

Chatham News + Record

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GULF COUNTRY STORE IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

JR Moore & Son among the last of its kind



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

'I'm proud of what he has done and created,' said JR Moore & Son's Julie King-McDaniel, pictured here with her father, Rayvon King, who has owned the store since 1968.

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

GULF — At JR Moore & Son — a “country store with a little bit of everything” in Gulf — the shelves tell the story of an eclectic family-owned store that stands as one of the last of its kind. Walls fully stocked with work boots and Carhartt jackets quickly turn into rows of personalized store baseball caps, and then there's old-fashioned candy orange slices, decorative

pocket knives and hardware supplies. There's no online shopping cart and no barcodes. Instead, there are handwritten and stickered itemized prices — and no clear-cut path to navigate the aisles. Because of heightened demand during the coronavirus, there aren't a lot of canning supplies or gardening seeds left, either. Unlike many other small businesses though, there are still a lot of customers coming in to shop, and to buy.

“Actually, our business picked up and you know, we're very, very thankful,” said Julie King-McDaniel, the co-owner of JR Moore & Son. “It does worry me a little bit, that come the holiday season we're not gonna be able to get as much product as we would want and normally have on hand. So that's the only reason I'm not very optimistic, because people have been good to us. “Wouldn't you say, Daddy?” King-McDaniel turns to her 79-year-old father, Rayvon King, who nods

enthusiastically. JR Moore & Son is a family affair — King has worked at the store since 1968, when then-owner Richard Moore invited him to the business. After Moore died in 1978, King bought the remaining share of the business and continues to carry on the country store's charm to this day. King-McDaniel joined her dad as a partner and owner in 2011, and as she did growing up, her 16-year-old son, Colin McDaniel, is spending the See **STORE**, page A6

REMEMBRANCE COALITION ORGANIZES

Group: Justice for county's 6 lynching victims

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Elected officials, activists and community members gathered Saturday afternoon at the Chatham County Justice Center to push for “an America that works for all,” economic justice and a public recognition and memorialization for the county's six lynching victims. The hour-long ceremony, sponsored by the nonprofit organization Community Remembrance Coalition Chatham, drew a crowd of about 120 people. Masks and social distancing were required at the event, and organizers placed iced coolers of water bottles around the venue to combat nearly 90-degree heat. Chatham Street, the road directly in front of the courthouse, was blocked off, and speakers addressed the crowd from a central podium. In the event's opening address, Rev. Corey Little, the pastor at Mitchell Chapel AME Zion Church in Pittsboro, condemned the “sick conditions” of racism in society. He also encouraged people to metaphorically build bridges in their communities, which he described as stronger than just bonds. Bridging, Little said, is like the lubricant WD-40 — it has a knack for bringing people together, even if it takes a little legwork to achieve that fit. “When the ugliness and the grime emerges, we need people willing to clean up,” Little said. “We welcome you to build bridges.” After an invocation and pledge of allegiance — with a critical look at the phrase “justice for all” — Mary Nettles, the president of East Chatham branch of the NAACP,

See **JUSTICE**, page A3

CHARLIE DANIELS | 1936-2020

Country music legend had deep Chatham ties

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

GULF — Chatham County lost its “simple man” when country music legend Charlie Daniels passed away on July 6 at the age of 83. Daniels, who was born in 1936 in Wilmington, spent a few formative years in Chatham County, attending Goldston High School. Though those years may have been brief, they arguably had an immense impact on his fate: it was while living in Chatham that Daniels picked up a guitar and was taught his first chords by his friend, Chatham native Russell Palmer. That moment cemented Daniels' history in Chatham County and lifelong friendship with Palmer and began his rise to music stardom and fame. Rayvon King, the owner of JR Moore & Son in Gulf and a childhood friend of Daniels, reminisced on his friend's passing last week.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

A plaque honoring Charlie Daniels at JR Moore & Son, a store in Gulf where Daniels and his friend, Russell Palmer, would play music on the porch.

“He lived in or around Gulf two times,” King said. “His dad worked for See **DANIELS**, page A6

BEN JONES | 1919-2020

'Greatest Generation' ranks lessened with Jones' death

BY BOB WACHS
News + Record Staff

Ben Jones is the kind of person Tom Brokaw had in mind when he penned his 1998 bestselling book “The Greatest Generation” about the men and women who saved America during World War II — and then returned home to build a great and grateful nation. Referring to those folks as “the greatest generation any society has ever produced,” Brokaw documented the life and war stories of some of the millions who, he said, in their late teens and early 20s should have been at home “filled with innocent adventure, love and the lessons of the workaday world.” “But instead, they were fighting in the most primitive conditions possible across the bloodied landscape of France, Belgium, Italy and Austria and the coral islands of the Pacific...not for fame and recognition but because it



CN+R file photo by David Bradley

Photographs taken more than 70 years ago still tell their story. Ben Jones, then nearly 100 years old, holds a photo that shows himself, Larry Mize and Whirlwind McCool, (left to right), with the 316th fighter squadron. Jones died at the age of 101.

See **JONES**, page A10

FACEBOOK JOURNALISM PROJECT

Local News Relief Grant used to boost coverage

CN+R STAFF REPORT
CN+R Staff Report

Back in May, the News + Record was named one of just 144 local U.S. news organizations — and one of just nine in all of North Carolina — as a recipient of a Facebook Journalism Project COVID-19 Local News Relief Grant. Now, the work the grant will support is beginning. Victoria Johnson, a 2020 graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill's Hussman School of Journalism



Johnson

and Media and a native of Greensboro, has joined the staff of the newspaper as part of the grant, News + Record Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III said. The \$30,300 in grant funds awarded to the News + Record will support a four-month reporting project to specifically explore the economic and cultural impact of COVID-19 on Chatham County's Latinx community. The funds will cover Johnson's compensation, aid with existing staff costs and help support photography, translation services and special printing projects. “Victoria will focus full-time for the next four months on telling the story of

how COVID has affected families in our Latinx community,” Horner said. “She has spent her first two weeks making connections in the community and in meetings and on Zoom calls with people such as Ilana Dubester of the Hispanic Liaison, and we've worked up a plan for longform stories that spotlight issues that aren't being told.” More than 2,000 news organizations applied for one of the grants. According to Facebook project officials, the fund is supporting many publishers who are hardest hit by this crisis: nearly 80 percent of recipients are family- or independently owned,

and more than half are published by or for communities of color. Johnson, who is bilingual, spent her junior year of college in two different cities in Spain — Pamplona and Oviedo — to work on her language fluency. “I studied journalism, history, literature and more in both cities with regular Spanish students and other Spanish-speaking international students, many of whom came from Mexico and other Latin American countries,” she said. This experience, she said, has pre- See **JOHNSON**, page A3

IN THE KNOW

Stress: Teens face challenges while working during pandemic. **PAGE A8**

Author Judy Hogan blends community, activism in new novel. **PAGE B4**

Northwood's Pride club finds community during coronavirus. **PAGE B5**

State, county prepare for 'safe, secure' November election. **PAGE B12**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ON THE AGENDA

The **Chatham County Board of Education** will hold its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on July 16. This meeting will be a virtual meeting. To access the livestream for the meeting go to <https://bit.ly/CCBOElivestream>. For more information on how to attend, contact CCS Public Relations Coordinator John McCann at jmccann@chatham.k12.nc.us.

• The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will hold its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 20. This meeting will be a virtual meeting. For more information on accessing the meeting, contact Siler City Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson at jjohnson@silercity.org.

CANCELLATIONS

• The **Family Reunion** for the William Lineberry (Billy) Poe and Adelaide Hackney **Poe Family** has been canceled this year due to the coronavirus.

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

• **Chatham County Historical Museum:** For the safety of

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

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

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

THURSDAY

• The **Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open with seasonal items year-round from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. They are located at 287 East St., Pittsboro.

• St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church provides 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.

UPCOMING

• **Chatham Community Library** will offer **free classes** on Microsoft PowerPoint and resume writing in July. While the library is closed, all classes will be presented virtually via GoToMeeting. A description of each class and a registration link can be found at www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. Resume Writing at 3 p.m. on Monday, July 20,

Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 1 at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 2 at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29. For more information, call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org. A full list of upcoming programs can be found on the library's events calendar.

ALSO HAPPENING

• The **Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop** reopened for shopping. Face coverings will be required. The shop is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. We have a store full of adult summer clothing and accessories! Donations NOT accepted at this time. We are located in Pittsboro, on the Courthouse Circle, beside the Roadhouse. All proceeds support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

• Carolina Farm Credit is now accepting applications for the 12th year of the **Ag Biz Planner program** and the 5th year of the **Ag Biz Basics program**. These e-learning courses teach financial and business planning, budgeting, and other farm management topics that are essential to a farm's success. Carolina Farm Credit will accept up to five participants for each program. All applications are due July 15. The program will begin with a kickoff webinar on September 21. The course will conclude with a conference in Raleigh, on January 6&7, 2021. Applications, a course outline, and program information are available at carolinafarm-credit.com/about/resources/educational-programs. Individuals selected for the program will be notified after August 15.

• Descendants of Horton High School Alumnus or attendee of Horton High School are eligible to apply for the **Horton High School Alumni Association Scholarship** for 2019-2020. High school graduates, college students, and graduate students are encouraged to apply on the HHSAA website: hortonhighalumni.com. Deadline for application has been extended to August 1, 2020 due to COVID-19.

• Girl Scouts offers **Virtual Summer Activities to Girls** in Central and Eastern North Carolina with Virtual Day Camps and other events and activities available for girls to partake in safely, both indoors and outside. Girls and parents can learn more about the GS-NCCP Beyond Summer Program by visiting the Girl Scouting at Home page on nccoastalpines.org. In addition to GS-NCCP offerings, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has launched the Girl Scout Camp Adventures at Home Marketplace with even more opportunities for girls to get outdoors from home, and families are encouraged to explore those as well. These opportunities are available to all girls, not just Girl Scouts, and financial assistance is available to those with a need so that

all girls are able to benefit from outdoor experiences this summer:

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

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

• **Volunteers Needed** — Nonprofit agencies in Chatham seek teen

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Trespassing' in downtown Siler City raising concern

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Some business owners in downtown Siler City have expressed concerns for their safety — and sanitation — because of the actions of a homeless man and a local woman.

On June 29, a yet-to-be-identified man relieved himself on a welcome mat of Rufus L. Johnson Land Surveyors on S. Chatham Avenue. The human waste, which the owner suspects was left by an apparent homeless man he had seen recently in the area, was eventually cleaned up by town of Siler City Public Utilities staff.

According to Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner, the police were unable to determine who had done the deed since the man was no longer in the vicinity when they arrived.

Chris McCorquodale, Siler City's Public Works director, noted that such incidents are rare for his department. He did note that last year, a person or persons unknown had been vomiting in various areas downtown on occasion, but this was the first such incident for his department this year.

Then on July 1, Jackie Adams, owner of Oasis Fresh Market and Deli — located on S. Chatham Avenue across the street from Johnson's business — saw a woman on her security camera with a shopping cart the Open Air Market adjacent to the deli. At first she "thought nothing of it," she said, but later in the evening, the woman had once again come and gone, this time leaving trash and her shopping cart. Adams called the police and they were able to locate and charge Frances Dowd Payne with second degree trespass

and resisting a public officer. Payne is known to have a home locally, according to police, but is often seen around town with a shopping cart.

The very next day, Adams found a man at the Open Air Market with a guitar, what she described as "big stick" and a hammer. Adams, who said she likes to allow families and kids to have access to the space downtown, found the man's presence was making children uncomfortable. She asked him to leave, at which point he picked up his hammer and began shouting, cursing at her.

She again called the police. When they arrived, Adams told them the man left as they arrived, heading up Raleigh Street. The police were able to locate the man, William Kenneth Freshwater, who is apparently homeless, and informed him that he was "trespassed" from the property and would be charged if he returned.

Wagner said that the town just five or so permanent homeless or occasionally homeless residents his department has identified. This includes a couple that was trespassed from the "tent city" that was created behind the Siler City Walmart recently. The department has been called on numerous occasions by business owners in Siler City for other transgressions by those who describe as "vagrants."

At one point, for example, his officers found a man digging through and eating discarded food from a Dollar General dumpster at Chatham Square. He believes the man does not mean any "ill will" to anyone, but "when he gets out of balance," issues arise.

"Most of these people have recurring disorders," Wagner said. "When they can't get their meds, their

problems are compounded."

Wagner said law enforcement is the first group that people think of to call in these circumstances because "people want resolution quickly," but at the "end of the day, us arresting them" is just a temporary fix.

"The region has no resources for homeless people," Wagner said. "There's not an agency that is helping them long-term. They have very limited financial resources and depend about 95% of the time on citizens donating to them."

The incidents were frustrating to both Johnson and Adams. Johnson wondered if the town could create some sort of ordinance regarding vagrancy, but even so he was understanding of the current limitations.

"You can pick them up, but what do you do with them?" Johnson said. "I don't know what you can do with people like that."

For Adams, she wants to make sure that the Open Air Market is a place where kids, families and residents can rest and relax downtown even when it's not being actively used for events. This means keeping it clean and safe.

"I want families to know they are welcome here," Adams said.

Wagner called homeless a "humanitarian" issue and a crisis that is growing across the country. He is hoping that, while the issue may not be of the numbers in urban areas, the county, social services and the community can begin to work together on a dialogue on addressing the needs of this small, but very much in need part of the population.

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

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JUSTICE

Continued from page A1

addressed the crowd. She detailed the work of the Community Remembrance group, which has collaborated with the nationwide Equal Justice Initiative to research and memorialize lynching victims in the county.

“We hope for a better relationship in Chatham County among Black, white and brown citizens,” Nettles said. “The whole truth and ugly past must be made known to all, especially those in denial.”

The county has six recorded lynching victims: Richard Cotton on Aug. 8, 1865; Harriet Finch, Jerry Finch, John Pattisall and Lee Tyson on Sept. 28, 1885; and Eugene Daniel on Sept. 18, 1921. Some accounts add the name of Henry Jones, who was lynched Jan. 12, 1899.

Nettles reminded the crowd that across the state, only one county has more recorded lynchings than Chatham: New Hanover, with 22, many of which are associated to the 1898 Wilmington Massacre. Granville and Rowan Counties also have six documented lynchings. It’s just one example, she said, of “the virus named racism” her ancestors have been battling for 400 years now.

“America has never been great,” Nettles said. “All lives matter, but Black lives have been endangered.”

Karen Howard, the chairperson of the county’s board of commissioners, told those assembled that it wasn’t a coincidence those six victims’ names weren’t widely known. A public memorial, she said, is a chance to validate Daniel, Cotton, Pattisall, Tyson and the Finches — and their families.

“Imagine the agony of being a mother, being a father, being a grandparent or a child (of a victim) who went home silent,” Howard said. “Where was the opportunity to do what we’re doing now, to give voice to that pain?”

As the Community Re-



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Mary Nettles, an organizer of Saturday’s Remembrance Coalition event, welcomes attendees at the county’s Justice Center in Pittsboro.

membrance Coalition and NAACP chapters continue to research and work toward a public memorial, Howard said collaborating with the victims’ descendants will be important. Seeking their input, she said, will be a small step in healing the “generational agony” they’ve faced.

“Allow that hurt, that anger and that agony to come to the surface,” she said. “Flush it out, give it space and let it breathe. And the people whose families were impacted by lynching directly? Let them come to the table and be a part of the conversation.”

Rev. Carl Thompson Sr., the senior pastor at Word of Life Christian Outreach Center in Siler City, echoed Nettles and Howard. History needs to be told, he said, whether good or bad — and there can be “no reconciliation without truth.”

As one example, Thompson highlighted the work of the Equal Justice Initiative, based on Montgomery, Alabama, which has detailed and confirmed nearly 4,500 lynchings of Black people in the United

States from 1877 to 1950.

“Those people are crying out from their graves for justice,” Thompson said, “and they’re joined by a cacophony of voices crying out for us to demand accountability for their murder, rape, brutalization and dehumanization.”

Thompson also touched on economic injustice, which he sees as having “the most negative effects on Black people” today and creating harmful stereotypes. The idea of reparations, he said, is “not foreign” to the United States, which has previously invested in Native Americans and Japanese Americans.

“Black Americans are the only group that hasn’t received reparations for state-sanctioned racial discrimination,” Thompson said.

Those in attendance also heard brief addresses from county commissioner Diana Hales, Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass, Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson and a voting rights activist. Musician Beverly Goldston performed a “song of inspiration” featuring lines



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

The Rev. Carl Thompson, a former county commissioner, spoke about the history of reparations in the United States at Saturday’s event.



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Mary Nettles (right) and other event organizers listen to speakers from behind the podium.

from “We Shall Overcome” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” and invited the crowd to clap and sing along with her.

And Larry Brooks, the president of the West Chatham NAACP, delivered closing remarks. He invited the crowd to stand or kneel for a silent prayer in honor of the Black victims of racism — enslaved

people, lynching victims, people killed by police — before dismissing them.

“We will continue to stand up for what is right,” Brooks said to applause.

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnc.com or on Twitter at [@chapel-fowler](https://twitter.com/chapel-fowler).

JOHNSON

Continued from page A1

pared her to engage in the Latinx community

in Chatham County and share how individuals, families, business owners and others have been affected by the spread of the novel coronavirus.

“When I first arrived,

I didn’t speak great Spanish and I knew little of the region’s culture and customs,” Johnson said of her time in Spain. “It was frustrating, scary and isolating at first.

The language barrier and complicated Spanish bureaucracy nearly thwarted my attempts to ask for help or get the services I needed, including a sub-leasing agreement that I needed to legally stay in the country for more than 90 days. While there, I never managed to figure out the health care system or health insurance — something that has become increasingly important during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the university I attended in Pamplona had resources to support international students, the university I attended in Oviedo did not, which made it harder to adapt. That’s why I believe in this project.”

The project will be called “La Voz de Chatham” — The Voice of Chatham — and the stories that Johnson reports as part of the project will be made available in English and Spanish. The stories will also be in front of the newspaper’s website paywall. The project will be promoted through a soon-to-debut Facebook page.

Associated projects may include a Spanish-language print product, a podcast and more, Horner said.

“Victoria really established herself with her

reporting skills on a variety of projects while at UNC,” he said. “We’ve put together a compelling list of stories for her to pursue here. In many ways the Latinx community in Chatham County is isolated and not connected, so the struggles they’ve had to endure during the pandemic aren’t well known. Victoria will be working within that community to report about those struggles — and to share stories of triumph as well.”

Just two traditional print newspapers in North Carolina were awarded the grants. Among the other recipients were news websites Carolina Public Press, EducationNC, Enlace Latino NC and QCity Metro of Charlotte.

In recognition of its innovative news product, the News + Record this week also received a \$7,000 grant from Google as part of its effort to help newspapers through the Google News Initiative’s Journalism Emergency Relief Fund. The paper was also awarded a paid summer intern from the Missouri School of Journalism to help integrate innovative storytelling strategies at Chatham News + Record. Other recipients included The Washington Post, the

Associated Press and the Carolina Panorama.

Six Missouri School of Journalism students and recent graduates were selected to partner with news outlets this summer through the Reynolds Journalism Institute’s Innovation Fellowship. The students are spending their summers finding news ways to help outlets reach audiences, distribute their content and grow revenue. Caroline Watkins, the News + Record’s digital media fellow, has spent the summer so far working on the paper’s social media accounts and experimenting with storytelling tools such as AMP stories.

Watkins and Johnson are collaborating on the launch of the Facebook page for the COVID-19/Latinx program.

“We’re proud to support this diverse group of publishers — many of which are family- or independently owned,” said Campbell Brown, the vice president of global news partnerships at Facebook. “Not only are these journalists working tirelessly to serve people right now — they’re focused on transformation, building innovative local news businesses that can continue to serve communities beyond the current pandemic.”

