

# Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | MAY 28-JUNE 3, 2020 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

## MOUNTAIRE, NURSING HOMES & DRIVE-THRUS

### The story (so far) of COVID-19 testing in Chatham County

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

As of Tuesday, Chatham County's 587 reported positive COVID-19 cases made up 2.4 percent of the state's total cases. The county only makes up 0.7 percent of North Carolina's population.

Why is this the case? To Piedmont Health Services CEO Brian Toomey, it's simple. "Chatham County has been willing to talk about it and address it and be sure the community is willing to engage with this," Toomey said. "It's the way everybody should do it. You're in front because you're leading — not because there's something wrong with you. Chatham County should be proud."

The infrastructure that produces the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Chatham County, North Carolina and around the country is testing, and the state government has relied on numbers of tests conducted as part of its procedure for "re-opening" businesses and other operations. Testing in Chatham County has taken different forms since the first COVID-19 cases were identified in the county in early March — and according to health officials, it's played a major role in



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Junell of the North Carolina National Guard

**A member of the North Carolina National Guard's 42nd Civil Support Team works with local health and emergency officials to conduct drive-thru and walk-up COVID-19 testing for employees of the Mountaire Farms poultry processing plant in Siler City on April 23.**

how the county has responded to the novel coronavirus crisis.

#### When testing happens

The test for COVID-19 is a bit invasive, to put it mildly. A six-inch long Q-tip-like swab is inserted into the nostril and pushed back to the cavity between the nose and mouth. The swab is held in the cavity for 15 seconds and rotated several

times. The procedure is then repeated through the other nostril.

Testing has been a common thread throughout the COVID-19 response. The first Chatham resident to contract the virus was tested after he was determined to be a contact to a case in Georgia. Two more cases were announced two weeks later, at which time county Health Director Layton Long said

See **TESTING**, page A9

### Family mourns, celebrates life of murdered Bear Creek man

BY CASEY MANN  
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — When Emerson Batsche was murdered in Bear Creek last week, it left his mother, in her words, a "shell of a person."

Emerson, 20, died from a gunshot wound to the chest early last Wednesday morning just off Pittsboro-Goldston Road. His assailant fled and is being sought by law enforcement, who have not commented about a possible motive for the shooting. The case is still under investigation by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

For Emerson's mother, Andrea, "all the grace that could come from a terrible situation for her," she said, is that he died "at home where he was loved."

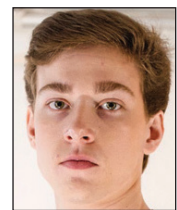
Andrea said Emerson, who grew up in Chatham County, had difficulty speaking when he was a young child. But he connected with a teacher at J.S. Waters School in Goldston who helped him overcome those issues. After

working on his speech, Emerson soon began writing poetry and became interested in the spoken word form at a really young age.

"He used to carry around these 'ginormous' books, like a dictionary," Andrea said. "I thought it was his way of having words because people couldn't understand him. He would write these things that were really deep and profound and would make us weep."

By the time Emerson moved on to Horton Middle School in Pittsboro, his creative spirit blossomed. He connected with his "best buddy," Lara Summers, a fellow student there who played the ukulele, marking his transition from poetry to music. He also

See **MURDER**, page A6



Emerson Batsche

## Chatham retailers, restaurants begin to 're-open' as N.C. moves into Phase 2

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — By Monday, Carolina Brewery in Pittsboro was back in the swing of things — sort of.

"Still quite a bit is take-out," said Tara Brand, the restaurant's general manager.

Walk-in business has been light, she said, since the restaurant re-opened to dine-in service, but that was preferable, as they wanted a "transition time."

Chatham County restaurants and retailers eased back into some of their normal habits this week as North Carolina moved into Phase 2 of "re-opening" after months of closings due to executive orders from Gov. Roy Cooper. The governor enacted Phase 2 on Friday evening, calling the new restrictions a "Safer at Home" order.

"North Carolina is using the data to guide our decisions about when to lift COVID-19 restrictions, and overall our key indicators remain stable," Cooper said. "Safer At Home Phase 2 is another careful step forward, and we have to continue taking this virus seriously to prevent a dangerous



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Tara Brand is the general manager of Carolina Brewery in Pittsboro. The restaurant re-opened on-premises dining this weekend as North Carolina entered Phase 2 of the 're-opening' process.**

spike in infections."

In a press release from the Chatham County government on Friday, Public Health Director Layton Long said it was important that residents realize that the county was not completely free of COVID-19 yet.

"Although the move to Phase 2 may lead some to

believe the risk of COVID-19 infection is behind us, we are not out of the woods yet," Long said. "The state is taking a cautious approach with good reason, and we continue to encourage our community to stay home as much as possible, maintain a safe distance from others, and wear a face covering if you are in public



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Traver Mangum (left), his wife Kristen and friend Justin Rose visited Carolina Brewery in Pittsboro on Monday, taking advantage of good weather and the state's Phase 2 re-opening, which included restaurants.**

and around others. We know that a spike in cases remains likely if these measures are not taken seriously."

There was a small spike a day after the order went into effect and Phase 2 began. North Carolina saw its largest single-day increase in reported positive tests to date — with

1,107 lab-confirmed cases announced — on Saturday. While the dates those tests were conducted were not revealed, more than 36,000 had been reported in the three days prior.

The executive order enacted See **REOPEN**, page A3

## CHILD ABUSE IN CHATHAM | PART 2

### Finding a life after trauma

The long-term effects of child abuse and how Chatham County is responding

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

*Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part story about child abuse and neglect in Chatham County.*

Child abuse happens in Chatham County — and reports of it and neglect have risen by more than 30 percent in the

last year. But there are individuals and programs in Chatham that have taken steps to push back against that rise.

#### Positive parenting

One of the ways advocates want to decrease incidences of child abuse is widening access to parenting classes. The 2019 Community

Child Protection Team report stated that "limited child abuse prevention programming" exists in Chatham. The programs that do exist are limited, but still address the need. The Incredible Years Parent Training program works with parents of children ages 3-6 to teach them parenting skills.

See **TRAUMA**, page A7

## Concluding a Long career in public health

Chatham public health director retiring as scheduled (sort of) during COVID-19

BY ZACHARY HORNER  
News + Record Staff

Layton Long submitted his two month's notice for retirement back in February, not knowing what was about to happen.

He was all set to leave his job as the director of the Chatham County Public Health Director — ending a six-and-a-half-year tenure there and more than 30 years in public health — at the end



Long

See **LONG**, page A6

of April. Then COVID-19 hit. "My timing's not real good," he said. "If I had retired in January, it would have been a totally different story."

Long is officially stepping down at the

## IN THE KNOW

Moncure Fire District tax increase request rejected by county. **PAGE A10**

'Solidarity Fund' raises \$140K, to help Chatham applicants. **PAGE A11**

J-M grads Headen, Manzanarez on high school in a pandemic. **PAGE B2**

Cambridge Hills holds 'drive-by' for residents' family, friends. **PAGE B4**



## 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 Commissioners** has tentatively scheduled a work session on the budget for Thursday, May 28. Visit the county's website at [www.chathamnc.org](http://www.chathamnc.org) for updates.
- **The Siler City Board of Commissioners** will hold a budget meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 28. The meeting is accessible by Zoom technology or by phone. For more information, contact Siler City Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson at 919-726-8620.

### 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 mon-

itor the town's website at [pittsboronc.gov](http://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](http://chathamcoa.org).
- **Chatham County Historical Museum:** For the safety of visitors and volunteers, the Chatham County Historical Museum is closed until further notice. See our website: <https://chathamhistory.org>.
- **Chatham Community Library:** Closed to the public at this time.
- **State Employees Credit Union (SECU)** branches statewide have temporarily transitioned to drive-thru only. Members who need to access safe deposit boxes, drop off tax return information, or inquire about a loan should call the branch to schedule an appointment.
- **The Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop** will be closed for shopping and donations until further

notice.

### 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

- **The Seagrove Wood Fire NC Weekend Pottery Tour** will occur on Saturday and Sunday, June 6 and 7, online and at select locations: Ben Owen Pottery, Blue Hen Pottery, Donna Craven Pottery, From the Ground Up, Johnston & Gentithes, Jugtown Pottery, Kate Johnston Pottery, Luck's Ware, Studio Touya, Stuempfle Pottery. For details visit: [seagrovewoodfire.com](http://seagrovewoodfire.com).

- **Chatham Habitat for Humanity** is planning to hold our rescheduled 2020 Women Build event from August 27 - 29. Registration will open in mid-summer on our website, and those who signed up for the April event will receive first priority. Assuming our new normal allows for events such as the Women Build, we will gather together in a few months. These dates may change, and additional ones may open as well. Mark your calendars and hope for the best. The Participate from Home benefit is still in effect - a donation of at least \$25 will get you a t-shirt and certificate during the month of the event.

### ALSO HAPPENING

- 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](http://ChathamArtsCouncil.org).

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

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

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

[www.chathamconnecting.org](http://www.chathamconnecting.org).

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

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

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

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

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

## A car and truck parade



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham County Group Homes Inc., a non-profit organization that was established in 1984 to house and support adults with developmental disabilities, held a parade of car show vehicles for a birthday celebration for one of its residents.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

A group of local Ford Mustang owners, who often participate in local parades, participated in the parade, showing off their 'car show' vehicles.



The parade also included 'big trucks' to show Charles they were grateful for his special day.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

## READ IT ONLINE

*Now Open*

**We are opening again June 1!!**



LAW OFFICES OF  
**W. WOODS DOSTER, P.A.**  
TRUST • EXPERIENCE • RESPECT

25 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro, NC 27312  
**919.842.5007**

*Now Open*



Tuesday-Friday 8-7  
Saturday 8-12

Online booking @ [www.loriebarker.com](http://www.loriebarker.com)

**SPA RITUALS AND BOUTIQUE**  
23 Hwy 87, Pittsboro, NC 27312  
**919.356.5875**



## Siler City's Cheek dies at age 71

Siler City Commissioner and Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Cheek was rushed to UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill last week after falling ill. At press time Tuesday, his family announced that Cheek had passed away. Just days before, he had been transferred to a UNC Hospitals-affiliated hospice in Pittsboro, according to Siler City Mayor John Grimes. 'Larry Cheek is one of the finest men I have ever met,' Grimes said. 'I was so proud to be called his friend. His love for the citizens of Siler City was boundless.'

Submitted photo

Chatham News + Record  
[www.chathamnewsrecord.com](http://www.chathamnewsrecord.com)

**Chatham Media Group LLC**  
303 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, North Carolina, 27344  
COPYRIGHT 2019 CHATHAM MEDIA GROUP LLC

### CONTACT US

To subscribe, put your paper on hold, or report a missed issue:  
919-663-3232

To place a classified or display ad:  
919-663-3232; Fax: 919-663-4042

To submit news, or to correct a factual error:  
919-663-3251; Fax: 919-663-4042

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Inside County  
\$45 for 1 year/52 issues  
\$25 for 6 months/26 issues

Outside County  
\$50 for 1 year/52 issues  
\$30 for 6 months/26 issues

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

**NEWSROOM**  
RANDALL RIGSBEE,  
Managing Editor  
[rigsbee@chathamnr.com](mailto:rigsbee@chathamnr.com)  
919-663-3231

CASEY MANN, Reporter  
[caseymann@chathamnr.com](mailto:caseymann@chathamnr.com)

ZACHARY HORNER, Reporter  
[zhorner@chathamnr.com](mailto:zhorner@chathamnr.com)

NEWSROOM GENERAL MAILBOX  
[news@chathamnr.com](mailto:news@chathamnr.com)

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
KIM HAWKS  
PEYTON SICKLES

**ADVERTISING**  
JASON JUSTICE  
[jjustice@chathamnr.com](mailto:jjustice@chathamnr.com)

DAWN PARKER,  
Advertising Specialist  
[advertising@chathamnr.com](mailto:advertising@chathamnr.com)  
919-930-9668

**OFFICE**  
KAREN PYRTLE  
[karen@chathamnr.com](mailto:karen@chathamnr.com)

DORIS BECK  
[doris@chathamnr.com](mailto:doris@chathamnr.com)

FLORENCE TURNER  
[billing@chathamnr.com](mailto:billing@chathamnr.com)

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

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

AFTER 10 WEEKS

# Return to business both exciting, stressful for Pittsboro salon owner

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — When Gov. Roy Cooper announced a Phase Two plan that lessened restrictions on some businesses — including hair salons — and allowed them to re-open at 5 p.m. last Friday, it was the welcome news Susan Lecrone has waited weeks to hear.

It's been a total of 10 of them since the Pittsboro hair stylist last saw a client at her business, Uppercuts Tanning and Hair Salon, at 204 Sanford Road.

In an abundance of caution, she temporarily shuttered Uppercuts on March 12, 13 days in advance of the state's March 25 mandatory closure date for all salons, attempting to quell the spread of COVID-19.

It's been a difficult stretch of time — the hardest part, Lecrone said, being "not having any money."

So last Wednesday, she began to spring back to action after the lengthy economic hiatus, and was busy executing plans to make her Friday re-opening smooth and safe.

Lecrone said she's excited. "Very much," she said. "I'm excited to have everybody come back. A lot of my customers have been texting me, wanting to know if they can come back sooner, or have me do their hair for them, because they're getting desperate. And I just said 'No, I have to wait until I have the clearance from the government to do that,' because I don't want to lose my license and I don't want to go to jail for a Class 2 misdemeanor."



Staff photo by Randall Riggsbee

Hairstylists Susan Lecrone (left) and Kara Thomas will be wearing protective gear while performing hair services.

In anticipation of the Friday opening, Lecrone was in her shop Thursday afternoon, working with fellow stylist Kara Thomas to have the shop ready — with all safety precautions in place — for customers.

A large pump bottle of hand sanitizer sits on a table just inside the salon's entrance.

Also on hand is a box of disposable face masks which customers without a mask of their own will be required to wear during their service.

