

Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | JUNE 4-10, 2020 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY | JUNE 7

Chatham's varied trails, walking paths can offer COVID-19 reprieve

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Some are short, some are long. Some are gravel, some are dirt, some are paved. Some are loops, some are not.

The walking tracks and trails of Chatham County's municipal parks departments provide a variety of options for walkers, runners and bikers, and right now, they're being used a lot.

"(They're) being used daily if not hourly," said Jack Clelland, the parks and recreation director for the Town of Siler City. "It's a great way for families to get out of the house and stay active. Our use is going up heavily on them. They were always heavily used, but now more so."

When Gov. Roy Cooper signed Executive Order No. 121 on March 27, instituting a stay at home order and restricting

travel, residents were allowed to travel to walk, hike, run and bike. Public playgrounds were closed, and gatherings were limited to no more than 10 people, but the trails and greenways stayed open. An FAQ document connected to the order stated that people were "encouraged to maintain healthy lifestyles, including outdoor recreational activity, such as walking pets and jogging."

People in Chatham took that to heart.

Tracy Burnett, the director of the Chatham County Parks & Recreation Department, said trails and greenways were allowed to remain open during the pandemic "because they benefit the community in numerous ways." She listed a variety of benefits: improved physical and mental health, "environmental stewardship," reduction in injuries by

keeping people away from busy streets and community interaction.

In addition, she said, parks boost Chatham County's economy through tourism, events and consumer spending at local businesses.

"Hopefully during this pandemic, residents have continued to visit the parks and walked the trails," Burnett said, "and by doing so, got some fresh air and vitamin D, stayed active, and safely connected with residents by practicing social distancing of staying at least six feet apart while on the trails."

Chatham County residents have plenty of options in their own backyards, as municipally-operated walking trails are available in Bear Creek, Moncure, Siler City, Chapel Hill

See TRAILS, page A3

LARRY CHEEK | 1948-2020

Community mourns death of Siler City leader

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City Commissioner and Mayor

Pro-Tem Larry Cheek passed away last Tuesday at the SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC Healthcare in Pittsboro, just shy of his 72nd birthday.

Cheek fell ill several weeks ago and spent time at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill before his transfer to the hospice center. He represented District 2 in Siler City for 17 years and was re-elected to office last November.

Siler City Mayor John Grimes said that Cheek was

"such a valuable asset to this community" and "one of my dearest friends in Siler City."

"He was so instrumental in fostering good relations between different ethnic groups in our community," Grimes said. "He held it together."

A Chatham County native, Cheek attend N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro and the N.C. School of Automation. He worked with Western Electric in Burlington before working with CP&L, working through its transition to Progress Energy and then to Duke Energy before retiring in 2010.

He was an active member and served many leadership positions at Corinth AME Zion Church in Siler City and also a member of the Masons-Light of the World #711.

See CHEEK, page A6



Cheek

Early 'eccentric interest' leads to Grammy for folklorist Bill Ferris

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — When Bill Ferris, now 78, was a kid in Mississippi, he was immersed in the culture brimming around him, and decided — at the age of 12 — to begin documenting it.

There was music. A lot of it — church hymns and the blues. And there were stories. And there were the people, many of them black, who created the music and passed the stories along.

The region was rich in this uniquely Southern culture.

But few were stopping, as they say, to smell the roses.

Certainly, few were making recordings of those songs the people were writing and singing and passing along. Few were transcribing the lyrics of hymns which, left unrecorded, would die with the people who sang them.

When Ferris, on the brink of his teen years, first picked up a camera to begin documenting the culture around him, there wasn't then, as there is now in Mississippi, the Center for Southern Folklore, or the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, in Chapel Hill.

Those places — dedicated, as their names say, to the study and preservation of Southern culture — would come later. And largely thanks to Ferris and his work.

A 'very robust field'

Fledgling Southern folklorists today can find college courses they seek — through a wide range of disciplinary perspectives from music to politics — on campuses including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of South Carolina, the University of Mississippi. "It's a field that is very ro-

bust," said Ferris, the now-retired UNC history professor,



Ferris

who lives with his wife Marcie — who's also retired from teaching at UNC and is herself an author — at their home in Chatham County.

It's a field Ferris has played a huge role in forging.

His resume is lengthy, but among the highlights:

Ferris has written 10 books on Southern culture and was co-editor of "The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture," the seminal work, published in 1989, which U.S. News & World Report called "the first attempt ever to describe every aspect of a region's life and thought, the impact of its history and

See FERRIS, page A7

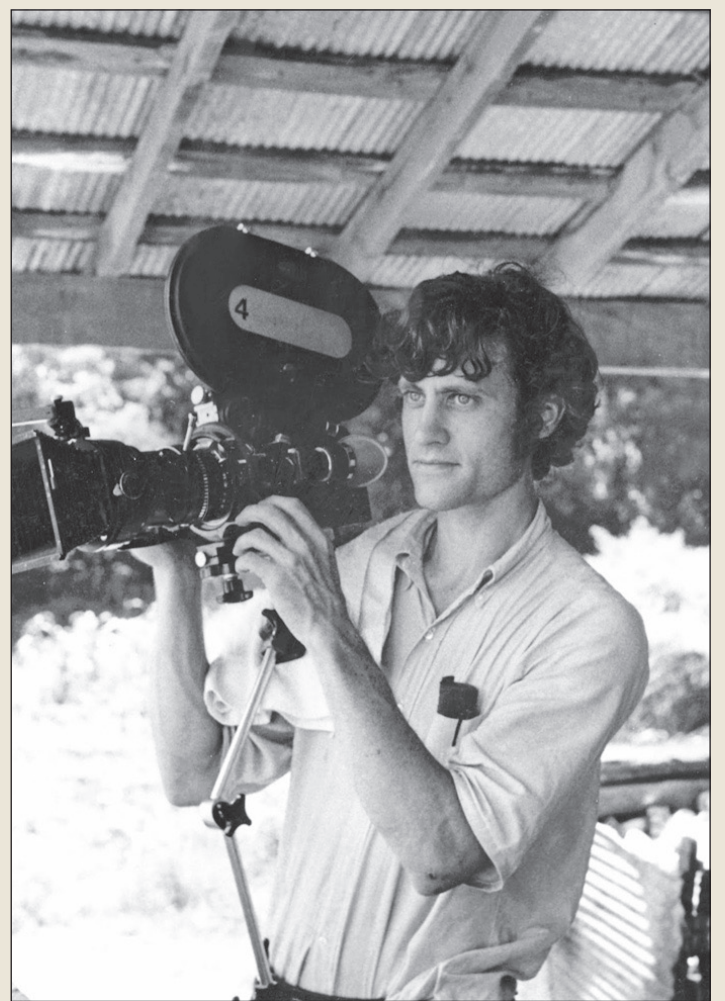


Photo by Hester Magnuson

Bill Ferris has been documenting Southern folklore since age 12, when he began recording details about the Southern culture around him in his native Mississippi.

CCS Nutrition program to take financial hit, keep serving

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

Starting on March 17, four days after Gov. Roy Cooper closed all of North Carolina's public schools for two weeks, Chatham County Schools Nutrition Services personnel began distributing food and meals to anyone and everyone who came to designated food distribution drop-off spots around the county.

Through May 22, the district served more than 261,000 meals — nearly 4,000 meals a day if you include weekends. And it will come at a cost. While that total cost isn't yet known, school nutrition staff will keep on serving, right through the summer.

"Food is a need, not a want," said Jennifer Özkurt, the director of school nutrition services for CCS. "When schools



Submitted photo

Chatham County Schools Nutrition Services personnel prepare items May 4 at Chatham Middle School for meal distribution at bus stops throughout the district. Shown here during Staff Appreciation Week are (left to right) Cherie Bowman (Virginia Cross Elementary School), Stephanie Smith (Perry W. Harrison Elementary School), Vicky Burkette (Jordan-Matthews High School), Bonnie Garner (Bonlee School), Kelley Patterson (Jordan-Matthews) and Michelle Johnson (Bonlee).

See MEALS, page A6

THE KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD

Chatham's law enforcement leaders respond to Minnesota man's death

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

The leaders of Chatham's three major law enforcement agencies — the Pittsboro Police Department, Siler City Police Department and Chatham County Sheriff's Office — followed other organizations across the country in releasing statements in response to the death last week of George Floyd in Minnesota.

Derek Chauvin, an 18-year veteran of the Minnesota Police Department, has been charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in Floyd's death, an incident which has sparked protests across the nation.

Several video recordings show Chauvin pressing his knee into Floyd's neck as the

46-year-old lay pinned to the ground in handcuffs during his May 25 arrest. Many of those protests — including those in Raleigh, Greensboro and Charlotte — have turned violent.

Pittsboro's interim police chief, Clarence "Shorty" Johnson, released a statement to the department's Facebook page on Friday, condemning Chauvin's actions.

"We believe that when incidents like the one involving Mr. George Floyd of Minnesota occur, the law enforcement officer should be held accountable and subjected to the same due process of law as every other citizen of the United States," Johnson's statement read. "If anything, we should be held to a higher standard. It is imper-

See RESPOND, page A12

IN THE KNOW

Memorable postseason run earns J-M 'Upset of the Year' award. **PAGE B1**

They're back: as weather warms, cicadas to make noisy return. **PAGE B3**

Bynum resident tracking COVID-19 with in-depth database. **PAGE B5**

'Victory Gardens' springing up around Chatham County. **PAGE B7**



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ON THE AGENDA

- **The Town of Pittsboro** will hold its regular board meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 8, virtually via Zoom technology, from the Pittsboro Town Hall. Contact Cassandra Bullock at CBullock@pittsboronc.gov for meeting details.
- **The Chatham County Board of Education** is scheduled to meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 8. A location for the meeting has not been announced.
- **The Chatham County Board of Commissioners** is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 16, in the Chatham County Historic Courthouse Courtroom at 9 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro. The meeting may also take place at the Chatham County Agricultural and Conference Center at 1192 US Hwy 64 West Business, Pittsboro. Check chathamnc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx for the final meeting location.

CANCELLATIONS

- **Town of Pittsboro**, all town advisory boards meetings are canceled. In order to protect

the most vulnerable members of our community from the COVID-19 virus and slow its spread. Please monitor the town's website at pittsboronc.gov for additional notifications and alerts.

- **Chatham County Council on Aging:** Both centers are closed at this time until further notice. If you need to pickup supplies, call the Siler City or Pittsboro location or check our website: chathamcoa.org.
- **Chatham County Historical Museum:** For the safety of visitors and volunteers, the Chatham County Historical Museum is closed until further notice. See our website: <https://chatham-history.org>.
- **Chatham Community Library:** Closed to the public at this time.
- **State Employees Credit Union (SECU)** branches statewide have temporarily transitioned to drive-thru only. Members who need to access safe deposit boxes, drop off tax return information, or inquire about a loan should call the branch to schedule an appointment.
- **The Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop** will be closed for shopping and donations until further notice.

THURSDAY

- **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** - We provide a healthy,

appetizing meal at no cost to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.

- **The Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open with seasonable 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 & Gentiles, Jugtown Pottery, Kate Johnston Pottery, Luck's Ware, Studio Touya, Stuempfle Pottery. For details visit: seagrovewoodfire.com.
- **Chatham Habitat for Humanity** is planning to hold our re-scheduled 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.
- **JMArts** hosted a **JMACoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMACoronaConcert performances and #JMA-CoronaConcert 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.
- **Volunteers Needed** - Nonprof-

it 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.chatham-connecting.org.

- **Foster and/or adoptive information** - Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent. Call 642-6956 to learn more.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous** - North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.
- **Motorcycle Association** - The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.
- **Narcotics Anonymous** - For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps! Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings!
- **Al-Anon Meeting** - Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays, at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro.

Scholarship will help J-M grad pursue career in criminal justice

CN+R STAFF REPORT

SILER CITY — This fall, Gisselle Aleman Moreno, a 2020 graduate of Jordan-Matthews High School, is planning to attend Western Carolina University to further her career goal in criminal justice. When she does, she'll have some extra funds to help her thanks to a \$500 scholarship from the Chatham County Law Enforcement Officers Association.

For more than a quarter of a century, the association — comprised of active and retired Chatham County law enforcement officers — has awarded funds to college-bound high school graduates. Moreno is this year's recipient. "The CCLEO Association has been offering the Chatham County Law Enforcement Officer's Association Edu-

cation Scholarship for more than 25 years to high school seniors who have a desire to continue their higher education in the criminal justice field," said Cathy Judge, the CCLEOA's secretary. "Their dreams may be to become a local officer that we would see around here, an SBI Agent, an FBI Agent, a CSI Agent or anything related to the criminal justice career field. Our CCLEO Association, with

some of our members having over 30 years in membership, feel that this is a way to help start the careers of new law enforcement officers. And that is part of what we are all about. We are so glad that the CCLEOA is able to assist some high school graduates in this way." Moreno is this year's recipient. The CCLEOA notified her of the award on May 9. While a student at Jor-

dan-Matthews, Moreno was a member of the Beta Club and HOSA and was active in theater, performing in a school play, a musical and the J-M Chorus. She also volunteered at the PTA Thrift Store. Moreno, while a student, also worked at the 3rd Street Veterinary and, just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, had started a job at Taco Bell in Siler City.

News + Record closes Pittsboro office

CN+R STAFF REPORTS

The Chatham News + Record has closed its office at 19 Hillsboro St. in Pittsboro. The office has

been vacated for most of the COVID-19 pandemic and is now closed permanently. To submit items in-person for the print edition, visit the Siler City office

at 303 W. Raleigh St., or mail items to P.O. Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344. You may also call the Siler City office at (919) 663-3232 or email news@chathamnr.com.

CORRECTION

In the story "Siler City Community Meal founders serve meals to health workers," in the May 28 edition of the News + Record, Donna Johnson was incorrectly identified as Donna Anderson. In addition, the story incorrectly stated

the special meal served to employees at the Chatham County Health Department and the Piedmont Siler City Community Health Center was hosted by Communities In Schools of Chatham County. The News + Record regrets the errors.





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TRAILS

Continued from page A1

and Pittsboro. Each of the municipal governments — Chatham County, the Town of Pittsboro and the Town of Siler City — manage at least three.

The county's parks and rec staff operates a half-mile compacted trail

at Southwest District Park in Bear Creek, a quarter-mile paved track at Northeast District Park in Chapel Hill and a one-mile compacted trail at Northwest District Park in Siler City. Compacted trails, which are featured throughout the county, are usually made of dirt and gravel tamped down to create a solid surface.

Siler City's team runs the gravel tracks at Boling Lane Park and Washington Avenue Park — each run between one-fifth and one-quarter mile — and the 1.4-mile-long paved Loves Creek Greenway near Bray Park. Pittsboro has four park trails: a one-third mile paved loop at Mary Holmes Park, half-mile trails at Rock Ridge Park

and the Robeson Creek Greenway and a two-mile loop around a lake at Town Lake Park.

More than four miles of the regional American Tobacco Trail also run through Chatham County, with two entryways in the Apex portion of the county.

On Saturday, residents have a special reason to go out and use the trails. June 6 is National Trails Day, as declared by the American Hiking Society. The AHS annually challenges people to walk the trails and work to preserve them by cleaning them. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, planned in-person events have been canceled, but walkers and trail hikers are still encouraged to participate and post photos on social media.

"While the COVID-19 quarantines have put into sharp focus how much our minds and bodies need time outside every day, the trails and parks we value are under-resourced and not everyone has easy access to quality green space," Kate Van

Waes, the AHS' executive director, said in a news release. "In honor of National Trails Day, we are encouraging everyone to take American Hiking's #NationalTrailsDay Pledge to preserve trails and parks and fight for equitable access."

Plans are in the works for expansions to trails and greenways throughout the county. The county's parks and recreation master plan, which was approved by the county board of commissioners in February 2019, recommended an additional 85.3 miles of greenway and nature trails be constructed over the next 10 years.

Burnett said that actually getting the trails constructed is a different conversation — "grants and funding will need to be in place for these recommendations," she said — but the county's relative lack of trail length necessitates the consideration.

"Since greenway and trail systems are rated as top five facilities in the Parks and Recreation master plan," she said, "a

recommendation is to create a regional trail network to connect people to places they want to go."

The Master Plan states that the county offers "fewer miles of trail than other jurisdiction," and that proposed new trails or lengthening current paths would "increase trail mileage level of service to one mile of trail per 1,000 residents." Chatham's walking options currently lag far behind that, just .09 miles of trail per 1,000 residents.

While specific dates for new trail are not available yet, both Burnett and Clelland emphasize the health benefits of partaking in these amenities, particularly during the pandemic that has kept many stuck at home. Clelland specifically cited the Loves Creek Greenway.

"It's easy to get to, it's easy on the legs," he said. "It puts you out in nature and gets you exercising."

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

A GUIDE TO RECREATION TRAILS AND GREENWAYS IN CHATHAM COUNTY



Boling Lane Park	302 S. Fir Ave.	≈ 1/4 mile
Loves Creek Greenway	623 S. Second Ave.	1.4 miles
Mary Holmes Park	304 Old Rock Springs Cemetary Road	1/3 mile
Northeast District Park	5408 Big Woods Road Chapel Hill	1/4 mile
Northwest District Park	2413 Woody Store Road, Siler City	1 mile
Rock Ridge Park	1397 Old Sanford Road, Moncure	1/2 mile
Robeson Creek Greenway	Entrance near 266 Sanford Road	1/2 mile
Southwest District Park	15124 N.C. Hwy. 902, Bear Creek	1/2 mile
Town Lake Park	529 N.C. Hwy. 902	2 miles
Washington Avenue Park	1305 Washington Ave.	≈ 1/4 mile

CHATHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

TOWN OF PITTSBORO PARKS

SILER CITY PARKS & RECREATION

American Tobacco Trail

Around 4.6 miles of this region-wide trail exist in Chatham County through a partnership with Chatham Parks & Rec, NCDOT and Town of Cary. Entry points in Chatham are:
1309 New Hill Olive Chapel Road, Apex
1305 White Oak Church Road, Apex

Staff graphic by Zachary Horner



Staff photos and collage by Zachary Horner

Chatham County's various parks — operated by both county and town-level governments — provide a variety of walking opportunities and options. Those parks include, from top left, clockwise, Southwest District Park in Bear Creek, Town Lake Park in Pittsboro, Robeson Creek Greenway in Pittsboro, Boling Lane Park in Siler City and the Loves Creek Greenway in Siler City.

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST EDITORIAL | ROBERT PEARSON

Repaying a mounting moral debt

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness — unalienable rights — endowed by our Creator — for all men and women — forever.

That is the promise we made to ourselves 243 years ago in our Declaration of Independence. We then created a Constitution to make these promises so: the guarantee of equal protection of the law — equal justice — for all Americans — for all Americans.

Whatever may be the views of individual Americans, there will never be the domestic tranquility our Constitution promises until those guarantees are the warp and weave — the very fabric — of American lives. Over and over and over again the frustrations

of our citizens who do not enjoy these rights explode into national protest and even violence, even if that violence harms first the communities where the victims live. If we cannot see this truth, then the lesson will repeat until we understand and do what is required.

The coronavirus pandemic has made starkly visible those among us who have suffered the most. And they are our health heroes, our first responders, our neighbors who have to go back to work or open up for business even when the danger is still present. They are our vulnerable citizens, those who have lost their jobs and insurance coverage and do not know when they might be able to earn a salary

to care for their loved ones, and the young people facing a future once again with narrowed promises. Among these heroes are black Americans, who have the highest percentage of deaths and the lowest percentage of protections.

In the midst of this chaos, we see in full daylight and on video a white police officer, sworn to protect and defend our Constitution, choke to death a 46-year-old black man begging to breathe and calling for his mother already dead two years. The moral debt we Americans owe is mounting once again. It will only be repaid when we treat every man, woman and child before the law and within our society the same way we expect

ourselves to be treated.

Those promises we made between and among all of us constitute a social contract to provide what is promised and to receive what is promised. If our fellow black citizens go decades and decades and do not receive what was contracted for, how are we going to convince them to trust the country to keep its commitments?

Words of hate and division, which we have heard many times recently, push farther away the day when the issue of race is treated seriously. What we need is dialogue, people reaching across lines of comfort to listen with respect and speak with respect, and authorities who understand

the need for basic fairness and clear protection in our society. Peace will come when equal justice is true in practice not just in principle.

There is no better moment — and there never will be — than now to say Amen — let it be so — and let each of us be a part of making it happen.

Robert Pearson of Pittsboro is a retired U.S. diplomat who worked under six presidents and in more than 50 countries. Pearson, a lifetime member of the NAACP in Maryland, is an active member of Chatham County's NAACP community. He and his wife, Maggie, live in Ferrington Village.

Who watches the watchmen?

Somewhere around the year 100 A.D., a Roman poet named Decimus Junius Juvenalis first posed the question: "Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?"



RANDALL RIGSBEE
Randall Reflects

To non-Latin speakers, like me, the phrase may sound as ancient and as foreign as the time and place in which it was composed. But translated into English, the philosophical query — "Who watches the watchers?" or "Who watches the watchmen?" — from centuries ago resonates today and begs for a contemporary answer.

One answer is the press, and our Constitution's First Amendment fortunately ensures a free one. This past March saw the 15th observance of Sunshine Week, a national initiative which celebrates and promotes the importance of open government and the press' role in keeping it that way.

Sunshine Week was born from the more localized Sunshine Sunday, launched in 2002 by the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors as a rebuff to efforts by some legislators in the Sunshine State to create new exemptions to Florida's public records law; in other words, Florida's press — or media — was watching the watchers.

But "the press" isn't a faceless entity up on high operating with a divine decree — it's a profession populated by people.

Pondering Decimus Junius Juvenalis' ancient and timeless question, another phrase from another long-ago source occurred to me. "Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain asks in the Bible story, told in the Book of Genesis, after he kills his brother Abel, absolving himself of responsibility for the violence he's committed against his kin.

