

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas, Chatham! Check out our holiday section, PAGES C1-4

## Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | DECEMBER 19-25, 2019 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

### OUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY MOVIES

## Christmas: It's a wonderful season for favorite films. What's yours?

CN+R Staff Reports

*Editor's note: The holiday season means the television airwaves are filled with Christmas movies, and new would-be classic films are released around each Thanksgiving. Most of what are considered "favorites," though, are those that have been around for awhile. The News + Record queried some Chathamites about their all-time favorites, and here they are, in no particular order — along with CN+R reviewer Neil Morris' all-time top-12 list. Enjoy, and Merry Christmas and happy holidays from our family to yours.*

### Charlie Brown Christmas

**John Bonitz, Pittsboro Commissioner:** "I love 'A Charlie Brown Christmas.' The Vince Guaraldi Trio soundtrack is probably my favorite holiday season music."

**April Weaver, director, N.C. Arts Incubator:** "(Aside from 'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation') I also want to choose A Charlie Brown Christmas for the warm fuzzy quality. I mist up at the end of that one. The music in it is magical and something about the Peanuts movies takes me back to the feeling of childhood. The uncomplicated care free 70s! This movie has an enormous amount of that intangible Christmas spirit. Goodwill and all that! It's so nice."

### A Christmas Carol

**Jim Nass, Pittsboro Mayor:** "My favorite Christmas movie is 'A Christmas Carol' with George C. Scott as Scrooge. I love it because it is about the redemption of the human spirit and how we are capable of changes in our life for the better."

**Derrick Jordan, Chatham County Schools Superintendent:** "If I'm flipping channels at home and see 'A Christmas Carol,' I'll watch that, especially if it's the old 1951 version."

**Rita Van Duinen, Branch Manager, Chatham Community Library:** "My all-time favorite



Photo courtesy of RKO Radio Pictures

**James Stewart, Donna Reed, Carol Coombs, Karolyn Grimes, Jimmy Hawkins and Larry Simms in a scene from 'It's a Wonderful Life,' the 1946 film that's a favorite of many during Christmas season.**

is an adaption of Dickens' A Christmas Carol called 'Scrooge.' Produced in 1970, Albert Finney is cast as Ebenezer Scrooge and it's the version of the classic Dickens tale that I grew up with. One of my favorite scenes is Scrooge with the Ghost of Christmas Present. After making much merriment, the Ghost returns Scrooge home. Scrooge enjoys himself so much he doesn't want the Ghost to leave. The Ghost of Christmas Present replies, "There is never enough time to do or say all the things that we would wish. The thing is to try to do as much as you can in the time that you have," and 'Remember, Scrooge, time is short, and suddenly, you're not there anymore.' Good advice from a ghost! Happy Holidays!"

### A Christmas Story

**Chip Price, Siler City Commissioner:** "It reminds me of Christmas when I was little. I wanted a BB gun as well!"  
**Daniel Simmons, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina:** "My favorite Christmas movie is definitely 'A Christmas Story.' I love the

antics of the children in the story, and I love the wonderment of Christmas in Ralphie's eyes as he dreams and schemes for his coveted 'Red Ryder' BB gun. What I love best, however, is the musical scoring of this film. You'll hear major works of music such as Grofe's Grand Canyon Suite, Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf, Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet, and Tchaikovsky's music for Hamlet. All of these things wrapped up (no pun intended) into one film make it a holiday classic."

### Die Hard

**Dolly Sickles, Pittsboro author:** "Because we're an action movie family, our two ultimate favorites are 'Die Hard' and 'The Long Kiss Goodnight.' 'Die Hard' was just so unusual when it came out, and the plot and characters so compelling. It's a hold-over favorite that we've seen a million times, and usually watch it about mid-month. 'The Long Kiss Goodnight' is another family favorite. The original 'Grinch Who Stole Christmas' and 'A Charlie Brown Christmas' are our fa-

vorite cartoons, and throughout the month we listen to Vince Guaraldi on repeat. But since it came out, we watch 'Elf' while we put up the Christmas tree. Everything about it is satisfying, from the sweet message to fun dialogue and sing-a-long opportunities. My mother is a huge fan of 'White Christmas,' and when I was a kid we watched that every year. It's super dated now, but it makes me think of my mom, and singing along with Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen to 'Sisters.' But if I had to choose one, I guess we'd go with 'Die Hard.'"

### Elf

**Dan LaMontagne, Chatham County Manager:** "I watch it with my wife and daughters every Christmas Eve. It is great for all ages. One of my favorite parts is when he is in the office with his dad and thinks the coffee is hot chocolate. His reaction is hilarious! And who can forget that 'the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!'"

**Brooke Simmons, owner,** See MOVIES, page A3

### A DIVIDED CHATHAM

## School performance shows county split

BY ADRIANNE CLEVEN  
News + Record Correspondent

SILER CITY — Margaret Grayson is a school social worker at Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City, on the west side of Chatham County. Her work is marked by her observant, empathetic personality and a desire to hear about students' experiences.

"I love hearing kids' stories," she says one Monday morning this fall, sitting behind a desk in her sunlit cinderblock office. "That's my favorite part about the job, and I'm a pretty good listener, so I can bring that to my work."

But lately, one of those stories weighs on her.

Edward, as we'll call him, is a senior at J-M. He lives alone with his 20-year-old sister. His parents live in El Salvador.

While he completes his high school coursework with the hopes of graduating this spring, Edward helps pay the bills by working almost full-time at Mountaire Farms, a poultry processing plant in town. His tight schedule, packed with high school coursework and long shifts at the processing plant, makes it hard for him to attend all of his classes.

"We try to adjust his schedule so that he can leave after third block," Grayson says. "But we even worked it out so that he can leave 10 or 15 minutes early from his third block class and go get a box lunch. Instead of taking the time to eat lunch he gets a box lunch, and then he can head on home to get ready. He has to get ready for work, put on all his equipment and everything."

Some 30 miles from Grayson's office at J-M, on the other side of Chatham County, lies one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in

See DIVIDE, page A6



Staff photo by Zachary Horner  
**Sarah King of Gathered puts a gift bag together during a Thursday morning at the store in Pittsboro.**

## PBO businesses push forward to end 2019

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — This past Monday was a fairly normal one for downtown Pittsboro.

Along with the normal hustle and bustle of any weekday, there were two individuals sitting in front of the Chatham County Historic Courthouse in the traffic circle holding Confederate flags.

Whereas most cities and towns might find those people and flags out of the ordinary, at least on a Monday around noon, it's become old hat for Circle City's center.

Inside his restaurant nearby, Pittsboro Roadhouse owner Greg Lewis bemoaned their presence's effect on his business and that of his fellow shop owners.

"People don't want to come because of protests, both sides," Lewis said. "So what do you do? Many of them are protesting Pittsboro when Pittsboro had nothing to do with this."

Just this past Saturday, he said, a Chapel Hill couple came in. They told him that if they had known there were protestors just outside the restaurant, they wouldn't have come.

Downtown Pittsboro's shops and stores have had a unique 2019. Not only have

See RETAIL, page A12

## Suspect in SECU hostage event in Pittsboro indicted on federal charges

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro resident Kevin Laliberte, the man arrested and charged in September for firing a weapon inside Pittsboro's State Employees Credit Union and holding the bank's manager hostage, was taken into federal custody on Monday after he was indicted by a federal grand jury in the North Carolina Middle District for possession of a firearm by a felon on Nov. 26.

Laliberte pled not guilty to the charges. He remains in federal custody and is scheduled to return to federal court in February.

On September 12, Laliberte allegedly entered the SECU on East Street in

Pittsboro, fired a gunshot into a ceiling tile and then ordered all the staff to leave but the bank manager. Laliberte held the manager until extensive negotiations with the manager and law enforcement resulted in his surrender to N.C. State Highway Patrol Trooper Rodney Cook.

Following his surrender, law enforcement executed a search warrant on Laliberte's residence and seized items including multiple boxes of ammunition, several handguns and rifles, holsters and a bullet-proof vest, according to a report filed with the Chatham



Laliberte

County Clerk of Court. Laliberte was charged with one count of second-degree kidnapping, two counts of possession of a firearm by a felon, 15 counts of discharging a weapon into occupied property and one count of injury to real property.

But in light of the federal charges, the local charges were dropped by the District Attorney. According to multiple law enforcement sources, local officers had worked with federal agents to secure the indictment in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. Laliberte was released from the Chatham County Detention Center on Monday into the custody of Federal Bureau of Investigation agents executing the federal warrant issued on the charges.

Laliberte had been previously convicted in Virginia on charges including misdemeanor assault, involuntary manslaughter and possession of marijuana.

According to the United States Sentencing Commission, the Middle District of North Carolina's caseload has the highest percentage of cases for possession of a firearm by a felon in 2012, the last time the statistics were compiled. Nationwide, about 96 percent of those convicted on those federal charges received jail time, a much higher rate than those convicted on the state level, according to law enforcement.

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

### IN THE KNOW

Judge: No more excavation on coal ash sites in Moncure. **PAGE A10**

Northwood boys' basketball undefeated early in season. **PAGE B1**

Sheriff's office warns of pervasive new phone scam hitting Chatham. **PAGE B6**

Carbonton Bridge re-opens after months out of commission. **PAGE B7**





## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### THURSDAY

• **The Carolina Mountain Dulcimer Players** meet at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month (12-19) at the Seymore Center on Homestead Road in Chapel Hill. Beginners, experts, and all stringed instruments welcome. For more information and/or directions, contact Shirley Ray at ShirleyRay@aol.com or 919-929-5359.

• **Creating Connections Through Fellowship and Food - The Community Lunch** serves a free hot meal to our walk-in guests from noon to 1 p.m. every Thursday in the parish hall of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Our mission is simple: to provide a healthy, appetizing meal at no cost to all who come to us hungry. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. We welcome all, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.

• **Chatham Community Library** - Volunteer genealogists are available to assist with family history research, whether your ancestors lived in Chatham County, the 50 states, or overseas. A genealogy volunteer is on site in the library most Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and other days and times by appointment. Call 919-545-8086 to make an appointment.

• **The Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop** will be open this Thursday, December 19 until 8 pm. Each shopper will get to draw a discount coupon and enjoy cider and cookies. We have jewelry and purses, as well as men's and women's clothing and shoes in all sizes. Our regular hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm. We will also be open on Monday, December 23 from 10am to 4pm, then closed December 24 and 25. We are in Pittsboro on the Courthouse Circle beside the Roadhouse. All proceeds support domestic violence services and education in collaboration with Chatham County.

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

Pittsboro.

### FRIDAY

• **Free Friday Music Jam** at the Oasis Open Air Market in Siler City from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30-7 every Friday. Get together with the acoustic community of Siler City to play, and sing while enjoying Open Blue Grass, Old-time and County music. If you want to join, show up or email John Eichorn, johneichorn72@gmail.com.

### SATURDAY

• **"Miracle on Hillsboro Street"** will be presented at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21. Enjoy audience participation, local actors and the real Kris Kringle! Have your child bring a letter to Santa telling him what they love about him! It might even be picked to be read at the show. Admission is \$7 with proceeds benefiting the Chatham Arts Council. Seating is limited - tickets are available through eventbrite.com. Link: <https://tinyurl.com/s7ehe8u>. Event will be produced by the Phoenix Theater Group and hosted by the Pittsboro Business Assn.

• Join the gathering for the **Bluegrass Jam Circle** at Bynum Front Porch Pickin' and make music every 2nd and 4th Saturday throughout the year, at 950 Bynum Rd. The circle forms around 10 a.m. until 12ish. Singers, new pickers, (spoons, washboards) and audience members are all welcome! This is an open circle type jam for all skill levels and ages. If you pick, bring your instrument (Acoustic instruments only). If you sing, bring your voice. Come to enjoy great music at the historic Bynum General Store. As always, the Circle Jam is free and open to the public!

### MONDAY

• Welcome to **Writing Toward Resilience**, a weekly opportunity for all those who are grieving or current caregivers. We meet Mondays at noon at SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC. Come and enjoy a respite from the demands of your day - to reflect and write. No writing experience necessary. Facilitated by Carol Henderson, a professional writer and workshop leader who has facilitated workshops all over the U.S. and in Europe. No registration needed. The UNC Hospice Home is at 100 Roundtree

Circle, behind Bojangles in Pittsboro, 919-984-2675. For further information email [ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu).

• **Circle City Squares** is a square dance group in Pittsboro that usually dances from 2 to 5 p.m. on Monday afternoons, but verify the exact time and place. The usual meeting space is the Old Agriculture Building Auditorium, 65 East Chatham Street, located downstairs in downtown Pittsboro. Cost is \$5 per person each week. For more information or to verify the time/place, email: [gunnhsd@embarqmail.com](mailto:gunnhsd@embarqmail.com).

• **Big Band swing and jazz sounds** from 2 to 5 p.m., every Monday at the Pittsboro Roadhouse and General Store. The dance floor is open and bands rotate. For more information, see our website: [www.pittsbororoadhouse.com](http://www.pittsbororoadhouse.com).

### UPCOMING

• **The Chatham County Council of Aging**, a non-profit organization, will hold its annual public board meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 9 at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center (365 Hwy 87 N.) in Pittsboro. The Council on Aging is the county's designated agency for senior services and programs. If you have questions or wish to speak at the meeting, please contact Dennis Streets at 919-542-4512.

• **A Bird Walk with the NHAS** is scheduled for 8 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14. Meet at 8 a.m. in front of the Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Shopping Center in Chapel Hill. For questions, contact Tom Driscoll at [spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com](mailto:spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com). - Walk at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 18, meeting at the same place. For questions, contact Vern Bothwell at [Vernb217@gmail.com](mailto:Vernb217@gmail.com). Walk at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21, meeting at the same place, questions, Contact Tom Driscoll at [spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com](mailto:spttdrdshnk@yahoo.com). A Walk at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 29, meeting at the same place. Contact Kent Fiala at [kent.fiala@gmail.com](mailto:kent.fiala@gmail.com). Heavy rains will result in cancellation of individual walks. All walks, wear long pants and closed toe shoes with socks. Bring snacks and water if you like.

• **Sharing Our Stories**, a 8-week grief support group sponsored by UNC Hospice, is scheduled for

Jan. 8 through Feb. 26 at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC in Pittsboro. This will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for eight consecutive Wednesdays in the sunroom of our facility. The group supplies educational resources and mutual support to help participants explore their grief in a non-pressured environment. This is open to hospice families and to the community. There is no fee but registration is required. Contact Annie Ritter at 984-215-2650 or [ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu) for further information. All who have experienced the loss of a loved one are welcome.

• **The Chatham Historical Museum** is open from 11 am until 4 pm Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Adult and kid friendly, there is no admission fee. Our special exhibit for Dec - Jan is Chatham's Deep River Coal History. There are lots of interesting artifacts to see, as well as our permanent exhibits on all aspects of Chatham's history. Bring your holiday visitors and enjoy Chatham's unique history. Please note that the Museum will be closed on Christmas Day.

• **Caregiver Support Group** sponsored by UNC Hospice - This group offers support for those currently providing care to a loved one. Hear information about effective caregiving and share experiences in comfortable surroundings. No registration necessary. Just Come! 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Mondays in the Sunroom at SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home, 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro, 984-215-2675. For more information, contact Annie Ritter: 984-215-2650 or [ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu). Group meet the third Monday of every month.

• **The Circle of Support** for those who have lost a loved one to death meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m., the second Monday of each month at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home, 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro. Come to one or come every month to give and gain support from others who have lost a loved one. Volunteers will facilitate the circle of support. Participants can bring pictures and stories of their loved one as well as questions and concerns. No need to register! Just come! If you'd like

further information, contact Ann Ritter, 984-215-2650 or [ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:ann.ritter@unchealth.unc.edu). If you need directions, call the Hospice Home at 984-215-2675.

### ALSO HAPPENING

• **Chatham Habitat for Humanity** is seeking groups - corporate, school, neighborhood, etc. - to volunteer on their Siler City build sites. Build days are on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. For more information, visit [chathamhabitat.org/volunteer](http://chathamhabitat.org/volunteer), or email [rachelh@chathamhabitat.org](mailto:rachelh@chathamhabitat.org)

• WGU North Carolina, an affiliate of the competency-based nonprofit Western Governors University, has announced the availability of new **Salute to the Armed Forces Scholarships**, worth up to \$3,000 toward a bachelor's or master's degree in IT, business, healthcare, or K-12 education. Applications are now being accepted through December 31. Open to U.S. military veterans, active-duty service members, reservists, and military family members newly enrolling in a WGU degree program, scholarships will be awarded at the rate of \$750 per six-month term, for up to two years. To learn more or to apply, visit [www.wgu.edu/salute](http://www.wgu.edu/salute). For more information about WGU North Carolina, visit [www.wgu.edu/north-carolina.html](http://www.wgu.edu/north-carolina.html).

• **Adult Volunteers Needed at Chatham Hospital in Siler City**, a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital located in Siler City and part of the UNC Health Care System. All prospective volunteers must complete an on-line application, a criminal background check, an orientation and have documentation of required immunizations. To learn more go to: [www.chathamhospital.org/ch/about-us/volunteer](http://www.chathamhospital.org/ch/about-us/volunteer).

• **Volunteers Needed** - Nonprofit agencies in Chatham seek teen volunteers to help with many projects. Teens can help at food pantries, in gardens, fundraising projects, office work, and care for animals. **Chatham Connecting** website lists many volunteer opportunities for youth. See where you are needed to help in the community: [www.chathamconnecting.org](http://www.chathamconnecting.org).

• **Meals on Wheels drivers are needed in Chatham**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• **Scout News**  
 • Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit [www.bstrop93.org](http://www.bstrop93.org) for more information.  
 • Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.  
 • Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at Meroney's U.M.C. following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

# Holidays bring changes in deadlines and delivery schedule for some editions of the CN+R

The holiday season will bring some changes in deadlines and other schedules for the News + Record.

CHRISTMAS is on Wednesday, Dec. 25. Advertising deadlines for the News + Record's Dec. 26-Jan. 1 edition won't change, but the deadline for obituaries and news is at noon on Monday, Dec. 23. Distribution and mailing will be done on Thursday, Dec. 26, meaning subscribers and readers will get that week's edition one day later than normal.

The News + Record's offices will close for Christmas at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and re-open on Thursday,

Dec. 26. NEW YEAR'S DAY is on Wednesday, Jan. 1. As with the week prior, advertising deadlines won't change, but obituary and news deadlines will be at noon on Monday, Dec. 30. As with Christmas week, distribution and mailing will be done on Thursday, Jan. 2, meaning subscribers and readers will get that week's edition one day later than normal.

The News + Record's offices will close for the New Year's holiday at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 31, and re-open on Thursday, Jan. 2.

## Chatham News + Record

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

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BILL HORNER III, *Editor/Publisher*  
[bhorner3@chathamnr.com](mailto:bhorner3@chathamnr.com) 919-663-3250

**NEWSROOM**  
 RANDALL RIGSBEE, *Managing Editor*  
[rigsbee@chathamnr.com](mailto:rigsbee@chathamnr.com)  
 919-663-3231  
 CASEY MANN, *Reporter*  
[caseymann@chathamnr.com](mailto:caseymann@chathamnr.com)  
 ZACHARY HORNER, *Reporter*  
[zhorner@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorner@chathamnr.com)  
 DON BEANE, *Sports*  
[don@chathamnr.com](mailto:don@chathamnr.com)  
 DAVID BRADLEY, *Photographer*  
[david@chathamnr.com](mailto:david@chathamnr.com)  
 NEWSROOM GENERAL MAILBOX  
[news@chathamnr.com](mailto:news@chathamnr.com)

**ADVERTISING**  
 JASON JUSTICE  
[jjustice@chathamnr.com](mailto:jjustice@chathamnr.com)  
 DAWN PARKER, *Advertising Specialist*  
[advertising@chathamnr.com](mailto:advertising@chathamnr.com)  
**OFFICE**  
 KAREN PYRTLE  
[karen@chathamnr.com](mailto:karen@chathamnr.com)  
 DORIS BECK  
[doris@chathamnr.com](mailto:doris@chathamnr.com)  
 FLORENCE TURNER  
[billing@chathamnr.com](mailto:billing@chathamnr.com)

The Chatham News + Record (USPS #101-160) is published weekly, 52 weeks a year, by Chatham Media Group LLC, 303 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, N.C. 27344. Subscription rates: 1 year - \$45 in county, and \$50 out of county; 6 months - \$25 in county and \$30 out of county. Periodicals postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Siler City.

**N.C. POSTMASTER:**  
 Send address changes to The Chatham News + Record, PO Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344



# Unwrapping the best Christmas movies of all time



**NEIL MORRIS**  
Film Critic

Christmas movies are as ubiquitous during December as wrapped gifts and twinkling lights. While bound by their yuletide milieu, Christmas films run the gambit of genres. Some audiences prefer the soft glow of win-

some family fare, while some enjoy observing the meanings of the season filtered through unexpected prisms, from drama and comedy to action and even horror. For the 12 days of Christmas, here are 12 of the best Christmas movies. The list is immediately notable for the absence of perennial favorites like "The Polar Express," "Love, Actually," and any feature film involving the Grinch, all flawed films for their own particular reasons. Classics like "A Charlie Brown Christmas," Chuck Jones's version of "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," and the Rankin/Bass canon ("Rudolph the Red-

Nosed Reindeer," "The Little Drummer Boy," and "Frosty the Snowman") aren't here, either, since they were television shorts instead of feature films.

So slip on a warm robe, pour out some eggnog, and enjoy this roster of heady holiday helpings.

**"Joyeux Noël" (2005):** While too saccharine for some, this handsome French film is a fictitious retelling of the Christmas truce of 1914 between warring American, German, and French soldiers along the front lines of World War I. The historical war drama was nominated for an Academy Award as Best Foreign Film.

**"Black Christmas" (1974) and "Christmas Evil" (1980):** You don't typically think of horror flicks when you think of Christmas. But these two entries are suitable disquieting and have developed cult followings. Directed by Bob Clark (more on him later), "Black Christmas" is one of the earliest slasher films, utilizing the "babysitter and the man upstairs" premise to inspire later exemplars like "Halloween," "Friday the 13th," and even the "Scream"

series. "Christmas Evil" is best described as a Santa Claus version of "Falling Down," as a fed-up schmo dressed as Santa goes mad in response to the increasing commercialization of Christmas.

**"Home Alone" (1990):** Yeah, this holiday classic has problems. But it's one of the most popular Christmas films ever, and its overarching sentiment about the value of family fits squarely in the season.

**"Elf" (2003):** From its inventive premise to Will Ferrell's terrific performance, this neo-Christmas classic is fun, funny, and charming. It's a film that absolves anyone who wants to maintain their child-like view of Christmas.

**"White Christmas" (1954):** Although mawkish to the extreme, this is a Christmas movie at its most classic. You watch this for two main reasons: an all-star cast featuring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney; and a sterling score from Irving Berlin that includes the iconic title track.

**"Arthur Christmas" (2011):** The newest film on the list, this computer-animated film from

Aardman Studios follows the dorky black sheep of the Claus family as he's forced to step into his father's formidable boots. This film is witty, charming, and presents the paradigm of Santa Claus as an evolving, hereditary monarchy. It also cuts to the heart of the tension between Christmas tradition and modernization.

**"A Christmas Carol" (1951):** Of the umpteen iterations of Charles Dickens's classic novel, this 1951 production is the definitive version. It's the most faithful retelling of Dickens's story, and it features Alastair Sim's superb rendering of Ebenezer Scrooge.

**"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989):** This film had to grow on me, but this zany third entry about the Griswold clan is one of the funniest and most quotable Christmas films.

**"Die Hard" (1988):** Yes, "Die Hard" is a Christmas movie. Beyond its exclusively yuletide setting and score, the film revolves around the evergreen themes of family and forgiveness. Oh, it's also one of the best action movies in history.

This story of the department store Santa who claims to be real is one of the definitive Christmas films. It's also really good, winning three Academy Awards, including Edmund Gwenn for Best Supporting Actor as Kris Kringle.

**"A Christmas Story" (1983):** Derided as grating hokem by some, this nostalgic portrait of pre-World War II midwest Americana directed by Bob Clark (the same director as "Black Christmas") survives repeating viewings. It's the rare holiday staple that holds something funny and even moving for kids and parents alike, harkening back to an increasingly bygone age of innocence.

**"It's a Wonderful Life" (1946):** No other film that could top this list. It has it all: a great director in Frank Capra, a great lead actor in Jimmy Stewart, and an engrossing yarn about a man who wishes he's never been born and plans to commit suicide on Christmas Eve, who is then made aware by an angel of how his seemingly inconsequential life has positively impacted others. It's the go-to movie every Christmas, and for good reason.

## MOVIES: 'Reminds me of the wonder of the season of Christmas'

Continued from page A1

**The Chatham Rabbit:** "This movie is hilarious and heart-warming. My favorite quote is when Buddy the Elf says, 'The best way to spread Christmas cheer is to sing along for all to hear.' My family can attest that the closer it gets to Christmas day the more I adhere to this philosophy much to their dismay. The thing I love the most about the movie is that it shows us to live our truth and be who we are no matter how annoying and that by doing so everything will work out in the end."

### Home Alone

**Alyssa Byrd, President, Chatham Economic Development Corporation:** "I love watching 'Home Alone' with my kids. It's a classic, and the physical comedy gives us all belly laughs."

**Randall Rigsbee, Managing Editor, Chatham News + Record:** "The late John Hughes gave us two enduring holiday classics: 'Planes, Trains and Automobiles,' which he wrote and directed, about Thanksgiving; and 'Home Alone,' which he wrote, about Christmas. Both are terrific holiday movies brimming with humor and warmth, but especially humor. So much to love about 'Home Alone' — 'Keep the change, you filthy animal' — it hasn't lost its punch after nearly 30 years and I never tire of seeing it."

### It's a Wonderful Life

**Bill Haiges, Siler City Commissioner:** "I love it for many reasons. First, it's because of the message that wealth isn't measured in dollars, but in the strength of the reputation and character of a person. My father taught me that if you do the right thing, for the right reasons, good

things will happen. That is exemplified in the character of George Bailey in that movie."

**Cindy Bray, Siler City Commissioner:** "It is a good example of what we should all remember not only at Christmas but every day."

### Anabelle's Wish

**Sara Pack, Chatham Sheriff's Office:** "Although few may recognize the title, this beautiful animated story is forever etched in my country girl heart; it's best enjoyed alongside your favorite pet and a box of tissues! It's about an orphaned, non-speaking child named Billy who lives on a farm with his grandfather and an adorable calf named Anabelle. Early on, we learn that Anabelle dreams of being one of Santa's reindeer and hopes to ask him for the ability to fly. Over the next year, we learn of Billy's hardships, his grandfather's financial struggles, and most importantly, his growing friendships with Anabelle and a young girl named Emily. I won't spoil the ending too much, but let's just say that Anabelle gets her wish, and the result is unforgettable. I never tire of re-watching this incredibly moving tale of love, sacrifice, and Christmas miracles!"

### Miracle on 34th Street

**John Grimes, Siler City Mayor:** "The movie puts a question in the mind of the viewer, 'Do miracles really happen?' Not only at Christmas time, but in different seasons and in different years of our life. Do you really believe in miracles? I do!"

**Judy Hogan, Monocure-based author and poet:** "I haven't seen many Christmas movies in my life, but I especially loved 'Miracle on 34th Street,' which I saw when I was

10 in 1947. I believe it's still available. Why? Good things happen, even miracles. We were re-united with our father. We moved from Norman, Oklahoma, to Jacksonville, Florida. The war was over. I decided to become a writer, and I did. I have 22 books in print at age 82."

### Mister 880

**Dr. John D. Dykers, retired Siler City physician:** "My big surprise was that my real favorite was 'Mister 880,' a 1950 movie starring Burt Lancaster and Dorothy McGuire in which Edmund Gwenn plays an old man who deals antiques in New York City and counterfeits a few \$1 bills to 'get by' when times are tough. Gwenn is the actor who plays Kris Kringle in 'Miracle on 34th Street,' which is a real Christmas movie and also charming. It is probably because I am old that the other Christmas movies that stick are 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Jimmy Stewart in 'It's a Wonderful Life.' But it may be because Christmas feels so commercial now. The spirit of Jesus and love and real person to person giving to those in real need is not as often found on the big screen. 'Mr. 880' became conjoined in my memory with Christmas. Surely part of that was Gwenn the common actor. The basic kindness of all the characters was the Christmas spirit personified, and it was the Christmas spirit we all want to express every day."

