

Chatham News + Record

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BOTTOMS UP: ALCOHOL SALES SURGE

Chatham's ABC stores see 57 percent jump in revenue

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

Not only have North Carolina's ABC stores — deemed essential under the governor's stay-at-home orders — remained opened during quarantine, but business has surged.

"Oh yeah, sales are way up," said Andrea Batsche, who works part-time at the Pittsboro ABC Store.

In her two years of employment there, she's grown accustomed to occasional — and predictable — periods of high demand for alcoholic beverages.

"Before big holidays," she said. "Before a three-day weekend. We get super busy before the Fourth of July."

But in her experience, recent demand for spirits is unprecedented.

"I have not witnessed this before in the couple of years I've worked here," said Batsche, who works two shifts a week at the Pittsboro store.

Statewide, North Carolina's ABC retail stores realized a 38 percent increase in sales in March, and Chatham County's ABC stores likewise did more business.

"Our sales have been very strong," said Matt Williams, general manager with Chatham County ABC Board, which operates three of Chatham County's ABC stores: at 11312 U.S. 15-501, Chapel Hill; 40120 Moring Drive, Chapel Hill; and 8038 Pittsboro-Moncure Road, Moncure. According to sales data on the



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

A clerk in an ABC store in Pittsboro helps a customer with a transaction. Alcohol sales during the stay-at-home order are up significantly at all Chatham-area ABC stores.

state ABC website, Chatham County ABC Board's March 2020 retail sales total of \$557,915 represented a 57 percent increase over sales in March 2019 (\$339,113).

"Business is very strong," said Williams. "People are staying at home. They're not going out to the bars and the restaurants. They're just depending more on the stores now."

In the liquor business for more than 18 years — and the Chatham County ABC Board's general manager the last five — Williams said recent demand is unusual.

"Every once in a while you'll see something come out — some new thing — and people are clamoring for it," he said. "But March business

See **ALCOHOL**, page A3

UNC med students assisting Chatham COA during COVID-19

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Like pretty much every student in North Carolina and across the United States, Luke Ford and Caleb Smith found their spring plans dramatically altered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It didn't take long for them to make new ones.

Fourth- and third-year med students at UNC-Chapel Hill, respectively, Ford and Smith have helped lead an infusion of their classmates into Chatham County as volunteers for the Chatham County Council on Aging during a time where many of the organization's regular volunteers are responding to COVID-19 themselves.

"I reached out to some rural counties to see how we could assist their senior centers during this time of the COVID crisis," said Ford, "mainly because a lot of the volunteer base for the senior centers is composed of seniors themselves, and they wouldn't want to leave the house. So there is kind of a role for medical students to play there. The program really just took off."

Through fundraising, item delivery and simple things like phone calls, these UNC med students are making a difference in Chatham, according to COA Executive Director Dennis Streets.

"I can't say enough good things about how these students have responded to assist us in serving Chatham seniors and their families," Streets said. "They are truly a blessing."

See **UNC**, page A12

NEED HELP? WANT TO HELP?

Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor launches to help those in need

CN+R STAFF REPORTS

Neighbors helping neighbors — that's the goal of Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor, a joint effort launching this week by the Chatham News + Record, Abundance NC and the Caremongering Pittsboro Facebook group.

The goal: connecting people in Chatham County who have the capacity to help with those who need help the most.

News + Record Publisher Bill Horner III said inspiration for the idea came after seeing the success of the local Caremongering social media page and a COVID-19-prompted effort sponsored by The Miami Herald in south Florida.

"The idea is simple," he said. "In a crisis, some people have specific needs they may be reluctant to broadcast on social media. Some people have the capacity to help in specific ways. Technology allows us to connect those two groups together and help ease hardships."

Lisa Skumpija, who created the Caremongering Pittsboro site with Yvonne Beal, spoke of one example of a need in the community that was met with a simple connection. A woman made a post on the Facebook page about her neighbors, both of whom were out of work and with five children to feed. Because of language barriers, the couple was having a hard time finding



resources. After finding out about it, Skumpija posted a message on Facebook, asking the neighbor to contact her directly.

A carload of food was soon delivered to the

See **NEIGHBORS**, page A6



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor launched this week to connect Chatham residents in need with Chatham residents who want to help. The program is a collaborative project with the News + Record, Abundance NC and the Caremongering Pittsboro Facebook group.

Chatham's EC students, teachers tackle barriers in COVID-19-affected season

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Morgan Brewer called the days living in a COVID-19 pandemic a "strange" time. But even though she's separated from her students, this Exceptional Children's teacher is finding the positives.

"I am sad that I have not had the same communication with my students and parents as I have when school is typically in session," said Brewer, who teaches at Chatham Central High School, "but I have learned a great deal more about some of my students because I am taking more time to check in on them emotionally."

While all of North Carolina public school teachers work from home due to state executive order, educators working with students with disabilities face barriers like any others while adjusting to remote learning, but EC students face added obstacles, requiring extra work.

"What this season requires us to do is to double-down on our commitment to see us educating our students any way we can," said Melvin Diggs, Chatham County Schools' executive director of Exceptional Children and AIG. "When things get a little tough,

See **STUDENTS**, page A6

A THIRD-GENERATION NORTHWOOD STAR

Shaner takes family athletic legacy to N.C. State

BY DUCK DUCKSON
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — You might say former Northwood two-sport star Carson Shaner — now a junior on N.C. State University's softball team — was simply carrying on her family's rich athletic legacy at the Pittsboro school during her playing days for the Lady Chargers from 2014-17.

Shaner, the oldest of three children of John and Natalie Shaner, was born in Durham but has always called Pittsboro home. Younger sister Riley is a freshman at UNC-Charlotte — studying English and Edu-



Photo courtesy of UNC-Wilmington

Carson Shaner's first two seasons of collegiate softball were at UNC-Wilmington. She transferred to N.C. State this past school year and helped lead the Wolfpack to the best start in the team's history before COVID-19 shut down the season.

IN THE KNOW

Why aren't Chatham officials sharing specifics on COVID-19? **PAGE A7**

Going, going, gone: auction company takes business online. **PAGE A11**

Siler City's Charter Furniture re-purposing operations for masks. **PAGE B4**

Sheriff addresses 'new normal' — and costs — of pandemic. **PAGE B6**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events are subject to change based on closures due to coronavirus. Verify with organizers prior to events.

ON THE AGENDA

• **The Chatham County Board of Education** is scheduled to hold its May meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11. A location has not been announced.

CANCELLATIONS

• **Town of Pittsboro**, all town advisory boards meetings are canceled. In order to protect the most vulnerable members of our community from the COVID-19 virus and slow its spread, please monitor the town's website at pittsboronc.gov for additional notifications and alerts.

• **Chatham County Council on Aging**: Both centers are closed at this time until further notice. If you need to pickup supplies, call the Siler City or Pittsboro location or check our website: chathamcoa.org.

• **Chatham County Historical Museum**: For the safety of visitors and volunteers, the Chatham County Historical Museum is closed until further notice. See our website: <https://chathamhistory.org>.

• **Chatham Community Library**: Closed to the public at this time.

• **State Employees Credit**

Union (SECU) branches statewide have temporarily transitioned to drive-thru only. Members who need to access safe deposit boxes, drop off tax return information, or inquire about a loan should call the branch to schedule an appointment.

• The **Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop** will be closed for shopping and donations until further notice.

• The Chatham County Council on Aging - the **2020 Senior Games and SilverArts competition** will be postponed until further notice. Please check the Chatham County Senior Games website at <https://chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/senior-games/> for updates. Once the new event calendar has been finalized, we will send an event confirmation email and letter, by mail to all parties.

THURSDAY

• 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.

• 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.

UPCOMING

• With COVID-19 sweep-

ing the country, artists' livelihoods are being challenged like never before. The Chatham Arts Council has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called **CAARE: Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort**. For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit ChathamArtsCouncil.org.

ALSO HAPPENING

• JMArts hosted a **JMA-CoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMA-CoronaConcert performances and #JMACoronaConcert program.

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

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

• **Volunteers Needed** —

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWS BRIEFS

April: Child Abuse Prevention Month

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. While social distancing measures and other public health protocols are in effect due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chatham County Department of Social Services is calling attention to this issue that greatly impacts the lives of the county's most vulnerable residents.

"Now more than ever, communities across the country, North Carolina and Chatham County, are reminded of the importance of meaningful connections in our lives and how those connections can help protect against abuse and other negative life outcomes," said Chatham County Board of Commissioners Chairman Karen Howard. "Due to our current health crisis, individuals and families are isolated from one another and their usual places of gathering such as schools and extended family get-togethers. So we want to take this opportunity to spotlight the issue of child abuse and encourage everyone to be more aware."

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network and Prevent Child Abuse NC both provide

resources for families related to the impacts of child abuse and neglect and have added information about coping with COVID-19. They recommend keeping a regular daily routine, limiting media exposure, and maintaining connections with friends and extended family through phone calls, texting or online platforms.

"What we have come to learn about child abuse prevention is that it's really about making connections, providing help to your neighbor in need and making available services and programs in the community that provide treatment and support," said Chatham County Department of Social Services Director Jennie Kristiansen. "We also know that in order for children to be safe, healthy, and well, families need access to the basics like housing, electricity, employment opportunities and child-care."

Individuals who are concerned about the safety of a child, may contact the Chatham County Department of Social Services at 919-542-6988 or after hours at 919-542-2911. Everyone in North Carolina is mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect, and all reporter information is confidential.

— CN+R staff reports

READ IT ONLINE

Thank You

WEST CHATHAM FOOD PANTRY

2535 Old Hwy 421 N, Siler City, NC 27344 • 919-742-3111

We at the West Chatham Food Pantry (WCFP) would like to thank everyone for the support that the community has shown over the years, both in monetary and food donations as well as volunteers. It is because of you that the pantry is still able to help families who are experiencing food insecurity. The pantry assists anyone in Chatham County who is experiencing food shortages or hunger. We have implemented a drive through pick-up service that is safe, and where social distancing is being practiced.

WCFP has relocated to the new Chatham Trades building located at 2535 Old Hwy 421 N which has afforded us the ability to have a more functional streamlined operation while reducing our operating expenses. We are also able to collaborate with Chatham Trades and the Salvation Army due to all of us being in the same building. This collaboration will greatly benefit the community.

WCFP was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in May 2007. The pantry is run entirely on volunteer basis. No one associated with WCFP has a paid position. The WCFP is not affiliated with CORA located in Pittsboro; however, we do work together on food insecurities. Families who utilize CORA's services are also able to come to WCFP. The pantry, here in Siler City, serves two functions. One as a "grocery store" for individuals and families to supplement their grocery needs. And the other is to ensure children have week-end food bags through our Fuel Up program. This program supports children from three of our local elementary schools here in Siler City each week.

Due to the current pandemic, we have noticed a decline in all areas of contributions and the need for food assistance has increased. Food donations can be dropped off at the pantry during normal business hours, Monday 4:30-6:00p.m., Wed. 12:30-2:00p.m., Fri 12:30-2:00p.m. or can be placed in the Donation Box, located on the side of the building as you drive up. Monetary donations can be mailed to WCFP PO Box 254 Siler City 27344.

Volunteering is essential to the success of the pantry. We are also in need of bilingual volunteers. To volunteer please call the pantry at 919-742-3111.

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Saturday: 8:00am - 3:00pm
Sunday: Closed
Store hours subject to change.

SOUTHERNSTATES.COM   

Chatham News + Record

www.chathamnewsrecord.com

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SHANER

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cation — while younger brother Jackson is a freshman at Northwood and a member of the school's baseball and football squads, and the latest Shaner to grace a Northwood athletic roster.

The family's athletic legacy dates back to Shaner's grandfather, John R. "Jack" Shaner, who was Northwood's first football coach from 1970-74 and returned to coach the Chargers on the gridiron from 1978-81. His son John — Carson Shaner's dad — played football, basketball and baseball for Northwood, and went on to play baseball at UNC-Pembroke from 1988-91 following his 1987 graduation.

"I started playing softball when I was 5 years old and fell in love with it at a young age," Carson Shaner told the News + Record. "Even though I played varsity basketball for three years at Northwood and really enjoyed my teammates, softball has always been my true passion."

It showed. She was a four-year outfield starter for the Chargers and helped guide her team to a 74-18 record and a pair of Big Eight 3A Conference titles. In the process, she earned All-District

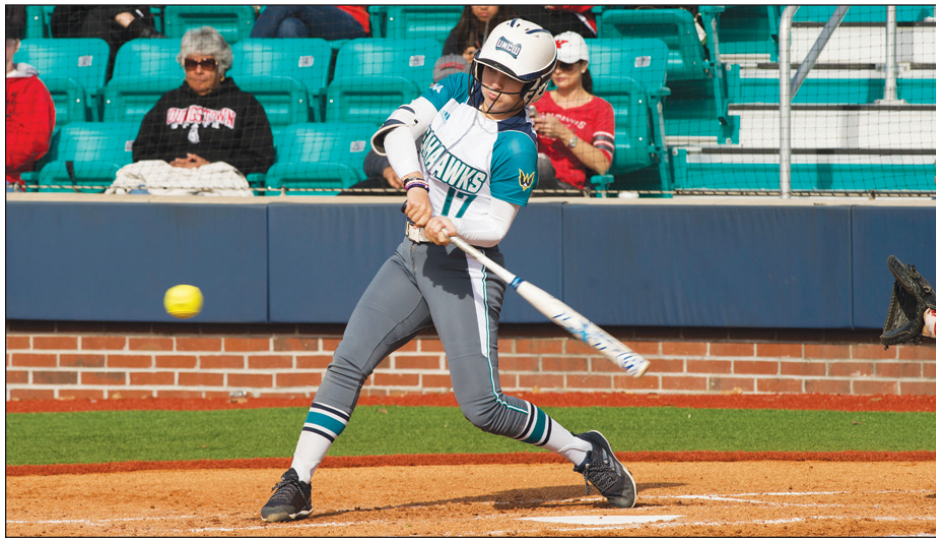


Photo courtesy of UNC-Wilmington

Carson Shaner's first two seasons of collegiate softball were at UNC-Wilmington. She transferred to N.C. State this past school year and helped lead the Wolfpack to the best start in the team's history before COVID-19 shut down the season.

'Even during these uncertain times I have to keep working hard because I want to be ready when we can get back on the field.'

CARSON SHANER

and All-State recognition four times in addition to being selected three times to the All-Conference team. Shaner also received NFCA First-Team All-South and Third-Team All-American honors.

Shaner finished her career at Northwood as the program's all-time leader with 16 home runs, including a school-record eight homers as a senior. She also holds the school's single-season records for hits, RBIs, batting average and triples. She posted a .609 batting average as a

senior, collecting 42 hits and 47 RBIs, scoring 36 runs with five doubles and 11 triples. She finished her career with a .420 batting average while collecting 103 hits and 98 runs batted in.

Her favorite moments from those days at Northwood?

Winning conference championships in both basketball and softball, she said, and helping athletic director Jason Amy organize a Special Olympics event along with her PEPI (Physical Education Pupil Instruc-

tor) class.

Shaner committed to UNC-Wilmington as a freshman year at Northwood, saying she fell in love with the campus while looking forward to playing with teammates she had met during her days of travel ball.

She saw action in 29 games with 10 starts as a freshman at UNC-W, batting .150 with eight runs batted in and three runs scored. In a game against East Carolina on March 13, 2018, Shaner hit a grand slam — marking her first career college home run.

As a sophomore in 2019, Shaner improved her batting average to .307 in 32 games played — including 21 starts in the outfield — and recorded 23 hits, 20 RBIs and 13 runs scored while notching six home runs on the season.

But by season's end, she felt UNC-W wasn't a productive environment for her anymore. In order to meet her full potential, she thought it was best to pursue other options.

Seeking a transfer, Shaner entered her name into the portal and was immediately contacted by a number of colleges, including ACC schools and others both in and out of state. She eventually decided on N.C. State.

"I believed that was the best fit for my future because I felt appreciated there and I really liked the coaches and my teammates," she said. After donning a Wolfpack uniform to begin the 2020 season, Shaner appeared in 21 of 25 games, including 10 starts at second base or as a designated hitter. Her first four hits of the season were home runs, including two as a pinch hitter. She amassed a .650 slugging percentage and ranked fourth on the team with five home runs before the season was brought to an abrupt halt by the coronavirus outbreak.

"I can still remember hearing our season was put on hold," Shaner said. "We were on our way to Blacksburg, Virginia, on March 12 to play a series with Virginia Tech when we got the word, and later found out the rest of the season was cancelled."

N.C. State was having the best start in the program's history at the time — a 19-6 overall record with a six-game winning streak and a perfect 3-0 conference record. The team was looking forward to the ACC champion-

ships, which were set to begin next week in Louisville, Kentucky.

"I'm sad we didn't get to finish what we started," Shaner said. "But looking at the big picture I know it was the best decision for everyone's safety, and then the NCAA decided to grant Division 1 spring athletes another year of eligibility, which meant some of our seniors would be returning next year if they chose to do so."

So what's next for Shaner? An ACC title, she hopes. For the time being, though, she's doing at-home workouts and throwing and hitting with her father and brother.

"Even during these uncertain times I have to keep working hard because I want to be ready when we can get back on the field," she said. "I will try to get stronger, get in a lot of defensive reps and hit as much as possible, since the more I can do over the summer, the more prepared I will be for my team when play does resume."

The Sport Management major says she's added a minor in Sports Science, and plans to take summer courses at N.C. State to stay on track for graduation.

Beyond that? "I hope to go to grad school and pursue a further degree in Sport Management or one in Physical Therapy, and one day I would love to go into coaching," said Shaner.

Given her family's legacy, there's little question she'd be a natural.

ALCOHOL

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was really high. Even the way we're going in April. Business hasn't slowed down."

Sales at each of Chatham County's five ABC stores have been strong.

The Siler City ABC Board, which operates the retail store 1404 E. 11th St., Siler City, saw a 32 percent increase in its March retail sales (\$176,403 last month, compared to March 2019's retail sales of \$127,891), according to the state ABC website.

And the Pittsboro ABC Board's retail sales for March (\$184,137) show business increasing 40 percent over numbers from March a year ago (\$125,534).

In surrounding counties, Durham's ABC sales saw a 14 percent increase in March and

Wake County's a 20 percent increase.

Fran Meyers, who lives in western North Carolina but is quarantining with her elderly parents at their home in north Chatham, did her part last Friday, purchasing two bottles of spirits at the Pittsboro store.

Wearing a mask covering her nose and mouth, Meyers said she's taking the coronavirus seriously — and taking precautions not to catch or spread it — but also going about business to the extent necessary.

Friday afternoon, that included quick trips to Pittsboro's Lowe's Home Improvement store for a plumbing repair need, and to the ABC store.

"I'm a wine drinker, so this is for my dad," Meyers said, gesturing with the bag containing her purchases.

"It is essential for some people," she said. "For us, it's just nice to be able to have a drink once in a while. Especially now."

While ABC stores remain open, all stores have implemented additional safety measures and policies aimed at protecting employees and customers while COVID-19 remains a threat.

Williams was early to implement a number of new safety measures at the Chatham County ABC Board's stores, including limiting the number of customers allowed in-store to one at a time, and having clerks — not the customers — obtain the requested items from the shelves.

"We allow one person at a time," Williams said of his north Chatham and Moncure stores. "They go straight to the cash register. They tell the clerk

what they want. The clerk rings it out. And they're out the door."

Batsche said the Pittsboro store, with similar safety measures in place, is doing everything it can to protect customers and employees. The Pittsboro store has also limited the number of customers allowed inside at a time.

"We now have sneeze guards up," she said, "which I'm grateful for. And we're using hand sanitizer and disinfectants. There's a nice distance we maintain between the customers and the cashier. There's not close face-to-face contact. Every store has it a little bit different."

What hasn't changed, Batsche said, is the supply chain.

The Pittsboro store, for example, continues to receive — as it always has — two shipments per month.

"Our shipments haven't changed," she said. "Our supply has not been interrupted. We may not get everything we want, but that's kind of normal. We don't always get everything we order."

And customers, due to higher volumes of sales and limitations on some supplies, may not always find the exact product they seek.

"Sometimes we get pretty bare," Batsche said. "And aside from the high demand, the procedures [now in place to limit spreading the virus] take a little

longer."

That's led to some customers getting upset, she said.

"Some aren't happy they can't just go shop on their own," said Batsche. "Others say they're glad we're taking the precautions."

As for why North Carolina's ABC stores are deemed essential, Sen. Jeff Jackson, a Democrat who represents District 37 (Mecklenburg County) in the N.C. Senate, addressed the matter in a recent Facebook post.

"Why are liquor stores still open?" the senator wrote on April 7. "It's because we have a lot of people who are chemically dependent on alcohol, and if we suddenly cut off their access they would go into withdrawal and flood the emergency rooms, which we can't have right now."

In a comment on that post, Jackson further elaborated: "For folks who are saying, 'No, it's because the state wants that ABC money,' that's a sensible theory but not accurate. Every state — even those with private liquor sales — is keeping them open (except Pennsylvania, and they're reconsidering.)"

"I do think it's important the stores stay open," Batsche said. "If we were closed, it would be another health crisis. That doesn't mean that everybody that comes in has a problem."

But Batsche, who also

runs her own small business — Studio 17, 17 Hillsboro St. in downtown Pittsboro — is struggling with reopening her own store.

"I have my own small business," she said. "I'm just lost. I don't know what to do. I make clothing and sell vintage. I'm not getting the small business money when I need it and I don't want to lose all the work I've put into building my business."

But she's also "trying to stay mindful of the situation," and said she's not quite ready to re-open her own shop.

"I don't think it's time to relax," she said. "I'd rather be safe than sorry."

As for keeping herself safe during this period, Batsche said she's "doing what I can," and she's appreciative of safety measures in place at her part-time work.

When her shifts end at the Pittsboro ABC store, she said, "I get home, my clothes go in the wash, and I get in the shower."

Williams, meanwhile, said safety procedures will stay in place in the ABC stores he oversees for as long as necessary.

"Hopefully, we'll get this thing under control soon and get back to normal," he said. "I've never seen anything like this."

Randall Rigsbee can be reached at rigsbee@chathamnc.com.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

Pursuant to NCG 105-322, the Chatham County Board of Equalization and Review will meet as required by law.

Purpose of the Meetings

To hear, upon request, any and all taxpayers who own or control taxable property assessed for taxation in Chatham County, with respect to the valuation of such property, or property of others, and to fulfill other duties and responsibilities as required by law.

Time of Meetings

The Board will convene for its first meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020. The Board will adjourn for the purpose of accepting requests for hearing Real Estate Appeals at its last meeting on Friday, May 15, 2020 at 12:00 pm. Meetings will begin promptly at 10 am in the Appraisal Department located in the Agriculture Center located at 1192 US64W Business in Pittsboro.

Requests for hearing must be received no later than the final adjournment which is scheduled for Friday, May 15th at 12:00 pm.

In the event of an earlier or later adjournment, notice to that effect will be published in this newspaper and online at www.chathamnc.org.

The schedule for the hearing of appeals which were timely filed will be posted at the office of the Assessor, serving as Clerk to the Board; and will also be provided to individuals and organizations that have requested notice pursuant to NCGS 143-318.12.

All requests for hearing should be made to:

**Karen Jones, Assisant Clerk to the Chatham County Board of Equalization and Review
PO Box 908, Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-8211**

VIEWPOINTS

Reconciling the past and the future

Our brains — the human nervous system's mission control — are interesting organs.



RANDALL RIGSBEE
Randall Reflects

In partnership with the spinal cord, it's responsible for everything we do, including my tapping the proper keys on the keyboard as I

write this. I don't even have to look at the keys!

Memories, like our brains that store them, are also interesting. And fickle, it seems.

My brain can conjure many moments from long ago, yet it's asking a lot of the same brain that recalls those cobwebby time capsules to recollect a birthday or a phone number or sometimes even a name.

