

# Chatham News + Record

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## Pittsboro park to honor ‘free man’ Lewis Freeman

Early black settler’s legacy alive 200 years later

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A long and rich legacy began more than 200 years ago when Lewis Freeman — a free black man — found his way to Pittsboro as one of the town’s earliest settlers.

The actions he took would set his family and his descendants on a path of achievements that would be written in the history books and recognized throughout the country for their significance.

And now, Pittsboro is working to memorialize that legacy with a park in his honor.

Local architect Grimsley Hobbs is leading the effort to uncover what history about Freeman can be found. Hobbs serves as the vice president of the Chatham Historical Association and owns and operates his business, Hobbs Architects, in Freeman’s former home — the Lewis Freeman house.

“We know some and we’re trying to find out more,” Hobbs said.

### Freeman’s life

It’s unknown whether Lewis Freeman was born a slave or a free man. What is known is Freeman was recorded on the 1800 census as “free” and that he was in Pittsboro by 1810, according to that census. He was likely in his 20s or 30s at that time, according to Lesley Richardson, who in conjunction with Beverly Wiggins — both members of the Chatham Historical Association — is working with Hobbs on the project.

Deeds show that Freeman owned at least 13 parcels in Pittsboro, some of which were located on Salisbury Street and stretched to Fayetteville Street — across from St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church, including the site of the current Pittsboro Baptist Church. At the time, those streets were considered the “main streets” in the town, according to the records. He also owned 20 acres elsewhere in the county.

His home, a modest one-room structure at the time, is one of four structures from the time period still remaining in Pittsboro. Over the years it was expanded, but enough of the original structure remained to qualify to be on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

But the fact that a free black man, who was likely born before the end of the Revolutionary War, was able to be one of the most successful first settlers of Pittsboro is only the beginning of his story.

Freeman also bought his family’s freedom.

In 1814, Freeman purchased his wife, Maria, from Charles J. Williams. As a black man, Free-



A photograph of Robert T. Freeman, Lewis Freeman’s grandson, who would become the first African American dentist in the United States after graduating from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in 1869.



Photo courtesy of David Strevel/Capital City Camera Club

The Lewis Freeman house, one of four structures in Pittsboro from its founding years, is now the office for Hobbs Architects. The house is on the National Register of Historic Places.

man wasn’t able to free her, but he could purchase her. It was “not unheard of for black family members to be bought and kept as slaves by other family members in these years,” according to Henry Louis Gates Jr., the Director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University, in a letter he wrote to Freeman’s descendants.

Lewis and Maria lived in the home on Salisbury “as man and wife” until her death, according to

a probate record from 1868. Together they had a son, Waller Freeman, in 1800, prior to Lewis’ purchase of Maria. As was the law at the time, the status of the mother determined the status of a child — so Waller was born a slave. Waller was purchased from the estate of James Taylor in 1829 by George E. Badger for \$388, according to the bill of sale. And one year later, Lewis Freeman purchased his son.

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### CHATHAM VOTES 2020

## Dasher, Hancock square off in Dem commissioner primary

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

The only Chatham-specific candidate primary in this year’s election pits an incumbent commissioner against a political newcomer.

Former board chairman and current Commissioner Mike Dasher is seeking to retain his seat for another four-year term this year representing the county’s District 2, but he first faces a challenge in the form of Katelin Hancock for the Democratic nomination.

District 2 covers the southeastern portion of Chatham County, including the town of Pittsboro, the Moncure area and the majority of Jordan Lake. It is also the most populous of the districts with 12,864 residents.

Originally from Ohio but now a Pittsboro resident, Dasher spent 2019 as the chairman of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Perhaps most notably, he was the public face of the board’s decision to remove the Confederate monument in front of the Chatham County Historic Courthouse. Under his chairmanship, the board also approved a property tax rate increase — a change approved unanimously by the four Democratic and one Republican commission members.

Dasher told the News + Record that he felt in his three years on the board — he was first elected in 2016 — the county has seen forward movement.

“My three years as a commissioner have allowed me to build solid relationships with my colleagues and other elected officials, with community leaders, and with residents across the county,” he

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### CHATHAM’S SALES TAX REFERENDUM

## Support for, against often a matter of political party

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

Editor’s note: This is the third of a three-part series exploring the local option sales and use tax on this March’s primary ballot.

Chatham County’s referendum asking voters if they approve a quarter-cent increase to the local sales tax rate, on primary ballots now, has brought a myriad of opinions across social media and right-of-ways and lawns from Pittsboro to Bear Creek.

Days before early voting started, the Chatham County Republican Party began posting campaign-style signs advocating a “no” vote on the referendum. Within the last week, the Chatham County Democratic Party announced on its Facebook page it would soon be posting signs in favor of the increase.

The ballot states that the vote is for a “Chatham County Local Sales and Use Tax” and asks voters to choose “For” or “Against” on this item: “Local sales and use tax at the rate

See TAX, Page A12

### WHEN YOU’RE BORN ON FEB. 29TH

## Leap Year baby Maness just now turning 18

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Jane Maness belongs to a very exclusive group.

She entered the world, a happy and healthy baby girl, about two hours before noon on a Sunday. The year was 1948. The month was February.

The date? That’s where it gets interesting. Maness says her birth date is “like a ‘Twilight Zone’ thing.”

Consult your 2020 calendar and you’ll find Maness’ special day — Saturday, Feb. 29 — right

where you’d expect it, nestled securely between Friday, Feb. 28 and Sunday, March 1.

But in most years, there’s no such date, the 29th of February occurring — and so marked on calendars — only every four years.

That makes 2020 what’s known as a leap year — that is, a calendar year containing an additional day, added to keep the calendar year in sync with the astronomical, or seasonal, year. Leap day is always Feb. 29.

And that makes Maness, and all others who share the rarefied birth-

day, a leaping or, if you prefer, a leaper, though she herself uses neither of those terms.

“I’ve always just called myself a leap year baby,” she said.

This month marks Maness’ 18th birthday, going strictly by the inclusion of her birth date on calendars. In actual years, of course, she’s preparing to celebrate her 72nd. But bona fide birthdays that fall on the precise date of her birth? This will be Maness’ 18th.

“Most people,” she said, “once they find out, they’ll say ‘Oh, that’s cool.’”

Retired now, Maness taught 6th-graders at Chatham Middle School in Siler City for all but one of her 32 years in the classroom, and her students, rest assured, enjoyed some silliness thanks to their teacher’s unusual date of birth.

“The kids would have a lot of fun and say things like they were older than me,” she said. “Because, back then, I’d maybe be having my 6th birthday, or my 7th, since I only have one every four years. But I’d also explain it to them, that I’d been on this

See LEAP YEAR, Page A14



Retired educator Jane Maness is a ‘leap year’ baby, born Feb. 29, 1948. Above, she holds a 1952 newspaper clipping showing her at age 4, with then-Gov. W. Kerr Scott holding her, and a pin exclusive to members of the short-lived Leap Year Club.

Staff photo by David Bradley

### IN THE KNOW

Complaint against Chatham elections board member dismissed. **PAGE A9**

18th annual Fearington Folk Art Show returns this weekend. **PAGE A12**

Pollard’s boys, girls handily win middle school basketball crowns. **PAGE B1**

501 Landing rezoning approved despite community objection. **PAGE B14**



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## ON THE AGENDA

• **The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** has a regular meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, at the Pittsboro Town Hall, 635 East St., Pittsboro.

## THURSDAY

• Showcase contestants have been selected for “**Sing and Play 20**”, scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20 at Jordan-Matthews High School. Fifteen musical acts were selected in earlier auditions and will perform in elementary, middle and high school competitions. “Sing and Play” is open to both instrumental and vocal acts, with a \$50 prize in each age division. Winners will be selected by audience vote during the showcase concert. General admission is \$5 per person and includes one vote in each age-based competition. This event raises money for JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation, a non-profit organization created to provide what student artists need to excel.

• **The Carolina Mountain Dulcimer Players** meet at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month (Feb. 20), at the Seymore Center on Homestead Road in Chapel Hill. Beginners, experts, and all stringed instruments are welcome. For more information and/or directions, contact Shirley Ray at ShirleyRay@aol.com or 919-929-5359

• **St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church** - We provide a healthy, appetizing meal at no cost to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, 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!

## SUNDAY

Come to the Chatham County Historical Assn. at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23, in the Historic Chatham County Courthouse, to learn what interviews with local friends and neighbors has shown so far with the **Language and Life Project at NC State**. They have completed 40 interviews so far with participants ranging from 16 to 100 years of age. Come for a sneak-peek at the project’s progress - you might even decide to sign up to take part.

• Meet for a **NHAS Bird Walk (all these meet at the Wild Bird Center in Eastgate Crossing Shopping Center in Chapel Hill)** Meet Sun., Feb. 23, 8 a.m. for about a 3 hour walk at an area site. Questions: contact Bohowes at bohowes@gmail.com, or meet Wed. Feb. 26, for 3 hour walk in area. Questions, contact Fleeta Wilkinson @fleetalee@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.

## MONDAY

• **Monday Morning Quilters** invites you to join our group who share the love of quilting and other needle arts. We spend the time working on our own projects, sharing ideas, fellowship, and snacks with one another. We would like to welcome you to our group. We have people from all over - you don’t have to be a member of our church. We meet on Monday mornings from 9 to noon at Piney Grove UM Church, 2343 Piney Grove Church Rd., Siler City.

• **Writing Toward Resilience** has resumed, at the UNC Hospice Home Mondays from noon to 1 p.m. Come and enjoy a respite from your day - to reflect and write. Just drop in. No registration necessary. This weekly group is led by Carol Henderson, a professional writer and facilitator. There is no requirement to read anything you write, but you may if you wish. SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC Healthcare is located at 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro - behind Bojangles. Contact Ann Ritter with any questions, 984-215-2650.

• **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 St., 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

• **Census Countdown** - The League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham presents “Census 2020: Let’s Make it Count!” from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, at the Chapel Hill Public Library located at 100 Library Drive, Chapel Hill. The program will provide information about the Census, including volunteer opportunities

and the importance of an accurate count. Jessica Stanford, demographic analyst with Carolina Demography, will present an overview of the Census, why it is important and the consequences of an undercount. Orange County Commissioner Renee Price, who heads the Census 2020 Complete Count Committee for Orange County, will highlight the process and the logistics of the Census. This event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available.

• **Explorer Hike**, Saturday Feb. 29 from 12 pm until... Leap into the New Year on a trail less traveled! Join Ryan Cadwalader of the Friends of Lower Haw on our inaugural Explorer Hike. This hike series will take participants off-trail to SNA areas rarely visited. Participants should be able to hike uphill on uneven terrain, clamber over fallen trees or rocks in creeks, duck and dance thru underbrush. If this sounds like an adventure you would enjoy, join us. Leave your four-legged companions at home. We will be exploring the area south of 64, towards Roberson Creek. Hike distance may be up to 5 miles roundtrip. Meet at the Highway 64 parking lot on the West (Pittsboro) side of the river, 348 River Access Road, Pittsboro.

• **The 85th annual High-falls Old-Time Fiddler’s Convention** will be held Saturday, March 14, in the North Moore High School Auditorium in Robbins at 1504 N Moore Road. Registration from 4:30 to 7 p.m. - Admission will be \$7. - There will be a concession stand with BBQ sandwiches, Hot Dogs and Baked Goods; also a 50/50 Raffle. The ACC Basketball Tournament will be televised in the lobby. -- For sponsorship opportunities, contact Highfalls Elementary School at 910-464-3600, HFEFiddlers@gmail.com.

• Free performances of “**The Lottery**” will be offered as part of the second-annual spring theater workshop at Jordan-Matthews High School. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, March 18 to select the cast of about 13 actors. Rehearsals will be after school, about twice a week, during March. “The Lottery” will be performed for students during school on Wednesday, March 26., and then for the public that evening at 7 p.m.

• Award Winning Author Mrs. Cassandra King Conroy to appear at a **Chatham Literacy Event**. Known for humor and honesty, Mrs. Conroy, wife of former southern literary icon Pat Conroy, will speak at the Governor’s Club April 29

for Chatham Literacy’s Fall for Literacy event. She will discuss her new memoir about life with Pat Conroy. Go to www.chathamliteracy.org for tickets.

• **The 3rd Annual Becoming One Awards Ceremony and Banquet** will be held at 5 p.m. Saturday, July 11, at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro. For more information about being a part of the Celebration and Banquet or to be a sponsor, contact Sandra Reddick, Administrative Assistant at 919-663-3183 or email reddick-sandra1945@gmail.com.

## ALSO HAPPENING

• **The Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift** shop is having a **50% OFF** Winter Sale including winter wear and all shoes, boots, jewelry and purses. We have men’s and women’s clothing and shoes in all sizes. The sale will run until Saturday, Feb. 29. We now accept credit cards, with hours from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. We are in Pittsboro on the Courthouse Circle beside the Roadhouse. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

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# COMMISSIONER:

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said. “I know the processes and procedures for getting things done. I’ve proven that I’m willing and able to do the work required to bring about real progress.”

He defined his goals for his next term — if he wins the primary and defeats Republican Jimmy Pharr, who faces no primary opposition, in November — as continuing to work off established foundations, like the Chatham County Comprehensive Plan and common values among board members like “good, safe schools,” “quality affordable housing” and “a responsive and effective county government.”

“I believe government generally — and local government especially — allows us the ability to do things together that we can’t do individually,” Dasher said. “When we pool our resources (through taxes), we can pay teachers and build schools, we can provide emergency and human services, we can protect our natural resources and determine appropriate land uses. I think Chatham County does an excellent job of doing those things and more in an efficient, effective and transparent way.”

As to his opponent, Dasher said it was “difficult” to respond to her positions, since he has not “had the opportunity to hear from the other candidate publicly and have seen only a couple written statements.”

Multiple attempts by the News + Record to reach Hancock — from both her campaign phone and work phone, multiple email addresses and Facebook messages to her cam-



Photos submitted

**Incumbent Mike Dasher, left, and challenger Katelin Hancock are competing to be the Democratic nominee for the District 2 Chatham County Commissioner seat in this November’s general election.**

paign’s page — have not generated any response.

What is public about her is limited and relatively unspecific. Hancock’s Facebook page — “Katelin Hancock for Chatham County Board of Commissioners” — includes the slogan “For Chatham, From Chatham.” The biography section says she is a Chatham County native who has a bachelor’s degree in hospitality management from East Carolina University. N.C. State Board of Elections records indicate that she currently lives in Apex and voted in the 2012 and 2016 Democratic primaries.

Public knowledge of her platform is more or less limited to a January 30 post on the Chatham Chatlist forum and a short Q&A in the Chatham County Line monthly newspaper. On the Chatlist post, Hancock boasts of not being a “career politician” and having “no ties to private special interests.”

“I want to see progress in Chatham but I don’t want lifelong citizens left behind,” the post stated. “I want to see modern options

for goods and services in our city centers. I want to implement changes that will attract businesses with emphasis on the environment and support the community’s needs.”

In the Chatham County Line story, Hancock said in response to a questionnaire she would meet with citizens at town halls and “face-to-face with community leaders” as part of “diminish(ing) the political divide in our county.”

“News coverage of violence and arrests on Main Street in Pittsboro is not attractive for new residents or businesses looking to invest in our emerging megasites,” Hancock said, according to the article. “As a moderate, I will separate myself from partisanship and seek compromise between extremes to further our common goals.”

Early voting in this race has already begun, and the official primary day is March 3.

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

## 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE - CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DEMOCRAT, DISTRICT 2

**Mike Dasher**

**Date/place of birth:** 1977, Toledo, Ohio  
**Current occupation:** Chatham County Commissioner, builder  
**E-mail:** [info@mikedasher.org](mailto:info@mikedasher.org)  
**Campaign website/social media:** [mikedasher.org](http://mikedasher.org)

**Education and work history:** B.S. Political Science, B.S. Economics, Barton College, 1995-1999; Commissioner, Chatham County, 2016- present; Managing Member, Orange Communities, LLC, 2011- present; Director of Construction, Builders of Hope, 2008-2010; Project Manager, Alphin Design/Build 2006-2008; Construction Manager, Habitat for Humanity Wake County, 2002-2006

**Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members):** Selbe Bartlett, 45, wife; Abilene Dasher, 15, daughter; Jude Dasher, 11, son

**Party affiliation:** Democrat  
**Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service:** Chatham County Commissioner, 2016-present

**Campaign manager (if applicable):** N/A

**Campaign treasurer (if applicable):** Karen Scriven

**Why are you seeking this office?:** I’m running for re-election because I want to continue the important work we’re doing to move Chatham County forward. I’m proud of the progress we’ve made over the last three years, but there is still work to do.

**What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the office you seek, and in 100 words or less, why do you believe you’re qualified to fill that role?:** I had served on county advisory boards, worked with area non-profits, and majored in Political Science, so I came into office with a good understanding of the responsibilities and functions of local government.

I was able to hit the ground running and immediately begin making the improvements I was elected to make. My three years as a Commissioner have allowed me to build solid relationships with my colleagues and other elected officials, with community leaders and with residents across the county. I know the processes and procedures for getting things done. I’ve proven that I’m willing and able to do the work required to bring about real progress.

**Give us three goals that are specific, measurable and attainable you would have if elected:** My goal for my second term, should I be fortunate to serve, is to get to a place where we no longer feel like we’re catching up but instead have established: 1) the ordinances that will allow us to grow and still protect our environment and rural character; 2) the programs and funding streams that will provide for schools, parks, affordable housing and all the things that make a community vibrant, and; 3) the staff and facilities that a growing, modern, progressive county needs.

**What are the biggest challenges in Chatham right now and how would you address them?:** In Chatham County, that depends almost entirely on where you live. Certainly on the east side the most pressing challenges continue to be around growth and development and its associated impacts. But farther away from the Pittsboro-Chapel Hill corridor the concerns are quite different. Understanding those differences and the unique opportunities they present is the biggest challenge for our Board right now. I want to continue working on the things we all value - good, safe schools and access to college and job training, quality affordable housing, clean water, opportunities for employment and a responsive and effective county government.

**Chatham County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. What do you see as the major challenges due to growth and how would you address them?:** Our recently adopted Comprehensive Plan does an excellent job of detailing our goals and priorities in the face of that growth, such as preserving our rural character and

concentrating development in particular areas, but the challenges will be in developing our Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and putting in place the rules that will give “teeth” to those priorities. We also need to adequately plan for needed schools, parks and other county services and facilities that additional residents will require.

**Parts of Chatham County’s future development plans are closely tied to the comprehensive development plan. What do you see as the next steps working toward Chatham’s future and the role of the comp plan?:** The adoption of the Chatham County Comprehensive Plan is certainly one of the most significant achievements of my tenure thus far. Plan Chatham calls for targeted growth and development in specific areas, and for maintaining the rural character of our county outside of those. We’ve now begun the process of developing a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) which will consolidate - and most importantly update - our ordinances into one document, and will provide clear rules for smarter growth that protects our environment and keeps Chatham County the unique blend of landscapes it is today. I want to ensure that we are providing certainty but also flexibility so that we will see unique projects that reflect the vibrancy and diversity of our community.