### National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

**Curtis Brown, Siler City Commissioner:** "It reminds me of some of my relatives and some people I grew up with."

**April Weaver, director, N.C. Arts Incubator:** "I'm going to say National Lampoon's

Christmas Vacation for the sheer hilarity of it. It's a big tradition in my family to just let it play over and over. I have a Cousin Eddie bobblehead in my office one of my daughters gave me. He's in the short robe and boots from the scene where he's emptying the RV toilet into the street shouting 'Merry Christmas' and something else I can't say here."

### The Nightmare Before Christmas

**Rev. Ricky R McKinney Sr., pastor, Jordon Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, Siler City:** "By far my favorite belongs to a 1993 movie entitled 'The Nightmare Before Christmas.' For beginners, it's a fantasy/musical which we love because we're a singing family. Once we discovered it, my children, wife and I have made it a 'must see' ever since; every year! It's the story of Halloweentown's Pumpkin King, Jack Skellington, who is totally bored of frightening people and he discovers Christmastown. He sees the difference of dark and gloomy and profoundly prefers the brightness of color and joy of Christmas. He enjoys Christmas so much so that he wants to be Santa Claus, kidnaps Santa to bring Christmas under his control, and finds he has some big shoes to fill"

### The Polar Express

**Dennis Streets, Executive Director, Chatham County Council on Aging:** "Besides being an admirer of Tom Hanks, I love how this movie reminds us of Christmas magic. It truly is a magical season — a time to share joy among family, friends and strangers; to put others before self; and to remain youthful in spirit. We are inspired to believe and listen for the sound of all that is good about the holiday season in hopes that

it will last throughout the year."

**Bill Horner III, Publisher/Editor, Chatham News + Record:** "It's hard to beat 'It's a Wonderful Life,' which has all the elements of a great film and that incredible performance from Jimmy Stewart, but my go-to favorite for now is 'The Polar Express.' I love snow and I love trains and each time I watch it I'm really transported and really forget it's a movie. The movie reminds me of the wonder of the season of Christmas and the magic I always felt as a child. There are probably 20 'I love that film' Christmas movies on my list (and no, I've never seen 'A Christmas Story' or 'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation'), but 'Polar Express' — which I've probably seen 30 times — is the only one I ever watch out of season."

### White Christmas

**Bill Haiges, Siler City Commissioner:** "I would say that in 'White Christmas' the message resonates with me because it's all about doing something for others with no expectation of getting anything in return...It's more blessed to give than to receive. Also, I love the music! Christmas music to me is all of the traditional stuff, Ray Coniff, Nat King Cole, the Robert Shaw Chorale, Bing Crosby, Andy Williams, Dean Martin and so on. It's what Lisa and I were raised listening to and passed that on to our own kids. I love that my 16-year old daughter and 21-year old son can identify Tony Bennett versus Dean Martin and have an appreciation for that generation."

**Zachary Horner, Reporter, Chatham News + Record:** "My wife and I stumbled across 'White Christmas' a couple years ago on Netflix and we instantly decided to make it a family tradition. Great music — I

get 'Lord, help the mister who comes between me and my sister' stuck in my head all the time — and a great story complimenting Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney's solid performances. The duos are particularly good together as well. Worth a watch. 'The Santa Clause' is a close second."

### The Christmas Chronicles

**Jaime Detzi, Chatham Education Foundation:** "My current favorite holiday movie is The Christmas Chronicles. I love a few things about this movie. First, it gives you some really concrete ideas on how Santa Claus handles the logistics of traveling around the world in 24 hours. As a kid, I could never stop thinking about the 'how' and it is a brilliant movie to see one writer's ideas on Santa's magic. Second, a family in tragedy (loss of their father) comes together, makes a believer out of the teenage son, and learns how to bring Christmas joy back to their home. It is a true reminder of how loss strikes many families, especially children, and that you can find a way to keep that person's memory alive."

### Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

**Mike Roberson, Chatham County Sheriff:** "I've enjoyed this classic since childhood! Although Rudolph was shunned and bullied, he rose above the negativity to become a true hero and dependable teammate. Rudolph's journey is a reminder that we all have different strengths that should be celebrated, not ridiculed or concealed. Every member of the team has value as well as leadership potential... You just have to give them the opportunity to shine!"

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# VIEWPOINTS

GUEST EDITORIAL | LEE CALICUTT, GRACE HILL CHURCH

## ‘Prepare Him room’

Ugly sweater parties. Dirty Santa. Gift shopping. Decking the halls. Family gatherings. Our calendars are certainly full this time of year, but does busyness on the calendar equate to fullness in our heart? I am not condemning any of these activities, but if Christmas turns into this vague, commercialized holiday, we can easily lose sight of why we should rejoice during the Christmas season. The irony of Christmas is that we have intentions to reflect upon Christ's birth but may have the least amount of time to do so. If we are not careful, those events that we participate in can rob us of the very reason for our rejoicing.

We find the story of Jesus' birth, the reason to rejoice, in Luke 2:1-7. Caesar Augustus declared a census to be taken. This meant Mary and Joseph would have to travel back to Bethlehem to register for the census. As Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, Jesus would be born (v. 6). Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling cloths and put him in a manger (v. 7). This section

of Luke describes to us the fulfillment of prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2). This prophecy uttered centuries before was fulfilled, and Jesus Christ would be born to save his people from their sins (Matt 1:21). The timing of Caesar's decree and Jesus' birth were all within the purview of God's providence. Not only is God over history, but he is over the particular events that take place.

We try to replicate this event with our nativity scenes that often look so peaceful with a nicely swept floor and perfect square bales of hay, in a roomy stable, but let us not lose sight of the fact that this was a real birth. A real birth with real pain and tears, all amidst the smell of animals and their manure. As the Son of God came in the lowliest and humble of estates, we are reminded that "Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich (2 Cor 8:9)." As we sing in the famous Christmas song

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,  
"Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate deity...  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die."  
The Son of God in human form,  
humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross (Phil 2:8).

The birth of Christ is not a story to produce sentiment. It tells us about God executing his plan of redemption by sending His Son into the world to live a perfectly righteous life, to die in the place of sinners, and resurrect from the grave. The babe born with his arms restricted in swaddling cloth and laid in a lowly manger of wood would soon have his arms stretched out and nailed to a piece of wood, dying a criminal's death on the cross so all who would trust in Him alone could be reconciled to God and forgiven of their sin.

Yet the question remains, "Why was Jesus in a manger?" Luke tells us in verse 7, "because there was no place for them in the inn." Bethlehem was busy during this time because of the census. The

busyness of Bethlehem crowded out Jesus.

In our culture, the most wonderful time of the year can also become the most stressful time of the year. We can become so busy in our hearts, that just like Bethlehem, we cannot make room for Jesus. As the innkeeper of your own heart, you should ask yourself the question, "Am I making room for Christ?"

*Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem*

*Hear Him knock, don't say there's no room in the inn*

*Through the cradle, cross, and grave*

*See the love of God displayed*

*Now He's risen and He reigns*

*Praise the Name above all names!*

As you prepare for Christmas around the house and under the tree, would you also slow down and prepare your heart to

make room for Jesus?

Even when the lights, wreaths, and the mistletoe are put away, once the trees are taken down, the festive music stops playing, and seasonal candy ceases, the church of Jesus Christ still has something to celebrate! For when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons (Gal 4:4). We have all the reason to rejoice because the King has come and entered the world. Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Receive your King and let every heart prepare Him room!

*Lee Callicutt is an elder and serves on staff as the Pastor for Preaching and Teaching at Grace Hill Church in Pittsboro. A Chatham County native, he is a graduate of Chatham Central. He graduated with a Masters of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he also completed his doctoral work.*

## Bum lights fail to lighten the season

It's the classic Christmas decorating conundrum, beyond cliché but enshrined perfectly for posterity in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" when Chevy Chase's Clark Griswold labors to festoon the exterior of his house for the holidays only to realize, after all his troubles, the mood-deflating moment when the lights don't light.

**RANDALL RIGSBEE**  
Randall Reflects

It happened to me, too; a couple of weeks ago after I spent an hour or so hanging stands of light along the edge of our roof. As outdoor holiday lighting goes (it's a phenomenon distinct enough to have spawned a television show, "The Great Christmas Light Fight") ours is modest. Just a strand of white lights we string, with those little plastic hook hangers that slide under the shingles, along the roof of the front of our house; but it looks festive and I always look forward to the tradition.

Last year, our string of white lights had worked fine and were still in proper working order when I took them down post-season and placed them in their large plastic container and back in the attic, where they summer.

I'm no fool (most of the time) and before I spent hours Clark Griswold-style going up and down a ladder putting the lights back up for the 2019 season, I exercised simple due diligence, plugging in the connected strands to an electrical outlet to confirm — voila! — that the lights worked. And they did.

Still, I tempered my expectations because Christmas lights work — and don't work — in mysterious ways. They run a tad temperamental.

So even though the lights were all systems go when I'd plugged them in before taking on the task of hanging them, I inhaled deeply — and probably should have crossed my fingers, too, come to think of it — when I faced the moment of truth and plugged the lights in.

The moment of truth revealed that in the course of the hour it took me to hang them (handling them, by the way, as gently as possible) the stand had morphed from all systems go to three large light-less gaps.

Lights that don't light are one thing. Determining the reason they don't light is even more anxiety-inducing.

A cursory check of my work revealed that in hanging them I'd busted one bulb (I blame the ladder), accounting for one of the three gaps in lighting.

Checking the other two gaps, I could find no obvious reasons for the outage. No busted or missing bulbs.

But since I couldn't find — and I scoured the attic looking, wasting another hour — any replacement bulbs, I was feeling defeated. And I lacked motivation to retrieve the big ladder and begin the chore of troubleshooting the cause.

My wife tried to ease my mind, telling me after judging the results from the curb and taking in the totality of my work, that it looked OK. The gaps were at least somewhat symmetrical, she observed. The gap on the left side matched the gap on the right, sort of. And the one in the middle was, well, in the middle. It almost looked planned.

As much as I would have loved to embrace that line of reasoning, though, I couldn't.

The lights still remain in place where I strung them a couple of weeks ago — I like the way they reflect sunlight during the daytime — but at night we've not bothered to turn them on.

It wasn't the best way to launch the holiday season. And in the days since, I've found myself trying to fend off the blues during these holidays. It has, really, nothing to do with the defective lights. I'm not that sensitive and I can handle a setback. But it didn't help.

The holidays are a tough season sometimes and this year has underscored that reality. In the last few days, with the happy holiday season in full swing around me, three friends have lost loved ones. While many celebrate the season, they're grieving.

And I can't help, though I try not to dwell on it, but link the holidays to memories of the death of my father, who died a few days shy of Christmas in 1992.

For many people, for many reasons, the holidays are a struggle and the struggle, as they say, is real.

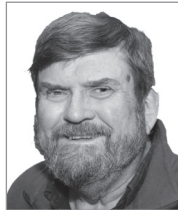
Maybe that's why my Christmas lights fiasco — a failed attempt at bringing more light to the season — brought me down as it did.

Lots of Christmas music, even, acknowledges the dichotomy of this time of year.

"Have yourself a merry little Christmas," the song tells us, "if the fates allow."



## Some last-minute gift suggestions



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around

If you're like me — and hopefully, for your sake, you're not — you may not be done with your Christmas gift shopping.

Or, in my case — and that of probably a significant number of other men — your Christmas gift buying.

See, I'm pretty well convinced most men don't shop. Men tend to buy. If I need a new cap, for instance, and can't get a feed company or tractor dealer to give me one, then I'll go to my favorite store and see what they've got.

Then, when I see one I want, if I can afford it, I buy it. If I can't, then I don't.

Many women, on the other hand, go from one store to another, typically because they don't want a hat with a feed company's name on the front. They look first at one head covering and then another until they've about exhausted the town's supply and the patience of the sales folks.

After that they'll go back to the first store and purchase the first one they saw, unless, of course, some other lady has made it her own, in which case our heroine will weep and wail and stuff like that all the while chastising the store for not carrying what she wanted and never being willing to wear something someone else wears.

All of this reasoning, of course, results in two things: a generalization that doesn't always come true and an observation that I may be in

hot water eventually.

Having said all that, however, I still stand behind — or beside or even in front of — the core of that belief that men tend to buy rather than shop.

We guys tend to do other things, as well. Things like getting lost but not admitting it while we're driving in a new place and don't want to stop to ask for directions. Why should you stop and ask for directions since there are Global Positioning Satellites (GPS) everywhere telling us to turn left at the next road?

The fact I don't have — or want — one of those gizmos has no meaning for my sense of direction; I'd rather read a map. It also helps that most of the time I don't want to venture too far from Chatham County, like to Baltimore or other points. Given that I can still get from Moncure to Bonlee means I don't have to have a GPS — or a road map.

I might add here that it was pointed out to me a few days ago that the Wise Men who traveled to Bethlehem that first Christmas also had a GPS — a Global Positioning Star. But that's another story, although a good one.

Anyway, let me offer a few last-minute Christmas gift suggestions for your consideration. And I'm pretty sure everyone on your list could use and would want one or more and that there's never a problem with size or color or anything like that.

One gift is the gift of encouragement. Speak to someone; tell them you appreciate them; tell them they are wonderfully gifted in some way because of the Spark of the Divine the Master Builder has built into

them.

Another gift is the gift of the kind word. It's been said a pat on the back is only a few inches removed from a kick in the seat of the pants, but miles ahead in results.

Here's another I'm working on: the gift of listening. It's becoming painfully obvious to me that there is a very good reason we have two ears and only one mouth. More than likely, it was intended for us to listen twice as much as we talk. I think I'm getting better at that one; I needed to. A friend called me the other day and as we worked through our conversation, I thought he needed something so I asked him if I could help him. All he said was, "I just wanted to talk with someone."

Yet a fourth is to share what you have and not what you wish you had. I believe it's written in a pretty good place, as Grantland Rice wrote, that "when the Master Scorer comes to write against your name, He'll write not that you won or lost but how you played the game."

I'm pretty sure that means we'll be judged at the end of the game not on what we would have done if we'd had a million dollars but what we did with the \$10 we did have.

Well, there are more, lots more, but that's a good start. Thing of it is that you can put them and more in any number under your tree and still have room for other stuff like ugly ties and sweaters they jucky perfume.

And besides think of the money you'll save not needing wrapping paper.

Happy shopping...

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# VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN

## Loneliness kills, love builds

John the Baptist was not the guy you wanted at your Christmas party. You would have smelled him coming, his camel fur reeking of sweat and desert funk. Then he would have put his dirty hands in the appetizers, searching in vain for locusts drizzled with honey.

Worst of all, John only talked politics. He hollered until he was red in the face and had flecks of spittle in his unruly beard!

At such a time in our country, do we really need such a divisive figure? The hostility that our political parties have toward each other has spread to the shopping mall, the gym, the dinner table, and our communi-

ties of faith. The impeachment hearings have further polarized our country. And we are heading into an election year that promises to be hostile.

Still, every year John the Baptist shows up in Advent. He was the voice crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!" And here's the thing — people listened. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that people came to John from Jerusalem and all Judea, all the villages around the River Jordan (Matt 3:5). What was the allure?

John the Baptist preached a message that could be taken to heart by people of different backgrounds, cultures, even faiths. He preached that we

must "bear fruit worthy of repentance" (Matt 3:8). It's not just what we say or believe, but what we do and how we act. Even more than his questionable hygiene and starvation diet, John's practice-what-you-preach message should make us uncomfortable...

But it is exactly what we need, for it would bring us together despite our differences that we might build community.

The lack of community is the source of our political gridlock and partisan rancor. I know social networking is supposed to connect us across cultures and countries. How can I be lonely if I have 1,509 Facebook

friends and counting? In fact, survey after survey shows that adults and children alike are plagued by loneliness. Loneliness is not only harmful to our democracy...

Recent studies have proved that loneliness is actually more harmful to our health than smoking cigarettes. In Gaelic, the adjective "lonely" comes from the same root as the word for "grave." The Irish intuited what science has proven — loneliness kills.

Long ago, people flocked to the River Jordan because they wanted to come alive again. It's not just they wanted to be a part of the crowd. They wanted to be a part of a loving

community. Martin Luther King Jr. claimed that, if we want to establish such beloved community, "this will require a qualitative change in our souls, as well as a quantitative change in our lives." That is the fruit worthy of repentance.

So, I return to that idea of the Christmas party — who I have not invited to my house? The work of creating beloved communities starts now and begins with each of us. Loneliness kills. Love builds.

*Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the poet pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church and the author of the book Gently Between the Words.*

## Institute founder was a pioneer

Walter de Vries passed away in Wrightsville Beach on Nov. 27, shortly after his 90th birthday. His legacy includes an accomplished career in politics and academia, venerable institutions, and countless, heartbroken friends in North Carolina and beyond.

A son of Dutch immigrants, Walt was a pioneer. His 1972 book "The Ticket-Splitter: A New Force in American Politics," co-authored with Lance Tarrance, became an instant and revelatory classic. He helped found the American Association of Political Consultants. After relocating to North Carolina in the early 1970s, Walt taught generations of students and future leaders at Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and the organization he created and led for many years, the N.C. Institute of Political Leadership.

I first encountered Walt more than two decades ago, when he asked me to join the IOPL faculty, along with my frequent sparring partner Chris Fitzsimon. One of the fellowship's most-popular sessions was "The Conservative Mind and the Liberal Mind," a discussion about the sources of political difference and how leaders can learn to navigate it.

The presenters had been longtime state Sen. Hamilton Horton of Winston-Salem and longtime activist Rev. W.W. Finlator of Raleigh. Accepting the baton from these two North Carolina legends was intimidating, to say the least. But with his characteristic encouragement and wit, Walt made us feel right at home.

My involvement with IOPL deepened a few years ago when I joined the board of directors, where I currently serve as chairman. Then retired, Walt was the opposite of retiring. He and I talked regularly over the phone about IOPL, personal matters, and the latest political news. Even more regularly, Walt visited my Facebook page to comment on my newspaper columns and posts.

His comments were usually critical. Walt and I had strong disagreements. While he once worked for Republican politician George Romney (Mitt's dad), Walt was by no means a conservative. If all you knew about our relationship came from one of our spirited online debates, you'd wonder why either bothered to argue with someone so obviously "the enemy."

That was the kind of thinking that Walt spent his life seeking to dispel. The realm of politics exists precisely because humans are inherently varied in our views and interests but also face some inescapable "collective action" problems — situations in which we cannot just go our separate ways or make voluntary deals and must instead produce and live under policies mandated by governments.

Walt thought there were many such collective-action problems requiring government intervention. I think the real number is far smaller. Still, as we debated, we shared a common language. We both understood that the gap between conservatives and progressives is at its root a conceptual one, a disagreement about the implications and malleability of human nature — or, indeed, even of its very existence.

As our debates continued over the years, Walt was simultaneously lavish in his public praise and unfailingly kind. He complemented pieces I wrote. I reciprocated when I saw one of the guest columns he continued to churn out until shortly before his passing. When he learned I was going to teach a graduate seminar on conservatism at Duke, his old stomping grounds, Walt asked for the syllabus, made suggestions, and talked up enrollment.

Walt was a class act. He could also be cantankerous, even bull-headed. Couldn't we say the same about other pioneers?

Two years ago, we created the Walt de Vries Fellows Fund at IOPL to help sustain the signature program of our friend's life of public service. You can find more information about it online at the institute's website (iopl.org).

Supporting it would be one way to honor Walt's legacy. Here's another one. You know those friends or relatives of yours whose political views you abhor? Complement them for their passion. Then, by all means, argue — but without bickering or bitterness. Do your part in leading us out of our current political thicket. Walt de Vries has already blazed the trail for you.

## A Christmas fool

Imagine the Bethlehem Christmas story set in a shopping mall in eastern North Carolina.



**D.G. MARTIN**  
One on One

Now you are ready to experience the lovely seasonal story, "A Fool for Christmas," by North Carolina's celebrated author Allan Gurganus.

Gurganus, a Rocky Mount native now living in Hillsborough, burst on to the national scene in 1989 with the publication of his debut novel, "Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All." It sold over four million copies and has become an American classic. Set in the 1980s, the 99-year-old Lucy Marsden, who was married when she was 15 to the then 50-year-old Colonel William Marsden, tells the story of her marriage to the Confederate veteran, his wartime experiences, and the entertaining and poignant routine of her daily life.

Gurganus usually writes slowly and methodically, but what he writes is worth the wait. His latest book of three novellas, "Local Souls," took readers back to Lucy Marsden's Falls, the small fictional eastern North Carolina town that Gurganus keeps alive with his writing.

Sometime soon, Gurganus promises, he will end his decades-long work on "An Erotic History of a Southern Baptist Church," which I bet will teach us more about life in Falls.

Meanwhile, every Christmas season he shares "A Fool for Christmas," at a reading hosted by a favorite bookstore, the Regulator Bookshop in Durham. This year the store was packed as Gurganus, an actor at heart, brought the crowd to tears. As he reads he takes on the character of Vernon Ricketts, the pet store manager who is the lead character and narrator. Vernon is a fool for Christmas who cannot resist a call to take care of a homeless teenager in the mall, keep her warm, and help her hide from the security officer, who is dedicated to getting such undesirables out of the mall.

Where did "A Fool for Christmas" come from? How did Gurganus come to write this story that draws on the Biblical account of Christ's birth and draws out the same sort of deep feelings?

In 2004 NPR's All Things Considered commissioned Gurganus to write a short seasonal story to read on All Things Considered. He says he wrote the story in just two weeks, overcoming his usual slow and deliberate writing style. Beginning with the kind pet store manager and thinking about the pregnant lost girl, he worked to develop those characters. As the characters came into focus, the story followed.

NPR aired Gurganus's reading of the story on Christmas Eve, and it has remained posted on NPR's

website ever since. You can listen to the original recording at the following link: <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4244370>

Gurganus changes the story a bit every year. He makes adjustments to take account of technological developments, closed restaurants, and other changes in a typical mall. He may change a word or two. But the essential story stays the same, a manger birth story that reminds us of the humble circumstances of the first Christmas.

It is one that can bring tears the same way Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" sometimes does.

Interestingly, "A Fool for Christmas" had never been published in a printed edition. This year, however, that changed. For the first time, the Regulator offered a printed edition of the story published by Durham's Horse and Buggy Press with the cooperation of Duke University, the repository for Gurganus's papers. Gurganus, also an artist, illustrated the new book. Priced at \$12, it sold out quickly. But Horse and Buggy Press promises to have more copies available to local bookstores in time for Christmas.

If you, like me, think this little book could be a treasure, give your local bookstore a call, or reach the Regulator at 919-286-2700.

*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.*

## Dear Santa: Here's what's on our Christmas wish list

North Carolina's unemployment rate has dropped from the 10.9 percent 2010 high we experienced following The Great Recession to 4.0 percent in October.



**TOM CAMPBELL**  
N.C. Spin

But that's not uniform across the state. The low was Asheville's 2.8 percent and the highs were Fayetteville's 4.8 and Rocky Mount's 4.9 percent.

Perhaps a more significant number is what these workers earn. The Brookings Institute published a report in November showing that 53 million workers between the ages of 18 to 64 — approximately 44 percent of the workforce — are working in low wage jobs. In our state Jacksonville reports 61 percent work in low wage jobs, Fayetteville has 52.9 percent, Goldsboro is 53.1 percent, Rocky Mount has 49.4 percent and New Bern is 47.4 percent. More

urban areas like Raleigh have 38 percent, while Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia is 41.7 percent and Winston-Salem reports 44 percent. Brookings further states median hourly wages of these low-wage workers is \$10.22, with median annual earnings of \$17,950.

A deeper dive into the statistics reveals low wage earners are disproportionately female; Black and Latino/Hispanic workers have rates higher than their percentage in the workforce. Nearly 40 percent are ages 25-54, with a high school diploma or less. Their jobs are in retail sales, food service, janitorial and personal care sectors.

I've given you more statistics than you want, but several points are notable. The most obvious is that low-wage workers need to earn more money. Is this the justification many claim for raising the minimum wage? Probably, but I'm not ready to jump on the \$15 per hour bandwagon. Anything that raises business costs is generally accompanied by customer price increases. Since we

haven't had minimum wage increases in some time a jump to maybe as high as \$12 seems reasonable.

A corollary debate is that workers must make themselves more valuable to employers, and the pathway to added value dictates that more than a high school education is necessary. We must provide more skills training. Instead of cutting funding for the highly successful early college high schools, where students get both their high school degree plus college credits toward an AA degree, we need to increase that funding. These students score better than the average on test scores and will bring an estimated \$92 million in increased lifetime benefits to society. And the state could redirect some of the corporate recruitment tax breaks to begin a program where we supplement paid internships, increasing that supplement if the student is hired full time.

And this discussion cannot conclude without talking about the great need for affordable

housing, especially in urban areas. The rising economy has escalated land costs to a point where increased rents make low-income wage earners seek housing 30 minutes or more away from their workplace. The average cost to rent a two-bedroom apartment in our state is now \$909 a month. In Raleigh it is \$1,284 and in Charlotte it's \$1,560. Do the math. If you make \$10 per hour your monthly income is \$1,734 per month. Affordable housing is defined as no more than 30 percent of a person's or family's income. At that income you could afford \$520 per month, so it would take two wage earners just to pay the average.

The bottom line is that we need both wage increases and more affordable housing. Dear Santa, these are on our Christmas wish list.

*Tom Campbell is former assistant North Carolina State Treasurer and is creator/host of NC SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of N.C. issues that airs on UNC-TV.*

### What's on your mind?

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

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

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

To submit a letter: Mail it to the News + Record at P.O. Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344; or email to [bhorne3@chathamnr.com](mailto:bhorne3@chathamnr.com); or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.



# DIVIDE: 'He's resilient and strong and smiles through it all'

Continued from page A1

the state. A quick real estate search for Governor's Club properties reveals some homes are valued in the high \$2 million range. A \$38,000 fee buys access to a 27-hole golf course, tennis courts, pools and members-only events.

Throughout the more-than-700 square miles that make up central North Carolina, educational achievement and success look vastly different, and according to the data, Eastern Chatham is more advantaged.

In a report from the Economic Policy Institute that ranked the nation's 3,061 counties by an indicator of economic inequality, Chatham came in at 581 from the top. Simply tracing a finger along N.C. Hwy 87, N/U.S. Hwy. 501 on a map, according to Chatham officials in the 2018 annual community assessment, reveals several "statistically significant differences" between the eastern and western halves of the county. In issues like internet access, in-home safety features like smoke detectors and levels of home ownership, the east rises above the west. And, of the community assessment survey participants who said they had trouble accessing healthcare, almost 50 percent of Western Chathamites reported cost as a factor. Only 17.7 percent of residents on the east side reported the same thing.

School testing data from the state's Department of Public Instruction, pulled specifically from the state biology end-of-course (EOC) test for the 2018-2019 school year, tells the story of Chatham's inequality as evidenced on school grounds. Percent grade level proficiency rates show how the schools stacked up, from the lowest rate of 42.5 percent, at Jordan-Matthews High School, to 85.7 percent, at Chatham Charter High.

To understand that ranking a little better, here are all six Chatham County high schools from east to west:

- Northwood High School, noted by the yellow bar in the graphic accompanying this story, is located in the northeast corner of the county, in

Pittsboro. A total of 652 students took the Biology EOC test there.

- Chatham Central High School, the red bar, is a bit farther west, in Bear Creek. Out of the non-charter public schools in the county, it had the smallest pool of Biology EOC test-takers: 246.

- Jordan-Matthews High School, the blue bar, is situated in Siler City. Compared to the rest of the reporting high schools, it demonstrates the smallest portion of test-takers who achieved grade-level proficiency in the N.C. Biology EOC test. A total of 456 students took the Biology EOC exam at J.M. High.
- Chatham Charter High School is just northwest of J.M. High, represented by the purple bar. Out of the 98 students who took Biology EOC, 85.7 percent met the proficiency benchmark. Chatham Charter and J-M are only separated by a nine-minute drive, but the percentage change is drastic.

Two schools are not included on the graph above:

- Woods Charter High School is located in the Northeast corner of the county near the Briar Chapel Housing Development. Though 45 students took the Biology EOC, the DPI data didn't include a number for grade level percent proficiency, so it doesn't appear on the graph above. The school report card for Woods Charter notes a grade level proficiency score above 90 percent for the Biology EOC.