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | DENNIS STREETS

Make a difference by wearing a mask



DENNIS STREETS
Guest Columnist

“All must mask.” Those were the words of an intensive care medical doctor at a large hospital in Florida. I was struck by the simplicity and profundness of his words.

They just made common sense.

What was most compelling was the source. This physician leads an ICU team that is helping many people of all ages who have become infected with COVID-19.

This physician’s realization of the importance of

The doctor’s point was this: Is it too much of a sacrifice for people of all ages to take simple, reasonable measures to protect one another as we seek to control the spread of COVID-19 and overcome its effect on our community’s health and economy?

masks, though, came more from his personal experience. He admitted to an error in judgment that led him and his family to become infected. In his interview, the doctor talked about having a large family gathering at which a cousin who was an asymptomatic COVID-19 carrier brought this horrid disease to his home.

While the doctor reported that he had recovered and was

eager to return to work — and thankful that his wife and children only had mild cases — he sadly shared that his mother and grandmother had driven themselves to the hospital after becoming sick. Only one returned home.

This frontline hero now has to live with the loss of a loved one, which may have been prevented.

He pointed out that our oldest and most vulnerable

friends, neighbors and family members were frontline heroes when the United State battled other adversaries in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, and other challenging times. In their youth, many of these generations made the ultimate sacrifice. Health officials tell us that this population, specifically those 65 and older, are more likely to have severe complications from COVID-19.

The doctor’s point was this: Is it too much of a sacrifice for people of all ages to take simple, reasonable measures to protect one another as we seek to control the spread of COVID-19 and overcome its effect on our community’s health and economy?

The wearing of a mask and

keeping a safe distance from others are two of the most patriotic acts that any of us can undertake at this time. How well we do in these acts of patriotism will largely dictate our success in protecting our fellow residents. When future historians consider this time period, hopefully they will report that Chatham County made a positive difference, because we all acted responsibly in following this physician’s simple prescription.

Dennis Streets is the executive director of the Chatham County Council on Aging. He can be reached at 919-542-4512 or by email at dennis.streets@chathamcouncilonaging.org

School’s out forever



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

In addition to a nod at the rock ‘n’ roll song by Alice Cooper, my title is hyperbole. I don’t really think that schools should be permanently closed.

But with the rise in COVID-19 cases, I do write to raise questions about sending students back this fall.

The American Academy of Pediatrics did recommend reopening schools. The argument is that the risk of children not being in school — in terms of a loss of socialization, lack of access to secure food sources and increased exposure to domestic strife — outweighs the risk of getting sick. Certainly, emotional as well as physical health is important for every child.

But let’s notice that these health benefits are actually beyond the stated purpose of public education.

The AAP recommends that schools reopen because parents need child care and children need access to reliable food and safe spaces. But why does school have to be the sole service provider for these essentials?

It seems to me that the coronavirus pandemic has exposed a fundamental weakness in our society. Our schools need more support not only in terms of investing in buildings, curriculums and teachers but also with other community services for children and families.

We are in the midst of a lethal global pandemic. We need both the vision to reimagine the role of our schools in society and the willingness to make effective changes for our families. Tragically, the coronavirus has revealed

From the beginning of the outbreak, elected and appointed officials at local, state and federal levels have spoken of the desire to return to normal. They are really saying that “normal” relates to the economy.

another fundamental weakness in our political leadership.

From the beginning of the outbreak, elected and appointed officials at local, state and federal levels have spoken of the desire to return to normal. They are really saying that “normal” relates to the economy. Perhaps the most extreme example was the lieutenant governor of Texas suggesting that senior citizens should be willing to sacrifice their lives so that people can get back to work.

Now we hear officials at the highest levels of the federal government insisting schools reopen, fully and on time. Do they expect teachers to sacrifice their lives? Cafeteria workers, janitors and school bus drivers? What about our children?

Notice I write “our” children. My wife and I parent three young ones. But any society that does not consider each and every child as its own is a society lacking in moral imagination. They are all our children.

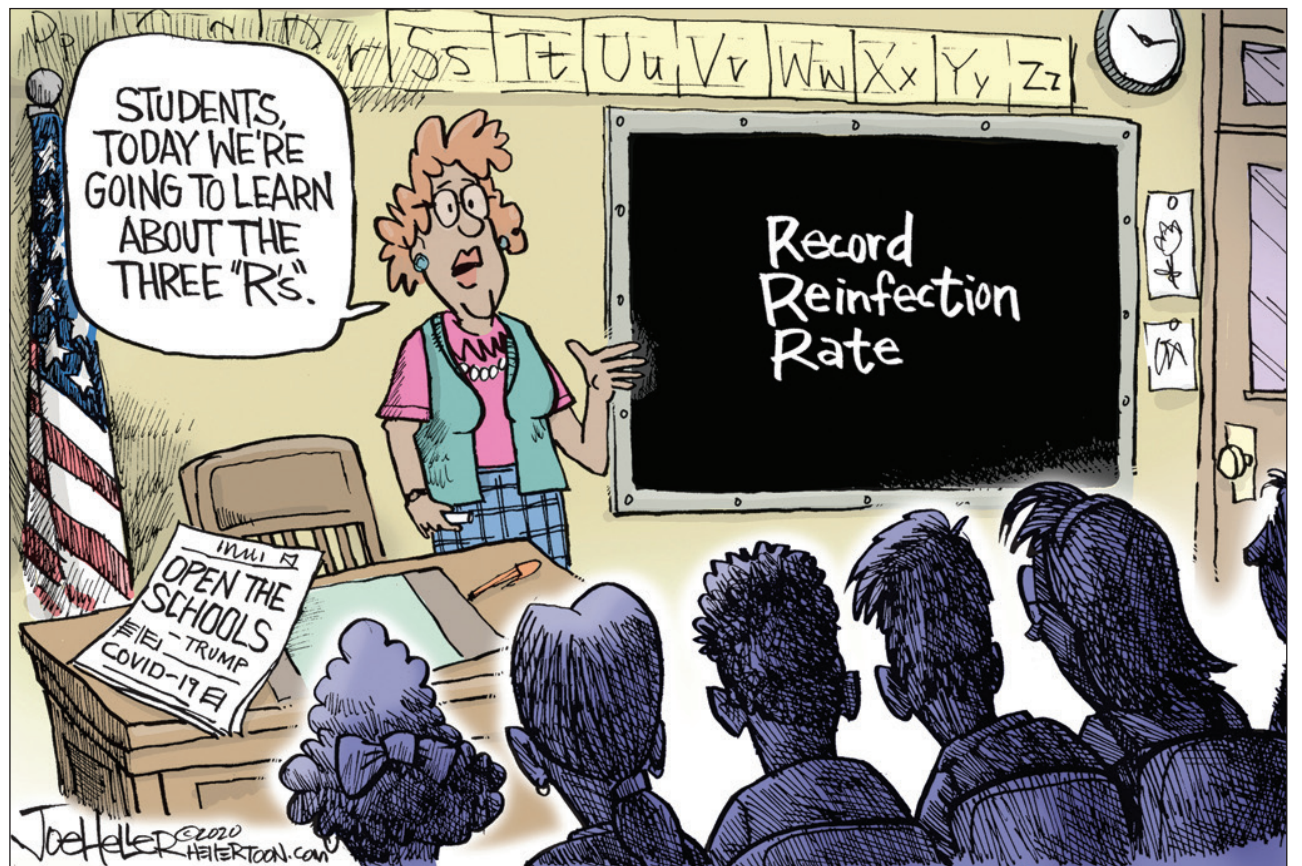
Again, we are in the midst of a lethal pandemic. It’s important to remember that the coronavirus is “novel,” meaning brand new. There have been no long-term studies. While the mortality rates among children are low, we do not know the morbidity rates. We do not know the damaging effects of the virus on children.

Why would our political leaders be willing to gamble the long-term health of our children for the short-term viability of our economy? There is an election this fall.

I want to be clear that my criticism is levied against the institutions of our society and those who have been charged to lead them. I have no judgment for individual families who choose to send their kids to school in the fall. Again, I have skin in the game. I have sympathy for everyone who has to make the hard choice about whether or not to send their children to school. I do know that for some families, there are no other options.

My point is that our society could reimagine ways to meet the needs of children without putting large numbers of people at risk for infection. I want radical change in the face of pandemic and not a misguided attempt to return to normal.

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



What’s in a word? Could be plenty ...



BOB WACHS
Movin’ Around

The good folks who listen to me from Sunday to Sunday — maybe “endure” would be a better word — know how I often speak of the importance of words and how we should strive to use the right one, and how

we should keep them soft and sweet because we never know when we might have to eat them, and so on and so forth.

The reality of words is that they’re about all we have to convey thoughts and ideas and such — short of body language and action, not that those two aren’t important in how we get thoughts and ideas across.

Anyway, from time to time I have thought about how the two vocations in which I have spent most of my life — journalism and pastoral ministry — both rise and fall on words and their correct and appropriate usage. In those two fields, the right word can be what saves the day, and the wrong one can be the kiss of death.

Every profession, I know, has its quirks, failures and shortcomings. Doctors, I’ve heard it said, bury their mistakes; lawyers send theirs off to jail. Writers and speakers, however, tend to put their bad moves out in the public domain for all to see forever. In short, if it makes it

Every profession, I know, has its quirks, failures and shortcomings. Doctors, I’ve heard it said, bury their mistakes; lawyers send theirs off to jail. Writers and speakers, however, tend to put their bad moves out in the public domain for all to see forever. In short, if it makes it in print or film or tape or DVD, it’s there forever.

in print or film or tape or DVD, it’s there forever.

I’ve had my share of them. Once I did a piece for the paper in which I lamented that much of our adult population still had trouble reading and writing and that the local community college had launched a program aimed at helping older folks (by definition, I guess, “non-teenagers”) improve themselves in those areas.

Dutifully I did the story and then cast about for a headline, and thought I’d prepared a good one when I set in type the words “Literacy still problem in Chatham” and then followed it up with a smaller headline underneath proclaiming “CCCC working against it”.

I’m pretty sure about 5,000 copies of that paper were printed before I got the chance to holler “Stop the presses!”

During the years of preparing newspaper pages and church bulletins, there have been similar instances. Now they’re funny; at the time, it wasn’t always that way.

The curse isn’t limited to only me. Many, if not most or all, of the folks who put pen or keyboard in hand

have tasted it. A dear little lady who for years reported the comings and goings of a certain community in the local media once proclaimed that a young lad of that community was off serving in Uncle Sam’s Navy on a vessel known as an LST (Landing Ship Tank — a big ol’ boy whose front drops down so the tank can crawl off). The writer reported that the young sailor, as part of his duties, “took a trip on LSD.”

If it’s true misery loves company, and maybe laughs with it, a book I picked up some time ago, a collection of mis-types, has given me cause to know they’re everywhere. I especially enjoyed the one that said, “The Fulton County Humane Society is hosting their 4th annual beagle barbecue. Come on and join them in this unique event.” And the church newsletter item that read “The church board of elders has called a special meeting today to decide what it did last week.”

Bottom line is: at least we’re trying ... Keep those words soft and sweet ... and don’t forget “please” and “thank you.” Especially in these hard times.

Chatham News + Record

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

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VIEWPOINTS

Just causes need prudent leaders



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

History is full of cases in which people subverted their own just causes by acting impulsively rather than carefully considering the costs and benefits. As the ancient poet Horace put it, “The one who cannot restrain their anger will wish undone, what their temper and irritation prompted them to do.”

A case in point happened 244 years ago this month right here in North Carolina.

While popular depictions of the American Revolution tend to focus on set-piece battles between British redcoats and Continental armies, in much of the country the war consisted primarily of raids and counter-raids by bands of Patriots, Tories, and British-allied Native Americans, including

some of the Cherokees of the Carolinas and Georgia.

Cherokee leaders had good reason to be frustrated. Settlers had trickled into the Southern foothills and mountains for decades, sometimes in violation of treaty. During the latter years of the French and Indian War, Cherokees sided with the French and launched raids against frontier settlements in the Carolinas. They were defeated, paying a high price. Still, a series of new treaties came afterwards. Indian leaders hoped they would stick, despite occasional violations by both sides. By the 1770s, however, a Cherokee faction led by a young chief named Dragging Canoe became convinced — by experience and by the promises of skillful British agents — that only King George III, acting through royal governors, could protect their treaty rights.

So, beginning in May 1776, Cherokee raiding parties struck settlements across the frontier, often brutally. The timing of the Indian raids was

no accident. It was part of a larger British plan to subdue the Southern colonies.

Months earlier, Gen. Henry Clinton and British troops had sailed from Boston to Wilmington, where he expected to meet up with reinforcements from England and a column of Loyalist militia. The combined force would then move south to conquer Charleston and the rest of the Carolina coast.

As the Tories began their march from present-day Fayetteville towards the sea in early February 1776, however, they met with resistance. After some maneuvering, they attacked Patriot forces at the Moore’s Creek Bridge on February 27. The attack was a disaster, with nearly all of the Tories killed, wounded, or captured.

When Clinton arrived off the North Carolina coast, then, he found no Tory reinforcements. After landing a few foraging parties and skirmishing with local militia, Clinton decided to take his army south to attack

Charleston, anyway. To even the odds a bit, the British added a new twist: diversionary attacks by Cherokees to force Carolina and Georgia militiamen to march westward to the frontier rather than to the defense of Charleston.

But North Carolina Patriots were perfectly capable of walking and chewing tobacco at the same time. Some militiamen marched south and east to help defend Charleston. Others marched north and west to form an army under Gen. Griffith Rutherford.

By September 1, Rutherford had assembled about 2,500 men at what is now Old Fort, in McDowell County. Over the next few weeks they marched west, capturing Indians and Tories, destroying dozens of villages, and fighting at least two engagements against the Cherokees at Middle Town and Laurel Hill in present-day Jackson County. By September 26, the North Carolinians met up with a column of South Carolinians in what is now Cherokee County, at the extreme

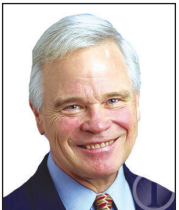
tip of the state. After briefly considering additional campaigns, the two Carolina generals decided they had accomplished enough and returned to their respective homes.

Both the British and Cherokees had gambled and lost. The Indian raids had been too little and too late to weaken the Patriot defense of Charleston, where the attempted British invasion was rebuffed. As for the Cherokees, they had sustained significant human and material losses, while serving only to harden the hearts of some Patriot leaders who had previously been sympathetic to the Cherokees’ concerns.

It’s not enough to fight courageously for a worthy cause. Prudence and wisdom matter, too, if your goal is to win.

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 at 12:30 p.m. Sundays on UNC-TV.

The 1943 train wreck that still haunts



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Some North Carolina old-timers still talk about the disastrous 1943 train wreck south of Fayetteville. It killed 74 people, including the father of one of the central characters of beloved author Jill McCorkle’s new novel, “Hieroglyphics.”

McCorkle, who grew up in nearby Lumberton, says she remembers her dad talking about visiting the site right after the crash and seeing all the scattered debris.

The late Joe Oxendine, who was featured in my recent column dealing with Indian sports nicknames, told me that he and other boys from Pembroke drove over to see the wreck and collect some of the stunning remnants scattered over the site.

McCorkle lived in Boston for a number of years. There she heard about a 1942 nightclub fire that took more than 492 lives, including the mother of another character in “Hieroglyphics.”

When Lil, whose mother died in the fire, and Frank, whose father died in the train wreck, first met, they discovered their common bond, a bond that held them through 60 years of marriage.

As the story begins, they have retired to Southern Pines, which, coincidentally, is not far from the site of the tragic train wreck. Close by the wreck site is the modest home where Frank lived for several years after his dad’s death.

Frank and Lil have driven to the old house, now occupied by Shelley, a single mother, and her young son, Harvey.

Shelley has seen Frank driving by before and is nervous. “It doesn’t help that that old man rides by so often now, his green Toyota slowing in front of the house and then circling the block.”

When Shelley meets Frank at the door, he explains, “I grew up here. I would love to see inside if convenient. My wife, too.”

Shelley resists, but at the end of the book Frank is in the backyard of the old house finding some closure.

In the 300 pages between its opening and closing at the old house, McCorkle takes us deep into the lives of the characters we met on the first pages: Frank, Lil, Shelley and Harvey.

Frank carries the consequences of the train wreck throughout his life. Both his father and mother were on the train, coming from Florida to their home in Massachusetts, where Frank and his grandmother waited for them. Frank’s seriously injured mother remained in North Carolina to recuperate. She was sure she heard Frank’s father calling, “Don’t leave me.” So she stayed and ultimately married a local man.

She and Frank lived in his house, and Frank grew up there. Ultimately, he went to college and graduate school, married Lil and became a college professor specializing in ancient history and archeological relics. Along the railroad tracks he collected relics from the wreck, including a toy decoder that he imagined his parents were bringing him for Christmas.

Lil cannot get over the loss of her mother, a ballroom dance instructor, who had not told her husband and Lil that she was going to the nightclub. The questions of who her mother was with and why still haunted her as an adult. She is also a collector. McCorkle uses Lil’s collected newspaper clippings and copious notes to help tell a story that include her agonizing experience of Frank’s misadventures with a younger academic.

Shelley is a court reporter in a Robeson County courtroom during the trial of a brutal doctor who murdered one of his many girlfriends, not unlike a similar murdering doctor in McCorkle’s previous novel, “Life After Life.”

Shelley’s son, Harvey, is a collector of horror stories about the Beast of Bladenboro, the Glencoe Munchkins, and other scary tales that kept him awake at night and he used to frighten his schoolmates.

That McCorkle builds these complex characters together into a complex, layered, and gripping novel is just another example of her great storytelling genius.

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

Mental health, social media and COVID-19



RACHEL HOROWITZ
Millennial Musings

I know many of you are experiencing heightened anxiety, or nightmares about social distancing, or headaches while scrolling through misinformation.

I know you are feeling pressured to stay positive every day, to propel yourself to a feeling of normalcy. And I know you are scrolling through social media wishing you could be as relaxed as the celebrities on there, or even as happy as your Facebook acquaintances seem.

I feel it, too. Social media is not meant to explain the bad days — it’s meant to cover them up. We hear about suicides and exclaim, “But they seemed so happy,” and we scroll through

their profiles, looking for signs. The sign we cannot see is the shame associated with having a bad day. When your favorite team wins a big game or you celebrate the holidays or you transition to a new place, the expectation is you are happy. So you share what you think happy is, hoping the “likes” will serve as validation that this is the way you should be feeling.

Here is what social media does not tell you: we post photos of ourselves at the peak of the mountain and we pretend we were never in the valley. But it is only half of the truth. Having a social media image can be therapeutic, so let’s by all means not avoid it. But we should be careful to think we know the whole story about someone from scrolling through a profile. If it is not the reality for ourselves, then how can we expect it to be real for anyone else? So I’ll stop hiding my stress pimples

and uncombed hair on Zoom calls. I’ll admit that my anxiety medication is a huge part of what is getting me up in the mornings. And I’ll reiterate that it’s OK to not feel “normal” because this is not a normal time.

I have found when I sit down with others and ask how they are, this is when their filters fall off. That is when I know it’s not just me. Every time I think I would be happier if I went back to the way things were, I write down the truth. It puts everything into perspective and after many years of filtered smiles, it has helped change my life.

Whether you’re at the peak, in the valley, or somewhere in the middle, you are not alone.

Rachel Horowitz currently resides in Chatham County and works in Pittsboro. She is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill’s Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

GUEST COLUMN | JENNIFER TOMKINS

Why America needs a commission on truth, racial healing, and reconciliation



JENNIFER TOMKINS
Guest Columnist

Coming to the U.S. in the mid-1980s, I was shocked to find how much it appeared to me to resemble the

South Africa I had left in the late 70s at the height of apartheid.

