

Chatham News + Record

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UDC awarded temporary restraining order against statue removal

Group claims it would cause 'irreparable harm'

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Defenders of the “Our Confederate Heroes” monument in downtown Pittsboro were awarded a temporary restraining order Monday,

preventing the removal of the statue which stands on the grounds of the Chatham County Historic Courthouse.

The decision comes following a complaint filed last week by the Winnie Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and three Chatham citizens in county Superior Court, asking the court to determine the question of the monument’s ownership and claiming the monument’s removal would be “irreparably

harm(ful)” to the group.

The court will take up the case again on November 8 in Pittsboro.

James Davis, the attorney representing the UDC and Chatham residents Barbara Pugh, Gene Brooks and Thomas Clegg — each of whom claimed to be “ancestors” (rather than descendants) of “a member of the armed forces of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War” in the filing — said at a hearing Monday that

the statue was “accepted as a gift,” noting that public funds have been used previously to dismantle, restore and reinstall the statue in 1988.

Davis argued that when the board of commissioners voted in August to remove and relocate the statue, the board asserted that the property was owned by the Daughters of the Confederacy, a claim the complaint denies. The complaint states that the resolutions, as well as the subsequent resolu-

tion on Monday ordering the removal of the statue, were “unlawful” based on a 2015 North Carolina law protecting publicly owned monuments.

In August, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 to terminate an agreement between the county and the UDC allowing for the placement of the monument. That decision has been followed by protests and counter-protests in

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Pittsboro Street Fair



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Little Grady Eubanks of Pittsboro shows some determination in a playing a game at Saturday’s street festival. We have more pictures from that event on Page 14B.

Environment on county’s mind

BY CASEY MANN & MOLLY CAITLIN WEISNER

News + Record/Our Chatham

The environment is on Chatham County’s mind.

With the months-long saga of Pittsboro’s tainted drinking water still unfolding, attention by county officials and local groups to environmental health is heightened.

Various county leaders, from planning and development to transportation, are collaborating on the issue of environmental protection and climate change, which has been in discussion for several years now.

The creation of the county’s Climate Change Advisory Committee in 2015 has been one major step toward solving Chatham’s biggest environmental challenges, of which several county commissioners have said vehicle emissions is one.

Commuter times contribute emissions

Commuter times in Chatham County average almost 30 minutes, and average car ownership per household is two vehicles. The heavy majority of commuters also drive alone as opposed to carpooling or using Chatham Transit.

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POLITICS & SOCIAL MEDIA: PART 2

Post leads to politicians’ social media concern

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

A recent post on the Chatham Chatlist captured how many feel the social media dialogue over politics and political positions has devolved.

Purportedly from someone named “Taylor Kish,” the post stated that the commenter began posting on the Chatham-centric message board under a fake name after a certain post led to individuals attacking him and personal information and family details “used to intimidate me and my family.”

“My post offered opinions and facts that some disagreed,” “Kish” wrote. “I was horrified to see such viciousness in the Chatham Chatlist. The few who disagreed only attacked me personally. No substantial argument was offered in response. The few who disagreed

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Mosaic announces first tenants, including Town Hall Burger, Aveda, at construction kick-off event

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The presence of Mosaic in Pittsboro at the entryway to what will become Chatham Park has been known for a while. The equipment has been moving dirt and making way for building sites for a few months now.

But on Tuesday, announcements were made about some specific tenants in the new \$350 million development.

Town Hall Burger + Beer, People’s Coffee, Aveda Day Spa and Salon, UNC Urgent Care and CMG Financial were the new tenants announced Tuesday at an event to celebrate the launch of construction on Mosaic, a 136-acre “entertainment and lifestyle destination” off of U.S. Highway 15-501 across the street from Northwood High School.

The amenities join projects in the Phase 1 stage of development already announced, including a 114-room hotel, a movie theater, 350-seat live performance theater and thousands of square feet of office space, educational space and open space for walking trails and ponds. Retail outlets are scheduled to begin operation in October 2020, joining apartments for lease and condos for purchase.

“Mosaic is poised to invigorate residents and patrons alike with a dynam-



Submitted photo

This artist’s rendering illustrates how a portion of Mosaic, the 136-acre, \$350 million mixed-use gateway to Chatham Park, will appear. Phase I of Mosaic, a 44-acre, \$180 million entertainment and lifestyle destination, is expected to be complete in 2023.

ic, vibrant environment that offers shopping, dining, working, learning and living opportunities within a well-designed, purposefully-planned and aesthetically-pleasing destination,” Kirk Bradley, one of Mosaic’s devel-

opers, said. “Today marks the first of many opportunities for the community to gather at Mosaic. This destination will soon be alive with experience and

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IN THE KNOW

Siler City’s ‘State of the Town’ reflects on changes, stability. **PAGE A9**

2019 Election: What you need to know for next Tuesday. **PAGE A11**

Chatham Central girls’ tennis team earns big win. **PAGE B1**

Chatham considering tobacco-free ordinance on county property. **PAGE B7**



NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham artists win at Senior Games Finals

Artists from Chatham County won medals in the 2019 North Carolina Senior Games Finals held in Raleigh. The Artists qualified at the Annual 2019 Chatham County Senior Games this past spring.

- Nansi Greger-Holt placed second in Quilting (Machine Stitched)
• Mark Herboth took second place in Woodturning
• Patricia Reid won first place with her Stained Glass
• Ruth Slates took second place in Instrumental Solo with her original piano composition.

Chatham County Senior Games is one of 53 local programs sanctioned by North Carolina Senior Games, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing year-round health promotion and education for adults 50 years of age and better.

NCSG offers Silver Arts, which is a statewide heritage, visual, literary, and performing arts program. NCSG also offers Silver Liners, a senior line dancing program, and Silver Striders, a national award-winning walking program.

For more information on Chatham County Senior Games, please contact Liz Lahti at 919-542-4512, or liz.lahti@chathamcoa.org.

Library hosting Native American Heritage Month event

Chatham Community Library is hosting a free event in recogni-

tion of Native American Heritage Month, celebrating the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, histories and important contributions of 3 million Native people representing nearly 570 tribes.

The event, which takes place at 1 p.m. Saturday, will feature Dr. Marty Richardson, a citizen of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe who has shared his knowledge of tribal language, customs, history, and singing at workshops, presentations and festivals throughout North America.

Dr. Richardson will be joined by other members of the Haliwa-Saponi Nation who will give a demonstration of Native American singing. Light refreshments will be served.

This event is made possible through the generosity of the Friends of the Chatham Community Library.

Silk Hope Ruritans plan Christmas shopping event

The Silk Hope Ruritan Club is planning its first Christmas Magic Holiday Shopping Event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 1.

The event, featuring numerous vendors, food and fun activities, will be held at the Farm Heritage Community Building, 4221 Silk Hope Rd., Siler City.

Santa will also be there. The Silk Hope Ruritan Club is a non profit organization and the funds the club raises through this and other events is returned to the community through a variety of charitable donations.

For more information, call 919-663-0331.

-CN+R staff reports

CONCERN: 'Easily misconstrued'

Continued from page A1

posted as much personal information as they could find to marginalize me personally as a way to intimidate me and shut me up."

He ended the post by saying that he didn't "trust" members of the Chatlist to "respectfully, openly discuss ideas, opinions, controversies," partially because of how people responded to his posts.

Politics has woven itself deep into the fabric of American social media culture and continues to do so, even as Americans and some municipal candidates in Chatham County this year express doubts about its effectiveness and their weariness from its prevalence.

According to the Pew Research Center, around 46 percent of adult social media users in the U.S. say they "are worn out by how many political posts and discussions they see," compared to 15 percent who "like seeing lots of political posts and discussions."

The survey, which was conducted this June, said those numbers shifted from 37 percent and 20 percent, respectively, from 2016. Additionally, 68 percent of social media users say it's generally "stressful and frustrating" to talk about politics on social media with people with whom they disagree.

In Chatham County, some candidates who have Facebook pages have sparred with voters over issues. On other digital platforms, candidates, voters and anonymous posters have leveled accusations at each other and made claims about a host of real or perceived

slights.

Some of the candidates for Siler City Mayor, Pittsboro Town Commissioner and Siler City Town Commissioner told the News + Record that they have concerns about how social media can make political dialogue and conversation worse.

"My golden rule is 'Your reputation and a good committee is the best way,'" said Curtis Brown, a candidate for the Siler City Commissioner District 3 seat. "So, I limit what I say on social media. It can sometimes make it worse. It can create impersonal malicious behavior and no need for civility when you're not looking someone in the eye. There's no responsibility."

Pittsboro commissioner candidate Bridget Perry, who does not have a campaign social media page, said the medium can improve dialogue but "just as easily make it worse."

"Comments on social media can be easily misconstrued," Perry said, "and intent is more difficult to convey and interpret in a back and forth written exchange than it is in a face-to-face exchange."

Fellow Pittsboro candidate Kyle Shipp agreed, saying "social media is no replacement for face-to-face interactions or a phone call."

Many of the candidates who shared their thoughts said social media platforms can be both a boon to political conversation but also damaging

Pittsboro Commissioner John Bonitz said he tries to "promote more high quality information and urge people to actually think rather than just react," while Siler City

Mayor John Grimes said all should "aspire" to "respectful exchanges" on the platforms. Fellow Siler City mayoral candidates Jackie Adams and Albert Reddick feel similarly; Adams says that "knowledge is key" in using it "wisely," and Reddick said candidates "should be careful about what they say and be respectable to everyone."

Pittsboro commissioner candidate Heather Johnson, a frequent writer and subject of posts on the Chatlist, spoke about the positive aspects of social media.

"I absolutely feel that social media presence improves the campaign dialogue," she said. "I use my page to inform voters about when and where they can attend meetings. I also use Facebook videos without scripts to share my platform so that voters can see that these are my authentic positions."

It appears that many see social media as a mixed bag — both as a tool for positive conversation and community education but also as a platform for unhelpful disagreement. Siler City commissioner candidate Timothy "Cookie" Brown seemed to summarize what many candidates feel.

"I use social media because it's cheaper and it reaches a lot of people," he said. "If social media is used correctly it's a huge boost for your campaign — for example, using it to get out your views, staying positive on what you bring to the community, and not just saying what your opponents can't do or haven't accomplished."

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at zhorner@cha-

CLIMATE: 'I think we're all heavily dependent on the vehicle'

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Chatham Transit is not a county service, so as a local, non-profit organization, it doesn't fall under the jurisdiction of the county, which is looking to bolster public transportation. And it has a very limited schedule and route structure.

Chatham County Commissioner Karen Howard said the goal of moving toward greener commuter options like public transportation routes is challenged because Chatham County is so vast.

"Chatham County has challenges around that because we are a commuter community, people drive out from Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, and it's going to be a little while before we can turn that around," Howard said.

Commissioner Diana Hales agreed, saying options are limited for solutions such as electric buses until the county gets electric vehicle charging stations and

regular transit routes. "We need to be thinking about the fact that our greatest contribution to climate is cars," Howard said.

But tied to the issue of transportation and reducing vehicle dependency is boosting walkability.

Balancing development and green space

Mixed-use developments, like the 7,000-acre Chatham Park, centralize "work, play, live" attractions to reduce sprawl and be sidewalk friendly. Yet the development, while moving ahead with only a few hurdles to clear, doesn't sit well with all Chathamites — some of whom are concerned about its impact on the environment and natural beauty of the area where it spans.

Jack Meadows, director of Planning and Community Development in Siler City, said his department is wary of promoting walkability and accommodating zero-car households.

"I think we're all heavily dependent on the vehicle," Meadows said. "It's our go-to. But there's not enough in place to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists."

Meadows said his department is actively pursuing funding to continue extending sidewalk in downtown Siler City, as well as along U.S. Hwy. 64. Meadows said sidewalks are seeing a renewed focus since the automobile boom after World War II raced to build highways and roads instead of completing sidewalk projects.

Again, Meadows emphasized locating high-density residential areas near commercial corridors to promote walkability. In that way, towns build from within instead of out. But that kind of town planning doesn't just hope to reduce vehicle reliance; it also works to preserve green space, which is one recurring quailm against multi-use devel-

opments.

Some, like Amanda Robertson, CEO of The Farthest Pixel and founding member of the N.C. Climate Solutions Coalition, are concerned that more development, especially as Chatham County continues to grow, threatens the natural environment.

Agricultural and agribusiness make up 33 percent of Chatham County's total income, so as cities grow, residents fear they encroach on undeveloped land.

But there are some rules in place to mitigate development pressure and incentivize preservation of green space.

Meadows explained that for any development of 13 or more dwellings, a developer is required to set aside 5 percent of the lot for greenspace.

"In Siler City, there's one thing we do like, and that is alternatives and options," Meadows said. "So, if the developer doesn't want to pursue the 5 percent open space, he can do a fee in lieu for half of that space."

Meadows also said that a development of 13 or more dwellings must set aside space for active recreational facilities, like miniparks or basketball courts. If a developer wants to opt out with a fee, that money is held to develop and rehabilitate public recreational spaces.

That's one way of incentivizing protecting green space even as Chatham continues to grow. Hales notes that she would like to see an economic incentive for conservation subdivisions in the county's Unified Development Ordinance it is currently working on updating.

A conservation subdivision, one which preserved 40 percent of its land as undeveloped, could earn a density bonus for the remaining land. The county's current zoning puts a limit on the number of homes that could be built per acre. A density bonus would allow a builder to add more homes.

"As development happens, the pressure of green space becomes more and more," Howard said. "You can't undevelop. You have to ensure that protection upfront."

Hales said that although the Climate Change Advisory Committee wants to see every tree standing, timber is considered a crop and it has to be harvested, even though Chatham County is a managed timber area.

As such, the practice is protected by state law. However, Hales would like to ensure that tim-

bering plans are followed as well as find ways to encourage tree farmers to plant new trees once the crop has been harvested.

The county is also looking to update current developments with green technology, in addition to building new ones with efficient utilities.

Hales said every county building made a commitment to solarizing new buildings and adding solar where possible to existing structures, including the Seaforth High School currently under construction.

However, Hales notes that some of the county's existing buildings are not built to support solar. At the same time, the county is looking at other ways to ensure energy efficiency.

In 2017, the commissioners pledged a goal of 100 percent clean energy and expanding green jobs by 2050. Currently, the county boasts a Gold Award from SolSmart, the highest award of its kind.

In May, North Carolina ranked second in the country for producing solar energy.

"As a county, when we build, we have a responsibility to include the most recent tech that have been proven to be environmentally sound," Howard said.

Green developments could even delve into permitting tiny homes and updating older communities that haven't been outfitted with water-saving fixtures or efficient hot water systems. That way, she said, small and immediate adjustments can make an impact on wastefulness.

"If you reduce individual need," Howard said, "you can stave off a massive system overhaul because demand on the whole system is lower."

Solving long-term problems

But as the county looks to innovate its future, it's also rolling out plans to retroactively address environmental issues.

The coal ash housed in Chatham is of particular concern to Robertson, who said it's a threat to the health and safety of people as well as to the environment.

About nine million tons of coal ash is housed at Brickhaven, an area southeast of Pittsboro, and Cape Fear has five million tons still housed on-site.

State law maintains that communities cannot prevent these types of facilities, but the county commissioners were able to strike a deal with Duke Energy about the Brickhaven site, with Duke Energy paying the county about

\$10 million. The county in turn has invested \$6 million in the Moncure community where the site is located.

The Cape Fear location will begin burning its coal ash on site. Once again, since the operation will be located wholly on Duke Energy's property, the county has little legal recourse. The energy company receives its air quality permits through the state, but Hales notes the county may consider installing its own air quality monitors in the area.

"It is a social justice issue," Robertson said, explaining that environmental protection can no longer be seen in isolation from community well-being and accountability of local officials and energy companies.

Though green politics hasn't seen a top-down reinforcement from the federal government — as the Trump administration has done away with many environmental protections — Robertson said that the upcoming municipal elections are a chance to garner support for, and commitment to, environmentalism at a level where policies can be fast-tracked.

Involving the public, Robertson said, is also critical to deriving solutions in sustainable development and climate change in general.

"If we're going to be effective, we need to get out into the county and educate the public," Robertson said.

For some of the climate change problems that won't see immediate reversals, Robertson said there is a need to arm the public with knowledge about community gardens, for example.

The long-term goal — about 44 months at its completion — is the Unified Development Ordinance to list precisely how land and developments are to be used. The UDO will comprise all the specific rules related to development, offering specificity to create a basis for expectations between builders and the county.

It will codify all the points of discussion currently on the table. But for now, it's still a living document.

"The UDO is not just putting all old ordinances together," Hales said. "Look at the future where to make changes."

Molly Weisner is a staff writer for Our Chatham; Casey Mann is a reporter for the Chatham News + Record. This story was published in collaboration with Our Chatham.

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VIEWPOINTS

THE CN+R EDITORIAL

A message to the agitators: When enough is simply enough

We get it. You made your point. You came, you did your thing. Now *please* take your mess somewhere else.