**What is your view of the expansion of rural broadband and how do you see the county’s role?:** This continues to be an area of incredible frustration for me, but more importantly for too many of our residents. We are very limited in what we can do locally due to state law, but we have seen some improvements and progress. Some private providers have expanded into Chatham County, and we are working with Chatham County Schools and other partners to leverage county facilities for potential use by private providers. I am optimistic about some promising news soon for our residents.

**What’s your overall view of the role of county government? Is it fulfilling its mission at present? If not, what needs to change?:** I believe government generally — and local government especially — allows us the ability to do things together that we can’t do individually. When we pool our resources (through taxes), we can pay teachers and build schools, we can provide emergency and human services, we can protect our natural resources and determine appropriate land uses. And yes, I think Chatham County does an excellent job of doing those things and more in an efficient, effective and transparent way.

**What differentiates you from your opponent which makes you the better candidate to represent your party?:** I have not had the opportunity to hear from the other candidate publicly and have seen only a couple written statements, so it’s difficult for me to ascertain any particular policy positions on which we agree or differ. I will let my record of accomplishments as a Commissioner speak for itself.

**Biographical Facts**  
**Politically/government hero(s):** Jimmy Carter

**Favorite book:** “The Grapes of Wrath” by John Steinbeck

**Book most recently read:** “Shortest Way Home: One Mayor’s Challenge and a Model for America’s Future” by Pete Buttigieg

**Favorite film:** For great filmmaking, “Chinatown.” For all the feels, “Field of Dreams.”

**Hobbies:** Designing stuff, building stuff, spending time with family and friends.

**Church/civic involvement:** Board Member, Willow Oak Montessori; Board Member, Main Street Pittsboro

**Personal motto or one-line philosophy:** “It is what it is.” I say that all the time, anyways.

**Strongest childhood ambition:** I thought I wanted to be an architect.

**Most significant life goal you’ve accomplished:** My kids are happy.

**Goal you haven’t accomplished yet:** I’d like to see more of the world.

## 2020 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE - CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DEMOCRAT, DISTRICT 2

**Katelin Hancock**

**Date/place of birth:** Chatham County  
**Current occupation:** Assistant Banquet Manager, J.B. Duke Hotel  
**E-mail:** [katelinehancock@gmail.com](mailto:katelinehancock@gmail.com)  
**Campaign website/social media:** [facebook.com/Hancock2020/](http://facebook.com/Hancock2020/)

**Education and work history:** Did not answer

**Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members):** Did not answer

**Party affiliation:** Democrat

**Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service:** Did not answer

**Campaign manager (if applicable):** Did not answer

**Campaign treasurer (if applicable):** Did not answer

**Why are you seeking this office?:** Did not answer

**What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the office you seek, and in 100 words or less, why do you believe you’re qualified to fill that role?:** Did not answer

**Give us three goals that are specific, measurable and attainable you would have if elected:** Did not answer

**What are the biggest challenges in Chatham right now and how would you address them?:** Did not answer

**Chatham County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. What do you see as the major challenges due**

**to growth and how would you address them?:** Did not answer

**Parts of Chatham County’s future development plans are closely tied to the comprehensive development plan. What do you see as the next steps working toward Chatham’s future and the role of the comp plan?:** Did not answer

**What is your view of the expansion of rural broadband and how do you see the county’s role?:** Did not answer

**What’s your overall view of the role of county government? Is it fulfilling its mission at present? If not, what needs to change?:** Did not answer

**What differentiates you from your opponent which makes you the better candidate to represent your party?:** Did not answer

**Biographical Facts**

**Politically/government hero(s):** Did not answer

**Favorite book:** Did not answer

**Book most recently read:** Did not answer

**Favorite film:** Did not answer

**Hobbies:** Did not answer

**Church/civic involvement:** Did not answer

**Personal motto or one-line philosophy:** Did not answer

**Strongest childhood ambition:** Did not answer

**Most significant life goal you’ve accomplished:** Did not answer

**Goal you haven’t accomplished yet:** Did not answer



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# VIEWPOINTS

## Winter's fickle tease hasn't walloped us — yet

"Everyone's talking about the weather," a famous newspaperman once remarked, "but nobody does anything about it."



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

That's one of many quotes often mis-attributed to Mark Twain, but nevertheless a sentiment many

of us have probably pondered. As for me, I've been talking, or at least thinking, about the weather a lot lately. Here's why: despite an abundance of gray and overcast days and lots of rain, which seems to be our lot this time of year, temperatures here have been mild enough the last couple of months to allow me to spend

quite a bit more time on our screened-in porch than I would have anticipated.

Last winter, I seem to recall, we barely darkened the door leading from our kitchen to the porch. It was just too cold for too long. Exposure to the elements, even when dressed for them, was decidedly unpleasant. To sit out on the porch, unless you were a snowman or training for an Arctic expedition, was unthinkable.

But this winter — is it winter, really? — I've been able to steal more than a few hours most Saturdays and Sundays (and even a generous handful of late weekday afternoons and evenings) on the porch since around Christmas. I've really taken advantage of this long stretch of unseasonably mild weather. And thanks to a new toasty throw blanket and some

deliriously comfortable furniture we picked up in Myrtle Beach a few months ago, the environment on our porch hasn't matched what the calendar might suggest. It was January, and it's supposed to be February now, but many days it feels more like March or April...or, on occasion, May.

I can't get enough of it. It's been a curious thing. We had that cold winter. And then I remember way too many afternoons and early evenings over this past summer when the heat of the porch, despite having two fans blowing, was simply too much to bear.

Unpleasant extremes, it seems, have been the rule, not the exception.

Then there was this past Sunday. Late that mild afternoon, as I worked comfortably in my cushy chair, watching the sun set while wrapped in my blan-

ket, I heard the unmistakable call of geese honking as they flew over my neighborhood — north, mind you, way ahead of schedule.

Even they've been fooled, if indeed they were migrating home.

But that's weather, right? Winter, as we each will attest, can be a tease. Winter's fickleness, especially here in the south, often lulls you into a predictable trap: you smile and breathe a soft sigh because you think it's reaching out for a warm, loving hug, but instead you get walloped upside the head with an elbow and then get a knee to the gut.

We've not gotten walloped this winter — yet. But don't you think it's coming?

Or is it? It's practically late February, typically our worst-weather month in North

Carolina. And yet, as I look at the official extended forecast on The Weather Channel's website, I see only a few days with lows below freezing and high temps most days in our region set for the low 50s to the low 60s.

Maybe our payback will come in the spring. Those professional prognosticators who practice such witchery have already suggested we're in for a rough spring, with higher-than-normal stretches of severe weather and above-average numbers of tornadoes, at least in the South.

Is that trade-off worth it? Time will tell. But whatever comes as March arrives, and April becomes May, we'll probably have a lot to talk about.

And you can believe I'll be doing something about it — observing summer's arrival from our screened-in porch.

## March Madness too mad for me, but B-ball is still key

March Madness? It'll soon be here. But not for me. Not this year. Not, in fact, in a long time.



**RANDALL RIGSBEE**  
Randall Reflects

I think I've grown immune. Not that I was ever especially mad about March Madness, though I've had my moments. Going back a few years, I used to fill out the brackets and sometimes when luck, more than my knowledge of the teams, was on my side, I did all right.

But I'm a fair-weather fan, and unless one of the local triumvirate (I'll pull for any Triangle-area team; I'm not picky that way) makes it to the Final Four, as a spectator the sport, the season, and all the madness that ensues, is mostly lost on me.

As for the sport itself, however, I hold basketball in high regard.

I can't say likewise of most sports. I never, for instance, caught the football bug, though it wasn't for lack of trying. I've pared my interest in football down to watching one game per year — the Big Game, as it's also known — and I even skipped that this year, having no interest in the game itself, a halftime show that either by accident or by design is guaranteed to upset some sizable segment of spectators, or the celebrated commercials. Of that latter attraction, one aside: Isn't it amazing — mind-blowing, even — that we abhor commercials 364 days out of the year, fast-forwarding through them when we can as if they contained a contagion releasable on contact, yet covet commercials on that one day? It's all a bloated super bore. But I digress.

I used to care a bit about baseball, but my interest in it started waning about the time steroids took root in centerfield and players' forearms began practically popping, a la Pop-eye's.

Though I still love the way James Earl Jones sublimely waxes poetic about the American pastime in "Field of Dreams," to actually sit in front of a television and watch a Big League baseball game would require more patience than I could conjure.

And I haven't followed hockey — a sport I once, at a much younger age, desperately wanted to play, since Bobby Orr's 12 seasons in the NHL.

But basketball, in spite of my disinterest in it as a spectator sport, is now and forever for me the greatest sport.

Of the three big sports that still, I think, capture the greatest attention in the United States, basketball is the best, the fastest paced, the simplest to follow, and — probably the primary reason I rank it tops — the most accessible to all.

As a kid, I played football — neighborhood bragging rights were on the line — and I tossed baseballs with my brother. But basketball was better, requiring only a ball, a backboard and a hoop (the net being optional and, very often, absent).

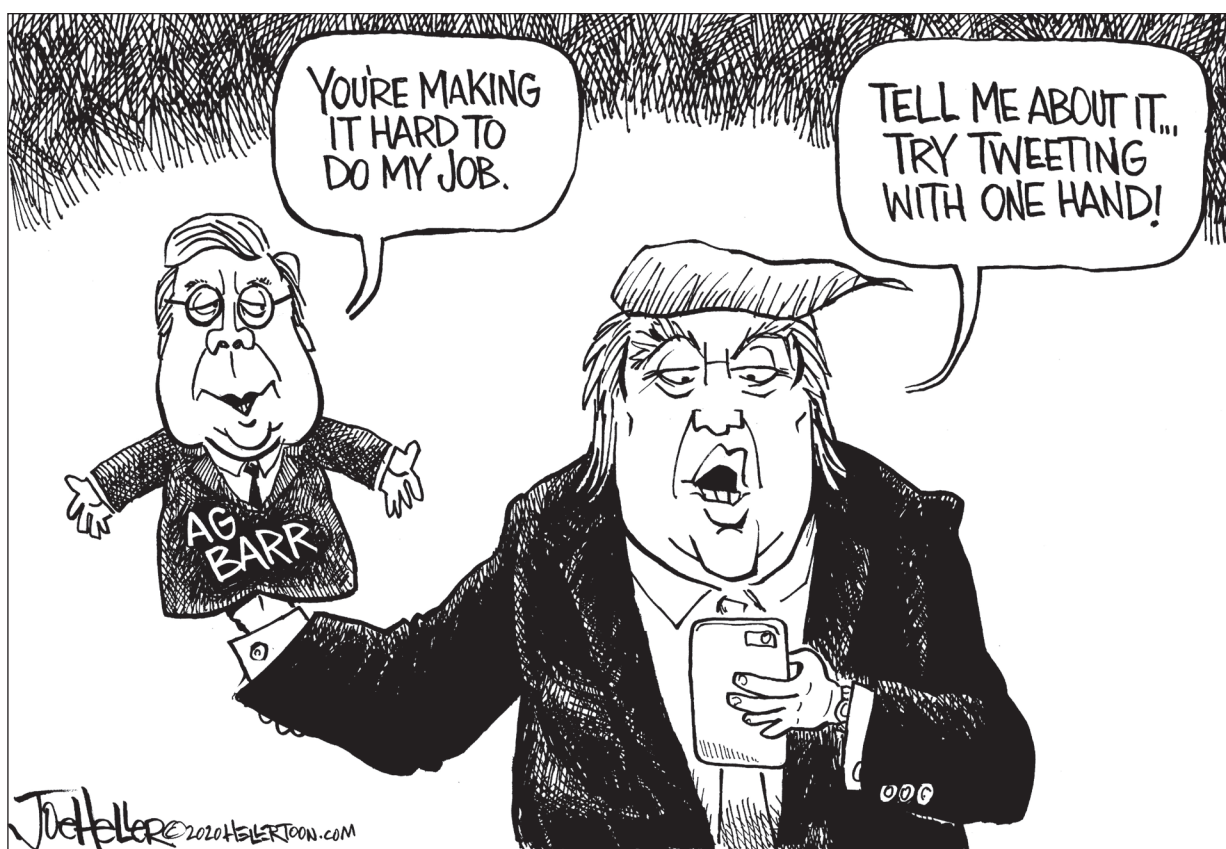
No team — or even another person, though nothing beats a game of one-on-one — was required. When my buddies were too busy, I passed hours shooting hoops alone, enjoying the experience none the less. No big field needed. And with a school nearby with its outdoor courts always available, we didn't even need to own the backboard and hoop.

It's easy to scratch the basketball itch, but try organizing an impromptu after-dinner game of football or baseball.

Coinciding with March Madness is the welcome warming of the weather. And for many, that means playing basketball again.

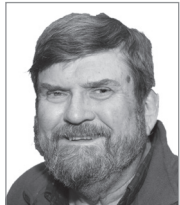
For me, one of the welcome touchstones of spring in my neighborhood is the thumping sound of dribbling basketballs.

So as indifferent as I've been to March Madness in recent seasons, and to sports in general, I'm on board for the return of what I consider true basketball season: spring and summer, the time of year all those backyard and driveway hoops — largely dormant during the winter season — are called back into action.



## Change more than coins in your pocket

It's been said change is the only thing that's constant in life. That may be true because, as someone else has said, time and tide wait for no one. Change is all around and as Bob Dylan sang years ago, "The times, they are a'changing."



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around

Some folks thrive on change, and the more dramatic, the better for them.

However, even though change is a big part of life, at times it can be hard on our fragile egos and psyches, if we're that way.

I think I am. Granted, we need to remember some changes are positive while others are...well, less so. Some changes are absolutes, affecting everybody.

For instance, it's not a really good change when a hurricane hits the coast and destroys life and property and, in the aftermath, you see a different landscape. Other changes are relative, like when a monsoon makes it bad for the farmer who's trying to make hay and the sunshine disappears behind a week of heavy rain but good for folks selling umbrellas and raincoats.

It's a fact I've had some good changes all along — trading bachelorhood for my definitely better half, the arrival of our own brood and then in recent years the little ones who carry the description "grand." There have been some good careers and vocations, as well — this newspaper for years, an enjoyable period in agricultural journalism traveling the two Carolinas, a wonderful course of study in seminary and then the opportunity to live among and serve communities of love and faith.

By and large, then, it's been a good ride. So, sometimes I ask myself what am I complaining about. Well, for one, in my way of thinking, I could have done without the various visits with different surgeons during the past 20 years. But things — changes in the body over time — happen and it becomes something with which to deal. I try

to remember Mark Twain's line about "in my life I have known a great many troubles but fortunately, few of them happened."

So, most of the time, I — and probably maybe you and most folks — go along until something comes along and reminds us that life is changing and, as a result, so are we. My little growing up town of Pittsboro is a classic example.

Years ago, before there was a Pittsboro Ford, which has now gone the way of all flesh, there was a Ford dealership in town. There was also a General Motors as well, but that's a different story for another time. That Ford dealership was named Cooper-Harris, the "Cooper" being my Uncle Ken. At first, the new car display lot was on the main drag, Hillsboro Street, in a space now occupied by Virlie's Grill.

The used vehicle inventory was on the corner where now sits Hardee's. At various times, Uncle Ken would give me a job ranging from selling cars to washing them in the wash pit behind the used car lot where I hung out with Willie Womble.

Eventually, all parts of the business went onto the corner lot just east of the Masonic lodge, which years before had been held down by several abandoned houses, which finally the Pittsboro Fire Department burned in training exercises.

After the car business closed, mainly due to the deaths of family members, that lot became home to various enterprises, most recently a produce stand and ice cream trailer. I had gotten used to that scene, remembering people and events I'd encountered there. But over the past several months, I read in the paper about efforts to locate a convenience store/gas station there, over the objections of some town commissioners who said it would detract from the beauty of the town.

But it wasn't until a few days ago when I rode by and saw the chain link fence and mound of soil that I realized what a big change was happening.

There was also a similar feeling when I happened on down US 64 Business east and saw the demolition of Dan White's house on the

north side of the road, just past where Thompson Street intersects the main road. It's being razed as part of the Chatham Park development and I sort of knew it would be gone in time but to see it was quite a start.

See, I often used to spend the night there with David, the younger son, about my age. We played in the woods, smoked rabbit tobacco, built fires in the root cellar fireplace and played checkers and carrom and rummy, read comic books and ate a million hot dogs his mother Lanie made for us. At least, there was some small comfort that the once-stately old house wasn't set ablaze.

Chatham Park, of course, is about the biggest change ever to Pittsboro all the way from Hearne Hill in Bynum where Henry cooked barbecue down to Gum Springs on the Moncure Road. Halfway, sort of, is the work being done on Firetower Road. Years ago, we could climb to the top of that tower and see for miles before the fence went up and the steps rotted. It was also a favorite spot for teenage lovers to go at night to watch the submarine races.

I had gotten over the demise years ago of the ice plant that was operated by Mr. Arthur Thomas. When I started driving, my folks would send me up there on Sunday after church with a quarter to drop into the slot to get a block of ice. Then I'd put the big paper bag under the funnel of the machine, turn it on and drop the ice in. As I remember, I didn't need the signs he had to post telling you not to put your hands into the grinder.

Hopefully, this all doesn't sound like I'm Atilla the Hun or Ogg the Caveman but I can't help but notice. No doubt, you've seen change and changes in your life. Sometimes it can be hard but I do take some comfort knowing that the Good Book says that in a world of change that God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

But, still, because I'm human, sometimes I think I'd like to get one of Lanie's hot dogs, a glass of tea with that good shaved ice and maybe go by the Ford place or ride up Firetower Road.

## Chatham News + Record

www.chathamnewsrecord.com

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

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



# FREEMAN:

Continued from page A1

Seven years later, Freeman took what must have been a leap of faith and sold his son to R. Tucker, who took Waller to New York where he secured a deed a manumission, a document making Waller a free man. Waller then returned to Raleigh in an attempt to purchase his own wife, Eliza, and their six children from the same George E. Badger who had owned him previously.

A North Carolina law at the time stated that "it shall not be lawful for any free negro or mulatto to migrate into this State." Manumission was only available in northern states. So if a slave was able to gain manumission, he or she would not be allowed to return. If found to be in the state, they would have 20 days to leave, risking hefty fines, jail and even being sold back into slavery.

In 1840, Waller was forced to leave North Carolina, based on the writings of Lundsford Lane, another North Carolina slave who bought his freedom and became a vocal opponent of slavery, and in 1842 wrote an autobiography called "The Narrative of Lundsford Lane."

According to Lane, this policy of no return was sometimes "winked at" in Raleigh, depending upon what your connections were. That is likely how Lane and Waller were able to stay and prosper for a few years.

Then things changed. In his autobiography, Lane recalls his narrow escape from North Carolina because of the "no return" law and writes about Waller suffering a similar fate.

"I should, perhaps, have mentioned that on the same day I received the notice to leave Raleigh, similar notices were presented to two other free colored people, who had been slaves; were trying to purchase their families; and were otherwise in a like situation to myself," he wrote.