U.S. activists, mobilizing the American people and institutions, had played a supporting role in the overthrow of apartheid. However, they had singly failed to help accomplish the removal of de-facto segregation at home.

I believe it is high time that those of us who are — often unwittingly — the beneficiaries of white privilege, fully recognize the enduring consequences of our own nation’s “original sin” of racism. This racism is not only a matter so much of individual prejudice but also of deeply entrenched institutional bias but to address it will require white allies to support the Black leaders who are working to change it. It’s time to be all in.

Fortunately, at this juncture, there are clear signs that after more than 150

years of failed promises and false hopes this could be the moment. White people have joined their Black brothers and sisters in droves to protest police violence, not just in liberal San Francisco but also in the conservative small towns such as DeKalb, Illinois.

Though the killing of George Floyd was the flash point, not only has Black discontent been rising, but so has Black organizing around issues from criminal injustice to voter suppression. Since 2016, we have seen the rise of an increasingly strong and savvy cadre of Black women organizers. They include leaders such as Stacey Abrams, LaTosha Brown and Jessica Byrd, all of whom have founded organizations designed to empower Black voters and train future Black leaders.

One place white allies could begin to play an immediate role is in helping build support for Resolution 100 introduced into the U.S. House by veteran Congressional leader Barbara Lee of Oakland. She is asking that white people step up by contacting their congressional representatives and urging them to cosponsor the resolution.

Resolution 100 calls for the establishment of

a “U.S. Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation” in order to acknowledge the past history of America’s racial injustice and progress towards addressing persistent racial inequalities. This concurrent resolution (1) affirms, on the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first slave ship, the U.S. debt of remembrance not only to those who lived through the injustices of slavery but also to their descendants; and (2) proposes a U.S. Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation to properly acknowledge, memorialize, and be a catalyst for progress, including toward permanently eliminating persistent racial inequities. Lee is calling for the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation “to properly acknowledge, memorialize, and be a catalyst for progress toward jettisoning the belief in a hierarchy of human value, embracing our common humanity, and permanently eliminating persistent racial inequalities.”

At least 40 such commissions exist around the world from Guatemala to Sierra Leone. The best known is that initiated by the Rev. Tutu in 1995 after

South Africa ended apartheid. They receive mixed reviews, depending on the different situations and national cultures and have certainly not proven to be a panacea.

Lee is aiming to have 218 co-sponsors to Resolution 100 soon. Those of us who have it need to exercise our white power and privilege to get behind the initiative using our networks to reach out to as many members of congress as possible to ask them to sign on.

Supporting Lee’s initiative would be a start but it is not enough; not by a long chalk. As the resolution makes clear, white America needs to do the serious soul searching and self-education about our shared history that Black people have long been asking us to do. Only then can we become the kind of effective allies Black leaders need in order to effect the deep culture change that this moment calls for — and may make possible.

Jennifer Tomkins is a British born U.S. citizen who worked in the publishing industry in South Africa and England. She is a former freelance journalist and longtime grass-roots activist. She currently serves as a board member of WDN Action, the c4 arm of the Women Donors Network.

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N.C. schools to open with restrictions in August, Cooper says

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

North Carolina Public Schools are set to open in August, Gov. Roy Cooper announced Tuesday, but they'll do so in what is known as Plan B — a combination of in-person and online learning. One month out from school starting, Cooper warned current plans could shift to fully remote learning should coronavirus cases in the state spike.

While individual school districts could decide to offer fully remote learning, Cooper said schools are not allowed to offer fully in-person classes. Some of the requirements outlined by the governor include

required face coverings for all students and teachers, limited numbers of people in school buildings to allow for social distancing and the provision of masks and thermometers to schools. Throughout the announcement, Cooper emphasized the importance of individual schools and districts making policies tailored to their communities.

"There are no decisions more important than the ones about our children in our schools," he said. "This announcement today is the result of careful collaborative and painstaking work. As with many choices during this pandemic, we're working with the best information in science that we have today."

North Carolina will also remain in its "Safer at Home" Phase 2 for three more weeks, Cooper said.

"Easing restrictions now to allow more high-transmission activities could cause a spike that would threaten our ability to open schools. The most important opening is that of our classroom doors," he said regarding the pause in phase reopenings.

Chatham County Schools System was waiting to finalize their reopening strategy following Cooper's announcement, CCS Superintendent Derrick Jordan told the News + Record in a July 1 interview. At the time, Jordan said the district was focusing on develop-

ing hybrid and fully-remote reopening plans. "I can tell you that we want kids back in school as quickly as possible, and as safely as possible. We're going to allow the folks who are experts in public health to make those decisions," Jordan said at the time. "We will spend the bulk of our time doing what we have been trained to do, and make sure that the instructional components and the pieces of schooling that are left to our charge are met with the best work that we can provide."

As in Chatham County, many students are scheduled to return to school Aug. 17 — a date nearly five months after Gov. Cooper ordered schools

closed to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

During his announcement, Cooper said the state would provide at least five reusable masks for each student as an effort to ensure schools have enough personal protective equipment and he also encouraged local businesses to donate masks to their neighboring schools.

Regarding teachers, who data shows are more at-risk for infection of the coronavirus than the children they teach, Cooper said individual schools systems should work with teachers to make sure no teachers are going back to in-person teaching if they are at-risk or feel unsafe doing so.

Still, the governor emphasized the importance of reopening — not only for academic lessons, but in support of children's social, emotional and physical development as well.

"In March, our teachers and school staff dove headfirst into the challenge of remote learning and meal distribution. They rose to the occasion. And now we're asking them to rise even higher and dig even deeper," Cooper said. "So we must move ahead with the resources needed to protect them. Ensuring this plan protects not just students, but teachers and staff too, is the top priority."

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com.



Clash of symbols

This Black Lives Matter billboard was installed on U.S. Hwy. 64 near Pittsboro this week after a GoFundMe campaign which began this spring. The billboard was erected directly next to a Confederate flag previously placed on private property. More than 200 donors contributed almost \$10,000 to the BLM billboard effort, which was started in response to the placement of Confederate flags on that stretch of U.S. Hwy. 64. 'Pittsboro, North Carolina, is a close-knit small town filled with kind hearts, artists, farmers, families, and a community that is here to change the world for the better,' an organizer wrote on the GoFundMe page. 'Those confederate flags do NOT represent who we are as a community. It is important for us now more than ever as a community to show our support for #BLACKLIVESMATTER, with that message on a billboard that is counter to the confederate flags next to it.'

Photo courtesy of WCHL

STORE

Continued from page A1

summer working at the store.

"I think he's like myself — I don't know that he has a whole lot of interest in the future of doing this," King-McDaniel said of her son. "But you learn so much being here. You learn how to deal with the public, you learn a little bit about everything — just like we sell a little bit of everything."

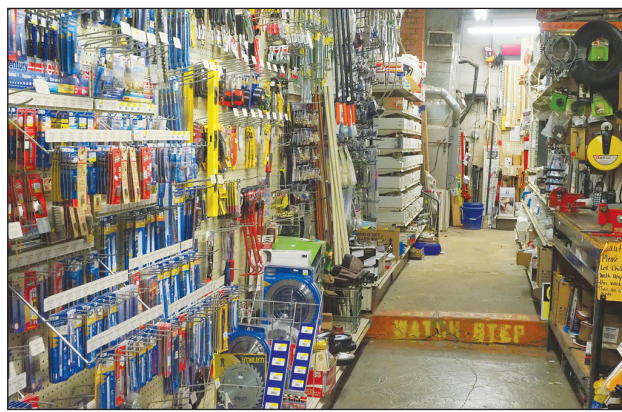
'I'm proud of what he has done'

Founded in 1935 by John Moore and his son, Richard Moore, the store is still housed in its original red-painted structure just off U.S. Hwy. 421 at 865 Thrift Road. Although technically in Gulf, the store is only discoverable to GPS users under a Goldston address.

Though it'd be nice to have a brand new building, King-McDaniel said, she has to constantly weigh not losing "the charm of what it is." In recent years, the store's business has evolved more toward work apparel and shoes — some "touristy" items — but it is still deeply connected to its community roots, she says.

When the store was founded, it functioned as a place for locals to buy staples that weren't as readily available in rural Gulf. Until the 1950s, the store's website says, the Moores ran a regular route to deliver items to customer's doors.

After his father passed



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

JR Moore & Son — 'a country store with a little bit of everything' in Gulf — represents a dying breed of small, family-owned general stores. The store offers everything from Carhartt jackets and personalized store baseball caps to decorative pocket knives and hardware supplies.

away, Richard Moore continued expanding the business and in 1968 he brought on King, who grew up in Gulf and had worked in the store as a teenager. When King became full owner in 1978 after Richard Moore's death, he stuck to the Moore's values of meeting a need when you see it and keeping full stock. For most of his career, King also allowed local customers to purchase on credit.

"I'm proud of what he has done and created," King-McDaniel said of her father, who is technically retired but still frequents the store more days. "Hopefully — I think — he's glad I'm here."

When King originally approached her father about joining him at the store, he jokingly said he was glad she was on board, as it would one day be hers "one way or the other."

"I told her when she wanted to come in that

Mr. Moore would be dancing up in heaven right now — he wanted this place to continue," King said.

'We're what's left'

It's not just the variety of items that makes JR Moore & Son special. It's also the staff — half of whom have been with the store for more than 20 years. They not only know the store well, King-McDaniel said, they also know Gulf well and how to help fix a range of common customer problems from plumbing to gardening.

And, of course, the visits from Gulf's claim-to-fame and country music legend Charlie Daniels aren't too shabby either. Daniels, who died last Monday at age 83, spent much of his young adult life in Chatham County and knew the King family. And when he was around, King-McDaniel said, he would stop by the store.

together and doing "fund-raisers," according to King.

"The first money he made was there at the store — JR Moore's," King said. "Charles and Russell would sit on that porch, back when it had gas pumps, pickin' and playing. From time to time, someone would drop a dime or a quarter in the bucket."

What started on that front porch led to an incredible friendship for Daniels, Palmer and the Goldston-Gulf area. "He traveled up and down the east coast playing at beer joints, just getting started," King said. "But he would come by. His parents moved away, but he would come by to visit Russell. And even in the past few years, if he happened to be traveling near 421, he would stop by."

King's daughter, Julie King-McDaniel, recalled one such time.

"The Bethany Baptist Vacation Bible School would have a parade," she said. "They would decorate their bikes and have a parade. Well, Charlie showed up on his bus right in the middle of the parade. He let everyone on, signed autographs for

everyone. It just shows you how he was."

"He talked to all the kids," Rayvon King said. "He was a very friendly person. I doubt he ever met a stranger."

Throughout his career, Daniels played with greats like Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Hank Williams Jr. He won a host of awards and was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry and the Country Music Hall of Fame. But regardless of how great he became, friends say Daniels always had time for Gulf and the friendships he had here, including having Palmer on stage with him at the Grand Ole Opry.

And Gulf will not forget him.

The town of Goldston has a mural and a plaque honoring Daniels, a gift made by Paul Owens, another childhood friend of Daniels and Chatham native who passed away in December. Owens also installed similar gifts honoring Daniels at JR Moore & Son.

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

Next to old-fashioned Coca-Cola coolers, there are pictures of Daniels framed with wood from his old house in Gulf, which King-McDaniel and her father bought when Daniels put it on auction. King-McDaniel, who describes herself as a "sentimental history buff," decorates the walls with old maps, photos and newspaper clippings.

Some of those reflect changes in Gulf over the decades. "It's hard to imagine, but it used to be a very happening place," she said. "It had a bank, it had a pharmacy, it had two or three stores, a doctor's office, and all that's gone. We're what's left. We're still kind of middle nowhere if that makes sense. But if we can ever get you here, we normally get you back."

This is true for customer Lisa Puckett, who first visited the store after seeing a UNC-TV special about it. She lives in Scotts Store and said the two-hour drive to make it to her "favorite country store" is well worth the trip.

"They have a little bit of everything," she said, but her favorite item would have to be the hoop cheese — once, she had it shipped to her house for Christmas.

"We always make a point of stopping by the store if in or near the area of Gulf," Puckett said. Jordan Vann, 22, lives 10 minutes down the road in Lee County and has been a faithful customer since he visited and bought his first pair of work boots when he was 10 years old. Since then, he said he's purchased 10

pairs of work boots and nearly every color of the JR Moore & Son hats — he buys one every visit.

"It reminds me of an older general store — it kind of takes you back," Vann said. "It almost just makes you feel like you're back in time."

As time goes on and more stores like JR Moore & Son struggle to compete with the low costs and mass supply of chain department stores, King-McDaniel said she and her staff are working to keep up without losing their country charm. Even though the store doesn't have an online shopping platform, they've shipped orders placed over the phone, email and Facebook all around the country.

Kevin Richardson, who started working at the store in 2001 and came back as a full-time employee in 2008, recently started weekly Facebook videos to advertise products. One video, he

said, got 800 views in less than 24 hours. He enjoys working at JR Moore & Son because there isn't one day that's the same.

"I hope it keeps up," Richardson said.

Watching her son ring up a customer, King-McDaniel echoed Richardson's sentiment as she discussed the difficulties of owning a small business with not as much profitability as "people probably think."

"Well, I do hope it can continue on. Now, I don't know that he will ever want it, but if he does, I hope it's here for him to run," she said of her son. "Everybody says, in the age of the internet, shopping is going to take over ... even I do a lot of online shopping. But I still think there's a part of us that wants to come and touch and feel and see products."

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com.

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DANIELS

Continued from page A1

the creosote plant and he moved a lot — South Carolina, Georgia. But he graduated from the high school when it was in Goldston."

Daniels was one of the "older boys," King said, four years older than himself.

"He was a big ole boy, played football," King said. "He was a good player, too. And he played when it was six-man, when it was a wide open game. He loved football."

But it was music that really got Daniels moving.

Daniels — whose hit songs included "Simple Man" and "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" — always stated in interviews that Palmer had taught him how to play the fiddle, but Palmer, on numerous occasions clarified saying it was just the guitar.

King said Daniels was "very interested in string music," learning to play guitar, mandolin and the fiddle. The two started a local band called the Misty Mountain Boys, playing

Teachers, get your applications in for a Bright Ideas education grant!

Central Electric is awarding up to \$15,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to local educators in K-12 classrooms for the 2020-2021 school year.

The final deadline for all grant applications is Sept. 15, but don't wait to apply. Applications submitted prior to the early-bird deadline on Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa® gift cards. For more information or to submit an application, visit NCBrightIdeas.com.

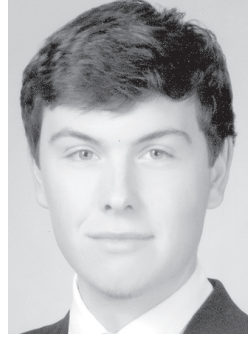
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OBITUARIES

HUNTER THOMAS AWTRY



It is with deep sadness that the family of Hunter Thomas Awtry announces the unexpected passing of their precious Hunter, 21, at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington on Sunday, July 5, 2020 as a result of serious injuries sustained from a fall.

He was born August 19, 1998 to Chris and Lindsey Awtry (now Lindsey Miller), and grew up in Siler City and Archdale.

As a young boy he enjoyed playing baseball and basketball on various school and youth league teams, and played varsity football at Trinity High School where he graduated in 2016. He was a senior at UNC-Charlotte, majoring in business and finance, and the school has informed the family that it is making arrangements to award him his degree posthumously. He was a proud and active member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity for which he served as Social Chairman, and was also Vice-President of Recruitment for the school's Interfraternity Council.

Hunter was a true outdoorsman and spent many happy hours deer hunting, fishing, playing golf, and enjoying various outdoor activities, including snowboarding and riding his dirt bike. He also liked pizza, home-made strawberry ice cream, chocolate chip cookies, and spending holidays and other special times with family and friends. Family was very important to him and he always made sharing quality time with them a priority.

Both greatly admired and well respected by all who knew him, he will long be remembered as a very happy, warm, kind, polite, friendly, generous, caring and compassionate young man, and with his good nature, upbeat attitude, and outgoing personality was always a joy to be around. He also had a tremendous work ethic, was very dependable, and could do almost anything. He always managed to have a job and at the time of his death was employed as an intern in the Client Services Department of Northwestern Mutual in Charlotte.

Hunter was a child of God, professed his Christian faith, and regularly attended Loves Creek Baptist Church in Siler City during his early years and, later First Church of God in Archdale.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Bill and Jackie Awtry of Siler City.

Left to cherish his memory are his mother, Lindsey Miller (T.R.) of Trinity; and father, Chris Awtry (Leanna) of Siler City; maternal grandparents, Burnace and Phyllis Hancock of Siler City; brother, Jace Awtry; stepbrothers, Caleb Alcorn and Tyler Miller; and several aunts, uncles, cousins, and other relatives.

He also leaves behind his beloved girlfriend of 5 years, Maggie Monroe.

Hunter's family would also like to note that he was an organ donor, donating his corneas to give sight to someone else in need. He was such a generous soul - continuing to give even in death.

A private Celebration of Life memorial service for family and close friends is planned for a later time.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Hunter Awtry "My Wish" Memorial Scholarship Fund, at any BB&T.

Assisting the family is Smith & Buckner Funeral Home in Siler City where a guest register will be available for family and friends wishing to pay their respects.

Online condolences may be shared at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

DORIS LANE WILLIAMS



Doris Lane Williams, age 86, of Siler City died Wednesday, July 8, 2020.

Mrs. Williams was born March 30, 1934 in Chatham County, the daughter of Van and Frances Williams. She was retired from Boling Chair Company. Doris was a member of Jordan Grove AME Zion Church and was on the Usher Board. As long as her health permitted, she enjoyed gardening, attending to her flowers, cooking and reading her Bible.

She is survived by two daughters, Diane Williams and Charlotte Williams, both of Siler City; a very special grandson, Jonathan Williams and wife Jackie of Raleigh; granddaughter, Cierra Oldham of Graham; and great-granddaughters, Jada Star Williams and Jasmine Williams, both of Hawaii.

The family received friends Saturday, July 11, 2020 from 12 to 1 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City. After that, the body laid in state until 5 p.m. A graveside service was held Sunday, July 12, 2020 at 2 p.m. at Jordan Grove AME Zion Church Cemetery, 3106 West 3rd Street, Siler City.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Williams family.

Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneral-home.com.

JEAN VALERIE (HAYDEN) MORIARTY

Her family and friends knew her as Valerie. Valerie passed away peacefully on July 1, 2020, in her home, as was her most fervent wish, in the woods of Chapel Hill, NC...surrounded by the nature she loved.

Valerie was a New Year's Eve baby in 1936 in Beacon, New York. Her parents were the late Joseph X. Hayden and Winifred (Biggerstaff) Hayden of Beacon, NY. Her brother survives her, Joseph James Hayden (Durham, NC), and sister, Winifred Anne (Hayden) Capowski (Millbrook, NY).

Valerie was a graduate of Mount St. Mary's Academy in Newburgh, NY, and attended a business school in Manhattan. She followed by working at GE and then Texaco. Shortly after that, she married her best friend, the late Thomas J. Moriarty, II, a resident of Wappingers Falls, NY.

Moving to Cary, NC in 1976, Valerie volunteered at the schools of her children and then taking a job with Cooper Tools, until her retirement. Her memories and stories will be carried forward by her sons, Thomas J. Moriarty, III and Joseph X. Moriarty, and her daughter, Judith J. Moriarty.

Valerie was funny, opinionated, stubborn, strict (but fair), and heaven help the person who cursed in her presence. Her faith was fundamental to her both in good and bad times. She enjoyed cooking, researching genealogy, and reading historical romance novels. She was a life long learner and even attended the University of North Carolina in her spare time. Her favorite topics to study were history, cultural studies, and learning about anything relevant to her children (except technology). She had a great heart and used it wisely. She was loved and loved in return. Those around her will remember her laughter, odd sense of humor, willingness to take the time to listen to others, and sometimes her sage advice.

