

# Chatham News + Record

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## PITTSBORO RESIDENT TO APPEAR ON FOOD NETWORK'S REALITY SHOW

### Is Lulu Boykin the 'Worst Cook in America'?

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Dr. Lulu Boykin likes to get creative when she cooks.

The result, she says, is often ruinous.

Case in point: a year or so ago, shortly after she and her husband Anthony moved into their new home, she began working on what she thought would be a tasty meal. Along the way, something went terribly wrong and Boykin set fire to the kitchen's cabinets.

That meal ended with Anthony putting out the flames.

If that incident didn't already qualify her, this does: Boykin is officially in the running to be considered one of the nation's worst cooks.

She'll be competing on season 18 of Food Network's "Worst Cooks in America" — a reality show which pits the worst cooks in the country against each other — premiering at 9 p.m. this Sunday across the country.

Boykin isn't a stranger to the stage. She's known for wearing tutus and for her performances as Mother Goose for children. She earned a masters of fine arts in acting from UNC-Chapel Hill and performed around the world with the Playmakers Repertory Company before returning to Pittsboro from New York several years ago.

"Worst Cooks," a reality television series, is hosted by renowned chefs Anne Burrell and Alton Brown. The program takes 16 contestants known for their culinary shortcomings and puts them through a cooking boot camp, where they're trained on cooking techniques with the goal of gaining enough skill to prepare a restaurant-quality meal for food critics. The contestants are divided into two teams led by one of the hosts and compete to recreate a recipe or similar challenge based on the skills they learn on air. The best team member stays, while the worst team member goes home. The "worst cook" standing will win \$25,000 at the season finale.

Boykin seems made for the show.

She told the News + Record

she often watches the Food Network to try to improve her cooking, and she's especially drawn to Burrell and celebrity chef Rachel Ray and the Food Network's Holiday Baking Championship, where eight cooks compete for who has the best holiday sweet treats.

"Not that is has improved my cooking at all," Boykin quipped.

She was nominated for "Worst Cooks" by her brother, Ron Royster, who Boykin says "has been complaining about my cooking since he was a boy." Unbeknownst to his sister, Royster filled out an online application about Boykin's cooking, then received a phone call from the network almost immediately. Boykin recounts that they asked Royster if all the things he said about her in the application were true — to which he responded, "Yes, I've been traumatized by it my whole life."

Royster called Boykin to tell her that a representative

See **COOKS**, page A10



Scott Gries/The Food Network

'Worst Cooks in America' contestant Lulu Boykin of Pittsboro, shown in this promotional photo for season 18 of The Food Network program.



Scott Gries/The Food Network

'Worst Cooks in America' hosts Anne Burrell and Alton Brown pose with contestants Alexandra Tiso, Curtis Long, Dakota Klaes, Jolynn Singh, Jefferson Goldie, Joe Deese, Kelly Ngoc Mac, Leo Lech, Kevin So, Leslie Rivera-Silva, Pittsboro's Lulu Boykin, Michael Jones-Better, Monica Colwell, Ryan Grove, Shannon Akins, and Bridget Praytor. Season 18 premieres on Sunday.

## Top 10 stories in Chatham County from 2019



Staff photo by David Bradley

The 'Our Confederate Heroes' monument, shown here at its former post in front of the Chatham County courthouse, stood for more than 100 years before Chatham County commissioners decided to have it removed.

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

The start of a new year is always a good time to look back on the prior year, and boy, was 2019 a doozy in Chatham County.

We've taken the time to list the top news stories that affected Chatham County last year, and to be honest, we had to leave some notable ones out. From a list of 16 possibles, we eliminated, among others, the announcement of the Hindu temple in Moncure, the April tornado in Siler City, the rebirth of the Spring Chicken Festival and the discussion around the tree element for Chatham Park in Pittsboro — notable stories, but from a long-term perspective not as impactful as others on the list. So we're left with these 10,

starting at the top. Of note: these items have been chosen not necessarily because they were the most popular, but because of their long-term impact on Chatham County before, during and after 2019.

Don't see something on this list that should be? Think a certain story should be placed higher? Let us know at news@chathamnr.com.

### 1) Mountaire Farms plant opens in Siler City.

The year started off with the doors opening on the Mountaire Farms chicken plant on Third Street in Siler City, and because of its long-term impact on jobs and the economy of Chatham's most-populous municipali-

See **STORIES**, page A7

2020

## Big year for development in Chatham

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

In his annual budget message from last May, Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne wrote that fiscal 2018-2019 was a bit of a downer when it came to development.

"Chatham County tax values continue to grow, but we are experiencing slower growth from development services, due in large part to the extremely wet weather," he wrote, referring later to permit fees in particular. "Several promising development projects are in the pipeline and are expected to proceed, but extended wet weather will impact the pace of development."

In 2020 — weather pending, of course — it's more than likely those developments will start landing and making a more visible impact on the landscape of Chatham County. Here's a peek at three of them and what they mean for Chatham.

### Chatham Park

The first homes in Chatham Park are scheduled to be sold starting a little more than a month from now.

Years of planning, permitting and waiting will lead up to

See **DEVELOPMENT**, page A3

## Howard steps into commission chair role

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

The person inhabiting the role of chairman of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners serves as the public face of the county government and its decisions.

Mike Dasher sat in what became the hot seat in 2019, serving during arguably one of the more controversial times to be the public face — given the discussion and debate over the "Our Confederate Heroes" monument on



Howard

county property in downtown Pittsboro.

"I was impressed with Commissioner Dasher's handling of the Confederate monument issue," said Karen Howard, who served as a commissioner alongside Dasher, "and think he handled it with grace and aplomb." Now that she's taking a turn,

she hopes to serve in the same way.

Howard was elected as the board's 2020 chairman on Dec. 16. As chairman, she'll preside at the board's regular meetings and work closely with the county government as the voice of the people — all while seeking re-election to her District 1 seat in next November's general election.

Suffice it to say: for her, it's going to be a busy 2020.

Howard, who represents northeast Chatham, was first elected to the commission in

2014 after serving one four-year term on the Chatham County Board of Education, a board for which she served as chairman from 2013-2014. A New York-born former attorney who spent most of her childhood in the Bahamas, she said she feels her election to board chair "signifies to me that I have the confidence and respect of my colleagues" on the board.

County Manager Dan LaMontagne said he finds Howard

See **HOWARD**, page A10

## IN THE KNOW

Curious Cook: coquito, a 'grown-up' milkshake for the New Year. **PAGE A6**

'One Chatham' Jan. 29 forum to focus on teen mental health. **PAGE B4**

Ch@t: Institute brings DoD, industry together for best practices. **PAGE B5**

Midway Hill's Christmas lights brighten the holidays for all. **PAGE B6**



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY

• **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@unhealth.unc.edu for further information. All who have experienced the loss of a loved one are welcome.

• **A Bird Walk with the NHAS** is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Wednesday, January 8, meeting in front of the Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Shopping Center in Chapel Hill. For questions, contact Don Pelly at donpelly73@gmail.com. Heavy rains will result in cancellation of individual walks. For walks, wear long pants and closed toe shoes with socks. Bring snacks and water if you like.

### THURSDAY

• **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 in Pittsboro. This 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.

• **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. to 3 p.m., and other days and times by appointment. Call 919-545-8086 to make an appointment.

• **The Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open with seasonal 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

• 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@unhealth.unc.edu.

• **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@unhealth.unc.edu. Group meets the third Monday of every month.

• **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.

• **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.

### UPCOMING

• Registration is now open for **Sing and Play '20**, the third-annual musical competition scheduled for February at Jordan-Matthews High School. Sing and Play highlights musical talent in separate competitions for elementary, middle and high school musicians. Vocalists and instrumentalists who are students in a N.C. public, private or home school may register through January 28 to receive an audition appointment and perform either as an individual or in an ensemble of up to four musicians. Acts selected during auditions on February 4 will participate in the Sing and Play '20 Showcase Competition on February 20, where audience members will select the winner in each age-based competition. General admission to the showcase is \$5 per person. Each of the three winning acts receives a \$50 cash prize. Rules and registration information are available online at JMArts.org/events/.

• The Chatham Unit of the **League of Women Voters** (Orange, Durham and Chatham) will hold a non-partisan educational presentation by Pandora Paschal, Director of the Chatham County Board of Elections, from 3 to 4:15

p.m., Friday, January 17 at the Habitat for Humanity Administration Office, 467 West Street, Pittsboro. This will cover everything you wanted to know about voting in Chatham County from voter registration to voter ID, to what type of ballot is used, when and how you can vote and much more. This event is free and open to the public, with free parking available.

• **The Carolina Mountain Dulcimer Players** meet at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month (1-16) 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.

• Chatham Community Library is offering a series of **free computer classes** in January and February. You can find a description of each class, including topics covered and prerequisites for attending, by visiting www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. Drop-in Computer Assistance: From 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8; Getting Started with eBooks: at 3, 3:30 or 4 p.m. (30-minute, one-on-one sessions) on Wednesday, Jan. 15; and Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 1: From 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29. Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 2: From 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5; Drop-in Computer Assistance: From 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12; and Intro to Facebook: From 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20. The Drop-In Computer Assistance sessions (Jan. 8 and Feb. 12) do not require registration. For all other classes, space is limited and you must register in advance. Register online at the address above. For more information, call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org. All classes take place in the computer lab at Chatham Community Library, on the campus of Central Carolina Community College.

• **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@unhealth.unc.edu. If you need directions, call the Hospice Home at 984-215-2675.

### ALSO HAPPENING

• **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 Jan. is Chatham's Deep River Coal History, with 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.

• **The Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop's** regular hours are now Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm. We are in Pittsboro on the Courthouse Circle beside the Roadhouse. All proceeds support domestic violence services and education in collaboration with Chatham County.

• **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, or email rachelh@chathamhabitat.org

• **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.

• **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 oppor-

tunities for youth. See where you are needed to help in the community: www.chathamconnecting.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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


• **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.bstroop93.org for more information.  
• Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.  
• Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See http://pack900.com for more information.

## Pet of the Week — HOPE



Photo courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office wants you to meet Hope, a 2-year-old Beagle mix looking for a home for the holidays. When Hope first arrived at the Animal Resource Center, she was a little shy, but quickly warmed up to staff members. She is known for her energetic greetings, complete with tail wagging and puppy kisses! Hope loves treats and going for walks to explore the sights and smells of the outdoors. She is also well-behaved and attentive, responding eagerly to commands and sticking close to her human. Hope would thrive in an active home with children and other dogs to befriend. For more information on how to meet or adopt Hope, swing by the ARC at 725 Renaissance Drive in Pittsboro or call 919-542-2911 to speak with an animal resource officer.



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# A Bold Christmas tradition benefits The Learning Trail



Staff photo by David Bradley

**Kristine Holm-Sours, of Governor's Club Realty, works with other volunteers to match children with the gift bags being provided by Santa Claus and the Bold Foundation. This year, more than 180 children were able to celebrate Christmas with special gifts from the non-profit organizations. Bold Construction worked in collaboration with Domicile Realty and Chatham County Schools to meet the Christmas desires of local children in need.**



Staff photo by David Bradley

**Kim Matson (left) gets assistance from Rhonda Adams as she lifts one of the many bicycles being given to some of the little ones at the Nature Trail Mobile Home Park in Chapel Hill Dec. 18. The Bold Foundation, a charitable arm of Bold Construction, worked with Santa Claus to find the perfect gifts for over 180 children in the community.**

## CN+R STAFF REPORTS

Bold Construction and Domicile Realty partnered with Chatham County Schools for a "Holiday Cheer" program, providing gifts this Christmas to children from low-income homes.

Working through The Learning Trail — a nonprofit in northeast Chatham which provides low-income children through grade 8 and their families with needed academic and social support for children to reach their full academic potential — the companies, with financial assistance from Governors Club, purchased gifts from Christmas wish lists from children in the program and celebrated the season with them.

This year marked Bold/Domicile's fourth year in the initiative. Working with volunteers from the Governors Club neighborhood and staff from North Chatham Elementary, Bold and Domicile employees shopped for 180 children and their families, purchasing items from toys to warm winter clothes.

"The Holiday Cheer program is one of our favorite activities of the year," said Bold co-owner Chris Ehrenfeld. "Our team loves shopping for

the specific items on each child's wish list. I think we all imagine the joy on the faces of these children when they receive their gifts. We are happy to help make the holiday season a little brighter for these children in our community."

Ehrenfeld, who is part-owner of the News + Record, said his team looks forward to purchasing these gifts each year and was proud to help children in the local school program.

"It's a privilege to add a little joy to families in the community this holiday season," he said.

The program reached 136 children last year, which had been a record. The gift-giving project started a few years ago, but those involved were able only to purchase gifts for 30 of the 87 children. Bold Construction picked up the tab for the rest of the group and has been involved ever since, specifically by handling management of "Holiday Cheer."

Wish lists for the students and siblings involved typically include winter coats, blankets, warm clothing, toys and outdoor recreational equipment.

Thomas Brinson, the director of golf at Governors Club, said the club had been involved in a prior version of the program. For the last two



Staff photo by David Bradley

**Yarely Chavis, 4, receives a book, candy and a game from North Chatham Elementary teacher Elizabeth Webster during the 'Holiday Cheer' Christmas gift event, sponsored by Bold Construction and Domicile Realty, at the Nature Trail Learning Center in northern Chatham County on Dec. 18.**

years, though, they've assisted Bold and Domicile by sponsoring a "Santa Open" golf event at the club, raising more than \$10,000 each of the last two years to help foot the bill for the gifts.

"The club has gotten behind this initiative because it's helping kids in our own backyard," Brinson said. "Everybody wants to give and be a part of something that's making a big impact for



Staff photo by David Bradley

**Diana Rosales and her daughter Jimena, 4, visited the Learning Trail offices Dec. 18 for an early Christmas delivery. Santa Claus worked with the Bold Construction and Domicile Realty and the Learning Trail non-profit groups to get a nice gift for Jimena's Christmas.**

**Domicile Realty's Rhonda Adams picks individual bags from a room filled with gifts to match to some of the boys and girls at the Nature Trail Mobile Home Park Dec. 18. A total of 180 children received gifts through the 'Holiday Cheer' program.**

Staff photo by David Bradley



## DEVELOPMENT: 'Certainly going to get some more headlines in 2020'

Continued from page A1

February, when pre-sales for The Cottages, Chatham Park's first homes, will begin. According to a December announcement, Chatham Park has partnered with Cary-based Fresh Paint by Garman Homes to construct single-family homes described as fit for "artful, environmentally-friendly, minimalist-style living." Single- and two-story plans will begin priced in the low \$200,000-range, and each home will be within walking distance from downtown Pittsboro and across the street from a new 10-acre park and the yet-to-be-finished

Thales Academy. The homes are projected to be move-in ready by October.

In the statement, Fresh Paint Division President Rebecca McAdoo said the homes were about "celebrat(ing)" the "lifestyle choice" of simplicity.

"More and more people are purging their clutter and desiring spaces that are artfully designed to the way they want to live," she said. "The Triangle marketplace has never seen a home product like this."

Tim Smith, owner of Preston Development, which is developing Chatham Park, added that The Cottages is part of the overall development's

goal to "create what our future residents will consider to be the perfect community."

### Briar Chapel

As construction continues in multiple parts of the Briar Chapel neighborhood, two particular developments are breaking ground and under way as 2019 turns to 2020.

Breaking ground this year is a new apartment complex, built by Blue Heron Asset Management, that will include 200 units across three four-to-five story buildings. The complex will also include a stand-alone amenities building. The apartments

will range from one to three bedrooms and include "design elements traditionally found in single-family homes," according to a news release, like built-in bookshelves and kitchen bars. The amenities building will have a demonstration kitchen, library and community pool.

"Blue Heron is thrilled to be building at Briar Chapel, where we'll be bringing the best-in-class finishes and amenities common in urban apartment projects to a more laid-back, gracious and community-centered setting," said Kevin Wade, project manager with Blue Heron Asset Management.

Deeper into Briar Chapel, the 55-and-over neighborhood Encore has added a new section, Encore North, with single-story homes backed up to wooded or open green space.

### Mosaic and more

Two major Chatham Park-related developments are slated to get some headlines in 2020.

Mosaic at Chatham Park, an "entertainment and lifestyle destination" off of U.S. Hwy. 15-501 across the street from Northwood High School, will have its first retail outlets begin operation this October along with apartments for lease and condominiums for purchase. The first tenants for the \$350 million development include Town Hall Burger + Beer, People's Coffee, EDGE Aveda Day Spa, UNC Urgent Care and CMG Financial.

Residents driving by Northwood won't be able to miss the cleared area on the side of the highway, and if everything goes according to plan, they'll see and be able to

take advantage of some of Mosaic's first offerings. A 114-room hotel, movie theater and live performance theater are also coming down the road.

"Mosaic is poised to invigorate residents and patrons alike with a dynamic, vibrant environment," Kirk Bradley, one of Mosaic's developers, said in late October prior to an official groundbreaking. "This destination will soon be alive with experience and interaction, and today's guests are the first to feel this energy." (Bradley is part-owner of the News + Record.)

Chatham Park's developers announced another mixed-use development, called "Mellott," in late November. The area will include more than 1,300 residential units across 190 acres in Pittsboro that will be bordered on three sides by Chatham Park and situated at the future intersection of Chatham Park Way and Grant Drive.

Mellott will also include, according to a Triangle Business Journal story, a hotel, offices, retail space and a 30-acre park to make up the development's center.

### What It Means

Alyssa Byrd, president of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation, said the massive wave of developments is good news for the county, primarily because of what it means for potential new businesses.

"Any kind of retail development is always driven by rooftops in a community, and the more that we can show the rooftops, the more we can bring in retail service-oriented business, and once you get that, you can really start drawing in other employers who see

this as a place where they can live," Byrd said. "You want to paint this as a picture where more people can come in here and live here and have a life."

She said that life exists now, but most commute out of the county for work. By bringing more people to the area, which brings more retail and restaurants and services, companies will locate offices and shops here, which will bring more jobs to the county and give in-county jobs to people who live in Chatham.

"That's the trend that we don't think is going anywhere," Byrd said. "People like to be within proximity of services and restaurants and retail, both within their home and their work. We think we're certainly going to get some more headlines in 2020, capture attention from regional and state leaders with things going on here."

The Chatham County government has already predicted a rise in property values over the next six months, with increases likely to come in the future with further development. LaMontagne said in his budget message that indicators of local economic growth — property tax base, building inspections, sales tax collections — have all been trending up in recent years.

"While the weather has slowed our growth in residential and commercial construction," he wrote, "we are confident that projects currently in the pipeline will turn that around."

All indications as of now are that the turnaround he wrote about is just around the corner.

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



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# VIEWPOINTS

## The family that reads together...gifts books for Christmas

There's a line from the eminently-quotable film "The Princess Bride" — a movie about a book, based on screenwriter William Goldman's book about a book — that my wife Lee Ann and I liked to throw out to our three children when they were growing up.



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

Near the beginning of the film, the frumpy Peter Falk, portraying the loving grandfather preparing to read a book to his video-game playing grandson, says: "When I was your age, television was called *books*."

Around our house, we used the line mostly in fun. Rarely was it an admonition. It didn't need to be; we didn't watch a lot of TV. Our now-adult children were voracious readers in their

school days, notably our middle child Addison, who — brag alert here — taught himself how to read at age 2. (This was thanks to his own drive to catch up with early-reading brother Zachary and his own genius, not necessarily his mom's or dad's.)

So it's not surprising that when it comes to Christmas in our family, it's pretty standard for books to be exchanged as gifts. This year, though, the gifting was of a slightly different vein: instead of the usual historical non-fiction and favorite-author fiction that make up the bulk of the book gifts, there was a preponderance of personal development titles — accompanied by a lot of, "I loved reading this; it really helped me, and I think it'll help you" explanations.