I remember, for instance, a visit to an emergency room when I was 4 years old. My siblings and I had been playing croquet in the front yard of our house in Durham — it must have been a Saturday afternoon — when, at pre-

cisely the wrong moment, I reached for a croquet ball just as a mallet was contacting it, and my unfortunate timing was rewarded with a couple of smashed fingers and a trip to Watts Hospital. I remember the pain, and I remember crying about it. I remember my dad driving me to the hospital and I remember the hallway where we waited together for a doctor to look at my injured fingers. From where I sat, I could see into a room where a man lay on a gurney, bruised, bandaged and ailing. Sensing my unhappiness with my own circumstances (I was too young to know about stoicism), the man with troubles of his own tried to cheer me up by telling me how he'd been thrown from a horse and trampled and, like me, rewarded with a Saturday afternoon visit to the hospital. I remember how his stunning story diverted my attention — how could a mere croquet injury, however disruptive it was to my afternoon, compete with what he'd been through? — and I remember my father driving us home, the afternoon turned into evening

now, my bandaged fingers still throbbing, but the scary trip to the hospital finally itself a memory. That, I remember, was the best feeling.

All of that is cemented in my brain 50-something years later, even with a heap of other memories piled on top of it over the intervening years.

Yet, somehow, I still more often than not must consult the directions on the instant grits we prepare with some regularity, uncertain if its a half — or is it a whole or a quarter? — cup of boiling water that's added to the mix.

Some things stick. Some things don't.

Why is that? Neither I, nor my brain, know.

While I don't have all the answers, I've been thinking a lot about memory.

Partly these musings have been triggered by the slow process me and my siblings have been undertaking cleaning out our mother's house in the weeks since her death in early March. We've uncovered a lot of stuff — newspaper clippings, old report cards, magazines, photographs, objet d'art — that have resurrected memories I'd

forgotten I retained. Another reason for these thoughts on memory, I'm hesitant to say (because it's a topic both my brain and I are beyond weary from contemplating) is the new cultural landscape in this ongoing era of COVID-19.

It's only been a matter of weeks now since the novel coronavirus became a dominant force in our lives, upending so many ordinary things; but how quickly a "new" reality can alter our perceptions.

For all the memories I can't shake, I almost have trouble remembering what the world was like before COVID-19.

Was there a time when a trip to the grocery store didn't feel like a game of Russian roulette? When toilet paper was plentiful? When the Rolling Stones could occupy an arena stage together as a united band and thousands of fans could gather en masse to hear them and cheer them on, instead of the new reality of seeing Mick, Keith, Ron and Charlie each in Zoom-like separate, segmented rectangles on a computer screen performing "You Can't Always Get What You Want" for an unseen, virtual audience?

I've tried to divert my brain from focusing to an unhealthy degree on the novel coronavirus by distracting it with television shows, but that's been an odd experience for my brain, too.

Now, when I watch a show written and produced in the pre-COVID era — an episode of the sitcom "American Housewife" last week centered around Class of 2020 senior high school pranks, for instance — it's with nagging incredulity. Instead of being a diversion, "American Housewife" had me pondering the actual circumstances of the Class of 2020, which has bigger concerns than silly string and shaving cream.

Maybe what I'm really thinking about now isn't memory, but the opposite of it: the future.

What's that future going to look like? Neither I nor my brain have that answer either. But all the sitcoms and dramas — even the crazy-popular "Tiger King" documentary on Netflix — that I've turned to for respite from COVID-19 news, merely is just another cobwebby relic.

GUEST COLUMN | ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN

The higher truth of love

Give me liberty, or give me death! Patrick Henry uttered this declaration in 1775, yet I heard it repeated last week in the context of the novel coronavirus. In such a time as this, we should recognize that there are competing truths. It is true that we want to contain COVID-19. It is true that we want to reopen our economy. It is true that we should guard against authoritative government. Long ago, Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). The question for us — *what is the higher truth?*

As Americans, we hold certain truths to be self-evident about equality. At various points in our history, we have also recognized that equity calls for sacrifice and service. I believe that people of different faiths and traditions find agreement in the claim that the greatest commandment is to love one another (John 13:34). Jesus taught that the greatest love is laying down your life for another (John 15:13). As Christians, then, our responsibility to others is a higher truth than our individual rights. I think there are times when the same may be said for citizens.

During this pandemic, we must willingly forgo certain personal freedoms, for we have a higher calling to the common good, including those who are most vulnerable to infection and those taking care of the sick. The higher truth is our responsibility to love our neighbors.

I think that people of faith are called to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) to our fellow citizens, including our elected officials. This is difficult, for any claim to a higher truth will arouse opposition. To be clear, I am not siding with one political party against the other, for both fall decidedly short of the higher calling of Christ. I love how the old hymn puts it, "Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me."

Not to go all Greek on you, but I find it poignant that the word in the original language of the New Testament for "abide" is *meno*, which gives us our word *mentor*. As we speak the truth in love, we don't need more partisan talk. We need more mentors.

Thinking of mentors, there was an older gentleman in the church of my youth. Truth be told, Mr. Henry was a rather prickly fellow. You might say he was from the old school. But Mr. Henry took a liking to me, in part, to encourage my mischievous streak. Mr. Henry taught me to cheat at cards!

These card games took place on mission trips after a long day's work in the hot sun. One afternoon, we were shingling a roof. As Mr. Henry said, "We'd best get at it." There was a storm brewing on the horizon. I, however, abruptly decided to climb down from the roof and rest under a shade tree. I figured I'd earned the right to a break.

Mr. Henry stomped over and crossed his arms over his chest. He didn't say a word but I knew darn well that I'd best speak for myself: "Mr. Henry, I just gave out."

He replied, "You didn't give out. You gave up."

Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church and author of Gently Between the Words: Essays and Poems. He is currently working from home with his wife and three children.

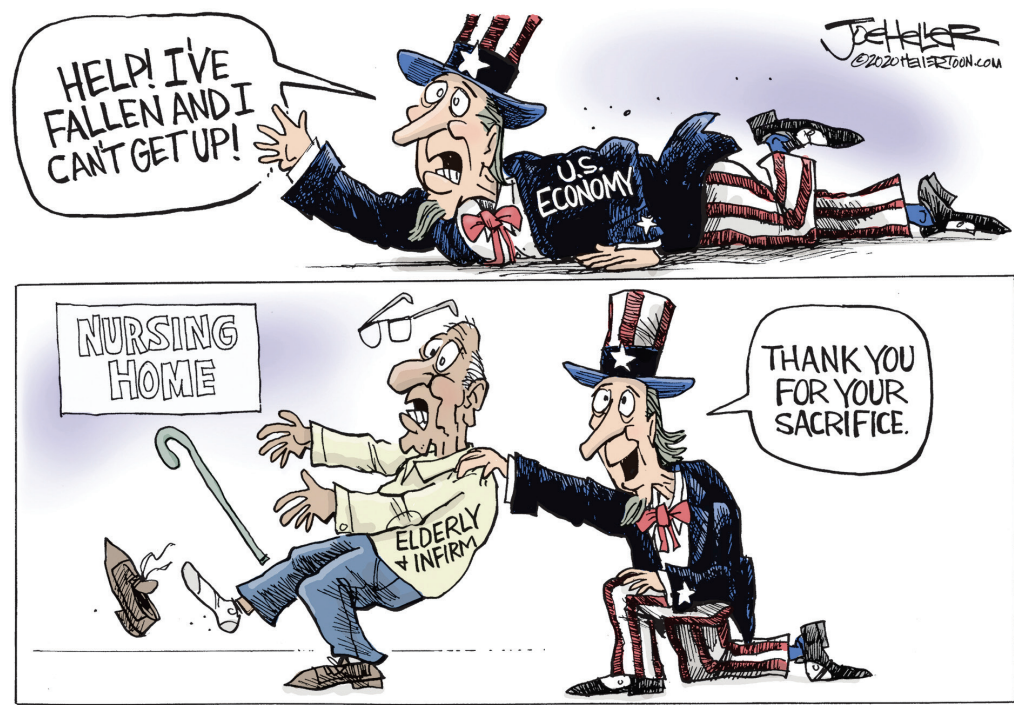
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Good folks, like water, are missed when they're gone

One of the advantages of my life here is that I've been blessed to have lived in several communities across the county.

With that has come the opportunity through the years to know countless folks. Most have been pretty good salt-of-the-earth people, a few others maybe not so salty.

But still there have been shared experiences and lessons from them all.

From time to time, it's been my privilege and good fortune to mention a few of them in this space. Most of the time that's been when they've crossed the Great Divide that separates this life from the next and I realize just how much they meant to me — and many others — and that we're going to miss them. A lot.

Permit me now, if you will, a few moments and a few lines to mention someone who falls into that category, someone you don't know — my Uncle Sam — and what I learned from him. My parents had sizable numbers of brothers and sisters — Mama, 11 and Dad, six. Until a few days ago, both groups had one member still with us. Now there's only one, my mama's baby sister Rachel, a spry 92. Dad's remaining sibling, Uncle Sam, slipped away a week ago when his big heart gave out.

I can remember conversations with folks through the years when we'd name our relatives. When I'd say, "I've got an Uncle Sam," often my conversation partner would say something like, "Well, I do, too — the USA." To that, I'd say, "No, I've got a real-life Uncle Sam."

The only problem with my real Uncle Sam was that he — and his family — were in Alabama and I wasn't.

In my youth, about every other summer, we'd load up our family ride — I especially remember a '56 Ford — and head out from Pittsboro to Montgomery for a week or so with that part of my family, which included Grandma and Grandpa, a retired railroad man who had been up and down the east coast with the Atlantic Coast Line before settling in and retiring in Montgomery.

In those days, there was little or no Interstate 85. It was 500 miles straight down U.S. 1 through every little village and town God created in the southeast. Like clockwork, around 8 a.m. we'd stop in Columbia, S.C., for breakfast at a pancake house Dad had discovered called "Mammy's Shanty." Then it was drive and drive and ride some more, stopping only for gas, the restroom and

a roadside picnic table for lunch. Mama had packed. If you, especially any of the younger generation, can believe it, there were no Golden Arches or Cracker Barrels, except the real ones in country stores.

Truth be told, I wasn't a terrible car companion until it got to be around six o'clock. But by then we were usually passing through Phenix City on the Georgia-Alabama line, my clue that it wouldn't be long.

Simply put, the ride was worth it. There we'd spend quality time with numerous folks. In addition to Uncle Sam and his family, there was Uncle Jack and his crowd. He worked for an outfit called Florida Fish Corporation.

It was standard procedure that for supper one night he would bring in a truckload and a half of shrimp for Grandpa to boil and create his sauce and in the process, we joked, use every pot and pan in the kitchen. It was an impressive sight to see a dining room table beg for mercy under the weight of that much shrimp.

While there, we'd do other things, especially when my aunts Lydia, Betty and Ruth Ellen and their families would come. There was a city park just down the street — Oak Park — and it had swings and slides and a zoo — notably Monkey Island — that easily occupied a young boy's attention. We'd usually have a big cookout there, as well.

Sometimes Uncle Sam would take me and anybody else who wanted to go downtown to Chris' Hot Dogs where they put Texas Pete in the chili. Visits such as those and the cookouts at Oak Park went a long way toward creating my physique which led Uncle Sam to start calling me "Tiny," after Li'l Abner's brother in the comics. Once he took me home with him and let me play in the dirt and "help" him as he planted flowers around his house. At just the right time, a neighbor girl showed up and Uncle Sam, noticing my distress at not knowing what to say, pointed out to her, as I remember, "He's from North Carolina and isn't usually this dirty."

The time spent there made a big impression on a little boy, namely me. Part of the proof is that 60 years later I still remember and talk — and write — about it. But it wasn't just boyhood dreams and memories. There were adult versions, as well.

When Shirley finally succeeded in convincing me we should sign on the dotted line for life, Uncle Sam, Aunt June and Cynthia and Tommy reversed the trip I'd made many times as a youngster. In our wedding photo album is a picture of our receiving line showing Uncle Sam's family coming through

while I'm turned around watching my buddies "decorate" my Mustang.

Then there was the time my dad was in the hospital with a heart attack and we weren't sure he was going to hang around. Somehow the Alabama brothers found a friend with a private airplane who flew them up. Years later when he had such an incident from which he didn't make it, the brothers and some sisters showed up for the proceedings.

Some few years ago, our daughter, her family and us made the trip south in our van, spending several good days there with uncles and aunts and cousins. We did some of the history stuff related to the War Between the States, saw a pair of Geronimo's moccasins in the museum, took in a minor league baseball game and took my grandson to Chris' for a hot dog like my grandpa took his grandson — me — years ago.

Uncle Sam turned 90 in 2018. Cynthia and Tommy planned a big birthday bash at the care facility where he and Aunt June were living. I was going, all but bought the train tickets — the fruit didn't fall far from Grandpa's tree — to Birmingham, as far as Amtrak went, with plans for us to rent a car and make the hundred-mile drive to Montgomery. But my heart doctor said, "Nah. You're not going. You need this unexpected triple-bypass surgery instead."

Other planned trips afterwards also got cancelled in favor of me getting a new hip, a new shoulder and something called coronavirus. Two Sundays ago, as I sat outside in the sunshine with grandchildren playing around us, my daughter-in-law got him on her phone that's smarter than mine. He had been in the hospital, dealing with congestive heart failure. As the connection was made, part of my grandchildren brood greeted him. When Amanda handed me the phone and we saw each other, his first words were "There's somebody ugly. How are you, Tiny?" I'll always be grateful for those few minutes.

I have a memento from him, something to remind me of his kindness. When I was barely out of diapers, he visited my folks and me while he was in the Army. On that visit, he gave me the inside liner of his helmet — not the heavy metal pot but the lighter inside. It's the best rainhat you'd ever want. Every time I wear it, I think of him.

I remember thinking I wanted to grow up to be like him — and Uncle Jack, men of character and principle and kindness and strength and faith.

Cynthia told me on the phone the other day that it was those qualities that made me want to be around him.

I wish I could have done it more. If there's an Uncle Sam in your life, don't let this happen to you.

VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS

A chance to live up to democratic values

TO THE EDITOR:

If our world is an ant mound, this novel coronavirus was a boot that stepped on us all.

But after an initial burst of confusion, ant colonies rebuild. Here in North Carolina, so must we. A key component of rebuilding is making sure our democracy functions. At the State Board of Elections, we are laser-focused on making sure you can exercise your right to vote, no matter what challenges COVID-19 will bring.

This unusual moment presents us with a unique opportunity. In our polarized times, it can be a challenge for people from diverse political persuasions to work together to improve our democracy. The uncertainty around how to best conduct a vote in the middle of the pandemic can be an opportunity, if we let it. Policy makers, if they have the courage, can see beyond the typical partisan expediency that accompanies election law changes. Sure, it is natural for elected officials to consider the effect changes to the election process will have to their own benefit or detriment. But in

times like these, such narrow self-interest is of little value.

The demands of coping with coronavirus have scrambled our ability to predict how voters will behave. While partisans typically can forecast how changes to election procedure will help or hurt their cause, this unprecedented moment has rendered such forecasts irrelevant. This uncertainty can free policy makers from short-term partisan concerns and let all of us focus on making democracy work. At a time when so few citizens believe that our democracy is functional, we have a chance to prove, even in the midst of societal upheaval, we are still governed of, for, and by the people.

Across this country, Republican and Democratic Governors, Secretaries of State and governing boards like the State Board of Elections are all grappling with this crisis and are evaluating and contemplating changes to keep voters, poll workers, and election officials safe. In North Carolina, we are going to do everything within our power to make sure voters of all political persuasions have every opportunity to cast their ballots and make their voices heard.

The State Board of Elections' executive director offered the legislature a set of recommendations entirely focused on overcoming the challenges COVID-19 has created. These recommendations include:

- Giving county boards flexibility in areas like poll-worker assignment and early voting;
- Making it easier to securely request and cast votes by mail;
- Providing modest matching funds to access federal election dollars.

No one wished for this pandemic. I sincerely hope that North Carolina and the United States can be past this crisis before the fall elections, but it is imperative that we are prepared in the event we are not. There will be plenty of time when it is all over to reengage in our partisan battles about election policy. Right now, we all need to work together. The coronavirus has given us a chance to live up to our democratic values. I hope we take it.

**Damon Circosta
David C. Black**

Damon Circosta, a Democrat from Raleigh, and David Black, a Republican from Concord, serve on the N.C. State Board of Elections.

It's time for a 28th Amendment

TO THE EDITOR:

In his recent column, John Hood refers to the fact that two of the last three presidents, George W. Bush in 2000, and Donald Trump in 2016, were elected by the Electoral College, having lost the popular vote. I found myself uncomfortable with that result, both in the case of George W. Bush (whom I supported) and Donald Trump (whom I did not support). The last president prior to Bush to be elected in this way was Benjamin Harrison in 1888. There have been only five such elections in our history.

As John Hood pointed out, a compromise was reached in 1787 between large states and smaller states which may have been necessary to the creation of the new nation at that time. But 230 years later the landscape looks much different. The loose confederation of states that existed at that time, where people identified as Virginian or New Yorker rather than American, has morphed into a nation where everything flows across state lines, not only travel and commerce, but also air and wa-

ter pollution and germs carrying disease. In the real world of 2020, we are all Americans in a nation that stretches from sea to shining sea. Our rights granted to us as U.S. citizens, and the duties and obligations we owe in return, are the same regardless of what state we live in. Except, apparently, in the matter of electing presidents.

The Constitution that was cobbled together at that time, still a remarkably successful document, does not in all respects fit the situation that exists many years later. This was recognized in 1865 when the 13th amendment abolished slavery. It was recognized again in 1920 when the 19th amendment gave women the right to vote. In fact, the Constitution has been amended 27 times, to align with changing perceptions. In this era of "one man, one vote," when most people feel that their vote should count just as much as that of any other American — and after watching the will of the majority be thwarted in the election of two of the last three presidents — the time has come for the enactment of a 28th amendment to abolish the electoral college.

Robert A. Bogle
Fearrington Village

Our leaders must offer more clarity

Free societies are rife with planning. Indeed, there is no such thing as an unplanned society.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke
Foundation

No, I have not become a victim of the Invasion of the Body Snatchers (although that is, of course, what a snatched body would say). I continue to believe that freedom is essential to human happiness and a precious gift that we should guard with ferocious jealousy.

My point is simply that freedom is not the opposite of planning. All productive human activities feature extensive planning, whether it be to launch an enterprise, pursue a career, acquire an education, or form a family. The true policy question has always been how to coordinate the varying and constantly changing plans of teeming multitudes in such a way that the greatest number of individuals can reach the goals they have set for themselves.

Is the right answer for government to create a central plan and coerce others to follow it? Or should government maximize the freedom of individuals to make and follow their other plans, with market signals in the form of prices serving as the means of coordination?

You know where I stand. I'm a market guy. That doesn't make me an anarchist. I recognize that there are limited cases in which markets are insufficient as a means of coordination. Governments must step in to ensure the provision of certain public goods.

Even in those cases, however, government should choose the least-restrictive means to advance its objective. If possible, it should subsidize a service delivered by competing providers rather than monopolize the service itself. The government should nudge rather than shove. And when forceful action is necessary — as is clearly the case during public-health emergencies such as COVID-19 — the government should act as transparently as possible, with clarity about its goals, models, methods, and timetables.

Why is clarity so important? Free citizens are not cattle. We are capable of understanding and accepting the need for painful measures, as long as we are afforded some basis for predicting their effects and their end. Without clarity from our leaders, we cannot make rational decisions.

As economist Frank Knight would put it, a lack of clarity leaves us with unfathomable uncertainties that can only paralyze us. Clarity turns uncertainties into risks that we can calculate and employ. Clarity allows us to plan.

I know this all sounds theoretical, but stop-and-go government is a very real and quantifiable problem. I have written before about the role that policy uncertainty plays in sparking economic recessions and hampering economic recoveries. When managers, investors, entrepreneurs, and employees lack information about what government is going to do, and when it is going to do it, they make fewer plans and take fewer risks. The result must inevitably be fewer jobs, lower incomes, and less opportunity for people to take care of themselves and their families.

In a new paper released by the National Bureau of Economic Research, four economists have used measures of economic uncertainty to model the extent and duration of the Great Depression — the economic downturn we are now experiencing because of COVID-19 and the lockdowns governments have instituted in response.

The authors forecast a massive 11 percent decline in real economic output by the fourth quarter of 2020, and conclude that if anything their model is understating the damage. Moreover, they estimate that more than half of the decline is the result of uncertainty, of firms and households lacking the information necessary to make long-term plans.

Because we are dealing with a novel coronavirus about which a great deal is unknown and will remain unknown for months if not years, some of the uncertainty effect is "baked into the cake," as it were. But it would definitely help matters if government leaders spoke with greater clarity about when and how they plan to ease restrictions on our freedoms.

Don't hold your cards close to your chest. Display them. We have a right to see them — and we are all on the same team. Right?

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

Will the virus keep us from voting?

Are you going to be able to vote in the upcoming November election?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Or will the coronavirus claim another victim: your right and responsibility to choose the leaders to guide us through this public health, political, economic, and moral disaster?

The recent elections in Wisconsin should have taught North Carolinians that the process will probably be partisan and contentious. It will likely put a heavy burden on individual voters as well as the election day workers who will be trying to accommodate voters and protect them and themselves from the dangers of transmitting the coronavirus.

Without careful planning, North Carolina could repeat Wisconsin's April 7 voting day experience. Milwaukee had to reduce the number of poll sites from 500 to five. Voters were forced to wait in line for hours. At least six poll workers have already come down with symptoms of the virus.

Sadly, but predictably, Democrats and Republicans in Wisconsin battled for partisan advantage in a crucial judicial election pitting a conservative Republican incumbent against a more liberal Democratic challenger. The Democratic governor tried to postpone the election to give more time for mail-in voting and a better chance for his party's candi-

date to win. The Republicans objected and won a legal battle to require the election to be held on schedule.

Partisan bickering about election procedures and rules is nothing new in North Carolina. In his new book "Wilmington's Lie," David Zucchino reminds us what happened after conservative Democrats won control of the legislature in the 1898 elections. They crafted "a constitutional amendment requiring voters in the state to pay a poll tax and pass a literacy test unless a father or a grandfather had voted before 1867. The amendment also required voters to present proof of their identity during registration, if challenged. There wasn't much camouflage of the amendment's motive. 'The chief object of the amendment is to eliminate the ignorant and irresponsible Negro vote,' the Democrats explained in a pamphlet."

Both North Carolina political parties have a sorry legacy of framing election laws and voting districts for political advantage, with the modern Republicans being the more recent abusers.

Elections and election procedures are bare-boned political battles in Wisconsin, too. One of the arguments there is about mail-in voting.

Many political scientists including Barry Burden, professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, cite studies that show no partisan advantage to either side in expanding voting by mail. But the Democratic judicial candidate won, according to The New York Times, primarily by performing better in

mail voting in every community than she did at the polling places.

North Carolina does not have a true vote-by-mail system. Should Democrats fight to have one in place by this November? Bob Cordle, former chair of the North Carolina State Board of Elections, points out that North Carolina's no-excuse absentee voting procedure already gives voters the opportunity to secure and send in a ballot by mail. However, he says, "the requirements to obtain and vote an absentee ballot by mail need to be simplified and made more accessible to our voters."

The current elections board chairman Damon Circosta, a Democrat, and board member David Black, a Republican, recently recommended that the legislature make "it easier to securely request and cast votes by mail."

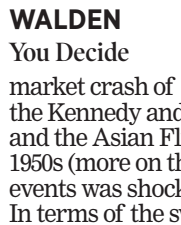
They continued: "We sincerely hope that North Carolina and the United States can be past this crisis before the fall elections, but it is imperative that we are prepared in the event that the crisis remains with us. There will be plenty of time when it is all over to reengage in our partisan battles about election policy. Right now, we all need to work together. The coronavirus has given us a chance to live up to our democratic values. Let's take it."

