began before my partners and I finalized our acquisition of the News + Record last fall. That idea really started through our mutual colleague, Jock Lauterer, who's an adjunct professor at UNC-Chapel Hill and has been a journalist and educator for 50 years or more. I've known Jock well for many years, and Jock is very familiar with Chatham County...and he identified

potential synergies between what we envisioned with the "new" News + Record and with the work he knew was happening with Our Chatham. So Jock is large responsible for getting us together.

**Ferkenhoff:** The collaboration between Our Chatham and the News + Record just seemed obvious. The landscape of journalism has changed, much like the landscape of Chatham is changing. We at Our Chatham can bring different stories to the table, in various media, and working with the N+R has only amplified what we're trying to do with student journalists learning the craft of understanding a community first, then reporting on the voices and concerns of the residents. The N+R has been a great partner, featuring our stories when appropriate, and helping guide the students and giving them new opportunities.

## How did the idea of education, and specifically poverty in education, become this event's topic?

**Ferkenhoff:** In my mind, poverty is the root of so many issues. But at the core, education is key. Education can lead people on productive paths forward and out of poverty. So, if you solve education, you can start pulling people out of poverty

— which is the root of issues, like hunger, crime and so much more. It only made sense to tackle this issue in a community setting, where we hear from experts — but more importantly, we hear the real concerns of residents experiencing this combination of poverty and the difficulties it places on youths' educations.

**Horner:** Ferk is absolutely correct. Our first One Chatham event addressed the topic of socioeconomic inequality. It was just too big of a topic to fit into our allocated time window, but the audience stayed for the entire discussion and we got a lot of very good feedback. Coming out of that, we really both felt like education was an appropriate topic for our fall event, so we reached out to Chatham County Schools and folks working on education-related non-profits for ideas. Jaime Detzi from the Chatham Education Foundation suggested this topic, and right away we knew she'd hit on something very timely.

## What's the goal — the takeaway — for Sept. 11?

**Ferkenhoff:** The CN+R will write a story based on the event and so will Our Chatham. Both will bring different perspectives to what we hear and how we present the stories — in whatever media best suits

the pieces. My real hope is that both stories, and the follow-up pieces that will surely come, will not point fingers so much as digging into the issues of poverty's impact, explaining the problem clearly so that real solutions can start to take shape and be implemented.

**Horner:** We also hope to compile the questions and responses, and ideas, and share them in a document that will be shared with all local elected officials and stakeholders. And one thing we're particularly excited about: Wendi Pillars, a teacher at Jordan-Matthews, will be at the event as a "graphic recorder," and she'll be capturing the key ideas and solutions presented in visual form to help re-tell the story for those unable to attend. That will help preserve the ideas we discuss during the forum.

**If you're going:**  
**What:** One Chatham, a community conversation about poverty's impact on public education.

**When:** 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 11

**Where:** Jordan-Matthews High School auditorium

**Who:** A group of five panelists will talk about their work in Chatham County Schools and address poverty, its impact on that affected by it, answer questions from moderator Bill Horner III and questions from the

audience. Panelists: Dr. Larry Savage, principal of Siler City Elementary School; Chris Poston, the executive director of elementary and middle grades for Chatham County Schools; Jazmin Mendosa Sosa of Chatham Communities In Schools, who serves as the Student Support Specialist at Virginia Cross Elementary School; Tych Cowdin of Chatham Communities In Schools, the program director for CIS' School-Based Program; Jaime Detzi, the executive director of the Chatham Education Foundation.

**Quotable:** "I am hopeful this conversation

will highlight successful components currently being utilized throughout Chatham County Schools, facilitate a space for new ideas and input from community stakeholders and parents working together toward creative solutions, and to identify collaborative action steps to support our great teachers and administrators to make Chatham County the best place for all children and families to learn and grow." — Tych Cowdin

**Additional information:** contact Bill Horner III at bhorner3@chathamnr.com, or call 919-663-3250.

# MENTAL: 'Sometimes I've got to walk out of the room, collect myself'

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end of the day sometimes, you feel like if that child died in your arms, I didn't help that child. I didn't stop that husband from killing that wife. And you wear it. You feel responsible for it, even though it's not your fault."

For a long time, people like Powell and Blankenship say, helping officers deal with these traumatic experiences was rare. Blankenship said that with his generation, "reaching out for help was a negative thing."

"They looked at it as a weakness," he said. "It was kind of an unspoken thing."

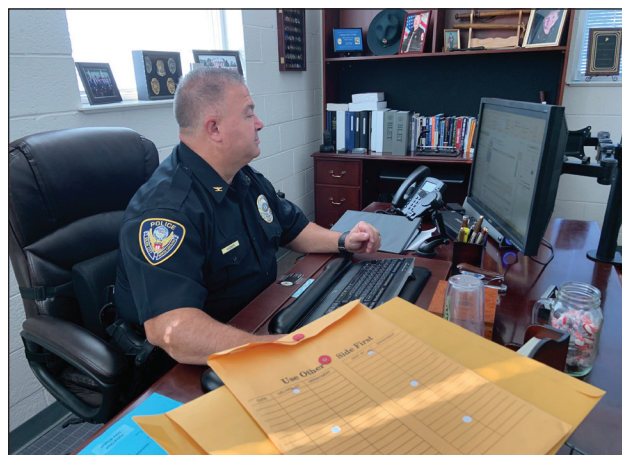
Powell, Blankenship, Carmody and Wagner each cited the mostly-masculine nature of first responder professions. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 73.4 percent of all law enforcement employees and 88.4 percent of all officers were male in 2013. The National Fire Protection Association said earlier this year that around 93 percent of firefighters in 2017 were men, and the Census Bureau reported in 2017 that 66.3 percent of emergency medical technicians and paramedics were male.

In professions with a majority male population like law enforcement, Wagner said, the older generation was less likely to be willing to talk about mental health stress.

"When I first started, if I had come to my superior or one of my supervisors with, 'Man, I really feel bad,' they'd say, 'Suck it up. Let's get on with the work,'" he said. "After that, I would never say anything again. I'd have to work it out on my own."

## The scope of the issue

The combination of



Staff photo by Zachary Horner

## Siler City Police Chief Mike Wager says he's lost three law enforcement colleagues to suicide during his career, including one of his best friends. Now, he's bringing a focus on mental health to his new department, including bringing in a department chaplain.

forces have led to some staggering numbers, according to current and former officers, on mental health. A few statistics:

- 30 percent of first responders develop behavioral health conditions, including, but not limited to, depression and posttraumatic stress disorder, as compared with 20 percent in the general population, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Firefighters have higher suicide attempt and ideation rates than the general population, according to SAMHSA
- 108 police officers committed suicide in 2016, compared to 97 killed in traffic accidents or by gunfire, according to Badge of Life, a police suicide prevention program
- 105 firefighters committed suicide in 2014, according to the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, and alcohol abuse among firefighters is more than twice the rate of the general public,

according to the U.S. Firefighters Association

People like Powell and Wagner have seen those effects first-hand. Powell said a lieutenant on one of his shifts was an alcoholic and committed suicide, a best friend he went through the academy with killed himself and a sergeant he knew committed suicide. One of Wagner's best friends in law enforcement, whom he said had "a great life," also killed himself.

Carmody said EMTs who see some of the most gruesome and grievous things have both access to medication and knowledge of how to commit suicide, and added that the profession can lead to an increased use of alcohol.

"That certainly increases one's risk when you're around medications that you could take or you see it on a regular basis in caring for your patients," he said. "We know that that increases our first responders and medical providers with response to suicide. A lot of them

for sure have PTSD. A lot of them have probably not been evaluated for it or diagnosed for it."

Carmody works in an emergency room, meaning he doesn't go out to calls, but he has seen some harrowing things while treating patients coming to the ER. In March 2009, a man came into a nursing home in Carthage and shot nine people, killing eight. Carmody, who operates out of Moore County, was on duty that day when several of the victims came into the ER. He also referenced the opioid overdoses that have grown in prevalence in recent years.

"We see a lot more young people dying from overdose," he said. "You can't ever become numb to it because you stop caring and you should probably get out of the medical field. But it's tough when you repeatedly hear or see that happening to people from overdoses."

Even with these horrible things, these men and women first responders have to put on a brave face and sometimes even, as Carmody says, "have that difficult conversation with family at the scene."

"It's still emotional and tearful," he said. "Sometimes I've got to walk out of the room, collect myself, and I've been doing this for 20 years."

## A sea change

While several years ago mental health may not have been as much of a priority, those working in the field now say there's been a shift and that mental health-related conversations are more prevalent.

Powell said he teaches a section in BLET training about "crisis and incident management." Those who graduate from CCCC, he says, will see things "they're not going to be able

to unsee," so giving them that heads-up is critical.

"Their psychology is going to change," he said. "At this stage, when I have them, it's to warn them. That's the extent that it goes to."

It's up to the individual departments to provide consistent support.

While Blankenship was with the sheriff's office, he said they went through training from Kevin Gilmartin, a behavioral sciences and management consultant specializing in law enforcement and public safety, and his book "Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement."

"He tries to tell officers, 'You need to recognize some signs where it gets to a point where it's almost irreversible,'" Blankenship said. "It was training I wish I had as a young officer."

FirstHealth EMS works with organizations to provide critical incident response teams, particularly to "grievous events" and those that involve children, Carmody said. Specific to Chatham County, these teams will come whenever there's a child drowning at Jordan Lake or a similar event.

"It's a small group, it's open, people can share their feelings," he said. "It's a non-accusatory type of environment. We try to do that very close to an event like that."

Carmody and Wagner said an individual's faith can play a role in helping them process incidents, and Wagner said he is in the process of selecting a non-denominational department chaplain to serve that role for the Siler City PD. Wagner's plan is for the chaplain to be on-hand at the police station to provide a listening ear for officers to share what's on their mind, whether it's something on the job or something at home.

"I believe that's where you start," he said. "Even if it's just him walking the halls, being available to us, a phone call away, that's a big deal. If you don't have any of those resources available, you're telling your officers that mental health is not important. I think it is."

Blankenship said the change starts and continues by individuals coming forward and being open about their struggles. He added that he thinks the growing presence of females within law enforcement has helped.

"When I was young, I thought law enforcement was a man's thing," Blankenship said. "Women are just as good if not better than men in dealing with these types of issues. Just them being there breaking down walls of this sort of thing."

## It's always there

The last traffic fatality

that Wagner went to in Albemarle County — he got the Siler City chief job this June — was a vehicular suicide. A mother of two children just drove off the road.

"It racks your brain to think, 'What would drive a person to do that?' On the surface, everything looks great. And that's the scary part about suicide is that we just don't know. Sometimes we don't get those indicators. It just happens. And you feel guilty."

He referenced his close friend who took his own life.

"With the close friend, I felt guilty," Wagner said. "It lingers with me today."

Those things stay. They're always there. Seeing child sex crimes, horrific murders, devastating vehicle accidents — it changes you.

"It becomes such a mental state of seeing children injured and taking advantage of and exploited that it wears on your brain and your heart," Wagner said. "Your outlook on life changes. If you don't take care of your own, take care of yourself, you're surely not going to be able to take care of others."

Carmody said people in his profession are "more willing and able to talk" about mental health now than they were even 10-20 years ago, and that it's a good "first step in solving and improving a situation." Blankenship and Powell, both long-time law enforcement members themselves, said things are much better now, but even new challenges present themselves. Both men referenced increased pressure on police officers due to viral videos and police-involved shootings.

"There's a lot of civil unrest and there's not as much pride," Powell said. "You're being battled from so many directions now, whereas we just jumped out of the car and dealt with crime and injuries. And now they're worried about crime and death and injuries and lawsuits. That's just more a pressure cooker that they're dealing with day-by-day."

Blankenship said there's still some of the "macho-ism" and "I'm all good" attitude, but not as much as before.

"I think you're starting to see a change where you're starting to see some officers step forward and say, 'Hey, I'd like to go speak to someone about this,'" he said. "There's day-to-day stuff that you see that I as an administrator may not realize what they're seeing and how what they see impacts them. You're seeing a change some."

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at zhorner@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @ZachHornerCNR.



# VIEWPOINTS

## Evacuating myself from the cone of uncertainty

The most likely scenario for this column, according to the newest computer models, is that it will stall as it approaches the coast and then turn sharply south. Readers in low-lying chairs are advised to evacuate now — or at least stock up on bottled water and peanut M&Ms — and brace for impact.



**BILL HORNER III**  
From The Publisher's Desk

Or, if we get lucky, a Jim Cantore sighting. (I'm told The Weather Channel celebrity is shorter than he looks on TV.) You may have guessed that I have Dorian on the brain, and for good reason: my wife Lee Ann and I drove to Florida on Wednesday for a long-planned visit with our son Addison and his wife Charis in the Orlando area, a visit which resulted in a full day spent helping them do hurricane prep (and the

obligatory trip to Costco with 6,998 other people) and an early departure for home on Saturday because yours truly was afraid I-95 would be a parking lot on Sunday. (Turns out it wasn't; still, on Saturday, we made the 560-odd mile trip back in a smooth eight hours flat.)

By the time you read this, this massive hurricane will be impacting North Carolina and maybe even Chatham County — but even then, we may not know its next move.

There was a time when if you heard about European models and spaghetti plots, it probably meant something about a crime drama on BBC, and not a tropical depression. If those phrases — “European models” and “spaghetti plots” — fall within your cone of uncertainty, keep in mind what one forecaster on The Weather Channel reminded us on Monday afternoon this week as Dorian stalled frightfully over the Bahamas: two-thirds of the time, the cone of uncertainty is just plain wrong.

Forecasters are right about a lot, but wrong a lot, obvious-

ly. It was that wrongness that kept us — and all of Florida, and probably you — guessing on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, trying to figure out if Dorian was the apocalypse or just a Really Big Hurricane. Turns out it was both. The Bahamas and surrounding islands were decimated with catastrophic devastation, and it remains to be seen how much damage the hurricane will do to the coastal areas of the southeast U.S. and in the Carolinas that so many of us are familiar with.

Predicting hurricanes and their paths isn't an exact science, as we know, and in this day of 24-hour televised weather channels and armchair forecasters galore and climate change, it seems the cone of uncertainty of our understanding of hurricanes has certainly expanded — especially with a storm so unusual, and so unpredictable, as Dorian. I'm a bit of a weather geek, and in my hunger for information during the weekend, I came across a story that featured a brand-new phrase:

“social mediologist.” Defined, social mediologists are amateurs who create, or share, misleading forecasts or information online and even challenge the forecasts of experts.

The demand for information is there; the quality and accuracy hasn't kept up. “The limitations of the science,” one forecaster was quoted as saying, “run up against the demands of society.”

When even the experts are confused, scores of others become flummoxed. This reminds me of the story of one of the worst hurricanes in history, the one in 1900 which struck and submerged Galveston, Texas. In his superb book on that hurricane — the must-read “Isaac's Storm” — author Erik Larson writes how Isaac Cline, the chief meteorologist at the Galveston office of the U.S. Weather Bureau, had written a scholarly paper about how Galveston's unique geography on the Gulf Coast positioned it so that it would never experience a major hurricane.

Then, on Sept. 7, 1900, when one approached, and Cline finally recognized the ominous signs, he

tried desperately to warn the city. Some listened, but others, citing his earlier admonition that Galveston would always be spared, didn't. More than 8,000 people died in what was still this country's greatest natural disaster, including Cline's pregnant wife.

A fascinating portion of the book is devoted to the prognosticating skills of a Spanish Jesuit, Father Benito Vines of Cuba, and other priests in the Caribbean islands who, after studying storm patterns in the 1800s, became uncannily accurate in predicting hurricanes, their scope and their paths. While officials from what became our National Weather Service were forbidding U.S. forecasters to even utter words like “tornado” and “hurricane,” Father Vines and other priests — without the benefit of modern instrumentation and satellite imagery — were nearly as accurate as today's forecasters.

Clearly, we still have a lot to learn about the weather, but as with Dorian, one lesson continues to be reinforced: often times, it's predictably unpredictable.

## Emergency planning not always easy, but there's time

There are things I'm good at — I'm especially proud that I can include “juggler” on my resume, for instance — but preparing for emergencies isn't one of them.



**RANDALL RIGSBEE**  
Randall Reflects

It's a skill that, despite umpteen winter storms and hurricanes that have pointed themselves in my direction over the years, I've not yet managed to fully master. Of this fact, I'm not proud; but I cannot deny the evidence. My worst offense occurred in 1996, as Hurricane Fran quickly approached. I readied myself — if you can call it that — for that storm by buying a supply of mostly perishable food at the grocery store. I'd waited late to make my grocery run and was navigating people-crowded and stock-depleted aisles, throwing whatever looked or sounded good into my shopping cart. In the grab-it-while-you-can heat of the moment I grabbed a lot of stuff that required refrigeration, most of which ended up, in the long, sweaty, back-to-basics aftermath of that devastating Category 3 storm, in the trash.

In spite of my poor planning, I survived Fran; and, not being entirely thick-skulled, learned from the experience.

That doesn't mean I got good at it. How much bottled water to buy? I'm never sure what's too much or too little.

Ditto canned goods. Are a dozen cans of chicken noodle soup enough? Do I even like chicken noodle soup?

Thanks to my Fran experience, I instinctively steer myself away from meats, cheeses, milk and other things that require they be kept cool, but I still struggle with a tendency to make emergency food purchases as if I'm planning a weekend of Netflix and chilling, not surviving, as if drawn by magnet towards unhealthy snacks like sodas and chips. I don't much crave those things under normal weather conditions, but let a hurricane head our way and I start thinking like an unrepentant couch potato.

And while I try to stay somewhat health-conscious in making storm prep purchases, that's not easy, usually favoring non-perishable convenience foods like Vienna sausages or Ramen, both of which keep well and will keep you alive, but aren't good for you.

And if the storm doesn't come (and I'm always glad when it doesn't), that leaves a pantry full of junk food I never really wanted to eat in the first place, certainly not on an average, non-stormy day.

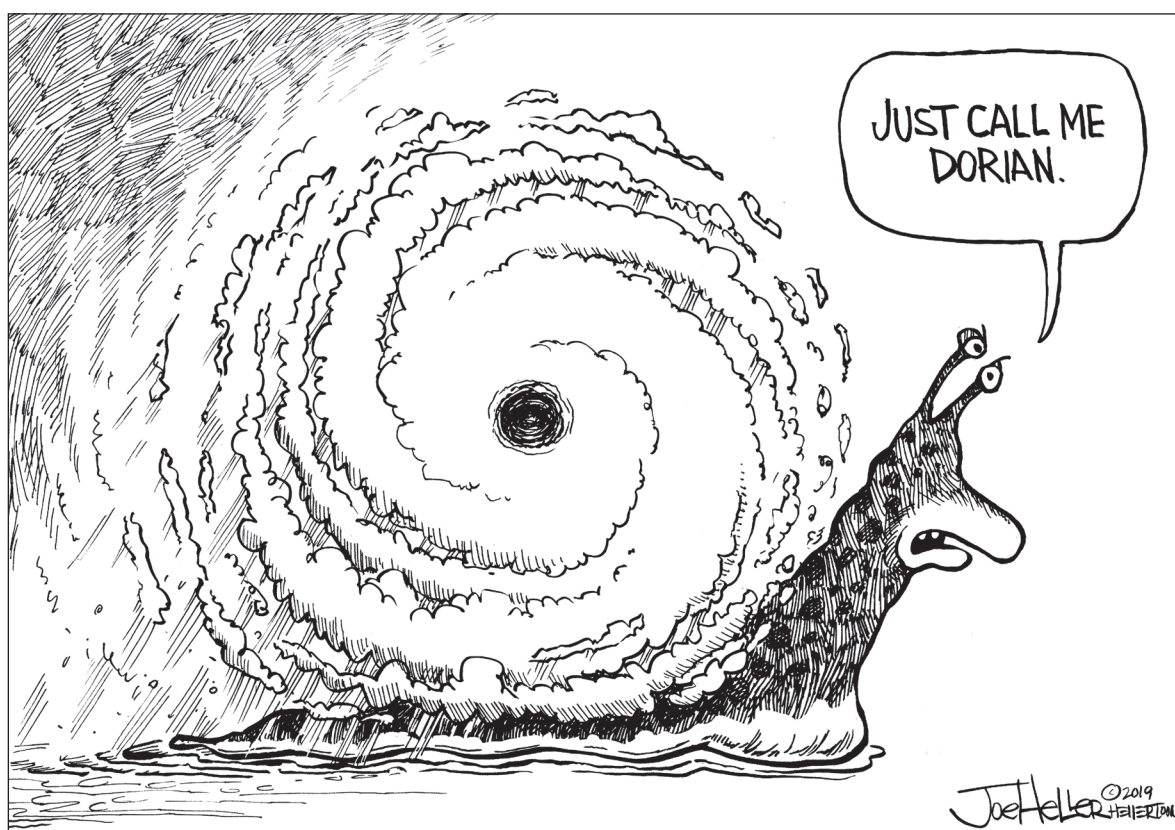
And that's just food. What about extra batteries? Medicine? Gassing up the car? Securing cash?

There's a lot to think about, plan and execute when a major storm heads our way, or even just threatens to. And some of us simply don't plan for these things very well.

But that doesn't have to be. It's no accident that September, a month that has brought much misery over the years through natural and man-made chaos, is (since it was launched in 2004) National Preparedness Month. This year's theme is “Prepared, Not Scared.”

Well-timed, the annual observation is something folks — especially folks like me — should pay attention to. Several government websites (FEMA, for instance) and many other reputable sources offer emergency prep check lists — I won't double up on that information here — that are helpful to the planning-challenged; and if the pot may call the kettle black in this instance, I'd recommend everyone familiarize themselves now, before the grocery aisles and hardware stores turn chaotic.

As I write this, it's unknown precisely what path Dorian — our most immediate current threat — may take. Whether Dorian brings us trouble or not, this calm before the storm is a good time to deliberately and smartly make sure we're ready for any scenario.



## One more word on ‘back to school’

By now the annual frenzy known as “Back to School” is a memory, since most folks who go have been back for a few weeks or at least, a few days. Labor Day, that last summer holiday, is now a thing of the past as we begin the rush toward fall celebrations. And, of course don't forget it's

**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around

only a hundred or so days until Christmas.

That's been enough time for students to figure out which classes they like, take in a few football games and soccer matches and similar athletic events, develop new boyfriends and girlfriends and generally have the novelty of it all wear off and be replaced by business as usual.

In addition to those activities and the passage of that time, however, I know that “Back to School” season is over because we got our first Christmas shopping circular in the mail the other day. At one time, “Christmas in July” was a special thing some churches observed to remember folks in need; now it's one more step in the involvement of the Almighty Dollar — or credit card.

Anyway, the big stack of newspaper circulars and mail pieces that recently covered our table advertising “Back to School” as the most important thing since sliced bread and indoor plumbing are now on their way to the wood pile as this winter's fire starter.

Yet, call it a character flaw or weakness or a senior adult mind becoming moldy, I was reminded, as I stacked up those papers, of how that event once played out when I wore a little boy's clothes.

The clothes thing was the first step in “Back to School” for me. When we lived in Apex — when it actually was a separate place from CARY/RALEIGH/WAKE COUNTY — my mama would catch the bus

from our little town to downtown Raleigh. There she would torture me through the bargain basement of the Belks store on Fayetteville Street and eventually upstairs to the place where all the blue jeans in the world were stacked and on display.

I never understood how she could buy jeans and other clothes for my older brothers who didn't have to make the trip but I had to go along even though for a year or two I was still a pre-schooler since in the Dark Ages there was no kindergarten. In my later years I have given serious consideration to enrolling in kindergarten so I could use those new crayons and markers to color in my book and maybe take naps in the afternoon since I am potty trained.

It's funny but now I can't remember where Mama found my “Back to School” clothes after our little family moved to Pittsboro. Maybe it was the old Halls Department Store off the courthouse circle or Griffin's Shoe Shop on Main Street. Later as I added khakis and knit shirts to my blue jean inventory, I included William Ray Arthur's Men's Shop just down the block from Griffin's to my favorite places. But that came after I joined the ranks of the employed and starting carrying around a few dollars.

The day on which we went back to school was a yearly decision and not the same date on the calendar as it often is today. Before the introduction of Jordan Lake and its many benefits, including but not limited to — expensive search and rescue operations, the loss of more than 40,000 acres of the best farm land in the county, the end of many families living on the land for generation after generation, and the tragic loss of lives from swimming and boating accidents — it was the annual tobacco harvest that drove the school calendar.

If the harvest was early, we were in school by late August or early September. If the harvest was late, the date was pushed back as far

as possible and even then some of our classmates would be a week or so getting there since they were needed to put a profit into the family pocketbook.

In those prehistoric days before social media and cell phones, it was the back to school that helped us develop interpersonal skills. We talked with each other and our teachers in the classroom, sometimes to the chagrin of our teacher, and on the playground and in the lunchroom and on the school bus. I don't remember any of my friends or family sitting around the table, at home or in the lunchroom, wearing out our thumbs to talk to the person at the next table.

It was the combination of seeing friends again after three months, of smelling notebook paper instead of phone cases, of new jeans and shirts and Old English cologne, of eating with friends even if it was Mystery Meat again for the third day in a row, and all those things that made it so good to go back to school.

But of all those things and events that were a part of the happenings, I must confess perhaps my favorite was finding out not only who my elementary teacher was but who among my buddies was in my room. Critical information like that had much to do with surviving the annual visits from our Grade Mothers who came bearing cookies and brownies and Rice Krispie treats and such. I always wanted to be in the same room with my friend Bill Farrell because that meant his mama Dorothy (always and forever “Miss Dot” to me) would be by with the above mentioned goodies as often as possible.

Do they still do stuff like that anymore? I've been told by some whom I assume to be somewhat of an authority on the subject that homemade treats are no longer allowed in the halls of higher or even elementary education.

But, if by some chance they are, I think this may be the year I try that kindergarten sign-up.

### Chatham News + Record

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### What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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



# VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | MICHAEL TYSOR

## Without memory and stories, we forget who we are

I am writing this open letter to the Chatham County Commissioners to voice my opposition to their 4-1 vote to remove the Our Confederate Heroes statue from the courthouse grounds in Pittsboro.

It is enormously short-sighted to remove this monument erected in memory of the more than 1,900 young men from Chatham County who served North Carolina in the Civil War.