It's made for fascinating post-Christmas conversation.

I like to think that we're a pretty self-aware family, but that doesn't mean we don't have hang-ups. A part of our family's self-awareness is a self-crit-

ical nature and pointing out faults — our own and others' — and, thankfully, finding ways to do life better.

For example, I gave both my boys a copy of a book I'm reading that I am absolutely loving — "Indistractable," by Nir Eyal, a book with the subtitle, "How to Control Your Attention and Choose Your Life." As someone whose ability to focus sharply and consistently on tasks (difficult and otherwise) has suffered in recent years — and as an observant father who notices his sons' reliance on technology and shares their affinity for reaching for our smartphones way too frequently — reading "Indistractable" has been eye-opening. Eyal addresses the psychology of distraction and teaches that in order to gain traction (which is the opposite of distraction) in our lives, we have to learn how to address the source of all distraction: namely, the internal trigger of discomfort. Recognizing our triggers and creating

strategies to deal with (called "hackbacks") then allows us to stay on track — and get traction in places in our lives where (and when) it's most needed.

For their part, Addison and his wife Charis gifted each of us a pair of books by the same author — "The Road Back to You" and "The Path Between Us," both having to do with the Enneagram, an ancient personality type system which has been around for decades (if not centuries) and is gaining steam in business and religious circles, thanks to new books, seminars and websites about it.

Taking an Enneagram test (you can find a basic one online for free) gives you a "map" of your personality, and tells you where on the nine-pointed Enneagram diagram you fall — relating to the nine major personality types (The Reformer, The Helper, The Achiever, The Individualist, The Investigator, The Loyalist, The Enthusiast, The Challenger, The Peacemaker). Knowing about the types

(and the healthy and unhealthy levels and layers within, and how the types best interact) teaches and aids in self-awareness, self-understanding and self-development.

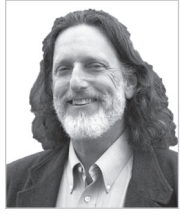
Suffice it to say that much of our post-Christmas chatter has revolved around what we're learning, as well as sharing lessons from our own reading practices and experiences. The week's mild weather also made it possible — when we weren't playing board games, which are another favorite Christmas gift — for us to sit in our screened-in porch and read and talk about what we're learning.

And aside from checking the scores of a couple of football games on Sunday, our TV was barely on at all in the last week.

Needless to say, at the age we are now, books are still books. And they make great gifts. But the best gift has been the togetherness and sharing that followed Christmas day. That's something I'd happily unwrap any day of the week.

## Some movies are so bad they're good; others are just bad

It must be a contrarian disposition that compels me to gravitate towards, and often love, movies the masses consider bad.



**RANDALL RIGSBEE**  
Randall Reflects

I've been this way for years. It may have started in 1980 when "Heaven's Gate," the epic Western film starring Kris Kristofferson, was released to overwhelming negative critical response. A disaster at the box office (a troubled production out of the gate said, after the sixth day of filming, to be five days behind schedule) and widely regarded as one of the worst movies ever, I enjoyed it.

The contrarian trend continued with "Ishtar," the famously derided 1987 film starring Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman as singer/songwriters whose middling talents never interfere with their Simon and Garfunkel aspirations. Another box office bomb, the movie's Wikipedia entry notes "many have considered [it] to be one of the worst films ever made." I saw it the summer it was released — there were maybe six of us in the theater — and loved it.

"Waterworld," the 1995 Kevin Costner action film so troubled during its production the press dubbed it "Fishtar," was also released to widespread negative criticism and, again, I enjoyed it.

So it was last Christmas with the release of "Holmes and Watson," the comedy starring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly as the famous Victorian era crime-fighters. Reviled upon its release a year ago — Rolling Stone critic David Fear called "Holmes and Watson" "so painfully unfunny we're not sure it can legally be called a comedy" — I was naturally eager to see it and found it, despite the critical trouncing and despite viewing it in another nearly empty theater, very silly and funny. Best movie ever? Hardly. But far from the worst, either; and by no means so notably bad as to pull out all stops to attack it.

This holiday season, Hollywood has offered up "Cats," the movie version of the stage phenomenon (I've never seen it in any form) and this year's unrivaled front-runner for most critically disparaged film.

"Reviews were brutal," reported Variety.com in an article dissecting the movie's troubles. Critic John Nugent, writing for Empire, called it "an insane musical experiment gone wrong" and "truly like nothing cinema has ever seen."

How can one, reading a review like that, not be tempted to see it?

Otherwise of no interest to me, "Cats," because of those strong negative responses, now feels like a must-see. It's certainly on my to-do list.

In hindsight, I probably should have seen "Cats," a film that has at least generated strong opinion, instead of "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker," a film that's neither great nor terrible.

Unlike most movies, the "Star Wars" series is, by now I think, critic-proof. Negative reviews aren't likely to keep the series' legions of fans from skipping it; nor are positive reviews likely to inspire newbies to enter the "Star Wars" fold. Fittingly then, reviews for what we're told is the last "Star Wars" movie have been mixed. Peter Travers, writing for Rolling Stone, gave it 3.5 out of five stars, deeming the movie "a fine and fitting end to the Skywalker saga." Our own film critic Neil Morris, on the other end of the critical spectrum, called it "less than stellar."

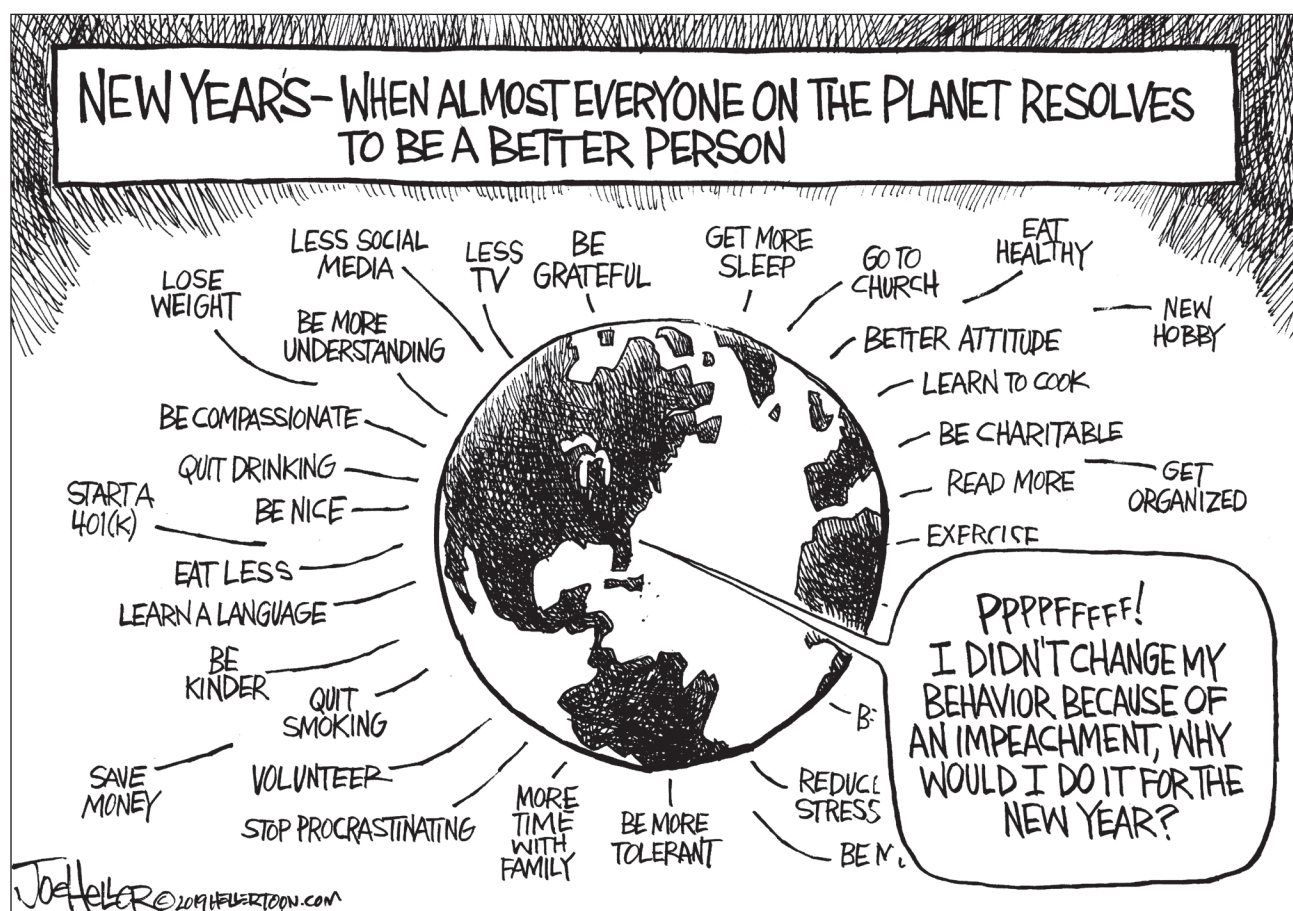
But dating back to the release of "The Force Awakens" four years ago, seeing a new "Star Wars" movie (when available) has become a holiday tradition for me and my wife, so we were bound to see "The Rise of Skywalker."

But this time around, somehow it felt more obligatory than traditional, and just a few minutes into the 2 hour and 22 minute-long movie, the feeling was confirmed. I knew it wasn't so much a cinematic experience we were having as it was an endurance test, a matter of waiting it out — checking off the obligatory jockeying for interstellar dominance interspersed with a lightsaber duel or two along the route — to get to the inevitable conclusion that [SPOILER ALERT] the Dark Side fails.

But getting there ...

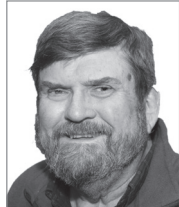
"Cats" is purposed to be so bad, the studio has already taken the dramatic and unprecedented step of re-releasing the movie with some digitally-altered scenes, presumably an effort to improve the movie.

Disney should consider a similar tactic for "The Rise of Skywalker." Maybe edit in a scene with Chewbacca belting out "Memory." I'd be happy to see that.



## What to do about resolutions?

Well, here we are a few days into the new year. Wonder how long it will take us all to remember to write "2020" on checks instead of "2019"?



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around

That assumes you still write a check once in a while and are not like the 17- or 18-year-old cashier at the grocery who told me a month or so ago that he had never written a check in his life.

He probably doesn't carry any cash either, which might explain why his age pays for a hamburger at Mickey D's with plastic.

But an even bigger question to ponder is: "How long will it take us to break or forget our New Year's resolutions?" — even if we did make some.

Interesting thing, those resolutions. Toward the end of each year, we promise ourselves and anyone else who will listen that beginning next year we will do or not do certain things, things we should be paying attention to all along. Promises are made, stories are written, intentions are good... and then, sooner or later, they're broken or forgotten. It's not usually on purpose or with ill will or evil intent; it just happens.

We want to do better; we try for awhile; our plans are good but follow through is hard and, as my dear sweet departed mama used to tell me and my brothers, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."

So what are we to do, if anything?

Well, we could stop making resolutions, big ones and little ones. That way there would be nothing

to break or forget. That may be the easiest thing to do...or not to do. Problem with that is that when we do nothing then we're doing nothing and nothing usually happens, except the opposite of what we wanted to happen because we didn't do anything.

Or we could make resolutions but keep them reachable. Psychologists and other mental health experts tell us that one of the contributing factors to frustration in our lives is that we set our expectations unrealistically high and then when, of course, we don't reach them we blow up.

For instance, if I resolved that in 2020 I'm going to get my body in shape and go back to Carolina and join Ol' Roy's basketball team since he needs some help and I still have all four years of college playing eligibility left and then lead the Heels to the national championship, then I'm probably not going to make it. My plus-70 body is now home to creaks, aches and pains and competition to get into school is so high I probably couldn't make it, especially since I'm a cultural dinosaur.

Instead a more realistic goal would be not "to lose weight" but "to lose 10 pounds by June 1." That's more doable but whether it, too, will happen is up to me and will depend in large part on pizza intake for 2020. The part about the "creaks, aches and pains" is up to my orthopedic doc.

Assuming, however, that what we really want to do is make things better then we could try a third alternative that includes the realistic and reachable resolutions — namely, not just talking about them but doing them. And that has a lot to do with time and our use of it.

Time is a funny thing...not funny

So, really, all we can do is "spend" time...and that's where the doing of resolutions comes in. Make that visit. Place that call. Write that letter. Read that book gathering dust on the table. And do them daily... and even sometimes eat dessert first.

as in "ha ha" funny, but funny in its nature. Madison Avenue advertising tells us we can "save" time with all sorts of electronic gadgets from can openers to the latest phone gizmo. But really all those things let us do is do more faster and then try to cram in more stuff in the time it used to take to twist the hand-held can opener or dial the rotary phone. (If you don't know what a rotary phone is, contact me...but not by way of a smart phone; I don't have one.)

We also can't "make" time, despite stuff we say like "make time" for this or that. All we're doing there is setting priorities, as in do I want to spend two hours liking something on Facebook, or is it a better use of time to visit the shut-in lady down the road?

So, really, all we can do is "spend" time...and that's where the doing of resolutions comes in. Make that visit. Place that call. Write that letter. Read that book gathering dust on the table. And do them daily...and even sometimes eat dessert first.

Think of all the folks on the Titanic who didn't. And then when 2020 is a sight in your rear view mirror see if the year didn't go pretty well. Make a resolution to let me know.

### Chatham News + Record

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**CASEY MANN | ZACHARY HORNER,** Reporters

**DON BEANE,** Sports Editor

**DAVID BRADLEY,** Photographer

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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.

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

# VIEWPOINTS

## LETTERS

### BBN and hearing Christian Christmas music of the 1960s

TO THE EDITOR:

The radio station that I love the most is the Bible Broadcasting Network (91.1 FM in Fayetteville and 96.5 FM in High Point). My car radio picks up these two radio stations on all sides of Sanford.

They play the best traditional Christian Christmas music that I grew up with from the 1960s. There are no commercials on these radio stations.

If you go to [www.BBNradio.org](http://www.BBNradio.org), you can download a free app for your smartphone.

BBN radio is a big blessing for me every day.

Like everything else that is a blessing to me, my wife Rita, introduced me to these radio stations.

God bless us all. Merry Christmas! In God We Trust.

Alexander Cox  
Sanford

### Rules should apply to all

TO THE EDITOR:

During the era 1960-1980, peaceful protests for civil rights and against the Vietnam War degenerated into conflict. Militant organizations emerged: 1962 Students for a Democratic Society (SDS); in 1966, the Black Panthers; in 1968, the White Panthers; in 1970, the Weathermen. Violence erupted throughout America: the 1968 Chicago Democratic Convention; the 1968 White Panthers Bombing the CIA office in Ann Arbor; Weathermen bombings in at least eight U.S. cities. During the 1969 Ann Arbor bombing trial, it was revealed the Executive Branch had wiretapped White Panther telephones without a warrant. Constitutional conflict manifested between Presidential responsibility for national security and protester privacy rights. In 1972, the Supreme Court admonished Congress to enact legislation differentiating routine domestic criminal investigations and foreign intelligence surveil-

lance. Consequently, in 1978, Congress ratified The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which provides court-authorized warrants to the Executive for electronic surveillance against foreign agents. FISA warrants are only granted to U.S. government agents, require Attorney General participation, are secret, and are easier to obtain than domestic criminal warrants.

On Dec. 11, 2019, The Inspector General, Dept. Justice, Michael Horowitz, reported 17 errors in FBI's FISA Applications for secret surveillance against Trump aide, Carter Page. Their application omitted exonerative information that verified Mr. Page is a patriot. Furthermore, they submitted a fabricated dossier in four separate FISA Applications. On Dec. 18, 2019, The FISA Judge, Rosemary Collyer, rebuked the FBI's misconduct as, "antithetical to the heightened duty of candor" owed to the Court by government agents.

The FBI's sterling reputation has

been tarnished by their FISA chicanery. If the Russians infiltrated the Trump campaign, why not quietly inform Mr. Trump? This didn't happen! Instead, the FBI pursued secret anti-Trump surveillance. Did FBI leadership commit 17 FISA errors? Or were they 17 intentional frauds? FBI bias is displayed by repeated news leaks damaging to Mr. Trump. In 2016, Deputy Director Andrew McCabe intentionally leaked to the Wall Street Journal disinformation beneficial to the Clinton Foundation. In 2017, Director James Comey leaked disinformation to the New York Times which started a 2 1/2-year wild goose chase special investigation by Robert Mueller. Defrauding the FISA court and leaking disinformation manifests a dangerous attempt to disenfranchise the 2016 voters. Unelected FBI officials should be bound to similar rules for office holders they admire as much as those they don't admire.

Frank Dunphy  
Pittsboro

## Becoming our parents' parents, as well as our children's children

"How strange it is — gut-wrenchingly strange — to realize that your parents, in a snapshot taken by memory, are younger not only than you now but than your own children."

D.G. MARTIN

One on One

These words from John Updike's essay, "Christmas Cards," are striking a chord in me this week.

As I grow older, Christmas is becoming, more and more, a time for this kind of reminiscing.

A few years ago I broke all the rules of big-time college basketball etiquette by taking my barely 1-year-old granddaughter to a college basketball game. I was sure she would be misplaced, overwhelmed by the noise, frightened by the crowds, and therefore cross and crying and distracting to my seat-mates. But my daughter, her mother, insisted, "It will probably be OK. She likes people. I think she'll love it."

And she did. She clapped her hands with the fans of both teams and pressed my nose whenever the loud horn announced a timeout. She watched the air gun shoot T-shirts to the crowd, following the arched trajectory high towards the ceiling, and then grinned when she saw the lucky fans make their catches.

Her mother was right. She is a crowd-loving basketball fan — like her mother, like my wife and like my mother.

Her joyousness brought back another holiday. My father, when he was about the age my son is now, gave me a memorable Christmas present. He took me to the opening round of the old Dixie Classic in Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh for a daylong, four-game marathon of "big time" basketball. We were together, by ourselves, in the crowd, talking about the players and the teams, as colleagues.

That long-ago memory merged with my granddaughter's first game experience, bringing all these family gener-

ations together in some sort of ritualized togetherness.

Only one thing marred my granddaughter's first basketball experience — the appearance at the game of Santa Claus. When I saw the Carolina Blue-clad Santa, far away from us at the corner of the court tossing candy to the crowd, I excitedly pointed him out to my granddaughter, expecting, of course, her continued delight.

Instead, she burst into tears. Only after a walk in halls and my attempts to assure her that Santa would not come near us did she settle back again to enjoy the excitement of the game.

I had forgotten how sometimes very young children's awe of Santa turns to fright. My granddaughter's fear of him brought back a delicious memory. This child's own mother, my daughter, had also showed her fear of Santa when she was just a little older than her daughter is now. It was at that now long ago Christmastime that her mother and I had persuaded her to give up her pacifier.

We told her that when Santa came to bring her presents, he would, in exchange, come into her room while she was sleeping, and take her pacifier back to the North Pole.

Later that Christmas Eve night, we heard the door to my daughter's room open and then the thud of her feet moving deliberately towards the stairs. As I rushed up to find out what was wrong, I saw her heave her pacifier down the stairs. Then, as she turned around and raced toward her room, I heard her mutter, "I don't want Santa to come in my room!"

Wrestling with these kinds of converging memories about his parents and children, Updike says of his mother and father, "I become in my memory their parent, looking down and precociously grieving for them."

