

Chatham News + Record

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Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

A birthday parade

Jeremiah 'Jay' Martin waits as a parade of Chatham first responders approaches his home in celebration of his 11th birthday. More photos on page B9.



Submitted photos

Alma Arnold, 91, right, looks out the window at her family members last Easter as they visited her. Arnold will be spending Mother's Day in Chatham Ridge Assisted Living in Chapel Hill and will be seeing her family the same way.

MOTHER'S DAY 2020

COVID-19 adjusts regular mom's day celebrations

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Marilyn Grant says the last couple months have been "heartbreaking at times." "My mom has some dementia," she said, referring to her 91-year-old mother Alma

Arnold, a resident at Chatham Ridge Assisted Living in Chapel Hill. "She's not full-blown Alzheimer's, but she's like a child. You keep her on a schedule and she does well."

That schedule has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 2,000

nursing homes in North Carolina have been the epicenter of COVID-19 outbreaks, with 203 deaths coming from those facilities. Chatham Ridge is not one of them, but like other

See MOMS, page A3

STRAWBERRIES: A SWEET BUSINESS

Good, plentiful crops draw in consumers

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

APEX — Jean Copeland has been in the strawberry business for 40 years — that's her name on the sign at Jean's Berry Patch at the corner of N.C. Hwy. 751 and Lewter Shop Road a few miles east of Jordan Lake — and she's accustomed to being busy during springtime.

Two weeks into this year's season, Copeland said her business is doing very well.

Even with extra measures in place to protect customers from potential spread of COVID-19, demand for fresh strawberries is high and business strong

"It has worked out amazingly," said Copeland, who launched this year's selling season on April 16. "I'm just overwhelmed with the amount of customers we've had."

Crediting a mild winter and good all-around growing conditions this spring, strawberry farmers throughout the state are harvesting excellent berries now and will be

See CROPS, page A12

'This year's crop is looking pretty good,' according to Christina Harvey, Agriculture Marketing Specialist with the N.C. Dept. of Agriculture, who is working with strawberry growers and sellers in adjusting to the unique requirements of selling strawberries this spring.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

State agriculture officials say this year's strawberry season has started strong, with fresh berries available at numerous locations. One of them is Jean's Berry Patch off N.C. Hwy. 751 east of Jordan Lake, operated by veteran strawberry farmer Jean Copeland. Like other outlets for fresh strawberries, Copeland has implemented social distancing measures to help keep her customers healthy.

CHATHAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Budget calling for 5% jump

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne said Monday that the county's budget process for fiscal year 2020-21 was more or less restarted by the advent of COVID-19.

"Until COVID-19, Chatham County was having an excellent year," he said. "We had to shift gears right at the end of February, early March."

The projected county spending plan for the next fiscal year was presented to the public in part on Monday, and in full on Tuesday, showing a proposed budget of \$132,335,610 — an increase of 5 percent from the current year's budget. The majority of the increase is in new expenses for Chatham County Schools and six new positions within county departments.

See BUDGET, page A6

Art: distraction, coping mechanism during COVID-19

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

On March 31, a couple of weeks after Gov. Roy Cooper's executive order closing public school classrooms, some Jordan-Matthews High School faculty and students conducted a Twitter concert.

Yes, a Twitter concert. English teacher Sarah Harris

played a selection from "Under the Sea" from the movie "The Little Mermaid" on the piano. Student Kayli McIntosh sang the song "She Used to Be Mine" — from the soundtrack to the Broadway play "Waitress" — with her own ukulele accompaniment. David Gonzalez Hernandez, another student, performed an excerpt from

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IN THE KNOW

Chatham's meat plants under microscope as work continues. **PAGE A6**

Business: New Karma works to adjust in the age of COVID-19. **PAGE A7**

Environment: Littering, illegal dumping continue at Jordan Lake. **PAGE A9**

Siler City's El Futuro clinic pivots to provide services via video. **PAGE B12**



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 will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11.
- The Chatham County Board of Commissioners will hold a regular meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 18, a public hearing on the county's FY 2020-2021 budget plan at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, and work sessions on the budget at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, and Friday, May 22. A third budget work session is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 28.

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://chatham-history.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.

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 sweeping 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 **JMACorona-Concert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM

students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMACoronaConcert 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!

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

N.C. legislature allocates nearly \$1.5B to COVID-19 recovery

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

The N.C. General Assembly passed, and Gov. Roy Cooper signed, a pair of bills that allocated nearly \$1.5 billion of federal money from the CARES Act as part of the state's response to COVID-19.

Cooper signed the bills — which received unanimous support in both the state House and Senate — during a press briefing on Monday.

"This is a time where North Carolina has truly come together to fight this disease," Cooper said. "This emergency funding is just a first step. There will be more work ahead. We need it to repair the damage that has been done by this virus and to look ahead as to how we can prevent illness in the future."

The Senate bill, labeled as SB704, covered policy changes related to the pandemic, and state Sen. Valerie Foushee (D-Durham), Chatham's member of the Senate, joined several of her colleagues as primary sponsor. The House Bill, HB1043, allocated the funds from the federal government, and state Rep. Robert Reives II

(D-Chatham) was one of many bill sponsors.

The Senate bill, among other things:

- Extended the payment deadline for franchise, corporate income and individual income tax to July 15
- Enshrined Gov. Cooper's executive order expanding emergency unemployment benefits into law
- Canceled end-of-class and end-of-grade tests, and eliminated the requirement for K-3 reading assessments for this school year
- Altered the school calendar opening requirement to allow schools to open August 17, a week earlier than normal
- Called for the formation of a Strategic State Stockpile of medical supplies to be accessed by public and private healthcare entities
- The House bill directed the funds to various agencies across state government and other areas, including:
 - \$75 million for school nutrition services through the Dept. of Public Instruction
 - \$35 million for computers and other electronic devices for students through DPI
 - \$125 million for small business loans through

the Golden LEAF Foundation

- \$85 million spread to five universities for vaccine research, testing efforts and rural-focused healthcare response
 - \$50 million to purchase personal protective equipment and other healthcare supplies for COVID-19 response
- The bill also allocated \$150 million for county governments, with each county receiving a base allocation of \$250,000, with remaining funds distributed on a per capita basis. Additionally, \$2.25 million will be given to foster care families in the form of monthly supplemental payments of \$100 for each child receiving such assistance payments for April, May and June.
- Elected officials at Monday's press conference said they were pleased with the spirit of cooperation through the negotiations, but added that more work needed to be done, with specific kinks to be worked out over unemployment benefits.
- "There are more needs. I hope the spirit of consensus that brings us together today will continue," Cooper said. "I think there is some disagreement about how much and for what period of time we should do un-

employment insurance. Because it was controversial and because we couldn't reach agreement, that's been put off to a later time."

Reives said in a tweet soon after the bill signing that more would come. "This is a good and bipartisan start, but we still have work to do," the

tweet stated.

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

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Mother's Day: More meaningful, yet difficult, during COVID-19

BY DENNIS STREETS
Chatham County Council on Aging

There is something special about Mother's Day — a time to pay tribute to the person who provided loving care and encouragement through the ups and downs of life.

My mother passed a number of years ago, but it seems like only yesterday I was sitting by her bedside, holding her hand, as she took her last breath in her earthly home.

This year, Mother's Day will be quite different as we are still in the midst of battling COVID-19. If my mother was still here for this Mother's Day, I don't know how I would respond. I hope I would follow the guidance of Public Health — as hard as that would be — and not visit her in person and possibly expose her to the virus' horrible effects. Not only was she 89 when she passed, but she suffered from asthma for many years, which would have placed her at higher risk.

So what would I do for some-

one I loved beyond description in a year when Mother's Day celebrations are anything but typical?

First, I would try and make every day "Mother's Day." My mother was always the first person I called after work each day. I loved hearing her voice and enjoying an amusing memory or two. I loved her laugh. We had our serious moments, too. I often sought her advice even when I was well into adulthood.

Second, I hope I would have not only sent her a card and signed my name to its pre-printed text, but also taken the time to have written a meaningful message. Hopefully I would have thought to include a recent photo of my sons, as she dearly loved her grandchildren.

Third, hopefully I would have contacted a florist to deliver flowers to her home, explicitly requesting that they be left safely on the porch. Her favorite flower was a rose and was reflected in a saying she often shared with me, "The fragrance of roses stays on the hand of the one who gives them away." The giving of flowers was an important gesture in my family, as my dad always reminded me to give flowers to the living — and I'd hope my purchase

would help a local florist during these tough economic times.

Because my Mom was not one to use a computer and did not have Internet, a Zoom or Skype virtual visit would not have been possible, making all of these other actions even more important in order to show my gratitude.

Perhaps you've noticed that I prefaced much of what I said with "hopefully." I confess that I wasn't always that conscientious as a son — although in hindsight I wish I had been.

For those who are fortunate enough to have mothers or grandmothers still living, please don't miss the opportunity to share with them how very much they mean to you. Keep them safe while doing so, but be creative, proactive and genuine.

While I no longer have a Mother to call and wish "Happy Mother's Day," I do have a wonderful wife (mother of my two sons), a self-sacrificing mother-in-law and a loving sister, who is quarantined in an assisted living facility in Florida. I also have friends and neighbors who live alone and have no family.

I am especially struck by the loneliness and anxiety that those in long-term care facilities must feel when, by executive order, families are

not allowed to visit. We must be thankful for all that these facilities are doing to help families remain connected and to provide loving care in their absence during this time of COVID-19.

At the Chatham County Council on Aging, we also hear expressions of isolation and loneliness during our friendly check-in calls with participants. Such emotions are very complex and quite real and demonstrate how important it is to stay socially connected with one another while maintaining physical distance.

One senior shared her thanks for our call: "Thank you so much for calling; makes me feel like I have had some company!" Another remarked, "Bored to tears and afraid." Maybe most touching was this one: "Never missed the well until the water goes dry."

Maintaining social ties with family, friends and community has a powerful effect on one's physical, mental and emotional well-being. That is why it is so vitally important to reach out to family, friends and neighbors.

Unfortunately, we understand that not all seniors and their families enjoy loving relationships. Therefore, the Coun-

cil on Aging joined with the Chatham County Department of Social Services and the Chatham County Sheriff's Office in asking the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to proclaim Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse and Exploitation Awareness Month — to begin on Mother's Day and extend through Father's Day.

As noted in the Commissioners' resolution, "research shows that abuse, exploitation, and neglect (self and caregiver) of vulnerable and older adults all remain grossly underreported" and affect people of every social, economic, racial and ethnic background.

In signing the proclamation, Commissioner Chairman Karen Howard called upon all in Chatham County to observe this month by "honoring and respecting vulnerable and older adults, helping prevent abuse and exploitation, and taking steps otherwise to promote their well-being."

It is incumbent on all of us to find appropriate ways to celebrate Mother's Day — and especially honor all those who are protecting our community during this challenging time.

Dennis Streets is the Executive Director of the Chatham County Council on Aging.

MOMS

Continued from page A1

long-term care facilities in the state, it has not allowed visitation for weeks, with resident relatives like Grant restricted to phone calls, video calls and window visits.

On a day like Mother's Day, which is this Sunday, that restriction will still be in place — but Grant said her family has a plan.

"It's going to be a little bit different," said Grant, who works in the Chatham County Manager's Office. "We're going to have to drop off a meal and do a window visit outside. It will be very different, but I do have confidence in knowing the home will make a Mother's Day meal special for the mothers. It will be that second family in there with them." Mother's Day — first established in the U.S. in 1914 by presidential proclamation — is usual-

ly a time of celebrating the women that gave birth to, well, everyone. But this year will be different, in Chatham County and around the world.

The company US Foods conducted a survey of 2,000 mothers across the country in April and found that 75 percent of them said "there's someone they won't be able to hug this year because of quarantine." Nearly half of respondents said they'd do a phone

or video chat with relatives, while 27 percent would visit in-person "at a safe distance." Only a quarter said they would visit in-person "up close."

Angela deMuinck, the activities manager at Cambridge Hills Assisted Living in Pittsboro, said her facility would try to keep things "as normal as we can, close to what we normally do."

"We are just trying to maintain a normal routine for the residents," she said. "That's very important for them."

In previous years, the facility has held a tea party for mothers and any family members in attendance. With family members restricted from visiting, Cambridge Hills will instead host a "spa day" for its mothers, including the option of full manicures, hand massages and make-up. The facility's chef will cook a special meal, and families will be doing window visits.

DeMuinck said that the change is "pretty significant" for the residents at Cambridge Hills.

"The families really look forward to coming in and having that time with their loved ones and other residents they've gotten to know," she said. "It's right up there with all the other holidays."

A few days before Mother's Day, Chatham Ridge will be hosting a drive-by parade for its residents. At 2 p.m. Thursday, friends and family members of residents are invited to drive around the facility and make signs and greet them. Chatham fire and law enforcement members are also expected to participate.

'I love my mom dearly. I feel like it's what I'm supposed to do. She took care of me when I was young, and it's my turn to take care of her. I may not be with her 24/7 but I guarantee you I know my mom better than anybody else. I'm very thankful that mom is where she is, and although I hate the restrictions, I understand the restrictions and know that they are in place for a reason.'

MARILYN GRANT

"The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged all of us to alter our normal way of life, and none more so than our very vulnerable residents," Chatham Ridge Executive Director Jessica Werner said in a statement. "They have handled these changes and increasing limitations with grace and support. They are our heroes and we welcome the opportunity to help show them our love and respect by holding this celebration for them."

Grant said she's planning to be there, signs at the ready. She and her family visited Arnold on Easter and are planning a repeat for this holiday.

"We made some great big signs for Easter and took them up," she said. "Now we've got signs for this. I told my husband, 'You know we've got to make signs for Mother's Day too.' We sat there like some kids who are coloring up signs. My husband just loves it, and his handwriting is a whole lot better than mine."

This time and distance has been hard for Arnold, Grant said. The daughter visits the mother three days a week,

does more FaceTime calls and sends a card to Arnold and her roommate once a week.

"I did a window visit yesterday [Sunday], so that was OK," she said. "But it's kind of hard to see through the window and the screen. So unless you get right up to the window, it's hard."

But on Sunday, don't be surprised if you see Grant and her family parked outside Arnold's window again, talking to her on the phone, celebrating a day just for moms.

"I love my mom dearly," Grant said. "I feel like it's what I'm supposed to do. She took care of me when I was young, and it's my turn to take care of her. I may not be with her 24/7 but I guarantee you I know my mom better than anybody else. I'm very thankful that mom is where she is, and although I hate the restrictions, I understand the restrictions and know that they are in place for a reason."

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VIEWPOINTS

THE CN+R EDITORIAL

We're frustrated by a lack of details about COVID-19. It doesn't change how we should respond

Information is a hot commodity in the age of COVID-19, and, unfortunately, as currency, there's a pretty robust black market for those who trade in it.

Rumors. Hearsay. Social media rants. Unsubstantiated claims. A veritable grapevine of gossip, enough to overwhelm the senses at a time we're already overwhelmed.

There's no denying: we're all curious. Who in Chatham has COVID-19? Where'd they get it? How'd they get it? Who's been tested? Who's recovered? Who's being monitored? Why don't we have names? Where are Chatham's hotspots? Who's coughing and not wearing a mask? Did "it" indeed come to Chatham from an overseas traveler who lives here and came home sick, knowing he/she might have the virus? How bad is it at Mountaire that The Daily Kos helicoptered into Siler City and did a three-part story on the outbreak there?

Why aren't they limiting foot traffic at Lowes Home Improvement, and how many employees there are sick?

How can we know we're safe? Will I get it?

These days, there are many more questions than answers, and a great deal of mis- and dis-information to boot. Loud voices are drowning out useful ones, and in our hunger to satisfy our curiosity we're feeding on whatever morsels are tossed our way.

The frustration is easy to understand. Chatham County, per capita, is one of the most-infected counties in North Carolina; there are more than 400 cases as of this week, with COVID-19-related deaths now numbering in the double-digits. Take away the outbreak at the Laurels of Chatham and we'd still rank high. We're on the front lines and fighting an invisible enemy, and we're all at risk.

And rightly and logically, we want answers. We have

neighboring counties whose officials, on a daily basis, are telling their residents not just how many positive cases are there, but who — by gender and age range, though not by name — has COVID-19. They're also saying how many people have recovered and, in some cases, providing details about where the infected live.

There's no question we're curious about those same details in Chatham County, that we're all stymied by a perception of a closed — or at least stingy — information loop.

But at the end of the day, would knowing some of those details matter?

Not one bit.

Put aside federal health privacy laws and individual privacy rights, knowing all that and more wouldn't change what each of us should be doing to safeguard our own health in this crisis. Speculating on those kinds of details,

while an enticing experiment, only serves as a distraction from what's more important: that we should assume the worst about the contagious nature of the coronavirus and do our best to practice proper and safe health practices — practices all of us have heard repeatedly, but too often fail to practice.

Upset that other municipalities and counties are dishing out more details than in Chatham? We get it.

But to overlook, or to disregard, the tireless work the Chatham County Public Health Department and Chatham's Emergency Management are doing, and their commitment to slow the spread of the virus? Isn't that — not the dissemination of vague statistics — a higher priority?

Thinking otherwise is bad medicine.

This is new for them and everyone. There's not a playbook for this. When it's finally

in our rear view mirrors, we'll look back and think of a thousand and one things we could collectively have done differently, better. Parsing and sharing information will certainly be one of them.

But when it's over, we'll also look back on what really mattered most: the fact that, as former President George W. Bush said over the weekend, we are equally vulnerable and equally wonderful, and we'll rise or fall together — wholly in proportion to how smart we act.

Chatham officials are focused on ongoing mitigation in hotspots like Laurels of Chatham and Mountaire Farms on testing, contact tracing and medical care for employees. In the meantime, we've all been asked to suffer some inconveniences and nuisances until the virus is more understood, more under control.

Let's focus there, and knock this thing out. Save some debates for later.

Many challenges this year, including a reading goal



RANDALL RIGSBEE
Randall Reflects

When 2019 rolled over into 2020 and the 12 months that lay ahead were promising blank canvases, I did something I'd never done at the launch of any other year: I set a reading goal.

And like most new year's goals and resolutions, I tackled my plans — at first — with focused attention.

Three weeks into the new year, I was on a roll, and at the rate I was going — with three books already in the rear view mirror — it would be a cinch to exceed my 30-book goal. I was feeling accomplished.

My blaze of glory continued through February, but at a slightly slower pace. But I was undeterred since my reading that month included two thick 19th century novels that I couldn't merely breeze through. And my new tally didn't include my third reading of "Moby Dick," since it was a re-read and technically not even that since I'd only listened to it — all 22 hours — on Audible, squeezing the thick classic in during my commute to and from work.

How I arrived at 30 as a goal, I don't remember other than that it was less than 50, the number of books my wife — who was the inspiration for me undertaking this goal — aimed to read utilizing the same Goodreads app, and I didn't want to set a goal I had little chance of meeting. That wouldn't be good for the ego.

But other than ego, or perhaps my own self-improvement by reading more, nothing was at stake.

The "challenge" — all voluntary — involved no prizes for success or punishments for failure. There's not even so much as a t-shirt on the line.

And though there would be no public glory in meeting the challenge, just as there would be no public shaming if I didn't, I started to take the challenge seriously, and by that I mean that for every book I completed and checked off on the app, I was feeling accomplished.

As with meeting any goal, I enjoyed seeing my progress; in this case, that meant watching the progress bar expand on my Goodreads app every time I finished another book.

But then — there's never a shortage of excuses when we need one — the new year started getting weird and by early March, when it started to look like the end of the world as we knew, I couldn't even pretend to be caring any more about the challenge I'd set three months earlier.

Instead of reading novels for pleasure, I was reading constant coronavirus updates.

I'm envious of the folks I know who have taken full advantage of this weird time in history to accomplish new things, like reading more books.

And I've accomplished some things, too. Last weekend, I built an outdoor table. The weekend before, I brought down a big tree in my backyard that had died, cut it to manageable pieces and hauled them to the street. We've got a long to-do list that includes painting the kitchen.

I've been busy. But I've not been able to maintain a focus on pleasure reading, and my challenge — initially so promising — stalled at five of 30 books, a mere 17 percent of my goal.

My wife, meanwhile, hasn't lost pace, enjoying — among 17 other books she's read so far this year — a thick biography of Queen Victoria. She's reached 34 percent of her goal and is one book ahead of schedule while I lag behind mine by five.

I'm trying to kick start my efforts, to get the challenge back on track, but with only intermittent success.