In watching the watchers, I believe we are our brothers' keepers. The same notion is expressed in the idea, from an African proverb, that "it takes a village" — a community as a whole — to raise a child.

In other words, eschewing Latin philosophizing and African proverbs and putting it in plain English: we look out for each other.

That's what a group of witnesses last week to the murder of George Floyd on a street in Minneapolis at the hands — or knee, in actuality — of police officer Derek Chauvin were trying to do as they pleaded with the police officer to relinquish his deadly choke hold on the man suspected only of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill.

One of those witnesses captured, in cell phone footage, the eight minutes that it took for Chauvin to choke the life out of George Floyd.

About halfway through the video, as the 46-year-old black man remains pinned and helpless on the ground under Chauvin's knee, one of those concerned by-standers off-camera says a variant of the old Latin question: She says, "Can you call the police on another police?"

Who is watching the watchers?

Last Tuesday afternoon as I viewed the video on Instagram, as I saw the disturbing footage of a man being suffocated for the presumption of a crime (imagine if that fake \$20 had found its way into George Floyd's wallet, in change from another transaction, and he unsuspectingly passed it along; it could have easily happened that way), it was the question I was asking, too.

Though I already knew how the video — and the deadly encounter it captured — ended, and I could watch it a dozen times and the ending would always be the same, I desperately hoped for a different outcome. That the situation — incredible and wrong and troubling as it was — would somehow end without the pointless loss of life, that Chauvin would loosen his death grip, that George Floyd would stand to his feet, that someone — whoever watches the watchers — would intervene.

"True peace," wrote Civil Rights Movement leader Martin Luther King Jr. in 1958, "is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

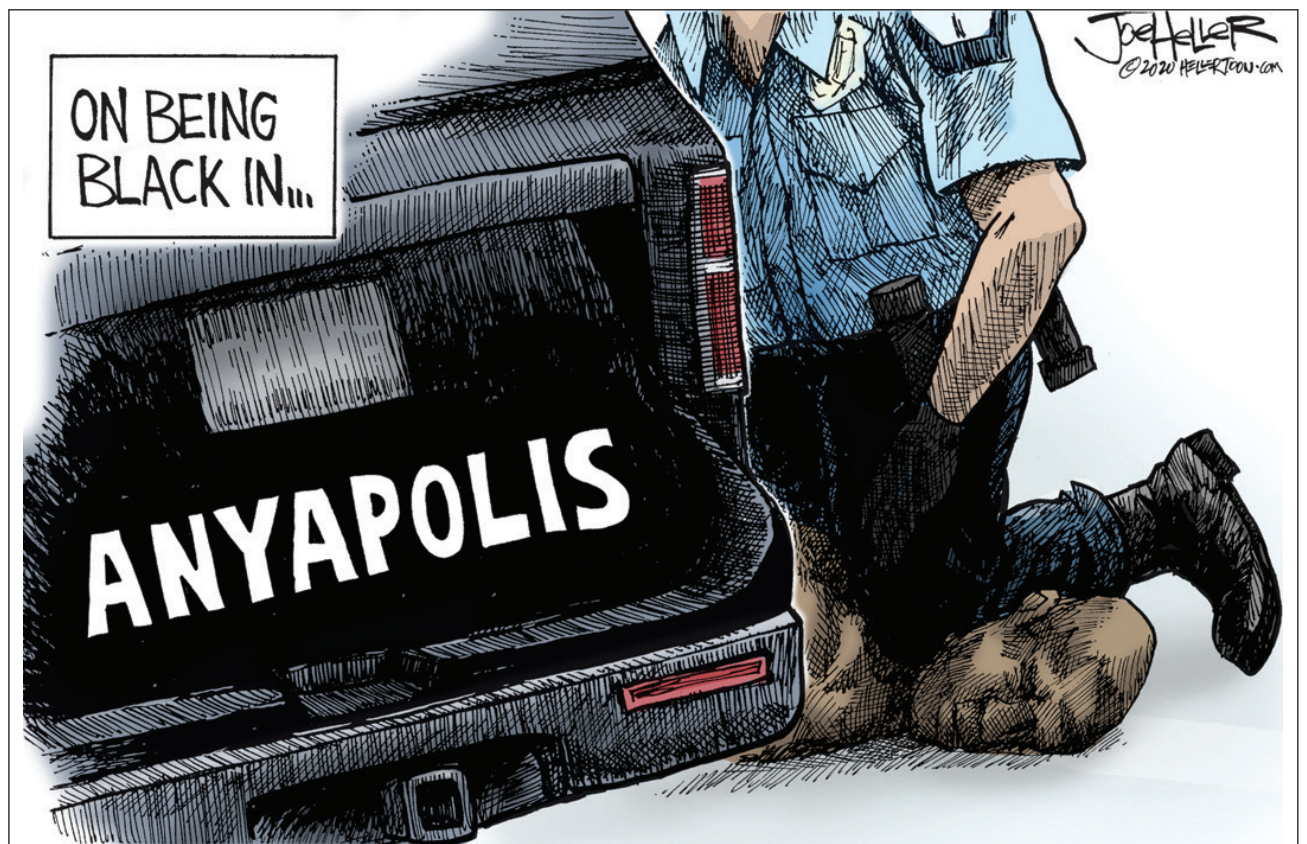
We can't live in a just society if we aren't watching the watchers and holding our brothers' interests as our own, being an active participant — all of us — in the far-flung village we as humans inhabit.

None of the watchers were able to save George Floyd's life last week. But Chauvin and other officers involved in George Floyd's death were soon fired from their police posts, and Chauvin would later be charged with George Floyd's murder. Protests understandably were mounted across the nation, the expansive village we call the United States. You could say the watchers — we, the people — were watching, and outraged.

Have we finally seen enough?

Must there be another George Floyd, or Ahmaud Arbery, or Eric Garner?

The future of our shaken and divided village depends on how we answer.



Be the best creature you were made to be

Somewhere it must be written that newspaper offices have to be cluttered.



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

Notice I said "cluttered," not "sloppy" or even "messy." There's a vast difference in those words although at times they can go together.

I know that in today's electronic and digital publishing world things are vastly different from what they were when I cut my newspaper teeth in the Dark Ages, when we used hot metal and gallons of ink. Then it was hot work and you often got dirty in the pressroom. Reporters usually had stacks of paper and notes and notebooks and pens on their desks, on the floor, on shelves and seemingly floating in the air.

While that was OK at the office, a problem could arise when you took that mindset home. To my eternal gratitude, my much better half has never seriously objected to that illness in my life. Sometimes she will sigh or even roll her eyes but she mostly lets me wallow in the stuff that is collected in the room we refer to as my "study."

I say all of that to say this: In the period of time we have lately called "sheltering in place," I have used some of that time to plow through stacks and boxes of stuff I have accumulated over the past 40-plus years or so. And the truly amazing thing is that some of that "stuff" is as applicable in today's world as it was when it first saw the light of day and was then relegated to a place in the stacks.

Case in point: a little story I had penned for a 35-year-ago church

I say all of that to say this: In the period of time we have lately called "sheltering in place," I have used some of that time to plow through stacks and boxes of stuff I have accumulated over the past 40-plus years or so. And the truly amazing thing is that some of that "stuff" is as applicable in today's world as it was when it first saw the light of day and was then relegated to a place in the stacks.

newsletter about a group of animal friends. It seemed to make perfect sense to me in this day and age of response to the virus that has plagued society for months and whose fallout is still with us as various folks gripe about why everyone isn't acting in the same way they act.

Wear a mask. Don't wear a mask. Stay home. Get out. On and on it goes until folks lose their tempers or even worse.

Consider this thought... A group of animals decided to improve their general welfare by starting a school. The subjects included swimming, running, climbing and flying.

The duck, an excellent swimmer, was deficient in other areas so he majored in climbing, running and flying, much to the detriment of his swimming.

The rabbit, a superior runner, was forced to spend so much of his time in other classes that he soon lost much of his famed speed. The squirrel, who had previously been rated "A" as a climber, dropped to a "C" because his instructors spent hours and hours trying to teach him to swim and fly. And the eagle was disciplined for soaring to the tops of trees when he had been told to climb, even though flying was most natural to him.

This little story shows what often happens in society. Each person has a gift; many people have several. But everyone has

at least one at which they're particularly good. Our gifts differ. Some of us, however, try to do so many things that we lose our effectiveness in our most qualified area and as a result, the entire group — church, work, society — suffers.

Christianity encourages us to use the gifts we have and if there's ever been a time society needs the best of all of us, it's now — to overcome a virus, terror in the streets, hatred galore.

It shouldn't distress us that someone else may do something better than we can do it. If God made you a duck, then you're a duck. And you can swim. So, swim, friend...and swim like mad! But don't get all bent out of shape because you waddle when you run. Remember: you're a swimmer, not a runner.

And remember, too, if you're an eagle, stop expecting all the rabbits to fly like you do or the squirrels to build a nest like yours. When they're running or climbing, they're using their gifts to do their own thing.

Remember, it's the variety of gifts that makes the group effective. So, animals everywhere... find your own gifts — and use them.

Glad I saved that scrap of paper those many years ago. Hope I can remember the lesson. Hope you will, as well.

Chatham News + Record

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

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

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

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

VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS

Teach by example

TO THE EDITOR:

What to tell a child: You tell them from birth that you love them and not to hate, and you teach by example.

Ed Spence
Siler City

We need strong leadership, not tyranny

TO THE EDITOR:

George Floyd of Minneapo-

lis, Minnesota, was lying face down, with his hands cuffed behind him and an officer of the law — an armed “brave” officer of the law — deemed it right to kneel on the back of his neck until the life was snuffed out of him. Unspeakable and cowardly brutality perpetrated by police who are supposed to keep law and order. All this, while three other “brave” officers watched and did nothing.

Now, we have Donald Trump, who is putting his knee on the back of the necks of Americans

until what? We die? We bow down to him? We evolve into a catastrophic civil uprising with his provoking and permission? What? And all the while his Congressional supporters watch and do nothing!

Trump is making a mockery of our democratic system and so are his sycophant supporters who endorse his conspiracy theories. These are intelligent people who know he is wrong but continue to bow down before him because if they don't they may lose their powerful

jobs or be talked about in disgrace with, of course, no evidence of any wrongdoing. The people who speak out against him get fired. He causes pain and suffering on anyone who doesn't agree with him either by vindictively smearing their good name or humiliating them with childish name-calling.

We need our two-party government. We need good Republicans and good Democrats. But only brave people who will stand up against his vulgarity, lying and cheap innuendos.

Thomas Jefferson once famously wrote, “All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.”

Remember, we the people, have given Trump and his Congressional supporters the power and the approval to behave this way.

That's the President we the people — or some of the people — elected.

Let's not do it again.

Marie Vanderbeck
Pittsboro

Jack Hunt and Ruby's cooking

“Go see Rep. Jack Hunt first thing. He is married to one of my cousins. He will take care of you.”



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

That was my first instruction from UNC President Dick Spangler when he tapped me to represent the university system in dealing with the state's General Assembly.

That might have been the best advice President Spangler ever gave me. Hunt, who died at 97 on May 27, chaired the powerful House Rules Committee and was a close friend of the legendary Speaker Liston Ramsey and most

of the other insider legislators. Hunt tried to keep me out of trouble and when I messed up, he helped rescue me.

He spent a lifetime helping people. In addition to his state government and Army service, he was for many years a dentist, farmer, and business owner in Cleveland County. He and his wife Ruby had five remarkable daughters, all active in community and public service. One of them, Judy Hunt, served in the state House of Representatives alongside her dad. He was a mentor to one of his dental patients, Walter Dalton, who served as a state senator and lieutenant governor, and is now president of Isothermal Community College.

Perhaps the best thing Hunt did for me was to introduce me to Ruby.

It happened one day when I tried to enlist Hunt in my effort to find good local eateries to write about in this column.

One day I asked him, “Where is the best place to get country cooking around here?”

He paused, squinted, smiled a little bit, and finally said, “Well, the truth is there is nothing better, I think, than my wife Ruby's cooking. We have folks over from time to time. Maybe you'd like to join us sometime.”

Jack and Ruby regularly invited their government friends for informal suppers of country ham, baked chicken, cornbread, biscuits with sourwood honey and molasses, and vegetables from her garden, including corn frozen minutes after it had been picked the previous summer. There were always desserts of homemade cakes and pies. Of course, there was also the opportunity to make friends with governors, Supreme Court justices, and legislative leaders.

But there is more to it than that. It's more than just the joy of getting together and making other people happy.

Jack Hunt was one of the “peacemakers” in the legislature. When there was a tough, mean problem that divided people, Jack Hunt often got the call to try to bring them together. Getting around factions, petty jealousies, and partisanship, he tried to find out what it would take to resolve the disagreement.

“What's keeping us from working this out?” That was the question people counted on Jack Hunt to ask, then listen, and move everyone towards the answer.

He thought the people's representatives made better decisions when they were not angry at each other. When everything else failed to bring people together, “Ruby's Cooking” worked magic.

Once, when President Spangler and Governor Jim Hunt were at loggerheads about the governor's budget proposals for the university, they could hardly speak to each other until Jack invited them to breakfast with Ruby. Neither the governor nor the university president could say no to Ruby and Jack. After they sat down to Ruby's cooking and warm spirit, they worked out a compromise.

It was hard to be angry with anyone when Ruby Hunt was serving her home cooked meals and the breakfast of ham biscuits with sourwood honey and molasses helped Jack bring his two friends together.

We miss Ruby's cooking for sure. Even more, we miss Jack's gentle, positive, and respecting peacemaking that made all of us better people. copy here

Go-slow reopening may be costly

Over the first two months of the coronavirus crisis, our labor-market cratered. The number of employed North Carolinians dropped by 820,000, or 17 percent. Only 56.3 percent of working-aged residents were either employed or actively looking for jobs.

That's the lowest rate of labor force participation in modern times.

The next round of job and output numbers will probably be even more dismal. But have North Carolina's economic woes been caused more by COVID-19 itself, or by government's regulatory response to the pandemic? This is not a simple question to answer.

Generally speaking, the largest declines in employment across the United States occurred in the places with the highest rates of COVID deaths per capita, such as Michigan, New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. And some of the lowest employment declines occurred in states with low COVID mortality such as Texas and Kansas.

But there are exceptions. And it is also true that the states with the strictest lockdown measures tended to suffer higher-than-average job losses. As for the states that never enacted statewide stay-at-home orders — Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wyoming — all had lower-than-average job losses.

It is reasonable to assume that in

places where the coronavirus has been deadlier, people would be less willing to venture out to work or shop even if it were legal to do so. And it is reasonable to assume that in places where government shut more businesses down for longer, the economic hit would be bigger. Both effects can be present, and their causes interrelated.

Let's look more closely at North Carolina and its neighbors. All have had COVID deaths per million below the national average of 302 (as of May 25), although the rates in Georgia (174) and Virginia (142) are higher than the national median (114). Interestingly, Georgia has been beaten up by the national media for lifting its statewide lockdown early, at the end of April, while Virginia's rules have been among the strictest.

Deaths per million in South Carolina (85), North Carolina (75), and Tennessee (49) are relatively low. But their regulatory approaches have been rather different. Roy Cooper's lockdown orders were more sweeping and are being lifted at a much slower pace.

Consider a basic fact on the ground: foot traffic into businesses. According to data from Safegraph.com, all the states in our neighborhood saw declines of about half from mid-March to mid-April. Then people started leaving their homes in greater numbers to work and shop. They voted with their feet, so to speak, either because their calculation of the personal risk from COVID-19 changed or they simply had to get on with their lives.

This happened in North Carolina, for example, even before Cooper began his glacially paced reopening.

Foot traffic into North Carolina businesses rose from 50 percent below the pre-COVID baseline on April 13 to 36 percent below the baseline on May 7, the day before Cooper's Phase One went into effect. Since then, it has risen to 30 percent.

South Carolina and Tennessee have seen roughly the same business declines on the front end but much-faster rebounds since mid-April, to 15 percent and 19 percent respectively. Foot traffic at dine-in restaurants has returned to 87 percent of pre-COVID levels in South Carolina and 76 percent in Tennessee. In North Carolina, the level is only 59 percent. You can see the same pattern in shopping-mall traffic.

It would be hard not to conclude that the major difference here is public policy, not disease severity. South Carolina and Tennessee have lifted their restrictions earlier and more broadly. People have responded by getting out more, and companies have likely been rehiring to handle the increased business.

Perhaps, as Cooper's defenders will warn, our southern and western neighbors will come to regret their decisions in the next two to four weeks if their COVID hospitalizations and deaths spike. But if North Carolina has a particularly bad jobs reports next month, the governor's go-slow approach to reopening will likely be responsible for a significant share of the negative economic consequences.

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

The Courage Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change...



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

Many readers will recognize the opening line of The Serenity Prayer. It is often recited at the close of a 12-step meeting, such as those held by Alcoholics Anonymous.

I have been praying, however, in light of the news of recent violence against African-Americans and other people of color. I've focused on the second part of this prayer, which is perhaps not as well known:

God grant me courage to change the things I can.

Today, I and other white Americans do not have to accept the racially motivated violence against our fellow citizens. We do not have to accept that a young

black man can be killed for jogging in a neighborhood. We do not have to accept that a defenseless black man can be pinned to the ground by his neck with the knee of a police officer until he dies. We do not have to accept that other white police officers would stand by and watch as this black man pleaded, “I can't breathe!”

We can change such things! But if we are not going to accept such injustices, then we will need the courage to change ourselves. America has a tragic history of racism that predates the founding of our country. Racism was institutionalized in the Constitution, then legislated in slavery and segregation. The violence against black people today demonstrates that racism persists in our 21st century society.

Yet another truth is that too many white Americans, though perhaps sympathetic to suffering, have acted as though we are unable to change such things. Too many of us

have accepted a false sense of serenity.

Of course, few white Americans actually perpetuate deadly violence against anyone. But we white people must listen to the descriptions of the double-standards, the abuse, and the fear that is part of the reality of being a racial minority in this country. For example, black men tell stories of the first time a police officer pulled a gun on them. Tragically, many white people are turning a deaf ear because violence has been part of some protests.

Let me be clear, any loss of livelihood or life is unacceptable.

Yet, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said riot is the language of the unheard. We must listen to the truth behind the frustration and anger. Listening to learn takes a specific kind of courage.

Step No. 4 of the recovery program for addicts is to make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. It is time for white Americans to take

this step toward recovery. Addictions cause people to make excuses in order to justify themselves. In this case, I often hear people say that they will not apologize for being white. That is not the point.

The point is that racism is not a thing of the past. Like an addiction, we remain in the grips of a horrible cycle. Segregation is prevalent in our public schools and private housing sectors. Prisons are filled with people of color. Police violence is disproportionately directed against black and brown people. This honest confession that our society is addicted is painful, but confession is also holy. For once we have admitted the problem, we can do something about it.

Long ago, a brown-skinned rabbi from Nazareth claimed that the truth shall set us free. May we have the courage to change the things we can so that, one day, our prayer will be answered: “Free at last, Free at last! Thank God almighty we are free at last!”

School daze? Let's learn and do better

Public schools are supposed to begin the new year about 10 weeks from now, so I asked two teachers what to expect.



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

“I have no idea,” one said. “I'm exhausted just trying to get this year finished. It's been especially hard this year.”

The other added, “So far as next year, if there's a plan we don't know it. I can't even get back into my classroom.”

Time is becoming es-

sential to learn how North Carolina's children will return to school August 17th. I can just picture up to 40 children riding to and from school in a bus, piling into classrooms never designed for social distancing, spilling into hallways and playgrounds, then eating lunch en masse in cafeterias. It is not a vision that looks safe.

For decades we've been talking about the need to reform public education and, while doing so in the middle of a pandemic may not be ideal, it certainly provides the motivation needed. We need some strategic and innovative thinking.

Let's start by acknowledging that we must get our 1.5 million K-12 students back

in school. Online learning, which holds promise, has yielded mixed results. Some students did well, but many didn't; they didn't have tablets, available high-speed broadband Internet or proper instruction. Our education system wasn't adequately prepared and far too many students essentially lost the last third of the school year. We can learn from what worked, what didn't and do better next time. When students return to class their teachers will need to assess how much remediation is needed.

Priority one is the need to sanitize schools every day. We need a nurse or certified nursing assistant in each school so that, at the minimum, each student's tem-

perature will be checked every morning upon entering. Ideally, periodic testing will be administered to identify those infected. It is universally accepted that frequent handwashing and student distancing are essential. Since most classrooms will not allow the desired six feet of separation, the numbers in each classroom will likely need reducing.

The value of in-person instruction, especially in early grades, cannot be overestimated. Some systems have experimented by staggering dayparts. Some students come early, are dismissed, rooms are sanitized, and another cohort takes the late shift. Other programs alternate the number of instruction

days, with some students present Monday-Wednesday and Friday and others on Tuesday-Thursday and Saturday. Online instruction, assignments and tests are offered on those days when children are not present in class. North Carolina already has a teacher shortage and any of these options will require more teachers, along with transportation and other challenges, but the biggest might be how working parents can accommodate children's schedules.

Our spin is that school systems need more flexibility. We can demand certain prerequisites, like course offerings, course requirements and other essentials, but we already allow char-

ter schools more flexibility, so let's give all schools fewer controls, then hold them accountable. Systems in counties with very few cases of coronavirus might decide to go back to traditional school days and calendars, while those counties with many cases might determine different solutions.

But whatever the options chosen it is important that parents, employers and communities know those decisions. And they need to know very soon.

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

MEALS

Continued from page A1

closed, our students were still expected to learn and continue with their schoolwork and activities. A growing child or teenager cannot learn and grow without adequate nutrition. Our goal is to nourish the child's body and mind so the student can be at his or her best to learn."