Good advice for all of us.

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

Can collecting thoughts about the virus help?

There's almost no other topic to talk about today than the coronavirus, or simply "the virus" as I'll call it. I understand why. I can't think of any other event in my seven decades of life that has hit our lives and economy so hard and so unexpectedly than the virus.



MIKE WALDEN
You Decide

I've lived through the Great Recession, 9/11, the stock market crash of 1987, the fall of Saigon, the Kennedy and King assassinations and the Asian Flu pandemic of the late 1950s (more on this later). Each of these events was shocking and unpredictable. In terms of the swiftness and depth of the impact, I'll have to rate today's 2020 Virus Pandemic number one.

There are many elements and aspects to the virus I've been tracking. In this column I put some of them together in the hopes they will provide perspective and insight into the current virus crisis.

The Best Comparison: The current virus has frequently been compared to the 1917-1918 pandemic, which killed over 600,000 people in our country and between 50 and 100 million worldwide. But a better match is the pandemic I lived through in 1957-58 called the Asian Flu. The U.S. lost 116,000 people and the worldwide death toll was between 1 and 4 million. Although businesses weren't ordered to close, many did due to numerous sick workers. A six-month recession resulted with production in the worst months falling 10 percent. Even with double the population today, it appears we could have fewer deaths than in 1957-58. Yet the economic cost may be twice as large.

Questioning the Stock Market: During a recent week when the national death toll from the virus mounted, the stock market soared. Many of my friends were confused, with some thinking the market sim-

ply was stupid or even heartless. Yet there's a simple explanation. Investors in the stock market are always looking ahead. During the week the market rose, investors saw two future positives. One was new forecasts suggesting a much lower death total from the virus than previously predicted. Second was an announcement by the Federal Reserve stating the Fed would be willing to loan funds to private companies and states and cities.

Comparing Costs and Benefits: Governments at all levels have enacted unprecedented mandates restricting business activity and movement of people during the virus crisis. This is the major reason why jobs have been cut, businesses have lost revenues, and the economy is now in a recession. It's been argued these restrictions and resulting economic costs have been necessary in order to restrict the virus' spread, lower virus-related deaths and prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed.

This is a typical benefit/cost tradeoff. The costs of the economic restrictions are the financial losses to businesses and households, but the benefits are fewer lives lost due to containing the spread of the virus.

How can we compare these? Financial losses from closed businesses and higher unemployment can be measured in dollars and cents. What's tougher is putting a financial value on a life. Typically, analysts can only look at part of that value, specifically the earnings from working. For example, if someone dies at age 40, the partial value of their remaining life would be their estimated earnings if they had lived. These earnings would be the value of keeping the person alive.

An economic think tank recently used these principles to evaluate the costs and benefits of keeping restrictions on the economy. The researchers found the relative size of the benefits and costs from closing a large part of the economy depends on the infection rate of the virus. If the infection rate is low, shorter periods of closure appear

to be best, while if the infection rate is high, longer periods of closure are associated with larger benefits compared to costs. The findings suggest the optimal shutdown period for the economy — in which the benefits exceed the costs — can be as brief as two months if the virus' infection rate is low, but as high as eight months if the infection rate is high.

Business Changes: Many futurists think both public and private decision-makers will re-evaluate globalization as a result of the virus. The virus crisis has shown that reliance on foreign countries for key medical supplies as well as other products needed by businesses can put our nation at risk during a pandemic.

North Carolina is positioned to potentially gain from a shift to domestic production. Our state has a long history of apparel production, so increasing the domestic making of items like hospital gowns and masks is a logical fit. The virus crisis has also exposed the country's reliance on foreign producers for many medicines. With a large pharmaceutical sector, North Carolina would be a logical location for a ramp-up of U.S. production of these important items. Lastly, North Carolina has a larger relative concentration of manufacturers than the nation. So any move to relocate foreign manufacturing activities to the U.S. could certainly help our state.

The virus crisis is expected to last several more months, but already we are realizing there may be many lasting comparisons and implications of the deadly disease. Starting to identify and explore those implications now may help better prepare us for the new "normal life" after the virus. But, as always, you decide.

Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook and public policy.

STUDENTS

Continued from page A1

we have to get tough. We're going to do the best we can with what we know and what we have."

Chatham County Schools had 1,197 EC students last December, according to a report from the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction, making up 13.3 percent of the district's student population. Additionally, Chatham Charter School in Siler City had 47, 8.3 percent of its population, and Woods Charter School in Chapel Hill had 73 EC students, making up 14.2 percent of its student population.

A report titled "Supporting Individuals with Autism Through Uncertain Times" from the UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute Autism Team released as the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic said children and young adults with autism — a common disability among EC students — "may need additional support to process the news and adapt to the many changes."

"This population may face additional challenges related to comprehension, communi-



Submitted photo

Chatham Central High School EC teacher Morgan Brewer — shown here in a photo with former student Randa Branson — said teaching her students during COVID-19 has been a challenge worth taking on.

cation, difficulty understanding abstract language, an insistence on sameness, and a greater likelihood of anxiety and depression," the report stated, "all of which may be exacerbated during this stressful period."

One way Chatham County Schools' EC teachers are working with their students during this time is helping

them work through how they're feeling, utilizing what Diggs calls "social stories." These images and other media are designed to help students learn about routines and adjust.

"Many times our students with intellectual disabilities and autism lack the communication skills to say, 'Oh, I'm not feeling well today,' or 'I'm

excited about this new thing coming today,'" Diggs said. "So social stories, social-emotional skills and supports are necessary to provide that way of communicating and teaching them to communicate the best way we can."

Brewer said she's been preaching two messages to her students: she's there for them for anything, and she wants them to keep learning.

"We talk more about what is going on in general and they (those that have decided to) have been telling me more about their families and their home lives," she said. "It also makes me smile to 'see' into their worlds through the video-conference and they love to ask questions about what they 'see' in my house. I am seeing and learning more about my students as a whole not just as the student who needs help with math or reading or emotional control."

Overall, schools are trying to tailor their education to each EC student while trying to provide the same level of service to all. School district teachers hold weekly conferences for their students and provide daily lessons through online platforms, Diggs said. Chatham Central admin-

istrator Beth McCullough said her school's teachers are offering a daily meeting for middle and high school students.

"They know it's a set meeting every day," she said. "They get on and they do exactly what they would be doing in class together."

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, McCullough, Diggs and Brewer each say there have been positives out of the situation.

"They have risen to the occasion," McCullough said. "We've been very proud of them. A lot of the times this is where you see how the training of students comes out where you have to be more independent."

Diggs added, "At the end of the day right now, this is a situation where I am so pleased and so honored to be a part of Chatham County Schools in just trying to do what's best for students and their families and trying to provide good faith efforts in any way that we can."

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

NEIGHBORS

Continued from page A1

family.

"I always prefer helping families directly and feel that others might be more giving when it comes to having a specific family to support," Skumpija said.

Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor builds on that premise. Any Chatham County resident who wants to volunteer to help can access the site from this URL: <https://bit.ly/ChathamNeighbor2Neighbor>

Once there, visitors complete a simple contact form which includes options for ways they can help. At the same time, any Chatham County resident who needs help can, through the same site, complete a form seeking assistance. Volunteers are then "matched" with the neighbor in need.

There is also a version of the same form translated into Spanish called Chatham VecinoAVecino, which can be found at <https://bit.ly/ChathamVecinoAVecino>

It's a simple matter of choosing "I can help others" or "I need help."

From the ground up

Horner and News + Record reporter Casey Mann began collaborating with Caremongering Pittsboro organizers Beal and Skumpija. Mann coordinated the group's online meetings and helped organize a strategy.

"And at this time — we can all feel somewhat helpless — this felt like a great way to have an impact in a time of need while building a stronger community for us all," she said.

"There are so many successful stories through the Caremongering Pittsboro site," Skumpija said. "We are trying to accomplish at a higher level."

The group enlisted the help of Tami Schwerin, executive director of Abundance NC, who brought in Abundance NC Associate Director Ally DeJong and Event Coordinator and Art Director Marcela Slade.

"Abundance is built for this kind of work, with a team of very talented and caring volunteers, so we approached Tami about the idea and she and her team were eager to step in and help manage this," Horner said.

The team worked quickly to construct the back-end organizing tools needed to activate the program. When Chatham residents go to the site and sign up, Abundance NC will contact the appropriate volunteers by skill, resources and geography, then provide contact information for people in need. Volunteers are then directed to reach out to the neighbor in need within 24 hours to coordinate getting them assistance. The team will also follow up with the volunteers to ensure that they were able to complete the request and provide any feedback that could strengthen the program.

"This program points to the philosophy that there is enough," Schwerin said. "We just need to match needs to resources. Abundance NC is excited to help and we think our strong community can make a huge difference in people's lives with benefits to both the giver and the receiver. I can't wait to see the ripple effects."

The team also coordinated with Shawn Poe, execu-

Chatham Groups Offering Help During COVID-19

- AbundanceNC
- Cardinal Innovations
- Chatham Arts Council
- Chatham County Council on Aging
- Chatham County Schools
- Chatham Family Violence Prevention Services/Second Bloom of Chatham
- Connecting Chatham
- CORA Food Pantry
- Hamlet Chapel CME Church
- The Hispanic Liaison/El Vinculo Hispano
- Krippa Family Psychological & Wellness Services
- NC 2-1-1
- NC Families United
- Salvation Army of Chatham County
- United Way of Chatham County
- West Chatham Food Pantry

Graphic by Zachary Horner

tive director of Chatham Trades in Siler City, which provides employment and training for adults with intellectual development disabilities, to connect to the non-profit community. The program can connect those in need to resources available via non-profits for Chatham County residents to meet their needs during this challenging time.

"I have always been committed to helping others," Poe said. "I have a broad knowledge of nonprofit agencies, services and key leaders in community and faith-based groups that can work together for the people of Chatham. Working with Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor allows me to help connect these non-profits and individuals together, especially in West Chatham, to help individuals in need. Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor is truly TEAM work — Together We Achieve More!"

Getting involved

How can you help? Access and complete the Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor form using the weblink

COVID-19: HERE'S THE LATEST

The News + Record has been reporting regularly on actions related to COVID-19, as well as sharing daily counts of positive tests on its website and social media pages. Here's the latest major developments over the last week:

- N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper announced last Friday afternoon that the state's K-12 public school systems would continue remote learning for the remainder of the year and not re-open campuses. The decision followed an earlier executive order that canceled in-person classes until May 15 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- State government leaders announced their plan last Thursday to try to return to business as usual. The three-tiered plan allows for a gradual increase in the number of people allowed in mass gatherings and phased re-opening of currently-closed businesses. The stay-at-home order was extended through May 8.

- As of presstime Tuesday, Chatham County had 274 positive cases of COVID-19, which ranked 7th in the state. That left Chatham with 36.05 cases per 10,000 residents, more than Mecklenburg,

Wake, Orange, Durham and Guilford counties, all of which have vastly higher populations than Chatham.

- Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne on the extension of the stay-at-home order: "We know that the last several weeks have been a trying time for people across Chatham County as we have all been affected by COVID-19. While we realize the sense of urgency to open our businesses and regain some normalcy, the health and safety of our residents and employees is of the utmost importance."

- State Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Chatham) on Chatham's response to COVID-19: "I think Chatham has done an amazing job as the county taking care of (this), but the numbers are alarming. It's scary because part of it was the outbreak obviously at the nursing home. But actually a lot of these cases are completely outside and completely independent of that. The problem that we have is that we're a rural county. But in the areas where people are forced to congregate, they're actually forced to congregate. It's been scary watching it go through Chatham County."

<https://bit.ly/ChathamNeighbor2Neighbor>, or the Spanish version <https://bit.ly/ChathamVecinoAVecino>.

For more information, email news@chathamnr.com and your message will be directed to volunteers.

"The last couple of months have been an extraordinary challenge for all of us," Mann said. "Even so, there are critical unmet needs simply because someone doesn't know who to ask, how to ask, or is reluctant to post something on a public forum. This is a private way to express needs and, with help from the community, see them met."

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Why Chatham health officials aren't sharing specifics on positive COVID-19 cases

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

As Chatham County's COVID-19-related death toll elevated from one to six on Wednesday, the county public health department said it would not reveal information on the deaths.

That's been the standard course for the health department — and many health departments across the state and country — during the COVID-19 pandemic as media and the public pine for more details. But county Public Health Director Layton Long has said from the beginning: that information won't tell you much.

"The focus on testing, I think, really should in the public's mind move away from the actual 'who's got it, who's in our community and where is it' and all these questions to, 'Let's just assume that anybody that you approach potentially has it,'" Long told the News + Record. "It doesn't really matter what part of the county that people live in. You need to treat everybody, and it's not that everybody has it, but practice those social distancing practices that keep you from becoming infected. That is going to apply if the person in front of you is infected, or the person is not affected due to social distancing."

Reason 1: Not Really Relevant

The N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Ser-

VICES has kept a running update on positive tests and deaths, but even that is inconclusive. The webpage where the ticker resides states that "not all cases of COVID-19 are tested, so this does not represent the total number of people in North Carolina who have or had COVID-19," and "deaths reflect deaths in persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 reported by local health departments to the NC Department of Health and Human Services." Long said at last week's Chatham County Board of Commissioners meeting that Chatham's reported number didn't really say much.

"This is not an indicator of the prevalence in the community," he said. "Usually these are populations that have been prioritized. Case numbers are important, but we are not doing broad-based testing to understand the prevalence in the community."

The message is that neither the county nor the state have done widespread enough testing to have a scientifically-accurate picture of just how many people in those areas have COVID-19, so even the numbers could be construed as slightly misleading.

That's the message that Heath Cain, the health director in nearby Lee County, shared Wednesday after Lee announced 16 new cases in the county in one day.

"I recognize that the

increase in reported numbers today may cause some alarm in the community," Cain said in a press release. "Remember, COVID-19 is widespread in the community. This is not a case of knowing where the virus is and avoiding those places to avoid getting sick; the virus is everywhere, there are no safe spots and anytime you leave your home, you risk infection."

Health departments have been fielding questions about where the positive cases are and if it would be helpful to the public to reveal those spots, even at a zip code level. Officials have pointed to two reasons: the widespread nature of the virus and privacy reasons.

Reason 2: Community Spread

As Cain said, the virus' status of community spread across North Carolina and in individual communities means that, according to health experts, it doesn't really matter where the positive cases are or even where they contracted the virus. Officials say it's hard to know where the virus originated from at this point.

Long said on March 24 that with the "initial cases," the health department was in contact with the individuals and were conducting contact tracing.

"Because they were the first case, we knew where they were, and we were trying to manage it at that

level," he said. "And that's what the state was doing initially in the process. And at this point, with community spread, that's, I guess to use the analogy, the horses out of the gate. We've had them in a corral as long as we could contain them, but now they're out. And so we just need to realize that knowing the individual is really not relevant at this point."

Reason 3: Privacy

Another reason is privacy. Health officials have pointed to HIPAA — which stands for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act — laws, which have the purpose of, according to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services summary, "assur(ing) that individuals' health information is properly protected while allowing the flow of health information needed to provide and promote high quality health care and to protect the public's health and well being."

Mike Zelek, the county health department's director of health promotion and policy, said Wednesday that Chatham officials are following guidance from state officials and lawyers who "specialize in HIPAA and communicable disease law."

"COVID-19 is a reportable disease, meaning that medical providers are required to notify the public health department of positive tests," Zelek said. "However, these test results, specific to a per-

son or that person's place employment, are considered protected health information (not public record) and are protected by law. Therefore, we cannot share information that could potentially lead to individuals being identified, other than completed test totals as reported by the state, which are public record. This includes details like geography and employer."

Mountaire Farms and The Laurels of Chatham, two places with reported outbreaks, made public statements themselves, which Zelek said gives the health department an option to "discuss some of the public health department's efforts to respond to some degree, without sharing information specific to the cases beyond what the employer has shared publicly."

"This is not to protect employers," he said, "but to protect the individual's privacy."

Zelek also pointed to guidance from the UNC School of Government, which regularly provides guidance to local governments on various matters. He shared an April 9 article by Jill Moore which stated that novel coronavirus infections fall under the state's Communicable Disease Confidentiality Law, which states that "information that identifies an individual who has or may have a reportable communicable disease or condition is strictly confidential."

"At this time, providing specific health information, like small numbers

of positive test results for a reportable disease in combination with the geographic location at the facility level, makes the protected health information of the individuals served by that facility identifiable," Zelek said.

Reason 4: Testing Limited

Not all counties have followed this procedure. Richmond County, which includes the city of Rockingham and is on the southern border of North Carolina, has revealed the individual ages of those with positive tests, status of those cases and the geographical area of the county where the cases are.

But Long said the Chatham department is not taking that same approach. At Monday's Chatham County Board of Commissioners meeting, he responded to a question from Commissioner Mike Dasher, who asked if it would be better if people knew the rough locations of the positive tests.

"The testing is only reflective of those specific populations have been tested," Long said. "We don't know how many individuals throughout the community have contacted their doctors' office and said, 'I don't feel well, these are my symptoms,' and the advice is (to) stay home."

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

Chatham health official: County's relatively high count not revealing

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Even though Chatham County ranks in the top 10 in North Carolina in both positive tests for COVID-19 and most positive tests per 10,000 residents, the county's top health official says it's not indicative of the virus' spread compared to other counties.

"Health officials have expected North Carolina, including Chatham County, to experience their peak number of COVID-19 cases in mid-to-late April," Layton Long, the county's public health director, told the News + Record Monday. "As testing becomes more available it is not unexpected that the number of positive cases will continue to rise. It is important to understand that the raw number of cases is not a good indicator of disease prevalence in the community."

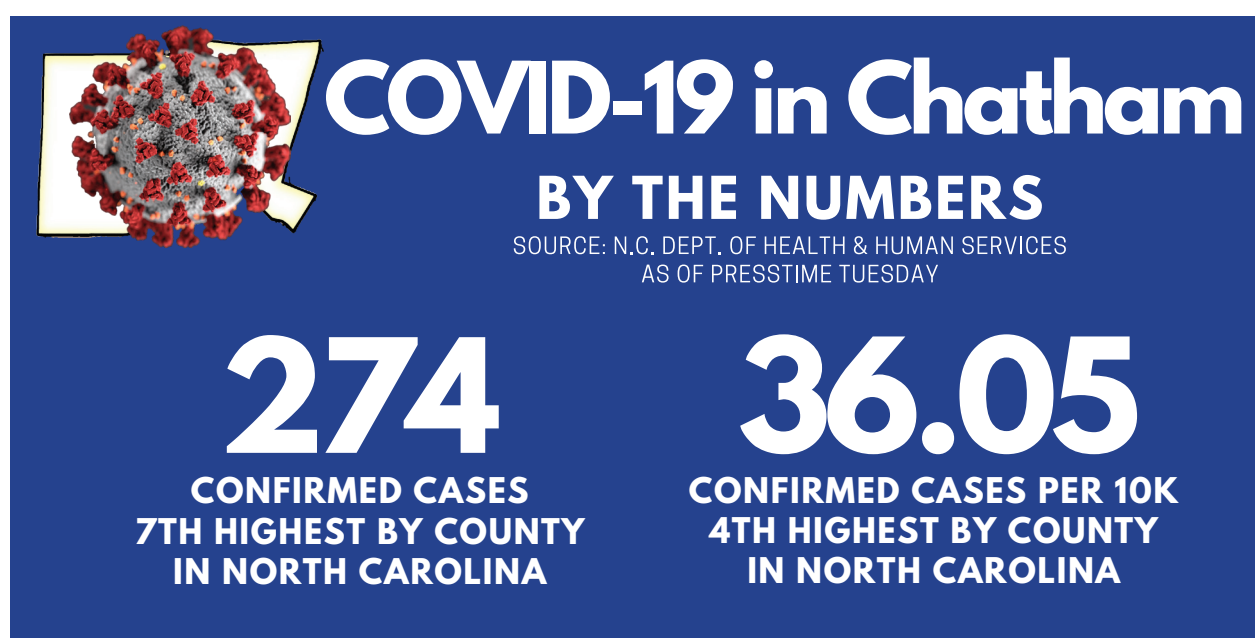
Based on the numbers by presstime Tuesday, Chatham ranks seventh among the state's 100 counties with 274 positive cases and fourth in cases per 10,000 residents at

36.05. But Long cited three reasons why he says that number doesn't mean a whole lot.

First, Chatham has been on the receiving end of more testing than other counties, particularly due to the mass testing at The Laurels of Chatham long-term care facility in Pittsboro and Mountaire Farms poultry processing plant in Siler City. The number of cases in the county as a result of this testing, Long said, has "predictably risen."

County officials have repeatedly stated that the reported number of cases is not reflective of the true spread of COVID-19 in Chatham because widespread testing has not been done. Additionally, the state's count only accounts for "laboratory-confirmed cases," and DHHS has stated that "not all cases of COVID-19 are tested, so this does not represent the total number of people in North Carolina who have or had COVID-19."

Second, per capita data is not necessarily accurate because not every county has had the same number



COVID-19 in Chatham
BY THE NUMBERS
SOURCE: N.C. DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AS OF PRESSTIME TUESDAY

274 CONFIRMED CASES 7TH HIGHEST BY COUNTY IN NORTH CAROLINA	36.05 CONFIRMED CASES PER 10K 4TH HIGHEST BY COUNTY IN NORTH CAROLINA
---	---

Staff graphic by Zachary Horner

of tests.

"If very few tests have been conducted in a county then accordingly, they will have a very low case rate per capita," Long said. "Counties like Chatham where more extensive testing has been performed recently would

have a higher rate of confirmed cases."

Lastly, Long pointed to the lack of studies "for disease prevalence in the community at large" due to shortage of tests. But work is being done on that.

The county is partnering

with the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services and faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill to conduct a several months-long study detailing changes in COVID-19 prevalence in Chatham. The study will use a random sample of county residents using the health

department's Community Assessment cohort to measure "how widespread cases of COVID-19 with mild or no symptoms are in the state." Pitt and Cabarrus counties are also participating in the study.

"This type of assessment is needed to understand the scale of COVID-19 infections in the Chatham community," Long said.

A state government press release said the study will be conducted "over several months," so results are still a decent amount of time away.

"We know we need more testing of all types, and this research partnership will help us better understand the virus so we can keep our communities safe as we seek to ease restrictions," Gov. Roy Cooper said in the release.

Allison Aiello, a professor of epidemiology at UNC, added, "These studies will seek to address some important knowledge gaps while building on existing partnerships."

The county health department, Long said, will continue to emphasize the "highly infectious" nature of COVID-19 and its presence in the community.

"We know that our residents and businesses have sacrificed so much by following the statewide stay-at-home order for nearly a month now," he said. "It is extremely critical that all Chatham County residents remain vigilant and continue to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19."

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



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OBITUARIES

MARY ELLEN KIESAU



June 11, 1974 - April 15, 2020
 Mary Ellen Kiesau, 45, of Mazama, WA, passed peacefully at sunrise on April 15, 2020 after a battle with Melanoma. Born on June 11, 1974, in Durham, NC, Mary was educated in the Durham and Pittsboro, public schools. She graduated from the North Carolina School of Science and Math in 1992. She attended the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Exercise Physiology and Sports Science in 1996. At UNC she was on the rowing team and played

soccer.

As a teenager, Mary's first job was sous-chef at The Hilltop Restaurant in Pittsboro, NC. She also worked security at sporting events during her college years. In 1997, she was sponsored by the Student Conservation Association for placement with the National Trust of Scotland in Glencoe. In 1998, she became the State Environmental Protection Act Coordinator in the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Raleigh, NC. From 1998-2001, she was the Solutions to Sprawl Campaign Coordinator with the Sierra Club in Raleigh, NC, and was instrumental in NC's General Assembly passing the Million Acres Open Space Act of 2000, a signature issue for the North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club.