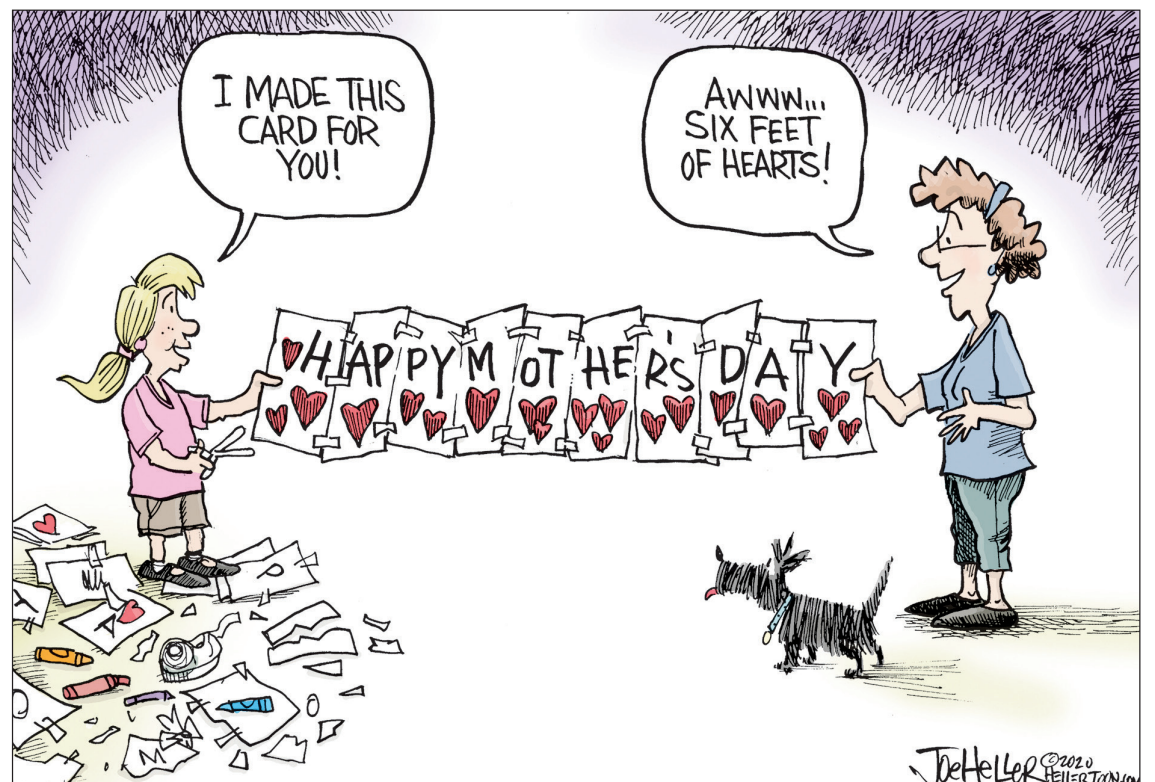
The key has been finding the right book. Light reading — I love mysteries, for example, and can knock out a good one in a couple of sittings — seemed too light for these times. So I turned my reading attention to a classic which I'd never tackled before and, without the intervention of the events of 2020, likely never would have: Giovanni Boccaccio's "The Decameron."

I chose this imposing 14th century Italian book for a couple of reasons.

One, because it's thick. My copy — complete with a long introduction, notes and index — is just over 900 pages. I like big books and cannot lie, reasoning that if a book is good, there's that much more of it to love in a long one. I spent, for example, much more time reading "Lonesome Dove" than I needed to, not because the paperback I read 12 years ago was 945 pages and the print was small, but because I read it slowly by design, savoring it with zero desire to leave Larry McMurtry's vivid characters and their world any sooner than I had to.

Second, because it seemed timely, even for a book written nearly 700 years ago. Completed by its author in 1353, "The Decameron" is set during the Black Plague epidemic in Europe in 1348. Like "The Canterbury Tales," "The Decameron" is a collection of stories recounted by a disparate group, in this case seven young women and three young men sheltering in a villa outside the city of Florence to avoid the spreading sickness, passing the time telling stories. It seemed a perfect choice to read in these unsettled times, but admittedly, it's slow going.

There's an option on Goodreads to edit my challenge, and I considered it briefly. Maybe reduce my goal to 15? But that would be cheating and I'd only be cheating myself. And I can be a bit forgiving of myself, I think, because when I set this challenge for myself in early January, such an innocent time so long ago, there was no way to know the many other challenges that lay ahead.



When life gives you lemons, at least try to make lemonade



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

I'm going to wander out here onto a limb and hope it doesn't get cut out under me to make a general statement that no matter who or what you believe about the coronavirus pandemic that you're tired of it.

Tired of wearing face masks. Tired of gloves. Tired of one-way aisles in stores. Tired of staying away from your house of worship. Tired of not being able to sit down in your favorite restaurant. Tired of 24/7 television coverage. Tired of wondering which scientific "expert" to believe. Tired of the animosity and down-right hatred exhibited by politician and private citizen alike. Tired of wondering what any or all of us can do about it.

The reality of all that, however, is basically we don't know answers to many of the questions. And lately, it seems, we're coming up with more questions.

What's a body to do? From my perspective in my little corner of the world, which admittedly isn't a New York City "hot spot," I think there are several responses. And I'm not saying they may be universal responses. I think every person's water has to find its own level, although there are some basic things in common. For instance, I'm pretty sure folks who are sick and coughing and sneezing and wheezing shouldn't go into grocery stores and contaminate produce or cashiers by breathing on either. And in the way of response, in a decidedly non-Christian point of view, if someone does that intentionally they probably should be hauled out to the woodshed and have a collection of hickory sticks worn out across where they sit down.

Other than that, however, I think there are a few other alternatives. One is to throw up your hands, hide under the bed and drop out of life. But that doesn't seem such a great option.

Unfortunately, as time goes along and the virus is still with us, more and more folks are experiencing periods of sadness, even depression and in some cases taking matters to the extreme by permanently dropping out of life by their own hand.

Unfortunately, as time goes along and the virus is still with us, more and more folks are experiencing periods of sadness, even depression and in some cases taking matters to the extreme by permanently dropping out of life by their own hand.

Others try to cope by going along as if life has not changed as they attempt to act as they did before. But how can you go to a baseball game or a movie or a store when they're not there or open?

That brings me to yet a third option that at least offers some relief and possibilities — namely, redo and retool. We're seeing that in many ways. For instance, I can't sit down in a favorite restaurant but I can order their bacon cheeseburger or fried chicken to take out and take home.

Earlier in the midst of the "stay-at-home-if-you-can," when there was no NCAA basketball, I watched games of long ago. And, you know, Carolina still beat Georgetown in '82 and N.C. State toppled Houston in '83. Games turned out the same way as they did the first time.

No doubt, there are countless other examples of getting by. But with all this rearranging, however, comes a unique opportunity within that option. Many folks find themselves with more time on their hands than previously and the question becomes how are they or we using it.

Remember that comment earlier about how some folks are really becoming sad and depressed? It may just be that you and I, if we will, can be the answer to their situation.

Telephones haven't been shut down. The post office is still delivering mail, even though it's struggling. Pick up the phone. Buy some stamps. Write a letter. Make a care package for someone who can't get out. Read your Bible. Say your prayers. Wash your hands. Don't sneeze on anyone or the tomatoes.

Don't just set aside the lemons we've been dealt or try to suck on them. Add some sugar. It'll go down a lot easier.

What's on your mind?

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

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

VIEWPOINTS

Debt only delays what is due



JOHN HOOD
John Locke
Foundation

Set aside for the moment how quickly and to what extent North Carolina and other states should reopen our economies. Set aside partisan wrangling ahead of the 2020 elections. Set aside the sweeping ideological claims about how COVID-19 “proves” everyone’s preexisting beliefs about the proper size and scope of government.

Perhaps then we can all agree that the costs of the pandemic are staggering — and that asking the “federal government” to pay for them, so that “we” don’t have to, is meaningless babble.

Going into the crisis, Washington was already running massive deficits, adding a trillion dollars a year to the national debt. That is, what

Congress and the president wanted to spend at the moment significantly exceeded the taxes they were willing to impose at that moment to pay for them.

Unfortunately, that was only the easily recognized tip of the preexisting debt iceberg. By the early 2030s, annual federal deficits were projected to climb to \$2 trillion or more because of unfunded liabilities for Social Security, Medicare, and other entitlements.

Now, we must layer the current cost of COVID-19 on top. Here are the projections from the Congressional Budget Office just for 2020. Start with the preexisting \$1 trillion operating deficit. Add \$2.2 trillion for the business loans, unemployment-insurance expansions, and other kinds of federal relief already enacted. Then add another \$500 billion for direct effects on the federal budget such as higher Medicaid utilization and lower tax collections.

That takes the deficit for this

year alone to \$3.7 trillion. Brian Riedl, a fiscal analyst for the Manhattan Institute, is more pessimistic about the budgetary effect and projects a \$4.2 trillion deficit for 2020.

Furthermore, all analysts agree that COVID-19 will dampen revenue and heighten spending beyond this year. Riedl’s estimate is that the effects of the Great Suppression will translate into \$8 trillion in deficits over the decade. The national debt would rise to \$41 trillion by 2030, or 128% of the gross domestic product projected for that year. “This would exceed the national debt at the height of World War II,” he observes.

It’s a staggering bill. And we are all going to pay a chunk of it, directly or indirectly. Forget the fanciful notion that politicians can make “the wealthy” and “big corporations” pay the bill. You can steal every penny from the mega-rich and not get anywhere close to that.

It gets worse, though, because

politicians — and in fairness, we the public in our panicked state — don’t seem to be finished with COVID-19 relief. There is talk of still-more grants and loans for distressed businesses and still-more-massive bailouts of state and local governments.

North Carolina’s budget deficit alone may exceed \$4 billion this year, according to some estimates. The state has wisely set aside a rainy day fund and other reserves, but those cannot fully bridge such a gap.

“Let’s get Washington to pay for it!” many insist. Many in the rest of the country are saying the same. Essentially, they dream of filling up their side of the bathtub by scooping water from the other side. There will be lots of splashing around. But the math doesn’t work. State taxpayers are also federal taxpayers.

Facing the post-COVID fiscal realities in North Carolina and the rest of the country will mean accepting some hard

truths. For the foreseeable future, there won’t be any more large-scale tax relief. We aren’t going to expand entitlements, and indeed they will have to be trimmed and means-tested.

Boosting federal debt is not an alternative to paying our bills. It merely delays when the bill is due, while increasing the size of that bill at least a little — and perhaps more than a little if our abnormally low interest rates rise closer to normal levels over the coming decade.

Saving lives and shielding households and businesses from immediate ruin may well be objectives worthy of the money we are spending. But that’s the point: we the taxpayers are incurring the expense, not “the government.”

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

GUEST COLUMN | ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN

No ‘new’ normal

We are living through a crisis. The coronavirus pandemic has brought physical, emotional and economic suffering. No one knows what the future holds. It may well include greater hardships and more tragedies. We do not even know if the end is in sight.

So, on the one hand, I get it that we want to return to “normal.”

But don’t use the phrase “new normal.” I think we can do much better.

Throughout history, people of different religious faiths and philosophies have abided by the same principal: we trust where we are going by remembering where we have been. But we should not make an idol of the past. We should be open to the great possibility of the future.

The congregation I serve, Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church, was chartered in 2009. Granted, we have not met in our sanctuary since mid-March and, yes, it is painful that we cannot gather for worship in the foreseeable future. But a few years ago, our sanctuary wasn’t even built! What was “normal” a decade ago is far short of what we had come to expect in 2019.

Please understand that I do not wish to diminish or dismiss the tragedies that have occurred as a result of COVID-19.

It is true, however, that there are signs of new life all around us. Blue skies are now seen over Los Angeles and Beijing for the first time in decades. Birdsong can once again be heard in Manhattan and New Delhi. Rivers and oceans are running clearer and cleaner. And not only are people connecting to the natural world, but we are also reconnecting to one another. The irony of social distancing is that the separation has caused many people to pick up a phone and called extended family members and neighbors just to check-in. Several local nonprofits have joined together to create the Chatham Solidarity Fund to raise money in support of people in need, particularly immigrants.

Immigration, of course, is a so-called hot button issue. It’s no secret that our country’s recent history has been tense and divisive. Whereas “normal” just a few months ago would have included bitter partisan politics, today the vast majority of people recognize the sacrifice necessary to care for the common good and are overwhelmingly supportive of our essential employees, especially our heroic healthcare workers.

Thinking of heroes, perhaps you know the story of the Apollo 13 lunar module. As the oxygen tank failed, there was the terrible possibility that the spaceship would not return safely to earth. Gene Kranz, the lead flight director, overheard fellow NASA employees lamenting that this could be the worst disaster in the organization’s history. But Kranz responded:

“With all due respect, I believe this is going to be our finest hour.”

We are living through a crisis. Yet we also have an incredible opportunity. Let’s rocket past normal. Let’s be extraordinary.

What’s on your mind?

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Heard enough about Chapel Hill?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Are you tired of hearing about Chapel Hill? Have you heard enough to last a lifetime? Has the multipart ESPN series about Michael Jordan, “The Last Dance,” been the last straw?

Even so, there are things about the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that all North Carolinians ought to know about this important institution.

So, here is a new book, “UNC A to Z: What Every Tar Heel Needs to Know about the First State University,” by Nicholas Graham, the university’s archivist, and Cecelia Moore, former university historian. Disguised as a campus guidebook, it is a serious and compelling university portrait.

Maybe the first thing we should know is whether or not the institution in Chapel Hill is really the first state university. One of the book’s hundreds of alphabetical entries, “First State University,” explains that both Georgia and North Carolina have claimed the distinction: Georgia was the first to be chartered, and UNC the first to open. UNC admitted students in 1795. Georgia’s first student did not arrive until 1801. But “A to Z,” proving its objectiveness, gives its readers the facts and lets them make up their minds about which university is first.

The book deals similarly with the controversial and confusing

question about the name of UNC. Is it the University of North Carolina, UNC, UNC-Chapel Hill, or Carolina?

“A to Z” answers in the introduction: “Throughout the book, we refer to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill using the familiar, shortened terms ‘UNC Chapel Hill,’ ‘Carolina,’ or ‘the university.’ In acknowledgment of the university’s name change in 1963 when ‘at Chapel Hill’ was added, references in this book to ‘UNC’ refer to the university primarily during the period before the creation of the consolidated state university system.”

If this answer does not satisfy you, you are not alone. But it would take another whole book to give a complete story of the university’s changing names.

Meanwhile, “A to Z” charges on with its short entries in convenient alphabetical order. Many entries deal with places, buildings, or objects. I was curious to see what “A to Z” would say about the controversy over the Silent Sam statue.

“Confederate Monument” is one of the book’s longer entries and one of many that deal with the university’s complicated and continuing association with race. It cites the speech of Julian Carr at the monument’s dedication in 1913 praising the Confederate army for “saving the very life of the Anglo Saxon race in the South.”

Only a few pages earlier in an entry titled “Carr Building,” “A to Z” notes that in 1900, this “frequent donor” funded the

building in its entirety. Carr made a fortune in tobacco and textiles. In politics he actively championed “the cause of white supremacy.”

Other campus buildings are named for important university figures who were also slaveholders or white supremacists.

Joseph Gregoire de Roulhac Hamilton chaired the history department from 1908 until 1930. Hamilton Hall is named for him. He was “an avowed white supremacist” and defended “Ku Klux Klan violence and Jim Crow segregation.” Hamilton energetically collected family and business records all over the South. These papers became the foundation of the Southern Historical Collection housed at the university’s library.

Interestingly, some of the book’s most important information was available only because of Hamilton’s efforts. His records are “the primary sources that a younger generation of historians would use to challenge and eventually discredit the work of Hamilton and other Confederate apologists.”

“A to Z” drips with the irony that some of the university’s most progressive strengths are built on foundations of the contributions of slaveholders and white supremacists.

“A to Z” is a book, not just for Carolina loyalists, but also for everyone who wants to understand the complex mix of attributes of our first state university.

How will we come out of this?



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

Lib, my retired Methodist Pastor wife, and I have been married for 55 years and our household has always been filled with interesting, sometimes differing but generally entertaining conversations about current issues. A recent afternoon discussion on our deck raised the question as to how we will emerge from this COVID-19 pandemic. I hope you find it interesting.

ME:

Are Americans more willing to fight a war with bullets against a foreign nation than we are for our own health? Before answering I remembered the stories my parents told about how people willingly rationed butter, gas, sugar and other items for the war effort in World War II. Our people were willing to sacrifice to win that war.

For the first time since World War II every North Carolinian has been asked to sacrifice. But 30 days into stay-home orders — designed to reduce the spread of a highly contagious and potentially deadly disease — a growing number are rebelling by protesting, leaving our homes and disobeying crowd size limitations, face masking and cleanliness suggestions. Partisanship, rumors, anger, ugly rhetoric and blame increase daily.

Without question COVID-19 has been painful for everyone, but the anger is being fueled by those who neither believe how potent this coronavirus is nor accept the restrictions as solutions. They claim the economic damage is worse than the deaths they consider a small price to pay to earn money.

We have become skeptical, distrustful, unwilling to sacrifice and, apparently, selfish instead of selfless. We are a far different people than those in the 1940s.

We no longer trust elected officials, business leaders or much of anyone — sometimes for good reason. Leaders too frequently filibuster; pivot remarks to evade direct questions or shade the truth. Too frequently the media, which increasingly has staked out philosophical and political alliances, permits leaders’ behavior and sensationalizes stories. We follow social media, where people can say anything, true or not.

To come out of this COVID-19 pandemic we need leaders who tell us unvarnished truth, whether it benefits them, their political party or business interests. They must demonstrate they serve the common good, not just a narrow constituency. But we must be willing to follow their leadership, not just when it is convenient or serves our best interests or our affiliations. They usually see a bigger picture than do we. Untruthful and untrustworthy leaders should be turned out of office or punished in other ways.

In World War II we were united in fighting for freedom. We won’t come out of this crisis until we do the same today.

MY WIFE:

The 1918 deadly H1N1 flu came in three waves, killing nearly 700,000 people in the United States. Farther back in history, another pandemic changed the world. The Black Death, or Bubonic Plague, decimated Europe in the 14th century. Millions of Europeans, including half of the population of Florence, Italy, died brutal deaths. Those who remained were shaken. Their grief and disruption of life was compounded by financial ruin that threatened their future.

History tells what happens next.

The people of Florence rose up. Out of their pain a new thing was born. We know it as the Renaissance. Rebirth, re-generation, reformation, re-set, and Resurrection are the story of life that emerges beyond pain and even death.

How we come out of this pandemic as whole people depends on how we respond to what we have learned. Pandemic shutdown has exposed cracks, shortcomings and failings of our culture. Inequality, racism, hate and anger are right at the fore and we see clearly how we have failed one another. Poverty, healthcare, and education issues are exposed as serious unsolved problems. The rural divide is stark, and nobody seems to have vision or interest to solve problems for the good of all. We will come out of this if we can awaken to the truth that we are only as strong as our weakest; only as rich as the poorest among us. We will come out of this when we begin to examine our own souls. Where is empathy? Where is compassion? What is enough? Who is being left behind?

We will come out of this as we look to those who are innovating a future. Somebody told me once, “Creativity springs from a restless mind.” We, who are made in the image of God, have great capacity for creativity. The unleashing of creativity in the world will be part of coming back from the pain of the pandemic. Our time of rest and sheltering seeds creativity. God is always doing a new thing. If we see it, claim it, and work to live into it, we will come out of this. Who knows, maybe we will be better for it all.

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

Chatham's meat-processing plants under COVID-19 microscope as operations continue

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Meat-processing plants like Siler City's Mountaire Farms and Brookwood Farms are now required to continue operations during the pandemic, despite concerns from lawmakers and advocacy groups about the virus' spread.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order last Tuesday requiring the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to "take all appropriate action...to ensure that meat and poultry processors continue operations consistent with the guidance for their operations." The order would, in practice, keep processors like Mountaire Farms and Brookwood Farms in Siler City open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Multiple meat processing plants across the United States have closed in the wake of outbreaks — specifically, the Smithfield Foods plant in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; the JBS pork-processing facility in Worthington, Minnesota; and Tyson Fresh Foods' plant in Waterloo, Iowa. According to an April 27 report from CNN Business, those three plants account for "approximately 15 percent of pork production" across the country.

Trump's order states that "it is important" for such plants to continue operations "to ensure a continued supply of protein for Americans." Closures of plants, the order says, "threaten the continued functioning of the national meat and poultry supply chain, undermining critical infrastructure during the national emergency."

"Given the high volume of meat and poultry processed by many facilities, any unnecessary closures can quickly have a large effect on the food supply chain," the order states. "For example, closure of a single large beef processing facility can result in the loss of over 10 million individual servings of beef in a sin-



Staff photo by Zachary Horner

Mountaire Farms in Siler City has been home to more than 70 positive COVID-19 tests of employees and their family members, according to media reports, as advocates express concerns about the plant staying open.

gle day. Similarly, under established supply chains, closure of a single meat or poultry processing facility can severely disrupt the supply of protein to an entire grocery store chain."