Due to current conditions, there will not be a memorial. We look forward to a future time to gather, remember, and celebrate Valerie's life. She will be missed.

If you wish to commemorate Valerie's life, we offer that you can donate to a charity of your choice or just do a random act of kindness for a stranger.

WILLIAM DAVID PICKARD

William David Pickard, 71, of Silk Hope, passed away Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

David attended Deep River School and completed his education while serving in the US Army. He was stationed in Korea, working in the motor pool and driving for the Colonel. He was an accomplished carpenter with his own carpentry business called Custom Woodworks. He also worked 29 years with UNC and The School of Public Health. Years prior to retirement were spent with the DOT in Raleigh. He was a past member and first responder of the Silk Hope Fire Department and a current member and past president of the Silk Hope Ruritan Club. David was a current member of South Fork Friends Meeting.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Sandra Johnson Pickard; daughters, Sherry Norfleet of Pittsboro, Danielle Pickard Cockrum of Silk Hope, Annie Mae King of Bear Creek; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, John William and Ethel Mae Riggsbee Pickard and brothers, Monty, Johnny, and Walter Pickard.

In lieu of flowers we request prayer for our family and our country.

Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

JAMES ROBERT WELCH

James Robert Welch, 71, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at UNC Hospital.

A memorial service will be held in West Virginia. He was born in Logan, West Virginia on September 16, 1948 to the late John Henry and Pearl Hurley Welch. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Ray Welch, Riley Welch, Ralph Welch, Russell Welch and a sister, Ruth Maynard. James was a 21-year veteran of the United States Air Force. After his retirement from the Air Force, he worked as a truck driver.

James is survived by his wife, Sarah Bailey Welch; daughters, Hannah Barry and Sarah Welch, both of Sanford, Emma Welch of South Carolina; son, Patrick Welch of South Carolina; step-sons, Mark Spradlin and James Spradlin, both of Sanford; brother, Johnny Welch of West

Virginia; sister, Rita Hill of West Virginia; two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

NELLIE MARIE (ROBERSON) WHITE

Dr. Nellie Marie White, 67, of Sanford, passed away Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at her residence.

Services were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at New Hope Church. Interment followed at Haiti Cemetery in Trenton, N.C.

VIRGINIA ELNORA (SPRUILL) BELK

Virginia Elnora Belk, 93 of Sanford, passed away Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at Westfield Rehabilitation and Health Center in Sanford.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

VENDER ALEXANDER FRAZIER

Vender A. Frazier, 69, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at his residence.

Services entrusted to: Knotts Funeral Home.

LEWIS NEIL ATKINS

Lewis Neil Atkins, 94, of Sanford, passed away July 10, 2020 at FirstHealth Hospice in Pinehurst.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 10 a.m. at White Hill Presbyterian Church Cemetery with Rev. Elton Bryan and Pastor Clay Cox officiating.

Lewis served in the Navy during World War II, and retired from Lufkin in Apex. He was a member of Sanford Church of God. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marie Eatmon Atkins, a daughter, Patricia Atkins Jones, four brothers and one sister.

Survivors include daughters, Gloria Atkins Nelson and Judith Atkins Wilson; a son, Robert Lewis Atkins; seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Church of God Children's Home, 2105 Pathway Drive, Sanford, N.C. 27330.

Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

BILLY JOE ALSTON

Billy Joe Alston, 58, of Siler City, passed away Saturday, July 11, 2020.

Services entrusted to: Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

JAMES SPINKS

James Spinks, 70, of Ashboro, passed away Saturday, July 11, 2020 at his home.

Services entrusted to: Knotts and Son, Siler City.

JAMES ALLEN DICKERSON

James Allen Dickerson, 75, of Cameron passed away at First Health Hospice in Southern Pines.

The family received friends from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home in Sanford.

Mr. Dickerson was a Sgt. in the US Army and a Vietnam Veteran. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Barbara and his brother, Tommy.

Survivors include daughters, Toni Pendleton, Terri Munday, Jamie Champion; a step-son, Mark Helms; 14 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), VA Regional Ofc. Federal Bldg., 251 North Main Street, Room 151, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101-3914.

Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home, Sanford.

ROBERT JOE DEBORD

Robert Joe DeBord, 78, of Siler City died Saturday, July 11, 2020.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at Pleasant Grove Christian Church Cemetery.

Mr. DeBord was born November 27, 1941 in Richmond, VA., the son of Walter Glen and Mary Evelyn Parks DeBord, who preceded him in death. His sisters, Jessi DeBord McGlofin, Wilma DeBord Bowman and Jannett DeBord Fagg also preceded him in death. Robert was retired from March Furniture, and was a member of Brookdale Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley Hayes DeBord; daughter, Frances Diann Linebaugh; brother, William Sterling DeBord; and two grandsons.

Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

CHARLES DAVID GILLIS, SR.

Charles David Gillis, Sr., 78, of Sanford, passed away at his home on Sunday, July 12, 2020.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 10 a.m. at Buffalo Cemetery with Travis Corley and Rev. Joel Murr officiating.

Charles was born in Guilford County on March 5, 1942, to the late Ruth Gillis Graham. In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his brother, Billy Wayne Graham. Charles served his Country in the US Army Reserve. He was the owner of Gillis Pump Company for more than 30 years.

He is survived by his wife, Pamela Bryant Gillis; children, Candace Gillis Gowan of Charlotte, Charles David Gillis, Jr.(Chuck) and Crystal Gillis Abercrombie, both of Sanford; siblings, Buster Graham, and Judy Graham Everidge, both of Olivia; and four grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

ELLA MAE SMITH DRESSLER

Ella Mae Smith Dressler, 83, of Climax, died Monday, July 13, 2020 at her home.

The family will receive friends Thursday, July 16, 2020 from 1 to 3 p.m., with the funeral at 3 p.m. at Community Baptist Church with Keith Johnson officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Dressler was born September 22, 1936 in Chatham County, the daughter of Troy and Pauline Hicks Smith, who preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Dick "Red" Dressler; son, Timmy Ray Kearns; and two grandchildren.

She is survived by a daughter, Janie Tuttle of Julian; sons, Jeffrey Dale Kearns of Silk Hope, Johnny Kearns of Staley, Dennis Kearns of Climax; sisters, Omelia Beck of Siler City and Linda Davis of Bennett; 16 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Online condolences may be made at: www.pughfuneral-home.com.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Dressler family.

RICHARD AVERY WARF

Richard Avery Warf, age 74, of Pittsboro, died Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at his home after a four-month battle with cancer.

Richard was born June 3, 1946 in Lee County, NC, to the late M. Coy and Lula Johnson Warf. Richard was a veteran of the United States Army and was a parachutist/rigger. Richard was employed for many years as a field representative for Trion and Air Cleaning Equipment. For the past 12 years, he has been self-employed as an advisor of air cleaning products.

Richard was predeceased by his parents, M. Coy and Lula Johnson Warf; daughter, Denice Carol Warf; brothers, Coy Warf, Jr, James Calvin Warf, Charlie Warf; and sisters, Evelyn Warf Hairgrove, Mary Warf Wood, and Cathy Warf Jordan.

Richard is survived by his wife of 41 years, Marie Jones Warf of the home; daughter, Pamela Warf Simmons (Rod) of Raleigh; sons, John Warf (Sherry) of Pittsboro and Brian Warf of Siler City; brother Jack Warf (Judy) of Sanford; sister, Lois Warf Cisneros (Andy) of Cameron; sister-in-law, Brenda Warf of Sanford; and grandchildren, Holly Simmons, Jack Simmons, Abigail Warf, Caleigh Warf, Lucas Warf, Evie Warf, and Dana Szpunar.

Due to the covid restrictions, no services are planned at this time. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Jimmy V Cancer Foundation: <http://tinyurl.com/warf.jimmyv>.

ROBERT HOLLIS BRAY, JR.

Robert Hollis Bray, Jr., 85, of Sanford, died Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at his home.

No services will be held at this time.

He was born in Virginia on February 16, 1935 to the late Robert Bray and Vivetta Hughes. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Peggy Jean Lynch Bray, a son, Jarrett Bray and one grandson. Mr. Bray retired after 23 years of service in the US Army, including several tours of duty in Vietnam.

He is survived by his son, Robert Bray, III of Sanford; step-daughters, Eva Sharp and Debbie Lawrence, both of Sanford; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

TREVOR WILLIAM MOSHIER

Trevor William Moshier, 24, of Broadway, died Saturday, July 4, 2020.

A Celebration of Life service was held at the family home, on Saturday, July 11, 2020 at 6 p.m. with Rev. Scott Yow officiating.

He was born on February 9, 1996, son of Douglas Alan Moshier and Tabitha Gabrielson Moshier. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, William Moshier.

Surviving in addition to his parents, are brothers, Bryan DeJarlais of Lillington, Maverick Moshier of Broadway, and Kevin Hutchison of Fallbrook, California; paternal grandmother, Gloria Moshier; and maternal grandparents, Carol Edwards and Ira Gabrielson.

Online condolences can be made at: www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

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CHURCH NEWS

STAUNTON MEMORIAL CME CHURCH

Staunton Memorial CME Church will have a Drive-In Service in our church parking lot beginning at 10 a.m. on Sunday, July 19. Come out and share with our church family.

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

OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

There will be a free car wash and free yard sale, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, sponsored by Oakley Baptist Church Youth.

The church is located at 2300 Siler City-Glendon Rd., Siler City. 919-742-2095, oakelybaptistchurch@gmail.com

LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Due to the excessive heat, the Backyard Church Service at Loves Creek Baptist Church has been rescheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Bring your yard chairs to sit in the shade or remain in your vehicle to be part of this service. All are welcome.

We are located at 1745 East Eleventh St., Siler City, (across from Bojangles).

DEAN'S LIST

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

The University of Alabama has named the following area students to their 2020 Spring Dean's/President's List.

President's List students must achieve a record of 4.0:

- Kelsey Roper of Siler City
- Dean's List students must achieve a record of 3.5:
- Kendall Sutton of Moncure, Jamie

Hall of Snow Camp

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Cameron McNeill of Pittsboro has been named to the University of Kentucky College of Arts & Sciences, Spring 2020 Dean's List. Students must earn 12 or more credit hours with a minimum 3.60 GPA for the semester.

BILLY POE FAMILY REUNION CANCELED

The family of the late William Lineberry "Billy" Poe and Sennie Adelaide Hackney Poe has can-

celed this year's reunion scheduled for Saturday, July 18 due to the virus and restrictions.

Be sure to leave this event on your calendar for 2021. Any questions, call Doris Beck at 919-200-2143.

Teens face challenges while working during the pandemic

BY OLIVIA ROJAS AND CAROLINE WATKINS

News + Record Staff

Editor's Note: This is the third and final installment in a series of stories about how stress is impacting Chatham County during the spread of COVID-19. According to research conducted by BodyNutrition.org, North Carolina is the third-most stressed state in the country.

Working during COVID-19

Teens across the country have faced a number of challenges during the pandemic, from making the switch to online classes to having no choice but to celebrate their high school graduations virtually.

Teens with jobs in the service industry have also experienced added stress, thanks to COVID-19.

Among the 19.3 million workers ages 16 to 24 in the U.S. economy, 9.2 million are employed in service-sector establishments, according to a study from the Pew Research Center that analyzed information published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. And with younger workers making up 24% of employment in higher-risk industries overall, teens across the country have risked their own health during the pandemic while working. Some have even faced layoffs and unemployment in areas with more severe COVID-19 outbreaks.

Although Yaseen Ali did not lose his job due to COVID, he left his job as a precaution — with concerns about contracting and spreading the virus.

Ali, 18, a recent Jordan-Matthews graduate, was working alongside his friend Jose Tepile, 19, at Mountaire Farms, a chicken processing plant in Siler City. The two friends were working at the plant during the month of March and into mid-April, as the pandemic continued to spread across the U.S.

"We were in the department called 'cone debone,'" Ali said. "It's considered the toughest department because it's actually the most labor."

The two were concerned that COVID-19 would spread to the processing plant. "We were talking about it one day, while we were walking to work and we were like, 'This virus is getting serious, like in China and New York.' And [Jose] said, 'How long till you think it gets

to Siler?'"

The next day, someone tested positive for coronavirus at Mountaire Farms.

Both young men worked 12-13 hour shifts, but they would often reach 15 hours. They would volunteer to help with sanitation days, removing garbage and taking on additional responsibilities in the plant.

"I mean, it's not like they were telling us to do it, but we made it the option. If we're gonna work, we're really going to put in the work," Ali said.

Ali and Tepile stopped working at the plant in April. Tepile was let go for not following call-out procedure to use his vacation days — a simple and "lazy" mistake, he said.

Poultry plants across the state have been heavily impacted by COVID-19, including the Tyson Foods chicken processing facility in Wilkes County, where 570 workers tested positive for the virus. Tyson Foods is the largest employer in that county.

Harley Dority, a 16-year-old rising junior at Chatham Central High School, started her job as a sandwich artist at Subway during the pandemic. She fears contracting the virus at work and potentially spreading it to her family. However, she got the job to save money for college and a car.

"I probably tried to get a job at the wrong time," she said. "But I needed one bad."

A promotion in a pandemic

Across town, another recent Jordan-Matthews graduate, Kayli McIntosh, had a different experience working during COVID-19. Not only did she get to continue her job at the Piggly Wiggly in Siler City, but she was promoted to closing cashier manager — a promotion she got in the midst of the pandemic.

"I pretty much worked a full-time job during this time. I worked 30-40 hours every week," she said.

However, her promotion came at a cost. McIntosh said that some days at the store were "extremely busy" and her stress levels were "definitely affected."

"Working at a grocery store was especially hard during the pandemic because everyone was hectic and frantically stocking up," she said. "There weren't any 'normal' days. Every day was busy, non-stop transactions. Wearing a mask for a nine hour shift was also very stressful."

For McIntosh, it was

important for her to work, even during a pandemic.

"I pay my own bills," she said. "I also had to save up to buy myself a car for college. I also need the money for dorm stuff, books and things like that."

Hard work pays off

Now, Ali works at Rite Stop, a gas station and store off of U.S. Hwy. 64 in Siler City, which his family owns.

At the store, he continues to take all of the safety precautions necessary to keep himself safe and healthy during this time, in addition to the safety protocols that are put in place by the state.

"We got like a little shield on top of us and the counter is six feet apart," Ali said. "I wash my hands frequently. I don't touch anything after touching the money. A lot of things can get passed down through money."

Tepile, of Siler City, now works at Bear Creek Arsenal in Sanford. Tepile landed the job in June after a job search was made more lengthy due to the coronavirus crisis.

"I was waiting for a long time," Tepile said. "And that was actually making me look bad and I was actually feeling bad not working because everybody in my house was already going back to work."

Despite the added stress these teens have experienced during the pandemic, Tepile says their hard work can pay off in the long run.

"We're gonna be working most of our lives," Tepile says. "We're young, and I feel like now's the time to basically take advantage of our situations."

Tepile also said that it never hurts to plan for the unexpected.

"Save up as much money as you can, because you never know when you're gonna need it in the future," he said.

Ali echoed his friend. "For right now, it's all about making money. But for later on, it's more than that — it's about making a life," he said.

Ali and Tepile are already looking to the future and have plans to continue their education. No matter what happens, they know they will be working to support themselves.

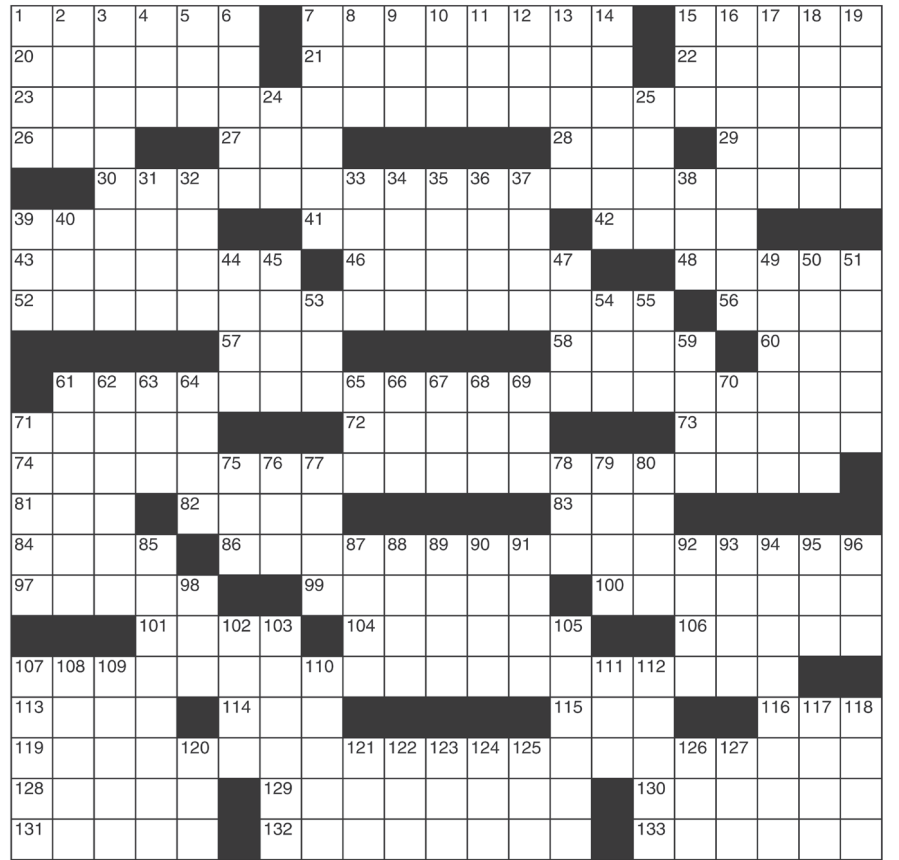
"I have to," Tepile said.

The digital project that accompanies this series can be found at <https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/coping-during-covid-19>, 6/27

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



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DINING IN? IT'S HELPING EATERIES, BUT IS IT ENOUGH?

Chatham restaurants re-open inside, but finding business a bit sluggish

BY PRESTON LENNON
News + Record
Correspondent

Restaurants in Chatham County and throughout North Carolina have reopened their doors to a different sort of dining experience.

Until at least July 17, restaurants in North Carolina will be limited to 50 percent capacity, require face coverings for workers and enforce social distancing measures.

Restaurant owners in Chatham County are thinking that the fallout from the pandemic is going to linger for months to come.

"There's no telling when businesses are going to re-open fully, or when people are going to feel comfortable going out," said Greg Lewis, the owner of Pittsboro Roadhouse. "So the government is going to have to do more in my estimation. The government is going to have to come up with more ways to help small businesses survive the next six months."

Lewis closed his restaurant on July 12, and is now in the process of opening a new establishment at Chatham Mills in the former location of Pickle Jar and Oakleaf. Like his former restaurant, it will also be a steakhouse, but with a smaller menu. He hasn't announced the name yet. Before the pandemic, 60% of Lewis' business came through his catering company, but that has now evaporated, he said.

While restaurants are struggling to fill the seats as people opt to stay at home rather than go out, a significant portion of their cost of business remains steady, putting pressure on restaurants that have already had to scale back operations.

"Your overhead costs are pretty much the same as you work through this pandemic," Lewis said. "Your rent doesn't go down. Utilities, the only reason they go down is because you're using a little bit less. Insurance, things like that, they don't change."

In April, Lewis procured a loan through the Small Business Association's Payroll Protection Program, granting him money that would be

forgiven if he kept his employees on payroll for eight weeks.