Lane wrote that Waller's family was "the property of Judge Badger." Badger was appointed to be Secretary of the Navy following the election of President William Henry Harrison in 1840 and moved to Washington, D.C., taking Waller's wife and children with him. Waller followed his family there hoping to purchase their freedom. President Harrison's term was short, since he died of typhoid or pneumonia just 31 days into his presidency. Waller was able to secure \$1,800 and purchased his family from Badger in 1842.

### Life with freedom

In Washington, Waller made a successful career for himself as a carpenter. The first child of Waller and Eliza to be born free was Robert Tanner Freeman in 1846. Robert Freeman went on to be one of the first of six people to enter Harvard's dental program. Soon after, in 1869, he became the first African American to graduate with a dental degree in the United States. In 1907, The National Dental Association created the Robert Freeman Dental Society, an organization that promotes "oral health equity among people of color," which still exists to the present day.

The Harvard School of Dental Medicine honored Robert Freeman last year by hanging a portrait of Freeman alongside portraits of deans and faculty dating back to the school's founding in 1867.

### The legacy continues

Lewis Freeman's descendants would continue to make significant achievements.

Robert C. Weaver, Robert Freeman's grandson, would become the first African American appointed to the U.S. Federal Cabinet. On Jan. 13, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson

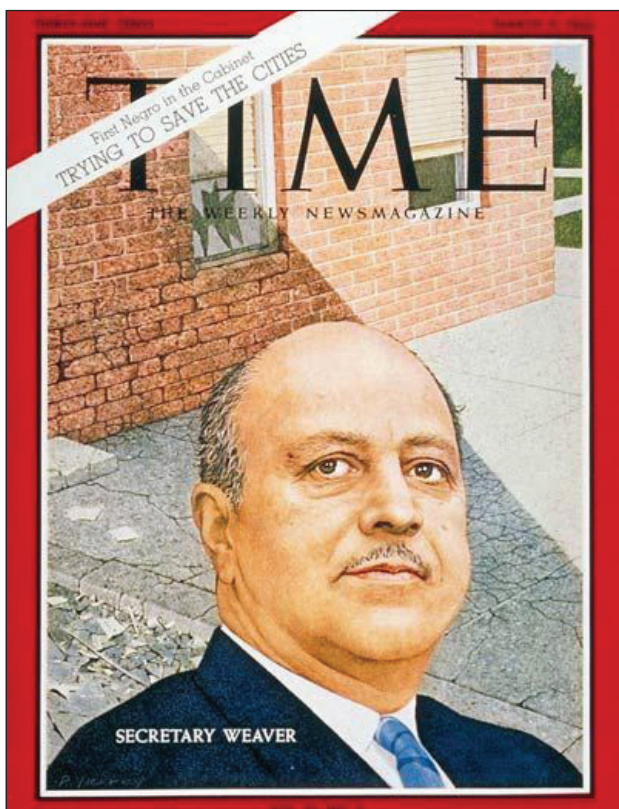


Photo courtesy of Time magazine

**Time Magazine cover from March 4, 1966, profiling Robert C. Weaver, the first African American to serve in a President's cabinet. Weaver was the great-great-grandson of Lewis Freeman.**

**'It's an America story. It's reflected in five generations of a family that started before the country was a country. Each generation and what they faced is related to this family continuum and what happened in America itself.'**

**DR. HAROLD FREEMAN, great-great-great-grandson of Lewis Freeman**

appointed Weaver to the position of the secretary of the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. Weaver, a Harvard graduate with multiple degrees, had served as part of the "Black Cabinet" under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He later became the national chairman for the NAACP and was appointed by then-President John F. Kennedy to manage the Housing and Home Finance Agency, which would eventually become the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Weaver was also the author of four books and the one of the original directors of the Municipal Assistance Corporation, which was formed to help New York through financial crisis in the 1970s.

### A family's search for its history

Several of Lewis Freeman's descendants have been working to discover their roots. Dr. Harold P. Freeman of New York is the great-great-grandson of Lewis Freeman. He grew up in segregated Washington, D.C. during the 1940's and 50's. After getting his medical degree from Howard University, Dr. Freeman became an attending cancer surgeon at Harlem Hospital, eventually serving as director of surgery until 1999 while also a professor at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was appointed the head of the American Cancer Society in 1988 and served as chairman of the President's Cancer Panel for Presidents George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

After founding the National Cancer Institute's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, he went on to focus on patient navigation, the process guiding patients through the continuum of care. The Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute in New York is an accreditation program for doctors and nurses, one the American College of Surgeons has made a requirement for hospital cancer programs.

While in training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in the 1960's, Dr. Freeman saw a Time magazine cover about Robert C. Weaver. Dr. Freeman knew that Weaver was a cousin, though he had never actually met him. In the article, some of the Freeman history was provided, including Weaver's grandfather, Robert Freeman. Dr. Freeman hadn't known about his family history and the revelations sparked an interest to learn more, especially over the past 20 years.

It was only seven years ago he learned about

Lewis Freeman.

"I was called by a wife of another cousin who said that Lewis might be Waller's father," Dr. Freeman said. "I got very interested and visited Pittsboro to see the house."

He wasn't the only descendant to make the trip to Pittsboro. Scott Pennington, a New Jersey attorney and great-great-grandson of Lewis Freeman, was also searching about his family's history. Pennington's great-grandmother was Jane Freeman, who married Guy Booth, a slave who escaped a plantation eventually graduating from Howard University.

Pennington also visited Pittsboro several years ago to visit Lewis Freeman's home.

"It's one of the most emotional moments of my life, visiting Pittsboro with my cousin, John," Pennington said. "Touching the chimney, being able to touch the stones from a chimney he likely built, it was almost like shaking his hand."

Dr. Harold Freeman had a similar experience while visiting the Chatham Community Library.

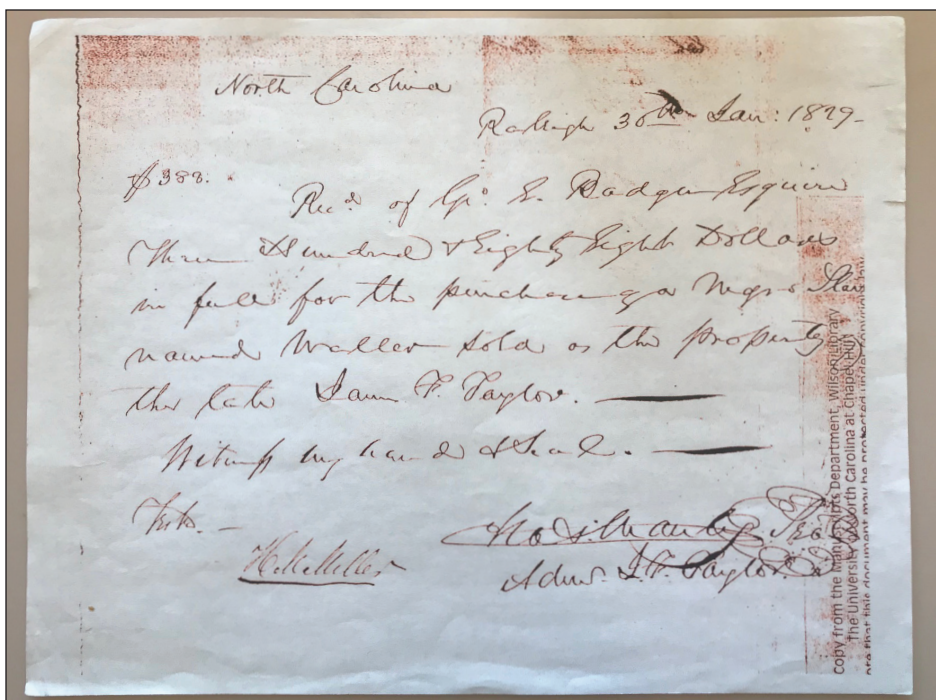
"I saw a plaque on the wall in the library about Lewis," he said. "It was very moving to me."

### The search continues to honor a legacy

While we know a great deal about the success and achievements of Lewis Freeman's descendants, there is still much to learn about the man himself. It's not known how he made his money or what connections he had to be able to purchase and free his family, something that was not an easy task.

Freeman died in 1846, before ever knowing the greatness his descendants would achieve. He left his land and property to his second wife, Creecy. Sometime after his death, the land was deeded to a man named Thompson, who was the executor of Lewis' will. According to Lewis' will, his property was to go to Thompson after Creecy's death. However, Lewis had previously deeded some of the property to Waller. That land was subject of some dispute, but not much is known about how that happened.

There are records from a military court during the Reconstruction period after the Civil War. Waller filed to regain the land that by deed Lewis had given to him. There was no documentation to support that there were debts or that it had defaulted. Regardless of a lack of documentation, Waller lost the case in appeal and the family land was lost with it. But today, a small



**The Bill of Sale documenting the purchase of Waller, Lewis Freeman's son, from the estate of James Taylor in 1829 in Raleigh by Judge George Badger. The price was \$388. Badger later became a Cabinet member in 1842 under President Harrison.**

part of the land that was once owned by Lewis Freeman will be the site of a public park named in his honor. The Lewis Freeman Historic Park will be one-third an acre on the edge of the town's downtown district on Rectory Street. The land was donated by the estate of Jane Pyle, a noted historian and printer who, as the former owner of the Lewis Freeman house, worked to learn more about Freeman and secure the home's place on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Two of our leading values are equity and access in our town's parks," said Stephanie Bass, chairman of the Pittsboro Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

The park will be geographically accessible to downtown, schools, a senior center and several neighborhoods. And paths and boardwalks will ensure that it is accessible to all ages and abilities.

"And equity shines in the way this park tells an inspiring story that fills out the early picture of our community," Bass said. "We're all richer for knowing more about it."

Over many years, Chatham County Historical Association volunteers have pieced together whatever clues they could find about Lewis Freeman.

"The prospect of a town park on part of the property Freeman owned has inspired us to turn to a researcher who specializes in African-American genealogy to dig deeper and hopefully shed more light on the life of the man that began the legacy," Hobbs said.

The group is raising funds for that effort through the Chatham Historical Association.

### Lewis Freeman's legacy

The consequences of Lewis Freeman's life choices created not only African American history, but also a lasting impact on his descendants.

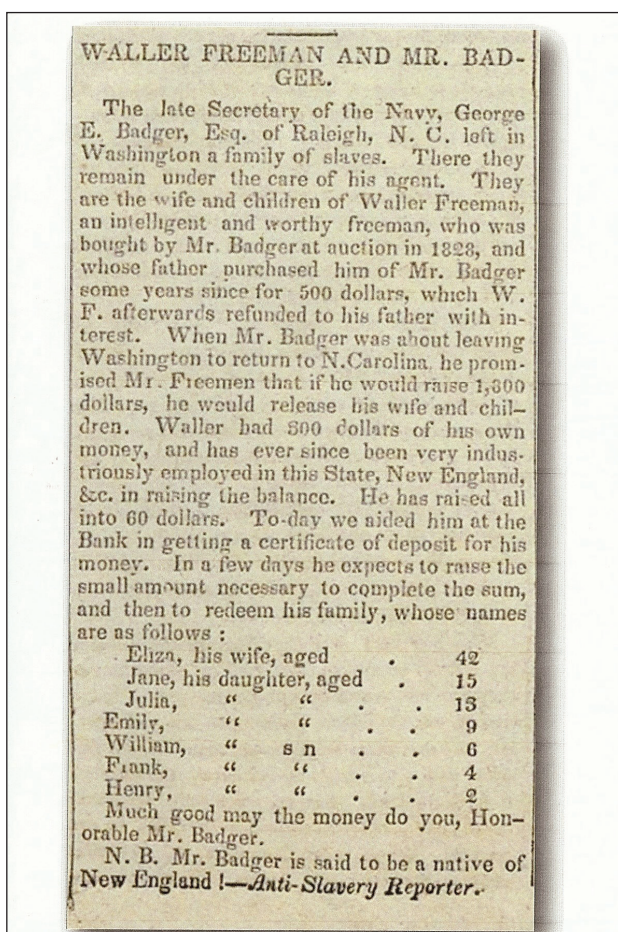
"A lot of Lewis Freeman's descendants went on to do well professionally," Pennington said. "Harold's [Freeman] side are doctors while my side are attorneys, including two of my brothers and my son."

Though successful, both Pennington and Dr. Freeman noted that both their childhoods were marked with struggle, particularly financial insecurity. Pennington's mother was ill and he was a high school drop-out; determined to succeed, he joined the Air Force and later went to law school.

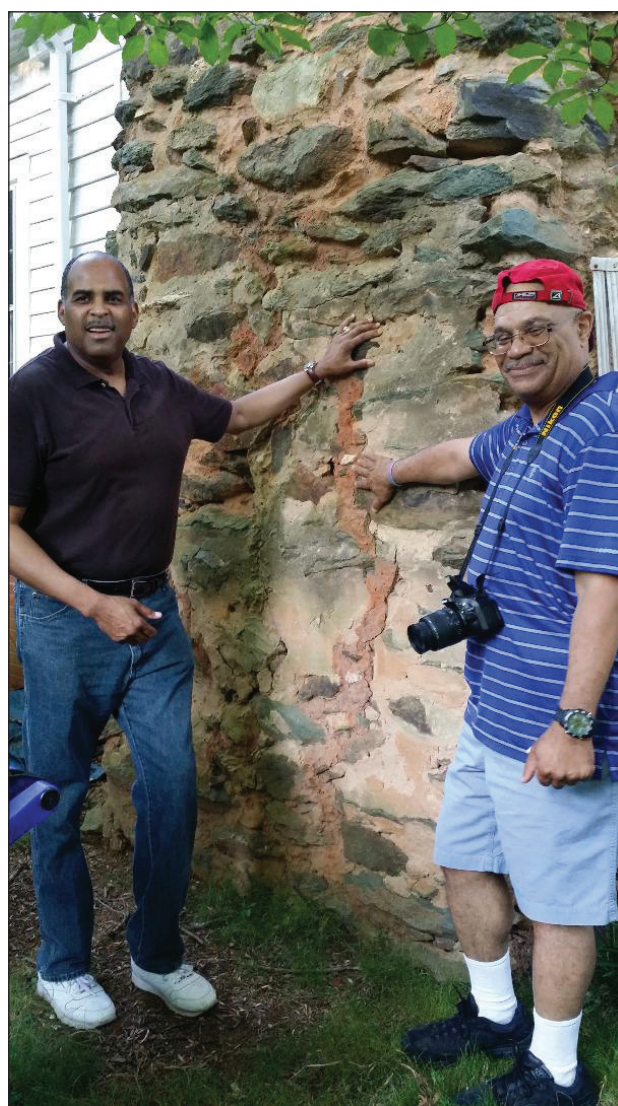
"We came from a position of poverty and yet three of us [his siblings] went on to become attorneys," Pennington said. "That's why I looked into it. I wondered if it was genetic. The more I look, not only did I find people that were able to excel, but those who can overcome adversity. I can only assume that's something that's handed down."

Dr. Freeman expressed similar feelings.

"That a man like Lewis could do what he did," Dr. Freeman said. "He conquered a hell of a lot in a lifetime and set it up so his family had



**This is a copy of a new article addressing Waller Freeman's purchase of his family from George E. Badger for \$1,800 in 1842.**



Submitted photo

**Freeman descendants Scott Pennington (left) visited Pittsboro with his cousin, John Freeman several years ago. Here they are touching the original chimney built at the Lewis Freeman house. Pennington noted that this was 'one of the most emotional moments' of his life.**

a chance for education and to make it to higher levels.

"It's an America story," Dr. Freeman said. "It's reflected in five generations of a family that started before the country was a country. Each generation and what they faced is related to this family continuum and what happened in America itself."

Lewis Freeman's living descendants are also pleased that the town of Pittsboro will be honoring that legacy with the Lewis Freeman Historic Park.

"I tell my children, we have something to be proud of," Dr. Freeman said. "It's good to see good people in Chatham embracing this, honoring this man who happens to be related to me."

"This means a piece of my DNA will live on in perpetuity," Pennington said. "That our family line counts to more people than just those in our family."

"Lewis Freeman's legacy is significant," Hobbs said. "These were impressive people. He had to be intelligent and energetic. He loved his family obviously and had enough sense to operate a system where strict laws governed the interactions of free blacks and slaves. He is one of the lesser known, but more interesting citizens of Pittsboro."

"No matter who you are, you can make it in this world," Dr. Freeman said. "Stay on point."

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

# Briar Chapel will likely wait until summer for wastewater future

**BY ZACHARY HORNER**  
News + Record Staff

*Editor's Note: This is the last in a series of stories on the proposed wastewater transfer from Fearington Village to Briar Chapel. The News + Record will continue reporting on this story as it develops.*

CHAPEL HILL — As of now, the proposed transfer of wastewater from the Fearington Village neighborhood to the Briar Chapel development is more or less stagnant, not sure which way it's going next.

North Carolina Utilities Commission Staff Attorney William Grantmyre told the News + Record that the commission wouldn't likely discuss next steps until June, so for the time being, the proposed transfer which garnered more than 600 signatures against it, and a scathing NCUC staff report expressing concerns

about it, is on hold.

Old North State Water Company, the firm which oversees operations at the Briar Chapel Wastewater Treatment Plant, said in a report filed with the NCUC earlier this month that they believe the project will lead to "multiple benefits" for residents, particularly in upgrades to the plant and a larger customer base that would "help to mitigate pressures to increase rates to all customers in the future." The current proposal does not project a rate increase for the near future for either Fearington or Briar Chapel residents.

What's next for ON-SWC, according to president Michael Myers, is a public relations campaign to restore what he termed a "strained" relationship.

"We're dedicated to rebuild(ing) it," Myers said in a phone interview. "I know we have heard the concerns raised by the Briar Chapel residents,

and we are working very, very diligently to address those concerns."

If the proposal is not approved, according to Myers and Fearington Village developer R.B. Fitch, president of Fitch Creations, both neighborhoods will move on as normal. Myers said the current plant will have to be expanded anyway to accommodate further growth in Briar Chapel, and Fitch told the News + Record that his team would upgrade the current Fearington facility.

"We've added, upgraded and replaced as Fearington has grown and it can meet the needs of the Fearington community going forward," Fitch said. "If the transfer doesn't happen, we'd upgrade the facility again and continue as a wastewater utility just as we are now."

However, Fitch added, the "best option" would be a merger, and would

benefit residents as Myers said.

"Customers will benefit because costs can be spread over a larger base," he said. "Larger systems can hire more specialized staff and purchase more advanced and effective equipment. Managing a wastewater system isn't our core business and we believe at some point it should be handled by a dedicated wastewater utility."

Newland Communities, the developer of Briar Chapel, said in a statement that it "eagerly awaits" a "resolution of the challenges at hand so that Briar Chapel residents can continue to enjoy a high quality of life."

"We trust the NCUC to oversee the private, regulated utilities of the Chatham County area, including this proposed transaction," the statement said.

On the residents' part, Briar Chapel Commu-

nity Association Board President Thomas Steer told the News + Record the group has hired an attorney as part of the BCCA's efforts "to further defend our opposition to the request."

"The delay is giving Briar Chapel Community the time that was needed to fully gather information and prepare additional testimony in opposition to the merger and expansion," Speer said. "We are very thankful for the delay that was granted. We do expect to gather and report additional testimony in the coming weeks."