The order utilizes the Defense Production Act to give the president authority to require companies to operate in a certain way to meet national defense needs.

The decision was met with skepticism from U.S. Rep. David Price (D-N.C.), whose Fourth District will encompass most of Chatham County starting next year. Price and fellow Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wisconsin) sent a letter to Trump and other administration officials, seeking mandated protections for workers in meat-processing plants. Price said in a statement that keeping plants open without "adequate" protections "places workers at extraordinary risk."

"Severe outbreaks across meat-processing plants reveal the major

deficiencies in protective measures with tragic results," he said. "A secure food supply chain depends on the safety and wellbeing of frontline workers who should not have to choose between their health and their work. I urge the administration to implement our recommendations and will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that workers' health remains a priority."

The total spread of COVID-19 at Mountaire Farms' Siler City plant is not entirely clear. Media reports from last week stated that more than 70 workers and family members had tested positive for the virus, but the company has not responded to multiple attempts for comment since the executive order went into place. Mark Reif, the company's community relations manager for North Carolina, told the News + Record on April 15 that the company has been "proactive" in trying to protect employees

during the outbreak. "Our employees are considered 'essential employees' working in an 'essential industry' to help ensure people have the food they need," Reif said. "We have an amazing team at Mountaire Farms, that works together to produce the best quality products that our customers have come to expect from us. They have faced this challenge with strength and determination and we're proud of them every day."

The Chatham County Public Health Department has continued to work with other agencies like Piedmont Health Ser-

vices to track Mountaire employees and family members with COVID-19 symptoms, according to a statement released May 1 from CCPHD Director Layton Long.

"While the CCPHD does not have the authority to inspect or permit meat-processing facilities," Long said, "we have long understood the importance of these facilities to feeding communities as well as the potential for the virus to spread among employees and in the community."

Long's statement said that the department has collaborated with the county's Emergency

Management department, the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services and the N.C. National Guard, as well as Piedmont Health, since Mountaire's first case was reported, and that mitigation and containment efforts were put in place before then.

"Local agencies and partners in Chatham County recognized early in the pandemic that its impacts could be considerable and widespread, particularly in those facilities and businesses that would be most vulnerable," Long said. "Mountaire Farms was the first of these facilities we were able to meet with in late March."

As meat-processing plants continue operations throughout the pandemic, organizations like The Hispanic Liaison in Siler City have been raising awareness of concerns at the Mountaire plant. A Facebook post from April 29 said Mountaire tested 356 "symptomatic workers and family members," a small number relative to the total workforce.

"Many more family members are sick and didn't get tested," the post stated. "There's an assumption that if one family member is sick, others have contracted as well, which eschews the real number of infections in our small town. According to workers we have spoken with, Mountaire is implementing the safety measures they promised, but they're worried that the company is not sharing information with them about the extent of the outbreak."

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

BUDGET

Continued from page A1

Additionally, the county's property tax rate will not be altered and remain at 67 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

LaMontagne said the theme of this year's budget was "choices," reflecting decisions that had to be made in light of projected revenue changes due to COVID-19.

"The budget theme reflects our difficult choice we have to make," he said. "In the face of many unknowns, we had to focus on what we do know, project our revenue cautiously and make careful choices about the services we can provide."

The county government was projected to exceed expected revenues prior to the pandemic. Sales tax receipts were 13 percent over budget, LaMontagne said, and property tax collection was "slightly over" projections. Based on this, the

county budget plan makes "conservative" additions, he said, to maintain the current debt model, support Chatham County Schools and serve residents.

"As things stand today, it appears that we will continue to meet our projected revenue," he said. "There is a lot of speculation. Time will tell whether our projections are right or wrong. Our revenue projections are broadly conservative. Every day there's a new report to consider."

The News + Record will feature a story in next week's edition looking at the budget proposal more in-depth. The whole document is available online. The public will be allowed to weigh in during a public hearing on May 18, with county board of commissioner work sessions scheduled for May 21, 22 and 28. The budget is projected to be finalized by June 15.

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

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Andrea Batsche, owner of New Karma for Old Threads in Pittsboro, created a silk dress from old ties.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Batsche took a plain taupe top and added a vintage doily and lace to upcycle into a whole new look.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Families who have lost family members bring mementos to New Karma for Old Threads in Pittsboro. Owner Andrea Batsche creates new designs for her clients, creating something new with old memories.

New Karma in the COVID-19 age

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Andrea Batsche was looking forward to spring and the start of “First Sundays” in Pittsboro.

As the new year began, the owner of New Karma for Old Threads, located adjacent to the circle in downtown Pittsboro, was seeing an uptick in her business. There had been a lull in the protests over the Confederate monument that used to sit in front of the Historic Chatham County Courthouse, which Batsche said “changed the feeling of downtown.”

“I was feeling really good,” she said, “like we were turning a corner.”

Then came COVID-19 — which has done to Batsche what it’s done to nearly every business: forced changes.

Batsche is an artist with fabric. She takes old fabrics, reuses, reworks and up-cycles older garments and transforms them into something new. She’s not just a seamstress. As she says, she “works in memories.”



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

New Karma for Old Threads is located on the circle in the heart of Pittsboro.

She recalled one customer who asked her to re-work her father’s shirt and bag from the Air Force and fashion it into a bag for the customer’s sister as a gift. When she was able to make two bags, the customer was “touched” by being able to have that piece of her father for herself as well.

“I have profound experiences doing memory designs,” Batsche said. “I get so overcome with the deep connection. I realized that my dad was a Veteran during the same era. Vietnam. He came back, but

didn’t come back. There’s a real energy, the energy is in these clothes. It’s such an honor. It’s not just sewing a thing but working in memories. Every single project has a different story and a different family energy. It’s me working, honoring that time.”

Her items are made to order and “absolutely unique,” attracting repeat customers that have a specific niche whether it’s vintage, a boho vibe or something special. Each item is distinct not just because of the fabrics, but because of the person she



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Andrea Batsche, owner of New Karma for Old Threads in Pittsboro, shows off a dress she up-cycled adding a little lace and trim, creating a new summer dress from old clothes.

is creating the item for. And her shop, an “emporium of creativity,” was also a destination, similar to “hanging out at your favorite coffee shop.”

She recalled a mother and daughter who would drive hours from their home outside of Charlotte once a month when receiving treatments at Duke

Hospital. Coming to her shop was “part of their outing.” They would stop by each month and buy something. She tapped visitors from Raleigh, Southern Pines, Winston-Salem and Asheboro who came into town looking to see “what was new.”

“It became quite a destination,” Batsche said.

When stores began closing their doors to walk-in traffic after the onset of COVID-19, Batsche was there, in the store. But soon, she stopped going.

“I was so depressed at an empty store with the empty streets,” she said. “It was so much silence. I decided to not go anymore. My husband and son were staying at home and I felt like I should honor what they are doing. I sat in a dark cloud and didn’t know what to do.”

As a result, Batsche has decided to “re-define” a bit. With the help of her daughter, she started an online store at www.newkarmaforoldthreads.com. She admits that her particular art form — custom made goods for clients — is somewhat difficult on that type of platform since “fabrics are meant to be felt.” She still has many vintage goods that she has offered for sale online and is still working on people’s “memories.” She thinks that with 2020 graduates missing out on so many things this year, there may be an opportunity for creating custom goods from fabrics of their childhood to commemorate in a whole new way.

These days, Batsche is doing appointments and is considering ways to do virtual sewing classes and meetings with clients. In the end, she believes that there is still hope in the art of her creations for others.

“Before opening, I had a tremendous amount of support from close friends, my family and other local artists,” she said. “I could not have done this without their love and support. I am eternally grateful to each act of kindness bestowed upon me.”

“Going forward, I really hope that the community continues to support these unique small businesses and artists. I think we have a glimpse of how we can make things better for the community as a whole.”

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

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OBITUARIES

JOSHUA RILEY DUNN



Joshua Riley Dunn, 33, of Raleigh died Monday, April 27, 2020.
Mr. Dunn was born in Orange County on January 28, 1987, the son of Phillip Berry Dunn and the late Alice Riddle Conner. Joshua was a graduate of Cary High School and East Carolina University with a degree in Education. He had served twelve years as a Specialist with the Army National Guard. He was of the Baptist Faith and was currently working in restaurant management. Joshua enjoyed cooking, fishing, drawing and painting, online games and animals.
He was a good handyman and enjoyed taking on a project.
Joshua was preceded in death by his mother and his maternal grandparents, John and Emily Riddle. He is survived by his father, Phillip Dunn of Siler City; one sister, Cara Hall and husband Dustin of Raleigh; aunt, Jackie Dunn of Siler City; niece, Ava Grace Hall; and paternal grandparents, Cliff and Ann Dunn of Siler City.
A private memorial service for the family was held Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 2 p.m. with Rev. Bobby Shutt, officiating.
A memorial service with military honors will be held at a later date.
Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.
Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the family.

JESSE FRANKLIN ABRIGHT, SR.



Jesse Franklin Abright, Sr., 91, of Coleridge Road, Siler City died Friday, May 1, 2020 at UNC Hospice, Pittsboro.
Jesse was the oldest child of Joe Fulton and Bertha (Murray) Abright, born on December 1, 1928. Jesse retired from Durham Life Insurance after 14 years of service. He worked with State Capitol for 10 years. Prior to his career in Insurance he worked with Dossenbach's Furniture in Siler City.
Jesse was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Betty Sue (Hudson) Abright. Betty was his wife, helpmate, friend and confidant for 61 years. They both loved traveling and were members of the Chatham County Scampers for several years. They made a second home in Badin Lake and Jesse was very instrumental in getting Badin Shores Church founded and active. Jesse was faithful to His Lord and loved to share his faith. He was a member of Moon's Chapel Baptist Church. He was a very active member of the NRA and held firm to our 2ND Amendment Rights under the Constitution. He was an avid hunter and loved to share his "tales" of bringing home the meat for his family. He believed hunting wasn't just a sport but a means for providing for his family. Jesse was a "true patriot" and served his county in the Korean Conflict.
He is survived by his son, Franklin Abright, Jr. and wife, Linda of Siler City; loving granddaughter, Tiffany Abright; great-granddaughter, Lua Abright and siblings, Geraldine Callicutt of Asheboro, Pauline Jarrell and husband, David of Asheboro, Ray Abright and wife, Carolyn of Ramseur, Faye Craven and husband, Floyd of High Point, Betty Joe Cox and husband, Maurice of Athens, TX, and Elaine Kearns and husband, Neal of Asheboro.
The funeral will be at Moon's Chapel Baptist Church, Siler City with Dr. Rev. Patrick Fuller officiating. Burial will be in Chatham Memorial Park, Siler City.
Memorials may be made to Moon's Chapel Baptist Church Building Fund, 175 Moon's Chapel Road, Siler City, NC 27344 or UNC Hospice, PO Box 1077, Pittsboro, NC 27312.
Due to the Covid-19 virus all services will be private but friends are encouraged to visit the Smith & Buckner website or come by the office to register condolences.

THOMAS H. GRIFFIN JR



Thomas H. Griffin Jr. passed away peacefully at home on May 3rd, 2020 surrounded by loved ones.
Born in Fayetteville, NC on February 3rd, 1950 to the late Jean Johnson and Thomas H. Griffin Sr. He was also preceded in death by his loving wife Teresa Griffin, sister Becky Richardson, sister Patricia Champion, and brother Robert Griffin.
A native of Chatham County, he was a graduate of Central Carolina Community College, as well as, a licensed electrician and plumber. He served the University of North Carolina for 40 years, first in its Housing Department and lastly as a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) manager for Facility Services. While at the university he proudly served as the Employee Forum Chairman from 2002-2005 and 2008-2010. He served on a myriad of University boards and committees, most notably as the co-chair of the Chancellor's Task Force for a Better Workplace and as the first ever elected staff representative on the Board of Trustees Finance Committee. During his terms as Forum chair the University turned its attention to staff concerns to a degree unsurpassed in University history. He was also a contributing member to the State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC).
In his spare time, "JR" as he was known to family and friends, liked to tinker and work the land on his ancestral farm and surrounding property. He loved action and western movies. Hard work was his focus and guiding practice. A trait that he passed onto his children.
He is survived by his son William D. T. Griffin, daughter Ashley L. Griffin, sister Kathy G. Butler, sister Carolyn Robinson, sister Evalyn Griffin, and numerous nieces and nephews.
He will be greatly missed as his heart was too large for this world.
A private service will be held graveside for the family with a memorial to be planned at a later date.
Condolences may be made at: www.donaldsonfunerals.com.
Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Griffin family.

LORA DELL RAMSEY PARKER

Lora Dell Ramsey Parker, 92, of Pittsboro, died Thursday, April 30, 2020.
A graveside service was held Monday, May 4, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at Bynum United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Ray Gooch presiding.
Lora was born in Fayette County, WV on August 12, 1927 to the late Emmett Ramsey and Clara McKnight Ramsey. She was also preceded in death by her husband Murray Gipson Parker, brothers, Gary Ramsey and Earl Ramsey, and sisters Patsy Stephens, Thelma Ste-

phens, and Jackie DeBerry.
Survivors include her son, Dennis Parker of Pittsboro; daughter, Linda Smithwick of Pittsboro; brother, Bob Ramsey of Portsmouth, VA, Billy Joe Ramsey of Barnesville, GA; sisters, Shelby Soesbee and Vivian McFarland, both of GA; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.
In lieu of flowers the family asks for memorial contributions to be made in Lora's memory to Rock Spring Baptist Church, 29 Rock Springs Church Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312.
Condolences may be made at: www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

LINDA GAIL SNYDER MARSH



Linda Gail Snyder Marsh, 75, of Siler City died Saturday, May 2, 2020 at Siler City Center.
Mrs. Marsh was born in Chatham County on March 20, 1945, the daughter of Virgil T. and Swannie Beatrice (Mashburn) Snyder. Linda was a member of the First Baptist Church where she was a member of the church choir and had taught Sunday School. Linda was a homemaker and had worked as a teacher's assistant at Chatham Middle School and Jordan-Matthews High. She also worked as a customer service representative for Welford Harris.
She was a member of the Gideon Auxiliary, and enjoyed traveling and singing. Linda had an outgoing personality, a quick wit and an infectious spirit that brought pleasure to all she met. Linda never met a stranger, was blessed with a tender heart and a motherly instinct for all children.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Roger and Talmadge Snyder and a sister, Nadine Brady.
She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Charles R. Marsh; one daughter, Janie Marsh Stewart of Apex; two sons, Stephen C. Marsh and wife Kathleen of Siler City and Mike Marsh of Siler City; grandchildren, Joseph Marsh, Kailee, Lexi, Scotty Stewart; two brothers: Tommy Snyder of Manteo, NC, and Jerry Snyder of Pineville, NC.
Due to the Covid-19 virus, a private graveside service will be held at Loves Creek Baptist Cemetery with Rev. Jim Wall and Rev. Allen Admire officiating.
Friends are encouraged to visit the Smith & Buckner website or come by the office to register condolences.

EDWIN EASLEY "BUDDY" WHITT, JR.



Edwin Easley "Buddy" Whitt, Jr. passed away May 1, 2020 at his daughters' home in Pittsboro, NC, surrounded by loved ones.
Born in Red Star, W.VA, on November 11, 1940 to the late Edwin Easley Whitt, Sr. and Frances Gordon Pittman, he was also preceded in death by his only sister, Connie Hoover.
He joined the Army out of High School and served as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division, stationed in Frankfurt, Germany. Never understanding the need to jump out of a perfectly good airplane he used his GI Bill to obtain his pilot's license and flew small aircraft for pleasure. After discharge from the Army he apprenticed for the National Cash Register Company. He started out repairing registers and through hard work and applying his analytical mind moved up to working on mainframe computers. He taught himself programming and spent the rest of his career working for various companies, as a computer programmer.
After his retirement he enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren and his beloved little dog Tucker. He loved tinkering with cars and doing carpentry work that required the finesse of an axe.
He is survived by his two daughters, Teresa Frances Whitt (Cheryl) of Pittsboro, NC, Vondy Whitt Pope of Burnsville, NC, and one son, Edwin Keith Whitt (Danielle) of Virginia Beach, VA; and grandchildren, Frances Pope, Logan Pope, Christos Komis and River Whitt.
He will be greatly missed by his family.
A private service will be held.
Condolences may be made at: www.donaldsonfunerals.com.
Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Whitt family.
To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Edwin Easley Whitt, Jr., please visit our floral store.

RUBY LOIS DIXON HOLT



Ruby Lois Dixon Holt, 91, passed away on May 1, 2020 in Columbia, South Carolina. She was the widow of Bobby Gene Holt.
Born in Siler City, North Carolina on December 8, 1928, she was the daughter of Carl King Dixon and Nancy Alma Cox. She graduated from Siler City High School and was employed at Boling Chair Company for nearly 50 years. She was a member of First Baptist Church, Siler City, since 1947, and served as a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and was involved in many other areas of service for the church.
She is survived by her son, Kenneth Dixon Holt and daughter-in-law, Cici Holt; grandsons, Nicholas P. Holt (Rae LeGrone), Patrick D. Holt (Nina Kane), Michael J. Allison (Kristin) and Kevin A. Allison (Anne); great-grandchildren, Carl LeGrone, Hazel LeGrone, and Andrew Allison; brother-in-law Elmer Holt, Jr. (Dixie); sister-in-law Anita Seawell (Roger); nephew, Philip Pritchard; niece, Beth Seawell; many cousins and countless friends. She was predeceased by her parents, her husband, and her sister, Carlene D. Pritchard (Jack). At her request, there will be a graveside service only, held on Saturday, May 9, 2020 at Chatham Memorial Park, Siler City.
Her wish was that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Baptist Children's Home or a charity of donor's choice or following her example, simply do an act of kindness for someone.
Friends may register condolences at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home on Saturday, May 9, 2020 from 9 to 12 Noon.
The family would like to extend a special thanks to the Forest Pines Staff in Columbia, SC, and to her caregivers at Prisma Baptist Hospital, Columbia, SC.
Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

TYSONIA FRANCINE (BARKLEY) BRINKLEY

Tysonia "Francine" Brinkley, 69, of Raleigh, passed away Saturday, April 25, 2020 at Hillcrest Raleigh.
The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 2, 2020 at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

JOHN WESLEY MCDONALD

John Wesley McDonald, 83, passed away on Friday, May 1, 2020 at Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY.
Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

JOEY LEE DIAZ

Joey Lee Diaz, 66, of Broadway, passed away on Monday, April 27, 2020 at his home.
A graveside service was held Saturday, May 2, 2020 at 11 a.m. at Lee Memory Garden
Joey was born in Lee County on April 4, 1954 to the late Lena Mae Butler Diaz. In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Vester Lee Butler, Sr. and Omie Holder Butler and brother, Tony Gregory Haire. He worked in sales for contractor supplies.
He is survived by his wife, Ava Dalrymple Diaz; son, Joey Lee Diaz, II of Broadway; and sister, Michelle Diaz Holland of Fuquay-Varina.
Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

LYNDA JOYCE RAY HALL

Lynda Joyce Ray Hall, 66, of Bear Creek, died Monday, April 27, 2020 at her home.
A graveside service was held Friday, May 1, 2020 at 4 p.m. at Westwood Cemetery with Rev. Bob Wachs presiding.
Lynda was born in Durham County on May 27, 1953 to the late Dwight Norris Ray and Lydia Ruth Teer Ray.
Survivors include her husband, Robert Bruce Hall; daughter, Meredith Ellyn Mann Jones of Jacksonville, FL., Elizabeth Amy Mann Marcum of Summerfield; sisters, Jill Ellen Ray Chesser of Isle of Palm, SC, Kay Ray Edwards of Chapel Hill; and four grandchildren.
In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Lynda's memory to the National MS Society, P.O. Box 91891, Washington DC 20090-1891.
Condolences may be made at: www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

NANCY FRYE HILL

Nancy Frye Hill, 73, of Seagrove, passed away Friday, May 1, 2020 at her home.
She was born on May 27, 1946 to Edith Louise Phillips Frye and Alton James Frye. She was employed as a corrections officer with the NC DPS. She was a member of Fall Creek Baptist Church. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Travis Hill, brothers, Jimmy Frye, Charles Frye and sister, Cathy Kidd.
She is survived by a son, Bryan Thomas Hill of the home; sisters: Gladys Pearce of N. Myrtle Beach, SC, Margaret Beauchamp of Lakeview, Betty McRainey of Burlington, Carole Smith of Snow Camp; brother, Terry Fry of Robbins; two grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and five step-great-grandchildren.
Due to the COVID-19 virus, a public gathering will not be held.
The immediate family held a private service on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at p.m. at the Joyce-Brady Chapel with Rev. George Townsend presiding. Burial was at Fall Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Fall Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 1745 Fall Creek Church Road, Bennett, NC 27208.
Condolences may be offered online at: www.joycebrady-chapel.com.