At the beginning of the pandemic, 46 percent of Chatham County's public school students received free and reduced-priced meals, so there were already a number of students — around, 4,200, Özkurt said — who were in regular need of food. The district could also make money to operate the food nutrition program from what she termed "supplemental sales," other students and faculty buying breakfast and lunch from cafeterias.

But the meal distribu-

tion set-up didn't bring in the same revenue.

"Our district has lost revenue from our supplemental sales," she said. "We are not feeding the same number of students and faculty we would under normal conditions."

The situation is not unique to Chatham County Schools. In May, the School Nutrition Association, a nonprofit group that represents school nutrition personnel, reported that 68 percent of school meal program directors said they were "anticipat(ing) a financial loss" and 23 percent were "uncertain about financial losses." Nearly 1,900 school districts nationwide were represented in the survey.

"As schools closed their doors, school nutrition professionals quickly transitioned from cafeteria service to curbside pickup, and have continued serving on the frontlines to ensure hungry students have access to

healthy meals during COVID-19 closures," SNA President Gay Anderson said in a press release accompanying the survey results. "Despite these tireless efforts, school meal programs nationwide are experiencing crippling financial losses that could impede efforts to serve students next year."

CCS has discussed this reality during the pandemic. At an April meeting of the Chatham County Board of Education, Özkurt said the district would lose money from this effort, something Superintendent Derrick Jordan re-emphasized.

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

experience."

Both federal- and state-level efforts have been made to direct funds to school nutrition programs. The N.C. General Assembly passed a bill last month to direct \$75 million to the state's Dept. of Public Instruction "for school nutrition services provided in response to COVID-19 by public school units." And the SNA said the latest COVID-19 relief bill, the HEROES Act (which just passed the U.S. House), would direct \$3 billion in federal emergency funding "to help child nutrition programs cover costs associated with COVID-19 school closures."

How much of that funding will fall to Chatham County is not clear, but the district has said it will continue to serve meals throughout the summer, even though money is not being made.

Özkurt said that beginning June 15, meals will be offered Monday

through Thursday at five schools across the county, with separate meals for Fridays offered on Thursdays as well. Additionally, bus routes for meal distribution will continue through August 7.

The important piece, Özkurt said, is getting "nutritious and healthy meals" to those who need them in Chatham County, and a recent report from the nonprofit NC Child shows that those meals are crucial, particularly for children. According to data released last week, 42 percent of Chatham County children live in families who "struggl(ed) with poverty before the pandemic struck," and 19 percent "lived in families that struggled to put nutritious food on the table."

NC Child said in the report that nearly 30 percent of children were in families considered "food insecure" prior to COVID-19 in Tyrell, Scotland, Washington and Robeson counties.

Özkurt said that the district may rework how child nutrition services work during the next school year, while "taking into account many factors and recommendations from the state and local government to do it in the safest way possible for our students and staff." But in the meantime, she said, they're focused on continuing to provide food during the pandemic. She cited working with nonprofits and other agencies in the county to make distribution possible.

"Food security is a community collaboration," Özkurt said. "It is very important to build relationships with other outside agencies and nonprofits to reduce barriers to food access for our students anytime throughout the year."

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

CHEEK

Continued from page A1

Cheek and his wife of 50 years, Alpha Alston Cheek, had one daughter, Lecia Cheek Marsh. She and her husband Kenneth provided the couple with two grandchildren, Courtney and Trevor.

Cheek was laid to rest on Sunday at Chatham Memorial Park in Siler City following a service at Corinth AME Zion Church.

As word of the town's loss began to spread, so did words of condolences from many with whom Cheek worked, honoring his legacy.

"I have known Larry since his days with CP&L," said Siler City Commissioner Curtis Brown (District 3). "He was a true friend. I am new to the board of commissioners and Larry was mentoring me with the fine points of being a commissioner. I will profoundly miss him and his guidance."

"Larry was not only a friend but a mentor as well," Siler City Commissioner Chip Price (At-Large) said. "When I first came on the board he helped me avoid making some silly mistakes. We often bounced ideas off each other. Larry always strived to do what was right for Siler City and all its citizens. Siler City and I have lost a true friend. He will be sorely missed."

Dist. 4 Commissioner Bill Haiges also sought Cheek's advice on issues.

"I had the honor of working with Commissioner Cheek for the last six years and truly valued, and have always solicited, his opinions and advice," he said. "He always approached a difficult decision by focusing on what outcome would be the best for all the residents of Siler City, not what would solely benefit his district. I'm a better person for having known, and worked with him. The Town will truly feel his loss, as I will very personally."

Lewis Fadely, who represents Dist. 5 on the town board, said it's "a sad time" for he and his fellow commissioners, and for Siler City. He called Cheek "a wonderful human being."

"I had the pleasure of serving with him for seven years," Fadely said. "He was a humble man who led by example. He led by serving, always placing the needs of others ahead of his own. He was truly a neighbor to all. I think that if we all had a little more Larry Cheek in us, this world would be a better place. I will miss him."

At-large Commissioner Cindy Bray described Cheek as "a good friend of mine."

Cheek cared deeply about Siler City and worked hard for its citizens, she said. "I learned

a lot from him while serving on the board," Bray said. "I will truly miss him."

Commissioner Tony Siler (District 1) fondly remembered his longtime colleague on the board.

"Mayor Pro-Tem Cheek and I sit beside each other and served on the Board together for 17 years," Siler said. "He loved the people of Siler City and the community he represented. He loved what he was doing and will be greatly missed."

"Mayor Pro-Tem Cheek was such a valuable part of the board and his leadership and guidance will be missed," Siler City Town Manager Roy Lynch said. "He was highly respected by staff and it was always a pleasure to see his smiling face when he stopped by town hall. Many times, it was to say 'hello' and see if there was anything he could do to assist. He was an advocate for the residents and always concerned for the well being of town staff."

Former Town Manager Bryan Thompson, who serves as assistant Chatham County manager, said he always respected and enjoyed Cheek's "leadership and his love for our community. He's someone you could look to for sound guidance and a clear vision."

Chatham's elected legislators also offered condolences.

"He was indeed a dedicated and compassionate public servant," Sen. Valerie Foushee posted on her Facebook page. "I am grateful for his leadership and his friendship. I offer my sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues. Praying for peace and comfort now and the days to come."

"Mayor Pro Tem Larry Cheek was one of my earliest supporters when I first ran for office," Rep. Robert Reives II wrote on his Facebook page. "He was an amazing advocate for Siler City and helped move the town forward every day. But most of all I remember his kindness. He really appreciated the honor that it was to serve as an elected official as much as anyone I've ever known. I cannot express how much I'm going to miss him."

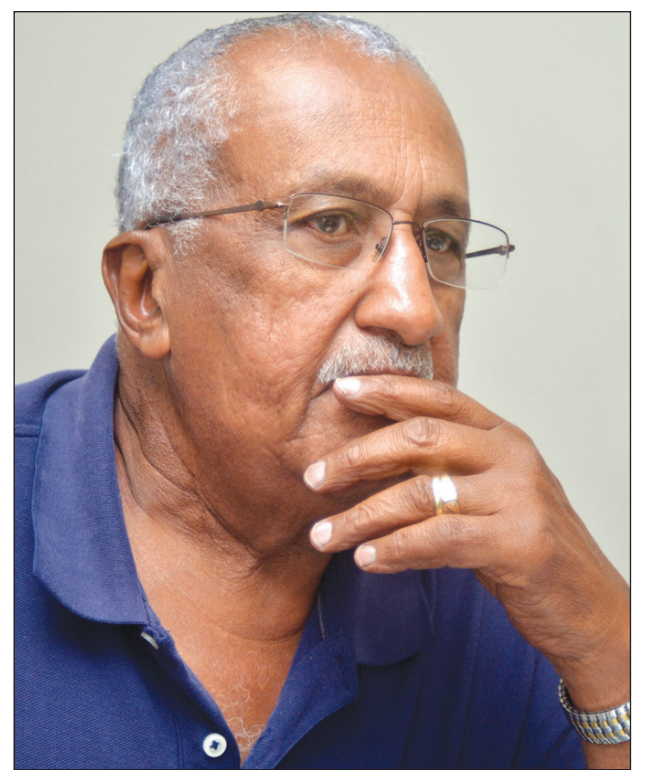
Grimes issued a Mayoral Proclamation honoring Cheek's 17 years of service, which noted that Cheek "earned the profound respect of area residents representing all ages and walks of life." The town of Pittsboro, at the request of Pittsboro Commissioner and Mayor Pro-Tem Pamela Baldwin, was expected to issue a resolution honoring Cheek's years of service at its budget meeting on Tuesday.

At the Siler City Board of Commissioners meeting on Monday, town attorney William Morgan told the board that his update for the week was for "the saddest of reasons." Morgan said that as state law requires the board to have a Mayor Pro-Tem, they needed to decide which member would take over the role for Cheek, who served in that capacity for more than a decade. The board

chose Bray.

In addition, Morgan provided the board members initial guidance from the UNC School of Government on filling the vacant District 2 seat, held by Cheek for 17 years. Morgan noted that "there's no case law" that argues the board must fill the seat, but as Cheek still had three and a half years left in his term, it would be something he recommended. Haiges asked if it would be possible to wait until after the 2020 Census is complete and the commissioner districts were re-drawn to fill the vacancy, which Morgan said he would research that, but reiterated that state law does not govern the time-frame within which a municipal vacancy should be filled.

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



File photo

Siler City Commissioner and Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Cheek died last week at the age of 71. He served on the town's board for 17 years.

A personal tribute to Larry Cheek from Mayor Grimes

BY JOHN GRIMES
Siler City Mayor



Grimes

Our community has lost one of its finest citizens in the passing of Larry Cheek.

I have lost one of the best friends I have ever been honored to have. Our community will miss his steady hand, his wise counsel, his gifts as a peacemaker and his kind, generous, gentle, and loving spirit. I know I will miss talking with him every day and hearing his voice and seeking his counsel on many matters, most often what was best for town government.

Larry offered invaluable perspective and insight that I came to count on over the nearly two decades we served together. His family, his church, his friends and our town government will miss his wise, intelligent, prudent, and judicious approach. He was always thoroughly

prepared at town board meetings, sensitive to concerns of citizens, careful to weigh all options (particularly ones that might be considered prickly), mild-mannered in his approach, sensible, practical, diplomatic and discreet. He was a devoted family man, who lived a life of integrity, a highly respected public servant and a man of God.

We owe a debt of gratitude to his many elders who mentored him from his youth into his adulthood for a life of service and then shared with us this exemplary, extraordinary human being. We are grateful he chose Siler City as the place to live his life, raise his family, and serve his church and community.

It is for these reasons that at his passing I directed our town, in an unusual but well-deserved tribute, the lowering of flags on our town buildings to half-staff for a period of five days.

I have lost a great friend. Siler City has lost one of her most favored sons.

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FERRIS

Continued from page A1

policies, its music and literature, its manners and myths, even the iced tea that washes down its catfish and cornbread.”

He is a former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

He also served as the founding director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, where he was a faculty member for 18 years.

He is senior director emeritus of the Center for the Study of the American South in Chapel Hill, and is an adjunct professor emeritus in UNC’s folklore curriculum.

He also happens to be a Grammy winner.

In 2018, Ferris’ decades of work in the arena of southern studies was capped by the release of a career-spanning collection of his field recordings, “Voices of Mississippi: Artists and Musicians Documented by William Ferris,” released by Atlanta-based record label Dust-to-Digital. The box set — and its accompanying book — won Ferris two Grammy Awards last year.

An ‘eccentric interest’

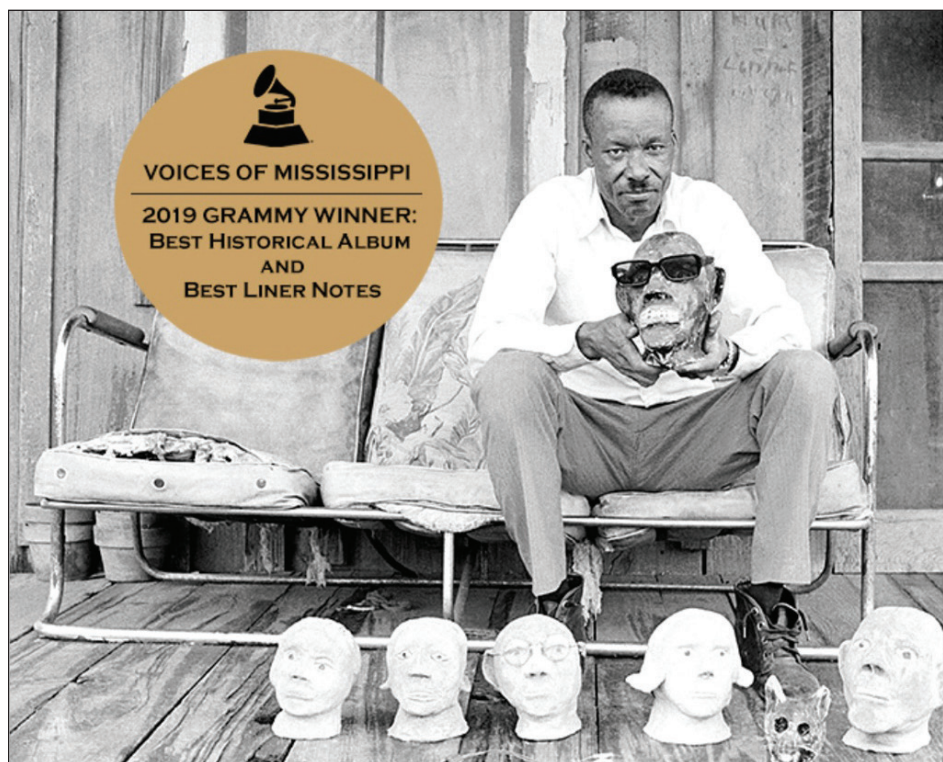
But when Ferris first took a notion as a young man growing up on a cotton, soybean and cattle farm in Vicksburg, Mississippi, to begin documenting the culture surrounding him, there were no academic courses devoted to the study of the South, and few role models and resources to which he could turn.

“I really started this work almost from birth,” he said, “in the sense that I was born on a farm in Mississippi and grew up surrounded by storytellers and music. I used to go to a little black church every first Sunday and learn the spirituals and hymns. I had no idea that that part of my world, which was so important, was something I would end up studying and teaching.”

“I had been doing recordings on the farm where I grew up,” Ferris said, “just because when I went to church as a young child, I loved the music. And as I grew older, I realized there were no hymns in the church and when the families were no longer there, the music would disappear. So that was the impetus to record and photograph, and later film, the services. I didn’t know there was any value to that and my family thought it was sort of an eccentric interest that wouldn’t lead anywhere.”

Whether eyeing a future in the work or not, Ferris persisted.

“The study of the south, I just did it because I loved the work,” he said.



Submitted photo

The Grammy-winning multimedia set ‘Voices of Mississippi: Artists and Musicians Documented by William Ferris,’ contains music, stories and interviews compiled by the Southern folklore expert from a large archive of material Ferris created and donated to the Southern Folklife Collection at the Wilson Special Collections Library in Chapel Hill.

“I didn’t think of it as work. It was just something I wanted to do. But it was only much later, really, when I was teaching at Yale and I was offered a position as director — the first director of the Center to Study Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi — that I began to try to envision my own work in relation to the American South in a more sort of focused way.”

“I’d always been a Southerner and my relationship with the region was a very important part of my development, both living in the South and living outside of it as a student, and later teaching at Yale,” he said. “When I went to Oxford to develop the Center, I began to try to see my own work in relation to the study of the South and a field that never existed before called Southern Studies.”

As a young folklorist, Ferris “would have loved to have been able to do a degree in Southern Studies,” he said, “to work with people in the fields of history and literature and music and religion, which now is possible and encouraged. But all that had to be sort of articulated and developed over time.”

‘The dean of it all’

After attending public schools in his hometown of Vicksburg, Ferris left Mississippi to continue his education at Brooks School in North Andover, Mass and later studied at Davidson College in Davidson, where he earned a B.A. degree in English Literature.

While no courses existed in the precise field of study Ferris had, on his own, been pursuing, as a student at Davidson, Ferris discovered the work of Alan Lomax, the pioneering ethnomusicologist, born in 1915, who captured field recordings of

folk music and folk musicians. Lomax had recorded thousands of songs — by scores of unknown artists as well as the likes of folk musician Woody Guthrie and blues musician Huddie William “Lead Belly” Ledbetter — which were preserved at the Library of Congress. Lomax also compiled a book, “Folk Songs of North America,” devoted to the preservation of folk music.

Ferris said Lomax, whom he later befriended, was “the dean of it all. He was there recording before anyone else. To me, he was a role model and inspiration.”

Lomax’s book, containing the lyrics and music of songs such as “John Henry” and “Darlin’ Corey,” was likewise “sort of our Bible,” Ferris said.

“When I stumbled on those Lomax recordings [while at Davidson] and I realized some of them were done in Mississippi and were kind of similar to what I’d been doing, that kind of validated my own work in my mind. Later I got to know Alan. He was a friend. He came to Yale and spoke to my students.”

‘Sense of place’

At UNC, where Ferris joined the faculty in 2002, students pursuing Southern Studies are “doing incredible work,” Ferris said.

“There are a lot of students that are marching to different drummers and, as in my case, when they find folklore it’s like a lifeline,” Ferris said.

But why is the work of documenting and preserving folklore and folk life important?

“What is important about the work,” said Ferris, “is it goes to the heart and soul of people and the places where they live. Music

and stories are as old as the human experience on the planet and they ground us in what I call ‘sense of place.’ We live in the Piedmont and that is where bluegrass was forged. Look at Earl Scruggs and some of the other musicians; the music of the Mississippi Delta, the blues; jazz and New Orleans; country music and places like Nashville. What the folklorist does is peel that onion and try to understand what is it about that song, or that music, that is a key to opening the door of places and the lives of people.”

Those people range from “very famous musicians like B.B. King,” Ferris said, to “totally unknown artists like prison inmates. They all have a common thread in their life, which is the stories and music that shaped them. And it’s something we all identify with.”

‘Turned my life upside down’

“Voices of Mississippi,” the three-CD set (two discs of blues and gospel recordings and a third disc of interviews and storytelling) and accompanying 120-page hardcover book edited by Ferris, was released to much acclaim in late 2018. Among the champions of the work were the late producer and composer Quincy Jones, who said the set “taps into the rich world of southern musicians, storytellers, and writers. Their beautiful voices touched my heart. Bill Ferris is a profound historian. I am his biggest fan!”

Last February, the set won Ferris two 2019 Grammy Awards: Best Historical Album and Best Liner Notes.

“I had no idea how important a Grammy Award was until I was nominated for one,”

Ferris said. “People told me, ‘You don’t even have to win.’ Just having the nominations puts that word beside your name for the rest of time. We won two for ‘Voices of Mississippi.’ And that has turned my life upside down.”

Since the wins, “Voices of Mississippi” has spawned several off-shoot projects that continue to keep the veteran folklorist busy.

“We have a musical production slated next February for Lincoln Center in New York that features Mississippi musicians, some of whom are related to the artists I worked with,” he said.

He’s also working on a theatrical production inspired by the box set that the Playmakers Repertory Company in Chapel Hill will launch.

And the box set itself continues to be successful itself.

“The project has been reviewed literally all over the world,” he said, “and really went beyond anything I ever imagined possible with recordings by artists who are mostly totally unknown. But now they are known and they’re preserved for the rest of time because of those awards.”

But what excites Ferris most about the project, he said, is the 150-page book packaged with the music.

“I see this material as oral literature,” he said, “and you can now teach the poetry of the blues, of the gospel music, and look at the stories and literature that is the foundation for the great writers of Southern literature, like [William] Faulkner, Richard Wright, Thomas Wolfe, who built and anchored their own literary voices on the oral tradition. It was part of their childhood.”

‘The more things change...’

UNC Chancellor Kevin M. Guskiewicz, in announcing that Ferris would deliver the University’s 2019 Winter Commencement address, said, “Bill Ferris personifies Carolina’s culture of collaboration, bringing together anthropology, history, the arts, Southern studies, African American music and folklore to showcase narratives that have long been ignored, preserve history that some would prefer forgotten and in the process reveal traditions and stories that break down barriers between us.”

“I Am A Man,” A collection of Ferris’ photographs of the Civil Rights movement, taken between 1960 and 1970, will be published by the University Press of Mississippi early next year.

“Sadly,” Ferris said, “the French have a phrase — Plus ça change, plus c’est la meme chose — ‘the more things change, the more they stay the same.’ The issues that I

wrestled with as a young person — of race and segregation and violence that appear throughout the box set in music and stories — are sadly still very much a part of our life. They were often associated with Mississippi and the South in my lifetime. But today, it’s all over the country. One of the people I interviewed in the Delta said, ‘You know, in Mississippi they have a season for hunting duck and deer and quail, but for black people, it’s open season all year long. You can kill them anytime, and it’s legal.’”

“That sounds,” he said, “like harsh language focused on the state of Mississippi. But as we see today, it’s all over the nation, especially when young black men are killed, most recently for jogging while black. It’s just horrific. And this collection, in many ways, is a way of understanding the tragic flaw of race and racism in our nation, in our region, our state. You can make it as local as you want, or as broad as you want, but the issues that are dealt with in this music and the stories are very much alive and well today.”

“We thought Rev. King and the Civil Rights movement was moving us out of all that,” Ferris said. “The election of Barack Obama, they said, put us in a ‘post racial era,’ where race was no longer the driving force. But it seems almost as if it’s gone the other way. So I feel like it’s, again, one more reason to understand the connections in the human voice. The songs and stories chronicle issues that are central to our experiences today and probably will be with us for many more generations.”

‘A powerhouse’

Tommy Edwards, the well-known Pittsboro bluegrass musician and founding member of The Bluegrass Experience, met Ferris when Ferris joined the faculty at UNC in 2002, introduced by their mutual friend, author John Shelton Reed.