In 2001, Mary moved to Seattle, WA, and worked as the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Campaign Coordinator for the Sierra Club until 2005, when she moved to The Methow Valley where she was the Educational Programs Director with The Methow Conservancy for 13 years. In 2014, Mary returned to school at Western Washington University earning her Master of Education in Environmental Education where she was the Outstanding Graduate recipient for the Environmental Studies Department. She developed and created Mountain Kind Naturalist, an online community hub for natural history in the Methow Valley. From 2007 until she passed, Mary was also renowned for her photography and Environmental Education Business, Mountain Kind, for which she taught photography, naturalist and art classes, and created beautiful photographic art.

Mary was a seven-year board member at TwispWorks, a six-year board member of the Washington Native Plant Society, and she was a member of the Washington Wine community working at Lost River Winery and Brix Wine Bar in Winthrop. She completed the intensive 16-week Master Gardener Training Program through Washington State University Extension in July 2010. In 2017, she earned a Wildlife Track and Sign Level III Certification. Mary loved cooking, hiking, skiing, biking, going to the movies and The Merc Playhouse, traveling in her camper van, rock climbing, wine tasting, yoga and volunteering as an active member of her community.

Mary is preceded in death by her father David Jennings Kiesau, cousin Susan Kiel, and beloved dog Ceilidhl.

Mary's memory is cherished and honored by her life partner, Merle Kirkley from Mazama, WA, her mother Carolyn Renee Townsend and stepfather Albert Cowardin Capehart Jr. of Pittsboro, NC, her sister Jennifer Ann Krantz, and niece Sara Elizabeth Krantz of Durham, NC, her step-brother Albert Cameron "AC" Capehart and wife Carolyn Fay and their daughter Samantha "Sam" of Charlottesville, VA, Aunt Jane Kiel of Leesburg, FL, Uncle Robert F. Kiesau of La Crosse, WS, Uncle Bert Townsend and wife Elaine of San Luis Obispo, CA, Uncle David Townsend and wife Lesley of Visalia, CA., Uncle Joe Townsend and wife Doris of Redmond, WA., Uncle John Capehart and wife Jane of Winchester, VA, Aunt Ann Scott 'Scotty' Estis and wife Janet of Newport News, VA. She has cousins in California, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin, and friends all over the country. She will be missed by her "fur family" her dogs, Sora, Phoebe, and Freyja along with her Natty cat.

Mary was a passionate life-long learner and she believed that everyone is a student and a teacher, and that when we all share and learn with each other, we enrich our lives and strengthen our community.

There will be a celebration of Mary's life and legacy on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 2 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 204 W. Salisbury St., Pittsboro, NC 27312. (Corvid permitting).

No flowers please. You may send memorial contributions to the North Carolina Sierra Club, 19 W. Hargett St, Raleigh, NC 27601 or TwispWorks, 502 S. Glover St, Twisp, WA 98856. "SHE WAS BRIGHT IN ALL ASPECTS"

ALLEN RICHARD "BUDDY" MANNING



Allen Richard "Buddy" Manning, 78, (Pittsboro, NC) entered into the presence of his Lord Jesus Christ in the early morning hours of April 25th.

He was a caring son and brother and was a devoted loving husband to his lifelong sweetheart Sandra Stubbs Manning for 57 years. He was a beloved Daddy to Deborah Manning, and Jonathan Manning (Beth), proud Granddaddy to Hannah Goodwin Padilla (Joe), Laura Manning Eubanks (Adam), and Jarrett Manning (Rebecca Nance). He also boasted of five great-grandchildren that he loved dearly: Vivian, Libby, Claire, Evan, and Deacon. In addition, he had a special bond with the children of his deceased brother Dale Fuller and Dale's widow Betty (children: Beth Fuller Haddon, Leanne Fuller Davis (Keith) and James Richard "Ricky" Fuller). He loved all his nieces and nephews as if they were his own as well as his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law like siblings. He was a devoted and well-loved friend to many, with a special love of poor folks and animals.

Buddy was born on November 13, 1941, in Nash County, NC. His family later moved to Moncure, then finally Pittsboro. Until his retirement, he worked mostly as a trim carpenter and contractor. He was a highly-skilled craftsman, well-known for his attention to detail, honesty, and work ethic. It would be difficult to drive through Durham, Chapel Hill, or Pittsboro without passing homes he helped build, most notably the "Treasure House" he built for his grandchildren. He was a member of Emmaus Baptist Church where he served several years as a Deacon and in their young men's ministry "Royal Ambassadors." Buddy never met a stranger. He loved to fish, play Rook, make furniture, talk to anyone, and drink sweet tea. Mary will remember him by a familiar request, "Shug, can I get some more sweet tea please?" He will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Allie B. and Sybil Whitaker Manning, brothers Edwin Dale Fuller (Betty Shepherd Fuller), Robert W. Fuller, Jr and Larry W. Manning.

Buddy's family would like to thank the entire staff and the residents of The Laurels of Chatham for the great care, compassion, and friendship they showed him during his stay.

Plans for a memorial service for Buddy will be announced at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests any donations in his memory be made to CORA Food Pantry, www.corafoodpantry.org .

9, 1935 to Dora Wilma Kidd Smith and John Arlie Smith. He retired from NCDOT where he was a mechanic. He attended Needham's Grove Baptist Church. In addition to his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his son, Mark Smith; grandson, Charles Kevin Smith, and sister, Judy Maness.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy H. Smith; daughter, Pam Smith Caviness of Robbins; son, Stevie Lee Smith of Robbins; sisters, Betty Ann Murray of Siler City, Mary Ruth Powers of Bennett, Clara Jean Hussey of Robbins, Carol Hicks of Siler City; brothers, Johnny Smith of Carthage, Jimmy Smith of Camerone, Ronnie Smith of Denton; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, a public gathering will not be held.

A private graveside service for the immediate family was held on Friday, April 24, 2020 at 2 p.m. at Needham's Grove Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. D.J. Harry and Rev. Jimmy Hussey presiding.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Needham's Grove Baptist Church Teen Program, 359 Needham's Grove Road, Seagrove, NC 27341.

Condolences may be offered online at: www.joycebrady-chapel.com .

KIMBERLY ELAINE WEHNER CAMPPBELL

Kimberly Elaine Wehner Campbell, 49, of Pittsboro, died Sunday, April 26, 2020 at home.

There are no services planned at this time. A memorial service will be held at a later date

Kimberly was born in New Haven County, Connecticut on September 29, 1970 to the late Richard Wehner and Linda Bouffard Passco.

Survivors include her husband Allan Campbell, and two daughters, Brittany Ann Campbell and Nicole Renee Campbell.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made to any charity/services helping children, the homeless, American veterans, those fighting substance addiction, or abused/neglected animals. Examples: (Save the Children, savethechildren.org, 501 Kings Highway East, Suite 400, Fairfield, CT 06825), (Disabled American Veterans, dav.org, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-0301) and (the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), aspca.org, 424 East 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128).

Condolences may be made at: www.donaldsonfunerals.com .

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Campbell family.

RAMONA B.X (BYRON) ROWSON

Ramona B.X Rowson, 76, of Cameron, passed away on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 25, 2020 at First Church of Christ (Christ Disciple) in Broadway, with burial following in the church cemetery.

JULIANA VAZQUEZ GARCIA

Juliana Vazquez Garcia, 58, of Robbins, passed away Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at her home.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, a public gathering will not be held.

A memorial service for the immediate family was held Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 2 p.m. at Joyce-Brady Chapel with Father Javier Castrejon presiding.

She was born in San Juan Del Rio Oro, Mexico on April 6, 1962 to Esperanza Garcia and Pedro Vazquez. She was of the Catholic faith. Juliana was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Carlos Martinez Cruz; children, Eleazar Martinez Vazquez and Adrian Martinez Vazquez, both of Robbins, Romina Martinez Vazquez and Feler Martinez Vazquez, both of Siler City, Susana Martinez Vazquez (Nazario Deloya), of Greensboro, Azucena Martinez Vazquez (Edwardo of Robbins; mother, Esperanza Garcia of Mexico, five brothers, five sisters, and eleven grandchildren.

Condolences may be offered online at: www.joycebrady-chapel.com .

CLARENCE LEE "BILL" SMITH

Clarence Lee "Bill" Smith, 84, of Bennett, passed away Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at First Health Hospice.

He was born on September

JAMES EDWARD FREEMAN

James Edward Freeman, 91, of Jamaica Queens, NY at Queen General Hospital Center on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

The wake was held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

AESA AHMIR MARSH

Baby Aesa Ahmir Marsh, 4 months, of Siler City, passed away Sunday, April 19, 2020 at Chatham Hospital in Siler City.

Services entrusted to: Knotts and Son.

JOAQUIN ALBERTO ORTIZ

Mr. Joaquin A. Ortiz, 87, of Pittsboro, passed away Thursday, April 23, 2020 at his residence.

Services are entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

SINCLAIR TAYLOR

Sinclair Hunter Taylor, 80, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, April 24, 2020 at First Health Hospice, West End.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

MICHAEL ANTONIO BELLAMY

Michael Antonio Bellamy, 35, of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

Services were held at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 26, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home with interment following at Minter Cemetery.

TYSONIA FRANCINE (BARKLEY) BRINKLEY

Tysonia "Francine" Brinkley, 69, of Raleigh, passed away Saturday, April 25, 2020 at Hillcrest of Raleigh.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

MERRITT D. LONG

Merritt D. Long, 93, of Pittsboro passed away on Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

Arrangements by: Cremation Society of the Carolinas, Raleigh. (www.CremationSocietyNC.com).

CCCC ranked among nation's Top 50 community colleges

FROM CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SANFORD – Central Carolina Community College has been ranked among the Top 50 community colleges in the nation by College Consensus, a unique college ratings website that aggregates publisher rankings and student reviews.

CCCC is ranked No. 47 in the list — and is the only North Carolina community college listed in the rankings. Previously, CCCC was ranked first in the Niche 2020 Best Community Colleges in North Carolina rankings. There are 58 public community colleges in the North Carolina Community College System.

In addition, CCCC is just one of two schools on the East Coast in the College Consensus community college rankings.

The College Consensus noted that "Central Carolina Community College is considered one of the best community colleges in the United States."

"We are so honored to see this Top 50 recognition from among the many great colleges throughout the nation,"

CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman said of the recognition. "Our current times have required a lot of our CCCC family and every member has risen to the challenge. We know how important our students' successes are to the communities in which we live and serve, and we work every day to improve our support of all of them."

H. Julian Philpott Jr., Chairman of the CCCC Board of Trustees, noted: "We were excited to learn that Central Carolina Community College was recently recognized by College Consensus as one of the Top 50 community colleges in the nation, and the only North Carolina community college to be included in the overall rankings, according to their success in providing a return on investment. This ranking is a direct result of the efforts exhibited on a daily basis by an extremely dedicated administration, faculty, staff and student body to achieve a high standard of excellence and success. The efforts of all of these individuals have been bolstered by a high degree of sup-

port from the elected officials and citizens in Lee, Chatham and Harnett Counties, who recognize that we have an educational gem and outstanding economic driver in CCCC. I know all the Trustees of CCCC join me in offering a resounding congratulations to the CCCC family for this wonderful recognition and a job well done!"

Central Carolina Community College offers a wide variety of programs, as students can earn associate degrees or college transfer credits, diplomas, or certificates. CCCC also offers instruction in such areas as Short-term Job Training, College & Career Readiness, Personal Interests, Business & Industry, and Emergency Services Training.

"CCCC provides a transformative student learning experience," said Dr. Brian S. Merritt, CCCC Vice President of Learning & Workforce Development and Chief Academic Officer. "Our faculty and staff take this mission to heart and prepare our graduates well for the local workforce. We are grateful to College Consensus for this recognition."



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Government leaders consider more funds for small businesses facing COVID-19 hardships

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

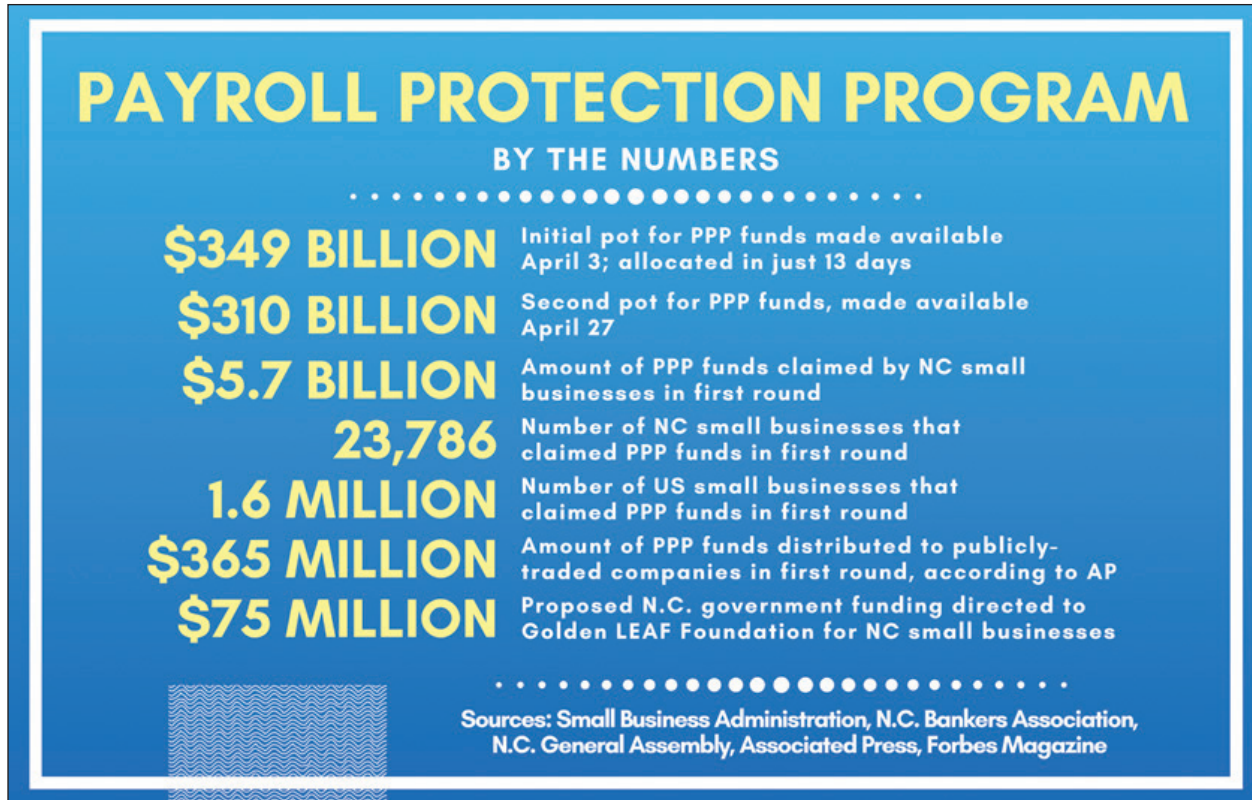
The U.S. government has officially made available a second round of funds for businesses suffering as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic while the North Carolina government debates doing something similar on the state level.

According to an early April report from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, around a quarter of small businesses in the U.S. have temporarily shut down due to COVID-19, with 40 percent of those left over saying they would likely have to shut down within a couple weeks because of the loss of revenue.

To help stem the tide of shutdowns, the federal government enacted the Payroll Protection Program on April 3 as part of the CARES Act, but the available money was sapped by April 16. In North Carolina, banks approved more than 23,000 loans to small businesses worth \$5.7 billion, according to a news release from the N.C. Bankers Association. According to an April 25 article in Forbes, 1.6 million businesses across the country received relief funds.

The funds elapsing led to calls from many — including U.S. Rep. Mark Walker (R-Greensboro), who represents Chatham County in the U.S. House of Representatives — calling for a second round, especially after an Associated Press investigation revealed that at least 94 publicly-traded companies received a \$365 million in loans, despite the money being intended for small business.

“The small businesses needing help in N.C. who I am talking with every



‘In replenishing the PPP funds, banks and big businesses should not be sorting winners and losers. We want all of our small businesses to be winners here.’

U.S. REP. MARK WALKER (R-GREENSBORO), on Twitter April 21.

and, in some instances, commercially available credit,” Effefagh wrote. “The current bill draft would provide direct funding for the initial emergency, low-interest loans.”

N.C. Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Chatham), a member of the Economic Support Working Group, told the News + Record that Golden LEAF “has really stepped up.”

“It’s not the same as the SBA [Small Business Administration] loans that lot of people have heard about that it’d be coming in for the Payroll Protection Act, but it’s more ‘trying to get you through until you can get those funds’ type of loans,” Reives said. “We just recommended a bill to increase that amount, but Golden LEAF’s really trying to make sure that they’re there to kind of fill in the gap.”

Reives added that the Golden LEAF funds may become part of a larger spending bill from the state, but said that funding pot would likely “stay as it is.”

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

day don’t have shareholders,” Walker tweeted on April 21, linking to the AP article. “In replenishing the PPP funds, banks and big businesses should not be sorting winners and losers. We want all of our small businesses to be winners here.”

Congress turned around quickly, passing a second bill setting aside \$310 billion for the PPP on April 23. It was supported by Walker, along with Reps. Ted Budd (R-Davie County) and David Price (D-Raleigh). Budd and Price currently represent districts which will include Chatham starting next year and both are seeking re-election on November ballots.

“I know small business owners do not have the luxury of time — they need relief now,” Price tweeted on April 17. “I support efforts to quickly replenish funding and implement reforms

to not only improve the process but ensure independent small businesses get their fair share of funding.”

In a press release on the day of the vote, Budd said, “Renewing the Paycheck Protection Program was a necessary step to provide additional lifelines to workers and job creators across the country. The pain of losing a job or being forced to lay someone off is something far too many of our fellow Americans are facing.”

The new PPP funds were made available on Monday.

North Carolina’s government may not be too far behind in providing its own assistance for small businesses. The Economic Support Working Group of the N.C. House Select Committee on COVID-19 has supported a bill that would appropriate \$75 million of state money to

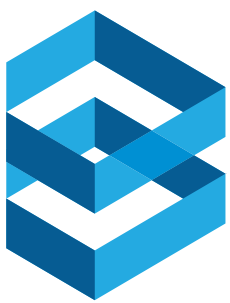


the Golden LEAF Foundation (GLF), a nonprofit that administers and supplies grant funds across the state, to add to its NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Loan Program.

Golden LEAF had made \$15 million available through a variety of funders early in the pandemic, but those funds were claimed. This second pot of money would “provide emergency bridge loan funding

for small businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 epidemic,” according to an analysis of the bill by legislative counsel Dan Effefagh.

“In periods of past disaster, GLF has provided low-interest emergency bridge loans, and the State has provided subsequent funding for longer-term small business loans with rates generally less favorable than federal SBA loan rates



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Bowen Insurance Agency has a new location in Pittsboro (formerly APC Insurance)!

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CHURCH NEWS

Events listed are subject to change in consideration of closures due to the coronavirus. Reach out to the individual Churches prior to events to verify.

your car for the entire service. There will be a message by Pastor Allen and music by Randy Johnson and Angelynn Fox.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church of Siler City will hold a drive-in Sunday morning worship service at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 3. The service will be held in the parking lot on the Smith and Buckner side of the church. Please arrive and remain in

LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

You are invited to hear the April 26 sermon from Loves Creek Baptist Church (and other recent ones) presented by Pastor Kenny Black. Just go to the church website, LovesCreek.org. You can also see them on YouTube at PastorKenny@LovesCreek.

Pie, Oh Pie

My mom makes amazing pies. Her apple, pecan, and lemon meringue are pies of family legend. But she never makes her own crust. She uses the boxed Pillsbury crusts found in the dairy section of the supermarket. That's what I always did as well until I discovered pastry making is way easier than I'd thought. Just use a good recipe and avoid overworking the dough. That's it. I'm still struggling with

DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

A slice of drunken custard pie, ready to eat.

sweet, traditional pies. But I can turn out a killer savory hand pie. I'm sharing my Tex-Mex chicken filling, but I strongly urge you to use your imagination and get creative. Good luck, and happy pie-ing. Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

Drunken Pie Crust

Vodka is added to lower the chances of gluten developing. Gluten is the protein that makes bread dough stretchy. It can also make a disappointingly chewy pie crust. The secret of a light flaky crust is to stop kneading the second you can press a bit of dough in your hand and it keeps its shape.

The crust should be cold when it hits the hot oven. This accomplishes two things. The butter will melt all at once, and the steam that is produced will create little air pockets, which contributes to a flaky mouth-feel. And there will be very little shrinkage before the pastry is set, so the pie crust won't retreat down the sides of the pan.

- 1 cup butter (2 sticks), cubed and chilled
- 2 1/2 cups + 1/2 tablespoon cake flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons very cold vodka (Vodka is tasteless in the cooked crust. But feel free to add another kind to lend flavor to the finished product;
- bourbon for pecan or apple for example, or tequila for the Tex-Mex pie.)
- 5-8 tablespoons ice water

Put the butter, flour, and salt in the food processor, and pulse lightly just until mixture resembles wet sand. Add vodka, then water, 1 tablespoon at a time, pulsing briefly after each spoonful. Keep adding liquid until the dough just begins to gather into larger clumps. Pour dough onto flat surface and lightly knead just until it comes together.

Divide dough in half and transfer into re-sealable plastic bags and pat into disks. Let rest in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Or freeze for later.

Before baking, chill formed dough for 30-60 minutes. Bake at 425° until golden; timing depends on size and shape of product.

Tex-Mex Chicken Filling

- 1 1/2 cups cooked chicken
- 1/2 cup frozen, thawed corn (fire-roasted, if you can find it)
- 1 can chopped green chiles, drained
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/4-1/2 cup salsa of your choice
- Salt & pepper
- 1 tablespoon heavy cream

Stir together first four ingredients and add salsa until just moistened.* Season, taste and reseason, if necessary. (*If the filling's too wet, product will end up gummy and unbaked.)

Divide each dough disk into two pieces and roll each piece into a circle approximately 1/8-inch thick. Put one quarter of filling on each circle and paint the edges with a little water. Fold dough over and seal with a fork, making sure there are no gaps or tears.

Before baking, paint the tops with a little heavy cream, sprinkle with a tiny bit of cheese, and season. Cut 2-3 small slits in top to vent, after sprinkling and painting.

Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour, or up to 3 days (You can also double wrap separately and freeze for up to six weeks, then thaw in fridge overnight).

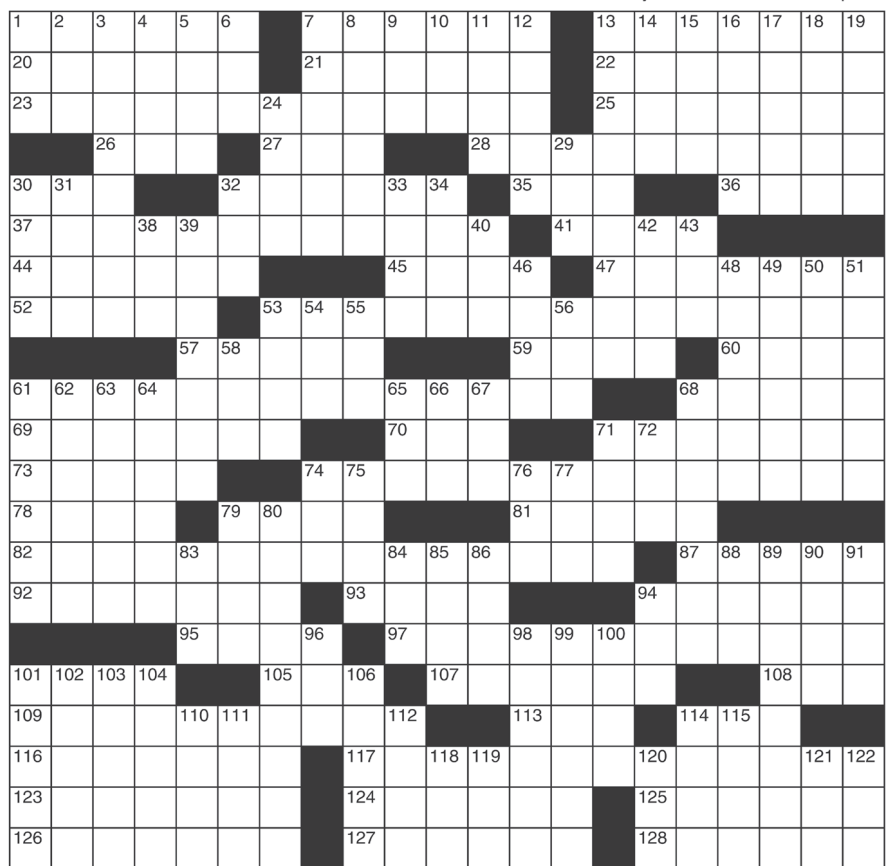
Bake at 425° on parchment-covered baking sheet 30-45 minutes or until browned and filling inside reaches 165°.