Lewis did just that. As the eight weeks came to a close, however, he said the terms of the loan changed, giving businesses a longer period of time to spend the money.

Lewis said he was instructed to put 75% of the loan toward payroll, with the remaining 25% allowed to be used on overhead costs. Under the updated rules, he said, the ratio changed to 60 percent for payroll and 40 for overhead.

"We basically paid employees to stay home," he said. "That way they were not going to the unemployment offices and clogging up those offices."

But Lewis said the rule change put him at a disadvantage, because other businesses that held onto the money rather than using it to pay unneeded employees now had a 24-week period to make use of the loan, and could use it to reopen their businesses.

"There were those businesses that chose to hold on to that money instead of spend it," he said. "Those folks now have an advantage over those of us who spent the money correctly."

At other restaurants in Chatham County, concerns over how the pandemic will affect dining are at the forefront of restaurateurs' minds.

Bill Hartley, the co-owner of Postal Fish Company in Pittsboro, said the days of customers coming into the restaurant and spending two hours eating dinner are over for the time being.

"People come in, do their thing, and they get up and leave," Hartley said.

At the restaurants in the Fearrington Village, a Pittsboro real estate community that includes a luxury inn with multiple dining options, the bar is closed. To help mitigate potential virus spread, each table in the Fearrington House restaurant is only used once per night.

Kerstin Lindgren, the marketing and public relations manager for Fearrington Village, said employees' hours have been reduced across the board.

"We need for folks to continue to be good about wearing masks so we can dig out of this faster," she said. "It affects things

from a PR standpoint, because people hear that the rates are up in North Carolina and they don't want to travel here. So it's really all about getting people to wear those masks."

Although many restaurants have been able to survive on take-out orders and reduced capacity dining, others haven't been able to withstand the toll the pandemic has forced upon the industry.

Courtney Machowicz, who owned the Whiskey Barrel Cafe in Siler City, said her situation became unsustainable after a period of low sales followed Governor Roy Cooper's March 17 order, which required restaurants to switch to a take-out and delivery-only model. She said she decided to sell her struggling business, and join her husband who was living in California.

"Prior to this situation I was reaching out to see if the town/county offered seed money, which I found out that they do not. All of the surrounding counties offer it for businesses,"

she said in an email. "This is very disheartening that during the times in need, it seemed that we (small businesses) are stuck on the lowest part of the totem pole and bound by the most strict of policies."

The Chatham County Health Department is hosting a twice-a-week Zoom call for restaurant owners, in which they provide guidance on safe practices and field questions from the community.

Lewis, the Pittsboro Roadhouse owner, said he thinks the Health Department is doing great work, but he hasn't heard much from other government offices.

Lisa Morgan, the supervisor for the county's Food and Lodging program, said that her department has helped some restaurants revise their permits to allow them to serve family style meals.

"We are telling them they're an essential business," Morgan said. "Their role in the community is vital. They provide food, so we're really trying to encourage them to keep

NEWS BRIEFS

Enrolling in the Voluntary Agricultural District program

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) promotes the agricultural values and general welfare of the county by raising awareness of the importance of our agricultural community and its way of life. This is accomplished by encouraging the preservation of agriculture, horticulture, and forestry through protection from non-farm development.

VAD is overseen by the Agricultural Advisory Board, which acts at the local government level to serve the interests of farmers in the county. The board includes nine appointed Chatham County

residents who are actively engaged in agriculture. The Chatham County VAD, first adopted in 2001, had grown to nearly 30,000 acres of enrolled farmland by 2019, when the program was amended to comply with state statutes. The amendments added a conservation agreement and removed acreage restrictions, enabling VAD to include more farming operations.

Chatham County landowners who enrolled their farmland in VAD prior to August 19, 2019, are asked to re-apply to continue as a Voluntary Agricultural District. To date, efforts to re-enroll the original farms and invite new farms to participate in VAD have resulted in nearly 10,000 acres of enrolled farmland.

VAD enrollment encourages the preserva-

tion and protection of farmland. By participating in the program, neighbors, potential property buyers, and the public are made aware of the location of the working farm, discouraging possible nuisance complaints.

Enrolled landowners can receive a sign (while supplies last) to display at their farm to show that the property is working farmland. The property is also publicly designated as VAD on the county's GIS website and on the property tax card. Additionally, farms belonging to a VAD will not be required to connect to county water or sewer. Any potential assessment fees are suspended without interest unless and until property is connected.

Farms enrolled in VAD may also benefit from higher ranking in Chatham

Soil and Water Conservation District cost-share programs. Landowners enrolled in the Chatham County VAD voluntarily agree to protect their land from development for 10 years.

Who should enroll? Qualifying farmland includes property that is actively engaged in agriculture, is well managed to prevent soil erosion, is located in unincorporated areas of Chatham County, and can be kept in agriculture for at least 10 years. To enroll, interested landowners may request an application or apply for VAD. Please contact Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District at 919-542-8228 with questions or for assistance filling out the VAD application.

— CN+R staff reports



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JONES

Continued from page A1

was the right thing to do.” Into that period of history came Cary Benjamin (“Ben”) Jones, a “‘little ol’ farm boy from Apex,” as he described himself in a 2019 News + Record story on the occasion of his 100th birthday. He died June 23 at the age of 101.

As an Army Air Corps fighter pilot, before the hostilities ended, Jones would fly 22 combat missions with the British and 80 with his countrymen against German and Italian pilots and troops over a span of 16 months. During that time, he would be shot at, shot up and shot down — and live to talk about it, then return to the states, where in 1974, he and his wife Velda built their dream home in Chatham County between Pittsboro and Siler City, where he continued in the cattle business.

That farm became, he said, a place where his soul was restored.

Jones had first tasted the beef industry after moving to California in 1940 to visit a sister. Taking a job with a bank, he also spent time helping his brother-in-law with his vegetable farming and cattle feeding business and learning the meat packing business until the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He immediately went to a San Diego recruiting office, volunteered, called upon his air cadet experience as a student at N.C. State and was sworn in as an aviation cadet. After basic and advanced training, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and sent for further training in P-40 Warhawks for overseas combat, eventually joining “Hell’s Belles,” the 316th Fighter Squadron of the 324 Flight Group.

“None of us expected to get home,” he said of his missions in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. “We knew we were there until it was over or we were killed.”

But he did survive. After returning from the war, the decorated pilot, who received a number

‘He was a friend, a father figure, a mentor, a man’s man. I never met anyone who didn’t like him or remember him. He wasn’t big in stature but he was a big man, a special guy, unique.’

MIKE GRIGGS, longtime friend and fellow pilot

of air medals and badges, became a test pilot in January 1944 for several military aircraft before being discharged two years later.

By this time, Jones had a family — including baby daughter Susan — and he and his family moved to El Centro, California, where he and his brother-in-law built a meat packing plant. For 25 years, he was president and manager of the company and also a partner in the cattle feeding business.

While those ventures proved successful, changes in the business world were coming fast.

“The times and business world then were changing,” Jones said on his 100th birthday, “and we had to get bigger to survive so I got out.”

And as those times changed, so did his plans for the future.

“The good Lord was still looking after this ol’ farm boy,” he remembered. “I had promised my wife not to do anything else so for awhile we traveled. But she used to say the closer I got to North Carolina, the bigger my grin got.”

In time, they began to look for property in the state; a friend suggested Chatham County.

“I wasn’t interested,” he said. “I’d been through there and seen that worn-out red clay but he said, ‘Oh, it’s changed. They’ve been fertilizing it. You ought to check it out,’ so we did.”

And the rest was history.

The land he bought was where Joe Harris grew up.

“He bought the land and I helped him perc the soil,” Harris says. “Trees were cut down and we burned an old house. Then someone filled in the hole and I sewed that ground. I knew him for 50 or 55 years. He was a fine fellow.”

After building their home, Ben and Velda were active in beef cattle farming for years until her death in 2002. And even when he finally retired from farming, other growers used his pastures for their cattle so there was seldom a time when Jones couldn’t look out his big plate glass window and see cattle grazing on the hills.

“His wife Velda, Lord, she was an angel,” Harris says, “just as good a person as Ben was. They were a terrific pair. Ben was more like an uncle to me than just somebody I knew.”

Harris remained a part of Jones’ life through the years, even to the point of providing a persimmon pudding fairly often.

“Sometimes I’d go with him to the eye doctor,” he says. “He’d drive over and I’d drive back since they dilated his eyes. Or I’d go with him to eat. All the waitresses had to hug him. They all loved him; he was generous. There was nobody like him. One time he had to have a serious operation but he told me you had to play cards with the hand you were dealt. I never saw him in a bad mood.”

Jones had several contemporaries who also raised cattle, including neighbor and friend John Etchison. They often talked shop, discussing the business.

“We had some good times,” Etchison says, “took lots of road trips. Even when he got close to a hundred, before he stopped driving, he was still a good driver. I never hesitated to ride with him.”

“He was,” Etchison says, “a heck of a good man, one of the best. I thought the world of him. I miss him.” And in describing his longtime friend, Etchison used a word so many others who knew him have used — the word

“gentleman.”

“But when you think about that,” Etchison says, “it’s kind of hard to put that together with what he did in combat but he was that — a real gentleman.”

Rachel Etchison echoed her husband’s thoughts, noting “Mr. Ben was super, anything you did for him he never failed to acknowledge it, to say thank you. He was always willing to share, like strawberries when he got some.”

That was, says daughter Susan, a dominant characteristic of Ben Jones.

“Talking about it isn’t the same as living it” she says. “I grew up with that; he was forever a gentleman, always was that way.” But that quality isn’t the only thing she remembers about her father. “He was also such an athlete,” she says. “I was an only child and I remember standing on his palms as a child. He was very strong and worked hard all his life.”

Those athletic qualities served him well in the service, Jones said. For one thing, he had physical strength developed early from plowing with mules as a 6 year old and helping his mother supplement her teacher’s income after her husband died when Jones was 4. The family grew cotton, wheat, oats and soybeans and raised poultry, hogs and cattle.

But there were also lessons learned playing on various high school and college teams. At Apex High School, Jones ran track, boxed and played football, basketball and baseball. At North Carolina State, he lettered in baseball and football, earning the nickname “Jackrabbit Jones” for his speed and agility.

“When I look back,” he once said, “there’s nothing that helped me more than playing football. It taught me how important teamwork is and taught me to make a decision quickly and it needed to be the right decision when you make it.”

Despite his age, Jones maintained a keen interest in affairs of the nation and the world, watching those activities on his iPad. And he retained his lifelong

interest in the agricultural world. Longtime friend and fellow pilot Mike Grigg was the other half of many conversations.

“We talked about lots of things,” Grigg said from his home in Beaufort, where he moved a few years ago. “We talked almost every afternoon and how the nation was going today blew his mind, especially after what he did in life. We about figured out that much of the unrest comes from young folks brainwashed at college.”

Griggs described his relationship with Jones the way many others did.

“He was a friend, a father figure, a mentor, a man’s man,” he says. “I never met anyone who didn’t like him or remember him. He wasn’t big in stature but he was a big man, a special guy, unique.”

The tales about Army life that Jones told Grigg and others are almost legend. There was the time he bailed out of his plane upside down because of a fire in the cockpit. That particular escape was because there were no ejection seats in aircraft of those days and many pilots were often struck by the tail of their own plane. On that particular day, Jones remembered, his parachute was slow to open and he prayed he wouldn’t be conscious when he hit the ground. It finally opened in time for him to see his plane crash in a French farmer’s field, setting it on fire.

Then there was his first combat mission where he came face to face with the reality of his situation.

“When they started shooting at me,” he once said, “I thought ‘they’re trying to kill me, they’re trying to kill my mama’s baby boy.’ It gave you a different perspective.”

Despite his successful record, Grigg says, Jones was a “very humble man” but that, too, was a childhood trait that endured through his life.

“I remember him saying one day after he’d been in cadet school for a while, a soldier came up to him and gave him some money. Ben asked him what

it was for and the soldier said ‘It’s your pay.’ And Ben said, ‘You mean we get paid for doing this?’ He was a patriotic man.”

As life moved along, Jones acquired more family — stepsons, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, great-nieces and nephews and cousins — and even more friends. A special friend, daughter Susan Brock says, was “his dear companion” of many years, Jean Watkins. “The past few years with Jean was a bonus chapter in Dad’s life. If not for her, I don’t know that he would have had the will to keep going. She was such a friend.”

“There were so many good things about Ben,” Watkins says. “We enjoyed simple things — rides in the country, watching sunsets through his big window, being with friends. It was really so comfortable. I couldn’t ask for anyone to be any nicer to me; I hope I was to him.”

It was the gentle nature of Ben Jones that drew folks to him. Several friends referred to him as a “gentleman and a gentle man.”

“We never had a disagreement,” Watkins says. “We used to say we wished everyone could be this comfortable in a relationship.”

“He was always happy,” she added. “He often said he loved waking up in the morning knowing he had another day. Before he died, he told me, ‘I’ll never be without you. When you go for a ride in the seat next to you. When you see a sunset, I’ll be there.’ He did so much for so many people and did it without recognition; he didn’t want any.”

Jones loved flying and he often told people it broadened his understanding of life. “I go up in the sky,” he says, “and see those clouds and experience how close to God I feel and then I look down and realize how insignificant we all are.”

Ben Jones answered his final roll call on June 23. He was 101.

“If Uncle Ben isn’t in Heaven,” Joe Harris says, “the rest of us don’t have a chance.”

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‘DIFFERENT THAN WHAT WE’RE USED TO’

Summer football workouts return in Chatham County

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
 News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — Sherman Howze has worked in football for close to 30 years. But Chatham Central’s head coach admittedly felt like a rookie last week.

“I’ve never seen anything like it,” Howze said, standing on the edge of the school’s practice field wearing a visor cap, sunglasses and a camouflage facemask.

It was last Wednesday morning, around 10 a.m. and already 90 degrees, and the Bears were in the middle of their third day of socially distanced workouts: no balls, no pads and no contact.

In front of Howze, nine players ran through agility drills under the instruction of an assistant coach. They were spread out among a 6-by-6 grid of small orange cones, each one 6 feet apart from the next, in individual workout “boxes.” A line of water bottles and masks, also spaced out, lined a nearby fence.

“Yes sir!” Howze called out to the group after a few minutes. “Y’all look like model citizens!”

He was learning on the fly, sure, but took solace in the fact he wasn’t the only one.

Similar scenes played out at Northwood and Jordan-Matthews as the three high schools that fall under the Chatham County Schools system — and the only three schools in the county with football teams — resumed workouts on July 6.

The NCHSAA announced last month that schools — which had been in a “dead period” since mid-March — could resume workouts on June 15, under strict guidelines to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

After two days of conversations and meetings among CCS administration, athletic directors and coaches, though, the system decided to delay workouts for 3A Northwood, 2A Jordan-Matthews and 1A Chatham Central until three weeks after that initial date. It also initially limited the workouts to



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

During their first week of socially distanced workouts, the Bears practiced Monday through Thursday.

‘You don’t realize how much you missed it until you sit there and see it come back.’

CULLEN HOMOLKA, *Northwood football head coach*

fall sports.

The reasoning: more time to prepare.

That much was apparent on Chatham Central’s campus, as athletic director Bob Pegram handled comfortably the pre-workout screening questions and temperature checks at a pop-up tent in the gravel parking lot.

“Safety is priority No. 1, 2, 3 and 4,” Pegram said.

The Bears have held two football workouts a day, Monday through Thursday: linemen from 8 to 9 a.m., and offensive/defensive skill position players from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Howze said he’s working with a roster of 35 to 40 total players and saw most of them during the first week. Since most of

See **FOOTBALL**, page B2



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Devin Creek, a junior linebacker, runs during a conditioning drill on July 8.

NCHSAA NEWS CONFERENCE

Return of fall sports will be determined by Cooper’s Plan B, commissioner says

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
 News + Record Staff

Over the last month, the NCHSAA’s next major decision on when and whether high schools will play sports this fall grew increasingly contingent on Gov. Roy Cooper’s upcoming school reopening plan, commissioner Que Tucker said in a news conference last Wednesday.

Now, with Cooper’s announcement Tuesday that schools may resume under Plan B, a mix of in-person and virtual learning, the NCHSAA has that framework to work under in future weeks as it determines the best path forward.

In a news conference Tuesday afternoon, Cooper said individual school districts may opt for remote learning, or Plan C, if they choose. Face masks, he said, will also be required for all students, staff and teachers.

“This decision on the starting of school for the 2020-21 school year now puts us in a better position to make informed decisions concerning if, when, and how to resume athletic competition at NCHSAA member schools,” Tucker said in a release after Cooper’s announcement.

Tucker said last week the NCHSAA was hopeful it could design a safe plan for sports returning under Cooper’s Plan A or B. If Cooper had opted for a purely online learning option, Plan C, Tucker said it would have been “difficult to imagine” sports returning in the fall.

The NCHSAA hasn’t made any major announcements on the resumption of sports since early June, when it allowed individual districts to resume modified summer workouts on June 15 or later.



Submitted photo

NCHSAA commissioner Que Tucker

The current start date for fall sport tryouts and practices is August 1, and the current start date for public schools is August 17.

“We will continue discussing the numerous options and scenarios that have been developed and recommended, identifying the most appropriate scenarios,” Tucker said in the release. “The NCHSAA staff will work with the Board of Directors, Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and other stakeholder groups to solidify the details of the best plan for the safety of our student-athletes, coaches, administrators and the communities the Association represents.”

“We know everyone is interested in start dates and protocols,” she added. “The NCHSAA will provide further updates when they become available after Board discussion and action.”

Here are a few more takeaways from Tucker’s news conference last week:



Submitted photo

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper

Participation varies

Attempting to gauge how many of its schools have resumed workouts, the NCHSAA sent a survey last week to school district athletic directors and the principals of the association’s charter/parochial schools.

Nick Stevens of HighSchool-10T provided an in-depth follow-up to those numbers over the next week. As of June 9, HSOT reported that 83 local education agencies (50.9%) had resumed workouts, and 71 (43.5%) had not; nine LEAs provided no update. Under the NCHSAA’s definition, public school districts, which encompass multiple schools, and individual charter/parochial schools are deemed LEAs. (Independent schools in the state have a different governing body.)

In terms of total schools, though, more are holding off (224) than working out (182). That’s a result of smaller, more rural districts OK’ing work-

outs while larger, more metro districts stand back. Nine of the state’s 10 largest districts — including Charlotte-Mecklenburg and nearby Wake County Schools, which together serve 22% of the NCHSAA’s total athletes — remain on hold.

In Chatham County, the three schools within the district (Northwood, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central), along with Woods Charter, resumed workouts July 6. Chatham Charter started workouts June 15.

Four COVID-19 cases

At the time of her news conference, Tucker said the NCHSAA was aware of four positive COVID-19 cases among schools that have resumed. But the infections, she said, happened outside of a team setting.

“We know that one person was in Myrtle Beach the week prior to beginning workouts,” she said. “Someone else had been in Myrtle Beach. So what we’re finding is right now is that, yes, there have been a few, but they were not spread by virtue of being in the workout session. So that’s a good thing.”

No hard cut-off dates

Tucker said the NCHSAA will remain open to starting fall sports at a later date, even if that’s deep into the fall and far past the Aug. 1 and Aug. 17 dates that have been floated.

She painted a hypothetical scenario where, after a delay, the NCHSAA got the go-ahead to start competitions on Oct. 1. If that were the case, Tucker said “it would be incumbent upon us as a staff to put together something for our schools that those

fall sport teams could play.”

“Even if it’s for a month, a month and a half, and there are no playoffs and they end in a conference championship,” she said. “So we’ve got everything on the table. No lines really drawn in the sand right now, except that we know that Aug. 1 is approaching quickly.”

Outside factors

Tucker said she has always been a bit worried about athletes participating in outside events, such as showcase events and club sports.