Before you brand me as a racist, you should recall the Chatham mothers and fathers who were Gold Star families. They lost their hope of future generations with the death of sons, husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles and friends. Many are buried in Chatham's cemeteries and many more in unmarked graves across the South.

Do you commissioners care about them? Those men who died had few

options at the time. Were they to leave their homes for unknown and unfamiliar places to get away from a slave state?

Victor Davis Hanson wrote August 17, 2017, in *War Against Memory*, "Were 60-70 percent of the Confederate population most secessionist states complicit in the economics of slavery? Did they have good options to leave their ancestral homes when the war started to escape the stain of slavery?"

Do these generations and their subsequent ancestors living in Chatham County today even matter to our County Commissions — these new arbiters of ethics and morality? You want to remove this statue... It will be a removal of our shared history if you do — a rewriting of history to suit your progressive take on it.

Yes, those near destitute descendants living in a Jim Crow

south who raised enough to purchase the statute with their small coins and donations may be your current targets of immorality but you paint with the same brush of racism. There were plenty who were just the surviving descendants like we are today. Those great-grandparents and Chatham citizens then are part of us now.

You cannot possibly equate your offense at just seeing the statue within the courthouse square with the courage and sacrifice of those sons who fought in that conflict and those families who lost nearly everything as a result of that war.

Wilfred McClay, a professor of history at the University of Oklahoma, wrote that "Historical consciousness is to civilized society what memory is to individual identity. Without memory, without the stories by which our memories are carried forward, we cannot say who, or what, we are."

Removing the statue from our sight deprives us of historical consciousness and context in telling the stories of our past and measuring the past against where we are now and where we are going in the future.

America wasn't formed in a perfect state or condition but our founders envisioned a progression toward a better future for all living under our Constitution and by a recognition of God's grace to us.

History doesn't just commence with utopian outcomes and happy endings — it's a progression of events that move generations forward.

You cannot do more than run in place in you erase symbols of historical consciousness and memory. These quiet but powerful symbols of our past matter to us. You cannot with a flip of your hand or middle finger take them.

You commissioners are selected representatives of all

Chatham County citizens. You are not dictators. You are not our rulers. We will not be ruled. You are to serve all of the people — not just a few highly vocal partisans who at this minute in Chatham's history are loudest.

If you really want to know the will of Chatham County on this issue put it on the ballot in the form of a referendum for or against statue removal. You'll see then what citizens think of your current moralism and actions. I suspect you know it, too.

Leave the statue alone in its place.

Leave history's story alone. The next generation this reference point, this symbol of where they are from and who they are and will be.

*Michael Tysor is a farmer who lives in Bear Creek and has been a resident of Chatham County since 1975.*

## Transparency essential to health reform

RALEIGH — When State Treasurer Dale Folwell took office in early 2017, he found North Carolina's state health plan to be in even worse shape than he originally thought. Costs were soaring. The terms of the plan's contracts with medical providers were unclear. And the unfunded liability for retiree health benefits is enormous, in the range of \$35 billion.

One of the strategies Folwell and his team developed in response is the Clear Pricing Project (CPP). It requires providers wishing to serve teachers and state employees to accept fixed rates — the latest offer was about double the reimbursements that Medicare pays — as a means both of increasing transparency and reducing cost.

Nearly 30,000 physician practices and other providers signed on to the CPP. But North Carolina's largest hospital chains refused. To avoid leaving public employees without in-network access to hospitals, Folwell has backed off for now. But he'll keep working on the problem. He has no choice.

The conflict isn't really a partisan or ideological one. The State Employees Association of North Carolina backs the CPP. Although some Democrats and activist groups have been wishing Folwell the worst in his battle with hospitals, the better to weaken his reelection bid in 2020, plenty of others across the political spectrum recognize that without reform both taxpayers and public employees will pay much more to keep the health plan afloat in the coming years.

Hospitals argued that if the state health plan paid them no more than double the reimbursement rates for Medicare, they'd end up losing money on some lines of business — and that entire facilities, particularly in rural areas, would become unsustainable. They also argued, more persuasively, that Medicare's rate structure is convoluted and inequitable, favoring some procedures and specialties over others.

If the dispute were only about reimbursements, however, the hospitals could have counterproposed a higher and more rational rate structure. They didn't. That's because hospitals fundamentally reject the model of selling their services based on published rates. They want to keep their prices, discounts, and contracts confidential. They don't want some payers to see what others are paying. They don't want their competitors to see, either.

This much is true: the way we pay for medical services, especially in hospital settings, is screwy and unsustainable. Private third-party payers — commercial insurance pools as well as self-insured employers for which insurers act as administrators — are charged more than Medicare and much more than Medicaid. Large bulk-buyers often get better deals than small ones or individuals. Critics of the CPP suggested that if North Carolina's state health plan went to fixed published rates, that could start to unravel the whole financing system.

The truth is, however, that the system is already unraveling. What comes next? Whatever you think that answer is, it will require a higher level of transparency than we currently get from hospital providers, in particular. As the American Enterprise Institute's James Capretta put it recently in *Health Affairs*: "Given the strain high costs are placing on employers, workers, and taxpayers, some disruption is called for to facilitate new strategies and perhaps new policy initiatives to help bring costs under better control."

Capretta and other advocates of transparency don't have unrealistic expectations about how many individual patients will access, comprehend, and employ the prices to shop around. Rather, they think transparency will lead to large-scale entrepreneurial responses. "The real aim is to enable more outside scrutiny of pricing across competing facilities and thus facilitate strategies in the private sector to lower overall costs of care," he wrote.

Contrary to progressive mythology, other countries don't deliver higher-quality care than we do at a lower cost. Properly adjusted for factors such as homicide and accident rates that don't speak to quality of care, America's health outcomes are among the best in the world. But the cost of our system is exorbitant. As the old song goes, "you can bet just as sure as you live — something's gotta give, something's gotta give, something's gotta give."

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

## Remembering Rufus: N.C.'s most colorful political figure

In this time of political rancor and hate, it is nice to find something that old time politicians agree on regardless of political affiliation, when they answer this question: Who is North Carolina's most colorful political figure?

The answer today is clear: It is Rufus Edmisten, Democratic nominee for governor in 1984,

attorney general, secretary of state, and author of a recent book, "That's Rufus: A Memoir of Tar Heel Politics, Watergate and Public Life."

Edmisten begins his book, not with his birth and growing up on a farm just outside the mountain town of Boone, but with his favorite story. In 1973, he served the president of the United States with a subpoena on behalf of the Senate Watergate Committee, which was led by another North Carolinian, Sen. Sam Ervin. Serving the president with this demand for the records ultimately led to President Nixon's resignation. Edmisten's position as Ervin's right-hand man made him a nationally known personality that he leveraged into political stardom.

Edmisten makes the story a good one. He describes the frantic rush to prepare the subpoena document, including a heated discussion about using correction fluid to cover a mistake and a ride to the Executive Office Building, where the president's lawyers respectfully accepted the subpoena. Then the cheeky Rufus reached in his pocket, pulled out his copy of the Constitution, and gave it to the president's lawyers in a pointed message that they should study it.

This incident and Edmisten's work with Sen. Ervin were the launch pad for his political career.

Edmisten's prelaunch story is set in the North Carolina mountains on a farm near Boone, where he grew up tending cows and pigs and working fields of cabbages and tobacco. He made extra money plowing garden plots for his neighbors and used a tractor to visit his kinfolks around the mountains.

After success in athletics, Future Farmers, student politics, and

academics in high school, and almost winning a Morehead Scholarship, he landed at UNC-Chapel Hill. From there, he made his way to Washington, teaching at a Catholic high school, attending law school at George Washington, and securing a low-level job on Sen. Ervin's staff. Edmisten soon became one of the senator's fulltime trusted assistants in the Watergate-Nixon impeachment matter.

The "That's Rufus" chapter on Watergate is good background for those following the current battle between Congress and another president.

He returned to North Carolina in 1974 and mounted a successful campaign for attorney general. His triumph over a host of prominent Democrats gave notice he would run for governor someday.

That day came in 1984 when Gov. Jim Hunt ran for the U.S. Senate and a host of Democrats lined up to run for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. Edmisten won in a brutal primary runoff against Eddie Knox and then lost the general election to Jim Martin.

Some believe he lost because he made disparaging remarks about barbecue. His version of that incident is, by itself, worth the price of the book. But Edmisten says it was Ronald Reagan's "sticky coattails" that "swept both me and Jim Hunt away from our dreams. We were not alone, either. The sweep was bold and far reaching."

Edmisten felt crestfallen and abandoned. "The ache in the bottom of my stomach was so great nothing appealed to me except finding some dark place to crawl away and hide," he writes. "I swear I saw people cross the street so they wouldn't have to talk to me."

"That's Rufus" describes how Edmisten came back from that defeat, won election as secretary of state, lost that position in disgrace, came back as a successful lawyer and lobbyist, and learned lessons that will be important for every citizen. In a future column I will share some of that wisdom.

*D.G. Martin hosts "North Carolina Bookwatch," at 11 a.m. Sundays and 5 p.m. Tuesdays on UNC-TV. The program also airs on the North Carolina Channel at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and other times.*

## LETTERS

### Stop the steamrolling and remember your voice

TO THE EDITOR:

All the kerfuffle over Chatham's Confederate statue, UNC's Silent Sam, the renaming of the Carr building on Duke's campus, and numerous other such controversies nationwide brings to mind Milan Kundera's "The Book of Laughter and Forgetting." Although a Czech-born French writer whose works are more related to European history, politics and philosophy, this quote so appropriately fits what is happening in this country. Kundera attributes it to his friend Milan Hubl: "The first step in liquidating a people is to erase its memory. Destroy its books, its culture, its history. Then have somebody write new books, manufacture a new culture, invent a new history. Before long the nation will begin to forget what it is and what it was. The world around it will forget even faster."

That's what liberal, so-called, elitists are doing.

Who knows; as Bob Wachs suggested in his column last week, Chatham citizens, given the opportunity for a referendum on our statue, may have overridden the commissioners.

I have been warning citizens for years that our county, at least the western and southern portions, is slowly but surely being converted to what the liberal commissioners and their elitist constituents want. There's only one way to attempt to correct this problem and that's for Democrats, Republicans and Independents to vote them out. Otherwise let them steamroll and find your voice and freedom continue to weaken and eventually disappear.

*Philip H. Johnson  
Siler City*

## Reading 101: let's stop playing politics with our kids



**TOM CAMPBELL**  
N.C. Spin

In 2012, Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger recognized the deficiency by stating what we all know, namely that in the first three grades we teach children to read and after that they read to learn. He spearheaded the "Read to Achieve" legislation, patterned after successful programs in Florida, Mississippi and other states. One common thread was that children couldn't be passed from one grade to the next if they could not read at grade level.

Six years and \$150 million in expenditures later, The Friday Institute at N.C. State analyzed the results of "Read to Achieve" and said no gains were attributed to the program and, in the case of 3rd graders, proficiency actually declined slightly. Only 52 percent of 1st graders, 56 percent of 2nd graders and about that same percentage

of 3rd graders could read at grade level. We can make excuses for why this or that student or even why this or that school wasn't proficient, but the bottom line is these results are unacceptable.

Recognizing that Read to Achieve didn't live up to expectations, the legislature took another stab at improving results with SB 438. It would require individual reading plans for students not at grade level, develop a digital children's reading initiative so parents could find resources online to help their students and would further expand the Wolfpack Works program that focused on helping first and second year teachers in selected high-need districts with literacy-specific support.

Governor Cooper vetoed the legislation, saying we've already spent too much money on a program that doesn't work. Berger and legislative leaders fired back that one of Cooper's appointees to the State Board of Education helped write SB 438 and the veto was politically inspired. Making matters worse, we can't agree about which reading assessment program will be used to measure end-of-course reading achievement.

North Carolina can do better than this. Let's stop playing politics with our children's education and cut out the turf battles, lame excuses and

poor outcomes. We also shouldn't be squabbling over budgets. What is needed is an immediate declaration of war on unacceptable reading proficiency, accompanied by a D-day type attack, an all hands-on deck assault with everyone working together to get all our children's reading up to grade level by the end of 3rd grade.

The child who cannot read at grade level doesn't care what political party you belong to, who is to blame, who gets credit for results, or even which assessment tool you use. Their future success in school depends on being able to read and it is unacceptable to wait another two or three years to get this right. If we don't have the people who can get this done, let's go find them and bring them on board. This is one war we need to win and win immediately.

Let's stop acting like children and help our children learn to read. Little else matters until they can.

*Tom Campbell is former assistant North Carolina State Treasurer and is creator/host of N.C. SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of N.C. issues that airs on UNC-TV main channel at 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 12:30 p.m. Sundays and UNC North Carolina Channel at 10 p.m. on Fridays, 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 10 a.m. on Sundays. Contact him at www.ncspin.com.*



# ROCKS: 'Part of this event is just getting people excited about Raven Rock'

Continued from page A1

where he's discussing his work as a biologist and ecologist and the many hours he logged in the late 1960s as the primary force behind the creation of Raven Rock State Park in Harnett County.

A large window to the rear of the desk offers an eye-pleasing view of lush green woods; just beyond the window pane, a hummingbird hovers at a hanging feeder as another bird's voice sounds in the nearby distance.

"That's a red-shouldered hawk," said Soots, identifying the sound.

His office decor reveals more.

"Look around," he said, "and you see all kinds of mementos about Raven Rock."

A couple of framed pictures of the park adorn a wall. One captures an image of the popular hiking destination, a rock formation illuminated by a burst of golden sunlight. The screensaver on his desktop computer monitor features another colorful, autumnal view of the park, the Cape Fear River winding toward a fiery horizon.

"That's one of my favorite places," Soots said.

Another picture on the wall is pivotal to the Raven Rock story, though the park itself is nowhere to be seen. Instead, it's a framed black-and-white photo, taken indoors in March 1970, of four neatly-dressed men standing side by side, their collective focus a piece of paper. The men are Soots, then-Governor Robert Scott, then-State Attorney General Robert Morgan and Bill Johnston, who was a member of the committee formed in the late 60s for the advocacy and creation of Raven Rock State Park. The paper in their hands is the deed to 221 acres of land near Lillington that would soon become the state park.



Randall Rigsbee photo

**Yellowed newspaper clippings, old notes, photographs and other mementos collected by Dr. Robert Soots tell the story of the effort, initiated by the now-retired college professor in the late Sixties, to establish Raven Rock State Park, which is 50 years old this month.**

But that's jumping ahead of the story.

Before those men at the highest level of state government convened for the celebratory photograph, there was a lot of work to be done.

It really started when Soots accepted a teaching position at what's now Campbell University, the private school in Buies Creek.

Fresh out of the Army, which he'd joined wanting to travel though he only traveled as far as Georgia for basic training, Soots considered extending his military career with Officer Training School. But a friend, realizing Soots' interest in environmental matters, suggested he follow a different path.

His friend suggested N.C. State University, where Soots could "get an education in an environmental field. And that's what I did," earning a degree in Wildlife Conservation Management.

"I wanted to do something where I was going to be protecting and conserving something," he said.

Working as a paid research biologist at N.C. State while simultane-

ously earning a master's degree, Soots applied for a job with the National Parks Service. Weeks went by without any reply.

Not realizing at the time how slowly the gears of federal government sometimes turn, he gave up hope for the parks position he sought and, at the suggestion of another friend who'd recently left a teaching post at Campbell University, Soots was hired at the university to teach biology.

"I had never in my life considered being a college professor," he said. "But I'm one of those people that jumps into things sometimes."

Never mind that soon after taking the teaching job several offers for employment from the feds poured in.

But he turned out to be a good fit at Campbell and stayed there until 1980, becoming head of the school's biology department.

It was while teaching a course on invertebrates' natural history at Campbell in the mid-60s that Soots first became acquainted with Raven Rock.

Soots needed a place —

outside the classroom, in the field — to teach the laboratory portion of the class and he found Raven Rock, a "reasonable driving distance from Buies Creek," met his needs.

"I did a lot of teaching right on sight," he said. "I just really loved the area."

Seeking permission to access the area for his classes, Soots had gotten to know some of the landowners. One — he calls her "Miss Lizzy" — became a good friend. She lived alone — she'd never married — on the several hundred acres she owned along the Cape Fear River and she often had Soots and his wife, Sharron, over for meals or to help in the garden or just to hang out.

"She was really just lonely," said Soots.

The professor was helping Miss Lizzy, a short woman, pick out-of-her-reach figs from one of her fig trees one afternoon when she voiced words that set in motion work on the future state park.

"She said, 'Bob, I'm considering selling my property,'" Soots recalled. "I said, 'Miss Lizzy, who are you going to sell it to?'"

Owners of a nearby rock quarry, she replied, were interested in buying her acreage "to do some mining."

"I said, 'Miss Lizzy, that land should never be torn up like that,'" Soots recalled the pivotal conversation. "I said, 'Would you consider holding up on that and let me see if I can get that converted into a state park?' I had not ever considered it up until that point... But that initiated the rest of it. That was the starting point."

He soon visited other nearby landowners, floating the idea and testing the waters, and "without exception, everybody said they would sell their

property for the state park, if we could make it happen. I made it clear to them there was no guarantee I could accomplish this, but I'd try."

Next, Soots sketched out a plan and took it to the Harnett County Board of Commissioners, showing them slides of the beautiful area and discussing "why we ought to make this happen."

His proposal for a state park was bolstered by a report circulating at the time that there were no state parks in the area.

"So there was a need," Soots said.

The county commissioners, hearing his plea and viewing his slides of the natural area, "were totally behind it," Soots said.

Next, he worked to get the public to embrace it, too, logging a lot of miles and talking to a lot of people about the plan.

"I gave I don't know how many talks," Soots said, "to get people to encourage their legislators to approve the state funding for the park. I went to every group I could. Town boards and every garden club, bird club, the Boy Scouts. And I got a tremendous amount of support from the people, from Lee County as well as Harnett County."

Even Lillington native Paul Green, well-known author of the still-in-production outdoor drama "The Lost Colony," lent his support to the cause, sending Soots a hand-written note offering his help.

Robert Morgan, "a senator, and a very powerful one, at that," Soots said, also embraced the plan. "He worked very hard, getting the political people involved," said Soots, "and he was quite successful."

Following months of hard work, in 1969, Raven Rock State Park was created with the passage and adoption of North

Carolina Senate Bill 495.

Today, Raven Rock State Park, which covers 4,810 acres along the Cape Fear River's banks, is a popular destination for hikers, campers, anglers and canoeists, drawing thousands of visitors ever month. The park also boasts horseback riding trails.

For his vision and his work in creating Raven Rock State Park, Soots will take part in an upcoming event celebrating Raven Rock's 50th anniversary.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14, the visitor's center at the park will be the site of the Raven Rock Festival, a celebration of the history of the park and its creator.

Several speakers will discuss the park's history. There will also be musical entertainment courtesy of regional talent, and throughout the five-hour event, an artists village, food trucks, games and other activities will be offered. Guided nature hikes along the Cape Fear River are also planned. More information on the event is available at [ravenrockfestival.org](http://ravenrockfestival.org).

Among those who will take part in the upcoming event is Dr. John Bartlett, Associate Professor of Biology at Campbell University.

"Part of this event is just getting people excited about Raven Rock," Bartlett said. "It's a celebration of the park and the people who made it happen."

Of the man whose work helped create a state park and spare hundreds of acres from a potentially much different future, Bartlett is clear.

"I think Bob Soots is a hero," Bartlett said. "He's a visionary and he was way out ahead of his time on things."

*Randall Rigsbee can be reached at [rigsbee@chathamnr.com](mailto:rigsbee@chathamnr.com).*

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Central Carolina Community College reported last week that it had record enrollment this year across its three campuses. Submitted photo

# Chatham resident enrollment in CCCC rises 16 percent

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

Central Carolina Community College announced last week that it had set a new enrollment record, and Chatham County was well represented.

The college said 1,146 residents of Chatham County had enrolled in fall 2019 classes, a 16 percent increase from the 988 that were enrolled last fall. There was also a 19 percent rise in students taking classes at CCCC's Chatham sites — from 512 to 610.

One of the probable reasons for the jump is the 160 graduates from Chatham high schools enrolled in the new Chatham Promise program, which provides free tuition and fees to qualified students. Mark Hall, the college's Chatham provost, told the Chatham Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Briefing last week that those students would ben-

efit the Chatham community in multiple ways.

"They're not accruing debt, and neither are their parents," Hall said. "That means they have more opportunities to do things later on, but they also have more opportunity to spend their money here. This is another great return on investment."

Hall added that the Chatham campus' Building Construction Technologies program had continued to grow "by leaps and bounds" and that the college had to open up new classes. He also said that the new CCCC Health Sciences Building near Briar Chapel in northeast Chatham County should be available for occupancy next month.

A record 5,924 students were enrolled for the start of the 2019-2020 school year at CCCC. It is a 9.5 percent increase over the previous all-time high enrollment of 5,411 students in the fall of 2009 and an 11.4 percent increase from last fall's student popula-

tion of 5,320 students.

Lisa Chapman, the college's new president, said in a statement that CCCC was "thankful to be the community college for Chatham, Harnett and Lee counties."

"We are very pleased to serve as the education partner for these students — our students — as they progress toward their career goals," Chapman said. "CCCC believes in accessible, lifelong learning, and is proud to provide a first-class education for our communities, whose support is providing opportunities for so many."

Ken Hoyle, CCCC's vice president of student services, added, "I am beyond pleased with how these numbers reflect so well and attribute it to the College's reputation for a high quality education at a reasonable cost."

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at [zhorn@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorn@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at [@ZachHornerCNR](https://twitter.com/ZachHornerCNR).

# Despite Istation-Amplify uncertainty, Chatham County Schools moving forward

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

Unless one pays keen attention to statewide education news, the term "Istation" might be like a foreign word. But it's dominated conversation at the state level in recent weeks.

Here's the short version, according to various statements and media reports.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mark Johnson chose to replace Amplify with Istation as the state public schools' vendor for reading assessments for students in kindergarten through 3rd grade. Istation utilizes computer-based tests, while Amplify's program mClass allows teachers to hear students read out loud and assess them that way.

There was some pushback from teachers and others about Johnson's decision, but it particularly came from Amplify, which eventually appealed the decision to the state Department of Information Technology. The DIT granted a temporary stay on the Istation contract on Aug. 19, exactly one week before school was scheduled to start.

Since the announcement of the stay, Johnson has released statements critical of the DIT's decision and announced last week that teachers would still start training on Istation.

That's the really short version. Chatham County Schools Superintendent Derrick Jordan told the News + Record last week that the district has started training teachers on the new program.

"My hope is, whatever the answer is, that it will be determined and shared as quickly as possible," Jordan said. "But we have pushed forward with the training for Istation for our teachers, as most have, because we don't want to be caught behind the 8-ball if the decision is to proceed with the transition."

Jordan and other superintendents, regardless of they feel about the program, have already gotten one win in the process.

When the Istation contract was announced earlier this year, it was slated to be in use at the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. But teachers and others across the state expressed concern that there wouldn't

**'My hope is, whatever the answer is, that it will be determined and shared as quickly as possible. But we have pushed forward with the training for Istation for our teachers, as most have, because we don't want to be caught behind the 8-ball if the decision is to proceed with the transition.'**

DERRICK JORDAN, *Chatham County Schools superintendent*

be enough time to train educators to use the program prior to the year beginning.

In June, according to WRAL, a group of 88 district superintendents sent a letter to Johnson asking him to delay the use of Istation for a year to prepare teachers for the change.

"A change in assessment tool that has so much impact in the classroom would be a challenge," the letter said, "due to the late decision and announcement on June 7, 2019."

Jordan told the News + Record he was absent from the meeting — he added that he almost never misses them — but agreed with the letter and would have signed it himself.

"I would have been one," he said. "I had certainly expressed my concern about the timeline, not so much the shift, but the timeline. Obviously, we would have preferred to have had all those pieces ironed out."

In a statement on Aug. 27, Johnson said Istation will continue working with districts and teachers "while the procurement review is conducted rather than stopping everything and delaying better education opportunities for North Carolina teachers and students." Istation will not be paid during this period.

The News + Record will update this process if and/or when this will affect Chatham County students.

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at [zhorn@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorn@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at [@ZachHornerCNR](https://twitter.com/ZachHornerCNR).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Chatham County organizations to host events

A couple of Chatham County organizations are hosting significant events in the coming months.

The Chatham County 4-H is hosting a fund-raising one-day trip to the Biltmore Estate in Asheville.

The Biltmore day trip — which is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 13 — includes motorcoach transportation, a ticket to the Biltmore and lunch at the Deepark Restaurant. Cost of the trip is \$180 and proceeds will be used to support 4-H school enrichment opportunities,

### 4-H livestock show headed to Chatham Ag Center on Saturday

Chatham County residents are invited to the 2019 4-H Farm Credit Carolina Showmanship Circuit, scheduled for 9:30 a.m. this Saturday at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center.

The event, which starts in the livestock arena on the west side of the conference center, will feature 4-H participants showing sheep and cattle. Food vendors will be available throughout the day.

camp and community club programs. The trip will take off at 7 a.m. and return around 10:30 p.m. To register, visit <https://chathamnc.seamlessdocs.com/f/2qb1iz074fkf>.

The Chatham County Cooperative Extension is hosting its annual Farm and Industry Tour next month.

The tour is scheduled for Oct. 1 and will include visits to Hunt Forest Resources, Rocky Branch Hay and Cattle Company, Orchid Gallery and Triangle Brick. The tour will kick off at 8 a.m. at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center and conclude at 4 p.m. and cost \$35 per person. Tickets can

be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chatham-county-farm-and-industry-tour-tickets-62606345264> or at the Cooperative Extension's office.

### Council on Aging hosting caregiver groups, classes

The Chatham Council on Aging announced that it is still hosting two monthly caregiver support groups as part of its Family Caregiver Support Program.

The two monthly group meetings and the free "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" classes are offered for free by trained teachers.