JOAQUIN ALBERTO ORTIZ

Mr. Joaquin Alberto Ortiz, 87 of Pittsboro, passed away Thursday, April 23, 2020 at his residence.
Burial was held Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at Sandhills Veterans Cemetery at Fort Bragg.

ERIC TRAVIS TATE

Eric Travis Tate, 64, of Chapel Hill passed away on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at UNC Hospitals.
Graveside services were held at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 2, 2020 at Carrboro Cemetery.

ALPHONZO WOMBLE

Mr. Alphonzo Womble, 82, of Siler City, passed away Monday, April 27, at Summerville Community Hospice House in Summerville, SC. Services entrusted to Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

JEAN PEATROSS ADAMS

Jean Peatross Adams, 88, of Pittsboro passed away Friday, April 17, 2020.
Arrangements by the Cremation Society of the Carolinas, www.CremationSocietyNC.com.

See OBITUARIES, page A9

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A8

SPINCE EDWARD GILMORE, JR.

Spince Edward Gilmore, Jr., 71, of Sanford, died Sunday, May 3, 2020 at home.

Due to the current social distancing restrictions, the family will be receiving friends and family at a drive through visitation at Cameron Grove Cemetery on Saturday, May 9, 2020 from 1 to 3 p.m. A brief memorial service will follow the visitation which friends are welcome to attend.

Spince was born in Lee County on August 28, 1948 to the late Spence Edward Gilmore, Sr. and Hazel Stewart Gilmore. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by a son, Brent Gilmore. He retired after 25 years as a Corrections Officer with the N.C. Department of Corrections.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Deborah Byrd-Gilmore; sons, Jason Spince Gilmore of Willow Spring and James Aaron Gilmore of Leland; brother, Ronald Gilmore of Raleigh; sisters, Polly Locklear of Aberdeen, Rhonda Roach of Liberty; and eleven grandchildren.

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

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

ELMA DELOACH

Elma DeLoach, 61, of Raleigh, passed away on Monday, April 27, 2020 at the Laurels of Chatham in Pittsboro.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

BRITTANY SHANTE' MCIVER

Brittany Shante' McIver, 29, of Sanford, passed away Sunday, April 26, 2020 at her residence.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

MARY K. ALSTON

Mary K. Alston, 71, of Pittsboro passed away on Friday, May 1, 2020 at UNC Hoptice.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

FREDRICK NORTON DICKMAN, III

Fredrick N. Dickman III, 62 of Pittsboro, passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at his residence.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Chapel Hill.

JOYCE L. HACKNEY

Joyce L. Hackney, 82, of Moncure, passed away on Friday, May 1, 2020 at Siler City Community Health Center.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

JAMES G. HINTON

James G. Hinton, 85, of Bronx, NY passed away on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at his residence.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

GEORGIA GINELL MCDUGALD

Georgia Ginell McDougald, 72, of Carthage passed away Saturday, May 2, 2020 at her residence.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

CANATTA (CANDY) MASSEY-EDWARDS

Canatta "Candy" Massey-Edwards, 55, of Durham, passed away on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at Amedisys Hospice in Garner.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Chapel Hill.

WALTER MORROW

Walter Morrow, 76, of Carrboro passed away on Monday, May 4, 2020 at UNC Hospice Home in Pittsboro.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home, Chapel Hill.

Littering, illegal dumping continue despite 'stay-at-home' orders

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

WILSONVILLE — Since its formation 11 years ago, volunteers with the nonprofit group Clean Jordan Lake have removed 170 tons of trash — that's 16,722 bags of garbage and nearly 5,000 tires — from the lake's shoreline.

Volunteers were scheduled to return to the lake on March 28 for the group's Annual Spring Trash Cleanup — nearly 150 people had signed up to help — but in mid-March, organizers canceled the event out of concerns about COVID-19 and to comply with governor's orders restricting large gatherings.

"We can't get our volunteers together because we can't gather more than 10 people," said Dr. Francis Digiano, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at the UNC-Chapel Hill, who co-founded Clean Jordan Lake with Dr. Thomas Colson in 2009.

Just prior to that event, Clean Jordan Lake organizers also made the call to cancel a planned effort by 80 employees of the Dell Corporation to help with trash removal at the lake.

"We had to cancel that the day before the event," Digiano said. "It's very disappointing. Like a lot of nonprofits, we're just in a holding pattern right now."

And what those volunteers can expect to find in terms of trash accumulations when they are able to return to the lake remains uncertain.

For more than a month, Jordan Lake has been largely closed

to the public.

Jordan Lakes facilities managed by North Carolina State Parks — including the State Parks' Jordan Lake office and visitor center, beaches, trails, campgrounds, shelters, picnic areas, boat ramps, canoe access and restrooms — were closed at sunset on March 31, until further notice to adhere to social distancing guidelines and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The closure, however, doesn't mean the lake is being spared the trash that volunteers regularly remove from it.

"Most of the trash we gather from the watershed is not generated by recreational use," Digiano said, "although the recreational trash is the most visible to us."

The bulk of trash, including "lots of sporting equipment-type trash," Digiano said, that's extracted from the lake through volunteer clean-up efforts comes from upstream sources. Any impacts that stay-at-home measures could have on the amount of trash that finds its way to the lake remains unknown until volunteers are able to return to their clean-up work.

"I've thought about that a lot," Digiano said. "Whether we'll see less trash on the shores of the lake because of this."

The lake, however, isn't completely shut down and boating and fishing continues.

Some access points remain open, said Shannon Maness, Chief Ranger at Jordan Lake.

Farrington Boat Ramp and Tailrace Park, a popular fishing spot, are open and both areas are seeing a lot of activity during the quarantine.

Digiano visited



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

While access to Jordan Lake remains limited with state parks closed for social distancing requirements, there's still activity on the lake. How that translates into trash accumulation remains to be seen, with clean-up efforts also temporarily on hold.

Farrington Boat Ramp a couple of weekends ago and reported "a lot of people" were utilizing the area.

"The parking lot was full of cars," he said.

Maness said there have been few problems at the lake during quarantine, though with parking areas closed, there has been more parking on roadsides near the lake. "That's more of a traffic issue," he said.

Maness said there's been no evidence of a resurgence of wildlife at the lake because of quarantine measures, as has been reported in other parts of the world. ABC News in March, for instance, reported "an unexpected side effect" of the pandemic in Venice, Italy, where the "normally cloudy canals have transformed into water crystal clear enough

to see fish swimming below." ABC reported "swans were seen in the water, while dolphins have been spotted swimming in the port."

Wildlife continues to thrive in and around Jordan Lake — the Army Corps of Engineers on Monday posted pictures of pelicans gliding over the lakes surface; the Corps also observed on Facebook this week that "a handful" of bald eagle nests at the lake have newly fledged chicks — but officials say it's normal wildlife activity and not related to the pandemic or a reduction in human activity.

Maness reminds those still accessing the lake for boating and fishing to practice normal safety habits, including maintaining social distancing, adhering to boating safety requirements, and wearing personal

flotation devices.

Countywide, according to Solid Waste Manager Justin Taylor of the county's Solid Waste & Recycling Department, trash remains a concern. Illegal dumping and littering has been on the rise in Chatham in recent months.

"Littering and illegal dumping have always been an issue, given Chatham County's rural areas and backroads," he said. "With many residents affected by the stay-at-home order and COVID-19, this is the perfect time to get a jump on 'spring cleaning.'" Our collection centers have seen a vast increase in waste, and our department is operating at full capacity to ensure residents have access to the most essential elements of our waste and recycling programs at the collection centers."

Chatham County's Collection Centers remain open and operating with normal hours. However, since March 30, the Swap Shops have been closed and the county's Electronics Recycling program is suspended until the processor reopens. Electronics accepted in the recycling program are banned from disposal in landfills, so they cannot be thrown away. Residents will need to hold onto those items until the Electronics Recycling program is back up and running.

"Being a predominantly rural county, keeping all 12 of the collection centers operational during this time is critical to help curb illegal dumping," Taylor said. "We have seen an increase in illegal dumping and littering in recent months. However, whether it's availability, or not knowing proper disposal methods, illegal dumping is continuing to be a major threat to Chatham County."

Taylor said his department remains "committed to the health and safety of county residents, and are asking that resident stay committed to properly disposing of their waste. The most effective way to help control illegal dumping is to educate the public of their disposal options, and the effects of the illegally dumped waste on our environment and public health."

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



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



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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.

STAUNTON MEMORIAL CME CHURCH

Staunton Memorial CME Church will have a church sit-in service in our parking lot in your car beginning at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 12. Come out and celebrate Mother's Day with our church family! Don't forget to bring your mask!

The church is located at 230 Credle St., Pittsboro.

LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

You are invited to hear the latest sermons from Loves Creek Baptist Church presented by Pastor Kenny Black. Just go to the church website, LovesCreek.org. You can also see them on YouTube at PastorKenny@LoveCreek.

2020 COLLEGE GRADUATES

The University of Mississippi will celebrate more than 5,400 candidates for graduation in the Class of 2020 during a live, virtual celebratory event on May 9, 2020. The following local students are candidates for graduation:

McKenna Riley Nixon of Bear Creek, is a candidate for a Master of Criminal Justice degree. Nixon is a Criminal Justice major in the Graduate School.

Margaret Emma Moore of Siler City, is a candidate for a B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences degree. Moore is a Pharmaceutical Sciences major in the School of Pharmacy.

HONORS

JORDAN-MATTHEWS ARTS SCHOLARS NAMED

Five students have been named JM Arts Scholars by the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation, recognizing their excellence and dedication to the arts.

They are Brady Andrew, Tiana Brooks, Laci Burt, Josselyn Gonzalez Hernandez and Andrea Santiago.

Tiana Brooks is also the 2020 JM Arts-Rotary Scholar, receiving a scholarship provided by the Rotary Club of Siler City.

JM RECOGNIZES NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Eight JM artists were inducted this spring into the National Art Honor Society: Juniors: Adriana Cooper, Cindy Funez Lopez, Daisey Gaspar Samayoa and Kevin Manzanarez; Sophomore: Jamie Chicas Garcia; and Freshmen: Carolina Fernandez Bello, Sherlyn Hernandez Guerrero and Janini Juarez Serrano.

To be considered for the honor, students must maintain a 95 average in art classes and at least a 2.8 grade point average overall. Inductees are selected on the basis of citizenship, visual art grades and art ability, and are encouraged to promote the arts in their school and community through community service and art exhibitions.

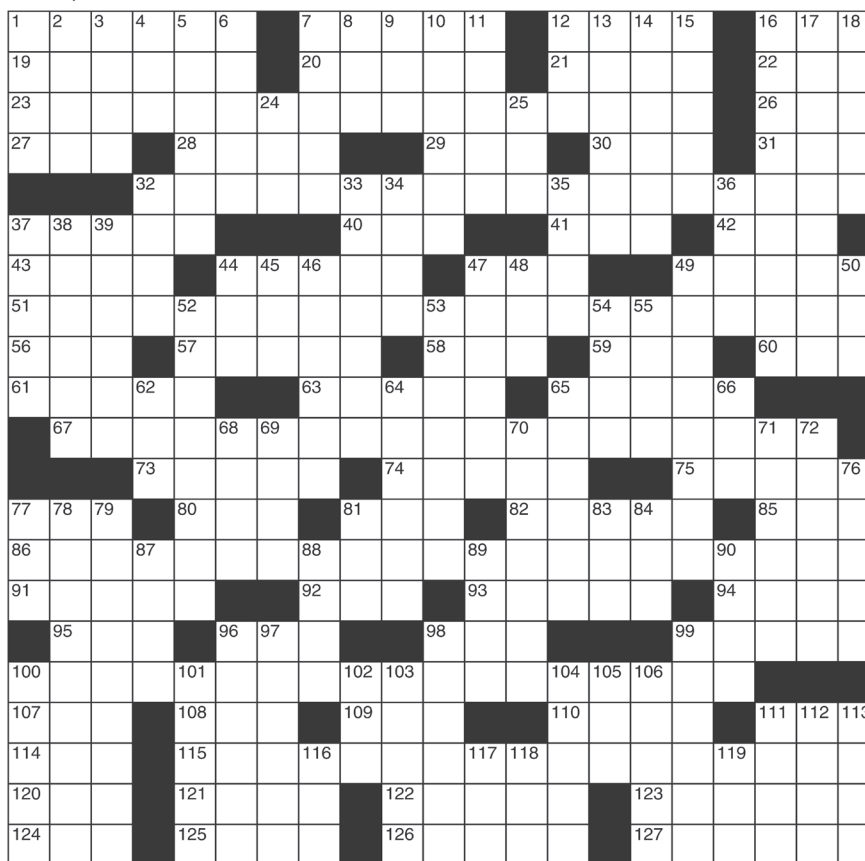
JMHS STUDENT HONORED WITH MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP

Kayli McIntoh from Jordan-Matthews High School is one of 35 incoming students at UNC Greensboro awarded the scholarship that provides funding for tuition and fees, on-campus room and board and other educational expenses up to the estimated cost of attendance. The UNCG Guarantee Program also provides social activities, leadership retreats and academic enrichment experiences throughout these scholars' undergraduate study.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

WHO TO WHO?

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



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Ahead of their time? Here are 6 movies that proved to be



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

Movies can be ahead of their time in a couple of ways. They can employ technological wizardry that belies their contemporaries, films like “The Wizard of Oz,” “She Wore a Yellow Ribbon,” “Terminator 2,” and “Jurassic Park.” They can also encompass and express themes that are not always understood in their day, but that prove prescient about our present and even future world.

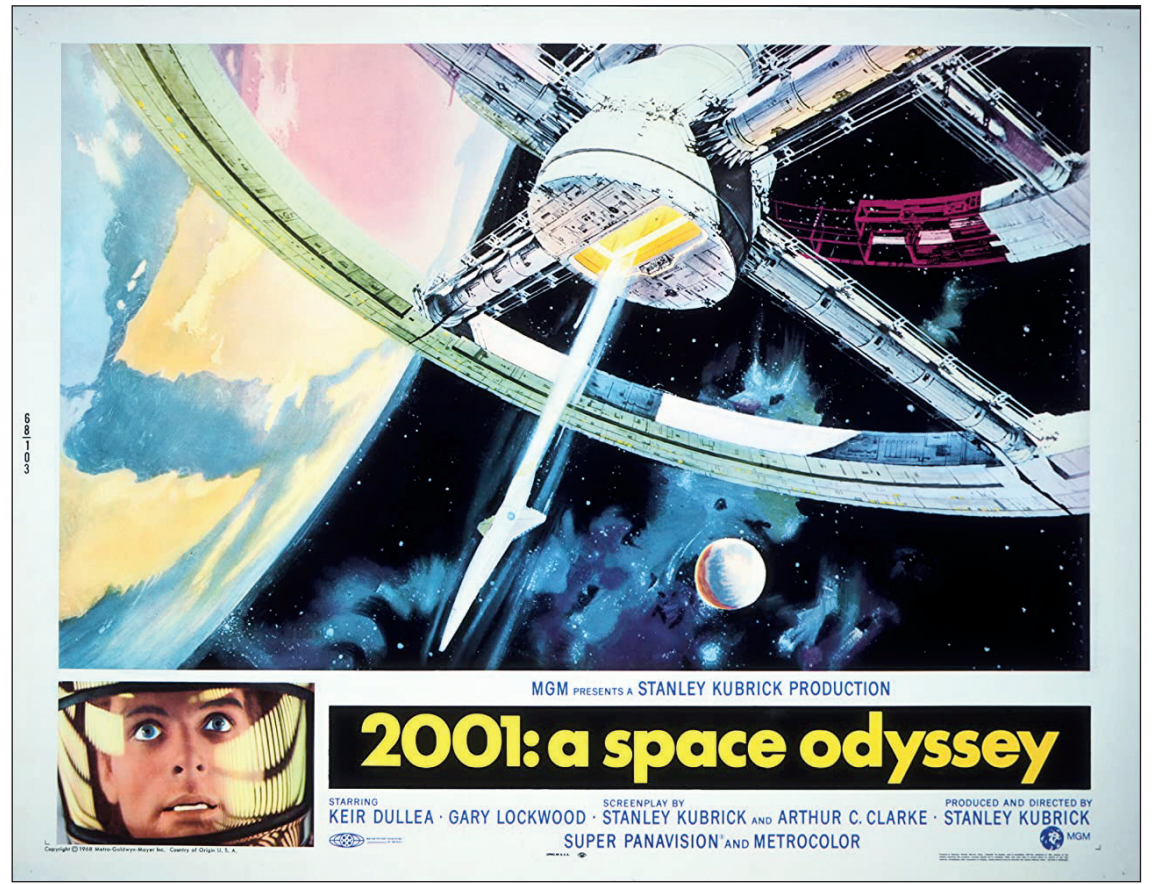
Many filmmakers foretold some of the most outrageous and impactful aspects of today’s society. Indeed, re-watching these films today feels like revisiting old, ultimately fulfilled prophecies. Here are a few films that captured a worldview ahead of their time:

“A Voice in the Crowd” (1957)
Several years after making “A Streetcar Named Desire” and “On the Waterfront,” director Elia Kazan produced this film that is notable for two reasons. One is the revelatory performance by Andy Griffith as Larry “Lonesome” Rhodes, a two-bit drifter from Arkansas blessed with musical aplomb and the gift of gab. Plucked from obscurity, Rhodes rides a successful radio show to great

fame and influence while proving a flawed vessel for the power he wields. The film wallows in the corruptive influence of celebrity, but its most eye-opening aspect is demonstrating how even the unqualified and unworthy person can engender a dangerous cult of personality.

“2001: A Space Odyssey” (1968)
Director Stanley Kubrick’s vision of space exploration and the human capacity was a visual marvel. But while mankind has not yet caught up to the film’s more inscrutable themes, its most prescient element is forecasting a computer age in which mankind becomes beholden — and even subservient — to artificial intelligence and its technological creations.

“Network” (1976)
Like “A Voice in the Crowd,” this film — directed by Sidney Lumet and written by Paddy Chayefsky — features a madman who becomes a popular, influential celebrity. Indeed, Howard Beale’s famous exclamation still rings true today: “I’m mad as hell, and I’m not going to take this anymore!” But the most cynical and prophetic part of the film is the future advent of television infotainment, an unholy marriage between the media and cold capitalism. Ridiculed by newsmen in its day, the film is truly frightening to watch now.



The movie poster for ‘2001: A Space Odyssey,’ Stanley Kubrick’s 1968 film.

“The Truman Show” (1998)
This masterful film came along at the advent of reality television. Writer Andrew Niccol foretells a future in which the lines between reality and entertainment might be erased. Played by Jim Carrey, Truman Burbank is born and raised as the star of a popular, ongoing television show about his life inside an artificial environment that he is not aware of. The film prompts a lot of thought-provoking themes, but it shrewdly predicts our obsession with reality TV and the moral

boundaries it can and might still cross.

“Idiocracy” (2006)
Marginalized by its own movie studio when released, writer-director Mike Judge’s feature follow-up to “Office Space” is set 500 years in the future, in which the world is a gun-happy, anti-intellectual dystopia in which commercialism has run rampant and human rights have been eroded away. It is a dark sci-fi comedy, but the humor is tempered as the film grows more relevant by the year.

“Minority Report” (2002)
Steven Spielberg has always striven to be a visionary filmmaker, with futuristic films like “Close Encounters of the Third Kind,” “Jurassic Park,” and most recently “Ready Player One.” His adaptation of Philip K. Dick’s novel carries a warning about the ongoing tension between law and order and individual liberties. While much of the future shown in the film still looms, its portrait of an overly commercialized surveillance state is already playing out in real time.

Siler City mayor signs proclamation honoring Day of Prayer

CN+R Staff Reports

SILER CITY — Siler City Mayor John Grimes signed a proclamation on Monday observing the National Day of Prayer.

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed into law that the United States would honor a National Day of Prayer

each spring upon the urging of North Carolina evangelist the Rev. Billy Graham. The law required that each subsequent President must reaffirm the date. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed an amendment to the law that would order the day be recognized on the first Thursday of

May. The Siler City Mayor-al Proclamation states that the “National Day of Prayer is a day that transcends differences, bringing together Americans of all faiths to pray for our nation.”

The theme for the 2020 National Day of Prayer is “Pray God’s Glory

— Across the Earth,” based upon Habakkuk 2:14. Habakkuk was a prophet who is honored in the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths. For Christian scholars, the Book of Habakkuk is an important section as it contains a dialogue between Habakkuk and God where he questions

God’s inaction in an unjust world before eventually turning to prayer and praise.