He added that residents are "united" and will not change their perspective that "expansion is not beneficial to our community."

In addition, a group called "StopChatham-North" has been formed by Briar Chapel residents and others. Group spokesperson Rusty Field says SCN, in shorthand,

has nearly 1,800 resident members and has similar motives to the BCCA Board.

"SCN hopes that the NCUC decisions will prevent any expansion of the BC wastewater plant beyond its current capacity until ONSWC/EnviroLink proves that it can eliminate all odor from plant and irrigation operations," Field said. "Additionally, we want the NCUC to make ONSWC/EnviroLink comply with all Federal, State and local regulatory requirements. Finally, we want the Commission to consider the proximity of the BC wastewater facility to residents and provide relief to these residents."

He added that both groups have hired attorneys and those attorneys are in communication.

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

## CHATHAM BUSINESS ROUNDUP

# The economic effect of weather events

Writing a business column



**ZACHARY HORNER**  
Corner Store

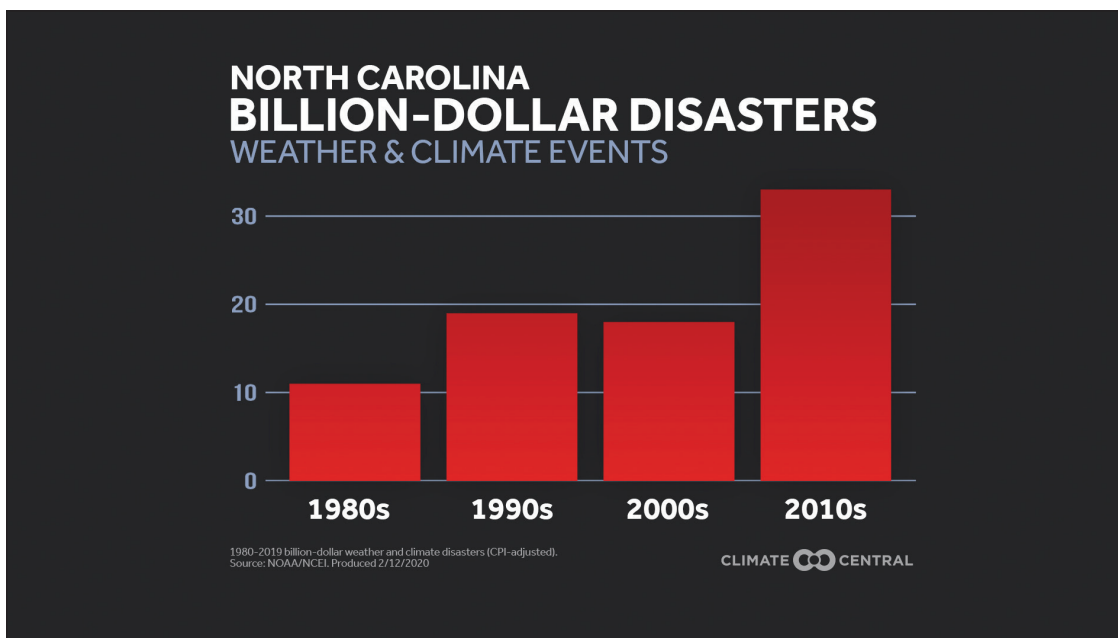
was not my first love in journalism — it was sports. But through writing about business and the economy for around three-and-a-half years has taught me a lot, and I've come to see

what it means and how important it is.

So I keep going, endeavoring to bring you the most interesting, quirky or relevant news in business in Chatham County, North Carolina and across the country. If you have any suggestions for something for me to look into or include in these weekly columns, shoot me a note at [zhorn@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorn@chathamnr.com).

North Carolina was one of 34 states and territories to see more billion-dollar disasters in the 2010s compared to the previous three decades. States in the central U.S. saw the highest spikes, including Texas seeing 33 more last decade than in previous ones.

"Many of these disasters are getting worse with climate change, although some extreme events are easier to attribute than others," the Climate Central report stated. "Warmer oceans are fueling the rapid intensification of hurricanes, while a warmer and wetter atmosphere intensifies their rainfall. Heavier downpours worsen inland flooding and crop damage; coastal flooding is heightened by sea level rise. And extended heat and drought can set the stage for more dangerous wildfires in the West and Alaska."



Graphic courtesy of Climate Central

According to data gathered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, North Carolina has seen an increasing number of "billion-dollar disasters" in recent decades.

### Billion-dollar disasters

According to data gathered from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the 2010s had 119 billion-dollar disasters, double the number from the 2000s, with total costs exceeding \$800 billion.

The report, authored by climate change research firm Climate Central, looked into the amount of money lost due to damages from severe weather and climate events. North Carolina averaged 2.03 a year from 1980 to 2019. Last year, the state saw three, including Hurricane Dorian sweeping through the area in late August and early September.

### Not as lucrative as you might think

Dwight Schrote from NBC's "The Office" once described his "perfect Valentine's Day" like this: "I'm at home, three cell phones in front of me, fielding desperate calls from people who want to buy one of the 50 restaurant reservations I made over six months ago."

Well, sorry to say for those restaurants, Dwight might be making more from those reservations that you do. According to small business research firm Womply, Valentine's Day ranked 94th in customer spending at local restaurants across America last year, with

establishments making just 21 percent more revenue than an average day. For context, Cinco de Mayo was 93rd, the Friday before Memorial Day was 21st and the Saturday before Labor Day was 52nd.

The best day money-making-wise was the Saturday before Mother's Day, with restaurants making 62 percent more than average, followed by Mother's Day which saw 60 percent more than average. Third was the Saturday before Father's Day, Fourth was March 30 and fifth was April 13.

According to the report, titled "The State of Local Restau-

rants 2020," Womply analyzed daily revenue for more than 36,000 local restaurants across America.

### One example of coronavirus' effect on N.C. business

The Hickory Daily Record reported last week on how the spreading coronavirus has impacted a North Carolina business. Craftmaster Furniture in Alexander County is owned by China-based Samson Holdings, and company President and CEO told the Daily Record that his business' upholstery supply

could be in jeopardy.

"The company imports much of its fabric and leather supply from mills in China, which have been shut down for several weeks for the Chinese New Year holiday," the Feb. 14 story in the Hickory paper stated. "The holiday was extended because of the coronavirus. Craftmaster built six to eight weeks of stock in preparation for the holiday. But that stock might not be enough, Calcagne said."

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

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# OBITUARIES

## ALEXANDER BOYCHUCK



Alexander Boychuck, former resident of Fearrington Village in Pittsboro, North Carolina, passed away on January 6, 2020, at the age of 88. He was surrounded by his loving family.

Alex was born on January 10, 1931 in Shamokin, PA. to Ukranian immigrants Michael Boychuck and Eva Cramer. He was preceded in death by his twin brother, Daniel, along with siblings William and Helen. Alex graduated from Shamokin High School and then attended Bloomsburg State University for two years where

he was an All-State running back for the football team. His education at Bloomsburg was interrupted because he enlisted in the US Army. After serving for two and a half years, he attended Graceland University where he graduated with a BA in Education. He received his Masters in Counseling and Guidance from Ryder College, followed by a degree in Educational Administration from Southern Connecticut State University. After serving 25 years as a School Administrator, Alex retired from the Danbury Public Schools in Connecticut.

In 1995, Alex and his wife Shirley moved to Fearrington Village in Pittsboro, NC. Nothing could keep Alex away from the classroom. He became a favored substitute at Northwood High School and was better known as "Mister B" for 19 years. Alex reflected, "My philosophy of teaching begins and ends with the students in my classroom. I believe that teaching is a calling and that as educators we have the rare opportunity to make the kind of impact that can mold individuals for good. I believe that true learning happens through a combination of study, hands on experience, communication, and commitment."

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Shirley Hyde Boychuck; son and daughter-in-law Timothy and Beth Boychuck of Midland, Michigan; daughter and son-in-law Lydia and Kenneth Parson of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; grandchildren Nathan & his wife Chrissy of Kokomo, IN, Elisabeth and her husband Andrew of Fairfield, CT, Emily of Midland, MI, Lydia and her husband Jonathan of New Milford, CT, Abbey of Harbor Springs, MI, and Gil and his wife Katy of Morrisville, NC; and great grandchildren Ava, Emma, Johnny, Mason, Tenley, Liam, Jade, Holland, Colt, and Wellesley.

A memorial service will be held April 18, 2020 at 11a.m. at Christ United Methodist Church in Southern Village. The address is: 800 Market Street Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to UNC Chapel-Hill School of Medicine Department of Neurology Alzheimer's Research Fund at <http://giving.unc.edu/gift/boychuck>. You can also mail the gift to: UNC Health Foundation, Alzheimer's Research Fund, 123 W. Franklin Street, Suite 510, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 \*Please put Alexander Boychuck in the memo to ensure the funds go to the correct account.

Condolences may be expressed online at <http://www.cremnc.com/obituary> and search Alexander Boychuck.

## JAMES ALTON DIXON



James Alton Dixon, age 88 of Siler City, died Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at Clapps Assisted Living Home in Pleasant Garden.

Mr. Dixon was born in Chatham County on June 16, 1931 to the late Wilbert Dixon and Ometa Morris Dixon. He was an active member of Fellowship Baptist Church and former Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. He was employed with Welford Harris Ford and Pilgrim's Pride throughout many years of his career.

Alton was preceded in death by his wife Betty Brafford Dixon; sisters, Polly Dixon Flynt and Sarah Dixon Gillespie; brothers, Sam and David Dixon.

He is survived by two daughters: Pam Dixon Fowler and husband Greg of Thomasville and Teresa Dixon Loman and husband Jeff of Wilmington; grandchildren, Spencer Loman and wife Jordan; Caroline Fowler Wallace and husband Mike; Jake Fowler and Dru Loman; one sister; Matilda Brannock of Galax, VA.; and special friend, Faye Brooks.

The family received friends Friday, February 14, 2020 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Fellowship Baptist Church, Fellowship Church Road, Siler City followed by a celebration of life service at 2 p.m. with Rev. Jason Golden and Rev. Jeff Loman.

Memorials may be made to Clapps Assisted Living Home Activities Dept. or Fellowship Baptist Church Cemetery Fund.

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

## JERRY HOLLOWAY

ASHEBORO — Jerrel "Jerry" Ray Holloway, age 89, of Asheboro, went home to be with his Lord on Monday, February 10, 2020.

Mr. Holloway was born August 24, 1930 in Jonesboro, AR and was retired plant manager for Bassett Furniture after 43 years of service.

No services are planned at this time. Pugh Funeral Home in Asheboro is serving the family. Remembrances and online condolences may be made at

by his mother, father, and two brothers, Casey and Danny.

Roger is survived by a granddaughter; daughter, Amber; son, Roger, Jr.; sister, Betty; and brothers, Gary and James.

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

Hospice House in Brunswick County.

A graveside service was held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 15, 2020 at Lee Memory Gardens. Entombment followed the service.

She was born in Moore County on May 12, 1924 to the late Arthur and Maude Lassiter. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Jake Gunter; sons, Larry Gunter and Darrell Gunter; one grandchild; sisters, Nannie Lassiter, Allie Blake, Myrtle Elkins

and Ollie Chrisco; brothers, Harold Lassiter, Floyd Lassiter, Leonard Lassiter and Arthur "Bug" Lassiter. Alberta worked for many years at Cornell Dubilier.

She is survived by a sister, Ruth Fields of Siler City; three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to SECU Hospice House, 955 Mercy Lane SE, Bolivia, NC 28422.

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

## HANNAH JEAN PARKER

Hannah Jean Parker, 30 of Moncure, passed away on Monday, February 10, 2020 at Central Carolina Hospital.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, February 14, 2020 at the New Elam Christian Church with Rev. Ed Earp, Rev. Gary Moore and Rev. Joel Murr officiating. Burial followed in the New Elam Christian Church Cemetery.

She was born on November 24, 1989, daughter of Gordon Parker and Vivian Worrell Parker. She was preceded in death by her grandparents Sted and Betty Jean Worrell and Atlas and Lola Parker. Hannah attended Grace Christian School and was a graduate of Northwood High School Class of 2008. She was a member of New Elam Christian Church and was a Client Service Manager for Standards - Based Solutions in Chapel Hill.

Surviving are her parents Gordon Parker and Vivian Worrell Parker of Moncure; son, Noah Sapienza of the home; and sister, Julia Parker Gumpert of Lillington.

In lieu of flowers the family request memorial gifts are made to her son, Noah Sapienza for his savings account at State Employees Credit Union, c/o Gordon Parker, 3224 Corinth Road Moncure, NC 27559.

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

See OBITUARIES, page A9

## ROGER DALE CROWE, SR.

Roger Dale Crowe, Sr., 58, passed away on Friday, February 14, 2020 at his home in Sanford.

Roger was born to Melvin Otis and Betty Jo Crowe on February 4, 1962 in Chicago, IL. He grew up in Danese, WV. Roger was preceded in death

## ALBERTA LASSITER GUNTER

Alberta Lassiter Gunter, 95, of Southport, formerly of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at SECU

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# State elections board complaint against Chatham elections board member dismissed

**BY ZACHARY HORNER**  
News + Record Staff

The N.C. State Board of Elections dismissed a complaint Friday filed against a Chatham County Board of Elections member.

The SBE voted 3-2 along party lines to drop the complaint against Pittsboro resident Mark Barroso made by Pittsboro resident Mike Pool. In the complaint, Pool alleged that a Facebook comment made by Barroso and Barroso's operation of the "Chatham for All" Facebook page showed "a clear bias" and warranted removal or resignation.

The Facebook post Pool shared in the complaint showed three comments — two from Pool, one from Barroso — regarding the first judge to handle a request for a restraining order filed by

the Winnie Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The UDC had asked the court to intervene as the Chatham County government prepared to remove the "Our Confederate Heroes" monument in front of the Chatham County Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro. Pool spoke at multiple Chatham County Board of Commissioners meetings in favor of keeping the monument in place. (Chatham For All, of which Barroso is a member, has helped lead the fight to remove the monument.)

The "first judge" in the case, Republican Casey Viser of Mecklenburg County, had granted a temporary restraining order on Oct. 28 of last year, but by the time the case was dismissed on December 2, the presiding judge on the case was Democrat Susan Bray of Guilford

County. Posting on comments about the first judge, Pool mentioned Barroso and said "well you were fortunate...what happened to the 1st judge." In response, Barroso wrote, "As for the first judge, we stuffed him in a black Prius and took him to a re-education camp in California until he gets his thinking right."

Chapter 163 of North Carolina state law says that county boards of election members may not "make written or oral statements intended for general distribution or dissemination to the public at large supporting or opposing the nomination or election of one or more clearly identified candidates for public office." It was over this wording specifically that caused the state board to disagree on this case. During the state

board's discussion Friday, multiple members said Barroso's comment was inappropriate.

"I think that any county board member should probably get off of Facebook because it results in things like this," said board member David Black, a Republican. "Mr. Barroso has some history in Chatham County. But based on what's within the framework of what we decide, that probably doesn't come into play."

The board's decision hinged on whether or not Barroso's comment was specifically in reference to Viser — who is currently seeking re-election to his district judgeship — on its face. Democrat Stella Anderson argued that it did not.

"He has come right up to the line, and should exercise very much caution to make any statements about someone that ap-

pears to be someone that's a candidate for office," Anderson said. "Had I not seen Mr. Pool's statements in the complaint, and I just looked at the Facebook post about the judge, I would have had no idea what he was talking about or whether or not this was someone elected or seeking election."

The board's 3-2 vote saw the three Democrats — Anderson, Jeff Carmon III and Chair Damon Cirocota — choose to dismiss the complaint while Republicans Black and Ken Raymond voted to move it forward. But something the board generally agreed upon was that Barroso and other county-level elections board members should be careful in the future.

"I think if it were up to me," Cirocota said, "every single county board of elections member would be off of Facebook and off

of Twitter and conduct their activities accordingly."

In a statement to the News + Record on Monday, Barroso said he was grateful that SBE did not proceed with the investigation.

"It's unfortunate that Mike Pool took a joke out of context and misrepresented facts to the state board," Barroso said. "That post never appeared on Chatham For All's Facebook page. In fact, I had to ban Mike Pool from our page because he continued to make personal attacks after warning him to stop. We don't give up First Amendment rights to be on the board of elections."

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

## CHATHAM CHAT | DIANNE BIRCH, CHATHAM CONNECTING

# Helping volunteers, nonprofits and needs all connect

*'The change that happens with volunteering ... it makes a difference to up the game'*

Dianne Birch says that throughout her life, she's always been a volunteer. That desire to help others led to her involvement in Chatham Connecting, an all-volunteer group which — through the [chathamconnecting.org](http://chathamconnecting.org) website — matches organizations in need of volunteers with people who want to volunteer. This week, we speak with Birch about Chatham Connecting and about how people — young and old — can make a difference by helping others.

Birch grew up in Richmond, Virginia, and earned undergraduate and graduate nursing degrees there before earning a Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy at Virginia Tech. She worked as a nurse and taught pediatric nursing at Radford University before going into private practice as a marriage and family therapist in Blacksburg.

She and her husband Bruce, who have two daughters and seven grandchildren, moved to Chatham County's Fearington Village in 2003.

Birch has served on the boards of directors for Chatham County United Way and the Triangle Community Foundation. Aside from her work with Chatham Connecting, she volunteers at the preschool at The Learning Trail in Chatham and serves on the Chatham Nonprofit Advisory Committee.

**Chatham Connecting provides information about more than 120 nonprofit organizations and agencies that serve residents of Chatham County. How did Chatham Connecting get started?**

The Chatham Connecting idea began with a conversation among friends about volunteering in our county. We discussed how difficult it is to know what is needed or what is happening in our large, diverse county as Chatham has few shared media sources, other than the News + Record, our weekly newspaper. Different parts of the county are oriented to the Triangle, the Triad or to the Sanford area. The

conversation evolved into what we could do to help connect the people within Chatham County. Others joined the conversation and developed the idea of an online, searchable database of county agencies and nonprofits that serve people of Chatham. After months of meetings and contacts with agencies, Chatham Connecting was launched in 2011. It was created by and still is maintained by volunteers.

**Why is Chatham Connecting such a great resource for nonprofits and for those who enjoy reaching out to volunteer?**

There are many agencies that serve Chatham residents, and finding out about the options and how to navigate those options one-by-one can be difficult. Chatham Connecting lists more than 120 nonprofits or human service government agencies that serve residents of Chatham, with at least some of their services at a free or reduced rate. Information about these diverse programs, their missions, and their volunteer and donation needs are on the website: [www.chathamconnecting.org](http://www.chathamconnecting.org). Volunteer opportunities are listed by activity and interest areas. People of all ages can volunteer as individuals, family or work groups, or even volunteer to help from home.

In addition, Chatham Connecting can provide assistance for staff at county agencies and nonprofits looking to refer their clients in need to specific organizations, such as literacy organizations, that might be helpful. And if the clients would benefit from volunteering there are many opportunities listed. So we offer help in many ways.