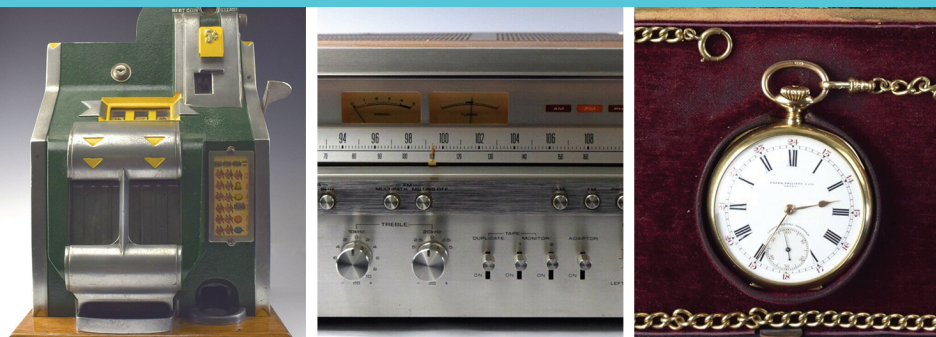
The group meetings are aimed at providing support for caregivers, as well as providing caregiver respite by placing in-home aides in the home to give the caregiver a break to care of themselves for a few hours a week. The classes help caregivers better equip themselves for self-care.

The classes are kicking off again on September 9, and interested participants are asked to RSVP to Beth Moran at 919-742-3975 or [beth.moran@chathamcoa.org](mailto:beth.moran@chathamcoa.org) by Friday. The 90-minute classes will last for six weeks and are co-facilitated with the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service of Chatham at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center, 365 N.C. Highway 87 N, Pittsboro.

— CN+R staff reports

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# OBITUARIES

## MARYLAND MOODY LEMON



On August 31, 2019 at approximately 4:30 p.m., a tremendous and joyful event happened, Maryland not only met her Lord and Savior, she had a reunion with her earthly parents, siblings, husband, many nieces, nephews and cousins. Maryland loved her family. She started a family reunion that was held for 40 years; she enjoyed the fellowship of her family gathering together. Maryland was the youngest of ten children born to James Franklin Moody and Della Margaret Bright Moody. Maryland was born June 24, 1928. She was very active at Mount Vernon Springs Presbyterian Church, which she attended her entire life. She enjoyed spending time with the Lord, reading her Bible, doing her Bible crossword puzzles, and using her talents for others. Maryland sang in the church choir, taught Sunday School classes, was very active with the Women's meetings, served on the Cemetery Committee and various other responsibilities at the church. She worked for 20 years at A. J. Schneier's. Even though Maryland did not have children, by being the "baby" of the family, by the time she was born she was a built-in babysitter for most of her nieces and nephews, all of which she loved dearly.

Maryland married at the age of 50 to Lee O. Lemon. At that time she learned how to drive a car and got her driver's license. She spent 15 happy years as Lee's wife. After his passing, Maryland stayed very busy. She worked cleaning houses for several years. She helped take care of her sister Kara, and helped look after a nephew, Mark Moody, great-niece Rachel Spoon, and three great-nephews, Joseph, Jonathan and Jacob Moody. Maryland spent many years traveling back and forth between niece Kay Moody Spoon (Ricky) and nephew Michael Moody (Anna's) home, it was great having her live with them, she helped take care of them, as much as they took care of her.

Maryland had declined in health over the last two years. She was in and out of the hospital multiple times. We are thankful that Maryland is with her Heavenly Father and no longer in pain. Maryland leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins, her church family, and dear friends. She will forever live in our memories.

Please join us on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 2 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Springs Presbyterian Church for Maryland's memorial service. Immediately following will be the committal of Maryland's remains in the cemetery.

The family wishes to thank the staff at The Coventry House in Siler City, The Laurels of Pittsboro, and Liberty Hospice for all the care and support provided to Maryland.

## BETTY GARNER BREWER



Betty Garner Brewer, 78, of Bear Creek died September 1, 2019, at her home.

She was born December 23, 1940 at Moore Regional Hospital, the daughter of Doss and Louella Garner. She was a graduate of Jordan-Matthews High School, class of 1959.

Ms. Brewer was a devoted member of Oakley Baptist Church. She worked at Collins & Aikman for 35 years. She volunteered with Meals on Wheels, enjoyed bowling, baking, going to the beach, her many trips with friends, and outings with her Sunday School class. She also enjoyed sitting with people and canning.

Ms. Brewer is preceded in death by her husband, HL Brewer, infant son, Scotty Wayne Brewer, step-son, Mike Brewer, her parents, step-father, Fred Starr, sister, Faye Starr, and brother Wayne Starr.

She is survived by brothers, Bill Garner and wife Patsy, Lloyd Starr; sisters, Kay S. Jordan and Debra S. Porter, all of Siler City; nieces and nephews; special friend, Joe Culberson; and her fur baby, Coco.

The funeral was held September 4, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Oakley Baptist Church, 2300 Siler City-Glendon Road, Siler City with Dr. Jeff Johnson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

The family received friends at the home at 749 Wildlife Road, Bear Creek.

A special thank you to Jane Staley, Helen Clark and Liberty Home Care and Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Oakley Baptist Church Cemetery Fund.

## BERTA MAE HILLIARD



Berta Mae Hilliard, 102, of Goldston died Saturday, August 31, 2019 at her residence.

Mrs. Hilliard was born on August 17, 1917, the daughter Ezekiel L. and Oppie Jane Gaines Hilliard. Berta was native of Chatham County, a homemaker and poultry farmer. She loved working in her garden, flowers and cooking. Berta was a member of Gaines Grove Primitive Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Joe Hilliard.

She is survived by her children: Jack Hilliard, Nancy Hilliard Shaw, and Dan Hilliard, all of Goldston; grandchildren, Marty Shaw, Beth Yow, Kenneth Hilliard and Tonya Jolly, ten great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

The family received friends Monday, September 2, 2019 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Gaines Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Bonlee-Carbonton Road and other times at the family home. A funeral service followed at 2 p.m. with Pastor Zack Byrd and Rev. David Hicks officiating. Burial followed at the Gaines Grove Cemetery in Goldston.

Memorials may be made to Gaines Grove Cemetery Fund, c/o Lucy Emerson, 135 Oren Gaines Road, Goldston, NC 27252.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Hilliard Family.

On line condolences may be made at: [www.pughfuneral-home.com](http://www.pughfuneral-home.com).

## PATRICIA ANN HARRIS WATTS



Patricia Ann Harris Watts, 79, of Siler City died Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at UNC Hospice, Pittsboro.

Mrs. Watts was born in Alamance County on August 21, 1940 the daughter of Curtis Lee and Pearl (Collins) Harris. Pat was a graduate of Jordan-Matthews High School and attended Elon College where she received a certificate of secretarial practice. She retired from Godwin Insurance in Greensboro and had also worked at Cobb Insurance in Chapel Hill. Pat was a member of the First Baptist Church of Siler City and will be remembered for enjoying and helping with Vacation Bible School. Pat enjoyed traveling with her best friend whether it be London or New York.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jesse R. Watts; her parents and brother, David Harris.

She is survived by daughters, Debra W. Yamrose and husband, Scott and Angie Watts; son, Steve Watts and wife, Sherry; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Pat also leaves behind her best friend Virginia Coley, who was like a sister to her.

A graveside service was held Friday, August 30, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Oakwood Cemetery, North Chatham Avenue, Siler City, with Rev. Eric Davidson officiating.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family. Online condolences may be made at: [www.pughfuneral-home.com](http://www.pughfuneral-home.com).

## ANDREW (DREW) COCHRAN



Andrew (Drew) Cochran, 35, of Siler City and formerly of Durham, NC, passed away on August 31, 2019.

He is survived by his mother, Cynthia Long; his grandmother, JoAnne Sapp; and extended family and friends.

No service is planned by Andrew's wishes.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Memories of Andrew are welcome and may be posted on the Smith & Buckner funeral home website at:

[www.pughfuneralhome.com](http://www.pughfuneralhome.com).

## MRS. CORNELIA RODGERS

Mrs. Cornelia Rodgers, 90, of Siler City, passed away Mon-

day, September 02, 2019 at her home.

Arrangements by: Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

## DONALD ELMER DAY

Donald Elmer Day, 99, of Sanford, died Sunday, September 1, 2019 at his home.

He was born in Ontario, Canada, on December 14, 1919, to the late George Leonard Day and Mabel Stouffer Day. He served his country during WWII in the Canadian Air Force. During his career he served as a Vice-president and District manager for a chemical engineering company.

He is survived by his wife Rubye Geia Day of the home.

No services are planned. The family request no flowers please.

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

## BRIAN KELLY IRELAND

Brian Kelly Ireland, 49, of Bear Creek died Sunday, September 1, 2019 at UNC Hospice House in Pittsboro.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at 2 p.m. at Loves Creek Baptist Church with Dr. Rob Roberts officiating.

Mr. Ireland was born May 15, 1970 in Guilford County to Samuel M. Ireland and Joyce Branson. He was employed by Food Line Supermarkets as a stocker. He was preceded in death by his father.

He is survived by his mother, and half sisters, Debbie of Greensboro and Samella of Washington, DC.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial may be made to Loves Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, or to UNC Hospice, PO Box 1077, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the family during this time.

Online condolences maybe made at: [www.pughfh.com](http://www.pughfh.com).

## RUDOLPH COPELAND MULLIS JR.

Rudolph Copeland Mullis Jr, 65, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, September 1, 2019.

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

Arrangements are incomplete at this time and will be announced by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

## WILLIE MAE STRICKLAND

Mrs. Willie Mae Strickland, 78, of Siler City, passed away Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro.

Arrangements by: Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

## MR. JOHN L. CURRIE

Mr. John L. Currie, 86, of Siler City, passed away Thursday, August 29, 2019 at Randolph Hospice House in Asheboro.

Arrangements by: Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

## HANZEL M. BYNUM

Mr. Hanzel M. Bynum, 64, of Siler City, passed away Friday, August 23, 2019 at his home.

Arrangements by: Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

# Census matters, workers already on the ground in Chatham

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

U.S. Census workers are already on the ground in Chatham County even though the 2020 Census doesn't begin in earnest until next year.

Workers are canvassing area homes, verifying addresses in advance of the 2020 Census, to ensure mailings get to every resident.

The United States has been conducting a census, the counting of each resident in the country, since the first census which occurred in 1790. The census is mandated in Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution.

Those counts serve two main purposes, according to Courtney Cooper-Lewter, a policy analyst with Chatham County government. The first is for political representation. The census impacts how Chatham County's school, legislative, commissioner, municipal and voting districts are drawn. It also determines how many representatives North Carolina receives in the U.S. Congress. The second impact of the census is on federal spending. The federal government distributes \$675 billion each year to states and local governments based on the census. North Carolina has received \$16 billion each year since the last census, according to

CENSUS 101

## Your data are confidential.

Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics.

By law we cannot share your information with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

United States Census Bureau

Cooper-Lewter. This funding assists with road construction, schools, and emergency response. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, federal funds to states, counties and communities are "based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors."

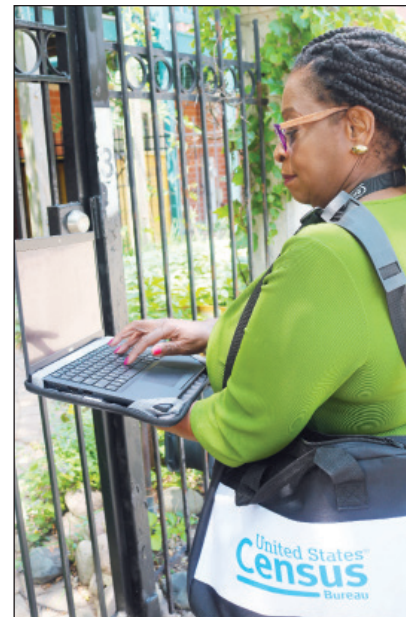
"It's really important that we get as many people counted as possible so that we can get adequate support for Chatham County residents," Cooper-Lewter said. Chatham County is participating in the U.S. Census' Complete Count

Committees (CCC) program, which focuses on engaging local community leaders in raising awareness of the U.S. Census to ensure as many people participate as possible. Starting last month, Cooper-Lewter has been working with community leaders, trusted voices in the community, including members of local governments, schools, non-profits and community leaders, to brainstorm on the best efforts to spread accurate information to Chatham County residents and encourage them to fully participate.

There are several concerns the group is hoping to address. The first is reaching out to "hard to reach" residents, or those who are less likely to complete the census. That includes senior citizens, non-English speaking residents, minority populations, rural residents, and those that neglect to count their children under 5 years old. Cooper-Lewter notes that the Complete County Committee is actively working to create strategies to reach these populations. For example, the group is working with the Chatham County Cooperative Extension to reach out to farmers in the county. They are also working with community leaders within these populations to find the best ways to engage and connect. Cooper-Lewter notes that Chatham County residents should begin seeing the fruits of those discussions in January.

"In 2000, Chatham County had a 71 percent response rate," Cooper-Lewter said. "In 2010, Chatham had an 81 percent response rate. For 2020, we are hoping for at least a 5 percent increase in response rate, putting us at 86 percent or more."

Another concern is the change to the census from a traditional paper form



**The Constitutionally-mandated census will begin in earnest next year, but Census workers are already on the ground verifying addresses in advance to ensure all residents receive their paperwork.**

Photo courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau

to using an internet form. This year, residents will be sent a postcard providing the internet link to complete the census. If the online form is not completed, a paper form will eventually be sent out. If those forms are not returned, U.S. Census workers will begin to canvass those addresses. The group is aware of the digital divide specifically in the "hard to reach" groups and are considering alternatives. This may include working with the library system, but they have not yet confirmed if

or how that may work. The official U.S. Census count will begin next year, but the U.S. Census Bureau is hiring. Pay varies by region, but starts at \$12 per hour. To apply for a job working with the U.S. Census Bureau, go to [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs) or call 1-855-JOB-2020 (1-855-562-2020). The phone line is also available in Spanish. If you are interested in participating in the next Complete County Committee meeting on Sept. 18, please contact Courtney Cooper-Lewter at [courtney.cooperlewter@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:courtney.cooperlewter@chathamcountync.gov).



CHATHAM BUSINESS ROUNDUP

# Get your Chatham County business news here!



**ZACHARY HORNER**  
Zach's Corner Store

Every week I take hundreds and hundreds of copies of the new edition of the Chatham News + Record to locations across Chatham County, mainly on the eastern side. But my first stop is always the Silk Hope Grocery. It's usually between 10:45 and 11 a.m. on Wednesdays when I arrive at the store. Every week there's two or three cars parked outside, and inside there's people shooting the breeze about whatever's happening. A TV playing in the background keeps those in the store informed about the world. I come in, bringing newspapers that tell people about what's happening in Chatham County. As far as I know — I'm only 26 — those types of stores used to be common gathering places in America. Citizens of a town or neighborhood would gather

to catch up on gossip, bicker about sports or share news of births, engagements and deaths. They'd be the corner store, department store, etc. I think of Gower Drug in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life," McLaren's Pub in the TV show "How I Met Your Mother" and Central Perk in "Friends." That's what I hope to bring to this regular column, but about a very specific topic. According to the N.C. Department of Commerce, 34,112 people were employed in Chatham County in June 2019. In the fourth quarter of 2018, there were 1,442 private industries and 67 manufacturing operations in Chatham. In 2016, there were an estimated 2,466 people who were self-employed. Total retail sales by Chatham businesses, including restaurants, reached \$565.9 million in 2018. That's the topic. Many large newspapers and media outlets have business reporters, people who focus on what businesses are up to, hiring trends, unemployment, businesses closing and opening, etc. I've done a bit of that in my time here, but it's my goal to

expand that. Thus, the introduction of "Zach's Corner Store," a new weekly column in this newspaper. There are three things I want this column to do, and to fulfill a couple of those desires, I'll need your help.

**1) Illustrate how things at the government level affect business and businesses.**

Municipal and county government-level politicians will oftentimes brag about how electing them to office will bring jobs. This column will, hopefully, provide a platform to evaluate their effectiveness at that and whether or not the government actually is doing positive things for businesses.

**2) Showcase openings, closings and changes of notable businesses in Chatham County.**

People like new stores and new stuff coming to their area. "Zach's Corner Store" will be a place for business owners to

announce that they're open for business and explain what they're offering to the Chatham County community, and a place to announce closures and changes happening to current businesses.

**3) Inform people about interesting and unique things Chatham County's businesses are doing and offering.**

We journalists love things that are different and one-of-a-kind. In a county with as many creative people and businesses as Chatham, there's bound to be things happening that are unique and truly interesting, and this column will be a place to showcase those things. The column will take different forms throughout its existence. Sometimes it might look at three pieces of news from local businesses. An example: a restaurant has a cool new menu item, a manufacturer announced a job fair for a specific role within their plant and a self-employed person started a new firm

doing something different or unique in Chatham, like fixing broken cell phones or providing cleaning services for beehives. Sometimes the column will feature Q&As with industry leaders about their establishments or the state of their particular industry. And sometimes it will be me, writing about something I found interesting while visiting a Chatham County business or looking at newly-released statistics and what they mean. The goal for this is to be a weekly feature, so to make sure that happens, I need help from you. If you own a business and are doing something interesting/having a fun event/collected some cool data, let me know. Email me at [zhorn@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorn@chathamnr.com) and your information may appear in the next edition of "Zach's Corner Store." I might even reach out to do a whole column on your information. The goal is for this to be a place where you know what's happening in the business world in Chatham County. Welcome to the new corner store.

NEWS BRIEFS

**Chatham COA receives grant from Duke Energy Foundation for Meals on Wheels**

PITTSBORO – The Chatham County Council on Aging has received a \$5,000 grant from Duke Energy Foundation. The Council on Aging is celebrating its 45th year serving Chatham seniors and their families. The grant monies will go towards the Council's frozen and shelf-stable meal programs. Frozen meals are provided to seniors who cannot be served on one of the Council's current 12 Meals on Wheels routes. Its shelf-stable meals help those for whom a frozen meal is not appropriate and during adverse weather conditions when Meals on Wheels volunteers cannot deliver and there is a risk of a power outage. "This support will be vital to our efforts to serve Chatham's growing older population," said Dennis Streets, the COA's director. "It will be especially timely if we have to respond to the effect of any hurricanes affecting our community. We really appreciate the support of the Duke Energy Foundation."

**Insurance companies request rate increase for dwelling policies, public comment available through Sept. 26**

The North Carolina Department of Insurance received a Dwelling insurance rate filing from the N.C. Rate Bureau on Aug. 14. The N.C. Rate Bureau, which is not part of the Depart-

## Chatham 4-H'er attends NCACC Youth Summit

Riley Pankow from Chatham County attended the 10th annual North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Youth Summit last month in Greensboro. North Carolina 4-H and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service partnered for the tenth year with the NCACC on a multi-year initiative to increase youth involvement in county government. This initiative helps youth learn more about county government as well as how to become more involved in local decision making. Seventy-seven youth and adults from 66 counties participated in this event. The event is sponsored and supported by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.



The representatives of county 4-H clubs at the 10th annual North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Youth Summit, which was held in Greensboro, North Carolina on August 23-24. Riley Pankow represented Chatham County. Submitted photo

ment of Insurance, represents all companies writing property insurance in the state. The NCRB requested a statewide average rate increase of 19.2 percent, varying by territory, with a requested effective date

of July 1, 2020. The filing includes a requested increase of 24.3 percent in extended (wind) coverage and an increase of 4.6 percent in fire coverage. The proposed rate increases are capped by

territory at 30 percent for extended coverage and 5 percent for fire coverage.

Dwelling insurance policies are not homeowners' insurance policies. Dwelling policies are offered to non-owner-occupied residences of no more than four units, including rental properties, investment properties and other properties that are not occupied full time by the property owner.

The filing will be reviewed by Department of Insurance experts to determine what, if any, rate adjustments are warranted. If NCDI and the Rate Bureau do not initially agree on the proposed rate changes, a public hearing will be called in which both parties would present their cases to a hearing officer, who would then determine the appropriate rate level.

The filing is available for public review on the Department of Insurance website (<http://www.ncdoi.com/PC/Default.aspx>). People who want to comment on the rate request may do so in one of two ways:

- By email sent to: [2019DwellingandFire@ncdoi.gov](mailto:2019DwellingandFire@ncdoi.gov). Comments will be accepted through Sept. 26, 2019.
- By U.S. mail sent to: N.C. Department of Insurance, Attn. Mary Faulkner, Legal Division, 1201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1201.

**N.C. Piedmont Laureates scheduled for song and poetry program in Pittsboro**

The Chatham Community Library will host a program featuring the 2019 and 2017



Collins



Herman



Menconi

N.C. Piedmont Laureates and a singer-songwriter next week about the craft of writing songs and poetry.

The event, which starts at 2 p.m. on Sept. 14, will feature a discussion between poet and 2017 Laureate Mimi Herman and singer-songwriter Wes Collins moderated by 2019 N.C. Piedmont Laureate David Menconi.

Menconi is a former music critic and arts reporter for the Raleigh News & Observer and has also written for Rolling Stone, Spin, Billboard, The New York Times and Salon.com. Herman is a Kennedy Center Teacher Artist, director of the UAC Arts Integration Institute and co-director of Writeaways workshops in France, Italy, New Mexico and North Carolina. Collins was the 2015 winner of the Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk Competition for Emerging Songwriters and took second at the Moravia Texas' Songwriter Serenade, as well as a librarian at the Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro.

The event is free to the public and will be in the Chatham Community Library's Holmes Meeting Room at 197 N.C. Highway 87, Pittsboro.

— CN+R staff reports

## Let's get it started!



Lauren Scott, in middle with scissors, cuts the ribbon to her new business to cheers from county commissioners, friends and family members Aug. 24. The new facility offers a variety of gymnastics apparatus and supervision for children in Chapel Hill. Staff photo by David Bradley



Zoeigh Scott, 2 1/2 years old, is about to try one of the parallel bars in the Kid's Gym that opened Aug. 24. Staff photo by David Bradley

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ONE YEAR FOR ONLY  
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call (919) 663-3232 or go to [chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/](http://chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/)



Holden Jent, 2, gets some assistance from Kid's Gym owner Lauren Scott on the opening day of the Kid's Gym in Chapel Hill on Aug. 24. Staff photo by David Bradley



**CHURCH NEWS**

**ROCKY RIVER FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE**

All members, neighbors, family and friends are invited to a concert by the Walters Family singing bluegrass and country gospel music on the front porch at Rocky River Friends Meeting House on Sunday, September 8. There will be a free Sandwich and Salad meal in the Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m., with music beginning at 6 p.m. The Walters Family from Bonlee have been singing together for nine years. The daughters, now 12, 14, and 16 are joined by their parents, Robbie and Kathryn Walters.

Bring your lawn chairs! It will be inside the Meeting House in case of rain. The event will be at 1795 Staley-Snow Camp Road, Siler City.

**NEW SALEM CHURCH**

“Wednesday In The Word” will begin at 6:30 p.m on September 4, at New Salem Church. We will study the book of Revelation beginning this week with an overview, and the study begins on September 11. All are welcome to join us.

The church is located at 5030 Old Graham Road, Pittsboro.

**RIVES CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

There will be “Community Fun Day Sunday” from 3 to 7 p.m. on September 8 at Rives Chapel Baptist Church. There will be games, hot dogs, gospel singing, and ice cream and fellowship. Something for all!

We will be collecting toiletries to help school kids in need as our mission project. Everyone is welcome.

The church is located at 4338 Rives Chapel Church Road, Siler City.

**RED HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Homecoming will be celebrated at Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, September 8. We will have Sunday School at 10 a.m. followed by the worship service at 11 a.m. There will be a covered dish luncheon following the worship service.

All are welcome to attend. The church is located on Hwy 42, Goldston.

**PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Homecoming service will be held during the 11 a.m. worship service at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on Sunday,

September 8, with special speaker, David Frances. Special music will also be provided. There will also be a covered dish lunch at noon.

All are welcome to join us for this event. We are located at 1309 N. Pea Ridge Road, Pittsboro.

**MOUNT VERNON SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN**

We will hold a church yard sale from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 7 at Mount Vernon Springs Presbyterian Church. There will be clothes, miscellaneous items, food, and a raffle. Join us if you can.

**LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Everyone is invited to join us beginning at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 15 for our Homecoming/Memorial Day observance at Loves Creek Baptist Church. “Fishers of Men” will lead us in song during the worship service. A love offering will be taken for the musicians. Our pastor, Rev. Kenny Black will be ministering in that service.

Luncheon on the grounds will be celebrated after that service. (Inclement weather will move that to the fellowship hall.)

**CHATHAM COUNTY ELEMENTARY AND K-8 SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOL MENUS**

Served at Elementary and K-8 Schools

\*\* Middle and High School Menus

**Monday, September 9 BREAKFAST:** Cinni Minis, Fruit Cocktail (\*\*Chicken Biscuit, Fresh Fruit)

**LUNCH:** Big Daddy’s Cheese Pizza, Chicken Nachos, PB&J w/Cheese Stick Combo, Seasoned Corn, Ranchero Pinto Beans, Chilled Mandarin Oranges (\*\*Same, add Fresh Fruit)

**Tuesday, September 10 BREAKFAST:** Scrambled Eggs, Bacon & Croissant, Pineapples (\*\*Breakfast Round, Fresh Fruit)

**LUNCH:** Breakfast for Lunch: Sausage Biscuit, Pancakes w/ Cheese Stick, Southwest Chicken Salad, Oven Baked Tater Tots, Sunbelievable 100% Juice Box, Chilled Peaches (\*\*Breakfast for Lunch: Sausage Biscuit, French Toast Sticks w/Egg & Sausage, Southwest

Chicken Salad, Oven Baked Tater Tots, Sunbelievable 100% Juice Box, Chilled Pears, Fresh Fruit)

**Wednesday, September 11 BREAKFAST:** Chicken Biscuit, Fresh Fruit (\*\*Bacon Egg & Cheese Biscuit, Fresh Fruit)

**LUNCH:** Pasta w/Meat Sauce & Garlic Bread, Corn Dog Nuggets, Build a Pizza, Seasoned Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/ Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Birthday Treat (\*\*Pasta w/Meat Sauce & Garlic Bread, Corn Dog Nuggets, Mozzarella Sticks Combo, Seasoned Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/ Dressing, Chilled Pears, Fresh Fruit, Birthday Treat)

**Thursday, September 12 BREAKFAST:** Pancake Wrapped Sausage Bites, Peaches (\*\*Pancake Wrapped Sausage, Fresh

Fruit) **LUNCH:** Orange Chicken w/Rice & Roll, Meatballs w/Gravy, Rice & Roll, Deli Ham Chef Salad, Baby Carrots w/Dip, Seasoned Broccoli, Fresh Fruit (\*\*Same add Chilled Applesauce)

**Friday, September 13 BREAKFAST:** Sausage Biscuit, Fresh Fruit (\*\*Same)

**LUNCH:** Cheese Dippers w/Marinara, Crispy Chicken Sandwich, PB&J w/Cheese Stick Combo, Seasoned Vegetable Blend, Cucumber & Tomato Salad, Blueberry Crisp, Lettuce & Tomato (\*\*Cheese Dippers w/Marinara, Chicken Tenders w/ Roll, PB&J w/Cheese Stick Combo, Seasoned Vegetable Blend, Cucumber & Tomato Salad, Blueberry Crisp, Fresh Fruit, Lettuce & Tomato)

**WOMBLES CELEBRATE 60 YEARS**

Thomas and Mary Lacy Womble of Goldston celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Saturday, August 24, 2019 in the fellowship hall of Macedonia AME Zion Church in Gulf. The event was hosted by their children, Thomas Terry Womble of Charlotte, Bryan Womble of Goldston, and Linda Brown Palmer of Greensboro. The couple also have several grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Sharron Spruill Reid was the Mistress of Ceremony. Prayer was led by Rev. Leeroy Barrett, with vocal presentations by Ms. Vonda Rives of Sanford.