- The newly minted Chatham School of Science and Engineering has no publicly available test scores thus far. CSSE is an early college program in Siler City that only admits 35 students per year.

Both economic and demographic variances mark the divide in widespread Chatham County. The student population of J-M is 51 percent Hispanic and only 29 percent white, an anomaly among the county's high schools. While proficiency rates are lower in general at J-M on the Biology EOC, it boasts higher success for English Learning Students (ELS) in those same test scores than the predominantly white Northwood High. Out of the 17 reported

ELS students taking the test at Northwood High, the school reported that no ELS students reached grade level proficiency in their scores. Predominantly white Northwood High and J-M are the only two schools who reported that any ELS students took the test.

Jordan-Matthews junior Kevin Manzanarez is not an English Learning Student. In fact, his A.P. Spanish course is one of his most stressful classes. But he, like Edward, has held a part-time job. Some of his shifts at a local McDonald's last school year ended at 1 in the morning.

"And so I'd come home pretty late, around 2 a.m.," he says. "Do my work and then go to sleep until 4. Wake up around 6 and go to school."

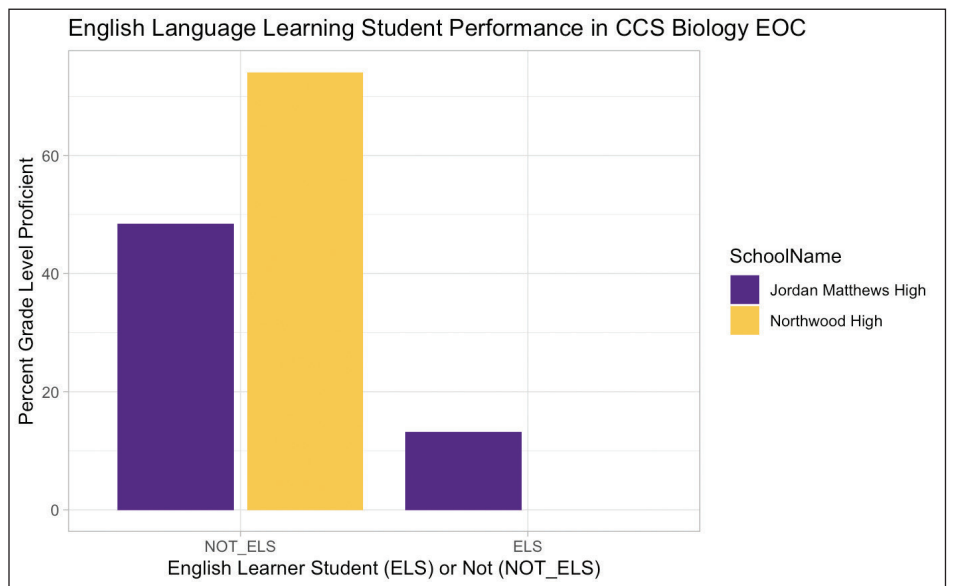
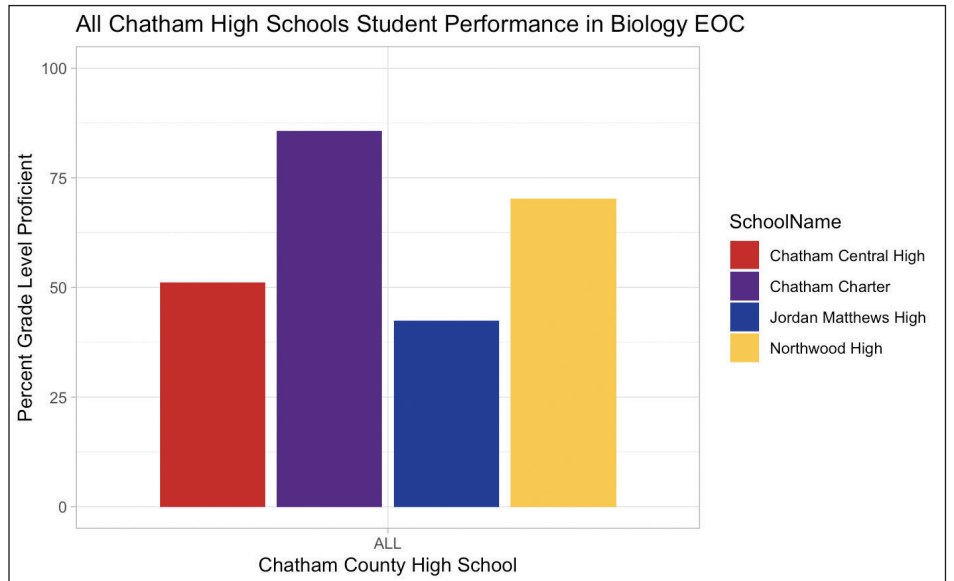
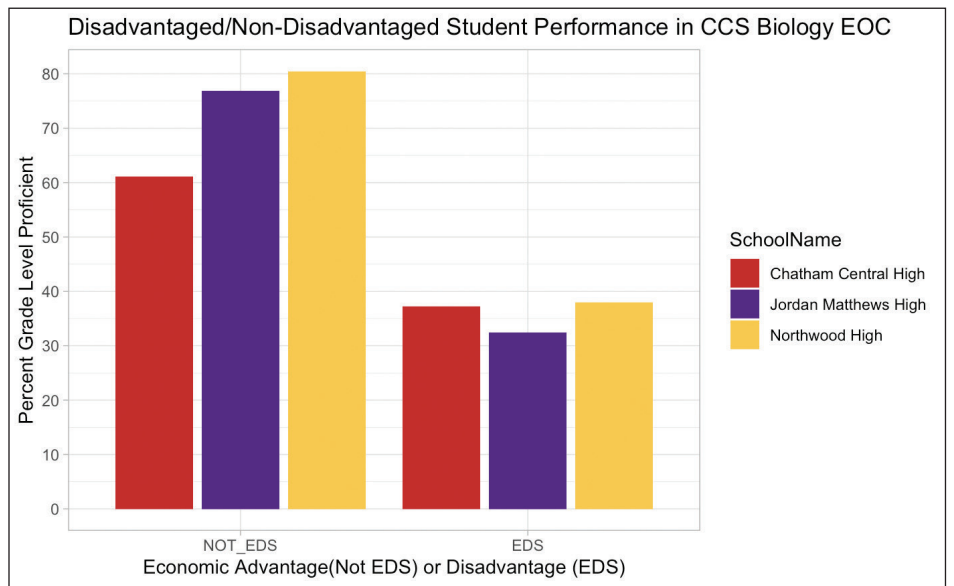
He says late nights affect his performance in coursework.

"I get super drowsy by the second block and I just can't stay awake," Manzanarez says. "And so I just kind of like deal with it and because of that I pay less attention in class and I don't learn anything. And when I'm at home, I'm supposed to know what we did. Just like, my mind goes blank and I can't really think. And I just don't do the homework and just go to sleep. The next day they graded it and I got a zero because of it. Same goes on and on every day."

Paul Cuadros is a professor of journalism at UNC-Chapel Hill and longtime coach of a former championship-winning soccer team at J-M. At a forum on inequality in the county, he said that people in Western Chatham county feel "neglected" and as if they lack "a voice."

"If you want to see where that inequality is, all you have to do is visit some of these neighborhoods," he said at a recent Chatham socioeconomic inequality forum. "It starts with the mobile home parks."

In a county right at the heart of the state lies a clear pattern of economic and educational inequality. Test score performance, especially, shows clear disparity in academic prowess — and, thus, college and career readiness — between Chatham's high schools. But that's not stopping



Edward. He's still hard at work. "This is a student who smiles through it all," Grayson says. "He's

resilient and strong and smiles through it all." Adriaenne Clevon is a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill

and a reporter with the Our Chatham project of the Reese News Labs at the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



### WILLIAM MYRLE SMITH AND JOYCE FAULKNER SMITH

William Myrle Smith and Joyce Faulkner Smith of Silk Hope will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, December 21. They were married in Durham, NC on December 21, 1969. Myrle was born and raised in Carrboro and Joyce was born and raised in Durham. They have two children. Jennifer D. Scott, an attorney with Shipman and Wright based in Wilmington/Raleigh resides in Pittsboro and Jeffrey Smith, a Regional Manager for Stryker Navigation, resides in Glen Allen, Virginia. They have nine grandchildren.

Myrle and Joyce met just after both had graduated high school, he from Chapel

Hill High School and she from Southern High School. Because both came from simple means, college was not in the plans so they saw no reason to wait to marry. But, being highly motivated individuals, Myrle began night classes and earned an Associates Degree in Fire Science and went on to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Myrle was employed by the Chapel Hill Fire Department just weeks after their marriage, and worked his way up to become the Deputy Fire Chief and retired at that rank in 1999. He was the first Chapel Hill Fire Department officer to be accepted into the prestigious Executive Fire Officers Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Being equally motivated, Joyce, already employed by the Town Clerk's Office with the Town of Chapel Hill, entered the Municipal Government program at UNC-Chapel Hill and began the process of becoming a Certified Municipal Clerk, eventually acquiring the Master Municipal Clerk designation. She subsequently earned the position of Town Clerk and retired from that post in 2004.

The couple moved to Chatham County in 2008 after building a home adjacent to their daughter and grandchildren in Silk Hope. Myrle's father was raised in Silk Hope and they have enjoyed putting down new roots in the community. Myrle operates Smith Landscape Group and Joyce owns and manages Triangle Fitness in Siler City. The pair agree that's its critical to stay active and involved in your work and where you live. They love to vacation in Cancun and Mexico and usually go twice a year to relax and re-group.

When asked how they have managed to stay married for 50 years, Joyce replied that "the key is negotiation and compromise". Myrle's response was simple "always reply, yes dear".

Worth knowing.  
Worth reading.

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# Northwood students represent district in Carnegie Hall

## CN+R STAFF REPORT

PITTSBORO — Northwood High School students continue to make artistic statement after their marks locally and leaving a collective footprint at one of the nation's iconic performance halls.

In late November, Northwood singers lifted their voices inside New York's Carnegie Hall during the Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) Concert Series. They combined with singers from around the world to form the Distinguished Concerts Singers International, a choir of distinction. Grammy-winning composer and conductor Eric Whitacre led the performance of "The Holiday Music of Eric Whitacre." His concert music has been performed throughout the world by millions of amateur and professional musicians.

"The Northwood High School choirs received

this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers as well as their stellar previous appearance on the DCINY concert series," DCINY artistic director and principal conductor Jonathan Griffith said. "It is quite an honor just to be invited to perform in New York. These wonderful musicians not only represent a high quality of music and education but they also become ambassadors for the entire community. This is an event of extreme pride for everybody and deserving of the community's recognition and support."

That praise is a nod toward the instruction Northwood's singers are receiving from Northwood arts educator Matthew Hanson. They spent five days and four nights in New York City, and roughly nine to 10 hours of that was devoted to rehearsing for the concert.

The thriving arts at

Northwood is a window to what's happening throughout Chatham County Schools (CCS), which received a Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation, a nonprofit entity supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants. The foundation advances active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public-service programs. The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to school districts demonstrating outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

In early November, Northwood's actors and actresses were honored during the 2019 North Carolina Theatre Conference High School Play Festival in Union Pines. Northwood educators Abby Sabiston and Kayla



Submitted photo

These Northwood High School singers gathered for this photo during their trip to New York for the Distinguished Concerts International New York Concert Series.

Sharp presented "The Crucible" during the festival, where Northwood student Oliver Poteete earned the Barbizon Outstanding Achievement in Design & Production, while Northwood student Alyssa Krasovich was singled out for outstanding

achievement in acting. Northwood educator Leslie Burwell, who teaches visual arts, is the chairperson of the school's arts department. Meagan Shirlen teaches art and photography at Northwood. Jason Freeman leads the band there.

Kristen Oakes and R. Danielle Cohen are dance instructors at Northwood. Gina Harrison is president of the Northwood High School Arts Education Foundation. Sharon Allen is the lead arts teacher for the entire school system.

## CHRISTMAS BUSINESS ROUNDUP

# 9 fun facts about Christmas and holiday shopping

So it's Christmas time, which means there's a lot



ZACHARY HORNER  
Corner Store

shopping.

Here's nine fun facts about Christmas shopping, money spent on Christmas presents and more. Some of these are North Carolina-based and some are nationwide, and some are a little off-the-wall. Maybe you can sling them around and look smart in front of your family around the dinner table.

Merry Christmas!

**Consumer spending per household is expected to drop this year, slightly**

Deloitte says consumers are planning to spend an average of \$1,496 per household on Christmas gifts this year, a drop from the \$1,536 planned in 2018. Perhaps that's because, as the company states, fewer than 40 percent of shoppers expect the economy to improve next year, a 13 percent drop from last year.

"Consumer confidence and their personal financial situation are important determinants heading into the holiday season," the report stated. "While consumers are still expecting to spend, there are signals of uncertainty."

**Hang an ornament: 25-30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the U.S. every year**

The National Christmas Tree Association says there are close to 350 million real trees across the country right now, grown in all 50 states.

The NCTA also says that there are close to 15,000 farms and 350,000 acres dedicated to Christmas tree-growing.

**Running out of ideas? Try gift cards**

The NRF also stated that 59 percent of shoppers said they'd like to receive gift cards, with women preferring them at a 67 percent rate and men at a 50 percent rate. The next most popular was clothing/accessories at 52 percent, books and other media at 35 percent and electronics at 29 percent. For the most part, gift givers are obliging. Fifty-eight percent said they were purchasing clothing, followed by gift cards for 54 percent and 39 percent for toys.

**Internet shopping growing and growing and growing**

Solid numbers are hard to come by, but according

to the NRF, online and non-store sales are projected to reach somewhere between \$162.6-\$166.9 billion, an 11-14 percent increase from 2018.

**Seasonal debt taken on by 20 percent of shoppers**

According to LendEDU, 20 percent of consumers anticipate taking on some debt, whether that be credit card debt, personal loans or another form of debt, because of Christmas shopping — at an average of \$720 per person. That's compared to 76 percent who said no.

**Thanksgiving weekend shopping still popular**

One more stat from the NRF: An estimated 189.6 million consumers shopped between Thanksgiving Day and Cyber Monday, an average of almost 38 million people per day. Ninety-five per-

cent used the weekend to buy holiday gifts or other holiday-related items, spending a per-person average of \$361.90.

**Most shoppers are already done, but not all**

According to the National Retail Federation, 39 percent of shoppers started their holiday gift-searching before November, almost half of those in September or before. An additional three percent say they buy their gifts in the last two weeks of December.

**Animals adored: 1 in 3 North Carolina pet owners spend more on pets than partners**

According to Innovet Pet, a pet product company, one-third of pet owners across the Old North State will spend more on their pets than their significant others or spouses. The survey interviewed 2,500 pet own-

ers across the state and also found that 37 percent of those polled dress their animals in Christmas-themed clothing and 29 percent say they signed their Christmas cards with their pets' names.

**Spending on flowers is tops at Christmas, not Valentine's Day**

According to the 2016 IPSOS Floral Tracking Study, 29 percent of money spent on flowers at holidays is for Christmas and Hanukkah, compared to 28 percent for Valentine's Day and 24 percent for Mother's Day. Surprised? I was too. Valentine's Day still ranks top at 30 percent for the number of flower purchases.

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at [zhorn@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorn@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at [@ZachHornerCNR](https://twitter.com/ZachHornerCNR), where he'll tell you Merry Christmas if you follow him. It would be a great Christmas present.





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## NEWS BRIEF

### United Way funding application workshop

PITTSBORO — United Way of Chatham County will host a funding application workshop from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Jan. 15, in Hall C of the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro.

All nonprofits providing human services to Chatham residents are invited to attend.

The workshop will cover the components of the application process, timeline, funding application and the criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals. Attendance is required to be eligible to apply for funding.

Agency representatives are asked to sign up for the workshop no later than Jan. 13 by phone at (919) 542-1110 or email at [Dina@UnitedWayofChathamCounty.org](mailto:Dina@UnitedWayofChathamCounty.org). Emailed RSVP's must include the name and title of the agency representative who will attend, along with their email address and phone number.

The United Way Board of Directors has worked for the last several years to restructure its grant process. Based on the results of the Chatham County Community Assessment conducted by the Chatham Health Alliance, the new funding process will emphasize performance and outcomes in UWCC's three priority areas of Financial Stability, Education and Health. Applicants will be asked to describe how their programs will assist United Way in achieving its goals and objectives to maximize the impact on Chatham's most critical needs.

A complete list of eligibility requirements is available on the United Way of Chatham County website at [www.UnitedWayofChathamCounty.org](http://www.UnitedWayofChathamCounty.org) by selecting "Funding Process" at the top right of the homepage. The online application will be accessible beginning Wednesday, January 15, 2020. Applications must be submitted by Friday, February 28, 2020. Contact the United Way office with any questions.

*Worth knowing.*  
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# OBITUARIES

## VICKIE LEE HEARNE BEDNAR



Vickie Lee Hearne Bednar, age 65, of Pittsboro, was reunited with our "Heaven Club" on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 when she died unexpectedly at home.

When people think of Vickie, a smile comes to their face because she knew how to make everyone feel comforted while keeping them laughing. Those who knew her will always remember her for being funny, faithful, thoughtful, comforting, and unconditional. Her faith in Christ was unwavering.

Vickie was born in Chatham County on May 6, 1954. She is preceded in death by her husband, Mike Bednar, parents, Billy and Barbara Hinsley and Lee Hearne.

She is survived by one daughter, Joni Bowling and husband Josh of Pittsboro; one son, Guy (GG) Sanders and fiancée Mary Cooper of Siler City; three grandchildren, Michaela Bowling, Connor Bowling, and Cooper Sanders; mother, Aretta Hearne of Pittsboro; two brothers, Kevan Hearne (Kim) and Dee Hearne (Cathy) of Pittsboro; as well as countless nieces, nephews, honorary children, friends, the Stubbs, the Bednars, and the Hearne Family.

The family received friends Monday, December 16, 2019 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at Bynum Baptist Church. The funeral service followed at 2 p.m. with Pastor Jesse Hursey presiding. Burial followed in Bynum United Methodist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial contributions to be made in Vickie's memory to Bynum Baptist Church, 300 Hamlets Chapel Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

"Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free. I'm following the path God laid for me. I took His hand when I heard Him call, I turned my back and left it all..."

Condolences may be made at [www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com). Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the Bednar family.

## CHRISTOPHER WAYNE INGLE

Christopher Wayne Ingle of Silk Hope died Saturday, December 14, 2019 at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill after a brief illness.

Chris was born July 19, 1949 the fifth son of Woodrow and Jeanette Ingle. He was an Army veteran who served two terms in Vietnam. He retired from Abbott Laboratories in Rocky Mount. He is survived by his daughter DJ Firestone of Rocky Mount; grandson, Amon; son, Lee of Lynchburg, Va.; brothers, Mike Ingle (Diane) of Whitsett, Don Ingle (Diane) of Pittsboro, Dan Ingle (Rebecca) of Burlington and Jeff Ingle (Wendy) of Summerfield; sisters, Pam Hart (Charlie) of Siler City, Cathy Terry (Don) of Snow Camp; sister-in-law, Kaye Ingle of Liberty; and a host of nieces and nephews who were all special to him. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Allan Ingle.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, December 29, 2019 at 2 p.m. at the Silk Hope Community Center. The family will receive friends after the service.

In lieu of flowers please, donate to the National Alliance on Mental Illness of North Carolina, 309 W Millbrook Rd, Ste 121, Raleigh, NC 27601.

## PHILLIP DAYTON LUTHER, SR.

Phillip Dayton Luther, Sr., 68, of Holly Ridge died Friday December 13, 2019 at his home in Holly Ridge.

Mr. Luther was born July 3, 1951 in Randolph County to the late Ralph Dayton Luther and Elizabeth Ellen Austin Luther.

A private burial will be held.

Surviving: two sons, Phillip D. Luther, Jr. of Hampstead, Steven P. Luther of Goldston; two grandchildren, Mack Dayton Luther, Sadie Luther; one brother, Terry Luther of Asheboro; and one sister, Vicki Ingold of Troy.

Arrangements are by Jones Funeral Home, Holly Ridge.

## BARRY EUGENE BURNS



Barry Eugene Burns was born July 25, 1942 in Charlotte and passed away December 12, 2019 in Durham.

He was preceded in death earlier this year by his wife of 51 years, Phyllis Hope Harris Burns, and several years ago by his parents, Ethel and Lemuel Burns and his brother Robert Burns.

Barry leaves behind three children, Shane (Bonnie) Burns, Josh (Cindie) Burns, and August Burns (Denise Ingram); grandchildren Jake and Harris, all of Durham; sisters, Ginny (Everette) Greene of Mebane and Martha Grumette of Moncure, Robert's wife Dorasue Burns Christian of Moncure; and many loved aunts, uncles, nieces, and cousins.

In his teen years, Barry and Robert moved from Charlotte to live with MaMa, their recently widowed grandmother, on the old home place near Rocky River. Except for a stint in Raleigh to earn a Bachelor's degree from NC State, Barry lived over 60 years in Chatham County at the home place. Chatham County was more than home.

A 1960 graduate of Pittsboro High School, Barry worked in the Chatham County school system for decades. While teaching math for almost 20 years at Chatham Central, Barry earned a Master's degree from North Carolina A&T and became principal at Chatham Central and Northwood as well as assistant principal at Chatham Middle School. A people person, Barry thrived in the relationships formed with generations of students, teachers, and administrators. In the late 1990s, those connections and working with his closest friend, Becky Crabtree lead to a periodic reunion of all graduating classes of Pittsboro High School, 1923-1970. Barry enjoyed working with dozens of alumni to support these reunions, events where hundreds of graduates and their families have gathered for almost 20 years.

In addition to being an educator, Barry started selling life insurance years ago which led him to become a chartered financial consultant. His insurance business was not just a job; he loved the people he met and advising them with their financial needs whether it was for life insurance, long term care or retirement planning. Barry also made sure that his clients and friends were taken care of by joining in partnership with Janet Davis, of Siler City five years ago.

Barry's passions included baseball, softball, bridge, the Wolfpack, and the Yankees. A mountain home for retreats with family and bridge weekends, cookouts, homemade peach ice cream, Burns family reunions, grilling hot dogs for that special lunch; these and much more were Barry's ways of having fun and finding fellowship.

Visitation was held at Donaldson Funeral Home, Pittsboro, on Wednesday, December 18, from 6-8 p.m. A memorial service and celebration of life will be held at Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 11 a.m.

Memorial gifts can be made to Chatham Animal Rescue, PO Box 610, Pittsboro, NC 27312 [chathamanimalrescue.org/donate](http://chathamanimalrescue.org/donate); or Chatham County Partnership for Children, PO Box 637, Pittsboro, NC 27312 [chathamkids.org/get-involved/donate](http://chathamkids.org/get-involved/donate).

## CORINNE BARLOW

Corinne Barlow, 71, of Chapel Hill, died Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at UNC Hospital.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Christ United Methodist Church with Pastor Ben Williams presiding.

Corinne was born in New York, NY, on February 29, 1948 to the late Thomas Harold Casey and Valeria Ullmann Casey.

Surviving relatives include her husband Robert Barlow; son, Jeffrey Robert Barlow of Tempe, Arizona; daughter, Kerry Barlow Herbosa of New Zealand; and one grandson.

In lieu of flowers the

family asks that memorial contributions to be made in Corinne's memory to Christ United Methodist Church, General Memorial Fund, 800 Market Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

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

Donaldson Funeral Home & Cremation is honored to serve the Barlow family.

## INEZ JUANITA OLDHAM HOLT

Inez Juanita Oldham Holt, 95, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation.

The funeral service was held at 2:30 p.m. Monday, December 16, 2019 at Pocket Presbyterian Church with Rev. Chad Neal officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

She was born on July 16, 1924 in Lee County to the late Dewey and Nottie Hilliard Oldham. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard Holt; sons, Jerry Mack Holt, Toddy Oldham and grandson, Shawn McNeill.

Survivors include sons, Richard Holt, Tony Holt and Michael R. Holt, all of Sanford; daughter, Darlene Holt McNeill of Sanford; sister, Peggy Oldham of Sanford; ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

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

## MARGIE ANN DEAN BOYD

Margie Ann Dean Boyd, 74, of Bear Creek, passed away on Friday, December 13, 2019.

The funeral was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church with Pastor Phillip Nelson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Margie was born in Moore County to the late Vance and Hazel Beatrice Weathers Dean. She was a member of Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Donald; children, Kelley Patterson of Goldston, Ray Tillman of Sanford, Amanda Clack of Sanford, Cindy Jeffries of Bear Creek; siblings, Mary Mason of Spring Lake, James Dean of Sanford, Herbert Dean of Bear Creek, Betty Binkley of Bear Creek, Shirley Coble of Liberty; eleven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

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

## REV. THOMAS LANDON LINDSAY

Rev. Thomas Landon Lindsay, 95, passed away on Saturday, December 7, 2019 in Chapel Hill.

Arrangements by: Cremation Society of the Carolinas in Raleigh.

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

## JAMES STEVEN "STEVE" WOODY

James Steven "Steve" Woody, 64, of Siler City, passed away Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at his home.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 14, 2019 at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church with Rev. Ray Gooch officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Mr. Woody was born in Chatham County on July 21, 1955, the son of George and Doris Mae (Williams) Woody. Steve was a land surveyor for Van R. Finch of Pittsboro and he attended Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, George, Paul and Daryl Woody.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Christy Allison Woody; daughter, Leandra Woody Larson of Siler City; sister, Vickie Keck and brother, Larry Woody, both of Pittsboro; and two grandsons.

Memorials may be made to Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, P O Box 785, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

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

## JUDITH CAMERON HOCUTT

Judith Cameron Hocutt, 77, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, December 16, 2019 at SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home in Pittsboro.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at Barbecue Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Judi was born in Lee County to the late Velma Cameron and Nancy Pardue Cameron. She attended East Carolina College and received a Bachelor of Arts from Campbell University.

Judi is survived by her husband, Jerry; daughter, Kim Harris of Rock Hill, SC; and one granddaughter.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

## PRESTON D. PARKER

Preston D. Parker, 80, of New Hill, passed away on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at Transitions Hospice Care in Raleigh.

Memorial services were held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at the New Elam Christian Church with Rev. Ed Earp officiating. Internment followed in the church cemetery.

Mr. Parker was born in Johnston County, son of the late Atlas and Lola Mae Tart Parker. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Linda Parker Lee. Preston was a graduate of Moncure High School. He was a Veteran of the United States Army and retired from CSX Railroad with over 30 years of service.

Surviving is his wife, Patsy Reid Parker of the home; children, Rob Parker of Royersford, PA., Stephanie Stegall of Apex, and Frank Stegall of Warrenton; sisters, Hilda Nelson of Sophia, Joyce Smith of Broadway, Sue Diggs of New Hill, Anne Sears of Sanford; brothers, Mack Parker, Tim Parker, and Kent Parker, all of New Hill, Gordon Parker of Moncure; and four grandchildren, Katie Parker, Colin Parker, Lukas Locklear and Evan Locklear.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials be made to New Elam Christian Church, 3290 Pea Ridge Road, New Hill, NC 27562; Transitions Hospice or to a charity of one's choice.

Online condolences may be made at [www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com](http://www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com).

## JOANNA (MOORE) LEACH

Mrs. Joanna M. Leach, 104, of Pittsboro, passed on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at her residence.

Arrangements By: Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

## IONA S. SCANLAN

Iona S. Scanlan, 94, of Chapel Hill, passed on Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

Arrangements by: Cremation Society of the Carolinas in Raleigh.