Reed brought Ferris with him to Siler City one weekend to hear the Bluegrass Experience and Reed and Ferris ended up joining the band on stage to help sing a few songs, Edwards recalled. The two became friends and Edwards spoke — and played guitar, banjo and mandolin — for Ferris’ students a few times.

“He’s just a great guy,” Edwards said of his friend. “What a cheerleader for folk music and traditional music and traditional arts like pottery. He’s such a warm and gregarious and knowledgeable person. One of the things he did that’s so important was going back to Mississippi and the Delta and finding those old blues musicians and interviewing them, taking their pictures and recording their music and preserving what they’ve done, because a lot of them weren’t recording stars or people who had a lot of their music available to the public. I think it’s helped bridge some of the racial divide by him going to the musicians — most of whom were black — and getting their music and their stories out so people could see what they had been through and what they had to do to be able to make music.”

“Voices of Mississippi” is important, too, Ferris said, in that it “connects the dots” of his expansive career, presenting “the whole American South through the lens of these voices, some of whom are highly educated literary figures, painters, others who are coming exclusively out of the oral tradition of the work camps, penitentiaries, the mule traders calling horses and mules. It’s a taste of everything. I just keep digging in the same garden year after year, and it’s a very rich garden.”

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

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3 Chatham Girl Scouts named local top sellers for 2020 Girl Scout Cookie Program

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

Every winter, during a seven-week window between January and March, the Girl Scout Cookie Program gets underway and thousands of boxes of the popular sweet treats — from Thin Mints to Caramel deLites — exchange hands.

“The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the perfect opportunity for girls to develop important skills that they will use throughout their life while raising funds to support future leadership endeavors with Girl Scouts,” said Kelly Griffin, the product sales director for Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines, a region that includes Chatham County.

“All of the girls that participated in the 2020 program made their own unique contribution,” added Griffin, “making them entrepreneurs in the largest girl-led business in the world, and we could not be prouder of them. We are excited to honor and celebrate the leaders of this year’s Girl Scout Cookie Program.”

Those leaders include three local Girl Scouts whose combined efforts during this year’s sales window — from January 11 through March 1 — realized sales totaling 2,567 boxes of cookies, making them the top-selling Scouts in Chatham



County. Judith White of Chapel Hill is Chatham County’s top seller, with 1,038 boxes of Girl Scout cookies sold. Kameron Gooch-Degraffenreid of Siler City achieved the second highest number of sales, with 776 boxes sold. Mariah Pedrotty of Pittsboro placed third with 753 boxes sold. Joining the Chatham County Girl Scouts, the regional council’s top sellers were Chloe Huggler of Wake County (5,005 boxes); Allison Bundle of Onslow County (4,826 boxes); and Taryn Brooks of Harnett County (4,600 boxes).

“I have been selling cookies since I was a Girl Scout Daisy and have learned customer service, public speaking, sales, goal setting, marketing, keeping inventory, banking and money management, and that you can reach your goals with a lot of hard work,” said Huggler, the council’s top seller. “The proceeds from cookie sales are helping me to pay my own way on a Girl Scout trip to Scotland and Ireland in 2021.”

Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines — a region encompassing 41 central and eastern North Carolina counties and engaging more than 26,000 girls and 9,000 adult volunteers — sold more than 3 million boxes of cookies with approximately 11,000 Girl Scouts participating in the 2020 program.

According to Dana Erickson, a public relations official with the Coastal Pines program, more than 2,300 girls sold more than 400 boxes of cookies each and 350 girls sold more than 1,000 boxes each. Council-wide, the average number of boxes sold per girl was 282. Nationally, the average number of boxes sold by Girl Scouts is approximately 165.

This year, the council exceeded its Operation Cookie Drop goal by collecting donations to send more than 104,000 boxes of cookies to U.S. military personnel, culminating in more than a million boxes delivered through this

council-wide service project since its inception in 2005.

Participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Program is “a long-held and cherished tradition for girls, with recognition as a top cookie seller a coveted honor,” according to a Girl Scouts press release. “Being named a top seller goes beyond what’s in the box as it highlights a girl’s determination to set and achieve goals, develop business and financial literacy skills, and enhance their entrepreneurial spirit. This recognition also demonstrates a girl’s mastery of the five skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics as she runs her very own cookie business.”

Erickson added: “The skills girls are learning through the Girl Scout Cookie Program helps them achieve their goals and fund leadership experiences like international trips, service projects, and other skill-building activities. Celebrating a century of the world’s largest girl-led business, Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines congratulates all our cookie sellers on an amazing cookie season and for using the power of the cookie to help build amazing experiences.”

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

Mountaire Farms makes \$10K gift



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Mark Reif (second from right), the human resources employee and community relations manager for Mountaire Farms of Siler City, presented a \$10,000 donation to the Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina at the Wren Family Center in Siler City on Monday. Reif is shown with clubs’ CEO, Daniel Simmons, and (from left) clubs staff members Elizabeth Colebrook (resource development and marketing manager), Joy Roberts (Wren Family Center unit director) and Brandon Kivett (director of operations). Mountaire’s donation will be used to build an on-site kitchen at the Wren Center. The clubs’ summer program at the Wren Center will open at half capacity starting June 8.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Daniel Simmons, the CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina, speaks with Mountaire Farms’ Mark Reif on Monday after receiving a gift of \$10,000 for the club.

NEWS BRIEFS

Neighbor2Neighbor/ VecinoAVecino starts GoFundMe

The Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor/VecinoAVecino Program has started a GoFundMe fundraiser for the neighbors who want to contribute monetarily and for those who want to continue to sustain the program.

The Chatham Neighbor2Neighbor program connects neighbors who have the resources and time with neighbors who are in need of help. This could be through buying and delivering groceries, toiletries, cleaning supplies or by helping people pay their bills. Through the fundraiser, Abundance NC will be

able to distribute these funds, equally, to the people in need.

The GoFundMe can be found at: gofundme.com/f/chatham-neighbor2neighbor-vecinoavecino. If you would like to apply to this program, the English version of the application can be found at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-VTlJu-Q_B0DMdGQRsXBdMU49TX-hYFBj3mi2FyGGR6zaf8yg/view-form. The Spanish version can be found at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwhZW-fd175Jk-MpOI0feFKypNSwFkI3ZKdvAHghB-k_0PGA/view-form

— CN+R staff reports

Pittsboro First Sunday events canceled until July

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — In a routine year, the popular Pittsboro First Sunday Artisan Fair & Market would have kicked off its nine-month return in March and progressed — including a June 7 installment — through December.

But 2020, in most respects, hasn’t been routine, with the coronavirus pandemic interrupting countless plans, the popular Pittsboro staple being one.

The family-friendly outdoor event — held from noon to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of each month — features live music, food trucks and dozens of vendors selling local art, jewelry, textiles, woodwork, soaps, pottery

and the like.

But out of caution surrounding the coronavirus and its potential spread, the Pittsboro Business Association, which sponsors the event, and the Town of Pittsboro have postponed the 2020 debut of First Sunday activities until July.

Interim Pittsboro Town Clerk Cassandra Bullock posted an announcement to the Town of Pittsboro’s Facebook profile on May 29, noting the event’s June 7 date is canceled “in order to protect the most vulnerable members of our community from the COVID-19 virus and slow its spread.”

“On March 11, 2020,” the town’s statement continued, “the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Pandemic. We are continuously monitor-

ing this evolving situation and will issue new guidance when that is warranted. Please monitor the town’s website at pittsboro.gov for additional notifications and alerts.”

Likewise, the Pittsboro Business Association offers visitors to its website a “2020 update” that notes First Sunday events have been canceled through July due to the pandemic.

“Please check back regularly,” the PBA’s website urges.

“The town is involved because of the special event application process,” said Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass. “Discussions were held with the First Sunday coordinator and the conclusion was that the event could be held when the Governor’s order allowed for special events and festivals.”

The town clerk’s announcement “was issued to clear up some confusion,” said Nass, “because a Facebook post had announced it would be held [June 7].”

Fans of the event, while disappointed, appear largely understanding of the decision to postpone.

“It’s a wonderful event that brings our community together,” former Pittsboro commissioner Bett Wilson Foley said of First Sundays, noting it draws in people from a wide area to shop in downtown Pittsboro. “It’s something that brings out community together.”

But postponing it while the region continues to get a handle on the coronavirus is understandable, she said.

“I think it’s the right decision,” said Foley.

The town’s Facebook announcement also drew understanding.

“Great decision,” wrote one resident. “Kudos for making the hard decision.”

Another wrote: “Good call.”

Mayor Nass said the topic will be revisited for July and a decision on how to proceed in July “will be based on the Governor’s Phase 3 order.”

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



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CHURCH NEWS

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

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.

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.

NEW SALEM CHURCH

Free Oil Changes Saturday, June 6 at Strickland Brothers 10 Minute Oil Change, 20 Deegan Dr., Pittsboro (919-542-5600). You MUST have a coupon to get the free oil change; coupons are first come-first serve. Pick up coupon at New Salem Church, 5030 Old Graham Road, Pittsboro.

SILER CITY | 2020-21 BUDGET

Budget draft calls for slight spending decrease, no tax increase

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — There were some shifts in funds, but generally, things will stay pretty much the same on Siler City's bottom line next year.

Siler City Town Manager Roy Lynch introduced the proposed town budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 Monday night. The spending plan calls for a nominal decrease of less than three-tenths of a percent in expenses while keeping the town's property tax rate at 54 cents.

In his budget message to town commissioners, Lynch said that in January, when the board met to discuss the spending plan, they "had no idea what was ahead," referencing COVID-19.

"The budget process is occurring during a time of uncertainties due to the economic impact of this global pandemic and has affected the operations of our entire organization," Lynch wrote. "Siler City is fortunate to remain a financially strong town and although this budget does not fund all requests, it does address top priority needs."

Lynch attributed the spending decrease — which leaves the projected total budget at \$15,742,307 — to reductions in anticipated sales tax and Parks and Recreation fees, which, in addition to property taxes, provide revenue for the town's general fund. The general fund is the town's account which handles much of the business of the town including salary, equipment and supplies for a majority of its departments.

The proposed budget also keeps the fire district tax rate at 12 cents.

Lynch said in an executive statement that "continued conservative management of the

Town's finances" was "critical" to the town's "fiscal health." That said, there were still multiple increases in specific departments, including:

- More than \$36,000 for Building and Grounds, which comes from adding Court maintenance and lease payments into the department

- More than \$15,000 for continuing full-time hours and increased training for the Siler City Police Department's domestic violence advocate

- A 3 percent hike in Public Works to match overtime projections and Duke Energy utility rate increases

But the budget plan also accounted for decreases in spending in Finance, Human Resources and Fire — mostly related to travel, training and capital expenditures under-taken last fiscal year. Additionally, the Police Department requested seven new vehicles, but none were granted "due to the revenue constraints along with the conservative approach not to incur any additional debt service at this time."

However, the document states, "the funding of fleet replacement, especially within public safety-related operations, is critical and must be reviewed at quarterly increments during the coming fiscal year."

Lynch said that property tax revenue is anticipated to remain constant as the recent property valuations remained stable. Lynch anticipates the town's sales tax revenue will decrease by approximately \$40,000. Conversely, utility taxes are expected to increase by approximately \$14,500.

Lynch is also anticipating a decrease in water and wastewater revenues because of the suspension of dine-in

services, school closures and the suspension of disconnect and late fees for water and wastewater services.

Those fees support the town's water and sewer funds which must be used exclusively to support the town's water and wastewater services. Though those losses are considered significant, Lynch notes that an increase in the Powell Bill Funds, which come from the state to support equipment for street maintenance, paving and sidewalk repair, has "offset" some of the losses.

The proposed budget also includes new fees based on contracts held for planning operations that are conducted by Chatham County or other private entities contracted by the town. Fees for water and wastewater will remain stable, but an "after hours" re-connect fee of \$75 was added. In addition, fees for trash services will increase by 3.2 percent because of increased charges by the service provider Waste Industries.

Lynch said that the board should revisit the budget in the second quarter of the fiscal year and review any deviations from the anticipated revenues. As several requests for funding, including non-profit funding and additional police vehicles for the Siler City Police Department, were not included in the proposed budget, a regular review during the fiscal year would allow for updates to the budget.

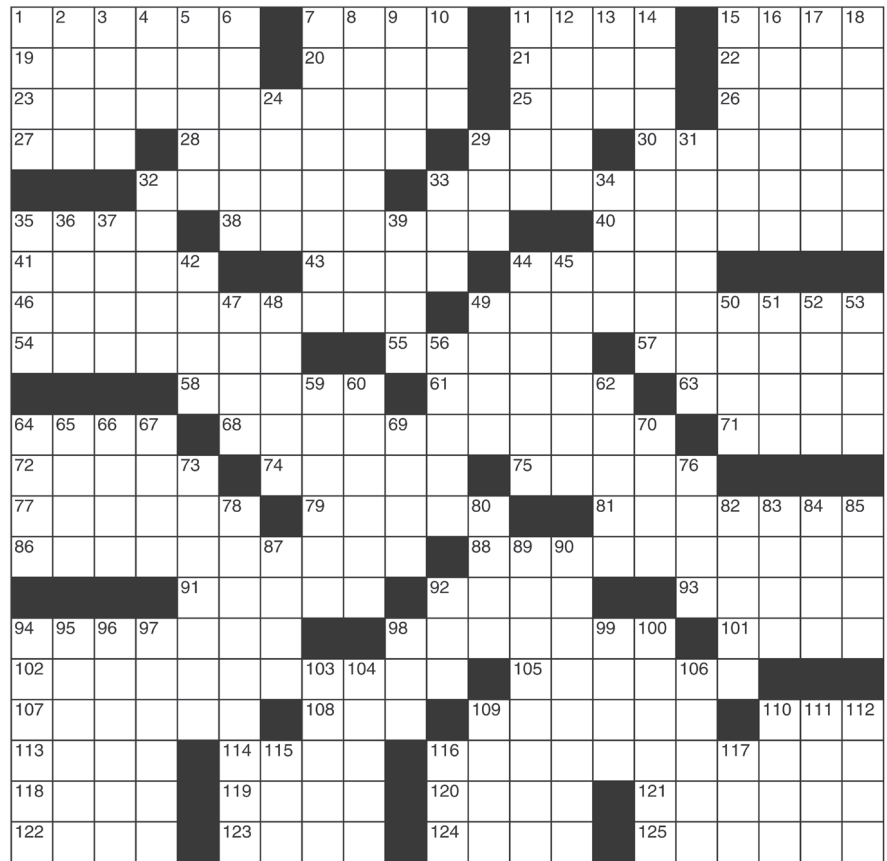
The town of Siler City will hold a virtual public hearing on the proposed budget at 7 p.m. on June 15, using Zoom technology, from Siler City's Town Hall Courtroom.

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

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

PRIZEWORTHY

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| 32 Mogadishu resident | 81 1982 Dustin Hoffman film | 118 Dust particle | 16 Complained childishly | 66 Done the backstroke, e.g. | 103 Boxing venue |
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| 41 Jungian inner self | | 123 Circus barker | 31 Strip down | 73 Major combat | 112 Word before while |
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| | | | 36 Big burden | | |



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

S M A S H E S S A P O G E E S C A R C E
 P A Y C U T S P A R E N T P I L E O N
 O D E A T H W H E R E I S T H Y S T I N G
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In Loving Memory of
Boris L. Siler
 1/23/61 - 6/5/19

It's hard to believe it's been a full year since I had to say goodbye. Yes, I'm sad and still cry. My heart knows I'll see you again. That's when our second life will begin.

Loving & Missing You
Your Wife,
Phillis Mapp Siler

Congratulations 2020 Graduate

Jordan-Matthews High School

JMHS **Claire Elisabeth Beck**

We Love You Poppa & Mema Clyde & Doris Beck

Hildaberry Creatives

CHATHAM BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Chatham Park, Chatham EDC and a new grocery store in Pittsboro

This week's column entry is all about Chatham County business goings-on, which is nice. The impetus for this column was to provide a look at what's happening for businesses in Chatham, but since things have been fairly slow recently, there hasn't been a whole lot to talk about.

Now there is, as we can point to three arguably positive things taking place.

Chatham Park picks four builders for second phase of Vineyards

The Vineyards neighborhood, the first residential area of the colossus that is Chatham Park, has picked up four custom builders to kick off a second section of housing. A post on Chatham Park's website says the four builders — Pre-witt Custom Homes, Upright Builders and Walker DesignBuild of Cary and Upton & Co. of Morrisville — were "hand selected for their reputation and expertise in the custom home market." The homes, which are now available for pre-sale, will be located across from a 10-acre park and the Thales Academy campus currently under construction.

"These four companies are among the premiere custom builders in our community," Vanessa Jenkins, executive vice president of Preston Development Company, said in the post. "The collective craft of these locally owned building companies will be integral as we continue our pursuit to develop the perfect community for our future residents."

Side note: New home sales have been one of the few things at least somewhat positive in the current economy. The U.S. Dept. of Commerce said last week that new home sales went up by 0.6 percent in April compared to March.

Chatham EDC offering new COVID-19 loan

The Chatham Economic Development Corporation announced last week that applications were open for a fund for local businesses who had been affected by COVID-19. The organization said the Chatham Loan Fund "helps entrepreneurs and small business access capital by providing collateral towards loans. Through the updated program, businesses can access up to \$10,000 as collateral to cover 100 percent of a loan to be used as working capital." The loan applications will be reviewed by the EDC's Board of Directors.

To be eligible, businesses must have been in operation for at least a year, not exceed more than \$3 million in annual revenue and be located in an "area appropriately zoned for business" within county borders. The money can only be used for "working capital or operational funds." To apply, head to chatham-edc.org.

TBJ: Lowes Foods grocery store coming to Mosaic

The Triangle Business Journal's Caleb Harshberger reported last week that Lowes Foods, a Winston-Salem-based grocery store chain, filed plans in April to bring a location to the Mosaic development in Pittsboro. According to the report, Northwood Lowes Foods will include a 50,000-square-foot grocery store, 8,400 square-foot of retail space and a gas station. Phase 1 of Mosaic, announced last year, included tenants like Town Hall Burger + Beer, People's Coffee, EDGE Aveda Day Spa and UNC Urgent Care. Lowes Foods currently has one Chatham County location — anchoring a shopping center off of U.S. Highway 15-501 in the Chapel Hill portion of the county.

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

CHATHAM VOTES 2020

County's November elections 'will probably look different'

BY OLIVIA ROJAS
News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Board of Elections is preparing for the 2020 general election amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We do plan, as usual, to have early voting," said Pandora Paschal, director of the Chatham County Board of Elections. "Right now, we are looking at some other options, but we don't have anything concrete. Voting will probably look different. Poll workers will probably have masks, there will probably be plexiglass, there will probably be someone passing out masks if voters don't already have one on and we will have sanitizing stations for throughout the day. So, it's going to look different."

In terms of voter turnout, Paschal doesn't expect Chatham County's turnout to waver.

"Chatham County, normally during presidential elections, we have the highest percentage or we have the second in the state in turnout," she said. "I'm not expecting anything less. I hope people will not allow the virus to stop them from casting their ballot since they have so many options."

In the meantime, the board is encouraging the absentee mail-in ballots to residents.

"They can do the by-mail ballots," Paschal said. "We are encouraging people who may be high-risk or don't want to stand in line to make

those requests. Those will not be mailed out until Sept. 1. I hope to encourage people to take advantage of early voting to take some people out of the precincts on election day."

Paschal said absentee mail-in ballots will be processed in an "open and transparent process."

"Once we receive the ballots, they go into a locked box and then when the board meets the board examines those envelopes to make sure the voter has done everything that is required of them by law," she said. "Once the ballots are approved, they [election board members] open the ballots and they are feed into the tabulator, but those votes are not tallied until election night. They do audits as well. Whatever is on the machine at the end of the meeting should be the beginning count at the next meeting. So, anybody that would like to come observe are more than welcome."

Franklin Gomez Flores, 26, a resident of Siler City, is seeking a seat as an unaffiliated candidate for the Chatham County Board of Commissioners' District 5 seat against incumbent Andy Wilkie, a Republican. Flores echoed Paschal's points.

"If in-person voting is allowed, I hope people will go to early voting versus election day because the line can get overwhelming depending on which precinct you belong to," he said.

But Gomez Flores said he still has some concerns.

"I've never really done a mail-in ballot," he said. "I'm interested in the process of it. Being able to guarantee individuals that the right person receives their ballot and that it is received and submitted is a concern for me."

Chatham's representative in the N.C. House of Representatives, Robert Reives II (D-Chatham), told the News + Record in April that he thinks expanding access to mail-in ballots should be done if it is feasible.

"With this virus, there doesn't seem to be a lot of middle ground," he said. "And I'd hate for people to be thinking that they have to risk their lives in order to exercise the right to vote. But that's part of what being in government is. Whatever you feel about any of these processes shouldn't matter. What matters is, how do we make sure that this works best for the people that we serve, and if that's the way to make it work best, let's get out of the way and let it work."

In addition to major federal and state offices, contested races in Chatham's November election include:

- Chatham County Board of Commissioners: Dist. 1, 2 and 5.
- Chatham County Board of Education: Dist. 1 and 2.
- Chatham County Register of Deeds.
- N.C. House of Representatives, Dist. 54.
- N.C. Senate, Dist. 23.

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Remembering George Floyd: Youngsters make voices heard



Staff photo by Zachary Horner

A diverse crowd of around 100 youth and adults stood in the center circle of Pittsboro Monday, holding signs and chanting in response to the death of George Floyd in Minnesota. The incident sparked protests that gave way to violence over the weekend, but Monday's demonstration in Pittsboro was peaceful. The crowd was vocal around noon, with chants ranging from 'Black lives matter!' to 'Say his name! George Floyd!' Many individuals driving by honked their horn or raised their fists in support.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Most protesters wore medical masks or face coverings during Monday's event. At different times, some participants either held up or wore the Mexican flag.