Upon entrance, Lecrone will also be taking temperatures of her clients using a no-contact thermometer.

Customers will be asked, in addition, to sign a waiver that releases

"me and anybody who works here and the owners of the building and the leasing agency, anybody involved, from any liability should they contract COVID-19," Lecrone said.

All chairs have been rearranged to maintain distancing.

And she and her stylists will be wearing masks, Lecrone said, and she's purchased face shields to wear "to provide an extra barrier."

While Lecrone was eager and excited to resume business, she said it's also "stressful starting back, to try to be able to make sure we're doing everything correctly to keep everybody safe. So there's a little bit of anxiety there. I haven't

been going out very often myself. But I think with these measures in place, we'll be pretty good. Also requiring our customers to wear masks. I think that's about the best we can do."

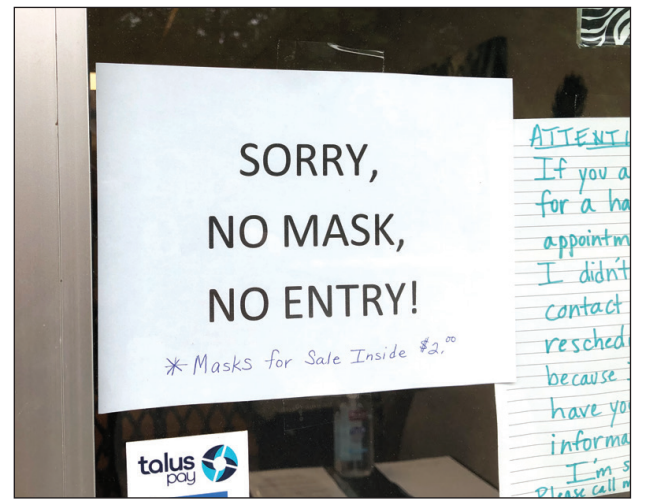
The extra measures, of course, go beyond normal sanitation requirements, which were stringent prior to COVID-19, Lecrone said.

"This does go beyond what we've normally had in place for sanitation standards," she said, "in that our spacing has to be more carefully monitored for social distancing, and there's a capacity [limit 10] for the facility. Generally, of course, we don't have to wear masks or gloves or take temperatures. Of course, the State



Staff photo by Randall Riggsbee

Susan Lecrone (left) demonstrates on stylist Kara Thomas how she'll be checking temperatures at the front entrance with a no-contact thermometer.



Staff photo by Randall Riggsbee

Customers at Uppercuts Tanning and Hair Salon are required to wear masks while visiting the salon.

Board of Cosmetology does closely monitor the health and sanitation of every licensed hair salon. And we follow pretty strict standards for disinfection and sanitation already anyway."

Usually closed on Sundays and Mondays, Lecrone anticipates working "every day," she said, at least for a while,

to accommodate as many clients as she and her crew — which includes Thomas and stylist Hannah Clewis. "We're hoping to get all these people in and get them taken care of as quickly as possible."

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

## We Want to Honor and Thank Our Current Service Men, Women, & Veterans

### John Hiester Military Match

# \$500

Thru May 31, 2020, we will match the manufacturer's \$500 Rebate for Military Men & Women as a thank you for your service to us and our country.

CHRYSLER • DODGE • JEEP® • RAM

## John Hiester

SANFORD, NC

2624 Hawkins Ave., Sanford, NC 27330  
(919) 775-5588  
www.hiestercdjrnsanford.com



Carolina Brewery in Pittsboro had some tables closed to service to help fulfill social distancing requirements.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

## REOPEN

Continued from page A1

ing Phase 2 warned that some of the loosening of restrictions could be retracted if a spike does occur. North Carolina has seen more than 600 new cases each reported in nine of the 11 days from May 15-25.

"Since the issuance of executive orders to slow the spread of COVID-19, North Carolina has 'flattened the curve' and prevented a surge or spike in cases across the state, and North Carolina has also increased its capacity for testing, tracing and the availability of personal protective equipment," the order stated. "Despite the overall stability in key metrics, North Carolina's daily case counts of COVID-19 continue to increase slightly in the context of increased testing, demonstrating the state must remain vigilant in its work to slow the spread of the virus."

Perhaps reflecting the mixed results and arguably conservative "re-opening" plan, Chatham County businesses were mixed in their response to the lifting of some restrictions.

Pittsboro's Davenport's Cafe Diem coffee shop said on Instagram that it would remain pick-up and takeout only until June 1 and would "reopen seating at a later date when we have determined it is safe for our staff and our patrons." Siler City's Best-food Cafeteria and Hayley

Bales Steakhouse will continue take-out only, its Facebook page stated, "to maintain safety for not only our customers but our employees as well," but looked forward "to a time that we can serve our loyal customers in a dine-in environment once again."

Other stores and restaurants began in-facility service immediately or soon afterward. The Modern Life Deli & Drinks restaurant in Pittsboro re-opened dine-in service at 5 p.m. on Friday, the facility's Facebook page stated. Nericcio's Family Restaurant in Siler City also opened immediately, while Virlie's Grill in Pittsboro re-opened dine-in service on Tuesday. Pittsboro Toys resumed in-store shopping on Saturday.

The Chatham County Economic Development Corporation — in partnership with several organizations including the Chatham Chamber of Commerce, Chatham County government and Pittsboro-Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau — released a "Re-opening Your Business" guide, a 54-page document outlining suggestions and instructions for local businesses of all kinds to resume activities under executive order. The guide, which can be found at reopeninghelp.com, included advice like "limit cash handling" and "avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices or other work tools and equipment when possible."

The document also includ-

ed instructions for specific businesses like pharmacies, real estate agencies and child care facilities.

"It is important to comfort crying, sad and/or anxious infants and toddlers, and the children often need to be held," the document stated, referring to child care facilities. "When washing, feeding or holding very young children, child care providers can protect themselves to the extent possible by wearing an oversized button-down, long sleeved shirt and by wearing long hair up off the collar in a ponytail or other updo."

In the county government press release, Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass encouraged residents to be cautious as they ventured back out — or at least, started eating out and spending more time out-and-about than they have in the last couple of months.

"We realize residents are eager to get out and about after abiding by the stay-at-home order for several weeks," Nass said. "While our local businesses utilize this important operational guide and begin reopening, we advise residents to also keep safety top of mind in reducing the spread of the virus and follow the important guidance of our health director."

Photographer Kim Hawks contributed to the reporting of this article.

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

# VIEWPOINTS

## Aging makes more sense with a canine to commiserate

There are benefits with aging, beyond just more time.



**RANDALL RIGSBEE**  
Randall Reflects

Alec Guinness, for instance, had enjoyed a long and distinguished stage and screen career when he played Obi-wan Kenobi in the original “Star Wars” — he was 63 years old when the movie premiered in 1977 — and he effortlessly out-cooled his much younger co-stars.

So there’s that.

But there are pitfalls to aging, too. Even, I’d imagine, for a Jedi.

One is joint pain.

It can occur at any age — I began grappling with intermittent “tennis elbow” years ago, whether I actually played tennis or not — but the odds of experiencing tennis elbow and other joint discomforts increase, as those things do, the older you get.

I haven’t swung a tennis racket in more than a decade, but I’m still apt to suffer the elbow affliction associated with it, once in a while, and these irksome pains come on suddenly and unexpectedly.

As they did this past week. Around mid-afternoon one

day, weary of my telecommuting work space at the kitchen table — the lighting is perfect and the ambiance not bad, but the wooden seat is unforgiving after long intervals — I moved myself to the living room couch, where I ensconced my entirety in the cushions and settled there to work for an hour or so, legs outstretched and a computer balanced on a pillow atop my lap.

It was a nice arrangement — once I’d settled into place, I wondered why I hadn’t moved to the comfy couch sooner — until it came time again to stir.

When I stood, my left knee allowed the movement but its companion on the right side begged me not to, protesting with a slightly-more-than-mild pain that was somehow simultaneously dull and sharp, and completely unexpected. I stood, taking a few cautious steps and by the time I’d made it back to the kitchen/office a few paces away, the pain had subsided.

But it still left me a bit bewildered. I’d only been resting in a reclining chair, after all. What protests, I wondered, could I have expected from my knee and other joints had I spent the hour instead running, or swinging a tennis racket or lightsaber?

It helps as we navigate the pathways of aging to have a buddy along for the ride experiencing the same things, so I’m

lucky to have Bella, the other senior citizen in our household, to commiserate.

Though at age 11 she’s younger than I (who was eligible for AARP membership in 2015) by several decades, in “dog years” — the most appropriate measure since Bella is a canine — she’s further along the pathway of aging.

But we’re both feeling it, especially in the joints.

I handle it mostly by staying active, believing that keeping my joints loose and limber with activity is better than not. The couch incident — which had me feeling for a couple of stiff minutes like the oil-needy Tin Man — seems to bear out my reasoning. But my age-related aches are more an occasional nuisance than a sustained worry.

Bella, on the other hand, began suffering joint pain so bad a few months ago I scheduled an appointment with her vet, believing the dog and I were nearing our goodbyes.

Instead we came home from her doctor visit with three bottles of pills and a product — not cheap, either — for her joint health called Dasquin, which look like dog treats but, judging by the middling interest Bella musters when offered one of the “soft chews,” taste more like medicine. Whether Dasquin deserves the credit, I don’t know, but Bella soon enough sprang back to a condition close to her old

self and was doing fine until — Dasquin aside — she overestimated her reservoir of youth and experienced a second sharp decline, requiring another vet visit. So I masked up and took her to the doctor.

She’s on a second round of pain pills and anti-inflammatory meds, now, and for an old dog, she’s doing OK, mostly resting.

With Bella out of commission for the moment from her routine patrols, and her threat level — like her mobility — diminished, the squirrels and moles and other invaders of the territory she’s tasked with overseeing have relaxed their guard.

I decided to help Bella, one senior citizen to another, and patrol the perimeter in her absence, though that’s overstating it. What I really did — on a whim, because I don’t plan these crazy things — was pick up every single pine cone in the back yard. My real motivation for the chore wasn’t Bella, of course, since she doesn’t care about pine cones. Instead, it was the large black snake I’d seen that morning slithering into my shed. I don’t really mind that he’s there — those are good snakes, right? — but I also know I don’t want to step on him, or his kin, as I walk about the back yard, which I do a lot. So I aimed to clear as many distractions from the

earthen floor as possible, the pine cones being primary, making snakes and other things I’d prefer not to encounter more plainly visible.

For an hour I gathered cones, stooping and standing and accumulating enough of them to nearly fill an old ink barrel I keep around for such things.

When I’d finished the chore, I felt great, like a fully-oiled Tin Man.

But the next day, the previous day’s up-and-down task of pine cone collecting had caught up with me and my physical movements, all of them, were met with reminders that my body recovers more slowly than it once did. I felt silly, too, since all I really had to show for my work and pains was a barrel full of kindling.

I keep reminding Bella to take it easy, to focus on caring for her aging self and forget about the trivial stuff. Let the squirrels frolic, I implore her. Ignore the tell-tale signs of mole activity, I suggest. Forget about the lizards, I admonish. And despite the language barrier, she seems to understand and comply, opting to rest and recuperate instead of engaging in those potentially joint-hurting diversions.

Meanwhile, I — hard-headed human — am realizing I should more closely follow the canine’s lead. Those pine cones, after all, weren’t really hurting a thing.

## What is essential?



**ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN**  
Hope Matters

Even with the recent decision by the state Supreme Court, the governing board of elected lay leaders at our church voted unanimously to continue the suspension of our in-person gatherings, including Sunday morning worship.

As the pastor, I fully support this decision. According to health officials, this past Saturday marked the highest one-day increase of COVID-19 cases in our state.

Let me be clear: My heart goes out to all people of faith who long to return to their houses of worship. But in light of recent controversy about “reopening” churches, it is important to say that no house of worship has ever been closed due to the coronavirus.

Certainly, many religions have shifted to online gatherings. But what exactly is “essential” about worship? What is the essence, what makes worship indispensable and life-giving?

As a Christian, I believe it is the Holy Spirit that instructs our hearts and minds (John 14:26), prompts us to prayer and praise (Romans 8:26), and gives us the “peace that surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7). In any time and place, no matter the trials and tribulations, the Holy Spirit can offer hope (Romans 15:13). This is what I believe is essential. And none of this requires us to gather in a church building.

I believe the Holy Spirit unites people of faith not only when we are physically apart but even across time. Writing about the effects of the Holy Spirit on people, an ancient writer named Paul of Tarsus named nine virtues as the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, generosity and self-control. Paul added that there is no law against such things (Galatians 5:22-23). While respecting the shelter-in-place orders during the coronavirus pandemic, people of faith have used their energy, intelligence and imagination to bear the Fruit of the Spirit in new and creative ways.