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

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**ANIMATED WOOFERS**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Agree (with)  
 5 Ability to cope well with difficulty  
 11 Mini-devils  
 15 Girl  
 19 Forget to say  
 20 Vocation  
 21 Heist booty  
 22 — Stanley Gardner  
 23 She played  
 Kira Nerys on "Deep Space Nine"  
 25 Sicilian resort city  
 26 Rain-starved  
 27 Get riper  
 28 Taken with  
 29 Legendary nude horse rider  
 31 Small bird  
 32 Enhaloed Fr. woman  
 33 Lightning source, as shortened in weather reports  
 36 Like wicker baskets  
 37 Rotating rocket ride at Disney theme parks  
 40 Alternatives to dice  
 43 Has the helm
- DOWN**  
 44 Exactly  
 46 Lime drink  
 47 "Oh, go on!"  
 49 Kevin Bacon's "Footloose"  
 55 Spring-loaded stick  
 58 R&B's Rawls  
 60 Suffix with script  
 61 Elvis — Presley  
 62 Twitched, as a muscle  
 65 Pasta strip  
 69 Raiment (NBC series since '99)  
 71 — and yang  
 72 Depressing or untidy sort  
 75 Santa —, California  
 76 Overprotect  
 78 Most ashen  
 79 Discovered  
 81 Old cracker brand  
 82 Short time, for short  
 83 Sheeran and O'Neill  
 85 Regatta tools  
 86 Grammy nominee for writing the Lee Ann Womack hit "I May Hate Myself in the Morning"
- DOWN**  
 1 Piano recital pieces  
 2 Free-verse poet  
 3 Kitchen nook  
 4 Hellenic H  
 5 Red apple  
 6 It follows Holy Week  
 7 Stooges, e.g.  
 8 New Year in Vietnam  
 9 Zodiac sign  
 10 Mess up  
 11 "Word has it ..."  
 12 Munchies from Mars  
 13 Pint-size  
 14 Smeltery junk  
 15 Entice  
 16 Get there  
 17 Split-off bit  
 18 Alternatives to coupes  
 24 Sun blockers  
 29 Oscar winner  
 Sophia  
 30 Proprietor  
 33 Uncle, in Spanish  
 34 Sky shiner  
 35 Head, in French  
 38 Creditors' takebacks
- DOWN**  
 39 Square in the first column of a bingo card  
 41 Speed  
 42 Nuptial vow  
 45 Try to equal  
 48 "We're No Angels" actor — Ray  
 50 Regatta group  
 51 Gym pad  
 52 Pop singer Grande  
 53 Intersection  
 54 Presses and stretches  
 55 Hitchcock film of 1960  
 56 Downer drug  
 57 India's Indira  
 59 Takes stuff out of a suitcase  
 63 Nero's 1,550  
 64 Up "li  
 66 Popeye's Olive  
 67 Lofty poem  
 68 "ER" roles  
 69 Exist  
 70 Luggage-screening org.  
 73 Oil gp.  
 74 "Frozen" heroine  
 77 Fawn nurse  
 80 Hen's perch  
 82 Road deicer
- DOWN**  
 84 T. rex, e.g.  
 87 U.S. flag sewer Ross  
 88 Meadowland  
 89 Sappy tree  
 90 Earthen cooking pot  
 91 Person, place or thing  
 93 Motorist's distance marker  
 94 Attach with a click  
 97 Siouan tribe  
 99 "All finished!"  
 100 "Kids" actress  
 Chloë  
 101 Bridge supports  
 102 Amount a sack will hold  
 103 Stimulate  
 104 Naval petty officers  
 105 Most secure  
 106 OK for eating  
 108 Traffic cones  
 110 "Kids" actress  
 Chloë  
 111 Funny bone locale  
 115 Garbage barge  
 116 Dance violently  
 117 Razor choice  
 121 Uber order  
 122 Fabulous flier  
 123 Fabled flier  
 124 "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-"

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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**PINEY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Piney Grove United Methodist Church will present their Christmas play, "Fruitcake" at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22, with party afterward.

All are welcome to these events. The church is located at 2343 Piney Grove Ch. Rd., Siler City.

**PITTSBORO CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

Come for Breakfast with Santa from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 21 at the Pittsboro Church of the Nazarene. Enjoy a free pancake breakfast and the telling of the Christmas story.

There will be pictures with Santa, a Christmas Craft (tree ornament), and help for children writing a letter to Santa, all free!

The church is located at 705 US Highway 902, Pittsboro. We request that people sign up in advance (to get numbers for buying supplies) at this website: [vbspro.events/p/events/cleeb8](http://vbspro.events/p/events/cleeb8). Walk-ins are welcome, but for planning purposes, we request that people sign up. Any questions contact Tom Roswick at 336-693-8470 or email at [office1.pnaz@gmail.com](mailto:office1.pnaz@gmail.com).

**FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

The annual New Year's Eve Night Watch Service will be held at the First Missionary Baptist Church beginning at 10 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31. The public and surrounding churches are

**CHURCH NEWS**

invited. The church is located at 914 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Siler City.

**HARRIS GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Come join the Harris Grove Missionary Baptist Church for a Community Christmas Dinner at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22. This is for all community and area churches, the homeless or anyone that doesn't have anywhere to go for Christmas this year!

The church is located at 13919 Hwy 64W, Siler City. Email: [harrisgrovebaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:harrisgrovebaptistchurch@gmail.com).

**JOY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Joy Baptist Church will present a "Children's Christmas" and "Christmas Is In the Heart" Cantata at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22. Refreshments will follow.

All are invited. The church is located on Hwy. 64, at the corner of Bowers Store Road, Siler City.

**RED HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

The annual Christmas program will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22 at Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church. There will be refreshments following the program.

All are invited. The church is located on Hwy 42, Goldston.

**LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

Join us for the morning worship service at

9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22 at Loves Creek Baptist Church. Enjoy the seasonal music, message, and the observance of the Lord's Supper!

Then at 6:30 p.m., we will share the fellowship, beauty and blessings of our annual Candlelight Christmas Service.

All are invited and will be welcome. The church is located at 1745 East 11th St., Siler City.

**MT. SINAI AME CHURCH**

Mt. Sinai AME Church will hold its annual Christmas Candlelight service at 11 pm. on Christmas Eve. Come out and witness the Birth of Christ through song and narration.

All are welcome. The church is located on the corner of Chatham and Masonic Streets in Pittsboro. (Behind Hardee's).

**SANDY BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH**

Everyone is invited to come join us at Sandy Branch Baptist Church for our Christmas celebrations.

The adult choir will present its cantata entitled "The Worship of Christmas" during the 11 a.m. morning worship service on Dec. 22.

The traditional Christmas Eve service will begin at 6 p.m. on Dec. 24. There will be a play entitled "The Perfect Christmas," the Lottie Moon walk and communion.

We hope you will join us at 715 Sandy Branch Church Rd., Bear Creek, as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

**Chatham residents give 'gift of life'**

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — "I just wanted to help people," Nathan Davis said of his decision a couple of months ago to donate blood.

"I saw there was a blood drive nearby," the 16-year-old Northwood High School junior said, "and I jumped on it."

Athletic and fit, the high school wrestler said the experience — it was his first time rolling up his sleeve for the American Red Cross to give, as the organization says, the gift of life — was a positive one, though he felt a "little loopy," he admitted, after donating his first pint.

"But I was happy with it," Davis said, "and it was a good experience, definitely. I was glad I did it." And, already anticipating his school's annual blood drive, he's planning to do it again.

Davis' altruistic instinct to donate the life-saving commodity comes naturally. His mother, Beth Barrickman Davis of Pittsboro, is a frequent and longtime donor of blood and platelets. The teenager says he drew inspiration for his decision to step up and donate from her example.

"I know there's a big need for blood donations," he said, "and I wanted to help, too."

In a way, though, the teenager played a significant role in his mother's decision — shortly after he was born in 2003 — to become a blood donor.

"I figured if I could take natural childbirth," she said, "I could handle this. I could take the needles and donating blood."

She was right — she could handle it — and she's been donating blood on a regular basis, just about every 56 days, since. "I try to donate, too, if there's been a disaster," she said.

She's also a frequent donor of platelets.

"It's my way of giving back," she said, "and sharing the gift of life. Some people donate money. This is something I'm able to do. To know you're helping somebody to have another day is important to me."

The need for blood donations is constant, say officials with the American Red Cross, the humanitarian organization that shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims



Submitted photo

**Longtime frequent blood donor Beth Barrickman Davis has been an inspiration to her son, Nathan, who recently donated blood for the first time.**

of disasters; teaches life-saving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and also supplies approximately 40 percent of the nation's blood.

But officials with the organization note, the need for blood is particularly keen during the holiday season.

"Busy holiday schedules make it difficult for the American Red Cross to collect enough blood to meet those patient needs," said Maya Franklin, external communications manager for the American Red Cross. "Donors of all blood types, especially type O, are urgently needed."

"Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, more than one million units of blood could be transfused in the United States," she said. "Individuals are urged to give a lifesaving gift this holiday season by making an appointment to donate blood or platelets and help the American Red Cross ensure a sufficient supply is available for patients throughout the holiday season."

The process of giving blood to "be the lifeline patients need," Franklin said, takes about an hour.

"For me, it's a way to relax," said Beth Barrickman Davis.

Another side benefit, she said, is the "mini-physical" donors receive before they give blood.

"One time," she said, "my iron level was low and I wasn't able to donate."

Initially a donor through the American Red Cross, she now donates blood and platelets regularly through UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill and said she finds the entire process — there's

snacks for donors and wifi, allowing her to multitask with work while she donates — positive and rewarding.

She posts on Facebook after her donations, hoping to encourage others to do the same.

"Hopefully I'm a good role model," she said.

She said she's proud of her son for his decision to become a blood donor, a decision he reached without any suggestions from his mother.

"He did it all on his own," she said. "I was proud of him."

The Red Cross says all blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. For those who want to help, Red Cross officials say, donating is easy. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Two opportunities remain this month to donate blood in Chatham County: from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24, at Chatham County Rescue Squad, 201 S. Second Ave., Siler City; and from 2 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 28, at Siler City Presbyterian Church, 720 W. Third Street.

Randall Riggsbee can be reached at [riggsbee@chathamnr.com](mailto:riggsbee@chathamnr.com).

**First United Methodist Church**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service**  
 Celebrating the Birth of Jesus  
 Everyone is welcome to join our special service!  
**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm**  
 First United Methodist Church • (919) 742-2722  
 1101 W. Raleigh St., Siler City

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- Christmas Sing-Along
- Preregister online at [vbspro.events/p/events/cleeb8](http://vbspro.events/p/events/cleeb8)

Any questions contact Tom Roswick at 336-693-8470 or email at [office1.pnaz@gmail.com](mailto:office1.pnaz@gmail.com)

**Pittsboro Church of the Nazarene**  
 Saturday, December 21  
 9:00AM – 11:00AM  
 705 US Hwy 902  
 Pittsboro



# Elmers back on campaign trail with eye on Lt. Gov. post

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Renee Ellmers is back on the campaign trail.



Elmers

Ellmers served three terms from 2011-2017 in the U.S. Congress representing North Carolina's 2nd Congressional District — which included Chatham at the time — and is one of several GOP candidates whose name will be on the primary ballot next March aiming to become North Carolina's next lieutenant governor.

For the last couple of years, Ellmers — who stopped by the Chatham News + Record office in Siler City last week to discuss her campaign — has worked as a southeastern regional director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Atlanta, appointed to the post by the White House.

"In 2016, with the presidential race, I was a big supporter of President Trump," she said. "I was the first woman in Congress to endorse him. And there weren't a lot of folks in Washington, or around the country, who really thought he was going to win. But I stuck with him, through thick and thin. In turn, he gave me a political appointment to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services."

She found the work with DHHS to be a "fabulous job," she said.

"But I was there in Atlanta," she said, "watching some of the craziness happening out of Washington. For instance, the Judge (Brett) Kavanaugh hearings, what they put him through. So I started thinking how can I come back to North Carolina and really get some things done that we need to do in North Carolina and continue to be supportive of President Trump in elected office."

In March, she announced plans to seek another elected office.

"I knew that [Lt. Gov.] Dan

Forrest certainly was going to be running for governor," she said, "and that he would have fulfilled two terms, so I started looking at running for lieutenant governor."

The 55-year-old Ellmers, a registered nurse, says health care is a central issue in her campaign.

"Lieutenant governor," Ellmers said, "is a great office to hold to leverage for certain issues that I believe we need to be concentrating more fully on, especially as Republicans, one of which is health care."

Her background as an R.N., her experience in Congress "dealing with legislative issues" and her more recent experience with Health and Human Services "from an administrative perspective" position her, she said, to take on the lieutenant governor's job and use the post to work towards improving health care for North Carolinians.

"I think a lot of people feel like the lieutenant governor seat is not one, as I've heard people express to me, of great power," Ellmers said. "I really

don't look at it that way."

She hopes to use the state post — second only to governor — to better address health care, an issue she said fellow Republicans "aren't talking about enough."

"Health care costs are too high," she said, while "accessibility is too low. And we have to improve the quality of care. You hear a lot from hospitals. You hear a lot from insurance companies. There really isn't anyone out there protecting and fighting for patients. I started realizing that the lieutenant governor, part of the Council of State, could really be that person."

Ellmers continues to strongly align herself with President Trump.

"I believe wholeheartedly in border security," she said. "I am a 'Build the Wall' girl."

Of the president, she acknowledges some may question his "tone," but she remains a fan.

"I love his results," she said. "He's getting results."

A newcomer to the state's political scene in 2010, Ellmers,

who lives in Dunn, defeated seven-term Democratic incumbent Bob Etheridge in by 1,489 votes and thereafter served three consecutive terms in Congress. In the 2016 Republican primary, Ellmers was defeated by fellow Congressman George Holding. She said she wasn't bitter, or angry, about the political defeat two years ago.

"I'm a big believer," she said, "that God has a plan for all of us and that things happen for a reason."

And she hasn't considered another run for Congress, feeling that her voice "was drowned out" in Washington. She's hoping to work towards her goals — which in addition to a strong focus on health care includes job creation and improving public education — at the state level.

"We're already paying a lieutenant governor's salary," she said. "Why not increase the workload that the lieutenant governor can do?"

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

# Judge: No more excavation on coal ash sites in Moncure, Lee County

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

MONCURE — Coal ash storage company Charah will no longer be allowed to excavate land and place coal ash in the Brickhaven coal ash site in Moncure and proposed Colon coal ash site in Lee County, according to a ruling handed down Monday by the state Office of Administrative Courts.

Judge Melissa Owens-Lassiter's ruling stipulated the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality operated "outside its jurisdiction" in giving permits to Green Meadow, a Charah subsidiary, to expand excavation for coal ash storage outside of previously-mined land.

The ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL), Chatham Citizens Against Coal Ash Dump (CCACAD), and Environmental LEE (ELEE). The groups initially filed the lawsuit in December 2015 arguing that the permits, which were issued in just seven months and were for "mine reclamation," were improper as both of the planned coal ash sites would extend beyond what areas had previously been mined.

What this means for the Brickhaven site's future and Chatham County's future with coal ash is uncertain, according to Chatham County Commissioner Diana Hales.

"Since the ruling from the Administrative Court Judge is against the DEQ permitting agencies, we don't know how this impacts the Brickhaven site," Hales said. "The site is under closure procedures and some of the coal ash is within areas that the judge appears to say should not have been included in the DEQ issued permits."

Hales asked county staff during a commissioners meeting Monday night to determine what next steps would be.

"We are reviewing the judge's decision and will be contacting DEQ to understand what this may mean for the Brickhaven site in Moncure," County Manager Dan LaMontagne said. "That site is no longer receiving coal ash and is in the process of being capped and closed."

The environmental groups initially filed the lawsuit in December 2015. The case went through the Office of Administrative Courts which was initially



File photo

Coal ash from two Duke Energy sites in North Carolina was transported by train to the Brickhaven site in Moncure. An administrative court judge on Friday revoked permits issued to the site by NCDEQ.

denied at that time, was appealed to both Superior Court and the Court of Appeals, which remanded it back to the Office of Administrative Courts.

The hearings over the years included numerous statutes involving both mining law and CAMA, the Coal Ash Management Act, the law the General Assembly in Raleigh passed in response to the 39,000 tons of coal ash that spilled into the Dan River in 2014.

That law created new rules that expedited the cleanup and removal of outdated coal ash sites, particularly those at the Dan River Steam Station and the Sutton Plant in Wilmington. Duke Energy, the owner of the coal ash basins, contracted with Charah to place that coal ash in the Brickhaven Site in Moncure. Because of other North Carolina statutes, the county had little recourse in the decision as all permitting was done through

NCDEQ, but the commissioners were able to negotiate a financial settlement in exchange for the coal ash disposal.

Judge Owens-Lassiter found that CAMA was "designed to, among other things, 'prohibit construction of new or expansion of existing coal combustion residual surface impoundments' to 'prevent the creation of new coal ash waste dumping grounds.'"

"Therefore, allowing coal as structural fill



File photo

Opposition to the coal ash site at Brickhaven filed the lawsuit which resulted in a judge's decision to revoke the permits for the Brickhaven coal ash site in Moncure. Here, a group of activists protest coal ash at the annual HKoNJ event in Raleigh.

on areas not previously mined or excavated violated this legislative intent and thus, is an impermissible construction of CAMA," Judge Owens-Lassiter said in the court's final decision.

The ruling stated that the actions at both sites were not a "reasonable rehabilitation of the affected land for useful purposes as also required by state statute. Owens-Lassiter also noted that excavation made on the sites for

the sole purpose of disposing of coal ash "does not constitute structural fill 'to reclaim open mines.'"

Ultimately, the judge ruled that the Division of Waste Management acted "outside of its jurisdiction" in issuing the permits and revoked the permits, preventing any further excavation for the purpose of filling with coal ash.

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

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# Flu season is back across North Carolina, U.S.

**BY CASEY MANN**  
News + Record Staff

The rate of “influenza-like illnesses” has been on a slow rise so far this season, according to the N.C. Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with more than 100 confirmed cases in the state in the first week of December, which is the average rate for the past several years.

This comes at a time when 23 states are reporting “widespread” flu activity and all 50 U.S. states are affected in some way. Last year at this time, the CDC reported, just three states had “widespread” illnesses.

Mike Zelek, Chatham’s Division Director for Health Promotion and Policy, said Chatham residents need to be aware and take precautions against the sickness.

“While we have become accustomed to the flu season coming each year, the flu often causes severe symptoms, so it must be taken seriously and everyone should take precautions to stay healthy and avoid spreading it,” Zelek said.

The “flu season,” as it is deemed, starts in late September and ends in mid-May annually. During the 2018-2019 flu season, the N.C. Department of Health and Social Services reported,

203 North Carolinians died an “influenza-related death,” with the vast majority being 65 years or older. Five people have already died from flu-related illnesses in the state this season.

Each year, in response, the Chatham County Health Department works to raise awareness of the virus, “emphasizing the importance of prevention” with a focus on the “importance of getting a flu shot.”

“The keys are to get a flu shot, practice good hygiene, including washing your hands and covering your cough, stay home from work or school if you are sick and go to the doctor if your symptoms worsen,” Zelek said.

The department recommends that “everyone six months of age and older get a flu vaccine,” especially those who are “high-risk” — particularly infants, people over 65 years old and individuals with chronic medical conditions. The department also urges those who are a parent, caregiver or family member of someone who is high-risk to also get vaccinated to help prevent the spread of the virus.

While the flu shot may be the best prevention for most people, experts say some people should not get the shot. Those who have had a severe allergic reaction to the vaccine, Guillain-Barré Syndrome or are not



feeling well should consult with a physician before considering the flu shot.

The county’s public health department has an Epidemiological (Epi) team that meets monthly to review public health issues, including influenza, and develop strategies to prevent and respond to them. An Epi team typically includes multidisciplinary public health professionals and staff with skills ranging from specialty areas such as epidemiology, environmental health, health preparedness, nursing and health education.

Zelek said flu season normally peaks in early February, meaning people should be getting shots as soon as possible.

“So if you have not yet gotten your flu shot, there is still time,” he said. “However, it does take a couple of weeks to be effective, so now is the

time to get it.”

There are many local options available to access a flu shot, including pharmacies and drug stores. The health department also offers shots at its Siler City clinic. Most insurance is accepted at the clinic, and the cost without insurance is \$40 for the shot. Those interested should call 919-742-5641 to schedule an appointment.

To help homebound residents, the health department also offers home visits to administer the vaccine. Zelek suggests those falling in that category to contact Bonnie Dukeman at the Chatham County Public Health Department at 919-742-5641.

For additional information, visit [chathamnc.org/flu](http://chathamnc.org/flu) or [flu.ncdhhs.gov](http://flu.ncdhhs.gov).

*Reporter Casey Mann can be reached at [CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com](mailto:CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com).*

## How to fight back against ‘porch pirates’

**BY ZACHARY HORNER**

News + Record Staff

Last year, when the News + Record wrote a story about boxes being poached from people’s porches, local law enforcement told us that they didn’t get a lot of reports of it happening in Chatham County.

But it’s a new holiday season, and reports across the country are that these thieves are still on the loose.

Various studies estimate that around 23 million Americans have packages stolen from their porches every year, and 36 percent of the respondents of 2019 study from C+R Research of 2,000 consumers said they had a package stolen.

So how do you avoid being one of those people, and what do you do if a package is taken? We did some research, and here’s what we’ve got:

### To protect your packages

**Track your deliveries:** Most websites and delivery services allow you to track your packages directly from your phone. Make sure you’re following their arrival.

**Talk to your neighbors:** If your neighbors are home during the day and you’re not, perhaps they can be available to watch for the package and bring it into their house for you to get later.

**Set your work address as the delivery point:** By having your package delivered directly to your work address, you can get it during the day without worrying about it sitting on your porch for all to see.

**Have packages delivered to the store:** Some companies like Walmart and Target allow you to buy gifts online and pick them

up at their nearest location. This ensures that the item doesn’t leave the store until you get it.

**Redirect to alternative locations:** FedEx and UPS offer different pick-up locations. Along with their respective stores, FedEx packages can be retrieved from Walgreens, Dollar General and Kroger, while UPS boxes can be picked up at CVS or Michaels. Contact the shipping company and request the change with your tracking number.

### If you think your package was stolen

Policies and procedures for stolen packages depend on the delivery company. Here’s a breakdown.

**FedEx:** You can file a lost package claim at FedEx’s website. Make sure you have the tracking number. Safewise.com says claims normally take 5-7 business days to resolve.

**UPS:** If you’ve bought something stateside, you can’t file a missing package report until 60 days afterward. File a claim on UPS’ website.

**USPS:** Have your tracking number ready and file a claim on USPS’ website. If the package was insured, you should be able to get a refund directly from USPS is lost and through the seller if stolen.

In all scenarios, no matter the delivery company, there’s a couple things you should do.

**Contact law enforcement:** As with any suspected theft, law enforcement should be notified.

**Have all proof available:** Make sure you have the tracking number, items purchased, money spent and reported date of receipt.

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

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## 'I have a passion for helping people'



Kevin Maley cut the ribbon at his branch of Edward Jones Investments Dec. 10 in Pittsboro. County Commissioner Diana Hales said she was glad to be here at the opening. She told a story about the Secretary of Natural Resources 15 years ago, who called Pittsboro the 'epitome of groovy,' and she welcomed Maley to the area. 'It's an indicator of growth in Chatham County.' 'It's another example of Pittsboro attracting new business in the community,' Mayor Jim Nass said. 'I believe we have a unique opportunity to manage growth in such a way to benefit all citizens, old and young, and to encourage business to be part of town.' Maley said that 'he wants to fill the gap that is out there, to help people get what is important to them.'

Staff photo by David Bradley

## RETAIL: 'Not shopping in Pittsboro is not helping their issue'

Continued from page A1

they had to cope with regular protests and counter protests around the Chatham County government's decision to remove the "Our Confederate Heroes" monument in the traffic circle, but the small businesses are working to compete or find their niche in an increasingly-crowded and primarily-internet-driven marketplace.

### 'What did we do to you?'

Confederate flaggers, protestors and counter-protestors have been a regular feature of downtown Pittsboro since the Chatham County Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 last August 19 to terminate the county's agreement with the Winnie Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to locate the monument adjacent to the old courthouse.

The protests — and ensuing arrests, fights and contention — has left some business owners and managers near the events asking: "Why us?"

"Specifically, they told me that they were trying to disrupt the business," said Mary Demare, the general manager of New Horizons Downtown and New Horizons West. "The

flagger guy told me that. So it's like, 'What did we do to you?'"

Lewis, Demare and Pittsboro Toys owner Samantha Birchard each their respective businesses have suffered in the ensuing months since the protests and flaggers became a regular downtown feature.

"At first, it was definitely affecting numbers," Birchard said. "People were saying they were afraid to come downtown at first, and I'm not hearing that anymore. But people are still complaining about it."

Lewis and Demare said both sides of the discussion are equally causing issues with businesses, particularly on Saturdays, when most of the protests and counter-protests have taken place.

"Not shopping in Pittsboro is not helping their issue," Lewis said. "It's hurt my business and it hurts on Saturdays more than any other day of the week."

Demare said the events have caused disruption for both the employees who live locally and shoppers who want to come from out of the county. She said the stores get "a lot" of customers from Raleigh and Cary, and occasional closures to the roads around the traffic circle have cut off some access.

"Those days did specifi-

cally hurt us," Demare said. "I did ask (flaggers) to move so that they could open the street, but they didn't."

### Christmas time shopping

But life moves on, and as protests have slowed down and protestors have shrunk in number, it's Christmas season. Despite recent events, shop owners are feeling positive.

"We're having a good holiday season, for sure," Demare said. "And I'm fairly certain that the other downtown stores are as well."

Stephanie Olness, who owns and operates the Gathered store farther up U.S. Highway 15-501 North from the traffic circle, said she hasn't seen the effects of protests because of her distance from downtown and has continued to push forward.

"I just try to make the store look friendly and welcoming," Olness said. "I want it to feel warm and have people come in and say, 'Hey, this could be my home.'"

In February 2019, the U.S. Department of Commerce said online retail sales accounted for a higher percentage of sales than general merchandise stores for the first time. During this

holiday season, according to Adobe Digital Insights, consumers will spend \$143.7 billion online.

Store owners like Olness and Birchard are working to make both their customer experience and products offered unique. Birchard says that in her field, selling toys, more shops like hers are selling toys that don't sell on Amazon.

"They're niche," she said. "You've got to have a niche that Amazon won't have. We like to make kids a little smarter and happier. That was what interested me the most, the child development. So that's what my driving is, encourages creativity."

Olness said she tried to offer different merchandise than a big box store like Walmart or Target, and Demare said New Horizons tried to do the same.

"We're lucky, at least in the downtown store, since we are a boutique, you can't find the clothes that we sell online," Demare said. "They're a small production, they're usually sewn and died to order. So it's not like you can find this same shirt on the Internet. You might be able to find something similar to it, but it wouldn't be quality and made in the USA and all that. In that, we're lucky. We really

work on creating a mix of products that are fantastic and surprising."

Olness added, "I've always got unique things. There's something in the store for everybody."

Additionally, there's a focus on providing good customer service and a pleasant shopping experience. Birchard spoke highly of other stores and their efforts in that arena.

"I go into New Horizons," she said. "I have to be in here [her store], I have no time, and they find me something like that. You can't get that online."

### 'Gotta keep moving forward'

While shops and shop owners spend weeks prepping for the Christmas season — ordering new products, decorating the store and enacting a marketing plan — they said there's not much you can do to prepare for what were at first spontaneous and unannounced protests.

"I don't know what to tell (customers)," Birchard said. "I don't have any answers."

Demare added, "It's almost impossible to prepare for stuff like this. Our store has six employees, between both stores we have 14 employees. We're actually the livelihood of all these local people, and

there are protestors coming in from other states to disrupt the businesses."

So they move forward. Lewis said he's put a lot of focus on catering and that that side of his business has improved.

"I've gotta keep moving forward," he said.

Demare is the treasurer and a board member of the Pittsboro Business Association, which is exactly what it sounds like. She said the PBA has kept going, particularly with the monthly First Sunday events and the tree lighting earlier this month. The events continue on Thursday, December 19, from 5-8 p.m. with the Third Thursday event, during which multiple vendors will stay open late as part of a downtown-wide event.

Birchard says that business community has stayed strong and resilient in light of the fireworks in their backyard. "The one thing that I really think every business that I know does volunteering," she said. "We all really care about building community, and that's why it's sort of heartbreaking when you see people at each other's throats instead of coming together."

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

## CHATHAM PARK REVEALS MOSAIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND TENANTS

Mosaic, the commercial gateway to Chatham Park, was officially launched at a luncheon event on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 held under a tent on the site of the future lifestyle and entertainment destination. The event was hosted by Eco Group partners Kirk Bradley of Lee Moore Capital Company and John Fugo of Montgomery who are developing Mosaic.