Like Updike, I find that the experiences and memories of this Christmas season make me feel as if I were my parents' parent — and my children's child. Unlike Updike, for me, this mystical seasonal experience of being both parent and child, both grandparent and grandchild, is rich and full of joy.

## Competition needed in health care

According to North Carolina regulators, Mecklenburg County needs 76 more hospital beds. Adding 80 would be excessive. Adding 72 would be inadequate.

I'm sure their 76-bed prediction was made in good faith.

I'm sure it reflects the best understanding of the data available.

My problem is that state regulators didn't just offer this prediction to inform free choices by medical providers and patients.

Their prediction has the force of law. No more than 76 beds can be added. It doesn't matter if local hospitals, reacting to their own understanding of market conditions, disagree.

This is North Carolina's certificate-of-need (CON) system in action. Medical providers need a permission slip from the state to offer many kinds of services.

Sound more like the workings of 1970s-era Bulgaria than of a free society of the 21st century? My colleagues and I at the John Locke Foundation have long thought so. We believe North Carolina should substantially modify or eliminate CON regulations. We think they fail at their stated task of controlling health care costs while restricting competition and individual liberty.

While CON wasn't invented by Bulgarian commissars, it did have its origins in the 1970s. After the creation of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965, the share of the nation's health care spending fi-

nanced by the federal government began to grow rapidly. Federal regulation inevitably followed.

In 1974, Congress passed the Health Planning Resources Development Act. One of its provisions required states to initiate certificate-of-need systems. The rationale went something like this: health care is fundamentally different from other service sectors. Because of the prevalence of third-party payment, originally private insurers but by the 1970s very much including governments, competition among hospitals and other providers doesn't have the usual salutary effects. It doesn't push prices down. It pushes prices up.

For example, if two hospitals in a local area already have MRI machines and a third one acquires an MRI machine, it may not simply compete with the other two for the same patients, resulting in better service at lower prices. Instead, more patients will be referred for MRIs — likely those for whom MRIs are unlikely to be of significant diagnostic value. Hospitals and the doctors affiliated with them will simply want to keep the expensive new machine busy to justify its cost.

This is hardly a ridiculous notion. Indeed, it probably captures some of what happens in some situations, at least in the short run. But it isn't the whole story. Markets are dynamic. Innovations with upfront costs often have downstream benefits. Without robust competition, such innovations are less likely to arise.

The idea that controlling the number of state permission slips to offer medical services would control the cost of

those services wasn't just a theoretical proposition. It was a testable one. After the 1974 legislation, it didn't take long for the test to produce grades. Researchers found that, for the most part, CON didn't have its intended effect. It wasn't an effective cost-control device. There were even studies showing that restricting competition in health care had a more traditional effect: harming consumers and third-party payers (ultimately, insurance subscribers and taxpayers) by boosting prices and limiting choices.

Having digested the findings, in 1987 Congress repealed its 1974 mistake (that's right, kids, our federal legislature used to be functional and do things like that). States were no longer required to use CON regulation. Many states subsequently abandoned it. Alas, North Carolina didn't.

JLF analysts argue that the General Assembly should get rid of the system, either outright or in stages. A Winston-Salem physician, Gajendra Singh, has also filed a lawsuit asking the courts to strike down CON as a violation of Article 1, Section 34, of the North Carolina Constitution, which states that "monopolies are contrary to the genius of a free state and shall not be allowed."

Planning is essential in a capital-intensive field such as health care. But it shouldn't be centralized in a state agency and coupled with the power to shove people around.

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

## We were a quarrelsome people in 2019

How would you describe the year 2019? I've pondered the

just-right descriptive adjective and finally settled on the seldom used but highly appropriate word "quarrelsome."

We shouldn't have been surprised.

After months of dealing with contention, Margaret Spellings resigned the UNC Presidency at year's end 2018. It became increasingly evident that UNC's Board of Governors was quarrelsome and overly intrusive into the running of the university system. UNC Chapel Hill Chancellor Carol Folt, who took office dealing with an academic scandal in athletics, ran head-on into the Silent Sam controversy and also chose resignation. The BOG harassed ECU's Cecil Staton into resigning and then some members inserted themselves into the replacement of his replacement.

After two years of arguments, protests and violence over Silent Sam the BOG attempted to put the issue to rest at year's end, but their solution resulted in even more contention and threatened lawsuits.

The 2019 session of the legislature, will be remembered for its quarrelsome ways. Republican leadership lost their veto-proof majorities in both houses in the 2018 elections and faced a governor eager to settle scores from

previous knock-downs. For the first time in state history and, after months of negotiations, no budget was passed for the coming fiscal year.

In January Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Martin resigned. Instead of appointing the most tenured justice, Paul Newby, to replace him the Governor picked the first African-American woman to become chief. Newby responded with unprecedented public criticism of fellow justices and set in motion a contentious election in 2020.

Our courts were battlegrounds over gerrymandered congressional and legislative districts, with judges declaring both unconstitutionally drawn. Two sitting congressmen chose not to run because their new districts weren't to their liking, and more than the normal number of legislators also retired.

Investigators uncovered absentee ballot fraud in the 2018 elections for the 9th Congressional district; the contested winner himself called for a new election after revelatory hearings. Another court decision proclaimed our legislators had overstepped their authority, so the State Board of Elections was reconstituted with a 3-2 majority of Democrats. They promptly fired respected longtime Executive Director Kim Strach, a Republican.

Another election fraud story never got the attention it deserved. Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey uncovered and reported attempted bribery and influence peddling, a scandal that brought down former Congressman and State GOP Party Chair Robin Hayes,

along with executives within the insurance industry.

If 2019 was symbolic of any quarrel it was the one between State Treasurer Dale Folwell and hospitals. As administrator of the State Health Plan, Treasurer Folwell demanded transparency in what its members were being charged for various procedures. Hospitals won the first round, but war isn't over.

The conflicts between the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent were plenty evident. The controversial superintendent, Mark Johnson, decided not to run again.

There was the quarrel between the Governor and the legislature over the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, and we cannot forget the fight between the legislature and law enforcement over whether N.C. Sheriffs were required to cooperate with ICE in retaining undocumented immigrants.

We haven't even approached the political wars in Washington, racial tensions, church wars over sexual doctrines, the urban-rural issues or other conflicts.

There were bright spots, however: Our economy is sound, unemployment is low and we avoided major storms, disease and disruption. But we are weary with the current quarrelsome climate. Let us resolve to be more peace-filled and more respectful toward each other in 2020.

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

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# OBITUARIES

## MORRIS V BUTLER



Morris V Butler went to be with the Lord on December 22, 2019, peacefully at home. He was born in Greensboro, North Carolina on January 15, 1929 to Martha Angenette Surratt Butler and Wiley Verse Butler as the youngest of nine. He was raised in Pittsboro, North Carolina on a dairy farm and graduated from Silk Hope School in 1950. He studied at Campbell College and earned a degree in Industrial Arts at East Carolina University. Morris spent four years in New Mexico working on atomic bombs for the US Air Force (Korean Conflict).

Before and after his military service, he was employed at the Pentagon. On December 22, 1956, he married Naomi Candace Dyson. She preceded him in death after 61 years in marriage.

For 27 years, he taught shop in Charlotte-Mecklenburg County schools and is remembered for his beautiful wood-working craftsmanship. He was eager to sketch blueprints on napkins and teach his skills to those around him, both an inventor and teacher by nature. He faithfully served at Statesville Road Baptist Church and more recently, at University Hills Baptist. He particularly enjoyed singing in the choir. The Gideons enjoyed his membership for more than 25 years, and Morris delighted in sharing God's word with others.

He is survived by his children: Mark Shane Butler (Susan), Lisa Butler Harris (Randy), and Kim Butler Yandle (Marcus, Jr. "Chip"); and grandchildren, Callie Mayakis (Brian), Dyon Butler; Marcus Eason, III, Elliot, Emma and Ellie Yandle, Matthew, Holly, and Mary Katherine Harris.

An interment will be held privately at Northlake Memorial Gardens followed by a funeral at 2 p.m. Saturday, January 4 at University Hills Baptist Church with a time of visitation immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to The Gideons International or the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

## RAY COTTON



Mr. Ray Cotton, age 72, of Bear Creek, NC passed on Monday, December 16, 2019.

Ray Cotton was born on December 1, 1947 in Chatham County to the late Bishop Alton and Lottie Marsh Cotton. He was called home on December 16, 2019.

The funeral service was held at 3:30 p.m. Monday, December 23, 2019 at Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

At a young age, Ray attended Goldston High School and most recently gained a love for masonry and landscaping. He was preceded in death by his father, Bishop Alton Cotton, mother, Lottie Marsh Cotton, and a brother, David L. Cotton.

Ray leaves to cherish his memories four children, Stephon Cotton, Rae Ann Cotton, Hilda Cotton, and Lamont Cotton; eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; siblings, Rev. Walter Cotton (Rena), Alter Mae Hatley, Delois Minter, Roberta Alston; uncle, Curtis Marsh; a host of nieces and nephews, relatives and friends.

Arrangements By: Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

## RANDALL 'RANDY' LEWIS MOODY



Randall "Randy" Lewis Moody, age 74, of Bear Creek died Friday, December 20, 2019 at his home.

Mr. Moody was born May 12, 1945 in Chatham County, the son of Charles and Argie Gaines Moody. Randy was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Roger Vann, Larry Wayne, Jimmy Earle Moody, and son, Johnny Ray Moody. He was employed by Wilson Brothers Milling and Trucking. He enjoyed driving his trucks, watching western movies and was a UNC Tar Heel fan. He was a member of Sandy Branch Baptist Church.

He is survived by sons, Bobby L. and Tommy E. Moody, both of Bear Creek; brothers, Charles "Bill" Moody and wife Peggy of Siler City, Jerry Moody and wife Ann of Goldston, Kenneth Moody of Siler City; grandchildren, Bobby L. Moody, Jr., Jessica Lynn Moody, Jennifer Nichole Moody, Vannesa Jean Moody, Jarrett Lewis Moody, great grandchildren, Anthony and Johnny Moody; daughter-in-law, Kathy McKinnon Moody; and sister-in-law, Lucille Moody.

The family received friends Monday, December 23, 2019 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City.

The funeral service was held Tuesday, December 24, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Sandy Branch Baptist Church with Rev. Jay Smoot officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Smith and Buckner is honored to assist the Moody family. Online condolences may be made at: [www.pughfuneral-home.com](http://www.pughfuneral-home.com).

## JON SCOTT FOWLER

Jon Scott Fowler, 58, of Broadway, passed away at his home on December 23, 2019.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 28, 2019 at Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church with Dr. Calvin Sayles officiating.

He was born in Lee County on November 23, 1961 to Juanita Fowler Neal and the late Bob Fowler.

Scott is survived by his mother and step-father, Juanita Fowler Neal and Herman Richard Neal; brother, Daniel Thomas Fowler of Sanford; and sister, Susan Brelewski of Mint Hill.

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

## SOLANO MATA

Solano Mata, 55, of Siler City died Monday, December 23, 2019 at UNC Hospitals.

A rosery was held at visitation at 7 p.m. Friday, December 27, 2019. The funeral Mass was held at 10 a.m. Saturday, December 28, 2019 at St. Julia Catholic Parish with Father Julio Martenez officiating.

Mr. Mata was born in Mexico on June 23, 1964, the son of J. Remedios and Modesta (Mata) Solano. He was employed in furniture manufacturing.

He is survived by his wife: Maria Dolores (Mejia) Solano Mata; daughter, Georgina E. Solano Mejia; and four grandchildren.

## LINDA JEAN WESTBROOK SHERRON

Linda Jean Westbrook Sherron, 62, passed away at her home on Wednesday, December 25, 2019.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 29, 2019 at Ephesus Baptist Church.

Mrs. Sherron was born in Orange County, NY to the late William H. Westbrook and Esther Jean McDonnell Westbrook. In addition to her parents, Linda was preceded in death by her husband, William Patrick Sherron.

Linda is survived by a son, Shane Douglas Sherron of Charlotte; daughters, Angel Diane Tickle of Sanford and Jessica Morgan Sherron of Sanford; brothers, Gary Westbrook of California and John Westbrook of FL; and nine grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to: Ephesus Baptist Church, 2724 White Hill Road, Sanford, NC 27332.

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

## BERTICE DIX MCDONALD

Bertice Dix McDonald, 80 of Sanford, passed Saturday, December 21, 2019 at First Health.

The service will be at 2 p.m. on Friday, December 27, 2019 at East Sanford Baptist Church with the Rev. Robbie Gibson and Rev. Bob Yandle officiating. Burial will be held at Lee Memory Garden. The family will receive friends one and one-half hour before the service.

He was born in Harnett County on September 5, 1939 to the late John Caviness McDonald and Annie Taylor McDonald. He retired from Roberts Company after 25 years. He then joined Farm Bureau and later Adcock and Associates. He was a member of East Sanford Baptist Church. He volunteered for 19 years at Moore Regional Hospital. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Gladys McDonald McCabe, Doris McDonald Hemingway, Ralph McDonald and William Henry McDonald.

Surviving are his wife, Sharon West McDonald of the home; son, Jonathan Michael McDonald of Ayden; daughter, Michelle McDonald Hamrick of Siler City; four grandchildren and a

great-grandson.

In lieu of flowers, consider donations to East Sanford Baptist Church Building Fund.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

## MARGIE NAN LANCASTER CUTLER

Margie Nan Lancaster Cutler, 72, passed away at her home on December 23, 2019.

A memorial service was held at 1 p.m. on Friday, December 27, 2019 in the Chapel of Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home with Rev. Robert Thomas officiating.

Mrs. Cutler was born in Wilcox, AL. to the late Hyrom L. Lancaster and Willie Sue Wingard. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Patricia L. Sewell; brother, Gene Lancaster and an infant daughter, Lucinda Louise Brochart.

Margie is survived by her husband, Charles Cutler, Jr.; daughter, Michele McDonald of Panama City, FL.; sister, Betty Sue Morris of Fairhope, AL.; and two grandchildren.

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

## ROY MARTIN

Mr. Roy Martin, 82, of Siler City, passed away, Thursday, December 26, 2019, at his home.

Arrangements by: Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

## SHELTON WILLIAMS SR.

Mr. Shelton Williams, Sr., 77, of Siler City, passed away, Thursday, December 26, 2019, at his home.

Arrangements by: Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

# The grown-up milkshake

I can't think of a manner in which to warn a child away from something that's both so counter-productive and alluring.



**DEBBIE MATTHEWS**  
The Curious Cook

I was 10. We were living in Puerto Rico, and attending a Christmas party. The hosts served creamy, delicious-looking drinks called coquito. When I requested one, my mom said no, because they were "grown-up" milkshakes. Ten minutes later, on very wobbly legs, I made my way

into a quiet corner after secretly sampling said milkshake.

Coquito is a delicious milky potion. Silky, rich, and full of the tastes of coconut, ginger, and spices. The ingredient that gave me noodle-knees was rum — specifically Bacardi 151.

You may be wondering why I'm talking about holiday drinks just a few days after both Christmas and New Year's Eve. The answer is Balthasar, Melchior and Gaspar.

Many of us know them as the three Wise Men, but in countries with Latin heritage, they are known as the Three Kings. Christmas is celebrated there but without much of the fanfare, parties and gifts. But Three Kings' Day

is a rum-soaked, sequined-adorned, Samba dancing celebration. In Puerto Rico, it's the equivalent of Christmas, New Year's and Mardi Gras, all rolled into one giant party. And coquito is a huge, festivity-lubricating part. Each family has its own special coquito recipe and tradition.

For you, Gentle Reader, I have the cherished family coquito recipe of Becky Lopez. Becky's the wife of Jose, the former Durham Chief of Police, and my friend and Puerto Rican cooking coach.

And there's time to prepare a batch. Three Kings' Day doesn't occur until January 6th. So go forth and party.

Thanks for your time. Contact me at [dm@bullcity.mom](mailto:dm@bullcity.mom).



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Coquito, a 'grown-up' milkshake — perfect for the holidays.

**The hosts served creamy, delicious-looking drinks called coquito. When I requested one, my mom said no, because they were "grown-up" milkshakes. Ten minutes later, on very wobbly legs, I made my way into a quiet corner after secretly sampling said milkshake.**

### Becky's Family Coquito (In Becky's own words)

- 5 fresh cinnamon sticks
- 1/4 thumb-size piece of ginger (about 1/2-inch.)
- 2 capfuls of vanilla extract
- 2 egg yolks (no membrane)
- 2 cans of evaporated milk
- 2 cans of coconut milk
- 1 can of coconut syrup (Coco Lopez)
- 151 proof dark rum or your choice of dark rum (Important: add only after mixture has cooled down)

(NOTE: Bacardi stopped making 151 proof. I now use Cruzan 151 proof aged rum.)

Take cinnamon sticks and smash them in a paper towel with a mallet so that their oils and taste may be released in the boil. Peel the ginger then cut it into thin pieces. Place the cinnamon and ginger in a small pot filled halfway with water and boil it for about 15 min. This should yield no more than 1 cup of liquid mixture.

Open one can of evaporated milk and one can of coconut milk and empty them onto a large pot. Place your egg yolks in this milk mixture. Stir this well until there is no separation between eggs and liquid. Remove anything that is floating (remove any egg membrane) and cook on medium heat for 10 minutes. Turn off the heat and add the coconut syrup, stir then add the rest of the ingredients including the vanilla extract, cinnamon and ginger water. Stir well. Cool down and add rum to your taste.

Optional: Before adding rum, place this mixture in a cold place (fridge or outside) at 45 degrees or lower overnight then strain the congealed fat from the top.

When the mixture has cooled down, add the rum to your taste. Because the eggs were slowly cooked this drink can last for years in the fridge. Grandma would always bring out the last year's Coquito (which always tastes better) and served it in shot glasses. With time, it mixes and thickens creamy even more.

I have had up to 4-year-old Coquito in my fridge. The trick is to shake your refrigerated bottles at least once a month.

iBuen provecho! (Bon Appetite!)

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Worth reading.

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# STORIES: 'Committed to making Siler City the safest small town in NC'

Continued from page A1

ty, it grabs the No. 1 spot. The \$170 million, 255,000-square-foot facility is projected to eventually have more than 1,500 employees and become the county's largest provider of jobs. As a secondary item, there's been ongoing discussion about possibly closing Third Street in front of the plant, but that has not yet been decided.

**Why it mattered:** When Townsend left Siler City, it left a hole in the city's economy and the number of jobs available. Mountaire filled that gap.

**Quotable:** Siler City Mayor John Grimes said the project represented "resurgence in our local economy by providing investment and employment opportunities. It revitalized and repurposed existing properties, hired many of our local contractors and merchants during the building process, invigorated our economy and lifted our community's spirits."

## 2) The long-term effects of Hurricane Florence and, to a lesser extent, Michael.

Hurricanes Florence in September 2018 and Michael in October 2018 were among our top stories in 2018, but it's their after-effects that make the list this year. The ongoing saga of Jeremiah Drive — which at multiple points was underwater due to flooding — concluded in July when the road was elevated to prevent flooding in the future. The Pittsboro Elementary School Road bridge was washed away during Hurricane Florence and replaced this year. Completion of a replacement bridge in Caribton over N.C. Hwy. 42 was delayed, among many reasons, by the hurricanes. And as noted in several places, the pair of hurricanes slowed down construction in the county, causing expected financial growth to be stymied and building inspection revenues to drop.

**Why it mattered:** A lot of 2019 was spent fixing the mess that Florence and Michael left behind across Chatham County.