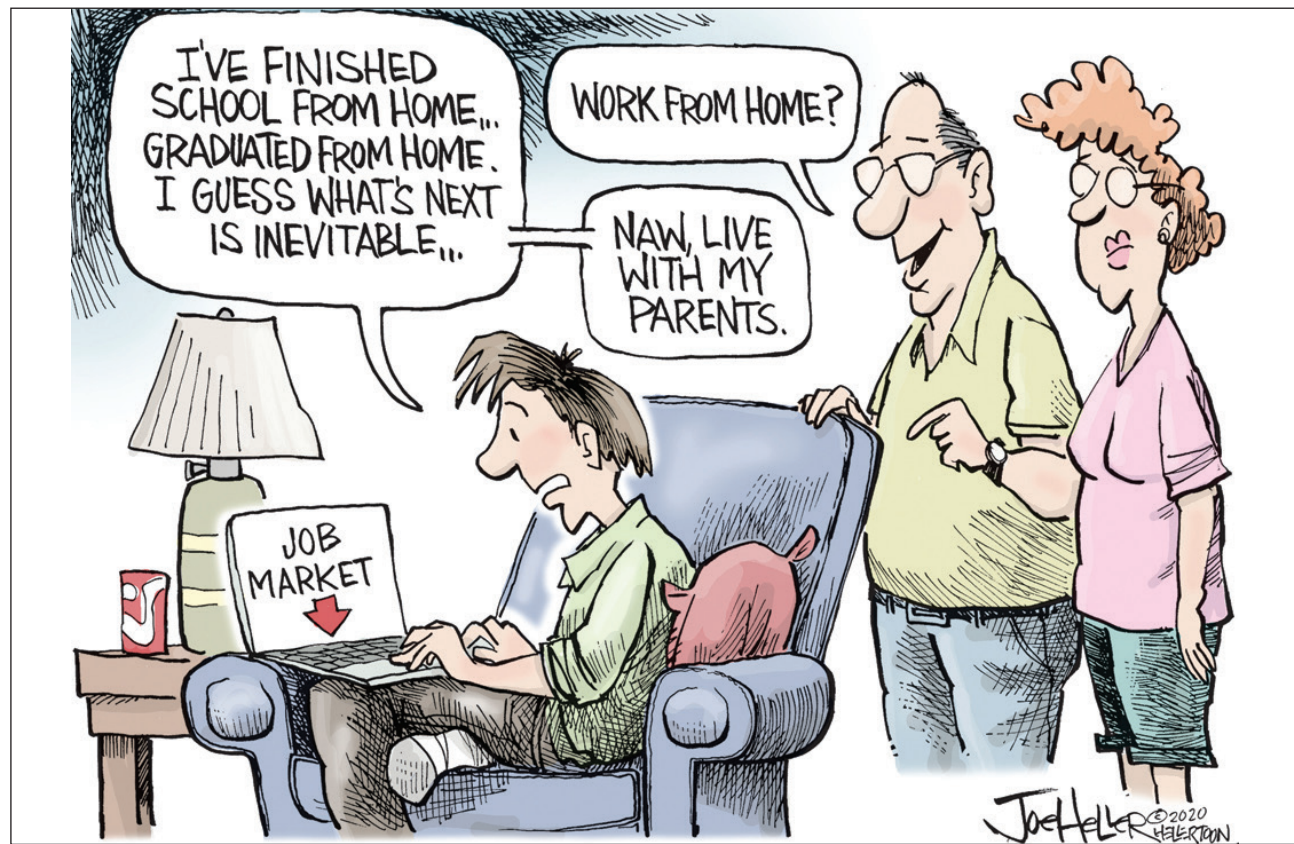
That said, let me repeat that my heart goes out to people of faith who miss their community. I recognize that there is no online form of worship that is the same as the in-person experience.

But in response to the recent state Supreme Court decision, my overriding concern is not with individual rights but communal responsibilities.

I consider individual rights, including the First Amendment, to be of great importance. And yet, as a Christian, I recognize that my ultimate source of freedom is in Christ (Galatians 5:1) and his commandment to love others. Jesus told us what was essential: “Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35). This love (agape) is expressed as sacrificial action.

I believe we, as people of faith and citizens of humanity, have a greater responsibility to those most vulnerable and high risk in our community and those brave women and men who care for the sick. Therefore, we must choose to forgo the right to gather in person for worship because of our responsibility to the higher law of love.

What I hope is that, by our willing sacrifices, the larger public would realize what is essential about faith communities. What is the essence of life-giving worship is not the building where people gather, but the love that those people commit to share with the world.



## Driving toward helping take care of our friends



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around

I have a high regard for life — the living, breathing, moving kind.

Doesn’t matter if it’s plant, animal or human, most of the time I’m into “live and let live.”

Now that doesn’t mean I cultivate poison ivy or am against drawing a bead on a coyote with my rifle, especially if he’s hanging out around some baby calves. I’m also not adverse to doing away with the yellow jacket that just stung me. And if a fly gets into my soup he’s not going to stay there long. But it does mean that I sort of live in a place that says, “I didn’t create or give life so as a normal mode of operation I’m not going to do away with it just because I can.”

But lest my vegan, non-meat, non-egg or milk or other dairy product-eating friends raise their eyebrows, I’m also not talking about the New York strip I like to see on my plate once in a while. I’m talking about the random wanton destruction of life that conveys, I think, an attitude of “I-don’t-care.”

One of the places where we see that is on the highways and byways of our world, especially for those of us who avoid the concrete sidewalks of urban life.

Obviously sometimes it can’t be helped, this taking of wildlife life. Bambi and her friends lead the list or are right there at the top. I’m not sure where deer fall in the animal kingdom ranking of bright beings but if I had to say, I’d say not at the

top. If they did they wouldn’t try to cross the road in front of a semi hauling a load of hogs.

One year my better half and I got five of the white-tailed fleet-footed creatures — including the one that saw us, turned back away toward the woods from which she came, and then did an about-face and broad-sided us. Maybe she was having a bad day or maybe she saw and remembered when we got one of the other four...I don’t know, but I do know it was not a good decision on her part.

In addition to the deer, Mr. Squirrel is also on the list of roadway endangered species. If you’ve ever driven up behind one of the furry little rodents lolly-gagging in the middle of the road you see them — as soon as they see you — run here and there, take a couple of steps to the left, then zig right before trying to outrun you or bolting off to the other side.

Most of them make it, though not all but, hey, Mr. Buzzard also has to eat.

The bottom line, I think, is this: people and animals share much of the same territory. Most of the time, we’re bigger than they are so it pays to pay attention. Don’t have a wreck trying to avoid Mr. Possum and it’s not a good idea to get out of your vehicle to move something.

I’ve hit my share of animals through 50-plus years of driving and still remember how sick it made me when years ago I couldn’t avoid a dog that appeared from a grassy shoulder and tried to outrun me before I could slow down to miss him.

But — and here’s the big but — it’s not cool to go out of your way to smush something. On a nearby paved road the other day, I saw a perfect example of that random wanton destruction of life. Mr. Turtle did not make it on his journey from one side to the other. I’ve always heard those folks cross the road on their travels looking for water. Unfortunately for them it can take awhile to complete the task and they either need a better travel agent or to ask the chicken how to cross the road.

The thing that struck me as I motored on was that Mr. Turtle met his end not on the edge of the pavement or near the center line where the left wheels would ride. Instead he was lying there in bits and pieces dead (no pun intended) in the middle of the travel lane. I’m pretty sure unless the offending driver was skimming along in something only two inches above ground that he could have spared Mr. Turtle over to another day.

That was especially noticeable and galling to me because earlier in my travels on that same road, while going in the opposite direction, I had observed Mr. Turtle in the middle of a lane just sort of hanging out apparently enjoying life as a turtle.

So why do it? Don’t know... Maybe a sense of power and control, maybe because the driver is a jerk. I do know it’s not a nice thing to do.

As you come and go on the highways and byways, drive safely; make sure you get home.

And do your best to make sure the critters get home to their families, as well.

**Chatham News + Record**  
www.chathamnewsrecord.com

BILL HORNER III, *Publisher & Editor*  
RANDALL RIGSBEE, *Managing Editor*  
CASEY MANN | ZACHARY HORNER, *Reporters*

### What’s on your mind?

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

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

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

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













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.

HARRIS GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

There will be a Plate Give Away from 11 a.m. until on Saturday, May 30, at Harris Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

The church is located at 13919 Hwy 64 W, Siler City.

NEW SALEM CHURCH

Free Oil Changes on

Saturday, June 6, at Strickland Brothers 10 Minute Oil Change, 20 Deegan Dr., Pittsboro (919-542-5600).

HICKORY MT. UMC

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, the congregation of Hickory Mt. United Methodist Church, 201 Hadley Mill Road, Pittsboro, has decided to cancel Homecoming Services scheduled for June 7.

We send our prayers and best wishes for everyone's safety and

well-being.

MARTHA'S CHAPEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Martha's Chapel Christian Church has canceled their previously scheduled Gospel Singing on May 30, due to the risk of COVID-19 exposures.

If you have questions please contact the church at 919-363-1000.

LYSTRA BAPTIST CHURCH

The Lystra Church Take and Wear Clothes Closet will be closed indefinitely due to the COVID 19. When it is safe to reopen, a notification will be sent out with future dates.

COLLEGES NAMES HONOR STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

The University of Mississippi at Oxford has announced students named to the 2020 Chancellor's Honor Rolls.

Each student must have completed at least 12 graded hours for the semester.

MARS HILL UNIVERSITY

Emily Michea Nona of Pittsboro has been named to the Dean's List at Mars Hill University for the Spring 2020 Semester.

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

The following students have been

named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2020 Semester at Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C. — McKayla Brown, a senior Biology Major from Siler City, and Brandon Riddell, a senior Cinema Production Major from Snow Camp.

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

The following students have been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2020 Semester at Anderson University in Anderson, S.C. — Bryson Saunders of Bennett and Alyssa Gaines of Siler City.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

The following student has been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2020 Semester at the University of New England — Samantha Binnie of Pittsboro.

Moncure Fire District requesting tax rate increase, but county staff rejects

BY ZACHARY HORNER News + Record Staff

The Moncure Fire District has requested a two-cent increase in the area's fire tax rate, but the Chatham County FY 2020-2021 budget does not approve it, citing financial concerns.

That didn't stop Moncure Fire Chief Robert Shi from asking the county's board of commissioners to reconsider.

"We're fully aware that this is probably not the best time to do this, but we do feel this is urgent and desperately needed," Shi said at the May 18 commissioners' meeting in Pittsboro.

Shi said the entire increase — which would account for \$167,386 over the previous year's budget — would go toward increasing salaries for all seven full-time staff members except Shi himself.

The county budget proposal does not recommend any tax rate increases at this time. Three other departments had initially sought increases, but each withdrew their requests.

"This decision was made due to the uncertainty of current and future economic conditions within the county," the budget document states. "All departments will continue to provide the same level of fire protection services to the area served within Chatham County."

Moncure's rate, if the increase is approved, would go from 12.5 cents to 14.5 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. The fire district already has the county's highest fire tax rate — Circle City, which includes Pittsboro, is at 12.25 cents. The maximum fire tax rate allowed by state law is 15 cents.

Instead, the county budget proposal

recommends keeping the rate the same. Even keeping the same rate, the budget projects an increase in property tax revenues of \$29,227 from the previous year.

Shi said at last week's commissioners' meeting that the department was running more calls for service in recent months and that Moncure doesn't have a full-time ambulance in the area. Thus, he said, the fire department is often the first responder to emergencies and can serve as a "stop-gap measure until EMS can hopefully come from Pittsboro."

"This is vitally important to the health of our citizens," Shi said.

The commissioners will take a final vote on the budget proposal at their June 15 meeting. The full budget document is available online at [chathamnc.org/annualbudgets](http://chathamnc.org/annualbudgets).

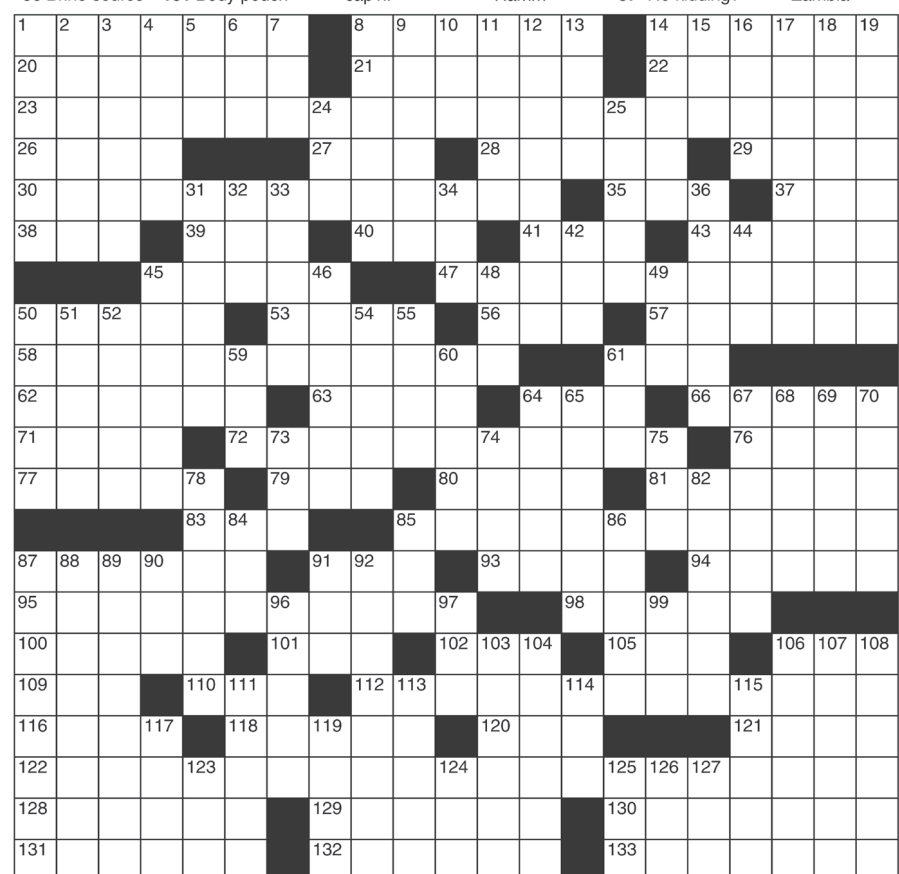
Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at [zhorner@chathamnc.com](mailto:zhorner@chathamnc.com) or on Twitter at @ZachHornerCNR.



PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

COUNTRY MUSIC

- ACROSS 1 Charbusters 8 Farthest point in an orbit 14 Uncommon 20 Salary reductions 21 Child raiser 22 Add insult to injury, maybe 23 Question in 1 Corinthians 15:55 26 Europe-Asia border river 27 Wood splitter 28 Ski lift part 29 Prefix with lock 30 Supplicate on behalf of 35 — polloi (commoners) 37 Sermon topic 38 Suffix with Sudan 39 Massage 40 Old booming jet, for short 41 "— changed man!" 43 Designer Geoffrey 45 Salon colorists 47 "Is this actually happening?" 50 Oviedo locale 53 Situated over 56 Brine source 57 New Hampshire academy 58 "I'm going through the same thing!" 61 Shipping charge, e.g. 62 Steering part on a ship 63 Long (for) 64 Vikings' org. 66 Refusing to be cheerful 71 Regarding 72 Agree 76 Pop's mom 77 Actress Amy 79 SSNs, e.g. 80 Pressing tool 81 Fig treat from Nabisco 83 Seeming eternity 85 DNA-studying partner of James Watson 87 "My turn is coming right up" 91 He KO'd many rivals 93 Ball — hammer 94 Forrest Gump 95 "Quantum Leap" actor 98 Bend down 100 Abrupt 101 Body pouch 102 Secretive U.S. gp. 105 She bleats 106 Part of UCLA 109 33rd prez 110 Restaurant bill addition 112 Crucial component 116 Long (for) 118 Boyfriends, in Paris 120 Dir. opposite 7-Down 121 Viking org. 122 Tune whose opening lyric, and lyricist, begin eight answers in this puzzle 128 Motion detector part 129 Agee of the old Mets 130 Small eating alcove 131 Waiters take them 132 Like training at the location itself 133 Occupy fully DOWN 1 Wedded partner 2 Chennai, before 1996 3 "Sure thing, cap'n!" 4 La — (Milan opera house) 5 Crude abode 6 Biblical verb suffix 7 NYC-to-Miami dir. 8 High points 9 Peeling tools 10 Raw metal 11 Allstate rival 12 Put into a hall of fame 13 Kett of old comic strips 14 — Gyra (jazz fusion band) 15 Prefix with gender 16 Utah ski sport 17 Slide in again 18 Go on with 19 Train operator 24 Barn feed 25 Cymbal pair in a drum kit 31 Nathaniel Hawthorne's Hester 32 Feel remorse over 33 James — Garfield 34 Consumer protection agcy. 36 Wild Alpine goats 42 Soccer great Hamm 44 Summer, in Soissons 45 Royal crown 46 Worried 48 E-cig's lack 49 Busy insect 50 Its capital is Damascus 51 16 ounces 52 Lindley of "The Ropers" 54 NYC stage awards 55 Small bunch of flowers 59 Spock and Seuss: Abbr. 60 Alternative to "his" or "her" 61 Go by plane 64 Nary a soul 65 Backyard borders 67 Open, as a present 68 Language of "mea culpa" 69 Be a rapper? 70 BoSox rivals 73 Freud's "one" 74 Ensnare 75 "Cannon" has three 78 The Brady kids, e.g. 82 Restated 84 Gambling parlor, briefly 85 Chick — -A 86 Prefix with lock 87 "No kidding?" 88 Artist known for illusions 89 Boston area with the Paul Revere statue 90 UFO crew 91 Alias abbr. 92 Find by chance 96 In line with 97 One or more 99 Be indebted 103 "Belt out that tune!" 104 She founded the U.S. Shakers 106 Crude abode 107 First phases 108 Long looks 111 Letter-shaped girders 113 PSATs, e.g. 114 "No kidding!" 115 Deep-seated 117 To be, to Claudius 119 Regarding 123 Blue Jays, on scoreboards 124 Abbr. for someone with only one given name 125 34th prez 126 Firewood box 127 Repub. west of Zambia



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

IDOLS HIKE DUP ASHAMED RERAN ONENOTE TEARILLY IFAPOPBANDHAD BENGALI SITS UNIRUE OMEN BEENFORMEDCONSISTING AFBA MORETTA NASTIES NITERS AGATHA AGEOLD OFTHEACTRESSES BRAGTRU NOR CASH SARANDONLUCCI INVERSE PADRE SOO GABON MANATEE HAYWARD ANDDEY ACER RHO DASEAVE WHATSHOULDTHEY HARDEN RETYPE SERIOUS DORSALS ERA TERST EVA HAVECALLEDTHEMSELVES ELIA TEX AILAMIS REDTAPE THEFOURSUSANS BREEDER RESERVE REIGN STONERS AMPERES ISLES

Harris Cleaning Services advertisement featuring a kitchen scene and text: "Residential and Commercial", "You have a MESS, We have a SOLUTION", "The importance of Disinfecting your home or business has never been greater!", "Get in touch to see how we can help! Ask about DISCOUNTS!", "919-770-7308 • www.harriscleaningservices.com"

Strick's L.P. Gas advertisement featuring a propane truck and text: "STRICK'S LP GAS", "PROPANE DELIVERY GRILLS", "PROPANE \$1.799 / GALLON HOME DELIVERY SERVICE", "Propane Refill Prices", "20# Refill: \$10 30# Refill: \$15 100# Refill: \$50", "www.strickslpgas.com | 919-704-8589"

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

# Keeping track of the latest numbers related to N.C. business during COVID-19

Journalists love statistics. They help us tell stories and can sometimes be the stories themselves. The COVID-19 pandemic has given us plenty of numbers and plenty of statistics to help us talk about and write about what the impact of the virus has been on North Carolina and the rest of the United States. Here are a few business bits from the last week or so to help illustrate how things have been.

**ZACHARY HORNER**  
Corner Store

**ECU cutting 4 sports**

Education and athletics at educational institutions are just as much a business as retail and manufacturing sometimes,

and at East Carolina University, business is not where it was. The university announced last week it was cutting men's swimming and diving, women's swimming and diving, men's tennis and women's tennis "as part of the University's overall budget restructuring efforts and is part of a detailed analysis of ECU's athletics financial position during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," a press release stated. The cuts will leave the Pirates with 16 sports, the minimum required to be in Division I FBS. 68 student-athletes and nine coaches are being affected by the move. "The current athletics budget was not sustainable pre-COVID-19 and the university was working closely with athletics to decrease the annual deficit over the next year," said ECU Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson. "With the pandemic, the deficit began to grow significantly where the impact

was immediate and will affect future revenue and expenses for years to come." All student-athletes will retain their scholarships, but will be allowed to transfer and be eligible immediately for competition under NCAA transfer rules. **Target's online sales up by 141 percent, Lowe's also up** The American retailer Target saw its online sales boom by 141 percent over the last quarter, with a 282 percent jump in April alone. CNN Business reported that Target CEO Brian Cornell "said the company fulfilled more orders online during an average day in April than it did on Cyber Monday, the online shopping holiday in November." Lowe's Home Improvement reported a 12.3 percent increase in its sales for the first quarter. President and CEO Marvin R.

Ellison said that the performance "reflects the benefits of our retail fundamental strategy, the improvement in our execution, and the resiliency of our home improvement business model." He added that the company saw an 80 percent increase in online sales during the quarter. **Tyson plant in Wilkesboro finds 570 employees test positive** The Tyson Foods plant in Wilkesboro had 570 workers test positive for COVID-19, meaning that more than a quarter of the facility's workforce has contracted the virus, according to a company press release. Tyson Foods products include Jimmy Dean, Hillshire Farm and Ball Park, along with Tyson. Universal testing at the plant helped identify the positive tests. The company said that

"the majority" of those testing positive "did not show any symptoms and otherwise would not have been identified." "Our team members are essential to helping to feed the nation, and their health and safety is always our first priority," said Kevin Taylor, Complex Manager for Wilkesboro facility, in the release. "Disclosing our testing results will help better protect our team members and help provide the wider Wilkesboro community with the information it needs to stop the spread of the virus." A Mountaire Farms spokesperson told the News + Record last week that the company would not be announcing the number of positive tests at the Siler City facility. *Reporter Zachary Horner can be reached at zhorn@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Zach-HornerCNR.*

## Joint 'Solidarity Fund' moves to next phase

**BY CASEY MANN**  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Solidarity Fund, a collaborative fundraising effort to support Chatham County residents who don't qualify for federal stimulus checks or unemployment during COVID-19, has raised more than \$140,000. That's well short of the \$360,000 goal of the fund's creators, but enough to start helping some of the 330 applicants who are seeking assistance during the pandemic. Participating entities in the Solidarity Fund include the Hispanic Liaison, Chatham Habitat for Humanity, Chatham County Partnership for Children, Chatham Literacy Council, El Futuro,

Kidscope and Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity. The group is also receiving support from Julie Wilkerson of the Chatham Health Alliance, who manages much of the infrastructure and volunteer management for the project. "We partnered with other Chatham County organizations to create this fund to help families in Chatham County who either lost work or are working less hours that don't qualify for the stimulus or unemployment," said Ilana Dubester, the executive director of the Hispanic Liaison. "It's no family left behind in our county." Dubester said the "mixed immigration status" of many Cha-

tham County families disqualifies them for much of the federal and state COVID-19 assistance available. While U.S. citizens are eligible for the federal stimulus, stimulus package legislation states that if a U.S. citizen is married to someone who is undocumented and file their taxes jointly, they will not qualify. In addition, undocumented residents do not qualify for unemployment benefits. This, Dubester said, excludes a lot of Chatham residents. "The purpose is to equalize a little bit the playing field," she said. The group has received 330 applications from families who are seeking help. Dubester said that



there are "many more families to help than money to help" as the goal was to send families a "significant check." Now they begin the tough task of determining which families will qualify for aid. Only Chatham residents can qualify for this "one-time assistance," but other factors may come into play such as family size or other challenges they face. A committee drawn from members of the collaborating non-profits will start prioritizing the applications this week. "The committee will review everything and decide on amount and how many families we can help with that amount," Dubester said. "It's not easy. One way or another, we're going to have to

prioritize families and it's unlikely we will be able to help all the families that applied." Dubester said she hopes that the fund will continue to receive donations, with foundations stepping up to answer the call, and residents continuing to support the effort. As more funding comes in, the group will continue to disburse money or gift cards to as many families as possible. "We don't want to make promises to families that don't make the cut," Dubester said. "I don't want to give hope when we most likely will not have enough unless a miracle donor falls from the sky and gives us another \$100,000." "I know we're going to be disappointing many

families but still we should be able to help over 100 families," she said. Dubester said that even with the shortfall in the total goal of the fund, she is grateful for the way "people are stepping up in amazing ways to help families in Chatham County that are less privileged than we are." "I am super proud of our community and its generosity," Dubester said. "We are in this together. That's the message Chatham County is sending out to community. We are neighbors. We are friends. We work together and we're here for each other." *Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com.*

**Chatham News + Record** would like to acknowledge & thank our *online* advertisers. Visit (our site) to connect with them!

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

*Worth knowing.*  
**Worth reading.**  
**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
ONE YEAR FOR ONLY  
\$45 in county / \$50 outside county  
call (919) 663-3232 or go to [chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/](http://chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/)

**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](http://dental50plus.com/chatham)

Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY, call 1-888-799-4433 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C2500); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds B438/B439. 6154-0120

Physicians Mutual Insurance for all of us.

From all of us at **Chatham News + Record**  
*Thank You* to our  
**Essential Workers**

With *heartfelt gratitude*,  
 we are thankful for  
 community's frontline  
 & essential workers!



*thanks  
 thanks*



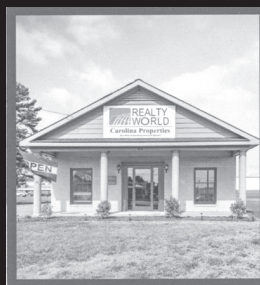
**CHAPEL RIDGE**  
 Located inside the club  
 house of the premier  
 Golf Club at Chapel  
 Ridge.

1010 Chapel Ridge Drive  
 Pittsboro, NC 27312  
 919.704.8733



**PITTSBORO**  
 Conveniently located on  
 Highway 15/501 in  
 the center of  
 Downtown.

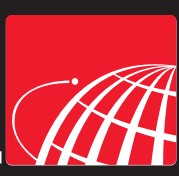
73 Hillsboro Street  
 Pittsboro, NC 27312  
 919.545-9911



**SILER CITY**  
 Situated on Highway 64  
 in the heart of  
 the business  
 district.

1609 E. 11th Street  
 Siler City, NC 27344  
 919.799.7476

*thanks  
 thanks*



**REALTY  
 WORLD**

**Carolina  
 Properties**

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

A Big Cheers to you from



**Thanks** for your  
 selfless service

20% OFF first order  
 with coupon code  
**THANKS2020**



89 Hillsboro St, Pittsboro, NC 27312  
 (919) 542-3922

*Thanks*

to Our Community's

**ESSENTIAL  
 SERVICE  
 PROVIDERS**



www.welfordharrisford.com

919-742-4178  
 1701 E 11th Street,  
 Siler City, NC 27344

**HEROES** Government Staff Paramedics **HEALTHCARE WORKERS** Drivers **SPIRIT**  
**DOCTORS** Border Patrol **HEROES** Drivers **DOCTORS** **EDUCATORS** Nurses **DELIVERY DRIVERS**  
**BRavery** Cleaners **GRIT** **ESSENTIAL TRADES** Cabin Crew **Police** **DOCTORS** **EDUCATORS** Public Transport **Essential Trades**  
**EDUCATORS** **DEDICATION** **THANK YOU** Fire Fighters **PASSION** **Essential Trades**  
 Supermarket Staff **DRIVERS** **Essential Trades** **COURAGE** **Nurses** **SUPERMARKET STAFF** **DOCTORS** **MILITARY**  
**DRIVERS** Fire Fighters **DOCTORS** **MILITARY** **Nurses** **GRIT** **PARAMEDICS** **DOCTORS** **Cleaners**  
**COMMITMENT** **DOCTORS** Border Patrol **PASSION** **Essential Services** **BRavery**



LAW OFFICES OF  
**W. WOODS DOSTER, P.A.**  
 TRUST • EXPERIENCE • RESPECT

Estate Planning • Real Estate

Thank You to the *Real Heroes*  
**WE SALUTE YOU**

woodsdoster.com

(919)842-5007

facebook.com/WWoodsDosterPA

**Shop Locally.**

# Chatham News + Record

# SPORTS NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS

MAY 28-JUNE 3, 2020 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

## As Chatham enters Phase 2 of reopening, youth sports remain on pause



News + Record file photo



News + Record file photo

Many of the spring and summer recreational sports in Chatham County have already been canceled, with each sport facing its own hurdles.