The exciting kick-off event featured Northwood High School's cappella group, Pitch Please, to whom Mosaic presented a \$1,000 check to support the performers' upcoming trip to Carnegie Hall. Bradley stated, "We look forward to having the Northwood High School arts department utilize the performing arts spaces that will be available in Mosaic."



Kirk Bradley (left) and John Fugo (right) present a check to Matthew Hanson, Northwood High School choral director.

Eco Group also unveiled four of its new tenants by name at the event which included: Town Hall Burger + Beer, People's Coffee, Edge Aveda Lifestyle Spa and Salon and UNC Urgent Care. Additional, still-to-be-named establishments include: a micro-brewery, multiple chef-driven and fast casual restaurants, a 114-room hotel, technical and creative office space, multi-generational educational space, 8-screen cinema, 350-seat live performance theatre and a central green area with an outdoor stage. Living options in Mosaic will include urban-style apartments for lease and high-end condos for purchase.



Architectural rendering of Mosaic.

Speakers at the event focused on the positive economic impact that Mosaic will have in Chatham County. The Honorable Robert T. Reives highlighted one of the current issues in the county that Mosaic will help to solve: "64% of Chatham County residents leave the county to work. That ends when this project gets up and going."

Mike Dasher, Chairperson of Chatham County Commissioners, added insight on the tax benefits to county residents: "As we pour over the budget and try to figure out how to afford the schools, parks, and facilities and programs we want, seeing Mosaic come out from the ground makes all of that possible." He continues, "So while you're out here enjoying the new restaurants, and shops, and all the event spaces here in a few months, you can also enjoy knowing projects like this help fund all kinds of services throughout the county without overburdening our residents."

Chris Blice, Chief Operations Officer for Chatham County Schools, stated, "One of my favorite baseball quotes is 'Progress always involves risk. You can't steal second and keep your foot on first.' Chatham Park and Mosaic are all about pulling that foot off first base, running to second, rounding that, heading to third and then sliding into home."

The 92-acre site of Mosaic, located off of US Highway 15-501 and US Highway 64, is slated to be complete by 2025.



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# Chatham News + Record

## SPORTS NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS

DECEMBER 19-25, 2019 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

### Fast start sends Northwood girls over rival Jordan-Matthews with ease 62-25

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Northwood jumped out to a 14-3 lead after one period and never let up as the Lady Chargers outscored Jordan-Matthews every quarter while stampeding to a 62-25 non-conference win Saturday night in Lewis Norwood Gymnasium.

Completing a sweep of its county rival for the seventh consecutive year, Northwood elevated its overall record to 5-3, while the Lady Jets plummeted to 1-7 for the season.

McKenna Snively tallied 13 points to lead three Lady Chargers in double figures, with Gianna McManaman tossing in 11 points and Jyrea Smith

adding 10. Northwood shot 37% (18-of-49) from the floor and held a 32-31 edge in rebounding while committing 11 turnovers.

“I was really pleased with the energy we showed at the outset tonight,” remarked Lady Chargers’ coach Cameron Vernon. “Building an 11-point advantage after one quarter was a great way to set the tone. Offensively I thought we did a nice job trying to work the ball into our post players, but when that wasn’t there our guards made good decisions penetrating or shooting. It was good to see well-balanced scoring this evening, and if we can be consistent with that it’s hard for defenses to stop us.”

“Meanwhile,” Vernon added, “our 1-3-1 three-quarter defense

was able to put pressure on Jordan-Matthews and create some turnovers, which is what we have been lacking. Despite an off-shooting night I thought J-M gave a great effort, and coach Byrd is doing a good job in his first year. This is always a fun rivalry to be a part of and I think both programs have a lot of respect for one another.”

Makayla Glover registered a double-double for the Lady Jets with 10 points and 10 boards while Avery Headen finished with eight points. A cold-shooting J-M squad connected on just 18% (seven-of-40) of its field goal attempts while turning the ball over 26 times.

Lady Jets’ coach Charles Byrd commented it was another game where his players got

**‘I was really pleased with the energy we showed at the outset tonight. Building an 11-point advantage after one quarter was a great way to set the tone. Offensively I thought we did a nice job trying to work the ball into our post players, but when that wasn’t there our guards made good decisions penetrating or shooting.’**

CAMERON VERNON, Lady Chargers’ coach

tired early.

“My girls have to continue to push themselves in practice to get in better shape,” said Byrd. “We were a step slow tonight on both ends of the court and we got beat to a lot of loose balls. Starting out slow is something we have struggled with all year, and I’m still trying to figure

out how to get them to be the aggressor from the beginning of the game.”

A Jasmine Scotten free throw less than two minutes into the contest gave Jordan-Matthews its only lead of the evening before Te’Keyah Bland and Smith

See **EASE**, page B2

### Balanced Bears whip Wildcats for fifth straight win

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — It was obviously a tale of two halves.

After being held to a mere five points in the first half, South Davidson exploded for 47 points over the final two quarters but it wasn’t enough to overcome a 33-point Chatham Central advantage at intermission as the Wildcats dropped a 63-52 Yadkin Valley 1A Conference decision to the Bears Friday night in Gerald L. Binkley Gymnasium.

Chatham Central’s fifth victory in a row lifted the Bears to 3-0 in the league standings and 6-2 for the year, while South Davidson slumped to 1-2 in the conference and 1-6 overall.

Michael Moore pumped in 22 points for the winners while Micah Gurley came off the bench to notch a career-high 13 and Lucas Skertich added 10 as Chatham Central connected on 49% (26-of-53) of its field goal attempts.

Thomas Ellington and Hayden Smith registered 18 and 11 points, respectively — all in the second half — to lead the Wildcats, who after a two-of-23 shooting performance in the initial half concluded the evening making 34% (18-of-53) of their shots from the floor. South Davidson held a 30-27 edge in rebounds while both teams turned the ball over nine times.

“It’s hard to describe the embarrassment we suffered the first half,” said Wildcats’ coach Chad Ellington. “We came out timid at the outset, didn’t take care of the ball, and when we did have good looks at the basket we couldn’t throw the ball in the ocean off a pier. I told our team at halftime don’t worry about the score, but instead make it our goal to go out and win the third quarter, then win the fourth. We managed to turn the lights on in the second half, and I’ll take that effort any day.”

“But give Chatham Central credit,” continued Ellington. “They are fundamentally sound, unselfish, pass the ball well and have so many weapons.”

Bears’ coach Robert Burke admitted he wasn’t surprised at South Davidson’s second-half comeback, stating “They’re a scrappy team that never gives up.”

“We started off aggressive on offense, moved the ball well and scored a lot of backdoor cuts. After we stretched our lead early in the second half we backed off our press and stayed in a zone, and



Staff photo by David Bradley

**Chatham Central’s Lucas Skertich, center one of the Bears’ team captains, gives the ball everything he’s got for a basket past Eastern Randolphs Osiris Ross, (2) early in the second stanza in Ramseur last Monday. The Bears kept the pressure on throughout the game, earning a 59-48 win over the Wildcats.**

that’s when South Davidson got on a roll, found their rhythm and began penetrating inside while hitting their outside shots. But despite their rally, it was a good outcome for us.”

With Moore and Skertich combining for Chatham Central’s first 17 points, the Bears opened up a 17-2 advantage in the opening six minutes and increased their lead to 21-2 by the end of the initial quarter on Gurley’s layup with 1:09 to go in the frame.

Moore and Gurley combined for seven points during a 9-0 Chatham Central run to begin the second stanza before the Wildcats would score again on Damon Hill’s turnaround jumper off the left baseline with 4:26 remaining in the period. Gurley’s put-back in the lane at the horn then pushed the victors’ advantage to 38-5 at intermission.

Two treys apiece by Smith and Jackson Ellington, coupled with three Thomas Ellington hoops and a pair by

Dylan Delattre highlighted a 24-point third quarter South Davidson surge that pulled the Wildcats within 51-29 at the close of the stanza.

But the Bears would maintain at least a 20-point lead over the first four minutes of the fourth period prior to Thomas Ellington accounting for nine points in the time remaining as South Davidson would cap off the contest with a late 14-2 burst to make the final score more respectable.



Staff photo by David Bradley

### Takedown in Bear Creek

Chatham Central’s Nic Hicks (gray outfit) takes down Providence Grove’s Gage Baynes in last Thursday’s matches in Bear Creek. The Bears took a 42-24 loss on the scoresheet.

### Chargers remain unbeaten in downing of Jets

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — As Jordan-Matthews found out in Saturday night’s non-conference clash with county rival Northwood, you can only corral thoroughbreds for so long.

After trailing J-M for most of the first half, the unbeaten Chargers broke free of their reins to tally 33 points during an impressive third-quarter outburst on the way to dismantling the Jets 82-63 in a marathon foul-plagued contest in Lewis Norwood Gymnasium.

Sweeping its annual series with Jordan-Matthews for the fourth year in a row, Northwood improved to 8-0 for the season, while J-M fell to 4-4 overall.

Aaron Ross poured in a game-high 25 points to lead four Chargers in double figures. Jalen McAfee-Marion totaled 16 points, Deuce Powell pitched in 14 and Alex Snively came off the bench to add 13 as the winners shot 55% (28-of-51) from the floor and outrebounded their visitors from Siler City 26-19 while turning the ball over 14

See **CHARGERS**, page B4



# Chatham Central seizes YVC victory over South Davidson

**BY DUCK DUCKSON**  
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — It's not often you can shoot 17-of-73 (23%) from the field and turn the ball over two dozen times yet still come away with a win, but when your dominance on the offensive boards allows you multiple opportunities to score on nearly every possession, shooting percentage and turnovers can be overlooked.

After falling behind by six at intermission, Chatham Central capitalized on its height advantage to outscore mistake-prone South Davidson 22-2 in the third quarter en route to claiming a 49-40 Yadkin Valley 1A Conference triumph Friday evening

in Gerald L. Binkley Gymnasium.

The Lady Bears snapped a two-game losing skid to even their overall record at 4-4 and improve to 2-1 in the league standings, while the Lady Wildcats sank to 1-6 for the season and 1-2 in the conference.

Mary Grace Murchison fired in five three-pointers and led the winners with 18 points, while Chatham Central commanded a whopping 44-29 rebounding advantage.

"Rebounds were one of the big keys for us tonight, as we had a horrible first half with 22 missed layups while our defense wasn't playing well either, but we managed to stay close due to South Davidson missing



Staff photo by David Bradley

**Chatham Central's Mary-Grace Murchison shoots through a pack of Eastern Randolph players in last Monday's game in Ramseur. Despite the valiant effort of the team, the Bears were clawed by the Wildcats, 71-38.**

shots and having a bunch of turnovers," said Lady Bears' coach Lynda Burke. "But I thought we came out more focused

after halftime, and putting Kailey Green in at point guard freed up Mary Grace to play on the wing where she excelled from the perimeter. Olivia Hudson and Savannah Stilwell stepped up big in the paint in the second half to give us a lot of second and third-chance opportunities to put the ball in the hole, while we picked up our intensity on defense to shut down South Davidson's scoring."

Hannah Harrison tossed in a game-high 19 points for the Lady Wildcats, who connected on just 29% (13-of-45) of their field goal attempts while committing 32 turnovers.

"We got off to a decent start and trailed only once in the first half, but

our lead should have been bigger except for unforced errors," noted South Davidson coach Kim Frizzell. "Then we had a major lapse in the third quarter when we got away from our hustle and started turning the ball over while we couldn't buy a basket, and that allowed Chatham Central to make a big run to take control."

"We did manage to regroup in the fourth quarter, moving the ball well and chipping away at their press, but by that time the deficit was just too much to overcome."

Back-to-back Harrison treys to begin the game got the Lady Wildcats off to a 6-0 start before the Lady Bears trimmed the difference to 12-11 by the end of the initial period.

Murchison's three-pointer from the left corner to open the second stanza gave Chatham Central its only lead of the first half prior to South Davidson using Carmen Duffy's layup and a put-back in the lane by Heather Gallimore to regain the advantage. The Lady Wildcats then outscored their host 9-5 over the remainder of the quarter to go up 25-19 at the break.

But following a pair of Hudson free throws that offset Harrison's put-back off the left baseline to start the third period, Murchison and Stilwell combined for 14 points while the Lady Bears used a 20-0 quarter-ending run to forge a 41-27 lead by the conclusion of the stanza, and the visitors from Denton never got closer than 15 over the last eight minutes until consecutive treys by Harrison and Kamryn Oakes in the closing seconds accounted for the final spread.



**Eastern Randolph's Savannah Beaver tries to strip the ball from Chatham Central's Danielle Vaughn as her teammates Addie Fields (14) and Savannah Stilwell stand by to assist in last Monday's game in Ramseur.**

Staff photo by David Bradley

# Lady Chargers pluck Eagles 56-16 in laughter

**BY DON BEANE**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Gianna McManaman and Natalie Bell collected 11 points apiece here Friday night in Pittsboro to spark Northwood to a 56-16 rout of hapless Western Harnett in area non-conference girl's basketball action.

"Good win and we were able to work on some things we put in this week on defense (1-3-1 trap)," said Vernon. "But it was our first home game finally after having a number of away non-conference games so it was important to the girls to perform well in front of the home crowd and I think they did that."

The Lady Chargers moved to 4-3 overall with the victory after outscoring the visiting Eagles 12-4 in the opening period behind five points from Jy Smith including a trey, four more from Bland, and a 3-pointer from Mckenna Snively. Makiya Mackey had all four points for the Eagles in the opening quarter. McManaman was a

highlight show in the second quarter with nine points including a trey to spark an 18-1 run by the Chargers to send the locals up by a commanding 30-5 count at the intermission.

Natalie Bell and Rae McClarty both tallied 4 points in the third to ignite a 17-2 run to send the Chargers up 47-7 entering the final stanza.

Bell pumped in 5 more in the fourth including a trey to make the final 56-16.

Caitlin Bailey chipped in eight rebounds in the win for Northwood while McManaman and Smith each added three steals.

Mackey paced Western Harnett with six points.

"It's good to see the scoring distribution amongst the team tonight," closed Vernon. "We have a quick turnaround as we play Jordan Mathews tomorrow and I know they are going to be hungry when they come here tomorrow. So we have got to be prepared and bring the same energy they will have."

Bell's conventional three-point play that increased Northwood's lead to 40-15 with 2:21 left in the third stanza, J-M rallied behind Glover and Headen to pull within 42-23 entering the last eight minutes of play.

But the only points Jordan-Matthews could muster in the fourth period came on Glover's put-back off the right baseline at the 5:59 mark while the Lady Chargers continued to pull away down the stretch, with the final score representing their largest advantage of the night.

## EASE

Continued from page B1

combined for seven points as Northwood closed out the initial stanza with a 14-2 run.

A pair of Bland foul shots with 5:38 remaining in the second period capped an 8-0 Lady Chargers' spurt that extended their advantage to 19 before Headen's put-back off the right baseline sparked a 10-3 quarter-ending burst by the Lady Jets' that narrowed the gap to 25-13 at halftime. Following Natalie

# Jets soar past Wildcats in PAC 7 Conference opener

**BY DUCK DUCKSON**  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — While seizing early momentum can get you off to a good start, being able to maintain it is what matters the most.

After falling behind in the first minute-and-a-half of play, Jordan-Matthews ran off 12 unanswered points to take control and never allowed Eastern Randolph to mount a serious challenge as the Jets placed four starters in double figures while gliding to a 61-49 PAC 7 2A Conference triumph Tuesday evening on John Phillips Court.

Winning its league opener, J-M climbed to 4-2 for the season, while the Wildcats slipped to 0-1 in the conference and 2-4 overall.

Jayden Davis led Jordan-Matthews' offense with 20 points and Camden Fuquay collected 14, while Huston Causey and Jacques Thompson finished with 10 apiece. The Jets connected on 25-of-56 (45%) of their field goal attempts but were edged out 28-27 on the glass while turning the ball over 20 times.

Osiris Ross came off the bench to top Eastern Randolph with 11 points while Kaeman Marley added 10. Although the Wildcats shot 15-of-42 (36%) from the floor, they were hampered by 29 turnovers.

"After we spotted Eastern Randolph a couple of quick baskets, our defensive press took over by forcing turnovers that allowed us to get out and run," said J-M coach Rodney Wiley. "We transitioned from defense to offense very well tonight which led to a lot of easy baskets, but our own turnovers kept us from stretching the lead."

"For us to be successful we need balanced scoring," said Wiley, "preferably with three-to-four

guys in double figures, and I was really pleased we had four players fill that need this evening. Huston gave our offense a big spark in the first quarter while Jayden led us all night, Camden played his usual strong game around the basket and Jacques had a big game in the paint."

Wildcats' coach LaShawn Robinson explained his team is still trying to develop chemistry and find its identity as a group.

"We've got some talent, but we're inexperienced," related Robinson. "We continue working on putting it all together and understanding how to sustain momentum. We need to approach the game with more urgency and rebound better, because when you don't do a good job on the boards it makes your opponent's transition game a lot easier."

Following a trey from the right wing by Landon Collins and Landon Loflin's put-back

in the lane that staked Eastern Randolph to a quick 5-0 advantage, back-to-back Causey three-pointers ignited Jordan-Matthews' 12-0 run and the Jets would never trail again.

After extending its lead to 18-10 on Thompson's jumper off the left baseline to close out the first quarter, J-M went up 23-14 on a Davis trey from the left corner with 5:44 to go in the second stanza before the Wildcats trimmed the gap to five on Cade Sotherly's layup at the 3:42 mark.

But a Davis fast break layup with 29.2 seconds remaining in the opening half allowed Jordan-Matthews to rebuild a nine-

point cushion (31-22) at intermission.

Consecutive Marley layups three minutes into the third period got Eastern Randolph within 35-29 prior to the Jets capping off the quarter with a 6-2 spurt to reestablish a double-digit advantage entering the final stanza.

A Collins jumper from the right wing with 5:41 to play once again drew the Wildcats within six at 44-38, but a Davis three-pointer from the right side two minutes later climaxed a 9-0 J-M burst that gave Jordan-Matthews its biggest lead of the night to put the contest out of reach.

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# NCHSAA State Championship Football Recaps

**BY DON BEANE**  
News + Record Staff

## 1A Championship - Robbinsville nabs number 14 with 45-14 victory over Northampton

The Black Knights of Robbinsville ran off the first 31 points of the game on their way to a 45-14 victory over Northampton County in the 1A State Championship Game in Durham at Brooks Stadium at Duke University on Saturday. The victory earned Robbinsville the program's 14th NCHSAA State Championship and first since 2014.

Rylee Anderson was the star for Robbinsville scoring the game's first three touchdowns to push his team out to a 21-0 lead with 9:02 to go in the second quarter. Anderson cashed in two additional runs in the second half on his way to a fantastic 34 carry, 176 yard and five score stat line. He was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

Robbinsville also had a great rushing performance by Lex Hooper who carried 14 times for 125 yards including his 20-yard run to put Robbinsville up 38-14 early in the fourth. While the rushing attack was dominant for the Black Knights, their defense played exceptionally, only allowing the Jaguars 65 yards via the ground and 53 through the air.

Northampton County got on the board in the third quarter with Na'Jae Newsom hauling in a 23-yard scoring pass from Zion Kendall. Just over two minutes later Kendall broke free for a 15-yard touchdown run. The Jaguars finished the season 11-4, they were 5-1 in the Tar Roanoke 1A Conference. Northampton County reached the state championship for the first time in school history and only the second time any school from the county made it to the finals, matching the 2005 team from Northampton-West.

Robbinsville wrapped up the year 15-0, they were 6-0 as the champions of the Smoky Mountain 1A Conference. The Black Knights made the program's 17th appearance in an NCHSAA state championship game.

## 1AA Championship - East Surry dethrones Tarboro 56-28 winning first state title

The East Surry Cardinals got seven touchdown passes from senior quarterback Jefferson Boaz to knock off Tarboro 56-28 and win the program's first state football championship in Durham on Saturday at Duke University. Boaz threw for 478 yards and seven scores, completing 33 of 42 passes on his way to being named the 1AA Championship Game Most Valuable Player.

Boaz set new state championship game neutral site records for most passing yards in a game, most completions in a game and most touchdown passes in a game in the effort. Stephen Gosnell and Landon Stevens hauled in the majority of Boaz' passes Gosnell grabbed 13 for 206 yards

and two scores. Stevens pulled down 10 passes for 179 yards and two touchdowns.

The Cardinals and Vikings traded first quarter touchdowns, with both teams scoring twice in the opening quarter. Stevens broke the ice on a 39-yard heave from Boaz just a minute and 11 seconds into the first quarter. Tarboro took the ensuing possession and tied the game on a 63-yard sprint by Khalil Staton. Seven plays later, Gosnell answered for East Surry, going 41 yards on a pass from Boaz with 5:08 to go in the first. Then Kimani McDaniels slipped 21 yards to the house to knot the game at 14 heading to the second quarter.

Initially in the second quarter it appeared neither team would stop the other, as East Surry took a 21-14 lead on a one-yard sneak by Boaz with 7:43 to go in the half. Just two plays later, Travis Johnson ripped off a 59-yard touchdown run to bring Tarboro back even again with 7:09 to go. But after that Tarboro touchdown, East Surry went on to score 28 unanswered points, all on Boaz touchdown tosses, to pull out to a 49-21 advantage early in the fourth quarter.

Dillon Mosley grabbed two of those touchdowns passes in the 28-point run and capped off the night with an 11-yard scoring reception to round out is 6 catch, 42 yard night. East Surry's defense successfully limited the powerful Tarboro rushing attack, holding all four primary backs to under 100 yards rushing, though Tarboro still managed to rush for 242 yards in the game.

Tarboro finished the year 14-1, they were 6-0 in the Coastal Plains 1A Conference where they were the champions. The Vikings made the school's tenth appearance in an NCHSAA state championship game.

East Surry wrapped up the season 15-0, they went 5-0 in the Northwest 1A Conference, winning the league title. The Eagles won the Western Regional for the second time in program history and claimed the program's first state championship.

## 2A Championship - Reidsville shuts out Northeastern 14-0 to win 18th State Championship

The Reidsville Rams were dominant defensively and worked together just enough offense to overcome Northeastern for the second year in a row and win the school's 18th NCHSAA State Football Championship on Saturday in Winston Salem. The Rams nipped Northeastern just one year ago, a come from behind win, 31-28.

This year, the Rams jumped out in front early and rode a strong defensive effort to the championship. Lionel Long pounded his way into the endzone with 1:38 to go in the first quarter to put Reidsville in front 7-0. Long was the workhorse for the Rams, carrying the ball 31 times for 156 yards and a single score. He was chosen as the game's Most Valuable Player.

The only other touch-

down in the game came in the closing minutes of the first half when Kyle Pinnix scampered 19 yards for a score to put the Rams up 14-0. Defensively, the Rams were led by Jiheem Hooper who accounted for 7 tackles. Stevion Harrison also had a good outing for Reidsville with a pair of sacks in the game, helping his team to hold Northeastern to just 101 yards rushing.

Reidsville outgained the Eagles 324-135, and the Eagles were led by Holden Hogde who rushed 15 times to gain 54 yards. He also threw for 31 yards in the game. Northeastern finished the season 12-4 and 4-1 in the Northeastern Coastal 2A. The Eagles reached the State Championship game for the third time in program history.

Reidsville wrapped up their season 15-1, the Rams were 4-0 in the Mid-State 2A where they were the league champions. Reidsville appeared in the State Championship game for the 24th time in school history and won a state record 18th State Championship.

## 2AA Championship - Shelby knocks out Salisbury 34-0 for 11th NCHSAA State Title

The Golden Lion defense was absolutely impenetrable in the 2AA State Championship Game as Shelby held Salisbury to -6 yards rushing for the game on Saturday morning at Wake Forest University in Winston Salem, lifting the Golden Lions to back-to-back titles and the program's 11th NCHSAA crown.

Malaki Hamrick led the Shelby defense with eight tackles in the game, including two for a loss. Jack Hollifield also added eight tackles in the effort as the Lions only gave up three first downs in the game.

Ja'hari Mitchell opened the scoring with 5:53 to go in the first quarter, crossing the plane from four yards out to put Shelby up 7-0. He scored two more times on just six total carries and 24 yards as he was selected as the game's Most Valuable Player.

Mitchell also threw a touchdown pass, finding Nick Stites from nine yards out in the fourth quarter for the game's final score.

Shelby quarterback Isaiah Bess was also spectacular, completing 17 of 27 passes for 212 yards and one score as he found Diavonni Daley from 38 yards out in the second quarter to push the Lions lead to 20-0.

Salisbury was unable to muster much offensively, outgained in the game by Shelby 359-39. The Golden Lions defense held Salisbury to the fewest yards ever allowed in an NCHSAA State Championship Game since record keeping began in 1989. The 39-yard allowance was ten fewer than the previous mark of 49 yards allowed set by Robbinsville in 1992 when they held Lakewood scoreless in the 1A Championship.

Salisbury finished the season 13-3. The Hornets finished 7-2 in the Central Carolina 2A Conference and were tied for second in the league. The Hornets reached the State Championship game for the fourth

time in program history.

Shelby wrapped the year 14-1, a perfect 6-0 mark in Southwestern 2A Conference play, winning the league championship. The Golden Lions won the program's 11th NCHSAA State Championship and made their 16th appearance in an NCHSAA State Championship Game.

## 3A Championship - Charlotte Catholic pulls away from Southern Nash late to win third

Charlotte Catholic stormed past Southern Nash with 20 fourth quarter points on their way to a 23-7 victory and a third straight State Championship at Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh. The victory was the school's seventh NCHSAA State Football Championship.

Paul Neel managed to grind out two touchdowns in the late stages to help Charlotte Catholic pull away. He rushed 27 times for 156 yards and two scores, both in the fourth quarter. Neel's first touchdown run of 39 yards with 11:53 to go in the fourth put the Cougars in front 10-7. Then with 6:23 to go, he capped off a seven-play, 41-yard drive with a six-yard touchdown plunge to go up 17-7. Neel was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

Southern Nash had several opportunities to put Charlotte Catholic behind early during the quickly played first half, but the Cougar defense came up big, including a goal line stand in the second quarter, to keep the game scoreless through the opening half. The Cougar defense was quite stingy throughout the game, holding the prolific ground attack of Southern Nash to just 157 yards for the day.

Quinton Cooley, the state's leading rusher this year according to MaxPreps, gave Southern Nash the lead 7-3 with 3:17 to go in the third with a 1-yard touchdown run that polished off a nine-play, 79-yard drive. Cooley had to work for every inch, rushing 19 times for 79 yards in the game.

Southern Nash finished the season 15-1. The Firebirds were 5-0 and champions of the Big East 3A Conference, reaching the state finals for the first time in program history.

Charlotte Catholic earned the program's seventh NCHSAA State Title and third state championship in a row. The Cougars finished their year 12-3, 6-1 in the Southern Carolina 3A Conference, where they were the runners-up.

## 3AA Championship - Weddington finishes perfect, stops Lee County 34-14

The Weddington Warriors got four touchdowns from star running back Will Shipley as they took care of Lee County 34-14 to win back-to-back 3AA State Championships at Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh on Saturday. The Warriors did most of their damage on the ground, outrushing Lee County 256-105 in the game behind a strong effort from the Warriors offensive line.

Shipley was dynamic at running back, carry-

ing the ball 26 times and gaining 256 yards in the game. He scored four touchdowns, breaking several long runs in the game. Shipley opened the scoring with 8:20 to go in the first quarter, plunging in from four yards out. He also had scoring runs of 67, 2 and 22 yards on his way to being named the game's Most Valuable Player.

After Shipley's first touchdown, both teams failed to score until Bryson Parker scooped up a blocked punt and returned it 26 yards for a touchdown to put Weddington in front 14-0. Shipley's 67-yard score came after the ensuing Yellow Jacket possession stalled quickly and opened the gap to 21-0 with just 4:26 to go in the half.

Lee County bounced back after the long run by Shipley, driving seven plays and 43 yards to cash in on a one-yard run by Colin Johnson that trimmed the Warrior lead to 21-7. After a missed field goal by Weddington near the end of the half, it looked like Lee County had some momentum going into the locker room.

The Jackets forced a turnover on the opening possession of the second half for Weddington. Six plays later, Johnson found Jaylen Chalmers for a 44-yard touchdown pass and Lee County closed the gap to 21-14. However, that was as close as Lee County would get as Shipley found pay dirt two more times to extend Weddington out to a comfortable 34-14 margin.