Her usual fears are that coaches may not be certified or teaching the same sportsmanship values the NCHSAA values. She admitted this year, her fears are “probably exacerbated because of COVID-19.”

“Yes, it’s concerning,” Tucker said, adding she wasn’t lumping all outside events into one category. “Especially if they’re not wearing masks, they’re not social distancing and there is no apparent effort to wash hands or have sanitizer provided.”

Her mindset there: “Control what I can control.” That also applies, she said, to another problem the NCHSAA may encounter: coaches recruiting athletes to other states (or schools within North Carolina) with looser guidelines and/or promises to play football in the fall.

“We’ve talked about it,” she said. “We will continue to address it and discuss it to try to see how we can mitigate against that.”

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

CCCC CANCELS FALL SPORTS

Cross country will not compete this year, other teams move to spring

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

Central Carolina Community College has canceled its fall sports season in reaction to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the school said in Tuesday morning release.

The Cougars' decision came a day after the National Junior College Athletic Association, the organization under which they compete, announced that "a majority of competition" will be moved to the spring.

"While we are very disappointed that we will not be able to compete in the fall season, we will always



put the health and safety of our student-athletes and coaches as our top priority," athletic director Jonathan Hockaday said in the release. "We feel that this is the best decision for our student-athletes during this unprecedented time with COVID-19."

At CCCC, men's and women's cross country athletes will be most affected — the school will not field a cross country team for the upcoming school year. The NJCAA said Monday that cross country, half-marathon running and women's tennis (all low-contact

sports) could continue in the fall. But Hockaday said the CCCC administration and athletic department "just did not feel comfortable putting our student-athletes at that risk" in the coming months.

"It was a difficult decision about cross

country," Hockaday told the News + Record. "We hated to do it to our student athletes who committed to come here, but there was concern from the coaches on what all would be plausible for us to do."

Volleyball, CCCC's other fall sport, will move to fall competition. The men's golf team will not compete in any fall tournaments (just the spring), and the men's and women's basketball teams — which usually begin playing in the late fall — are planning to start their seasons in January, in accordance with NJCAA guidelines.

CCCC, which has

campuses in Chatham, Lee and Harnett counties, is planning to begin its 2020-21 academic year as scheduled on Aug. 17. The school will provide a mix of online and in-person instruction with "appropriate measures in place for classroom and personal safety."

"It's difficult," Hockaday said of the decision to cancel fall sports. "But we've got to do what's best for the college and student-athletes as a whole."

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@chapelfowler](https://twitter.com/chapelfowler).

SPORTS BRIEFS

Positive COVID-19 test for UNC, N.C. State athletics

Two nearby schools in the Triangle have released their first round of coronavirus testing numbers.

At UNC, the school announced 37 positive tests among student-athletes, coaches and athletics department staff on July 8. The school administered 429 total tests.

"As a precaution, our football team will pause voluntary workouts for at least a week and will resume at a date to be determined," the school said in a release.

In accordance with school protocol, those who tested

positive will isolate for up to 14 days in either a campus residence hall specified by UNC (for student-athletes) or at their permanent residences (for coaches and department staffers).

At N.C. State, the school announced five positive tests among student-athletes, coaches and athletics department staff on July 9. The school administered 315 total tests.

Those five people went into isolation, following school and CDC guidelines.

Duke began a phased return to campus for its student-athletes — similar to the ones UNC and N.C. State have already started — on July 12.

"Upon arrival to campus, all student-athletes will be

tested for COVID-19 and will be required to follow health and hygiene protocols established by Duke and national medical experts," the school said in a release. "These measures are consistent with the procedures for all Duke undergraduate students."

College conferences make fall sports shifts

Plenty of news emerged on the college front last week, as schools and conferences continue to evaluate the best and safest path forward for fall sports (especially football) during the coronavirus pandemic.

Most notably, two Power Five conferences — the Big Ten and

the Pac-12 — announced they would shift to a conference-only schedule. The Ivy League, the Patriot League and the CIAA (which has seven teams in North Carolina) canceled fall athletics in full, keeping the option of spring competition open.

Close to home, ACC commissioner John Swofford announced the conference anticipates a decision on "the best possible path forward" by the end of the month. In the last week, the league also announced it wouldn't resume fall Olympic sports until at least Sept. 1, and that it was delaying its now-virtual ACC Football Kickoff Media Days (scheduled for late July) indefinitely.

No NCHSAA dead period next week

The NCHSAA had originally scheduled a dead period for the week of July 20 through 26 for the N.C. Coaches Association Clinic. But with that event canceled, the board of directors approved the elimination of that dead period.

Next week will mark the third of workouts for Northwood, Jordan-Matthews, Chatham Central and Woods Charter, each of which began on July 6. Chatham Charter has been holding workouts since June 15, the earliest date to do so.

— CN+R staff reports



Chatham Central spread its player out in a large grid of small orange cones, all 6 feet apart, for drills.

FOOTBALL

Continued from page B1

those players work full-time jobs, he's happy to accommodate them for whatever time slots fits their schedule. (NCHSAA summer workouts, regardless of COVID-19, have long been voluntary for athletes.)

Over at Northwood, head coach Cullen Homolka said attendance's

been "awesome." Under the NCHSAA's Phase One guidelines, 25 total people are allowed at outdoor workouts. Homolka capped player attendance at 22 (to account for him and his assistants) and ran two hour-long sessions each morning.

All of those have been at or near capacity, so last week Homolka saw about 44 players a day and 90 different players in all from Monday to Friday. Considering the limitations and

logistics of it all, he was flattered so many of his kids showed up — just for an hour of grueling conditioning in the heat.

"Everybody's pushing each other, trying to be better," Homolka said. "Everybody has a purpose. Seeing that is awesome. You don't realize how much you missed it until you sit there and see it come back after a four-month break."

Sam Spencer, the head coach at Jordan-Mat-

thews, said he's seen about 34 players attend at least one workout. The Jets are practicing later at night — 6 to 7 p.m. for juniors and seniors, 7 to 8 p.m. for freshmen and sophomores — three times a week, although they canceled Tuesday because of rain.

"You know, it's so different than what we're used to and what the kids are used to," Spencer said. "But it's just fun to be around your guys. These are our kids."

There's another factor to the CCS restart, too.

According to Nick Stevens of HighSchoolOT, 83 local education agencies (public school districts and individual charter/parochial schools) have resumed workouts, and 71 have not, as of June 9. But those LEAs tend to be smaller and more rural, and more total schools (224) have held off on workouts than started them (182).



Chatham Central athletic director Bob Pegram (left) and football coach Sherman Howze watch workouts on July 8.

Among the 10 largest districts in the state, only one has resumed workouts. The other nine, including Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and nearby Wake County and Durham County Schools, remain on hold until at least July 20. That's put Chatham County's three public schools on a bit of pedestal in the area.

"It's a cool feeling," said Tyler Oldham, a senior receiver at Chatham Central. "It's kind of like all eyes are on us. We don't want to mess up. We don't want to ruin anything. We want to set a standard for everybody else to follow, so we're trying to do everything right."

Trey Clay, a junior cornerback, agreed with his teammate. Although his calves were sore from an intense backpedaling drill, he'd missed football.

A lot. And last week's practices were a taste of what he hopes will ultimately happen: games in the fall.

"Right now, I just want to get back and play," Clay said. "That's all I want to do."

Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at cfowler@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@chapelfowler](https://twitter.com/chapelfowler).



Tyler Oldham, a senior wide receiver for Chatham Central, answers questions during a pre-workout screening. He's hoping his 2019 junior season isn't his last time officially on the field for a game.

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'WE MUST DO BETTER'

Task force hosts community conversation on racial justice

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

In partnership with Chatham government and nonprofit leaders, the Racial Justice Task Force of the 18th Judicial District hosted a virtual community conversation last Friday on racial justice and “the work to still be done” in Chatham’s criminal justice system.

The event took place over the Zoom video conference platform from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and had a peak attendance of 170 people. During the event, eight different speakers spoke about racial justice from their perspectives and individual expertise.

David Delaney, the task force member who organized the virtual meeting, said the group was really pleased with how the event went. Founded in 2015, the Racial Justice Task Force works to understand how racial minorities are disproportionately represented in the criminal and juvenile justice system.

“In the course of our discussion since last year, we have been talking about how to find a way to reach a broad segment of the Chatham County community,” Delaney said. “We very much thought that the discussion, our goals of facilitating conversation and getting lots of voices into discussion was absolutely met.”

Task force co-chairmen James Williams and Jim Woodall were slated as opening speakers for the event. Woodall, who was named a member of Gov. Roy Cooper’s task force on racial equity in criminal justice last Thursday, was unable to attend because of a meeting with the governor’s newly formed group.

N.C. Rep. Robert Reives II, Chatham Sheriff Mike Roberson and Hispanic Liaison founder Ilana Dubester were among a group of speakers who spoke about racial justice from their perspectives.

“If you want to see how

law enforcement should operate, look here,” Reives said of Chatham during his remarks.

Roberson spoke about diversity statistics within the department, noting the department was “way ahead” of many other places but still has a lot of work to do to fully represent the community.

“We are certainly not perfect, but I will tell you that we aim to learn and we know yesterday’s ways are not OK for today,” Roberson said.

Karen Howard, the chairperson of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and one of the scheduled speakers at the event, said she had a strong commitment to using her role as a commissioner to listen to experts regarding ways to better support Chatham’s communities of color.

“Everything that I do and say is going to be framed by the context that I’m also the mother of five Black sons,” Howard said. “It can’t be that my sons are safe because we have the sheriff that we have at this moment. It has to be that we have collectively changed policy, changed thinking, changed expectations.”

Howard noted the significance of the majority of speakers being people of color and also said future policy and spending decisions must be guided with the context that all people are either “beneficiaries or victims of the current system.”

“I recognize that all of us at this table — everyone who has readily joined in this conversation — is already doing really good work,” she said. “But I also want to constantly remind us that the work has not been done well yet. There’s a lot that has to be done better.”

Other speakers included Stephanie Terry, Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity (C.O.R.E.); Mary Nettles, president, NAACP Chatham Community Branch in Pittsboro; Janeallen Wilson,

director of training, N.C. Victim Assistance Network; and Del Turner, a member of the Chatham County Board of Education.

Following the remarks by speakers, facilitators invited Chatham residents to join the discussion over Zoom’s chat feature. Before ending the meeting, Delaney said he would “comb” through the chat to be sure to include community discussion in the task force’s future conversations.

“I appreciate this forum to have some beginnings of discussion, but I want to be clear that this is only the beginning of the discussion,” said Allen Baddour, the Superior Court Justice for Orange and Chatham Counties.

He added that he’d like to see much more opportunity for community discussion in the future.

“While we are doing some good things, there are plenty of other things that we can and should be doing, and I hope we can put that into a formalized process that builds on what the community is looking for,” he said.

Delaney said the task force will meet before the end of July and thoroughly discuss some of the ideas raised during the Zoom event. He said they are continually looking for ways both to continue community conversations and join in the work other groups are already doing.

“While I appreciate this moment, it is unsettling that we are just now having this discussion in a significant way. There is nothing new — we have known the data, we have known the best practices that are not being implemented and we have known where improvements could be made for a long time,” Williams said to close the event. “We must do better, we must be better.”

You can view the full recording of this event at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFUFUvUrywXc>

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com.

CHATHAM’S COVID-19 TIMELINE

MARCH

March 6: Chatham County announces its first case of coronavirus, which is also the state’s second confirmed case after the first appeared in Wake County on March 3. Both cases were linked to outbreaks in Italy and in a Washington long-term care facility.

March 10: Gov. Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency in North Carolina in response to increasing numbers of coronavirus cases in the state.

March 11: The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

March 13: The United States declared a national emergency in response to increasing cases of COVID-19.

March 14: Cooper ordered K-12 schools to close for at least two weeks, beginning on March 16. He also banned all public gathering larger than 100 people.

March 17: Two more Chatham County residents tested positive for coronavirus, bringing the county’s total to three confirmed cases. The same day, Chatham County declared its own State of Emergency. Cooper ordered all restaurants and bars to close and limit themselves to takeout or curbside orders only. The town of Pittsboro’s state-of-emergency declaration takes effect, too.

March 20: Mayor John Grimes issued a state-of-emergency declaration for Siler City to respond to COVID-19.

March 23: Cooper extends school closings through May 15.

March 25: Three more Chatham residents tested positive for the virus.

March 27: Cooper announced a month-long “stay-at-home” order, closing all nonessential businesses and limiting gatherings to 10 people. The order began on March 30 and was set to expire on April 30.

March 31: Cooper issues an executive order to prevent utility companies (gas, electric, wastewater,

water and gas services) from shutting off services for the next two months if people are unable to pay bills thanks to the pandemic.

APRIL
April 8: Four more Chatham residents tested positive for COVID-19 in The Laurels of Chatham Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, a long-term care facility in Pittsboro.

April 10: After identifying two more positive cases, the Chatham Public Health Department partnered with UNC Health and the The Laurels of Chatham Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center to test all residents and staff living and working in the facility.

April 12: Testing identified 51 more people who had been infected by COVID-19 in The Laurels of Chatham Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. According to the news release, some cases may not add to Chatham County’s official count since some of the nursing facility’s staff may not live in the county.

April 14: Chatham County reports its first death caused by COVID-19. The individual lived at The Laurels of Chatham.

April 22: Media outlets reporting COVID-19 outbreaks in several poultry processing plants across North Carolina, including 11 cases in Mountaire Farms’ Siler City plant.

April 23: Cooper extends the statewide “stay-at-home” order through May 8.

April 23-24: Mountaire Farms offers free COVID-19 testing to Siler City plant employees — and their families — if they had symptoms. On April 24, Cooper also announced schools would remain closed until the end of the school year.

MAY
May 5: Cooper modifies the statewide “stay-at-home” order to ease several COVID-19 restrictions, the first step in reopening North Carolina. Retail businesses are allowed to open at 50% capacity. This modified

order became effective on May 8.

May 15: The state health department updates guidance on who should be tested for COVID-19. Now people with or without symptoms who have been exposed to the virus or are at higher risk may get tested.

May 22: North Carolina enters the second phase of Cooper’s reopening plan, which allowed restaurants and personal care businesses to reopen at 50 percent indoor capacity. Bars and gyms remained closed.

May 23: The state health department reported the largest single-day case increase, which was 1,107.

May 24: Chatham County reported 578 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

JUNE
June 6: North Carolina again reports another record single-day increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases at 1,370.

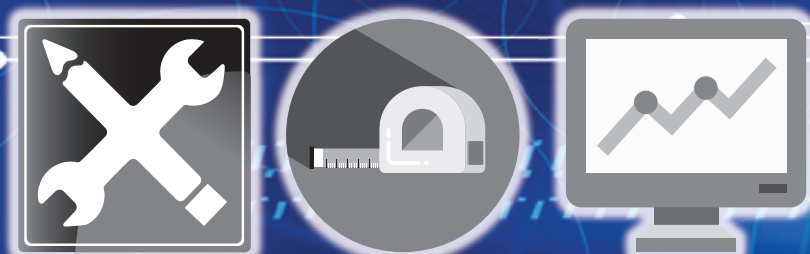
June 9: North Carolina updates COVID-19 testing guidelines in response to statewide protests over the death of George Floyd and police brutality. The new guidelines recommend that people who attended mass outdoor rallies and protests should be tested for COVID-19, especially if social distancing was hard to maintain.

June 24: Rising COVID-19 cases in North Carolina cause Cooper to halt the state’s reopening and issue an executive order requiring everyone to wear face masks in public places where social distancing is difficult. The order began on June 26. Chatham County’s number of confirmed COVID-19 cases exceeds 900, with 42 reported deaths in the county.

JULY
July 3: The state department reported the highest number of positive coronavirus cases in a single day: 2,099.

July 8: Chatham County’s total confirmed case count of COVID-19 reaches 1,000.

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BOOK BRINGS LOCAL FLAVOR

Chatham author blends community and activism in newest novel

BY ADRIANNE CLEVEN
News + Record Correspondent

MONCURE — When local author and longtime community activist Judy Hogan moved to her home in Moncure in 1998, she felt the



Hogan

weight of her decision. “When I first moved,” Hogan reflected, “they wanted to do a low-level nuclear dump in our neighborhood. And I really wanted the house. And I said, ‘I’ll take the house and I’ll fight against the problems.’ And it just was one problem after another.”

Writing, organizing and spreading the word about “one problem after another” has turned Hogan into a Chatham fixture who rarely shies away from the political side of writing. Things are no different in her newest book, a novel in her “Penny Weaver” mystery series called “The Pernicious Poll.”

The Pernicious Poll, which published July 15, is the 10th of Hogan’s “Penny Weaver” books set in Chatham County. Familiar Chatham faces and plenty of southern foods dot Hogan’s pages as characters enter and exit heroine Penny Weaver’s home with news of local drama. According to Hogan, the similarity to Chatham is not an accident.

“The Penny Weaver books are cited first in a sort of version of the Pittsboro, close to the Haw River,” she said. “And then I moved the characters to a new home in what was Moncure, but I call it New Springs.”

Hogan has had plenty of time to steep herself in Chatham — and in the North Carolina literary community — since moving into the community in the mid-90s. She helped found the North Carolina Writer’s Network and started Carolina Wren Press, a publishing house that later merged with Blair Publishing. Her activism work on various environmental issues — for instance, fracking



Submitted photo

Pernicious Poll, the latest book by Chatham County author Judy Hogan.

initiatives, coal ash and chemical disposal — has earned her local recognition.

“Since I was going out house-to-house to talk to people about Formaldehyde and fracking all that stuff; getting signatures and putting up signs, I got to know a lot of people in Moncure,” Hogan said about her activism work. “And people would come up to me in the post office knowing a lot about me... Not that everybody likes me, but a lot of people decided I was OK based on what they were learning and hearing from other people.”

North Carolina’s poet laureate, Jaki Shelton Green, is particularly grateful for Hogan’s contribution to the arts landscape. Hogan published Green’s first collection of poems, Dead on Arrival, in 1977. The two have remained longtime friends.

“I remember when she moved [to Chatham] and she was selling bread and giving away poems with the homemade bread,” Green recalled of Hogan. “And I thought, ‘Well, that’s a neat way to build community.’ But she’s always created a table that was open and welcome.”

“The role of the writer;

the role of the artist, is to disrupt and to agitate,” Green said. “When I think of agitation, I think of cleansing. I think of what happens when we put our clothes into a washer. The agitation is what cleans. Judy has always stood for speaking out for the underdog, being on the right side of justice and protecting the quality of health and well-being of all citizens.”

As in many of Hogan’s books, her characters engage in the activism work that she herself has undertaken. In The Pernicious Poll, her characters wage a legal battle against a controversial North Carolina voter identification law. Hogan and fellow activists organized against the real-life legislation that later inspired The Pernicious Poll — North Carolina’s 2013 voter ID bill — by conducting research and communicating new voting documentation requirements to community members across Chatham.

As it turned out, the controversy didn’t last long. A three-judge panel of 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals struck the bill down in 2016, saying its provisions “target

African Americans with almost surgical precision.”

Still, voting legislation is not the only political facet of The Pernicious Poll. Hogan’s book also ties in issues of race, environmental stewardship and teenage sexuality. Two of the youngest characters in the book — an interracial couple — land in hot water after engaging in sex too early. Even Hogan’s youngest characters engage in town politics, and the environmental scene in the novel should be familiar to anyone who’s lived in Chatham for a while. Throughout the book, Hogan even uses a fictional name to denote a “Haw Riverkeeper.”

Emily Sutton, Chatham’s real-life Haw Riverkeeper and a longtime advocate for environmental protection through her work at the Haw River Assembly, says that Hogan’s work helps unite both the literary and activist community in Chatham.