**Quotable:** "Another year of severe weather coupled with the passage of several bills currently under discussion in the General Assembly could impact our revenue at a time when we are faced with increased expense from capital projects, support for schools and state funding cuts to critically needed services." - Dan LaMontagne, Chatham County Manager

## 3) Chatham and Siler's tax rate increases.

The item on this list that will affect Chatham taxpayers in their wallets, both the Chatham County government and Town of Siler City increased their



Staff photo by David Bradley

## Water vapor rises as workers spray the ironwork of the newly-rebuilt Carbonton Bridge in October.



Staff photo by David Bradley

## Chatham County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Charles Gardner, Sheriff Mike Roberson and Captain Steve Maynor stand by to assist during the hostage-taking event at the Credit Union in Pittsboro in September.

respective property tax rates.

Chatham County's ad valorem rate went from 62.18 cents to 67 cents per \$100 of property value. County Manager Dan LaMontagne wrote in the FY 2019-2020 budget message that "absolutely no one wanted to end up recommending a property tax increase," but said expenses necessitated the jump, the county's first increase in three years.

The Town of Siler City increased its property tax rate by three cents from 51 cents to 54 cents. In his budget message, then-Town Manager Bryan Thompson said the increase was designed "to provide necessary funding for additional staff within the Fire Department."

**Why it mattered:** Simply, it's taxpayer money from Chatham and Siler City residents. Whether or not it was justified is not for us to say in this forum, but the fact remains that there was little to no public comment at meetings on these increases.

**Quotable:** In a written statement about the Chatham County budget, LaMontagne said that "absolutely no one wanted to end up recommending a property tax increase," but "a perfect storm of new growth-related expenses hitting at the same time" necessitated the hike.

## 4) The "Our Confederate Heroes" monument in downtown Pittsboro.

It wouldn't be a top 10 list of Chatham County

news in 2019 without the Confederate monument in downtown Pittsboro. No item generated arguably as much public interest or out-of-county attention as the debate over and eventual removal of the monument, which had been sitting in the traffic circle in front of the Chatham County Historic Courthouse since 1907. The vote to terminate the agreement between the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and Winnie Davis Chapter of the UDC for the monument's placement in August kicked off weeks and weeks of protests, arrests and decreasing business in Pittsboro, as well as a court case. Flaggers still populate the traffic circle every week as we head into 2020.

**Why it mattered:** The debate brought national and statewide news attention to downtown Pittsboro and Chatham County, and talk of the issue engulfed the area. And it's likely not over.

**Quotable:** "The monument represents a very different time in Chatham County, but its message does not represent our values today. We hope that by moving the monument to a more appropriate historical site, the lives of Confederate soldiers can still be memorialized, while also respecting everyone in our diverse community today." - Mike Dasher, Chairman, Chatham County Board of Commissioners

## 5) Water issues in Pittsboro.



Submitted photo

## Mountaire Farms Chairman Ronnie Cameron, left, with Siler City Mayor John Grimes and Mountaire Farms CEO Kevin Garland.

Pittsboro's water sources had a rough 2019. The biggest news came in November, when the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality issued notices of violation to wastewater facilities in Greensboro and Reidsville for discharges of the chemical 1,4-Dioxane, which has been identified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a likely carcinogen. That came after months of tests and reports of tests showing the chemical PFAS within the Town of Pittsboro's water system coming from the Haw River. Additionally, the town is considering construction of a water main to Sanford to alleviate the growing strain on Pittsboro's own water system.

**Why it mattered:** Clean drinking water is an expectation we all live with every day, but the citizens of Pittsboro in particular may not always have that certainty.

**Quotable:** "The complexity of this issue has kept us from making a great deal of progress. It is the upstream discharges which contain these unregulated chemicals, but it is us downstream who are left to deal with it." - then-Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry

## 6) New people in new (and familiar) places.

2019 saw people take new roles or be promoted to higher roles within the governments and municipal systems of Chatham County. The county government officially named Dan LaMontagne as the county manager after he served as the interim. Former Siler City Finance Officer Roy Lynch took the Town Manager's job after Bryan Thompson went to the county to serve as assistant county manager. Mike Wagner came from Virginia to be the new Police Chief for Siler City. And Alyssa Byrd was promoted from interim president to permanent president of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation. That's just a few of the newbies.

**Why it mattered:** New and promoted people are usually relied upon to bring fresh vision to the department or agency they head. Shifts in so many areas are worth

paying attention to.

**Quotable:** "Unfortunately crime will always be with us, but I am committed to making Siler City the safest small town in North Carolina. This commitment will require officers to make themselves available to citizens by providing a balanced approach to crime prevention and enforcement efforts. The only way we can be successful with crime prevention and reduction is by developing open dialogue." - Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner

## 7) Holdup/hostage situation at the State Employees Credit Union in Pittsboro.

It was only a few hours on Thursday, September 12, but an incident at the State Employees Credit Union in Pittsboro captured the county's attention that weekend. Suspect Kevin Laliberte, 54, of Pittsboro, "allegedly fired a handgun inside the credit union and held the manager against his will," according to the Pittsboro Police Department. No one was harmed in the incident. Laliberte was indicted on federal charges in December.

**Why it mattered:** It was just one day, and it was a big news story, but for the people inside the bank, it was something totally different.

**Quotable:** "I would like to express how grateful I am for all the cooperation and assistance the PPD received from all Law Enforcement Agencies, Emergency Responders and the support of the community during this incident. We are very grateful that no one was injured, and the suspect was taken into custody without incident." - Pittsboro Police Chief Percy Crutchfield

## 8) Notable passings.

The Oscars and other award shows always have an "in memoriam" section, and we would be remiss if we didn't remember those who made an impact on Chatham County that left us in 2019. Those include Uva Holland (first black female county commissioner, died December 4), E.T. Hanner (former county commissioner, died December 8), Barbara Lorie (community activist and former educator, died May 6), Willis Wrenn (former Siler City Mayor and commissioner, died July 7) and Barry Burns (longtime Chatham County Schools teacher and administrator, died December 12).

**Why it mattered:** These people shaped the Chatham County we live in to-

day in one way or another, and it's always worth remembering that.

**Quotable:** "She really, really, really was imbued with a ferocity to make things right. One of the things that really stood out for me was Barbara's willingness to engage and speak publicly on a multitude of issues. I admire that." - Diana Hales, Chatham County Commissioner, on Barbara Lorie

## 9) New education construction under way or completed.

The real effects of the openings of Chatham Grove Elementary School, Seaforth High School and the Chatham Health Sciences Center of Central Carolina Community College won't be felt until years down the road, but these construction projects dotted the landscape of Chatham's northeast corner in a big way in 2019. Costing nearly \$121 million combined to build, the three buildings are projected to take up more than \$27.8 million in operating costs over the next seven years and provide more educational opportunities for a growing population in that area of Chatham County.

**Why it mattered:** This is just the beginning of the new education construction that will change the Chatham County landscape over the next 10-20 years as development comes and the county's population increases.

**Quotable:** "Even without Chatham Park, the growth is coming. As a district, we're growing, period." - Chris Blice, Chatham County Schools COO, on building new schools

## 10) Development announcements across the county.

A growing population needs somewhere to live, somewhere to shop and somewhere to have fun. Some major announcements and progress made in 2019 will help support those needs. The first tenants for the Mosaic development — a 136-acre "entertainment and lifestyle destination" across from Northwood High School — were announced in late October, and nearby Chatham Park announced in mid-December that it had partnered with Cary-based Garman Homes to build the first residential units in the development. And in late November, Chatham Park's developers, Preston Development, said they were planning to build a 190-acre mixed-use development called "Mellott" to be completed in 2024.

**Why it mattered:** This is what the future of Chatham County is going to look like, particularly in the eastern and northeastern parts.

**Quotable:** "To have the vision that they've had and take the opportunities they've had — I'm proud to have it in Chatham. I'm excited about what it means for Chatham." - State Rep. Robert Reives II, on the Mosaic development

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

## Chatham Charter School

Chatham Charter School is now accepting applications for openings in kindergarten and limited openings in first through twelfth grade for the 2020-2021 school year. Kindergarten applicants must be five years of age on or before August 31, 2020. The application period ends on January 31, 2020. Applications may be obtained online ([www.chathamcharter.org](http://www.chathamcharter.org)) under the "Admissions" link, at the school (2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City) or by calling (919) 742-4550.

*Chatham Charter School is a nonprofit, nondenominational public school providing quality education for children of all races, creeds, handicaps, and national origins.*

## La Escuela de Chatham Charter

La Escuela de Chatham Charter ahora está tomando aplicaciones para espacios del primer grado hasta el grado doce para el año escolar 2020-2021. Los niños que asistan al kinder deben tener cinco años de edad antes del 31 de agosto, 2020. El periodo de aplicación termina el 31 de enero, 2020. Puede obtener una aplicación al Internet ([www.chathamcharter.org](http://www.chathamcharter.org)) al enlace admissions, a la escuela (2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City) o por una llamada (919.742.4550).

*La Escuela de Chatham Charter es una escuela pública, multidenominacional, y no lucrativa que provee una educación de la calidad para los niños de todas las razas, los credos, una condición de discapacidad, y los orígenes nacionales.*

- Small Class Size**  
Las clases pequeñas
- Individual Attention**  
Atención individualizada
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Ellie Zinn, Breanna Spinks, Mrs. Rojas & Lane Crowder  
Our team earned the highest rating of superior & won the Students' Choice Award at the 2019 Learning Through Languages HS Research Symposium at UNC.

- Extra Curricular Activities**  
Las actividades extracurriculares
- College Preparatory**  
La preparación de universidad
- Tuition Free**  
Enseñanza gratuita

**K-12 Interest Meeting Monday, January 13, at 6:30pm in the gym.**  
**Una reunión (K-12) de información, el lunes, 13 de enero a las 6:30 en el gimnasio.**

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336-257-2253 35 Silk Hope Rd.



Staff photo by David Bradley

## A misty reflection

A barn is reflected in the still waters of a pond on a recent foggy morning along Hwy. 64 in Chatham County.

### CHURCH NEWS

#### LYSTRA BAPTIST CHURCH

The Lystra Church Take and Wear Clothes Closet will be open from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11. Anyone

needing clothes is welcome to come and shop. Everything is free! There is no advantage in arriving before 8:45.

The church is located at 686 Lystra Rd., off 15-501, past Chatham Downs.

### CROFT NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

Emily Croft of Pittsboro has been named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at Berea College, located

in Berea, KY.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must achieve a GPA of 3.4

or higher, while passing at least four total credits, a course load equivalent to 16 semester hours.

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

Served at Elementary and K-8 Schools

\*\*Middle and High School Menus

#### Monday, January 6

**BREAKFAST:** Pancakes, Pears (\*\*Chicken Biscuit, Fresh Fruit)

**LUNCH:** Big Daddy's Pepperoni Pizza, Popcorn Chicken w/Roll, PB&J w/Cheese Stick Combo, Seasoned Corn, Seasoned Green Beans, Chilled Applesauce (\*\*Big Daddy's Pepperoni Pizza, Cheese Dippers w/Marinara, PB&J w/Cheese Stick Combo, Seasoned Corn, Seasoned Green Beans, Chilled Applesauce, Fruit Choice)

#### Tuesday, January 7

**BREAKFAST:** Cinnamon Bun, Applesauce (\*\*Cinnamon Bun, Fruit Choice)

**LUNCH:** Breakfast for Lunch: Cheesy Eggs w/Bacon & Biscuit, Pancakes Bacon & Eggs, Gold Rush 100% Juice Box, Oven Baked Tater Tots, Fresh Fruit (\*\*Breakfast for Lunch,

Cheesy Eggs w/Bacon & Biscuit, Pancakes Bacon & Eggs, Gold Rush 100% Juice Box, Oven Baked Tater Tots, Fruit Choice, Chilled Peaches)

#### Wednesday, January 8

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

**LUNCH:** General Tso's Chicken w/Chow Main Noodles, Cheese Dippers w/Marinara, Build a Pizza Combo, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Red Peppers & Carrots w/Dip, Chilled Pineapples (\*\*General Tso's Chicken w/Chow Mein Noodles, Zesty Garlic French Bread, Chicken Wings w/Chow Mein Noodles, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Red Peppers & Carrots w/Dip, Chilled Pineapples, Fresh Fruit)

#### Thursday, January 9

**BREAKFAST:** French Toast Stick w/Sausage,

#### Friday, January 10

**BREAKFAST:** Sausage Biscuit, Fresh Fruit (\*\*)

**LUNCH:** Hot Dog in Bun, Pork Carnitas, PB&J w/Cheese Stick Combo, Oven Baked Fries, Southwest Saw, Fruit Explosion (\*\*Bacon Cheeseburger on Bun, Pork Carnitas, Mozzarella Sticks Combo, Oven Baked Fries, Southwest Slaw, Fruit Explosion, Fresh Fruit, Lettuce & Tomato)

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

### BROODING SEASON

- ACROSS**
- 1 Examined by touching
  - 9 Smart — (know-it-all)
  - 14 Alphas' opposites
  - 20 All across the region
  - 21 Indian city on the Yamuna River
  - 22 "Gil Blas" novelist Alain-René —
  - 23 Blemish-resistant bar seat?
  - 25 Male flower part
  - 26 Earth lighter
  - 27 Autumn chill
  - 28 Sentry allowing nobody to nap?
  - 30 Monet, say
  - 34 Interstices
  - 36 — roll (hot)
  - 37 Shoulder-hugging, horn-honking driver?
  - 42 Thin and supple
  - 47 Duck cousin
  - 48 Actress Messing
  - 49 More plucky
  - 50 Lt.'s inferior
  - 53 "I see mice!"
  - 56 Ear-related
  - 58 Indian city on the Yamuna River
  - 59 Vehicle in a chase scene
  - 63 Decorative pins worn by jockeys?
  - 67 Yellow-and-black bird
  - 68 16-Down, to Jacob
  - 69 Flagged auto
  - 70 Mac — tung
  - 71 Bit of pasta that's really hard to find?
  - 77 Bodily pouch
  - 79 Spanish for "that"
  - 80 Big pet food brand
  - 81 "Infinite" rapper
  - 84 Have pain from bending forward too sharply?
  - 89 Tire type
  - 90 Tolkien terrorizers
  - 91 Up — (stymied)
  - 92 — Lanka
  - 94 Butter holder
  - 95 More hideous
  - 97 — liver (meat product)
  - 100 Harvestable
  - 104 Work layoff, slangily
  - 105 Dive to attack with perfect form?
  - 111 Texter's "I think ..."
  - 113 Neeson of "Darkman"
  - 114 GMC pickup
  - 115 Decide on Domino's for dinner?
  - 122 Taylor of "Cleopatra," for short
  - 124 Los Angeles' Playa — Rey
  - 125 Regular practices
  - 126 Botching an April 1 prank?
  - 131 Crops up
  - 132 Ickily sticky
  - 133 Enlarge
  - 134 Quick
  - 135 In any way
  - 136 Power-supplying socket
  - 8 Blueprint
  - 9 TV spots
  - 10 "Show me"
  - 11 College town in North Carolina
  - 12 Toy train, when doubled
  - 13 Quantity in a narc's bust
  - 14 Former NFLer Merlin
  - 15 Annual ritzy NYC fundraising event
  - 16 Biblical birthright seller
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  - 49 Person rubbing it in
  - 50 Prefix with warrior
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  - 57 Rocket paths
  - 60 Pigeon noise
  - 61 Balm plants
  - 62 Betelgeuse or Antares
  - 64 Clangor
  - 65 How balloons float
  - 66 Trump replaced him
  - 72 Thief's bagful
  - 73 "Bali —"
  - 74 Autos such as Gremlins and Pacers
  - 75 Belgian river
  - 76 Spain's El —
  - 77 Teapot part
  - 78 "I'm so frustrated!"
  - 82 Water, to Gigi
  - 83 Rangers' and Rays' gp.
  - 85 Brunei locale
  - 86 Mean whale
  - 87 High point
  - 88 One-named sports legend
  - 93 Lyric penner Gershwin
  - 96 Lived inferior
  - 98 Ball of mashed chickpeas
  - 99 — -fi movie
  - 101 Ecclees, say
  - 102 Greek letter
  - 103 She baas
  - 105 Swab
  - 106 Film score composer Schifrin
  - 107 Iago's wife
  - 108 Hard trial
  - 109 Bully's threat ender
  - 110 Warehouse platform
  - 112 Hardly tidy
  - 115 Cartoonist Addams
  - 116 Celestial instrument
  - 117 Off-Broadway prize
  - 118 French river or department
  - 119 TV actress Swenson
  - 120 — suit (1940s duds)
  - 121 Reverse alphabetical order
  - 123 Bronze metal
  - 127 Olive of "Popeye"
  - 128 Lt.'s villain
  - 129 "Despicable Me" villain
  - 130 Dewy, e.g.

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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# CCCC to open Chatham Health Sciences building on Jan. 13

**BY ZACHARY HORNER**  
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — While speaking to a visitor about the soon-to-be-opened Chatham Health Sciences Center during a recent morning, Mark Hall was interrupted by a fire alarm.

A worker soon came to tell him it was just a test, that there was no real fire.

About a month prior to that building's opening, it was a good sign that things were coming together.

After a couple of delays, the Chatham Health Sciences Center will open to classes on Jan. 13 as the newest building of Central Carolina Community College's footprint in Chatham County.

"What we try to do in the community college system, and at this community college in particular, is have locations where people can get education and workforce training closer to their homes so it's not a burden on them," Hall, the Chatham provost for CCCC, said after the working fire alarm was silenced. "That's a burden that a lot of our student population, it's really hard to do that. We're trying hard to remove those obstacles by having those locations."

As Hall stated, the CHSC gives the community college a presence in and around the Siler City, Pittsboro and Chapel Hill markets, the three most dense areas in Chatham



Staff photo by Zachary Horner

**CCCC's Chatham Provost Mark Hall, left, and Health Sciences Building site coordinator Melissa Fogarty stand in the laboratory where medical assisting students will practice lab work.**

in terms of population. Classes at the CHSC are going to be focused almost entirely on health and well-being, led by the flagship program of Medical Assisting. The first class of the one-year program is already in session on the Pittsboro campus and will move to the new building when it opens in a couple weeks.

Melissa Fogarty is the program director and lead instructor of the Medical Assisting program, as well as the site coordinator at the CHSC. "A lot of people confuse

us with nurses," Fogarty said. "A medical assistant primarily works in practices. Literally we do everything in the practice except being the doctor. We're that doctor's right hand person."

Everything from the front office — checking in patients, taking phone calls, building medical records — to taking vital signs, drawing blood and doing lab tests. In the new building, students will be able to practice all of them. There's a mock doctor's office, including medical beds, a reception-

ist's window and a lab for blood tests.

Medical assisting joins massage therapy and health and fitness science as the three main programs that help identify what the building is all about, Hall said.

"We're going to have three programs centered around helping people live better lives, more healthy and better lives," he said. "That's what we're excited about, having this presence up here and training people in this area."

Classes kick off later



Staff photo by Zachary Horner

**The new Chatham Health Sciences Center of Central Carolina Community College, which sits by Briar Chapel off of U.S. 15-501 in Chapel Hill, will open for students on Jan. 13.**

this month with Medical Assisting courses, as well as continuing education classes in Emergency Medical Technicians, fitness instructor prep, group fitness classes and yoga sessions. To learn more about what's available, visit [ccc.edu/chsc/](http://ccc.edu/chsc/).

Fogarty said she was excited to be a part of this new venture.

"I'm super excited that we'll be in this area and pull from this area in Chatham County and get the medical assisting name out there," she said. "It's so exciting to think we can pull from Orange County, Chatham County, even people that are in Sanford, Raleigh. So we're in now in this wonderful location that we'll be able to pull from a lot of areas."