The event was attended by 100+ guests including many of the couple’s siblings, other family, friends and classmates. A wonderful time was had by all!



Mr. and Mrs. Womble

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Chatham receives \$2.3 million grant for 911 radio system upgrade**

RALEIGH — Chatham County received a \$2,339,608 grant last month to help with an upgrade to the county’s radio system for emergency response personnel.

The funds were part of \$10.5 million in grants from the North Carolina 911 Fund.

The county government approved \$18,909,295 in the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget for a new radio system. Mike Reitz, Chatham’s emergency communications director, told the News + Record in May that the county’s current 30-year-old system has “reached the end-of-life regarding hardware, infrastructure and overall design,” and the upgrad-

ed system will “ensure” public safety agencies’ ability to communicate “effectively and reliably.”

Chatham joined Cumberland, Currituck, Davie, Franklin and Pender counties, along with the N.C. State Highway Patrol, in receiving money from the fund. Other projects include relocation of a 911 communications center and a new public service access point for emergency communications.

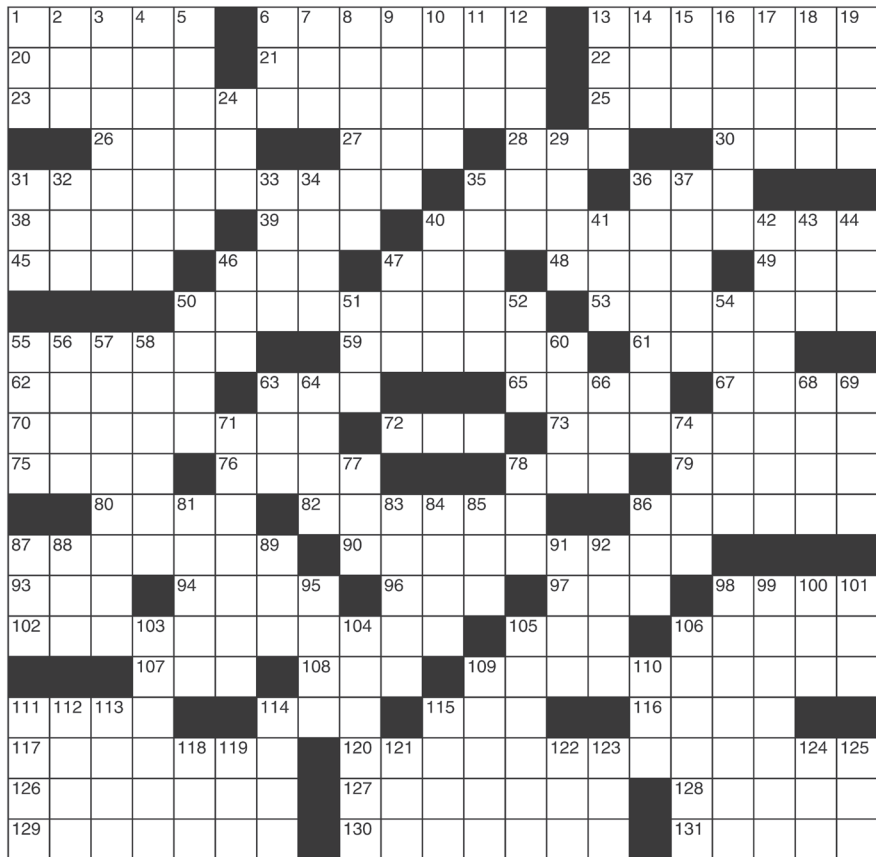
“The board is proud to support the state’s PSAPs and to improve the state’s 911 capabilities,” said Pokey Harris, executive director of the North Carolina 911 Board. “It’s through grant programs such as this that we keep North Carolina’s 911 centers on the forefront of technology to better serve and protect our residents.”

— CN+R staff reports

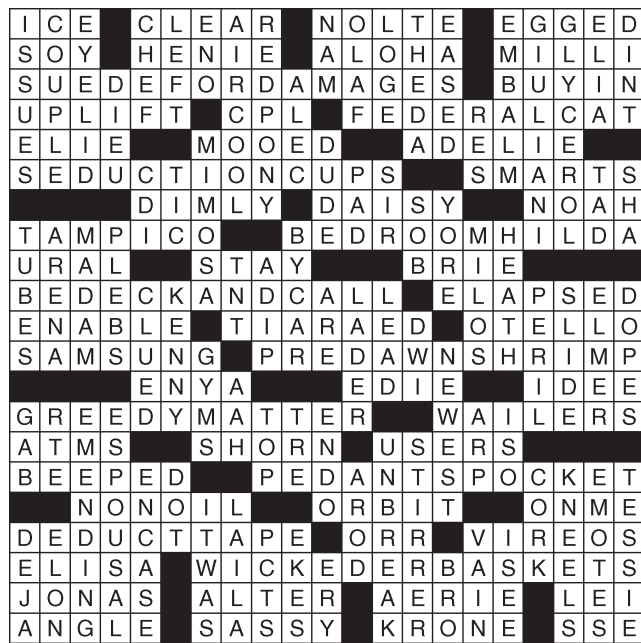
**PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo**

**GAME TIME**

- |                        |                   |                   |                  |                   |                    |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>          | 53 Suggest        | 98 Mass seats     | <b>DOWN</b>      | 37 Black tea      | 84 Imitates        |
| 1 Ford dud             | 55 Catch sight of | 102 Game whose    | 1 High trains    | 40 User of        | 85 Day —           |
| 6 Like a poetic lament | 59 Big arteries   | players try to    | 2 Medico         | a certain         | colors             |
| 13 Reggae land         | 61 Sports squad   | get rid of all    | 3 Office gizmo   | weeding tool      | 86 Mac rivals      |
| 20 Mucho               | 62 Writer         | their cards       | 4 — Unidos de    | 41 Perp nabber    | 87 Ad —            |
| 21 Sailing event       | Calvino           | 105 Taoism’s      | América          | 42 Most           | 88 NHL’s Bobby     |
| 22 Warded off          | 63 Mensa figs.    | Lao —             | 5 Espresso       | spacious          | 89 French “king”   |
| 23 Game in             | 65 Brunch, e.g.   | 106 “The land of  | quaffs           | 43 With           | 91 Sail holder     |
| which groups           | 67 TV host Kelly  | cotton”           | 6 Blunder        | 52-Down,          | 92 Help do bad     |
| of items are           | 70 Game           | 107 Acorn tree    | 7 Lower limb     | retort to “No     | 95 Mil. figures    |
| named                  | containing        | 108 Lean —        | 8 Vain person    | you’re not!”      | 98 Small guns      |
| 25 Game utilizing      | 100 tiles         | (simple huts)     | 9 Country star   | 44 Mined matter   | 99 Demonstrate     |
| 5 dice                 | 72 Apt word for   | 109 Game          | Brooks           | 46 Stipend, say   | 100 Nintendo       |
| 26 Liver spread        | this puzzle’s     | entailing         | 10 Inflammation  | 47 Prefix with    | system             |
| 27 Part of TGIF        | theme, found      | sinking           | suffix           | thermal           | 101 Autumn mo.     |
| 28 “That’s             | by using the      | vessels           | 11 Polished off  | 50 “No —!”        | 103 Fast car, e.g. |
| show —!”               | three letters     | 111 Actor Scott   | 12 North African | (“Sure!”)         | 104 “Yippeel!”     |
| 30 Singer Elliot       | that appear       | 114 Lead-in to    | city citadel     | 51 Owns           | 105 Meditative     |
| 31 Game of             | nowhere else      | propyl            | 13 Rap star      | 52 See 43-Down    | marital art        |
| bluffing and           | in this entire    | 115 — Lanka       | married to       | 54 Arctic coats   | 106 One-named      |
| trivia                 | puzzle’s grid     | 116 — Spumante    | Beyoncé          | 55 Frisbee, e.g.  | singer of the      |
| 35 Enraged             | 73 Game based     | 117 Game          | 14 Film director | 56 Mark           | 1994 hit “You      |
| 36 Tax doc. pro        | on jumping        | with an           | DuVerney         | permanently       | Gotta Be”          |
| 38 Filled cookies      | and capturing     | unmatched         | 15 “Doesn’t      | 57 Bay Area city  | 109 Baseball       |
| 39 Autumn mo.          | 75 Burn a little  | penalty card      | excite me”       | 58 Light cigars   | great Lou          |
| 40 Game                | 76 Eclectic mix   | 120 Game using    | 16 Elaborately   | 60 Faith faction  | 110 Nero’s lang.   |
| involving              | 78 Greek vowel    | rebounding        | decorated        | 63 Sick           | 111 Conks          |
| picking fruit          | 79 Certain eye    | automatons,       | auto             | 64 Brit. monarch  | 112 — into itself  |
| from trees             | surgery           | as originally     | 17 Chichén —     | beginning         | 113 Sit in neutral |
| 45 Boomers’            | 80 Notified       | named             | (Mayan ruins)    | in ‘52            | 114 — of March     |
| children               | 82 Dogs’ jinglers | 126 Painter’s     | 18 OK grades     | 66 “Caught ya!”   | 115 Mark           |
| 46 Seal herd           | 86 Glues          | mixing            | 19 Citrus drinks | 68 — dieu         | permanently        |
| 47 Part of TGIF        | 87 Indianan,      | board             | 24 Suffix with   | (kneeler)         | 118 Safari truck,  |
| 48 Glimpse             | informally        | 127 Geronimo’s    | profit           | 69 Inquires       | in brief           |
| 49 Atop, in            | 90 Game           | people            | 29 Sacred cow    | 71 “Bolero” star  | 119 Suffix with    |
| poetry                 | featuring war     | 128 Slur over     | 31 Be a pugilist | 74 Pottery need   | Wisconsin          |
| 50 Game having         | negotiation       | 129 Veers         | 32 — you in?”    | 77 Strange        | 121 NYSE event     |
| a cross-               | 93 Pt. of PLO     | 130 Toy terriers, | 33 Portal        | 78 — Beso”        | 122 Bray starter   |
| shaped                 | 94 Male buds      | for short         | 34 “T.N.T.” band | 81 Tripoli is its | 123 Letter #19     |
| playing area           | 96 Zodiac cat     | 131 Lauder of     | 35 Center        | capital           | 124 Lyrical poem   |
|                        | 97 “Six-pack”     | cosmetics         | 36 Chuckle       | 83 Is inclined    | 125 Letter #20     |



Solution for the puzzle in last week’s edition.



**READ IT ONLINE**

Come Join  
Rives Chapel  
Baptist Church for a

**COMMUNITY FunDay Sunday**

Featuring gospel singing, hot dogs, homemade ice cream, games & fellowship

September 8th-3:00 to 7:00pm  
**ALL are Welcome!**

Please bring toothbrushes, toothpaste & other toiletries to be given to school kids in need.

Sponsored by:  
Rives Chapel Baptist Church Missions Team  
4338 Rives Chapel Church Road, Siler City, NC  
www.riveschapelbaptist.com

**The Flatwoods Festival**  
Sponsored by the Tri-County Ruritan Club

**Friday September 6th**  
(Bennett Fire Department)

5:00 PM - HAMBURGERS/HOTDOGS GO ON SALE

7:00 PM - LIVE AUCTION: Pottery, Antiques, Collectibles

**Saturday September 7th**

8:00 FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS

10:00 PARADE- MAIN STREET BENNETT  
Vintage Cars, Trucks, & Tractors (25+ Yrs).  
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CHATHAM CH@T | NEHA SHAH, PITTSBORO-SILER CITY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

# Cycle NC set to bring more than 1,000 cyclists to Siler City

Siler City has been a waypoint for Cycle NC before, but on Oct. 1-2, more than 1,000 cyclists will ride through — and stay — in Siler City as part of the 2019 Mountains to Coast Ride. This week, we speak with Neha Shah, the director of the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau, about the event and the Siler City stop. Shah joined the CVB in 1999. She grew up in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and attended the University of Florida for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. She's spoken internationally, and co-published several academic papers and chapters in university textbooks (on hospitality and tourism), and has won 20 destination marketing awards in marketing, branding, innovation, e-news, social media, rising star from Destination Marketing Association of N.C. A native of India, she came to the U.S. with her family at age 2 and took the U.S. Citizenship Test in 2006. Her hobbies include travel, writing



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chip Hoffer (from left), Neha Shah and Heather Rubright meet to discuss the upcoming Cycle North Carolina event, which will bring more than 1,000 cyclists to Siler City.

and visiting museums, and she considers herself a "foodie" who enjoys taking a couple of international trips each year.

**Cycle NC's annual Mountains to Coast Ride will be making a stopover — not just going through, but spending the night — in Siler City. Why is this so significant?**

We have worked with Cycle NC and Visit North Carolina previously, when the CVB coordinated lunch stops. We have not ever been able to host large groups feasibly due to lack of mainstream accommodations, particularly when guests need to stay in one location. Regardless, the CVB has worked to showcase Chatham County as an overnight

destination whenever possible.

Cycle NC organizers, namely Chip Hoffer, VP Amateur Sports, requested a site visit last fall. He encouraged the CVB to bid on becoming one of the overnight stops and the economic impact of an overnight will be evident. Cyclists will stay in Siler City and area lodging, eat in local restaurants, possibly shop for sundries while in town, and enjoy the craft beverages sold during the festivities.

Moreover, the goal of Cycle NC's Mountain to Coast ride is to take guests through areas of N.C. that are lesser known, smaller cities and towns that often get overlooked when travelers stay in more urban

centers. The leisurely pace of the ride (not a race) gives them the opportunity to get a taste of what is available so that they venture to return since it's worth the trip. These guests represent 36 states and three countries (last year) and invest in their vacations; they're spending 10 days traveling through N.C.

**What are the particulars — how many riders, where will they stay, how will they spend their time, etc.? And what can residents expect to experience as the cyclists come through?**

For starters, 1,100 cyclists (that's the average annual registration). Approximately 800 will camp at Bray Park; others are staying at AmeriVu and Days Inn, and about 100 are staying in Orange County at Hyatt Place.

Siler City is the fourth overnight for these guests. They're arriving from Spencer and departing for Clayton on Oct. 2. We are planning festivities and will have events throughout the county for them. Visit NC is offering an excursion to take guests to Southern Supreme for tours and tastings in Bear Creek.

At Base Camp (Bray Park and N.G. Armory), lots is planned: music (planning in progress), food (we are seeking food trucks), food concessions at Bray Park, yoga and chair massages at the Armory, selfie station and small giveaways at the visitor tent/Cycle NC recovery zone, coffee food truck at Bray Park. Four Saints Brewing, Thirsty Skull Brewing, Chatham Cider Works and FireClay Cellars will be among those serving during parts of the day.

Chatham Transit shuttles will take cyclists from Bray Park to area



Staff photo by David Bradley

Neha Shah, director of the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau, makes notes after a meeting about an upcoming tourism event in the area.

hotels, Walmart shopping center (for sundries and nearby fast food), and the laundromat). The loop will begin at 2 p.m.

Chatham Transit shuttles will take guests from Bray Park to downtown Siler City beginning 4:30 p.m. for the finale evening. Oasis in Siler City will have food and beverage sales (Oktoberfest food, beer stein specials/Oktoberfest brews), along with events at Peppercorn and NCAI/Chatham Rabbit. Berryfield, an acoustic band, and Crumb Catcher will perform at Oasis. Peppercorn festivities include a bicycle-themed artwork display, empanadas, smoothies, fresh lemonade and orangeade stand, coffee with chocolate Peppercorn, tarot card reader, and more. Wild Women Chasing Periwinkle, Twin Birch & Teasel, and other merchants will offer shopping (pack a USPS flat rate box, stores will ship for you — holiday shopping starts now!). Chatham Cider Works and FireClay Cellars are among the beverage vendors at the downtown finale event.

**You and your team have known about this for some time, so what kind of preparations have you made, and what kind of work has gone into getting ready for Oct. 1 & 2?**

Cycle NC contacted the CVB last October and the bid process and announcement was required to remain confidential until late January. I was fortunate to get a part-time temp marketing assistant late January. I worked with Cycle NC's travel director to get hotel contracts set before the announcement, film (it was still confidential at the time of filming) the video announcement, set all the logistics, work to raise funds for the event. The host community is required to cover expenses (shuttles, music/entertainment, security, clean-up, etc.).

**What else needs to happen between now and the arrival? What can individuals, business and organizations do to help out and take part?**

We continue to finalize details, which with any event, it's about anticipating every need, expectation, and then making many back-up plans. Individuals — we love volunteers and want help making our guests feel at home, providing information about our area, guiding them to shuttles, helping event flow, etc. We would also love to see downtown Siler City filled with local residents mingling among our cyclists that evening. Businesses — sponsorships would be fantastic for music (100 percent of the contributions are for covering the costs of hosting the event). We still need food trucks and music at N.G. Armory. We are appreciative of our organizations working with us — Town of Siler City allowing us to have Base Camp at Bray Park, Siler City Police Department working with us, Chatham County, and more. We are having another meeting with town officials and several other organizations this week as we continue to finalize details of the event.

**How can people get more information — and more importantly, get involved?**

Email me (neha@vis-itspittsboro.com) and I'm happy to answer questions and let you know how to help!

- Helpful links:
- Volunteer form: <http://bit.ly/CNCVolunteer>
  - Facebook event link: <http://www.facebook.com/events/2773930002682322/>
  - Sponsor/vendor link: <http://bit.ly/CycleNC-SilerCity>

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# County nonprofit showcasing local talent

CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — Almost daily somewhere in the world, television viewers are tuning into “America’s Got Talent” or “Europe’s Got Talent” or somebody’s got talent.

The good news locally is that Chatham County also has talent and an area agency wants to showcase that, for at least two reasons. Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy — the “free pharmacy,” as some folks call it — is sponsoring a local talent show on Oct. 24, with cash prizes for winning acts. The event gets underway at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City.

“Our directors decided to do this,” says board president Lynn Glasser, “to help as a fund-raiser for what we do while letting folks see some of the really good local talent on display in a fun family atmosphere.”

Chatham Cares provides medications

and other health-care needs at little or no cost to Chatham County residents who are underinsured or uninsured. And that requires money.

To that idea, the talent show idea was hatched. There’s a \$20 entry fee for anyone wanting to perform; tickets at the door are \$10 for people over 13 while those 12 and under are admitted at no charge. A free adult ticket comes with the entry of a child in the competition. Top prize, to be decided by a panel of well-known judges, is \$100. There’s also a second prize of \$50 and a third of \$25.

“Eligible acts include individual or group singers, dancers, comedians, magicians, anything like that,” Glasser said.

To ensure the evening stays within an allotted time frame, since it is on a school night, applications need to be completed and auditions held prior to the event.

“Applications are due by Monday,

Sept. 23,” Glasser said. “Later that week, we’ll screen acts and hold auditions so the evening can be arranged and printed programs prepared. People wanting to participate will be notified when and where to audition when they turn in their applications.”

Those applications may be turned in at the pharmacy office at 127 East Raleigh St., across from the Siler City post office. Hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Wednesday. More information on the talent show or services the pharmacy provides is available by calling 919-663-0177.

Chatham Cares has been a part of the county scene for almost 15 years.

“We’re grateful we can help some of our neediest residents,” Glasser said, “but like practically everyone, we’re faced daily with meeting those needs while being financially responsible. We cut corners where we can — our

pharmacists and board members are all volunteers; we have only two paid staff members but increasing needs and rising costs of many medicines are everyday issues for us.

“General donations are down; it’s getting harder and more complex to receive many grants. But we feel we’ve got to keep going. For many people, life is like a three-legged stool — food, housing and medicines. Which one is the most important? If you take one leg away, what happens to the stool? That’s why we sponsor fund-raisers, to help us keep going. In the past, we’ve had a Christmas tour of homes and this year we’ll again have our Christmas candlelight memorial service. We’re also working on events and information for the eastern end of the county. Chatham’s a big county and we’ve got a lot of work to do. We’re thankful for the support given to us in so many ways. We just want to help our neighbors in need.”

## MEAT: ‘Keeping farmers in the surrounding area employed’

Continued from page A1

another, however, the taste and quality is much higher, Walker continues. The butter fat content is higher and the meat has a more complex flavor profile.

In short, it tastes better. Yet raising livestock and getting it to market is a lot of work.

In this series, Chatham News + Record is exploring the often invisible supply chain that local food travels. Last week’s story was about produce. This week, in the concluding installment, we take a look at how local meat gets from the animal to the plate.

### COWS AND COSTS

On the one hand, meat has a longer shelf life. Whereas fresh produce spoils quickly, meats can be frozen. On the other hand, processing — the catchall euphemism for slaughtering and butchering an animal — adds additional challenges. For one, there are simply not that many processing facilities for small farmers. For another, not every facility processes every kind of animal — not many handle chickens, for instance.

Indeed, raising your own livestock outside of a factory farm setting can require farmers to navigate logistical labyrinths and risk major financial blows. Yet for the sake of sustainability, humanness and a connection to the land, they do it anyway. For the sake of flavor, they do it anyway.

“Usually people don’t understand the financial [elements] — what it takes to sell that first pound of beef out of the cow,” says Tucker Withington, who runs Goldston’s Lilly Den Farm with wife Mackenzie. The couple stands before their red full-size Chevy van — a fixture at the three farmers markets they frequent — as their kids play among the vendors in the Main Street Station parking lot in Pittsboro.

A cow is in utero for nine months, Withington explains, and it costs about \$300 to feed the mom during that time. Then, it costs about \$700 to feed a cow between birth and slaughter. Processing costs run about \$400, he continues. Lilly Den Farm feeds its cattle forages from neighboring farmers and spent grains from Carolina Brewery, Withington explains, which keeps feed costs at a low dollar-a-day cost to feed an individual cow. Still, after all is said and done, it costs about \$1,400 to raise a cow and bring it to market. After all that, Withington says with a grin, he sells the first pound of meat for \$7.50.

The solution, he says, is to sell a quarter of each cow in bulk, which recoups the processing and logistics costs, but not the feed costs. CSAs help, Withington says, because that brings in more money up front. Beyond that, everything comes back to Lilly Den in \$7.50 increments.

### BEYOND THE BEEF

And that’s just cows. Indeed, Lilly Den raises a variety of species, which complicates logistics further. Lilly Den’s chickens are processed on-site thanks to North Carolina’s poultry exemption, which allows the farm to slaughter up to 20,000 birds annually. Given the lack of processing

facilities that will work with poultry (facilities just don’t make enough per bird), this is all but essential for farms that want to raise chickens, ducks and the like. Lilly Den’s veal and small ruminants go to Chaudhry Halal Meat Company in Siler City, while its beef and pork are processed at Key Packing in Robbins. Both facilities are NCDA inspected, meaning their meats can be sold only within North Carolina. The nearest USDA-inspected facility Withington can think of is Piedmont Custom Meats in Gibsonville, which is north of Greensboro.

“In an ideal situation, someone would have a federal processor convenient to them,” says Walker. “What we’ve seen is that with the growth of industrial agriculture and the consolidation within agriculture, we have fewer farms supporting these local small butchers. The butcher shops have closed up.” He’s heard of farmers driving into other states just to get their animals processed.

There are three types of processing facility, Walker explains. Custom butchers are for personal use. These are folks who process deer, say, or who process meat exclusively for personal consumption or for folks to give to friends. State-level inspection — that is, NCDA — is more stringent, and federal USDA inspection, which allows meat to cross state lines, is more stringent still. Without inspection, there’s no sale.

“We [buy directly] from two farmers, but they have to be handled in certified processing facilities,” says Evan Diamond, general manager of Chatham Marketplace in Pittsboro. The majority of Chatham Marketplace’s meats come through two distributors — Firsthand Food, which distributes local meat, and Albert’s Organic, which is a major nationwide distributor of meat and dairy.

“Firsthand is not cer-

tified organic,” Diamond continues. “If you are a certified organic meat processing facility, that even further limits your options. I’m not even sure what the lay of the land is for that in North Carolina.”

### TO THE PLATE

In terms of restaurants, Walker says, those with farm-to-table or farm-to-fork in the name tend to develop relationships with farmers. The butcher, really, is just the middle-person in that relationship. Some restaurants, such as Pittsboro Roadhouse, split the difference. They buy local when they can, Roadhouse owner Greg Lewis says, and they buy off a larger distributor when locals simply can’t provide the quantity they need.

“Say you’re a farmer. You’re raising cattle,” says Lewis. “I’m going to put your ribeye steaks or New York strip steaks on my menu. You’ve only got so many New York strips or so many ribeye steaks for my menu, but you’ve got hundreds of pounds of ground beef or stew meat to use up.” Between his restaurant and his catering business, Lewis says, his customers tend to want the better cuts. Beyond that, he’s had issues with consistency when he has used local beef.

“We get all of our pork from a Pittsboro farmer,” Lewis continues. “We have a pig bucket in the back. The pig farmer comes and picks it up every day, feeds our food scraps to the pig, and then we’re getting all of our pork chops, sausage, bratwurst, all of that from Burnette Ranch, which is right here in Pittsboro.”

Yet even that act of sustainability, of recycling kitchen scraps, must follow North Carolina agriculture law, he says. Legally, pigs can only be fed produce scraps from the kitchen — no plate scrapings and no meat. Pigs will eat anything, Lewis explains, and tainted meat can spread diseases that could

wipe out entire farms.