**In Chatham County more than half of young people between the ages of 12 and 18 participate in volunteer activities, twice the rate of adults. Some schools require students to volunteer, but not all. Why is it important for young people to engage in volunteer activities?**



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Dianne Birch, one of the many volunteers who help connect other volunteers to needs in Chatham County through Chatham Connecting.**

For young people it can be an especially important experience. With 43 programs across Chatham County, volunteering offers opportunities to meet new people, experience diverse work situations, make connections in a broader community of peers and adults, and develop new skills while using the skills they have. Some colleges look for

volunteer experience in applicants and often they continue to do so as part of campus life.

**What are some of the other benefits of volunteering that young people may not recognize?**

Volunteering helps young people become more aware of the needs of others and understand better how other people

live. They become more cognizant of their own power to do good in the world.

**What are some of the volunteer jobs that students can do?**

The 42 youth volunteer opportunities currently listed on Chatham Connecting include working to care for animals, including horses (CAN-TR) or farm animals (Piedmont Farm Animal Rescue). Youth volunteers also help at food pantries (CORA and West Chatham Food Pantry), set up and work at special events (Shakori Hills, Farm Tour with Carolina Farm Stewardship Association), help with the environment, as in river cleanup (Friends of the Lower Haw River), work in construction (Carolina Tiger Rescue, Habitat for Humanity), and tutor (Hispanic Liaison), to name just a few. Students can help nonprofits with social media, websites, or designing publicity materials. Food drives and book drives can be organized by students to benefit our community.

Separate from the 120 organizations listed on Chatham Connecting, many religious communities are active in beneficial volunteer programs such as the weekly community meals offered by St. Bart's Church. There are roles for everyone in Chatham County who want to help; there are many possibilities.

**What's the best way to keep abreast of opportunities?**

Of course, our website, [www.chathamconnecting.org](http://www.chathamconnecting.org), is one way. At the website we have news items on the home page. News items are about special events, which always need volunteers, and about timely needs in our community. Also, you can follow Chatham Connecting on Facebook or Twitter, where we provide news of nonprofit work in Chatham.

The bottom line is that volunteering for people of any age is a wonderful way to get to know other people in our community. In fact, research shows that people who volunteer are happier and healthier!

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# Ferrington Folk Art Show returns for 18th installment this weekend

BY DAVID BRADLEY  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The 18th annual Ferrington Folk Art Show, which features the works of more than 30 self-taught artists, returns to Ferrington Village this weekend.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 2000 Ferrington Village Center. Admission is \$5, cash only, at the door, with children 12 and under admitted free. A special ticketed Friday preview from 7 to 9 p.m. is being held for an admission price of \$45, with an online purchase. The evening event includes hors d'oeuvres, time with the artists, and a chance to buy art before the show opens to the general public.

The weekend art show is designed to showcase work created by self-taught artists, said Kerstin Lindgren, one of the event's co-coordinators.

"It's about color and joy and fun, with a little bit of darkness thrown in for good measure," Lindgren said. "And maybe a chicken or



Submitted photo

**Using tin cans as a medium for his collages, artist Thomas Graham uses the designs on pre-printed tin cans to represent feathers, the bill of the bird, and other areas in his work. Many of his works involve birds, as he has always loved them, he said. 'I have always loved them and for me they lend themselves to being rendered in tin.'**

two."

The annual art show was launched 18 years ago by Ferrington builder and developer R.B. Fitch as a way to offer artists a method of showing their work to the

public.

The show has continued and expanded over the years, with more artistic media, and more artists exhibiting their creations, including paintings, sculpture, pot-

tery, and more.

The fluid definition of "self-taught" means that the artists involved don't have art or Masters of Fine Arts degrees. This opens the range to more colorful and playful works, Lindgren said.

Thomas W. Graham, from Alamance County, will be displaying his works. He has been creating collages from tin cans since 2013. He took classes in the art form at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, and Pocosin Arts in Columbia.

"I began making tin can collages, exhibiting them and eventually selling them," Graham said. "I do this by collecting used tin cans (cookie tins, olive oil cans, etc.), disassembling and flattening them out, cutting them up and then nailing them to plywood to create images. By now I have made several hundred of them."

Prices for Grahams' original art range from \$95 to \$295.

Participating artists will offer work representing a wide price range, Lindgren said. Some pieces may be as low as

\$10, and some will sell for up to \$2,000 or \$3,000, depending on the artist and the piece.

Graham's work will be featured along with pieces by local artists including Hamidou Sissoko, Lara O'Keefe and Crystal King.

Lindgren said that about a third of the artists who exhibit are from North Carolina. The works are part of a curated collection by artists that went through a jury process before being accepted.

It's a unique show in that the artists themselves pay no fee to be in the show. There's a limited number of artists as well because the show is limited to the size of the Ferrington Village barn, where the works will be displayed.

Every artist has his or her own story about how they got into the craft.

Graham, for instance, had worked in psychiatry in Randolph County for many years, but got into the art of collage-making because of his fascination with the tin media.

"I have always been fascinated by tin containers — the colors and graphics, the shapes

and the fact that it is so light yet strong. I have a memory of trying to wheedle my mother out of the typewriter ribbon tin box that she kept her pins in at about age 5. As I recall I did eventually get a tin Sucrets box to keep treasures tiny in. I do now collect old tins just because they appeal to me — and have been for 50-plus years. I don't cut them up but have friends who do. I have tin friends across the U.S., in England and South Africa using tin in amazing ways."

Lindgren said, "We hope that visitors will come to be inspired by what these artists created using just their imaginations and a compulsion to create, and that they will take support the artists by taking home something that connects them to that great feeling they get when they visit the show."

For more information about the show, visit <https://ferrington.com/folk-art/>, or call (919)-542-4000. Tickets for the Friday night event must be purchased online at <https://shop.ferrington.com/products/ferrington-folk-art-preview-2020>.

## TAX:

Continued from page A1

of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes."

Among the county commissioners who put it on the ballot and the political parties they belong to, support for or against the measure tends to correlate with whether there's an "R" or a "D" at the front of that party's name.

### A Republican opposition

The Chatham County GOP sponsored a post on the online forum Chatham Chatlist in late January advocating against the referendum. It claimed that the increase was "Another NO-NEED TAX INCREASE proposed by Chatham Commissioner Candidates (Mike) Dasher & (Karen) Howard."

The party did not respond to multiple requests for comment about the post from the News + Record, but did make a statement about the referendum in its February newsletter.

"We urge you to vote against the 2nd referendum that will raise taxes in Chatham County," the newsletter said. "This referendum raises sales taxes, but the county commissioners have stated they do not have a particular use identified for the money; this is just an opportunity to spend more tax dollars."

Two of the statements made by the party, however, are incorrect.

First, the option was brought to the commissioners by county staff — first in January 2019 during a budget retreat. Additionally, the referendum was placed on the ballot by all five commissioners in an October 2019 vote and was not the sole responsibility of Dasher and Howard — who just so happen to be seeking re-election this year.

Second, the newsletter comment misstates that the commissioners "have stated they do not have a particular use identified for the money." In reality, like all the surrounding counties which have this additional sales tax, the commissioners unanimously passed a resolution saying the revenue "will be used to support and enhance the County's efforts in the areas of: Affordable Housing, Education, Parks & Recreation, and Agricultural Preservation & Enhancement."

In a February 17 post on his "Crawford for Chatham" Facebook page, Democratic Commissioner Jim Craw-

ford stated that future boards are allowed to "change the use of this revenue," but "a solid BOC consensus," including Republican Commissioner Andy Wilkie, put the referendum in place.

"There was a solid BOC consensus to increase funding for initiatives that already enjoy broad support," Crawford said. "Commissioner Wilkie advocated for agriculture and his colleagues supported the idea."

### Democratic support

All four of the Democrats on the board of commissioners have advocated for support of the measure.

"We have seen the hardship faced by other fast-growing communities across the state which have been hesitant to take necessary measures to generate sufficient income to stay abreast of the needs of their residents," Howard said. "As responsible leaders, we have decided to be proactive, rather than reactive."

Dasher said correctly that each \$100 purchase would only see an increase of 25 cents — but not on fuel or unprepared food like groceries — and would bring in an additional \$1.6 million in revenue.

"It's a great way to provide some additional (and ongoing) funding without increasing our property tax rate," he said. "Anytime we can avoid doing that it's a good thing. And the nice thing about sales tax revenue is that it's paid by non-residents as well, so that means even less of a burden on Chatham residents."

Board Vice Chairman Diana Hales said — echoing sentiments from Dasher and Howard — she would like to see funds go into the county's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which recently distributed its first funds to support affordable housing projects in Chatham.

"We have a list of needs that we can address with this tax in our pay-as-you-go budgeting that could be met without a property tax increase," she said. "It is important to keep Chatham as a wonderful place to live and that depends on our rural character and the development of parks and trails."

In a statement to the News + Record, Crawford said it was a "simple" decision.

"If voters want to fund county efforts in affordable housing, better schools, improved parks and support for agriculture they can signal it on March 3rd," he said. "If they do not, these efforts will continue, but at a much reduced

pace."

### A Wilkie case

Wilkie's feelings on the referendum have been muted. In an email to the News + Record, the lone Republican on the board said that county employees were "restricted from supporting or opposing any referendum that is to be voted on in an election," and as such he declined to provide his position.

During discussion on the referendum last year, county staff stated multiple times that commissioners were allowed to advocate for and against, but public money could not be used to do so. Additionally, to call commissioners "county employees" is not entirely accurate — they are paid for their work, but the highest officer in the county government, the County Manager, reports to them.

As Crawford mentioned in his Facebook post, Wilkie was a somewhat active participant in the discussion, passing on a recommendation from the Agriculture Advisory Board to include agriculture-related expenses in the possible uses of revenue. He also voted in October for both the timing of the referendum, on the March primary ballot, and for the four uses.

But he told the News + Record that didn't reflect his true feelings.

"I supported putting the sales tax increase to a vote by voters in the general election when more voters will participate," Wilkie said. "I voted against it being on the ballot during the primary election because there is a much smaller turnout."

The truth is somewhat complicated. In the October meeting when motions were made to put the item on the ballot and indicate the uses, Wilkie voted "yes" on both motions. In November, when formal resolutions were presented before the board to be finalized, Wilkie voted "no" on the timing resolution. Asked about the October vote, Wilkie did not answer the question and said, "I don't have time to review the tapes."

As to the Republican Party's statements, Wilkie did not take a position on their truth or validity.

"I have no control over what the Chatham County Republican Party decides to promote," Wilkie said. "I guess they chose to single out Mr. Dasher and Mrs. Howard because they will probably be on the November ballot."

Voting on the referendum continues during early voting and on primary election day on March 3.

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

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# Gosh Darn It! (The Kid was right)



**DEBBIE MATTHEWS**  
The Curious Cook

Reading these missives each week, Gentle Reader, you may have been under the misapprehension that I'm either a paragon who never takes a kitchen misstep, or I think that I am. Honestly, nothing could be further from the truth. My culinary education was mainly trial and error, with about a 50 percent error rate. But I haven't killed anybody yet. And, the latest example of my infinite ability to blow it is something I've been writing about a lot lately — sourdough. I've made many loaves of basic sourdough, but

lately, I couldn't turn out a pretty loaf to save my life. The surface would split during the final rise. And like taking a knife to a balloon, all the air would leak out. I was making gorgeous loaves of egg bread, but my basic sourdough loaves were bricks — good for nothing but bread crumbs and croutons. The Kid was trying to help. The first thing my child suggested was more kneading. Yeah, I blew it off and kept tweaking little things that made not a bit a difference. Brick after brick was being produced. It was breaking my heart. But my starter has been crazy active lately, so the other day I decided to try again. Maybe its strength would produce a beautiful, intact, airy loaf. Except after kneading it looked exactly the same. Dimpled, pitted, ripping before it even



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

**Completed sourdough bread, a delicious addition to most any meal.**

got in the pan. So, I kept kneading. ...and kneading. ...and kneading. Finally, after about 10 minutes of robust machinations, the dough looked smooth and had a healthy, almost springy feel. With

about triple the kneading I had been doing, I had cracked the code. Yeah. Just like The Kid said. Great... Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

## Classic Sourdough Loaf

*If you want to get into bread-making, I highly recommend a bread maker. You can use the dough setting and in 90 minutes or so, it's ready to knead and put it in a pan. You can pick up a like-new one at a thrift store for as low as \$10.*

- 2 cups bread flour
- 1/4 cup vital wheat gluten
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 2 cups active starter, fed the day before
- 1 1/2 teaspoon salt

Add everything but toppings to bread maker set on dough cycle or mixer fitted with dough hook. For mixer, mix until fully incorporated and it turns into a ball. Knead dough until it comes into a clean ball and return to bowl which you've lightly oiled. Lightly cover and set in warm place until it has doubled in size. After dough cycle finishes or mixer-made dough has doubled, put on counter and knead until it's smooth and stretchy (at least seven minutes, and up to 10). The surface of the dough should be smooth and won't rip when manipulated. Place into greased loaf pan, put a thin coat of oil on dough and lightly cover. Let rise in warm place. Check it every 20 minutes or so — it will rise pretty fast with a vigorous sourdough starter. Test for baking readiness by pressing in with finger. When the dough springs back, but slowly, start the oven. Preheat oven to 400° for 30 minutes. Place inside oven a large oven-safe vessel filled with water — steams helps form a good crust. Leave water in oven throughout process. Before baking, slice down the middle about 1/2 inch deep and 1/2 inch from either end. Bake for 15 minutes, then turn oven to 350°. Place probe thermometer into center of bread set to 200°. When done, remove from pan and place on cooling rack until completely cool or until you can't wait anymore.

## Pets of the Week: BROWNIE & SUGAR



Photo courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet a darling senior duo — a 16-year-old chihuahua named Sugar and a 15-year-old brown Labrador retriever named Brownie. These two lovable gals came to the Animal Resource Center just before Valentine's Day and are looking for a new home to share together. The two are tightly bonded after years of friendship and rarely venture more than a few feet from each other. Like most aging canines, both females prefer the quiet life and enjoy cuddling up for comfort and companionship. They don't have much interest in long walks or playing fetch, even though they're still young at heart; all these sweet old girls want is to stick together for the rest of their days! They would do best in a peaceful home without children or other pets to disrupt their daily naps. For more information on how to meet or adopt this loyal pair, swing by the office at 725 Renaissance Dr. or call 919-542-2911 to speak with an animal resource officer.



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## Free books for anyone



Staff photo by David Bradley

Page Vernon Park in the busy community of Pittsboro got a new addition Feb. 13 with a new Little Free Library box off Hillsboro Street, with free books for passersby. One aspect of the program is designed to get books into the hands of children from low-income homes, and to instill a love of reading. The U.S. Department of Education says that 'less than half of families read to their kindergarten-age children on a daily basis.' The Department went on to say that getting books to young children can make positive changes in their futures.



Staff photo by David Bradley

In a peaceful garden off Hillsboro Avenue in Pittsboro, a new Little Free Library kiosk stands ready to provide free reading enjoyment to all persons. Imagine finding a new author, sailing the ocean waves, or climbing the highest mountain without leaving the comfort of your home. Children and adults can pick up a book for free any day at the Pocket Park in Pittsboro.

## LEAP YEAR:

Continued from page A1

earth longer. But the day I was born doesn't exist except every four years. On the 28th, I'd not been born yet. But on the 1st, I'm already a day old. It's like a 'Twilight Zone' thing."

The odds of being born on any given day are 1 in 365. The odds of being born on February 29 are considerably greater at 1 in 1,461.

"In my 32 years of teaching, I had only one student who was a leap year baby," Maness said.

From an early age, she knew her birthday was a special date. In the northern Moore County town of Robbins, where she was born and raised, only one other person shared her unusual birthday.

"It's a small town," Maness said, "but there were two of us. There was one other girl. I remember at least once or twice we celebrated our birthdays together, and everybody came."

As a child, Maness was also an official member, for the few years of its existence, of the Leap Year Club, an organization formed in 1952 and "composed only of persons with birthdays on February 29," stated a contemporaneous write-up about the group published in the Greensboro Daily News.

Attending the first meeting of

the Leap Year Club, held in the Guilford County town of Julian, was then-Governor of North Carolina W. Kerr Scott, who spoke to the special group, saying "I'm not here as a member of your club but am here representing my grandmother, whose birthday was the same as yours."

Maness was only 4 (or a mere 1-year-old, if strictly adhering to calendar dates) at the time the club was organized and doesn't remember the event. But she has a yellowed newspaper clipping, which includes a photograph of her being held by Gov. Scott.

As a member of the exclusive club, she also was given a round lapel pin, about the size of a button, with the club's name encircling a large "4."

"It's just a piece of memorabilia," she said. "I don't ever wear it."

So rare are leap year birthdays, only a handful of household name celebrities — the late Dinah Shore being one, rapper Ja Rule another — share the birth date.

The unusual distinction, however, has never posed real problems or complications for Maness.

"Sometimes, I've had to repeat my birthday for somebody because people would realize there aren't 29 days in February," she said. "But mostly, I

never really had any problems. Never had any trouble at the DMV, or anything like that."

Being a leap year baby, Maness said, has always been "fun," though probably a little less so when she was very young.

"When I was a child, I probably felt like I didn't have a birthday," she said. "My parents always were good; they always did something. But when I actually had a birthday, that was like a special time."

As an adult, she's made the most of her recent birthdays. "It's become a tradition that my daughter and I do something special," she said.

They usually travel somewhere, as they did for her 17th birthday four years ago when they visited Asheville. (Maness' husband, Donald, isn't fond of travel and stays home on these birthday outings to look after the couple's cats.)

On her 16th (64th) birthday, Maness' daughter Laurin bought her mother a sash with "Sweet 16" emblazoned across it.

"She made me wear it," Maness said, the memory producing a laugh. "I got some looks."

She and Laurin are planning what Maness calls a "bucket list experience, something special" for her upcoming birthday celebration, which makes sense.

### Some interesting things about LEAP YEAR

- The practice of adding an extra day (Leap Day) began in 46 BC with the creation of the Julian calendar and a decree by Julius Caesar. The Julian calendar creates an extra day every four years.
- 4 million people in the world are leap day babies, aka leaplings or leapers.
- Tradition holds that in Ireland and Britain, women may propose marriage only in leap years. In Greece, however, it is considered unlucky to marry on a leap day.
- Hattie McDaniel, the first African-American to win an Oscar, did so on February 29th, 1940, receiving the historic honor for her portrayal of Mamma in "Gone With the Wind."
- Leap year is used as a plot device in Gilbert and Sullivan's 1879 comic opera "The Pirates of Penzance," which features a character apprenticed to a band of pirates until his 21st birthday which, by virtue of his leap day birthday, translates to his servitude until age 88.
- American serial killers Aileen Wuornos (1956-2002) and Richard Ramirez, aka "The Night Stalker" (1960-2013) were both leaplings.
- Davy Jones, musician and member of the Monkees, died on leap day, 2012.
- St. Petersburg, Florida was incorporated on February 29, 1892.

Graphic by Jason Justice/Text by Randall Rigsbee

Something special is what you'd expect of someone turning 18.