Habakkuk was not mentioned by name in the Qu’ran, but is considered in the faith to have heralded the coming of the Prophet Muhammad in the Torah, the Jewish Holy Book.

Islamic authors will also mention Habakkuk as a prophet in traditional writings. There is a shrine in Iran that is believed to Habakkuk’s burial place.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, there will be no official events for the National Day of Prayer in Siler City.

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ART

Continued from page A1

Agostino Gabucci's "Aria and Scherzo" on the clarinet. Rose Pate — the director of the JMArts Foundation, organizer of the #JMCORONAConcert and media coordinator at Jordan-Matthews — said the event "meant a great deal" to her.

"One of our big concerns as teachers during the transition to at-home learning has been for our students' social and emotional states," Pate said. "We wanted to create a space where our performers could share something that was meaningful to them, but still remain part of the JMArts community."

Chatham County is home to its fair share of artists of all kinds, but performing and creative outlets for children and teenagers have become a common method of coping with the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting stresses.

At least, that's what Tammy Matthews has found. As the artistic director of Pittsboro Youth Theater, she was responsible for getting five stage plays and musicals into performances. But when North Carolina's stay-at-home order went into effect, and restrictions on mass gatherings were enacted, plans had to be changed.

Matthews said the different groups have been doing virtual group rehearsals, but they're "not as productive." So she began conducting one-on-one half-hour acting training sessions over a phone call or FaceTime.

"A big part of it is connecting one-on-one with somebody," she said. "Some of them just adore it because it's someone to connect with."

Matthews said she feels it's been a good outlet for her teenage students.

"The kids look depressed," she said. "A parent will email me and say, 'This is the high-

light of their week.' We're trying to keep them upbeat and excited when their life is literally on hold."

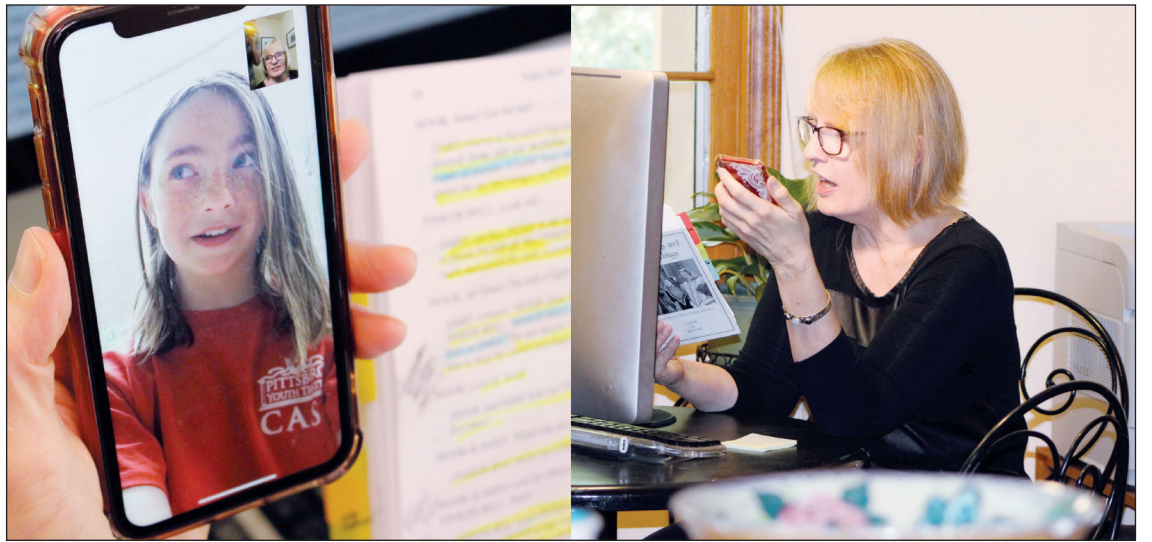
Another avenue for individuals across the county — not just kids — to engage in the arts was the 18th Annual ClydeFEST, put on by the Chatham Arts Council. But instead of a kids' event centered around "critter" cut-outs and art supplies at Chatham Marketplace in Pittsboro or Oasis Market in Siler City and decorate them. On April 25, participants were asked to post photos on their social media pages with the hashtag #ClydeFestToGo.

Speaking to the News + Record prior to the event, Chatham Arts Council Marketing/Public Relations Leader April Starling said the organization hoped the opportunity would "provide creative expression for kids and adults alike" in the time of a pandemic.

"We're all living through a pretty stressful time right now and even though we couldn't gather for the 18th annual ClydeFEST, we wanted to do something to connect people (virtually) and bring a little cheer," Starling said. "To be honest, we are doing our best to make lemonade out of lemons. Staying home and practicing social distancing are the best things we can do right now, but that doesn't mean they're easy."

JMArts sent out a tweet on Thursday, with the hashtag #ArtsMatter. It read: "In this difficult time, many people have discovered — and the rest of us are reminded — how essential arts are to our culture and our lives."

"Expressing and appreciating the arts lets us connect as humans," Pate said. "They give us a way to share experiences and perspectives, and that's even more important in a time where since we are physically distant, it would be easy to become emotionally distant as



Submitted photos

Pittsboro Youth Theater student Savannah Stober, left, takes private instruction Wednesday from theater Artistic Director Tammy Matthews over FaceTime. PYT has made adjustments to not being able to meet in person, including these one-on-one acting training sessions for students.

well. We've all had the experience with a song, or poem, or picture, where we thought, 'Yes, that's how I feel, too.'"

Matthews said being creative and finding connection during a time like this is "the most important thing anybody can do" right now.

"Watching Netflix all day is just not going to do — we have to make something exciting in life," she said. "I think it's important that we keep connecting with each other creatively as much as we can."

Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at zhorner@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Zach-HornerCNR..

Jordan-Matthews High School student David Gonzalez Hernandez plays a song on the clarinet during the JMArts #CoronaConcert, held over Twitter on March 31. The #CoronaConcert featured multiple JM students and faculty showing off musical talent from home.

Screengrab from Twitter



CROPS

Continued from page A1

for the next few weeks, according to Christina Harvey, Agriculture Marketing Specialist with the N.C. Dept. of Agriculture.

"This year's crop is looking pretty good," Harvey said.

"Of all years," she added — acknowledging the unexpected challenges growers faced because of the coronavirus pandemic getting their products to consumers this season.

But Harvey has been helping the state's strawberry farmers adjust to the unique challenges of selling their products.

North Carolina has about 2,000 acres of strawberry production, according to N.C. State's Extension Service. The state's strawberry industry is "highly decentralized and almost entirely based on small- to medium-size family farms, selling at U-pick and ready-pick roadside stands and in farmers markets in all 100 counties," according to Extension's website.

The N.C. Strawberry Association, working with the N.C. Dept. of Agriculture, has helped establish guidelines for farmers to follow to mitigate coronavirus exposure.

"A lot of strawberry farmers are doing curbside sales," Harvey said. "A lot of them have established online stores so customers can place orders in advance of coming out to the farm. Pick-your-own locations are keeping customers apart in the fields one or two rows. They're sanitizing buckets."

Copeland, likewise, has made adjustments to the way she normally does business, establishing drive-thru service and other changes.

"We take pre-orders a day ahead," Copeland said, "and we have them ready in bags so when they come they just drive up."

Sales at Jean's Berry Patch — she's offering strawberries at \$5/quart and also has jams, jellies, honey and pound cakes available for purchase — are limited only to drive-thru and curbside service, she said.

She and her employees are wearing masks and gloves — the business' website encourages customers do likewise — and they're regularly sanitizing surfaces, including their credit card machine and the cards they swipe. Copeland three years ago



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Jean Copeland, Shelby Hatcher, Donna Smith of Jean's Berry Patch await their next customers as demand for fresh strawberries remains high this season.

stepped away from growing berries, contracting since for her supply with a couple of farmers in Wake and Johnson counties, and she said she's pleased with this year's crop.

"We have excellent strawberries this year," Copeland said. "I've got a good relationship with the farmers, and they know I don't sell bad berries. They're all picked fresh, every morning."

Since launching her

2020 season in mid-April, Copeland's business has been good, with consumers eager for the sweet spring treat.

"Oh my goodness," Copeland said. "It's probably four times as busy this year as it has been."

She attributes the significant uptick, in part, to more people staying at home and, with produce availability uncertain or in limited supply at groceries, demand for fresh

and local produce high.

"I think a lot of people are craving fresh foods," she said. "And people have more time to come out to the farm. They're staying at home more, with a lot of people not working at an eight-hour job at an office. And they have more time to make things with the strawberries."

Business, likewise, has been good at Phillips Farms of Chatham, at 1282 Hanks Chapel Rd.,

Pittsboro, which also has implemented drive-thru service.

"We want to thank everyone for your phenomenal support of our family farm's strawberry sales," Phillips Farms posted on its Facebook page last week. "We certainly feel the love and we are so appreciative of our local folks. We sold 500 lbs. of strawberries in about 30 minutes today [April 29], and had lots more folks who were disappointed."

But with "many berries still in the field waiting to ripen," Phillips Farms expects to have strawberries available for several more weeks.

Both Phillips Farms (their "strawberry update" telephone number is 919-542-9974) and Jean's Berry Patch (919-362-5800) advise customers to call ahead to ensure availability of product and determine operating hours.

Copeland said her "greatest joy" working in the strawberry growing and selling business over the past 40 years has been the social aspect, getting to know her customers, hosting school groups at her east Chatham County farm.

And while COVID-19 safety requirements are

keeping her and her employees at a bit more of a distance from customers this season, Copeland said it's still gratifying to supply them with a fresh product they enjoy.

"The best part is we have met so many wonderful people and we've established so many friendships," she said. "It's been a great experience to deal with a public that's grateful for the product they're getting."

N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, who revealed in a post of the N.C. Department of Agriculture's Facebook page that strawberry season "happens to be one of my favorite seasons," said North Carolina consumers can continue to expect good berries for the duration of the season.

"They are abundant at this time," Troxler said, "and there will be more and more at local roadside and farmers markets in the coming weeks."

The N.C. Strawberry Association offers consumers a "farm locator" on its website — ncstrawberry.com — to help find farms by region.

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

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Pittsboro, NC 27312

Chatham 4-H program goes international

BY CASEY MANN
 News + Record Staff

When Victoria Brewer started her job two years ago as an administrative assistant with Chatham County Agricultural Extension, she didn't know it would later lead to her dream job — or that one day she'd have a role in teaching more than a thousand students from around the world.

As someone who has raised chickens at her home just outside of Siler City for years, Brewer seized the opportunity, early in her time as an administrative assistant with Extension, to accept when asked to assist with the county's 4-H Chicken Embryology Program.

A year later, Brewer is Chatham County's 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent — which is another role at the Agricultural Extension — and she's currently leading and expanding the embryology program near to her heart to reach educators and students not only in Chatham but

Chatham 4-H 'From Embryo to Chicken'

Victoria Brewer, Chatham County 4-H extension agent

PHONE: 919-545- 8303

EMAIL: victoria.brewer@chathamnc.org

REGISTRATION: www.cc4-Hembryologyprogram.eventbrite.com

Website for video and material links: www.livestockconservancy.org/index.php/what/internal/classroom-chicken-project

across the country and the world.

For eight years, Chatham County 4-H has partnered with the Pittsboro-based nonprofit Livestock Conservancy to provide Chatham County elementary school teachers with free equipment and guidance to teach their students about the life cycle of chicken eggs. The Livestock Conservancy, which focuses on protecting endangered livestock and poultry breeds — also called heritage breeds — from extinction, provides the program with fertilized eggs and this year is assisting with programming.

Prior to the shutdown of schools under N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper's order on March 14, the program had 20 teachers registered for the program. After the order, Jeannette Beranger, the senior program manager for the Conservancy, approached Chatham County Agriculture Extension about continuing the program virtually.

The team decided that the best way to move forward would be to create pre-recorded YouTube videos and provide optional assignments for teachers during distance learning. Brewer and Beranger would take turns producing the 12 individual lessons for the four-week series.

After announcing the free online program, registrations jumped to nearly 1,000 people



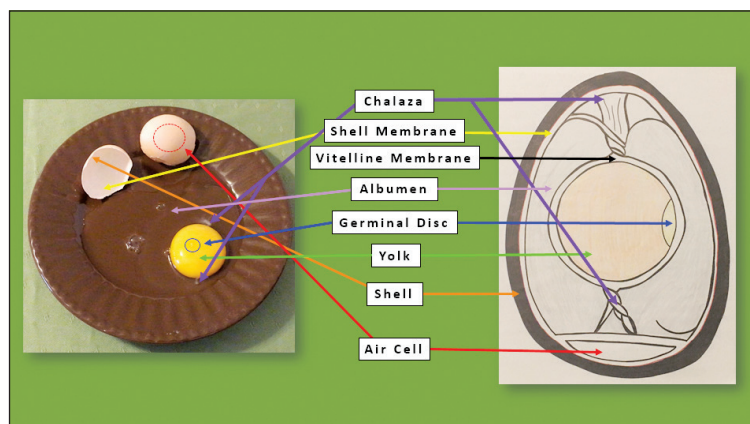
Victoria Brewer, Chatham County's 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent, is collaborating on a virtual chicken embryology program which is being viewed by nearly 1,000 people from across the country.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



Brewer tends to her own chickens at her Chatham County home, using those eggs to feed her own family.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



Submitted photo

Students learn about the parts of the egg and an eggs development, mainly for elementary student biology lessons.

from 46 states and four countries including Mexico, Canada and Australia.

"A lot of those registered are teachers," Brewer said. "We've asked them to send as much information about their students so that we can learn who they are and make sure that our organization is serving citizens of all communities and providing beneficial programming to diverse audiences."

For Brewer, it was her first time producing and editing videos. Serendipitously, the N.C. State Cooperative Extension had offered a two-day class on video editing last May. Brewer attended the sessions to increase her skills, though admittedly, she wasn't sure at that time how she might be using them in the future. Less than a year later, she was putting her new video



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Victoria Brewer, Chatham County 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent, teaches the students to 'act as the mother hen,' turning the eggs each day, to support development.

MASKS FOR MANY

Group comes together to make 1,000 masks for those who need them most

BY KIM HAWKS
 News + Record Staff

What is it?

Masks for Many is a project created by Mike Wiley in conjunction with the Chatham Arts Council designed to create face masks for vital workers — many of them people of color — employed at medical facilities, grocery stores, drug stores, and in delivery services. Many of those workers don't have the equipment they need to protect themselves, leaving them at significant risk for infection.

How does it work?

By partnering with a consortium of concerned citizens, Masks for Many is seeking donations that will be used to cover materials costs and pay a small stipend to artists to create cloth masks for donation to local businesses, essential workers, healthcare facilities, and more. The project is being done with the help of local textile and



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Mike Wiley, center, founder of Masks for Many, poses with Holly Ewell Lewis, left, and Holly Brown with masks made to help Chatham residents during COVID-19.

costume artists who are also struggling with the huge economic impact of the pandemic. The masks are made from two layers of 100 percent cotton and are machine-washable. Though they're not medical grade, they are

designed with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations.

How did Masks for Many get started?

Wiley, a Pittsboro-based author, playwright and

activist, in collaboration with Holly Ewell-Lewis, community activist and fundraiser, and Holly Brown, marketing consultant and copywriter, created Masks for Many. The three have worked together for more than



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Jodi Wiley, the supervisor of chimpanzees, lions, lemurs and giraffes at the N.C. Zoo in Asheboro, connects with Jonathan while wearing a Masks for Many creation.

a decade on a variety of projects and decided to team up to bring to fruition Mike's idea of offering free masks for vital workers while at the same time providing revenue for artists whose incomes have been suddenly and

adversely affected by the pandemic.

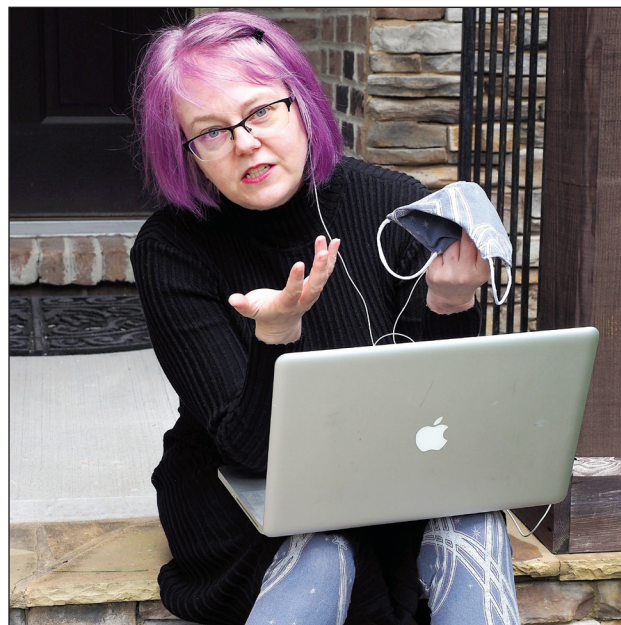
"COVID-19 has impacted our community in a dramatic way," Ewell-Lewis said. "People who provide basic

See MASKS, page B2



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Andrea Akin of Pittsboro has a great diversity of material to choose from as she makes masks as part of the Masks for Many initiative.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Rachel Pollock, a furloughed costumer with Playmakers Repertory Company in Chapel Hill, made this mask out of one of her leotards. She is one of several people participating in Masks for Many.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Maria Soto, Shirille Lee and Jazmin Mendoza Sosa with Communities In Schools in Chatham County show off their Masks for Many creations. The trio help provide case management for Chatham County students in need.

MASKS

Continued from page B1

services, such as checkout and restocking clerks in grocery stores, employees working in local pharmacies and drug stores, trash pickup, etc., often are not given any sort of mask or single-use plastic gloves to protect themselves.”

Together, with the help of the Chatham Arts Council and beneficiaries of the program, Masks for Many partnered with interested artists and makers to create cotton masks to share with employees who do not have that protection. In return, these artists and makers receive a small stipend for their work. The goal is to make 1,000 masks. Right now, there are enough artists making masks — the project needs donations in order to get more supplies for more masks.

Who are some of the people making masks?

Andrea Akin of Pittsboro had a sewing machine in her attic for 10 years, given to her by her husband. When the pandemic hit locally, Andrea decided to retrieve the sewing machine, still in its original box, and make masks for some of her nursing friends. She found out about Masks for Many from her friend Wiley and began helping out. A self-employed photographer, Akin set up shop and is making dozens of masks for people who continue to go to work every day and need protection.

Rachel E. Pollock is the first person those who want to sew Masks for

Many speak with. She’s a furloughed costumer with Playmakers Repertory Company and teaches at UNC-Chapel Hill in the costume production MFA program. She also designs and makes elaborate costumes and hats for actors in the Playmakers Repertory Company. She and others in the Playmakers Repertory Company at UNC are discussing how to adapt their MFA program to “the times of COVID.”

What are some of the organizations getting masks?

Communities In Schools of Chatham County is part of a national organization that provides mentoring and counseling to at-risk students identified by teachers and principals. CIS specialists visit Chatham County schools on a weekly basis. Wiley initially delivered 25 masks to CIS Schools to families who had family members infected with the coronavirus. As more masks are made, CIS will provide them to families in need.

Jodi Wiley and her chimpanzee zookeepers at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro received cotton protective masks from Masks for Many to supplement disposable masks provided by the zoo. Zookeepers are considered essential workers during the pandemic.

How can people get masks? How can people help?

Masks for Many wants to hear from Chatham County-based companies who need masks for their employees. Please go to the Chatham Arts Council website (www.

Q&A: MIKE WILEY ON MASKS FOR MANY

What was the impetus for MFMM?
I saw so many people of color as well as those who were dying from COVID-19 and I wanted to do something locally that could help. I noticed that so many of the essential workers are black and brown. I wanted to help them, well as the poor and most vulnerable among us. So out of a natural fear of contracting COVID-19, I decided to be proactive.

How’s it happening — can you talk about the materials, the making of the masks, and the plans for distribution?
I have connected with handful of costume artists from area theaters that have shut down. They have no income. I thought if we could employ these “stitchers” through donations we’d be helping artists as well as the community. Many of them have stockpiles of their own materials that they are using — all 100 percent

cotton, machine washable. There are a couple of designs and tons of patterns. Some even have a pocket for a filter. We are partnering with Bob Pearson and the NAACP branches in Chatham, as well as the Chatham Health Alliance. We wanted as few hands to touch the actual masks as possible. The masks are made by one person, then individually bagged. Groups can request masks on the site. The masks are then mailed, either USPS or FEDEX to the organization in need.

How do you need help?
We need donations. Our current goal is to build and donate 1,000 masks in Chatham County.