Around 2 p.m. Monday, most of the group had dissipated, but around 20 youth were still holding signs and raising their fists in the traffic circle in downtown Pittsboro.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



At one point during the protest Monday afternoon, some of the participants conducted a brief march around the downtown Pittsboro area.



Staff photos by Peyton Sickles

RESPOND

Continued from page A1

us and each officer should be able to depend on one another to do what is right and just."

A statement from Chatham Sheriff Mike Roberson echoed that sentiment.

"We, at the Chatham County Sheriff's Office,

are deeply troubled and saddened by the death of George Floyd and want to acknowledge that we do not condone the actions of police officers who act unlawfully," Roberson's statement said. "Everyone in America should have the ability to live in safety and no one should fear the ability to be treated justly under the law."

Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner also con-

demned the actions of Chauvin in a release.

"The untimely death of Mr. George Floyd of Minnesota is deeply disturbing to the Siler City Police Department and is of great concern to every citizen across this nation," Wagner wrote. "The actions of the officers involved lacked the basic respect for human life, dignity and were without merit."

Each of the local state-

ments noted the value of community trust between local law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. Johnson said he wanted the "community to know that we constantly work to uphold" the department's vision, which includes earning "the respect of all members of our community" and striving to ensure its "officers are well trained and held account-

able for their actions."

Roberson said his department remains "active in the community as servant leaders and we are dedicated to lending our skills and abilities toward the common good of everyone in Chatham County" through "teamwork, leadership and community," and encourages its employees to "treat everyone, both inside and outside the

agency, like family."

Wagner said his department "works tirelessly to foster relationships in all communities in which we serve" while keeping with its mission to "improve quality of life issues, reduce crime and serve our diverse citizens with compassion, dignity and respect."

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

to our amazing and dedicated staff for keeping our residents safe and healthy in this challenging time. We would also like to thank the front line workers at the hospitals, EMS, Fire, Postal Workers, Bank Employees, Pharmacists, Mechanics, Housekeepers, Veterinarians, Restaurant Workers, Volunteers, Delivery Drivers, Police and Sheriff's Department as well as retail workers for providing us the goods and services we need.

We appreciate you all, so much!

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Jake Mann, Northwood's star long snapper, in the middle of a recruiting boom

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Recent national champions Clemson and Alabama have been in touch. SEC stalwarts such as Georgia and Florida have reached out. Power Five schools Florida State, Virginia and Arizona State have all extended official offers.

In the world of long snapping, Northwood's Jake Mann is a hot commodity.

Mann, a rising senior, is the No. 1 long snapper in the class of 2021, according to the Kohl's Professional Camp rankings. Rubio Long Snapping, the other main recruiting service for the position, ranks him sixth in its 2021 class. He's earned a slew of All-America honors, and on both lists, he's a consensus five-star prospect.

Not too shabby for someone who showed up to the Chargers' summer football workouts four years ago as a freshman angling for a different special teams position.

"I wanted to be a kicker, but there were already a few," Mann said. "I thought, 'Why not long snap?' It was a perfect fit."

He started out on Northwood's JV team and jumped up midseason to replace the varsity squad's injured snapper.

His debut was no joke. In Mann's first game, Northwood took down Orange High (and future N.C. State linebacker Payton Wilson) in a crucial Big Eight Conference road game. He survived — no mistakes — and has been on an upward trajectory ever since.

Mann's father, Chris, has been a big part of that. He snapped through high school and in college at Delaware in the late 1980s (where he also played safety). So any time the Manns were tossing a football, Chris made sure Jake and his younger brother, Travis,

snapped a few balls, too, just to get some early experience with the motion.

When Jake's freshman year at Northwood came, those early reps in the yard as a 5-year-old paid dividends.

"He had done it before in the past," Chris said. "He just had to work out some technical flaws."

Long snapping, like field goal kicking, can be an unforgiving task. A player has one job. He's expected to do it well. And more often than not, he's only noticed for the one or two times he does it poorly. Mann, 17, has come to relish that pressure, which comes in a unique role he describes as "like a quarterback throwing a pass the same distance every time."

"If you're a receiver, you drop a pass and you have more opportunities in the game," he said. "Long snapping, you don't know how many more times you're going to punt or kick a field goal. It's definitely a thing you don't want to mess up at."

This past season, as a junior, Mann added another position to his long-snapping duties: linebacker. He hadn't seriously played an offensive or defensive position since his pee wee football days, but he enjoyed the challenge. Plus, it made practices more engaging — he had something to do outside of the brief special teams session.

"It's much better than sitting around," Mann said with a laugh. "I got used to it really quickly."

He earned an all-conference honorable mention for his efforts (49 tackles, two fumble recoveries) and has lettered in lacrosse all three years, too — an interest he credits to his family's Massachusetts roots.



Submitted photo

Northwood's Jake Mann prepares to snap a football at a Kohl's camp.

This spring, he had nine goals in three games before the remaining matches were canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Those traits, plus his snapping acumen, have made him an enticing recruit.

Mann's snap speed — the time it takes the ball to leave the long snapper's hands and reach the punter 15 yards behind him — has been clocked in the 0.65-0.66 second range, which is an NFL-caliber average. And he also has the athleticism to get down the field on punts, where every defender is crucial in tackling a returner or forcing a fair catch.

"A lot of coaches love the fact he's a linebacker," Chris said.

Mann has been a mainstay on the Rubio and Kohl's rankings since early high school, and his

father said they've been in touch with around 40 schools throughout the process. But Mann said recruiting has "really picked up a lot ever since the virus."

In April, he landed his first three offers: Florida State, then Arizona State, then Virginia. The Manns are actively communicating with around 20 schools now, mostly in Power Five conferences, and Mann said most of the conversations have been "relationship builders."

"I'm not surprised that the No. 1 kid's getting this much attention," Chris said. "I'm just surprised that Jake's the No. 1 kid."

He's interested in a business or sports administration major and, if possible, would like to take a few more visits in the fall as he looks for the best fit. The Manns are shooting for Jake to

'It's definitely a thing you don't want to mess up at.'

JAKE MANN, Northwood long snapper

choose a school by late October. All of that, of course, is a tentative plan. Mann's not sure when or if certain colleges will open their campuses and how those visits would look. And the NCHSAA is still determining its best path forward for high school football this fall. Until then, Mann has two goals. "Keep snapping," he said, "and stay ready."

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @chapel-fowler.

Memorable postseason run earns Jordan-Matthews statewide 'Upset of the Year' award



Staff photo by David Bradley

Jordan-Matthews' Lanice Hedgepeth goes up for a fast break against Trinity's Josh Reddick in the final minutes of their conference playoff game Feb. 19 in Trinity.

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Four months ago, on Valentine's Day, Rodney Wiley was at a loss for words. In a season full of heartbreakers, his Jordan-Matthews boys basketball team had just lost another.

The Jets sat in silence in the visitors' locker room that night, Feb. 14, after once again faltering in the fourth quarter. They'd let Providence Grove get back into the game — falling 74-71 in overtime — and finished their regular season with a loss against the only team with a worse record than them in the PAC-7 Conference.

"You could just see the hurt on the kids' faces," Wiley said.

"I just remember sitting there," senior Camden Fuquay said, "and thinking, 'Man, we just lost to the last-place team

in the conference. In overtime. What in the world ...'"

But, he added, "it honestly ended up being a blessing in disguise."

Over the next 10 days, Jordan-Matthews ripped off three straight wins against higher seeds — two on the road, one at a neutral site — to claim the PAC-7 conference tournament crown and an automatic bid to the NCHSAA 2A playoffs. For a team that entered the postseason 7-16, it was an unforgettable upset.

And high school sports fans across North Carolina agreed.

Last Wednesday, during its annual awards show, High-SchoolOT announced Jordan-Matthews as the winner of its "Best Upset of the Year" award. The Jets beat out four other finalists in the fan vote, which ran on HSOT's website from April 22 to May 10.

When they think of the three-

game run that landed their team that statewide honor, Wiley and Fuquay think of the locker room that night in February. When everyone was at a loss for words — except for one person, who finally broke the silence.

"We're going to win the tournament," assistant Ricky Woods said.

A pause. Then fellow assistant Reggie "Kermit" Carter spoke up: "We're going to win the tournament."

Their players needed the reminder.

After all, Wiley and his staff had been saying as much all season, even dating back to 2019 summer workouts, when they first saw the Jets' talent at work. Jordan-Matthews had a strong mix of returning talent and new call-ups from its JV team, which won its conference the previous spring.

"A lot of good guys coming

2019-20 Jordan-Matthews boys basketball team

HEAD COACH: Rodney Wiley

ASSISTANT COACHES: Reggie "Kermit" Carter, Ricky Woods

SENIORS: Camden Fuquay, Chandler Matthews, Seth Moore, Brayden Teague

JUNIORS: Huston Causey, Jayden Davis, Nahum Flores, Luke Fuller, Eral Jones, Jacquez Thompson, Xavier Woods

SOPHOMORES: Lanice Hedgepeth, Timothy Eubanks



Submitted photo

The Jordan-Matthews boys basketball team won the 2020 PAC-7 conference tournament on Feb. 22 in Randleman.

in," Fuquay said. "It was all pretty exciting — it just didn't go as we planned in the beginning. But that's why you play 20-something games."

Indeed, a scroll through Jordan-Matthews' schedule reveals plenty of struggles after a 3-1 start. The Jets lost seven straight at one point, and the final scores among their 16 regular-season losses were excruciatingly close: 43-41, 48-46, 56-54.

"It did give us some confidence — we knew we could compete with anybody we played with — but we just couldn't put four quarters

together," Wiley said.

As the losses piled on, Fuquay found himself awake late at night, rehashing key moments in his head before glancing at his alarm clock and realizing it was 2:30 or 3 a.m.

"I've got to get up and go to school at 6:30 in the morning, and I'm still up thinking about basketball," he said. "It was pretty heartbreaking, but it gave you that sense of purpose, that sense of drive to fix stuff."

On Feb. 17, in their conference tournament opener, the No. 6 seed Jets did just that.

See **AWARD**, page B2

Chatham Soccer League planning for an August restart after coronavirus concerns

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Martin Slavin, the executive director of Chatham Soccer League, admitted the last few months have been “pretty scary” for the organization.

CSL, a non-profit that’s facilitated youth soccer in the county for 26 years, suspended its spring season on March 12 in response to the coronavirus pandemic. On May 4, its board canceled the season in full, outlined how the organization had been “greatly impacted” financially on its website and offered families a route for donations.

“We plan for certain contingencies to happen,” Slavin said, “but obviously nothing like this.”

Since that announcement early last month, though, the league has made significant strides.

CSL has developed a tentative plan to restart its recreational fall season in early August — and its membership has provided the necessary donations to keep expenses paid in the interim.

“I think the reality is a lot of people want to play soccer, and they knew what happened,” said Erik Berg, the league’s director of playing fields. “The idea that we would play again at some point in the future sounded good, so they stayed involved.”

The league’s planned restart — which will remain subject to change — was developed by its board members in accordance with state guidelines and information from CSL’s parent organization, the North Carolina Youth Soccer Association.

Its two main components: small-group training and “small-sided” games, which are played on smaller sections (such as a half or quarter) of a regular-sized field. In both situations, the league wants to prioritize safety and minimize exposure.



Submitted photo



An empty soccer field awaits youth players.
Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

Berg described the set-up as “small pods” of players training and competing in 4-on-4 and 5-on-5 games. CSL, which offers seasons for ages 2 through 14, will also reduce the standard registration fee for any new families.

“We’re going to have to be realistic with these small 5-on-5 games to get started,” Berg said, “because fewer people in the pool is a better way to manage transmissions, the contagions. But it’s also realistic in regards to the number of people who are actually going to be showing up ... membership could drop off by 50 percent.”

The plan has its fair share of working parts, too. Slavin, for example, is worried about how referees will factor in. It’s not ideal for referees to work multiple games in a day and be exposed to multiple pods, but it’s also not ideal for them to lose out on the income they’d get from working those multiple games.

CSL has also considered playing its small-sided games without goalies or substituting a mannequin or a target in their place (especially so in lower age groups). And it’s developing a reaction plan if a second COVID-19 wave were to hit later in the fall.

“The whole situation’s fluid,” Slavin

said. “It really depends on where we’re at when we begin.”

As that planned start date approaches, the league has also gotten creative with its finances.

Even with its season cancellation, CSL still has expenses: Slavin’s executive director salary, weekly field maintenance and membership dues to the NCYSA, which provides insurance certification, coach and referee training and background checks for volunteers.

In its May 4 announcement, CSL outlined three options for families who’d registered for the spring season: donating all or some of the fee to help the league during the pandemic; carrying over the spring fee and applying it to the fall season; or receiving a full refund.

Berg, a longtime area coach who’s volunteered with CSL for 20 years, said some board members were worried about the league’s financial stability if full refunds were offered.

But the result, Berg said, was roughly a “30-30-30 divide.” A majority of families either donated their fees or carried them over to the fall. One family, Slavin said, donated their fees even though their teenage child will have aged out of the league by the time next season begins.

“Our general membership supported the organization in a way that

we’re going to be sustained,” Berg said. “That was a good surprise. The bottle-half-full guys kind of won over the bottle-half-empty guys in that way.”

CSL has applied for grants, too, including a United Way grant through Chatham County’s Parks & Recreation Department. It’s already received some funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Paycheck Protection Program, which will pay Slavin’s salary for eight weeks, and is actively seeking further donations from its membership.

Slavin, who also directs CSL’s club teams and coaches Northwood men’s soccer, said he’s been inspired by the community support as the program works out kinks and gears up for its potential restart.

“It’s something we’ve never dealt with before,” he said. “So being best prepared, having contingency plans is all you can really do — make sure you’re prepared, and be ready to change again.”

“When the pandemic passes, we’ll still be here,” Berg added. “We’ve been here for 25 years, and we’re going to continue to make the game possible for the kids and do it with best practice through our state association.”

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @chapelfowler.

NCHSAA extends dead period into mid-June in latest COVID-19 update

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

Commissioner Que Tucker last Tuesday announced the NCHSAA’s extension of its “dead period” from June 1 until at least June 15 and laid out a tentative plan for high school sports teams to return to modified summer workouts in mid-June.

That timeframe, Tucker said, is contingent upon North Carolina’s COVID-19 testing metrics and further guidance from the state. If the NCHSAA reaches June 15 and “it looks like we are ready,” she said, the association intends for all sports to be able to work out — although drills and procedures would differ dramatically for contact sports such as wrestling and football.

“We know these workouts will look different than traditional summer workouts,” Tucker said.

Until at least June 15, though, NCHSAA schools — including the five located in Chatham County — will remain in a dead period. In such periods, coaches aren’t allowed to organize official workouts, conditioning or similar activities for their teams.

In a wide-ranging, hour-long Zoom news conference, Tucker also touched on the monetary importance of football season, the NCHSAA’s own finances and the possibilities of shortening fall seasons and playoffs, among other topics.

Her updates came five days after Gov. Roy Cooper and Dr. Mandy Cohen, the Department of Health and Human Services secretary, laid out their recommendations for resuming non-contact sports under the state’s Phase 2 guidelines last Friday.

Here are three more broad takeaways from Tucker’s interview on May 26.

Not yet ‘folding up the tent’ on football

Football is a serious revenue booster for college and high school athletic departments alike. Tucker said the NCHSAA is “not at the point yet where we are folding up the tent on football” in the fall and is hopeful games may be played in front of “at least some fans.”

Although nothing in the association’s bylaws would prohibit it from moving seasons entirely, Tucker said that is a “last resort” for football and all other fall sports. More likely alternatives, she said, include shortened regular-season schedules and fewer teams in the playoffs.

These ideas fit into the NCHSAA’s goal of operating “with the end in mind” — that is, to set a target goal of when it wants fall sports to finish their seasons and work backward to evaluate potential start times.

Such an approach, Tucker said, keeps the NCHSAA flexible in regards to winter sports. One hypothetical scenario she gave: what if the association had to shorten its basketball season after starting its football season later in the fall? Since basketball season could potentially help recoup the money schools lost from a shortened football season, the NCHSAA would want to avoid such a situation, if at all possible.

Tucker also touched on the issues of filling football stadiums at a lower capacity, such as 50 percent, if the NCHSAA gets to a point where that’s a legitimate option for resuming the sport.

“We know that Friday Night Football is a big deal in just about every county in this state,” she said. “And then, when you start saying to certain people, ‘Well, you’re not going to be able to get into this home game,’ then that becomes problematic. So how do you do that in an equitable manner?”

Taking ‘a hit’ financially

The NCHSAA Board of Directors has discussed the monetary impact of canceling its remaining winter championships and spring seasons/championships. Tucker said the main loss came from ticket revenue.

During the playoffs, for example, the NCHSAA adds a \$1 surcharge to all tickets, pools that money and distributes it to schools. The lack of men’s and women’s basketball state title games — plus a slew of spring sport playoff events — obviously eliminated that practice.

“That pot of money is down,” Tucker said. “So our as we look at our investments, our financial managers have said, ‘Yes, you’ve taken a hit.’”

But, she added, the association’s financial managers think the NCHSAA will ultimately have some overages (or surpluses) in its overall budget.

“We’ve had less expenses, not only in our operations, but less expenses because we have not had these spring sports,” Tucker said. “That will also be a part of the formula that is used to come up with how to get those monies (we lost) back.”

The NCHSAA isn’t responsible for directly funding high school athletic programs, but it has utilized interest from some “wise investments” — including an endowment that began in 1991 — to provide schools money of varying amounts. Those checks usually go out in late July or early August.

Outside of that standard procedure, Tucker said the board has not yet determined whether it needs to “step forward” and provide further financial assistance to any schools that may struggle with securing proper equipment for the potential workout start date.

“I’m sure that our Department of Public Instruction, along with our State Board of Education, are accessing every possible way to get monies to be able to help our schools as it relates to PPE,” Tucker said. “Athletics, they would not be separated out from that (funding). So I’m very hopeful that those avenues will be available for them to get some help as we go along.”

‘At least a week’ of notice

The board decided to extend the NCHSAA dead period, which previously ran until June 1, in a session Monday night. It informed member schools of that extension (until June 15) on Tuesday morning.

For future updates, Tucker said the NCHSAA wants to provide information in a similar timeframe: at least a



CN+R file photo by David Bradley

Northwood’s Caitlin Bailey (4) blocks the offensive effort of Person High’s Gabby Jones in Pittsboro Feb. 27.

week before significant changes or updates go into effect — if not sooner. Plans are “already in the works” for what she called the NCHSAA’s “Phase 2,” which would include the aforementioned workouts. (She referred to the NCHSAA’s current dead period as its “Phase 1.”)

“If (June 15) is the date, then we certainly need to have something to our schools at least one week away,” Tucker said.

Such notice, she said, is crucial because it gives schools time to assess what equipment they need, how to get it and how to optimize their facilities for socially distanced workouts and conditioning.

“We want to be able to hear from (athletic directors) to give them some information and then to give them some ideas of things that they need to be working on right now,” she said.

Throughout her news conference, Tucker emphasized June 15 is by no means a hard deadline. In the coming weeks, the board will work with its staff, the state and the NCHSAA’s Sports Medicine Advisory Committee to “finalize plans” for its second phase and assess if June 15 is a realistic date to begin it.

“As more information is learned about the virus, how it spreads rates and how that spread can be limited,” Tucker said, “precautions are being added and revised to ensure that we’re doing all that we can from a health and safety perspective to limit the spread of the virus.”

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com and on Twitter at @chapelfowler.

AWARD

Continued from page B1

Jordan-Matthews zeroed in on No. 3 Wheatmore’s outside shooters, conceding more points down low than usual but winning 75-67 in overtime on the road. For the first time in a long time, they’d put together four full quarters rather than just three, or three and a half.

“After we beat Wheatmore in overtime, we just kind of ran with it,” Fuquay said. “They gave us an inch. We ran a mile.”

In the semifinals, again on the road, Jordan-Matthews routed No. 2 seed Trinity, 57-40, behind a season-best defensive performance that forced turnovers and started fast breaks.

Its offense kept rolling,

‘The party was on, and it was a lot of fun.’

CAMDEN FUQUAY, Jordan-Matthews senior

too, with a balanced rotation of scorers, scrappy defenders, do-it-all guys and timely contributors off the bench. Everybody played their part. But their next opponent, before the conference title, was snow.

“We were praying for good weather,” Wiley said with a laugh, “because we knew we had to get the game in to get into the playoffs.”

Jordan-Matthews got lucky there — the game was delayed by winter weather just one day — and on Feb. 22 held off a third-quarter run from No. 4 seed T.W. Andrews to win 71-57. The Jets, winners of three straight, were off to the playoffs.

The post-game scene

was equal parts joyful and emotional. Wiley and his senior class had won three, four and six games, respectively, in the three seasons since the longtime assistant took over as head coach in 2016 after P.J. Lowman left for Apex Friendship.

All of that hard work and rebuilding now felt validated.

“You probably heard us in Siler City from Randleman,” Fuquay said. “I mean, when that buzzer sounded, it was all class. We shook their hands. But after that, the party was on. The party was on, and it was a lot of fun.”

The Jets’ playoff run was brief; they lost 92-60 to Farmville Central, the

eventual 2A co-champion, in the first round. But Wiley said he’ll treasure his team’s conference tournament run — and its HSOT award — for a long time.

“I’m thankful we had those guys,” he said. “They knew, they understood and they never quit.”

Fuquay felt the same. He watched the awards show with his family, and when he saw the Jordan-Matthews name flash on the screen, he patiently waited for the other four nominees to appear before the winner was announced.

It took him a good five seconds to notice the banner at the top of the screen, which read WANNER, and put two and two together.

“My hands just went straight up,” Fuquay said. “I was like, ‘Man, we did it

again!’”

Reporter Chapel Fowler

can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @chapelfowler.