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

# CHATHAM PARK DONATES \$3.5M PARK TO THE TOWN OF PITTSBORO

If you listen, you can almost hear the sounds of children playing together, the crack of the bat during a baseball game, and music notes floating on a summer breeze. The first park to be built by Chatham Park is in development. When complete the structures, land and amenities will be donated to the Town of Pittsboro by the developers in the hopes that this 10-acre park will produce happy memories for decades.

**"The creation of the first park in Chatham Park is an investment in the Town that will benefit future generations for years to come."**

### A True Family Park

The new park will be located along Vine Parkway, just off Thompson Street, where children of all ages will find diverse opportunities for fun, adventure, exploration, and learning. A variety of play areas have been designed to create a broad range of experiences. They include the Play Garden where multi-functional elements in the natural play area will be used to complement equipment-based, age-targeted play zones to provide a mix of active and imaginative play; the large multi-use play field where you can throw a frisbee or play a game of soccer; and the Town of Pittsboro's first Bark Park where your dog can run free, safely and legally, without a leash in a fenced space.

Curvilinear pathways respond to varied topography and views allowing visitors to experience a series of landscape episodes that evolve as they walk, not only through the park, but also on the connecting public greenways extending into the nearby neighborhoods.

A large covered pavilion that includes bathrooms, picnic tables and grills can be used by larger groups for community events or programmed activities by the Town.



"The creation of the first park in Chatham Park is an investment in the Town that will benefit future generations for years to come" says Chuck Smith, VP of Planning for Preston Development, the development company managing the project. "Recreation and open space amenities that can be used by all to gather, play and exercise provides a much needed community focal point."

This recreational space is truly designed to be enjoyed by all. "Once complete, this park will be open and accessible to all local citizens providing an important recreational amenity for the community," Smith emphasises.

More recreational areas are already in the works in the North Village and will be located within a 5 minute walk of every home. Chatham Park will build at least two more neighborhood parks, a variety of mini parks and gathering spaces, and over 10 miles of paved greenways connecting these and other public spaces in North Village.

This first park in the Vineyard is expected to be complete in the Fall of 2020. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for updates.



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# Chatham News + Record

## SPORTS NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS

FEBRUARY 20-26, 2020 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B



Staff photo by David Bradley

The 2020 Boys Middle School Tournament Champions, the Margaret Pollard Mustangs, pose after their victory over Bennett Middle School. The two teams were tied at 30-all near the end of the third quarter before the Mustangs broke free to a 59-48 victory.

## Stevenson, Pollard power past Bennett for boys tourney title

BY DON BEANE  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Jarin Stevenson put the exclamation point on the 2020 Chatham County Middle School Tournament title here Monday evening in front of a packed house with a monstrous one-handed jam to close out a 59-48 victory by Margaret Pollard over a determined Bennett squad.

Stevenson, a 6'7 eighth-grader, closed with 12 of his game-high 26 points in the final stanza while adding a dominating 21 rebounds and six blocked shots in the Pollard win.

The contest was the proverbial David versus Goliath match up as Bennett, with just 71 students in the 6th-8th grades, trying to unseat annual champion Pollard, by far the biggest middle school in the county with 739 students in the 6th-8th grades.

Bennett, the No. 3 seed overall, had taken down No. 2 seed Horton last Thursday night at Pollard 59-32 in the semifinals after trouncing No. 6 seed Moncure 48-23 to open the tournament.

Pollard, meanwhile, was

See **POWER**, page B3

## Pollard girls take fourth straight middle school tournament crown with rout of Horton

BY DON BEANE  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — For the fourth season in a row the Margaret Pollard girls completed a perfect 17-0 season with a dominating 47-30 triumph over rival Horton in the 2020 Chatham County Middle School Tournament finals on Monday evening in Pittsboro.

The game wasn't as close as the final score indicated as Pollard coach Harold Baldwin cleared the bench throughout the second half after his club bolted to a 16-4 lead after one period of play, a commanding 35-12 advantage at the intermission, and a 47-14 cushion entering the fourth.

"I thought we came out focused and played really well from the start," Baldwin commented after the win. "I'm proud of this team. They worked hard and tonight capped it off. As a program, we've won 68 straight games with our last loss coming in the tournament finals to Bennett five years ago."

In the final period, Horton outscored Pollard 16-0 to make the final 47-30.

The Pollard duo of Skylar Adams and Gabby White were too much for Horton to handle on Monday evening as the duo combined for 35 points.

Adams sandwiched a pair of treys

See **CROWN**, page B3



Staff photo by David Bradley

The Margaret Pollard Middle School girls 2020 championship team poses with cheerleaders and coaching staff after winning their finals game with Horton, 47-30.



Submitted photo

The Northwood Lady Chargers posed after clinching the 2019-2020 3A Big Eight Conference championship. Northwood finished the regular season with 10 straight victories.

## Northwood earns conference title after winning 10 straight

BY DON BEANE  
News + Record Staff

HENDERSON — It's official. The Northwood girls' basketball team downed Vance County 42-30 Friday night in Henderson after hammering East Chapel Hill 58-33 and Northern Durham 42-21 earlier in the week to close the regular season at 13-1 in league play and at 19-5 overall. The Lady Chargers have won 10 consecutive games.

Those wins sealed the squad's 3A Big Eight Conference championship.

Against Vance County on Friday evening, it was anything but easy.

"Big win over a very talented Vance team," NW coach Cameron Vernon said after the victory. "We have heard this is a tough place to play and the two-hour drive doesn't help, but I thought we just really executed well tonight. We got good shots against their zone and really capitalized on our offensive execution."

Vernon pointed out the second quarter as the key to the game.

"The second quarter was

huge outscoring them 15-1 and building the big lead into half time," Vernon said. "Looking at the stats we didn't shoot well — 27 percent (12/44) — but we went 15/21 (71 percent) from the free throw line. We made more free throws than they attempted so that is always a stat that a coach loves to see."

Vernon was also happy his team took the message he preached to heart on Valentine's Day.

"I told the girls before the game that even though we had

See **EIGHT**, page B2

## Northwood boys make history in conference clinching victory over Vance County

BY DUCK DUCKSON  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Capturing its first conference championship since the 2011-2012 season — and first-ever in the 3A ranks since entering that classification in 2013 — Northwood took the lead for good on Jack Thompson's jumper in the lane with 6:59 to go in the second quarter, then had to hold off a stubborn Vance County squad the rest of the way before securing a 66-61 Big Eight 3A Conference victory on Senior Night in the regular-season finale for both teams Friday evening in Lewis Norwood Gymnasium.

Riding a five-game win streak into next week's conference tournament, the Chargers finished 13-1 atop the final league standings and lifted their overall record to 22-2, whereas the Vipers fell to 10-4 in the conference while sustaining only their sixth loss in 24 outings.

Deuce Powell notched 20 points to lead a trio of Northwood players in double figures, while Aaron Ross tossed in 19 and Justin Brower added 10 off the bench. The Chargers shot 42 percent (21-of-50) from the field while turning the ball over 19 times.

Phadol Jordan registered 15 points, Thomas Townes contributed 12 and Traon Lyons chipped in 10 for Vance County, which connected on 48 percent (25-of-52) of its attempts from the floor and held a 30-25 advantage on the

glass while committing two dozen turnovers.

"I thought we played well in spurts tonight but we let Vance County dictate the tempo while their 1-3-1 zone gave us fits," stated Northwood coach Matt Brown. "Their effort on the defensive board limited our second-chance opportunities, while we allowed them to stay close by having a few defensive breakdowns, taking ill-advised shots and turning the ball over. But we managed to keep our composure down the stretch and made our foul shots count, hitting 23-of-28 attempts from the free throw line, including nine-of-10 in the final period."

"Deuce and Aaron always seemed to be there when we needed them," Brown added, "while Justin gave us a great game at both ends of the court."

Vipers' coach Wilton Baskett felt he could sum up his team's plight in one word — turnovers.

"It was a good game between two good teams, but too many turnovers (on our part) was the difference," said Baskett. "We shot well, defended well and did a good job on the boards against the best team in the conference, but not taking better care of the ball cost us the game."

Behind six points from Powell in the first three minutes of action, the Chargers jumped out to a 7-0 advantage before Vance County rallied

See **VICTORY**, page B2







# Championship week



Staff photo by David Bradley

Margaret Pollard's Gus Ritchey goes for a basket past Bennett's Joaquin Gordon in the first half of play in Monday's final game for the 2020 Middle School Tournament.

Chatham Central's Riley Lagenor, a triple-sport athlete for the Bears, gets through the outstretched arms of North Moore's Cole Luther and Justis Williams for a deuce on the scoreboard. The Mustangs caged the Bears in the first half of play Feb. 14 in Bear Creek before the Bears broke free with a 44-35 victory.

Staff photo by David Bradley



Staff photo by David Bradley

Margaret Pollard's Jarin Stevenson (24) goes up for a dunk past Bennett's Zane Overman in the first half of their final game in the 2020 Middle School Tournament Feb. 17.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Olivia Hudson (40) tries to maintain control of the ball during a shot for 2 points in the third quarter of the Bears' Feb. 14 game with North Moore in Bear Creek.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Margaret Pollard's Evan Dean (20) attempts to avoid being stripped of the ball near the end of the teams' Feb. 13 game by J.S. Waters' Reid Albright (12) in Chapel Hill.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Pollard's Olivia Nash (10) shoots for two in the final second of the second quarter in their semifinal game against Bennett Feb. 12 in Chapel Hill.



Staff photo by David Bradley

With seconds to go in the first quarter, Northwood's Gianna McManaman (24) attempts a pass that gets blocked by the Northern Durham defense of Nia Boney and her teammate in Pittsboro Feb. 10.



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central's Micah Gurley puts it up high for two over the head of North Moore's Cole Luther. The Bears got off to a poor start before climbing out of the hole with a 42-35 victory in Bear Creek Feb. 14.



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  - 25 Opening Ceremony
  - 25 Track/Field
  - 25 Football & Softball Throw
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  - 27 Croquet
  - 28 Disc Golf
  - 28 Swimming
  - 28 Women's Singles/Men's Doubles Tennis
  - 29 Men's Bocce
  - 29 Men's Singles/Women's Doubles Tennis
  - 30 Horseshoes
  - 30 Bowling
  - 30 Mixed Doubles Tennis

- May**
- 1 Women's Bocce
  - 2 Cycling
  - 4 Mixed Doubles/Singles Pickleball
  - 5 Basketball Shoot & Corn Hole
  - 6 Men's/Women's Doubles, Pickleball
  - 7 Table Tennis

**For More Information:**  
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# 'Civil War Today' event in Pittsboro focuses on Confederacy, monuments in modern context

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Saturday's "The Civil War Today" program presented a stark contrast in ideologies mere feet from each other.

More than a dozen people waving Confederate flags and "Trump 2020" stickers and banners posted themselves outside the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center. On the inside, more than 200 people attended a panel discussion — billed as "A House Divided" — on the place of the Confederacy in history and in the 21st century, particularly in North Carolina.

Co-hosted by Chatham for All and AbundanceNC, "The Civil War Today" featured three UNC-Chapel Hill professors who spoke on historical context of Civil War, the Confederacy and Confederate monuments in an attempt, according to the panel's moderator, share the whole truth about a past that included slavery.

"We're all caught up in that," said Tracy Hanner, the chairman of the Department of Animal Sciences at NC A&T State University. "Will you tell your daughter, your children that truth about the past? You should tell your children the truth — not distort that truth, but tell them the whole truth."

The first to present was Joseph T. Glatthaar, an adjunct professor of the Curriculum in Peace, War and Defense. He argued that, based on multiple resolutions of secession from the North, the Confederacy was really based on protecting slavery and fighting the Civil War was for protecting slavery.

Mississippi's resolution: "Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery — the



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

**More than 200 attendees listen to a discussion about Confederate history and monuments Saturday at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro. The panel featured three UNC-Chapel Hill history professors and was organized by Chatham For All and AbundanceNC.**

greatest material interest of the world." Georgia's argued that the state seceded due to "numerous and serious causes of complaint against our non-slave holding confederate states." Texas proclaimed in its resolution that Africans were subservient to whites, and that state was "a relation that had existed from the first settlement of her wilderness by the white race, and which her people intended should exist in all future time."

Glatthaar also spoke of the 37.2 percent of soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia, the largest Confederate army, who owned slaves or lived with parents who owned slaves.

"These soldiers have a tremendous attachment to the institution of slavery," he said. "They also don't necessarily have to own slaves to be attached to the institution. Slavery is at the heart of the war."

Next, Assistant Professor of American History William Sturkey spoke about the process of Reconstruction and how some Southerners fought to preserve the status quo.

"Many Southerners were quite happy with the presence of black people," he said. "The problem was all the rights these black people now had."

Sturkey specifically referenced Black Codes, the predecessor to Jim Crow laws, and the role of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in preserving the so-called "Lost Cause" narrative — what Sturkey described as "a broader educational mission...to reshape the reasons behind the war, promote the morality behind slavery and promote the Ku Klux Klan." He also referenced the Winnie Davis Chapter of the UDC, which erected the Confederate monument that formerly stood in downtown Pittsboro, and the people who spoke on the day of its erection in 1907.

"This entire group has one thing in common as they stand there in 1907 as they honor the Confederacy," he said. "All of the leaders who led the effort to erect the monument came from a wealthy slave-owning family."

Another tidbit, from



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

**Confederate flag-waving protestors and anti-monument protestors debate Saturday outside at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro. Inside, a panel presentation on the subject of the 'Civil War Today' drew more than 200 attendees.**

a newspaper account Sturkey shared: the monument's face was covered with black shoe polish within 10 days of the dedication.

Later in the discussion, Sturkey spoke about the protestors standing outside and how they symbolized the Lost Cause narrative.

"The architects of that narrative, it's quite amazing to me how effective they are in enforcing that we are simply torn apart in that way," he said. "We're still torn apart by this American cancer known as race."

The third panelist, W. Fitzhugh Brundage, the William Umsted Distinguished Professor in UNC's Department of History, presented about Confederate monuments and public spaces. He said white Southerners pushed to establish monuments in response to the North's objects of remembrance. As Southern towns became more urbanized and centralized, public spaces became places for these Confederate monuments. Additionally, the purpose shifted from honoring dead

soldiers to something else.

"The framing of the monument, what it is that it's trying to communicate, changes," Brundage said. "The earliest monuments articulate their purpose in terms of mourning. It shifts more and more toward celebrating the Confederate cause. They're to celebrate that the men fought for a noble cause."

The discussion ended with panelists talking about how to move forward and how to approach truth and reconciliation. Sturkey said it was essential for all to "reconcile" with the past, that racism is a real thing and that "we are all beneficiaries of the system of slavery." Hanner said it was important to focus on educating the next generation and change the narrative.

"What we are trying to do is understand the psyche behind hatred and understand we were not there," he said. "I have a lot to do with the future and how I can change our public spaces and us together; and I think that's what we're trying to do today with this truth and trying to under-

stand how a monument can be there for cultural heritage and at the same time represent something not good. Can we educate our people to understand both sides of that thing?"

## County allays concerns of voter intimidation

Social media activity and a WRAL story with the headline "Protesters at a polling site during early voting wave Confederate flags, shout slurs" aroused some allegations of voter intimidation at the event.

While the "Civil War Today" discussion was occurring, early voting was taking place on the other side of the building. County Human Resources Director Carolyn Miller, who also oversees operations at the Ag Center, said the county had no concerns about the protests affecting voting.

"This was a response we believe was specific to the event," Miller told the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday afternoon. "We did not have any type of response at any of our other early voting sites. The first two days of early voting were quiet. Today is quiet. So we do believe this was a response specifically to that event, and it was an expected response to that event."

Later in the evening, board Vice Chair Diana Hales, who attended the event, said she was happy with the Ag Center's performance.

"I'm always impressed every time I go into the Ag Center how well-organized, how well-run it is," she said, "and that it's always very welcoming, even to flag wavers."

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

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# POLICE REPORTS

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Joshua Smith, 32, of Siler City, was charged February 7 with cyberstalking. He was held under a \$3,000 bond with a February 12 court date in Carthage.

Dayna Lucas, 41, of Pittsboro, was charged February 7 with obtaining property by false pretense and financial card fraud. She was held under a \$2,500 bond with a March 9 court date in Graham.

Robert Bruer, 23, of Siler City, was charged February 8 with possession of stolen goods and not displaying a registration plate. He was issued a written promise with a March 2 court date in Pittsboro.

Jose Solorzano, 28, of Sanford, was charged February 9 with assault on a female and injury to personal property. He was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a March 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Alexander Murray, 26, of Chapel Hill, was charged February 9 with violation of a domestic violence protective order. He was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a March 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Samrawit Krogmann, 23, of Chapel Hill, was charged February 9 with violation of a domestic violence protective order. He was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a March 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Candice Nickerson, 35, of Pittsboro, was charged February 10 with battery of an unborn child. She was held under a \$5,000 bond with a March 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Jordan Bryarley, 33, of Siler City, was taken into custody February 10 on a true bill of indictment for delivery of cocaine, selling cocaine and possession with intent to sell/deliver cocaine. He was released on a written promise with a March 4 court date in Rockingham.

Gary Clifton, 30, of Moncure, was charged February 11 with failure to comply with a court order. He was held under a \$4,000 bond with a March 11 court date in Pittsboro.

Agustin Baltazar Jr., 29, of Wilmington, was charged February 11 with failure to appear on charges of driving while impaired and having a fictitious/alterd title/registration card/tag. He was held under a \$1,000 bond with a March 13 court date in Raleigh.

Mangal Monger, 31, of High Point, was charged February 11 with failure to appear on charges of driving while impaired. He was held under a \$740 bond with a March 18 court date in Pittsboro.

Wendy Hart, 48, of Siler City, was charged February 11 with failure to appear on child support. She was held under a \$20,000 bond with a February 14 court date in Pittsboro.

Jonathan Covington, 49, of Pittsboro, was charged February 13 with statuto-

ry sex offense with a child, sex act by a substitute parent, indecent liberties with a child, sexual battery and crimes against nature. He was held under a \$250,000 bond with a March 2 court date in Pittsboro.

Carson Lucas, 18, of Pittsboro, was charged February 13 with failure to appear on consumption of alcohol by an individual under 19. He was held under a \$2,000 bond with a March 3 court date in Chapel Hill.

Gregory Brooks, 59, of Siler City, was charged February 13 with failure to appear on charges of possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of marijuana up to one-half ounce and maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance. He was held under a \$20,000 bond with a March 12 court date in Pittsboro.

Sergio Preciado-Maldonado, 40, of Ramseur, was charged February 13 with failure to appear on charges of fraud. He was held under a \$300 bond with a March 10 court date in Pittsboro.

Tyler Wall, 24, of Chapel Hill, was charged February 13 with failure to appear on charges of possession of marijuana up to one-half ounce. He was held under a \$300 bond with a March 25 court date in Pittsboro.

Bryan McDaniel, 43, of Apex, was charged February 14 with failure to appear on child support. He was held under a \$500 bond with a February 28 court date in Pittsboro.