How did you end up partnering with the Chatham Arts Council on this?
I have a long-lasting relationship with CAC and I saw this as the perfect opportunity to exemplify why art matters.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

ChathamArtsCouncil.org) and fill out the form requesting masks for your employees. There is no charge for the masks. At the site, you can also make a financial donation or request masks for your employees.

Feathers, roosters, daisies, planets, baby chicks, even Harry Potter — just a sampling of the designs of the Masks for Many cloth face masks, made for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



N.C. heads toward Phase 1 of restriction loosening as precautions still stressed

BY ZACHARY HORNER

News + Record Staff

Gov. Roy Cooper indicated Monday that North Carolina was headed in the right direction toward loosening some of the restrictions put in place to halt the spread of COVID-19.

But in Chatham County, public health officials indicated that no end is in sight for the virus — and that perhaps the peak of infections in Chatham has not been reached yet.

“We cannot predict when the spread of the

virus will peak in the community,” said Layton Long, the county’s public health director. “We can only continue to press on doing what we can to slow and contain the virus as we and our many partners work with the public, congregate living facilities, healthcare providers, essential employers and other high-risk groups to prevent infection, sickness and death.”

Chatham County reached double digits in deaths Monday and has seen more than 300 reported positive COVID-19 cases since the county was home

to the second positive test in the state in early March. County officials declared a state of emergency later in the month.

Cooper said Monday that statewide, there had been positive steps in the areas of tracing, testing and trends — three places where state officials said there must be progress before the state’s stay-at-home order and various business closures could be lifted.

“We’re hoping to enter Phase 1 this weekend,” Cooper said Monday. “Very soon, we’ll be announcing the specifics on Phase 1. We’re still analyz-

ing our indicators talking with healthcare experts. We’re getting a lot of advice from businesses.”

Phase 1, as presented by state officials on April 23, would keep things mostly normal with a couple exceptions: re-opening parks that had been closed due to mass gathering limitations and modifying the state’s stay-at-home order to “allow travel not currently defined as essential allowing people to leave home for commercial activity at any business that is allowed to be open, such as clothing stores, sporting goods stores, book shops, houseware stores and other retailers.”

An update on April 30, showed the state’s percentage of tests returning positive were decreasing and a leveling of hospitalizations occurring, and that the state had created a collaborative to improve contact tracing ability.

“North Carolinians have made tremendous sacrifices and it is making a difference,” Cooper said at that update. “We remain hopeful that the trends will be stable enough to move into Phase 1 next week.”

Mandy Cohen, the state secretary of health and human services, said it was vital to keep social distancing guidelines and other preventative mea-

sures in place.

“We need keep up the actions that will slow the spread of the virus,” Cohen said April 30. “The good news is that we know we can do this. If we stay home now to protect our loved ones and our communities, we can put ourselves on a path to begin easing restrictions and moving forward as planned.”

Long shared the same message in a long statement last week. He said each resident “holds the key...in our own limited way” to limiting

the spread and keeping people healthy.

“We plead for the public to stay home, avoid close contact with anyone outside of their household, wear a face covering when you must go out and practice social distancing,” Long said. “We realize these measures are inconvenient and a nuisance but they are also one of the keys to stopping this virus.”

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

Phase 1

Stay At Home order remains in place, people can leave home for commercial activity

Those retailers and services will need to implement social distancing, cleaning and other protocols

Gatherings limited to no more than 10 people

Parks can open subject to gathering limits

Face coverings recommended in public

Restrictions remain in place for nursing homes and other congregate living settings

Encourage continued teleworking

Graphic courtesy of NC Governor’s Office

The N.C. state government is following a phased approach for ‘re-opening’ the state in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Phase I could begin as early as this weekend and would include these steps.



Animal Resources

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725 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312
Phone: 919-542-7203 [facebook.com/chathamsoar](https://www.facebook.com/chathamsoar)

Hours: MTWF 11a-5p • TH 11a-7p • SA 10a-2p

For a printable application, visit:
www.chathamsheriff.com



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Victoria Brewer, Chatham County's 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent, has chickens of her own at her Chatham County home. The program was a natural fit.

4-H

Continued from page B1

skills to the test.

Brewer converted the den in her home into a makeshift studio. She's placed dark screens on her windows to prevent light fluctuations that could interfere with filming. Using Post-it Notes, she covered her walls with instructive graphics she drew herself. There she records videos which include a deep dive into the incubation process and the embryonic life cycle of chicken eggs, including how to take care of chicks and "tidbits" of information for when those chicks grow into chickens for the 4-H Embryology Program.

"It took some time turning my house into a studio," Brewer said. "And to learn how to video myself and edit it. It required me to step outside of my comfort zone and learn new skills."

Her first videos were edited by Tiffany Hancock, the county Extension's marketing and media support specialist. But because the video needs of the entire Extension's office has expanded, Brewer started editing the videos on her own using iPhone applications.

Beranger, likewise, has made adjustments in her home to accommodate the new task. She's converted two of the three bedrooms in her home for use in creating the instructional videos. She purchased video editing software that she is "just starting to learn" to make the videos as professional as possible. She is also working to get each of the videos close-captioned so those with learning deficits can still participate and learn.

"We're developing a whole bunch of programming that will be web-based," Beranger said. "It's a lot of work. Producing a 12-minute video can take days to get done."

Despite all the work, both women are determined to continue to serve the teachers and students who use the program.

"There was a survey several years ago of teachers who took part in the program," Beranger said. "The level of absenteeism went down to almost zero and science grades improved. Kids had an increased interest in science and agriculture. It was a highlight for the kids and it had a meaningful impact. And it is an opportunity to teach kids where food comes from."

"This program touched a place in my heart," Brewer said. "This program was my first experience with 4-H and where I realized it was my dream job. This is my opportunity to share this program that is so special to me. And we're able to share it beyond county or state boundaries. That's why it's so exciting and fulfilling, but also a little scary. To think about the nearly one thousand people across the world...it's crazy. It takes time, but it's worth it."

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

Information Below Is Updated Weekly

Curb-Side, Take Out, & Delivery: SOME OF YOUR LOCAL OPTIONS

ALLEN'S BBQ: Full menu currently available but subject to change (based upon availability), served at front walk up window, call ahead ordering is available, stay informed of our specials via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AllenSonBbq/> or give us a call: 919-542-2294, Hours 11am-6 pm Mon, 11am-7pm Tuesday-Friday, 11 am-6 pm Saturday (subject to change if we sell out, please call ahead to confirm), 5650 US-15N, Pittsboro NC 27312 website: <http://stubsandsontbq.com/location/pittsboro-allen-son-bbq/>

ANGELINA'S KITCHEN: Pre-Orders only, offering curbside delivery (please remain in your vehicle), local delivery with special arrangements. Open Wednesday-Saturday 10 am - 4 pm (later, if arranged), offering immune boosting meals, packaged cold with instructions for reheating, check online menu at <https://www.angelinaskitchenonline.com>, email orders to angelinaskitchenpittsboro@gmail.com, 919-545-5505, 23 Rectory St, Pittsboro NC

BEST FOODS CAFETERIA & HAYLEY BALES STEAKHOUSE: Cafe line is still open for take out ONLY, offering daily selection of 6 meats and 10 veggie selections, our menu is updated daily on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BestfoodSilerCity/> & online www.bestfoodsilercity.com, **\$20 FAMILY STYLE MEALS** (feeds 4-5) & Hayley Bales **WEEKEND SPECIALS**. Offering pies, frozen chicken pie, and fresh ground hamburger, call ahead ordering available (required for Hayley Bales Steakhouse), gift cards are available for purchase, Daily hours: Cafeteria 11 am-2pm & 4:30 pm - 8pm Monday to Saturday, 11 am - 3pm Sunday; Steakhouse 4:30 pm - 8 pm Daily, 220 E. 11th Street, Siler City NC 27344, Phone: 919-742-6033

BROWNIE LU'S: Open Monday-Friday 7am-5pm and Saturday 7am-noon for **take out and curbside delivery**. Full menu & daily specials available. Keep up with our daily specials on Facebook, like us while you're there! 919 N. Second Avenue (Siler City), 919-799-7250

CAROLINA BREWERY: **Weekly specials:** Fried Chicken Wednesdays, **Thirsty Thursday** beer special (\$6 Pilsner 6-packs), & **FAMILY SPECIAL:** (\$12 Nacho Kit, comes with all toppings, select beef or pork, available May 5-May 10). **MOTHER'S DAY** a la carte menu (available Friday-Sunday, Shrimp & Grits, Strawberry Salmon Salad, Phoenix Bakery Mini Cheesecakes, take home mimosa kit). Kids eat free* on Monday (*from the kid's menu w/ purchase of an adult meal, phone orders only). Limited menu posted on website (carolinabrewery.com) and social media (@carolinabrewerybrewpubs on IG and FB @ carolinabrewery on Twitter). Beer Delivery now available! To-go beer specials including: 1/2 barrel kegs, 1/6 barrel kegs. FREE coozie and logo pint glass with a gift card purchase for future use either at our pubs or our online store. Funds from gift cards are used as relief fund for our staff. **Amended daily hours** (Chapel Hill 4pm-8pm, Pittsboro 11 am-8pm). Chapel Hill Location: 460 W. Franklin Street, Tel: 919-942-1800 Pittsboro Location: 120 Lowes Drive #100 Tel: 919-545-2330 **Call ahead ordering** or ORDER & PAY via our mobile app: HEARTLAND GUEST (Apple & Android); **contact-free gloved curbside pickup**. Inquiries: info@carolinabrewery.com

COMPADRES: FAMILY MEALS now available!! All meals come with chips & salsa, too! See our Facebook page for all info! Serving full menu (subject to availability) for CALL AHEAD take out orders and curbside delivery. Open daily 11:30am-9pm, **Local delivery** within 10 mile radius, minimum delivery of \$30 (fees may apply), now offering **1/2 gallon margarita mixes** in your favorite flavors (just add ice & liquor) and beer to go, Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CompadresTequilaLounge/>, <http://www.compadresnc.com> Locations: 193 Lowes Drive, Pittsboro 919-704-8374 or 115 Siler Crossing, Siler City 919-663-5600

COPELAND SPRINGS FARM & KITCHEN: Prepared farm to table meals from our kitchen on our farm. Eggs, cheese & Certified Naturally Grown vegetables also available. **Curbside** pick up Thurs-Sun 4-6pm and **free delivery** w/in 10 miles. 193B Lorax Ln, Pittsboro, NC 27312 Phone: 919-261-7211 Delivery details, new menu for May & ordering online at: <https://www.copelandspringfarm.com>, Regular updates via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/copelandspringfarm/> and Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/copeland_springs_farm/

ELIZABETH'S PIZZA OF PITTSBORO: Full menu available for take-out, curbside service, and **delivery**. We will be offering delivery within 5 mile radius with a \$35 minimum order (add \$2 delivery fee). Gift certificates are available in restaurant or purchase by phone. Hours are subject to change (closed Tuesdays), so please call ahead. 160 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro NC, Phone: 919-545-9292, Online: elizabethspizzapittsboro.com or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/elizabethspittsboro/>

ELIZABETH'S OF SILER CITY: Currently accepting call ahead or walk-in orders (allow 30 minutes) of full menu, offering **delivery** within 10 mile radius with minimum of \$35 order (allow 45 minutes), open regular hours but delivery cut-off times apply (Sun-Thursday 9 pm, Friday & Saturday 10 pm). Visit us online at <https://www.elizabethsrestaurant.com> Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ElizabethspizzaSilerCity/> 119 Siler Crossing Siler City NC Phone: 919-663-5555

GREEK KOUZINA: Full menu available for take-out and curbside service. Open daily 11 am-8pm. Your support of our restaurant allows us to pay it forward and donate to local nonprofits providing outreach to our community! 964 East Street, Pittsboro NC, 919-542-9950, Online: <http://greekkouzina.com> or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Greek-Kouzina-288058741212128/>

NERICCIO'S FAMILY RESTAURANT: Open Tuesday-Saturday with amended temporary hours of 11am-7pm. Offering **takeout and free delivery** within 10 miles (call ahead ordering available). Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Nericcios-Family-Restaurant-101180477933858/>) ATTENTION ALL TRUCKERS, we have a large parking lot and look forward to seeing you soon. Phone: 919-799-7647 • 1110 North 2nd Street in Siler City (site of the old Copper Penny Restaurant)

OASIS MARKET & DELI: Open Tuesday-Friday (11am-3pm) & Saturday (noon-3pm), **Come inside** to shop our market, refill your growler with local beer, or place your take-out order. Also offering **curbside delivery**, call ahead to order. **THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:** Oak Island Crab cakes & shrimp-n-corn chowder. You may also **PREORDER** fresh baked pies and cakes, soups, chowders, salads, sides, cold cuts, chicken salad, and egg salad by the pound. Call us or check our website for pricing. Also offering organic vegetables (tomatoes, lettuce, onions, & mushrooms), daily specials, local honey, coffee beans, wine, beer, and a wide selection of local favorites. Keep up with us, our menu, and specials on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OasisMarketnDeli/> Want us to shop for you? Let us know your order and we'll bring it to your car when you arrive! <https://oasisfreshmarket.com> 117 South Chatham Avenue Siler City, Phone: 919-799-7434

PITTSBORO ROADHOUSE: Offering pickup or **delivery** for items on a limited menu including Family Meals and a la cart items as long as we can. Order from 11 am-5pm for pickup between noon-7pm. **RECENTLY ADDED:** front room "convenience store" complete with beer, wine, family games, local products (including Carolina Cravings), pork, micro greens, lettuce, cheese, beef, chicken and even TP! Expanding regularly! Our menu is updated daily. Please visit our website for the most up-to-date daily menu and bookmark the page for future reference: PittsboroRoadhouse.com/pickup-and-delivery/ We operate a commercial kitchen and bar, a small fleet of delivery vehicles, and licensed to provide food, wine, and beer deliveries. If you can pick up your order, please do. We'll deliver curbside to your car at your request. Located at 39 West Street, Pittsboro NC 27312, Phone: 919-542-2432 (Gift cards available) If the phone is busy, send email to takeout@pittsbororoadhouse.com with your name and phone and ask us to call you to get your order. Stay up to date with us via <https://www.facebook.com/PittsboroRoadhouse/>

ROJO CANELA MEXICAN CUISINE: Open Monday-Saturday 11am-9pm for curbside & take out. Serving our full menu (<https://www.facebook.com/rojocanelamexicancuisine/>) including appetizers, vegetarian options, classic & favorite Mexican selections, sandwiches, soup, children's menu, and desserts. Call ahead for faster service 919-799-7733. 315 E. Third Street (Siler City)

SMALL B&B CAFE: Operating on a call ahead basis, so please contact us to place ALL orders (take out & delivery) Continuing to offer **delivery** within 10 miles of the cafe with minimum order of \$20 (add \$3 fee). Please call our phone number to place ALL orders. We are planning to be open Wednesday thru Sunday (7:30 am- 2 pm) Keep up to date with us & menu options via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Small-BB-Cafe-128435270586175/>) or our website (<http://smallbandbcafe.com/cafe-menu/pick-up-order-menu.html>) Located at 219 East St, Pittsboro, NC 27312, Phone: 919-537-1909

THE MODERN LIFE DELI: Open Tuesday-Saturday from noon-8pm for carry-out or curbside delivery. Currently serving our full menu and pizza. We've added PIZZA KITS you can make and bake at home (dough, sauce, cheese, pepperoni, and basil). Gift cards are also available. Our menu is online at www.themodernlifedeli.com Keep up with us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheModLife/> Feel free to call ahead to place your carry-out order. 46 Sanford Road, Pittsboro Phone: 919-533-6883

THE PHOENIX BAKERY: DELIVERY PROGRAM, visit our website delivery page for all info! Currently open Tuesday-Friday (8:30am-5pm) & Weekends (8:30am-2:30pm), providing full breakfast & lunch menu to-go as well as breads, pastries, and cakes. Come in & shop or order ahead for curbside delivery. Let's connect on Facebook! (<https://www.facebook.com/ThePhoenixBakery/>) You'll be able to find the ordering menu, pricing, delivery limitations, and details on our website: <http://www.thephoenixbakerync.com> 664 West Street, Pittsboro, 919-542-4452, email us: thephoenixbakery@yahoo.com

THE ROOT CELLAR CAFE & CATERING IN PITTSBORO AND CHAPEL HILL: GROCERY BOX TO GO: For \$40.00, you get a grocery box that includes a variety of fresh veggies, such as carrots, yellow and zucchini squash, broccoli, and lettuce; berries and other fruits; 1/2 gallon low fat Maple View Milk and 1 dozen eggs from Latta's Egg Ranch. *Box contents will vary weekly depending on availability. Order safely and securely online here: <https://rootcellarchapelhill.com/groceries-to-go/> by Wednesdays at noon and pick up on Fridays between noon and 2 pm. Curbside pickups available in Chapel Hill and Pittsboro. **MEALS:** What's Available: Family Dinner Meal Program How it works: Provides 1 week's worth of prepared meals, serves 2 people. Simply heat and eat. Choose from: Regular (meat entrees), Vegetarian, Paleo (follows Paleo diet), or MicroMeals (3 entrées, serves one person, microwavable) Menus and how to order: Menus updated weekly. Order safely and securely at <https://rootcellarchapelhill.com/family-dinners> Deadline to order: Fridays and Saturdays, Add-ons: Kids meals can be added onto any order, as well as breakfast items, coffee beans, wine, & 6-packs of beer (more to come) Curbside Pickup: Available in Chapel Hill (750 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd) and Pittsboro (35 Suttles Road) on Mondays and Tuesdays AVAILABLE TO ORDER: **Mother's Day Brunch!** Visit website for menu & ordering info! Have questions: email hello@rootcellarchapelhill.com

TOWN HALL BURGERS & BEER: DELIVERY via Take Out Central website (www.takeoutcentral.com) or CURBSIDE pickup via ChowNow (www.chownow.com), if available in your area. Limited To-Go menu offered from 11am - 8pm daily includes shared plates, salads, sides, burgers, tacos, and wings (see our menu at <https://www.facebook.com/thbbbc/>). Call ahead ordering with **curbside pickup** only with credit card payment (must pay in advance by phone) GIFT CARDS available, we are taking care of our first responders and have also set up a fund to help our part-time employees (contact the restaurant for more info), 58 Chapelton Ct, Suite 140 (Chapel Hill) Phone: 984-234-3504 ONLINE: <https://townhallburgerandbeer.com/locations/briar-chapel/>

VIRLIE'S GRILL: Call ahead orders (pick up inside, one person at a time, please wait under awning or in your vehicle), full menu and daily specials are being served 11 am-7pm Monday-Friday (closed temporarily on weekends), gift cards available 58 Hillsborough Street, Pittsboro NC 27312 Phone: 919-542-0376 Follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/Virlies-Grill-410167659129954/> or online at <https://virliesgrill.com>

WILLY'S CINNAMON ROLLS AND MICHAEL'S BREADS: Offering assorted breads and baked goods for **take-out only**. Come in & make selections for take out or call ahead with special orders (curbside delivery available upon request), Open Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 8-2, Gift cards available, 35 W. Chatham Street (Pittsboro), 252-305-9227, Email us: willysrolls@gmail.com, Online: <https://willysrolls.com> and <https://www.michaelsbreads.com> Follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/willyscinnamonrolls/> and <https://www.facebook.com/pittsborobread/>



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Siler City's parks working amid COVID challenges

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — When Jack Clelland showed up for his first day as Siler City's parks and recreation director on Feb. 24, he had no idea that one month later, many of the activities he would oversee would come to halt.

Within a month of Clelland's arrival, the COVID-19 pandemic ceased all youth athletic activities, festivals and events in Siler City, and closed all the playgrounds in town parks. It also forced the town to furlough the three part-time maintenance workers who assisted Gregg Blevins, the department's maintenance supervisor. Now Clelland and Daniel Spivey, the department's administrative support specialist, are mowing, weed-eating, cleaning and doing whatever else they can to keep them maintained in addition to other parks duties.

"It's challenging, it's something no one faced before," Clelland said. "It's not like I'm alone. We're all trying to navigate this pandemic."

The town's parks are still open — so residents can use the ballfields, open space and greenway — but the gyms and play equipment are closed. As natural areas, the parks still need year-round maintenance, but Clelland said his department is using this time for other things as well.

"Right now in Siler City



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Even though the pool at Bray Park is not able to open yet, crews still work to keep the area clean. Siler City Parks and Recreation Department staff said that when and if the state determines it can open, it will be ready.

we're taking this time to do smaller projects that needed to be completed," Clelland said.

This includes new dugouts in Field 1 at Siler City's Bray Park and a shade structure, both of which were upgraded using grant money. They have also "deep-cleaned" and "re-cleaned" all the facilities.