**BY MITCHELL NORTHAM**  
News + Record Correspondent

After being on hold for about two months because of the coronavirus pandemic, sports are slowly beginning to resume across the world, country and North Carolina.

Germany's professional soccer league, the Bundesliga, resumed on May 16. The next day, NASCAR drivers started their engines at the historic Darlington Raceway. This past Sunday, Brad Keselowski roared to a first-place finish at Charlotte Motor Speedway. The NBA is reportedly making plans to return to play in Orlando, while the National Women's Soccer League is planning for a tournament in Utah.

But it might be a while before all sports get back to some sense of normalcy. Each league and each game has its own hurdles. And the domino that might be last to fall is youth sports.

Even as Chatham County and the rest of North Carolina entered Phase 2 of reopening last Friday, sports for kids remains on the shelf. While restaurants, bars and salons are allowed to reopen, gyms,

**'We are following guidelines from the CDC, North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association and National Recreation and Parks Association. We hope to resume as soon as we as a whole feel it is safe.'**

**JINA STAMEY, who is assistant director, Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department**

health clubs and playgrounds are not. Swimming pools are only allowed at 50 percent capacity, and crowds outdoors are to be limited to under 25 people, according to orders from Gov. Roy Cooper.

When North Carolina entered Phase 2 though, Cooper and Dept. of Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen released recommendations for resuming non-contact sports. Those sports include golf, baseball, softball, cycling, swimming, diving, dance, tennis, disc golf, horseback riding, track and field, figure skating, curling, running and pickleball. Spectators are allowed if they are in compliance with the limit on mass gatherings and if social distancing is being practiced. Face coverings are recommended for those not engaged in a physical activity. The guidelines recommend that administrators of the sport have a plan in place for immediately removing athletes, coaches or others from the sports setting if symptoms develop.

"We're not recommending contact sports go forward, but for non-contact sports to go forward but with some guidelines," Cohen said at a May 22 news conference.

In a May 26 news conference, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association announced its decision to extend its "dead period," which first ran until June 1, until at least June 15. It also laid out a plan for a tentative return to modified preseason conditioning and workouts in mid-June for all sports — which will remain subject to change based on North Carolina's COVID-19 metrics and guidance from the state.

The Chatham County Parks & Recreation Department will take its cues from federal,

state and local authorities, assistant director Jina Stamey said.

"We are following guidelines from the CDC, North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association and National Recreation and Parks Association," Stamey said. "We hope to resume as soon as we as a whole feel it is safe."

The county has already been forced to scrap several youth sports seasons, including programs for track and field, tee-ball, softball, tennis and volleyball. Two weeks ago, the county began processing refunds to parents who had already paid for these canceled sports and other activities. Stamey said processing should be completed by June 5.

Axios recently reported the "most optimistic projections for a return of youth sports are by late August" and the "industry stands to lose billions." According to USA Today, the Grand Park Sports Campus in Westfield, Indiana, has already lost \$1.8 million in revenue and fees. While youth sports are paused, parents aren't spending money on programs, equipment and travel. More than 110 youth sports organizations signed a letter sent to Congress asking for an \$8.5 billion recovery fund, including the Carolina Regional Volleyball Association, which has offices in Clemmons.

In Chatham County, the parks and recreation department hasn't just had to halt youth sports, but other outdoor activities as well. It also asks those who are sick to stay home and those visiting parks to continue practice social distancing.

"We had to cancel special events like our annual egg hunt and Dog Days of Sum-

**Chatham County has already been forced to scrap several youth sports seasons, including programs for track and field, t-ball, softball, tennis and volleyball.**

mer," Stamey said. "Our parks, open space and access points are open and they are getting heavily used because people want to get outside."

She added: "The youth are missing out on sports they have waited all year to participate in, socialization, building friendships, families getting to see them participate, gaining skills to advance, burning energy and the mental stimulation that comes with doing things they love."

While organized youth sports are at a standstill and playgrounds are closed, the county's parks are open and its public tennis courts reopened May 9. In an email, Tracy Burnett, the Chatham County Parks & Recreation Director, said keeping families "active and engaged is vitally important to us." The department is offering virtual tours of its five parks and recently took video submissions of residents catching balls to create a county-wide "virtual game of catch."

"We miss seeing the kids and adults participating in our programs," Burnett said in an email, "and we can't wait to get back to our traditional programs and services when it's safe to do so."

Like most professional sports, it may be a long time before things get back to the way they were pre-coronavirus for youth leagues. When they do resume, there might be new rules and new regulations. To keep everyone safe while play resumes, players, parents, coaches and officials may have to come to grips with a new normal. What that exactly looks like is still hazy.



News + Record file photo

**Youth sports are a billion dollar industry. Owners of leagues and big facilities want to make their money and most kids are itching to get outside and play, but it's still unclear if it's really safe.**

"I think there will be some long-term impacts but just like everyone else we are not sure what that is going to look like," Stamey said. "The parks and recreation community across the state are working together to find new ways to provide recreational needs regardless of what the new normal may look like."

## Jordan Lake struggling to get PPE

**BY OLIVIA ROJAS**  
News + Record Staff

JORDAN LAKE — The Jordan Lake State Recreation Area is actively trying to obtain personal protection equipment — which has been in short supply nationwide during the COVID-19 pandemic — for its staff.

Jay Greenwood, South District Superintendent for the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation based in Raleigh, said the park staff tasked with cleaning and maintaining bathrooms throughout the recreation area are dealing with the shortage of PPE since most of the supplies from companies and manu-

facturers are going to medical facilities. PPE is essential to the cleaning operations at the Jordan Lake State Recreation Area to reduce the spread risk of COVID-19.

According to North Carolina State Parks website, the Jordan Lake State Recreation Area is a collective of nine access areas scattered around the shoreline of this undeveloped, 14,000-acre reservoir. More than 1,000 campsites among five of the access areas offer a range of outdoor experience from RV hookups to primitive tent camping and group camps. There are seven swim beaches in the recreation area, boating ramps, swim areas and ramps

reserved for campers, as well as nearly 14 miles of hiking trails wind across the lakeshore.

"We feel like we have PPE for our first responders staff, but the issue has been getting enough PPE for those who are actually having to clean the restroom facilities," Greenwood said. "The biggest holdup has been gowns because they are just extremely difficult to find."

According to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, as of last week, there were 7,388 average requests per day for gowns with only 29 days of supplies on hand — for healthcare and frontline workers.

Greenwood said they are

trying to get PPE from "anywhere" right now.

"We tried to line up some contracts with private vendors and its been extremely difficult because, of course, they are trying to distribute those supplies world-wide so its been pretty challenging," he said.

The Jordan Lake State Recreation Area has 45 public restrooms in total, but as a part of Phase 2 of Gov. Cooper's plans to reopen the state, which started last Friday, only some of the facilities are opened. Currently open at the Jordan Lake State Recreation Area are Crosswinds (campground loops A, B and C, bathhouses and boat ramp, for campers only); Poplar

Point (campground loops B, C, F, G, H and J, bathhouses and boat ramp, for campers only); the trails and boat ramp at New Hope Overlook; and canoe access and boat ramp at Robeson Creek, as well as the USACE Poes Ridge boat ramp and the NCWRC Farrington Point boat ramp. Because of recent flooding, facilities at Parkers Creek and additional campsites at Poplar Point and Crosswinds are closed.

As of this week, Greenwood said the staff have two weeks' worth of PPE left. They are still trying to acquire it "every day."

For more information and updates on reopenings please visit <https://www.ncparks.gov>.





## Saying 'hello' to loved ones at Cambridge Hills



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Cambridge Hills Assisted Living in Pittsboro held a 'drive-by' event Friday for residents, where family members and friends were invited to drive by the facility and wave hello to people they knew. The Pittsboro Police Department, Pittsboro Fire Department and Chatham County Sheriff's Office also participated.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Marcus McSwain, the director of dietary service at Cambridge Hills, pushes 'Ms. Sarah' outside during last Friday's 'drive-by.'



Three Cambridge Hills staff members help Curt, a resident at the assisted living facility, wave hello to his wife, Patti, and wish her a happy birthday during Friday's 'drive-by' of family and community members at the Pittsboro location.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Deputy Rocky Smith of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Cambridge Hills Director of Activities Angela de Muinck and Executive Director Mike Walters helped facilitate Friday's 'drive-by' at the Pittsboro assisted living facility.

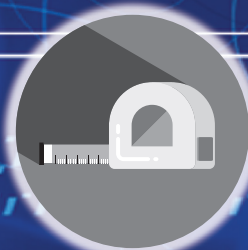
Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

One of the residents' families said hello to Dolly and waved colorful signs and balloons during Friday's 'drive-by' at Cambridge Hills Assisted Living in Pittsboro.

# BUSINESSES & SERVICES



# DIRECTORY

**CROSSROADS BACKHOE SERVICE**

- Install and Repair Septic Systems
- Pump Existing Septic Tanks
- All Sorts of Backhoe Work
- Specializing in Bush Hogging
- Ponds, Ditches & Driveways

Call Monty Justice @ (919) 545-4107



See Us For:  
Commercial Refrigeration  
Heating & Air Conditioning  
Sales & Service

**LANGLEY**  
Refrigeration Company  
Ph: 742-2777

**FOR THIS SPOT CALL**  
(919) 663-3232

**ASHEBORO TIE YARDS, INC**

Beautiful Yards Start Here!

Mushroom Compost • Shredded Hardwood Mulch  
Pine Mini Nuggets • Brick Chips • Sand • Top Soil  
Black, Brown & Red Mulch • White Pea Gravel • Railroad Ties

205 Hanner Town Rd. Bear Creek  
(2 miles South of Bonlee on Old 421)  
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 7 AM - 4 PM, Fri. 7 AM - 12 PM  
(919) 837-2822 • We Deliver!

**D & G PLUMBING**

Plumbing Problems?  
Commercial and Residential Installation and Service  
Located in Siler City

Locally Owned and Operated by Greg and Donna Kennedy  
Licensed and Insured  
Office: 919-742-4587 Cell: 919-427-2374



**Caviness Farms**

GRADING AND HAULING  
Siler City, NC • 919-548-3064

**CHRIS CAVINESS**

GRAVEL • TOPSOIL • POND • MULCH • FILL DIRT  
DRIVEWAY • LAND CLEARING • SITE DEVELOPMENT



**TREEMASTERS**

- Brush Chipping
- Tree Climbing
- Stump Removal
- Free Estimates

Tommy Dunigan (919) 775-7408  
Cell: (919) 548-3542

**THIS SPOT CAN BE YOURS!**

Call Advertising @ 919-663-3232

First application just \$19.99\*  
Mention This Ad To Redeem

**Nature's Select**<sup>SM</sup>  
Biological Lawn, Shrub and Tree Care  
Fertilization & Weed Control • Shrub & Tree Care  
Mosquito Control • Lawn Aeration & Seeding  
Creating Healthy Soils Since 1992  
\*Offer good for lawns up to 10K sq ft. Larger pro-rated  
(919) 240-4239 MySelectLawn.com



**THIS SPOT CAN BE YOURS!**

Call Advertising @ 919-663-3232

Find the help you need in the *Services Directory* of Chatham News + Record

**Advertise Your Business in the Service Directory for ONLY \$20 PER WEEK!**





# POLICE REPORTS

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Darren Hall, 49, of Carrboro, was charged May 19 with violation of a domestic violence protective order. Hall was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

Jesus Garcia, 25, of Chapel Hill, was charged May 19 with violations of a

domestic violence protective order. Garcia was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 4 court date in Hillsborough.

Jennifer Langston, 43, of Siler City, was charged May 19 with child support violation. Langston was held under a \$20,000 bond with a June 12 court date in Pittsboro.

Jodie Marshall, 32, of Moncure, was

charged May 20 with assault and battery and possession of drug paraphernalia. Marshall was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a July 1 court date in Pittsboro.

Richard Spivey Jr., 39, of Chapel Hill, was charged May 21 with common law robbery. Spivey was issued a written promise with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

## STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Bradley Zimmerman of Chapel Hill was cited May 21 for failure to maintain lane control and failure to wear a seatbelt on N.C. Highway 42 in Pittsboro.

Matthew Trogdon of Ramsuer was cited May 21 for failure to reduce speed to avoid a collision on U.S. Highway 64 in Siler City.

## DURING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

### Chatham County LEO provides meals to honor those 'in harm's way'

Cn+R staff report

In recognition of National Police Week, which was observed May 11-16, and National Peace Officers Memorial Day, observed May 15, the Chatham County Law Enforcement Officers Association provided meals to local law enforcement agencies as part of the Association's way of saying thanks.

"Our law enforcement officers often get little or no recognition for their daily work efforts to keep us all safe by putting themselves into harms way," said Cathy Judge, secretary of the Chatham County LEO. "They protect us day and night, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year."

Proclaimed by President John F. Kennedy in 1962, National Police Week "pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers that do so much for all of us every day and gives us a chance to honor and remember the brave officers who have given their lives in the line of duty," Judge said.

This year, of course, has been a bit different for everyone because of the coronavirus pandemic, and the Chatham County LEO — a professional association whose members include active and retired law enforcement officers — is no exception. The association's last two monthly meetings were canceled due to the pandemic, Judge said, and next month will likely be canceled, too.

"But our celebration of the National Police Week, and all it stands for, was not hampered," she said.

The group sent to local officers "Police Week 2020" badge pins and "Thin Blue Line" paracord carabiners (proceeds from the sales benefit families of fallen first responders).

"And our association held a drawing of the general membership for awards of two sets of noise reducing ear protectors, a "Thin Blue

Line" yard flag, and a "Thin Blue Line" Ball Cap and a grand prize of \$50," Judge said. Winners were local law enforcement officers Kurt Henderson, Chris Atack, Tony Godwin and Fred Judge, respectively.