Lewis always uses North Carolina chicken, which he requires to have no additives. Given his restaurant’s needs, he gets 200 to 800 pounds weekly, which is a steep order for a local farmer (remember, too, that many local farmers must process their own birds). So his chicken is distributed by US Foods or Performance Food Group, who in turn get it from companies like Mountaire Farms in Siler City.

“Is getting chicken from Mountaire a bad thing, a naughty thing, because it’s not buying it from the local farmer?” Lewis asks, simultaneously playing devil’s advocate and asking a practical question. “The farms are in the area and the chickens are processed in Siler City. By doing that, you’re employing Chatham County residents. You’re keeping farmers in the surrounding area employed. I mean, it’s a big circle, but I haven’t found a chicken farmer who will give me as much chicken as I need.”

Indeed, Lewis operates outside the large farms evil/small farms good binary and, to be clear, so does Walker. The Livestock Conservancy doesn’t exist in opposition to industrialized agriculture, he says. Granted, he takes issue with many, many common practices in industrial farming — its reliance on a handful of breeds, the prevalence of inbreeding — but the Livestock Conservancy’s true mission is to preserve heritage breeds. In case industrial agriculture ever does change its model, he says, it’s going to need new genetics from somewhere. And that somewhere may be small farms in Chatham County, where animals are raised slowly and chosen for taste, not efficiency.

“Really, saving heritage breeds is not just saving it for small, niche, sustainable kind of farmers,” Walker says. “It’s saving it for everyone and all of agriculture.”



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Tucker and Mackenzie Withington of Lilly Den Farms in Goldston. They raise chickens, beef hogs, and other animals, and work with local restaurants to provide meat and poultry.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Greg Lewis with the bin used at the Pittsboro Roadhouse to put food scraps for the Burnette Ranch pigs.

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# Chatham News + Record SPORTS

SEPTEMBER 5-11, 2019 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

## Bears can't get over the hump in one-point double-overtime loss to Camels

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — Never mind the fact Atkins' defense surrendered 40 points to host Chatham Central Friday night, because in the end it was the two points they didn't allow that eventually determined the outcome.

When the Bears' Riley Lagenor was stopped at the goal line attempting a two-point conversion run in the second overtime period, the Camels succeeded in hanging on to escape Bear Creek with a wild 41-40 non-conference triumph.

Atkins evened its season record at 1-1 in the first-ever gridiron meeting between the two schools, while Chatham

Central fell to 0-2 for the year.

In a contest that featured both teams' ability to put points on the scoreboard, the Camels jumped out to a 20-0 advantage in the first half only to see the Bears rally to grab a 34-26 lead with just over five minutes left.

However, Atkins then staged a last-ditch comeback to send the marathon game into overtime by tallying a touchdown and two-point conversion with 61 seconds to go in regulation play.

Chatham Central chose to take the initial possession in the first OT period and failed to score, with Camel's defensive back Joseph Walker intercepting a fourth-down Michael Moore pass in

the end zone.

But Atkins likewise couldn't find the end zone in four attempts, forcing a second extra session.

On the first play from scrimmage in the second overtime, the Camel's Elijah Hernandez scooted wide left 10 yards to pay dirt prior to Landon Privette booting the all-important point-after.

The Bears then answered with a third-down, six-yard scoring toss from Moore to Hunter Strickland in the right side of the end zone to pull within one.

Electing not to kick and impose a third extra period, Chatham Central went for the victory with Lagenor lugging the pigskin up the middle, but the Atkins defense halted

his forward progress just inches from the goal line to seal the win while dealing the Bears a heart-breaking setback.

"I'm very proud how these guys didn't let adversity stand in the way after they fell behind late in the game," said Camels' coach David Hamlin. "Even though we had a 14-point lead at halftime I told the team they couldn't let up, and I think we found out a lot about our character tonight. I thought we did a good job matching momentum with Chatham Central in the second half, while our quarterback trusted his line to have a big night throwing the ball."

Although the Bears' defense limited Atkins

to just 33 yards on the ground, Camels' quarterback Jacob Torres managed to shred Chatham Central defenders for 422 yards through the air, including three touchdowns while completing 22-of-39 aeriels with one interception.

Offensively for the Bears, Lagenor rushed for three scores while piling up 204 yards on 26 carries, while Moore threw for a pair of touchdowns, connecting on 14-of-24 passes for 140 yards with one pick.

"If we had executed better on both sides of the ball in the first half it would have been a different ball game," said Chatham Central coach Sherman Howze. "We came out and played

solid enough to win in the second half, taking advantage of what Atkins gave us, but things just didn't bounce our way at the end. Nevertheless, I feel like this evening's effort was a big confidence-builder for our guys."

The Bears received the opening kickoff and marched from their 37 to the Atkins seven before a fumbled exchange in the backfield resulted in Camels' defensive lineman Caliph Cherry recovering the loose ball.

Two plays later Torres found wide receiver Jalante Edwards open over the middle and connected on a 95-yard scoring play to put the visitors

See **HUMP**, page B2

## Yellow Jackets sting Chargers early and often in 60-0 romp



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood's Jake Mann, left, comes up to make a stop on Lee County's Tyric McKendall as Northwood's Chris Lawson runs in for the assist during last week's game. The final score was a lopsided 60-0 in favor of the Lee County Yellow Jackets.

BY DON BEANE  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Ugly. That's about all you can say about Friday night's contest between Northwood and Lee County in Pittsboro.

Lee County lived up to its billing as the No. 5 ranked 3A team in the state, absolutely demol-

ishing Northwood in front of a stunning home crowd.

The Yellow Jackets buzzed their way to a 21-0 lead after one period of play before erupting for 39 points in the second quarter to take a shocking 60-0 advantage at the intermission.

It's simply one of those losses that's best

completely forgotten by Northwood.

On the flip side, it shows just how powerful Lee County is this fall as the Yellow Jackets, led by a slew of talented seniors including the top prospect in the state in Desmond Evans, appear to have one of its best teams in the history of the school.

Northwood, now 0-2 on

the season, will get another taste of a team from Lee County this Friday when the Chargers play host to Southern Lee, also 0-2 on the season.

Lee County improved to 2-0 in the fall with the impressive win and travels to Fayetteville this Friday to tangle with Douglas Byrd. The Eagles are 0-1 on the season after

dropping its opener 24-20 at Western Harnett last Monday.

The start of the contest was a sign of things to come as an eight-yard sack of Northwood QB Jalen McAfee-Marion by Larry Baldwin on the Chargers opening series forced a three-and-out.

It would take Lee County just seven plays

to go 78 yards, culminated by Colin Johnson connecting with UNC commit Jayden Chambers over the middle on a 36-yard touchdown strike to give the Yellow Jackets the lead for good at 6-0 with 7:58 to go in the opening quarter. Trey Underwood added the first of his eight extra point kicks on what was a perfect outing for one of the top kickers in the area.

Johnson, who was 12-of-17 for 171 yards and two touchdowns on the night, also hit Desmond Evans on a 17-yard and Tyric McKendall on a 13-yard hook up in the drive.

Lee County, behind a stout defense led by Baldwin, Evans, Chalmers, Jennings, Derran McKoy, and Deandre Dingle Prince, forced a pair of three-and-outs by the Northwood offense on the ensuing possessions. The result was Lee County going 54 yards in five plays for a score, capped by a one-yard plunge from A.J. Boulware, and then 25 yards on two plays capped by Johnson hitting Evans on a two-yard scoring pass to make the score 21-0. Johnson hit Evans on a 37-yard pass to key the first score before connecting with Jason Berdecia on a 23-yard pass to set up the second Evans TD reception.

See **STING**, page B2

## Chatham on the Gridiron - Week No. 3

BY DON BEANE  
News + Record Staff

Week 3 of 2019 high school gridiron action is upon us and two area clubs have lengthy road trips while a third will be in the cozy confines of home.

As of press time on Tuesday, the biggest intangible this week for all teams will be the impending arrival of Hurricane Dorian. Currently a Category 3 hurricane battering the Bahamas, exactly what route Dorian takes will greatly affect high school football in North Carolina on Friday night. Current hurricane models have the storm arriving off the South Outer Banks around the Emerald Isle area at approximately 1 a.m. on Friday morning with its cone staying mainly in the eastern part of the state. In that scenario, it appears that the high school games in central and western North Carolina would be played.

Jordan-Matthews Head Coach Sam Spencer is taking that approach in practice this week gearing up for a road trip to Norwood to face South Stanly.

"We are planning to play, you

have to prepare for the game and can't let the weather alter your focus," said Spencer. "Obviously you never know with a hurricane exactly what it may do, but for now we will practice and anticipate playing at the normal time on Friday evening."

Also that night, Chatham Central will head to North Stokes up in Danbury while Northwood will entertain Southern Lee in Pittsboro.

### FROM THE BEAR'S DEN

**This week:** Chatham Central (0-2) is traveling to North Stokes (2-0, 1-10 last year; 1A Northwest Conference) Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. at North Stokes High School, Vikings Stadium.

**Head Coach:** Frank Sessoms  
**Leading returnees:** QB Issac Wood (Sr.), WR Gabe Oerter (Sr.), RB Victor Martinez (So.), LB Ethan Puckett (So.), DE Aiden Emswiler (Jr.), DB Elijah Cone (So.), RB Jacob Murray (Jr.).

See **PREVIEW**, page B4



Staff photo by David Bradley

### Here it comes!

Eastern Randolph's Bailey Herring comes up to block a powerful attack from Chatham Central's Olivia Hudson as Lindsey Johnson, left, stays ready for the next play on Friday, August 30 in Ramseur. Chatham Central rolled in the match 3-1 (25-19, 25-19, 20-25, 25-8).



# Oak Grove continues dominant start in rout of Jordan-Matthews

BY DON BEANE  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Oak Grove erupted for 29 points in the opening quarter Friday night at Phil E. Senter Stadium in Siler City en route to a convincing 55-0 triumph over Jordan-Matthews.

With the loss, Jordan-Matthews fell to 0-2 on the season. The Jets travel to Norwood Friday evening for a show down with the South Stanly Rebel Bulls (1-1).

Oak Grove, meanwhile, improved to 2-0 on the season and the Grizzlies have not allowed a point in 2019 after blanking Trinity 54-0 in the opener.

For Jordan-Matthews coach Sam Spencer, the final score was once against lopsided, but the first-year coach was happy with the way his club battled.

"We competed, but we are just so young right now," said Spencer. "I was pleased with the way our guys battled for four quarters. They showed some fight and we can work with that. We can improve with that kind of attitude."

Despite the effort, an experienced Grizzlies club proved to be way too much for the Jets especially with some crucial early mistakes. After Jordan-Matthews suffered a three-and-out on its opening series, Anthony Bowen reeled in a punt at the Oak Grove 22, made a move and headed up field. Moments later the speedy Bowen reached pay dirt from 78 yards out to give the Grizzlies a 6-0 lead with 10:22 left in the opening stanza. Jared Gribble pounded in for the two-point conversion to send the visitors up 8-0 early in the contest.

Disaster struck on the Jets' ensuing possession in the form of a fumble which Oak Grove recovered at the J-M 29. Four plays later, Grizzly quarterback Ian McGlamery scooted in from six yards out before Caleb Schoenberger booted through the PAT to extend the lead to 15-0 with 8:49 left in the first.

Once again, the Grizzly defense proved too tough for the Jets to penetrate, and Oak Grove took over on its own 30 yard line. McGlamery found Hunter Tilley open on a 40-yard pass play before Aiden Shewcow raced in from 30 yards out to up the lead to 22-0 following the Schoenberger conversion kick.

Another J-M mistake in the form of a Bowen pick gave Oak Grove possession at its own 45 and sparked McGlamery connecting with Seth Blair for a gain of 20 down to the J-M 30-yard line. Two plays later, McGlamery found Crew Jones open from 22 yards out to push the lead to 29-0.

"Oak Grove has an experienced club returning and we knew that we'd have to play almost a perfect game and to get some breaks to have a chance," Spencer said. "Allowing a punt return for a score and then two turnovers in the opening period got us down early and we could never get out of it."

A muffed kick off gave the Jets possession on its own 7-yard line but the locals used the running of Jaquez Thompson and Ethan Jordan to gain three first downs while moving out across the 40-yard line.

But Oak Grove stiffened defensively, and regain possession after a J-M punt at its own 46 early in the second quarter. McGlamery would pound in from a yard out before scoring from a yard out late in the stanza to make the score 43-0 at the intermission.

Jones would score from two yards out midway through the third quarter for the Grizzlies before Oak Grove saw Nathaniel Spaugh bowled in from six yards out late in the fourth to make the final 55-0.

McGlamery connected on 5-for-10 passes for 72 yards and a score while running for three touchdowns in the Oak Grove win while Shewcow closed with 111 yards on 10 carries and a score.

# Hiring of Mack has UNC football back on track

CHARLOTTE — You could feel it in the air in Charlotte on Saturday as a new-found optimism circulated through the Carolina blue Tar Heel nation before the opening kick off between UNC and South Carolina.



DON BEANE  
Sports Editor

And the reason for the excitement came from one man. Yes, Mack Brown.

Much has been made over the controversial hiring of Brown just over nine months ago on November 27, 2018. But simply put, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill got it right. They spent the money, and got a big name coach, one that had spent 10 previous seasons in Chapel Hill as the head man, and knows the ins and outs of the Tar Heel state. And the 24-20 victory over South Carolina by UNC proved it.

UNC and its rival N.C. State had floundered around with South Carolina in three previous meetings with the Gamecocks, with the Tar Heels losing 27-10 in 2013, then completely gagging 17-13 in 2015 in what began the downward spiral off Larry Fedora, before N.C. State choked it away 35-28 in 2017.

For three quarters on Saturday, it looked as if the Gamecocks and their overrated windbag of a head coach Will Muschamp would take

another victory over UNC and keep the streak of misery going for the locals teams. But behind Brown and a veteran coaching staff featuring the likes of Tim Brewster, UNC rallied from a 20-9 deficit at the end of three quarters with 15 points in the fourth to roar back for a 24-20 win.

Now those that laughed at the hiring of the 68-year old Brown aren't finding things quite as comical as they did nine months ago.

Brown's impact had already been felt in the recruiting circles, and on Saturday his coaching experience and ability to rally his young troops in a positive and confident manner proved to be the difference in the game. The Tar Heels never gave up, and freshman quarterback Sam Howell, who is a true gunslinger who can also make things happen with his feet, sparked a pair of fourth quarter touchdowns to lead the way.

The future is indeed bright for UNC football, and it's that way for one reason — UNC put the money on the table and got a big name coach in Brown.

And never could it be seen more on a day when just three hours away in Knoxville, the University of Tennessee, home of six national championships, fell to lowly Georgia State. The Volunteers got what they paid for, their fourth nickel and dime coaching hire since Phillip Fulmer stepped down in 2008, and the downward spiral of a once-proud program continues.

It doesn't take a rocket

scientist to figure out that paying for a big name coach will pay dividends down the road.

Alabama is the shining example. They refused to take no for an answer when courting Nick Saban away from the Miami Dolphins in 2007.

Five national championships later, Saban brings in \$8.3 million a year salary-wise, while Alabama football profited \$48.2 million last year. And notice I said "profited."

Brown will make roughly \$3.5 million per year after all is said and done, but the hiring of a coach that left for Texas in 1997 after the Tar Heels went 11-1 and crushed Virginia Tech 42-3 in the Gator Bowl to finish ranked 4th in the Associated Press Poll, will be money well spent. Brown also went 13-0 in 2005 and downed Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl to win the National Championship.

That resume sells season tickets, helps win recruiting wars for the top prospects, creates excitement in the fan base, and helps hire top notch assistants such as Brewster. And all that translates to success on the field.

Chapel Hill will be full of excitement this week as preparations are being made for Saturday night's clash with the Miami Hurricanes. Win or lose, UNC has set itself up well for the future in football.

And it's all due to the willingness to pay for a big name coach in Mack Brown.



Staff photo by David Bradley

## Returning on the attack

Jordan Matthews' Peyton Snell is watched by teammate Eve Long as she makes an attack attempt in last Tuesday's game against Southern Lee High School in Siler City.



Staff photo by David Bradley

## Just over the net

Eastern Randolph's Alexis Christian comes up to block Chatham Central's Savannah Stillwell's shot as Brooke Perrell watches from the middle.

## HUMP:

Continued from page B1

from Winston-Salem up 6-0 with 5:23 remaining in the first quarter.

Two plays into Chatham Central's next series Atkins linebacker Elijah Hernandez pounced on a Lagenor bobble at the Bears' 36 to set in motion a five-play scoring drive capped by Rasheed Simms running wide right and shedding a couple of tackles the last 16 yards to the end zone before Privette split the uprights to boost the Camels' lead to 13-0 with exactly three minutes to go in the initial period.

Starting from its own 20 with just over seven minutes left in the first half, Atkins tallied two plays later when Torres hit wide receiver Joseph

Walker in full stride down the right sideline around the Chatham Central 40 before he slipped a diving tackle attempt by Bears' cornerback Trey Clay at the 35 and waltzed across the goal line to increase the Camels' advantage to 20-0 with 5:47 remaining until intermission.

But Chatham Central would convert an interception by linebacker Zach Ritter at the Atkins 42 with 2:21 left prior to the break into a three-play scoring drive climaxed when Lagenor burst through a huge hole up the middle untouched the final 18 yards 55 seconds later to close to gap to 20-6 at halftime.

The Camels received the second half kickoff and promptly marched 80 yards in 10 plays to stretch their lead to 26-6 following Torres' two-yard plunge behind cen-

ter with 7:14 remaining in the third stanza.

The Bears answered by driving 58 yards in five plays to draw within 26-14 when Collin Lagenor culminated the march by angling the last eight yards off left tackle prior to Riley Lagenor tossing a two-point conversion pass to Moore with 4:57 to go in the third quarter.

After holding Atkins to a three-and-out series on the Camels' ensuing possession, Chatham Central drove 41 yards in four plays to trim the difference to 26-20 when wide receiver Tyler Oldham split two defenders in the back right corner of the end zone to haul in a 23-yard scoring strike from Moore with 1:31 left in the third period.

Regaining possession of the ball at their own 32 following an Atkins punt with 19.3 seconds remaining

in the quarter, the Bears seized their first advantage of the evening on the second play of the fourth period when Riley Lagenor electrified the crowd by weaving his way through the Camels' defense on a 55-yard scoring jaunt before Abad de la Sancha's extra-point kick put Chatham Central ahead 27-26.

Following Ritter's recovery of a muffed Atkins punt attempt at the Camels' 25 with 6:03 left, the Bears proceeded to extend their lead to 34-26 two plays later when Riley Lagenor dashed untouched the final eight yards off right tackle prior to de la Sancha's point-after with 5:19 to go.

But with its back against the wall, Atkins launched a time-consuming 14-play, 80-yard scoring march finished off by Walker's leaping catch of a six-yard pass from

Torres in the back right corner of the end zone before Torres completed a two-point conversion pass to Hernandez with 1:01 showing on the clock to send the teams into overtime.

## STING:

Continued from page B1

Starting at a 21-0 deficit, things completely fell apart for the Chargers in the second period as Boulware got the visitors started by taking a godoff and sweeping around the right end before cutting back across the grain and rolling into the left corner on the end zone on a 56-yard touchdown jaunt.

Moments later, Delmaz Jennings reeled in a loose ball and returned it three yards to the end zone to

extend the score to 35-0.

Northwood, which was saddled with horrendous field position the entire contest, found itself pinned back inside the five-yard line for the third time of the contest and Mckoy made a tackle in the end zone to push the Lee County lead to 37-0 with eight minutes left in the half.

After the ensuing free kick, Boulware was back at it, this time rumbling 57 yards to pay dirt.

A tenacious Yellow Jackets defense would back the Chargers deep inside its own territory once again, setting up another safety,

this time on a tackle by Evans to send Lee County in front 46-0 at the 7:11 mark.


Baldwin would score shortly after the free kick on an eight-yard run before Prince fell on a loose ball in the end zone for a score to make the lead 60-0 at the break.

The clock ran the entire second half as neither team score in the fast periods.

Boulware finished with 134 yards and three touchdowns rushing on just eight carries.

Deuce Powell, Aaron Ross and Cameron Brower played well for the Chargers in the losing effort.

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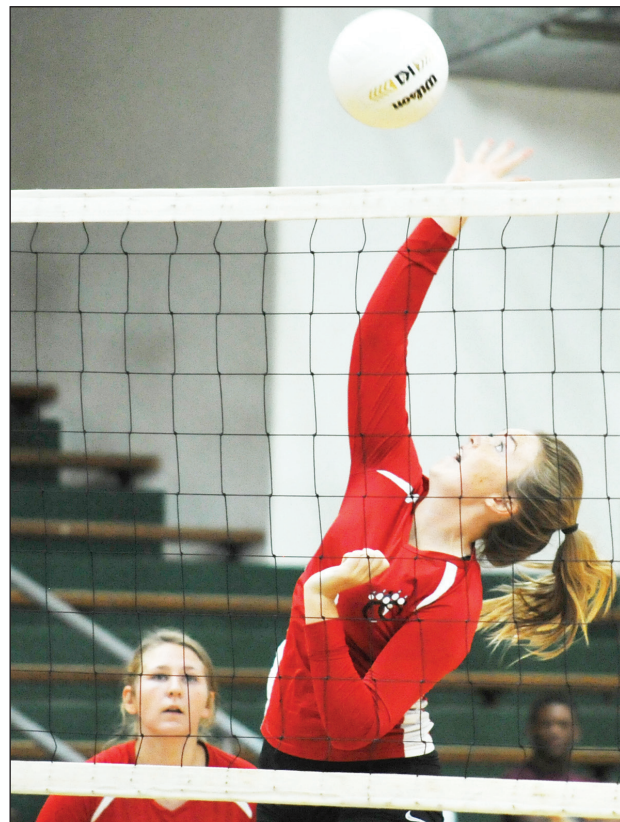


# Fall sports action heating up



Staff photo by David Bradley

The home team at Northwood High School was loud and proud when the Chargers football team took the field.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Olivia Hudson makes a block as Lindsey Johnson backs her up for defense.



Jordan-Matthews' Courtney Shackleford watches Alana May return the ball after an attack attempt to Southern Lee's Parker Lynch last Tuesday in their match in Siler City.

Staff photo by David Bradley



Lee County's Sincere Goldston blocks the catch by Northwood's Justin Brower in the first half of last Friday's game. Northwood continued to compete, in spite of the high score by its opponent.

Staff photo by David Bradley

The Chargers band entertains the crowd of loyal fans at halftime.

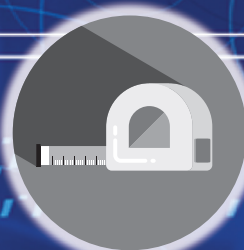
Staff photo by David Bradley



Jalen McAfee-Marion gets his ankle taped after a play on the field by athletic trainer Jackie Harpman in the first half of last Friday's game at Northwood.

Staff photo by David Bradley

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## In the early days of tractors...



Staff photo by David Bradley

Steve Jones takes a closer look at one of the numerous antique tractors on display during the Silk Hope Ruritans' Old Fashioned Farmers' Days event held over Labor Day weekend. Rows of old iron antique tractors stood in the warm sunny day as farmers remembered the times when they were in daily use.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Kendall Hiles grew up on a farm operating a Farmall tractor. At Saturday's Old Fashioned Farmers' Day event in Silk Hope, this one reminded him of days gone by.



Madison Dyson shows her heifer, Reva, at the Silk Hope Jr. Dairy Show last Saturday at the Old Fashioned Farmers' Days in Silk Hope.

Staff photo by David Bradley



Staff photo by David Bradley

Silk Hope Farm Heritage Park was the setting for the 44th annual Old Fashioned Farmers' Days featuring a lot of food and entertainment, but also offering a taste of the way people lived in bygone eras. This old cabin gave those in attendance a vision of the past ways of living.



The Show Barn, part of the Silk Hope Ruritans' 38-acre Silk Hope Farm Heritage Park, featured clogging and other entertainment at Old Fashioned Farmers' Days last weekend.

Staff photo by David Bradley

## PREVIEW:

Continued from page B1

**Notable:** North Stokes is making its way through the 1A Yadkin Valley Conference after defeating South Davidson 34-20 in week one and North Moore 32-21 last Friday night. Chatham Central suffered a heartbreaking 41-40 double-overtime defeat at the hands of Atkins.

**Game keys:** Chatham Central will have to play four quarters against North Stokes after playing just a half against Atkins last week which resulted in a defeat by the Bears to an Atkins team which frankly was as good. Quite frankly, Chatham Central will be the best team on the field again this Friday, but talk is what it is, talk, and it's time for the Bears to get it done. North Stokes was 1-10 a year ago, and 0-11 in 2017 after dropping football mid-season in 2016. The last 2-0 start for the Vikings was in 2015. Chatham Central needs to get off to a good start and get Riley Lagenor off and running early and often. This will open up things for Michael Moore and a slew of capable receivers in Brady Cunnup, Tyler Oldham, Micah Gurley and Hunter Strickland. The Bears need to be physical on both sides of the ball as North Stokes has little depth and has most of its players going both ways including talented quarterback Issac Wood and line-backer Ethan Puckett. Defensively, Chatham Central, which has been gashed for two straight games, must stop the run first and foremost. Victor Martinez has some breakaway speed while Jacob Murray and Elijah Cone provide more physical runners. Special teams will play a factor as well as North Stokes blocked a punt for a TD against North Moore while also recovering an onside kick.

**From the coach:** CC's coach Sherman Howze says his team will have to "put together a complete game." "I think we have an advantage in depth," he said. "I think the kids are excited. It's always fun to play a road game against a team that you don't see every year. So it

will be interesting to see how our kids react."

### ON CHARGER BOULEVARD

**This week:** Northwood (0-2) is hosting Southern Lee (0-2, 7-4 last year; 3A Tri County 6 Conference) Kickoff: 7:30 p.m. at Northwood High School, Chargers Stadium.

**Head Coach:** Kenneth Neal

#### Leading returnees:

DE Wes Kidd (Jr.), CB Tonoah Lockley (Sr.), WR E.J. Foxx (Sr.), K Daniel Pisano (Sr.), RB Keshawn Mays (Sr.), LB Julian Barnes (Jr.), OL Parker Oldham (Sr.).