Reporter Zachary Horner

## Things to Know about the CHSC

- Slated to open for classes on Jan. 13
- Construction cost: \$13,052,677
- 40,000-square foot building, located on U.S. 15-501 near Briar Chapel
- Third CCCC campus in Chatham County

can be reached at [zhorn-er@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorn-er@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at @ZachHorn-erCNR.

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## Bryant family honored



Photo by Annette Roberson

Gathering for a Dec. 21 event at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro to celebrate the contributions of the Bryant family — Gade and Maude Bryant and their 11 children — to life in Chatham County are, from left, Sheriff Mike Roberson, former county commissioner Betty Wilson, Carla Bryant, Rev. Ricky R. McKinney Sr., Carl Bryant, J. Tawana Washington, Ericka McKinney and Ricky R. McKinney Jr.



Photo by Annette Roberson

Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson addresses the audience at the Dec. 21 tribute to Pittsboro's Bryant family, a farming family whose contributions to life and culture in Chatham County included donating land in 1949 for the Chatham County Colored Agriculture Fair.



Photo by Annette Roberson

Sheriff Mike Roberson, left, and Carl Bryant, last surviving child of Gade and Maude Bryant, chat during a celebration of the Bryant family. The event, held Dec. 21 in Pittsboro, honored the Bryants' Chatham County legacy of public service.

## COOKS: 'It was a unique experience that inspired me to cook more'

Continued from page A1

from the Food Network network was about to call her, promising that it was not her brother "trying to fool you." Twenty minutes later, Boykin learned she was going to be a contestant on the show.

The first episode of season 18, which is available for preview on the Food Network website, shows Boykin in her standard attire — a teal tutu, colorful, chunky jewelry, a feathered hairband and an infectious smile. The show opens with each of the contestants being asked to create their own "signature dish." For most of the signature dishes, hosts Burrell and Brown were left spitting out the food as soon as they tasted it. Boykin's creation was something

she called "some 'othered pork chops," her own take on smothered pork chops, which the hosts described as "such an interesting uniform shade of grey."

Each of the contestants are unique, and Boykin is no exception. Brown described Boykin as "Cyndi Lauper's mother" — after the quirky pop star — after observing her appearance, and Brown's quips about how Boykin prepares her meals demonstrate that she was made to be on the show.

Though Boykin was unable to provide any details about how the series ends — it's already completed filming, but her contract prohibits her from revealing details prior to airing — she does make it past the first round. Viewers can tune in Sunday to see what happens next.

Boykin described the experience as "full of mystery" and "so much fun." What was most rewarding for her, she said, was "learning some basic skills," but "mostly it was fun and challenging."

"I love to challenge myself," Boykin said. "It was a unique experience that inspired me to cook more and more. And it was fun. The chefs were wonderful and it was a great experience."

She said she'd like to encourage everyone to "keep your path and follow your dreams."

"People may think you're a non-conformist," she said, "but just keep doing it. You can make a difference in this world."

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



Chef hosts Anne Burrell and Alton Brown pose together, as seen on Worst Cooks in America, Season 18.

Jason DeCrow/The Food Network

**"I would like to encourage everyone to keep your path and follow your dreams. People may think you're a non-conformist, but just keep doing it. You can make a difference in this world."**

DR. LULU BOYKIN, PITTSBORO

## HOWARD: 'I believe that there are many opportunities ahead of us'

Continued from page A1

"very professional, kind and thoughtful."

"I am confident that she will do an excellent job as chair and represent the county very well," he said. "Personally, I feel that Commissioner Howard and I get along very well and will work well together as she takes on this new role."

Howard said the chair's primary responsibility is to guide the board's discussion through "difficulty topics" and "help facilitate civil discourse." She added that she hopes to get a "firmer handle" on different parts of the county government that "directly influence the way" board policies "impact citizens."

If she was presented with a similar situation to Dasher — guiding the board through a public

and controversial topic like a Confederate monument — Howard said she would want to follow his lead.

"I would utilize a similar approach that allowed for public input from all who wish to speak on the issue and then engage the board in discussion on the issue, bringing in experts to advise us as needed," she said. "I am committed to listening, examining and understanding issues and will bring this practice to every issue that comes before us."

During her first meeting as chairman, Howard spoke specifically on the idea of economic development and recruiting businesses to Chatham County, something she re-emphasized in a follow-up interview.

"I believe that there are many opportunities ahead of us to meet

the impending growth responsibly and to encourage the creation of good jobs in a way that honors the values and needs of the community while preserving the environment," she said. "I'm eager to get started on conversations that bring us closer to that goal."

The commissioners' next meeting is the annual board retreat, during which the board will work through priorities for 2020 and the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget. The three meetings will take place at 9 a.m. on January 14, 15 and 17 at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center. All meetings are open to the public.

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



New Chatham County Commission Board Chairman Karen Howard, hand raised, speaks to a group of Chatham County 4-H students at a mock commissioners meeting in this Oct. 2019 file photo. Howard was selected as the commissioners' new chairman Dec. 16.

Staff photo by Zachary Horner

### Who is Karen Howard?

- County commissioner since 2014
- Member of Chatham County Board of Education, 2012-2014
- Married to Ralph, has six children (two adopted)
- Former attorney, earned Bachelors of Law degree from the University of Buckingham in England
- Born in New York, spent much of childhood in Bahamas

# 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.



Visit us at [ChathamPark.com](http://ChathamPark.com) and [MosaicAtChathamPark.com](http://MosaicAtChathamPark.com)

## Apex Friendship girls withstand torrid Northwood rally to capture 2019 Charger Classic tournament crown

BY DON BEANE  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — It was a high level basketball game here Monday night resembling a state playoff atmosphere as Northwood battled 4A Apex Friendship in the finals of the 2nd annual First Bank Charger Classic girls tournament.

When the dust settled it was Apex Friendship taking home the trophy behind 23 points from tourney MVP Indya Nivar with a tightly contested 70-60 victory that was closer than the final score indicated.

Nivar had 13 of her game-high 23 in the fourth quarter including four in the closing minute with the initial two coming from the charity stripe with :53.8 left and the Patriots clinging to a precarious 52-47 advantage. Brooke Amberg added three foul shots in the waning moments to offset a trey by Northwood's Tekeyah Bland, and a pair of foul shots by Bell with :12.2 left in the stanza to close the locals to within 19-11.

But to the Lady Chargers' credit, they battled back with a 10-4 run to close the frame including a rebound bucket from Rae McClarty, a driving basket from Jy Smith, a pair of foul shots by Tekeyah Bland, a runner in the lane at the 1:02 mark from Natalie Bell, and a pair of foul shots by Bell with :12.2 left in the stanza to close the locals to within 19-11.

"I loved how our team fought back. I thought Rae McClarty was outstanding defensively on Nivar, even

in order to have a chance. We tried early on to have someone other than India Navar beat us and they were able to hit some shots. Also we struggled early and had too many turnovers which they converted into easy buckets."

Those turnovers and poor shooting in the opening quarter coupled with six points from Marlyn Poneleit, five points including a trey from Tyra Washington, and four more for Navar led to a 15-1 lead by Apex Friendship at the 3:15 mark and Northwood was threatened with being run completely out of the gym.

Northwood coach Cameron Vernon couldn't have been more complimentary to the victors from Wake County. "Congratulations to Apex Friendship," Vernon said. "We knew coming in that we would have to play really well

See CROWN, page B4



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood's Tekeyah Bland leaps for a basket in front of Hailey Sears of Apex Friendship during the fourth quarter of play Monday in the girls' finals of the First Bank Charger Classic in Pittsboro.

## Apex Friendship rolls unbeaten Northwood to claim Charger Classic crown

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Jayden Beloti tallied 15 of his career-high 31 points in the second quarter to help Apex Friendship break an early stalemate as the Patriots surged to a 12-point halftime advantage, then withstood a furious third-period Northwood comeback before pulling away down the stretch to knock the Chargers from the ranks of the unbeaten and claim the championship trophy in the 2nd annual First Bank Charger Classic with a 79-63 victory last Monday night in Lewis Norwood Gymnasium.

While Northwood suffered its first loss in 12 outings, Apex Friendship climbed to 8-2 for the season.

N.C. State signee Nick Farrar registered a double-double with 20 points and 13 caroms while Kenny Noland came off the bench to chip in 13 points for the winners, who shot a phenomenal 62 percent (32-of-52) from the floor. The Patriots also held a 31-17 advantage on the glass while turning the ball over 11 times.

Aaron Ross topped the Chargers with 24 points, while Jalen McAfee-Marion contributed 14 and Deuce Powell added 13. Northwood connected on 46 percent (27-of-59) of its field goal attempts while only committing six turnovers.

"The two big keys for us were controlling the boards and Jayden's offense in the second quarter that allowed us to open up a double-digit lead at the break," said Apex Friendship coach P.J. Lowman. "We work hard in practice to make rebounding a point of emphasis, and both Jayden and Nick gave us a strong effort around the rim. On offense Jayden is clever with the ball and slides off defenders with his quickness while keeping the defense off-balance when he pivots and starts his drive to the basket."

"I knew Northwood was too good not to make a run at us the second half. They made a really good push in the third period but we managed to hold them off and never let them retake the lead. After failing to win the tournament title a year ago it feels great to carry the championship hardware home this time."

Chargers coach Matt Brown stated it's difficult to beat a team that shoots and rebounds as well as the Patriots did Monday evening.

"You're going to have a hard time overcoming an opponent who shoots 62 percent from the field while also dominating the boards," said Brown. "That coupled with the fact we weren't

See UNBEATEN, page B2



Submitted photo

## 2019 Winter Slam Boys' Champs

Chatham Central held off previously unbeaten Chatham Charter 70-64 on Saturday night in Siler City to take the 2019 Winter Slam Tournament Championship. Chatham Central's Michael Moore was selected as the MVP of the tournament.

## Asheboro soars past Jets in second round action of Courier-Tribune Tournament

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
News + Record Staff

ASHEBORO — Asheboro coach Brian Nance said after his team's six-point loss to Wheatmore Friday night in first-round action of the 29th annual The Courier-Tribune Christmas Invitational Tournament, the Blue Comets felt they had something to prove against Jordan-Matthews in Saturday afternoon's consolation match-up.

Placing four players in double figures, Asheboro raced out to a 7-0 lead in the opening two minutes of play and led 19-5 after one quarter before streaking to a 30-point halftime advantage en route to demolishing the Jets 88-62 in a foul-plagued contest on the winners' home court.

The runaway victory lifted the Blue Comets to 7-4 on the year, while J-M was sent spiraling to its fifth straight loss in falling to 4-7 for the season.

Thomas McIntosh tallied 20 points, Noah Watkins chipped in 18, Tramir Martin registered 11 and Elias Alston added 10 for Asheboro, which shot 55% (29-of-53) from the floor and held a 29-26 edge on the boards while turning the ball over 27 times.

Janice Hedgepeth recorded a season-high 27 points — all in the second half — to lead Jordan-Matthews, which connected on 44 percent

(20-of-45) of its field goal attempts while committing 31 turnovers.

A total of 59 infractions were called in the game, with both teams having two players foul out. The Blue Comets converted 21-of-33 free throw attempts, while the Jets sank 20-of-41 tries from the charity stripe.

"After collapsing in the final two minutes last night in the loss to Wheatmore, we talked about coming out today and playing hard with a lot of effort," Nance said. "We accomplished what we wanted to offensively by getting off to a quick start, and through three quarters we took control of the game. But credit J-M for battling all the way, and we didn't have an answer for the left-handed kid (Hedgepeth), who scored 21 of his points in the fourth quarter."

"Neither team adjusted well to a tightly-called game, but when the whistles weren't stopping play every 10-12 seconds we were able to do some good things."

Jordan-Matthews' coach Rodney Wiley explained yet another slow start by his squad doomed them from the beginning.

"We had some good looks at the outset but couldn't put the ball in the basket, while their defensive pressure caused us to have a lot of early turnovers," said Wiley. "Early foul trouble also gave us problems,

especially when leading scorer Camden Fuquay picked up his third foul midway through the second quarter and had to spend a lot of time on the bench."

"I think our pressure affected Asheboro in the second half and finally got us going about the time Lanice was able to start attacking their 1-3-1 zone for a lot of layups."

With the Jets committing a dozen turnovers in the opening stanza while only making two-of-seven field goal attempts, the Blue Comets sped to a 14-point advantage in the first eight minutes and expanded their lead to 49-15 on Alex Pulido's layup with 55.2 seconds remaining in the initial half prior to J-M's Jacques Thompson's pull-up off the right baseline and four Huston Causey free throws countering a Kejuan Logan layup to trim the gap to 51-21 at the break.

Asheboro managed to stretch its advantage to as much as 38 points on three occasions in the second half, the last time at 83-45 following Martin's layup with 4:11 to go in the fourth quarter.

Hedgepeth then contributed 10 points during a 17-0 Jordan-Matthews' run that narrowed the margin to 21 before the Blue Comets closed out the rout with Jordan McNair's three-pointer from the left wing and Alston's fast break layup over the final 42.8 seconds.



Submitted photo

## 2019 Girls' Winter Slam Champions

Chatham Charter defeated North Moore in the 2019 Winter Slam finals on Saturday evening in Siler City to lay claim to the tournament title. Morgan Lineberry of Chatham Charter was chosen as the MVP of the tournament.

# Playoffs, local tourneys provide holiday fun

With a lot of down time during the holiday season the College Football Playoffs and local high school basketball tournaments have proven a great deal of fun for local sports fans. Saturday provided a great deal of excitement as LSU hosted Oklahoma in one semi-final down in the Peach Bowl in Atlanta before reigning champion Clemson tangled with Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl out in Arizona.

The first game, well, it was a mauling by the Purple and Gold Tigers. LSU, led by Heisman-winning quarterback Joe Burrow, destroyed Oklahoma 63-28. Burrow was 29-of-39 for 493 yards and seven touchdown passes while rushing five times for 22 yards and a score. From start to finish, LSU dominated Oklahoma and Jalen Hurts in every facet of the game in what was an impressive performance.

Down at the Peach Bowl, Clemson put together a late-game four-play, 94-yard championship drive behind quarterback Trevor Lawrence to down Ohio State 29-23. The Buckeyes led early 16-0 before a late surge in the first half put the Tigers back in the game. After the winning drive and a pick of Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields in the end zone to seal the deal, the Tigers punched their ticket back into the title game.

An all-Tigers CFP game was my prediction, though the second game could have went either way. I've always pulled for LSU a bit — I just love their colors, uniforms, and passion of the fans. The atmosphere in the real Death Valley is second to none. Hoodie Williams, congrats my man, you are having a season anointed by the hand of God being an LSU and Baltimore Ravens fan, enjoy!

And I've never liked Ohio State. They never lose, it's always someone else's fault, and that was the reaction by their first year coach Ryan Day and the biased Midwest media after the contest. Anton Moffitt is the ONLY reason I would have been happy if the Buckeyes had won, and that would have been 1 percent of me.

Clemson, well, Marshall and Jennifer Gibson, Angela Brookbank Burgess, congrats and I'm happy for the Orange and Purple Tigers fans. Even Dabo, who I was skeptical about for a long time, has proven me wrong. He's the real deal, though I can't help but to think of Barney Fife the entire game when watching that goofy rascal on the sidelines.

So who's going to win the title? Geaux Tigers, the LSU Tigers. That's been my pick and I'm sticking with it. They are the complete team, with Burrow at QB, a stable of backs and wideouts, and the best offensive line in the nation. They are also more battle-tested, and the defense is strong in all 11 spots and has a lot of depth.

Can Clemson win? Of course, they expect to win and have that big-game experience. Lawrence is the best talent in college football at the QB position, and the receivers are elite, as is Travis Etienne at running back. The difference in this year's Clemson team is that they aren't as good on the offensive line, particularly in the tackle spots, and the defensive front seven isn't as good. Are they talented? Yes, just not as experienced and with less depth. You can't lose so much talent to the NFL in consecutive seasons and not expect a drop off. It's impossible for any program.

But the bottom line is that Clemson is still there, and LSU will have to earn it and win it on the field. And there is something to be said for a team being overlooked the entire year especially when they are the reigning national champions. So get the popcorn ready for this one, it's going to be a good one.

Locally, the high school basketball tournaments continue to deliver. The Northwood boys were unbeaten last week before falling 79-63 in the Chargers Classic finals to 4A Apex Friendship and Jordan-Matthews alum and former coach P.J. Lowman. But coach Matthew Brown certainly has to be pleased with the effort of his Chargers and the Northwood student body certainly showed up as well to support their squad at the event.

The Chatham Charter girls also won their first ever Chatham Charter Winter Slam tournament title in Siler City on Saturday night under coach Jennifer Dameron with an impressive rout of North Moore. Morgan Lineberry was named MVP for the Lady Knights and continued a strong junior campaign.

In the nightcap, Chatham Central, a late entry due to a withdrawal, took on unbeaten Chatham Charter in the boys' finals. Now these two teams weren't slated to meet one another after quite the budding rivalry in recent years when they were in the same conference. So needless to say, there was a lot of buzz and excitement surrounding this contest. And it delivered.

In overtime, Chatham Central took a 70-64 triumph over Chatham Charter. Michael Moore, the top player in the county, was named MVP for the Bears, while Jordan Hamilton of Chatham Charter, the best true post player in the county, also turned in a stellar performance in a contest that even exceeded expectations in front of a packed house.

Also, coach Cameron Vernon's Lady Chargers were scheduled to battle 4A Apex Friendship for the Chargers Classic Tournament title in the girl's bracket on Monday night, and let's hope Northwood comes out on top this time against the Patriots.

Speaking of tournaments, Northwood and Chatham Charter have done first class jobs hosting the events. It would be great to see a tournament in the future featuring all the Chatham County squads, boys and girls, and Northwood has expressed interest in it.

And it could happen. Jordan-Matthews has been a part of the Asheboro Courier-Tribune Christmas Invitational Tournament for 29 years, but how solid that tournament is after long-time director Dennis Garcia stepping down remains to be seen. Also, rumors have swirled about Uwharrie Charter being a choice to replace the Jets to make it an All-Randolph County event, which of course would free J-M up if that were to happen.

So don't sleep on a Chargers Classic in the future with Northwood, Jordan-Matthews, Chatham Central, Chatham Charter and Woods Charter. And let's not forget Seaforth High School coming around in 2021. That would add a sixth team, and certainly level the playing field a great deal considering Northwood would go from a projected 1,500-1,600 enrollment to closer to 800, which Seaforth taking the remainder.

That would allow for two other teams and North Moore, Union Pines, Carrboro and Apex Friendship are names that could fill out the remaining pair of slots in what would be an exciting event for Chatham County indeed.

# Jordan-Matthews girls slug way past Trinity 33-30 in Courier-Tribune 7th place game

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
News + Record Staff

ASHEBORO — Makayla Glover's inbounds layup at the start of the fourth quarter put Jordan-Matthews ahead to stay while J-M survived a record-breaking performance by Trinity freshman point guard Autumn Gentry to collar a 33-30 victory over the Lady Bulldogs and capture seventh place in the 29th annual The Courier-Tribune Christmas Invitational Tournament at Asheboro High School last Monday afternoon.

Defeating Trinity for only the fourth time in 17 tourney meetings, the Lady Jets raised their overall ledger to 3-8, while the Lady Bulldogs fell to 1-11 for the season.

Jordan-Matthews was led by Ellia Wright's 18 points as the winners connected on just 25 percent (13-of-52) of their field goal attempts but controlled the boards by a whopping 42-23 margin, with Jasmine Scotten pulling down 22 rebounds and Glover adding 13, while J-M turned the ball over 16 times.