"We also sent meals to the Siler City, Pittsboro and Liberty Police departments," Judge said, "to let them know how much we appreciate and stand behind them."

The Siler City Police Department was fed by Dry Dock Seafood. The Pittsboro Police Department's meal came from Marco's Pizza. The Liberty Police Department's officer's were treated to meals of their choice at The Liberty Event Center.

All meals were paid for by The Chatham County Law Enforcement Officers Association.

"We sincerely hope this has helped raise the spirits of our honorable and brave officers," Judge said.

## River runs high



The Deep River in Chatham County saw a significant rise over the weekend thanks to sustained rain over a couple of days. The river straddles Chatham and Lee counties.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Some Chatham youngsters decided to take advantage of a risen Deep River and ride their bikes and scooters down a hill into the water last Saturday.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



The Haw River in Chatham County saw a significant rise thanks to multiple days of rain, as seen here in this photo from Chicken Bridge.

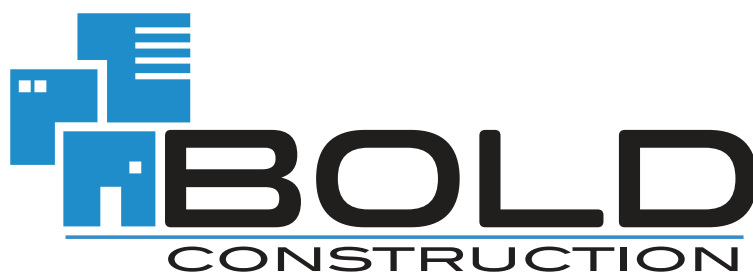
Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**HOMETOWN CLEANERS**  
901 E Third St • 919-742-4199

**ENTIRE MONTH OF MAY ESSENTIAL WORKERS - All Dry Clean Service FREE** \*Free with coupon

**ENTIRE MONTH OF MAY 50% OFF Dry Cleaning with coupon**

Ranked #1  
houzz buildBOLDnc.com  
CHAPEL HILL



**Register NOW!**

**CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Chatham County**

**HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY**  
Prepares adult learners who are not currently enrolled in school, to obtain a high school equivalency credential by passing four tests: Reasoning through Language Arts (Reading), Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies.

[www.cccc.edu](http://www.cccc.edu)

To the parents, teachers, graduates, doctors, nurses, & everyone who is **BOLD & brave...**

**THANK YOU**

**BOLD**  
REAL ESTATE

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

# As Paycheck Protection Program fades, N.C. businesses seek other lifelines

BY NEIL COTIAUX  
Carolina Public Press

The sound of opportunity knocking is what every business owner wants to hear.

The sound of that door closing is what she or he dreads.

Across North Carolina, hope has turned to worry for some of the state's nearly 900,000 small business owners as a key federal program designed to buy them time becomes increasingly inaccessible in a coronavirus-ravaged economy.

It's a turn of events that has many small businesses scrambling for alternatives, but that has also spurred innovative foundations like Dogwood Health Trust and state and local officials to devise workarounds.

Five days after Diane Parfitt reopened City Center Gallery and Books under Phase 1 of a three-stage plan to restart North Carolina's economy, the Fayetteville store owner received some disappointing news. Having applied for funding in the initial phase of the Paycheck Protection Program, the U.S. Small Business Administration's coronavirus emergency fund, Parfitt was asked to remain patient.

But funds ran out. "When I saw that further money had been approved for a second phase, I just assumed (that) I was still in the queue," Parfitt said.

"I called my personal banker at Truist, and he told me they were no longer accepting applications and gave me a few suggestions on how to pursue it through other avenues."

Like Truist, Wells Fargo has also informed its customers that it is no longer accepting applications.

One Wells customer, Leo Davalos, has had better luck than Parfitt, but just barely.

The Chatham County restaurateur opened Rojo Canela in Siler City two years ago, paying for equipment with his credit card and never taking out a loan. Now, with scores of employees at the nearby Mountaire Farms chicken plant having tested positive for COVID-19 and with his dining room closed under stay-at-home orders, Davalos has lost "70 to 80 percent" of his customers.

With a wife and two kids, a mortgage and two car payments, his second-round PPP distribution of \$3,200 is "nothing," he said.

Davalos told Carolina Public Press that he has "maybe three weeks to a month" before he closes his restaurant for good.

### North Carolina holding its own

In sheer numbers, businesses in North Carolina have done reasonably well under the Paycheck Protection Program, which kicked off April 3.

According to 2019 U.S. Census Bureau estimates, North Carolina ranks ninth nationally in population and eighth nationally in the number of new small businesses based on 2018 SBA data. As of April 16, PPP loan approvals in the state in round one ranked 14th nationally with payouts totaling \$8 billion, for the same ranking.

On May 8, PPP loan approvals in the state in round two ranked better, with approvals in ninth place and payouts of \$4.69 billion, ranking 11th.

### \$9 million bridge loan from Dogwood

In the original Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act, \$60 billion was set aside within the Paycheck Protection Program for minority and other underserved borrowers. Those funds were to be paid out through credit unions, minority deposit institutions or community development financial institutions, or CDFIs. In North Carolina and elsewhere, that meant support for businesses run by women and minorities.

According to 2019 Census Bureau estimates, 22.2 percent of the state's population is African American, and 9.6 percent is Hispanic or Latinx.

"Each of those groups of people has been historically underrepresented — even excluded — from

mainstream financial institutions," said Matt Raker, executive director of Asheville-based Mountain BizWorks, a CDFI that provides small business with lending and learning programs.

Backed by \$9 million in bridge funding from Dogwood Health Trust to support outreach to rural, minority- and women-led small businesses and nonprofits seeking PPP loans, Mountain BizWorks swung into action. From April 8 through May 14, when it halted applications, Mountain BizWorks received 1,262 funding requests totaling \$50.3 million.

"We've been able to provide \$9 million so far for 310 SBA PPP loans" or about 25 percent of all requests, Raker said.

Of that \$9 million, 73 percent was provided to rural businesses and nonprofits, 57 percent to women-led businesses and 26 percent to minority-led businesses with some overlap in categories, Raker said.

The funds are 100 percent forgivable if employee and compensation levels are maintained or restored over an eight-week period after the loan is issued. The funds can also be used to cover mortgage, rent and utility costs.

Any amount not forgiven by the SBA carries a 1% interest rate.

The bridge loan that Mountain BizWorks received from Dogwood helped historically underserved business owners

who had faced obstacles in accessing financial support, in part due to brick-and-mortar and connectivity issues.

"We've had a 20 percent decline in the number of physical bank branches in our rural communities," Raker said. "Those networks weren't there, those relationships weren't there."

A lack of sufficient broadband in rural areas, helpful in shopping for a loan or engaging in bank applications and transactions, continues to reduce access, he said.

"That's why we really responded and jumped in," Raker explained. "They were locked out while they were already in crisis mode."

### PPP's companion program

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan is a second SBA emergency fund. It remains open for applications.

EIDL loans can be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills "that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact," the SBA states.

But manufacturers, restaurants, professional services and other business owners can no longer take advantage of EIDL as it is now open only to agricultural applicants.

That may or may not change as a result of passage by the U.S. House last Friday of a \$3 trillion coronavirus stimulus bill. One of its provisions

provides for \$10 billion in emergency funds to small businesses under EIDL. The Senate has not yet taken up the measure.

The maximum loan for an individual borrower under EIDL, originally set at \$2 million, now stands at \$150,000.

Shawn Harding, president of the N.C. Farm Bureau, told Carolina Public Press that the lower maximum is helpful because "it's taken care of a lot of smaller folks."

Many farmers arrange for capital needs early each year, and many of their needs were met by the time the pandemic hit, Harding said. Within his 580,000-member bureau, he said, "If there's a problem, we're going to hear about it. I think our people are being taken care of pretty well."

But he cautioned that market pricing for various commodities and supply chain issues still cast a cloud over his membership's well-being.

### Help from Raleigh, other foundations

As the Paycheck Protection Program began to fade, state legislators and other private foundations stepped into the breach.

On May 2, the 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act sailed through the General Assembly and was signed into law by Gov. Roy Cooper.

The law appropriated \$1.6 billion to programs and industry sectors and allocated \$125 million to the Golden LEAF Foundation for use in its existing N.C. COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Loan Program.

The statewide program, based in Rocky Mount, offers loans of up to \$50,000 to businesses affected by the pandemic and, post-legislation, now includes a minimum interest rate for the first six months of the loan and increased time for repayment.

A variety of grant programs around the state are also available. They include Charlotte-Mecklenburg's COVID-19 Response Fund established by the Foundation for the Carolinas and United Way and the Emergency and Disaster Response Fund established by the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina.

**cruizers**  
let's go.

**ETHANOL FREE Gasoline**

32 Powell Place Lane,  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

**Benjamin Moore**<sup>®</sup>

**Chatham Paint Center**  
Your New Neighborhood Paint Store

(919) 930-6633 • 1605 EAST 11TH ST., SUITE 100  
SILER CITY, NC 27344

*Worth knowing.*  
**Worth reading.**

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

**ONE YEAR FOR ONLY**  
\$45 in county  
\$50 outside county

call  
(919) 663-3232  
or go to  
[chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/](http://chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/)



THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2020 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 36, No. 25



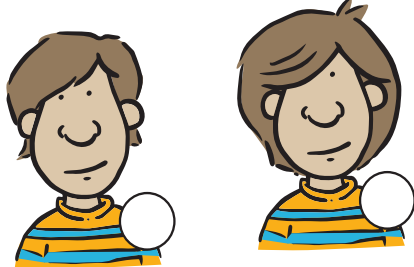
Use the space below to work with a family member to create a photo collage or a list of the things you look forward to doing after the pandemic is over.

# Take Time to Remember

**You are living in an extraordinary time.** There is a global pandemic. A global pandemic is when a virus spreads easily from person to person all around the world. The virus causing the 2020 global pandemic is called coronavirus and also COVID-19. This *Kid Scoop* page will help you create a scrapbook of your memories and feelings from this historic time to share with friends and relatives in the future.

## Pandemics Cause Change

Most likely your life has been changed by the coronavirus pandemic. Maybe your school has closed. Maybe a family member has lost their job and is worried about money. Maybe you miss the chance to be with friends and family members.



Kevin couldn't get a haircut for a couple of months. Number these pictures in order.



## People I Spent Time with During the Pandemic

Draw a picture of the people you were with during the pandemic.

## Things I Did During the Pandemic

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Aaachoooo!</b> Cough or sneeze into my elbow.	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash my hands for 20 seconds.	<input type="checkbox"/> Try not to touch my face, eyes, or nose.
<input type="checkbox"/> Exercise indoors.	<input type="checkbox"/> Play cards with my family.	<input type="checkbox"/> Dance! Dance! Dance!
<input type="checkbox"/> Stand six feet away from friends and neighbors.	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete one or more puzzles.	<input type="checkbox"/> Use a video chat program to talk with friends and family far away.

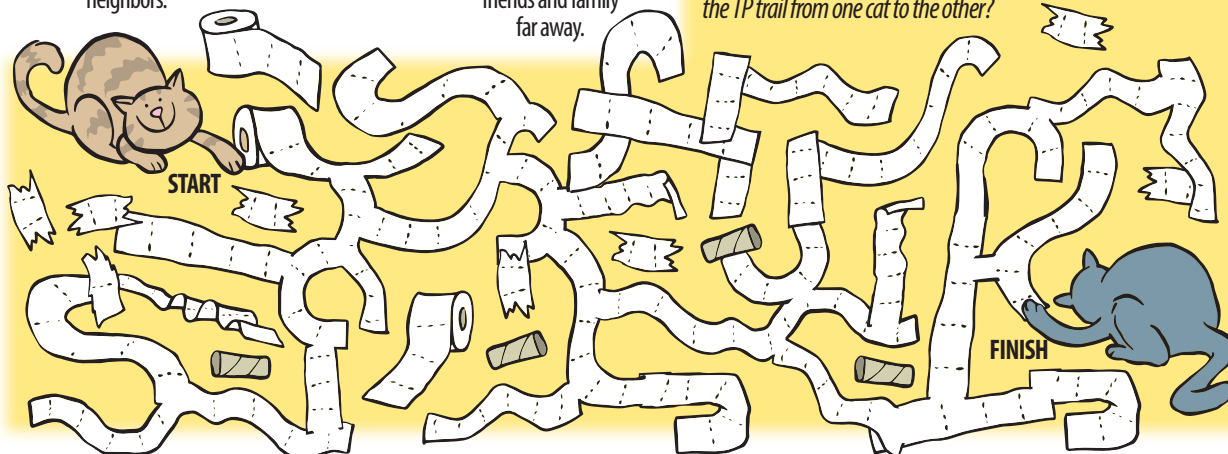
## Ways My Life Changed

Write or draw descriptions in each space below.

School Before Pandemic:	School After Pandemic:
Shopping Before Pandemic:	Shopping After Pandemic:
Home Life Before Pandemic:	Home Life After Pandemic:

## TP Troubles

Oh, no! Carla's cats, Chester and Charlie, didn't know there was a toilet paper shortage. They like to play with the TP. Can you find the TP trail from one cat to the other?



**Extra! Extra!**  
**Graph It!**  
Look through today's newspaper and circle the words **pandemic**, **coronavirus** and **COVID-19**. Which word appears the most? Make a graph to show your results and put it into your Pandemic Scrapbook!  
Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

## Heroes Among Us

Have people in your life been extra kind or generous? Who has helped you during the pandemic? These people are your heroes. Make a list of them below and send them a note thanking them.