Clelland is hoping that youth athletics may be able to return in the fall. Since filling the athletics director position — the role Clelland held before being named director in February — is not a priority, he has been focusing on organizing to get those programs back up and running as soon as N.C. Gov.

Roy Cooper's executive order allows.

Since those orders now specifically prohibit use of public pools, Clelland has been working with Carolina Pool Management, the company the town contracts with to maintain and operate the Aquatic Center at Bray Park. They are "still moving forward in getting prepared" for the pool to open.

"We don't know when or even if we will get to open," Clelland said. "Rules may be modified, once again, it depends on the executive order. But we are going to be ready if that happens."

The team is also working on



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Jack Clelland, Siler City's Parks and Recreation Director, has been helping keep the parks maintained after COVID-19 closures resulted in the town furloughing its part-time Parks and Recreation employees.

future events. Clelland said the staff typically works "three, six or eight months in advance" for event planning. While the 2nd annual Spring Chicken Festival — originally set for this Saturday — was postponed earlier this year, Clelland notes that almost all of the vendors for this year's event have committed to participating next year. This includes the bands, the kids attractions and the Ferris Wheel. All the vendors have been "every understanding and accommodating," he said.

He is also hopeful that the department will still be able to host Friday Night Flicks, a weekly series of family friendly movies at Bray Park in August, a popular series that has been running for two years. And Spivey has been working on online programs for crafts and other activities for parents and children to do on the department's Facebook page.

"We are staying busy, but re-prioritizing," Clelland said. "We try to be creative, exploring alternative options for recreational activities that adhere to social distance guidelines."

Each week, Clelland connects with parks and recreation departments from across the

state. They share what they are doing, challenges and creative ideas, to help keep all North Carolina parks' departments going during the pandemic.

"One of the nice things about North Carolina is that parks and recreation is a big community," Clelland said. "Everyone staying up to date like a big family."

Working right now is a "challenge, but challenge is good."

"It opens you up to great possibilities and opportunities," he said. "It keeps you on your toes and keeps you evolving. Our old normal may no longer be normal and we are going to have to adjust and modify what we're doing as a department."

Clelland added his team is continuing to look for opportunities to offer programs and events and providing quality service and quality product while keeping everyone safe.

"We want people to utilize the parks, but be safe," Clelland said. "We take the safety and health of our citizens very seriously. We continue to build and grow. We're not going to stop. We keep moving forward."

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



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Even though Siler City playgrounds and youth athletics have been canceled because of COVID-19, the parks still require year-round maintenance.

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Submitted photo

A big 'thank you'

Ryan Yoder, a sixth-grader at Pollard Middle School, made this chalk drawing last week in honor of his teachers, who, he says, are 'still making school interesting.' Ryan is the son of Kevin Yoder and Lisa Collins, who works as a nurse at UNC Hospitals. Ryan's grandmother, Eleanor Yoder Herndon, shared this photo with the News + Record.



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Serious Eats Bagels, crafted by Debbie Matthews.

Got a schmear for a mother?



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

I was 11. I love all things bread. So when Michael's mom gave us bagels and a block of cream cheese, I was as intrigued as a bear facing its first salmon.

I'd also never eaten straight cream cheese before, either.

My first bagel was eaten at the table of Michael Weiss, an old boyfriend.

I love all things bread. So when Michael's mom gave us bagels and a block of cream cheese, I was as intrigued as a bear facing its first salmon.

I'd also never eaten straight cream cheese before, either.

It was a complete, unqualified success. I went home and begged/demanded my mother begin stocking the larder with bagels and cream cheese for schmearing.

The Kid has loved bagels since I handed them out, fresh out of the freezer, to soothe tender, teething gums.

This week, my child, in quarantine, made a batch. The recipe is from SeriousEats.com.

We were lucky enough to be gifted a couple. Guess what we had for dinner that night?

Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

Let's Shop: A Locals Guide

Information Below Is Updated Weekly

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 welcoming back our employees & delivery fees are paid to them). 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) **This week's case deal** is our "South American 'Off the Beaten Path'" case. A great mix of classic varietals that represent some great values that South America is known for and a handful of wines from a new, rising group of talented winemakers pushing the boundaries and raising the bar for the kinds of wines for which the region is typically known. The case is preassembled, so no substituting allowed. Regular price is \$184.99. Case deal is \$149.99 (plus tax)! You must email or call your order in by Thursday at 3PM (these wines will only be in the shop based on orders received). For info on included wines: <https://mailchi.mp/vinowineshopnc/winedelivery-delivery-wine-delivery-curbsidedelivery-southamerica-southamericancase-chile-argentina>

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

Reclamation: Private shopping sessions by appointment! Schedule yours by calling or visiting our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ReclamationHomeFurnishings/>) We have gloves and hand sanitizer available for use in the shop and we are wiping down doors and commonly used surfaces frequently. Shop from home by joining our Facebook group Reclamation to Go (click on Visit Group at the top of our Facebook page, offers secured payment). We are posting items for sale on a regular basis. We offer **curbside pickup, free delivery** within 5 miles, or you may request your purchases to be held until business returns to normal. 919-200-2176, 136 Fayetteville St, Pittsboro

Gathered Home Decor: OPEN for curbside pick up, local delivery, on-line ordering, **PRIVATE SHOPPING APPOINTMENTS**, and shipping! Keep in mind we are continually adding merchandise to our website, so check back often. We also have gift cards available! We are usually in the shop Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 2-5! Thank you so much for supporting local businesses during this trying time. Please call 919-533-6357 with any questions or to schedule your private shopping appointment, or visit our website at www.shopgatheredhomedecor.com

Oak City Hemp: For your safety & convenience, we have added hand sanitizer and toilet paper to our current inventory! We have always placed great effort on operating compliantly which is our commitment to YOU! We have made necessary adjustments to our Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to comply with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) which helps keep us all safe. **We wear gloves** when packaging your products; **Call Ahead to pull up & pick up...** stay in your car and we will safely transact your order & bring it out to you (pop your trunk & we will place your purchase there if you prefer); **Want delivery?** Order online or call ahead to place your order. Once processed, we will safely deliver your order to your door; **ORDER ONLINE** at www.oakcityhemp.com just please remember to wear gloves when opening your packages and to sanitize your countertops and hands after opening. 220 Lorax Lane (Pittsboro) 919-880-8164 • Wed-Sunday Noon-6pm

Fair Game Beverage: Open for business 10:00a-6p Monday-Friday and noon-6p on Saturdays and Sundays. Open for pickup, socially distanced shopping, and local delivery. Selling bottles of spirits, cocktails to go, NC specialty food products, growlers, bottles of wine, NC ciders, and hemp sanitizer. Gift baskets and crates are also available. 193 Lorax Lane (Pittsboro beverage district), 919-245-5434. Check us out on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fairgamebevco> We're also shipping online orders: <https://www.fairgamebeveragecompany.com/shop>

FRAGMENTS: Upscale Resale featuring artwork, home décor items, furnishings and other fine treasures. Looking for something special? Call or text and we can help you find it! Visit us at www.facebook.com/fragments to see some of our treasures. We are currently **open by appointment or chance** and we offer **curbside pickup!** Text or call Linda (919-548-6651), Trudy (919-704-6184) or Sherry (919-548-2168), 210 N Chatham Ave., Siler City



Look for these businesses on our Facebook page! Want to include your business? Contact Dawn at dawn@chathamnr.com for info.

Serious Eats Bagels

Yield: makes 8 three-inch bagels
Active time: 30 minutes
Total time: 25 hours

For the Yukone:
3/4 cup cold water
3/4 cup bread flour

yeast, not RapidRise or active dry
1/2 cup minus 1 tablespoon ounces water

For the Dough:
2 3/4 cups bread flour
1 tablespoon sugar
2 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt (for table salt, use half as much)
1 teaspoon instant dry

To boil:
4 teaspoons barley malt syrup, or an equal amount of honey

For the yukone: In 10-inch skillet, whisk water and flour over medium heat until thick, like mashed potatoes, about 2 minutes. Scrape onto plate, spread into a 1-inch layer, cover, and cool until to about 75°F, around 30 minutes.

For dough: Pulse flour, sugar, salt, and instant yeast in food processor fitted with metal blade. Once combined, add cooled yukone and water. Process until dough is silky smooth, and a small piece can be stretched into a sheet without tearing; about 90 seconds. The exact timing will vary with power and capacity of a given machine. For smaller machines, the reduced capacity and power will necessitate dividing dough in half to process in stages.

To shape: Turn dough onto clean, un-floured surface, divide into 8 roughly equal portions, and cover with plastic. Cup a portion of dough beneath your palm and work in quick, circular motions to form tight ball, with only a tiny seam along bottom. If seam is large or irregular, continue rounding until bottom is nearly smooth. Keep shaped dough covered in plastic and let rest 15 minutes.

To form bagels, poke a hole into the center of each portion with a damp fingertip, then gently stretch into 3 1/2-inch ring, wetting your hands in cold water as needed to prevent sticking. Arrange on well-greased, parchment-lined half sheet pan, cover with plastic, and refrigerate 24 to 48 hours, depending on your schedule.

To boil: Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and preheat to 425°. Fill stainless steel pot with about 3 inches of water, stir in barley malt syrup, and bring to boil over high heat. Meanwhile, line baking sheet or cutting board with thick layer of paper towels. Working two or three at a time, boil bagels about 30 seconds per side. Drain on paper towels for two or three seconds, then transfer to parchment-lined half sheet pan (if left on paper towels too long, bagels will stick; if this happens, quickly dip bagel back into hot water, and the wet paper towel will peel right off).

To finish: Bake bagels until blistered and golden brown all over, about 25 minutes. Cool at least 15 minutes. To serve, split horizontally with serrated knife. Uncut, bagels can be stored up to 48 hours in paper bag (or loosely wrapped in parchment), then sliced and briefly toasted to serve.

Worth knowing.

Worth reading.

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POLICE REPORTS

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Dre' Pugh of Siler City was cited April 29 for failure to reduce speed and reckless driving on U.S. Highway 64 in Siler City.

Ronald Hart of Winston-Salem was cited April 29 for driving while license revoked on U.S. Highway 64 in Siler City.

Chunyao Liu of Durham

was cited April 30 for failure to maintain lane control on Grandale Road in Pittsboro.

Craig Hunt of Pittsboro was cited April 30 for failure to maintain lane control on U.S. Highway 64 in Pittsboro.

Ernest Andrews of Stanley was cited April 30 for failure to maintain lane control on U.S. Highway 64 in Siler City.

Sheriff's office: Raleigh teen drowns in Jordan Lake on Tuesday

CN+R Staff Report

A male teen drowned in Jordan Lake Tuesday, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office said in a news release.

Fuad Nagi Busisou, 19, of Raleigh was swimming in the lake near Clark Poe Road when a witness

observed him "struggling to stay above the waterline." Multiple first responder agencies, including the sheriff's office and Moncure and North Chatham Fire Departments, responded to the scene to assist.

The victim's body was found at 6:35 p.m. No other victims are believed to be missing.

"Our deepest sympathy is with the family and friends of the victim at this time of unexpected and tragic loss," Sheriff's Office spokesman Rik Stevens said in the release. "We are grateful for the outpouring of support offered by our public safety partners in this search and rescue effort."

CHATHAM NEIGHBOR2NEIGHBOR

Won't you be my neighbor? Chatham helping residents in need

CN+R Staff Reports

People in Chatham want to help their neighbors.

That's been one clear signal since the launch of ChathamNeighbor2Neighbor, a collaborative effort by the Chatham News + Record, Abundance NC and the Care-mongering Pittsboro Facebook group.

The program connects people in Chatham County who have the capacity to help with those who need help the most using a simple online form. 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>.

"The Neighbor2Neighbor program has been deeply rewarding for me personally and a very different type of work for Abundance NC," said Abundance's Tami Schwerin, who's helping to lead the effort. "The pandemic has brought us many obstacles and of course opportunities. As we were a bit side-swiped about planning Abundance NC events in the near future, Bill Horner and Chatham News + Record came to us with this great idea — matching people that want to help with people that need help."

Within days of the launch last week dozens of Chatham County neighbors answered the call, signing up to help their fellow neighbors.

"As we expected, it was harder to find the people that needed help," Schwerin said. "We know they are out there, but it's tricky to get this form to the appropriate organizations and agencies."

"Many people are hesitant to ask for help," News + Record reporter Casey Mann said. "There is an element



of shame for some who have worked their entire lives only to be put in a tough situation. That's why confidentiality is so important for the program."

In its first week, the team was able to make four "matches" of people in need with volunteers willing to help. One woman was home sick with COVID-19 with her 5-year old child and small dog. None had not been out in a few weeks and she urgently needed food, supplies and medicine. Since she spoke Spanish, Marcela Slade, Abundance NC's event coordinator and art director, called and translated her list to a volunteer. Within two hours, a volunteer delivered almost everything on her list along with a box of healthy ready to eat meals donated by Pittsboro's Angelina's Kitchen.

"It was a beautiful thing to know this woman was taken care of," Schwerin said. "A lot of love and care went into helping her."

Another person wanted someone to talk to and a licensed counselor called her same day. One woman needed food and utilities. Again, the team called on the volunteer list and these needs were met. One woman only wanted to receive groceries, which she needed badly, if the volunteer would accept something in return, like housecleaning.

"No one is looking for a handout," Mann said. "Just a little help to get them through a very tough time for all of us. I think it's incredibly brave for them to reach out instead of suffering in silence which will ultimately make the situation

Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor is 'matching' Chatham residents in need with neighbors who have the capacity to help.

Submitted photo



Submitted photo

Angelina's Kitchen in Pittsboro has donated prepared meals for some of the neighbors matched in the Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor program.

worse." "We are continuing to reach out to folks that need help," Schwerin said. "The list is full of people who can offer time, walk animals, run errands and all sorts of things. Many of the people are paying for the groceries. I think we all feel so thankful if we do have food on our table and a roof over our heads and that we can help our neighbors during this unprecedented time."

Getting involved

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



Dental Insurance

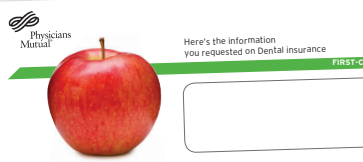
Get the dental care you deserve with dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It can help cover the services you're most likely to use -

- Cleanings
- X-rays
- Fillings
- Crowns
- Dentures

- ◆ Preventive care starts right away
- ◆ Helps cover over 350 services
- ◆ Go to any dentist you want - but save more with one in our network
- ◆ No deductible, no annual maximum

Call today for all the details.
844-903-1784

Call now to get this **FREE** Information Kit!
dental50plus.com/chatham



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NCAA ENDORSEMENT RULING

NCAA to allow third-party compensation for athletes starting in 2021-22 academic year

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

After years of resisting allowing payment of athletes, America's universities are on the verge of giving a little bit. The NCAA Board of Governors has supported rule changes that would allow student-athletes to be paid for "third-party endorsements both related to and separate from athletics," the organization said in a press release last Wednesday. Individuals could identify themselves by sport and school, but schools should not pay them for using their names and likenesses. The NCAA's three divisions are expected to adopt the rules changes by January, with the stipulations taking effect at the

start of the 2021-22 academic year. Michael V. Drake, the Board of Governors' chairman and president of Ohio State University, called the move "uncharted territory" and said the NCAA would engage with Congress on "moderniz(ing) our rules around name, image and likeness." "We will do so in a way that underscores the Association's mission to oversee and protect college athletics and college athletes on a national scale," Drake said in the news release. U.S. Rep. Mark Walker (R-N.C.), Chatham County's representative in Congress, has been vocal within the last year about his desire to allow student-athletes to be compensat-

ed for use of their name, image and/or likeness. He released a statement last Wednesday saying the move could be one of two things. "Today is either the day that a wall of injustice around student-athletes started to crumble, or the day the NCAA used more tactics to bait and switch young men and women from some of America's most vulnerable communities," Walker said in the statement. "My hope is the former and that the proposal on name, image, and likeness is genuine. If enacted in good faith, this move will save the college sports we love by creating equity, transparency, and opportunity." Walker introduced a piece of legislation last year — the

Student-Athlete Equality Act — with U.S. Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-La.) to change the definition of a "qualified amateur sports organization" in the U.S. tax code "to remove the restriction on student-athletes using or being compensated for use of their name, image and likeness — forcing the NCAA to change its current model," the press release stated. The NCAA's board of governors said it will be seeking a "safe harbor" for the organization "to provide protection against lawsuits filed for name, image and likeness rules" and "ensuring federal preemption over state name, image and likeness laws." Last October, California lawmakers passed a law that would allow stu-

dent-athletes in the state to sign endorsement deals. The rule would go into effect in 2023. Walker said he was concerned about the organization's "implied request" for "anti-trust exemptions." "The NCAA has spent decades using their lawyers to keep young men and women from receiving basic constitutional rights, even as they grew to a billion-dollar-a-year organization," he said. "I am sure those same lawyers can help them navigate this action without congressional intervention." Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at zhornier@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Zach-HornerCNR.

Injured owl rescued

Stefanie Hunt and Jeremy King were driving on N.C. Hwy. 42 toward Ramseur from Bennett last Thursday afternoon when this owl flew toward the truck in which they were traveling and struck the truck's antenna. "We saw it land in a ditch at a home on the corner of Hwy. 42 and Chatham Street," Hunt reported. The couple got out of the truck to check on the bird. "It was pitiful," she said. "I knew its wing was broken. We tried not to alarm the owl, but we had to keep it from going into the road." At a nearby shop, a call was made to the county's Animal Control staff. Within a few minutes, Animal Resources Officer Kelly Rouse arrived. "He explained that he needed to catch it and get it to a rescue center," Hunt said. "I helped carry the transport cage while he netted the bird." Rouse took the owl to Claws Inc., a birds of prey rescue near Chapel Hill, according to the Chatham County Sheriff's office. Rouse had several years of experience with Chatham County Animal Control before he came to the Sheriff's Office a few years ago, rising to the rank of Corporal in the Detention Center; he's now returned to the field as an Animal Resources Officer since the Sheriff's Office took over the county's Animal Resources Center last year. Rik Stevens, the Sheriff's Office legal advisor, says, "From what we have heard the bird is doing well. Unfortunately owl strikes by vehicles are fairly common, but often the birds glance off and are only stunned. That seems possibly to have been the case here." Hunt said she hopes the bird can be released back in the same area soon. "This is the second owl I've gotten to help save. It's just sad it was our truck that injured the owl. Office Rouse made this owl a priority and was legitimately worried about its safety. He cared as much as we did about it."



Submitted photos courtesy of Stefanie Hunt



Bowen
Insurance Agency, Inc

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



We are an independent insurance agency founded in Wake County in 2001 by Brad Bowen. We are thrilled to be expanding into Chatham County! The new location will be managed by Pittsboro resident, Jennifer McLaurin.



Bowen Insurance Agency is located at:
1345 Thompson Street
(formerly APC Insurance)

Give us a call at 919-444-2499



THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Kid Scoop



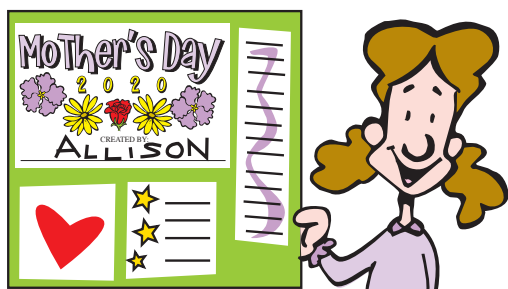
© 2020 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 36, No. 22

Kid Scoop Together:

Mother's Day MATH

Make a Mother's Day Scrapbook Page!

- Stuff you'll need:**
- Kid Scoop
 - Newspaper
 - Glue Stick
 - Crayons
 - Scissors
 - Construction Paper



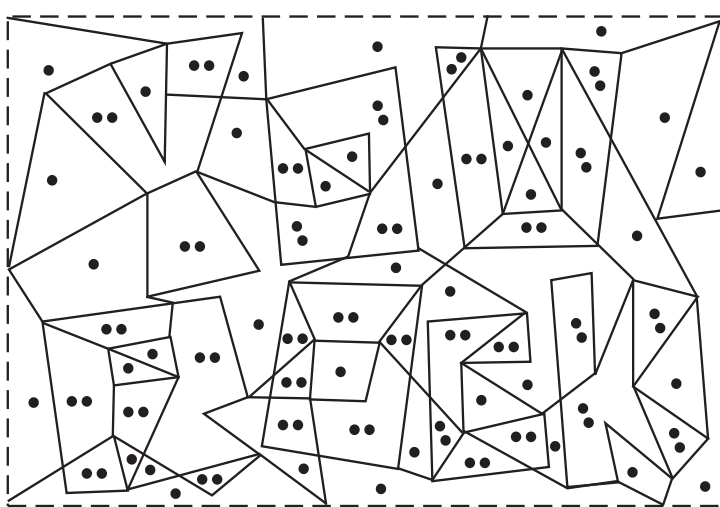
Write your name and color this page topper:



CREATED BY:

Follow instructions and complete the activities on today's page to create a keepsake scrapbook page for your mom, aunt, stepmother, grandmother or another special woman in your life.