Serves four.

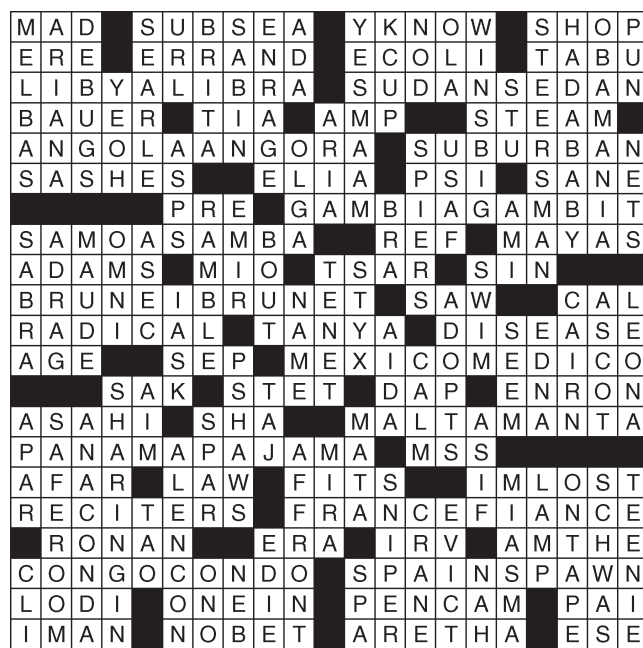
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



NEWS BRIEFS

COVID-19 Impact on NCDOT revenues forces delays

Department anticipates significant impacts to all programs and services. RALEIGH — As people across North Carolina have taken lifesaving measures to stop the spread of COVID-19, traffic volumes have plummeted, causing at least a \$300 million budget shortfall for the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for this fiscal year (ending June 30). Because NCDOT revenue is fully funded through the Motor Fuels Tax, Highway Use Tax and DMV fees, this significant impact has forced the department to notify local governments, stakeholders and the general public that all but about 50 major projects scheduled to start in the next 12 months are delayed. Projects moving forward are funded by GARVEE bonds, BUILD NC bonds and federal grants. A list of the projects that are still scheduled to be awarded in the next year is available on the NCDOT website. The list of projects that have schedule changes is attached. These changes do not affect construction projects

already underway or that have already been awarded. The department is taking other significant steps to decrease expenditures, including:

- Allowing only mission critical purchases
- Laying off temporary and embedded consultants
- Suspending or decreasing many programs and services
- Hiring freeze (except for positions that impact public safety)

The department is in the process of developing plans for potential furloughs and a Reduction in Force (RIF). Those plans are not yet complete and no decision has been made at this time to enact them.

— CN+R staff reports

Beginning Monday May 4, 2020, the Town of Siler City will be testing fire hydrants throughout town.

The testing will begin on North and South Second Avenue, continuing to all points west. This process may take several days to complete. Persons living in these areas should be aware of possible discolored water. **Please avoid washing clothes during this time.** Should your water become discolored, allow your tap to run briefly to return clear water to your residence. **If you need additional information contact City Hall at 742-4732.**

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‘CHANGING WITH THE TIMES’

Going, going, gone: local auction company takes business online

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Five years ago, Michael Rogers transitioned his local auction and real estate business nearly entirely online.

The move has proven a good one, Rogers said, with business steady since.

And it's been especially helpful in keeping his Silk Hope-based Rogers Auctions going strong during the coronavirus pandemic, which, with resulting social distancing measures in place to help thwart the virus, has prompted many other businesses to turn more to the internet for traction.

But for Rogers, the last few weeks — which have seen changes in the ways many businesses conduct their work — have been business as usual.

Last Wednesday, the veteran auctioneer was working in downtown Chapel Hill preparing for a May 29 auction of transportation and shuttle buses to liquidate inventory for an Orange County business whose owner is retiring.

The vehicle auction is just one of several upcoming sales listed on Rogers Auctions' website. The local auction company is also planning May sales of farm equipment, vending machines, coins, guns, antiques, tools and machinery.

"We're as busy as we've ever been," Rogers said. "We're pretty steady."

Business, likewise, is going well for Scott Harris and his team at Harris Realty & Auction in Siler City, though Harris has had to make some adjustments because of social distancing.

As a response, ear-

lier this month Harris Auctions launched its first-ever online auction of antiques and collectibles.

"It's the first one we've done," Harris said. "It's a whole different way of doing business, but it's going well."

Harris and his crew survey their auction inventory, photograph items, write descriptions, establish beginning and end times for bidding, and post the items online.

Successful bidders establish a time with the auction company to pick up purchased item with a paid receipt, limiting social contact. Harris said he can also make arrangements to mail some items, if that's a successful bidder's preference.

It's a "big adjustment" for the Siler City business, Harris said, which routinely conducts large-scale estate sales in Chatham County that easily draw crowds of 200 or more people, sometimes "in pretty cramped spaces."

Such events aren't possible with current social distancing restrictions in place; and those traditional and popular forms of auction sales may be on hold for a while.

"Honestly, I don't know when we're going to be able to get back to normal on that," Harris said.

In the meantime, the company's first online auction is going well, with some interesting things up for bid.

"We've got a 5-cent slot machine made by Sega," Harris said. "It actually still works."

Also up for bid is a train ticket dating to May 5, 1938, good (at the time) for "one continuous passage" aboard the Atlantic and



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Although the large-scale estate auctions, which sometimes draw crowds of more than 200, aren't possible now, Scott Harris of Harris Realty & Auction said the Siler City business has made necessary adjustments, including online auctions.

Yadkin Railroad Company's line between Siler City and Ore Hill (near Bonlee).

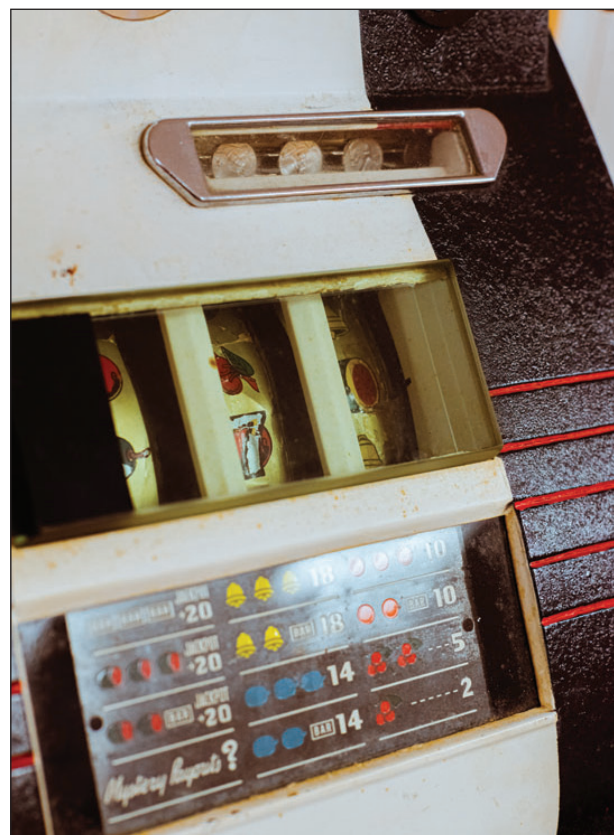
"It's very, very rare," Harris said.

Bidding has been brisk, with the slot machine amassing 18 bids by Tuesday; the vintage train ticket 10.

Harris said his company is planning additional online auctions in the coming weeks.

"It's different for us, but it's helping us keep the business going," Harris said. "We're just changing with the times."

Randall Rigsbee can be reached at rigsbee@chathamnr.com.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Harris Realty & Auction in Siler City has gone online for its latest auction, which includes this still-working nickel slot machine.



Scott Harris says successful bidders on these and other items may make arrangements to pick up their purchases from the Siler City business.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



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www.OldNorthStateWater.com.



UNC

Continued from page A1

Not on the schedule

Third- and fourth-year med students at UNC spend most of their time in clinics, practical learning as part of their education. But both Ford, from Durham, and Smith, a Stokes County native, had their clinic work cut short when the university canceled in-person classes.

“I was sitting around, twiddling my thumbs, looking for something to do,” Smith said.

Then Ford reached out, and Smith got involved. Meredith Bazemore, the director of rural initiative and recruitment at the UNC School of Medicine, helped facilitate that.

“The initiative was founded and established to recruit, educate, train and retain physicians who want to stay in rural North Carolina,” Bazemore said. “So we work with these students across their entire medical school career and then out into residency and try to plan them back in rural North Carolina in partnership with lots of people.”

All of the initiative’s projects were halted, she said. But then students got involved.

Beginning in mid-March, Ford and Smith began rallying students to do a lot of things — among them deliveries and collection of meals, incontinence supplies, books and toilet paper.

Ford said seniors are worth the focus right now because of their status, particularly during the pandemic, as “the most vulnerable population.”

“And irrespective of COVID, they’re still vulnerable, outside of a pandemic,” he said. “I think this kind of situation presented some unique challenges to them, because a lot of services they rely on were cut back or put under strain when the healthcare system was



Submitted photo

Third-year UNC med student Brandon Feaster, left, and Chatham County Council on Aging staff member Wynne Fields deliver incontinence supplies to seniors in Chatham. Several UNC medical school students have been volunteering in and around Chatham to support the COA’s work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

just focused on addressing immediate needs and shortage of resources and a lot of the community and social aspects of health.”

Addressing the mental side

Something Ford, Smith and Bazemore each addressed was the importance of keeping socialization front-and-center during the pandemic. Smith said friendly calls — something the Council on Aging has been doing since its Senior Centers closed in March — to homebound seniors have surprised him.

“Just chatting with some of our seniors that our volunteers have called — they’re really, really thankful for those and appreciative,” Smith said. “I guess I underestimated the impact that would have and I think some of our volunteers did too. I really walked away having a rewarding experience getting to chat with those folks.”

Individuals 65 and older made up 24 percent of Chatham County’s population in 2017, compared to 22 percent of the population ages 0-19. Earlier this month, Streets told the News + Record he estimated that the “vast majority” of seniors in Chatham live out in the county,

not around others or in congregate communities. A number of those seniors are struggling with technology and thus aren’t able to connect as well, Smith said, with others.

“When I think about social isolation, our aging population in rural areas is one of the first groups that I worry about,” he said. “So I’m really glad we’ve been able to do those calls. I wish we could do something more face-to-face, and maybe we’ll be able to get that capacity at some point.”

Ford said individuals who are already dealing with mental health issues like depression and anxiety, or who have lost loved ones recently and are wrestling with grief, will only see those situations exacerbated right now.

“The mental health consequences also have an impact on physical health,” he said. “If you have uncontrolled depression or you just feel lonely, and you don’t have any meaningful social interaction, it’s much less likely that you’re going to take care of your physical health. You’re not going to go to the pharmacy to get the medications you need. If you have diabetes, you’re not going to be willing to and wanting to



Submitted photo

Luke Ford, a fourth-year medical student at UNC-Chapel Hill shown here, is leading a group of Carolina students doing service projects for seniors in Chatham County who are mostly shut in by the COVID-19 pandemic.

check your blood sugar, take your hypertension medication, all that kind of stuff.”

Limitations on church attendance by government executive order, Ford said, will also add to those feelings of isolation. According to a July 2019 report from the Barna Group, a research firm that tracks the role of faith in America, 83 percent of individuals born before 1946 and 80 percent born between 1946 and 1964 identify as Christians, compared to 73 percent between the ages of 21 and 35 and 64 percent of those under 21.

“The church is just such an integral part and in a lot of cases the most important part of people’s social and spiritual lives,” he said. “Not being able to go to the Mass or the service you go to once a week or more than once a week is something that I think people probably never had to experience in their life.”

Potential to expand

With no certain end date in sight for the COVID-19 pandemic, there’s no certain end date for the work Ford, Smith and other UNC students are doing in Chatham. There are plans to do ramp-building with the nonprofit Rebuilding Together of the Triangle, and a personal protective equipment drive is in the works.

Bazemore said it could be the start of something to expand.

“This has really been an impetus to think about partnership in Chatham County” she said. “Even as things shift back to classroom experiences, I see a lot of opportunity to continue engagement from the student side.”

For Ford and Smith, it has been an opportunity to engage in what they want to do with their careers, work in rural areas. Ford said he is drawn to rural commu-

nities because of their often close-knit nature.

“The most successful doctors in rural communities aren’t just a doctor,” he said. “They’re a part of the community. They help, they know everyone, they go to the same church as the people in their clinic. They’re more than just a physician.”

Smith said he hopes to carry some of the things he’s learned during his service in Chatham into his career, wherever that ends up being. He grew up in the unincorporated community of Sandy Ridge in Stokes County, which rests on the North Carolina-Virginia border.

“This has highlighted a lot of disparities, and maybe we shouldn’t back to normal,” he said. “Maybe we should try to learn some things from this. How can we implement telehealth? How can we improve senior services? These are things that we should really consider in rural areas.”

Streets pointed to the work the students have done, particularly one example, as to their effect in Chatham. The group set up a GoFundMe page for hygiene supplies that raised more than \$500.

“When we collectively wondered how we could meet certain requests, they set up a GoFundMe site entitled ‘Join us in helping our senior neighbors!’” Streets said. “That’s a very appropriate name, as I imagine that a number of these students likely had not ventured into Chatham before COVID-19. Now they have traversed the county helping their senior neighbors here in Chatham.”

However long the COVID-19 pandemic lasts, these students have pledged to continue helping their neighbors from the county next door.

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

Tinker Farm Powers Up Chatham Park

New Solar Farm supplies energy to 750 homes

On your scenic drives through the winding lanes in Chatham Park, you won’t see it past the forest. But beyond the edges of Moncure Pittsboro Road, sits Tinker Farm, the first of Chatham Park’s solar farms.

The 44.89-acre farm, completed in late 2018 by Strata Solar, already supplies energy to about 750 homes. This means more energy efficiency and cost savings for Chatham residents.

When the sun is at its brightest and its heat barreling down, Tinker Farm can generate 5-megawatts of power. That energy is then sent straight to Duke Energy’s power grid - meaning less electricity is needed from non-renewable sources.

Natural Vegetation Adds Function & Beauty

Not only does Tinker Farm house the solar panels, it functions as an ecological resource to the community as well. Across 12 acres of land, Strata Solar has planted native grasses and wildflowers – including Plains Coreopsis, annual Red Phlox, Indian Blanket, Black-Eyed Susan, Butterfly Weed, Purple Coneflower, Red Standing Cypress, Blazing Star, Wild Lupine, Scarlet Sage, and Spiderwort. Together, these plants provide the following environmentally-friendly benefits:

- Help pollinators such as birds, butterflies, and other beneficial insects find a habitat and food source, thereby increasing pollinator populations
- Require less irrigation, fertilization, and pesticides, since they are more acclimated to native climates, soils, and pests
- Deeper roots systems and are more efficient at aiding in rainwater infiltration and pollutant removal than turf grasses
- Support local ecologies in areas of development by providing a ‘bridge’ to nearby remaining wildlands



Chatham Park’s Tinker Farm off of Moncure-Pittsboro Road

Did you know?

North Carolina has the second largest installed solar base in the US, behind California! Yet, only 0.19% of cropland (9,000 acres) in North Carolina has been repurposed from agriculture to utility-scale solar installations.

- Tinker Farm is the second solar farm in Chatham County.
- It took three years to build the 44.89-acre farm. It opened in late 2018.
- Tinker Farm’s solar panels do not mix water or vaporize into the air, so no harmful substances are released into the environment.
- The panels at Tinker Farm are made to endure all weather conditions and all of the electrical equipment is sealed to ensure public safety.

North Carolina has the second largest installed solar base in the United States, behind California!

Clean Technology

At Chatham Park, we believe that clean, sustainable technology can improve landscapes to create environmentally-conscious communities.

Samuel Judd, Development Manager at Strata Solar, adds that Chatham Park “has made a commitment to environmental, economic, and social sustainability, and Strata is thrilled to be able to bring our experience to help realize this commitment.”

Tinker Farm is the latest illustration of what sets Chatham Park apart from other communities. In addition to solar farms, new smart homes will be 30% more energy efficient than other homes in the area.



Visit us at ChathamPark.com

A DAY IN THE LIFE: TEACHING FROM HOME

For Chatham's educators, student communication and motivation are just the start of daily challenges



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Laurie Paige is a Chatham Central High School teacher and 2019 Teacher of the Year. Paige said she's found many of her students are working during the day since schools were closed. She's adjusted her day to be available later for her students, sometimes not shutting down her work until 1 a.m.

'It's very hard to go from seeing your students five days a week to now'

BY CASEY MANN
 News + Record Staff

In March, when a state stay-at-home order forced educators to begin teaching students remotely, Chatham Central teacher Laurie Paige started "Paige Academy" at her home.

Paige, a 20-year veteran history teacher of who last year was honored as Chatham County's Teacher of the Year, established a plan and a routine for her family — ringing a bell first thing in the morning to signal to her two children, 3rd and 9th graders, the school day was beginning. During mornings, she focuses on helping her younger child complete his school material by lunch, so she could focus on her high school students in the afternoon — all the while keeping a close eye on her 9th grader's progress in his four classes.

"That lasted two weeks," Paige said. "Then it just became survival of the fittest at that point. It just wasn't realistic."

Teachers across the state have been working from home, educating students from a distance since N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper's order to close schools because of the COVID-19 pandemic in March.

Two Chatham County teachers shared their experiences with the News + Record — Paige and Olivia Metcalf, who is in her second year teaching at Margaret Pollard Middle School. How they are spending their days now demonstrate just some of the ways teachers in Chatham County are working to not only continue educating their students, but also provide the social and emotional support their students and parents need right now.

Metcalf has been teaching her students remotely from the Wake County home she shares with her French bulldog, Luna. Metcalf is a self-proclaimed "early morning person." Each school day, she wakes up early to check email and figure out plans for the day. She creates a checklist of meetings, which include online classes and required school staff meetings, and reviews the "tracking" of communications with her students.

"I keep track of the kids I've talked to," Metcalf said. "And I work to connect with kids who may have challenges in communicating."

Metcalf said that she works "about the same" amount of time teaching as when she was in the classroom, but she spends a lot more time on planning. She provides work for

students two weeks in advance and schedules "check-ins" with students and provides question and answer periods for them.

On the other hand, Paige has discovered that she has had to adapt her work time to be available to her high school students. She originally set up office hours from 10 to 11 a.m., but found her students were not always available at that time. "That was very unrealistic," Paige said. "A lot of students are working a lot of hours [at jobs] during the day. The kids who work at Food Lion are working almost full-time. A lot of my students are working and working excessively."

As a result, she has been receiving a lot of late-night emails and messages from her

sometimes hold those Zooms in the evening when her students are available.

"Most of my day is spent trying to keep up with my students and communicating with parents," Paige said. "[If I saw my students everyday in the classroom] they would be in tune and keeping up with work. Now if they don't show to a zoom or turn in assignments, I know I need to reach out. Something has happened, something is different. I'm constantly working, letting the kids know I'm there for them and support them."

Metcalf estimates that about 15 percent of her students don't have access to internet service. For those students, she created paper versions of her lessons. She said it's the same content, but "maybe not as engaging as online." Even with the digital gap, Metcalf noted that those students are still finding ways to be able to communicate with her, whether by email or by phone.

"I'm in constant communication with kids and parents," she said. "It's very hard to go from seeing your students five days a week to now. They are missing the social aspect, they don't get to socialize with classmates. They're having a hard time at home. It's different, odd and feels weird. I miss seeing them so when I get to see them on Zoom or talk on the phone, it's so nice to have that. Being able to communicate, using personalized communication, that's really valuable to me."

'It's like building a plane while it's flying.'

LAURIE PAGE,
 Teacher at Chatham Central High School, 2018-2019 Chatham County Teacher of the Year.

students. She said that some days she doesn't even turn off her computer until 1 a.m.

"Most are doing their school work at night," she said. "So I've readjusted my schedule to be available later in the day. If a student asks a question, I want to be able to answer it. We've had to adjust our time-frames to be more flexible to our students' needs."

Keeping in touch

For these teachers, their biggest priorities are communicating with their students and parents.

Paige starts each day sending a "Remind," a phone application for school communication, to her students alerting them to what assignments they need to be working on. She ends each day with another message recapping what they should have gotten done or accomplished for the day.

She records her lessons for each chapter for the students to use followed by assignments to ensure they have mastered the material. For each one of her four classes, she schedules at least one virtual class on Zoom, a video conferencing tool. Since many of her students are working during the day, she will

Challenges

For Paige, the biggest challenge is keeping her students motivated, especially her seniors. Schools were originally informed that students who were seniors would be graded using a "pass/fail" model, meaning that if they had passing grades as of March 13, they would pass their classes. If they were failing as of that date, they would be able to pull up their grades during virtual learning to receive a passing grade. Though the state provided updated guidance last Friday that students could have the option to use number grades instead of pass/fail, up until now, keeping those students engaged has been an uphill battle.

"My biggest challenge is keeping the students motivated to do the work," Paige said. "Giving them reasons to continue, especially the seniors. I just keep encouraging them to work for the AP exam. It's really, really hard."

"I'm feeling a lot of pressure," Metcalf said. "These kids are going into high school next

See **EDUCATORS**, page B2



Submitted photo

Margaret Pollard Middle School teacher Olivia Metcalf has been instructing her students virtually from her Wake County home with her dog, Luna, since the state issued the closure of schools on March 14.

'LIKE A SNOW DAY THAT NEVER ENDED'

'We teach!' A teacher seeks to find a new normal

BY SUSAN LOFLIN
 4th Grade Teacher, Bennett School

This has been such a stressful, frustrating and overwhelming time for everyone. No matter what our occupation or status in life, we have all been touched in some way, shape or form.

As educators, we typically love a routine and a schedule, so dealing with a pandemic in the middle of a school year was not a part of our original lesson plans. This has been like a snow day that never ended but then morphed into something altogether different from anything any of us have ever experienced before. All of us have struggled to find a new normal and a new way of continuing to educate our students, because that is what we do. We teach!

We know our students and how they learn best, so that was the defining moment in planning what to do next. We all struggled with the question of how we move forward and allow learning to continue in the middle of all of this uncertainty. Each day in the classroom, we know that we have to take our students as they are with all of their individual learning capabilities and environments

and grow them as learners. We differentiate to meet our student's individual needs, so now we also had to differentiate to meet their individual learning environments. Although the county provided us with a plethora of resources, it wasn't realistic to think that every student in every classroom would have the resources at home to take advantage of those learning opportunities.

As a school, our teachers created learning packets focusing on reading, math, science and social studies with activities for the students to do at home to supplement the district resources. Activities were differentiated giving them options of learning activities. Some activities required internet access, and others did not. It was important to offer many options for learning and to exercise a lot of flexibility.