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THEY'RE BACK — AFTER 17 YEARS

As weather warms, periodic cicadas to make noisy return to Chatham

BY RANDALL RIGSBEE

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Cicadas — the small but loud insects which cyclically emerge from their underground habitats — are due back in large numbers in central North Carolina with the arrival of sustained warmer weather and warm soil temperatures.

Along with Virginia and West Virginia, parts of North Carolina — including Chatham County — are expected to again experience the loud chirping of millions of cicadas in the coming weeks.

In some areas, said Chatham County Agriculture Extension Agent Debbie Roos, “some of them have already emerged.”

“Yes, we are expecting the emergence of Brood IX at any time in North Carolina,” she said.

There are approximately 150 species of cicada in the U.S., but “only the seven Magicicada species have synchronized development and periodical emergences (meaning that all individuals in a population are always the same age),” according to magicicada.org, which tracks the periodic varieties. “The rest of the species (the so-called annual cicadas) have unsynchronized development, so some individuals mature in every year and we hear them every summer.”

Unlike annual cicadas, periodical cicadas emerge every 13 or 17 years, depending on the species.

Brood IX, as the group making its presence known this year as they emerge from their

underground habitats to mate, were last seen in 2003.

A separate group — known as Brood II — returned to parts of the eastern U.S. in 2013.

Roos said she first observed the reemergence of Brood IX earlier this spring.

“Back in late April I saw dozens of them in my pollinator garden,” she said, referring to the garden she created and maintains at Chatham Mills, 480 Hillsboro St., featuring mostly native North Carolina perennials, trees, shrubs, vines and grasses. “With the warm spell we were having at the time, following a warm winter, some of them emerged early because the soil warmed up.”

The insects emerge on a staggered schedule during the spring, said Roos, adding they “typically stick around four to six weeks.”

Beyond the loud noise they are prone to make — a mating call which the insects produce by flexing an internal muscle — and which is intensified by the large numbers of cicadas which emerge, the insect isn’t too worrisome for people. (Though the eggs they lay within branches can cause damage to a tree.)

In 2011, the last time North Carolina experienced a periodic (13-year) cicada invasion, Roos said the pollinator garden was hit.

“I lost a few young trees I had planted in my pollinator garden to cicada damage,” she said. “I had planted the native possumhaw trees in the preceding fall,

and the branches were small enough (about pencil-size in diameter) to provide a perfect egg-laying site for the cicadas. The cicadas cut slits in the branches and insert eggs and this often causes the entire branch to die.”

Cicadas feed only on woody perennials, sparing vegetable and/or strawberry crops, Roos said.

Cicadas, however, aren’t a great threat to mature trees, though they “may cause the tips of smaller branches to die back,” she said.

“In general, gardeners don’t need to be concerned about cicadas unless they have very young trees,” Roos said. “Nurseries with trees and shrubs at the appropriate stage will sometimes use protective netting to exclude cicadas and prevent egg-laying.”

So cicadas aren’t a menace — neither toxic nor poisonous, they don’t bite or sting defensively — and their periodic presence is beneficial to the ecosystem.

“Many species of wildlife — including birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects — eat cicadas,” Roos said. “Cicada nymphs spend many years underground and their tunneling aerates the soil and they are also part of the soil food web. And when the cicadas die their bodies decompose and provide nutrients to feed plant life.”

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



Extension agent Debbie Roos took this photo of a periodical cicada that just emerged after molting in late April in the pollinator garden at Chatham Mills in Pittsboro.

Photo by Debbie Roos/Chatham Extension



Photo by Debbie Roos/Chatham Extension

Cicada damage is evident on a young possumhaw tree, caused when female cicadas slit the bark of small branches to insert eggs, which can weaken or kill the branch.



Chatham News + Record

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CCCC's main Chatham County campus is located in Pittsboro.

Staff photo by Olivia Rojas

‘All we can really do is go forward’

Central Carolina Community College prepares for the fall

BY OLIVIA ROJAS
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — As colleges and universities across North Carolina begin to outline their fall schedules, Central Carolina Community College plans for a mix of face-to-face instruction as well as online instruction for the upcoming academic year.

“In the fall, we are transitioning all of our classes to be some form of blended,” said Mark Hall, the provost for CCCC’s Chatham County campuses. “All of our classes have an online component already, so we are just going to make that official so that we have more flexibility.”

Options for a start date are still being weighed. “We were planning to start on Aug. 17, whereas the university system has moved almost two weeks earlier,” Hall said. “That’s a week earlier for us, so we are trying to figure out what the unintended consequences would be.”

One of the challenges is that programs are held to a strict number of hours inside the classroom.

“A three-credit hour

class has to meet 48 hours,” he said. “That makes us a little different than the universities that don’t have to adhere to those rigid guidelines, but we’re working on it.”

On May 2, the N.C. General Assembly passed and Gov. Roy Cooper signed a bill allocating \$1.6 billion of the \$3.5 billion from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. As a result of this, the community college system will receive \$25 million.

According to an article from EdNC, the community college system saw a rise in enrollment in the 2018-2019 academic year. About 53 out of the state’s 58 community colleges saw an increase in enrollment. Throughout the state, enrollment at community colleges rose by 4.4%, workforce programs saw a 9.4% increase and curriculum programs saw a 3.8% increase. Community colleges are looking for additional support for these increases.

Hall said the funds are “definitely welcomed.”

“In this particular case, it will go towards student support,” he said. “It will

help us get the personal protection equipment that we need, the cleaning equipment that we need and it will help us support the employees who are supporting the students. Indirectly, it will all go toward helping our students and developing the workforce that our communities need.”

Hall said CCCC, a public two-year college with campuses in Chatham, Lee and Harnett counties, has already allowed students who are studying essential skills, such as health sciences and vocational training, back for the summer semester.

“Those classes are meeting, but in restricted groups,” he said. “There’s a digital sign-in, they all have masks, we clean everything before they show up and we clean everything after. We are really taking all the measures that have been given to us from all of our state level agencies. All we can really do is go forward. We’re still recruiting for medical assisting and for other health science programs and short-term training. We’re doing our best to move forward, but we are doing it really safely.”

News Intern Olivia Rojas can be reached at olivia@chathamnr.com.

THE SANCTUARY AT POWELL PLACE

Opening an apartment complex in Chatham during COVID-19

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — When the plans were drawn up for the Sanctuary at Powell Place apartments in Pittsboro, COVID-19 wasn't even a thing.

Now, the complex is opening up and residents are moving in during a global pandemic that, in the United States, has claimed thousands of lives and is keeping many indoors.

"People aren't moving around," said Susan Keller, the member manager for Rampart Property Management, which operates Sanctuary. "Companies aren't moving people around. They're not traveling. They're not. Everybody's kind of hunkered down where they are. So asking people to move to a new place — it's just more challenging than it would have been otherwise."

Sanctuary is still in the process of construction, but about a quarter of the apartments are ready for move-in. Keller said eight residents moved in two weeks ago.

And she stressed that it's a local development — two of the developers grew up in Chatham, and one of them is a descendant of the family who owned that land since the early 1900s.

"I think (the developers) are trying to be responsible developers in Chatham County," Keller said. "They feel like it will benefit the community, and they would like people to understand that and that they could have done something else here. There have been offers over the last decade."

Keller spoke to the News + Record about opening a new living space during a pandemic, why Pittsboro needs more living spaces and how she says it's a complex that is built out of Chatham County.

How has it been to open an apartment complex during a time period like this: a global pandemic, people staying at

home?

We're looking at the way amenities are used, the way people can sign up to use them. We've changed the way we tour the apartments. While we will do a live tour if you really want to — with everybody wearing masks and sanitizing the whole time — what we're really pushing is virtual tours. We've done FaceTime tours — I'm FaceTiming with somebody and I walk the model so that I can show them everything without them actually being here. I think everybody's online game, it just has to be upped considerably right now. So we upped ours last year.

How many of these things that you have tried during this time will you continue after the pandemic ends?

A lot of these things. I really cannot see a time when we will not push a virtual tour over a live tour. A live tour is a much better way of selling anything — people being able to see it, touch it, smell it, all of those things. But there's just not a lot of positive-enough news right now to make me think that's going to be something even from a liability standpoint that we take on for a long time.

Why build this complex? Why do it here?

This is the realization of the vision of the original developers (of Powell Place) who wanted to create something upscale in Pittsboro. They saw the future of Pittsboro and wanted to create a planned neighborhood that they felt like was in keeping with what the market would want in the future. Something that would contribute to Pittsboro being a place that people want to live, like providing a walkable neighborhood that included a variety of housing options — apartments, townhomes, smaller homes, bigger homes. This is one of the steps in realizing that whole vision. It was curtailed a bit with the recession of

2009, but that has been able to come to fruition now. There's easy accessibility to pretty much everywhere. Chatham County is very central and this particular location has easy access.

Why should there be more residences in this area that's already booming with them?

There has not been a market-rate apartment complex built in Chatham County in 20 years. The last one was in Governor's Club. So there is not a surplus of market-rate apartments in Chatham County at all. It was needed very quickly. I think that people will see that there was a need because we're filling up really fast.

How do things like advertising and promoting — normal parts of opening any business, or apartment complex — work during COVID-19?

Some things are the same. But the amount of time and effort that you have to spend on your internet advertising is just more. While it's been a portion of what you do, now it is a much larger portion of what have to do and where your advertising dollars will go, where your time is going.

The Sanctuary, at least in Chatham County, is patient zero for getting a residential property going during a pandemic and trying to get buyers.

I think the interest has been very high. I really think if things ease a little bit and the summer comes and people can be out and about a bit more, we're very optimistic because there is quite a bit of pent-up need. There's so much growth in this area. People want to come here. Pittsboro is an amazing community with a lot of things to offer — not just location, but there's this great downtown, an amazing sense of community, sense of place, sense of history.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham County to receive federal COVID-19 aid

Chatham County has been chosen to receive \$11,827 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county and \$27,682 for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was signed into law on March 27. This law is meant to address the economic fallout of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic in the United States.

Currently, processes have commenced to award the funds to a national board, a group chaired by the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and includes representatives from the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; The Salvation Army and The United Way Worldwide.

A local board, made up of local representatives of the organizations listed above, will determine how the funds awarded to Chatham County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. Under the terms of the grant from the national board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government; be eligible to receive federal funds; have an accounting system, practice nondiscrimination; have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs and if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Chatham County has distributed emergency food and shelter funds previously with The Salvation Army participating. This agency was responsible for providing over 80 families with

emergency financial assistance.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for emergency food and shelter program funds must contact Jane Wrenn via email at jane.wrenn@uss.salvationarmy.org or by telephone at (919) 542-1593 for an application. The deadline for applications to be returned is 5 p.m. on June 18. Completed applications must be returned either by email at the above email address or by postal mail to The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 752, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312. Applications received after the deadline of June 18 will not be eligible.

Carolina Meadows rallies to support neighbors

CHAPEL HILL — Residents at Carolina Meadows, a retirement community in Chapel Hill, have raised more than \$59,000 for the Chatham Outreach Alliance (CORA) food pantry.

"Each spring, residents come together to support CORA (Chatham Outreach Alliance), our local food pantry in Chatham County," said Bill Powers, resident organizer. "This year's drive had an increased urgency due to many being out of jobs and facing hunger. Residents were eager to help and responded with heartfelt generosity in the face of extreme need."

Carolina Meadows' fundraising efforts for CORA have raised more than \$81,000 for CORA this year, an increase of more than \$30,000 from 2019.

Many are relying on CORA's emergency food for the first time, and demand for emergency services has increased dramatically by nearly 50 percent since the pandemic began.

"During this time of unmatched demand for food assistance, the strength and compassion of our community has been on full display," said Rebecca Hankins,

development and communications director for CORA. "Carolina Meadows is a wonderful example of our neighbors working together to build a community without hunger. Their support has a huge impact on CORA and the families we serve."

For more information, please visit www.corafoodpantry.org or contact Rebecca Hankins at rebecca@corafoodpantry.org or 919-491-5896.

SNACK! food donations needed for CORA

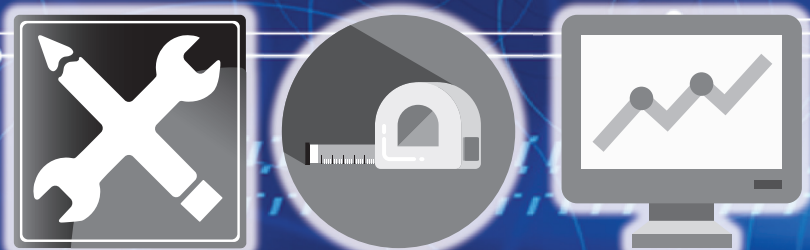
PITTSBORO — CORA's SNACK! program aims to increase the accessibility of nutritious meals throughout the summer to children facing food insecurity in Chatham County. In Chatham County, 50 percent of public school children receive free or low-cost meals through the federal school lunch program because their household income is at or near the poverty level. More than 4,300 school children in Chatham County will not have adequate replacements for these meals during the summer in 2020. This summer, CORA hopes to feed nearly 2,000 children, but will need a little help from the community.

Due to severe constraints in the food supply chain as a result of COVID-19, some of the foods CORA normally buys in bulk are not available. They need help with purchasing the following items and dropping them off between 9 a.m. and 1:30 pm Monday through Friday at 40 Camp Dr. on Pittsboro.

Items include 16-ounce peanut butter, Chef Boyardee products, fruit cups, single-serve oatmeal packets and canned vegetables. For more information please contact Rebecca Hankins at rebecca@corafoodpantry.org or 919-491-5896.

— CN+R staff reports

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CHATHAM CH@T | CRAIG GREINER

Bynum resident uses data analysis skills to track COVID-19 spread, create in-depth database

Bynum resident Craig Greiner has been very busy lately. Like many, his life was changed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It led him to create a data dashboard that tracks how the virus is spreading in Chatham County, North Carolina and around the country.

"I have seen a great deal of information and misinformation shared about the pandemic, the spread, and the impact," he said. "I see this at a local level, and even at a national level with maps shown on national news networks. Most recently, we learned that in Georgia the data was heavily misrepresented the data. I often see various sources citing a new 'daily total,' but that number means little without context — particularly the context of how that number has changed recently."

Greiner used to work in the medical field, but now he uses data to help "determine trends or correlations," he said, with the John Deere Company. You can find his dashboard at public.tableau.com/profile/craig.greiner#!/vizhome/USCovid-19Analytics/COVID-19Analysis. A former bio-engineer and researcher working in regenerative medicine, Greiner spoke to the News + Record this week about mining data, reliable sources and the role of social media in how people interpret data.

You mentioned your concern about the spread of misinformation around COVID-19. How can the public become better informed about the data that they are seeing? What sources do you recommend using? What types of questions should people ask themselves when interpreting data?

When I was in high school, I recall a period where we studied current events as part of our courses. At the beginning of the week, we would find multiple newspapers on our desks for us to digest — both

local and national. Our assignment was to find one topic that was covered by more than one news outlet and report out on what we learned by consulting multiple sources of information. The point being, every news outlet has some inherent bias because every outlet is a collection of individuals, and each news article is written by a person and edited by a person, and if even only in tone or choice of certain adjective or adverb there is rarely ever total neutrality. This same sentiment holds true today and is especially true when looking at data.

One may think that facts are facts, numbers do not lie, etc., but there are many ways to skew a person's interpretation of the data. These can be something visual such as color choice, font size or placement on a page, or more statistical such as choosing to illustrate a median versus a mean, removing outliers in the data set, etc. It could also be a simple lack of context such as we often see with COVID-19 data. For example, knowing what our number of total or new cases today is valuable, but knowing our trend is much more informative.

"To become better informed as a member of the public, I suggest that just as I had to do in that high school classroom — consult multiple sources before making any conclusion and be critical of the differences. In the world of what appears to be ever-widening media bias, this is even more critical. However, equally as important in the time of social media news feeds is to consider the source and verify. Ask yourself, where are the numbers coming from, who is sharing the information, and is it consistent with what I am seeing elsewhere? In short, just because someone shares something on social media does not make

it true. Another item you should consider is what story is the person sharing the data trying to tell. With COVID-19, are they trying to illustrate that it is safe to re-open, that it is not safe to re-open, or evaluating if it is safe to re-open? Those are three very different 'stories' that just as a writer is often not fully neutral, neither is a data scientist.

When in doubt, go as close to the source as you can. When considering COVID-19 data, the data I share is based on the Johns Hopkins University data set (coronavirus.jhu.edu), which is used widely as a trusted repository. You can also consult local state government websites (covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard) and the CDC website (cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html). But remember, even when consulting those sources as yourself about the 'story', the context, and the consistency with other data sources.

Based on the data you have found in your analysis, do you think North Carolina reopened too soon?

Hindsight is 20-20, right? Also, I am basing my comments only on the CDC recommendation that states should see a 14-day downward trend of new cases. To calculate this, I examine the new cases reported any given day and the 13 preceding days. Plotting a linear trend line of this provides a slope. If that slope is positive, we are trending up; negative, trending down. Based on what I see in the data, if I would take a snapshot in time as of May 5, North Carolina cases were trending downward over a 14-day period. This was true for both May 4 and May 5. Purely by the numbers, we met that metric for reopening. However, the data shows we did so just barely. It was nearly flat and as of May 3, the two-week

average was still trending upwards significantly — at a rate four times greater than that at which we were trending downward on May 5.

As a data steward, I pride myself in presenting and interpreting data, but allowing individuals to draw their own insights (i.e. opinions). The N.C. state government based their decision on multiple metrics, including trends in the amount of testing, ability to perform contact tracing and a downward slope in multiple trends, including daily case counts and hospitalizations. It is likely the other metrics influenced their decision, and rightfully so.

If I were to perform the same analysis for Phase 2 (May 22), it tells a different story. On May 22 we had a significant upward 14-day trend — 33 times that at which we were trending downward on May 5. We had also experienced a rolling 14-day trend upward all but two days from May 6 to May 22. While there is a lag from disease transmission to a new case being recorded, which prevents us from concluding that re-opening on the 5th caused the increase, the data shows a clear and persistent increasing trend. By this metric, and this metric alone, the state was not meeting the guideline for re-opening further.

How do you think social media has played a role in the misinformation shared about the pandemic and its spread?

There are several reasons people need to be cautious and critical when considering social media 'news' — especially regarding this pandemic. We must have an even higher bar of being properly informed and realize that anyone can post anything and there is very little if any 'fact checking'. In this manner misinformation can spread just as easily as actual facts. However, in the case of a pandemic, that misinformation can have dire, real world consequences. Also, the manner in which social media sites function is a positive feedback loop that continues to deliver a user more of what they react to, reinforcing a belief whether that belief be rooted in fact or fiction.

How would you advise people to look at, and interpret, data they're reading about and hearing about?

Be critical. Do not blindly believe. Do not blindly promote. View it as a personal responsibility to only share accurate information and take pride in being fully informed and promoting factual information. And as I mentioned before, remember to always consider the 'story', the context, and the consistency with other data sources.

What other key metrics should people look out for when looking at data, in addition to the virus's spread over the last 14 days?

As a means of collating and presenting data, we always place data into buckets. That may be by state or by county, by new cases

'One may think that facts are facts, numbers do not lie, etc., but there are many ways to skew a person's interpretation of the data. These can be something visual such as color choice, font size or placement on a page, or more statistical such as choosing to illustrate a median versus a mean, removing outliers in the data set, etc. It could also be a simple lack of context such as we often see with COVID-19 data.'

CRAIG GREINER, Bynum resident, works with data for John Deere

or by deaths. However, we must remember that the virus does not respect man-made borders and those buckets are ultimately arbitrary. When considering the spread of the virus, also consider the trends of surrounding counties and states and the number of transients in your area (such as by tourism) that may introduce the virus.

At a foundational level, I feel it is also critical that we consider the rate of testing when looking at any COVID-19 data. Without testing, we cannot report positive cases. Therefore, inadequate testing can greatly skew the data. We must also remember that testing is not a one-and-done phenomenon where we are "done" when a certain percent of the population has been tested once. It is a journey and will likely involve repeat testing.

While not included in the data set I have presented, I think it is also important that we begin to look at the virus and its impact on various populations. Be that by race, age, gender or overall health, we will likely find differences in the impact of the virus. And when considering this, individuals must be conscientious that while they may not be part of a "high-risk" population, they may be able to spread the virus to that population. It is not only about our own response to the virus, but the larger social impact of our individual choices.

What are some of the common pitfalls in interpreting COVID-19 stats?

Two of the common pitfalls that I often see are a lack of context and an abuse of context.

Trends are the most informative piece of data we have at this time. Viewing the data as a snapshot in time, with no context, without also presenting the current trend is misrepresentation of the data.

Regarding abuse of context — writing off a spike in cases due to a spike in an isolated population such as a factory or nursing home is missing the broader potential social impact of that spike. Take a spike in cases at a meat-processing plant as an example. Those workers may drive a one-day spike in the data, but those workers have families. They carry the virus home to their families, and those family members can not only contract the virus but also spread it to a wider population. Assuming that a spike in that isolation population is not represen-

tative of an elevated level of risk for the population at large is an abuse of context.

What would you say to those who claim that COVID-19 is no more deadly than the seasonal flu?

I would say that the numbers simply do not bear this out to be true at this time. The CDC tracks the flu each year and estimated that the last flu season included an estimated 35.5 million people getting sick with influenza and 34,200 deaths from influenza. This indicates that there was a mortality rate of 0.097 percent. For perspective, 0.1% is a trusted estimate of average flu mortality rates.