We understand. Chatham County, and Pittsboro in particular, happens to be where a battle is raging. It's complicated, complex and a bit messy. It's unfortunate, and sad. It's unpleasant, in many ways, to watch. It's both a legal conundrum and a political one. It's emotional and upsetting for many. It's unsettling, for sure, and things have happened here which have many of wish had been handled differently.

But it *IS*, and we're all working our way through it.

Along the way, what's taken place — taking place — has perhaps enraged you and your ilk.

You want to help settle the issue, once and for all. Might makes right — right?

Thanks, but no thanks. Seriously. *No thank you*. Trust us: we can do it without you.

We just don't need you. Listen. Yes, we *do* get it. And we know who you are. You're opportunists. You're angry. You're soldiers of circumstance. You're looking for a fight. You live in an agitated world of rabble-rousers, of troublemakers. You yell. You curse. Some of you even spit, push, shove,

trespass, confront, harangue, insult, threaten, belittle, accuse. You'd like nothing more than to throw an elbow — proverbial or literal — into someone, anyone, who has a different worldview than you. "That'll teach 'em," you think. You thrill in nothing more than "getting your back up," as our moms used to say, or hoping to record some video of a tangle, a skirmish, a dust-up that will prove to those like you that the other guys are the bad ones, that you're in the right. You're right, everyone else is wrong, and *that's that*.

But you're in the wrong place, and you're doing it the wrong way, in a way that's hurting *us*.

Anger and hate are your guiding values. Too many of you seek out opportunities where violence could result. Different, more serious, than the most vile playground behavior, but on the 3rd-grade mentality level just the same.

It's what you are used to. *Not us*.

It may be the environment in which you feel at home, but hear this: That's not our world. So stop bringing it here.

Sure, you may think you were invited. Maybe some of you were. You feel compelled, drawn. *Needed*.

You think you can fix it. It's about numbers, you say. You have to be here, you tell

each other. Clout. Weight. Presence. Rights. Heritage. History. Chest-thumping at its best.

You use social media, message boards, networks, bullhorns, walkies, signs. You bully. You engage in subterfuge. You scream. You sneak. Some of you have even leveled death threats at our elected officials, our county commissioners. You pile on. You point fingers and blame. You engage in competition to see who can be the most snide, the most clever, the most loyal. To see whose banner is still waving high at the end of the day. To some of you, it's a contest of who has the bestest and baddest bullies.

But you're not adding to the conversation.

Really. You are not adding *anything* to the conversation. It's worse because you're here.

You're an unwelcome distraction, an uninvited guest who's brought the stench of hate with you, and you're stinking up our county.

It's time to leave. To stop coming here on Saturdays, or any other day, and never, ever come back.

Do you really believe that our local folks, most of whom who are peaceably exercising their Constitutional rights without being jerks about it, can't succeed without you?

We know you're not stupid. But you are deceived. And blind to the damage you're doing.

Intentional or not, you've made downtown Pittsboro a flashpoint. Your stench is doing what stench usually does: attracting more flies, more pests. And maggots. Sure, you and your various activists groups are getting your mugs on television, and your petulance gets posted and re-posted on Saturday afternoons as you smirk and prance and generally parade your ill-fitting conception of truth around a town, and a county, that's not yours.

You're hurting our businesses and others who are honestly trying to work and make a living. Or pass through Chatham County.

You're used to disruption, because you live in that constant state.

Don't make *us* live in it, too. Some of you are carrying guns and other weapons. Why? To defend yourself, to defend your beliefs? With a bullet?

Take that junk somewhere else.

Yes. We get it. Even Chathamites on opposite sides in this fight get it, too. Ask them. They're tired of you, your antics, your show, your meanness. You? You don't have to live here when this is over.

We do. *It's our home*.

Remember home? That place you came from?

Go back there. Don't come back here.

If we want to come out on the other side of this with any degree of harmony at all, then harmony must be an ingredient going in. What you and your fellow agitators are doing is nothing more than a recipe for disaster. Garbage in, garbage out.

And more stench.

As a result, any real work the people of Chatham County will do will have to be done in spite of you.

Which is why you're no longer necessary.

You're an interference. You're even at odds with some, or many, of those who feel the same way about the statue that you do. And when it's over, the rest of us left to pick up the pieces will have more in common with neighbors who feel differently on this issue because, after all, we'll still be neighbors.

And where will you be? Making a mess somewhere else.

So get on with that. If you really want to have a sacred duty, let it be this: trust us to figure this out in a way that works for us.

Because what you're doing isn't working.

News flash: There may, or may not, be ghosts



RANDALL RIGSBEE
Randall Reflects

Decades ago, when I first gravitated towards journalism as a career, I knew I wanted to work with words and facts and ink and paper and deadlines.

I never considered the work would involve ghosts. But I think it has.

I say "I think" because the problem with ghosts — one of them, at least — is establishing their existence.

I mentioned facts a second ago, and there's no factual evidence I'm aware of to definitively confirm ghosts exist, or don't. Some folks believe in them; others dismiss the notion. The rest of us admit we haven't a clue.

And that, despite a dozen seasons of "Ghost Hunters" on cable television, is about as far as science has taken us on the topic.

Nevertheless, my work in newspaper reporting has led me to two newsrooms that may — or may not — have been haunted; they certainly opened my eyes to the possibility, at least, of paranormal presences.

So here, as spooky as I can dress it up for Halloween re-telling, is my experience with the...unexplained.

Soon after college, I went to work as a reporter for a small weekly newspaper in the Sandhills, housed in a creaky old building that, according to local lore, had once been a murder scene.

I never tried to verify the murder story, though word of it came from reliable sources, but it made for good back-story when I was also told the old brick building, former murder scene or not, was haunted.

Old-timers around the office — the pressman, for instance, a middle-aged man who'd worked there since he was a teenager — warned me about unusual things that happened in the building at night. Likewise, the sports writer, the publisher, and a couple of the reporters confirmed the stories of ghostly noises, bumps in the night, weird things. They didn't lie.

Always — and only — occurring when one was alone in the building, such activity would ensue. Since I lived immediately next door to the office, and had a key, I was in and out at odd times and during those solitary work hours I often heard the strange sounds — footsteps, doors opening or shutting, knocking — that I'd been warned about.

The noises were frustrating more than frightening. I'd hear them, but the moment I'd go about checking the building for burglars or any other terrestrial explanation, the noises would stop. Back at my desk, they'd resume. I learned to ignore them.

Though never scared or unwilling to work alone at night, I became convinced of the presence of...noises. What caused them, I never knew; but it was kind of cool. I thought, to believe I worked in a haunted building, and even cooler to tell people so. So that was my story and I've stuck with it.

And that would have been enough close encounters for one lifetime, but the inexplicable wasn't through with me yet.

Though I've worked at the Chatham News + Record for many years now, only recently — a few months ago, it started — co-workers began to talk about some unusual occurrences they'd experienced within our Siler City office building.

Some reported catching a glimpse of something — perhaps a woman, they said — briefly in their peripheral vision before the something vanished. Others reported hearing odd noises, similar to those I'd heard long ago in that Sandhills office: footsteps and knocking.

While I like my co-workers and believe them all to be reasonable people of sound mind and body, I initially dismissed the ghost chatter until a month or so back when, while working alone in the office on a Sunday afternoon, I heard stuff, too: mainly a knocking on the wood paneling on the opposite side of my office wall.

The knocking was loud enough, and distinct enough, that I thought somebody — maybe Don Beane was bored — was having fun with me, so I investigated and after walking through the entire complex, still half-expecting a familiar face to shout "Boo!", I determined I was alone and the building locked.

My survey of the office complete, I resumed working and so did the knocking.

Possessing no proton packs or gigameters or any ghost-busting gear, I'm unable to draw conclusions.

But to aspiring young journalists, I offer this: There will be deadlines. There will be many hours writing alone, sometimes in an otherwise unoccupied office after dark. There will be lots of ink and paper and facts.

And there may — or may not — be ghosts.



Life, like time and tide, waits for no one



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

There's a chill in the air. Fall is here. The calendar says so but the weather confirms it.

Sure, there are still some warm, even muggy days. It's been said, and often, by natives and transplants alike that if you don't like the weather in North Carolina just wait five minutes; it'll probably change.

I had an up-close personal reminder of that early one morning this week. My better half was off being grandmother and I was on our front porch in my rocking chair office, cup of coffee in hand. A modest breeze was coming from the east and, when coupled with the quiet of the morning, it made things pleasantly cool.

And good.

All of that was nice, those external sensations — the breeze, the quiet, a stout Java. But there was more.

As I have always been prone to do — and apparently am becoming more so — my mind began to wander. Sometimes it goes off on long trips, moving from one thought to another until I can't get back to where I started the journey. Other times, it takes those lengthy excursions and I can return to the starting line. And the latter are more preferred than the former. And then there are those short trips somewhere down a lane of someone or some place at some time.

As I was exploring all those roads of the mind, a thought came — life is like that. We start off in spring, as little folks like new buds on flowers or the newly-born lambs. We find, as Bill Cosby often said before his fall,

that we indeed "started out as a child, at birth very close to my mother."

Then comes summer and it lasts a long time, from youth to young adulthood, until mid-life sometimes. We grow, strive, sometimes prosper in all sorts of ways, just like the trees of the forest or crops in the field. We reach upward toward the sky, confident we'll always be like this. That's one reason when tragedy intrudes into that world of youth we are so shocked.

Sitting in that rocker, alternately drinking and smelling the coffee, I thought of some of the folks of those two seasons in my life...my long-gone grandparents whom I barely remember, my folks whom I remember well and miss...aunts and uncles and cousins...my brothers when we all wore a younger man's clothes, even young people clothes...my better half, thankfully, my own children and grands...some long ago girlfriends, wondering how their lives turned out, some high school buddies, including one who left us when tragedy entered our summer world...some college friends I was sure I'd never lose sight of and then a couple of times seeing their names in the obituary section of the paper.

There were folks of different careers — long ago at The Chatham News, at the Asheboro Courier-Tribune when I thought I wanted to be a reporter on a daily, of a corporate communication career with an outfit that doesn't even exist anymore (not my fault)...of folks I encountered during a journey into vocational ministry...pastors and professors at seminary, all good, some better than others, Dr. Horne, Dr. Dale, Dr. Durham...folks in churches I served, a dear friend as close as a brother who crossed the Great Divide in his sleep one night when he was

way too young...and on and on I — and you in your life — could go.

Somewhere in the midst of all that, it occurred to me that the seasons of the year and the seasons of our lives can — and do — often easily transition from one to another. After all, it wasn't so long ago, the weather was hot and dry as summer was in full swing. Then came rain, cooler days and nights, and autumn. So with our lives. I realized, for me, summer was over and it was fall. Part of that is because I've had a few birthdays. Part is because my shoulders are shot and it's hard to hold my arms upward for very long. Part of it is the realization I've had a few visits with the surgeon for various necessities and while things went well, he did not turn back the clock to spring...or even early summer.

The key, I think, to all this awareness of the seasons of time and life is to, first of all, know where we are. As much as I'm able, I want to stretch out fall as long as possible. That's why for the weather forecast, there's wood under the shelter, some of it in wife-size pieces, and for the body there's Ben-Gay for aching joints.

Then, secondly, make the best of the season you're in. I enjoyed remembering all those people, places and things while in the rocking chair the other day but the reality is, I can't change a thing or live there. That's not to say I won't visit again, maybe soon when it's cool and the coffee pot is on, but the key will be not only to remember but to learn.

My hope for you is that you have similar places to visit, good folks to remember and life lessons learned. If so, enjoy and pass along those lessons. If not, take a look at your calendar and see where you are. It's likely not too late to start.

VIEWPOINTS

To regulate is to tax

RALEIGH — If North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper proposed a \$5 billion tax increase, his Republican rivals would be both furious and gleeful — furious about the potential economic consequences, that is, and gleeful about the political ones.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

Although the governor certainly thinks North Carolina's tax rates ought to be higher, he couldn't engineer a \$5 billion hike even if he wanted to. But the Cooper administration has issued a single regulatory decision that, unless blocked in court, will raise the cost of cleaning up Duke Energy's coal-ash ponds by approximately \$10.6 billion, up from the original cost estimate of \$5.6.

At issue is the disposition of six of Duke Energy's coal-ash sites. While the company has already agreed to complete excavation at other locations — the ash would be removed and for the most part stored in lined landfills — it contends that the best solution for sites rated "low risk" by state regulators would be to drain and then cap the ponds with a waterproof cover and layer of soil.

Digging up and transporting the ash from those sites would not improve public health enough to justify the exorbitant cost, Duke Energy concluded. The Cooper administration disagreed, both about the company's conclusion and about whether the cost of compliance was an appropriate consid-

ation in this case. Given the Cooper administration's other choices on energy policy, which seem to run the gamut from questionable to ludicrous, I think Duke Energy is probably right about the policy here. Perhaps you disagree. At least it should be clear that we are talking about a very large price tag even if you think the environmental benefits justify it.

Legally, the extra \$5 billion isn't a tax increase. In practical terms, however, it waddles and quacks like one.

Who will pay it? As with taxes of all kinds, the set of those who are legally responsible and the set of those who will bear the real burden overlap but are not identical. State regulators have already ruled, correctly in my view, that Duke shareholders won't be required to foot the entire bill because the ash was a byproduct of coal-fired power plants that previously received regulatory approval. Indeed, Duke Energy customers are already paying \$175 million a year approved by regulators to help cover the cost of coal-ash cleanup.

But even when it comes to the share of the cost legally assigned to the company, it is likely that the real incidence will at least be divided among shareholders, workers, and vendors, regardless of regulatory intent.

To say that regulations are a form of taxation — government exactions to pay for public services — is not to say they shouldn't be imposed. A core function of government is to protect individual rights to life, liberty, and property. Protecting those rights inevitably

requires legislation, litigation, or some combination thereof.

Regulation is, in other words, not all cost. But contrary to the apparent philosophy of the Cooper administration, it isn't all benefit, either. When it comes to chemical exposure, for example, "the dose makes the poison," as the old saying goes. If it costs billions of dollars to reduce trace amounts to somewhat tinier amounts, the policy actually harms the public interest rather than advancing it, because the economic costs — lost jobs, incomes, and opportunities — have their own adverse consequences on public health and safety.

Taxes transfer resources from payers to government coffers and then out to contractors or recipients to accomplish public ends. Regulation typically skips the middle step, the employment of a public budget to broker the resource transfer.

As a result, regulation is less transparent than on-budget taxation and expenditure, though no less coercive or costly. Indeed, according to the best estimates available, state regulations cost North Carolinians about \$26 billion annually — comparable to the state's General Fund budget.

Gov. Cooper's coal-ash policy will cost hundreds of millions of dollars a year. If it were an on-budget state expenditure, it would attract significant scrutiny. As a regulation, it deserves just as much.

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.

Are cities losing their luster for millennials and Gen Zers?

One of the biggest changes in recent decades has been the revival of big cities. Through the birth and development of the automobile age — when the auto brought enhanced mobility to households and businesses —



MIKE WALDEN
You Decide

suburbs grew at the expense of inner cities. During the 21st century this trend reversed, and many inner cities were reborn and rehabilitated.

Downtown living became fashionable. Young people, especially college grads who were single and without children to raise, flocked to the excitement of living in cities packed with restaurants, entertainment and often jobs within walking distance of their residences. Even better for them, there was reduced need for vehicle ownership and the costs of buying and maintaining cars and trucks. In fact, these new urban pioneers spawned entirely new ways of travel, such as ride-sharing, scooters and bike rentals.

The results of this downtown living can be seen in most big cities, including those in North Carolina. Just look at the skylines of Charlotte, Raleigh, Durham, Asheville, Winston-Salem, Greensboro and others. You see cranes — lots of them — building high-rise condo buildings and multi-use skyscrapers. Raleigh just approved not one, but two, buildings that could extend up to 40 stories.

This burst of living and building in downtowns has not been without controversy. Some of the neighborhoods where development has occurred had been home to modestly priced dwellings where households with low to moderate incomes could live. The worry is where those folks will go when the bulldozers arrive.

The attractiveness of inner cities has also bumped up against the economic reality of supply and demand, perhaps best stated by the iconic writer and humorist Mark Twain. Twain once advised, "Buy land, they're not making any more of it." As more people want to live downtown, the economic value of inner city sites increases. Developers can "create land" by constructing taller buildings on sites, but that adds to the cost. The more popular downtown living becomes, the more expensive it is. Housing affordability has become a big issue in most big cities.

Which raises the question: can the downtown boom last forever? Will there be factors that will lessen, or even end, it?

The question is very pertinent now as a result of a just-released U.S. Census report. The report revealed millennial generation households aged 25 to 39 are beginning to move out of big cities to the suburbs. They were more than replaced by the next younger generation (Gen Z), so big cities are still gaining younger

Today's youth who go to college don't finish school and begin work until their mid to late 20s. Add a couple years for post-school exploration, and today's young people aren't "settling down" and marrying or partnering and having children until well into their 30s.

people. Still, there is the question of why the oldest of the young — those from ages 25 to 39 — are leaving the city?