Why You're a Superstar!



↑ Spaces with two dots, color red, and the spaces with one dot, color yellow to reveal a special message.

↑ Describe your mom or other special person with words you find in the newspaper that start with each letter of the word "mother." Arrange the words to spell out "mother" vertically.

1. If a typical scrapbook page is 12 inches by 12 inches, what shape is it?

2. Julio's mother is forty-one years old. His grandmother is seventy-two years old. How old was Julio's grandmother when his mother was born?

3. Jacob's grandmother has six children whose ages are 18, 22, 25, 32, 34 and 37. What is the total age of all six children?

4. Vivien bought her mother eighteen roses for Mother's Day. She dropped five of them on her way home. How many roses did she have left to give her mother?

5. Anastasha's mother collects dolls. Her goal is to have sixty-four dolls. She has four from France, sixteen from Russia, seven from Jamaica, and three from Liberia. How many more dolls does she need to reach her goal?

- Answers:
1. square
2. 31
3. 168
4. 13
5. 34

Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Use a variety of strategies to solve problems.

Use the secret code to complete this message:

H P R
DAY IS
F LL D W TH
SUNSHINE
ND H PP
TH GHTS!

- A = O =
E = U =
I = Y =

Favorite Things:

Dream Vacation:

↑ Find pictures and words in the newspaper to paste in the boxes above of your mom or other special person's favorite things and dream vacation.

How to Make a Scrapbook Page

1. Complete the activities in the scrapbook boxes on today's page.
2. Cut out each box.
3. Paste the boxes on a large piece of construction paper.
4. Add photographs or draw a picture of you and your mom doing something together. Or, write about a special memory that you two share.
5. Present your gift and watch your mom smile!

Extra! Extra!

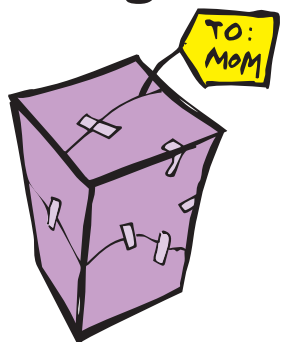
Mystery Note for Mom

Cut out letters from the newspaper and use them to write a mystery note to your mother.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write friendly letters.

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

What a Character!™ Caring is ...



... taking the time to make something for another person.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **KEEPSAKE**

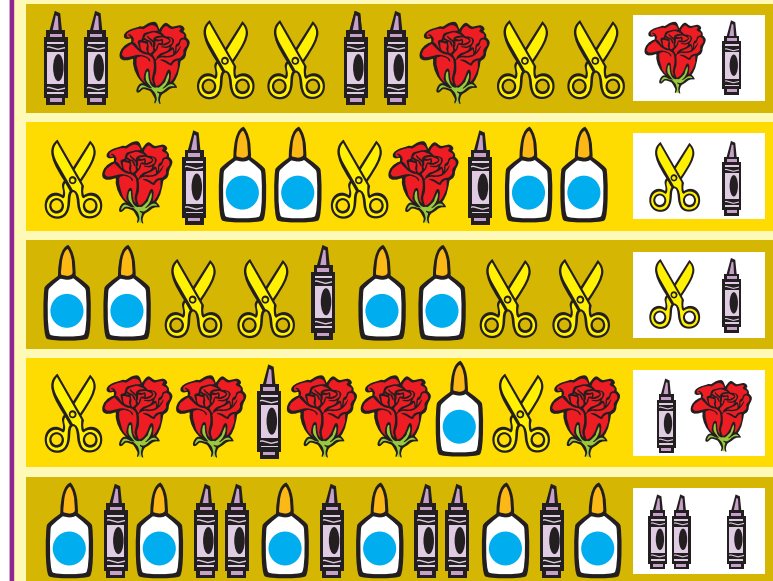
The noun **keepsake** means a gift or item someone saves to remember fond memories.

Molly made her grandmother a scrapbook page as a **keepsake** of Mother's Day.

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Circle the object that should come next in each row.



Standards Link: Investigation: Extend patterns.

Double Double Word Search

- MOTHER
- KEEPSAKE
- SCRAPBOOK
- PICTURE
- CRAYONS
- CODE
- SPECIAL
- SMILE
- WOMAN
- SCISSORS
- SHARE
- MEMORY
- PAPER
- YOU
- GIFT

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



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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Classified Mom

Imagine you had to run an ad to hire someone to replace your mother. Write a classified ad for a mom. Look at the classified ad section of the newspaper to see what those ads look like. Calculate the cost to run your ad. Can you rewrite it to cost less?

Standards Link: Writing: Use stylistic and rhetorical aspects of writing.



Why do kangaroos hate rainy days?

ANSWER: Because the kids have to play inside.

Write On!

Wanted: Mom

Write a classified "Help Wanted" ad for a mom just like yours.



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- YMCA DAY CAMP: PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Chatham News + Record

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Squad cars and a fire truck from Siler City drove past Jay's home to help him celebrate his 11th birthday.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



Jay holds hands with his dad, Darius, during just following the 'parade' of first responder vehicles for his birthday.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Jeremiah 'Jay' Martin (bottom right) turned 11 years old last Friday. He got some help celebrating his special day with the help of his family and the Siler City police and fire departments.

A special birthday parade for Jay



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Jay sat in his special viewing seat while his mom, Robin, waved and recorded his birthday parade.

News + Record Staff Report

SILER CITY — It's tough having a birthday during a pandemic. But thanks to the Siler City Police and Fire Departments, one child got a little boost on his special day.

Jeremiah "Jay" Martin turned 11 years old last Friday. Jay is a student at Virginia Cross Elementa-

ry where his mom, Robin, works as a teacher's assistant.

For his birthday, Jay, who is on the autism spectrum, wanted something a little different. His mom and dad, Darius, reached out to the Siler City Police and Fire Departments, who threw him a "parade." Several squad cars and a fire truck passed by his house on Friday with lights on to celebrate

Jay's special day. The two departments purchased two metal buckets full of fruit for Jay, who prefers the natural treat over cake or candy.

Jay's parents say their son is a musician, a swimmer and a whiz with an iPad. He seemed to thoroughly enjoy his special day.

— Casey Mann and Peyton Sickles



The first responders brought Jay buckets of fruit as he prefers the natural treat over cake or candy. The first responders signed the buckets for him.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

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Jay's family decorated the family's pick-up truck to create a special viewing area for his birthday parade.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Jay's grandfather, Lynn "Pop" Martin, watched the parade from a tractor.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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LAND FOR SALE: 7.65 Acres - Located approximately, 5 miles from Siler City, near Stockyard. Would be great for pasture land, and/or Residence. Can be split into smaller tracts, as well. Call: 336-588-2497 for more information. N14,tfnc

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HELP WANTED

LPN NEEDED! AULDERN ACADEMY, a girls therapeutic boarding school, in Siler City needs a flexible, permanent, on call LPN to cover when RN is on vacation or for additional coverage. Please send resume, to include salary expectations, to cindy.kozulinski@sequely-outhservices.com or fax to 919-837-5284. A30,My7,2tc

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 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

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

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, 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 Clynesh 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

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

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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.

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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

Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 My7,My14,My21,My28,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20-E-176 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, William Childress, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JOHN PAUL SANDERFORD, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 30 day of July, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 28 day of April, 2020. William Childress Administrator for the Estate C/O Shanell K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 My7,My14,My21,My28,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 19-E-347 NORTH CAROLINA

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20-E-177 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, William Childress, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **NICOLE LYNN SANDERFORD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 30 day of July, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 28 day of April, 2020. William Childress, Administrator for the Estate C/O Shanell K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC

CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Carey Wilson, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **MILDRED B. WILSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 30 day of July, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 28 day of April, 2020. Carey Wilson Executor for the Estate C/O Shanell K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC My7,My14,My21,My28,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 180 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified a Administrator of the Estate of **ANGELA DAWN CLARK**, 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 August 7, 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 7th day of May, 2020. Kay P. Clark, Administrator PO Box 143 Goldston, NC 27252 My7,My14,My21,My28,4tp

TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on May 18, 2020 at 7 pm in the City Hall Courtroom located at 311 N. 2nd Ave. on the following requests:
1. Wallick Asset Management, LLC requests a conditional use district rezoning to rezone ~15.141 acres from Heavy-Industrial (H-I) to Office-Institutional-Conditional Use (O-I-C). The proposed conditional use is an 84-unit multifamily residential apartment development for persons of low or moderate-income. The subject property is located at 226 Campus Dr. and is identified as a portion of tax parcel # 14380; and
2. Glandon Forest Equity, LLC proposes to rezone ~1.13 acres from Office-Institutional (O-I) to Highway-Commercial (H-C). The subject property is located at 610/618 N. 2nd Ave. and is identified as parcel # 73467 & 61129.
The proposed items are available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. Due to mass gathering restric-

tions outlined in the Governor's Executive Order, the public will not be allowed to physically attend this meeting. If you are interested in the outcome of the application, you are invited to attend the meeting electronically by zoom. To be admitted into the zoom meeting, present comments, testimony, exhibits, evidence, arguments, or ask questions email the Town Clerk at jjohnson@silercity.org no later than 3 pm on May 18, 2020. All information will be presented to the Board of Commissioners. The Planning Board will meet on May 11 @ 6:30 pm by zoom to consider recommendations to the Town Board. My7,My14,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 162 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate **MAUREEN WOODS GRAFF**, 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 August 7, 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 4th day of May, 2020. Katie Graff Wright, Executrix 8800 Oxford Court Chapel Hill, NC 27516 My7,My14,My21,My28,4tp

REQUEST FOR BIDS
Chatham County COUNCIL ON AGING is accepting bids for in-home aide services for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.

Interested agencies may see details at www.chathamcoa.org. Closing bid date is May 22, 2020 at 5 p.m. My7,1tc

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 19 JT 4 IN RE: "S.G." DOB: 12/21/18 NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PROCESS OF PUBLICATION
TO: Biological father/Father of the above female child born December 21, 2018 in Orange County, Chapel Hill, NC to Heather Holdren.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed to terminate your parental rights to the above-referenced minor child. You have forty days from May 6, 2020, the first date of publication of this Notice to respond to said Petition by filing a written answer to the petition with the Chatham Clerk of Court. Your parental rights to the juvenile will be terminated upon failure to answer the petition within the time prescribed. Any attorney appointed previously in an abuse, neglect or dependency proceeding and still representing you shall continue to represent you. If you are indigent and not already represented by an attorney, you are entitled to a court-appointed attorney. STEPHENSON & FLEMING, L.L.P. BY: /s/ ANGENETTE STEPHENSON, Attorney for Petitioner, CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES 109 Conner Dr., Suite 208 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 Telephone: (919) 869-7795 My7,My14,My21,3tc

SUBMISSION OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY BUDGET
The Chatham County budget for 2020-2021 has been submitted to the Board of Commissioners and a copy is available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk to the Board, Courthouse Annex, County Manager's Office, 12 East Street, Pittsboro. The Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the budget at 6:00 p.m. on May 18, 2020 at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, 1192 US 64 Business W, Pittsboro. Residents wishing to submit public comment on the budget may email comments to Clerk to the Board Lindsay K. Ray at lindsay.k.ray@chathamnc.org by 4:00 p.m. on May 18, 2020 and the Clerk will read the comments into the record at the public hearing. Residents may also speak in person at the public hearing by signing up in the lobby of the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on May 18, 2020. Residents are allotted three minutes each for comments. A copy of the budget is online at www.chathamnc.org. May 7, 2020, Lindsay K. Ray, Clerk to the Board My7,1tc

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CHATHAM CHAT | DR. LUKE SMITH, EL FUTURO

Clinic pivots to provide mental health services via video

El Futuro, which has offices in Siler City and Durham, is a nonprofit outpatient clinic that provides comprehensive mental health services for Latino families in a bilingual environment of healing and hope.

This week, we speak with Executive Director Dr. Luke Smith about El Futuro's programs and how its delivery methods are changing during the COVID-19 crisis. Dr. Smith was raised in Arkansas and moved to North Carolina for training in child and adult psychiatry. After volunteering in the community and perceiving a need for Spanish language services, he helped mobilize the community to create El Futuro, begun as a volunteer effort in 2001 and as a nonprofit in 2004.

Dr. Smith is El Futuro's executive director and medical director, and provides psychiatric care to both children and adults. Each year, he and his staff provide services to more than 1,500 children and families who come for help. He is double board certified in both adult psychiatry and in child and adolescent psychiatry. In addition to being active with direct services and shaping policy at the local and state level, Dr. Smith leads the organization in research efforts through projects funded by the NIMH and PCORI with a focus on creating evidence based practices that are especially targeted to help the North Carolina Latino Community.

Thinking back to your own upbringing...what impact did it have on your desire to do the kind of work you're doing and the kind of people you serve?

I grew up in the South where race separated us visibly and invisibly in so many ways. My parents encouraged us to practice the golden rule and constantly emphasized acts of service as a love language — one we needed to learn, but not the only language. They also enrolled us in Spanish classes.

Ironically where I grew up in Arkansas, nobody actually spoke Spanish! It wasn't until I went off to college that I met people who spoke Spanish and later I came to North Carolina for training in Psychiatry and put my Spanish to use. I discovered that many people who spoke Spanish didn't have access to mental health services in their primary language or what I would call their heart language. I'm still working on my Spanish, which often has an Arkansan accent, but my patients are forgiving and even encouraging to me as they help me when I get stuck. I guess you could say that both languages my parents helped me learn are ones that I now use every day and I'm building my fluency which is a lifelong endeavor.

Can you talk about El Futuro's mission and goals, specifically how those relate to Chatham County?

Our mission is "to nurture stronger families to live out their dreams." Latino families come to our community with dreams of a better life — to find work, provide for families, get education, and have things better. Often those dreams are sidelined by incredible adversity and hardship. When mental illness strikes, it's often the last straw and devastating.

Our goal is to nurture and rehabilitate those who are suffering and help them get back on the path they set out on. More and more this involves helping them not only with the depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, insomnia or ADHD, but also thinking about what in their environment is negatively impacting them or giving them stress. We work to connect people with resources because it's often not

what you know but who you know. When you're in a new place and don't have social networks you are at a real disadvantage and so we try to help people get connected. Many times that involves helping someone with a translation or being aware of an opportunity.

What all falls within the scope of "culturally-responsive mental health services"?

We constantly scan what we're doing to see how we can be more welcoming. Often times it is the little things that make a difference — how to make eye contact, a short word or phrase in Spanish to be polite, asking about the country of origin, or talking about food!

People who are fluent in Spanish can actually be culturally off-putting with certain mannerisms and attitudes if they're not careful. Ironically, others who can barely say a word in Spanish are can nonverbally show warmth and welcome. We used to use the phrase "cultural competence" but don't prefer it any longer because the idea of competence communicates having figured it all out. In reality, nobody completely understands the many nuances of culture — so instead of being competent and completely understanding, we instead always need to be listening and learning.

We prefer the term "cultural humility" instead because we should be flexible in our understandings and always open to listen and learn. It's important to realize that everyone is unique. When we think in rigid stereotypes it puts up barriers to understanding and gets in the way of offering helpful, effective mental health services. When we take the time to listen and learn about each person in a culturally humble manner, then it might take more time but the mental health treatment provided is more impactful.

El Futuro's clinics are in Durham and Siler City. Why those communities, and why are the needs so great in Chatham?

We began our work in Siler City in 2006 because of the explosive growth of the Latino community who came in the 90s and early 2000s. There were no mental health services for the community, however. Our little clinic on South Chatham Avenue in Siler City received so many referrals and we opened up school-based services at Chatham Middle School.

After the chicken factories in Siler City closed down we thought maybe the Latino families would leave but they had put down roots and liked

living in Siler City. They looked to us for support and help and we were glad to be there. There are some big challenges for those families even still. Transportation and relatively low wages make it hard for many to get their footing so they are often living at or below the poverty level with anxiety about how they will pay the rent or provide food for their family. Many youth feel pressure to work to support their family.

Can you walk us through the process through which clients/patients are referred to El Futuro, how treatment plans work, and what happens after treatment is completed?

People are referred to El Futuro by school teachers, primary care providers, immigration attorneys, soccer coaches, and many others. Our main source of referrals though are from friends or family members who have received services at El Futuro and now recommend it to others. For us that is a marker of success because winning and keeping the trust of the community is of paramount importance.

When someone comes we meet with them in their heart language... for many that is Spanish but for an increasing number, especially the youth, it is English. Or sometimes a mixture of the two which we refer to as Spanglish! After the assessment session we decide whether or not receiving services at El Futuro is the best option or maybe refer the person somewhere else if it isn't a mental health or substance use issue.

A treatment plan is formed which includes meetings with a therapist and/or a psychiatrist. We might also include some sessions with a case manager who gets to know the person and finds out more about needs that could include connecting the person to job training, education, or child-care support. We clarify goals that the person and their family want to accomplish with treatment. This could be sleeping through the night, feeling less depressed, stopping alcohol use, or something else. We provide treatment as long as the person needs it and then are available for booster sessions or maintenance in the future.

There aren't as many people coming with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder because we don't see those more severe mental illnesses as frequently in new immigrant communities. Often people with those disorders aren't healthy enough or mentally able to make such a long journey here.



Staff file photo by David Bradley

Dr. Luke Smith, executive director of El Futuro, which has clinics in Siler City and Durham.

So how have things changed at El Futuro with the spread of the coronavirus?

In March we decided to close our clinic because of the coronavirus. We provide services that mostly can be offered via video and the state and federal government authorized relaxed encryption standards and offered competitive reimbursements.

Within a week of our transition we were offering almost 100 percent video services. For four weeks now we have been at or above capacity with regards to our productivity expectations, essentially not seeing any drop off in our services. Many of our patients have difficulty with transportation, childcare or other issues that make it hard to physically come to the clinic so this new video approach has been helpful. Unfortunately, the extra stress of the virus, job insecurity, and alarming news stories have really distressed the Latino community so I'm glad El Futuro is here to help.

In addition to mental health and substance use treatment services, we are also partnering with other nonprofits to raise awareness of and support for many families who are financially struggling right now. We are doing this through the Solidarity Fund which is collecting donations to redistribute to some of the most vulnerable in our community.

We are also working with the Health Department, Piedmont Health Services, Chatham Hospital, El Vinculo Hispano and others to help communicate important messages about the coronavirus to the Latino community so that they will know how to protect themselves and their

families and not spread the virus.

We've seen reports from law enforcement agencies, including Chatham County's Sheriff's Office, that domestic violence cases are on the rise during this stay-at-home order. What are you seeing?

El Futuro isn't a crisis or DV organization. Of course, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is something we see in our work, either directly as something that is happening or something that happened in the past that caused a person to feel a certain way and so now we're helping them to cope and overcome. But, when situations arise, people generally are alerting law enforcement and are getting directed to domestic violence organizations who specialize in crisis and stabilization. We then later get referrals for mental health and substance use disorder assessments and treatment.

Over the last month, we have been at the table with those who provide services and they described a eerie quiet during the first of April, like the quiet before the storm. And during the last two weeks of April the reports and referrals started coming in. So, that confirms what the Sheriff's Office was reporting to you. We are further downstream so haven't seen those come to us yet but I know we will.

And what about incidents of depression and anxiety?

With regards to depression and anxiety, we're seeing a number of responses. Some are feeling better. School children don't feel the stress of school, the drama of peers, and the intensity of life like they knew it before. And for some this is

a welcome relief at a time of year when we often see so many referrals of children who are feeling overwhelmed. They have turned to crafts, being outside in nature, and have been with family more.

There are others who are having a worsening of symptoms as they are more isolated and in environments that aren't very healthy. They also worry about the stability of their family. Not many children are worried about the virus itself because they don't feel like it really is a physical threat to them.

Some worry about grandparents. With the adults it's a different situation. Many of the adults we treat haven't taken off from work because they continue to work factory jobs, construction, house-keeping, and other jobs that haven't been offered reprieve. When factories have shut down, it has been very very stressful for the workers because they are pushed to the breaking point as economic resources dry up.

For those who don't have citizen benefits and no stimulus benefit is coming to them, it's quite concerning. That stress in the family affects the adults and the children alike. I think some of us got a taste of that when our toilet paper rolls ran low and we worried about getting the next roll. For many of the families we help, the scarcity is not just with toilet paper but with food, medicine, rent payments and light bills. This has been a really hard time for the Latino community and so depression and anxiety has increased. We're seeing an increase in the demand for our services.

For more information, go to <https://elfuturo-nc.org>

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