Gentry tallied all but two of her team's points as Trinity shot 26 percent (12-of-47) from the floor while committing 14 turnovers. Her cumulative total of 90 points over the three-day event established a new girls' individual scoring record, eclipsing the previous mark of 86 points set by Wheatmore's Taylor Walker in 2012.

"It was good to finally get a win in this tournament even though we didn't have an answer to stopping Gentry," said Lady Jets' coach Charles Byrd. "While we did a good job boxing out and controlling the boards, offensively we still need to work on more movement off the ball. Our shots were there tonight, but our forwards need to do better finishing around the rim."

Lady Bulldogs' coach Mike Sink said his team is still a work in progress, with only two players having any previous basketball experience.

"While the big key this afternoon was J-M's rebounding advantage that allowed them to have second and third-chance opportunities, we didn't execute well running our offense," Sink said. "When the ball rotates to Autumn the other players have a tendency to stand around and wait for her to make something happen. We really need other individuals to step up and help take the scoring load off her."

Trinity jumped out to a 6-0 advantage in the opening four minutes of play and maintained a six-point lead (10-4) after one period.

Jordan-Matthews eventually

seized its first advantage with 1:23 left in the second stanza when a Wright charity toss snapped a 12-all standoff and gave J-M a one-point lead before her pull-up basket in the paint in the final second of the half put the Lady Jets up 15-12 at intermission.

Following Avery Headen's jumper in the lane that increased Jordan-Matthews' advantage to 21-14 with 4:13 remaining in the third quarter, the Lady Bulldogs ran off nine unanswered points to fashion a 23-21 lead on Sydney Skeen's layup with 51.8 seconds to go in the frame. But Wright's fast break layup with 4.6 seconds showing on the clock then sent the teams into the final eight minutes tied at 23-apiece.

After Glover's bucket nine seconds into the fourth period gave J-M the advantage for good, the Lady Jets squandered several chances to put the game away by missing the front end of three one-and-one opportunities over the last 65 seconds.

But following Gentry's layup with 13.6 seconds left that drew Trinity within 31-30, Headen and Wright each sank one-of-two free throw attempts in the time remaining to secure the triumph.

At the conclusion of the tourney, Wright and Gentry were both named to the All-Tournament Team.

# Northwood girls roll into Charger Classic final with pair of wins

BY DON BEANE  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Northwood girls basketball team rolled into the 2019 Charger Classic finals with a pair of opening round tournament victories last week.

On Friday evening in the opener, Northwood (8-3) cruised past 4A Wake Forest 51-39 behind 18 points from Natalie Bell.

McKenna Snively added 13 points in the win and Rae McClarty 11 more for the Chargers.

"Natalie Bell, McKenna Snively and Rae McClarty really did a nice job from the guard position tonight," said NW coach Cameron Vernon. "We struggled inside and they were able to give us some offensive firepower to compensate."

Vernon was pleased overall with the performance of his Chargers coming off a holiday break.

"Good win and it was a difficult game for us out of the holiday break," Vernon said. "We weren't as crisp and as focused as I would have liked, but the break will do that. Wake Forest was long and gave us some problems, but in the end we were able to execute and finish which was the difference. We have to do a better job of coming in to the game focused and ready to play because going against Apex in round 2 will be a difficult task for us, and I am

looking forward to seeing how we come out and play."

Behind six points from Bell and Snively and three more from McClarty, Northwood bolted to a 15-11 advantage after one period in the books. Amina Miles and Megan Wimmer tallied four apiece for the Cougars in the stanza.

Northwood blew the game open in the second with an 18-11 surge to push the lead to 33-22 at the intermission. Bell had seven points in the stanza while McClarty added five, and Snively four. Miles countered with five for Wake Forest (2-8) while Shayla Rodriguez chipped in four.

In the third period, the Lady Chargers bogged down offensively and the Cougars came back with a 10-5 run sparked by three points from Miles which closed Apex to within 38-32 entering the fourth and final period.

Northwood would use four points from Caitlin Bailey in the final eight minutes of action to ignite a 13-7 spurt by the Chargers which sealed the 51-39 win.

McClarty added five assists and Snively four steals in the victory while Miles led Wake Forest with 14 points.

On Saturday night in second round action against Apex, Northwood won the middle quarters to stroll past the Cougars 51-38.

Snively paced the Lady Chargers with 14 points

while Tekeyah Bland and Bailey chipped in 10 apiece, and McClarty added nine.

"Really big win, the (Savannah) Coffel girl is a real presence inside at about 6'3" and she gave us some issues," Vernon pointed out. "We really wanted to limit her touches and it helped by getting her in foul trouble in the first half, and we really capitalized when Coffel went to the bench and you see that by us outscoring them 19-8 in the second. We were very into this game and much more focused. I love the scoring distribution (Snively 14, Bland 10, Bailey 10, McClarty 9)."

Vernon continued the praise with the team play his squad exhibited.

"We have always stressed team basketball in the program and it's hard to plan for a team that has distribution like that. I thought Snively and McClarty really played well at the guard positions and our inside game picked up with Bland and Bailey. That's a career high in points form Caitlin and I was super proud of the way she played and Tekeyah really bounced back from an off night and exhibited great effort on both ends of the floor. Big win but we have an even bigger game Monday versus a very good Apex Friendship team."

Bland had eight points in the opening period to counter five by Coffel and

four from Hayden Tarpey as the Cougars led by a 13-11 count after one period of play.

With Coffel in foul trouble in the second frame, Northwood used the 19-8 run to take a 30-21 advantage at the break. Snively had seven points and Bailey and McClarty four apiece for the Chargers while Coffel collected four for the Cougars in limited minutes.

The Northwood defense turned tenacious in the third, limiting Apex to seven points, four by Coffel, while scoring 13 to go up 43-28 heading into the fourth. Snively canned a huge trey on the way to five points for the Chargers in the third while Bailey and Bell chipped in four and three respectively.

McClarty would tally four points in the fourth as the locals went on to claim the 51-38 victory. Coffel and Tarpey had four points for the Cougars in the final period.

Coffel closed with 16 points and Tarpey nine in the loss for Apex (4-9).

## UNBEATEN

Continued from page B1

hitting our shots in the second quarter let them build a sizable lead at halftime. But credit our guys for not giving up and battling back after intermission.

"I thought we were relentless in the third period and did a great job closing the gap to two before a combination of mental mistakes and not making shots down the stretch allowed Apex Friendship to put the game away."

After a pair of early ties Northwood opened up a 12-6 advantage following Alex Snively's three-pointer from behind the top of the key with 2:57 remaining in the initial stanza before the Patriots rallied to draw even at 14-all on Beloti's put-back in the paint with 36.2 seconds left in the frame.

A Beloti free throw with 6:25 to go in the second period gave Apex Friendship the lead for good at 19-18 before back-to-back treys from the

left wing by Noland and Beloti quickly extended the victors' advantage to seven.

After Troy Arnold's layup drew the Chargers within 32-27 with 2:39 remaining in the first half, consecutive baseline hoops by Beloti followed by Noland's midcourt steal and layup increased the Patriots' lead to 11 prior to Beloti answering a Ross layup with a three-pointer from the left side that put Apex Friendship ahead 41-29 at intermission.

With Ross accounting for 11 of his points in the third quarter, Northwood fought back to trim the difference to 55-53 on his free throw with 34.9 seconds left in the stanza before Jeremiah Baker's layup gave the Patriots a four-point advantage entering the fourth period.

But any hopes of the Chargers had of regaining the momentum were quickly dashed at the start of the final quarter when Apex Friendship ran off 10 unanswered points to boost its lead to 67-53 with 5:20 to go in the contest.

Following a 7-0 Northwood spurt capped by Snively's trey from the left corner that cut the Chargers' deficit in half with 2:54 remaining, the Patriots proceeded to close out the game with a 12-3 run and forged their biggest advantage of the evening at 77-60 on a pair of Farrar

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# Full Court Press

Northwood's Aaron Ross, with ball, attempts a break to the basket around three Apex Friendship players during the teams' Dec. 23 game. Ross was named to the all-tournament team of the First Bank Charger Classic.



Staff photo by David Bradley



Staff photo by David Bradley

Apex Friendship's head coach P.J. Lowman proudly holds his trophy from the 2019 First Bank Charger Classic tournament in Pittsboro Dec. 23. Lowman is a Jordan Matthews graduate and former head coach of the Jets. His men's team took the prize from the home team 79-63 in the final game of the tournament in Pittsboro.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood coach Matt Brown gives his team strategies for a comeback late in the team's game against Apex Friendship. Northwood, playing in the First Bank Charger Classic Dec. 23, lost to Apex, 79-63, giving it second place in the tournament.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Apex Friendship's Nick Farrar (25) defends against Northwood's Aaron Ross in the second half of play in the final game of the 2019 First Bank Charger Classic in Pittsboro Dec. 23.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Northwood's Jalen McAfee-Marion glides to the basket past Apex Friendship's Kenny Noland during the teams' Dec. 23 matchup in the 2019 First Bank Charger Classic Tournament.

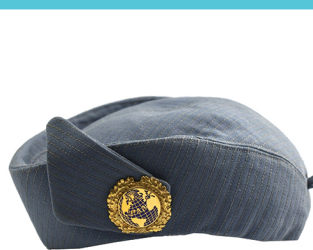
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# Next CN+R/Our Chatham forum to focus on teen mental health

**CN+R STAFF REPORT**

The Chatham News + Record and Our Chatham are pleased to announce that the next "One Chatham" forum will focus on teen mental health in Chatham County.

The event, scheduled for 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29, will be a follow-up to the release of "The Age of Anxiety," the first season of the new podcast "The Chatcast." Episodes of the 10-part series, which was released on December 13, 2019, have been listened to more than 500 times since release day.

The forum will be held in the Holmes Meeting Room at the Chatham Community Library in

Pittsboro.

Four panelists are already scheduled to attend:

- Chatham Charter School sophomore Abigail Holmes, 15, who was featured prominently in the podcast

- Wilder Horner, social work supervisor with the Chatham County Department of Social Services

- George Greger-Holt, community outreach coordinator of Chatham Drug Free

- Tracy Fowler, executive director of student support services with Chatham County Schools

According to the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1 in 3 Chatham high schoolers report experiencing symptoms of depression and 1 in 9

say they have attempted suicide. The numbers are higher than national statistics, but not by much — they echo problems all of America is facing. Like the podcast, the forum will focus on exploring why teenagers deal with mental health issues at such a high rate and what steps Chatham County can take to push back against these problems.

News + Record Reporter Zachary Horner and Our Chatham Reporter Adrienne Cleven — the team that created and produced "The Age of Anxiety" — will serve as forum moderators.

"I'm really excited about getting these people in one room and hashing out some of the ideas we talked about

on the podcast as a community," Horner said. "I hope that Chatham residents who attend understand that not only is teen mental health something we need to take seriously, but that there are tools and resources available that we can take advantage of right now."

Horner and Cleven will ask questions, but we're also taking questions from the community. Submit your questions to [chathamchatcast@gmail.com](mailto:chathamchatcast@gmail.com) and they might be asked at the forum.

Visit [chathamnewsrecord.com/chatcast](http://chathamnewsrecord.com/chatcast) to find links to "The Age of Anxiety" on various podcasts apps and read up on how the podcast was made and why teen mental health was the chosen topic for the first season.



CN+R graphic by Zachary Horner

## Cougars claw past Jets in Courier-Tribune Tournament opener

**BY DUCK DUCKSON**  
News + Record Staff

ASHEBORO — Southwestern Randolph coach Matt Kiser might want to think of his team's opening-round triumph over Jordan-Matthews in the 29th annual The Courier-Tribune Christmas Invitational Tournament as a belated Christmas gift.

The Cougars, who never trailed, clawed their way to a 16-4 lead after one quarter before playing J-M even over the final three stanzas, making their first-period advantage the difference in posting a 57-45 victory Friday night at Asheboro High School.

Winning for just the 10th time in 29 first-round appearances, Southwestern Randolph broke a two-game losing streak and improved to 6-5 for the season while defeating the Jets for the eighth time in 14 tourney meetings, whereas Jordan-Matthews lost its fourth consecutive outing in dropping to 4-6 overall.

Ethan Smith poured in a game-high 20 points and Luke Dalke finished with

16 for the Cougars, who connected on 20-of-35 (57 percent) of their field goals attempts and commanded a 34-14 rebounding advantage to help offset turning the ball over 21 times.

Lanice Hedgepeth notched 18 points and Camden Fuquay contributed 15 for J-M, which shot 18-of-49 (37 percent) from the floor while committing 13 turnovers.

"Doing a good job executing on offense let us make some nice runs tonight," said Kiser. "We had a couple of guys having a hot hand and got the ball to them for scoring opportunities. We not only shared the ball well, but our guards did a good job looking down the floor and finding open teammates behind the defense for some easy transition baskets."

"After going up by as many as 17 points midway through the third quarter, we had some lapses on offense and got a little sloppy with the ball but managed to hold on down the stretch by hitting free throws."

Jets' coach Rodney Wiley said that getting off to a slow start resulted in his team having to battle from behind the entire night.

"In the first quarter we didn't look to attack the zone in the middle and instead were content to fire up shots from the outside, and that's not what we wanted," said Wiley. "After we closed our deficit to 10 at intermission, Southwestern Randolph got on a hot streak at the start of the third period and put us back on our heels a second time. But then we finally developed some momentum when Lanice began attacking in the paint and we got some shots to fall while our press began creating turnovers."

"Rebounding was a big factor that hurt us tonight. Southwestern Randolph used its height advantage to control the glass, and we need to do a better job boxing out against taller opponents."

Following Fuquay's put-back in the lane a minute-and-a-half into the contest that forged the evening's only tie at 2-apiece, Smith's layup ignited a

14-2 quarter-ending run by the Cougars, including the last eight points of the stanza, that gave the winners a 16-4 lead at the end of the initial period.

After Jordan-Matthews narrowed the margin to 24-16 on Hedgepeth's jumper in the lane with 1:21 to go until halftime, Dalke canned a pair of foul shots to provide Southwestern Randolph with a double-digit advantage at the break.

With Smith draining a trio of three pointers in the first two-and-a-half minutes of the third frame, the Cougars opened up their biggest lead at 35-18 prior to J-M rallying behind back-to-back three-point plays from Fuquay to trim the gap to 43-33 entering the final quarter.

Hedgepeth's layup with 2:59 remaining to play drew the Jets within 49-42, but following Dalke's layup a minute later Southwestern Randolph proceeded to put the game away at the charity stripe, sinking six-of-nine attempts over the last 1:44 while Jordan-Matthews could never reduce the spread to less than nine the rest of the way.

### CROWN:

Continued from page B1

though she had 23. I thought Rae made her work for it," said Vernon. "Also, McKenna Snively did real well defensively. Those two throughout the tournament brought it on the defensive end and it doesn't show up in the box score, but is so very important. Tekeyah Bland had another solid game offensively and I hope that continues."

McClarty held Nivar to just two free throws in the second quarter and a field goal in the third to allow Northwood to come roaring back in the contest to have a legitimate shot at the win.

Snively and Smith had four points each and Bell a trey to keep Northwood to within 32-22 at the intermission as Milla Gnann stroked a pair of treys to keep the Patriots in front by double digits.

Caitlin Bailey tallied five points, including a

conventional three-point play off a drive at the 4:49 mark to cut the deficit to 36-27 for the Chargers, and Smith and Snively a trey each, the latter of which slice the Patriots lead to 36-33 at the 3:20 mark.

Apex Friendship would use a 5-2 spurt to close the quarter to extend its advantage back to 41-35. Nivar scored her only bucket in the period from the left wing in the spurt before Amberg drained a trey from the left wing with :43 seconds remain-

ing to cap the scoring in the stanza. Amberg, also a sophomore like Nivar, would close the contest with 10 pivotal points off the bench.

The Lady Patriots would rip off a 7-0 run to start the fourth and looked in control again with a 48-35 cushion at the 5:21 mark. Nivar had four points, the final two at the charity stripe in the run, and Amberg a steal and left-handed lay in before converting the three-point play with a plus one at the charity stripe.

Northwood refused to give in, going on a torrid 15-6 run capped by the Bland trey from the left wing to close the deficit to 54-50 with :40.5 remaining. Hannah Kanapkey had a trey in the surge while Bland added three points from the free throw line.

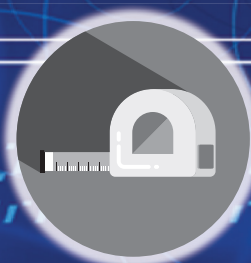
It wouldn't be enough, however, as Nivar and Amberg sealed the contest in the waning moments for the Patriots title clinching win.

"The difference I thought was down the

stretch with our inability to rebound the basketball and I just felt that Apex Friendship wanted it more," Vernon said. "They seemed to get every rebound and loose ball. At this level the teams that want it more typically find a way to win and I think that's what happened tonight."

Bland led a balanced Northwood offensive attack with 13 points while Snively chipped in 11, and Bell and Smith 9 apiece.

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CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS EDUCATOR OF THE WEEK

# Vickie Partin | Moncure School

**Name:** Vickie Partin  
**School:** Moncure School  
**Grades/subjects you teach:** Kindergarten  
**E-mail address:** vpartin@chatham.k12.nc.us  
**Date, place of birth:** December 23, Ohio  
**Education (high school & college attended, degrees):** Northwood High School, Central Carolina Community College  
**Brief work history:** 22 years in Chatham County Schools  
**Teaching honors/awards:** Instructional Assistant of the Year (2 times)  
**Hobbies/interests outside teaching:** Reading, watching old movies, spending time w/family  
**Family:** husband, Bret and 3 sons



Submitted photo  
**Vickie Partin works with students in her kindergarten class at Moncure School.**



Submitted photo  
**Vickie Partin**

**On teaching:**  
**What led you to a career as a teacher?:** Love of children and desire to make a difference  
**Who were your favorite teachers as you went through school, and what did you learn from them?:** All of my teachers impacted me and added to my teaching "toolbox."  
**Has becoming an educator been all you expected it**

**would be?:** Yes, and then some!  
**How has education changed since you were a student?:** Discipline is more tolerant and technology is everywhere.  
**What "makes your day" as an educator?:** The smiles of students  
**What's working in schools today?:** More parental involvement at

the school.  
**What's not working?:** Children are so busy outside of school that they lack time for free play, reading, and/or homework!  
**What's your favorite memory of your first year as a teacher?:** When I listened to a student read for the first time  
**How would your "teacher" persona handle you as**

**a student?:** With gentleness and redirection  
**Best piece of advice for other teachers?:** Remember that every day is a new day.  
**For students?:** Bring your 'A' game.  
**For parents?:** Your child needs you.  
**What about your job would surprise your non-teaching friends the**

**most?:** How many things I do that are not tied to academics, such as wiping noses, tying shoes, etc.  
**If you could somehow magically instill one truth into the heads of your students, what would it be?:** Your attitude makes all the difference.  
**When you think about today's kids, you:** Wonder at their technological savvy.  
**If one of your students was asked for a one-word description of you by a student who hadn't had you in class, what would that one word be?:** Caring  
**Favorite movie about**

**school or teaching:** "Mr. Holland's Opus"  
**How would you summarize your teaching philosophy?:** Every child deserves my all.  
**What five things must every teacher know?:** Patience, compassion, empathy, awareness, humor.  
**What's special about your classroom?:** Well-organized and welcoming  
**What's special about your school?:** It feels like family.  
**Most unusual question you've ever gotten from a student?:** "Will you pick the booger out of my nose?"