One answer may be housing costs. Maybe a person is willing to absorb those higher costs fresh out of college when the urge to party and try new restaurants is high. But even for the most avid "fun person," partying can get old as you get older. So a cheaper residence in the suburbs can look more attractive when age 40 is just over the horizon.

Yet I think the most persuasive answer for the 25-39 set moving to the suburbs is lifecycle. After dropping out of high school and fighting in World War II, my father married and started a family in his early 20s. The first home I was raised in was a 1,100-square-foot bungalow in the first ring of suburbs outside of Cincinnati.

Today's youth who go to college don't finish school and begin work until their mid to late 20s. Add a couple years for post-school exploration, and today's young people aren't "settling down" and marrying or partnering and having children until well into their 30s.

Living in a downtown high-rise can be fun when you're single. But then add a spouse or partner, children, strollers and pets for the children, and high-rise living isn't as great. Instead, a single-family home in the suburbs with more inside and outside space looks much better.

So cities may not be losing their allure. It may just be that the preferences of some of today's city residents are changing. The "older-young" in the city now want a more tranquil and sedate lifestyle — one that the suburbs can provide and the city can't.

It will be interesting if the locational preferences we're seeing for the millennials will eventually be repeated by Gen Z. This is important because where people want to live have enormous implications for transportation, commuting, housing prices and economic development.

Choosing where and how to live is one of an individual's most important decisions. Is there a pattern to these choices determined by where we are in our age cycle and personal responsibilities? You decide.

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

Why aren't the alarm bells ringing?

But the bells *are* ringing. Then why aren't we listening?

Here is one bell ringing true and clear. Writing in *The New York Times* last week, Alan Rappaport reported, "The United States federal budget deficit jumped 26 percent in the 2019 fiscal year to \$984 billion, reaching its highest level in seven years as the government was forced to borrow more money to pay for President Trump's tax and spending policies, official figures showed on Friday."



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

The annual deficit will almost certainly exceed \$1 trillion in the current year that began October 1. Another way to write \$1 trillion is \$1,000,000,000,000.

Rappaport's report is only one gong of many bells ringing.

President Donald Trump may have missed Rappaport's alarming statement of the situation. Just before his article was published, the White House canceled its subscription to *The Times*.

But the bells are ringing elsewhere.

Everywhere, in fact. Almost every serious economist agrees that the growing deficit is unsustainable.

It is easy to blame the situation on Trump, who campaigned on a promise to eliminate deficits over eight years.

"Instead," writes Rappaport, "he has allowed deficits to balloon by enacting sweeping tax cuts and increasing govern-

ment spending. The rising levels of red ink have come despite a period of sustained economic growth, when budget deficits typically fall as households earn more money, corporations make higher profits and fewer people use safety net programs like unemployment benefits and food stamps. The United States entered its longest expansion on record in July and the jobless rate is at a 50-year low, yet the deficit has continued to widen."

A big part of the deficit increase is the result of tax cuts that Trump brags about. The promised pay-for-itself-increase in tax revenues from economic growth is falling \$400 billion short of projections.

Federal government spending is growing twice as fast as its revenues.

But Trump is not the only one to blame. He had help from Democrats in the Congress. In the August budget deal that included \$320 billion in spending increases over two years, Republicans got more money for defense spending and Democrats got more for domestic programs. Neither side provided for increased revenues or cuts in other spending to pay for the new spending.

Whatever concerns they had about increasing the deficit they kept to themselves.

The major Democratic presidential candidates are proposing ambitious and costly domestic spending plans without specific revenues to pay for them. They are not addressing the risks of the increased deficit spending.

What are those risks, other than shifting the responsibility of paying for our spending to

future citizens, including our children and grandchildren?

Amazingly, a few economists are not worried. They say countries like the U.S. need not worry so much because our central bank can just print all the money the country needs. They downplay the risks that deficits will stifle borrowing by consumers and businesses and lead to recessions.

We should not be fooled by these people.

As the deficit increases, so does the national debt and the amount of interest that has to be paid each year. Even with the low rates the government currently pays, interest costs rose last year by 16 percent to \$375 billion.

In the 1990s Canada faced a crisis that had resulted from a budget deficit spiral. As deficits accumulated year after year, interest costs increased from 10 percent of Canada's spending in the 1970s to 30 percent in the 1990s. The country's high and unsustainable debt growth scared away investors and its economy suffered. Rating agencies downgraded their debt. *The Wall Street Journal* called Canada a "basket case" and "an honorary member of the Third World."

Canada recovered, but painfully. Our country should learn from our neighbor's experience and act decisively now to bring the deficit under control.

The alarm bells are ringing.

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.

Get over it? We should be outraged

The president's acting chief of staff stood in the



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

White House briefing room and confessed to activities considered by some impeachable, by others

at least illegal. In closing, he proclaimed: "I have news for everybody. Get over it!"

Within hours the "Get Over It" message appeared on t-shirts and soon will likely be on bumper stickers, caps and other paraphernalia.

History has recorded

variations of this theme, the most famous being Marie Antoinette's reported statement, "Let them eat cake," in response to peasants' complaints of a lack of bread. Similar retorts include there's nothing to see here. Who cares, go pound sand, get lost, go play in traffic or it's not my problem.

We see this attitude in legislators who choose their voters instead of letting voters choose them, explaining their partisan gerrymandering actions by boldly saying the only reason they drew maps guaranteed to elect 10 North Carolina Republican congressmen was because they couldn't figure out how to draw favorable districts for 11.

Don't like it? Get over it!

How about corporations where executive compensation is hundreds of times greater than the pay of the average worker. Where the only things most corporations are concerned about are quarterly profits and share prices. Never mind the rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer and the middle class is shrinking. Let's cut more taxes on the rich. Get over it!

Wealthy parents pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to make sure their child gets accepted to the best college and most colleges seem hell-bent on legacy admissions or, worse still, dropping almost all pretense of admission requirements for those who can drib-

ble, pass, shoot or row. Gotta fill those stadiums, get TV revenues and get those big contributions from alumni. Never mind that your child has better grades, higher test scores or outstanding extra-curricular activities. Get over it!

In North Carolina and other states driving while black almost guarantees a citation and, in many cases, arrests. Too much evidence exists of racial bias in law enforcement and a criminal justice system with too many injustices racially imbalanced and uneven sentencing. Complaints of racial bias are callously dismissed. Get over it!

Pharmaceutical companies manufacture drugs they KNOW are addictive,

harmful and sometimes result in deaths. In response to clear evidence, corporate responsibility and public safety rank far behind the all-important bottom line. Owners need more palaces, yachts and offshore accounts to hide profits. Get over it!

No doubt you could add to this list. There is convincing evidence we are no longer a society where the majority rules, where there's little concern for the common good. The minority, those with the wealth and authority, too often abuse that power because they can. What's worse, they dare us to challenge it.

But we must challenge power-hungry bullies, tyrants, sycophants and autocrats. They will contin-

ue and even escalate their actions until stopped, whether at the ballot box, the cash register or by public outcry.

We should all be outraged by these contemptible attitudes and actions. Nobody should ever be allowed to get by telling us to "get over it."

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.

VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS

We have the same rights as all U.S. citizens

TO THE EDITOR:

According to the King James Bible, Genesis, Chapter 7, Verse 23, "Only Noah and those who were with him on the Ark remained alive." Since every human on Earth today came from Noah there is only one race and that is the Human Race, ranging from light beige to dark brown.

Since there is only one race (the Human Race ranging from light beige to dark brown) the word "racist" is a guise. There are some humans who try to use this guise to eliminate the history and Civil Rights of humans born in the South.

Humans born in the South have the Civil Right to keep their History.

Humans born in the South have the Civil Right to keep Stone Mountain as is.

Humans born in the South have the Civil Right to keep and display their Confederate Monuments.

HUMANS BORN IN THE SOUTH HAVE THE SAME CIVIL RIGHTS AS ALL US CITIZENS.

Carol Gene Good
Conover

The monument is our voice

TO THE EDITOR:

The "Our Confederate Heroes" monument should stay exactly where it is and not be removed as a result of four of five current county commissioners who have voted to remove it. It is our voice.

The monument is our history. It is our iconic symbol representing the memories, opinions, the voice, the speech of those who served as warriors. Those who valiantly sacrificed livelihood and life for what turned out to be the most defining event in America to that point. That Civil War made the United States into a unified country — no longer just a Confederation of States. To paraphrase filmmaker Ken Burns from his acclaimed series on the Civil War, People began to refer to the United States as an "is" rather than an "are" after the war.

The statue represents the voice of those who erected it and as the voice

of those who survived the conflict of Civil War ancestors living in Chatham County.

The monument is speech. It is, in its presence, our speech today. As unpopular as it is to some on the left, it is our speech, our voice recognizing the Chatham County men who lived, fought, suffered and died during the Civil War.

The first amendment to the Constitution says government shall make no law abridging the speech of the people.

The first amendment is there to protect speech of all kinds - especially the speech of those whose words may offend or upset current more's or convention.

That statue, that proud monument tells the story of collective, continuous and cohesive history.

It was put there by the people of Chatham County — the descendants of Chatham's Civil War Veterans who loved this county and want their speech heard in the continued presence of the monument — there in the Courthouse Circle, in perpetuity.

You on the left, stand up now for the tolerance you so often espouse and support everyone's free speech rights — the first amendment rights of those speaking through that steady, serene monument. You may hate it or disagree vehemently with its message — our message — but it is our speech.

Leave the statue there. Its place should not become another politically correct "safe space" where you will not be offended.

Respect our continued and protected right to remind everyone that Chatham County produced young men who would fight when called upon and who would also come together afterward and unify to make the United States an "is" — the greatest country on Earth.

Our voice is that monument. It says remember our history. Do not try to shut us up. Respect the monument as our Voice — our free speech. Leave the statue there.

And to the commissioners: Call a meetin; rescind your vote. Do not suppress the constitutionally guaranteed free speech rights of Chatham's Citizens — past and present.

The monument is our voice.

Richard Tysor
Bear Creek



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Two arrested at monument protests last Saturday, brings total to 8

CN+R STAFF REPORTS

PITTSBORO — A Pittsboro man and a Carrboro man have added their names to the list of individuals arrested for various offenses during protests and counter-protests around the “Our Confederate Heroes” monument in downtown Pittsboro.



Megginson



Osborn

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office announced that Calvin Megginson, 29, of Pittsboro, and Timothy Osborn, 24, of Carrboro, were each charged with inciting a riot and affray in mid-afternoon Saturday on Sanford Road in Pittsboro.

A press release from the agency stated that “law enforcement officers were monitoring a peaceful protest” before “two subjects engaged in a physical altercation.”

“We respect every resident’s right to peacefully assemble in nonviolent protest or support of their beliefs,” said Chief Deputy Charles Gardner of the sheriff’s office. “However, unlawful or violent behavior will not be tolerated.”

The pair of arrests continued a string of criminal offenses during



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

This demonstrator’s message was also one of love.

recent protests.

On October 5, Jessica Reavis, 40, of Danville, Virginia, was charged with illegally carrying a concealed gun and illegally carrying a concealed weapon. Thalia Considine, 30, of Durham, was charged with disorderly conduct, illegally carrying a concealed weapon and illegally carrying a weapon at a parade or demonstration. Richard Allen, 43, of Pittsboro, was charged with disorderly conduct. The week prior, Woody Weaver Jr., 64, of Fuquay-Varina, and Devin Ceartas, 52, of Chapel Hill, were both cited with simple affray. Protests have been

a regular feature on Saturdays in Pittsboro after the Chatham County Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 to terminate the county’s agreement with the Winnie Davis Chapter of the Confederacy to locate the monument in the front lawn of the Chatham County Historic Courthouse. The monument was set to become designated a public trespass on Friday, but the UDC has received a temporary restraining order on the action, pending a determination on a preliminary injunction. The next court date on the case is set for November 8.

Commissioner Chairman Mike Dasher spoke to the News + Record last week prior to these new arrests about the presence of out-of-county protesters and the effect on downtown Pittsboro.

“I think that we did a pretty good job of keeping things local right until the time when they called in the Virginia Flaggers and ACTBAC [Alamance County Taking Back Alamance County] NC and League of the South and all these other folks to start raising flags,” Dasher said. “And sure enough, that brought in counter-protesters that I don’t recognize that are not local.”

“I do my best to make sure that I’m spending my money in downtown Pittsboro. I know it’s been tough on business owners there and I’ve heard from them and respect that, but at the same time, I think at our last meeting, some of the public input made it very clear that the intent was to hold us hostage. They would take down their flags if we leave the monument alone. That’s just not how things work.”

The Sheriff’s Office stated again Saturday that it would continue to protect protester’s First Amendment rights as long as it was peaceful.

“The safety of the public remains our number one concern,” Capt. Chris Cooper said. “We encourage all members of the public to treat each other with respect and refrain from aggressive conduct toward one another.”

Reporter Zachary Horner contributed to this report.

STATUE: ‘Respects’

Continued from page A1

downtown Pittsboro each Saturday, along with the erection of a Confederate flag across the street from nearby Horton Middle School — which at one point was the county’s segregated African-American high school — named in honor of the slave poet George Moses Horton.

Nick Ellis, the attorney representing the county commissioners, said the case is fundamentally a real estate one based on a license obtained from the N.C. Archives in Raleigh. The UDC has claimed the monument belongs to the county, but the license states that the statue belongs to the UDC and the county allowed it to be placed on its property. That license can be revoked at any time, Ellis noted, on which basis the commissioners took action in August.

Ellis also cited two separate state statutes, both put in place in 1868, which said any property obtained by the county, whether by purchase or gift, requires a resolution or an ordinance. Since the monument was dedicated in 1907, and no such resolution or ordinance exists, he argued, the county would not have ownership of it.

But Judge Charles M. “Casey” Visser chose to grant the temporary restraining order. Visser is a visiting judge from Mecklenburg County and appears to be presiding over this case and the subsequent hearing for a preliminary injunction at the end of the 10-day temporary restraining order period.

“While Chatham County respects the judge’s ruling, we are disappointed in the outcome and look forward to continuing to present our case at the Nov. 8 hearing,” Kara Dudley, the county’s public information officer, said in a statement following the ruling. “At that time, the court will consider whether a preliminary injunction will be issued.”

The court also took up the question of security of the monument and at surrounding protests during the hearing. Ellis asked for a bond for the temporary restraining order, money that would be used to support the ongoing costs for security. Following the August vote on the statue, Ellis said, it’s estimated that the county has incurred more than \$100,000 in expenses, predominately for law enforcement, to ensure the safety of residents. Though Visser did not award the \$25,000 bond requested, he did assign a \$6,000 bond the UDC would pay. Visser also set a deadline of Friday at noon for the bond to be posted.

Davis, the UDC’s lawyer, also argued that Visser should also impose a 200-foot area around the statue to “protect” it as well as ensuring 200 feet between the various protesting groups, despite the UDC’s claim in its complaint that there had been no vandalism of the monument. Visser asked Rick Counsel, an attorney for the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office, if the request was reasonable or actionable. Counsel stated that he had questions about the constitutionality of the request in light of protections for free speech, but also noted that the department would not have the manpower to support such a request. Visser agreed and stated that the current barriers should be sufficient.

Following Monday’s ruling, the North Carolina Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans released a statement in support of the UDC, congratulating them “in their fight against the Chatham County government.”

“In a long, intentionally draw-out battle waged by the County Board of Commissioners, the Davis Chapter UDC has stood firm for law and order in Chatham County,” the statement said. “While it has been totally and unjustly ignored in places like Durham, Chapel Hill and Winston-Salem, state law clearly prevents the removal of objects of remembrance on public property. We hope that this glimmer of hope in Chatham County will be the beginning of the end for lawlessness and mob rule in our state and that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners will be forced to abide by the same laws that it expects its citizens to obey.”



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

A protester near the Confederate flag across from Horton Middle School carried a flag of her own, along with her shirt’s message — ‘SECEDE.’



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

One man present at Saturday’s protest tried to share an encouraging message with this sign.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Stewart Kavitz organized a recent peaceful march rally and protest in Pittsboro; he was present again Saturday.

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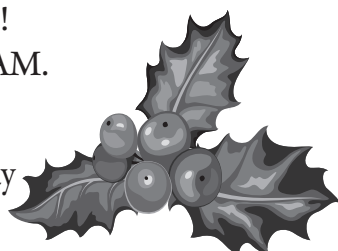
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Paid for by FARRELL FOR COMMISSIONER

Chatham receives \$2.3 million grant for upgraded public safety radio system

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The item was stashed away in the consent agenda at the last Chatham County Board of Commissioners meeting because it wasn't controversial.

But by all accounts, its approval will be a significant aid to the county's efforts to keep its citizens safe.

Chatham County is the recipient of more than \$2.3 million in grant money from the North Carolina 911 Board for the purpose of upgrading the county's radio system for emergency personnel.