This was the most frustrating part for me. During the creation and building of my learning packets, I would have to just get up and walk away from my table at times because the task was so overwhelming. After I finally decided which standards I would focus on because this learning must be focused and meaningful, I struggled with the best way to organize



Submitted photo

Susan Loflin, fourth grade teacher at Bennett School, took a picture of her empty classroom before she sent home the first round of at-home learning packets. She said she took the photo to "record this moment in history."

everything. In my head I kept hearing [Chatham County Schools Executive Director of

Federal Programs and School Improvement] Carrie Little's advice she would share when I

worked with the team to create

See **NORMAL**, page B3

A GOOD TIME TO QUIT

Smoking cessation help still available during pandemic

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — With the threat of a serious respiratory illness in COVID-19, tobacco smokers may be looking to kick the habit now — and resources are available that can help them while still maintaining social distancing.

“It is always a good time to quit, no matter your age or how long you have been using tobacco,” said Anna Stormzand, Youth Health and Tobacco Initiatives Lead with the Chatham County Public Health Department’s Health Promotion and Policy Division.

“We now know that people with certain health conditions, like respiratory and lung disease, are at higher risk of getting sicker from the new coronavirus, or COVID-19,” Stormzand said. “Many of these conditions are caused or made worse by using tobacco and vaping products.”

For smokers aiming to quit tobacco or vaping (or needing support remaining tobacco-free), there are “several options to help, including ones that can be done by phone so people don’t have to risk close contact,” she said.

Even though in-person classes and face to face appointments with medical providers may not be an option right now, Stormzand said there are several options to help people quit during this pandemic, including the county health department’s free QuitSmart classes.

“Out of safety precautions and with the current stay-at-home orders,” Stormzand said, “the Chatham County Public Health Department will be hosting free QuitSmart classes virtually this year starting in May.”



Want to Quit Smoking?

The Chatham County Public Health Department will host free QuitSmart classes virtually for smokers aiming to kick the tobacco habit.

Four classes, each running from 12 to 1:15 p.m., will be held Thursdays, May 7, 14 and 28, and Tuesday, June 2.

Contact Anna Stormzand with the Chatham County Public Health Department at 984-214-2060 or email her at anna.stormzand@chathamnc.org for more information or to reserve a spot.

Participants in the program will still receive two free weeks of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) patches, support from other participants trying to quit tobacco, and a personalized quit plan. The four classes will be held on Thursdays — May 7th, 14th and 28th — and on Tuesday, June 2nd, with each class running from 12 to 1:15 pm. Participants will be able to join these classes any way that works for them, either online or by phone. Contact 984-214-2060 or email Stormzand at anna.stormzand@chathamnc.org for more information or to reserve a spot for the classes.

Another great option during this time is the QuitlineNC or 1-800 QUIT-

NOW, Stormzand said.

QuitlineNC is free smoking cessation program for all types of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes. The quitline provides up to four free counseling sessions, and even more for pregnant women, those with mental health conditions, and teenagers, with a trained counselor over the phone or through an online program or text messaging service. Many participants are also eligible for free NRTs such as patches, lozenges, and gum that will be sent directly to their home. To learn more about this free resource, call 1-800 QUIT NOW or visit <http://www.quitline.com/>.

Stormzand said quitting tobacco habits can be

hard, but it is achievable.

“The decision to quit is a personal decision,” she said, “and may be difficult, but you can quit for good. The most effective tobacco treatment includes three things: support, counseling, and medications to help alleviate the withdrawal symptoms and cravings people often experience when trying to quit. The goal of a successful quit process is to stay comfortable. This is done by steadily reducing nicotine levels, replacing the habits associated with tobacco use, and learning new coping mechanisms for dealing with stressors and other triggers.”

Some smokers cite stress as a reason they continue to light up and

quitting during a stressful time such as pandemic could seem insurmountable to some smokers.

“This is definitely hard because stress is one of the biggest triggers for many people to use tobacco products,” Stormzand said. “Another common trigger for many is being alone...two things that are unfortunately both occurring right now during COVID-19 for many people. It is really important to identify what your triggers are and make a plan for when you know they may occur. Find something that you enjoy doing and make a plan to do it when you may encounter these triggers.”

Stormzand said some ideas that have worked for others to ease the discomfort of quitting tobacco include: Take a walk down to the mailbox or around your house; call a friend; keep your hands and mouth busy with a cigarette substitute (toothpick, straw, ice, gum, candy, carrot stick, etc.); listen to music; use a stress ball or fidget spinner; take deep breaths like you normally would when smoking.

“The good news is that typically cravings only last a few minutes, so if you can distract yourself for that time period the intense feelings will often subside,” Stormzand said. “I would also recommend over-the-counter NRT patches, gum, and lozenges to help alleviate withdrawal symptoms that are associated with triggers like stress.”

The county health department hasn’t seen an increase in demand for smoking cessation help, Stormzand said, “but we know that there are lots of people worried about their risks posed by COVID-19. We hope that we are able to connect these individuals with evidence-based tobacco

dependence treatment, like QuitSmart or the Quitline, from the comfort of their home so they can start to make changes in their lives to improve their health right now.”

Many medical providers are able to offer telehealth appointments as well, Stormzand said.

Duke’s Smoking Cessation Program (919-613-7848) and the UNC Tobacco Cessation Program are also offering teletherapy to help individuals quit smoking during the pandemic. To make an appointment with UNC, call 984-974-4976 or email ttp@med.unc.edu.

Worth knowing.
Worth reading.

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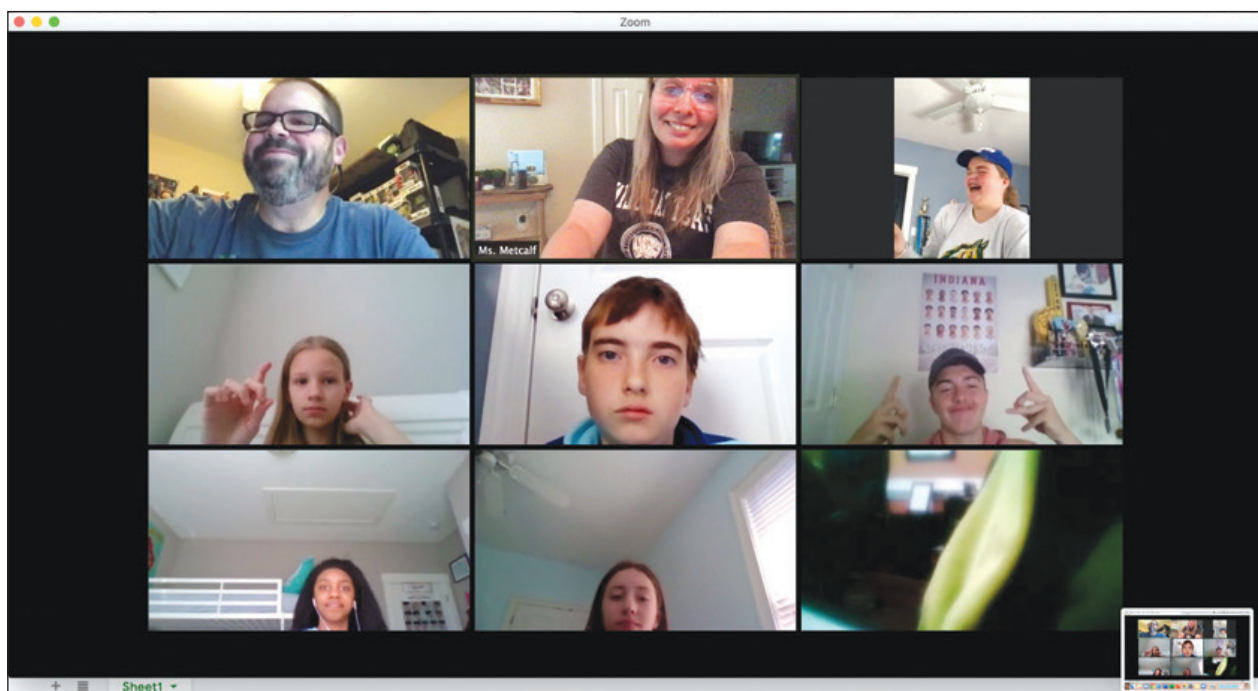
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Zoom screenshot

Olivia Metcalf, center top, has been doing Zoom classes with her students for instruction. In this meeting, she joined fellow teacher Jim Hall’s (top left) math class as she often helps with small groups during the year.

EDUCATORS

Continued from page B1

year and I want them to be prepared and successful for their future. Going from teaching in a classroom to teaching behind a screen is really difficult.”

Metcalf said that at this point in the year, her students would typically be working on end-of-year projects and presentations. As a result, she’s had to adjust what she’s teaching. She said she’s fortunate to have a fellow Social Studies teacher, 20-plus year teaching veteran Dawn Streets, to collaborate with to find new ways to support her students education. She also thinks that as a new teacher, she may be better suited to adjust.

“I think being kinda new to this, I like to do things in new different and creative ways,” Metcalf said. “I get to experiment, using digital tools, while trying to bring same energy to motivate my students. It’s a learning process for me, but its nice because the kids are learning too. No matter what level of experience, we’re all learning too.”

Resilience

Though in uncharted and challenging waters, both teachers expressed an unwavering support for their students and parents.

“Never in my 20 years have I worked as hard and as many hours as I have in the past month,” Paige said. “Before everything was done hands-on and is now being done virtually. It’s like building a plane as we’re flying it.”

“I feel like teachers really are working harder than probably ever have for their students,” she continued. “It’s easy to think, ‘Oh they’re just sitting at home,’ but I know from my colleagues and the teachers of my children how much work they are doing and the dedica-

tion and support is amazing. Educators across the country are all coming up with innovative ideas for their students, not just in providing educational support, but social and emotional support.”

“I know it’s hard for parents who are used to dropping off their kids,” Metcalf said. “Who now have to help their children to navigate this new way of learning. I’m always someone you can talk to whether you need help or just want to talk to someone outside your home.”

“A parent called me yesterday, thanking me for ‘instilling such a good work ethic in my child,’” Metcalf continued. “Knowing we’re appreciated goes such a long way.”

“Everybody is trying to do everything they can to

meet the needs of the students,” Paige said. “Many are sad, they are at home, they can’t do all the things they want to do. It’s a lot of change for young people.”

“I have seen that students are resilient and accepting of change,” Paige said. “As much of a disruption that it is for me, the students have adapted. Our students really can overcome more than I thought and more than they thought. If you had told me before I’m not sure I would have believed it, but the kids are doing it. I believe they are learning, mastering the material, just in a very different way than I would have anticipated.”

Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnc.org.

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NORMAL

Continued from page B1

the summer learning camp materials, so I tried to keep it simple but explicit.

Many binder clips later, I figured out what worked best for me and hopefully my students, too. I even took it a step further and created at-home learning notebooks for some of my students who would benefit from that extra step of organization.

I think it has been interesting to see how we as a faculty here at Bennett have evolved and each found our own groove amid all of this time of uncertainty. To access those students with internet access, we use email, Remind, See-Saw, Google Classroom and Zoom to communicate. I think it is ironic to note that Zoom was just an example of onomatopoeia for me prior to March 16, and now it's a part of my daily vocabulary!

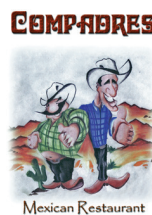
This technology is wonderful, but I included detailed at-home learning guides with my at-home packets for those who can't always find internet service. I also try to make phone calls to try to reach my students who are not able to Zoom or go online. I have had conversations with parents and students in the school parking lot, at our meal-pickup site, at the post office, at student's homes and even at "The DG" — Dollar General! I even went old school and mailed learning activities to my students to cover the week after spring break before we had our second packet pickup last week. The main thing is to make sure everyone still feels connected during this time of staying at home and staying safe.

In the weeks since all of this craziness started, I have personally witnessed teaching at its finest. I thought we did a pretty good job before, but I have seen teachers teaching their hearts out and doing what they do best using whatever resources they have available to reach their students. I am in awe of my colleagues and am honored to work beside them as we continue to focus on ways to help our students maintain some semblance of normalcy during all of this.

I have learned that there is no one right way to do this thing called school right now, but I do know that as long as our focus is on our students doing whatever we have to do to help them access their learning, we will be OK, and so will they. The silver lining to all of this is that I have had some of the richest conversations with my parents during this time that I treasure beyond words that I probably would never have had if not for these circumstances. I have been moved to tears by emails I have received and conversations I have had. Words can never adequately describe how my heart swelled when I saw a student on Zoom for the first time who was sitting in their car in our wifi zone in front of the school so they could participate. During a Zoom meeting one morning, one of my students asked if I could show them the classroom. As I turned my laptop around the room, I could hear various little voices saying, "There's my desk!" "I see my pencil box!" "There's my seat!"

The instruction of each of our students is our responsibility and their parents have entrusted us to teach them and grow them as best we can. I appreciate how these parents and families have rolled up their sleeves and became homeschool teachers.

The most awesome part is that these conversations aren't just happening in my classroom but with other teachers in lots of other classrooms, as well. The bond that was forged between home and school at the beginning of the school year has grown stronger and more meaningful as a result of what we continue to go through together.



*Disclaimer: All content subject to change, please contact restaurant directly for up-to-date information, consider supporting local restaurants by purchasing gift cards for future use, and please remember to tip as you would if dining at the restaurant.

Q&A: Siler City's Charter Furniture re-purposing operations for cloth masks

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Along with other organizations in Chatham County, ranging from the nonprofit Piedmont Farm Animal Refuge to medical device manufacturer Gilero, Charter Furniture has begun to tailor its facilities and equipment to helping in the fight against COVID-19.

The Siler City-based furniture manufacturer, which is owned by national company Brown Jordan, is making cloth masks specifically for businesses, including an initial delivery of around 300 masks to Brookwood Farms, also in Siler City. Company Senior VP of Operations and Continuous Improvement Lorenzo Mendoza spoke to the News + Record about the effort. The answers have been edited for clarity.

Why is Charter Furniture taking this step to produce cloth masks?

Because it is the right thing to do. Brown Jordan CEO Gene Moriarty, Charter Furniture President Rick Dawson and Brown Jordan



A Charter Furniture employee in Siler City sews a cloth mask in this still from a company-produced YouTube video.

COO Jerry Redmond were clear in their direction about protecting our nearly 250 employees, 150 of whom work locally in Liberty and Siler City. Along with following safe distancing and extra hygiene precautions, providing masks was the next step to provide a safer work context. Amid the scarcity of PPE [personal protective equipment], manu-

facturing our own masks was just logical. Our masks are a precise fit for industrious organizations, manufacturing, processing, warehousing, distribution and retailers looking to provide their employees protection at a very low cost. On top of that, we'll be blessed if we can keep our employees working safely in these uncertain times.

How many masks are being made per day/week/etc.?

During our initial prototyping phase, we've been producing anywhere between 500 and 1,000 face masks per day, although we can ramp up very rapidly as needed. We are now producing face masks in large and small-medium sizes, in black and white spun bond non-woven fabrics.

How did you get connected with Brookwood Farms?

Charter requested support and direction from the Chatham Economic Development Corporation to promote the masks. That same day, (EDC Project Manager) Sam Rauf introduced Charter to Twig Wood, president and owner of Brookwood Farms, as they were looking for masks to equip their employees. We were honored to help and delivered the first few masks in the county to Brookwood Farms. After all, we've been long-time fans of their products. We are grateful as we've had great support from the Chatham Economic Development Corporation, and through these challenging

times, they've been there for us.

Are there plans to make more masks?

Yes. We are actively delivering product samples, promoting our face mask products throughout different channels, and have full corporate support to scale up as needed.

How many of your employees are working on the masks?

At this time, we have had five employees involved in developing and manufacturing the face masks, but certainly have a strong employee interest in joining and participating on building masks.

Are Charter's normal operations still continuing?

We will be pausing operations for the next two weeks, as most of our customers and suppliers are not operational. At the same time, we are optimistic and expect to see the stay-at-home mandates lifted sooner. We pray for that.

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

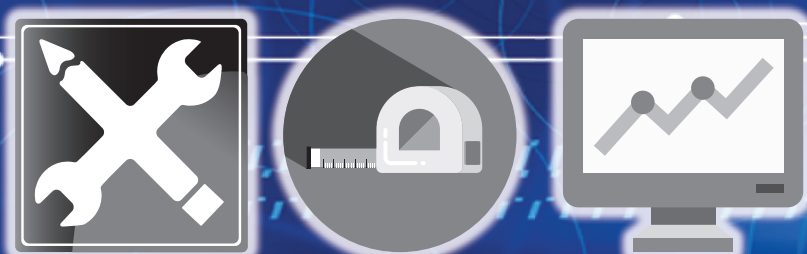


Social distancing on the Haw River

Shane Siver and Matt Kramp of Clayton spent some time over the weekend relaxing on the Haw River in their kayaks. Siver and Kramp pushed their way through the currents, paddling to work their way toward a calmer section of the Haw River where they could relax on a perfect spring day in Chatham County. Staff photos by Kim Hawks



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Chatham to borrow \$18.3 million for emergency communications radio upgrade

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County government has the go-ahead from the board of commissioners to borrow up to \$18.3 million to fund a system-wide upgrade to the county's emergency communications radio system.

The upgrade was part of last year's budget discussions and the recent 2021-2027 Capital Improvements Plan, a list of items the county plans to fund that cost more than \$100,000.

The new system will operate in conjunction with the North Carolina Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) and will, according to county documents, "increase our interoperability within the county and across the region and state." Three existing towers will be upgraded alongside the construction of five new towers spread across Chatham.

The project's total cost has been offset by a grant of more than \$2.3 million from the N.C. 9-1-1 Board.

According to the CIP, the county's existing radio system doesn't provide coverage for the entire county; in addition, that communication with surrounding counties and agencies "is limited or non-existent due to disparate radio systems." These issues lead to a system that, the document stated, "poses a serious safety risk for responders

and citizens."

The project will "eliminate" four towers that are "outdated" and "not at a location that will permit the countywide coverage that is needed," the CIP stated, along with utilizing a state-owned tower under construction in Pittsboro.

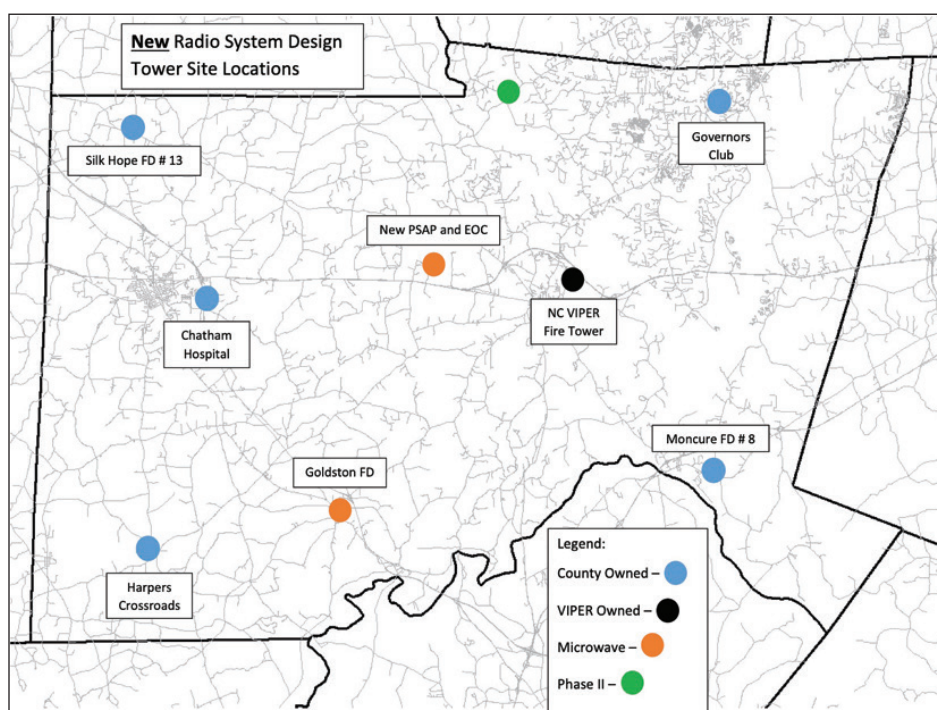
The commissioners approved the borrowing by a 4-1 vote on April 20, with Republican Commissioner Andy Wilkie objecting. Wilkie told the News + Record that the "final cost of the system" was "not explained" to him, and the final borrowing cost was a surprise to him.

"When I voted for the emergency radio system last June the contract was for \$15,760,000," he said in an email. "Then, there was a grant that was going to be requested that would replace 3 to 5 million of that. I thought the contract was final and that was the cost of a usable system. I was not informed that there would be add ons to the cost."

The CIP, which Wilkie voted in favor of in December, put the county's payment responsibility at \$18,247,911 and would have excluded the 9-1-1 Board grant.

County Finance Manager Vickie McConnell said the county got a "really, really good interest rate" on the loan from Bank of America and was expecting Local Government Commission approval, needed for any local government borrowing, on May 5.

The project is already under way. Architectural and engineering work is already ongoing, with equipment being



This map shows the locations of existing and to-be-constructed towers that will facilitate Chatham County's new emergency communications radio system.

ordered. Documents from last Monday's agenda said that radio towers going through the Conditional Use Permit process "may be delayed due to current public meeting restrictions," but not all

towers will be restricted by that.

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

Chatham News + Record **Subscribe Now • 919.663.3232**

Let's Shop: A Locals Guide

The Creative Goat: We are open for **CURBSIDE PICKUP!** It's perfectly acceptable to shop from home while wearing your favorite pajamas, we won't judge! Much of our inventory is available online at <https://thecreativegoat.com>, so get comfy & order directly from the site or give us a call...we're here for you. We'll schedule a convenient time for you to retrieve your order via curbside delivery. **On Facebook?** Give us a like & follow us for info on new items, crafty ideas, and eventually, updates about our classes! You may message us via Facebook @Creative_Goat, email us at info@thecreativegoat.com, send us an inquiry via our website (<https://thecreativegoat.com>), or give us a call (919-542-1938). As always, but more now than ever before, we appreciate your ongoing support of local small businesses like us! Stay crafty! 630 East Street, Ste 9 (Pittsboro)

Pittsboro Toys: We are open for **curbside pickup!** We have crafts, activities, puzzles, games, and more available. We will work with you to keep your family entertained! Call or text us at 919-545-1546, <https://www.pittsborotoys.com>, 15 Hillsboro Street (Pittsboro)

Starrlight Mead: Open for business, but no tastings! We have 3 options available for you to get your favorite beverage. The meadery is still open (M-Sat 12-6, Sun 1-5) for **to-go bottles** or **curbside pickup!** Stop by when you need to get out of the house & grab up a few bottles to-go. Don't want to get out of your car? Give us a call, we'll take an order with a credit card over the phone (919-533-6314) and bring it out when you get here! Don't want to leave the house? No problem, we have bottles available online **delivered by UPS direct to your doorstep**, no need to get out of your jammies! Purchase at: <https://www.starrlightmead.com/buy-our-meads-online> Right now, we are offering **50% off shipping on 3 or more bottles** to help you get the mead you need! Got questions? Email us at info@starrlightmead.com or give us a call 919-533-6314. Bee Well! 130 Lorax Lane (Pittsboro)

Vino Wine Shop: Open for **HOME DELIVERY** and **CURBSIDE PICKUP** on Tuesdays and Fridays. **HOME DELIVERY:** There is a 6 bottle minimum requirement and it costs \$10. We are currently offering FREE delivery on a purchase of 12 or more bottles. Delivery is within a ten mile radius of the shop. Outside ten miles, we may still deliver but the delivery fee will be applied. For same day delivery, order must be received by 3 PM. **CURBSIDE PICKUP:** There is no minimum requirement for curbside. Pickup time is between 11-3 PM on Tuesdays and Fridays. Our inventory can be found online at www.vinowineshopnc.com. Since we're not always at the shop, you may email (anna@vinowineshopnc.com), send an inquiry via our website, or give us a call (919-542-3922). Don't know our wines? No problem - we are more than happy to make recommendations based on your likes and budget. Thanks for supporting local businesses during this strange time. Stay healthy! 89 Hillsboro Street, Ste D (Pittsboro)

New Horizons West: Open **Monday-Saturday** with strict social distancing rules in place. Facebook ordering available (www.facebook.com/NewHorizonsWest) For details, please call (919) 542-5487 or email (onlinehorizons@gmail.com) 674 West St, Pittsboro

New Horizons Downtown: Check out our **daily themed Facebook LIVE Sale:** Monday-Friday at 1 pm, Facebook ordering available (www.facebook.com/NewHorizonsDowntown). Pickup/delivery arrangements may be arranged by contacting the store, Phone: 919-542-7366, email (onlinehorizons@gmail.com) 52 Hillsboro St, Pittsboro

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CCS: More than 100K meals served so far during COVID-19 pandemic

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — School nutrition officials told the Chatham County Board of Education last week that Chatham County Schools personnel have served more than 100,000 meals since the district began distributing on March 16.