Michael Spencer Jr., 26, of Carrboro, was charged February 14 with failure to appear on charges of possession of marijuana up to one-half ounce. He was issued a written promise with a March 11 court date in Raleigh.

Rodney Lopossay, 26, of Bear Creek, was charged February 16 with failure to appear on charges of injury to personal property and injury to real property. He was held under a \$1,000 bond with a February 18 court date in Siler City.

## STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Osahon Eruza Benites of Sanford was cited February 12 for failure to maintain lane control on U.S. Highway 421 in Siler City.

Eric Wyrick of Apex was cited February 13 for safe movement violation on Farrington Road in Pittsboro.

Erlinda Zuniga Flores of Lombard, Illinois, was cited February 13 for failure to reduce speed on U.S. Highway 64 in Pittsboro.

Ricky Stallings of Apex was cited February 13 for failure to reduce speed on N.C. Highway 87 in Pittsboro.

Christa Lineberry was cited February 14 for failure to reduce speed and operating a vehicle with no insurance on Piney Grove Church Road in Siler City.

Patsy Black of Bennett was cited February 17 for failure to yield on Old U.S. 421 N in Siler City.

# Sheriff: Requests for new staff are 'really needs, not wants'

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson took his plea for additional staff — as well as better pay — directly to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners Monday.

In the heads-up budget document presented to the commissioners last month, Roberson had asked for 22 new full-time staff and two new part-time employees to cover needs in the sheriff's office, detention center and animal services wings of the department.

"I do look forward to working with county staff through this," Roberson said. "I want to give you the facts of where I think we are. It's an important thing for me and I just wanted to be real with you for where we're at."

During his presentation, Roberson said the county has a lower officer-to-1,000 residents ratio than places like Durham and Lee counties and the Towns of Pittsboro and Siler City. And while crime is low, he said, the number of calls to the sheriff's office has increased in recent years. In 2019, CCSO received 29,642 calls for service — approximating to 81.2 calls per day, 3.4 per hour and 1 call every 17 minutes.

"We have more calls than we can answer, and we're stacking them on the computer screen," Roberson said. "We go to the crimes in progress first and the crimes against people first. That's happening a lot on day shift."

That was one of the reasons he asked for more patrol deputies — four in this year's budget request, and he even termed that a "Band-Aid."

Additionally, Roberson made his case for new officers at the county detention center (and an expansion to the building because of an increasing inmate rate) as well as adding 10 new employees to the Animal Services sector of the department. He said it was necessary to have those employees if the county were to open the planned new Animal Shelter.

"I know this is probably not the politically correct thing to say, but if you can't fund these positions, don't fund the building," Roberson said. "It really puts me in a worse situation than I am now. It is a very difficult thing to say because I think the building is going to be nice, but I have to have the people to come with the building to run it if we're going to do that."

He also argued for better pay. He said his office has "average pay" and isn't "underpaying people," but the rising cost

of living in certain parts of Chatham and higher pay in nearby jurisdictions could lead to future turnover.

"Pay does not increase performance. If you gave us all a 10 percent raise today, it would not increase performance. But fair and equitable pay is the right thing to do," Roberson said. "I think we're not below average (in pay), but I feel our people perform above average."

He said he was not expecting a response to his concerns during the presentation, but the commissioners said they understood the problem.

"I think we all agree that these services are critical," said board Chairman Karen Howard. "It's helpful to know what you deal with. From a lay person's perspective, I just feel safe and I appreciate that. To understand the back working is important, and to get a better sense of positions and demand."



Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson, right, presents his case for more employees and higher pay Monday afternoon to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

Staff photo by Zachary Horner

The county's budget draft will be released in May, at which time the commissioners will begin discussions on adjustments. That draft will include the recommendation for new employees for the Sheriff's Office.

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

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## TOUCHSTONE ENERGY SPORTS CAMP

Central Electric awards two Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships annually to local students in Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Moore, or Randolph counties. A young man will be selected to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a young woman will be selected to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

To be eligible to apply, the student must be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the upcoming school year, have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the overnight camp and must provide their own transportation if selected to attend.

**The deadline for all applications is March 31.**

Visit [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) to apply, or to find out more information on the scholarships.



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# Early voting steady through first week

*Democratic ballots outnumber Republican*

**BY CASEY MANN**  
News + Record Staff

Early voting for the 2020 primary has been steady but “slow” in Chatham County with 1,726 residents casting votes by the beginning of this week.

Voters choosing the Democratic Party ballot outnumber those requesting a Republican ballot by three to one — 1,299 Democratic ballots versus 415 Republican ballots, with only 12 for other ballot types.

With the Democratic Presidential nominee still undecided, that ticket could be driving some primary voters.

In addition, there are Democratic Primaries for Chatham County Commissioner, currently held by Mike Dasher, and the Fourth Congressional District seat, currently held by Congressman David Price. In addition, there’s also a Republican primary for the Fourth

Congressional District seat and two county-wide referenda on the primary ballot including one for a sales tax increase and one to allow malt beverage sales in the county.

Chatham County Board of Elections Director Pandora Paschal said that the turnout for early voting “seems slow.”

“I’m not sure people realize there’s a primary going on as we typically have them in May and this year it’s in March,” Paschal said.

She also noted that since many of the local candidates aren’t facing primary challengers, they may not have started their campaigning in earnest, which also drives voters to the polls.

Protesters were on-site at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, an early voting location, on Saturday. The protesters, waving Confederate flags, were there to demonstrate against a different event going on at the center — “A House Divided – The Civil War Today,” sponsored by Chatham For All and Abundance NC.

Paschal said that when she learned of the event coinciding with the first Saturday of early voting,

she had concerns that it may cause a disruption. She corresponded with the State Board of Elections, the county, and the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office, making all of them aware of her concerns. But she did not receive complaints via her poll workers about the protesters. She did note that she had heard things after the fact via press reports and social media, but nothing that reached the Board of Elections office.

“Outside of the 50-foot buffer, there’s not much we can do unless they are shouting and jeering at the voters,” Paschal said.

She said it was fortunate that voter turnout was low on Saturday throughout the county, though she was unsure whether the protest had any bearing on it. On Saturday, just over 230 residents cast their votes in Chatham County versus the 493 residents who voted on Monday.

Early voting continues Monday through Saturday until Feb. 29 at four locations in the county.

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



## Early Voting Availability

DAY	DATE	HOURS
Thursday	Feb. 20	8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Friday	Feb. 21	8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 22	9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Monday	Feb. 24	8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 25	8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Feb. 26	8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 27	8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Friday	Feb. 28	8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 29	8 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### NEW POLL LOCATION

**Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center**  
1192 US HWY 64 West Business, Pittsboro

### NEW POLL LOCATION

**CCCC Health Science Building**  
75 Ballentrae Court, Pittsboro

**Earl B. Fitts Community Center**  
111 S. Third Ave., Siler City

**Goldston Town Hall**  
40 Coral Ave., Goldston

Staff graphic by Jason Justice



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## Town of Siler City to Perform Annual Temporary Switch to Chlorine Disinfection January 20, 2020

Beginning March 3, 2020, the Town of Siler City Water Plant will temporarily suspend the addition of ammonia to its water treatment disinfection process, as required by North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Siler City will resume the addition of ammonia to the water treatment disinfection process on April 7, 2020.

Siler City uses both ammonia and chlorine to form chloramines for its disinfection process. Ammonia is added to the water in a carefully regulated dose and reacts chemically with the chlorine to produce chloramines. Chloraminated drinking water is safe for drinking, bathing, cooking and many other daily uses. NCDENR requires all systems using chloramination to suspend the addition of ammonia for a one month period annually.

During the changes in our disinfection process, three groups of people need to take special precautions for higher concentrations of chlorine – kidney dialysis patients, pretreatment owners and aquatic pet owners using City water. Dialysis patients and aquatic pet owners already treat the water they use for chlorine removal. Any customer who pre-treats City water for any process should be aware of their change and consult the manufacturer of any pretreatment equipment for recommendations.

Customers with concerns may contact the Town of Siler City at 919-742-4731 or [cmccorquodale@silercity.org](mailto:cmccorquodale@silercity.org).

## Ciudad de Siler Realizará el Cambio Temporal Anual a la Desinfección del Cloro Enero 20, 2020

A partir del 3 de Marzo de 2020, la Planta de Agua de la Ciudad de Siler City suspenderá temporalmente la adición de amoníaco a su proceso de desinfección del tratamiento de agua, como lo requiere el Departamento de North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Siler City reanudará la adición de amoníaco al proceso de desinfección del tratamiento del agua el 7 de Abril de 2020.

Siler City utiliza amoníaco y cloro para formar cloraminas para su proceso de desinfección. El amoníaco se añade al agua en una dosis cuidadosamente regulada y reacciona químicamente con el cloro para producir cloraminas. El agua potable cloraminada es segura para beber, bañarse, cocinar y muchos otros usos diarios. NCDENR requiere que todos los sistemas que utilizan cloraminación suspendan la adición de amoníaco durante un periodo de un mes al año.

Durante los cambios en nuestro proceso de desinfección, tres grupos de personas necesitan tomar precauciones especiales para mayores concentraciones de cloro – pacientes de diálisis renal, propietarios de pretratamiento y propietarios de mascotas acuáticas que utilizan agua de la ciudad. Los pacientes de diálisis y los dueños de mascotas acuáticas ya tratan el agua que utilizan para la eliminación de cloro. Cualquier cliente que pre-trata el agua de la ciudad para cualquier proceso debe ser consciente de su cambio y consultar al fabricante de cualquier equipo de pretratamiento para recomendaciones.

Los clientes con inquietudes pueden comunicarse con la ciudad de Siler City al 919-742-4731, o [cmccorquodale@silercity.org](mailto:cmccorquodale@silercity.org)

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# District's Beta Club students blaze trail to Fort Worth, Texas



Submitted photo

Members of the Bennett School Beta Club shown are, first row, from left: Shelley Brooks, Mattie Underwood, Karaleigh Dodson, Gabby Phillips, Emily Armstrong, Landry Allen; second row, from left: Taylor Ritter, Bristol Ferguson, Mattie Caviness, Hallie Webster, Courtney Caviness, Carter King, Matthew Murchison, Katherine Oldham, Madison Jones, Kelsey Hussey, Ethan Armstrong, Willie Beers; back row, from left: Kent Owens, Joaquin Gordon, Logan Maness, Jacob Gilliland, Zane Overman, Ben Wilson.



Submitted photo

Members of the J.S. Waters School Beta Club shown are, first row, from left: Brooklyn Collins, Kymani Wagner-Jatta, Vance Edwards, Jeremiah Young, Sydney Sellers, Abby Cunnup, Andrea Chavez-Soriano, Skylar Breedlove, James Bain; second row, from left: Wesley Clewis, Tyler Rives, Simon Sabbagh, Carolyn Belk, Riley Maynor, Shelby Holder, Peyton Douglas, Connor Kitchings; back row, from left: Reid Albright, Luke Gaines, Jagger Emerson, Brandon Rives, Joseph Carter, William Carter, Luke Burkhead, Peyton Mashburn.

From Chatham County Schools

PITTSBORO — A host of Chatham County Schools students qualified to compete at the National Junior Beta Club Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, in June, after turning in strong performances during the 28th Annual North Carolina Junior Beta Club Convention earlier this month in Greensboro.

Fundraisers are expected to help offset the cost of getting students to Fort Worth.

Here's how the students did in Greensboro:

**Bennett School**  
Kelsey Hussey, Landry Allen — 2-D Design, first place  
Courtney Caviness — 3-D Design, fifth place  
Matt Murchison, Zane Overman, William Beers, Bristol Ferguson, Ben Wilson, Carter King, Gabby Phillips, Kent Owens — Living Literature, second place  
Emily Armstrong, Shelley Brooks — Portfolio, second place  
Gabby Phillips, Mattie Underwood, Karaleigh Dodson — Book Battle, third place  
Mattie Caviness, Woodworking, first place  
Kelsey Hussey — Digital Art, second place  
Hallie Webster, Matti Caviness — Service Learning Show-

case, second place  
Educator Emily Collins, who helps sponsor Bennett's Junior Beta Club, received an award acknowledging 25 years of service. Educator Tami Henson, who helps sponsor Bennett's Junior Beta Club, received an award acknowledging 10 years of service.

**J.S. Waters School**  
Tyler Measamer — Digital Art, first place  
Simon Sabbagh — Recyclable

Art, third place  
Riley Maynor, Shelby Holder — Technology, fifth place  
**Bonlee School**  
Performing Arts — Solo, Duo, Trio Junior  
**Chatham Middle School**  
Kameron Gooch — Black & White Photography Junior, fifth place  
**Silk Hope School**  
Hannah Mitchell — Color Photography Junior, fourth place

## 7th Annual Rock Ridge Rumble in Pittsboro



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

More than 70 disc golfers came out to Rock Ridge Park on Saturday for the Professional Disc Golf Association's Rock Ridge Rumble. Players competed in one of nine different divisions. Kyle Tush of Durham came in 4th in the Advanced division.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Four women played in two divisions on Saturday. Donna Stanley (left) of Chapel Hill is 3-time disc golf champion in the Women's Masters 60+ division and won the Advanced Women's division Saturday. Rachel Glendenning, of Carrboro took first in the Recreational women division. Mitchelle Cable, from Greensboro and Lynne Gerber of Chatham County also played.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Several of the founding members of the Chatham Disc Club attended the event on Saturday. From left to right, Noah Becker, Jeff Baldwin, Daniel Coward and Van Towle were all smiles in advance of the event, despite the cold temperatures. The Chatham Disc Club helps to maintain the disc golf course at Rock Ridge.



Landing your disc in the basket is what it's all about in disc golf.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

There are many types, colors and designs of discs available which include drivers, mid-ranges and putters.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks





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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2020 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 36, No. 11

**Kid Scoop Together:**

## Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the honey-making steps below and circle the **eleven errors** you find. Then rewrite it correctly on the lines below the text.

### How to Make Honey

1. A bee sucks in nectar from a blossom and stores it in its honey stomach.
2. The bee that gathers the nectar takes it back to the hive and gives them to a household bees.
3. The household bee rolls the nectar around in her mouth for a while, and then puts them into an empty cell.
4. In the honey cell, the water in the nectar evaporates and becomes thick, sugary honee.
5. The cell is then covered with waxx and the honey is stores until it are needed.

### Who cares if bees disappear?

Everyone should! When honeybees travel from blossom to blossom, they also spread pollen. This makes it possible for a plant to produce seeds or fruits. Bees play an important role in agriculture, helping in the production of about one-third of the foods we eat.

### What can be done to help?

While scientists are working hard to learn how to stop colony collapse disorder, beekeepers are starting more hives to help bees survive.

### Extra! Extra! Scavenger Hunt

Agriculture is the growing of crops. List the names of as many different crops as you can find in the paper. Which crops need bees to pollinate their blossoms?

**Standards Link:** Science: Living things are found almost everywhere in the world and distinct environments support the life of different types of plants.

# Disappearing Bees

It's a problem that has the agriculture world buzzing!



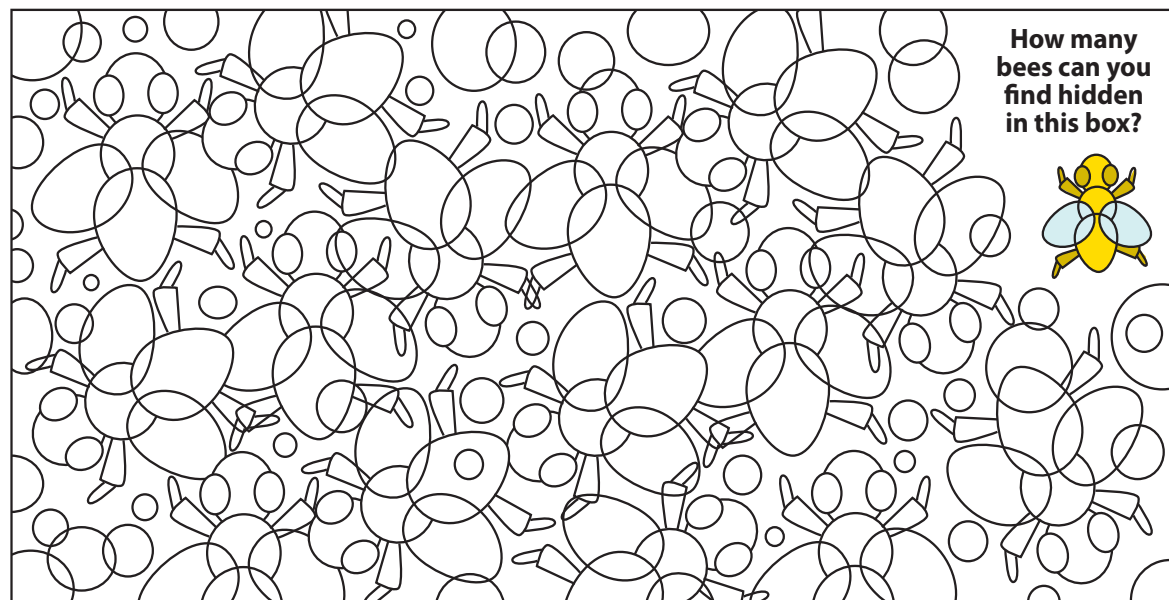
Are you interested in bees and insects? Then you might want to become an **entomologist**. They study insects and are working hard to find a solution to the problem of disappearing bees.

some hives. Diseases and pesticide poisoning also cause hives to empty. Entomologists call this **colony collapse disorder**.

Bees are disappearing in large numbers. Scientists have discovered that tiny mites attack

Our plants and crops need bees to pollenate and produce seeds. Scientists and beekeepers are all working hard to find solutions.

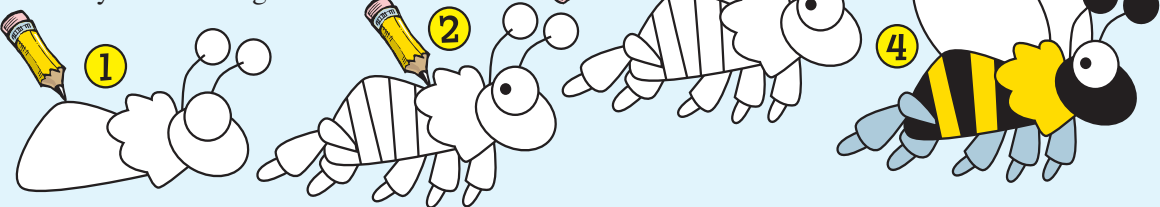
**Standards Link:** Life Science: Students know ways in which organisms interact and depend on one another in an ecosystem.



How many bees can you find hidden in this box?