The board first announced the grants in late August, as Chatham joined other counties like Cumberland, Franklin and Pender in receiving funds to improve things like PSAPs, short for public service answering points, and 911 centers.

"The Board is proud to

support the state's PSAPs and to improve the state's 911 capabilities," said Pokoy Harris, the 911 Board's executive director. "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."

The county had put the upgrade of its system on the most recent Capital Improvements Program at a projected cost of \$18,909,295. Mike Reitz, the county's emergency communications director, explained to commissioners in May the need for an overhaul.

"The current infrastructure is at the end of life," Reitz said. "The current system is just out-dated, doesn't provide good safety measures for responders. We have challenges every single day with communicating."

During a budget work session, Reitz played a clip of a sheriff's deputy calling in a traffic accident. The

call was full of static, and the dispatcher asked for a repeat of almost all the information. Reitz then played a clip of what the new system would sound like, and it was much clearer.

"It's night and day, the difference between the two systems," he said. "The new system is light years ahead of what we have now, and puts us in position for future growth, future needs of the department."

Reitz added that the county will utilize some towers currently in use and build three new ones for the upgraded system.

A press release from Chatham County last week stated the grant would help a "complete overhaul from a VHF/UHF system to an 800 MHz VIPER (Voice Inoperability Plan for Emergency Responders) system. The money will go toward improving and/or installing key infrastructure such as towers, fire/EMS paging system and microwave equipment."

The release added that work is already under way on the project and the upgrade is set to be complete by summer 2021.

"Our current public safety radio system has been in operation for 25-30 years, and the upgrades are critical to allowing Chatham County to keep up with necessary technology as it responds to emergencies over the coming years," Reitz said in the press release. "The major enhancement will be that emergency responders — police, fire and EMS — can communicate better with one another and the emergency communications center."

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at zhorn-er@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @ZachHorn-erCNR.

TOWN OF SILER CITY



Staff photo by Zachary Horner

Siler City Mayor John Grimes, front of room, talks about new town hires Monday night during the annual "State of the Town" address, hosted at Siler City Town Hall.

Grimes' 'State of the Town' address reflects on changes, stability, optimism

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — With an election looming eight days in the future, Siler City Mayor John Grimes took time Monday to share about the accomplishments of his town and staff and look forward to the next phase.

Grimes gave the annual "State of the Town" address Monday night at Siler City Town Hall to a crowd of about 40 people where he addressed new hires, individual projects and the "well-financed" state of the town.

"We continue to be energized about the good things going on in our town, the progress we are making on many fronts, and the momentum we are gathering as we work together to make Siler City a better place to live and work," he said. Grimes paused, and repeated, "Siler City is a good place to live and work."

Grimes is up for re-election next week against challengers Albert Reddick and Jackie Adams. When introduced Monday night, Grimes received a short standing ovation from almost all of the small assembled crowd.

First on the agenda was listing out seven new leadership hires, four of whom were promotions from within and three were outside hires. New Town Manager Roy Lynch, who officially began the job on September 4 after serving as Finance Manager, was top of the list, followed by Police Chief Mike Wagner, who started his tenure on June 3 after moving from Albemarle County, Virginia.

In addition, Tina

Stroupe has been named the town's Finance Director, succeeding Lynch. Stroupe will direct and supervise the financial operation and reporting of all municipal funds, audit, cash management, debt management and utility rate structure; she previously worked in the accounting departments of the City of Sanford and the Town of Holly Spring.

Grimes called the hires "valuable public servants who work to see that our mission and vision statements are realized." Lynch, who oversees all town staff, said that despite all the shifting and changes, everything has been positive, that fresh eyes can provide "new insight" to a long-serving staff.

"You get complacent in certain things, so it's good to have an outside perspective," Lynch said. "It's also important to have the insight as to how and what the history of the town has been. If you understand operations and how the town functions, it's easier as well to be able to at certain times move into positions."

During his address, Grimes also discussed Mountaire, improvements to the town's fire department, the Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing Site, housing, parks and recreation and grants. He also spoke specifically about improvements to the Park Shopping Center parking lot, a project he called "a cause of great concern to me personally."

"It was an eyesore, and sorely perplexing to the merchants and their customers who had to navigate an impossible and ugly environment which was not conducive

to good business," Grimes said. "It was a work in progress, spanning over two years, but with much dialogue and personal involvement by the tenants and the owner, we were able to prevail and we now have a very attractive Park Shopping Center parking lot."

He began to wrap up his address by reflecting on the town's finances. He called Siler City a "well-run" and "well-financed" town, saying his "busy board" had "accomplished much."

Lynch echoed Grimes' sentiments about the town's financial position, saying available funds "have grown over the last few years."

"We've been able to grow as far as the grant monies are concerned, especially where water and sewer infrastructure is concerned," Lynch said. "Certainly that gives the availability for the industrial park here in town. We're looking forward to what the future holds."

Grimes concluded by applauding the work of Siler City town staff.

"We have a hardworking, productive and devoted staff and we applaud them," he said. "And our new folks in place bring experience and knowledge to their new posts. This is a good place to live and work."

Lynch said he hoped attendees walked away with "a better understanding of what the stability of the town is," along with the work done by the town's elected officials and staff.

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at zhorn-er@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @ZachHorn-erCNR.

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ELECTION 2019

Who's running for what, and the question Siler City voters will decide

CN+R STAFF REPORT

Residents of Pittsboro, Siler City and Goldston will cast ballots in municipal elections on Nov. 5 and Siler City voters will decide the future of beer and alcohol sales in town.

Four polling sites will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. There is a temporary change of polling location for West Siler City residents on election day this year. The West Siler City Precinct will vote at the Paul Braxton Gymnasium, located at 115 S. 3rd Ave. in Siler City. Voters in the East Siler City Precinct will vote where they have in the past, the Earl B. Fitts Community Center at 111 South Third Ave. in Siler City. Pittsboro residents will vote at the Multipurpose Room at Central Carolina Community College at 764 West St. in Pittsboro. Goldston residents will vote at Goldston Town Hall, located at 40A Coral Ave. in Goldston.

The Siler City precincts in Chatham County will be testing new voting equipment. The county is purchasing new voting equipment from Hart InterCivic as its current equipment needs to be replaced. Per state statute, the county must test the equipment in one precinct prior to full implementation during the 2020 primary election.

For more information on the 2019 Election, visit the Chatham County Board of Elections website or call (919) 545-8500.

Here's a look at who's on the ballot and the question Siler City voters face with two referenda on beer and wine sales within town limits.

SILER CITY MAYOR

The race: Incumbent Mayor John Grimes is seeking re-election to the board where he has served as mayor since his appointment in 2013, facing challengers Jackie Adams and Albert Reddick. The winner serves a two-year term as the head of Siler City's Board of Commissioners

The candidates: Grimes, a 50-year resident of Siler City, is a veteran of the U.S. Army and of a variety of political roles. Adams is a Siler City business owner, farmer, corporate leader, and "mentor entrepreneur." Reddick is a Vietnam veteran, author, and owner of a Siler City non-profit.

What they say: Adams: "I am running to bring the life and resiliency back to Siler City as a welcoming, warm

and inviting city for all people. I am the candidate with experience and knowledge built on a decade of actively focusing on community development in Siler City and Chatham County. There are no walls or boundaries in my outreach effort and of the people I look to serve."

Grimes: "I am running to continue the tremendous progress we have made for Siler City and its citizens. The Town Board and I enjoy a productive, progressive and dynamic relationship which has yielded proper management of \$32 million in grants, removing the burden on the taxpayer for expanding and upgrading our water and sewer capacities and other needs, explosive job creation (1,200-plus at Mountaire alone) and addressing affordable housing which is needed. We know what we're doing and we know how to do it well. I'd like the opportunity to continue."

Reddick: "The mission and vision of Siler City, although noble and virtuous, can only be attained when transformational leadership exists that propels all stake holders toward obtainable success. Albert Reddick is the best candidate because he is not only well-versed in the dynamics of this city's government and livelihood, but also bring a broad cultural toolkit of diverse experience."

SILER CITY DISTRICT 3

The race: Commissioner Mike Constantino (District 3) is seeking re-election for a third four-year term. He is facing two challengers for his seat — Curtis Brown and Timothy (Cookie) Brown.

The candidates: Constantino retired from the Dept. of Commerce where he was a trial assistant resolving workers' compensation issues. Curtis Brown is retired from the town of Siler City's public utilities department and currently works part-time at Welford Harris Ford. Timothy "Cookie" Brown is a maintenance technician with the City of Sanford.

What they say: Curtis Brown: "Industries create jobs. Jobs create consumers. Consumers want to purchase homes, vehicles, groceries, tires, etc. That supports businesses, grows the tax base and increases water and wastewater revenue. All our

citizens and Town Departments will benefit."

Timothy Brown: "I am always looking for ways to make improvements and build on what we already have. I always come to the table with a problem and a solution and not just waiting for someone else to find a solution. I also believe as a Town Commissioner or anyone serving in relation to the town citizens that participation and attendance in town sponsored events, meetings, etc., should be a priority."

Constantino: "I know I don't have deep roots here in Siler City, but I believe my service record and dedication these past eight years speaks for itself. It is my hope that the residents of my district recognize that and will keep me in office with their vote."

PITTSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (3 SEATS)

The race: Seven candidates are vying for three open seats on the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners — John Bonitz (incumbent), Pam Cash-Roper, J.A. "Jay" Farrell III (incumbent), Heather Johnson, Bridget Perry, Kyle Shipp and Lonnie West. Commissioner Bett Wilson Foley chose not to seek re-election.

The candidates: Bonitz, a clean transportation specialist, has served on the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners for one four-year term. Cash-Roper is a retired nurse and was elected as the second vice-chair for the Chatham County Democratic Party and served for four years until March of 2019. Farrell, a two-term Pittsboro commissioner, is retired and is co-owner of Virlie's Grill in downtown Pittsboro. Johnson is the owner of Chatham Business Services in Pittsboro and the Carolina Women's Show and editor-at-large of Chatham Magazine. Perry is a cashier/buyer at Chatham Marketplace in Pittsboro. Shipp is an engineer, and serves on the Pittsboro Planning Board and the Chatham County Affordable Housing Committee. West is a real estate agent, broker, auctioneer and notary public, and serves on the Chatham County Affordable Housing Committee.

What they say: Bonitz: He says he's running "to represent the people of the Town of Pittsboro, their concerns and interests, during a period of rapid growth. Also, I'm running again because so many people asked me to run again, and because I love our Town and all its people." Cash-Roper: "I am running for town board because I care for the town and all of the people in our town and country. To that end, I believe that I will give a voice to citizens and stakeholders who need to be heard in our community." Farrell: "I dislike wasteful spending and work hard to keep taxes down." Johnson: "I am grateful to have been a part of promoting Pittsboro for many years now and am familiar with the issues facing our Town." Perry: "I know that a great deal of change is coming to Pittsboro in the near future, and I hope to help guide these changes to see Pittsboro grow without losing the character of the town that is such a wonderful place to call home." Shipp: "I've learned a lot about how Pittsboro works and development in the Town. I want to use my experience to maintain the culture, character and environment of Pittsboro while we continue to grow." West: "I know that change is here already and will continue to happen. I also believe that if it is important to maintain the character of the community while embracing the new in order to ensure that future generations can enjoy Pittsboro as we do."

UNCONTESTED RACES

Pittsboro: Jim Nass will run unopposed for the role of Pittsboro's mayor. Nass has lived in Pittsboro since 2007 and during that time he has served as the chair of the Pittsboro ABC Board, chair of the Citizens Committee on Chatham Park additional elements, a member of the Main Street Pittsboro Board, Chair of the Pittsboro Affordable Housing Task Force and chair of the Interim Affordable Housing Board.

Siler City: Three of the four seats up for election on the Siler City Board of Commissioners will go uncontested. Incumbent Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Cheek (District 2) and Commission-

ers Bill Haiges (District 4) and Thomas (Chip) Price (at-large) will return to their positions the board in the fall.

Goldston: Goldston Mayor Tim Cunnup and the incumbent town council members, Steve Cunnup (Ward 2) and Charles Fields III (Ward 4), are running unopposed again this year. Both Mayor Cunnup and Commissioner Cunnup have indicated to the News + Record this will be their final term on the board. The incumbent representatives on the Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District Board, Ricky Beal, Henry Kitchings and Danny Scott, are also running unopposed.

ALCOHOL REFERENDA

Siler City's 2019 municipal ballot includes two referenda on beer and wine sales within town limits.

In July, the Siler City Board of Commissioners voted to place the two referenda on the ballot at the behest of the town's Downtown Advisory Board and several downtown merchants. During the meeting, the board included both items separately to ensure that their intent was clear for state regulators.

If approved by Siler City voters, businesses inside the town limits would be allowed to sell malt beverages, such as a beer, and table [unfortified] wine, in establishments such as tasting rooms or breweries, rather than only in restaurants and hotels.

Chatham County is considering a similar ballot measure in the March 2020 primary.

At this time, the only Chatham County municipality which allows beer and wine sales in establishments that are not hotels or restaurants is Pittsboro, which held an election on the topic in 1971. This means that in Chatham County, establishments such as 580 Craft Beer and House of Hops can currently only be located within Pittsboro's town limits.

According to the Brewers Association, North Carolina ranks seventh nationally for the number of breweries that brew and sell craft beer in the state with craft beer sales creating an economic impact of \$2 billion annually. It also accounts for \$300 million in annual wages and 12,000 jobs.

Pittsboro planning board to review flag ordinances after citizen pushback

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — An updated flag ordinance for the Town of Pittsboro may have hit a roadblock.

The town's Board of Commissioners held a public hearing Monday and also reviewed an initial draft of updated rules regarding flags within town limits, a process that started in response to several Confederate flags

that have begun flying in recent weeks.

The proposed ordinance includes a specific definition of flags which would include not only flags such as the U.S. flag and military flags but also would include the type of promotional flags that fly in front of car lots and restaurants. Current rules are not entirely clear on signs that include flags, town Planning Director Jeff Jones told the board.

After hearing from Jones and multiple public speakers, the board decided to send the rules to the town's Planning Board for consideration and changes.

Several residents, all with an association with the Pittsboro Veterans of Foreign Wars branch, raised concerns both about the future of the VFW's flags as well as concerns over restrictions of freedom of speech. VFW Commander Andy Cochran noted that the VFW flies seven flags on six poles — five flags representing the branches of the military, the American

flag with a POW/MIA flag. The current draft of ordinances would not allow the set-up based on the number of poles and flags. In addition, he noted that if the setback restrictions were in place, the VFW would have to move several poles as well.

Under the initial proposal, residential properties would be permitted to have one flag pole and up to three flags with the pole being no more than 24 feet tall. In addition, the flags, limited to 24 square feet in area, would be required to be set back at least 50 feet from all property lines.

Commercial regulations would be similar, except three poles would be allowed with a maximum of 45 feet height and a 40 square feet flag. Those flags would only need to be 20 feet from all property lines.

Other speakers spoke of concerns about the lack of ability to fly American flags in town as many of the setback restrictions would prevent the smaller downtown lots and businesses from having any flags at all. Speaker Linda Bivenue argued against the proposed ordinance saying the board was "taking away freedom of

speech" and "giving in to bullies."

Mayor Pro-Tem Pamela Baldwin tried to reassure the speakers that wasn't the board's intention. She said that "no one is planning on taking any rights away in terms of the flag" and that she in particular was "very respectful of all veterans."

"Our intention is not to remove the American flag," she said.

Jones noted that after reviewing the initial draft, he felt it would be helpful for the commissioners to drive around town to get an estimate of the flags that would be considered in violation of the proposed ordinance. He estimated that eight or nine of the approximately 30 flags town staff identified could be potentially deemed non-conforming. Those flags included the two Confederate flags recently erected in town and flags at the Chatham County Agricultural and Conference Center, Pittsboro Fire Department, Chatham County Annex Building, Pittsboro VFW Post 7313 building and at the building where the local Boy Scouts meet.

Jones reiterated that the board needed to "treat everyone fairly" and believed that the "impact needs to have more time." He said he understood that "there is an urgency to expedite to remove things we don't want to see," but that it was important to "find that balance."

If the planning board can come to a consensus on appropriate language for the rules, the commissioners would reconsider the ordinances.

Reporter Casey Mann can be reached at Casey-Mann@Chathamnr.com.

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Pittsboro Commissioner questioned on potential conflict of interest

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro Commissioner John Bonitz has come under fire recently over a contract between the town of Pittsboro and the company for which he works, N.C. Clean Energy Center, as fellow commissioners and at least one other elected official have expressed concerns over his conduct in the matter.

During a September 9 meeting, the board was slated to vote on a consent agenda — items that are generally considered “non-controversial” and are passed by a single vote without discussion — that included a \$2,900 contract with N.C. Clean Energy. The contract was not included in the agenda packet for the item to be voted on, an amendment to the budget for Pittsboro’s new town hall to include improvements to water and sewer as well as services for an environmentally sustainable building, which included the solar analysis and LEED commissioning services.