Lee County finished the season 15-1, they were 5-0 as the champions of the Tri-County 6 3A. The Yellow Jackets reached the state finals for the seventh time in school history and the first time in 45 years back when the school was known as Sanford Central.

Weddington won the program's third state championship and their second in a row. The Warriors wrapped up the year 16-0, they were 7-0 as the champions in the Southern Carolina 3A Conference. Weddington won the Western Regional Final for the fourth time in program history.

## 4A Championship - East Forsyth goes back-to-back with 24-21 victory over Cardinal Gibbons

Cardinal Gibbons struck first, but ultimately, East Forsyth held the Crusaders off with a 24-21 victory in the 4A State Championship game, earning the school's second straight state championship and third overall Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill on Saturday.

Ty'shaun Lyles was the 4A Championship Most Valuable Player for the second year in a row, leading the Eagles offensively with a pair of touchdown throws on 10 for 16 passing with 171 yards. He also rushed 17 times for 63 yards in the game.

Jacob Gill got the scoring going as Cardinal Gibbons took their opening possession eight plays and 56 yards, polished off when Gill hauled in a nine-yard scoring toss from Andrew Harvey. The throw gave the Crusaders an early 7-0 lead, but East Forsyth responded late in the quarter.

The two teams traded possessions until East Forsyth drove five plays and 65 yards in the latter part of the opening quarter. The Eagles got on the board thanks to a 59-yard pass from Lyles to Jamison Warren with 1:58 to go in the quarter, tying the game at seven.

Gibbons jumped back in front early in the second quarter when Harvey hit Cameron Noble for 40 yards and a score with just 36 seconds gone in the sec-

ond frame. However, East Forsyth responded quickly as Lyles connected with Warren a second time, this one from 56 yards out to knot the score at 14 with 6:01 to go in the half.

The Eagles got a good bounce on the ensuing Crusader possession, as Jordan Timmons scooped up a Gibbons fumble and rumbled nine yards for a score to give East Forsyth its first lead of the game. The Eagles carried the lead into the locker room and added to it in the third quarter when Andrew Conrad chipped through a 31-yard field goal to extend their lead to 24-14 with 4:33 to go in the third.

Cardinal Gibbons did not go away quietly, as the Crusaders marched 10 plays and 80 yards capped off by an eight-yard touchdown pass from Harvey to Cameron Noble with just 3:42 to play, but the Eagles managed to hold Gibbons out of field goal range in the final two minutes to seal the victory.

Cardinal Gibbons finished the season 12-3, the Crusaders were 5-1 in the Cap 7 4A Conference where they were the runners-up. The program reached the NCHSAA State Championship game for the first time in school history, winning their first regional final.

East Forsyth wrapped up the year 13-2, the Eagles were 3-2 in the Central Piedmont 4A. East Forsyth won the program's third Western Regional Championship and collected their third state championship.

## 4AA Championship - Vance collects school's first title with 24-3 triumph over Leesville Road

The Vance Cougars relied on their stifling defense to thwart Leesville Road in the 4AA Championship game 24-3 on Saturday at Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill, earning the program's first State Championship.

The Cougars dominated the line of scrimmage, holding the Pride to just 80 yards of total offense in the game. Power Echols was named the game's Most Valuable Player, leading the Cougars in tackles with 6.5 for the day, including 1.5 tackles for loss. He also rushed twice for 16 yards and a touchdown.

Vance opened the scoring with an 84-yard explosion for touchdown when Austin Grier found Jordan Payne for a score, capping off a drive that started at the Cougar four-yard line. Leesville responded early in the second quarter with their only points of the game as Noah Burnette split the uprights for a 34-yard field goal to trim the lead to 7-3. Melvin Benitez answered for the Cougars with an 18-yard field goal of his own with just five seconds to go in the half, putting Vance up 10-3.

The Cougars closed out the game with a pair of touchdown runs in the fourth quarter. Daylan Smothers increased the lead with a six-yard scoring run with 9:58 to go that gave Vance a 17-3 lead. Then with 8:55 to play, Echols cashed in a 14-yard run just one play after a Leesville turnover, to ice the game 24-3.

Leesville Road reached the State Championship game for the first time in program history. The Pride finished the season 13-1, 6-0 in the Cap 7 4A Conference where they were the champions.

Vance wrapped up their year 13-2. The Cougars were 5-2 in the I-Meck 4A conference. Vance reached the state championship game for the second time in program history and the second year in a row, earning the school's first football state championship.



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## CHARGERS

Continued from page B1

times. Lanice Hedgepeth came off the bench to notch 23 points for the Jets, while Camden Fuquay and Jayden Davis contributed 10 apiece. J-M connected on 49% (18-of-37) of its field goal attempts but suffered 22 turnovers.

A total of 52 fouls were called in the game, with Jordan-Matthews going to the free throw line 20 times and converting 25-of-37 attempts, while Northwood made 21-of-28 charity tosses.

"We know we're going to get everybody's best against us, and Jordan-Matthews came ready to play tonight, executed a great game plan and outplayed us the first half," said Northwood coach Matt Brown.

"As a result of all the foul calls we ended the first half with only one starter on the floor, but our bench responded well and took up the slack. We made adjustments to our press break at halftime and went to a 2-3 zone that seemed to bother J-M and led to some easy baskets for us."

Jets' coach Rodney Wiley remarked both teams had trouble establishing momentum due to all the stoppage on the court resulting from fouls.

"I thought we were aggressive the first half, broke Northwood's press and attacked the rim," noted Wiley. "But in the second half they took it to us, getting in the passing lanes and disrupting us while scoring a lot of transition buckets. Their zone caused us to go stagnant on offense and we bogged down while at the same time they began hitting shots from behind the arc to open the game up."

The Chargers held a couple of brief leads in the first two minutes of play before J-M took control and built as much as a four-point advantage on two occasions prior to Powell's conventional three-point play with three seconds to go in the initial period that pulled Northwood within 16-15 after one quarter.

After a six-point Jordan-Matthews run fueled by back-to-back Hedgepeth hoops at the start of the second stanza thrust the Jets into a seven-point lead with 6:17 left until intermission, the Chargers rallied to seize a 30-29 advantage at the break when Powell canned a twisting jumper in the lane in the final second of the half.

With Ross responsible for eight points over the first three minutes of the third period, Northwood opened up a 40-33 lead which grew to 50-37 less than two minutes later following consecutive McAfee-Marion three-pointers from the left wing.

Before the quarter was over Ross would score eight points over the last 36.8 seconds to help the Chargers expand their advantage to 63-42 heading into the final frame.

Northwood then forged its biggest lead of the evening at 80-51 on Aidan McLandsborough's free throw with 3:35 left in the game and J-M never got its deficit under 19 the rest of the way.

# Eastern Randolph girls surge late to pull away from Jordan-Matthews

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — When your tank is running on empty, you've gone about as far as you can go.

After battling Eastern Randolph to a virtual standoff at halftime, Jordan-Matthews appeared to run out a gas in the third quarter and never could regain its early intensity to fuel a second-half comeback as J-M dropped a 51-38 PAC 7 2A Conference decision to the Lady Wildcats Tuesday night in Frank N. Justice Gymnasium.

Eastern Randolph improved to 2-0 in the league standings and 4-2 overall, whereas the Lady Jets lost their fifth straight outing while falling to 0-1 in the conference and 1-5 for the season.

Freshman point guard Brecken Snotherly poured in 22 points and Savannah Beaver chipped in 10 for the Lady Wildcats, who shot 41 percent (20-of-49) from the floor and held a 33-25 advantage in rebounds while committing 16 turnovers.

Makayla Glover notched a double-double for Jordan-Matthews with 11 points and 14 boards, while Jasmine Scotten and Ellia Wright contributed 10 points apiece. J-M connected on 29% (14-of-48) of its field goal attempts

while turning the ball over 14 times.

"Maybe because we were playing on consecutive nights, but we came out sluggish and a little flat to start the game," remarked Eastern Randolph coach Brett Snotherly. "While we didn't play our best basketball we found a way to win, but credit J-M for coming out and playing hard. At halftime we discussed focusing on boxing out and doing a better job running the offense, which resulted in more rebounds in the second half and taking better care of the ball, while we dug in on defense and our man-to-man pressure started forcing turnovers that let us extend our lead."

Lady Jets' coach Charles Byrd commented he felt the biggest difference in the second half was his team's lack of stamina.

"I think we got tired midway through the third quarter and didn't have enough energy left to make a run after Eastern Randolph made theirs," said Byrd. "Their man-to-man gave us problems in the second half and caused us to get away from our motion offense principles like cutting and screening. We're coming along offensively but need to be in better shape to perform."

The Lady Wildcats opened up a

6-0 lead in the first three minutes of play and never trailed throughout a low-scoring first half until Wright's jumper in the lane with 1:03 to go before intermission gave J-M the advantage at 16-15.

But Eastern Randolph would then retake the lead at the break when Snotherly scored on a drive from the right wing with 3.2 seconds showing on the clock.

Following a pair of Wright free throws with 5:37 left in the third stanza that forged the third and final tie of the night at 22-all, Beaver's lane jumper 12 seconds later put the Lady Wildcats in front for good, and behind 10 points from Snotherly in the frame Eastern Randolph went on to build a 35-28 advantage by the end of the period.

Beaver's jumper in the lane with 4:47 remaining in the contest capped an 8-0 Lady

Wildcats' run to start the fourth quarter that stretched their lead to 15 and Jordan-Matthews could never get the margin under 13 the rest of the way.

Eastern Randolph eventually seized its biggest advantage of the evening with 1:37 to play when a pair of Lilly Whitaker charity tosses put the Lady Wildcats up 51-34.

# Lady Chargers say good night to Knights in league opener

BY DON BEANE  
News + Record Staff

DURHAM — Starting the conference season on a high note is always on the checklist of every coach.

Check that off the list for Northwood girl's basketball coach Cameron Vernon.

Vernon's Lady Chargers traveled to Northern Durham on Tuesday evening and dealt the Knights a 49-33 beat down in the 3A Big Eight Conference opener for both clubs.

Northwood improved to 1-0 in league play and to 3-3 overall with the victory while Northern Durham slipped to 0-1 in the Big Eight and to 4-3 overall.

While Vernon was happy

with the win, he wasn't pleased with the focus of his young club and the play overall.

"Our first conference win, but I really wasn't happy with our focus and effort," said Vernon. "I don't know if we came ready to play tonight or if we were more concerned where we were eating after the game. We didn't get after it on defense and we missed so many point blank shots. We have to learn to be focused nightly and come ready to play games especially in conference."

A sluggish start by the Chargers resulted in an 8-4 lead after eight minutes of action as Maya Hood tallied all of the Northern Durham

points in the period.

Northwood freshman Tekeyah Bland took over in the second quarter and pumped in eight points while Jyrea Smith added a trey to ignite a 15-11 advantage and extend the lead to 23-15 at the break. Hood continued to be a one player show for the Knights with seven more points in the second.

Methodically the Chargers continued to grind away and used a 16-12 spurt in the third behind four point from Bland and Mackenna Snively, and a three-pointer from Rae McClarty to pull in front 39-27 at entering the fourth. Hood had five for Northern Durham in the quarter.

In the final period, Zaria

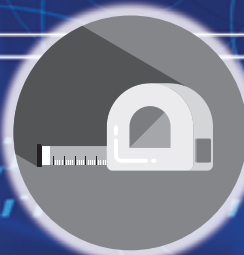
Pittman canned six points for the Knights but Snively countered with five as the Chargers closed out the 49-33 win.

Bland had 12 points to lead the Northwood scoring attack while Snively added 11 and McClarty seven. Caitlin Bailey chipped in six rebounds for the Chargers while Smith added four steals.

Hood led all scorers with 18 points for Northern Durham.

"We play in a very competitive league and every night is a dog fight," closed Vernon. "We will go back to the drawing board and stress this in tomorrow's practice and hopefully it will be better."

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# Nothing but net!

Northwood's Jalen Mcafee-Marion comes up for a basket in last Tuesday's game against Northern High in Pittsboro. The Chargers' 77 points was their highest scoring total this season.

Staff photo by David Bradley



Northern High's Jacob Cooper tries to strip the ball from Northwood point guard Aaron Ross in Pittsboro last Tuesday while teammate Jahvarius Carter (back) moves into position to assist. Cooper was fouled on the play.

Staff photo by David Bradley



Staff photo by David Bradley



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Michael Moore watches his teammate Micah Gurley takes a leap for 2 past Eastern Randolph's Kaeman Marley and Landon Loflin (33) in the first quarter last Monday in Ramseur. The Bears' 59-48 win gave them a 3-0 record in conference play.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood's Seth Lewis blocks the effort of Northern High's Tarion Green for a basket last Tuesday in Pittsboro in the first half of play.

Northwood's Kirk Haddix, with ball, looks for an opening through the defense of Kameron McClellin in last Tuesday's junior varsity game in Pittsboro. The nailbiter came down to the last ten seconds of the game, with the Chargers pulling out a 35-34 win.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Lindsey Johnson (44) and Grace Jones frame Eastern Randolph's Brooklyn Rush as Jones looks for an opening through the Wildcat defense last Monday in Ramseur.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Tarion Green comes up to defend against Northwood's Kirk Haddix while Ryan Chavis waits for a rebound in last Thursday's junior varsity game in Pittsboro.

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# POLICE REPORTS

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Maximino Sanchez Jr., 26, of Cary, was charged December 10 for failure to appear. He was held under a \$200 bond with a December 11 court date in Pittsboro.

Cody Swaim, 27, was charged December 11 with misdemeanor probation violation. He was held under a \$5,000 bond with a December 30 court date in Asheboro.

Ira Hallman, Jr., 46, was charged December 11 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$1,000 bond with a December 30 court date in Asheboro.

Jason Grubbs, 35, of Pittsboro, was charged December 12 with a governor's warrant. He was held under no bond with a December 18 court date in Pittsboro.

Timothy Eubanks, 40, of Siler City, was charged December 12 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$10,000 bond with a December 17 court date in Durham.

Ryan Epps, 27, of Pittsboro, was charged December 12 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$5,000 bond with a December 16 court date in Pittsboro.

Marsha Epps, 49, of Pittsboro, was charged December 12 with obtaining money by false pretenses and felony conspiracy. She was released on a written promise with a December 18

court date in Raleigh.

William Epps Jr., 54, of Pittsboro, was charged December 12 with obtaining money by false pretenses and felony conspiracy. He was released on a written promise with a December 18 court date in Raleigh.

Debra Merwin, 36, of Pittsboro, was charged December 13 with failure to appear, resisting a public officer and violating conditions of release. She was held under a combined \$22,000 bond with January 6 and January 8 court dates in Pittsboro.

Tyler Wall, 24, of Chapel Hill, was charged December 13 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$1,000 bond with a January 7 court date in Hillsborough.

Marcus Murphy, 24, of Lumberton, was charged December 13 with domestic criminal trespassing and communicating threats. He was held under a 48-hour hold with a January 8 court date in Pittsboro.

Kendrick Carter, 27, of Lumberton, was charged December 13 with possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on a written promise with a January 15 court date in Pittsboro.

Allen Wedmer, 24, of Lumberton, was charged December 13 with possession of firearm by a felon, carrying a concealed gun and two counts of failure to appear. He was held under a \$2,500 bond with a January 14 court date in Red Springs.

Dennis Green, 55, of Siler

City, was charged December 13 with terrorist threats and acts, criminal trespassing and obstruction of law. He was released on a written promise with a January 6 court date in Pittsboro.

Emalda Taylor, 30, of Siler City, was charged December 13 with failure to appear on a misdemeanor, for which she was held under a \$1,000 bond with a January 14 court date in Chapel Hill. Additionally, she was charged December 13 with providing fictitious information to an officer, speeding, driving while license revoked, impaired revocation and failing to carry a driver's license, for which she was held under a \$1,000 bond with a January 13 court date in Asheboro.

David Clodfelter, 44, of Siler City, was taken into custody December 13 on true bills of indictment for obstructing justice and intimidating a witness. He was held under a \$20,000 bond with a January 13 court date in Pittsboro.

Daniel Kundig, 22, of Siler City, was taken into custody December 13 on a true bill of indictment of soliciting a child by computer. He was held under a \$25,000 bond with a January 13 court date in Pittsboro.

Robert Rhodes, 30, of Thomasville, was taken into custody December 13 on a true bill of indictment for breaking or entering a motor vehicle. He was held under a \$10,000 bond with a January 13 court date in Pittsboro.

John Legg III, 36, of Sanford, was charged December 14 with assault with a deadly weapon. He was released under a written promise with a January 10 court date in Lillington.

Katherine Pace, 50, of Chapel Hill, was charged December 15 with assault and battery. She was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a January 8 court date in Pittsboro.

## SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Robin Fulford, 52, of Staley, was charged December 6 with two counts of failure to appear in Randolph County. She was released under a written promise with a January 3 court date in Asheboro.

Trajan Jenkins, 21, of Siler City, was charged December 6 with four counts of failure to appear in Lee County. He was held under a \$4,000 bond with a January 6 court date in Sanford.

Robert Griffith of Siler City was cited December 7 for safe movement violation in the Walmart parking lot in Siler City.

Hector Lazo of Siler City was cited December 8 for not being in possession of a license on South Second Avenue in Siler City.

Andrea Villaseca of Siler City was cited December 8 for safe movement violation on South Second Avenue in Siler City.

Larry Harris Jr., 45, of Siler

City, was charged December 12 with felony possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia in Randolph County. He was held under a \$10,000 bond with a December 18 court date in Asheboro.

Jeremy Palmer, 36, of Sanford, was charged December 15 with violation of a domestic violence protective order. He was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a January 28 court date in Siler City.

## STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Pamela Moran of Chapel Hill was cited December 9 for failure to reduce speed on U.S. Highway 64 in Pittsboro.

Deborah Sanders of Pittsboro was cited December 10 for failure to yield on U.S. Highway 15 in Pittsboro.

Elieser Castillo Nunez of Rose Hill was cited December 10 for unsafe lane change on U.S. Highway 421 in Siler City.

Arnie Young Jr. of Chapel Hill was cited December 11 for driving while impaired on Farrington Road in Pittsboro.

Wauna Campos of Apex was cited December 11 for failure to reduce speed on N.C. Highway 751 in Pittsboro.

Mason Lupek of Pittsboro was cited December 12 for failure to stop at a stop sign on Alston Chapel Road in Pittsboro.

# Sheriff's office: Phone scam circulating county, claiming to be sheriff's deputies

CN+R Staff Reports

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office reported Monday night that a "sophisticated phone scam" is roaming the county, with callers claiming to be deputies from the sheriff's office.

According to a news release, the scam has "resurfaced this holiday season." Several residents have reported receiving multiple calls from people who say they're with the sheriff's office and are urging residents to pay money to avoid charges or jail time.

"The individual is providing a fake contact number that directs callers to a very professional-sounding automated system," says Corp. Robert Pelkey, a real Sheriff's Office deputy who quickly identified the scam and began alerting investigators and the public.

Victims who called the phony number were greeted with a reassuring message stating they had reached the Sheriff's Office non-emergency line before prompting callers to follow additional directions. For example, "Press 1 to file a report

or speak with an officer. Press 2 to speak with the warrant division. Press 3 for court services. Press 4 for weapons licensing and permits..." and so on.

Any number pressed redirects the caller to a voicemail option asking the victim to leave his or her contact information and other details. Although it may sound convincing, real law enforcement representatives warn not to trust the voice on the other end of the line.

"The Chatham County Sheriff's Office will never contact you by phone to request money to avoid criminal charges," Sheriff's Office fraud investigator Mike Copeland said in

the press release. "This is a common scam that impacts many jurisdictions, but this one is particularly elaborate and has already snared several victims. The con is designed to evoke an emotional response in order to block logical thoughts. Just hang up the phone — don't engage in conversation or be pressured into 'confirming' any personal information, purchasing gift cards, or providing financial card details."

When in doubt, individuals are encouraged to call 911 to speak with an officer to confirm any claims.

"Help spread the word to raise awareness of these types of scams and

remember to look out for each other, especially during the holiday season," Sheriff Mike

Roberson said in the news release. "Phone scams are especially popular this time of

year, but staying vigilant and informed is key to protecting yourself and others."





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# Carbonton Bridge to finally re-open

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

GULF — Residents who live and travel near Carbonton Bridge on N.C. Hwy. 42 in Gulf are breathing sighs of relief, finally.

The bridge, which has been closed for nearly two years to facilitate the construction of a replacement, finally opened following a scheduled Dec. 17 final inspection, according to N.C. Dept. of Transportation Resident Engineer Garry Phillips. Residents lined up at the barricades during the inspection awaiting the results. When the bridge reopened, the residents drove across honking their horns in jubilation. “It was like a parade,” Phillips said. “And just in time for Christmas.”

At the time of its initial closure early in 2018, the construction of the new bridge, which crosses the Deep River on N.C. 42 where Chatham, Lee and Moore counties meet, was anticipated to be less than a year. The closure of the bridge forced traffic to take a detour that traveled south of the bridge on South Carbonton Road to Harrington Road, then



Staff photo by David Bradley

Construction is nearly complete on the Carbonton Bridge near Gulf. As the guard rail is being completed, wooden forms for the poured concrete are being removed near the middle of the bridge.

to Steele Bridge Road and finally to Plank Road before returning onto N.C. 42 east of the bridge.

Delays under the original contractor, Extreme Concrete Cutting of Gaffney, S.C., began almost at the onset of the \$2 million project and by year’s end, the anticipated finish date extended into 2019. As the

project dragged on, the company was required to pay extensive liquidation fees, charges a contractor must pay daily when the work exceeds the contract period, back to the state for the delays. Phillips notes that at least \$90,000 in charges have been “held back” so far with a final due amount pending

closure of the contract. By July, the NCDOT had declared the company “in default” and “requested the bonding company complete the project.” The bonding company hired Smith-Lowe LLC of Mount Airy to complete the project in late August. Smith-Lowe moved quickly and the project,



Staff photo by David Bradley

The entrance onto the newly rebuilt Carbonton Bridge shows the intense efforts to complete the work. The next steps include completion of the guard rail, laying another level of asphalt and to score it before the bridge will open.

which had been less than 50 percent complete, took just over three months to finish.

As the saga dragged on, residents in the area created a Facebook group, “Build Carbonton NC Bridge Now!” to both vent their frustrations and provide updates about the construction. Recent posts on the page involving the anticipated re-opening indicate residents plan to be present for the inspection and subsequent re-opening to celebrate.

Phillips noted that the final tasks that had

be completed before the inspection included some shoulder work and lining of the bridge. He hoped that the weekend weather would “cooperate” and allow the work to be complete in time for the inspection scheduled for Dec. 16, but rain pushed it out an extra day until Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. Traffic on the bridge resumed immediately upon completion of the inspection on Tuesday.

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

# Chatham commissioners approve tobacco-free ordinance for all county property

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners followed the lead of the Town of Siler City Monday night and made a county policy origi-

nating three years ago official. It is now against county ordinance to use a tobacco product — including cigarettes, cigars and e-cigarettes and other vapor products — on county property, based on the commissioners’ unanimous vote.

The county had a policy in place prohibiting tobacco products from use, but it was just a policy, not an official ordinance. The commissioners’ unanimous vote makes it an official ordinance. “This is a model that we really want to con-

tinue to perpetuate,” said Layton Long, the county’s public health director. “We really want Chatham to be on the cutting edge of tobacco issues and public health. It sends a message that Chatham County really cares about the health of its citizens.”

The Town of Siler City adopted a similar policy in September, extending its previous ban on smoking tobacco in municipal buildings and vehicles to include parks and all town property.

The ordinance passed by the commissioners cited the “health risks associated with the use of tobacco products” and statistics showing that “experimentation with and use of e-cigarettes have risen sharply among young people.”

George Greger-Holt, the community outreach coordinator for Chatham Drug Free, spoke during a public hearing prior to the item’s approval and specifically referenced the possible effect the ordinance could have on teenagers.

“Young people, especially young people, watch adults all the time,” he said. “Watching an adult use a tobacco product — whether it’s dip, chew, combustible — normalizes that behavior. If a behavior is normalized, then the leap from not doing it to doing it is much smaller than the leap if the



Staff photo by Zachary Horner

Chatham County Public Health Director Layton Long, right, presents the county’s new tobacco-free ordinance Monday night to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

behavior is not normalized. I think, if passed, it would really help a lot of young people either not start smoking or use tobacco products, or if they are, it will help them see that they need to quit.”

New commissioners Chairman Karen Howard said the ordinance was a good one, that “anything that we can do to forestall (youth use), or for people who are struggling to quit” was a positive step.

Long said that in the past few years there have been “very little complaints” about the county policy, and that most people who are informed will put out their cigarettes. Failure to do so, according to the

ordinance, is punishable by a fine up to \$50, but Long said he believed there had been no such fines assessed across the state.

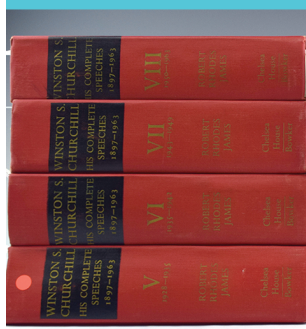
“People will readily comply,” he said. “It’s pretty much been a non-issue as far as civil penalties being issued.”

The ordinance will go into effect on January 2. No current signage will be changed, Long said, because the original signs were constructed to stay applicable if the policy became an ordinance.

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

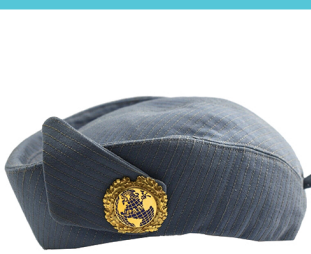
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CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS EDUCATOR OF THE WEEK

# Tina Martin | Chatham Center for Innovation

**Grades/subjects you teach:** Instructional assistant and administrative assistant

**E-mail address:** tmartin@chatham.k12.nc.us

**Date, place of birth:** Chatham County

**Education (high school & college attended, degrees):** Jordan-Matthews High School, Randolph Community College, Davidson Community College

**Brief work history:** I have served in Chatham County Schools for 10 years.

**Hobbies/interests outside of educating:** Crafting, camping and spending time outside.

**Family:** I am married and have two daughters.

**What led you to a career in education?** I have always had a passion for helping children succeed. Once I had the opportunity to work in education, I was able to fulfill this passion through interacting with the students at SAGE Academy, now known as Chatham Center for Innovation.

**Has becoming an educator been all you expected it would be?** While working in the school system I

have enjoyed my interaction with the students in helping them fulfill their goals.

**How has education changed since you were a student?** There has been a drastic transition in education since I was a student. I believe that in this generation, students have easy access to technology. With this technology-based generation, students are able to accomplish their academic goals as well as their professional goals a lot easier than when I was in school.

**What "makes your day" as an educator?** What makes my day is seeing the students happy. In the case that they are not, I never hesitate to reach out to a student to uplift them.

**What's working in schools today?** I believe that what works in schools today is building a professional student-teacher relationship with students so that they are aware that they are fully supported.

**What's not working?** What is not working in the school system is the lack of funding for resources for educators to use.

**What's your favorite memory of your first year**



Submitted photo

Tina Smith, teacher at Chatham Center for Innovation.

**in education?** During the first year, I remember making memorable connections with each student and the staff that I worked with.

**Best piece of advice for other educators?** Become engaged with your students and be able to build trust with them, all while supporting them throughout their schooling.

**For students?** Be kind to yourself and others. Do your best!

**For parents?** Support your child in both their

academics and professional goals.

**What about your job would most surprise your friends who are not educators?** I think that most people would be surprised that I serve as an Administrative Assistant, also while being a Teacher Assistant.

**If you could somehow magically instill one truth into the heads of your students, what would it be?** You can do better, be better and work harder than you think.

**When you think about**

**today's kids, you:** I think about the backgrounds they come from and how this may interfere with their academics and behavior in school.

**If one of your students was asked for a one-word description of you by a student who hadn't had you as an educator, what would that one word be?** Caring

**Favorite movie about school or education:** "Lean on Me"

**How would you summarize your philosophy as an educator?** Each student is unique. Students

learn, interact and behave differently. With this said, I believe in the importance of creating inclusive learning environments where every student has the opportunity to be engaged and grow personally, academically and professionally.