Jennifer Ozkurt, the district's director of school nutrition services, told the school board that her staff is currently operating 11 curbside pick-up locations and seven bus routes around the county and meeting regularly to "continually go over health and safety updates as they come through."

"We are doing our best to ensure that information is updated for families to make informed decisions about coming to the schools," Ozkurt said during the April 20 meeting. "Safety is our utmost concern, and that goes in relation to our staff."

With students not meeting on campus for classes and receiving meals during the school week, public school districts across the state have continued to provide those meals in different forms for families both in and out of the school system. From March 16 to April 12, Chatham's schools served 46,344 breakfasts and 47,937 lunches to children and adults, with the latter paying a "nominal fee" for the meals. By April 17, that total number eclipsed the 100,000 mark.

CCS Superintendent Derrick Jordan said he was proud to see the district serve the whole community, no matter where the children attend school.

"It's open to all members of the community, and I think that in a crisis situation like this, I love the fact that we are able to knock down barriers," Jordan said. "We're continuing to see our School Nutrition staff have a wonderful commitment to this work."

The operation has allowed some of the district's classified staff,

particularly bus drivers and instructional assistants, to work during the pandemic. Those individuals are not responsible for direct instruction and thus have less to do. Ozkurt said using currently-hired staff instead of volunteers had the added effect of "keep(ing) our teams isolated."

She added that the district has created a Standard Operating Procedure in the event one of the staff helping out contracts COVID-19. WCHL & Chapelboro reported last week that Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools personnel who were part of the food distribution initiative had tested positive for COVID-19. Ozkurt said Chatham's plan, which she did not elaborate on, was created "so that we can still continue to maintain operations if we had a site with a positive case."

She added that the district has provided all food distribution staff with personal protective equipment and is regularly in contact with the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction and Chatham County Public Health Department.

Jordan emphasized a point made in the agenda packet — the district will lose money on distributing meals. Child Nutrition serves as an enterprise fund within the district.

"You are in that to try and make money, keep it solvent," Jordan said. "We certainly will lose money as a result of this. We are appreciative of the efforts, both at the state and national level to soften the decrease that our district, along with many others across the country, will experience."

The agenda packet said there was no determined number to define that loss, but that the district is aware "for sure that there will be a decrease in revenue," and the situation "will definitely impact the bottom line."

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

POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Donovan Dowdy, 30, of Broadway, was charged April 20 with assault on a female and injury to personal property. Dowdy was given a written promise with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

Michael Rogers, 42, of Sanford, was

charged April 22 with violation of a domestic violence protective order. Rogers was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

Christopher McClain, 47, of Charlotte, was charged April 23 with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. McClain was given a written promise with a July 7 court date in Troy.

SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Juan Pacheco, 20, of Siler City, was charged April 24 with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of a stolen firearm. He was held under a \$10,000 bond. Pacheco also was charged and held under no bond on a separate incident on April 17.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Oscar Lopez-Perez of Pittsboro was cited April 21 for failure to reduce speed and no operator's license on U.S. Highway 15 in Pittsboro.

Liam Casadei of Siler City was cited April 23 for failure to maintain lane control on Bowers Store Road in Siler City.

CHATHAM CHAT | MIKE ROBERSON, CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF

Sheriff addresses the 'new normal' of COVID-19 — including lower crime, but the higher cost of depression, domestic calls

With the state's stay-at-home orders, social distancing and a decrease in traffic and movement, related to so many businesses being closed, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office is working differently — and seeing differences in community law enforcement. This week, we speak with Sheriff Mike Roberson about those changes, about what he misses during the pandemic, sacrifices he's seeing around the county and much more.

How are you personally adjusting during the pandemic?

Personally? This is a tough time for me. I enjoy being able to interact with the community and I miss being able to do that like we have in the past. My wife owns a small business that has been ordered closed by the Governor's Order, so that has impacted us as well. I am hearing a lot from local businesses about the hardship and I'm sympathetic to them. As soon as we're told it's safe, I hope we can get folks back to work and for people who need a career, we're hiring!

In the meantime, I'm learning to meet with our employees and with the community in different ways. Together we are running the Sheriff's Office in a way I never expected we would.

I'm ready for this to be over, just like we all are, but I want to make sure people are safe to start back to work, school and church and live life a little more like we knew it. We might never go back to how we were before this February, but I appreciate all of our employees for doing such a great job of pulling together to help out the whole community in new and innovative ways even when I know some of them are hurting in their own personal lives, just like the people they are helping. That takes a lot of courage and integrity.

Can you talk about your department's operational changes — how has the pandemic impacted routines?

We have made a lot of changes, from top to bottom, but they have all been focused around the idea of providing the best, most responsive service to the public in the safest possible ways for everyone. We've found new ways to provide services remotely, by social

distancing, and even by mail. We have made changes to the way we run the detention center in order to make every effort to prevent the spread of infection into our inmate population. We are getting gun permits turned around using technology to aid with social distancing. We're learning the new normal, just like a lot of other businesses, but we are committed to providing the same quality of services to the public we always have, just in new ways.

What's life like inside the Sheriff's office? How is it different vs. pre-COVID?

Like I said, we are learning the "new normal." We are learning the socially-distant lifestyle just like everyone else, but it's hard. People are social by nature. Our staff enjoy shaking hands, pats on the back, and even an occasional goodwill hug, but that isn't possible for the near future. Many of our employees have spouses who are out of work and children who are out of school, just like everyone else. They are making sacrifices to remain on-duty and I appreciate the hard work and dedication I see from them each day.

The local businesses have been wonderful to us and have stepped up to support our staff and the rest of our community's first responders and health care workers. We have seen a huge outpouring and I want the community to know how much we value them. We live in a great place!

What about your deputies and staff out in the public — any surprises?

We have been very impressed with the willingness we have seen for people to comply with the Emergency Orders and to support one another in a time of need. We have watched people sacrifice by giving of their time and resources to deliver food and necessities to others. We have seen students give their time to spend a few minutes with lonely seniors who are socially isolated by calling to speak with them. So, I wouldn't say that we are surprised. We knew that the people of this community were good people and they're proving it to us through this crisis more and more each day.

Have you been asked to handle any calls regarding violations to the Governors' orders (in terms of crowd size, etc.)?

We have gotten some calls related to violations of the Governor's Orders but thankfully, so far, we have been successful in getting those situations resolved without the need for arrests. We appreciate the public's willingness to work with us and, in many cases, allow us to educate them on the Governor's Orders as they change over time. Most people understand the seriousness of the virus and want to do what is best for everyone.

In terms of criminal behavior, calls and investigations — what's changing?

Overall, our volume of calls has decreased because more people are at home, so property crimes are down and vehicle-related crimes are down as well. This is normal for us when people are at home. We also see these crimes drop during holidays, especially Christmas to New Year's Day each year.

We have, however, seen an increase in depression, mental health calls, overdoses, suicides, mental health commitments, and even responded to a fair number of domestic-related calls. There is a balance in all of this. We can stay at home but not stay in the house. We have encouraged people to get outside, call friends and family, and take care of those who don't have family or live by themselves. We encourage people to remember that taking some time away from others, even at home, in order to remain calm is never a bad idea. Social distancing and staying at home is hard on all of us, but this will end at some point.

What are you most looking forward to when this is over?

I'm looking forward to being able to go out in the community, shake hands, laugh, and smile with people like normal. I miss those simple things and I will never take them for granted again. Oh, and I look forward to eating something that someone else has cooked... and not having to do the dishes after. I have enjoyed all the restaurants that have adjusted providing take out service and I hope they continue when this is done!



Photo courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson poses with Tammy Kirkman and Jill Charville — and their face masks — outside Chatham's Detention Center.

Spending time at home has helped all of us to understand we need to slow down a little, appreciate where we are, who we are with, and where we are going. It's pretty humbling actually.

Are there any particular things you'd like to address?

This virus is pretty

scary. The fear of the unknown is the worst part. For some, denial of the situation is just as bad as the fear. The truth is that the doctors and leaders don't have all the answers. They will make mistakes. I appreciate everyone's flexibility to do what's best for all of us. I know our medical

professionals and leaders are doing their very best.

I appreciate the hard work our staff does every day and especially during these challenging time. But I want to also thank the nurses, the cleaning crews, the fire departments, and EMS, who are on the frontlines and are the true heroes in this crisis.

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CN+R ZOOM CHAT

Rep. Reives talks about state government's response to COVID-19

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

As a member of the state government, Chatham's representative in the N.C. House of Representatives, Robert Reives

Reives

II (D-Chatham) has been among the first to get updates on North Carolina's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He's also a member of the House Select Committee on COVID-19 and that committee's Economic Support Working Group.

Last week, he spoke to the News + Record about that response, about being a small business owner during the pandemic and the tone of the political conversations around COVID-19. The full video of the interview is available on the News + Record's Facebook page. This is an abridged version of the discussion edited for clarity — the full transcribed interview is online at chathamnews-record.com.

What do you see as the state government's role and responsibility during COVID-19?

I think the government's got to be supportive of the people. I think that's the whole reason that you're part of a civilized society is for times like this. You get an opportunity now, as a government, to show people where the monies go, why it goes where it goes, and to really make sure that we're supporting, and especially supporting people who are vulnerable

to these crises. Traditionally, you immediately think of people in terms of economic vulnerability, but I think economy vulnerability actually goes a lot higher up the food chain than you really think, and I think that what we should be doing is to try to give economies of scale when it comes down to products to try to help marshal resources to get the things that we need. For instance, obviously, we need personal protective equipment. Obviously, we need the ability to test more, things like that. And government can kind of help marshal those resources better than just relying on everybody to do this on their own.

What have the early discussions of the House Select Committee on COVID-19 and the economic support working group been centering around?

What we've tried to do is to figure out all the areas that we need help in. So for instance, you have continuity of government, which means governmental functions, elections; you also have economic outreach, which would be unemployment, making sure that we're supporting small businesses, things of that sort. You have the health committee, education — these are all subcommittees within the larger COVID-19 House committee. And so we're trying to think of all the aspects of life that are gonna be touched, and trying to really come up with some good bipartisan solutions that we can vote on next week when we come back into session. We'd like to get that part out of the way as quickly as possible.

And one of the things that's kind of held us up is waiting on the federal response. I know a ques-

tion on a lot of people's minds are like, 'Why are we waiting on the federal response? Can't we figure out what we're going to do?' The reality is, the state just doesn't have enough money to make all the things happen that we need to make happen. And so we need to see what type of economic support we'll be able to get from the federal government to then know where we need to spend our money. So for instance, if you're thinking, 'OK, we've got to put all our money into the hospitals,' and all of a sudden, you find out that federal government's going to give a billion dollars to hospitals. Well, now you know, with that money, I could actually go somewhere else with it. That's why we've got to wait see what that is. So it's been good that a stimulus package has come down from the federal government, that we know that more money will be coming down, and we're really trying to concentrate on filling in all those gaps.

Why should people care about what you and your fellow legislators are doing in Raleigh? Why should the average Chatham citizen who's thinking, 'This is not really my concern' — why should they be concerned and pay attention to what you guys are doing in Raleigh?

Well, one glaring reason I would start off with is because that's going to determine what your counties and your cities are able to do. County budgets are going to be destroyed by this pandemic, city budgets are gonna be destroyed, tax revenues not coming in, property tax revenue, things of that sort, sales tax.

For instance, one thing that I fought for whenever

it was a Chatham and Lee County district was to help Lee County get an occupancy tax. Of course, nobody's staying in hotels now. So there's no money coming in from that tax. So those monies have got to get supplanted. Those monies come from the states, just as we're waiting on the feds to help us know what we're going to do with our state budget. Then counties and municipalities are waiting for the state to find out what they're going to do with their budgets, because they're going to be so many holes that they're going to have over the next probably two years that we're going to have to help fill. So immediately, that would be the reason I would be concerned if I were somebody living in the county.

And plus the health issue is going to be something that states really have to take the lead on. You look at all the rural hospitals that we have here in North Carolina, and just imagine if there's no support, there's no plan and there's no system, what could happen if we had another heavy outbreak. Right now, we've been really, really lucky and really, really blessed that we haven't had our systems taxed, but then you look just a couple of states up the road and you look at places like New York, where they're just running out of everything.

We don't know what our real exposure is right now. Obviously, we're still testing, trying to find out what's going on. But the reality is that you've got to make sure that your state's ready to take the reins as soon as something like this happens.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Virtual programs available for Alzheimer's caregivers

RALEIGH — While the COVID-19 pandemic threatens the health of millions in this country and around the world, the novel coronavirus presents unique challenges for more than 5 million Americans, including 180,000 in North Carolina, living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.

The Alzheimer's Association, Eastern North Carolina Chapter and the Alzheimer's Association, Western North Carolina Chapter are offering free virtual education programs and online support groups in the coming weeks to help all North Carolina caregivers and their families. The Alzheimer's Association offers a number of education programs that can help those living with Alzheimer's and their families understand what to expect so they can be prepared to meet the changes ahead and live well for as long as possible.

"During this challenging time, it's critical that all North Carolina caregivers have access to Alzheimer's Association resources even if they cannot venture out," said Lisa Roberts, Executive Director of the Eastern North Carolina Chapter. "The COVID-19 crisis is altering Americans' daily lives, but the needs of Alzheimer's caregivers cannot be put on hold. These online programs allow us to connect with caregivers and provide necessary information even amid the current crisis."

Each virtual education program is approximately one hour and allows the audience to ask questions and engage with others going through the journey online.

Upcoming virtual education programs include:

- 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
- Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia
- Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors
- Effective Communication Strategies
- Dementia Conversations: Driving, Doctor Visits, Legal & Financial Planning
- Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research

For a complete list of upcoming virtual programs, visit alz.org/nc. Attendees are invited to join via video/webinar or through a toll-free number. There is no charge to participate, but registration is required at [alz.org/nc/helping_you/virtual-offerings-\(1\)](http://alz.org/nc/helping_you/virtual-offerings-(1)) or by calling 800-272-3900. Participants will be sent conferencing details prior to the date of each virtual program.

In addition to the virtual education classes, the Alzheimer's Association offers online community resources at alz.org including ALZConnected®, a free online community where people living with Alzheimer's, caregivers, family and friends can ask questions, get advice and find support.

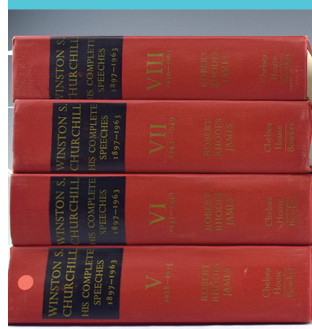
More than 16 million family and friends, including 479,000 in North Carolina, provide unpaid care to people with Alzheimer's or other dementias in the United States. To help family caregivers navigate the current complex and quickly changing environment, the Alzheimer's Association has also offered additional guidance to families at alz.org/COVID19.

The Alzheimer's Association free, 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900) offers around-the-clock support for caregivers and families impacted by Alzheimer's and all dementia.

— CN+R staff reports

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Kid Scoop Together:

Can you figure out where each of these words go in the article below?

- COLLAPSED
- COMPLAINT
- OWNER
- SMELL
- LOCATED
- BRAVERY
- STRIKES

A TRUE STORY! Bravery Award for Holly

Holly, a specially trained rescue dog received a _____ award for saving victims of the Kashmir earthquake.

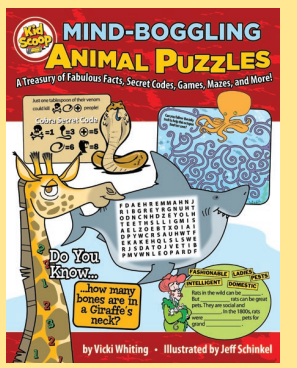
Holly _____ and her _____ Neil are _____ on standby 365 days a year so that they can fly anywhere in the world when disaster _____.

In Kashmir, Holly's heightened sense of _____ proved invaluable; she _____ several people who were then hauled alive from _____ buildings. Holly worked tirelessly without _____ in extremely hot weather.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand text from context clues.

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **DETECT**

The verb **detect** means to learn the existence or presence of something.

Dogs can **detect** land mines buried underground.

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

WORKING DOGS

Have you ever heard someone say, "I've been working like a dog"? People say this when they work really hard.

Some people say this phrase started because sheepdogs work guarding sheep from dawn until dusk and their only pay is food, a place to sleep and affection.

Dogs have been sharing their lives with humans for at least 12,000 years. Since early times, dogs helped people in many ways.

Help the sheepdog find all the sheep on this page.



Canine Companions

Dogs who help people in their everyday lives are called canine companions and assistance dogs. Some dogs are carefully trained to perform tasks to help the blind, deaf, or mobility-impaired people.

Help Molly (the guide dog) lead Mark safely through the park.

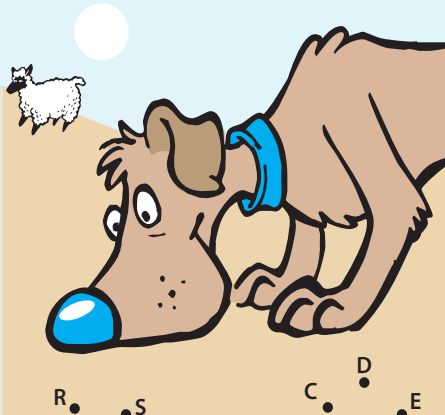


Super Sniffers to the Rescue

Dogs have a better sense of smell than humans. They can detect one drop of blood in five quarts of water!

With their ultra-sensitive noses, dogs are masters at finding buried land mines. Mine-sniffing dogs have helped prevent thousands of injuries and deaths in war-torn countries.

Trained sniffers also find people trapped in collapsed buildings and drugs hidden in suitcases. Some dogs have been trained to sniff out termites in buildings.



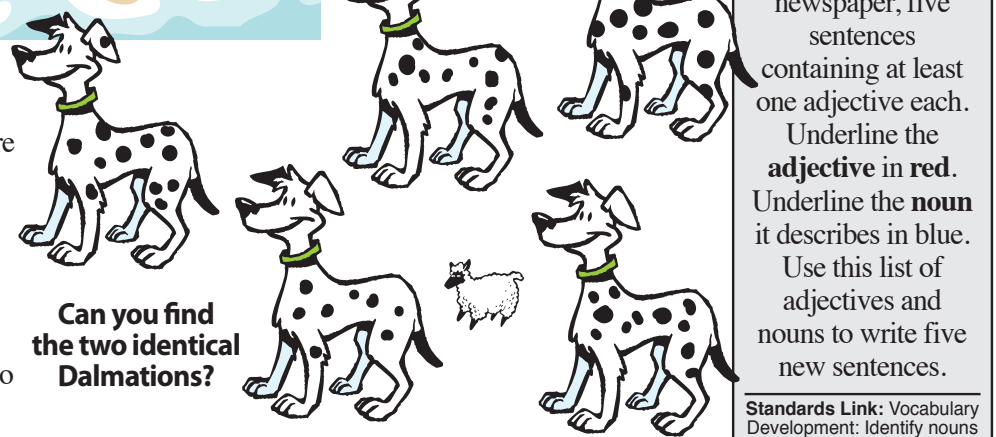
Fido has sniffed out something buried under the sand. Connect the dots in alphabetical order!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Students read grade-level appropriate material.

Fire Dogs

Spotted Dalmation dogs are mascots for fire departments. Long ago, these dogs helped fire fighters get to fires quickly and safely.

Before cars and trucks, fire fighters rushed to fires in horse-drawn carriages. Since Dalmatians get along well with horses, they were trained to run in front of horses to help clear the path, chase away other dogs and to get to fires as quickly as possible.



Can you find the two identical Dalmations?

Extra! Extra! Word Pals

Find, in today's newspaper, five sentences containing at least one adjective each. Underline the adjective in red. Underline the noun it describes in blue. Use this list of adjectives and nouns to write five new sentences.

Standards Link: Vocabulary Development: Identify nouns and adjectives.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

It's a Number! It's a Word! It's Both!

A **numeronym** is a word that has a number in it. For example, **K-9** is a numeronym. Say the letter and the number and you will hear that is sounds the same as the word canine.

Here are some more examples of numeronyms. Can you figure out what word each is?

- sk8r _____
- 3D _____
- 24/7 _____
- Cre8 _____
- 4est _____
- 2th _____

Double Double Word Search

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

C	O	M	P	A	N	I	O	N	S
K	G	S	R	A	C	C	A	H	T
S	N	O	I	N	A	P	M	O	C
A	N	N	D	S	N	F	A	R	E
T	I	I	E	N	I	C	S	S	T
O	M	S	F	R	N	N	C	E	E
P	O	A	E	F	E	U	O	S	D
N	D	E	N	I	A	R	T	N	I
T	E	R	M	I	T	E	S	O	N

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Dog Vacation Destination

Look through the newspaper for ideal destinations a dog would love. Using words and pictures from the newspaper, create a poster or brochure describing this place and its daily activities. Use your imagination!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step written directions.



What do you get when you cross a sheepdog with a rose?

ANSWER: A collie-flower.

Write On! Pencil

Puppy Tales

Tell a tale about a puppy. Be sure to tell details like the puppy's name, where it lives, what it looks like and what it does. You can start you tale with "Once upon a time ..."

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Submitted photo

Painting from home

Ella Ruth, 9, and Tommy Parks, 6, both of Pittsboro, participated in this weekend's ClydeFEST-to-Go. Their mother, Melissa, called the experience 'a fun activity to complete while at home in quarantine.' The Chatham Arts Council moved the annual folk art event from an in-person festival to an opportunity for individuals to create their own art from home and share via social media.



Critters from home

Dorrie Casey of North Chatham shows off her artwork created as part of this year's ClydeFEST-to-Go. The Chatham Arts Council moved the annual folk art event from an in-person festival to an opportunity for individuals to create their own art from home and share via social media.

Submitted photo

Chatham County Solid Waste, Recycling events canceled

Out of an abundance of caution, Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling has cancelled all events scheduled for May 2020.

"While North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's Stay-at-Home Order is set to expire on April 30, we do not know whether it will be extended or what the re-opening process will look like," said Kevin Lindley, Chatham County Environmental Quality Director. "In order to have enough time to get the word out to residents about these changes, we needed to make this decision now."

Details on the cancelled events are as follows:

Earth Day Event

The May 16 event has been cancelled and will not be rescheduled this year. Solid Waste & Recycling will have a document shredding event on Saturday, November 21. The next Earth Day Event is planned for April 2021.

Household Hazardous Waste

The May 16 event has been cancelled. The next Household Hazardous Event is scheduled for June 20, and the Chatham County Sheriff's Office will be onsite for medication disposal. Future HHW events will be the third Saturday of the month from June through November.

Mulch Sales

Saturday mulch sales have been cancelled for the month of May. Solid Waste & Recycling will have weekday mulch sales in the summer. Check the department's website www.chathamnc.org/recycle for more details on future mulch sales.

"Residents will be able to purchase mulch and bring their household hazardous waste to future events," Lindley said. "Cancelling our Earth Day event, which includes free paper shredding, was disappointing. However, we had already decided to schedule a second shredding event later this year. So, while residents will need to hold onto their items a while longer, there will still be shredding options available

NEWS BRIEFS

to them."