Prior to the vote, Bonitz told fellow commissioners he received a text that his children were sick and that he had to leave almost immediately upon the start of the meeting prior to any vote on the agenda. Bonitz returned to the meeting at 7:55 p.m., according to the minutes.

The proposal was originally brought up by Bonitz at a March 11 meeting during the “commissioner concerns” portion of the meeting. During the March discussion, Bonitz noted that there was a proposal for the board to consider for an analysis on solar energy at the new town hall, which is currently in the development stage. Neither during

the September 9 meeting nor during a March 11 meeting did Bonitz mention his connection to the company.

Bonitz told the News + Record he didn’t mention his connection to the company because “the proposal came from a different team” and said it was “completely unrelated” to his work. He said he consulted with the town attorney Paul Messick about the issue, but there is no written record of that discussion or one with the board, and Bonitz added he had prepared a statement for the September meeting on the item but “received an urgent text” and was unable to share it with the board.

Commissioner Michael Fiocco told the News + Record on Monday he was unaware that the proposal was offered by Bonitz’s employer and that the contract is not in any of his “files from the meeting” in March. In addition, Fiocco noted that during the September meeting, there was no documentation or admission about the company’s involvement on the consent item and if he did he “would have pulled it from the consent agenda for a discussion on the merits and wisdom of contracting with the organization for which a board member is employed,” and would have also “inquired if other proposals had been solicited and/or received.”

Commissioner Bett Wilson Foley told the News + Record on Monday she doesn’t “recall the specifics” of those meetings, but believed that Bonitz’s desire to have the contract with his employer approved did not stem from an interest in personal gain, given his passion for “green energy” and being a “strong advocate for energy-efficient lighting in the Town” and “making the new Town Hall LEED certified.”

This potential conflict was perhaps amplified after Bonitz was confronted at the previous meeting of the Pittsboro Board of Commissioner for comments he’s made about other candidates and board members — for instance, in which he noted that he had “no moneyed interest” in the development in Pittsboro and that none of his friends were “in any position to get rich.” These comments were coupled with a piece of political literature distributed by the political action committee Pittsboro for the People which accused some fellow commissioners of “giving Chatham Park whatever it wants” and “rubber stamp[ing]” Chatham Park votes. The flier was criticized by one of the people who received the endorsement of the PAC, candidate Kyle Shipp, who later made several statements noting he wasn’t running for office in tandem with any other candidate and that he was inherently against “negative” campaigning.

This situation was still on Fiocco’s mind in a recent interview with the News + Record.

“I was present at the NAACP forum when Commissioner Bonitz stated a distinction in his qualifications to serve was he had no ‘moneyed interest’ in the growth of the Town,” Fiocco said. “He subsequently explained in a board meeting he had no intention of impugning the reputation of any current board member or candidate. I urged him to take more care with his statements. I’m simply shocked Commissioner Bonitz did not make it known that his employer was associated with a proposal to contract with the town.”

The issue was also noted on a recent post on the online forum the Chatham

Chatlist, where Chatham County Commissioner Jim Crawford weighed in.

“He eludes the transaction, hopes for no detection, rides on his distrust of others gaining him a cosmic get-by,” Crawford wrote of Bonitz. “The price of his piety in this instance is high.”

Fiocco brought up the issue again at Monday night’s regular board meeting during the “commissioner concerns” segment. Bonitz noted during that discussion on Monday that he had a prepared statement, but was called away before presenting it during the September meeting. Fiocco noted that Bonitz didn’t provide the statement upon his return that night nor anytime since. Fiocco said that if Bonitz had a prepared statement then he must have been aware that something was required or appropriate, but failed to deliver it at any time on the night of the September meeting or anytime thereafter.

Bonitz said he had taken “great offense” at these insinuations, with Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry asking why this was being brought up at this time. Commissioner Jay Farrell commented that he was “caught” in these negative campaigns, noting that Bonitz had been explicit in public forums that he had nothing to gain — and yet Farrell had no idea that Bonitz’s employer had received this contract, noting “this is where this is coming from.” Mayor Pro-Tem Pamela Baldwin noted that it would be important for the board to be informed of these types of situations moving forward. Bonitz said he “regretted” that the board felt blindsided about this information.

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

Pittsboro board supports new welcome center, to allocate ABC funds for project

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners affirmed support Monday for a new welcome center to be established by the Main Street Pittsboro organization.

A last-minute agenda item — the resolution in

favor of creating the welcome center at 37 Hillsboro St., the former home to Capital Bank — passed unanimously on Monday. Main Street Pittsboro, an organization created through the N.C. Dept. of Commerce, is seeking a lease on the building, and the town pledged to support the project both financially

and ceremonially.

The organization’s goal is to create a Pittsboro/Chatham County Welcome Center in the county seat, collaborating with organizations like the Chatham Chamber of Commerce, Pittsboro Business Association and Pittsboro-Siler City Convention and Visitors Bureau. The group

is seeking both public and private funding for the initiative.

The Pittsboro board also decided Monday to allocate some ABC Board funds to the project. Hugh Harrington, chairman of the town’s ABC Board, said Pittsboro had allowed the board to retain some of the profits from its alcohol

sales at its Sanford Road location to use as working capital for investments and improvements. The ABC Board would keep 60 percent, while the town would keep 40 percent, specifically for the Pittsboro Police Department.

Commissioner Michael Fiocco recommended the town change the allocation

to 55-45, potentially giving the town approximately \$8,000 more to work with, and reappropriate the funds to renovate the site of the proposed Welcome Center. The board unanimously approved the change.

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



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NEED A REASON TO WRITE?

NaNoWriMo could help nudge a novel

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — If you've got the Great American Novel percolating in your brain but haven't yet put pen to paper, the month of November — and the 20th anniversary of National Novel Writing Month, aka NaNoWriMo — may be the nudge you need.

Launched in 1999 and, in the two decades since encouraging thousands of writers, young and old and of all experience levels, NaNoWriMo presents a straightforward challenge: to write 50,000 words during the 30 days of November.

For perspective, 50,000 words is the approximate length of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby."

And while Jazz Age chronicler Fitzgerald, writing long before the nascence of the internet, didn't compose his high school English Lit staple with the benefit of NaNoWriMo, other writers have successfully used the platform.

Sara Gruen's "Water for Elephants," a New York Times Best Seller for 12 weeks in 2006, and Rainbow Rowell's popular and critically-acclaimed young adult novel "Fangirl" (2013) were both products of the November initiative.

Local coordinators of NaNoWriMo, which is a nonprofit organization supporting writing fluency and education, encourage those inclined to undertake the composing challenge.

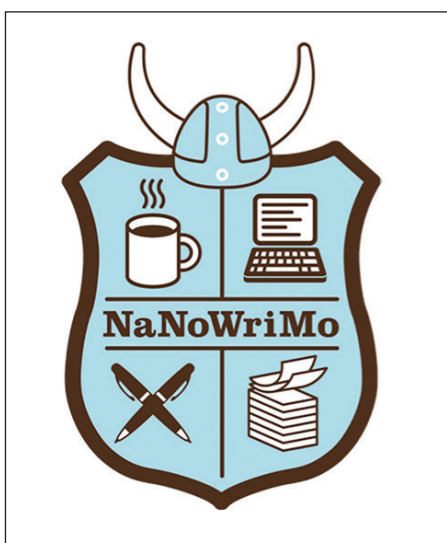
"It's a lot of fun — mentally and creatively challenging — and an easy way to develop camaraderie with other writers in an otherwise relatively solitary pursuit," said Pittsboro author Dolly Sickles, a book critic with a national readership and author of a number of successful romance novels and children's books.

Sickles, a participant in past NaNoWriMo since 2010, says she'll be picking up her pen again this November. She plans to use the period to craft a new novel — she already knows the title — and she's serving as a local coordinator, along with Maia James of Chapel Hill, of local NaNoWriMo activities.

James is handling events in the Chapel Hill area and Sickles is overseeing NaNoWriMo activities for the Pittsboro area.

"Together we've got lots of fun events planned," said Sickles.

A kick-off party for Pittsboro area participants is planned from 10-11:30 a.m. on Friday at Aromatic Roasters in Pittsboro.



And several Write-In's — where participants will gather for group writing sessions — are planned throughout the month. Sign-up and a list of local NaNoWriMo events is available online at <https://nanowrimo.org/regions/usa-north-carolina-chapel-hill>.

Participants may join the effort at any time during November. And participants may write in any genre they choose.

"It's just a nice challenge for yourself," said Sickles. "Sometimes you just need motivation. And it's fun. I think it's a fun thing for the community. And ultimately what NaNoWriMo does is promote literacy."

Young writers are also encouraged to participate. NaNoWriMo offers the Young Writer's Program (www.ywp.nanowrimo.org), lowering the word count to a still-challenging 30,000 words.

"It's free," Sickles noted. Participants copy and paste their words into the online NaNo word count validator, which helps authors keep an eye on their progress throughout the month.

And for writers needing another reason to participate, there are prizes available from sponsors, including webinars from Kindle Direct Publishing and various tools for writers. Prizes are listed on the www.NaNoWriMo.org site.

Sickles said the Pittsboro/Chapel Hill region engages around 200 folks in the effort, and there's room for more, Sickles said.

"The more writers in the world, the better," she said.

Randall Riggsbee can be reached at riggsbee@chathamnr.com.

CHATHAM BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Casual dining delivery options, a new restaurant and schools and business

Last week's column, which included a mention of GrubHub, Uber Eats and Door Dash,



ZACHARY HORNER
Corner Store

prompted a response. I learned something new, which is one of my favorite things about being a journalist.

Here's this week's business roundup.

A thing called Takeout Central

Funny enough, casual dining options are available for delivery in Chatham County, mainly in the Pittsboro area, but not from one of the more popular services.

As I was informed by Susan White, owner of The Root Cellar Cafe & Catering in Pittsboro, several Pittsboro restaurants' menus are available through Takeout Central, a local app and website that's based in the Triad as well as western North Carolina, according to its website. The service started in 1996 to serve the students of UNC-Chapel Hill.

Seven restaurants in the Pittsboro area are accessible on the app: Jersey Mike's Subs, New Japan, Village Pizza & Pasta, Carolina Brewery, Moon Asian Bistro, The Root Cellar and Town Hall Burger & Beer in Briar Chapel. White told me that the Root Cellar is "happy"

I don't think I've ever been to a place where I can order waffles and pasta at the same time. That's got to be at least a little bit unique.

to have the service, but it currently has its drawbacks.

"(Takeout Central) and other services like them, including GrubHub, have been unable to find enough delivery drivers to offer a more full-service delivery, including for breakfast and lunch," White said. "Currently, we are only able to offer our dinner menu for delivery. As the area grows, I'm certain this will no longer be an issue and I can guarantee more restaurants, including ours, will be happy that we can offer our full menu for delivery."

New restaurant in Siler City

The Chatham Chamber of Commerce had a ribbon-cutting celebration for Nericcio's Family Restaurant earlier this week. Located at 1110 N. Second Ave. in Siler City, the restaurant serves breakfast all day, Italian food, subs, burgers and more. The restaurant officially opened earlier in October, and a peek at their menu, which you can find on their Facebook page, shows that they do indeed have all-day breakfast.

I don't think I've ever been to a place where I can order waffles and pasta at the same time. That's got to be at least a little bit unique.

Schools and Mosaic

I have a story on the front page of this week's edition about the announcement of the first tenants of the Mosaic development at the gateway of Chatham Park in Pittsboro. But something that didn't make it in the story is how the county school system will be affected.

Chatham County Schools COO Chris Blice spoke at Tuesday's event and said the district is "very appreciative of our partnership with Chatham Park and Mosaic." He said the district is in constant communication with developers and they've shared projects, like the new Charger Boulevard entrance into Northwood High School across the street from the Mosaic development.

Specific to Mosaic, Blice said, the district is hopeful that Mosaic and its amenities, including housing, will attract teachers to the area. Districts across the state are having a hard time finding and retaining qualified teachers, so having these amenities, Blice said, should be a good asset for the school system as well.


Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at zhornner@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @ZachHornerCNR, where he tweets about more things schools, business and food.

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Carbonton Bridge completion draws near



Staff photo by David Bradley

Water vapor rises as workers spray the ironwork of the Carbonton Bridge under construction last Thursday. N.C. Dept. of Transportation estimates the bridge, which is more than 78 percent complete, will be finished in time for the Christmas holiday. A total of 220 yards of concrete were brought to cover about 25 yards of the bridge.

MOSAIC: 'Creating the balance'

Continued from page A1

interaction, and today's guests are the first to feel this energy."

Bradley — a partner in Chatham Media Group, owners of the Chatham News + Record — was joined by multiple local officials and leaders and more than 250 guests Tuesday in speaking of their high hopes for the development.

"This is one step," said Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry. "This is 44 acres of an investment that is phenomenal. This is a happy event to pull everything together and make sure we go forward economically."

Chatham County Board of Commissioners Chairman Mike Dasher said Chatham's residents have been carrying the lion's share of the property tax burden, but developments like Mosaic and Chatham

Park will lead to the commercial side contributing more.

"A project the size and scope of Mosaic goes a long way in creating the balance," Dasher said. "Projects like this help fund all types of services in Chatham County without burdening our residents."

State Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Chatham) said he was "excited about what (Mosaic) means for the state of North Carolina," and even more so for the majority of Chatham residents who leave the county to work.

"To have the vision that they've had and take the opportunities they've had — I'm proud to have it in Chatham," Reives said. "I'm excited about what it means for Chatham."

Bubba Rawl, a co-developer of Chatham Park, said Mosaic "may look like a mud pile right now,

but it sure will be a beautiful project."

Bradley, the president and CEO of Lee-Moore Capital Company, said a second phase of the Mosaic development, titled "Northwood," would be located on the other side of U.S. 15-501 and completed by 2025. The first phase of the project is scheduled to be finished by 2023.

Mosaic is a joint venture of Eco Group, which itself is a joint venture between Bradley and John Fugo of Montgomery Carolina LLC. Eco Group was formed in 2009 and has developed more than 11 million square feet of retail and commercial properties.

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

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SPORTS NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS

OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 6, 2019 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

Chatham Central girls shock Bishop McGuinness

Knights, Headen and Lindley fall

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

It was a plethora of state tennis action this past week and Chatham County proved its worth. On Monday afternoon in

Kernersville, the Chatham Central girls (19-3-1) shocked Bishop McGuinness 5-4 to advance into the fourth round and the NCHSAA 1A Dual Team Western Finals. Chatham Central will travel to Pine Lake Prep (13-0) on Wednesday, October 30 for a bid to go to the state championship. The Lady Bears were also the last true traditional 1A school in final eight.

Against Bishop McGuinness, the contest was tied at 4-all when the Chatham Central freshman doubles tandem of Elaine Phillips and Olivia Brooks outlasted Charlotte Lassiter and Caroline Gregory 8-6 at No. 3 to seal the thrilling win. The Lady Bears picked up singles wins at No. 2 when

Lady Bears advance, Chargers and Knights eliminated from playoffs

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

WELDON — Competing in a tough conference can pay big dividends come state playoff time. Prime example, the Chatham Central girl's volleyball team. The Lady Bears made the long trek up to Halifax County on the Virginia border on Sat-

urday evening and swept Weldon High School 3-0 in opening round action of the NCHSAA 1A State Playoffs. Chatham Central, which entered state play as the No. 4 seed out of the Yadkin Valley Conference, advances to take on Pender County (13-9) down in Burgaw near the border of

See **PLAYOFFS**, page B3

Rowdy Rebel Bulls Cooke up a recipe for Bears Homecoming disaster

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — Jaquez Cooke left little doubt Friday night why South Stanly mentor Ryan Ochier regards him as probably the best all-around athlete he's coached in his 22 years on the sidelines.

Proving his worth as a one-man wrecking crew, the six-foot, 190-pound senior quarterback rushed 13 times for 92 yards and three scores, completed nine-of-15 aeriels for 101 yards, was on the receiving end of a touchdown toss and intercepted a pass from his defensive back position as the Rowdy Rebel Bulls overcame a sluggish start to disappoint an overflow Chatham Central Homecoming crowd by stampeding to a 56-10 Yadkin Valley 1A Conference victory over the winless Bears.

Climbing to 3-1 in the league standings and 5-4 for the season, South Stanly defeated Chatham Central for the 12th consecutive time while improving to 20-2 overall in their series that began in 1989, whereas the Bears dropped to 0-4 in the conference and 0-9 for the year.

Rebel Bulls' running back Marcus Green, returning to action on the gridiron after missing the last five weeks due to an injury, rambled for 157 yards and one touchdown on just nine carries — all in the first half — while Jaderian Smith added 71 yards and a score on five totes besides connecting with Cooke on a 27-yard TD pass as South Stanly out-gained its host 482-114 in total yardage.

Malachi Moore grinded out a tough 39 yards on 13 lugs to lead Chatham Central's ground attack, which finished the evening with minus-two net yards rushing, while Michael Moore completed 10-of-33 passes for 116 yards and a touchdown but was intercepted twice.