“She is a really great organizer,” Sutton said about Hogan. “She’s really persistent...when she hits a brick wall, like so many of us often do in this work, she keeps pushing. She doesn’t give up.”

Hogan doesn’t plan on stopping her work anytime soon. She’s busy writing her newest novel, called A Teen’s Christmas in Wales. In her spare time, she teaches poetry and prose classes to other writers.

“I’m not selling millions of books,” she said, “but enough to keep me encouraged.”

So You Want to be a Writer?

Hogan’s advice on inspiration, character development and the best books

After publishing more than a dozen novels and multiple collections of poetry — not to mention helping to start a publishing house and the North Carolina Writers Network — Judy Hogan has built a toolbox of writing tricks.

“I don’t believe in too many rules,” Hogan says about her writing. “I only have two rules: One is to make it vivid, and the other is to hold the reader’s attention.”

Hogan’s own introduction to writing came when she was seven years old and caught Rheumatic fever.

“That was during World War II,” she says, “before they had Penicillin and antibiotics. They just put me to bed for a year, and that’s when I started writing.”

When she begins writing a story, Hogan uses Elizabeth George’s 2004 book Write Away: One Novelist’s Approach to Fiction and the Writing Life as a guide to creating characters: “She suggests that you take each character and think about their name, what they look like, what their mannerisms are, what their gait is — how fast or slow they walk — what their core need is...and related to your core need is what you do when you can’t get it,” she said.

Hogan also recommends that writers should get words on a page as often as possible. Keeping a diary, she says, can help writers stay con-

sistent in the craft. She also recommends reading good books:

“Not just current books,” she says, “but going back even to the Iliad and the Odyssey, 19th century novels, Jane Austen and others. And you can learn a lot without even especially thinking about it just by reading the books. The patterns and ways of expressing yourself kind of get into your mind.”

Hogan’s Top 5 authors for inspiration:

- Marcel Proust
- Virginia Woolf
- Dante (Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso)
- T.S. Elliot
- Ezra Pound

Hogan shares her writing expertise in her classes on poetry and prose, which she teaches from her home. These days, those classes take place using video conferencing tools. But in those classes as well as in her books, Hogan tries to remain true to her convictions.

“I learned pretty early that you can’t please everybody,” she says. “You have to go with the people who like what you’re doing, and don’t worry about those that quit.”



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Northwood's Pride Club finds community during coronavirus

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Donning rainbow-colored cowboy hats, bow ties and assorted bead necklaces, a group made up of mostly high schoolers held up homemade posters in front of the historic courthouse as passersby honked horns to join in the celebration.

It was Pittsboro Pride Day — organized by two teenagers and attended by more than 30 others on June 26.

"I just posted it everywhere I could and got people to hype it up and tons of people went," said Caroline Puckett, a rising senior at Northwood High School who organized the event with her girlfriend, Lauren Chubb. "It was really, really fun. It was a huge social distancing movement, too, so we tried to get everybody to stay far apart from each other, which was hard because people just want to hug each other. But I was just happy that it happened."

The event took place during Pride month, a month celebrated nationally to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising that served as a tipping point for gay rights in the U.S. For Puckett and Chubb, who with Jasmine Sedaghtzadeh served as presidents of Northwood High School's GSA Pride Club, the month gave them an opportunity to come together with club members to celebrate their identities and community, in spite of the coronavirus.

The club hasn't met in person since March 13, the last meeting before North Carolina public schools moved to remote learning. In that time, the group has kept in touch through the social app Amino. More than half of the attendees at the



Photo courtesy of Caroline Puckett

'I am proud.' Northwood High School senior Caroline Puckett and recent graduate Lauren Chubb organized a Pittsboro Pride Day on June 26 to celebrate community and Pride month in spite of the coronavirus.

Pittsboro pride day were club members.

"It's pretty much just like any other club, but the energy there is great, everyone really gets along," Puckett said. "All of the kids that go to the pride club are inspired by me and by my members and leaders — they build off of each other and learn things from each other and it just makes me really happy to see everybody understanding each other and wanting to learn more."

'What happens in Pride stays in Pride'

Puckett first heard about the club from her older sibling, Piper. The first meetings she attended were fun, she said, but as time went on, the then-leaders stopped showing up. It was then that Caroline decided to take matters into her own hands by "reinventing" the club.

When she joined her sophomore year, club meetings usually consisted of playing games and sharing pronouns and zodiac signs. Now, the club meetings are more educational and discuss various LGBTQ topics and identities each week.

"I just sit back, and I actually learn a whole lot from them," said Nathan Hoover, the club's advisor and a history teacher at Northwood. "I don't want to give this false impression that I do a whole heck of a lot other than I learn from them and give them a place to run their meetings — I look forward to it every week."

Every Wednesday, the club meets for one hour in Room 508. Topics vary from defining pansexuality to learning about aromantic identities, and after the informational presentation, members work on art projects re-

lated to that week's topic while hanging out and eating food together.

Hoover said the club is a great place for students to feel accepted and that a common expression among members is "what happens in Pride stays in Pride."

"Whenever I was applying for the new job, I saw that Northwood had their own Pride Club, and I just thought that was awesome because all kids need a safe space to hang out, chat and feel welcome," he said. "It's really just a place of learning and acceptance, and I'm just so proud that I get to be a part of it."

For Puckett, who is bisexual, leading the club has become a huge source of community and happiness. She used to be bullied because of her identity, so seeing people at Northwood support all the work she puts into the club means a lot to her.

"I have been going through my sexuality and my gender journey for a really long time — it's just kind of crazy to me that all these years later, I've gotten to this point where I'm not afraid of what people say about me because I am free and open about what I feel and who I am," Puckett said. Some of her old bullies, she said, even support the club and her leadership efforts now.

"I'm like, 'Yeah, I'm proud of me too,' for moving past what I've been through and becoming this leader and symbol to continue to fight for my human right of sexuality and gender," she said.

'I am proud'

On Valentine's Day, the Pride Club hosted a school-wide activity where students and teachers could write what love meant to them in pink and purple paper hearts. Just one month later, the club would host its last meeting of the semester.

Hoover, who was out of town for that last meeting, returned to his empty classroom the first week school was canceled to pick up some things he needed to teach from home. The heart notes celebrating love no longer hung outside his classroom, but other art projects from past meetings remained. And on the whiteboard, written in large dry-erase-marker script, were Sedaghtzadeh, Chubb and Puckett's names and phone numbers.

"If anybody needs to talk, regardless of what their home life is like, they can always get in contact with them," he said.

This is especially important to Chubb, who said being in the club was important to her when she was really struggling

with her identity her first year of high school.

"Being in the kind of environment with other people identifying as LGBT, or as allies, made me feel safe, and I felt like I didn't have to be as like anxious or nervous because I was around people who I knew were probably going through the same hardships and struggles as I was and it made me feel a lot less alone," she said. "I really hope that as the club continues on, it can keep making sure that Northwood is a safe and accepting place for all kinds of people but especially the LGBT community, because there's some difficulties there."

Though Sedaghtzadeh and Chubb both plan to help out with the club after graduating this year, Puckett decided to elect another co-president, Oliver Ewy. It's unclear when or if the club will be able to meet in person next year, but for her senior year, Puckett wants to continue growing the club, even if virtually.

At her pride day, listening to a curated pride playlist with friends and peers, it seemed possible that the community of the club could continue, even separated by a computer screen or masked faces and six feet worth of distance.

They're no longer waving gay pride flags or wearing rainbow capes, but they still find ways to celebrate who they are. One particular poster at the event, marked with small hearts in all the colors of the rainbow, emphasized the inspiration behind both the day and the club.

"I am proud," the sign read simply.

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com.

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For more information, visit: www.LeeSBC.com/RISE/

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham 4-H members compete at district activity day virtually

PITTSBORO — Members of Chatham County 4-H competed virtually in 4-H District Activity day on June 25.

Chatham County had four youth submit entries competing with 81 youth from across the North Central District. The pre-recorded presentations were submitted online and presented to a panel of judges. During this annual event, the 4-H presentation competition gives members an opportunity to practice public speaking skills while sharing their 4-H projects.

Stella Goolsby competed in the senior age division in the Careers and Entrepreneurship category, winning a silver medal for her presentation on "Building a Resume." She has qualified to move forward and compete on the state competition level.

Zva Rodriguez also received silver at district with a presentation in the junior age division in the Animal Science category focusing on dairy and production with her presentation called "MOOV-

ING, My Steps vs. My Cows." Anna and Joseph Wetherell presented as a team presentation in the junior age division in the Animal Science Category with a concentration on dairy and production. Their presentation was based on their swine 4-H project on "Hog Rotational Farming" and received a bronze medal.

July Household Hazardous Waste event and medicine take back

PITTSBORO — Chatham's July Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event will be held from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, at the Waste & Recycling Main Facility, located at 28 County Services Road in Pittsboro.

HHW events are a way for residents to dispose of hazardous materials safely. Decals are not required, but residents will need to show their N.C. Driver License with their current address. HHW is only for households; no hazardous waste from businesses will be accepted.

At HHW events, the county accepts such items

as oil-based paints, solvents, stains, bleach, aerosols, cleaners, pesticides, brake fluid, fluorescent light bulbs, propane tanks and more. For a complete list, please visit the Household Hazardous Waste webpage or contact the Solid Waste & Recycling Division at 919-542-5516.

Latex paint is only hazardous when it is in liquid form. Latex paint can be safely dried out and put in with your regular trash instead of bringing it to the Household Hazardous Waste collection. Approximately 60% of the material brought to the HHW collection is liquid latex paint. It is the most costly item the county collects, so residents are encouraged to dry it up for disposal. To dry it out, take off the lid and let it sit outside in a covered area. Add kitty litter or sawdust to speed up the drying process. It does not have to be completely solidified - more like a paste.

The Sheriff's Office will also be on site to conduct a medicine take back as a way for residents to safely dispose of unwanted medications. No needles, sharps or liquids will be accepted.

— CN+R staff reports

Household Hazardous Waste Events 2020

Saturday, July 18

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

28 County Services Road
(6 miles west of Pittsboro, off Hwy 64)

Chatham County residents can bring household hazardous items such as

- chemicals • cleaners • solvents • paint
- pesticides • gasoline • antifreeze • electronics

For a complete list of items visit www.chathamnc.org/hhw

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office will provide a free take back of unwanted medicines during this HHW event.

No needles, sharps, or liquids will be accepted.

No trash or empty containers.
No business waste.
No decal required.
Must show NC Drivers License.



Questions? Call
(919) 542-5516



POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Trajan Jenkins, 22, of Siler City, was charged July 2 for fleeing to elude arrest with motor vehicle, possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana up to ½ oz., possession of drug paraphernalia, displaying fictitious registration, unsafe passing/yellow line violation, driving while license revoked and exceeding posted speed. He was jailed under a \$7,500 secured bond with a July 20 court date in Pittsboro.

Shawnace Yarborough, 24, of Pittsboro, was charged July 3 for shoplifting. He was jailed under a \$500 secured bond with a July 29 court date in Pittsboro.

Yarborough, was also charged July 3 for damage to personal property. He was released on a written promise with a August 3 court date in Graham.

Geoffrey Ellis, 31, of Sanford, was charged July 4 for failure to appear. He was jailed under a \$2,000 secured bond with a August 4 court date in Sanford.

Julian Solis Cardenas, 38, of Jamestown, was charged July 4 for driving while impaired and possession of open container. He was released on a written promise with a Oct. 14 court date in Pittsboro.

Tyler Howard, 26, of Siler City, was charged July 5 for failure to appear. He was jailed under a \$500 secured bond

with a Aug. 4 court date in Pittsboro.

Janet Baldwin, 56, of Staley, was charged July 6 for failure to appear. She was jailed under a \$1,000 secured bond with a July 22 court date in Asheboro.

Cameron Green, 30, of Pittsboro, was charged July 6 for resist, delay, obstruct and assault on a government official. He was released on a written promise with a Aug. 5 court date in Pittsboro.

Jose Gutierrez, 24, of Siler City, was charged July 6 for assault and battery, assault by pointing a gun and communicating threats. He was jailed under a \$1,000 secured bond with a July 29 court date in Pittsboro. Gutierrez was also charged for resisting a public officer.

In addition, he was jailed under a \$500 secured bond with a Aug. 5 court date in Pittsboro.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Edy Granados, of Siler City, was cited July 7 for failure to maintain lane control/no operator license on SR 1151 near Siler City.

Collin Hein, of Pittsboro, was cited July 9 for failure to maintain lane control/careless and reckless driving on U.S. Hwy. 15 in Pittsboro.

James Jones Jr., of Charlotte was cited June 10 for failure to reduce speed on SR 1731 near Pittsboro.

20 questions and a corresponding number of answers (the finale)



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

This week's talk with Chef Virginia Willis marks the end of the pandemic conversation

series with many of my favorite, most respected, role model chefs.

But just like the virus itself, there will be more popping up every now and then. Each time I have a chef's ear, I will grill them (nicely) and share the results with you, Gentle Reader.

QUESTION: If you had a magical pantry that had any item you wanted, regardless of season, what is your ultimate homemade comfort food?

Chef Willis: There's absolutely nothing like a vegetable plate in the summer with butterbeans, corn, tomatoes, and okra — all squished around with mayonnaise-tinged juices. Fresh butterbeans are one of my favorite all time vegetables from childhood.

If you could get delivery from any restaurant in the world, which eatery would you call, and what would you order?

Wow! This is a hard one!

What's the best new recipe you've discovered?



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews
Chef Nathalie Dupree (left) and Debbie Matthews.

I am in LOVE with the Chocolate Peanut Butter Frozen Dessert. It's an amazing technique. As a Weight Watchers follower, I love having an easy dessert that's low in points and good. Pretty much the trifecta.

Every food person has at least one odd, semi-embarrassing food-related collection; mine is jams and jellies and thrift store Corningware. What's yours?

I see absolutely nothing odd about jams, jellies, or Corning ware! I have a significant amount of ironstone. I have more sets of dishes and white plates than one person should have.

Is there some food that shall never pass your lips? What is it?

I'll try anything once. **What's the craziest thing that you've ever had happen on TV?**

I broke the \$10K ice cream maker when I was on "Chopped." (I will only add that in my rebound, I was the only chef that successfully used the anti-griddle.)

What's on the menu for your birthday dinner?

My birthday is late December and smushed between Christmas and New Year's Eve. I prefer a simple supper at home with friends and family.

Best advice you can give a novice cook?

Keep trying, keep practicing, and keep learning. It takes practice to become a good cook.

Three indispensable



Submitted photo

Nathalie Dupree's Corn and Butter Bean Salad.

kitchen tools?

Chef knife, small offset spatula, 6-inch sturdy tongs.

Three foods you always have on hand?

Hmm. Ingredients? Pantry? I'll respond with foods that I always have a selection of because they are so important to cooking. Good fats such as nut oils, olive oil, tahini and butter. Acidic elements: lemons, oranges, vinegar. I always have apple cider vinegar — and have started making my own!

Lastly, I always have whatever fresh fruits and vegetables that are in season in my kitchen. Other than salt and pepper, you have everything you need to cook a fantastic meal.

What's your Waffle House order?

Two eggs over easy, well-done scattered and smothered hash browns, whole wheat toast, bacon. And, that just made me hungry!

Thank you Chef! Years ago I went to a

class on Southern cooking at the late, lamented Southern Season. Chef Virginia's friend and mentor Nathalie Dupree was the guest lecturer. I got to spend a little time with her both before and after. She is kind, smart, funny, and a dear emeritus of the Southern plate.

The only thing that even slightly dimmed her sunny demeanor was when I called her "Chef."

She kept saying, "Don't call me chef, I am Nathalie!"

She cooked each course, then it was served to us. It was summer, so the dishes were all chock full of Chef Virginia's favorite summer produce. Even though I've never liked butter beans, this dish was my favorite that night.

Because...turns out using fresh butter beans and cooking them for minutes rather than weeks turns them into an entirely new animal.

Who knew? Thanks, Chef Virginia, Nathalie, and you, Gentle Reader, for your time.

Contact debbie at debbie@bullcity.mom.

Nathalie Dupree's Corn and Butter Bean Salad

- 1 pound shelled butter beans, butter peas, speckled peas or any combination, fresh or frozen
- 6 ears corn on the cob, preferably Silver Queen, kernels and juice scraped from cob
- 1 green onion or scallion, sliced, white and green parts
- 8 slices bacon, cooked crispy and crumbled
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise (Good Southern girl Nathalie has a strong preference for Duke's)
- 4 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 3-4 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper

Add the beans to boiling salted water, reduce heat and cook about 3 minutes. Add the corn and cook 1 minute more. Drain the beans and corn and run under cold water to stop the cooking and refresh them. Drain again.

Gently toss together the beans, corn, onion, bacon, mayo, vinegar and thyme. Taste, then season.

Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least one hour before serving for the best marriage of flavors.

*Variation: Substitute one pound package frozen white shoe peg corn or other whole kernel corn (she absolutely does not believe in getting all frantic in the kitchen about ingredients or technique).

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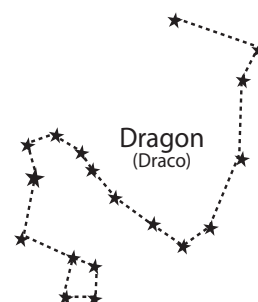
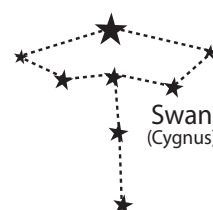
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Thousands of years ago, the ancient Greeks looked up at the sky and saw that some stars formed groups that reminded them of people or animals or objects like arrows or crowns. They created stories and legends about these images. Today, we call groups of stars that make up pictures **constellations**.

You can see these constellations in the night sky with the help of an astronomy book or by getting star charts online.



Lyra



One of the most famous constellations is The Big Dipper. If you can find it in the night sky, it also forms the tail of another famous constellation: Ursa Major, or The Great Bear. Ask an adult to help you find The Big Dipper this evening.



Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: CULTURE
The noun **culture** means a set of shared values and customary beliefs.
The Greek **culture** has many stories about the gods.
Try to use the word **culture** in a sentence today when talking with friends and family members.

Write On!
Open the Box
One day I came across a beautiful box. I opened it and out popped ...
Finish this story.

Pandora's Box



Pandora's Box is a myth from ancient Greece. Myths often tell about a culture's history or explain how the world works. Typically, there are gods or supernatural beings in the stories.

Read all three parts of the myth about Pandora's Box. What do you think people were supposed to learn from this myth?



Which one of these boxes matches the larger box above?

Part 1: Pandora's World

Once upon a time, a very long time ago, the world was free of pain, illness, fear and sorrow.

In that time, a young girl named Pandora was bothered by one thing. Nothing should have bothered her because the gods had given her everything a person could wish for. She had good health, smarts, beauty and a delightful personality.

What did the name Pandora mean?

Secret Code

- = D
- = E
- = F
- = G
- = H
- = I
- = R
- = S
- = T



Replace the missing words in the next part of the story.

HARM

BOX

HAPPY

Pandora quickly opened the _____ to look inside. At that moment something terrifying happened!

A swarm of _____ creatures flew out. Pandora had let loose _____ into the world. These ugly creatures were sorrow, pain, illness and all kinds of terrible suffering.

Even though she quickly closed the lid, Pandora could not get the creatures back in the box. The world was changed forever!

Part 2: Pandora's Problem

Even though she had so much, Pandora was not _____ about one thing in her life. She was not happy with one particular box.

This was a wooden _____ with a golden cord. It had been given to her by Zeus, the King of the Gods! When Zeus gave it to her, he said, "Never, EVER, _____ this box!"

This really _____ Pandora. "How can I have a box that I can't open?"

She _____ at the box every day.

Then one day, she thought to herself, "What _____ could come from peeking?"