CHATHAM CHAT | JIM HODGE

## Hodge's Institute for Defense and Business brings DoD, private industry together for best practices

Major General (Retired) Jim Hodge is the president of the Institute for Defense and Business (IDB), a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit located in Chapel Hill. A West Point graduate, General Hodge — who lives in Governors Club — is proud to have played football for the Army team, where he had the chance to compete against both UNC and Duke. Hodge and his wife, Michelle, moved to the area from Colorado Springs specifically to take this job with the IDB and have thoroughly enjoyed living in Chatham County. He's used the experience, leadership and broad network he developed over his 34-year Army career to lead the IDB over the past five years. The IDB provides executive education producing two important results. IDB alumni depart more confident and capable of leading meaningful change in their organizations and they are empowered to reduce government waste by increasing effectiveness and efficiency in Department of Defense (DoD) business processes. You can view the IDB's website at [www.IDB.org](http://www.IDB.org).

**Most of our readers probably haven't heard about the Institute for Defense and Business. What does the Institute do?**  
 The Institute for Defense and Business is a unique organization. It was chartered by the state of North



U.S. Army photo by Keith Desbois

**In this 2012 photo, Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson, Training and Doctrine Command deputy commanding general, pins the Distinguished Service Medal on Maj. Gen. James L. Hodge, former Combined Arms Support Command commanding general, during his retirement ceremony June 26, 2012, at the 1st Logistical Command War Memorial on Fort Lee, Virginia. Hodge received the honor, with his wife Michelle at his side, in recognition of his 34 years of service to the nation.**

Carolina and the University of North Carolina in the late 1990s to help address challenges in the areas of logistics, trade, transportation and commerce within North Carolina.  
 The IDB, an education and research institute, was designed to bring DoD and private industry together in an academic setting to discuss common issues and challenges, which was unheard of during that time period — the goal being that upon return to their home organizations, the DoD participants could reduce waste and increase

efficiency by applying best business practices learned from private industry.  
 And when you think about logistics, supply chain and complex industrial manufacturing, it's easy to see how efficiencies in those areas could lead to significant cost avoidance or cost savings.  
 And as time has passed, we've also had the chance to work with the Department of Homeland Security and the Veterans Administration. We've since pursued opportunities to develop programs across a variety of topics that range from strategic policy and



Submitted photo

**Chatham County's Jim Hodge leads the Institute for Defense and Business in Chapel Hill.**

planning, to cybersecurity, enterprise resource planning software and many more. The IDB wouldn't be agile enough to respond to new education requirements if it wasn't for our location here in Chapel Hill, because it gives us convenient access to a large pool of incredibly talented faculty from all the esteemed universities in the area. As you know, their reputation is second to none and they raise our programs to a higher level.  
 It's extremely gratifying to work for an organization that's designed to make our government better by improving the critical thinking and leadership skills of those who attend. For me, it's very nice, because I have the opportunity to give back, and giving back feels good.

**Dealing with the Department of Defense and private industry obviously has national level implications. Can you explain what impact the IDB might have on the RTP the local community?**

There's the obvious benefit of revenue that's associated with arranging for all the things you need to run a program, like faculty, classroom facilities, lodging, meals and transportation. Local businesses, UNC, Duke and N.C. State have all benefited in that regard. But I think there are additional benefits that aren't directly related to revenue.  
 I don't have to convince you, because you already know this, but this is an incredible area! It has so much to offer. Many of the DoD participants haven't been to the Research Triangle area before and this area easily makes a positive impression on attending students.  
 I'm a great example. Thirty-four years in the Army and I was never stationed in North Carolina. But I was excited to take this job because I had attended a couple of programs at the Kenan Flagler Business School's

Rizzo Center while on active duty. The impression it made on me was enduring and when I had an opportunity to live and work here, I took it without hesitation!  
 The same thing happens to our students. For them, it's a Chamber of Commerce moment. These visits always serve to create a lasting impression. There is additional benefit the IDB offers to the local community. Every year the IDB arranges for five senior retired DoD and DHS leaders to serve as IDB Executive Fellows and they interact with the students in our programs.  
 As you can imagine, given their experience, expertise and leadership skills, they serve to elevate the quality of our classes. And for the past three years, we've arranged for the Fellows to collectively come to Chapel Hill to participate in a panel discussion that's open to the public. It's exciting to organize an event that allows the community to interact with this special group.  
 People have enjoyed hearing the perspectives of these senior leaders and the opportunity to ask questions. This year's panel was open to the public and held in November at the Governors Club in Chatham County.

**Tell us more about the IDB Executive Fellows...**

The Executive Fellows Program began in 2005 and since that time more than 85 senior retired flag officers and senior executive service leaders have served in this capacity and visited the Research Triangle area.  
 This year's cohort of Generals and Admirals represent all four of the military services and the U.S. Coast Guard and range in rank from two stars to four stars with 177 cumulative years of service to the country. Their collective experience and expertise are incredibly impressive. Every year in September, we hold a special induction ceremony in Washington, D.C., and we've been fortunate to have the support of the N.C. Delegation, especially Congressman David Price, who has provided remarks at these ceremonies numerous times over the years. The Fellows engage with our students as mentors, speakers, coaches, advisors, and in some cases, even critics by providing valuable feedback.

**As a non-profit, are there opportunities to help other non-profits in the area?**

There are a couple I'd like to point out, because it's always nice to be able to support one another.

For several years, IDB employees have donated food items to the CORA Food Pantry and earlier this year we were also able to participate in and support the CORA Golf Tournament. Although we didn't golf all that well, I know our contributions helped.  
 The IDB also provides an annual donation to the Fisher Houses at both Ft. Bragg and Camp Lejeune that provide housing where military and veterans' families can stay while loved ones are receiving medical treatment. In addition, the IDB also supported the Gary Sinise Foundation by attending the Wall Signing and Key Ceremonies for the Chatham County home built for wounded veteran USMC Sgt. Michael Frazier and his family. Also, many IDB employees have volunteered to assist with local holiday Toy Chest efforts.

**In transitioning from your military career, how have you and your wife adjusted to life in Chatham County?**

I think we've adjusted very well. You may have been able to tell from my earlier comments that we're very fond of the area. The people are great and we've met so many wonderful friends. On the day we were moving in and waiting the delivery of our household goods, we received enough snow that the driveway needed to be shoveled and I didn't want any of the movers slipping on snow and ice. Of course, my snow shovel was on the moving truck. But my neighbor saw the predicament and offered to let me use her shovel and the next thing you know, she invited us to come over for dinner that night. It's hard to beat neighbors like that and they've been very good friends.  
 But it's not just the people, the area has so much to offer. Michelle is a bit of an extrovert and makes friends easily and when she's not making friends, she likes volunteering. She volunteers at the CORA Food Pantry and is also a mentor for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools' Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate Program. She takes mandolin lessons from Bart Urbanski in Pittsboro and not that I'm advertising, but she loves spending time in Pittsboro...at Bynum Front Porch, Vino, Postal Fish, the Pittsboro Road House, New Horizons and Deep River Mercantile to name a few! Friendly, interesting people, beautiful scenery and great things to do. What's not to like?

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# POLICE REPORTS

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Aaron Evans, 21, of Chapel Hill, was charged December 23 with failure to appear. He was held under a \$500 bond with a January 6 court date in Hillsborough.

Jacob Dowd, 21, of Bear Creek, was charged December 23 with assault on a female, communicating threats, false imprisonment, child abuse

and injury to personal property. He was held under a mandatory 48-hour hold with a January 8 court date in Pittsboro.

Michael Everwine, 38, of Siler City, was charged December 26 with fleeing to elude and larceny. He was held under a \$2,500 bond with a January 6 court date in Pittsboro.

Jeffrey Brewer, 29, of Goldston, was charged December 26 with

larceny. He was held under a \$2,000 bond with a January 10 court date in Lillington.

## SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Elmer Cano-Velasquez, 37, of Siler City, was charged December 25 with assault on a female. He was released on a written promise with a January 28 court date in Siler City.

Victor Guox Vicente, 38, of Siler City, was charged December 25 with breaking and entering, injury to real property and injury to personal property. He was released on a written promise with a January 28 court date in Siler City.

Sara Adams, 29, of Ramseur, was taken into custody December 26 on a warrant for failure to appear in Guilford County. She was held under a \$351 bond

with a January 8 court date in Greensboro.

## STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Kaitlen Cheek of Sanford was cited December 23 for failure to reduce speed on N.C. Highway 751 in Pittsboro.

Charles Smith of Vale was cited December 25 for failure to reduce speed and hit and run on Corinth Road in Pittsboro.

# Midway Hill's Christmas lights brighten the holidays for everyone

BY BOB WACHS  
News + Record  
Correspondent

In the fall of 1950, singer Bing Crosby first crooned the lyrics that have become a Christmas standard — and go a long way toward reminding us how the holidays, especially Christmas, impact the five human senses.

Among the reminders in the song “Silver Bells,” are lines that say “on every street corner you’ll hear silver bells” and that “strings of street lights, even stop lights blink a bright red and green.”

If those instances are among notice that Christmas — and its calendar partner, New Year’s — are with us, then it’s safe to say the holidays are alive and well in Chatham County.

Among the most noticeable nods to the holidays is one about halfway between Pittsboro and Siler City on the south side of U.S. Hwy. 64 at a spot known to locals as “Midway Hill.” It’s the home of Michelle and Scott Mace, but some local children refer to it as “the house that loves Christmas” because of the thousands of lights that glow from late November until sometime in January, depending largely on the weather.

“We bought the house in the early 2000s,” Michelle says, “and started with the lights in ’03 and ’04. We had a hair under 45,000 last year. There’ll probably be 50,000 when we take them down this year and put them up.”

The “put up” she’s referring to there is when they’re packed up and stored; the “put up” as when the lights are out for display in the yard and adjoining property, including a barn high on a hill behind a pond that makes the lights reflect in the water, aims for Thanksgiving Day.

“By that night,” Scott says, “we have 80 to 85 percent of them out, depending on the weather.”

With that many individual lights on homemade balls — some as high as 100 feet in trees — and yard displays, garlands, figurine blow molds and huge lighted snowflakes on the housetop, you might think it costs a fortune to light up the hillside for six weeks. Scott says that’s not the case. Most of the bulbs are LED, not incandescent, and require less electricity.

“It’s no more than \$300,” Scott says, “a small price to pay.”

Lights and displays are set up and taken down a section at a time. Some are simply set in various places in the yard; others are hoisted or shot into trees with a landscaping slingshot. The snowflakes on the house are magnetized and stick to the metal roof. When it’s time to take displays down, ropes and hoists are used to lower the displays. Those standing in the yards are simply moved and packed away.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Glenda Johnson, surrounded by strings of holiday lights decorating the family home on U.S. Hwy. 64 between Siler City and Pittsboro, said she has received many ‘thank-yous’ over the years for her house’s displays.

With all that’s involved, a logical question is “Why do all this?”

Scott says it’s all about pleasure.

“I know how much I enjoy riding around, seeing lights,” he said. “It seemed to me that fewer and fewer people were doing it so we just started and added more and more. We began to realize how much people liked and appreciated them. One year we got a card from someone who had to drive a long way to work and came by very early in the morning. They told us how much it meant to them and how they started looking forward to seeing the lights. That’s when we started ramping up.”

Adding more and more displays became easier, Michelle says, “when we bought the barn and land and were able to expand between our yard and that property. In 2014, we really began to spread out.”

Public reaction has been very favorable, says Glenda Johnson, Michelle’s mother.

“When we started doing this, people would come to see and stop by,” she says. “They’d leave cookies and cards; some would be in tears. One time a woman who was depressed stopped and told us we made her Christmas. Holidays can be hard, but they shouldn’t. We’re celebrating the greatest miracle ever.”

While the sights of Christmas and New Year can impact the sense of sight, there are two others that are also a big part of the holidays — namely, taste and smell. Whether it’s chestnuts roasting on an open fire, homemade cookies and fudge in Grandma’s kitchen, a ham or turkey in the roaster or commercial outlets like Bear Creek’s Southern Supreme Fruitcake, smelling and eating can take center stage this time of the year.

Randy Scott, one of the principals in Southern Supreme, noted his business was closed Christmas Eve.

“Even if we hadn’t planned to, we would have had to,” he says. “We

didn’t have anything left to sell.”

For many folks, Christmas conjures up visions, and reality, of one bountiful meal after another, with parties and receptions mixed in. On New Year’s Day, for large numbers of people, there’s the traditional Southern meal of pork (for forward progress, since pigs root forward), collards or other greens (for money) and black-eyed peas. Peas were considered lucky for Southerners since Sherman’s northern troops thought them good only for animal food and didn’t destroy them as they pillaged the South during the War Between the States.

There’s also, of course, the “sounds of the season” — those hymns of old sung only this time of year, novelty songs such as “I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus,” the hauntingly beautiful strains of standards like “The Little Drummer Boy,” countless church Cantatas and even “The Nutcracker.” And what church service is complete without a reading of the story of the birth of Jesus in chapter 2 of the Gospel of Luke?

And while touch may be down on the short end of the stick, who can forget the prickly feel of needles as trees are decorated and the sticking of holly leaves as wreaths are made and hung?

When the holidays come, many folks find themselves in the same place Glenda Johnson says she and her family are with their Midway Hill light show. “We live for this,” she says. “But it is noisy on (highway) 64, especially when truckers see the lights as they’re coming down the hill and hit their jake brake and blow their air horn at 3 a.m. to say they like it.”

The question arises: will the show get any bigger?

“I don’t know,” Scott Mace says. “There’s more and more traffic and it gets faster and faster. There’s no way to drive in here and turn around.”

But ask Michelle the



Staff photo by David Bradley

Michelle Mace checks and adjusts the lights on one of many trees decorated at her home for the Christmas season. Maintaining the display is one of the many tasks involved in keeping the holiday lights bright and cheery through the season.



LED lights in circular arrays are bounded by strings of lights and vintage blow-mold lamps in a festive array around the Mace house on U.S. Hwy. 64. This year, the family estimates that 50,000 lights were used.

Staff photo by David Bradley

same question and you might get a bit different answer.

“We’ll definitely have more lights next year,” she says. “We hit the af-

ter-Christmas sales the other day.”

## Goat & Sheep

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Scott Mace works in the information technology field and uses his knowledge to control the lighting display used at his residence each Christmas season. This lighting star was out of adjustment, and required a nudge to correct the problem.

Staff photo by David Bradley



# Kid Scoop

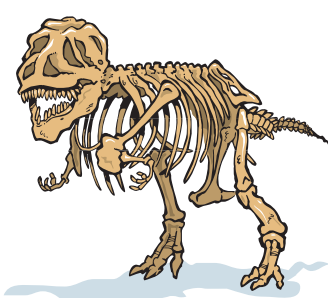
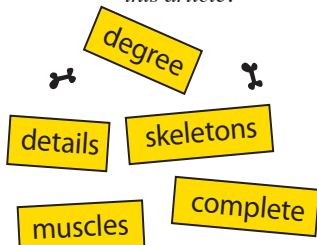
THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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## Kid Scoop Together:

Work with a family member to replace the missing words in this article.



### A Dinosaur Named Sue

The first T. rex specimen was found in the year 1900.

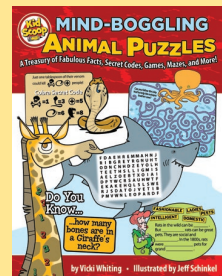
Since then, only a handful of \_\_\_\_\_ that are more than half complete have been discovered.

In 1990, researchers discovered the bones of a T. rex they named Sue. Sue's skeleton was 90 percent complete. Sue is the largest, most \_\_\_\_\_ and best preserved T. rex ever found.

Most of Sue's bones are in excellent condition and have a high \_\_\_\_\_ of surface detail. 67 million years after her death, it is still possible to see fine \_\_\_\_\_ showing where \_\_\_\_\_ tendons and other soft tissues rested against, or attached to, the bone.

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## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

**This week's word: OBSERVANT**  
The adjective **observant** means quick to take notice.  
The bone in the sand was spotted by the **observant** student.  
Try to use the word **observant** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

## Write On!

**Greatest Treasure in the World**  
What is the world's greatest treasure? Why?

# Tiny T-Rex Cousin



### What is the T-Rex called?

This much smaller T-Rex is called Suskityrannus.

Suski comes from the Zuni Native American word for "coyote" and the Latin word "tyrannus" which means **king**. Combined, the name would be "Coyote King." Do you think this is a good name?

### Where was this fossil found?

The fossil for the Suskityrannus was found by Sterling Nesbitt when he was just 16 years old! He was on a school dig trip in the Zuni Basin of western New Mexico.

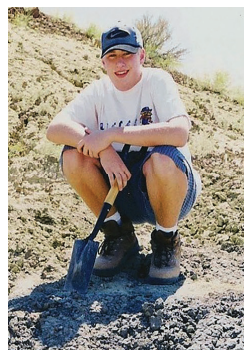


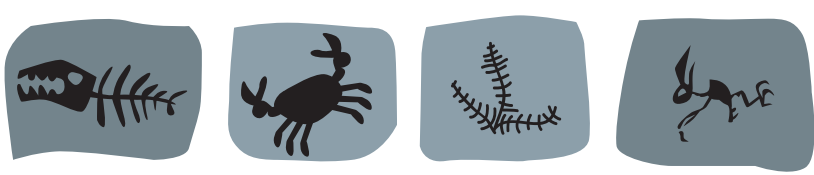
Photo: Hazel Wolfe

That was 20 years ago. At first, scientists thought the fossil Nesbitt discovered was a velociraptor. New research has determined that is actually a cousin of the T-Rex—which is the news!

### Are you an eagle-eyed paleontologist?

When paleontologists go on a dig to find fossilized dinosaur bones, they have to be very observant. What looks like a small stick, might actually be a dinosaur bone! As they dig, they don't want to dig too fast or they might break a buried bone. It takes being an eagle-eyed paleontologist to do it right.

Use your eagle-eyes! Find and circle the fossils below buried in the layers of rock and sediment at right.



How many bones can you find on this page in two minutes? Have a friend try. Who found the most bones?

### How big was the Suskityrannus?

It was about 3 feet tall and 9 feet long from nose to tail.



I am:  taller  shorter than the Suskityrannus.

The Suskityrannus weighed between 45 to 90 pounds. This is way less than the T-Rex which weighed around 9 tons!



## Extra! Extra!

### Observation Game

Look at a photograph in today's newspaper for 15 seconds. Observe as many details as you can. Cover the picture and write down the details you remember. How many did you get?

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

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

**BLAST FROM THE PAST:** Paleontologists in Nebraska discovered the remains of mammals that were more than 11 million years old. These animals had died at a watering hole following a massive volcanic eruption in what is now the state of Idaho.

Color each odd-numbered square red and each even-numbered square yellow to find out how many miles from the volcano the Nebraska fossil site is located.

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

Standards Link: Life Science: Some kinds of animals that once lived on Earth have disappeared and some resemble others that are alive today.

## Double Double Word Search

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

OBSERVANT  
CAREFULLY  
DINOSAUR  
TYRANNUS  
DETAIL  
FOSSIL  
COYOTE  
BONES  
EAGLE  
SUSKI  
LATIN  
KING  
FAST  
DIG  
BIG

T	N	A	V	R	E	S	B	O	R
Y	T	I	D	A	S	C	N	U	Y
R	T	Y	G	E	O	T	A	R	I
A	F	L	N	Y	T	S	G	A	K
N	E	O	O	B	O	A	N	D	S
N	B	T	S	N	I	F	I	N	U
U	E	N	I	S	U	G	K	L	S
S	S	D	R	N	I	T	A	L	E
C	A	R	E	F	U	L	L	Y	X

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

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### Front Page Leads

Read the first paragraph of an article on the front page. Label the who, what, when and where of this news. Then write a lead paragraph about the discovery of the Suskityrannus.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write a narrative that develops a plot and setting and an appropriate point of view.