"We started out slow, and I think early on we took Chatham Central for granted," said Ochier.

"But once we began to get some defensive stops and effectively mix things up on offense," he said, "we finally gained some momentum and there was no looking back. Jaquez Cooke is such a dual threat with his arm and feet and does a great job reading defenses to take what they give him, while we rotated a lot of guys up front on defense to keep constant pressure up the middle and force their quarterback to throw on the run."

Bears' coach Sherman Howze remarked after getting off to a good start his team sputtered on offense and was never able to regain its early intensity. "I thought we did a good job the first



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Malachi Moore is pursued by South Stanly on the left sideline after a handoff in the first quarter of last Friday's game in Bear Creek. After scoring first with a touchdown in the first quarter, the Bears had a field goal in the second, but lost the match with a final score of 56-10.

quarter controlling both sides of the ball, but we can't be satisfied when we take a lead," stated Howze.

"Our main goal tonight," he said, "was to contain Cooke but he was just too much for us to handle. While the final score might not indicate it, I felt like we had one of our better defensive efforts of the year making hard hits along with four sacks. But we struggled on offense when they kept forcing Michael Moore out of the pocket and didn't give him much time to throw, while we left points on the field by dropping some catchable balls."

Following an exchange of possessions at the outset, Chatham Central mounted an impressive 11-play, 61-yard scoring march kept alive by Michael Moore connecting on three key third-down completions — two to Hunter Strickland and one to Malachi Moore — before capping off the drive when Malachi Moore made a diving catch in the left side of the end zone on a 14-yard toss from Michael Moore prior to Abad de la Sancha

See **BULLS**, page B2



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Hunter Strickland and Trey Clay pursue South Stanly's Jaquez Cooke down the sideline as he makes a break for the goal line. Cooke scored, adding another six points to the Bulls' total.

Silk Hope nips J.S. Waters in wild 15-14 affair to capture middle school softball crown

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

SILK HOPE — One thing you can say about the Silk Hope and J.S. Waters softball teams after their championship game on Thursday afternoon in Silk Hope, both squads left it all on the field.

Top-seeded Silk Hope completed an unbeaten season at 10-0 with a wild 15-14 victory in eight innings against No. 2 seeded J.S. Waters.

With the contest knotted at 14-all in the bottom of the eighth, Silk Hope tallied the game-winner when Marcy Clark reached on an error to lead things off, moved to second on a sacrifice by Riley Gibson, and scored in walk-off fashion when Emma Burke mashed a triple to plate Clark and to set off the Lady Eagles celebration.

J.S. Waters went down in order in the top of the eighth for only the third time of the game with two of the outs coming via strikeouts from

Silk Hope reliever Lilli Hicks. Hicks, a sixth-grader, picked up the win on the mound for the Eagles after working the final two innings.

The game ending dramatics were the exclamation point on a game that was full of excitement all the way through. J.S. Waters started it right off the bat as the Cubs plated a pair of runs in the top of the first behind a one-out double from Katherine Gaines and a two-run double by Caleigh Warf.

Logan Gunter, who went 3-for-4 with a double, triple, a home run, and four runs to just miss the cycle in the contest, walked to start the bottom of the first for the Eagles before later scoring on a fielder's choice by Clark to close the deficit to 2-1.

In the home half of the third, Silk Hope took its first lead of the contest with a three-spot ignited by a one-out home run from Gunter. A double by Hicks

See **CROWN**, page B3



The Silk Hope Eagles captured regular season and tournament titles with a perfect 10-0 record this fall. The Lady Eagles outlasted a tough J.S. Waters squad 15-14 in the tournament championship last Thursday afternoon in Silk Hope.

Submitted photo

CROWN

Continued from page B1

and a two-run shot by Clark tacked on two more runs as the Eagles soared in front 4-2.

After Clark set J.S. Waters down in order in the top of the fourth, Silk Hope looked to have put the game away in the bottom of the frame with a six-run uprising that pushed its lead to a comfortable 10-2. Burke started the uprising with a single before Brooklin Quee walked, Gunter slammed a two-run double, Hicks reached on an error, Hannah Mitchell clubbed a two-run double, and Gibson smashed an RBI-double to cap the Eagles onslaught.

A gritty Cubs club would not give up, however, and chipped away at the deficit with three runs in the top of the fifth behind a leadoff triple from Shelby Holder before Abby Cannup smacked an RBI-single, and later scored on an RBI-triple from Warf. An RBI-ground out by Ashlyn Humphrey would bring in Warf to cut the Silk Hope lead to 10-5.

In the bottom of the sixth, Silk Hope answered with four more runs to take a 14-5 cushion and seemingly put the contest away for the second time.

A single by Burke, a triple by Gunter and a single by Hicks highlighted the uprising for the Eagles.

Three outs away from the title and leading 14-5, it all seemed to be a formality.

That wasn't the case. In shocking fashion, J.S. Waters pushed across nine runs to tie the game at 14-all. Holder and Gaines started things off with singles before Warf reached on a hit with one out, Humphrey doubled, Adrian Rives singled, Kaylon Gunter walked, and Sydney Sellers, Kendra Sing, and Holder all reached and scored.

Hicks would come in and record a pair of outs in relief for Silk Hope and strand the go ahead run at second base to keep the game tied.

Burke would crank the game-winning triple to plate Clark in the bottom of the 8th, however, as the Eagles would withstand the furious Cubs rally to close the season with the perfect 10-0 record.

Adding a 3-for-5 effort with two runs for Silk Hope at the plate was Burke while Hicks was 2-for-2 with three runs, Kelsey Morris 1-for-3 with a walk and a run, Quee 1-for-3 with a walk and a run, Mitchell 1-for-4 with a hit by pitch and two runs, Clark 1-for-5 with two runs, and Gibson 1-for-5.

Third quarter fireworks send Eastern Randolph over Wheatmore

BY DON BEANE
News + Record Staff

TRINITY — Eastern Randolph used a three-touchdown effort in the third quarter to break open a slim 13-7 cushion at the break en route to a 41-21 triumph over Wheatmore on Friday night in 2A PAC 7 Conference football action in Trinity.

The wins sends the Wildcats into this Friday nights showdown in Randleman with a perfect 4-0 mark in the league and 8-1 record overall.

For Eastern Randolph, it was about taking care of business after a week off.

"The opening half we looked like we had been off for a week," said ER coach Burton Cates. "I was pleased with the way we came out in the third quarter. We focused in and made some big plays."

Cade Snotherly had a big game after going 14-of-18 passing for 253 yards and four touchdowns.

"Cade continues to improve every week," noted Cates of his senior signal caller. "He knows where to get the ball and how to manage the game."

Two of Snotherly's touchdown passes went to Kaeman Marley who caught a trio of aerials for 122 yards including a 78-yarder on the Cats initial pass of the contest to send ER up 7-0 in the opening quarter.

After an Eastern Randolph drive was halted at the five-yard line of Wheatmore on four plays and a penalty late in the first period, Wheatmore got onto the board with 4:15 left in the half when the Warriors Garrett Moser stepped in front of what was the first of Snotherly's two interceptions and returned it to the 36 yards to the ER 35 to set up Nick Halo finding Ben Walker open two plays for a score.

The contest looked to be heading into the intermission knotted at 7-apiece but the Warriors fumbled a snap on its own 25 which was pounced on by the Wildcats with just over a minute left in the stanza. Tavis McAdoo would slice in front nine yards out with :27 seconds left in the half to send ER up 13-7 at the break.

Eastern Randolph had a touchdown called back on its opening possession of the third quarter by Snotherly found a wide open McAdoo who then outran the Wheatmore defenders for a 45 yard touchdown play. After a JB Farrish two-point conversion run the Wildcats pulled in front 21-7.

A fired-up Eastern Randolph defense then forced a Wheatmore punt from its own end zone and on the next play Snotherly was at it again, this time hooking up with Farrish on a 46-yard scoring toss and with 4:28 left in the third the Cats led 28-7.

Another three-and-out for the Warriors gave the Wildcats the ball again which resulted in a 30yard touchdown pass to Marley from Snotherly. Snotherly extended the play with his legs before locating Marley along the visiting sidelines who then did the rest, breaking through several Wheatmore arm tackles before reaching the end zone to push the lead to 35-7 at the 1:48 mark of the third.

A pick six by Walker from 20 yards out cut the lead to 35-13 early in the fourth for Wheatmore but Demetrius Thomas would score from 17 yards out to extend the lead back to 41-13 midway through the fourth.

Wheatmore would tally a late score and two-point conversion in the waning seconds to make the final 41-21.

Now the date fans have had circled on the calendar for months has arrived and the Battle of the Felines is set to get underway this Friday night in Randleman.

"You have two great football teams and programs, it's an important game and one of our goals is to win the conference, and this would go a long way to achieving that," said Cates.

"There will be a great deal of excitement but we can't let that take over. We have to come focused and ready to play for four quarters. It's what it's all about and our kids will be excited for the opportunity at hand."

PLAYOFFS

Continued from page B1

South Carolina on Tuesday, October 29. Pender County downed Bear Grass Charter 3-0 (25-17, 25-20, 25-9) in first round play.

In Weldon, Chatham Central fought off an athletic Weldon lineup for a 25-22 victory in game one and never looked back, taking game two 25-8 and game three 25-15.

"The first set was tight so to win it 25-22 to take an early lead was key," said Chatham Central coach Brett Walden. "They were really athletic and had a few front row players above 6 ft. and could really jump."

Walden was alluding to 5'10 Tecara Ashe and 6'3 Skylah

Travis, both senior captains for the Lady Chargers who patrolled the net and were the main reason for Weldon compiling its gaudy 14-1 record entering the states and the top seed out of the Tar Roanoke Conference.

"Travis and Ashe got some blocks early but we went away from their height which opened things up for us more around the net," pointed out Walden.

Tanner little had seven service aces in the second set which ignited Chatham Central out of the gates and gave the red and black the momentum which they never would relinquish.

"Tanner's serving in the second set really helped us build that early lead which allowed us to sustain the momentum and keep the pressure on them," continued Walden

With a 2-0 advantage heading into game three, Chatham Central started off quickly again, racing out to a 23-8 lead.

With its backs against the wall, Weldon refused to go down without a fight as Travis collected three kills and Ashe two more to spark a 7-0 run to close the gap to 23-15.

Walden called a well used timeout, made a substitution, and the Bears were able to finish off the third set out of the timeout.

Walden was pleased as well as impressed with what was a total team effort in ousting the talented Chargers from the playoffs.

"Carmen Edwards was really good pushing the ball deep, Grace Jones hit it as well as she has all year long, and it was probably Lindsay Polston's best game of her career setting,"

continued Walden. "Sets were really good for our hitters. Eliana Phillips had some solid back row play, Tanner Little passed it really well to our setter all night."

Walden was particularly impressed with senior Olivia Hudson who turned in a big game for the Bears.

"I felt like the player of the game was Olivia Hudson. Olivia got a few blocks and was very disruptive for their hitters. She hadn't served much this year, but had to due to a couple other players struggling. Olivia did a fantastic job in what was an overall a great effort from everyone."

Hudson closed with five kills and a block while Jones added six kills, Edwards and D Maness four kills apiece with Edwards chipping in three aces and Maness a block, Johnson

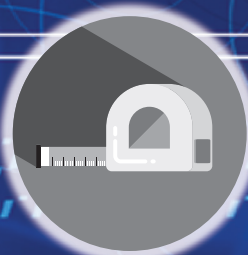
four aces and a kill, Polston five aces, and Phillips five aces and a kill.

Over in Clayton on Saturday, Northwood was eliminated from the NCHSAA 3A state playoffs with a 3-0 loss to Cleveland High. The Chargers dropped game one 25-11, game two 25-18, and game three 25-15 in behind swept by the Rams and closing the season at 9-16.

Cleveland was scheduled to host Fayetteville Terry Sanford (20-7) in the second round. Terry Sanford opened the state playoffs with a 3-1 triumph over Cedar Ridge.

In Louisburg, the Chatham Charter girls were downed 3-0 by Louisburg in opening round action. The Knights close a strong season at 16-12 while the Warriors advanced to host Vance Charter (19-4) on Tuesday.

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Friday night lights



Staff photo by David Bradley

Wheatmore's Sergio Garcia tries to pry the ball from Jordan-Matthew's Jorge Hernandez in one of the last games of the season last Thursday in Siler City at Phil E. Senter Stadium. Tied at the end of the first half, the Jets roared back with three goals in the second half to defeat the Warriors, 4-3.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Vance County's Emani Foster comes up to defend against the powerful kill of Northwood's Hannah Forbess, while Abby Ekeler is intently focused on the play. The non-conference match between the two teams in Pittsboro Oct. 22 resulted in a 3-1 victory for the Chargers. After advancing to the playoffs, the Chargers lost in the first round, 3-0, in Clayton Saturday night.

Northwood's Gabriel Copp gets the ball back into play as Northern's Erickson Bonilla and Davis Brock come up to defend in their own territory. The hard-fought battle between the two teams ended in a 2-1 victory for the Knights in Pittsboro Oct. 21.

Staff photo by David Bradley



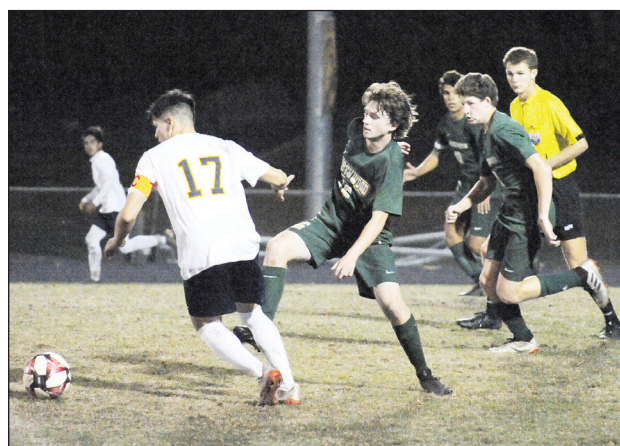
Chatham Central's Abby Gaines was named the 2019 Homecoming Queen at last Friday's game against South Stanly.

Staff photo by David Bradley



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Mary Grace Murchison gives a powerful return to her opponents lob over the net last Monday. The Bears, in the third-round of state playoffs, fought Bishop McGuinness at the Fourth of July park in Kernersville. After the win of 5-4 in Kernersville, their record this season is 18-3-1.



Staff photo by David Bradley

The ball gets past Northern's Faustino Chavez-Mendoza after a kick from Northwood's Noah Griffin in the second half of their Oct. 21 match in Pittsboro. The Chargers lost 2-1.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood's Jose Guevarra attempts a takeaway near the goal line from Northern's Hugo Garcia as the Chargers try to come back from a 2-1 score in the second half in their match in Pittsboro.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood's Claire Hepburn prepares for a powerful kill over the net in the Chargers effort to defeat Vance County last Tuesday in Pittsboro. The Chargers lost focus in their second game of the match, but came back with a victory, 3-1.

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Aaron Coltrane, 24, of Siler City, was charged October 16 with communicating threats and damage to property. He was held under a mandatory 48-hour domestic violence hold with a November 6 court date in Pittsboro.

Michael Sprouse, 34, of Thomasville, was charged October 16 with failure to comply/child support. He was held under a \$3,702 bond with a November 7 court date in Lexington.

Jasmine Griffin, 30, of

Pittsboro, was charged October 17 with obtaining property by false pretense. She was released under a written promise with a November 4 court date in Sanford.

Franklin Birchett, 51, of Pittsboro, was charged October 20 with felony stalking and violation of a domestic violence protective order. He was held under a mandatory 48-hour hold with a November 4 court date. Birchett was subsequently charged with obstructing justice and held under a \$15,000 bond on that charge with a November 4

court date.

Craig Brim, 28, of Robbins, was charged October 21 with motor vehicle rental fraud and failure to return a hired motor vehicle. He was released under a written promise.

Casey Fields, 27, of Siler City, was charged October 21 with violation of a domestic violence protective order. He was held under no bond with a November 6 court date in Pittsboro.

Tracey Gargon, 44, of Goldston, was charged October 23 with breaking and entering and sec-

ond-degree trespassing. She was released under a written promise with a November 20 court date in Pittsboro.

Brandon Leak, 35, of Chapel Hill, was charged October 23 with resisting a public officer, injury to personal property, intoxicated and disruptive behavior and carrying a concealed weapon. He was held under a \$2,000 bond with a November 13 court date in Chatham County.

Kimberly Gutierrez, 39, of Broadway, was charged October 24 with second-degree trespassing. She was held under a \$400 bond with a November 13 court date in Pittsboro.

Marcelo Lopez-Alonso, 27, of Chapel Hill, was charged in three separate incidents with separate bonds and court dates: failure to appear with a \$2,000 bond and a November 18 court date in Hillsborough; failure to appear with a \$4,000 bond and an October 30 court date in Durham; and resisting a public officer with a \$4,000 bond and a November 6

court date in Pittsboro.

SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jose Barrios of Siler City was cited October 20 for driving while impaired, no operator's license and failure to maintain lane control on North Garden Avenue in Siler City.