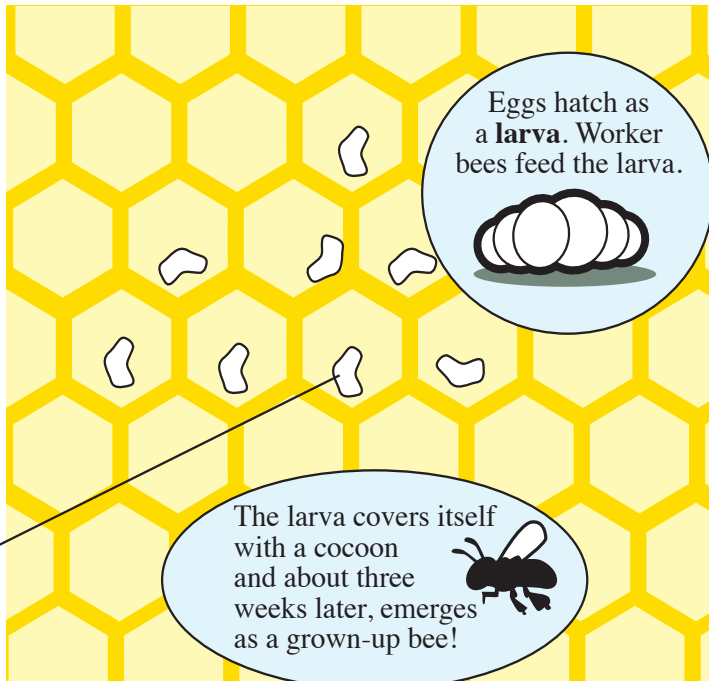
### Let's Draw It!

Follow these easy steps to create a honey of a drawing!



### Inside the Hive

A honeybee hive is made of **honeycombs**. A honeycomb is a large sheet made up of six-sided wax boxes called **cells**. There are thousands of these cells in one hive. The little cells are used as both nurseries for young bees and storage for honey and pollen.

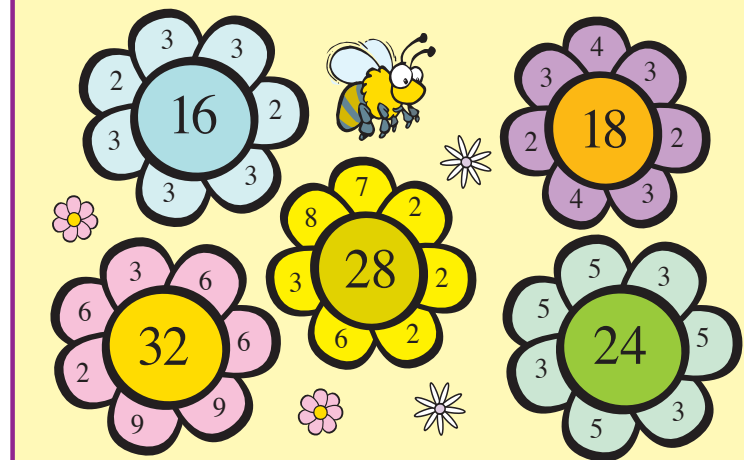


The queen bee lays eggs in the cells near the middle of the honeycomb.

**Standards Link:** Science: Students know that animals progress through life cycles; life-cycle details are different for different organisms.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

The numbers on the flower petals add up to the number in the center of the flower. **Oops!** All but one, that is! Figure out which petal on each flower needs to be plucked so that the numbers on the petals add up to the center number.



**Standards Link:** Number Sense: Solve problems involving addition and subtraction.

### Double Double Word Search

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

HIVE	S	B	M	O	C	Y	E	N	O	H
HONEYCOMBS	E	H	I	E	N	A	H	T	O	N
HONEYBEES	E	V	L	O	V	A	S	N	S	E
SURVIVE	D	L	L	R	T	I	E	U	G	L
BEEKEEPERS	S	O	A	C	E	Y	V	H	G	L
LARVA	C	L	H	M	B	Y	I	R	E	O
BLOSSOM	S	T	H	E	L	P	H	E	U	P
POLLEN	B	E	E	K	E	E	P	E	R	S
COLONY	R	S	Y	M	O	S	S	O	L	B
SEEDS										
CELLS										
HATCH										
HELP										
HUNT										
EGGS										

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

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

#### Spelling Bee

Using one page of today's newspaper, find and circle the letters that spell the words in your weekly spelling list. Or, find and spell ten words from today's Kid Scoop page.

**Standards Link:** Spelling: Use conventions of spelling; spell grade-appropriate words correctly.

Whoops!

### What kind of bees hum and drop things?

ANSWER: Fumble bees.

### Write On!

#### What's the buzz?

Some people ask, "What's the buzz?" when they want to know what's the latest thing people are discussing. What is the "buzz" in your school or community?

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CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS EDUCATOR OF THE WEEK

# Elizabeth (Liz) Hamm | Perry Harrison Elementary School

**Grades/subjects you teach:** kindergarten instructional assistant

**E-mail address:** hamme@chatham.k12.nc.us

**Date, place of birth:** June 14, 1986, in Chapel Hill

**Education (high school & college attended, degrees):** Northwood High School, 2004; Pitt Community College, associate's degree in business; UNC-Greensboro, business administration (in progress)

**Brief work history:** Instructional assistant/bus driver at Pittsboro Elementary School 2010-19; instructional assistant/bus driver at Perry Harrison Elementary School 2019-current

**Honors/awards:** 2015 Chatham County Schools Instructional Assistant of the Year; 2015 Chatham County Schools Bus Driver of the Year; 2019 Chatham County Schools Instructional Assistant of the Year

**Hobbies/interests outside of educating:** I love working out and watching my kids play sports. I love going to the beach and the mountains. Kayaking down the New River, in Todd, just north of Asheville, is a hobby my boys and I both love.

**Family:** I have two sons. Sadler, 10, is in 5th grade, and Anderson, 9, is in 3rd grade. Both boys attend Perry Harrison Elementary School.

**What led you to a career in education?** Truthfully, I never wanted to be in education, because I grew up in a house of educators. Some will say it's in my blood and it just comes natural.

**Who were your favor-**



Photo courtesy of Chatham County Schools

**Perry Harrison Elementary School's Liz Hamm works with students in the classroom.**

**ite teachers as you went through school, and what did you learn from them?** In 4th grade, at Pittsboro Elementary, I had Mattie Smith. Mrs. Smith gave us life experiences in the classroom and outside the classroom. She pushed us to be our best. I was a very shy kid in school (no one ever believes me when I say that). I can still remember my writing prompt from the EOG that year. It was my worst subject, but Mrs. Smith had taught me that I had a voice when it came to writing. I remember being excited about going to school, knowing Mrs. Smith would be there.

Many others made an impact on my life, including Mrs. Ameila O'dell, Mrs. Carol Jean Hurley, Mr. Jason Johnson, Mrs. Elsbeth Johnson, Mr. Phillip Little and Ms. Amy Salter.

**Has becoming an educator been all you expected it would be?** Being an educator always has its ups and downs. You want ev-

ery child to succeed and believe in themselves.

**How has education changed since you were a student?** Education today can sometimes forget that children are still children and not a number on a chart. The standards and expectations of a student today start earlier and earlier.

**What "makes your day" as an educator?** When I walk in the door every morning and see the students excited to see me; even if it was a struggle to get out of bed at 5 a.m.

**What's working in schools today?** Our county does an amazing job at providing our students with various forms of online platforms that support differentiated learning experiences in both literacy and math. In addition, there are online platforms, such as Seesaw, that allows parents to connect and see what their child is learning each day in school. This provides stu-

dents who may not have internet access at home to still be able to have access to resources while they are at school.

**What's not working?** What currently isn't working is that there is a need for more support for parents to not only support teachers but to get involved with their child's education. The opportunities are endless when it comes to parent support and helping out in our school communities. Educational staff are doing a phenomenal job at their jobs, but there is always a need for an extra pair of hands within the classroom to support the already great things that are occurring in Chatham County Schools.

**What's your favorite memory of your first year in education?** My favorite memory from my first year is being able to join Chatham County Schools and be able to have such a positive affect and change so many lives of the children of Pittsboro.

**How would your "educator" persona handle you as a student?** I was a shy kid that needed just a little more. I am drawn to students that need just one more scoop. My educational persona would handle me by providing the extra support needed to help keep me on track and focused.

**Best piece of advice for other educators?** Give yourself grace. The most important thing to remember is to be flexible. Planning is important, but a teacher needs to be able to quickly modify plans when new situations arise. Also, it's important to give all you can to your job, but you need to take care of yourself mentally and physically as well!

**For students?** You will succeed. I believe William Spady said it best: "All students can learn and succeed but not in the same way or on the same day."

**For parents?** Get involved. Teachers give their all to your kids every day, even on difficult days. Teachers are only with your child for 180 days. Your child is yours forever.

**What about your job would most surprise your friends who are not educators?** Most are surprised to know how demanding school has become for even kindergarteners, and that I just don't go to work and play all day.

**If you could somehow magically instill one truth into the heads of your students, what would it be?** "In a world where you can be anything, be kind."

**When you think about today's kids, you:** They're exposed to technology and have lost the social

and emotional aspect of being a kid.

**If one of your students was asked for a one-word description of you by a student who hadn't had you as an educator, what would that one word be?** Hard-working.

**Favorite movie about school or education:** "The Ron Clark Story"

**How would you summarize your philosophy as an educator?** I believe that the classroom within itself is a living community. In order for said community to thrive, everyone — administration, teachers, students and parents, must contribute to this community in order to maintain a positive atmosphere and make not the classroom community but the school within itself thrive.

**What five things must every educator know?**  
 1. Not every lesson is perfect.  
 2. Your students are watching you, even when you think they aren't.  
 3. Drink one cup of HOT coffee every morning.  
 4. Self-care isn't selfish.  
 5. Show up.

**What's special about your education space at your school?** It is welcoming and inviting to not only my students but to anyone who may need the space.

**What's special about your school?** Perry Harrison is a family like none other and I have been welcomed with open arms. It's almost as if I have been here for years.

**Most unusual question you've ever gotten from a student?** "What are you doing in Food Lion? Why are you not at school?"



Staff photo by David Bradley

## Funds being raised after house loss

Bobby D. Johnson, right, wipes away a few tears as he talks with Red Cross disaster team member Patrick McKenna after his rental home was partially crushed by an oak tree in his front yard on Feb. 7. Red Cross services quickly came to assist with housing, medications and other needs for the 80-year-old, who has since moved into the assisted living facility at Cambridge Hills. Johnson's personal belongings are molding inside his former home, which is too dangerous to enter. Former Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry is leading an effort to raise funds to replace Johnson's tape player and radio, his music, clothes, personal items. Help Johnson settle into his new home by sending contributions to Cindy Perry at 259 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.



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# 501 Landing development rezoning approved, controversially, over some community objection

**BY ZACHARY HORNER**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The decision did not come easy. The Chatham County Board of Commissioners debated the merits of the change for the better part of an hour on Monday.

And in the end, it was a split vote that did not fall along party lines.

A 5-acre parcel of land on U.S. Highway 15-501 in front of the Polk's Landing neighborhood was approved for rezoning from residential to Neighborhood Business, making way for a new 14,400 square-foot mixed use pair of buildings slated to feature retail, offices and restaurants.

Commissioner Chairman Karen Howard and Vice Chairman Diana Hales voted against the move, saying the development would possibly lead to a continuance of "strip malls" along the highway corridor, while Commissioners Jim Crawford, Mike Dasher and Andy Wilkie voted in favor, arguing the rezoning was consistent with the county's Comprehensive Plan.

It was the end of a several-month-long process that, as Dasher said, didn't have a win-win conclusion.

"These are difficult decisions for all of us," he said.

## The origins of the project

Working under the name "Pitt Hill X," the applicant submitted the plan for the development and an application for a zoning change to the Chatham County Planning Department on Sept. 30, 2019. Pittsboro Town Commissioner Michael Fiocco represented the development group, which includes News + Record co-owner Chris Ehrenfeld.

When the item was first presented to the commissioners during a legislative public hearing on Nov. 18, several community members came out in opposition to the rezoning. Those comments, along with follow-up emails and letters to the county government, cited concerns about too much development in a residential area.

"Many Polks Landing residents have lived in our neighborhood for decades and have experienced increasing pressure from growth in recent years," wrote Chris Thommerdahl. "As a result, we are deeply concerned that rezoning this parcel would set a precedent and 'pave the way' for the other four narrow lots leading up to Polks Landing Rd and Polks Village to be converted to similar 'strip' commercial development."

Adjacent property owner Carolina Hock wrote, "The people who decided to live in this beautiful neighborhood felt attracted to living surrounded by trees and wildlife. With the approval of this development, a considered number of trees will have to be cut down in order to build the septic tank and the buildings. We want our quiet neighborhood to stay residential, we don't want the noise and pollution from 15-501 (trees are a natural barrier for noise and pollution), we enjoy the trees and the wildlife that live there."

But citing the Chatham County Comprehensive Plan — which labeled that intersection of 15-501 and Lystra Road as a "Community Center node" designed as "retail hubs along key roadway corridors" — the county planning department recommended approval of the use. Notes from the department said existing uses in that node, including a Harris Teeter grocery store and Marco's Pizza restaurant, make the intersection "the location adopted by the Commissioners as an area for additional non-residential growth."

"In order to keep tax revenue in the county, locating non-residential development in areas identified for growth in Plan Chatham is needed," the staff report stated. "While many residents travel out-

side of the county for work these retail establishment provide them additional options to obtain goods and services."

Additionally, planning staff said, the project was "designed with consideration given to the residential area to the west" — meaning Polks Landing — by moving building and parking areas "as close to the US 15-501 as allowed by the ordinances" and stating that the developer would maintain as many trees as possible in developing the septic field and stormwater pond areas."

## Planning board disagreement

But the Chatham County Planning Board, a group made up by citizens, voted 8-3 against the rezoning request. A summary of the board's conversation, which Planning Board Chairman George Lucier said took up an hour, stated that the majority of the board echoed the shared community concern's of over-development. Additionally, it cited the Comprehensive Plan.

"The Land Use Plan states there should be variability and flexibility in Community Centers," the report stated. "Therefore, not all four corners of community centers should necessarily be filled with high impact commercial activities."

In the county's Comprehensive Plan, on page 47, the description of Community Center nodes includes a bullet point saying they were designed to "allow flexibility to provide a variation and mix of centers at quadrant intersections" and that "mix of uses include retail, restaurants, services and office uses." It does not require a residential area in such intersections.

The Planning Board's report said the minority of members emphasized that the proposed spot for 501 Landing was within a Community Center node "which should allow retail activities to the full extent."

"The minority and the applicant also stated that developers and landowners should be able to look at the Land Use Plan and decide where to seek approval for commercial activity," the report stated. "Those who supported the rezoning also felt that none of the property currently approved for commercial development meets the needs of small local businesses and that the site plan concentrated the most intense aspects of the development close to the highway providing a buffer for neighboring residences and property owners."

In a response to the Planning Board's report, the developer, on the letterhead of Durham-based land planning and civil engineering firm Civil Consultants, said it believed 501 Landing "addresses many of the Plan Chatham Comprehensive Plan goals which the Plan identifies as necessary presently."

"The Plan was adopted roughly two and a half years ago and it speaks to the importance and necessity of implementing the vision," the response stated. "It is well known there is an imbalance in the tax base of Chatham County which relies primarily on the residential base. Residential building permits continue to be issued as subdivisions are approved at a rapid rate that far exceed the rate of commercial development which only serves to further exacerbate the tax base imbalance."

## Commissioner discussion

Monday's discussion began in the public comments with four people speaking in opposition to the project. Chatham Economic Development Corporation President Alyssa Byrd followed with comments of support.

"Through the development of the county's Comprehensive Plan, this area was identified through public input for retail and shopping development,"



Courtesy of Chatham County Planning Department

## A site plan for the proposed 501 Landing, slated for location near the Lystra Road-U.S. Hwy. 15-501 intersection in northeast Chatham County.

Byrd said. "This area is particularly attractive because there is a demand for service and a particularly growing population. This plan is consistent with the vision we adopted and I encourage you to approve its rezoning."

Byrd had the backing of a unanimous resolution from her EDC Board which stated that it "supports the land use, growth management and economic development strategies described in the Plan, and supports the best and highest use of land within the Centers."

Planning Department Director Jason Sullivan said the proposal was "smaller in scale and scope" than a previously-proposed Publix grocery store that never made it to the commissioners for a vote. Answering a question from Dasher, he said disagreement between planning staff and the Planning Board was not common.

"Usually the planning board and the staff are consistent, but this happens from time to time," Sullivan said. "I expect for that to happen. If we're always in lock-step, then there's probably something wrong. These issues are going to come up when you have a controversial rezoning."

Lucier then stepped to the microphone to share a bit of the planning board's perspective, but that conversation was diverted. Dasher and Crawford questioned one of the Planning Board's reasons for opposition: there's other land already zoned for Neighborhood Business available.

"It's not fair to make rules over a case as it comes across the board," Crawford said. "You're issuing criteria that have not yet been part of any formal public plan. I'm figuring how this does not match up with the nodes that were in the larger plan. There are other nodes, to be sure, but it's not our job to pick when and how they get filled up."

Howard argued that the commissioners are "the single barrier against strip malls" in Chatham County and allowing over-development would be irresponsible, even in northeast Chatham where there is already a lot of development.

"There was concern from the community that northeast Chatham in general would be over-developed," Howard said. "We (said) we were going to finesse the rules that no part of this county would be sacrificed. They value that sense of place, and we can't discount northeast Chatham having its own sense of charm. There is some value in systematically and cautiously moving forward with development."

Hales expressed issues with the scale of the project, citing the planned 99 parking spaces and a cross access easement that would make it easier for development to come alongside 501 Landing. Fiocco, who was present at the meeting along with Ehrenfeld, said the group was willing and even preferred to eliminate the easement.

Ehrenfeld spoke at one point and said the area would be anchored by an office of his company, Bold

Real Estate, and that the development group has "been in communication with many very interested parties" about the other spots.

"We've done everything we can to work with the neighborhood," Fiocco said. "I think we've done a good job protecting a lot of the interests of the area."

## A difference of opinion

The board agreed on one thing: a proper Unified Development Ordinance would make these decisions much easier.

"I don't know if there are simple things, but I feel like there are small things we could do that would ensure that we are addressing residents' concerns," Dasher said. "Absent those things, I have a difficult time saying yes, it's in an area that we want commercial development, but we haven't written the rules yet, so just wait."

Howard agreed, say-

ing that "these kinds of debates and decisions are essential until we have a UDO."

Hales made a motion to approve a consistency statement, the first step in the process, saying the proposed use was not consistent due to "residential development proximity." She was joined by Howard in voting "aye," with Crawford, Dasher and Wilkie, who said nothing during the discussion, against.

Crawford then motioned to both approve a consistency statement saying the project was consistent with Plan Chatham — which, he added, was adopted "at great expense and effort." The same vote occurred but in reverse. The commissioners then voted similarly to formally approve the rezoning.

Both Dasher and Howard — each of whom are seeking reelection this fall — made final statements summing up their decision.

"I certainly understand the planning board's position. I understand the chair and the vice chair's position, and I understand the residents' concerns on this," said Dasher, who represents District 2, which is Pittsboro and southeast Chatham. "But I do think personally, when in doubt, I'm going to stick with the land use plan that we've adopted. That is how I have justified this vote on that."

Howard, whose District 1 includes the half of the intersection opposite 501 Landing, said, "I understand and I appreciate the work that each of the members of this board (did). When there is a question of doubt, I am going to err on the side of the community. I regret this time we were not successful, but we will plow on."

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

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