**What five things must every educator know?**

1. Background of the students
2. The best ways to motivate students in the classrooms
3. How to build effective student-teacher relationships as well as effective parent-teacher relationships
4. Student's learning style
5. How to maintain effective classroom management

**What's special about your education space at your school?** Chatham Center for Innovation is a safe environment where students can learn and become knowledgeable individuals.

**What's special about your school?** Chatham Center for Innovation seeks for growth amongst all students. Our school encourages students to exceed their "personal, academic, social and behavioral goals" and to become responsible citizens.

CHATHAM CH@T | TYCH COWDIN, COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

## What do our students need in order to succeed?

*Tych Cowdin's passion for teaching, coaching and mentoring exemplifies the mission of Communities In Schools for Chatham County: to give students a network of support and to empower them to stay in school and achieve in life. As the program director for CIS' school-based programs, Cowdin has spent the last five years with CIS working in Chatham schools to help students succeed. His focus is on supporting the three CIS model schools and Youth FIRST programs after spending his first years with the program as a student support specialist at Chatham Middle School. He also assists with social media communications, expansion support and community engagement. Tych arrived in North Carolina from Topeka, Kansas, after completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas in 2008 and his Masters of Business Administration at Washburn University in 2011. Tych has held a wide variety of roles throughout his professional career, and joined the CIS of Chatham County team after two years as an Operations Assistant with the University of North Carolina football team. Tych has been a teacher, coach, and mentor, and is excited for the opportunity to utilize his people skills and passion for community development. In his free time, you can find Tych firing up the grill, cheering on the Jayhawks, playing with his 13-year-old pitbull named Slim, and enjoying the outdoors with his wife Courtney.*



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Tych Cowdin of Communities In Schools of Chatham County in his Siler City office.

experiences, questions about life, or someone to reflect with — many of our children miss out on this critical element in their development to adulthood. Mentors help build up social capital for their mentees — skills, knowledge, expertise and information. Most importantly, however, mentors give children confidence and support when they need it most. It's their super power to change the trajectory of a young person's life, and the evidence of their magic is everywhere.

Serving Chatham County primarily as a mentoring agency for over 30 years, Communities In Schools Chatham County has generated a large network of volunteer mentors and program alumni whose lives have been changed through the immeasurable influence of one caring adult. Last year we worked with 163 volunteers who gave an astonishing 6,511 service hours through various roles, including: mentor matches, lunch buddies, supervising teen court, serving on our board of directors, and acting as supervisors at the numerous community service worksites throughout the county — to name a few. These cherished volunteers serve as the pillars of our work, and have played a significant role in the overall health of our community through their

years of engagement. Without their continued involvement and leadership, our work would cease to exist. We must never underestimate the power of one caring adult.

**Can you talk about CIS's Five Basics, the Whole Child, and the role of integrated student supports?**

- Today, it seems like everyone is focused on academic achievement when judging the overall potential for students to achieve in school and in life. While academic achievement is certainly important, we must understand what it takes for a child to be successful in the classroom. It's not just great teaching. It takes a community wide effort and investment in resources of integrated student supports, and starts with what every young person deserves, the Five Basics.
1. A one-on-one relationship with a caring adult.
  2. A safe place to learn and grow. Many children know they're living in a bad, unhealthy place, where violence, drugs, gangs, unemployment and multigenerational poverty are commonplace. Every child deserves a safe, appropriate environment in which to learn and pursue their dreams.
  3. A healthy start and a healthy future. Chil-

dren can't concentrate on school work if they are hungry, cold, in need of medical care, or have trouble seeing the teacher. Basic health and human services are essential for every child. When families are themselves in need, it's up to the community to step in. We must continue to help connect students and families with health care, food programs, parenting resources, mental health services, substance abuse prevention and intervention, sports and recreation programs, and much more.

4. A marketable skill to use upon graduation. Our children must acquire the knowledge, self-respect and discipline they'll need in order to secure a future for themselves and their families. Gaining marketable skills to use upon graduation is a critical variable in setting students up for success.

5. A chance to give back to peers and community. Every child ought to have a chance to give back. The community must create environments for young people in which everyone's gifts are nurtured, and service to others is expected and rewarded.

In addition to the Five Basics, learning depends on the social, emotional, physical, and mental health of students. There are many systems that come together to support young people's learning and development, including schools, community organizations, health care providers, and municipal and state agencies. Integrated student supports promote students' academic success by securing and coordinating supports that target academic and non-academic barriers to achievement through partnership, collaboration, and facilitation of evidence-based programs that support the Whole Child. By utilizing our data, adopting a whole child approach, and building on existing systems of care we will set our children up to succeed both inside and outside of the classroom. Let's continue to invest in our youth's social capital through the understanding of the Five Basics, consideration of the Whole Child, and by utilizing existing resources to develop strong and strategic integrated student supports.

**How does CIS do community building?**

We often find ourselves standing in between donors and the communities we serve by perpetuating the notion that the people we serve are "others." Well, it's not us and them. It's just...us. We are one community and each of our fates are tied to one another. It is more critical now than ever to gain the understanding that the well being of "others" is directly related to the wellbeing of ourselves and our community. Chatham County is one of the most charitable counties in the state, but I know we can all do more to see ourselves in each other. The success of our world depends on us all believing that we are all interconnected.

**There's a lot of discussion in the community now about ACES — Adverse Childhood Experiences — and their impact. Can you explore that for us?**

There has been a great deal of research presented recently linking Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) to negative health outcomes, including risky health behaviors, chronic health conditions, low life potential and early death. It's widely known that numerous youth in our community experience many forms of ACES growing up: witnessing violence, substance abuse, mental health needs, parental separation or incarceration, among others. It is true that a high number of ACES negatively impacts social, emotional, and cognitive development.

Understanding this, we must build on the strategies to prevent and overcome the negative consequences of ACES to develop an adequate level of resilience to see us through. We must strengthen economic supports to families by

creating greater household financial security and family friendly work policies. We must promote social norms that protect against violence and adversity. We must ensure a strong start for children built around the Five Basics, consideration of the Whole Child, and integrated student/family supports. We must build stronger connections between youth and caring adults through mentoring. Much of this work is happening now, but we can do so much more!

Demand for these services, resources, and connections from both schools and families is high. At CIS, we are on the pulse, and have the ability to meet some of these evolving needs. But it will take innovation, creative and collaborative problem solving, and a resilient mindset to break the vicious cycle generated by generations of youth growing up with ACES. The outcome will be a community full of resilient leaders prepared to thrive in a world full of evolving challenges and opportunities.

**What else can the community do to support our students?**

There is great work going on throughout our community. We see it every day. We are all doing our best to serve. But let's start utilizing each other's strengths, and strengthening areas of weakness, by sharing resources and networks of connection to benefit the greater good. We can achieve so much more by working together with the belief that helping one helps us all. We are growing the leaders of tomorrow right here, right now. Let's give our students a reason to stick around and/or come back and lead our community forward. Our future depends on it, and the time for action is now!

**GREG JONES BUILDERS**

**Historic Renovations, Room Additions and Carpentry Work.**

**Pittsboro • 26 Years in Chatham**  
**919-448-7237**  
**greg6L@aol.com**



# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2019 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 36, No. 2

## Kid Scoop Together

Draw with your family! Have everyone follow these steps to draw gingerbread men.



## HOLIDAY PUZZLES

The scrumptious smell of gingerbread is in the air during the holidays! How many differences can you find between these two gingerbread houses?

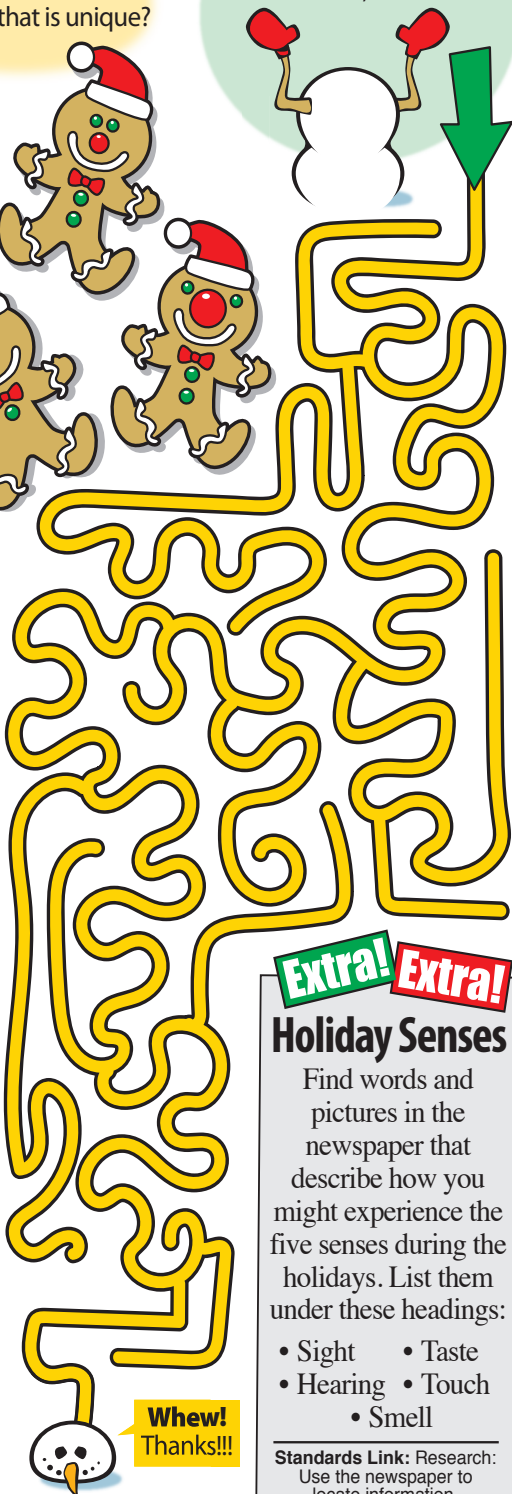


## Cookie Confusion

Find each gingerbread man's twin. Can you find the one that is unique?



Yikes! This snowman has lost his head! Help him find it, fast!



## Extra! Extra! Holiday Senses

Find words and pictures in the newspaper that describe how you might experience the five senses during the holidays. List them under these headings:

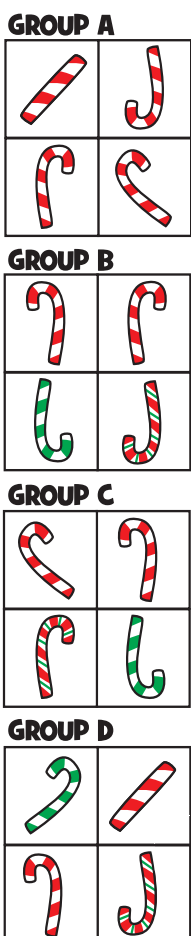
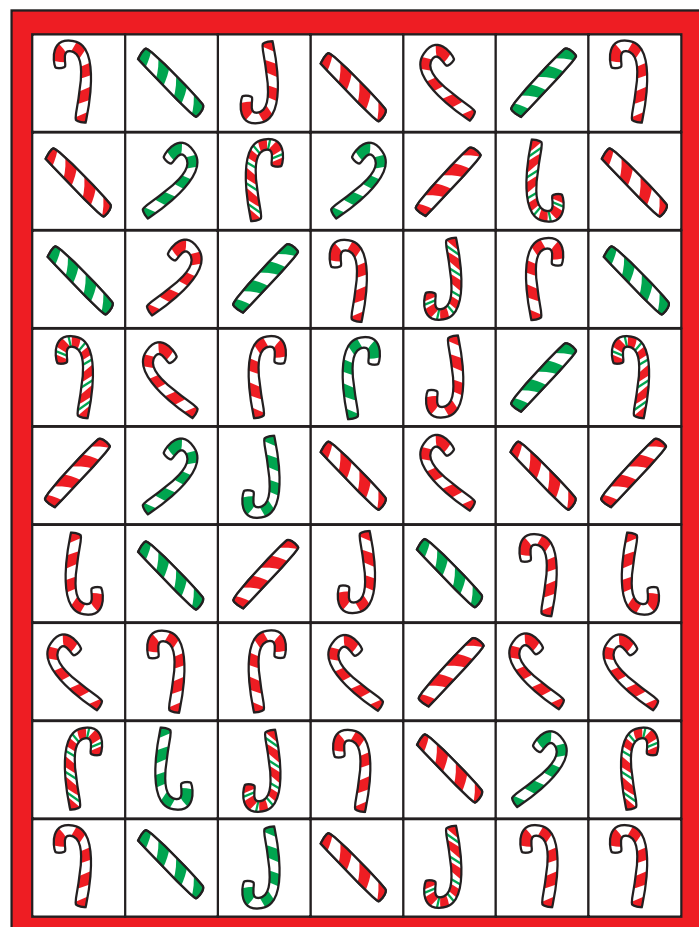
- Sight • Taste
- Hearing • Touch
- Smell

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

Whew! Thanks!!!

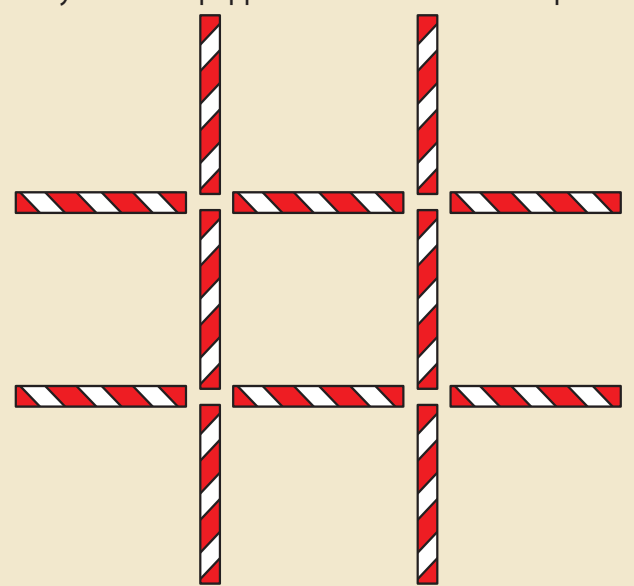
## Candy Cane Combos

Match each group of candy canes on the right with the same four candy canes, in the exact same position, on the large grid below.



## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Can you move 3 peppermint sticks to create 3 squares?

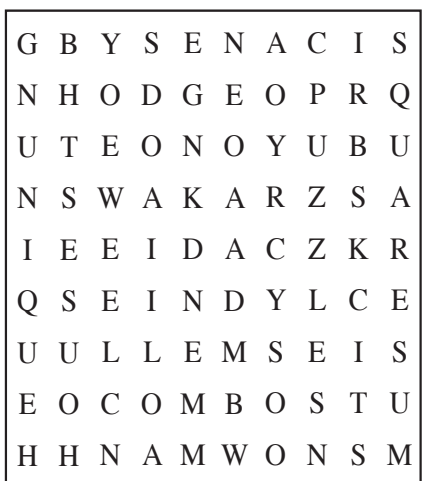


Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

## Double Double Word Search

- HOLIDAY
- PUZZLES
- SNOWMAN
- SQUARES
- HOUSES
- COOKIE
- UNIQUE
- COMBOS
- STICKS
- SMELL
- CANDY
- CANES
- TWIN
- HEAD
- BOOK

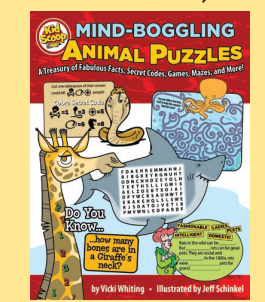
Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



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

## The Kid Scoop book for puzzle lovers!

A great gift idea! Order from your local bookstore, Target.com, BarnesandNoble.com or Amazon.com today!



## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: YULETIDE

The noun yuletide means the Christmas season.

Let's celebrate the yuletide by getting together with friends and family.

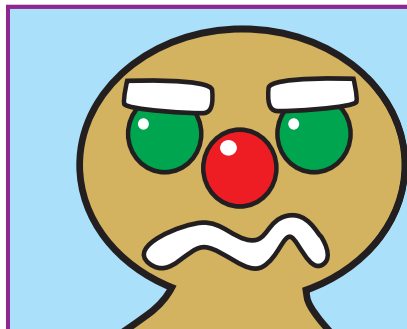
Try to use the word yuletide in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Holidays Around the World

Look through the newspaper for examples of food, products and celebrations from different parts of the world. Create a book with these items using a separate page for each country.

Standards Link: Social Science: Compare customs, traditions and rituals from various cultures.



Why couldn't the gingerbread man get into his house?

ANSWER: He lost his cookie keys.

## Write On! Holiday Memory Newsflash!

Write a special memory of a holiday in your life.

**Chatham YMCA**

- CHATHAM YMCA SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PERRY HARRISON SCHOOL

287 East Street, Suite 412, Pittsboro, NC 27312  
More Info: 919-545-9622

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## REAL ESTATE

**LAND FOR SALE: 7.65 Acres** - Located approximately, 5 miles from Siler City, near Stockyard. Would be great for pasture land, and/or Residence. Can be split into smaller tracts, as well. Call: 336-588-2497 for more information., N14,tfnc

**PROPERTY, BETWEEN 3 TO 10 ACRES**, on 1776 Snow Camp Road for sale. Contact Lawrence Smalls, if interested, at 919-255-0709, O24 - D19,9tp

## HOUSE FOR SALE

**BRICK RANCH HOME** with attached carport; Excellent condition, new roof, new heat exchanger, White Oak hardwood floors, ceramic tile bathroom, masonry fireplace with gas logs. Great neighborhood, large lot with outbuilding. One mile from Siler City city limits. \$129,000, 919-548-1593. D19,26,2tp

**FSBO/GREAT LOCATION**, \$280,000 Ranch style house, 1816 sq ft, 23.4 acres, 3BR, 2BA, double carport, porch, deck, sun room, living room w/ fireplace w/gas logs, storage building/workshop, pasture. Located 6.5 miles S from Siler City. SOLD AS IS. 919-663-3243 after 5:30 p.m. D12,19,26,J2,4tp

## OFFICE SPACE RENT

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

## MOBILE HOME RENTALS

**FOR RENT, 3 BDRM S/W** homes in Siler City, 12 month lease. No pets. rent-siler.com, 919-742-1250. S19,tfnc

## RENTAL APARTMENTS

**POWELL SPRINGS APTS** - Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 - 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD # 1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, My2,tfnc

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS** Now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry, Section 8 accepted. \$460/mo, no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. J3,tfnc

## FARM EQUIPMENT

**DAVID BRADLEY, 2-WHEEL TRACTOR** - Museum quality with implements, \$500, 919-548-2943, D19,26,2tp

## FOR SALE

**AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS** at JHA. One Call... We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, Au15,tfnc

**RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS** - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, Au15,tfnc

## SERVICES

**HENDRICK SERVICE**, Lawn Care, mowing, small back hoe. Will dig up bushes, do storm drain pipes, drive way pipe, cut trees, clean up leaves. 919-548-4609, J10,tfnc

**JUNK CARS PICKED UP** Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. J3,tfnc

**I PAY IN CASH FOR Junk Cars** and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or Cell: 910-639-5614. God Bless! M8,tfnc

**CARPENTRY WORK** - all types, repairs, renovation, installation, windows and doors. Call Robert Clark, 919-742-3194. My25,tfnc

**LETT'S TREE SERVICE** - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

## HELP WANTED

**THE SILER CITY CENTER OF CHATHAM** County Council on Aging seeks an energetic and team-oriented person to assist its kitchen staff with event set-up, dishwashing, and cleaning. Typical hours for the 20-hour per week position would be 8:30 am to 12:30 noon, Monday-Friday but some flexibility is needed. Persons must have good work history, able to do required physical duties, and work well with others. EOE. Application available at Siler City Center at 112 Village Lake Road, Siler City, and on the Council's website www.chathamcoa.org. Bilingual Spanish-speaking a plus. Closing date is Friday, December 27, 2019. D19,1tc

**HIRING ALL SHIFTS** - CNAs, PCAs, Med Techs, Under new ownership. Competitive pay, insurance and vacation. Apply at Coventry House in Siler City. O17,tfnc

**CNA - PITTSBORO CHRISTIAN VILLAGE** is hiring CNAs, all shifts. Apply in person, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday, at 1825 East St in Pittsboro. O3, tfnc

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING!** Need extra money? CNAs needed immediately for private duty cases in Chatham County. Please call 919-545-2011. Au22,tfnc

## MISC

**COX DISTRIBUTORS**, Rainbow water-filtered vacuums. Sales, service and supplies, 919-548-4314. Also available, Rada Cutlery, N7-D26,8tc

## LEGALS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 532** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **DOROTHY O'DONNELL BAILEY** of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before February 28, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 28th day of November, 2019. Co-Executors: Patricia E. Bailey 277 Mint Springs Road

Pittsboro, NC 27312 Robert M. Bailey 722 Dylan Court Hurdle Mills, NC 27541 N28,D5,D12,D19,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 541** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Ancillary Executor of the Estate of **KRISTY L. RICHARDS** of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before February 28, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 28th day of November, 2019. Jennifer C. Shearer, Ancillary Executor 74 New Montgomery Street, #616 San Francisco, CA 94105 C/O Morrison Law, LLP Anne W. Morrison 167 Church Street North Concord, NC 28025 N28,D5,D12,D19,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 570** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **R HECTOR LUPTON, JR. aka RUFUS HECTOR LUPTON, JR.** of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before February 28, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 28th day of November, 2019. Davis Roderick Lupton, Executor 3224 Corsham Drive Apex, NC 27539 N28,D5,D12,D19,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF ROBERT SOUTHERN** North Carolina Chatham County The undersigned having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **ROBERT SOUTHERN** of Chatham County, North Carolina (19 E 545) hereby notifies

all persons having a claim against said Estate to present them on or before the 6th day of March 2020, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 5th day of December, 2019. Kathryn Southern O'Brien Estate of Robert Southern c/o Hatch, Little & Bunn, LLP PO Box 527 Raleigh, NC 27602 D5,D12,D19,D26,4tc

**NOTICE OF SALE State of North Carolina County of Chatham ACE SELF STORAGE**, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 44A, shall conduct a Public Sale of the Units listed below at its facility located at 105 East Fifth Street, Siler City, NC at 11 a.m. on January 10, 2020. We reserve the right to withdraw any units from the sale. All sales will be cash to highest bidder. B14, Cindy Alston; B-21D, Alberto Vicente; B-3E, Tara Downing; B-12, Caroline Brewer; B-7B, Wesley Harris, B-35, William Matthews; B-3B, Aaron Shull; B-3A, April Williams. D12,D19,D26,J2,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 581** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **WILLIAM DEWEY PHILLIPS** of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before March 13, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 12th day of December, 2019. Doris Phillips DiMeo, Executor

26 North Hillcrest Rd. Siler City, NC 27344 D12,D19,D26,J2,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED**, as Executor of the Estate of **DENISE ALLEN COLLINS** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before March 16, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 11th day of December, 2019. Estate of DENISE ALLEN COLLINS JACOB T. COLLINS, Administrator 117 West Raleigh Street Siler City, N. C. 27344 (919) 663-2533 D12,D19,D26,J2,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED** as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **SYLVIA HESPETH WILLIAMSON**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of March, 2020, or this

## CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

**Line ad deadline** Tuesday — Noon  
**Display ad deadline** Monday — 5 p.m.  
**Rates and payment** Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.  
**Blind ads** No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.  
**Errors** In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporation indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 19th day of December, 2019. Barbar D. Kirby, Administrator



## Career Opportunities Available

Visit [www.chathamnc.org](http://www.chathamnc.org) and click on Jobs

## PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

**Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA** Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up. 400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-5410 TDD 1-800-735-2962 Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMGMT.com EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

## HIRING CNA's ALL SHIFTS

Apply in person Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pittsboro Christian Village 1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

## Chatham County Real Estate Firm is seeking a Sales Manager with Strong Admin Background.

Tasks include Sales Tracking, Recruitment, File Procedure Enforcement, Procedure Manual Update, Monthly Sales Meeting Prep and some minor Web Maintenance. Pay commensurate with experience. Retail Management background a plus. Bonuses available. Main Office based in Pittsboro. Send resume to hiring liaison [penni@navarrogroupp.org](mailto:penni@navarrogroupp.org)



## Youth F.I.R.S.T. Program Assistant

This position entails responsibility for the direct service and development of the Youth F.I.R.S.T. program of Communities In Schools Chatham County (CISCC.) All operations will be managed and implemented according to established best practices in the mentoring field, with emphasis on the requirements for the Youth F.I.R.S.T. Program. These include all operations related to the implementation, growth and development of the volunteer mentoring and lunch buddy programs.

**Reports To: Youth F.I.R.S.T. Student Support Specialist and Program Director**  
**Hours: Part Time - 25 hours/week**  
**Rate of Pay: \$14.50/hr.**

General Duties: Help sustain and grow the Youth F.I.R.S.T. program through community engagement, volunteer recruitment of mentors and lunch buddies, data management, and consistent communication with students, schools, and families. Capacity Building (professional development, communications/marketing)

- Skills and Qualifications:
- Great communication skills: written and verbal
  - College degree preferred
  - Bilingual in Spanish preferred
  - Reliable transportation
  - Ability to work some nights and weekends
  - Valid North Carolina driver's license and insurance preferred
  - Strong technology skills using Microsoft Office Suite (Outlook, Word, Excel)
  - Previous experience in case management preferred
  - Ability to work across teams and with multiple stakeholders (supervisor, parents, teachers, principal, community volunteers)
  - Passionate about and committed to kids
  - Accountable and dependable
  - Relationship builder and excellent communicator
  - Self-motivated with drive to make a difference
  - Pass required criminal and driving checks.
- Interested candidates to should submit a resume and cover letter detailing why the candidate is qualified for the position.

**Interested candidates to should submit a resume and cover letter detailing why the candidate is qualified for the position. Submissions should be made via email to [CISCC@cischatham.org](mailto:CISCC@cischatham.org) by December 31, 2019.**



CTA  
192 Foster Lane  
Pittsboro NC 27312  
Eric W. Hinson, Attorney at Law  
1709 Legion Road, Suite 229  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
27517

D19,D26,J2,J9,4tc

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**  
**19 SP 195**  
North Carolina  
Chatham County  
Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust made by Kristin Brianne Walls to Francis B. Simkins, III, Trustee(s), dated the 31st day of August, 2017, and recorded in Book 1944, Page 0651, in Chatham County Registry, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the note thereby secured by the said Deed of

Trust and the undersigned, Substitute Trustee Services, Inc. having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust by an instrument duly recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Chatham County, North Carolina and the holder of the note evidencing said indebtedness having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door in the City of Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina, or the customary location designated for foreclosure sales, at 1:30 PM on January 2, 2020 and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following real estate situated in the County of Chatham, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:  
Lying and beginning the Town

of Siler City, Chatham County, North Carolina and more particularly described as follows: All of Lot 57 in Harmony Hills Subdivision, Phase 2, as shown on a map recorded in Plat Book 2006, Pages 295-297, Chatham County Registry, to which map reference is hereby made for a more particular description. Together with improvements located thereon; said property being located at 1605 Duet Drive, Siler City, North Carolina. Property Address: **1605 Duet Drive, Siler City, NC 27344** Tax ID # 0084250 Trustee may, in the Trustee's sole discretion, delay the sale for up to one hour as provided in NCGS §45-21.23. Should the property be purchased by a third party, that party must pay the excise tax, as well as the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (\$.45) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by NCGS §7A-308(a) (1).