What should you do if you find a blue dinosaur?

ANSWER: Try to cheer him up!

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**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,tfnx

## HOUSE FOR SALE

**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

## HOUSE FOR RENT

**RENT TO OWN,** 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, located behind Western Auto in Siler City. \$600/mo + Deposit - Call 919-799-0864. J2,9,2tp

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

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## FOR SALE

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## LEGALS

**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, Alber to 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 decedent 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 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 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 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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** North Carolina Chatham County The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ROBERT J. HILTON**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 26th day of March, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 26th day of December, 2019. GREGORY HILTON, EXECUTOR ESTATE OF ROBERT J. HILTON Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 D26,J2,J9,J16,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 612** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **WILEY GLENN HALEY** 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 26, 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 26th day of December, 2019. Edward C. Haley, Executor 1938 Piney Grove Church Road Siler City, NC 27344 D26,J2,J9,J16,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **GRACE F. LAZOVIK**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before March 26th, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 26th day of December, 2019. Adam D. Lazovik, Executor Estate of Grace French Lazovik c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514 D26,J2,J9,J16,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 610** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor (Nancy Terranova) of the Estate of **LORETTA C KUFTA a/k/a LORETTA CATHERINE KUFTA** 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 April 2, 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 26th day of December, 2019. Nancy Terranova, Executor 6 Windsor Court Algonquin, IL 60102 c/o Steve Lackey, Attorney 410 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Chapel Hill, NC 27514 J2,J9,J16,J23,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 515** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **SABRA JANEILL MCDANIEL ALLEN SCOTT AKA SABRA JANEILL MACDANIEL SCOTT**, deceased, 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 April 2, 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 26th day of December, 2019. Marshall Lee Allen, Executor 2288 Ed Clapp Rd. Siler City, NC 27344 J2,J9,J16,J23,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19 E 622** NORTH CAROLINA

**CHATHAM COUNTY** Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **BARRY EUGENE BURNS**, deceased, 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 April 2, 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 26th day of December, 2019. August Hope Burns, Executrix 136 Eagles Nest Drive Durham, NC 27712 J2,J9,J16,J23,4tp

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION 19 E 402** NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **PAULA CLAIRE DOHERTY COX** of Chatham County, NC, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned on or before April 2, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment. Kevin John-Thomas Cox, Executor Crystal C. Beard, Attorney 8311 Brier Creek Pkwy., Suite 105-284 Raleigh, NC 27617 J2,J9,J16,J23,4tp

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# Nominations for school district's Distinguished Alumni Program easier this year

## CN+R STAFF REPORT

PITTSBORO — Now it's easier than ever to nominate individuals for the Chatham County Schools Distinguished Alumni Program. Dialing 919-545-7975 takes callers to a voicemail where they can leave the name of a nominee. It's that simple. "Once I receive their message, I will contact

them and complete their applications for them," said Sarah Campbell, the administrative assistant for the Chatham County Schools' Public Relations Department.

Online nominations may be submitted at bit.ly/CCSDA2020.

Forms for handwritten nominations are available at the district's headquarters and high schools, and

they can be downloaded at bit.ly/CCSDA2020PRINT.

The deadline for nominations is March 6.

Nominees must have attended a CCS high school for at least two full academic years and must be at least 10 years removed from their high school graduation.

This is the fourth year of the Distinguished Alumni Program, which

was established to recognize the contributions that CCS alumni have made to their professions and communities. The award also lauds alumni for their sustained support of the school system. Since 2017, honorees have been recognized during the commencement ceremony of their respective high school alma maters. Their

names are engraved on metal plates that get added to the plaque at each high school that is designated to immortalize the distinguished alumni.

"This is a unique program that recognizes the variety of achievements that Chatham County Schools alumni have made," CCS Chief Information & Technology Officer Keith Medlin said.

"We wanted to lower the barrier to nomination because sometimes people see an online form and think it'll take too long, or they assume someone else has made a nomination. We want as many nominations as possible, so we are encouraging everyone to call the number and leave a voicemail to kick off the nomination process this year."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Community awareness event to focus on human trafficking

The Chatham Community Library will hold a Community Awareness Event January 11 focused on human trafficking.

Representatives from Shield North Carolina, a Cary-based nonprofit that helps communities and governments fight human trafficking, will present on signs of all forms of trafficking and share data and information to

encourage awareness and understanding.

North Carolina has consistently ranked in the top 10 states in the country for having a human trafficking problem. Both children and adults, male and female, are sold for sex or labor for the benefit of another. Trafficking mainly occurs in hotels, homes, truck stops and massage parlors. Because of the intense psychological manipulation that occurs, most victims don't identify as victims and will not seek help.

This event coincides

with National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Beginning in 2010, by Presidential Proclamation, each January has been designated National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Following the start of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, with the help of non-government organizations, National Human Trafficking Day began and is observed annually on January 11.

Community Awareness Events are a series of facilitated and respectful dialogues on serious and difficult topics. They are designed to educate and inform the community and to promote understanding.

This event is free and open to the public. Funding for this program is made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the Chatham Community Library.

For additional information please contact Rita Van Duinen, Branch Manager for the Chatham Community Library, at 919-545-8083 or via email to rita.vanduin@chathamlibraries.org.

### Untreated water discharged in Cape Fear River Basin

Aqua North Carolina reported a discharge of approximately 103,000 gallons into the Cape Fear River Basin on December 17 in Chatham County.

According to a news alert, the discharge occurred near Chapel Ridge Drive into an unnamed tributary of Brook's

## Free Christmas tree recycling available until January 10

Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling will be offering free Christmas tree recycling through Friday, Jan. 10.

Trees will be accepted at the Main Facility, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Main Facility is located at 28 County Services Road, Pittsboro.

Only real trees can be accepted. All decorations, stands and pots must be removed. After Jan. 10, the facility will accept trees for its normal yard

debris charge of \$20 per ton, with a \$2 minimum.

Artificial trees can be placed in the scrap metal recycling bin at the Collection Centers (with a current decal) and the Main Facility. All decorations and lights must be removed, so no pre-lit trees can be accepted in the scrap metal.

For more information visit [www.chathamnc.org/recycle](http://www.chathamnc.org/recycle) or call the Main Facility at 919-542-5516.

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Creek because of a lift station electrical failure. Aqua NC, which serves nearly 300,000 North Carolinians in several counties, reportedly discovered the spill at 10:30 a.m. and additional personnel were dispatched to assist at the clean-up site. Mitigation efforts were completed within five hours of notification of the spill.

This is at least the second untreated discharge from Aqua North Carolina within the last two months. In late October, the company confirmed that 7,500 gallons of untreated wastewater were dumped into an unnamed tributary of the Cape Fear River in New Hanover County.

### Pittsboro Youth Theater announces 2020 spring productions

In Spring 2020, Pitts-

boro Youth Theater (PYT) is celebrating its 8th year in operation.

Having performed in every existing space that was marginally appropriate for live theater, PYT opened its own theater and Center For The Arts, Pittsboro in early 2017. Sweet Bee Theater is the only public theater in Chatham County. PYT provides professional-level performance arts training and local entertainment to area residents. As with any team activity, PYT plays demand cast member effort and commitment. Cast members and their families should be prepared to have great fun and be active participants in a successful team.

Local young people can join casts of 5 separate plays in spring 2020:

- Age 7-12: "Pixies, Kings and Magical Things"
- Age 7-12: "Tinker Bell" (by audition only)

- Age 10-14: "A Wrinkle in Time"
  - High School: "Basketville"
  - Age 10-18: "Godspell" musical (by audition only)
- Play descriptions and schedules are available at [pittsboroyouththeater.com](http://pittsboroyouththeater.com).

### Joyful Jewel presents 'Painting With Class'

Joyful Jewel, at 44-A Hillsboro St. in Pittsboro, is presenting an art exhibition of watercolor paintings from the students of Beth Bale. Featured are works by Bonnie Rardin, Cody Thompson, Ann Kyle, Lisa Dark, Margo Hubbard and Becky Starr.

A "meet the artist" reception will be held from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, with hors d'oeuvres served. The exhibition follows through Jan. 31.

— CN + R staff reports

## Mountaire Farms supports the Chatham County 'Shop with a Sheriff'



Submitted photo

Mountaire Farms Community Relations Director Mark Reif, center, showed the company's support for the Chatham County 'Shop with a Sheriff' youth services program by presenting a check to Capt. Steve Maynor, left, and Sheriff Mike Roberson.

## Rogers named Tom Downing fellow



Submitted photo

Silk Hope Ruritan Club member Harold Rogers (second from left) was awarded the prestigious Tom Downing Fellows Award. This is the highest honor a club member can receive. Fewer than four percent of all Ruritans are Tom Downing Fellows. In 1928 Tom Downing was one of the founding members of Ruritan National. Rogers is a past president of the club and has been active in all activities of the organization. Pictured with Rogers (from left), are his wife Rita, 2019 club president Neill Lindley and incoming 2020 president Ned Gaudette.

# In Review: 2019's roster of movies was superb and deep

There are times when I struggle to fill out my annual top 10 films list due to a lack of worthy choices. Indeed, that's been the case for several years



**NEIL MORRIS**  
Film Critic

running. However, 2019 provided a cornucopia of candidates, with a roster of worthy movies that runs 20-30 deep. In most years, a superbly shot war epic like "1917," an actors' showcase like "The Two Popes," or a smartly updated adaptation like Greta Gerwig's "Little Women" would have easily cracked my best-of list. This year, they're on the outside looking in, though not for a lack of merit.

Divining the prevailing theme for cinema's best in 2019 was far easier. At least six films in my top 10 touch on the theme of haves versus the have nots, either directly or in passing. The best film of the year involves subterranean indignities deceiving, infiltrating, and finally assailing their surface-dwelling counterparts of means. And it's not "Us."

So here's my best in cinema for 2019, along with the movies we could have easily done without.

**Best Film of 2019 — "Parasite":** South Korean director Bong Joon-ho, who cracked my 2014 top 10 with "Snowpiercer," crafts this film about members of a poor household scheming to find jobs with a wealthier family by posing as unrelated, qualified service workers. That tantalizing premise makes a terrific film by itself, but here it's just half the story. Things spiral downward — literally and figuratively — from there, as this Palme d'Or winner takes some surprising

and provocative turns. A great ensemble cast rounds out a film that's not just the year's top film, but also one of the decade's best.

**2. "The Irishman":** Director Martin Scorsese gets the gang back together for this gangster elegy — Robert DeNiro, Joe Pesci and Harvey Keitel, joined by Al Pacino playing union boss Jimmy Hoffa. But while the film winds through Hoffa's rise and fall, it's really a portrait of DeNiro's taciturn heavy, who tiptoes through the world of the Mafia, worker unions, and their intersection with actual politics. But the impact of Scorsese's epic isn't truly felt until the final half-hour, when the director deconstructs much of his oeuvre and posits that in the gangster milieu, mere survival doesn't always equate victory.

**3. "Knives Out":** Director Rian Johnson's droll take-off on the drawing room whodunit also manages to zing our societal zeitgeist, ultimately pitting American oligarchy against America's promise. It's entertaining, engrossing, and boasts a terrific ensemble cast.

**4. "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood":** If you watch this expecting to see Quentin Tarantino's recreation of the Manson murders with Tinseltown as the mere backdrop, think again. This is about Tarantino's cinematic playground, the 1969 Hollywood of his childhood, a neon-lit world of both fulfilled and broken dreams. Part nostalgia, part fan fiction, this a fairy tale where the party never ends, the pretend heroes become actual ones, and everyone lives happily ever after.

**5. "The Last Black Man in San Francisco":** The captivating opening five minutes will grab you, paving the way for a poetic portrait of the gen-



Photo courtesy of CJ Entertainment

Ji-so Jung stars in 'Parasite,' reviewer Neil Morris' pick for best film of 2019.

trification of urban black America, in this instance the Fillmore district of San Francisco. Director Joe Talbot's feature debut feels like the sort of film Spike Lee should be making nowadays.

**6. "Marriage Story":** Writer-director Noah Baumbach's latest — basically a roman à clef — isn't about the throes of nuptial bliss, but rather the messiness of matrimonial disunion. The incisive writing is channeled by a terrific cast, including award-worthy turns by Adam Driver, Scarlett Johansson, and Laura Dern.

**7. "Hustlers":** Based on a 2015 "New Yorker" magazine exposé about real-life New York nightclub dancers and their illicit grifts, the movie's muddy morality is offset by director Lorene Scafaria's pacing, framing, and visual aplomb. Aided by cinematographer Todd Banhazl, Scafaria crafts a feminine "Goodfellas" that hammers home the unobvious metaphor that we're all dancing for

dollars, whether literally or figuratively.

**8. "The Nightingale":** Director Jessica Kent's second feature film is a raw portrait of humankind's most awful proclivity for racial, sexual, and economic cruelty, finding a fertile setting in the penal colonies and Aboriginal massacres of 19th century Tasmania. The film isn't for the faint of heart, but it is for viewers who embrace Kent's allegiance to authenticity. There's no easy or honest way to sugar-coat the savagery of this feral setting, and lead actor Aisling Franciosi deserves plaudits for not shirking from a stark, earnest examination.

**9. "Ford v. Ferrari":** Director James Mangold produces a high-octane drama around Ford Motor Company's real-life racing rivalry with Ferrari in the late 1960s. The visual effects are terrific and the storytelling is accessible and engaging. However, the film's success rests on the able performances of Matt

Damon, as American race car driver and owner Carroll Shelby, and Christian Bale, as hot-headed mechanic and driver Ken Miles.

**10. "The Farewell":** This lovely, plaintive meditation on family and coping with death by director Lulu Wang features two awards-worthy turns. One is by Zhao Shuzhen, playing the matriarch living in China, whose extended family comes to visit without informing her that she's terminally ill. The other is Awkwafina, whose star continues to rise playing the Americanized granddaughter struggling to cope with impending loss filtered through cultural conflict.

**Honorable Mentions:** "1917"; "Booksmart"; "Dark Waters"; "Dolemite is My Name"; "Little Women"; "The Report"; "The Peanut Butter Falcon"; "Portrait of a Lady on Fire"; "Uncut Gems"; "Waves"

**Worst Film of 2019 — "Gemini Man":** The easy and "worthy" choice to

top this inauspicious category is "Cats." But this sci-fi codswallop has it all: a critically acclaimed director, a high-profile star, and a big budget buttressed by cutting-edge filmmaking technology. The result is a narrative and visual mess, with Will Smith playing a retired gun-for-hire targeted by his former minders using a younger, cloned version of himself. The CGI is wonky, but the rudderless story and inane, over-expositional script is where this mess really falls apart. As the ludicrous final scene (mercifully) ends and the closing credits began to roll, I literally exclaimed, "Ang Lee directed this!!?"

**Dishonorable Mentions:** "Cats"; "Fast & Furious Present: Hobbs & Shaw"; "The Lion King"; "Little"; "Long Shot"; "Rambo: Last Blood"; "The Secret Lives of Pets 2"; "The Hustle"; "Yesterday"

## CHATHAM BUSINESS ROUNDUP

# Looking ahead to Chatham, business and the economy in 2020

Each new year brings about a list of New Year's resolutions, hopes and dreams. The year 2020 will be no different.



**ZACHARY HORNER**  
Corner Store

I couldn't find any scientific studies on New Year's resolutions, but one article from Forbes that I came across said that 25 percent of people stay committed to their resolutions after January, and only 8 percent are committed the whole 365 days (or, in the case of leap year 2020, 366 days).

I asked four people within the Chatham County business industry two questions — 1) What is your and/or your business sector's New Year's resolution for 2020? and 2) What would you like to be able to say about 2020 on New Year's Day 2021? Here were their answers:

**Jackie Adams — owner, Oasis Open Air Market, Siler City; president, Siler City Merchants' Association**

1) I believe the businesses in Siler City have committed in their resolve to keep going. We need the people of Siler City to commit to shop local and bring their family and friends.

2) 2020 is a new year. We now have new businesses looking to come into Siler City due to the (alcohol) referendum and the ability for expansion of succeed event business. We can hope moving forward the support of local government and citizens can also support progress and, as a result, support success.

**Alyssa Byrd — President, Chatham Economic Development Corporation**

1) I do have some additional outreach and proactive education programs we want to launch in 2020. One is a regular meeting of rotating topics with different speakers coming in, focusing on tourism one meeting, one meeting focusing on the community colleges. So having the experts in those fields come in and speak to what they're doing and how it fits into the region, the state. Just having it will be a good opportunity for people to learn about all the different puzzle pieces in Chatham County and all the good work that's done.

Joint elected official meetings kind of fell by the wayside. We used to do them quarterly, at least three times a year, but with a limited staff, those things just kind of slipped off our plate. So we need to get back on track with doing more regular joint elected board

**I asked four people within the Chatham County business industry two questions — 1) What is your and/or your business sector's New Year's resolution for 2020? and 2) What would you like to be able to say about 2020 on New Year's Day 2021?**

meetings. It's a good relationship-building and information-sharing opportunity.

2) End of 2020, I would have loved to have facilitated an affordable housing development, which is not a traditional economic development activity. But because we work and are connected with so many different developers and people in the development community, we are making those connections and we are able to tell people about the story in Chatham County. We're bringing that interest here and we're telling them, "Here's how this town has changed over 30 years and how it's grown and what it needs." We're able to tell the story that data doesn't, and it's very compelling. I think we have some very interested parties in establishing some affordable housing and just being part of that too. Tell the story and then identify good locations that would be compatible.

**Cindy Poindexter — President, Chatham Chamber of Commerce**

1) To move the Cham-

ber to another level and to help member businesses to succeed in achieving their goals by helping to guide them in the right direction and connecting them to the right opportunities and people.

2) The Chatham Chamber had an impact on the success of businesses and the economy of Chatham County.

**Neha Shah — Director, Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau**

1) Our New Year's resolution for Chatham County and the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau is to surpass last year's resolution by increasing economic impact in tourism and sports and continuing to provide the best visitor services possible through all our channels. We were happy on all fronts with visitor economic impact figures (an increase), our sporting events and our reach to visitors (in these increasingly digital times, their top communication tools are web/social media).

2) In December 2020, we hope to say that a new hotel in Chatham County is just around the corner.

# Voter ID on hold for N.C.'s 2020 primary

**BY CASEY MANN**  
News + Record Staff

A federal court has placed a temporary hold on a voter identification requirement for North Carolina's 2020 primary elections.

The announcement came as a note from the court, with the full order expected sometime this week. The reason for the early announcement was to alert the N.C. Board of Elections, and local elections boards, in advance of a massive mailing it had planned to educate voters on the process.

The order is a result of a case filed by several branches of the NAACP to the 2018 N.C. law that was instituted following the successful passage of a state Constitutional amendment supporting voter ID laws that same year. The petitioners in the case argue that the law is discriminatory, as was the earlier 2013 voter ID law that was struck down by the courts in 2016 as unconstitutional before being fully enacted. The case, NAACP et. al. v. Cooper, is one of at least two challenging the 2018 law.

The law required all registered voters to provide photo identification in order to vote. Approved types of photo IDs included drivers licenses, passports and school IDs. In addition, the law included a provision where voters could obtain a voter ID directly from their local board of elections office at no cost.

Conservatives and pro-voter ID groups have argued that photo IDs help prevent voter fraud, but studies show that type of fraud is extremely rare, including one study performed by the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law. Opponents of photo ID requirements argue that this type of legislation disproportionately affects people living in poverty and people of color.

The temporary injunction may be appealed by N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein, whose office stated it would need to review the official order before deciding the next steps.

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