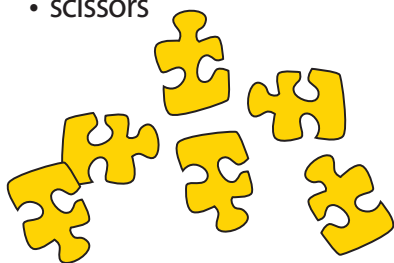
HERO NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOW THEY HELPED: \_\_\_\_\_  
HERO NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOW THEY HELPED: \_\_\_\_\_

## Kid Scoop Puzzler

**Make your own puzzle!** Draw a picture, glue it onto some cardboard. (A cereal box works!) Cut the picture into pieces and give it to a pal to try and put back together!

### STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

- Glue stick
- Cereal box
- Paper
- Crayons or markers
- scissors



## Double Double Word Search

- REMEMBER  
PANDEMIC  
MEMORIES  
HISTORY  
GLOBAL  
FUTURE  
HEROES  
VIRUS  
WORLD  
ELBOW  
COUGH  
CARDS  
VIDEO  
WASH  
LIFE

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

E S E O R E H H L P  
H L I Y S G S T A R  
O R B R U A S N B E  
D L R O W O D F O B  
X E C T W E R U L M  
I Y F S M D A T G E  
S U R I V I C U F M  
U T C H L V U R R E  
E M E M O R I E S R

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

## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

**This week's word: VIRUS**

The noun **virus** means a small particle that can cause disease to spread.

A good way to prevent getting sick from a **virus** is by washing your hands with soap and water often.

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

## FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

### Before and After

Look at a photo in today's newspaper. Tell a family member about what is happening in it. Next, tell each other what you think happened **before** the photo was taken. Then tell each other what you think happened **after** it was taken.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.



## What would you call a small wound?

ANSWER: A short cut.

## Write On!

### Remembering the School Year

What will you remember most from this school year? Share your thoughts with other *Kid Scoop* readers.



## Chatham YMCA

- CHATHAM YMCA SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PERRY HARRISON SCHOOL

287 East Street, Suite 412, Pittsboro, NC 27312  
More Info: 919-545-9622

## Chatham News + Record

Subscribe Today  
919-663-3232

## CHATHAM CHAT | CHATHAM LIBRARY'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

# Library's program designed to combat 'summer slide'

For now, Chatham County's libraries are still closed because of COVID-19 restrictions. And with schools closed, too, the library system's summer reading program has now taken on new meaning and importance. This week, we speak with Katy Henderson, Chatham Community Library's Youth Services Librarian, and Kathleen Pierce, CCL's Youth Services Library Assistant, about the program — and about the importance of reading.

## What's the CCL Summer Reading Program going to look like this year, given COVID-19's restrictions?

Katy Henderson: This year, Chatham County Public Libraries are promoting a Virtual Summer Reading Challenge. Participants will be able to sign up online through our Beanstack site — an online vendor that specializes in virtual reading challenges. Our site will be live on June 15, the day the CCPL Summer Reading Challenge kicks off.

Participants log in to the site, create an account, and keep track of the time they spend reading to earn digital badges and physical prizes which can be claimed after the conclusion of the Summer Reading Challenge, or whenever the libraries reopen to the public. There will also be a grand prize drawing at each branch for all participants who have completed at least 10 hours of reading. The Friends of the Chatham Community Library have again sponsored the online reading challenge, as well as all

prizes to be awarded.

Kathleen Pierce: In addition to the Summer Reading Program, the library also tries to engage teens several ways: through volunteer opportunities, teen programming, and a Teen Advisory Board (TAB) that plans and executes other programs. Of course, much of that will be on hold this summer, but we are still trying to engage teens, in a more virtual manner. Our in-person, weekly Teen Time has become a successful Zoom meetup, where we discuss life, play online games, and answer philosophical questions. Most of my regular teens from the in-person group are coming, and it is really great to be able to give them some continuity.

Our TAB is less active, but we have decided a few ideas for virtual summer engagement. We want to have a few writing/art contests to give teens an outlet for self-expression, but we haven't fully figured out how that will go. However, one bright spot is that TAB member Ayana Rojas-Lupoli was inspired by that idea to start a regular "column" about her life during quarantine.

**Anecdotal, teachers tell us some students were motivated despite the interruption in the school year, but most students, they say, struggled in some regard. Thinking about lost learning and those interruptions, what role can summer reading play in keeping students fresh, engaged, and ready to dive back in when school starts back up?**

Henderson: Summer break is always a time when educators and

librarians worry about learning loss, or "summer slide." In large part, summer reading programs were created to combat the loss of reading skills during the long summer break. This year, due to the COVID crisis, students may be even further behind due to the varying success that students have had with two months of digital learning — and I know that it's hard to keep that learning going at home from personal experience!

We have been in contact with the Chatham County Schools about the public libraries' Summer Reading Challenge. Many, if not most, students have school-issued electronic devices that they will be able to keep through the summer, so we hope that they will take advantage of the digital resources — books and curated websites — that the libraries offer. We also hope that kids and teens will sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge and keep reading all through the summer.

Pierce: Summer Reading can definitely keep kids engaged and learning (if indirectly), which will be critical to maintaining student success. However, we know that more online programs can add to the "Zoom fatigue" so many kids (including my own!) are experiencing. In addition to the digital portion, we are also assembling take-home craft packets so that kids can also have tangible learning experiences, with extension ideas for keeping off-screen learning prioritized.

Unfortunately, a lot of the initial set up

and enthusiasm has to come from parents and caregivers, who may be overextended in their own personal or work lives, so we will also try to keep what we offer relatively simple and straightforward. For example, I got very frustrated last week trying to assemble an "easy kids craft" and so that one was eliminated from the list!

## You've developed incentives for these readers...how do they work?

Henderson: With the Beanstack Virtual Summer Reading Challenge, participants can rack up badges for reading different increments of time. There's a badge at 1 hour and 5 hours of reading, and a badge at 10 hours along with a certificate of completion and an entry into the grand prize drawing. If participants want to keep reading, they earn badges for each 10 hours thereafter, as well as additional entries into the grand prize drawing.

Pierce: The digital incentives are to keep the kids reading until they get to their 10-hour reading goal. And then they are eligible for their prize — a free, non-digital book — plus an entry into the grand prize drawing (usually a book store gift certificate).

## What can parents do to engage kids and encourage them to read?

Henderson: Parents can engage kids in reading in lots of ways! They can help kids find and check out digital copies of books from the libraries' digital collections, or recycle old favorites that they might already have at home. They can use

audiobooks (again, downloadable from the digital collections) to share stories with their children. The best way parents can encourage reading, though, is to model reading to their kids — whether it's a magazine, a cookbook, a novel, or an eBook. When kids see their parents reading, they internalize that reading is something important, and they will copy their parents' behavior. Make time for reading during the day or after dinner!

Pierce: I think this summer, we also have to be mindful that seemingly "non-learning" activities like playing a game, going for a walk, having conversations, and just observing the world inside and out are also important mental activities that can keep kids' brains engaged and the synapses firing to encourage growth. As a parent, I am always tempted to have "learning time" with my kids but in many (not all) cases, they are learning more from their chosen activity than they would if I forced them to "do school." I know this from personal experience! I think as parents, we can keep the pressure off of kids, make a wide range of books and audiobooks available, and trust kids to find them when they are ready.

**As those who work with children and youth in the library, can you talk about the value and benefits of reading in general, and perhaps give some encouragement to those who struggle with reading, or maybe haven't fully explored their interest in reading?**

Henderson: I'd say

that reading is the key that unlocks the door to all learning. Once a person has the ability to read, they have the ability to learn anything they want. Just as important as the ability to read, is exposure to language. For the youngest children, this happens through every day interactions with their parents and caregivers. For older children, reading will expose them to a broader and richer vocabulary. This all contributes to a child's ability to learn and understand the world around them.

For kids who struggle, I would say don't give up. Make reading a family experience. Maybe a child doesn't like to read, or struggles with reading, but really loves stories! Audiobooks and families reading aloud together might be the key to unlocking the world of books for a struggling or reluctant reader. Also, graphic novels are a great option for kids who may be reluctant to pick up a book — and they have the added bonus of actually requiring multiple forms of cognition to understand — both visual cues and text must be read to understand the story!

Don't forget that your youth services library staff are able to help with selecting books that kids and teens love! We are available via email at [youth.services@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:youth.services@chathamlibraries.org), or through our personalized reading recommendations form on our website: <https://www.chathamnc.org/government/departments-programs/library/reading-recommendations>.

## COVID-19 PERSPECTIVE | AYANA ROJAS-LUPOLI

# What this quarantine has made me appreciate

BY AYANA ROJAS-LUPOLI  
7th Grade, Willow Oak  
Montessori Charter School

For most of our lives, we have rushed around. We are always on the move, doing one thing then doing the next thing. We take many things for granted. Many of us don't stop to contemplate or wonder about this beautiful world. We don't notice so many things because we simply don't see them. The beauty in other's lives; the beauty in our own homes.

Now, with this COVID-19 quarantine, for once, we have slowed down. Many of us aren't on the move anymore. Now, most people are at home every day, including me. Being at home is making me appreciate things that I took for granted and think about things that I had not thought about before. This is something we should all ponder — what has this made me appreciate?

I think that a lot of kids will agree with me on this part — I miss school. I go to school every day and, although I was one of the ones who did like it, I didn't yearn to go or to see everyone there 24/7. I just enjoyed it and, well, I never thought it would go away. But then one day, that is exactly what happened. Only since then did I realize how much it really meant to me — the chattering of my classmates, hanging out with my friends at recess, the sweet and spicy scent of the classroom incense diffuser, the feel of a pencil in my hand when I took a quiz and the excited feeling I got when my teachers said they had an announcement.

I realized that school was my life and, suddenly, I was not taking it for granted anymore. All those little things were what I missed most, and then I knew that school was more. Now, I am getting a chance to appreciate school. It means so much. It is the basis of many kids' daily lives, it makes them who they are and it is so much more than

just sitting in a classroom. Although now we have online school, that is simply not the same. It does not have the same feeling or essence. Now that I have had a chance to appreciate it for what it is and does, I really miss school. I look forward to returning to school when it is safe to do so.

For me, the library was an escape from this sometimes harsh world. It was a place of wonder, a place where I could stick my head into another world in a book and stay in that world for as long as I was reading. I am writing this article for the library and now that I can no longer go there — how much I appreciate it! I used to just expect to have it there always, to be able to go whenever my family wanted to. But now that I can't, I long to go there every day. I realized that, like school, the library was such a big part of my life and like so many other things, I had taken it for granted.

The library is a place where I can escape from reality into the world of fantasy, into the world of knowledge and books. Now that I am home, I miss the smell of the library, the peaceful quiet and the feeling of being surrounded by books. When I was very little, even before I could read or even speak properly, I still loved books. They are a huge part of my life and I will never take the library for granted again. I look forward to when I can return.

Nowadays, I think more about our interconnection with other people. There are all these people that do the things that make up our daily lives — the postman, the clerk at the grocery store, the police, the teachers and educators and especially the doctors and nurses that work so hard every day, sometimes risking their own lives to help people. We need to appreciate them, and I was given a chance to do that. I wrote a letter to the postman to thank him for everything he was doing for the community.

Now, our teachers are working hard to keep us students motivated through online learning, which is no easy task. Educators in the U.S. are often underpaid and underrepresented, and it is still no different during the COVID-19 crisis. We should all appreciate them for all of their work and dedication to what they do for us every day.

Other people that I think we should really appreciate are the doctors, nurses and people that work at 9-1-1. All around the world, they are risking their lives to help those sick or in need because of COVID-19. Being at home has really made me think about them, not just the doctors but everyone who works especially hard for their communities during this time. They work hard — all day and every day. They don't give up on their job. I now realize what all these people are doing for us. They are working for our communities, and now I realize how much hard work they do and how challenging it might be. I don't just acknowledge that they are there, I think about what they do and thank them internally and externally.

My family has been so amazing during the quarantine. For example, my parents are both teachers, and I realized how difficult it was to engage kids and work at home during online learning. I have been given a chance to appreciate my parents and my teachers for everything they are doing. I used to just acknowledge my teachers and not really think much about the job itself. But that has changed a lot now. I even sent my teachers a video for Teacher Appreciation Week thanking them for everything they were doing.

Before, usually when I was at home, I would sit and read all day without paying much attention to my family. But now as I am with them more often, I have started appreciating them more. We go on walks together, I cook with



Submitted photo

Ayana Rojas-Lupoli

my dad, I spend more time with my mom and I am playing more with my two little sisters. I am just taking more time to be with them and appreciate my whole family. I am glad that I am doing that because just appreciating has opened up a new world to me.

In conclusion, this quarantine has made me appreciate and think about lots of things and I hope that you can do the same in your time at home. Take a moment to stop and think about things rather than daily life. I'm not saying

to ponder deep philosophical questions, but just think about how you can appreciate something that you used to take for granted. We all take so much for granted every day. I believe that staying at home during this quarantine has really helped me think about things that I took for granted, but that I can now appreciate.

*Ayana Rojas-Lupoli lives in Siler City with her parents, Christopher Lupoli and Glorina Rojas-Lupoli.*





# Two questions, many answers

Chef Gray Brooks owns three eateries: Littler, Pizzeria Toro and my favorite Durham restaurant — Jack Tar and the Colonel's Daughter, located at 202 N. Corcoran St.



**DEBBIE MATTHEWS**  
The Curious Cook

I think it's because Jack Tar isn't just one restaurant.

It's a brunch place with really good eggs Benedict, scrumptious pancakes and plenty of savory dishes. And made-to-order doughnuts — 'nuff said.

It's a diner, with classic dishes like cheeseburgers and Cobb salad, but then they take a hard left with dishes like mussels and Piedmontese Ravioli Plin full of veal and pork served with brown butter with sage.

And tucked into a quiet corner is a small, intimate bar that brings to mind the Rat Pack — the Vegas years. The drinks are carefully curated and delicious and the bar food is perfect for the last stop on a pub crawl. The French Silk pie will be the best you've ever put into your own pie hole.