What we know as of today is that COVID-19 in the United States has claimed 102,806 lives out of the 1.7 million who have been confirmed to have the virus. By these numbers, COVID-19 therefore has shown a mortality rate of 5.8% in confirmed cases. Now many experts agree that the count of positive cases is a gross underestimate and therefore the mortality rate is lower. Recent studies have estimated that only 1 in 10, or 1 in 12, COVID-19 cases are reported and therefore the death is closer of 0.6-0.4%. The CDC is now promoting a revised value of 0.4%. However, even at this reduced rate COVID-19 would be 4 times as lethal as the flu. COVID-19 also has a transmission rate that is higher than the flu. Current estimates show that an individual with COVID-19 will transmit the disease to 2 - 2.5 people on average, while with the flu that number is 0.9 - 2.1. Therefore, not only is the virus more deadly, but it is easier to spread.

There is one last difference between the flu and COVID-19 and that is the availability of a vaccine. While the flu vaccine may indeed blunt the impact of the flu, and if one is developed it will likely do the same to COVID-19, it remains to be seen if it would reduce the mortality rate. But even more importantly, we have to consider the world we live in today and that is a world with no COVID-19 vaccine.

Do you regret leaving the medical field during a time like this?

Personally, I have no regrets no longer working in the medical sciences. I have the utmost respect and admiration for those on the front lines today. We all owe them a debt of gratitude. I hope that some day I may give back to my community in a larger way, but there are many ways to live a life of service here.

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Daniel Faulk, 38, of Durham, was charged May 22 with assault on a female. Faulk was issued a written promise with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

Falan Ivey, 25, of Apex, was charged May 22 with simple assault. Ivey was issued a written promise with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

Angela Berry, 25, of Chapel Hill, was charged May 22 with communicating threats. Berry was issued a written promise with a June 11 court date in Carthage.

Brian Blackwell, 19, of Pittsboro, was charged May 22 with abduction of children, contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile and resisting a public officer. Blackwell was issued a written promise with a June 22 court date in Pittsboro.

Troy Jackson, 26, of Moncure, was charged May 23 with second-degree forcible rape and assault on a female. Jackson was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 22 court date in Pittsboro.

Carlos Rosada, 65, of Siler City, was charged May 23 with violation of a domestic violence protective order. Rosada was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

John Becker, 36, of Chapel Hill, was charged May 23 with assault on a female and interfering with emergency communication. Becker was held under a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

Jennie Petty, 34, of Elon, was charged May 23 with simple assault. Petty was issued a written promise with a June 24 court date in Pittsboro.

Jonathan Roberson, 32, of Pittsboro, was charged May 23 with driving while impaired and possessing an open container. Roberson was issued a written promise with a June 10 court date in Carthage.

Madison Heath, 20, of Siler City, was charged May 24 with larceny by employee. Heath was issued a written promise with a July 20 court date in Pittsboro.

Demetris Goins, 24, of Elon, was charged May 24 with driving while impaired, communicating threats, resisting a public officer, possession of marijuana under one-half ounce and driving while license revoked. Goins was held under a \$1,000 bond with an August 19 court date in Pittsboro.

Reginald Bland, 50, of Sanford, was charged May 25 with failure to appear. Bland was held under a \$600 bond with a July 1 court date in Pittsboro.

Carrie Mote, 27, of Siler City, was

charged May 26 with driving while impaired and driving while license revoked. Mote was issued a written promise with an August 19 court date in Pittsboro.

Arturo Lopez, 45, of Siler City, was charged May 26 with misdemeanor stalking. Lopez was held under a \$10,000 bond with a June 1 court date in Pittsboro.

Lorenzo Vasquez, 32, of Siler City, was charged May 27 with second degree sexual exploitation of a minor. Vasquez was held under a \$136,000 bond with a June 22 court date in Pittsboro.

Hally Scotton, 18, of Siler City, was charged May 27 with pretrial release violation. Scotton was held under a \$100,000 bond with a June 22 court date in Pittsboro.

Richard Spivey, Jr., 39, of Chapel Hill, was charged May 27 with failure to appear/child support. Spivey was held under a \$20,000 bond with a June 12 court date in Pittsboro.

Christopher Thorne, 24, of Apex, was charged May 27 with misdemeanor larceny. Thorne was issued a written promise with a June 16 court date in Raleigh.

Douglas Schoenhut, 45, of Chapel Hill, was charged May 30 with assault on a female. Schoenhut was issued a written promise with a June 9 court date in Pittsboro.

Kathleen Schoenhut, 73, of Chapel Hill, was charged May 30 with simple assault. Schoenhut was issued a written promise with a June 9 court date in Pittsboro.

Michael Brewer, 29, of Staley, was charged May 30 with trespassing. Brewer was issued a written promise with a July 7 court date in Pittsboro.

Terrance Hackney, 29, of Chapel Hill, was charged May 31 with failure to appear. Hackney was issued a written promise with an August 31 court date in Raleigh.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Isias Hernandez of Sanford was cited May 27 for exceeding the safe speed for conditions and no operator's license on N.C. Highway 42 in Pittsboro.

Enrique Sampayo of High Point was cited May 27 for failure to reduce speed and no operator's license on N.C. Highway 751 in Pittsboro.

Carmen Ortiz Machuca of Pittsboro was cited May 27 for exceeding safe speed for the conditions and failure to maintain lane control on U.S. Highway 15 in Pittsboro.

Ryan Bright of Sanford was cited May 28 for failure to maintain lane control on Pittsboro Goldston Road in Goldston.

Pittsboro manager: 'Fallout from COVID-19' leading to revenue shortage, smaller FY 21 budget

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Interim Pittsboro Town Manager Bob Morgan is recommending a town budget that reflects a 10 percent drop in revenue and expenditures for fiscal 2020-21, owing to adverse impact from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last year, the town's total budget was approximately \$10.3 million while this year's proposed spending plan projects around \$9.4 million. The reason for the drop, according to the town manager's budget message within the document, is an anticipated reduction in revenue related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Morgan notes an expected decline in both sales and property tax revenue and the accompanying documents note expected losses in fees associated with planning, alcohol sales and recreation fees.

"Sales tax revenue makes up a significant portion of the town's revenues," Morgan wrote in his budget message. "Our projections are more conservative than those shared by the North Carolina League of Municipalities back in March. No one really knows what the economy holds for us in the next fiscal

year. The town will have to monitor revenues monthly next year. After we receive March's sales tax revenues we will make necessary adjustment to our projections."

Municipal governments often have a variety of accounts fueled by different revenue streams. Each account is governed differently by state law. For Pittsboro's general fund, revenues come of property and sales use taxes, revenue from alcohol and beverage sales and fees from both planning and parks and recreation. The town uses that fund for a majority of what is thought of as business of the town such as salaries, equipment and supplies for a majority of town departments. For the town's enterprise fund, which is used for the town utilities, revenue generally comes from water and wastewater fees. According to state law, this fund should operate similar to a business fund where the fees support the utility system.

Each year, state law mandates that towns must create a balanced budget by June 30 for the following fiscal year which begins on July 1.

Morgan did not suggest an increase in the current tax rate of \$0.4333 per \$100 of assessed value of real property to make up for expected losses. But



he did note that fees associated with solid waste and recycling collection will be increased by 5 percent due to fee increases from the disposal provider Waste Industries. In addition, the proposed budget includes an increase for water and sewer rates of 2.5 percent, which would likely add about \$73,000 in revenue. That increase will still not cover the costs for the system which means the town will also have to transfer additional

funds to the utility account to cover expenses for water and wastewater treatment services.

At this time, there are no salary or wage adjustments under consideration for town employees, but the budget does include requests for increased spending for equipment for the Pittsboro Fire and Pittsboro Police Departments.

Morgan closed his budget message by saying that the town government would have to review projections prior to budget approval.

"As the FY 2019-2020 winds down, it is apparent that the local economy has been impacted by COVID19 and that this impact will have a long-lasting effect," Morgan wrote. "We are still trying to determine the severity of the impact that COVID-19 is going to have to our revenue streams and we may be adjusting our budgeted revenue prior to adopting the final budget."

The Pittsboro town board held a work session to discuss the proposed budget in depth as this edition of the News + Record was going to press. Updates from that meeting will be included in next week's issue.

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

Briar Chapel-Ferrington wastewater situation still up in the air; next hearing set for September

BY ZACHARY HORNER
News + Record Staff

The uncertain and ongoing saga of whether or not Briar Chapel's wastewater facility will take on Ferrington Village's sewage — thus creating a regional wastewater treatment plant, to the outcry of many Briar Chapel residents — is set to roll on through summer and into fall.

The North Carolina Utilities Commission, originally scheduled to meet June 16 to hear expert witnesses in the case, has now delayed the hearing until September.

Meanwhile, three community groups have been accepted as intervenors to the case while Chatham North, the organization which would operate the regional plant, continues to make its case to state officials.

The proposed wastewater transfer — originally sought last August by Chatham North and Fitch Creations, which operates Ferrington Village — would direct wastewater from Ferrington Village to Briar Chapel, expanding the latter's WWTP's footprint to handle the new intake. Many Briar Chapel residents — more than 600 signed a petition against the move presented at a public hearing earlier this year — have expressed concern over ONSWC's

previous handling of wastewater within the neighborhood, citing poor customer service, the unpleasant odor coming from the current treatment plant and improper dispersion of reclaimed water.

Individuals and groups interested in the case were allowed to submit testimony through May by different deadlines, but in mid-May, the Public Staff of the NCUC asked that the commission reschedule the June 16 hearing "to an unspecified date in September that is available on the Commission's calendar to allow the Public Staff and intervenors time to further investigate and prepare testimony on issues in this case."

The change would also, the document confirming the hearing rescheduling stated, "provide Chatham North and Old North State [Water Company, the parent entity of Chatham North] an opportunity to further develop and implement procedures and operational modifications to resolve customer service issues."

StopChathamNorth, a community group created to oppose the transfer, and the Briar Chapel Community Association have said they support the motion. StopChathamNorth and the BCCA were allowed to be intervenors on April 13, with the Ferrington HOA joining

on May 14. The trio's petitions to intervene each fell along the same lines: they expressed concern about the ripple effects of such a transfer:

- StopChathamNorth cites "the affect on rates and adverse impact to quality of service that it believes may result from the approval of the requested transfer of the utility franchise."

- The Ferrington HOA said it is concerned with rates and service, as well as "negative impacts of constructing a force main, which it believes will 'plow through the 300-foot set aside that buffers the Ferrington Village community from development adjacent to Highway 15-501.'"

- The BCCA stated it will "dispute significant portions of the representations and assertions made" by Old North State during a January 14 public hearing.

During these petitions, Chatham North officials have been making their case to the NCUC that changes are being made and concerns are being heard.

John McDonald, the vice president and secretary of Chatham North who also maintains a majority ownership interest in the organization, told commission staff during a May 1 testimony that plans were in the works to construct a "green-house-type structure."



Photo courtesy of NCUC

An aerial view of the current wastewater treatment facility at the Briar Chapel neighborhood in northeast Chatham County. The facility has been at the center of debate between developers and nearby residents for months related to a proposal to bring Ferrington Village's wastewater to the site.

The construction "would enclose the reclaimed water treatment plant," McDonald said, and surrounding facilities at a cost of \$1.535 million, if the NCUC were to determine that "the enclosure of the plant is necessary to mitigate off-site impacts

and would be used and useful in the operation of the utility."

Lee Bowman, the director of project and corporate development for Envirolink, a Chatham North contractor, said in testimony given May 1 that the merger of the treatment systems would

help both Ferrington and Briar Chapel, and work as "being very much a proverbial 'win-win.'"

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

Victory Gardens spring up in Chatham

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

In the wake of COVID-19, many residents have been grappling with depleted grocery shelves and anxiety over access to food. As a result, many are turning to creating Victory Gardens in Chatham County.

According to Google Trends, searches that include “garden” are up more than double the average of the past 15 years. The national trend holds not only in North Carolina, but in Chatham region.

The term Victory Garden has its roots in World Wars I and II. As Americans began rationing of foods due to limits of supply during those global conflicts, many Americans began planting vegetable gardens to reduce the strain on the food supply. After the U.S. entered the second World War, then-Agriculture Secretary Claude Wickard promoted the idea of Victory Gardens, creating pamphlets urging Americans to build their own gardens as a sign of patriotism.

As a rural county, Chatham already has a strong contingent of family gardens, but in the current pandemic, many residents are creating their own for the first time.

For Siler City resident and Chatham County Board of Education member Jane Allen Wilson, her home garden is the first she’s had since her childhood. Her reasons for starting the garden run deeper than just COVID-19.

“Deciding to have a garden during COVID-19 has turned out to be a beautiful communion with my father,” Wilson said. “I keep hearing his voice in my mind. I was 4 years old when I started working with him in the garden hours and hours until I left for college.”

Wilson’s father, Dr. “Noah” Rouse Wilson, Jr., a well-known dentist in Chatham County, died in 2018 after suffering from Alzheimer’s. He along with his wife, Betty Wilson, who was a Chatham County Commissioner, raised six children in Chatham County. Another one of his daughters, Bett Wilson Foley, a former Pittsboro Commissioner, was also inspired to build a garden this year at the Bynum Community Garden.

“When I was offered two raised beds at the Bynum Community Garden in early spring, I jumped on the opportunity,” Foley said. “The garden is located between work and home so I figured it would be easy for me to stop by. I started planting spring vegetables just as the coronavirus hit. My workplace [Farrington Village] closed. I began self-isolating. It turns out these two little gardens were my saving grace.”

She said she was grateful to her father for her interest in gardening, saying he was “an organic gardener before it was a thing in Pittsboro.”



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Lesley Landis is growing tomatoes, peppers and herbs in her back yard Victory Garden in Pittsboro.

“As kids we complained and complained about all the work,” Foley said. “Yet all six of us garden now.”

Pittsboro resident Lesley Landis said she had been interested in growing flowers in her yard and had “informal gardens” in the past, but this year she decided to build one again due to a “concern for a supply of clean food” and “potential for supply chain snags.” She also had a “desire to stay out of crowded stores and markets.”

Bruce Davis, whose home is technically in Pittsboro, but is located much farther west of town off of U.S. Hwy. 64, has been cultivating a home garden for 10 years.

“Home gardens are always important,” Davis said. “Whether it is in containers beside the home or the half acre of production or any level in between, each is important. It is just that in times of stress their importance may be more likely to be noticed. Food uncertainty is currently an issue [for an unacceptable portion of our citizens, food uncertainty is always a issue]. The food supply chain dysfunctions, or the availability of money to purchase available food, or the potential to contract a virus can all raise the awareness of the multiple benefits of home grown food.”

Diversity in the garden

For each of these home gardeners, an array of vegetables are the foundation of their gardens. Each have tomatoes and greens, staples of the South. The variety of vegetables planted depends on the size of their garden. Landis has just a few other items, like peppers, cucumbers and herbs in her backyard garden. Foley, whose garden is a bit larger, also included root vegetables, beets, peas and squash. Davis has the most variety in his garden, adding sweet corn, sweet potato, asparagus and also having a small orchard selection.

The food Davis and his wife grow often exceeds their personal needs. When



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Bett Wilson Foley is growing her Victory Garden at the Bynum Community Garden.

that happens, they donate their excess to CORA, the food pantry in Pittsboro.

“We have done that for several years,” Davis said. “One reason that we like to donate is that often we have more food than we can eat or put away. Thus we can donate it to CORA and it becomes a community beneficial resource and does not go to waste.”

Growing a garden

For Wilson, working the soil is key to a good garden, something she learned from her father. Having started in her father’s garden as a small child, she was “fascinated by all his techniques.” This spring, while working in her own garden, she realized how much of her father’s lessons she retained, likening it to “opening this major time capsule of memory,” hearing his voice as she worked.

“From age 4 on I spent hours and hours in the garden with my dad every Saturday and most evenings when he got off work, as he taught me how to till and sift and prepare the soil and also about what plants needed,” Wilson said. “I keep hearing him in my head guiding me in hoeing techniques, etc. It’s a real communion with my dad.”

Landis suggests raised beds for first-time gardeners because “dealing with Chatham’s clay soils is very challenging.”

She also suggests using some sort of fencing to guard against “deer, rabbits and other critters.”

Foley suggests gardeners use resources and gardening guides. She recommends “Vegetable Gardening in the Southeast” by Ira Wallace, a



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

Asparagus is a long-term garden plant, often taking several years before being ready to harvest.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Jane Allen Wilson of Siler City says growing her Victory Garden is a way to connect with her father who passed away in 2018.

“great book for beginners.” The book includes a month-by-month list of garden task recommendations including the best time to do them. She also suggested residents take advantage of the town of Pittsboro’s free leaf mulch, which “makes a great soil amendment” and is “full of beneficial earth worms.” The mulch can be obtained from the town’s public works department.

“If you have a patch of sunshine, you can garden,” Foley said. “No yard? Plant in pots. I have vegetables and herbs in my flower gardens.”

Davis, perhaps the most seasoned gardener the News + Record spoke with, suggested educating yourself by reading, talking to others and utilize Cooperative Extension classes which can help a gardener be successful. He also urged first-time gardeners start “small and learn.”

He noted that “some foods are harder to grow given the disease and insect pressure in our local environment and climate.” And he suggests not trying to “grow too much” to avoid “being worn down by all the work required.”

“We have stopped growing cucumbers, summer squash, Irish potato, pumpkin, eggplant, and several other items,” Davis said. “Becoming knowledgeable and learning better methods of growing food is always a work in progress. Continue learning and expanding to the point that fits with your life.”

Challenges bring rewards

For Wilson, her garden



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

Bruce Davis has been tending to his garden for 10 years, donating any excess food to CORA, a food bank in Pittsboro.

hearkens back to when her father was young and his family went through the Great Depression, connecting her, with each moment, to her family’s past.

“The land and gardening is how the family got through it,” Wilson said. “As these gardening techniques are running through my head via my father’s voice, I realize he learned them from his grandfather who he lived with when he was very little. In a way the voice of my father is the voice of many generations. My father always appreciated his history including the land. I’m am feeling it run through me.”

For Foley, the garden has been a respite from the stress and anxiety of COVID-19.

“During the pandemic, I found there were benefits to gardening beyond what I am harvesting,” Foley said. “It felt so good to be outside in the sunshine, digging in the dirt, watching seedlings emerge, listening to the birds sing, including a Great Horned Owl, chatting through the fence with neighbors who stopped by (at a safe distance) and swapping seeds with fellow gardeners. And just being in Bynum, watching the river flow. It is definitely

good for my soul.” Landis said that vegetable gardens “provide a semi-certain supply of some food in uncertain times.” The rewards for her are “watching the progress” and “having daily tasks that require time, attention and physicality.”

They offer lessons in patience,” Landis said. “They provide an appreciation for the knowledge, talents, and skills of our local farmers. They get us outside and enjoying nature.”

Davis calls gardening a “beneficial activity” because it provides food, it’s calming, is a physical workout, and brings the reward of “successfully making something from an idea on to an achievement.”

“As Kathryn has pointed out many times to me, ‘Plants are so generous,’” Davis said. “We do a little and they give back so much. Think about it, we plant one seed or root of any of the items in our garden or orchard or herb bed or flower bed and each one, say tomato, may give us back 50 or more tomatoes to eat or put by for later in the year.”

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



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

With spring in Chatham County comes the prospect of fresh berries.



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

Chatham County soils may be good for several types of root vegetables including onions.



Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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Puzzle of the Unicorn

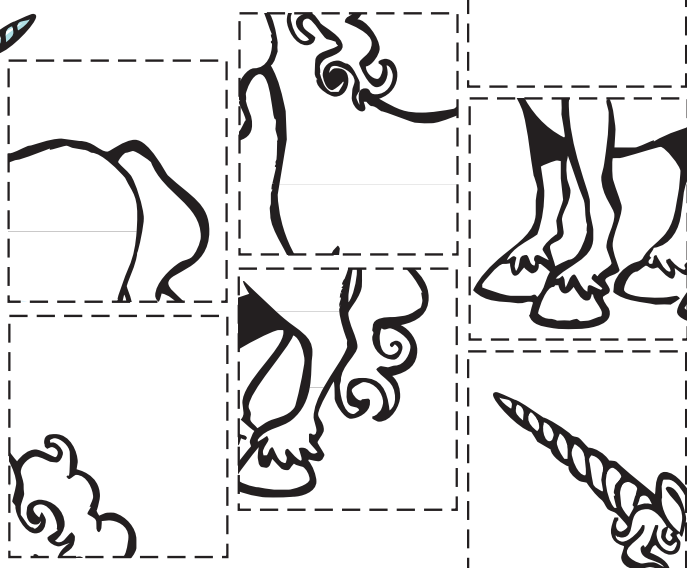
Did unicorns ever exist? Explore the mystery on today's puzzling Kid Scoop page!

For thousands of years, people all over the world have told stories about a magical, mysterious one-horned animal: the unicorn. In some of these stories, unicorns were huge and in others they were tiny and playful. Some were pure white; others had horns and bodies of many colors. Some were fierce and brave. Others were peaceful.

Some people think that unicorn stories started from sightings of a one-horned rhinoceros or a gazelle in profile.



Cut out these boxes. Put them together in the correct order and color the unicorn.



The Truth About Unicorns

The unicorn is usually described as an ideal being, possessing qualities people admire. While the animal does not exist, the qualities do.

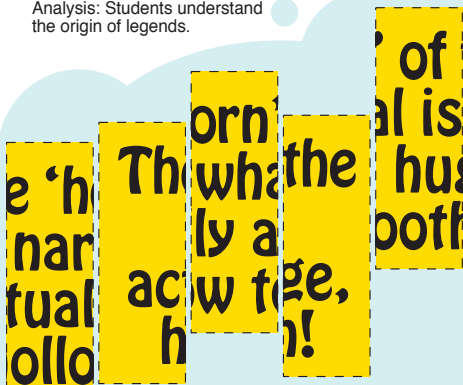
Each unicorn below has a puzzle piece in its mouth. Match each piece with an identical piece that contains a word describing a unicorn quality.

Standards Link: Literary Analysis: Students understand the origin of legends.

Put the Puzzle Together

Several hundred years ago, people sold mysterious horns that were said to be unicorn horns. These horns were straight; most animal horns are curved. Some were more than seven feet long and had spirals running down the entire length.