**Notable:** Northwood owns an all-time 3-1 record against Southern Lee including a 14-8 win in 2014 in Sanford. Northwood is coming off a forgettable 60-0 loss to Lee County last Friday night while Southern Lee was mashed 63-10 by 4A power Pinecrest. The Cavaliers put up a strong fight for a half before getting blown out in the second against the Patriots. Southern Lee dropped a 19-6 decision to 4A Hoke County in the season opener.

**Game keys:** First and foremost, Northwood has to put what was a catastrophe against Lee County behind it after trailing 60-0 against what is the best Yellow Jacket team in recent memory. Southern Lee, also seeking its first win, will be a formidable opponent having played a tough non-conference schedule thus far in 2019. Northwood will have to find some consistent offense after failing to move the ball well in two games, including being completely stuffed last Friday night which resulted in poor field position the entire way. Coach Cullen Homolka desperately needs a quarterback to step up and an offensive line to open some holes to unleash the talents of Aaron Ross, Deuce Powell and Justin Brower. Defensively, Northwood will have to win the battle up front and stop powerful fullback Keshawn Mays who is a strong runner out of the slightly unusual Shotgun, Stack I formation, and Tonoah Lockley and E.J. Foxx, both speedsters, will line up at tail-back as well as wideout

while presenting break-away threats. Containing that Cavalier trio will go a long ways in determining the outcome of the contest.

### IN THE JET HANGAR

**This week:** Jordan-Matthews (0-2) is traveling to Norwood Friday night to battle South Stanly (1-1, 8-5 last year; 1A Yadkin Valley Conference) Kickoff: 7:30 pm at South Stanly High School, Rebel Bulls Stadium.

**Head Coach:** Ryan Ochier

**Leading returnees:** QB Jaquez Cooke (Sr.), WR Jaderian Smith (Jr.), RB Darien McKinney (Jr.), WR Justin Gaddy (Sr.), RB Marcus Green (Sr.).

**Notable:** South Stanly owns a 3-2 record over Jordan-Matthews the past five seasons including a 37-6 win in Siler City last season. Jordan-Matthews is coming off a 55-0 blasting at the hands of Oak Grove while South Stanly traveled to Monroe last Friday night to belt Union Academy 36-13 after dropping a 55-38 decision to Southwestern Randolph in the season opener.

**Game keys:** There's one thing to know about traveling to Norwood for a football game: you can expect the unexpected. Through the years, crazy things happen at South Stanly. Jordan-Matthews will have its hands full on Friday night in trying to stop Rebel Bulls quarterback Marquez Cooke, who has been a thorn in the side of the Jets for three years now. Cooke has passed for six scores and ran for three more in two games this fall, and is the key to the contest if the young J-M squad is to have a chance to win on the road. Cooke also has some talented running backs in Marcus Green and Darien McKinney while Jaderian Smith and Justin Gaddy give South Stanly some dangerous receiving threats. South Stanly plays a lot of players both ways so holding on to the ball and sustaining drives is a must for Jordan-Matthews.

**From the coach:** J-M's Sam Spencer says his team will have to "contain Cooke. We have to try to keep him from making big plays to have a chance.


We also need to force some turnovers as well. On the offensive side of the ball, we need to keep

the chains moving. If we can control the football and not turn it over and make mistakes, we can

shorten the game. The less possessions Cooke has the ball in his hands the better."

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NC Pre-K is administered by Chatham County Partnership for Children 

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Las solicitudes están disponibles en [www.chathamkids.org/NCPK](http://www.chathamkids.org/NCPK) o en cada escuela. Si desea más información, puede llamar al 919-542-7449.

El Preescolar NK es administrado por la Alianza por los Niños del Condado de Chatham (Chatham County Partnership for Children) 



# POLICE REPORTS

## Siler City man connected to January break-ins in Pittsboro

A Siler City man has been arrested after he was connected to multiple break-ins in the Pittsboro area earlier this year.

**Reaves** Kenneth Reaves Jr., 40, of Siler City, was charged with three counts each of felony breaking and entering, felony larceny and damage to personal property, as well as a single count of attempted breaking and entering.

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office stated in a press release that multiple residences in the Pittsboro area reported break-ins in the early morning hours

of January 7-11 this year. Another victim reported an attempted break-in. The residences were located off of Old Graham Road, Burcybill Drive and N.C. Highway 87 N. Investigators say evidence collected from the scene linked Reaves to the crimes.

Reaves was arrested early last week and given a written promise to appear in court September 23.

## Use of stolen Lowe's credit card leads to Siler City man's arrest

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office announced an arrest in connection with the theft of a Lowe's Home Improvement credit

card and more than \$1,000 worth of purchases.

Steven Coscia, 48, of Siler City, was charged last week with felony obtaining property by false pretense, felony identity theft and felony financial card theft after his arrest by members of the Raleigh Police Department, according to a press release.

Coscia allegedly used a victim's credit card at a Lowe's Home Improvement store to make multiple purchases totalling more than \$1,000, the press release stated. Investigators were alerted to the crime earlier in August, the news release stated, after the victim reported fraudulent activity on their account.

Coscia has been held under a \$75,000 bond and had his first court appearance last week.

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Maybell Guardado, 34, of Chapel Hill, was charged August 26 with simple assault. She was held under a 48-hour hold with a September 11 court date in Pittsboro.

Amanda Pyles, 31, of Bear Creek, was charged August 26 with failure to appear. She was held under a \$500 bond with a September 18 court date in Pittsboro.

Kenneth Reaves Jr., 41, of Pittsboro, was charged August 26 with breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering and injury to personal property. He was released under a written promise with a court date in Pittsboro.

Carlos Cesmas Gomez, 20, of Asheboro, was charged August 27 with attempting or completing a sex/criminal sexual conduct with a

minor. He was held under no bond with an August 28 court date in Chatham County.

Lejaun Gillespie, 44, of Raleigh, was charged August 27 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$1,000 bond with a September 26 court date in Greensboro.

Payne Powell, 24, of Bennett, was charged August 28 with communicating threats. He was held under a \$10,000 bond with a September 11 court date in Pittsboro.

## SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Rayquon Edwards of Siler City was cited August 26 for failure to reduce speed on East Raleigh Street in Siler City.

Tina Smith, 31, of Siler City, was charged August 31 with shoplift-

ing/concealment of goods. She was released on a written promise with a September 24 court date in Siler City.

## STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Lamine Cissokho of Pittsboro was cited August 26 for failure to reduce speed on U.S. Highway 64 in Pittsboro.

Victoria Bowman of Fayetteville was cited August 26 for unsafe movement on U.S. Highway 64 in Pittsboro.

Selena White of Apex was cited August 27 for unsafe movement in the parking lot of Wilsonville Store in Pittsboro.

Brenda Marsh of Siler City was cited August 28 for unsafe movement on U.S. Highway 64 in Siler City.

# Tar Heel politico Rufus Edmisten shares stories from a long life, career

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — Rufus Edmisten, the first person serving on a Congressional committee to serve a sitting president with a subpoena, was hosted by Flyleaf Books last week as part of his promotional tour for his book, "That's Rufus: A Memoir of Tar Heel Politics, Watergate and Public Life."

He shared stories and anecdotes from his personal and professional life with a large crowd in the Chapel Hill book store.

"It's a glimpse into the mid-20th century shenanigans of a farm boy growing up in North Carolina," Edmisten said.

The memoir shares

stories from his time as a child growing up in meager circumstances in Boone, attending his alma-mater UNC-Chapel Hill, his times in Washington, serving as an aide to U.S. Sen. Sam Ervin during Watergate, gardening and his experiences in North Carolina politics — including his eventual downfall and return from the ashes of his resignation as North Carolina's Secretary of State.

Edmisten began his life in the mountains of Boone on his family farm. The book shares quaint stories of family, faith and farm life. Edmisten writes of plowing fields, bailing hay, and even running his first auction. He describes and demonstrates how upbringing provided him with the fundamentals of what he did throughout politics.

During the event, he shared a humorous story about his propensity for trouble. His father was a N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Enforcement Officer and once, when Edmisten was 13, he decided to take "his daddy's car" and "catch me some violators."

"I went right into the ditch and terror struck my heart," he said.

He described a Dr. Pepper truck, driven by a friend of the family, coming down the road to save the day. With the car back in place, he "prayed and prayed" that he would survive the ordeal and somehow his father was none the wiser. He said he couldn't even tell the story for 20 years for fear of the repercussions.

The book continues to his time at UNC where he pursued religious studies, working his way through school and the occasional hitchhiking story to get back to his beloved Boone. He then moved to Washington, D.C., to attend law school and work for Sen. Ervin, the man who would eventually help force the resignation of President Richard Nixon. Edmisten's book provides an inside glimpse of the Watergate hearings and his travels with the senator.

His book outlines inner secrets of the Watergate hearing. He shares private discussions, deliberations, and humorous anecdotes such as when they would hide the daily lunch menu in other books so that the media didn't notice. He also described Watergate period as being somewhat unfair to Nixon, especially the media. He noticed that members of the media had a true disdain for Nixon that Edmisten believes was evident in their coverage. Edmisten agreed that Nixon did go beyond the bounds of the office, but at the same time felt sorry for the president.

He also shared one story about Ervin with the crowd at Flyleaf Books that wasn't included in the book. He called it "Sleeping with God."

In 1978, the two were



Staff photo by Casey Mann

Rufus Edmisten, the first person serving on a Congressional committee to serve a sitting president with a subpoena, was hosted by Fly Leaf Books last Wednesday as part of his promotional tour for his book, "That's Rufus — A Memoir of Tar Heel Politics, Watergate and Public Life."



Staff photo by Casey Mann

Pittsboro Commissioner Michael Fiocco (left) and his wife Jamie (right) are co-owners of Flyleaf Books, which hosted Rufus Edmisten (center).

on the campaign trail in central North Carolina and found themselves in Pittsboro late one evening. The only place to stay was the old Blair Hotel, which currently houses storefronts and offices on the traffic circle in Pittsboro facing the of state after an N.C. Auditor's report claimed he had misused his office (a claim for which he was eventually exonerated), he found himself at a loss. His friends turned their backs on him and he, in turn, sought out those on the other side of the aisle. He reached out to one of his gubernatorial primary opponents, Senator Lauch Faircloth as well as Republican

Senator Jesse Helms. Both of his former adversaries helped Edmisten pick himself up out of the ashes and find a new career as a lobbyist. For decades since, that has been his role.

"Hubris is a viscous disease," Edmisten told the audience. "You need some sort of spirituality to lead you through life. You need to treat people with empathy and you have to put yourself in someone else's position."

Edmisten's book is available at bookstores and online retailers.

Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com.



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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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**Kid Scoop Together**  
**Funny Filler**

Ask a friend or family member to give you **nouns, verbs, plural nouns** or **adjectives** to fill in the blanks in this story. Then read the silly story aloud for lots of laughs!

**A Visit to the New Ice Cream Shop**

A new ice cream shop opened in town last week. My family hopped in our \_\_\_\_\_ to go check it out.  
NOUN

The shop had been decorated with \_\_\_\_\_ ADJECTIVE PLURAL NOUN for its grand opening. And they were handing out coupons for a free scoop of \_\_\_\_\_ PLURAL NOUN, too.

We began to \_\_\_\_\_ VERB into the shop and saw a large assortment of \_\_\_\_\_ ADJECTIVE \_\_\_\_\_ PLURAL NOUN behind the counter.

My dad ordered a sundae topped with \_\_\_\_\_ PLURAL NOUN and \_\_\_\_\_ PLURAL NOUN. Mom got a cup of \_\_\_\_\_ PLURAL NOUN. And I ordered a double scoop of \_\_\_\_\_ PLURAL NOUN on a \_\_\_\_\_ ADJECTIVE cone.

The shop owner gave us each a \_\_\_\_\_ ADJECTIVE card. For every 10 \_\_\_\_\_ PLURAL NOUN we buy, we'll get a \_\_\_\_\_ ADJECTIVE \_\_\_\_\_ NOUN for free!

I can't wait to bring my grandpa to the shop. They serve \_\_\_\_\_ ADJECTIVE PLURAL NOUN and that's his favorite.

**Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

This week's word: **OBSTACLE**  
The noun **obstacle** means something that stands in your way.

The **obstacle** blocking the road was a fallen tree.

Try to use the word **obstacle** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: SETTING GOALS  
**The Magnificent Money Maze**

There are many kinds of goals you will have in your life. Some of them will be about money. Whatever the goal is, you can achieve it by following these two steps:

1. Break the goal into smaller goals.
2. Avoid the obstacles that can stop your progress toward a goal.

Use the Magnificent Money Maze to help you reach a goal! Reaching a goal is like going through a maze. At right is a BIG goal idea that we broke into smaller goals. We have also listed some of the things that might stop you from reaching a goal. Use these to complete the Magnificent Maze or write in your own goals and obstacles.

**GOAL:**  
Buy a new baseball cap!

**STEPS TO REACH GOAL**  
Earn money  
Save money

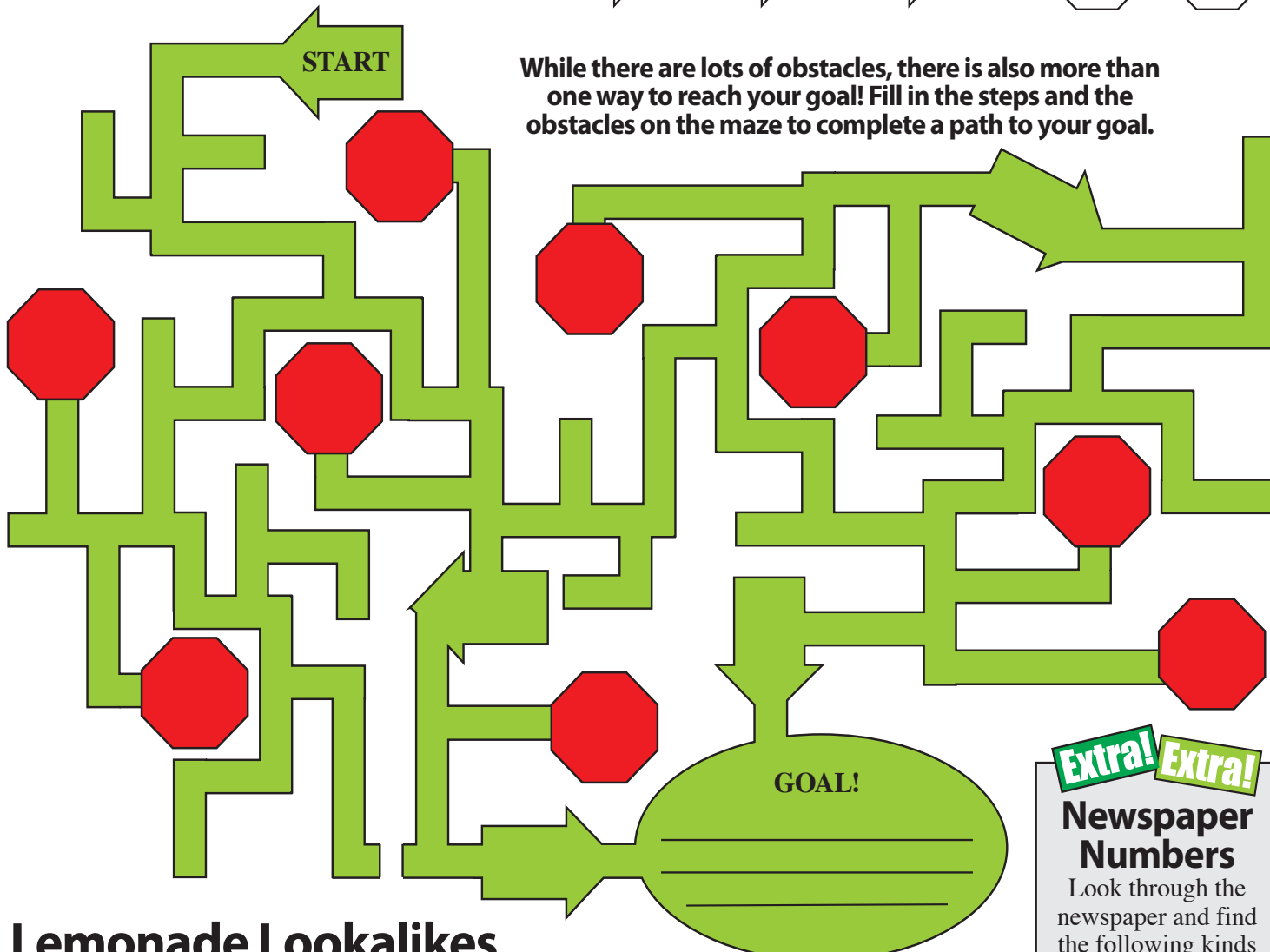
**OBSTACLES**  
Spending money on other things

**MY GOAL**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



While there are lots of obstacles, there is also more than one way to reach your goal! Fill in the steps and the obstacles on the maze to complete a path to your goal.

**Extra! Extra!**

**Newspaper Numbers**

Look through the newspaper and find the following kinds of numbers:

- A price
- A time
- A date
- An age
- An address
- A percentage
- A distance

**Standards Link:** Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

**Lemonade Lookalikes**

Setting up a lemonade stand is a fun way to earn some money. Circle the two identical lemonade stands.

**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

Mario and Maya are selling their toys at a yard sale to raise money for their local fire department. Oops! Someone dripped lemonade on the sales slips. Can you fill in the missing numbers?

Blocks \$1.3	Golf Ball	Bat \$
Puppet .5	Postcard .05	Paints \$
Book .30	Puzzle .70	Clay \$2.00
Total: \$2.41	Total: .85	Total: \$9.00

TOTAL RAISED: \_\_\_\_\_

**Standards Link:** Number Sense: Students compute sums and differences with money. Algebra: Solve number sentences that express relationships involving addition and subtraction.

**Double Double Word Search**

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

**OBSTACLES**  
LEMONADE  
COMPLETE  
SMALLER  
IMAGINE  
PERFECT  
FORGOT  
STEPS  
GOALS  
MONEY  
CLEAN  
SALES  
PATH  
WALK  
MOW

M S E L C A T S B O  
A T M T C E F R E P  
I E N A E L C G F M  
M P I F L L S I O O  
A S E Y P L P N R N  
G A K L A W E M G E  
I L O O T N O R O Y  
N E G E H W O Y T C  
E S E D A N O M E L

**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

**FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY**

**The Perfect Pet**

Imagine you can get a new pet. After studying the classifieds ads and other advertisements in the newspaper, create an advertisement for the pet that would be perfect for you.

**Standards Link:** Writing Applications: Write brief expository text.

What do you call a skeleton who cleans houses?

**ANSWER:** The grim sweeper.

**Write On!**

**Sell That Book**

Write an advertisement to sell your favorite book. Be careful not to spoil the ending of the book!

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CHATHAM@WORK | WES COLLINS

Most days, you'll find Wes Collins at the circulation desk of the Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro, where he's worked since 2013. The Lenoir native has a bachelor's degree in music business from Belmont College in Nashville after pursuing that for a time, enrolled at N.C. Central University and earned a masters in library sciences and information. "I get to see people at their best, most of the time," he says of his work. "It's rare that a person comes into the library and isn't somehow happy to be there." He and his wife, Anita, live in Chapel Hill and have two grown children — Will and Cassie — and an 18-year-old Bichon-Frise named "Thunder" who, according to Collins, "sleeps a lot of the time, but he's a blast when he's awake."

**What was your first paying job, and what did it teach you?**

My first paying job was at the furniture factory in Lenoir. It taught me that making furniture is an art and a vocation. It also taught me that I have no talent in that area.

**What's the most unusual customer request or question you've ever had?**

One very pleasant patron wanted to research the plotlines of every Rocky and Bullwinkle episode ever released.

**What's the most important life lesson you've learned from work?**

EVERYONE is having a day, so be as kind as you can.

**What would your co-workers miss most about you if you left?**

The smell of peanut butter. I don't know if they'd miss it but they'd note its absence.

**Your standard order at a coffee shop?**

Black medium roast.

**Your ultimate "happy place?"**

A record store.

**Coke or Pepsi?**

Coke

**Where is your dream location to retire?**

Scotland

**Favorite weekend getaway:**

Blue Ridge Mountains

**Which do you like better: starting or finishing?**

I do more starting than finishing, but I like finishing better.

**Favorite character from a Disney movie:**

The ostriches in the "Dance of the Hours" section of Fantasia, or Kronk from The Emperor's New Groove.

**When will robots take over the world?**

Haven't they?

**Life on other planets? Yes or no?**

Probably. Is that a yes?

**Stay up late or get up early?**

Get up early.

**Does the early bird really get the worm?**

It's about worms? Never mind then.

**Ever danced in the rain?**

Nope. It might look like I'm dancing when I run though.

**What habit would you most like to break?**

Procrastination.

**What's the most amazing thing about you that most people wouldn't have guessed?**

I don't know about "amazing", but a lot of folks don't know that I'm a songwriter. I've won awards for my songwriting, and I play my songs all over the country, but I don't carry myself like a songwriter, I guess.

**Words or phrases you overuse:**

I think I'm over it, but

for a while there I way, way overused "patina". Drove my wife crazy.

**Your favorite movie of all time:**

"Local Hero"

**If money weren't an object, but you still had to work, what would your job be?**

Traveling singer/songwriter

**What radio station do you listen to most frequently?**

91.5 FM WUNC

**One day, when you have time, what would you like to learn how to do?**

If my fingers hold out I'd love to learn to play mandolin, clawhammer banjo, etc.

**What's been your wildest adventure?**

I won the Kerrville New Folk Song Competition in 2015, but my greatest adventure was physically getting to the festival that year.

The air travel to Texas was uneventful, but as soon as we touched down the sky opened up and let loose the heaviest, most sustained lashing rain I've ever seen. And the guy driving the shuttle from San Antonio to Kerrville bulleted through this rain at speeds I would have found dangerous if the road were bone dry. I clearly pictured us hydroplaning into a bridge abutment. Yep, we were going to die.

We arrived at a hotel in Kerrville, where to my shock Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell were giving a free concert in the lobby (their show at the festival had been decidedly rained out). Turned out the shuttle driver was under the gun because Emmylou and Rodney needed the vehicle the second their performance ended.

I took in the show for about 20 minutes before the shuttle driver found



Staff photo by David Bradley

Wes Collins hails from the Atlanta area, having spent part of his early career in retail music sales. His music, full of songs of lost love and understanding of the world around us, follows the paths carved by other musicians like Gillian Welch and Bruce Cockburn, but he follows his own road less traveled.

me again to tell me he was going to try to get me up to the ranch where the festival was.

"Aren't the roads closed up that way?"

"Yeah, we'll see."

Sure enough, about a mile up the road we found a "ROAD CLOSED" sign. The driver nosed the car around it.

Another mile up, we encountered water flowing across the road. He assessed the stream and said, "that's less than a foot. We'll make it."

For about the fourth time that day, I thought, I am going to die. He was right, though. We got across fine, and there was no more water in the road after that.

This was getting to the festival.

Winning the competition (the next day) is a whole other story, but I don't remember that nearly as clearly.

**Your ideal vacation would be:**

Nazareth, Pennsylvania, to see the Martin Guitar factory. Someday...

**What's your favorite snack food?**

Popcorn

**Your ideal dinner guest list (living or dead, up to six invitees) includes:**

Paul F. Tompkins (comedian), John Lennon, Leo Kottke and Neil Finn

**A fear you haven't yet overcome is:**

Heights

**The most famous person you've ever met:**

I used to be the product manager for a large record store in Atlanta. I met lots of famous people there: Johnny Cash, Elton John and Todd Rundgren come to mind.

**The best advice you ever got was:**

"Begin. Don't get hung up on making it perfect. You can fix it later."

**What are five most frequently-played songs on your iPod playlist?**

At the moment: "Shine a Different Way" by Patty Griffin "Keep It There" by The Weepies

**"Videotape" by Radiohead**

"Tomorrow Tomorrow" by Elliott Smith

"Look Around" by Stevie Wonder

**What would be your last meal?**

A New York Strip steak, because I'm allergic to red meat and it might kill me.

**Favorite season?**

Fall

**What's your usual wake-up time in the morning?**

5:30 a.m.

**What's your cell phone ringtone?**

"La Vie En Rose" by Louis Armstrong

**Who's your best friend and why?**

Anita Collins, my wife, because she always has my back but she busts me when I deserve it.

**If you could instantly learn one language, which would it be?**

Spanish. It would allow to me communicate with so many more people around me.

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Presented by

**Chatham News + Record**

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Jordan-Matthews High School Auditorium  
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- Dr. Larry Savage: Principal of Siler City Elementary School
- Chris Poston: Executive Director of elementary and middle grades for Chatham County Schools
- Jazmin Mendoza Sosa: Support Specialist at Virginia Cross Elementary School for Chatham Communities In Schools
- Tych Cowdin: Program Director for Chatham Communities In Schools' School-Based Programs
- Jaime Detzi: Executive Director of the Chatham Education Foundation

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# As Chatham tourism spending grows, hospitality professionals expecting more in future

**BY ZACHARY HORNER**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The news released last week was exciting for Neha Shah, who couldn't contain her pleasure at discussing the numbers the next day.

Visitor spending in Chatham County reached \$36.89 million in 2018, a 5.4 percent increase from 2017 and a record high.

"It's good to see that Chatham County, with our limitation in accommodations, is thriving in all other aspects of tourism and hospitality," Shah, the director of the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau, said Thursday. "It's an indicator that when we do have more accommodations, we will have even better economic impact."

The statistics were announced last Wednesday as part of an annual study commissioned by Visit North Carolina, a unit of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, and the positive numbers don't stop at general spending. According to the study, tourism in Chatham last year generated:

- \$4.74 million in wages for tourism industry workers
- \$2.17 million in state tax revenue through state sales and excise taxes and personal and corporate income taxes
- Around \$680,000 in local city

and county taxes through sales and property tax revenue from travel-generated and travel-supported businesses

• \$37.45 in tax savings per resident  
That last number, Shah said, is in effect how much each Chatham resident doesn't have to pay in taxes to keep essential government services afloat.

"They're coming and they're spending that money without ever using our human or social services," she said. "That's extra money that we're not counting on through property tax or people who live here paying different taxes. We put those dollars toward the residents."