Chef Gray is also very generous and loves to

talk food. So, I asked him my two pandemic food questions:

**Q:** When it's going to be a while before you make a grocery run, what's your favorite pantry meal?

**A:** Dried ramen noodle cacio e pepe

**Q:** What's your best food-related activity for staving off familial boredom?

**A:** Making pizza at home with your kids with anything goes toppings.

In a twist worthy of Hitchcock, another chef I reached out to sent me step-by-step directions for a homemade pizza party.

Chef Elizabeth Karmel is a Southern girl and barbecue expert. Barbecue and the grilling circuit has been a man's world since

Ug came out of the cave and threw the first mammoth steak onto the flames.



**Chef Gray Brooks**

In addition to the pizza party how-to, Karmel answered my two questions:

For favorite pantry meal: "My favorite pantry meals are Okra Gumbo with chicken and andouille and Brunswick stew," she told me. "My pantry includes my freezer and Goya sells a very good bag

of frozen okra if you can't get fresh, or you need to save it for a rainy day — like we are going through right now."

And for staving off boredom?

"I have two food-related fun activities. Recently, a friend of mine got a pellet smoker and he had never smoked anything before. We both chose the same food to smoke and I walked him through the process via FaceTime.

"Another fun activity is a Make Your Own Grilled Pizza Party!" she said. "I wrote 'Pizza on the Grill' with my good friend Bob Blumer, and as the weather gets warmer, this is a fun activity that turns dinner into entertainment."

So here you are..

**Elizabeth Karmel & Bob Blumer's Make Your Own Pizza Party:**  
For 8 - 12

Create three pizza-making stations on a surface where guests can roll out their dough, like a kitchen counter. Equip each station with:

- Tongs
- Polenta or Grits
- Rolling pin
- Olive oil + brush for oiling dough
- Pizza peel
- Dough for individual pizzas

The day of the party, separate dough into balls about the size of softballs. Remove dough from refrigerator at least an hour before grilling to bring to

room temperature. For large groups or unruly friends, consider rolling out and oiling dough or grilling the crusts in advance.

Set up your toppings buffet style, in individual bowls, on a table or kitchen counter. Prepare at least 2-3 kinds of each topping — sauces, meats, vegetables, and cheeses — to inspire your guests' creativity.

Let guests use the same peel to roll out the dough, take it to and from the grill, and use as a base to slice and serve pizza.

**DESSERT:** Nothing says dessert like a dessert pizza!

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

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

**ONE YEAR FOR ONLY \$45 in county / \$50 outside county**  
Extraordinary coverage of Chatham County since 1878  
Chatham News + Record  
call (919) 663-3232 or go to [chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/](http://chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe/)

Class of **2020**  
Congratulations **Senior**  
Student Name Here  
**JETS**

**SPOTLIGHT YOUR GRAD WITH**  
**Chatham News + Record**  
**BY REGISTERING YOUR GRADUATE ON OUR 2020 GRADS WEBSITE TICKER!**

Register & order your sign **TODAY!**  
Site will be hosted for a full year!

Chatham County's **ONLY** online yearbook

Basic listings are **FREE**, but we're offering upgrades including print insertion & a family/friends dedication page! It's the perfect way to shine light on the GRAD in your life...a virtual online yearbook & recognition ceremony! Want them to be center stage? For \$19, we can provide you a 18x24 full color yard sign with their photo, name, & school! Contact Dawn to order your sign & register your grad **ONLINE!**

Email [dawn@chathamnr.com](mailto:dawn@chathamnr.com) • [www.chathamnewsrecord.com](http://www.chathamnewsrecord.com)

\*We will need a high quality digital file or picture of your graduate to produce sign/ad.

Congratulations  
Student Name Here  
Class of **2020**  
**JETS**



**MOSAIC**



**Construction is underway at MOSAIC!**

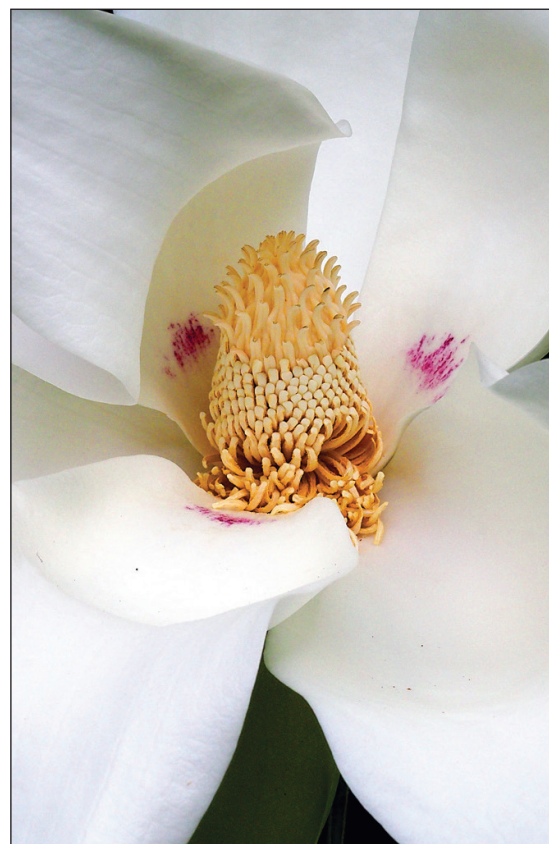
This 8,000 sq. ft. building houses People's Coffee, the Chatham Park Info Center, and the MOSAIC Residential Leasing + Condo Sales Office, plus available space for lease. The building exterior combines brick, stone, glass + metal with dramatic lighting and a soaring roof line. Coming alive in Q4 2020.

**Get to know MOSAIC. It's where you want to be. Join us.**



# Chatham Scene

MAY 28-JUNE 3, 2020 | chathamnewsrecord.com | SECTION C



The *Magnolia macrophylla* has huge flowers and big leaves, creating dramatically beautiful blossoms. In fact, this species has the largest simple leaf and single flower of any plant native to North America.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

## WHY CHATHAM? A PHOTOGRAPHER REFLECTS

### 'A garden that merged with the woods around it'

*Pictures of beauty from a Chatham County labor of love*

BY KIM HAWKS  
News + Record Staff

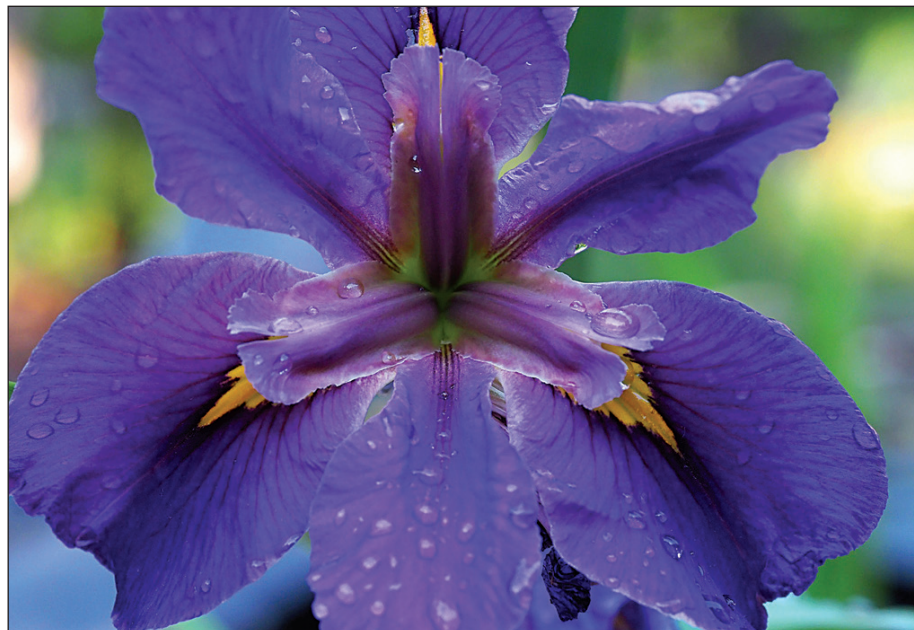
PITTSBORO — I moved onto this land in Chatham County in 2000. My parcel sits high, on six beautiful wooded acres. I had just sold my dream business, Niche Gardens, and was ready to start over.

Here, I began to build my personal garden, informed often by the land.

I purchased woods that grew right up to the house. I evaluated existing vegetation and started opening the canopy by thinning and removing trees to bring in more light.

Many trees remained and are the elders of this thriving garden: Dogwoods, Japanese Maples, *Camelia sasanqua* and *japonica* cultivars planted by previous owners. My sister and I spent days collecting small, medium and large stones on this land and started laying out beds in a free-form style, following the lay of the land.

A year or so later, I began planting



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The *Iris virginica*, commonly called 'Southern blue flag,' has lovely details and grows along the edge of ponds. It's a perennial plant that's common along the coastal plain from Florida to Georgia.

understory shrubs, a few more trees and wildflowers and perennials. Today there are small patches of grass; just enough to highlight the beds. This

garden has been described as a garden that merged with the woods around it. Fast forward 20 years. Today, in the spring of 2020, here

are a few favorite plants that bring me much joy. My favorite tree on this property is native *Magnolia macrophylla*, Big Leaf Magnolia, planted 20 years ago. It's a native deciduous Magnolia with huge goblet shaped flowers in mid spring among large 2-foot by 1-foot wide floppy leaves. *Iris virginica*, "Contraband Girl," the Blue Flag Iris inhabits swamps, stream margins and swamps.

My land is on a dry hill, so I created a small water lily pond and this is where the lovely "Contraband Girl" Iris resides. I planted a gardenia right next to the front steps to my porch. It's in full bloom right now. The fragrance is lovely! I was drawn to this particular *Salvia microphylla* "Hot Lips." Numerous spikes of white and red flowers that somewhat resemble lips, bloom for weeks in sunny, dry gardens. "Hot Lips" is very drought tolerant; the hummingbirds enjoy her nectar.

This morning when I was in the garden taking this photo of my white flowering Asian Lily, two hummingbirds flew around my head, sort of like horse flies. While a bit annoying, it was much more endearing.

Can you see why I love living in Chatham County, North Carolina?



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The Bearded Iris plant is one of the most popular perennials in gardens around the world. They're shown here in their final bloom for the year, showing off a beautiful hue of purple.

The Hot Lips Littleleaf Sage flower blooms for a long time during the summer, meaning the nectar-rich flower attracts hummingbirds and other pollinators for several months.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham County farmers spent some time in recent weeks harvesting hay ahead of the rainy season.



The Love-in-a-Mist flower, also known as *Nigella damascena*, is nicknamed 'The Romantic' and is native to southern Europe, north Africa and southwest Asia. The flowers appear to hover over the rest of the plant.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks















Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Staff at the Piedmont Siler City Community Health Center received lunch from members of the Siler City Community Meal group on Thursday.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Cookies were among the raft of goodies provided to staff at the Piedmont Siler City Community Health Center last Thursday by members of the Siler City Community Meal group.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

# Siler City Community Meal founders serve meals to health workers

BY KIM HAWKS  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The founders of Siler City’s Community Meal program teamed with other Chatham residents last week to provide a warm lunch to employees at both the Chatham County Health Department and the Piedmont Siler City Community Health Center.

After three straight days of chilly, rainy weather — and tireless work by staff during the COVID-19 pandemic — it was a welcome gesture.

Gwen Overturf and Wilma Schroeder, the Siler City residents who created the town’s monthly Community Meal, were joined May 21 by Maggie Zwilling of Bennett, Donna Anderson of Siler City and Bob Schmidt of Silk Hope in meal preparation and delivery.

The Siler City Community Meal was created in March 2018. People in the Siler City community are invited to a free supper on the fourth Friday of each month. The event is hosted by Communities In Schools of Chatham County and the Peppercorn Coffee Shop at 138 N. Chatham

Ave. in Siler City. The monthly meal is determined by a sign-up sheet where volunteers commit to a specific main dish/meat, side dish, salad, dessert or bread. There is no oven on-site to keep food warm, so volunteers bring the dish they signed up for: cooked, warm, covered and ready to feed 20-30 people.

When the coronavirus pandemic began, however, these monthly pot luck meals were temporarily discontinued. In response, Community Meal organizers decided to find a way to show appreciation for the employees of the Chatham County Health Department’s clinic and the Piedmont Siler City Community Health Center, both located in Siler City. The SCCM’s team was searching for a way to still serve the community in a safe way during the pandemic, and the solution — to deliver a tasty homemade meal and honor those in the front lines of local health care — fit within the group’s mission, “Breaking Bread - Building Community”.

Overturf and Schroeder hope the Community Meal resumes when it is safe to congregate.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Members of the Siler City Community Meal group delivered warm lunch to employees at the Piedmont Siler City Community Health Center on Thursday. Piedmont Health Services has been conducting drive-thru COVID-19 tests since the pandemic began.

Maggie Zwilling of Bennett helped deliver meals to the Chatham County Health Department clinic in Siler City on Thursday alongside members of the Siler City Community Meal group.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Brandon Green, a processing assistant at the Siler City clinic of the Chatham County Public Health Department, receives food Thursday from members of the Siler City Community Meal group.

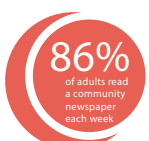


Staff photo by Kim Hawks

From left, Maggie Zwilling, Gwen Overturf and Wilma Schroeder — all members of the Siler City Community Meal group — unload meals Thursday to deliver to employees at the Piedmont Siler City Community Health Center.

## OPEN FOR BUSINESS

**FINALLY** you’re open for business again! There’s a lot to do. And a lot to say. Not only to current customers, but to others now deciding on their new normal. We’re making it **easier and more affordable than ever** to connect with a limited-time, **dollar-for-dollar match** on all new advertising schedules-up to a total of \$30,000 under this special program. It’s all about getting you **open for success!**



open for success? contact dawn parker at 919.930.9668 or dawn@chathamnr.com

**Chatham News + Record**

Chatham News + Record ■ 303 West Raleigh Street, Siler City ■ 919.663.3232 ■ chathamnewsrecord.com