The Collection Centers remain open and operating with normal hours. The Swap Shops are closed and the Electronics Program is suspended. Programs at the Main Facility remain suspended or with limited access. Please check the website for details www.chathamnc.org/recycle. Residents can call the Main Facility at 919-542-5516 Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. or email anytime at recycle@chathamnc.org.

As this is an ever-changing situation, please check the website for any future updates- www.chathamnc.org/recycle.

Pandemic food program available for children

PITTSBORO — North Carolina has received approval from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to begin a new Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Program. This program will enable Chatham County families who have been impacted by school closings due to COVID-19 to purchase food for their children.

The program provides benefits on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card to North Carolina families whose children would receive free and reduced lunch as part of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. There is no application process to receive P-EBT benefits. The P-EBT card will function like a standard EBT card, and the same guidelines will apply.

Eligible families will not need to apply for the P-EBT program. P-EBT eligible families already receiving Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) benefits will receive an additional benefit on their existing EBT card in the next few weeks. P-EBT eligible families not already enrolled in FNS will be mailed a new EBT card in the next few weeks. Families who receive a new EBT card will first receive a letter from the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS)

in the mail explaining how to activate and use their card.

"North Carolina was one of the first states to gain approval from the USDA to operate a P-EBT program, and we are thankful it was approved so quickly," said Karen VonCannon, supervisor for the Food and Nutrition Program at the Chatham County Department of Social Services. "We know that many Chatham County families have had to absorb additional food expenses without warning and this will provide much needed assistance."

Families will receive approximately \$5.70 per weekday equaling \$257 in total P-EBT benefits per child, provided over two installments, with the possibility of an additional benefit if North Carolina schools are closed beyond May 15, 2020.

"With recent developments and information announced regarding issuance of P-EBT cards to help families in this unprecedented time, School Nutrition Services is working with our state agencies to assist families in this process. More information and guidance for families will be forthcoming," said Jennifer Özkurt, school nutrition director for Chatham County Schools.

Unused benefits will rollover month-to-month and must be used within 365 days. Families who do not wish to use P-EBT benefits may destroy the P-EBT card when received. If the family changes their minds, the benefits will be available for 365 days and the family may contact the call center to request a replacement card.

If parents have questions about their benefit, they can contact Chatham County DSS at 919-542-2759 or through email at askdss@chathamnc.org.

Families are encouraged to continue utilizing feeding programs at local school and community meal sites for free, nutritious meals for children. Families can text FOODNC to 877-877 to find local meal sites. The service is also available in Spanish by texting COMIDA to 877-877.

— CN+R staff reports

DHHS reverses stance on identifying nursing homes with outbreaks

BY KATE MARTIN & FRANK TAYLOR
Carolina Public Press

Under pressure from advocacy groups and media organizations, North Carolina health officials said they would release details for the first time Monday on the locations of dozens of nursing homes and other group living facilities with COVID-19 outbreaks across the state.

The move marks a significant policy reversal for the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, which for weeks has maintained that identifying facilities with outbreaks would reveal confidential health information for particular patients.

As of Monday, DHHS

reported more than 2,500 cases of COVID-19 and more than 150 deaths from the disease in so-called congregate living settings, which include nursing homes, prisons and residential care facilities. Infections in those settings account for more than one-quarter of the state's total cases, and more than half of all deaths.

When North Carolina releases the data, it will join a handful of other states, including Georgia, California, Ohio, Illinois and New York, that disclose at least partial details about the locations of deaths and cases in nursing homes and other group facilities.

The state's reversal came days after a letter from the AARP urging Gov. Roy Cooper to release

the information in the interest of public health.

It also followed discussions between attorneys for DHHS and a 20-member media coalition, which last week threatened to file a public records lawsuit over the issue. The coalition, which includes Carolina Public Press and several state and national media organizations, argued that releasing the names of the facilities — and not personally identifying information about patients — would not violate federal or state confidentiality rules.

"We cannot express in words the exigency of this matter as our clients stand in the shoes of North Carolinians statewide who need this critical information — especially in light of

the Governor's forecast of a plan to begin a phased approach to return to normal life," attorneys Amanda Martin and Mike Tadych wrote.

After conversations between media coalition lawyers, as well as attorneys for DHHS, the governor's office and Attorney General Josh Stein, state officials say they'll use a "public health exception" at their discretion to allow release of the information. DHHS plans to update the figures weekly through its existing COVID-19 data portal.

Reporters from a collaborative of six North Carolina newsrooms asked DHHS for the names of nursing homes and other congregate care facilities with outbreaks three weeks ago, and news or-

ganizations have repeatedly questioned the state's position on disclosure at daily briefings with Cooper and DHHS Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen.

At one such press conference April 14, Cohen said the department decided to "strike the right balance" between the privacy of the facilities and public health interests by not releasing details on the locations of outbreaks.

Changing advice to counties on disclosure

Although the state didn't provide the information, some county health departments did.

The result, as the collaborative reported last week, was a patchwork of disclosure that varied from county to county, leaving the public in the

dark about the identities of more than a half-dozen nursing homes with outbreaks of the deadly virus.

But that inconsistency appears likely to change as well.

DHHS' planned release of outbreak locations follows new guidance the agency issued to county health departments by email Sunday night.

Mark Benson, assistant DHHS secretary for public health, noted in the email that the agency had so far advised counties not to provide details of COVID-19 outbreaks at nursing homes but that DHHS was changing its advice, effective immediately.

"But the unique characteristics of this pandemic (e.g., national public health emergency declaration, evidence of widespread/stateside community transmission, need for extensive community mitigation measures, etc.) suggest that a one-time modification is warranted to the long-standing practice of not releasing facility-specific details in outbreaks," Benson said.

Previously, both DHHS and many county health departments had said releasing the information would be a violation of the law.

However, in his email to counties with the new guidance, Benson said releasing the information would actually comply with the law.

"Doing so is in alignment with GS 130A-143(4) and allows us to achieve standardized reporting regarding COVID-19 outbreaks in congregate living settings at both the state and county level," he said.

Editor's Note: This is a developing story and will be updated.

This story was jointly reported and edited by Kate Martin and Frank Taylor of Carolina Public Press; Gavin Off of The Charlotte Observer; Lucille Sherman and Jordan Schrader of The News & Observer; Nick Ochsner of WBTV; Emily Featherston of WECT; and Tyler Dukes of WRAL.



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HOUSEKEEPER/CLEANER needed 2 days a week. Pittsboro home. Must like dogs and be comfortable around them. All cleaning supplies provided. Must have own transportation, be dependable. References required. Call or text 919-656-2268, A23,30,2tc

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MISC

VEGETABLE PLANTS and German Johnson Tomato Plants are READY at Vestals, 969 Poe Road, Siler City. Call 919-200-3755, A23,30,My7,14,4tc

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **JAMES H. DIGGS aka JAMES HENRY DIGGS** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 20th day of March, 2020, are notified to present them to Fred Edgar Diggs, Executor of the Estate of James H. Diggs aka James Henry Diggs in c/o David R. Frankstone, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before July 16, 2020. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of James H. Diggs aka James Henry Diggs. Those indebted to James H. Diggs aka James Henry Diggs are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. David R. Frankstone Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 A9,A16,A23,A30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **NORMA NORTON DIGGS aka NORMA N. DIGGS** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 18th day of December, 2019, are notified to present them to Fred Edgar Diggs, Executor of the Estate of Norma Norton Diggs aka Norma N. Diggs in c/o David R. Frankstone, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before July 16, 2020. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Norma Norton Diggs aka Norma N. Diggs. Those indebted to Norma Norton Diggs aka Norma N. Diggs are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. David R. Frankstone Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 A9,A16,A23,A30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 161
The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JENNIFER DAWN SIEFKE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at her address, 1699 Cedar Grove Road, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 9th day of July, 2020, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 6th day of April, 2020. Pamela J. Johncox, Administrator

1699 Cedar Grove Road
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
GUNN & MESSICK, LLP
P. O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina
27312-0880
A9,A16,A23,A30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 171 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified a Executor of the Estate of **DORIS YATES GOODWIN**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before July 16, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 16th day of April, 2020. Roger Goodwin, Executor 1318 Olives Chapel Road Apex, NC 27502 A16,A23,A30,M7,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 86 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified a Administrator of the Estate of **VICKIE HEARNE BEDNAR**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before July 16, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 16th day of April, 2020. Joni Bowling, Administrator PO Box 446 Pittsboro, NC 27312 A16,A23,A30,M7,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 175 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified a Executor of the Estate of **LOUISE W. BROOKS aka LOUISE WEBB BROOKS**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before July 23, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of April, 2020. William W. Brooks, Executor 512 W Elk St. Siler City, NC 27344 A23,A30,My7,My14,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 172 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified a Co-Administrators of the Estate of **JEANIE MAE RAY**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before July 23, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of April, 2020. Co-Administrators: 1. Adam Ray 829 Moncure Flatwood Road Moncure, NC 27559 2. Shawn Ray 202 Seastone St

Raleigh, NC 27603
A23,A30,My7,My14,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 173 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified a Co-Administrators of the Estate of **LARRY DON RAY**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before July 23, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of April, 2020. Co-Administrators: 1. Adam Ray 829 Moncure Flatwood Road Moncure, NC 27559 2. Shawn Ray 202 Seastone St Raleigh, NC 27603 A23,A30,My7,My14,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 301 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified a Administrator of the Estate of **PHILLIP ALLEN COOLEY**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before July 23, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of April, 2020. Administrator, Alexander James Cooley 309 S. Bloodsworth Raleigh, NC 27601 A23,A30,My7,My14,4tp

PUBLIC NOTICE
Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) are proposing to build a 265 foot Self Support Telecommunications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The site location is 2779 Bonlee School Rd, Bear Creek, Chatham County, North Carolina 27207 (35° 36' 21.95" N, 79° 24' 08.89" W). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1153076. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS - Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS - Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: L. King, Terracon, 2105 Newport Place, Suite 600, Lawrenceville,

GA 30043; 770-623-0755; lauren.king@terracon.com. A30,1tp

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified on the 17th day of April, 2020, as Administrator of the Estate of **ELLIS MAX MANSFIELD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of July, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 23rd day of April, 2020. David Mansfield, Administrator of the Estate of Ellis Max Mansfield 191 Moncure Flatwood Rd Moncure, NC 27559 Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 115 Chatham Street, Suite 302 Sanford, NC 27330 A30,My7,My14,My21,4tc

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS Town of Goldston 40 Coral Avenue Goldston, North Carolina
Sealed single prime Bids for the Interior Renovations - Goldston Emergency Services, including all demolition, architectural, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical work and all accompanying incidental work required for the project. Bids will be received by at the Goldston Town Hall, 40 Coral Avenue, Goldston, North Carolina until 2:00 pm on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Pdf's of the Contract Documents may be obtained from Sherman Architecture PLLC, Leman Springs, Sanford, North Carolina upon request. (919)-775-2355. A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the project site, 171 Coral Avenue, Goldston, North Carolina on Wednesday May 6, 2020 at 2:00 pm. A30,1tc

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **DORIS G. CROSS aka DORIS ANN CROSS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned Executrix does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present such claims to Judith Jean Meinhalt at 214 Mountain Maple Drive, Cary, NC 27519 on or before the 30th day of July, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said Estate will please make immediate payment to the Estate. This, the 30th day of April,



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2020. Judith Jean Meinhalt, Executrix 214 Mountain Maple Drive Cary, NC 27519 C. Terrell Thomas, Jr. Kirk, Kirk, Howell, Cutler & Thomas Post Office Box 729 Wendell, NC 27591 Attorney for the Estate (919) 365-6000 A30,My7,My14,My21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Priscilla D. Holmes
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **PRISCILLA D. HOLMES** late of 300 Clynelish Close, Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned

does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517, on or before the 31st day of July, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 30th day of April, 2020 Thomas P. Holmes, Executor of the Estate of Priscilla D. Holmes Dori J. Dixon Schell Bray PLLC Attorney for the Estate

100 Europa Drive, Suite 271 Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517 A30,MY7,MY14,MY21,4tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF PITTSBORO
The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following Public Hearing on Monday, May 11th, 2020 at 7:00 o'clock in the Town Council Chambers of the Pittsboro Town Hall, 635 East Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina, to consider the following item:
1. Proposed Rezoning, Ground-Engineering, REZ-2019-06 Rezoning request for a parcel totaling .78 acres located at 216 Hillsboro St., and more particularly described with Parcel number 7813.
2. Proposed Rezoning, ODG 87 LLC, REZ-2020-01 Rezoning

request for two parcels totaling 9.21 acres located at 88 and 212 Diane St., and more particularly described with Parcel numbers 67004 and 70100. The purpose of the public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. The complete records are on file at the office of the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection during regular business hours or by appointment. The public is invited to attend. If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Clerk, Cassandra Bullock, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at CBullock@pittsboronc.gov. A30,1tc

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
FILE NUMBER: 20 SP 50
TO: Unknown Father of female child, born to Emily A. Jackson, on the 24th day of January, 2020 at UNC Hospital in Orange County, NC. Please take notice that Petitioners herein filed a Petition for Adoption of the Minor Child in this matter with the Clerk of Superior Court for Chatham County, North Carolina on the 17th day of April 2020. You must file a written response to this petition with the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County, NC within forty (40) days after service of this notice in order to participate in and to receive further notice of the proceeding, including notice

of the time and place of any hearing. A copy of your written response must be served on Petitioners' attorney by hand delivery or by first-class, postage prepaid addressed to Gunn & Messick, LLP, 90 W. Salisbury Street, P.O. Box 880, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Failure to file a response to this petition may result in an Order being entered against you or your interest granting a Decree of Adoption for Petitioner. This 30th day of April, 2020. Paul S. Messick, Jr., Attorney for Petitioner Gunn & Messick, LLP 90 W. Salisbury Street P.O. Box 880 Pittsboro, NC 27312 Telephone: (919) 542-3253 Facsimile: (919) 542-0257 A30,My7,My14,3tc



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BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners held its first meeting Monday after postponing last month's meeting due to coronavirus concerns, conferring via the Zoom video platform and focusing on updating meeting procedures during the stay-at-home order and receiving updates on major projects.

Town manager search

The process for the search for the new town manager to replace Bryan Gruesbeck, who was asked to resign in January, has begun and a timeline agreed upon by the board. Applications will be received until May 6. Twenty-eight candidates have applied so far, according to Pittsboro Interim Town Manager Bob Morgan.

The board will meet for a 90-minute closed session on May 11 to begin discussing the candidates. On May 25, the number of applicants will be narrowed to six during another 90-minute closed

session. Those candidates will then go through an assessment process. The finalists' assessments will be discussed in a final closed session on June 12 in the hopes to determine the board's choice for a permanent town manager.

UDO process

The town has been working on updating its Unified Development Ordinance for several years. In recent months, board concerns about the draft document have been addressed in meetings between Commissioner Michael Fiocco and Town Planner Jeff Jones. According to Morgan, the two met twice in the past two weeks and plan to meet three more times before offering the document to the full board. Morgan also noted that staff has been trying to contract with a firm to format the document, but said that "no one is willing to edit someone else's work."

Sewer line to Sanford

Staff has been working with The Wooten Company of Raleigh to secure

the necessary permits from the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality to begin work on a force main and sewer line to Sanford to provide much needed capacity to the town. Morgan said that the Secondary Cumulative Impact statement will likely be ready the first week in May for the board's review. Following approval, the document will be sent to the state with an anticipated four to six months until its approval. The town has also held numerous meetings with the City of Sanford over the past few weeks discussing long-range plans to ensure Pittsboro's future needs will be met.

Town Hall

Town staff have started the application for a USDA loan for Pittsboro's \$16 million town hall project. The town is currently conducting a Phase One Environmental Review and may have to also conduct a Phase Two review as well for the application. In addition, the loan requires five years of financial projections, but with reductions of revenue related to

COVID-19 still uncertain, the town's finance department has been working to update based on the newest information.

Once submitted in four months, the application will still need to be processed by the USDA. Morgan was uncertain how long that process will take. With the timeline for the project having been delayed, some issues have arisen for the county offices, which were going to lease out a portion of the new building for a decade. Morgan said that Paul Messick, the town's attorney, has been negotiating the lease with the county. As a result of the delay, one of the offices which were going to be housed in the new building will likely have to be located in temporary facilities during construction. The board will continue to hold its regular meetings using video conference technology in the near future based on recommendations by the state in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

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

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Got 23 hours to kill (give or take)? Here's more new on Netflix

If you have anywhere from two to 23 hours to kill, this week's new Netflix's offerings have a little something for everyone:



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

"Dangerous Lies"

Camila Mendes ("Riverdale") stars in this B-thriller about a young caregiver to an elderly man who passes away and leaves her to inherit his entire estate, which ends up putting her in lots of danger. No, it's not "Knives Out" (probably in many ways), but it might be a good way to pass a couple of hours. April 30

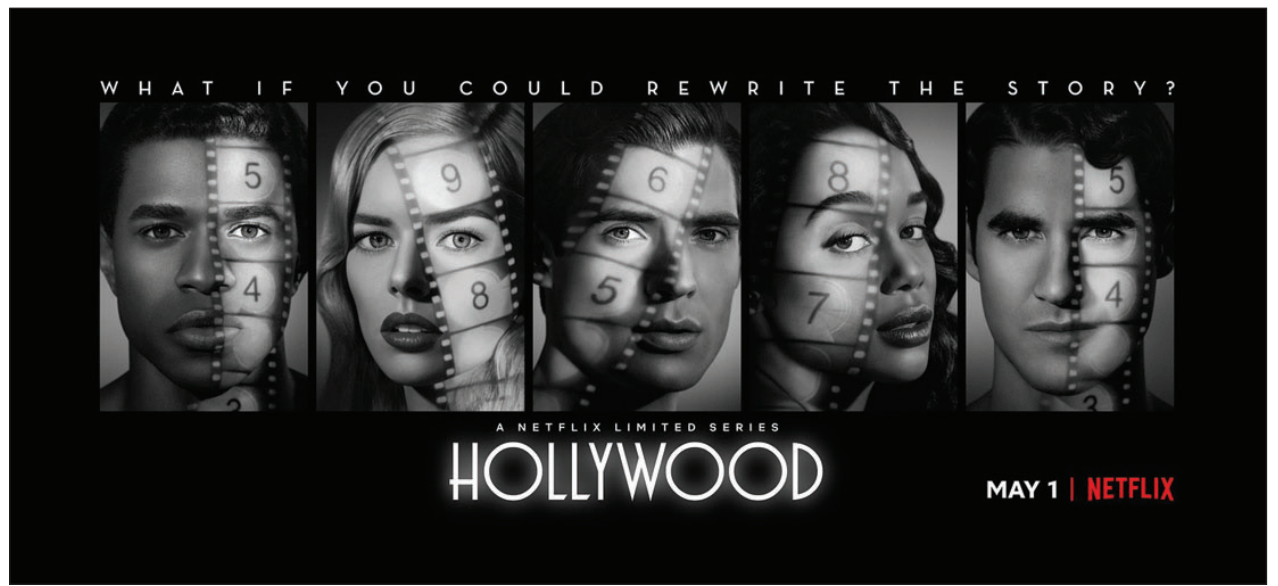
"Hollywood" (Limited Series)

Series)

Ryan Murphy, the creator/producer of such TV faves as "Nip/Tuck," "Glee," "American Horror Story," and "9-1-1," releases his first big entry since inking a five-year, \$300 million deal with Netflix in 2018. This highly anticipated miniseries follows stories set during a reimagined Hollywood Golden Age. This one is sure to be good. May 1

"All Day and a Night"

This street drama starring Jeffrey Wright and Ashton Sanders (who played Teen Chilton in the Oscar-winning "Moonlight") is about a young man's time spent in prison after committing murder, as he looks back on his childhood circumstances for clues about his past and future. The storyline employs some familiar tropes, but it is



written and directed by "Black Panther" writer Joe Robert Cole. May 1

"The Half of It"

It took writer-director Alice Wu 15 years to make a follow-up to "Saving

Face," her feature film debut. This coming-of-age dramedy is about a shy Asian girl named Ellie, who lives in a small town and is hired by the school jock to help him get a date with a girl, not knowing that Ellie has a crush on

the same girl. Life lessons ensue. May 1

"Jerry Seinfeld: 23 Hours to Kill"

We could all use a good laugh or two nowadays, and the famous comedian

is back with a new stand-up special, the second in a two-part deal that Seinfeld signed with Netflix in 2017. It was filmed at the Beacon Theater in New York City during the star's residency at the famous venue. May 5.

Siler City's Andrew earns prestigious Morehead-Cain scholarship to UNC-Chapel Hill

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

The list of the more than 3,000 recipients of the Morehead-Cain Scholarship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill boasts some notable names.

Among them: N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper, U.S. Rep. David Price, National Cancer Institute Director Ned Sharpless, New York Times best-selling novelist Shilpi Somaya Gowda and National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins.

You can now add a Siler City resident to that list.

Lindley Andrew, a senior at Jordan-Matthews High School, has been named a Morehead-Cain Scholar for the Class of 2024, an honor she said hasn't quite sunk in yet. Granted, it's a strange time for a celebration, but she's still honored.

"It means a ton to me," Andrew said. "It's a really good reflection of the work that I've put into it. It's definitely not been easy, but this make it feels worth it."

The Morehead-Cain is the first merit scholarship program established in the United States and fully funds four years and four summers of



Photo courtesy of JMArts

Jordan-Matthews High School senior Lindley Andrew has been named a recipient of the Morehead-Cain scholarship at UNC-Chapel Hill, one of the most prestigious merit scholarships in the country.

educational experiences at UNC. Applicants go through a thorough process: filling out an application, being chosen as a semifinalist, undergoing video interviews, becoming finalists, visiting campus for more information and interviews and finally being selected.

Andrew said she spent two weeks working on the application and another week editing, but wasn't

expecting much to come out of it. But as she progressed through each round of the process, her attitude changed.

"I got more passionate about it and doing more research about it and fell in love with the scholarship," she said. "For the final weekend, when we actually got to go to Carolina and the campus and hear stories about it, I thought, 'I want this so

bad."

Andrew's resume at Jordan-Matthews is littered with accolades. She has been active in both athletics and arts at J-M, playing tennis and performing as The Baker's Wife in "Into the Woods" and Sebastian the crab in "The Little Mermaid" at the school. But as the JMArts newsletter from April 1 announcing the scholar-

ship award stated, that's not all.

"Her excellence extends well beyond the arts," the newsletter stated. "The Dual Language student is fluent in Spanish and studied the language last summer at Governor's School of North Carolina, a residential program for top scholars across the state. She has competed at the international level in DECA high school marketing competitions, received a 'superior' score as part of a JM team presenting at the UNC Learning Through Language Symposium and has been captain of the JM Women's Tennis team."

Andrew told the News + Record that there have been times where she's been exhausted by her workload. On one night earlier this school year, she said, she had a long conversation with her mother, Silk Hope School Principal Angie Brady-Andrew, about being overwhelmed by her commitments. She left the conversation encouraged to push forward, saying she felt all the long nights of studying, performing, competing and more paid off.

"Every single one of those (nights) was worth

it even though in the moment I felt like I couldn't take anything else," she said. "This has validated my choices and times that I've turned down other opportunities because I knew what I wanted to do."

Andrew said she hasn't finalized a major yet, but is leaning heavily toward clinical psychology to become a therapist.

While she's waiting to attend UNC, she's also crossing her fingers that she'll be able to walk the stage at graduation. Jordan-Matthews, like all public schools across North Carolina, is closed and holding all classes online because of COVID-19, with major events like prom and graduation up in the air. Andrew said she's learned to "appreciate the time more," doing "random things" like watercolor painting, during the break.

"The first couple weeks were awful," she said. "My friends and I threw ourselves complete pity parties. But I've started to learn to appreciate the time."

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

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