These results, as last week's release from Chatham County government noted, came as part of nine consecutive years of increases in economic impact and a sizable increase from the earliest statistics available. In 1990, the county saw \$9.92 million in tourism spending. Ten years later, that number went to \$16.6 million. Nineteen years later, that number has more than doubled, and the county government has noticed.

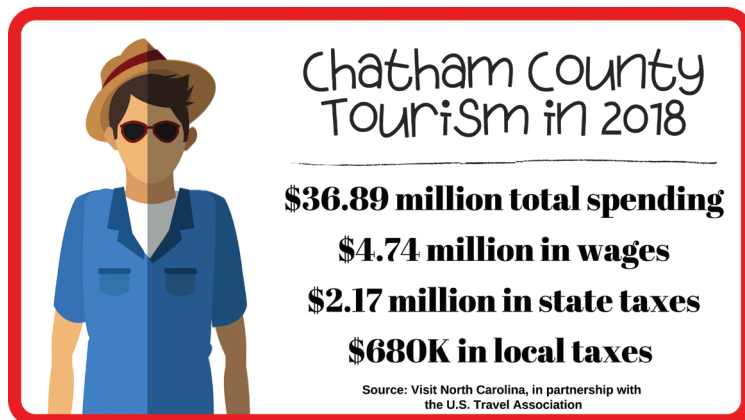
"With the combination of our rich historical and cultural sites, along with our recent developments and attractions, Chatham County residents and employees have long known how great of a community this is to live, work and raise their

families," Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne said in the release. "It is exciting that many folks from other areas are now discovering what a special place Chatham County is, and we hope that they will come back to enjoy future visits as well as spread the word with others about the greatness of Chatham County."

The increase has come despite the county not having a chain hotel for people to stay in. That will change in a few years — a Hampton Inn is slated to locate and hold 120 rooms in the Mosaic development at the front of Chatham Park — but in the meantime, other hospitality businesses have filled the gap. Theresa Chietini, the general manager at Fearington House Inn, said in the county press release that Fearington Village as a whole has seen increasingly diverse reasons for visitors.

"Fearington Village has been a touchpoint for Chatham County tourism for over 30 years now, and we are starting to see a real shift in the way our visitors find out about us and how they spend their time with us," Chietini said. "Our inn and fine-dining restaurant have always been a big draw for special occasions, but we are seeing more guests coming for the day to enjoy our shops, casual dining and a visit with the farm animals."

When the hotel comes, Shah



Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

said, facilities like the Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center will be able to host larger events like those at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center, which has multiple hotels within a short radius, in nearby Lee County.

"That was our hope and our goal and I think we're on track to that," Shah said. "Everything we do is just good preparation for when that landscape changes. Our conference center, our hope was when we have one or two hotels close to the conference center, we will have our meetings shift from 4-6 hour or day long to 2-3 day long meetings."

The news came a few months after, in May, an announcement from the state that visitors to North Carolina spent \$25.3

billion in 2018, a 5.6 percent increase from 2017.

"The numbers confirm the strength of North Carolina's tourism industry as an anchor of economic development," Wit Tuttell, executive director of Visit North Carolina, said in a release. "As the No. 6 state in the country for overnight visitation, we can attribute our success to the natural beauty and authenticity that visitors experience, and to a passionate effort to inform and inspire travelers. The money they spend benefits everyone by sustaining jobs and reducing our residents' tax burden."

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at [zhorner@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorner@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at [@Zach-HornerCNR](https://twitter.com/Zach-HornerCNR).

# New non-smoking signs at Chatham County Schools part of wider anti-vaping push

**BY ZACHARY HORNER**  
News + Record Staff

As use of e-cigarettes and electronic vapor products rise among teens both in Chatham County and across the country, Chatham County Schools, in partnership with the county's Public Health Department, have made a small change on school campuses they hope will curb use.

Starting this year, the required non-smoking signs on campuses will include symbols for e-cigarettes and vaping devices.

Anna Stormzand, health promotion coordinator with Chatham County, said public schools across North Carolina have been required to post notices that schools are tobacco-free zones, but the rise of electronic vapor use has precipitated an adjustment.

"Many students and adults do not realize that electronic cigarettes, or any similar vapor products, are considered a tobacco product and their use is prohibited under this policy," Stormzand said. "These signs are there to make students, staff and the public aware of the complete ban of the use of these products on school grounds."

Both the county health

department and the school system have made e-cigarette and vapor use a target of awareness and prevention efforts. According to the 2017 Chatham County Youth Risk Behavior Survey — which queried nearly 1,000 public and public charter high school students in the county — 46 percent of Chatham high schoolers reported using an electronic vapor product at least once and 22.4 percent reported using the product within the last 30 days.

Stormzand said electronic cigarette usage has been an issue for public health agencies since the late 2000s, but the Chatham County Public Health Department began focusing more on the topic in 2014. The school district's Student Health Advisory Council began collaborating with the health department in 2016 on a student-led campaign to help "spread the word about the potential harms of e-cigarette products among their peers," she added, and the SHAC will "continue to review effective and evidence-based ways to address e-cigarette prevention and cessation this fall semester."

The change comes as two developments on the electronic vapor front have taken place on the state level.

The state Department of Health and Human Services announced last month that it was investigating reports of severe lung disease after vaping. The department reported three hospitalizations in connection with vaping use and added that similar cases have happened in other states, such as Wisconsin, Illinois, California and Minnesota.

"Although no infectious causes have been identified in this investigation, symptoms are similar to pneumonia caused by bacterial or viral infections," the news release stated. "The severity of the disease has varied among patients, with some requiring treatment in the intensive care unit and assistance to breathe."

The release added that "no specific brand name or source" was identified as the cause of illness, but State Health Director and DHHS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Elizabeth Tilson encouraged all North Carolinians "to avoid vaping product and e-cigarettes."

Additionally, N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein announced late last month that he had filed lawsuits against eight e-cigarette companies, alleging that the companies were "aggressively targeting children and do not require appropriate

age verification when selling these dangerous and addictive products." Stein filed similar litigation against Juul, one of the largest vapor product manufacturers, in May.

"Our complaints allege that these eight e-cig companies are helping to fuel an epidemic of vaping among high school and middle school students," Stein said in a press release. "One look at their marketing materials demonstrates just how egregious their sales tactics are — with flavors like cotton candy, gummy bear, unicorn, and graham cracker, they're clearly targeting young people. To teenagers, the health and addiction risks of vaping are simply too high."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of middle and high school students that had smoked cigarettes within the last month dropped by almost half from 2011 to 2018, but during the same time span, electronic cigarette use increased eight-fold among middle schoolers and by 19 percentage points among high schoolers.

Stormzand said the county's public health department will continue to work with the public school system in light of these statistics and potential health consequences,



Submitted photo

These new 'no smoking' signs have been posted at every Chatham County Schools institution and feature e-cigarettes for the first time.

and the signs are just part of the fight.

"While the signs alone may not completely stop the use of tobacco on school grounds," she said, "they are an important tool to increase awareness of the fact that school

campuses are required to be 100 percent tobacco-free for the well-being of students and staff."

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at [zhorner@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorner@chathamnr.com)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Tri-County Ruritan hosting 22nd annual Flatwoods Festival this weekend

The Tri-County Ruritan Club is hosting the 22nd Annual Flatwoods Festival this Friday and Saturday.

The festival starts at 5 p.m. Friday on Raleigh Street in Bennett with hamburgers and hot dogs, followed by an old-fashioned country auction at 7 p.m. Items will include a wide range of works from potters and woodwrights along with antiques, collectibles, and gift certificates from local sponsors.

Kicking off festivities Saturday morning at 10 is the Flatwoods Parade, described in a news release as "one of the largest tractor parades in North Carolina." Food and drinks will be available, and participants wishing to be in the parade should plan to arrive and register for free before 9 a.m. Saturday.

The next stage of the festival is a smorgasbord of food, entertainment and music. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be available for sale at the Bennett Fire Department and other food vendors including homemade BBQ and ice cream, as well as sno-cones and kettle corn, will be on site. Live entertainment kicks off with the Quicksilver Cloggers at 11:15 a.m. followed by the Hindsight Bluegrass Band at noon. Parade awards and the raffle drawing will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Club President Leslie Hayes said she was very thankful for volunteers and sponsorships that helped make the festival and

everything that goes with it possible. "We are deeply moved by the continued support of our Festival and our club," she said. "We look forward to continuing to provide scholarships in area schools and funding for families in need. It is the volunteers and the sponsors that make this all possible."

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Tri-County Ruritan Club.

### New voting equipment to be showcased in Chatham County

The Chatham County Board of Elections is inviting the public to view the county's new voting equipment on Sept. 11 at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro.

The purpose of the demonstration is to showcase new voting equipment being considered by the Chatham County Board of Elections for recommendation to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Vendors will give presentations of equipment certified by the State Board of Elections and will be available to answer questions from the public. Vendor presentations will take place between 9 a.m. and noon, and vendors will be available for questions between 1:30-7:30 p.m.

For additional information, please contact the Chatham County Board of Elections office at 919-545-8500.

— CN+R staff reports



# Raw, provocative ‘Nightingale’ is powerful — but not for the faint of heart

Filmmaker Jennifer Kent’s feature film directorial debut, “The Babadook,” was a supernatural horror film. The setting and subject-matter of “The Nightingale,” Kent’s much-anticipated follow-up, is even more horrific. Kent’s raw, revealing portrait of humankind’s most awful proclivity for racial, sexual and economic cruelty finds a fertile setting in the penal colonies and Aboriginal massacres of 19th century Tasmania. It also stands as a paradigm for the nobility of confronting injustice, no matter the level of evil or the costs of doing so.

The film is set on Van Diemen’s Land (now called Tasmania) during the mid-19th century Black War, a genocidal incursion in which British imperialists and colonists forcibly moved and massacred nearly all of the island’s indigenous Aboriginal Australians. Against this backdrop, Clare (Aisling Franciosi, “Game of Thrones”) lives and works as an indentured servant, an Irish convict relocated with her husband Aidan and infant child to the island’s penal colony to serve

under a stationed British Army unit commanded by Lieutenant Hawkins (Sam Claflin). Clare long ago earned her letter of recommendation for discharge, but Hawkins selfishly keeps her under his abusive charge. That doesn’t sit well with Aidan, who accosts and embarrasses Hawkins in a futile attempt to change his mind about giving Clare her freedom. The episode also dissuades a visiting commanding officer from recommending Hawkins for his captaincy.

Hawkins decides to take two officers and journey through the treacherous bush to the town of Launceston, where Hawkins will appeal for his promotion. Before departing, Hawkins and his men visit Clare and Aidan, imposing unspeakable brutality against her and her family. The next day, when her official complaints go unheeded, a shocked yet suddenly resolute Clare sets out to pursue Hawkins and his men in order to exact her own vengeance. Still viewed as a white wench in a harsh land, she employs the aid of a tracker, Billy (Baykali Ganambarr), a young Aboriginal who abhors whites but also desires to travel north and reunite with the surviving members of his tribe.

Despite her understandable antipathy towards the British, Clare can’t shake her ingrained

fear and loathing towards “the blacks.” She brands Billy “boy,” and both she and her friends worry Billy might betray and eat her. As their journey into the heart of darkness unfolds, Clare and Billy discover they are bound by tragedy and a common oppressor. Meanwhile, Hawkins and company pillage their way across the island, murdering, mauling, and raping along the way.

They ensnare an elderly Aboriginal named Charlie as their tracker, then kidnap an indigenous woman as their sex slave. You find a more reprehensible movie villain than Hawkins — indeed, that label feels too kind. The atrocities in “The Nightingale” are too widespread to specify, and the incidents of rape are too numerous to recount. Early screenings of the film in Europe and Australia have been marred by audience invective and mass walkouts. The film isn’t for the faint of heart, but it is for viewers who embrace Kent’s allegiance to authenticity. There’s no easy or honest way to sugar-coat the savagery of this feral setting, and Kent deserves plaudits for not shirking from a stark, earnest examination.

Indeed, where “The Nightingale” falters is during its more mundane moments. The burgeoning rapport between Clare and Billy is handled well, and their evolving relationship is central to the story’s re-

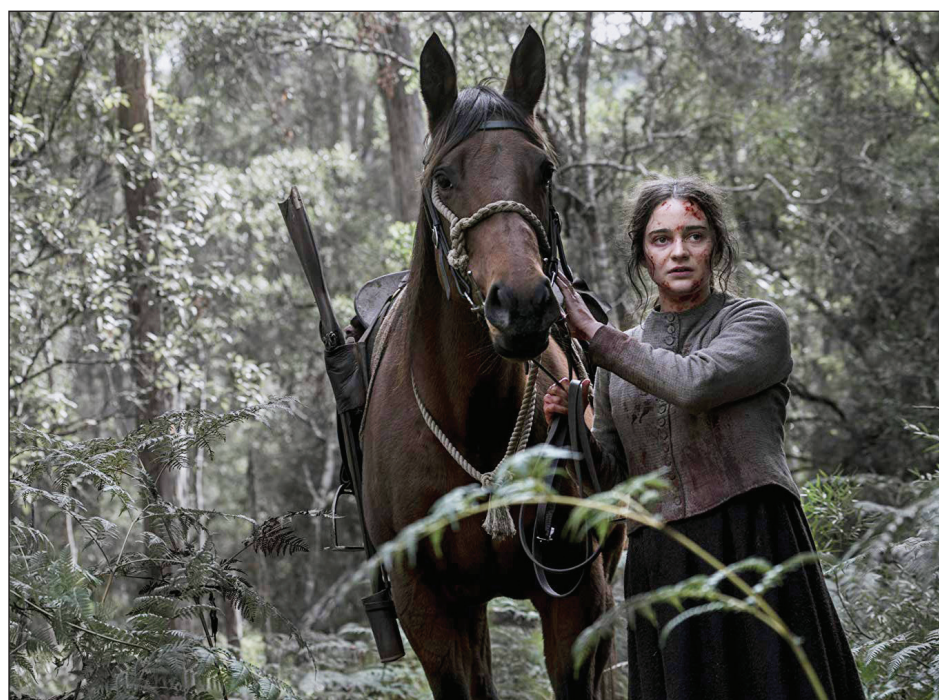


Photo courtesy of IFC Films

Aisling Franciosi stars in ‘The Nightingale.’

demptive arc. Still, there’s an air of banality around the basic buddy road trip construct, no matter the bleak circumstances surrounding it. It remains a series of misadventures and lessons learned, culminating with the inevitable clash with the objects of their ire.

Still, despite Clare’s revenge quest, Kent never turns her into The Bride from “Kill Bill,” or else something she’s not. Clare doesn’t instantly transform from victim to avenging angel, and despite every horrible wrong heaped upon her and every act of retribu-

## The Nightingale

**GRADE:** B +

**DIRECTOR:** Jennifer Kent

**STARRING:** Aisling Franciosi, Sam Claflin, Baykali Ganambarr, Damon Herriman, Harry Greenwood, Charlie Shotwell, and Michael Sheasby

**MPAA RATING:** R

**RUNNING TIME:** 2 hr. 16 min.

tion she wants to (and does) commit, a peaceful soul continues to tug at her core. She doesn’t want to become her enemy, and it’s actually her embrace of Billy that becomes

each other’s path to salvation and reckoning.

As both a historical drama and revenge thriller, “The Nightingale” isn’t perfect, but it is powerful and provocative.

## Carbonton Bridge replacement gets new contractor

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

GULF — The long saga regarding the replacement of the Carbonton Bridge may soon be coming to an end.

The N.C. Department of Transportation announced last week that a new contractor had been assigned to complete the construction of the replacement bridge which was supposed to be done nearly a year ago.

The aging bridge, which crosses the Deep River on N.C. Hwy. 42 near the intersection of Chatham, Lee and Moore counties, had suffered deterioration of its substructure and caps that hold the girders in place.

DOT announced last week that U.S. Fire and Insurance contracted with Smith-Rowe of Mt. Airy to complete the job. The company was given a deadline of 120 days from the date of the new contract to complete the project.

Regardless of what the two companies negotiated, the state will still only be responsible for the initial contract amount of \$2.1 million and will continue to receive liquidation damages throughout. According to Garry Phillips, NCDOT Resident Engineer, Smith-Rowe has worked with NCDOT on “numerous bridges” in the past and he has “great confidence” that the project will be complete by the end of the year.

“We do not anticipate any problems with this bunch,” Phillips said.

The construction, which has forced the closure of the road, began early in 2018 with a scheduled completion in the fall of that year. The original contractor, Extreme Concrete Cutting of Gaffney, S.C., was awarded the \$2.1 repair contract. The company’s progress was slow and as of today the bridge is only 50 percent complete. The company had been awarded several extensions because of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, but were still unable to finish the project.

After missing several deadlines, the company was forced to pay liquidation damages of \$1,000 per day that the bridge was not completed. In June, the NCDOT rescinded the contract with the company and began working with U.S. Fire and Insurance, the bonding company which was ultimately responsible for ensuring the job’s completion. U.S. Fire and Insurance has been and



Staff photo by David Bradley

The old power generator building for the Carbonton Dam sits on an outcropping beside the river. Once the main power source for Carbonton, it was abandoned after a new structure was built to power Moncure and surrounding communities. The building left behind is now an artists’ canvas.



Staff photo by David Bradley

The bridge over the Carbonton River stands frozen in time, after the former contractor pulled out of the project earlier this year. Now, a new contractor has taken over the bridge project, and estimates the completion of work by the end of the year.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Blockers prevent traffic over the Carbonton Bridge, long after the original completion date of the project has passed. Repair work on the bridge, begun in early 2018, was not completed by the original contractor, and now a new contractor has been hired to finish the work.

will continue to pay the \$1,000 per day liquidation damages to NCDOT until the job is complete. While the construction has been ongoing, local residents, commercial and commuter traffic have been forced on a detour using Plank Road that averages about 10-15 minutes of additional driving time each way.

Phillips said he believes Smith-Rowe will have crews on the site by the end of next week to begin

work to complete the construction of a replacement bridge. He added that he is hopeful the weather will also cooperate as North Carolina is entering hurricane season.

“Unless we get some crazy weather, I have full confidence that the bridge will be open to traffic by the end of the year,” Phillips said.

Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com.

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## RENTAL APARTMENTS

**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, My2,tfnc

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## AUCTIONS

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## SERVICES

**WE'LL MAKE FALL CATERING** fun and delicious! Call The Old Place Catering for your next event. 919-837-5131, Au29,S5,12,19,4tc

**HENDRICK SERVICE**. Lawn Care, mowing, small back hoe. Will dig up bushes, do storm drain pipes, drive way pipe, cut trees, clean up leaves. 919-548-4609, J10,tfnc

**JUNK CARS PICKED UP** Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803, J3,tfnc

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**CARPENTRY WORK** - all types, repairs, renovation, installation, windows and doors. Call Robert Clark, 919-742-3194. My25,tfnc

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## HELP WANTED

**PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST** - The Siler City Center of Chatham County Council on Aging seeks a personable, energetic and team-oriented person to serve as receptionist and clerical support Monday - Friday from 1 - 5 p.m. (with some occasional flexibility in hours). Persons must have good work history, some computer and data-entry skills. Hourly range is \$8.50-\$9, with benefits. Apply at Siler City Center at 112 Village Lake Road Siler City, and on the Council's website: www.chathamcoa.org. Closing date

is Friday, September 20, 2019. EOE. S5,1tc

**PLANNER I - TOWN OF PITTSBORO** (pop 4,200), a growing town near Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, seeks a Planner I. This position is responsible for reviewing commercial and residential site/subdivision plans and plats, performs inspections for compliance with zoning and subdivision code requirements, assists customers with general answers to zoning and subdivision code requirements, and research questions pertaining to zoning and general property issues. Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in city/town planning. Working knowledge of MS Word; Excel, and GIS software required. Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices pertaining to city/town planning. Salary DOQ. Application: <http://pittsboronc.gov> or call 919-542-4621 ext. 1104. Mail application to Town Clerk, P.O. Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Open until filled. For assured consideration, apply by September 20, 2019 EOE, S5,1tc

**LPNs - PITTSBORO CHRISTIAN VILLAGE** is accepting applications for LPNs, all shifts. Apply in person 8:30 am-4:00 pm Monday-Friday, at 1825 East Street. in Pittsboro. Au29,tfnc

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING!** Need extra money? CNAs needed immediately for private duty cases in Chatham County. Please call 919-545-2011. Au22,tfnc

**CAROLINA ADVANCED DIGITAL** is seeking a Government Sales Order Specialist to join our team! Immediate opening, part-time (with possible future transition to full-time). Daily Responsibilities include: Provide customer service and account support for government/federal customers. Responsible for inside sales functions, quotes, contract maintenance, Data entry and customer database maintenance. Skills & Experience: Exceptional written and verbal communication skills. Moderate software skills: Word, Excel, Adobe Acrobat. Great customer service skills/attitude. - We are hiring candidates for this position to work out of our Siler City, NC location, which is a federal HUB-Zone. You must also live in a HUBZone. Check your address here: <https://maps.certify.sba.gov/hubzone/map> -- if you are hardworking, responsible, detail-oriented, have a great personality, a sense of humor and have an interest in information technology, apply here: <https://cadinc.com/about/careers> - <https://jsco.re/2q0oy> Au22,29,S5,12,4tc

**"CNA's", PITTSBORO CHRISTIAN VILLAGE** is hiring "CNA's", all shifts. Apply in person, 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday - Friday, at 1825 East Street in Pittsboro. Au15,22,29,S5,12,19,6tc

**WELL ESTABLISHED** home care agency is looking for committed CNAs and Habilitation Technicians in Chatham, Orange and Durham Counties for immediate hire. Must be compassionate, have a pleasant demeanor, possess good work ethics, and passionate about making a difference in people's lives. Call 919-967-0507 now. Au15,22,29,S5,4tp

**BEAR CREEK ARSENAL** is hiring CNC Machine Operator for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd shifts. Apply in person between 9a.m.-1a.m. and 1p.m.-3p.m. at 310 McNeill Road, Sanford. Bear Creek Arsenal esta contratando operadores de maquinas CNC para 1er, 2do y 3 er turno. Aplicar en persona entre 9am - 11am y 1pm - 3pm en 310 McNeill Road, Sanford, NC. Au1 - S19,8tp

## MISC

**TOUR LANCASTER, PA** Amish Country - Gettysburg - Philadelphia - Sight & Sound Theatre Show and more. \$550 double occupancy. Price includes motor coach transportation, lodging, eight meals, 5 days 4 nights, March 23-27, 2020. Call Linda Lehman in Siler City, 919-200-5161. Au15,22,29,S5,12,19,6tc

## LEGALS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor for the Estate of **RUTH U. MITCHELL** of Apex, Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 1506 E. Franklin Street, Suite 100, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514, on or before the 18th of November, 2019, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. Father Jason Ross, Executor 4220 Erdman Avenue Baltimore, MD 21213 Send claims to: Estate of Ruth U. Mitchell

Father Jason Ross, Executor c/o Ann B. Petersen, Esq. Glover & Petersen, P.A. 1506 E. Franklin Street, Suite 100 Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514 Au15,Au22,Au29,S5,4tp

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **CATHERINE MILDRED ROBERSON OLDHAM**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to present them, duly verified, to the undersigned at 344 West John Street, Matthews, NC 28105, on or before November 13, 2019, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement with the undersigned. This the 8th day of August, 2019. Wallace B. Oldham, Jr., Administrator of the Estate of Catherine Mildred Roberson Oldham, Chatham File No. 19-E-378 c/o Garrity & Gossage, LLP 344 West John Street Matthews, NC 28105 Au15,Au22,Au29,S5,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY John Thomas Gaines Jr. qualified on January 22, 2019, as Collector of the Estate of **SHIRLEY C. MCNEILL**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina. This is to notify all persons, firms and corporations, as required by NCGS 28A-14-1, having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned attorney on or before November 12, 2019, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate please make immediate payment to the undersigned. Payments and claims should be presented to Sara Harrington, Attorney at Law, Averett Family Law, 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. Averett Family Law 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150 Chapel Hill, NC 27517 Au15,Au22,Au29,S5,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 19 E 409 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **DORIS M. VAUGHN aka DORIS MANN VAUGHN**, 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 November 22, 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. This the 22nd day of August, 2019. Ronald Edward Vaughn, Executor 8847 NC Hwy 87N Pittsboro, NC 27312 Au22,Au29,S5,S12,4tc

**NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR CARY RESIDENTS IN CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA** A Municipal election will be held on **October 8, 2019** in Chatham County, North Carolina to elect a **Mayor**, and an **At Large Council member** for the Town of Cary in Chatham County. There will be two Referendums on the ballot. Town of Cary Parks and Recreational, Facilities Bonds & Town of Cary Transportation Bonds. Only those voters registered in the Cary municipal boundaries in Chatham County are eligible to vote in this election. The polling place will be open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm on Election Day. The polling place for Cary voters in Chatham County will be located at: **East Williams Precinct - New Hope Church - 581 New Hope Church Rd in Apex. Voters who are registered in the New Hope Precinct will be temporarily transferred to the East Williams Precinct for this election only.** Those residents who are not registered to vote must register by **Friday, September 13, 2019**. You may register to vote at the Board of Elections office located at 984 Thompson Street, Suite D in Pittsboro or you may pick up a mail-in voter registration form at any public library or print a form on line at [www.chathamnc.org/boe](http://www.chathamnc.org/boe) or [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov). Any voter that has moved must notify the Board of Elections office. Persons wishing to register and vote after the registration deadline may appear in person at the one-stop absentee voting site, complete the voter registration application form and provide proof of residence by presenting valid documents showing current name and address. Voters are encouraged to register by the September 13, 2019 deadline. Voters may apply for an absen-

tee ballot by mail beginning **Monday, September 8, 2019**. The application must be submitted in person, by fax, e-mail at [Elections@chathamnc.org](mailto:Elections@chathamnc.org) or by mail to Chatham County Board of Elections office, P O Box 111, Pittsboro, NC 27312. The request must be on the new State Absentee Ballot Request form. The form can be found at the Elections webpage at [www.chathamnc.org/boe](http://www.chathamnc.org/boe) or call the BOE office to obtain a copy, 919-545-8500. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is **Tuesday, October 1, 2019**. The last day to receive your voted ballot at the Chatham County Board of Elections is by 5:00 pm on **October 8, 2019**. Absentee Ballots post-marked on or before Election Day and received by October 11, 2019 will be accepted and processed. You can vote One Stop Absentee voting in person beginning **September 18, 2019** at the Board of Elections office at 984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro, NC 27312. One Stop voting hours at the Board of Elections office will be Wednesday, September 18, 2019 thru Friday, September 20, 2019 from 8 am until 5 pm, Monday, September 23, 2019 thru Friday, September 27, 2019, 8 am until 5 pm, Saturday, September 28, 2019, 9 am until 1 pm, and Monday, September 30, 2019 thru Friday, October 4, 2019. Early voting will only be available at the Board of Elections office. The last day to vote absentee in person at the One Stop site is **Friday, October 4, 2019, 8:00 am until 5:00 pm**. The polling place is accessible to the handicapped and to the elderly. In accordance with North Carolina General Statute, 163-166.8, any voter requiring assistance is entitled to such from a person of his or her choosing. Voter photo ID is not required for elections in 2019, but will be required in elections for 2020. If you have any questions regarding registration, absentee ballots or other election matters, please call the Board of Elections office at 919-545-8500. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. **Exercise Your Right To Vote !!!!!!!** **It's Your Voice.....** **It's Your Choice.....** Laura Heise, Chairman Chatham County Board of Elections Au29,S5,S12,3tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 19 E 411 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **SANDRA H. IHLY**, 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 November 29, 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. This the 29th day of August, 2019. Kurt Ihly, Executor 1708 Turtle Ridge Way Raleigh, NC 27614 Au29,S5,S12,S19,4tp