The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust/security agreement, or both, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of either the Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed. Also, this property is being sold subject to all taxes, special assessments, and prior liens or prior encumbrances of record and any recorded releases. Said property is also being sold subject to applicable Federal and State laws. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such

inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in their sole discretion, if they believe the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Additional Notice for Residential Property with Less than 15 rental units, including Single-Family Residential Real Property An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may after receiving the notice of foreclosure sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in this notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. **SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC.** **SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE** c/o Hutchens Law Firm LLP P.O. Box 1028 4317 Ramsey Street Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311 Phone No: (910) 864-3068 https://sales.hutchenslawfirm.com Case No: 1289060 (FC.FAY) D19,D26,2tc

**NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE**  
Siler City Self Storage ("Lien-or"), PO Box 143, Siler City, North Carolina, will hold this public sale of personal property at its' storage facility on

Tuesday, January 7th, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in Siler City, NC. The sale will start at 1407 E. 11th St., (Hwy 64 behind Sir Pizza), then to our location 500 W. 2nd St (behind Maxway), and then to 1112 S. Chatham Ave. The following persons and property at 1407 E. 11th St., Siler City, NC are subject to this lien sale:  
**Unit #1040** Pierre Allen, 2531 NC Hwy 87N, Pittsboro, NC 27312  
**Unit 1085 & 1082** Pamela A. Alston, 908 MLK Blvd, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit 1133** Jessica Booth, 5000 Butler Rd, Trlr 5, Liberty, NC 27298  
**Unit 1130 & 1021** Soraya D Brandon, PO Box 11951, Durham, NC 27703  
**Unit #1075** Ashley J Brewer, 2879 Hamlets Chapel Rd, Pittsboro NC 27312  
**Unit #1015** Caleb Garcia, 668 E 4th St, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit #1034** Lucien E Maynard, 295 Webb Creek Rd, Fairview, NC 28730  
**Unit #1060** Margaret McKiever, 911 12th St, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit #1074** Kristie Rose, 908 MLK Blvd, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit #1084** Kathy B Ross, PO Box 72, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit # 1056** Dexter Snipes, 1869 Tom Stevens Rd, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit # 1148** Steven Batchelor Stephenson 3111 Siler City Glendon Rd, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit # 1002** Samantha Mae Stevenson, 165 Huss Beal Rd, Goldston, NC 27252  
The following persons and property at 500 W 2nd St., Siler City, NC are subject to this lien sale:  
**Unit #106** Kristen Gordon, 2400 Bowers Store Rd, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit #161** Miquel Mondonado, 1403B North Ave, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit #188** Kenneth D Siler, 908 Tanglewood Dr, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit #196** Collan Jakkarr Tyler, 670 Cranberry Trail, Roswell, GA 30076  
**Unit #185, 186, 187** Joan & Charles Underwood, 117 N Chatham Ave, Siler City, NC 27344

**Unit #199** Robert Willett, 224 N East St, Raleigh, NC 27601  
The following persons and property at 1112 S. Chatham Ave., Siler City NC are subject to this lien sale:  
**Unit #292** Jessica Booth, 5000 Butler Rd Trlr 5, Liberty, NC 27298  
**Unit #268** Tawanna Cheek, 210 Nelson St, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit #299** Tonika A Cummings, 1251 Oakley Church Rd, Bear Creek, NC 27207  
**Unit #313** Shindira Kennedy, 547 Medcalf Dr SW #2, Sunset Beach, NC 28468  
**Unit #227** Lashanda Lane, 2301 Stockyard Rd, Staley, NC 27355  
**Unit #300** Kathy B Ross, PO Box 72, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit #280** Dortha Spencer, 1105 N Hampton St, Siler City, NC 27344  
**Unit #341** Billy Tysor, 107 Eugene St, Carrboro, NC 27510 D19,1tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF GERRY BRAXTON YOW**  
North Carolina  
Chatham County  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **GERRY BRAXTON YOW**, deceased, are notified to exhibit them to John Walter Yow Sr., Administrator of the decedent's estate on or before March 20, 2020, c/o Katherine T. Merritt, Attorney for the Estate, at 129 East Tryon Street, P. O. Drawer 1529, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278, or be forever barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Administrator. This the 19th day of December, 2019.  
John Walter Yow Sr., Administrator of the Estate of Gerry Braxton Yow.  
COLEMAN, GLEDHILL, HARGRAVE, MERRITT & RAINSFORD, P.C.  
By: Katherine T. Merritt, Attorney for Estate  
129 East Tryon Street  
PO Drawer 1529  
Hillsborough, NC 27278  
(919) 732-2196 D19,D26,J2,J9,4tc

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### CN+R STAFF REPORT

**PITTSBORO** — Eight Chatham County organizations are receiving funding totaling more than \$10,000 through the Chatham Arts Council's annual Grassroots Arts Grants, helping those organizations carry the arts into every corner of the county.

This year's award grant recipients include Chatham County Partnership for Children, Chatham Artists Guild, Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation, NC Arts in Action, NC Arts Incubator, Shakori Hills Roots in Schools, Smelt Art Gallery, and Sprott Center for Youth (Moncure).

Since 2000, the Chatham Arts Council (CAC) has awarded nearly \$128,000 to a diverse group of non-profit organizations.

CAC officials say the funds will help with operational support and hiring local artists to implement arts programming.

"Chatham County is full of creativity and the breadth of

applications we received for this grant is proof of that," said Cheryl Chamblee, executive director of the CAC. "Our hope is that these organizations will continue to receive the support they need to enhance the arts experience for all in our county."

The CAC serves as the Designated County Partner to the North Carolina Arts Council in awarding the funds to local organizations.

This year's review panel was interested, according to CAC officials, in seeing proposals that included outreach to diverse or underserved communities and fair payment to local artists. Applications were reviewed based on the quality of the project, community impact, ability to implement the project, and fiscal responsibility. Successful applications ranged in programming from early literacy opportunities and integrated art in after school classes to educational music programs and promoting arts/artists in Chatham County.

"The organizations who were awarded grassroots grant dollars this year demonstrated their unique ability to deepen and broaden the arts in Chatham County," said Selbe Bartlett, chair of the Grassroots Arts Grants Panel and a CAC board member. "The programmatic focus on educating youth through the arts and developing and growing artists will continue to strengthen creative, adaptive, and mindful thinking in our community."

Grassroots Arts Grants are made possible by individual contributions to the Chatham Arts Council's general operating fund and through the generous assistance of the Grassroots Arts Program of the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. More information about the CAC and arts in Chatham County is available at the CAC's website, [www.chathamartscouncil.org](http://www.chathamartscouncil.org).

# Incumbent commissioner Howard, Hlavac challenger highlight second week of 2020 elections filing

**BY ZACHARY HORNER**  
News + Record Staff

Chatham County Commissioner Karen Howard was one of two local names to file for the 2020 elections in Chatham last week.

The week also saw filings in other races, particularly in the state's U.S. Senate race and for Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Howard, who has served District 1 since 2016, is seeking her second term in office. She also was a member of the Chatham County Board of Education for one term from 2012-2016. District 1 covers northeast Chatham County and a total population of 12,842.

Timothy Winters of Chapel Hill filed Monday as a challenger for the District 1 Chatham County Board of Education seat currently held by Melissa Hlavac, who filed for re-election Dec. 6. Winters' entry into the race sets up what would be the first contested school board race since 2014, when current board members Del Turner and Jane Allen Wilson defeated Mia Munn and Angela Millsaps, respectively.

The school board's District 1 covers most of the commissioner's District 1 as well as an area farther west covering Briar Chapel and the northern part of Manns Chapel Road.

U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis filed Dec. 9

to seek his second term. A former state legislator, Tillis has propped up his endorsements of and from President Donald Trump in recent months after facing questions over whether or not he would face a primary challenger.

"It has been a tremendous honor serving the people of North Carolina in the United States Senate these past five years as we have worked together to move our state and Nation forward," Tillis wrote on his campaign Facebook page. "I am confident that the initiatives I have partnered on with President Donald J. Trump to cut taxes, create jobs, secure our border, confirm conservative judges, rebuild our military and reform the Department of Veterans Affairs have made life better for all North Carolinians."

Media reports had stated Trump was going to endorse U.S. Rep. Mark Walker (R-6th District), who currently represents Chatham in Congress, to replace Tillis. Now, according to a Dec. 13 report from Politico, Trump will instead back any Walker effort for a different office, including replacing U.S. Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) when Burr retires in 2022.

Walker announced Monday night he would not seek re-election to his 6th District seat. The district was redrawn in recent court-ordered redistricting, mak-

ing his current seat more likely to be won by a Democrat, according to analysts. Walker said in a statement that he would instead turn his eyes to replacing Burr in three years.

"I believe the best way we can continue to serve the people of North Carolina is as a United States Senator," Walker said. "After we have secured more conservative policy and Republican electoral victories for North Carolina. We will take a look at the 2022 Senate race and we are thankful to have President Trump's support."

The press release also indicated that Walker was serving as a co-chair for Trump's re-election campaign in North Carolina.

Additionally, the first Republican to throw their name in the hat for Superintendent of Public Instruction, current State Rep. D. Craig Horn (R-Union), filed Dec. 10. Five Democrats have filed for the seat, which is currently held by Republican Mark Johnson. Johnson had announced his intention to seek the Lieutenant Governor seat, but he has not yet filed, according to the State Board of Elections.

Filing concludes Friday.

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



# Incomplete, sensational 'Bombshell' provides potshots but little else



**NEIL MORRIS**  
Film Critic

For better or worse, filmmakers can suddenly get very bold about critiquing a person after they die. A series of insightful

Richard Nixon films emerged after his death in 1994, including Oliver Stone's superb biopic. Clint Eastwood is in the midst of controversy for taking extreme liberties with his portrayal of the late journalist Kathy Scruggs in "Richard Jewell." On the other hand, Hollywood often offers tentative treatments of living people that don't stray far beyond the public record — Adam McKay's "Vice" comes to mind. The difference, of course, is the inability of the dead to fight back, either in the courtroom or the court of public opinion.

"Bombshell" pulls few punches in its handling of late Fox News heavy Roger Ailes and the bevy of sexual abuse allegations that ultimately ousted him from his seemingly impregnable perch atop the network, less than a year before his death in July 2017. Spare no spite for Ailes, who built a career in the ruinous realm of politics while committing transgressions that were loathsome, if not illegal. The depths of Ailes's depravity deserve to be exposed in exacting detail. But "Bombshell" restricts itself to plucking low-hanging fruit, wallowing in Ailes's sins — both real and dramatized — while tiptoeing around any overarching



From left, Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman and Margot Robbie star in 'Bombshell,' a film depicting allegations of sexual misconduct made against Fox News founder Roger Ailes by female employees. Photo courtesy of Lionsgate

endemic rot. The film's fulcrum is a lawsuit filed in 2016 against Ailes by former news anchor Gretchen Carlson (played by Nicole Kidman). However, Carlson's story mostly becomes backdrop, likely because the settlement Carlson ultimately entered with Ailes and Fox came with a non-disclosure agreement. Instead, the primary focus shifts to two others. Megyn Kelly (played by Charlize Theron), the former Fox firebrand, is cast as a near-heroine (a sure sign she consulted with the filmmakers), gradually becoming disenchanted with Ailes despite his role in launching her into stardom. Kelly's initial unrest is Ailes failing to properly back her from attacks by then-presidential candidate Donald Trump. Then once Kelly learns that Ailes's illicit behavior with Fox staffers was frequent and ongoing, she decides to tell investigators that Ailes also forced himself on her years ago.

The other protagonist is a composite character named Kayla Pospisil (Margot Robbie), a blond wide-eyed newbie who hails from a conservative family that wor-

**BOMBSHELL**  
**GRADE:** C +  
**DIRECTOR:** Jay Roach  
**STARRING:** Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman, Margot Robbie, John Lithgow and Kate McKinnon  
**MPAA RATING:** R  
**RUNNING TIME:** 1 hr. 4 min.

ships Fox News. Because she's not based on a specific named person (director Jay Roach says she represents several anonymous women who shared stories for the film), she becomes the character most abused by Ailes and his minders. She might also be a lesbian, since it remains murky why Roach included a scene in which she beds a fellow coworker (Kate McKinnon). McKinnon's character is also a closeted liberal who nonetheless works as a producer for Bill O'Reilly's program, and she tells a shocked Kayla the old yarn about O'Reilly and the loofah to prove he's a creep, a well-trod story you'd think Kayla would have heard before moving to the big city and joining Fox.

That's the last we

hear about O'Reilly's misdeeds for the rest of the film. Someone plays Fox co-president Bill Shine, too, but Roach never references Shine covering-up the allegations against O'Reilly and Ailes, which ultimately led to Shine's ouster in early 2017. O'Reilly and Shine are still alive, of course, which apparently stunted the scope of Roach and screenwriter Charles Randolph.

As a result, watching "Bombshell" feels like reading a book with half the pages torn out, and the pages we do read feel like they were written by someone hoping to rehabilitate her reputation. The film never scratches below its sensationalistic surface, so instead of lobbing bombs, "Bombshell" remains satisfied just taking potshots.



## CIS Chatham gets \$25,000 grant for Youth FIRST program expansion

From Communities In Schools

SILER CITY — Communities In Schools Chatham County has been awarded a \$25,000 Ribbon of Hope Grant by the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation to support expansion of the CIS Chatham Youth FIRST (Finding Integrated Resources & Supports Together) program. Youth FIRST is currently funded by United Way of Chatham County and Chatham County Government.

CIS Chatham says it will use the grant to accelerate its Youth FIRST Student Support Specialist's work to establish and sustain emotionally protective relationships between adult volunteer mentors and a growing caseload of youth at high risk for academic and health problems.

"We are honored to be a recipient, and the funds will help us to serve more kids and engage more community volunteers to build resiliency of the youth we serve," said CIS Executive Director Kim Caraganis.

CISC Youth FIRST Services combines school and community-based programming.

"In 2018 we transitioned our Mentoring Coordinator to serve as CIS Youth FIRST Student Support Specialist," Caraganis said. "She coordinates individual, case managed intervention services to

reach referred students in additional schools county-wide. As of January 2019, this program is reaching 60 youth in 11 schools. Services follow the child across school and community settings and may include placement with adult volunteers such as community Mentors and Lunch Buddy school volunteers."

In the 2018-19 school year CISC's Youth FIRST Student Support Specialist provided Integrated Student Supports to 68 Chatham students countywide, including three partnership schools (Pittsboro Elementary, Horton Middle School, and Siler City Elementary). Ninety-three percent of Youth FIRST students achieved progress towards at least one Student Support Plan academic, behavioral, or coursework goal.

CIS Chatham's CIS Model Programs and Community-based programs serve children and youth ages 5 to 18 referred by educators, counselors, social workers, health providers, juvenile justice officials and families. All youth face challenges to academic success and healthy mental and physical development, in many cases amplified by poverty and multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Communities In Schools Chatham surrounds students with a network of support empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

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Chatham News + Record





# Help your poinsettias last longer

Poinsettias are synonymous with the holiday season. These colorful plants brighten up homes with their vibrant hues in variations of red, white and pink, making them a holiday decoration many people cannot live without.

While they're most visible during the often chilly holiday season, poinsettias prefer warm weather. Poinsettias are native to Central America and originally flourished in an area of southern Mexico. The Aztecs used the plant for decorative and medicinal purposes.

The poinsettia may have remained a regional plant if not for the efforts of Joel Roberts Poinsett, who was the first United States Ambassador to Mexico under President James Madison. Poinsett, who would later found the Smithsonian Institution, had a love of botany and became enamored with the brilliant red plants he saw in Mexico. Eventually,

ly, Poinsett began growing the plants at home in South Carolina, and friends and others soon coveted them.

Poinsettias are beautiful and the bracts (modified leaves) can be vibrantly colored. That signature vibrancy is why many people would like to preserve their poinsettias to last beyond the New Year, which is possible with the right care. The following are some tips, courtesy of Mother Nature's Network, Habersham Gardens, Oregon Live, and Phoenix Flower Shops, to keep poinsettias thriving past the holiday season.

- Start with healthy plants that have full leaves, bracts and deep colors.
- Poinsettias do best when the temperature is between 65 and 75 F. Temperatures below that or drafts from cold windows can cause leaves to drop.
- Position the plant in a room that gets indirect sunlight for at least six

hours per day. If direct sunlight can't be avoided, diffuse the light with a sheer curtain.

• Poinsettias need well-drained soil. Overwatering or allowing roots to sit in wet soil can cause the leaves to fall off prematurely. Water thoroughly only when the pot looks dry. In households with temperatures around 70 F, the plant should be watered about once a week.

• Fertilize the plant after the blooming season with a balanced, all-purpose fertilizer.

• Try placing poinsettias in or near a bathroom, as they prefer high humidity.

It may be possible to get poinsettias to rebloom next season. Allow the poinsettias to dry out a little more in the spring. In May, cut about four inches from each stem to produce a lush, full plant during the winter. The plants can be moved outside in June and during the summer, but keep



Metro Creative Graphics

**Poinsettias are beautiful and the bracts (modified leaves) can be vibrantly colored. That signature vibrancy is why many people would like to preserve their poinsettias to last beyond the New Year, which is possible with the right care.**

them away from direct sunlight. Return the poinsettias indoors beginning around October. Make

sure the plants get at least 12 hours of darkness per day for around eight weeks in October and

November. This will help them develop a deep hue and bloom on time for Christmas.



Metro Creative Graphics

**The festive nature of the holiday season makes it an ideal time to sing, especially in groups. Perhaps it's no surprise then that caroling, a tradition that dates back many centuries, ultimately collided with Christmas.**

## The origins of Christmas caroling

The festive nature of the holiday season makes it an ideal time to sing, especially in groups. Perhaps it's no surprise then that caroling, a tradition that dates back many centuries, ultimately collided with Christmas.

Caroling and Christmas caroling are two different things. According to History.org, the origins of modern Christmas caroling can be traced to wassailing, a term that has evolved for more than a millennium. What started as a simple greeting gradually became part of a toast made during ritualized drinking. Time magazine notes that the word "wassail," which appeared in English literature as early as the eighth century, eventually came to mean the wishing of good fortune on one's neighbors, though no one can say for certain when this particular development occurred.

During medieval times, farmers in certain parts of Britain would drink a beverage to toast the health of their crops and encourage the fertility of their animals. By 1600, farmers in

some parts of Britain were still engaging in this ritual, and some were by now taking a wassail bowl filled with a toasting beverage around the streets. These wassailers would stop by neighboring homes and offer a warm drink, all the while wishing good fortune on their neighbors.

During this period, wassailing had nothing to do with Christmas, but that began to change in Victorian England, when Christmas became more commercialized and popular. It was during this time when publishers began circulating carols, forever linking the tradition of wassailing with Christmas.

Christmas caroling as Victorian Englanders knew it might have fallen by the wayside. But while carolers may no longer go door-to-door singing Christmas songs and wishing their neighbors good fortune, those intent on seeing the modern manifestation of this tradition that dates back more than a millennium may be able to find some carolers at their local mall or church.

## Top-selling gifts from Christmases past

Many children who grew up in the 1980s hoped to find a wrapped Cabbage Patch Doll under the tree on Christmas morning, and many parents went to great lengths to procure such dolls for their children.

Cabbage Patch Dolls are just one example of a toy creating a shopping frenzy. Over the years, many toys have become the must-have presents of their times. The following is a history of some of the more popular gifts from bygone years.

1984: Transformers were a must-have present in 1984. Originally produced by a Japanese toy company, Transformers were eventually produced by Hasbro and became so popular they were a toy that spawned an animated series (not the series leading to the toy) and later block-buster live-action movies.

1985: Just about every child, and maybe even adult, wanted a Nintendo Entertainment System for Christmas in the 1980s. The system ushered in a new era of gaming, and helped make Super Mario Bros. a household name. NES continued its success for several years, selling seven million systems during the 1988 holiday season.

1986: Introduced the previous year, Teddy Ruxpin was an animatronic bear that would tell stories from a cassette tape inserted in his back.

1990: Were you a fan of Michelangelo, Leonardo, Donatello, or Raphael?

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles were named after Renaissance artists, but they were just pizza-eating teenage heroes at the start of the 1990s. Kids obsessed over these action figures and the animated series that featured them.

1992: Barbie has always been a popular holiday gift, but her reinvented Barbie Dream House was something girls were clamoring for in the early 1990s. Barbie's trendsetting home featured a ringing telephone, a working doorbell and a fireplace that lit up.

1993: The Talkboy was a portable audio cassette player and recorder made popular by the movie "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York."

1995: Beanie Babies were a popular line of collectibles that enjoyed their heyday in 1995. Rare

Beanie Babies would later be worth hundreds of dollars.

1997: Tamagotchi made its appearance and became a premiere virtual "pet." Industry insiders estimate that, at the height of its popularity, 15 Tamagotchis sold every minute across North America.

1998: Building on the Tamagotchi success, Furbies were poised to become a hit as well. And they did, as 27 million Furbies were sold in 1998 alone.

Pokémon cards, Razor Scooters, Nintendo DS, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, and many other gifts have reigned supreme during the holiday shopping season. Last year L.O.L. Surprise Dolls were the sleeper hit, and who is to say which gift will capture the hearts of kids this year?



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# Celebrate safely this New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve is a time to celebrate. But for hundreds of people each year, the week between Christmas and New Year's Day proves fatal.

According to fatality data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, over the last five years an average of 300 people died in drunk driving fatalities between Christmas and New Year's Day. Holiday celebrations, and New Year's Eve festivities in particular, tend to include alcohol, raising the stakes during this festive yet too often fatal time of year.

The sobering statistics provided by the NHTSA don't have to prevent people from toasting a new year. In fact, there are many ways to have fun this New Year's Eve without putting yourself in harm's way.

• Don't overindulge in alcohol. For many people, overindulging in alcohol is part and parcel during New Year's Eve celebrations. Such behavior puts everyone at risk, even people who don't drive. According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, conservative estimates suggest that roughly one-half of sexual assaults on American women involve alcohol consumption by the perpetrator, victim or both. While alcohol and its relationship to traffic fatalities draw the bulk of the attention on New Year's Eve, even people who don't intend to drive should recognize

the dangers of overindulging in alcohol and drink responsibly.

• Arrange for transportation. If you need a car to get around on New Year's Eve and plan to drink alcohol, arrange for someone else to do your driving for you. Groups of friends should choose someone to be their designated driver or pool their money and hire a taxi or bus service for the night so no one who's been drinking gets behind the wheel. The NHTSA even offers a free app called SaferRide that is compatible with Apple and Android devices and enables users to call a taxi or a friend to be picked up.

• Host responsibly. Even people who don't intend to leave their homes can take steps to make New Year's Eve safer for everyone. If you're hosting a party at home, do so responsibly, making sure none of your guests overindulge and making the party less about drinking and more about having fun. Shift the focus from toasting drinks to games and activities that don't include alcohol. Make sure to have plenty of food and nonalcoholic beverages on hand and encourage people who are drinking to eat full meals and drink water throughout the night. People who fill up on food and water during the party may feel full, which may discourage them from having extra drinks. While many people will expect to drink alcohol on New



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There are many ways to have fun this New Year's Eve without putting yourself in harm's way.

Year's Eve, don't stock up on too much alcohol, the availability of which may encourage guests to overindulge. Hosts also should keep the phone numbers of local taxi services handy just in case

some guests cannot drive themselves home safely.

New Year's Eve should be as festive as possible. Celebrating responsibly can ensure everyone has a fun and safe time.

# New Year's traditions around the world

Each December 31st, people anxiously await and count down to the arrival of the new year. January 1 often is a time

for reflection and for making future plans. It also is a holiday full of tradition. Notable New Year's

traditions include toasting champagne beneath skies lit up by fireworks, kissing one's sweetheart at midnight and making resolutions to better oneself in the year ahead.

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day traditions vary across the globe. The following is a look at the unique ways people ring in the new year throughout the world.

• Filipinos embrace round fruits for the new year. The custom includes gathering 12 different round fruits for each month of the year. The round shape symbolizes wealth and prosperity.

• Around Stonehaven, Scotland, people wield large fireballs for the Hogmanay festival on New Year's Eve. The idea is to ward off evil spirits by swinging balls of fires over the heads of trained professionals and then tossing them into the sea. The tradition has endured for more than 100 years.



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• In the Eastern Orthodox Greek Church, Christmas isn't celebrated until January 7. Aghios Vassilis, the Greek Santa Claus, makes his rounds

on New Year's Day. • Chilean families celebrate the arrival of the new year by commemorating deceased friends and family members. It

is common for those in Chile to set up chairs next to graves in the cemetery.

• Burmese people end the Thingyan water festival on New Year's Day. Since April, they have celebrated the arrival of Thagyamin, a celestial Buddhist figure, with the firing of water cannons. The water-logged revelry ends with the new year.

• Siberians celebrate the new year's with the planting of the "New Year's Tree" underneath frozen lakes. This "yolka" is said to symbolize the coming of Father Frost, but also represents starting over.

• Grapes are a hallmark of Spanish New Year's celebrations. Throughout Spain, revelers gobble a grape per second as they count down the last 12 seconds of the year. Each grape corresponds to good luck for the 12 months of the new year.

• In Denmark, residents break old dishes on the doorsteps of family and friends on New Year's Day. The bigger the pile, the more friends and good will in the new year.

• In China, where the new year is celebrated on February 5 this year according to the lunar calendar, celebrants paint their doors red or hang red curtains or cutouts on windows to symbolize good luck.

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There may be a chill in the air, but our hearts are warmed by thoughts of our many good friends and neighbors at this special time of year. Thanks, folks!

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# Great last-minute gift ideas

Tradition is a hallmark of the holiday season. Religious services, family gatherings and trips to see Santa Claus are just a few of the many traditions people adhere to during the holiday season.

Many holiday shoppers also adhere to the time-honored tradition of last-minute shopping. The perfect gift can sometimes prove elusive, especially as the sand in the holiday hour glass keeps dwindling. These last-minute gift ideas may be just what shoppers need to put smiles on the faces of their loved ones this holiday season.

• **Books:** Books are often overlooked, especially now that so many readers use e-readers. But books can be an ideal gift and especially convenient for last-minute shoppers, who can even gift e-books. For example,

Amazon, which has thousands of e-books in its on-line library, makes it easy for shoppers to gift e-books to Kindle users, who will simply receive an email on Christmas morning informing them that their books are ready to be downloaded to their devices.

• **Experiences:** A 2017 survey by the global research firm NPD Group found that roughly 40 percent of holiday shoppers planned to give experiences as gifts last year. Experience gifts open up a host of possibilities for last-minute shoppers stuck on what to give those loved ones who seemingly have it all.

• **Food/beverage:** Television channels such as The Food Network have changed the way many people look at food. When gifting the family foodie, last-minute shoppers may not

need to look further than the latest hotspot restaurant or specialty grocery store for the perfect gift. Take them out for a night on the town or give a gift card they can use at their convenience. The craft beer boom has created a host of devoted and knowledgeable beer drinkers, so a gift card or growler from a local craft brewery is sure to please people who love hoisting frosty pints.

• **Streaming service subscriptions:** Many people are cutting the cord with their cable companies in favor of streaming services such as Netflix and Hulu. Subscriptions to such services can make ideal and affordable holiday gifts. A six-month or yearlong subscription likely won't break shoppers' budgets and will provide months of entertainment to loved ones.



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**Books can be an ideal gift and especially convenient for last-minute shoppers, who can even gift e-books.**

Last-minute holiday shopping for shoppers willing to think is easier than ever, especially outside the box.

# How to make the holiday season more eco-friendly



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Serving only locally sourced foods at your holiday party is one way to keep the festivities eco-friendly.

With so much to do, it can be easy for people celebrating the holiday season to forget about the environment. But no matter how hectic the holiday season can be, there are always some simple opportunities to make it more eco-friendly.

• **Create an eco-friendly party theme.** Many holiday parties have themes. For example, "ugly sweater parties" have become so popular that many clothing manufacturers now intentionally produce colorful sweaters that might otherwise draw the ire of fashionistas. Hosts planning to throw an ugly sweater party can easily transform such festivities into something more eco-friendly by encouraging guests to purchase their sweaters from thrift stores. A Christmas tree planting party is another eco-friendly party theme that can benefit the planet and revitalize local forests

at a time of year when they might be depleted due to the demand for natural Christmas trees.

• **Serve locally sourced foods.** Food is often front and center during the holiday season. Whether hosting family and friends at home, dining out or catering an office party, patronize businesses that sell only locally sourced foods. Locally sourced foods are much more eco-friendly than foods that must be shipped from afar before they land on your dinner table, and such foods tend to taste fresh as well. If serving at home, use reusable dishware and cutlery instead of paper plates and plastic utensils.

• **Reuse decorations year after year.** Decorations need not be discarded once the holiday season ends. Come the new year, inspect holiday decorations and store those that made it through the season unscathed. Doing so benefits

the planet and will save you the trouble of shopping for new decorations next holiday season.

• **Get rid of your old holiday lights.** Still using the same Christmas lights you used in 1995? Such lights are likely incandescent bulbs that are considerably less efficient than today's LED Christmas lights. The Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy notes

that LED lights consume 75 percent less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting. In addition, the OEERE says that LED holiday lights are easier to install and that as many as 25 strings of lights can be connected end-to-end without overloading a wall socket.

An eco-friendly holiday season is easier to realize than many holiday celebrants may know.

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