Randa Brady, 34, of Siler City, was charged October 25 with five felony counts of breaking and/or entering a motor vehicle, three misdemeanor counts of larceny, felony financial card fraud and felony obtaining property by false pretense. She was held under a \$2,500 bond with a November 4 court date in Siler City.

Brandon Little, 29, of Siler City, was charged October 26 with felony failure to stop after a hit and run, two counts of driving while license revoked, injury to real property and driving with a revoked registration plate. He was held under a \$2,500 bond with a November 4 court date in Siler City.

Michelle Perez, 46, of Siler City, was charged October 27 with assault and battery. She was held with a November 26 court date in Siler City.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Darryl Murchison Jr. of Sanford was cited October 22 for failure to maintain lane control on U.S. Highway 421 in Siler City.

Virginia Lane of Cameron was cited October 23 for failure to reduce speed on U.S. Highway 15 in Pittsboro.

Amber Van-Pelt of Durham was cited October 23 for failure to yield at a left turn, possession of an open container of alcohol, expired registration and expired inspection on Chicken Bridge Road in Pittsboro.

Talia Singletary of Bennett was cited October 23 for driving while license revoked and lane control violation on Charlie Garner Road in Goldston.

America Recycles Day Recycling Classes



America Recycles Day is November 15 and Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling is hosting a week of events.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE! PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Register online at www.chathamnc.org/recycle or call 919-542-5516

Tues Nov 12 **Composting: Nature's Recycling 9:00-11:00 am**
Learn tips and techniques for at-home composting. In partnership with Chatham County Cooperative Extension.

Where Does your Recycling Go? 1:00-4:30 pm **Wed Nov 13**
Includes a field trip (transportation included) to visit the facility where your recyclables go to be processed.

Thurs Nov 14 **Why is Recycling so Confusing? 10:00-11:30 am**
Learn what happens to recyclables after they go in the bin, what can and cannot be recycled, and why.

Where Does your Recycling Go? 1:00-4:30 pm **Fri Nov 15**
Includes a field trip (transportation included) to visit the facility where your recyclables go to be processed.

Sat Nov 16 **Encore Classes:**
Composting: Nature's Recycling 9:30-11:00 am
Why is Recycling so Confusing? 11:00-12:30 pm

Timeline to the most incredible slice of quiche



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

In 1986, Petey and I moved to the Heart of Carolina. Over the next couple of years, we made a home, made friends, and made ourselves familiar with the area. And these two nomadic children of military men made a decision; we had found ourselves a forever home.

In 1988 we made our inaugural visit to the North Carolina State Fair.

Not long after we arrived on that crisp, sunny, fall day I realized that every day I'd spent before this day didn't exist. Because my life hadn't actually begun until I walked through those fairground gates and smelled the intoxicating perfume of roasting corn, sugar, and livestock, all set to the music of a John Deere-powered ice cream maker.

The fair became a family tradition. And time and familiarity did nothing to dim my passion. Each year, my anticipation grew greater, and my love stronger.

In 2015, four years after I began food writing, I began judging at the fair's special food contests. These are the challenges organized



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

The most amazing quiche ever.

by food companies and organizations (think House Autry and the NC Egg Association). In 2017, The Kid, who like me possesses an almost pathological attachment to the state fair, joined the judging stable.

This year, one of our assigned contests was sponsored by the N.C. Vegetable Growers Association. Coming in second was a quiche that I loved so much, I finished my entire slice; something I've never done in five years because if I did, I'd run out of stomach space well before we ran out of entrants.

Chaucer said that "April is the sweetest month."

He's wrong. I have nothing against April. Heck, I was born in April, which means birthday cake.

But because there's a nip in the air, Brach's pumpkins are in stores, and most importantly, the N.C. State Fair is held, the month of October is sweeter than all of the Pappy's root beer and Peachey's doughnuts on the midway combined.

Thanks for your time.

Contact Debbie at dm@bullcity.com

Parmesan Crusted Fresh Veggie Quiche

From Margaret Howard, Fuquay-Varina

Crust:

- 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp. pine nuts
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 8 Tbsp. cold, unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 3 Tbsp. cold milk
- Pulse flour, nuts, Parmesan cheese and salt in food processor until nuts are finely chopped.

Add butter and pulse until mixture's crumbly. Drizzle milk and pulse until dough comes together. Form into a flattened ball and wrap in plastic. Refrigerate dough 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 325°. Roll dough into 12-inch circle on lightly floured surface and press into greased 10-inch tart pan. Freeze crust 10 minutes then press aluminum foil over bottom and sides of pan.

Bake for 30 minutes on baking sheet. Remove foil and set aside on cooling rack for 10 minutes.

Prep quiche ingredients while crust is baking. Increase oven temperature to 400°.

Quiche:

- 1/2 cup diced red pepper
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- 1/2 cup grated zucchini
- 1 cup chopped fresh spinach
- 4 ounces chopped fresh mushrooms
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. apple juice
- 1 cup half and half
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- Dash of ground red pepper
- 5 ounces shredded Swiss cheese

Sauté red pepper, onion, zucchini, and mushrooms in olive oil until tender. Add apple juice and cook until liquid's absorbed, stirring often. Remove from heat.

Whisk together half and half, eggs and seasonings. Stir in mushroom mixture, spinach and swiss cheese.

Pour into prepared crust. Place thin slices of veggies in a decorative pattern on top if desired.

Bake on lowest oven rack at 400° for 35-40 minutes or until set.

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ASK ABOUT OUR LUNCH SPECIALS

Happy HALLOWEEN!

DAILY DINNER SPECIALS

5:00PM - CLOSED

<p>Monday: Mussels Platter, Garden Salad & Garlic Bread <i>Ask About our Greek dishes for Tonight</i></p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #e91e63;">\$2⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p><small>Only redeemable at Siler City location. (Exp 12/31/19)</small></p>	<p>Monday: Large Cheese Pizza <i>Ask About our Greek dishes for Tonight</i></p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #e91e63;">\$2⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p><small>Only redeemable at Siler City location. (Exp 12/31/19)</small></p>
<p>Tuesday: Large Cheese Pizza <i>Ask About our Greek dishes for Tonight</i></p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #e91e63;">\$2⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p><small>Only redeemable at Siler City location. (Exp 12/31/19)</small></p>	<p>Tuesday: Chicken Cacciatore, Salad & Garlic Bread <i>Ask About our Greek dishes for Tonight</i></p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #e91e63;">\$2⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p><small>Only redeemable at Siler City location. (Exp 12/31/19)</small></p>
<p>Wednesday: Large Cheese Pizza <i>Ask About our Greek dishes for Tonight</i></p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #e91e63;">\$2⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p><small>Only redeemable at Siler City location. (Exp 12/31/19)</small></p>	<p>Wednesday: Chicken Portofino, Salad & Garlic Bread <i>Ask About our Greek dishes for Tonight</i></p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #e91e63;">\$2⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p><small>Only redeemable at Siler City location. (Exp 12/31/19)</small></p>
<p>Thursday: Large Meat Lovers Pizza</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #e91e63;">\$2⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p><small>Only redeemable at Siler City location. (Exp 12/31/19)</small></p>	<p>Thursday: Sausage Peppers, Onions Platter, Salad & Garlic Bread</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #e91e63;">\$2⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p><small>Only redeemable at Siler City location. (Exp 12/31/19)</small></p>
<p>Friday: Large Elizabeth's Pizza</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #e91e63;">\$2⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p><small>Only redeemable at Siler City location. (Exp 12/31/19)</small></p>	<p>Friday: Chicken and Broccoli Pasta with Salad & Garlic Bread</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: #e91e63;">\$2⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p><small>Only redeemable at Siler City location. (Exp 12/31/19)</small></p>

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Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Kid Scoop Funny Filler

Ask a friend to come up with nouns (person, place or thing), verbs (action words like swim and walk) and adjectives (describing words, such as hairy or silly). Use them to fill in the blanks in this story. Read it aloud to share some big laughs!

Halloween

On Halloween night, my sister and I, along with _____, FRIEND'S NAME went trick-or-treating in our neighborhood. We knocked on _____ but no one PLURAL NOUN answered. A _____ ADJECTIVE figure appeared on the sidewalk in front of us. My sister began to _____ VERB.

"_____ are not PLURAL NOUN welcome here!" the shadowy _____ NOUN said. "Go away!"

"Hey! We live here!" said my sister. She pointed at our _____ ADJECTIVE _____ NOUN.

"_____!" INTERJECTION said the figure. "I am so sorry! I must be lost!"

We helped him find his way home to his _____ ADJECTIVE _____ NOUN. To thank us, he gave us a basket filled with _____ ADJECTIVE PLURAL NOUN.

Then he began to _____ VERB into his home and invited us to visit again. His pet _____ NOUN followed us a few blocks, before turning into a very _____ ADJECTIVE _____ NOUN!

Standards Links: Language Arts: Use nouns, adjectives and verbs correctly in writing.

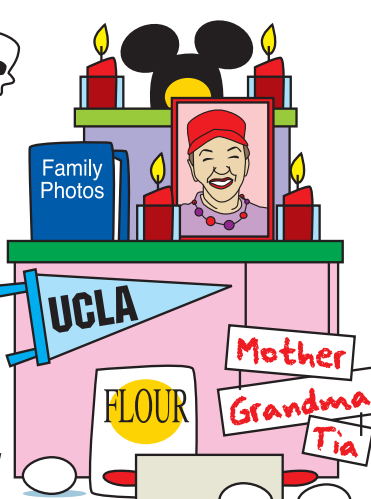
DIA DE LOS MUERTOS (Day of the Dead)



Día de los Muertos, or *Day of the Dead*, is a holiday celebrated throughout Latin America. While it is called the Day of the Dead, the holiday actually lasts three days, October 31st, November 1st and 2nd.

"welcome" the souls of the dead, who are thought to return briefly during these days to visit with their living loved ones.

Families celebrate by creating **altars** with *ofrendas*, or offerings to the dead. An *ofrenda* is a gathering of things that a deceased loved one enjoyed in life: favorite food and drink, clothing, photographs and other objects.



Even though this holiday is about death, it is not sad. The festival is full of life, happiness, color, food, family and fun. Its purpose is to

Look at each altar on this page. List five things you can learn about each person from the *ofrenda* honoring him or her.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Calaveras de Azúcar

Skulls (*calaveras*) made of sugar (*azúcar*) are a popular holiday treat. While some may think skulls are scary, the Día de los Muertos skulls are bright and colorful! The idea is to laugh in the face of death.

Find the two sugar skulls that are the same.



How many words can you make using the letters in:

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

SCORE YOURSELF!
1 - 3: Groggy Ghost
4 - 10: Smart Spirit
11 or more: Cool Ghoul!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

Standards Links: Spelling: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

Extra! Extra! Your Town Ofrenda

Look through the newspaper or your newspaper's website for pictures and words that would make people think about your town. Using the things you find, create a poster about your town.

Standards Links: Visual Arts: Know how symbols are used to communicate meaning.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Tiptoe Through the Tombstones

Using only odd-numbered tombstones and moving vertically or horizontally (no diagonal moves!), reach the finish line.



Standards Links: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- CALAVERAS
- OFFERINGS
- OFRENDAS
- WELCOME
- HOLIDAY
- MUERTOS
- ALTARS
- SKULLS
- FAMILY
- LAUGH
- SUGAR
- FACE
- DEAD
- DAY
- SAD

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



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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Opposite Fish

Find ten pairs of opposites — words that mean the opposite of each other. For example, the words "close" and "open." Glue each word onto a 3 x 5 card that you'll use to play the card game "Opposite Fish."

Standards Links: Word Analysis: Understand and use antonyms.



Write On! Halloween Humor

Share with a friend your favorite Halloween jokes and riddles.

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County begins process to formalize tobacco-free ordinance on government property

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County government has begun the process of changing a current administrative policy banning tobacco use on county property to an official government ordinance.

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners scheduled a public hearing for its November 18 meeting to get citizen input on the potential ordinance, which has

been a county policy since March 2016.

The plan was presented by county Public Health Director Layton Long and Health Promotion Coordinator Anna Stormzand. Long said making the rule an official ordinance would be a “policy-level intervention” and a “good example for the kids.”

“We’ve seen tobacco use in terms of combustible tobacco become socially acceptable,” he said. “It is a socially-accepted endeavor, and they will

carry that into adulthood. We’re moving backwards at a rapid pace.”

Stormzand spoke to the board about the rise of e-cigarettes — which would be included in the ban — and the negative health effects. She said 1,500 U.S. residents have been hospitalized with vaping-related illnesses and 33 have died.

The 2018 Chatham County Community Assessment reported that 22.4 percent of Chatham County public and charter high schoolers

surveyed said they had used an electronic vapor product within the last 30 days. Stormzand said last week that e-cigarette use by North Carolina high school students increased by 894 percent from 2011 to 2017.

“We are worried about an entire new generation being addicted to nicotine,” she said.

The sample county ordinance would not include public places, Long said, but would incorporate parks and government buildings,

which are currently under the administrative policy. The ordinance, Stormzand added, would have the two-fold effect of hopefully cutting down on secondhand smoke on county property, but set a better example for the youth.

“We care about this not only from youth standpoint but user and bystander,” she said. “It supports those who want to quit and have quit, but it also supports the notion that youth are not seeing that behavior.”

The Town of Siler City adopted a similar policy at its September 3 town commissioners meeting, extending its previous ban on smoking tobacco in municipal buildings and vehicles to include parks and all Town property. The Town of Pittsboro does not have a mention of tobacco in its Code of Ordinances.

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at zhorn-er@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @ZachHornerCNR.

Guitar Bash rocks Siler City



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

When rain started to fall, the music moved inside the N.C. Arts Incubator. Chris Chamis sang lots of rock and roll favorites.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Koo Day Tah Guitar Bash Rocks Siler City
The annual Koo Day Tah event brought guitar-driven jams to Siler City for an event benefiting the N.C. Arts Incubator on Oct. 19. Several different bands performed at the event.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The event featured a tour of Terry McInturff’s custom guitar studio, where he crafts one-of-a-kind legends. A specially built guitar is being raffled off to support the N.C. Arts Incubator.



Kay Blada of Snow Camp, Debra Aramal and Chris Carter of Saxapahaw were spotted enjoying the event.



JR Butler, an artist and muralist from Siler City, shows off his new mask at the event.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

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THE UNITED WAY OF CHATHAM COUNTY AGENCY PROFILE

Rebuilding Together of the Triangle

Editor's note: As part of the News + Record's commitment to the community, we're partnering with the United Way of Chatham County to help provide insight into the work of the agencies the program helps fund with a series of local agency profiles; information is provided by the agencies in conjunction with the United Way. The United Way relies on donations from individuals and businesses to meet the needs of its member agencies. Please consider a generous gift.



How does the program make a difference in the community?: We improve the lives of individual homeowners. By providing a safe, healthy home for these vulnerable community members, we preserve their independence and their place in their community. Our homeowners have reported improved mobility, improved respiratory function, lower utility bills, and many other positive changes to their quality of life on a daily basis.

homeowners, working to provide a safe, healthy home for every homeowner in Chatham County.

Please share a story about a Chatham resident this program helped and the impact it made: Teresa had lived in her Pittsboro home for decades, but her health and home began gradually deteriorating. On dialysis three days a week, Teresa spent the rest of her time caring for her grandchildren. This little opportunity — not to mention resources — for home repairs. Years of damage from moisture and termites took its toll, causing the subfloor to collapse in Teresa's bedrooms. For years, she had to sleep in her living room chair. Her front door had buckled so badly it could not be closed. No matter how severe the weather, she relied on space heaters and a window unit for heating and cooling. With help from Chatham County, Chatham County United Way, Central Piedmont Community Action, 3M, and Chatham Community Church, we completely transformed her home. Now Teresa and her grandchildren finally can live safely and comfortably again.

Focus Area: Basic Needs (financial stability)

Name of United Way Supported Program: Safe, healthy home repairs for Chatham homeowners in need

How will RTT use United Way donor dollars?: RTT preserves safe, healthy homes for low-income homeowners in Chatham County. United Way funding supports the costs of providing home repairs, accessibility modifications and health and safety upgrades to these homeowners, most of whom are elderly, disabled, or both. We plan to serve at least 38 homeowners in Chatham County this year.

Why is this program essential to Chatham County?: Safe, affordable housing is one of the most critical needs Chatham County is facing; more than 80 percent of residents responding to a recent survey said housing issues were of serious concern to them. The county leadership, as well as the non-profit sector, and the community at large have indicated that addressing these housing needs will be a priority in the coming years. Together, they are working to address the availability and affordability of rental housing, as well as homes for purchase.

There is also strong recognition that the maintenance and preservation of existing, owner-occupied housing stock is essential to a comprehensive housing strategy. RTT works to preserve affordable homeownership through repairs, modifications and home performance upgrades, and we anticipate that the needs for these services will continue to increase this year and into the future. We believe we are well-positioned to support the objectives of Chatham County and the residents who will need assistance.