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE** State of North Carolina County of Chatham Sale of Motor Vehicle G&M Auto Sales **NOTICE OF PRIVATE SALE** Date of Sale: 09-06-2019 Time of Sale: 10:00 a.m. Phone number: 336-581-3863 Vehicle: 1999 Ford Tk ,4c Au29,S5,2tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 19 E 392 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **RUTH ELIZABETH JONES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned at her address, P. O. Box 294, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 29th day of November, 2019, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 26th day of August, 2019. Elizabeth Ann Jones Eubanks P. O. Box 294 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 GUNN & MESSICK, LLP P. O. Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880 Au29,S5,S12,S19,4tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE** STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM The annual meeting of the North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department Inc. will be held at North Chatham Volunteer Fire Station #1, U.S.15-501 North, on Monday, September 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of electing two (2) Directors of the Corporation and of such

business as may properly come before the meeting. All residents of the North Chatham Fire Protection District eighteen (18) years of age or older are entitled to attend and vote at said meeting. The directors to be elected at said meeting shall be residents of the North Chatham Fire Protection District of Chatham County and shall be fairly representative if the geographic areas and populations served by the corporation. This 26th day of August, 2019. Chuck Quinlan, President North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Au29, S5,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of **FAYE WILSON BRIGGS**, deceased, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at 6277 US Highway 64 E, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 29th day of November, 2019, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 26th day of August, 2019. Thomas Woodrow Briggs Limited Personal Representative 6277 US Highway 64 E Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 Gunn & Messick, LLP Post Office Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 Au29,S5,S12,S19,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **DORIS M. VAUGHN aka DORIS MANN VAUGHN**, 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 November 22, 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. This the 22nd day of August, 2019. Ronald Edward Vaughn, Executor 8847 NC Hwy 87N Pittsboro, NC 27312 Au22,Au29,S5,S12,4tc

**CHATHAM COUNTY** Career Opportunities Available Visit [www.chathamnc.org](http://www.chathamnc.org) and click on Jobs

**Auction - Brick Home. Plus Contents** Preview **Saturday, September 7th @9:00am** Friday, Sept. 6 Noon - 6pm **Real Estate Sells at 12 Noon** 8108 US Hwy 158 **Reidsville, NC 27320** Brick Home with 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom in an established neighborhood across from Monroeton Elementary School Plus - Antique Furniture, Tools, Collectibles, 1998 Ford Crown Vic., Coins, Jewelry, Firearms, China & Glassware. **HOUSE & BUILDINGS ARE PACKED FULL. NO TELLING WHAT WE WILL FIND!** www.JerryHarrisAuction.com Auctioneer, Scott Harris NCAL#8420 Firm #8086 919-498-4077 or 919-742-3286 10%BP

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**CLASSIFIED INFORMATION** Line ad deadline Tuesday — Noon Display ad deadline Monday — 5 p.m. Rates and payment Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance. Blind ads No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads. Errors In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

**PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS** Now accepting applications for 1 and 2 BR apartments. Handicapped accessible/adaptable units available. Rent based on income however; limited rental Assistance available. For more information, call 919-542-5410 or TDD 1-800-735-2962. Equal Housing Opportunity This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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ABSOLUTE AUCTION LAKE HICKORY-1.035 ACRES-WATERFRONT PLANTATION POINTE. 5200 PENINSULA DRIVE #44 GRANITE FALLS, NC SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2019. 11:00 AM BOYER REALTY & AUCTION Col. James R. "Jimmy" Boyer NCAL 1792. 336-572-2323 Email: [boyerrealty@skybest.com](mailto:boyerrealty@skybest.com) [www.BoyerRealtyandAuction.com](http://www.BoyerRealtyandAuction.com)

Bankruptcy Auction of Vehicles, Tire Repair Equipment & Tools in Rockingham, NC, Online Only, Begins Closing 9/16 at 2pm, Bankruptcy Case #19-10263, [ironhorseauction.com](http://ironhorseauction.com), 800.997.2248, NCAL 3936

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**19 E 421 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **EMMA SUE CLARK** 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 November 29, 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. This the 29th day of August, 2019.  
Nathaniel Clark, Administrator  
811 Driftwood Drive  
Siler City, NC 27344  
Au29,S5,S12,S19,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **PAUL IRVINE, JR.**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of said Decedent to present them to the undersigned at the address below on or before November 29, 2019, or this Notice will be plead in bar of any recovery thereon. All persons, firms, or corporations indebted to the Estate will please make immediate settlement. This the 22nd day of August, 2019.  
Paul Irvine, III  
Executor of the Estate of Paul Irvine, Jr.  
Stephanie B. Irvine  
Irvine Law Firm, PLLC  
825-C Merrimon Ave #321  
Asheville, NC 28804  
(828) 424-7573  
Au29,S5,S12,S19,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 412 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ARNOLD WILLARD MOODY** 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 November 29, 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. This the 29th day of August, 2019.  
Henry Dale Moody, Executor  
708 Flynt St.  
Kernersville, NC 27284  
Au29,S5,S12,S19,4tp

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE Special Proceedings No. 19 SP 114 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass  
**Date of Sale: September 18, 2019**  
**Time of Sale: 10:00 a.m.**  
**Place of Sale: Chatham County Courthouse**  
Description of Property: See Attached Description  
Record Owners: Kenna Eugene Martin IV and Joanna Marie Martin  
Address of Property: **648 Alston Chapel Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312**  
Deed of Trust: Book,1709 Page: 361 as modified by that Loan Modification Agreement recorded at Book 1719, Page 490, and further modified by that Loan Modification Agreement recorded at Book 1999, Page 906  
Dated: September 10, 2013  
Grantors: Kenna Eugene Martin IV and Joanna Marie Martin, a married couple  
Original Beneficiary: Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc.  
**Exhibit A** - Being all of Lot 1, containing 1.014 acres, more or less, as shown on that survey entitled "Survey for Kenna Martin III Teresa A. Martin", prepared by Van Finch Land Surveys, dated March 1, 2013, and recorded in Plat Slide 2013-66, Chatham County Registry, reference to which is hereby made for a more particular description. - Grantor reserves an easement for ingress, egress, regress and the installation and maintenance of utilities over that existing 30' Private Easement and that New Private Easement, as shown on the above-referenced plat.  
**CONDITIONS OF SALE:** Should the property be purchased by a third party, that person must pay the tax of Forty-five Cents (45¢) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a)(1). This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax. A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.  
Residential real property

with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.  
Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee  
Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.  
S5,S12,2tc

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
Section 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 and applicable State funding, or combination thereof.  
This is to inform the public that a public hearing will be held on the proposed Capital Community Transportation Program Application to be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Transportation no later than October 4, 2019. The **public hearing will be held on September 10, 2019** at Central Carolina Community College's, Administration Building 41, room 225, 764 West Street, Pittsboro, NC Board of Trustees of Central Carolina Community College Foundation, Inc.  
Those interested in attending the public hearing and needing either auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or a language translator should contact Meghan Brown on or before September 6, 2019, at telephone number 919-718-7422 or via email at [mbrown@ccc.edu](mailto:mbrown@ccc.edu).  
Chatham County Central Carolina Community College's state funding allocation by Chatham Transit Network (CTN). \$ 60,000 -- Local Share \$ 6,000 (10%)  
Total project: \$ 60,000. Local Share, \$ 6,000 (10%)  
This application may be inspected at the Central Carolina Community College Foundation Office from 25- 30 September, 2019. Written comments should be directed to Meghan Brown ([mbrown@ccc.edu](mailto:mbrown@ccc.edu)) before September 30, 2019.  
**AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PUBLICA**  
Sección 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 y fondos estatales aplicables, o una combinación de ellos.  
Por medio de este aviso se informa que se llevará a cabo un Anuncio Público acerca de la propuesta para la Aplicación al Programa de Transporte Comunitario (Capital Community Transportation Program Application) la cual deberá ser enviada al Departamento de Transporte de Carolina del Norte antes del 4 de Octubre de 2019. El anuncio público tendrá lugar el día 10 de Septiembre de 2019 a las 5:30pm en el salón 225 edificio de Administración numero 41, Colegio Comunitario de Carolina del Norte (CCCC) en Pittsboro, ubicado en 764 West Street, Pittsboro, NC. El anuncio se realizará ante la Junta Directiva de la Fundación del Colegio Comunitario de Carolina del Norte (Board of Trustees of Central Carolina Community College Foundation, Inc). Aquellos interesados en asistir a la audiencia pública que necesitan asistencia auxiliar, servicios bajo el Acta de Discapacidad (Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)) o intérprete deberá contactar a Meghan Brown antes del día 6 de Septiembre de 2019. Su teléfono es el 919-718-7422 y su email: [mbrown@ccc.edu](mailto:mbrown@ccc.edu). El Programa de Transporte Comunitario (Capital Community Transportation Program) provee asistencia para coordinar los programas existentes en el condado de Chatham y además brinda alternativas de transporte para la comunidad dentro del área de servicio. Estos servicios se ofrecen en la actualidad utilizando fondos que el estado distribuye al Colegio Comunitario. Los servicios son prestados por Chatham Transit Network (CTN). La cantidad total estimada solicitada para el período del 1 de Julio de 2021 al 30 de Julio de 2022.  
Proyecto Cantidad total de acciones locales  
Administrativo \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (15%)  
En funcionamiento (5311) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (50%)  
Capital (Vehículos y Otros) \$ 60,000 \$ 6,000 (10%) 5310 de funcionamiento \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (50%)  
Otro, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_%)  
**PROYECTO TOTAL:** Solicitud de financiación total \$60,000 Participación total local \$6,000. Esta aplicación puede ser inspeccionada en la Oficina de la Fundación del Colegio Comunitario de Carolina Cental (Central Carolina Community College) a partir del 25 al 30 de Septiembre de 2019. Los comentarios escritos deben dirigirse a Meghan Brown ([mbrown@ccc.edu](mailto:mbrown@ccc.edu)) antes 30 de Septiembre, 2019.  
Fin del Aviso  
S5,S11tc

**NOTICE TO ALL NEW HOPE PRECINCT VOTERS RESIDING IN THE TOWN OF CARY, NC TEMPORARY POLLING SITE LOCATION CHANGE**  
For the purpose of voting in the Municipal Election, to be held October 8, 2019 effective immediately, the Chatham County Board of Elections unanimously adopted a resolution to temporarily relocate **voters from the New Hope Precinct located at Holland Chapel AME Zion Church, 360 Burgess Rd., Apex, NC 27523 to vote at the East Williams Precinct.** All registered voters that reside in this precinct who live in the Municipal Boundaries of the Town of Cary, will now vote at the **New Hope Church, 581 New Hope Church Rd., Apex, NC 27523** for this election. Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §163A-1045(a).  
S5,S12,2tc

**NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE**  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM  
Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. JOHN ROBERT HORTON and spouse, MATTIE HORTON, and all possible heirs and assignees of JOHN ROBERT HORTON and spouse, MATTIE HORTON, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, **15-CVD-737**, the undersigned Commissioner will on the **18th day of September, 2019**, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction **at the courthouse door in Chatham County**, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina **at 12:00 o'clock, noon**, the following described real property, lying and being in Gulf Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: A certain tract or parcel of land in Gulf Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the center of the Gulf to Goldston Road, the Southwest corner of Lot #6, and running thence with the line of Lot #6, North 85 degrees East 960 feet to the Southeast corner of Lot #6 in Henry Oldham's line; thence with Henry Oldham's line, South 5 degrees West 130 feet to the Northeast corner of Lot #8; thence with the line of Lot #8, South 85 degrees West 900 feet to the center of the Gulf to Goldston Road; thence with the center of the Gulf to Goldston Road, North 27 degrees 30 minutes West 135 feet to the BEGINNING, and containing 2.7

September 16, 2019, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the courtroom of the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro, North Carolina at 9 Hillsboro Street.  
Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at [www.chathamnc.org](http://www.chathamnc.org) by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners.  
The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below:  
Legislative Request:  
1. A legislative public hearing request by Warren Mitchell dba Hwy 64 Boat & RV Storage for an amendment to the Conditional District Regional Business zoning district to revise the existing site plan on Parcel No. 17891, located at 13144 US 64 E; revise the uses to remove boat, trailer, and other utility vehicle sales and service facility; and relocate the approved mini warehouse storage facility on the project site.  
2. A legislative public hearing request by Ernest Clemons to amend the language in the Watershed Protection Ordinance, Section 302.D.1.e, to add the use of "retail stores and personal service shops similar to those listed dealing in direct consumer and personal services. Testimony is required to be given under oath during the evidentiary hearing for the following item:  
Quasi-Judicial Request:  
1. A quasi-judicial public hearing request by Ernest Clemons for a conditional use permit revision on Parcel No. 19508, located at 1711 Farrington Point Rd., to add the additional use of retail stores and personal service shops similar to those listed dealing in direct consumer and personal services.  
2. A quasi-judicial public hearing request by For Garden's Sake Nursery & Landscaping for a conditional use permit revision on Parcel No. 19644, located at 9197 NC 751 Hwy, to add the additional use of Event Center Limited. Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions.  
Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.  
S5,S12,2tc

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday,

ACRES, more or less, and being all of Lot #7 of the division of the Horton lands. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record.  
Parcel Identification Number: 0010063  
The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 26th day of August, 2019.  
Mark Bardill, Commissioner  
P.O. Box 25  
Trenton, NC 28585  
S5,S12,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 432 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ELISABETH ERIKA BITTLE** 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 December 5, 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. This the 29th day of August, 2019.  
Michael L. Bittle, Executor  
716 Shady Lawn Rd  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
S5,S12,S19,S26,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 435 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **JACQUELINE H. ELLIS** 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 December 5, 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. This the 29th day of August, 2019.  
Jacqueline Marion Ellis, Executrix  
83 Juniper Hills Dr  
Weaverville, NC 28787  
S5,S12,S19,S26,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 147 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **CLARITA PENARANDA LANGMAN** 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 December 5, 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. This the 29th day of August, 2019.  
Jose N. Langman, Administrator  
846 Dorcutt Hills Rd  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
S5,S12,S19,S26,4tc

**TOWN OF SILER CITY, PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
The Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Sept.16, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Courtroom located at 311 N. 2nd Ave. Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests:  
1. Kenneth M. Lommel proposes to rezone -0.281 acre from Office-Institutional (O-I) to Highway-Commercial (H-C). The subject property is located at 517 N. 2nd Ave. and is identified as parcel # 15322;  
2. Jeff Lineberry proposes to rezone - 0.19 acres from Highway-Commercial (H-C) to Neighborhood-Business (B-1).The subject property is located at 319 E. 3rd St. and is identified as parcel # 15385;  
3. Town of Siler City proposes text amendments to §195 Access to Arterial Streets (subcollector, collector), §281 Parking Space Dimensions (residential garage or carport, driveways), §282 Required Widths of Parking Area Aisles and Driveways (distance between adjacent driveways) of the UDO.  
The proposed items are available for review in the Planning office. All persons interested in the outcome of the requests are invited to attend the public hearings and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced item. The Planning Board will meet on Sept. 9 @ 6:30 p.m. to consider a recommendation to the Town Board.  
The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler



City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such as arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

\$5,512,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**18 E 401**  
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **RITA SLOZNICK** 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 December 5, 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. This the 30th day of August, 2019.

Gail Ann Slotnick, Executrix  
c/o Clarity Legal Group  
PO Box 2207  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
\$5,512,519,526,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**19 E 308**  
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
The undersigned, Jennifer Hoben, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **WAYNE MORGAN MILLER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of December, 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 the 5th day of September, 2019.

Jennifer Hoben, Administrator for the Estate  
C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate  
Hopper Cummings, PLLC  
Post Office Box 1455  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
\$5,512,519,526,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**19 E 426**  
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY  
The undersigned, Louise Kessel, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ELTON KESSELL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of December, 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 the 5th day of September, 2019.

Louise Kessel, Executor for the Estate  
C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate  
Hopper Cummings, PLLC  
Post Office Box 1455  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
\$5,512,519,526,4tc

**IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

**DISTRICT COURT DIVISION 19 CVD 2761**  
NORTH CAROLINA FORSYTH COUNTY  
**ROSALIE H. HORTON** Plaintiff  
v.  
**ROBERT A. WATKINS** and **CUSTOM PROJECTS, LLC** Defendants  
**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**  
To: **ROBERT A. WATKINS** and **CUSTOM PROJECTS, LLC**  
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading

seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: An action by which monetary damages are sought for breach of contract, unjust enrichment and conversion. You are required to make defense to such pleading on or before October 15, 2019, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This the 30th day of August, 2019.  
**CRAIGE JENKINS LIIPFERT & WALKER, LLP**  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
By Lori B. Edwards  
N.C. State Bar No. 39659  
110 Oakwood Drive, Suite 300  
Winston-Salem NC 27103  
Telephone (336) 725-0583  
Facsimile (336) 725-4677  
Email ledwards@craigejenkins.com

\$5,512,519,3tc

**PROJECT CHILD FIND LAUNCHED THROUGHOUT DISTRICT**

Project Child Find in Chatham County Schools (CCS) runs from September 9 to 20 to identify youths between the ages of 3 and 21 who have disabilities and require special education and other related services. The local effort is part of a concentrated statewide push to identify young people requiring special education. Project Child Find informs

parents and guardians of such individuals about services available in their local school systems and at other state and community agencies. Project Child Find seeks youths who have been diagnosed or are suspected to have mental, physical or emotional disabilities and are unable to benefit from a regular school program without special assistance. Those aware of such youths who are not in school or not receiving special assistance are encouraged to contact the principal at the school in their area, or they could call the district's Exceptional Children's Department at 919-542-6400. Community support would help the effort a great deal, according to Melvin Diggs, the district's executive director for exceptional children and AIG. The following organizations have more information: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division: 919-807-3969, and the Office of Early Learning (for ages 3-5): 919-807-3946; North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services: 1-800-662-7030; and Family Support Network: 1-852-TLC-0042.

\$5,512,2tc

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SPECTRUM CHANNEL LINEUP**

Communities Served: County of Chatham and Town of Siler, NC Effective on or after October 15, 2019, the following channels

will no longer be available on Digi Tier 2/Spectrum TV Gold & Sports View: FCS Atlantic on channel 304; FCS Central on channel 305; FCS Pacific on channel 306; ESPN Classic on channel 301.

For a complete channel lineup, visit Spectrum.com/Channels. To view this notice online, visit Spectrum.net/Programming-Notices.

\$5,1tp

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION**

The Chatham County Board of Elections is hereby giving notice of a Public Demonstration being held on September 11, 2019 at the Chatham County Agricultural Conference Center, 1192 US Hwy 64 W Business, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Vendors will give presentations of equipment certified by the State Board of Elections from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon. Vendors will be available from 1:30 pm - 7:30 pm for additional public inquiries. The purpose of the demonstration is to showcase new voting equipment being considered by the Chatham County Board of Elections for recommendation to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

The following vendors will be in attendance: Clear Ballot, ES&S, and Hart InterCivic. For further information, please contact the Board of Elections office at 919-545-8500.

\$5,1tc

# Chatham officials keeping close watch on Hurricane Dorian

**BY CASEY MANN**  
News + Record Staff

Chatham County officials are on alert after North Carolina issued a State of Emergency declaration on Sunday in advance of the arrival of Hurricane Dorian.

In the statement, Gov. Roy Cooper "urged North Carolinians today to pay close attention to Hurricane Dorian, and make sure they are ready for its possible impacts expected by the middle of the week."

"North Carolina has endured flooding from two strong hurricanes in less than three years," Cooper said. "Now is the time to prepare for Dorian. To the people of North Carolina, particularly those still recovering in the eastern part of our state, we are working hard to prepare and we are with you."

According to a briefing from the National Weather Service, Hurricane Dorian is a "powerful and dangerous storm" and the "likelihood continues to increase that central N.C. will see some sort of impacts from this storm."

The National Weather Service declared Hurricane Dorian a Category 5 storm which by Tuesday slowed to a Category 3 though its width increased. On Tuesday, Dorian had a forecasted track close to the Carolina coastline. Though the track is still subject to change, the National Weather Service urges residents to begin necessary preparations now as conditions are expected to "deteriorate rapidly Wednesday night."

Chatham County Emergency Management and the Chatham County Sheriff's Office are watching the storm closely and have the

Emergency Operation Center, a communication system for emergency services, on stand-by if needed. Chatham County Emergency Management Specialist Colby Sawyer said that Dorian appears to be "mainly a coastal storm unless something dramatically changes." The area will likely still see tropical storm force wind gusts and rain with nuisance flooding.

"We are watching the situation closely and will be watching the county so that if anything happens we can identify and address it," Sawyer said.

Though Chatham County may not see the eye of the storm, Sawyer urges residents to be prepared.

"This is a great reminder that folks need to be prepared year-round," Sawyer said. "Though we may not be getting a direct hit from a Category 5 storm, we will still feel effects. Let this be the impetus for getting prepared and if nothing happens then, great, you're prepared for next time."

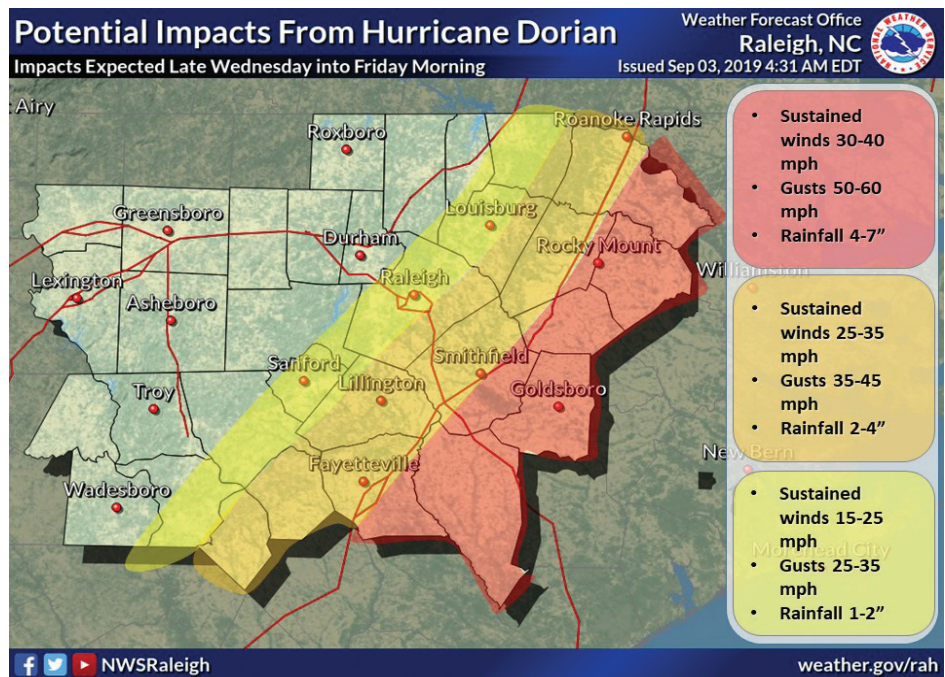
Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson also noted that if the storm tracks continues more along the coastline than inland, some first responders and emergency management officials in Chatham County may travel to the worst damaged areas of North Carolina to assist there following the storm.

Updates on Emergency Services can be found in numerous ways. Residents can sign up for ALERT Chatham, and monitor the Chatham County Emergen-

cy Management Facebook and Twitter accounts. The National Weather Service in Raleigh also hosts a YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/NWSRaleigh](http://www.youtube.com/NWSRaleigh)) that airs emergency briefings throughout major weather events.

**Here are some things residents should do to prepare their home, family, and pets for the upcoming storm.**

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation. Residents can also fill Tupperware, old water bottles, and other containers with tap water in advance of the storm. You can also fill up your bathtub and washing machine with water to use for flushing toilets.
- Food at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Propane and/or charcoal to use for cooking. Never use a charcoal or propane grill inside your home. Always use grills outside.
- Fill up gas tanks
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Charge all cell phones and/or portable battery chargers. Consider how you might be able to charge them when the power goes out
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper — when diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps



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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Chatham Central teacher named finalist for National History Teacher of the Year**

NEW YORK — Amy King, a history teacher at Chatham Central High School in Bear Creek, was named one of 10 finalists for the 2019 National History Teacher of the Year Award last month.

The award is given annually by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, which describes itself as "the nation's leading organization dedicated to K-12 American history education." King was the organization's recipient of the 2019 Most Innovative Digital Lesson Design Award

and was selected as the 2017-18 Teacher of the Year. She was also the 2008-09 Teacher of the Year at Randolph County Schools and the 2006-07 Teacher of the Year at Eastern Randolph High School.

"The very best history teachers transform textbooks and primary sources into gateways to our country's past, engaging students and prompting critical thinking about the events and facts that define our nation," said James G. Basker, President of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. "We are thrilled to recognize these dedicated educators who have exceeded these standards and inspired classrooms across the country."

The national award will be selected from a pool of 10 finalists on September 10, and will be given, along with a \$10,000 prize, at a ceremony in New York City on Oct. 2.

— CN+R staff reports