Today we know that many of those horns were from a shy sea animal called a **narwhal**. Cut out and assemble the puzzle pieces to learn a surprising fact about these "unicorns of the sea."



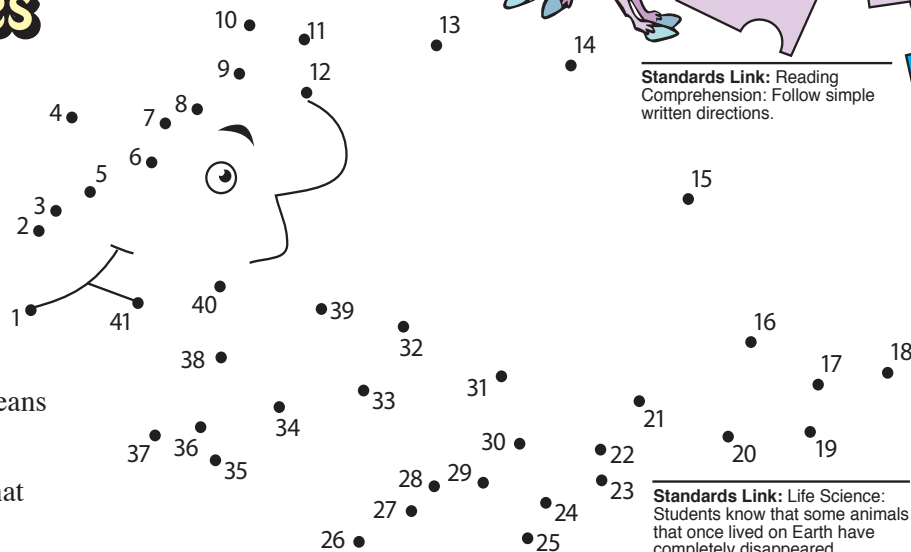
Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have features that help in survival.

Unicorn Bones

Scientists have found the bones of a "dinosaur unicorn." The **bagaceratops** was a small, plant-eating dinosaur that was about three feet (1m) long and lived in Asia about 80 million years ago.

The name bagaceratops means "small horned face."

Connect the dots to see what bagaceratops looked like.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Extra! Extra!

Unicorn People

Can you find a person in the newspaper who demonstrates the qualities people associate with unicorns?

Standards Link: Character Education: Identify positive character traits in others.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

In 1968, *The Unicorn Song* became a top ten hit on the radio. The song, written by children's book author Shel Silverstein, told a story about the unicorn playing when he should have been boarding Noah's ark.

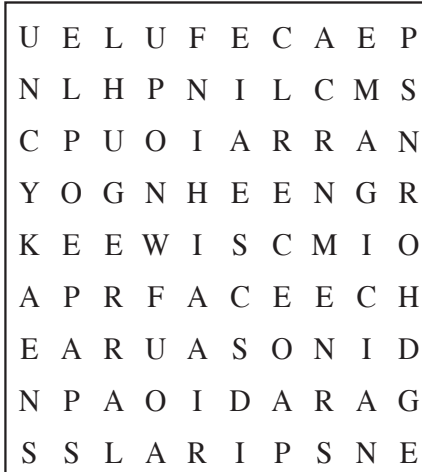


Find the two dancing unicorns that are identical.

Double Double Word Search

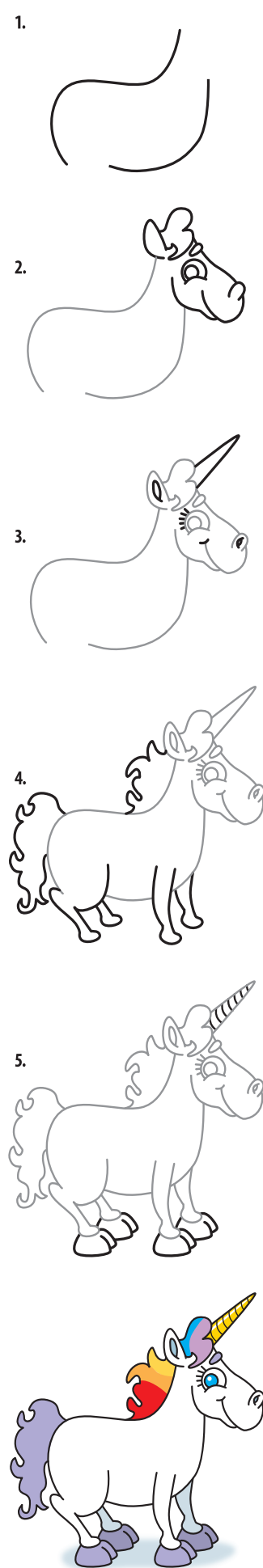
UNICORN
DINOSAUR
NARWHAL
MAGICIAN
SNEAKY
FIERCE
RADIO
PEACEFUL
PEOPLE
HORNS
SPIRALS
MEAN
FACE
PIECE
HUGE

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



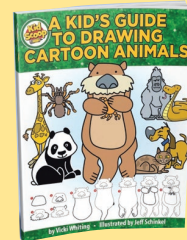
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

How to Draw a Unicorn



More drawing fun!

Step-by-step instructions show you how to draw more than two dozen animals in *Kid Scoop's A Kid's Guide to Drawing Cartoon Animals*. Available now on amazon.com, target.com or at foxchapelublishing.com



Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **IDEAL**

The adjective **ideal** means something that is perfect or the absolute best.

Katie's volcano project featured an **ideal** use of baking soda and vinegar.

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Magic Headlines

Abacadabra! You can be a magician by changing a **factual** headline into an **opinion** statement. Can you find a headline that expresses an opinion? Change it into a factual headline.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Distinguish facts from opinion.

How do you stop a rhino from charging?

ANSWER: Take away his credit cards.



Write On!

Best Book of the Summer

Tell other kids about a book you think they should read this summer. Have fun describing the book, but don't give away the ending.



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

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CORA hosts mobile market in Siler City

BY CASEY MANN & KIM HAWKS
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — CORA, the Pittsboro-based nonprofit which has a food pantry there, hosted a “mobile market” food distribution in Siler City, serving more than 125 families over a two-hour period.

The distribution site, also called a Mobile Market, was a collaborative project between CORA — also known as Chatham Outreach Alliance — UNC Health Systems and Chatham Hospital originally started in 2019 to reach families in need in the western portion of Chatham County who may not be able to receive food from the pantry in Pittsboro.

At Tuesday’s event, families were provided boxes of food which included fresh food and produce such as berries, cabbage, potatoes and eggs. The boxes also included non-perishable items such as pasta, cereal, rice and tuna. In addition to food, the Chatham Health Alliance donated more than 200 free face masks for the families receiving food. Those masks were completely distributed in less than an hour.

According to Melissa Driver Beard, the executive director of CORA, the food pantry served on average 185 families per

week prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. Since then, the need has jumped and they now serve 275 families weekly.

CORA provides Chatham residents in need with a week’s worth of groceries at its location in Pittsboro. Residents can receive the assistance up to six times in a 12-month period. The CORA food pantry is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 40 Camp Drive in Pittsboro. Residents are asked to call 919-542-5020 to schedule an appointment first to set an appointment, though walk-ins are accepted. And CORA will hold another Mobile Market from 10 a.m. to noon on June 23 at Technology Way in Siler City.

“During this time of unmatched demand for food assistance, the strength and compassion of our community has been on full display,” Beard said. “We’ve received donations of food, financial donations, protective face masks, grocery bags, etc. It has truly been a humbling experience.”

How you can help

CORA accepts donations of food including canned goods, beans, rice, peanut butter and canned meats. It also accepts “kid friendly” donations of cereal, applesauce, fruit snacks and juice boxes. Food donations



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

CORA depends on volunteers to serve families in need, helping to put food on the table.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Each of the 125 families at the CORA Mobile Market last Tuesday received a box of food, enough to feed a family for a week.

can be made from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 40 Camp Drive in Pittsboro.

CORA also accepts financial donations to purchase additional food to help fulfill the growing needs of struggling families in Chatham County. Donations can be mailed to CORA at P.O. Box 1326, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or

give securely online at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/corfoopan>.

For more information, go to www.corafoodpantry.org or check out visit its social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

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



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Julie Wilkerson of the Chatham Health Alliance distributed more than 200 free masks to the families receiving food.



Photo courtesy of HBO

Anna Kendrick stars in ‘Love Life,’ now streaming on HBO Max.

The arrival of HBO Max and what it offers

The biggest news in online entertainment in the last week or so was not a particular film or series. It was the arrival of HBO Max, HBO’s latest entry into the standalone streaming marketplace. Unlike HBO Now, which offered cord cutters the full slate of HBO programming, HBO Max leverages HBO plus its sister pay TV service Cinemax and the full panoply of WarnerMedia (aka Warner Bros.) entertainment content. WarnerMedia says the channel will have over 10,000 hours of content at launch, including over 2,000 films. The biggest draw will be the “Max Originals” programming exclusive to the new channel, starting with two tentpole offerings. “Love Life” stars Anna Kendrick and “follows a different protagonist’s quest for love each season, with each half-hour episode telling the story of one of their

NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

relationships,” according to the streamer’s description. “Legendary” dabbles in the reality TV genre, with an unscripted ballroom competition show following young teams competing in balls and showcasing fashion for a panel of judges.

HBO Max launched on May 27 with a price tag of \$15 per month. It already has distribution deals with most entertainment providers and platforms (Roku and Amazon Fire are the two primary absences at present).

Back to the established confines of Netflix, here are last week’s top new offerings:

“Uncut Gems”

The gonzo, critically acclaimed 2019 film stars Adam Sandler, who plays hard-luck hustler and diamond dealer Howard Ratner. From my review: “The genius of the Safdie brothers’ script—grounded in greed’s corrosive effects, it’s like the Coen brothers on acid—is that we end up rooting for the otherwise repellant Howard.” Definitely worth a stream. Dropped May 25.

“Jeffrey Epstein: Filthy Rich”

This miniseries is based on the 2016 book of the same name by James Patterson. Beyond the conspiracy theories, the show shares stories of the actual survivors of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, and how he used his wealth and power to commit these crimes. Available since May 27.

“Space Force (Season 1)”

This much-anticipated series is created by Greg Daniels (known for his work on several television series, including “The Office”) and Steve Carrell, who also stars. It is a workplace comedy series that centers on a group of people tasked with establishing the titular sixth military branch. Carrell’s character, Mark Naird, is the general in charge of the effort. Expect a “Strangelove” vibe; indeed, a Space Force scientist named Dr. Adrian Mallory (played by John Malkovich) is described as a Dr. Strangelove parody. The 10-episode season dropped on May 29.

Two questions, many answers, Part 4

This time it’s personal. I’ve known Chef Chrissie for approximately 147 years.



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

We met when I was 9. He was my best friend’s big, jerky brother. For years I thought we had a mutual burning hatred, but I recently discovered that to him, I was just one interchangeable pesky friend among many.

Once I started dating Petey, his best friend, apathy transformed into active dislike. It took five or six years, but we got over ourselves and became good friends. He is now our closest family friend and surrogate big brother to The Kid.

Chrissie’s a chef and if I have any skill in the kitchen, the majority of the credit (or blame) goes to him.

I asked him my two pandemic kitchen questions. Here they are, with his responses...

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

A: Two things. 1) I always have chicken in the freezer. I always have onions. I always have pasta. What I make is a kind of Chicken Mac & Cheese. One pan for cheese sauce. One pan for pasta. Pan for chicken and onions, etc. This meal is versatile. Change ingredients around. Substitute meats, veggies, pasta shapes. Make a casserole. Depending on the size of the batch, I can eat for days.



Chef William Teahan’s duck confit.

Submitted photo

Reheats beautifully. Add a little milk, nuke, stir, and eat. Can’t beat it.



Teahan

2) The second is, I make standard spaghetti sauce. Then when you deglaze the pan, I’ll add the juice from two cans (6.5 oz.) of chopped clams. Reserving the meat to mix in just before serving. Grated Parmesan and you’re good to go.

Q: What’s your best food-related activity suggestion for staving off boredom and the resulting insanity?

A: Experiment with new recipes. Perfect old ones. Practice cooking basics, there is time for that now. If you’ve been furloughed like I have, no rush to stuff your face. Get back in tune with your ingredients. Cook with love. Develop your style. Cook with soul. Our second chef this

week is William Teahan in Vermont. He attended the same culinary school as The Kid: New England Culinary Institute.

He’s a Four Diamond chef and expert in menu design, engineering, and implementation, as well as unusual, innovative, and cutting edge food, stylings, and presentation.

His favorite pantry meal: Roasted chicken thighs with absurd amounts of garlic, chicken demi, and Texmati (I love the glaze you can buy now).

And kitchen activities to fight cabin fever? Baking! In all its forms from weighing and scaling to forming and baking, be it loaf, cookie, or whatever the little heart desires.

And the results are nomilicious (a technical chef term). Savory, sweet, both: you make it as complex as you want it to be. Good time to start a sourdough mother!

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

The World’s Greatest Guacamole

Recipe courtesy of Chris Murphy

- 6 ripe avocados, chopped into 3/4 inch chunks
- 3 Roma tomatoes, diced
- 1/2 small white onion, chopped
- 1/4 habanero, diced into tiny dices
- Juice of two limes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Add all ingredients except salt and pepper into large bowl. Toss gently until mixed. Don’t mash the avocados, it’s meant to be very chunky.

Season with 2 teaspoons salt and a big pinch of pepper. Both avocado and citrus need lots of salt. So, please, taste and re-season if needed.

Serve on sturdy tortilla chips, in a taco, as a garnish to chili, or as a salad.

It’s better fresh, but if you have to refrigerate, place a piece of plastic wrap directly in contact with the guac. This will reduce the oxidation that turns avocados brown.

Worth knowing.
Worth reading.

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and Board discussion will be conducted on the following request: Town of Siler City proposes text amendments to §170 Building Setback Requirements and §173 Cluster Subdivisions (minimum setback from street right-of-way and lot boundary line) of the UDO. The proposed item is available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the application are invited to attend the public hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced item. The Planning Board will meet on June 8 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Town Board. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such as arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Jn4,Jn11,2tc

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

The proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget for the Town of Siler City has been presented to the Town Board of Commis-

sions and is available for public inspection in the Town Manager's Office at City Hall, 311 North Second Avenue from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. weekdays or on the town's website at www.silercity.org. A public hearing will be held on the budget ordinance for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 on **Monday, June 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Courtroom, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina. Citizens are invited to submit written comments to Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson at jjohnson@silercity.org. The following is a summary of the budget as presented: General Fund \$7,249,865.00 Powell Bill Fund \$596,746.00 Enterprise Fund (Water & Sewer) \$7,742,250.00 Enterprise Fund (License Plate Agency) \$153,446.00 TOTAL: \$15,742,307.00

Jn4,Jn11,2tc

CHATHAM COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: SEARCH CONSULTATION SERVICES to recruit key staff leadership for the Program Director position to be filled no later than September 1, 2020. Qualified Professional Search Consultant Firm or Individual, must be incorporated and fully insured; experience with Smart preferred. Visit www.chatham-kids.org for more information.

Jn4,1tc

CHATHAM COUNTY REQUEST FOR BIDS

CORA Food Pantry Addition and Renovation Chatham County is seeking bids from qualified contractors to perform construction and renovations at the CORA Food Pantry located at 40 Camp Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Work includes, but is not limited to the construction of a 30'x 80' pre-engineered metal building; identified site work which includes some asphalt and curb and gutter; retaining wall foundation including slab; minimal prep for plumbing, mechanical, and electrical uplift. The adjacent building will remain occupied during construction. **A mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting** will be held at the site on **June 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM.** The

meeting will be outdoors to address any COVID-19 concerns. Sealed proposals will be received from qualified bidders until 2:00 pm on Thursday, July 2, 2020 by Brian Stevens, Facilities & Construction Director for Chatham County. At that time bids will be opened and read. The bid opening will be held at the Old Agriculture Building Auditorium at 65 East Chatham Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312. This solicitation and others can be located on the Chatham County Current Bids and Proposals webpage at: https://www.chathamnc.org/business/current-bid-proposal-opportunities. Chatham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, age or disability.

Jn4,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

20 E 152 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **EDESL LIONEL DANIEL**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before September 4, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of June, 2020. Caswell Lionel Daniel, Executor 6515 Glendower Road Moncure, NC 27559

Jn4,Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **MARY ANN KENNEY BUCK**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Marcus Hudson, Attorney, 641 Rock Creek Road, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, on or before the 4th day of

September, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment. This 4th day of June, 2020. Nancy Buck McKenna, Executor Estate of Mary Ann Kenney Buck Marcus Hudson, Attorney 641 Rock Creek Road Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Jn4,Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

20 E 96 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **CHARLES E. HARRINGTON**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before September 4, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of June, 2020. Donald Harrington, Executor 2413 Canoe Creek Lane Apex, NC 27523

Jn4,Jn11,Jn18,Jn25,4tp

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

Public Hearing Notice - The Town of Siler City will hold a public hearing on **Monday, June 15, 2020** to consider potential projects for which funding may be applied under the CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization, Housing, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development programs. Suggestions for potential projects will be solicited, both verbally and in writing, from all interested parties. The expected amount of CDBG funds will be discussed along with the range of projects eligible under these programs and a review of previously funded projects. **The hearing will begin at 7pm and will be held at 311 North Second Avenue in Siler City, NC 27344.** Further information can be obtained by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or

919-742-2323. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such as arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Jn4,1tc

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) for

Grant Administration Services - The Town of Siler City is seeking professional services for the preparation of a CDBG application in the Neighborhood Revitalization program offered by the NC Department of Commerce. The project is anticipated to include housing related activities as developed during the application process. The grant request is anticipated to be an amount up to \$750,000. The project will take place over the next 30 months. Professional services will be contingent upon successful award of the grant project. Contingent upon this award, the Town is soliciting proposals for application preparation and grant administration services to assist the Town in the administration and management of this project in compliance with all applicable requirements under the North

Carolina CDBG Program. The fee for grant application and administration services will be paid with CDBG funds. The application for the CDBG Grant is due no later than 4:00 PM Monday, July 27, 2020. Copies of the detailed Request for Proposals including a description of the services to be provided by respondents, the minimum content of responses, and the factors to be used to evaluate the responses, can be obtained by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or at 919-742-4731. The above information should be submitted no later than **June 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**, to the **Town of Siler City Planning and Community Development Director (Jack Meadows)** via: email (jmeadows@silercity.org); mailing address (Town of Siler City, P.O. Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344); or physical address (Town of Siler City, 311 North 2nd Avenue, Room 301, Siler City, NC 27344). The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such as arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Jn4,1tc

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham farmers, ranchers can apply for financial assistance through USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

WASHINGTON — Agricultural producers can now apply for USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides direct payments to offset impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. The application and a payment calculator are now available online, and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff members are available via phone, fax and online tools to help producers complete applications.

"We know North Carolina producers are facing a tough time now, and we are making every effort to provide much needed support as quickly as possible," said Eddie Woodhouse, state executive director for FSA in North Carolina. "FSA is available over the phone to walk you through the application process, whether it's the first time you've worked with FSA, or if you know us quite well."

Applications will be accepted through August 28. Through CFAP, USDA is making available \$16 billion for vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

"We also want to remind producers that the program is structured to ensure the availability of funding for all eligible producers who apply," Woodhouse said.

In order to do this, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date nationwide, as funds remain available.

Chatham producers of all eligible commodities will apply through the Chatham County FSA. Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested after the application is filed. FSA has streamlined the sign-up process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a USDA farm number may not be immediately needed.

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Producers can download the CFAP application and other eligibility forms from farmers.gov/cfap. Also, on that webpage, producers can find a payment calculator to help identify sales and inventory records needed to apply and calculate potential payments. Producers in search of one-on-one support with the CFAP application process should call the Chatham County FSA Office at (919) 542-2244, Ext. 2.

Carolina Tiger Rescue welcomes 1-year-old coatimundi, Daisy

PITTSBORO — Carolina Tiger Rescue announced the arrival of its latest rescue, Daisy Coatimundi.

Daisy arrived on May 18, and is already adjusting to her new life at the GFAS-accredited sanctuary. She will spend four weeks in quarantine to receive necessary vaccinations, allow keepers to observe behavior and personality traits and ensure she's healthy enough to be moved into her enclosure.

One-year-old Daisy was relinquished to Carolina Tiger Rescue by a private owner who never intended to keep her as a pet. After being contacted by the owner, the sanctuary agreed to give Daisy the forever home she deserves. Keepers are working with her daily to help her feel comfortable in her new surroundings. She loves receiving enrichment, which includes hunting bugs, fruit, vegetables, and meat hidden in boxes to encourage foraging-like behavior. This mimics what coatimundis would do in the wild to search for food.

"We are happy to welcome Daisy to the sanctuary," said Kathryn Bertok, Assistant Director at Carolina Tiger Rescue. "She is a special coatimundi who deserves to live in an environment where she can be happy, healthy, and wild."

Coatimundis are small, diurnal (active during the day) mammals native to South America, Central America, Mexico and the southwestern United States. They belong to the same family as raccoons and kinkajous, and have ringed tails that they use to keep troops of coats together in tall vegetation. They are happy both in the trees and on the forest floor and play a significant role in their native ecosystems as both predator and prey to many different species.

Given their small size, many people think coatimundis would make interesting or exotic pets. Unfortunately, coatimundis are wild animals, no matter their surroundings. Lengthy claws and sharp teeth make it possible for them to inflict serious injury if provoked, and adequate captive environments are difficult for the average person to maintain. For these reasons, Carolina Tiger Rescue believes that wild animals like Daisy should never be kept as pets.

For more information about Daisy, please contact Louise Orr at (919) 219-2301 or louiseorr@carolinatigerrescue.org.

— CN+R staff reports

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Email dawn@chathamnr.com • www.chathamnewsrecord.com

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