There is also strong recognition that the maintenance and preservation of existing, owner-occupied housing stock is essential to a comprehensive housing strategy. RTT works to preserve affordable homeownership through repairs, modifications and home performance upgrades, and we anticipate that the needs for these services will continue to increase this year and into the future. We believe we are well-positioned to support the objectives of Chatham County and the residents who will need assistance.

Jordan-Matthews teachers named Voya Unsung Heroes

CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — Jordan-Matthews faculty members Jessica Sandel and Wendi Pillars have been named Voya Unsung Heroes by Voya Financial. The award, established to demonstrate Voya Financial's commitment to the education community, includes a \$2,000 grant.

Sandel, Science department chairman, and Pillars, English as Second Language department chairman, will be co-teaching a section of biology this spring that focuses on outdoor biology education. The team's innovative teaching idea is "Our Unsung Outdoor Heroes."

"We believe bringing students outside will help them connect with the natural world, and

therefore find meaning in the concepts we study in biology," said Sandel. "It's important that students understand science is something you do, not just something you study."

The competitive award is one of only 50 presented nationwide. Each project is judged on its innovative method, creativity, and ability to positively influence students.



Jordan-Matthews teachers Jessica Sandel (left) and Wendi Pillars received a \$2,000 grant from Voya Financial as part of the Unsung Heroes Program. Submitted photo

Music and Lyrics by **STEPHEN SONDHEIM**
Book by **JAMES LAPINE**

Originally directed on Broadway by James Lapine
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunik

INTO THE WOODS

Thursday, November 14 @ 7 pm
Friday, November 15 @ 7 pm
Saturday, November 16 @ 2 pm

Jordan-Matthews High School
Siler City



\$5 Admission
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INTO THE WOODS is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

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CHATHAM COUNTY EDUCATOR OF THE WEEK

Sherman Howze | Chatham Central High School

Grades/subjects you teach: online facilitator; coach

E-mail address: showze@chatham.k12.nc.us

Place of birth: Buffalo, New York

Education: High Point Central High School, East Carolina University, Everest University, Purdue University Global Bachelor of Science Early Childhood Development

Brief work history: I started in the education field in 1999 in Melbourne, Florida, at Florida Air Academy from 1999 to 2009. After working in South Carolina, I came to Salisbury, North Carolina, where I worked in the exceptional children department at North Rowan Middle School for five years. Later, I spent a year at Northeast Guilford High School and three years at Olympic High School.

Teaching honors/awards: 2019-20 Chatham Central High School Instructional Assistant of the Year

Hobbies/interests outside teaching: Bowling

Family: wife Tanya; children Emmitt, Chris, Nicole

What led you to a career as a teacher?: I wanted to get involved. I always wanted to work in the education field. I always have said if I can make a difference, it would be to make a difference in the school systems.

Who were your favorite teachers as you went through school, and what did you learn from them?: My 6th-grade and 9th-grade teachers, Ms. Hill



Submitted photo

Howze's advice for other teachers: 'Teach your students the way you were taught.'

and my English teacher Ms. Harris, and my high school head football coach, Tony Mills. I learned leadership and love, what you do to change lives and have an impact on somebody.

Has becoming a teacher been all you expected it would be?: Yes, and more.

How has teaching changed since you were a student?: I truly think when I was in school we did a lot more. They taught one-on-one, and we really took it in.

What makes your day as a teacher?: Knowing that I have done what I needed to do to help someone for that moment.

Best piece of advice for other teachers?: Teach your students the way you were taught.

For students?: Take education seriously, work harder in class.

For parents?: Know what your kids are doing and how they are doing in school.

If you were superintendent for a day, you'd: I don't

know what I would do.

What about your job would surprise your non-teaching friends the most?: My job.

If you could somehow magically instill one truth into the heads of your students, what would it be?: Stay in school, and take the teaching we teach, because we love it.

When you think about today's kids, you: I shake my head, because a lot of kids can't see past tomorrow. I have seen a lot in this field — some good, a lot of bad. That's why I got into the field, to make a difference in young people's lives.

If one of your students was asked for a one-word description of you by a student who hadn't had you in class, what would that one word be?: Funny.

Favorite movie about school or teaching: "Remember the Titans," because you see leadership, bonding, caring, hope.

What five things must every teacher know?: Know your students. Know the good about them and the



Submitted photo

Sherman Howze is the 2019-20 Chatham Central High School Instructional Assistant of the Year.

bad. What makes your students go? What's holding them back? What's their background and family history regarding education?

What's special about your classroom?: The person that I am, the stories I tell students about my experiences in high school.

What's special about your school?: The people I work with and for. Teacher-student relationships for learning. The day I stepped on Chatham Central's campus, I knew it was the place for me.

What's working in schools today?: Having a hardworking staff that believes in what they're both doing for and teaching the students.

What's your favorite memory of your first year as a teacher?: How everyone took me in.

How would your teacher

persona handle you as a student?: Very good.

Best piece of advice for other teachers?: Teach your students the way you were taught. It's different now than the way I was taught. We were more hands-on and wanted to learn.

What about your job would surprise your non-teaching friends the most?: What all of my responsibilities are, plus with the coaching.

How would you summarize your teaching philosophy?: I just think my philosophy is to be there for the students no matter what's going on with them. I try to build a trust relationship with my student to where if they have a problem maybe I could help them.

What's special about your classroom?: The person that I am, the stories you tell students

and your experience you had in high school. You can come do your work. I always talk about education with my students, and the one question they have is why do I do this. My answer always is I want you guys to finish, walk across that stage and get out of Bear Creek, go to college, stay in school, get a degree.

What's special about your school?: The people you work with and for. The students you're building a teacher-student relationship for learning. The day I stepped on Chatham Central's campus, I knew it was the place for me. The love from the staff. There is a warm spirit in this school. There's no other feeling like it.

Most unusual question you've ever gotten from a student?: "Why Chatham Central?" I replied by saying, "Why not? I love it here. I love working with the staff."

Chatham County department leaders give back on the farm

CN+R STAFF REPORT

PITTSBORO — Each year, Chatham County's department leaders gather for a day of service and team-building activities as a way to give back to the community and get to know each other better.

On Oct. 15, the group provided a morning of service at the Central Carolina Community College Student Farm in Pittsboro.

County employees received a tour of the farm, which produces organic crops. Ashley Byrd, assistant manager, said the teams of county employee volunteers worked throughout the morning to remove pepper trellising and to harvest various crops including sweet potatoes, tomatoes and peppers. The volunteers were able to enjoy the fruits of their labor by taking home a bag of produce.

"In just a few hours, the volunteers made a big impact in helping us harvest our crops," Byrd said.



Submitted photo

Chatham County department leaders conducted a day of service and team-building on Oct. 15, offering their volunteer services at the Central Carolina Community College Student Farm in Pittsboro.

"There is always work to be done on the farm, and we are grateful for the time that the county employees spent with us."

The organic produce from the Student Farm is provided to the CCCC Culinary Arts program as well as food pantries in Chatham County.

"This was such a meaningful experience for our department leaders to come together and give back to the community that we serve while building stronger relationships with each other" said County Manager Dan LaMontagne. "We learned a great deal about the delicious organ-

ic crops produced right here in our community and the hard work it takes to make them thrive."

County leaders also toured two new facilities under construction. Their first stop was Chatham Grove Elementary School, which is expected to open to students in the fall of



Submitted photo

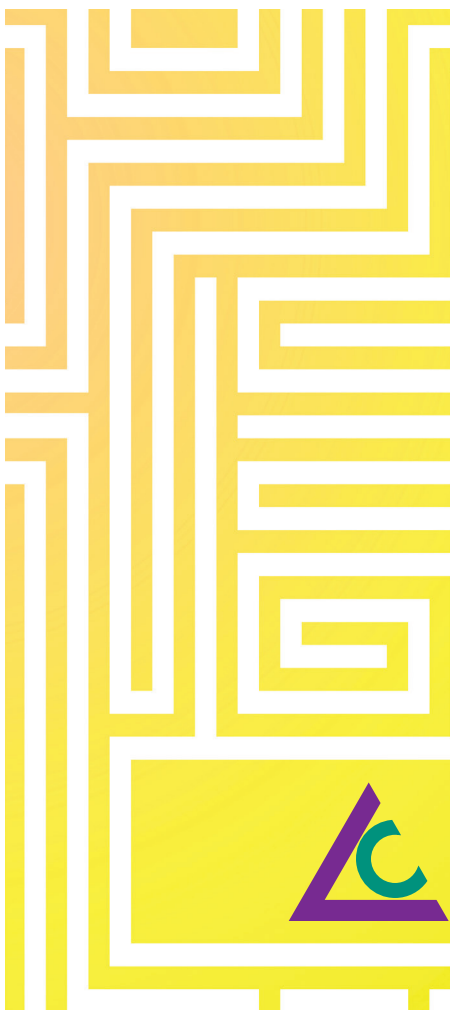
Chatham County employees tour the Student Farm at Central Carolina Community College in Pittsboro, which produces organic crops.

2020. Chatham Grove will be Chatham County's 17th school and will also include a Community Center through partnership with Chatham County Parks and Recreation.

The group also toured the Central Carolina Community College Health Sciences Building, which

is scheduled to open to students this winter.

Byrd noted that the CCCC Student Farm has a wide range of volunteer opportunities. Anyone who is interested in volunteering at CCCC's Student Farm may contact Ashley Byrd at ebyrd@ccc.edu or 919-545-8670.



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ONE CHATHAM FORUM

Educators: Mentorship, community involvement vital to serving students in poverty

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — More than a month after the One Chatham forum on poverty's effect on public education, one message still offers a chance for Chatham-ites to make a difference.

Be a mentor to a student, and have a life-changing effect on the next generation.

During the forum on September 11, sponsored by the News + Record and UNC's Our Chatham project, panelists referenced time and time again the need for community members to step into the schools and play a role in students' lives, particularly those in poverty.

Jazmin Mendoza Sosa, student support specialist at Virginia Cross Elementary School, said she's been working on motivation with students at her school, but they're missing mentors.

"They don't have someone they can look up to or see as a guidance,"

she said. "I do encourage the community to be that mentor, be that adult, help us build that relationship by maybe being in the school."

Mendoza Sosa added that there is particularly a lack of minority teachers. When coupled with the relatively lower salary in teaching compared to other jobs, she said that lack can be perpetuated.

"Often people of color don't take professions, like teachers, it's not that high paying a job," she said. "What kind of jobs are our kids going to take when they go to college? Money has been an issue at home, so they tend to choose other professions. I think that also plays into what kind of jobs kids are going to take when they go into college."

Not that Chatham County Schools are without community involvement. Panelist Larry Savage, the principal at Siler City Elementary, said groups will come to his school to drop off books for students. The district announced earlier

this fall that volunteers at the Chatham PTA Thrift Shop combined for 74,483 hours of work and generated \$603,340.23 for the schools.

"Volunteers serve a major role in the success of the Chatham PTA Thrift Shop," said Chatham PTA Thrift Shop treasurer Wilhelmina Ritter, who teaches physical education at Siler City Elementary School. "They bring in donations, sort and hang clothes, work to keep all three stores clean, along with many other tasks. All the volunteer hours that are worked allow the stores to run more efficiently without hiring more employees."

And that money goes directly to schools. Bennett School's representatives worked 12,623.4 hours and earned \$75,548.82 for the school's PTA.

While that's undoubtedly helpful — CCS referenced "a measure of financial uncertainty on account of the state's budget remaining in

limbo" for districts across the state — educators say they want to see just as much in-person involvement.

"We always could use tutors in the classroom, mentors for the students and any resources. I think that people are the greatest resources for our students," Savage said. "Our teachers struggle because they're trying to work with a small group working with a struggling group of students. They have to develop a culture in the classroom where the other students have to work independently, and that is very difficult."

There are opportunities to get involved right away, particularly through Communities In Schools of Chatham County. Shirille Lee runs the Lunch Buddies and mentorship programs through the nonprofit.

Lunch Buddies is fairly simple — have lunch with an assigned student once a week for the school year. Lee said it's a much easier commitment for those unsure if they're

right for the program and can have a significant effect on students.

"Kids just enjoy having an adult come eat lunch with them," Lee said. "It's definitely a treat, probably for the adult as much as it is for the student."

The CIS' mentorship program connects community members with students for deeper relationships, four hours a month for a full calendar year. After the 12 months, the mentor and mentee are asked if they want the relationship to continue. Lee said some matches have lasted from kindergarten through high school graduation.

Those kind of relationships, she said, others take for granted but some kids are missing out on.

"We're not asking volunteers to create time, but just including the mentees in things they're already doing," she said. "It's a process, and sometimes it may take longer than what people may think it does, but we do want to make sure we're doing everything possible

to make sure it's a good match."

Chris Poston, CCS' executive director for elementary and middle grades education, said at the One Chatham forum that "there's always a kid" who doesn't have his last name at his house.

"We have such a wonderful community here in Chatham County," he said. "There are so many kids who need someone to speak into their destiny. I think that onus is on us as a community to find those students and support them."

It's not easy, Mendoza Sosa said, particularly in working with students in poverty. But they need love and support.

"Kids in poverty don't want your pity," she said. "They want your relationships. They want you to really care about them. Go out there and really do something."

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

CHATHAM CH@T | CHATHAM TRADES



Staff photo by David Bradley

Shawn Poe, the director of Chatham Trades, works with clients with developmental disabilities, helping them learn new tasks.

Pittsboro Street Fair



Cool to Be Kind club member Caroline Puckett of Northwood High School creates a painting at the Pittsboro Street Fair.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Eric Peterson of Chapel Hill explores the Pittsboro Street Fair on a trike.



Vendor Tonya Prow shows off her sand and shell creations at Saturday's Pittsboro Street Fair.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Officers and staff from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office manned a booth at Saturday's Street Fair. Show from left are Sgt. Felix Jimenez, Ashley Moore, Dep. Shannon Parker, Sgt. Luisa Rojas and Stephanie Campbell.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Kitty Hubbard of Farmville, Virginia, poses during the street fair with her daughter, Page Smith of Pittsboro.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



With new, larger location, Chatham Trades looks to the future

Chatham Trades is hosting an open house at its new location on Nov. 7 at 2535 Old U.S. Hwy. 421 North in Siler City. This week, we speak with the organization's executive director, Shawn Poe, about Chatham Trades' work and how a larger home base can help it grow.

Before we talk about your upcoming open house and new location, can you provide an outline of Chatham Trades' work and focus? What's Chatham Trades' mission, and why is the work you're doing providing vocational and developmental services so important?

Chatham Trades is a community rehabilitation program serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Chatham County. Our mission is to maximize the vocational opportunities of persons with disabilities within our community. Chatham Trades' purpose is to empower adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to attain their highest level social and vocational skill development while performing work for pay. We are committed to providing quality, individualized services to consumers, families, affiliate agencies, businesses and the community as a whole.

You're at your new location now. What prompted the move, and how will the new location serve you better, and how will your partnership with The Salvation Army and The West Chatham Food Pantry work?

Chatham Trades originally started out

in downtown Siler City on Raleigh Street where the bookstore is now. We rapidly outgrew that setting and purchased property on Alston Bridge and built a new facility. Again, we outgrew that space and in fact had to turn away work from other companies because we did not have the space.

We began looking for a larger space that would allow us to spread out, bring in more work and co-locate with other service agencies. Chatham Trades purchased the current facility in April 2018 and did a major renovation of the interior.

In partnering with other non-profit agencies, The Salvation Army and The West Chatham Food Pantry, we looked at each of our respective mission and vision statements and were able to mesh together to each fulfill our mission while expanding into other non-traditional areas. The partnership with the other non-profits allows our employees to perform work for their respective agencies, teach them transferrable skills, interact with the public and fulfill community integration, along with the sense of pride of helping others.

We also have partnered with Chatham Transit to allow parking of their vans overnight at our facility.

The move is a big step for Chatham Trades as you approach your 40th anniversary. What's next for the organization?

We moved from a 10,000 sq. ft. facility to a 30,000 sq. ft. facility on

July 1st. The property is located on nine acres, which will allow for expansion in the future, if needed.

We plan to apply for a new day activity program in 2020. This program will not have a work component, but will allow individuals with disabilities to come to a facility, develop skills for daily living, leisure activities and socialization. An important aspect of our programs is that it allows families to continue to work with the assurance that their family member is in a safe environment, participating in community outings and developing skills through structured activities.

Another long-term vision for Chatham Trades is to develop the site with a transitional housing community for adults with disabilities, homeless individuals and victims of domestic violence. We are looking at other models to determine partnerships and funding sources.

You're hosting an open house and ribbon cutting Nov. 7. What can those who come expect to see, and what should we specifically pay attention to at the open house?

Chatham Trades' open house is from 1-3 p.m. at 2535 Old U.S. Hwy. 421 North. This is an opportunity for the community to see the new facility, the types of assembly and packaging work that we do and hopefully share in our vision for the future. Guests should pay special attention to the work atmosphere and professionalism of all the employees.