OPEN

TROUBLES

UGLY

BOTHERED

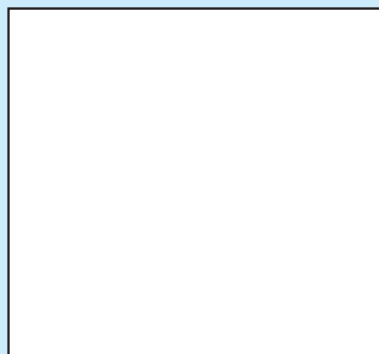
STARRED

LID

Part 3: Hope

Pandora heard a small, sweet voice calling from the box, "Pandora, please let me out."

Pandora didn't know what to do. Would this be more pain and suffering? But the voice sounded so kind. She opened the lid once more and another creature came out of the box.



Draw Hope in this box.

This creature had beautiful wings. It sparkled and made Pandora feel better. This creature was **Hope**.

Hope could not get the ugly creatures back into the box. But she was able to bring hope and comfort people sick and in pain. Hope is still in the world today!

The End

Extra! Extra!

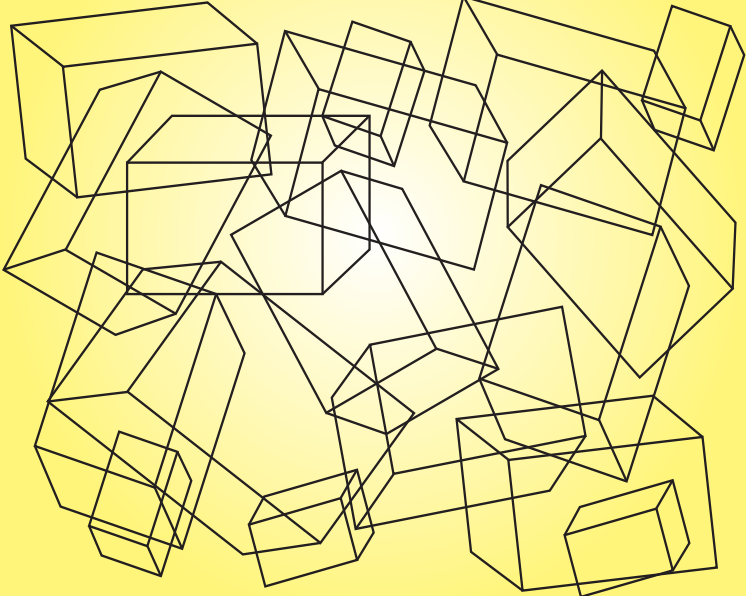
Describe Pandora

Look through the newspaper for five words that describe Pandora. Put these words in alphabetical order.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Spelling: Arrange words in alphabetical order.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

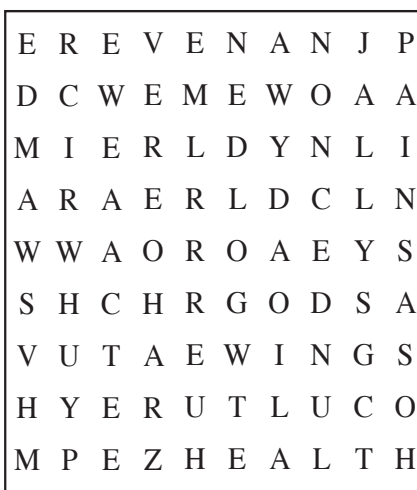
How many boxes can you find? Have a friend try. Who found the most?



Double Double Word Search

- PANDORA
- CULTURE
- GOLDEN
- GREECE
- HEALTH
- SWARM
- NEVER
- WINGS
- ZEUS
- MYTH
- HARM
- PAIN
- GODS
- CORD
- JOY

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



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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Curiosity

Some people say curiosity killed the cat. The story of Pandora's Box suggests that curiosity causes trouble. Look through the newspaper to find some examples of where curiosity was a good thing.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.



What do you get when a giant walks through your vegetable garden?

ANSWER: Squash.

What's the most slippery country in the world?

ANSWER: Greece.



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HELP WANTED

HOUSE/PET ASSISTANT NEEDED - House cleaning, Care of dogs and puppies, helping with computer & paperwork a plus. Must

be organized, dependable, prefer non-smoker, 20-30 hours week. Benefits over time. Text 919-656-2268. Jy9,16,2tc

CDL CLASS A DRIVERS NEEDED - Full & part time, Must pass drug test. Holiday, medical & vacation pay. Need weekend drivers also, weekend pay, Fri & Sat night, \$300 per trip. Sunday - Thursday, 265 per trip. Call 919-770-7385 fr info. Jy9,16,2tp

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Jane Carroll Livizey having qualified as the Executrix of the Estate of **ROY CARROLL**, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on June 17, 2020, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned attorney of the Personal Representative on or before September 23, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate please make immediate payment. This the 17th day of June 2020. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandaveer, 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150, Chapel Hill, NC, 27517.

This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1. Austin C. Vandaveer, Attorney of Record 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150 Chapel Hill, NC, 27517 Jn25,Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **MICHAEL RAY KIDD**, 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 25, 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 18th day of June, 2020. Lauren Rebecca Kidd Punch, Administrator 62 Jubilee Ct. Clayton, NC 27527 Jn25,Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITOR

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 286
The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **MARY PATTISHALL ALSTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned at his address, 54 Pattishall Road, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 25th day of September, 2020, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 18th day of June, 2020. Henry R. Alston 54 Pattishall Road Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 GUNN & MESSICK, LLP P.O. Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880 Jn25,Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 287
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HAROLD E. TRUELOVE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned at his address, 2501 Dockery Lane, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27606, on or before the 25th day of September, 2020, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 19th day of June, 2020. Dwight Jones, Executor 2501 Dockery Lane Raleigh, North Carolina 27606 GUNN & MESSICK, LLP P. O. Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880 Jn25,Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 16th day of June, 2020, as Executrix of the ESTATE OF **PHILIP H. KOHL a/k/a PHILIP HOWARD KOHL**, Deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and

corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 2ND day of October, 2020 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This, the 2nd day of July, 2020. **MARY S. KOHL, EXECUTRIX ESTATE OF PHILIP H. KOHL a/k/a PHILIP HOWARD KOHL** c/o Jennifer E. Dalman, Attorney Walker Lambe, PLLC Post Office Box 51549 Durham, North Carolina 27717 Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,4tc

CHATHAM COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA NOTICE OF SERVICE

Robert Terrell III hereby notifies **General Shale Brick Inc.**, all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate; to notice by the adjustments of the court to determine the orders and judgment of claims preceding conditions. The mandated trial merits are fulfilled formulating issues as their prerogative writs. Robert Terrell III 126 West Presnell Street; Apt c Asheboro, North Carolina 27203 (910) 580-9261 Robertintel.o@gmail.com Self-Represented Jy2-D24,25tp

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 300
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **JOSHUA EDWIN MAYNOR**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on June 2, 2020, are notified to exhibit the same to undersigned on or before the 3rd day of October, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 2nd day of July, 2020. Virginia Elizabeth Barber, Administrator Manning, Fulton & Skinner, P.A., c/o Ansley Chapman Cella P.O. Box 20389 Raleigh, North Carolina 27619-0389 Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

20 E 277 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **DOLORES G. BRENT**, 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 October 2, 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 29th day of June, 2020. Alison Brent, Executrix 250 Columbine St., Unit 316 Denver, Colorado 80206 Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

20 E 299 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **MARION GUTHRIE WILLIAMS**, 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 October 2, 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 29th day of June, 2020. Sandra W. Tysor, Administrator PO Box 43 Goldston, NC 27252 Jy2,Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Michael J. McMahon, having qualified at Executor of the Estate of **JAMES PROSSER MCMAHON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 10th Day of October, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 6th day of July, 2020. Michael J. McMahon 1332 Whisper Drive Virginia Beach, VA 23454 1-757-510-5684 W. Ben Atwater, Jr. Attorney at Law P.O.Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2850 batwater@pinehurst.net Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,4tc

Public Notice (Including Private/Home School Personnel)

The **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA - Part B, Public Law 108.446)** Project is presently being amended. The Project describes the special education programs that Chatham County Public Schools proposes for Federal Funding for the 2020-2021 school year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the Project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this Federal Program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project is open to the public for review and comments during the period of July 9-23, 2020 in the office of Melvin Diggs, Executive Director of Exceptional Children Program, located at Central Services-South, Rm. 804, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312. Jy9,J16,2tc

Town of Siler City Public Hearing Notice

The Board of Commissioners will conduct a **public hearing on July 20, 2020 at 7 pm in the City Hall Courtroom located at 311 N. 2nd Ave.** Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests:
1. Gary L. Smith proposes to rezone -3.194 acres to Office-Institutional (O-I) & -34.033 acres to Light-Industrial (L-I). The subject property is currently zoned Highway-Commercial (H-C) (-5.9 acres), Residential (R-10) (-14.3 acres), & L-I (-17 acres). The subject property is located along the southern boundary of E. Raleigh St. and is identified as 1002 E. Raleigh St. & parcel # 16864, 16865, 67041, & 67042.
2. 22 Davie LLC (William F. Milholen) proposes to rezone ~6.65 acres from Agricultural-Residential (A-R) to Light-Industrial (L-I). The subject property is located along the western boundary of Harold Andrews Rd. and is identified as parcel # 66749.

The proposed items are 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 items. The Planning Board will meet on Jul. 13 @ 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 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 informacion 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. Jy9,Jy16,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

20 E-266 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Yolanda Shark, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **WILLIAM DENNIS DOWDY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of October, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 9th day of July, 2020. Yolanda Shark Administrator for the Estate C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

20 E-267 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Phyllis Greene, having qualified as

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

20 E-267 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Phyllis Greene, having qualified as

Executor of the Estate of **RONALD P. GREENE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of October, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 9th day of July, 2020. Phyllis Greene Executor for the Estate C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

20-E-168 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Linda Childress, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HELEN PEELE MASON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 9TH day of October, 2020, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 9th day of July, 2020. Linda Childress Executor for the Estate C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **LORI A. LOVE**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Line ad deadline
Tuesday — Noon
Display ad deadline
Monday — 5 p.m.
Rates and payment
Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.
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No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.
Errors
In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 9th day of October, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 9th day of July, 2020. Frederick W. Miller, Executor Estate of Lori A. Love Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Jy9,Jy16,Jy23,Jy30,4tc



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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
 All persons having claims against **FRANK WALTON AVERY** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of October, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make

immediate payment. This the 9th day of July, 2020. Laura Bailey Avery, Executrix Estate of Frank Walton Avery 166 Legacy Club Drive Chapel Hill, NC 27517 Jy9, Jy16, Jy23, Jy30, 4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 35
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **CHESTER RAY CHURCHILL**, 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 October 9, 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 9th day of July, 2020. Dale J. Churchill 4207 NC Hwy 751 Apex, NC 27523 Bagwell Holt Smith, P.A. 111 Cloister Court, Suite 200 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Jy9, Jy16, Jy23, J30, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
19 E 579 NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
 Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **FRED WOODY JR.**, 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 October 9, 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 9th day of July, 2020. Tracy Woody, Executrix 223 Pine Crest Dr Bear Creek, NC 27207 Jy9, Jy16, Jy23, J30, 4tp

vs. Davontay Brooks, Defendant. **NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS by PUBLICATION**
 To: Davontay Brooks
 Take Note: That a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the General Court of Justice, District Court Division, by the plaintiff herein, the nature of which is as follows: Absolute divorce based upon one year's separation. You are required by law to make defense to such pleading within thirty (30) days from the date of the first publication of this Notice. If you fail to do so, the plaintiff will seek the relief sought herein. This the 12th day of June, 2020 Signed: Saranorah Brooks June 12, 2020 Jy16, Jy23, Jy30, 3tp

36 Court Street P.O. Box 679 Roxboro, North Carolina 27573 Telephone: (336)597-2251 State Bar No: 8685 Jy16, Jy23, Jy30, Au6, 4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 326
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
 Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **NELSON DELANE GOINES**, 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 October 16, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 16th day of July, 2020. Delphine Deloris Goines, Executrix 245 Patterson Dr Chapel Hill, NC 27312 Jy16, Jy23, J30, Au6, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
12 E 139
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
 Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JON MAURICE SHAMBURGER**, 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 October 16, 2020 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 16th day of July, 2020. Albert B. Long, Jr., Administrator 217 Jason Way Youngsville, NC 27596 Jy16, Jy23, J30, Au6, 4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF PITTSBORO
 The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following **Public Hearing on Monday, July 27th, 2020 at 7:00 o'clock in the Town Council Chambers of the Pittsboro Town Hall, 635 East Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina**, to consider the following item: 1. Proposed Annexation: Northwood MUPD (A-2020-02) Annexation request for parcels totaling 91.38 acres located south of where US 15/501 & Northwood High School Rd intersect, and more particularly described with parcel numbers 6721, 6722, 6723, & 91293. The purpose of the public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. The meeting will be held via Zoom, a teleconference software. Instructions on how to join the Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website under the BOC Agenda, Minutes, and Audio tab. If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullcock, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at cbullocc@pittsboronc.gov by 4 p.m. on July 27, Jy16, 1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
 Bruce Hall qualified before the Chatham County Clerk of Court on July 9, 2020, in File **20 E 234**, as Executor of the Estate of **LYNDA R. HALL**, 3845 McLaurin Road, Bear Creek, NC 27207. This is to notify all persons, firms and corporations, as required by NCGS 28A-14-1, having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the attorney designated below on or before October 16, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. Payments and claims should be presented to: Robert Gilleland, Attorney P.O. Box 1045 Sanford, NC 27331-1045. Jy16, Jy23, Jy30, Au6, 4tp

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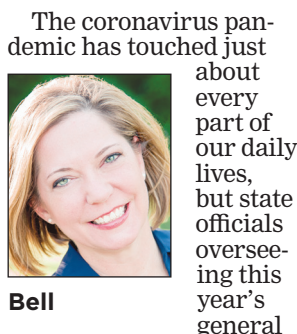
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CHATHAM CHAT | KAREN BRINSON BELL, N.C. ELECTIONS BOARD

State preparing for 'safe and secure' November election



Bell

The coronavirus pandemic has touched just about every part of our daily lives, but state officials overseeing this year's general election have had a particular challenge. This week, we speak with Karen Brinson Bell, the executive director of the N.C. State Board of Elections, about how the agency is adjusting and preparing.

Bell has served as executive director of the state board since June 1, 2019. She has worked in elections administration since 2006 in county, state, and national roles. As North Carolina's chief elections official, she leads about 85 full-time employees at the state agency, which is charged with administering elections and campaign finance compliance, overseeing the 100 county boards of elections, and ensuring voting for more than 7 million voters.

She has spent most of her career in elections administration. From March 2011 to March 2015, she served as director for the Transylvania County (N.C.) Board of Elections. Prior to that, she worked for five years as a district elections technician for the State Board of Elections, where she supported 12 county boards in western N.C. in almost all facets of elections.

Before her appointment as executive director, Bell was deputy director of the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center. In that role, she assisted elections administrators on a national level, providing expert testimony and educational tools for conducting elections using that method.

The State Board of Elections issued a memo to county boards of elections on June 1 outlining in-person guidelines for two primary elections, and you've

indicated updated guidance will be provided for North Carolina's Nov. 3 general election. What are the major points of the guidelines voters need to be aware of?

The State Board and county boards of elections are working diligently to make voting accessible, safe and secure for voters during early voting and Election Day in November. The safety and health of voters and election workers is a top priority for us.

At each polling site, social distancing will be enforced, and masks will be provided for voters who don't bring their own and wish to wear one. Voting spaces will be cleaned regularly and stocked with one-use pens to limit the spread of any germs.

More steps we're taking include:

- Single-use cotton swabs for voters using touchscreen devices.
- Hand sanitizer for voters and poll workers.
- Face shields and gloves for poll workers.
- Protective barriers between poll workers and voters at check-in tables.
- Special sanitation kits at each precinct to ensure poll worker protection and clean tables, voting booths and voting machines throughout the voting process.
- Thorough cleaning of voting sites before and after the election.

How will the state and local elections boards cover the increased costs of additional safeguards for voters?

PPE costs are being covered by CARES Act funding received by the state. We are also looking at in-kind contributions and other partnerships to help the extend the funds to meet demand for these materials.

Given the pandemic, there's a lot of discussion about voting by mail. What's the state board doing in this regard, and how do you expect this issue to play out? (And what's your forecast on the growth in this year's general election in the use of absentee ballots?)

We expect an increase in voting by mail for the November election. Generally, absentee by mail ballots make up 4 to 5 percent of ballots cast in an election. For last year, we're estimating anywhere from 30 to 40 percent of ballots being by mail. That percentage could be lower if pandemic conditions improve between now and the election.

We've worked with legislators and county boards of elections to make voting by mail easier and more efficient for November. House Bill 1169 included several important changes, such as the ability to request an absentee ballot through an online portal and requiring only one witness rather than two for a ballot.

Federal CARES Act funding and additional grant funding will be used to help administer absentee by mail voting. This includes the increase in postage costs to fulfill ballot requests. Also, the State Board is purchasing high-speed scanners to make counting absentee ballots easier and quicker for the counties.

Any discussion of, of course, brings to mind debates about voter fraud. How widespread is voter fraud in N.C.? What kinds of complaints does your office receive, and what do you typically find when making investigations?

Participation by ineligible voters in North Carolina elections is neither rampant nor non-existent. Most incidents, such as double voting or voting by ineligible residents, such as felons or non-citizens, are isolated and not coordinated. Incidents of voter misconduct are not isolated to any political party or geographical region of the state. More information about State Board investigations is here: <https://dl.ncsbe.gov/index.html?prefix=Investigations/>

Recently, concerns have been expressed about by-mail voting. We believe absentee voting is secure. Safeguards are ingrained in the absentee voting process. Absentee ballots are sent only to registered voters who request them using an official state absentee ballot request form. The request must be signed and includes identifying information about the voter, including date of birth and driver's license number or last four digits of the voter's Social Security number. Voters must vote their ballot in the presence of a witness, and that witness must sign the absentee return envelope certifying that the voter marked their ballot and is the registered voter submitting the marked ballot. Only the voter or their near relative or legal guardian may return the ballot. Upon return, the county board of elections reviews the absentee envelope to ensure compliance with the legal requirements.

Data on who has requested absentee ballots is now confidential until Election Day. Criminal penalties have been increased for absentee voting fraud-related offenses. Many eyes are watching our absentee voting process, including candidates, political parties, county boards of elections, political and data scientists and everyday folks on the ground. If there are anomalies or questionable activities, they will be reported to election officials. Finally, we have an Investigations Division at the State Board of Elections that investigates credible allegations of elections fraud and refers cases to prosecutors when warranted by the evidence.

The State Board also conducts several post-election audits which will catch inconsistencies that can then be investigated by the board or our Investigations Division.

Voter ID in North Carolina, of course, is still not required. How has the changing landscape of this issue affected your office?

In any situation, the State Board reacts to law changes and adjusts accordingly to ensure we comply with the law. When the law was enjoined, we worked quickly to inform voters that a photo ID would not be required for the 2020 elections. We changed language on forms and our website where necessary.

N.C.'s political divide seems to be growing. How does that affect your office's work before, during and after election cycles?

The State Board must work in the best interest of all of North Carolina voters and according to state and federal laws and court orders. Each decision made is to improve the elections process for voters. Today's political atmosphere, combined with social media, breed misinformation about elections, which can confuse voters and decrease voter confidence in the election system. As a result, elections officials must respond wherever possible with accurate information to ensure voters understand the process. We strongly encourage voters to get reliable information about elections from their state and county boards of elections and other trusted sources.

The recruitment of poll workers — many of whom are retirees, and thus older, and more at-risk to COVID-19 — is something you're working to address. How's that coming along?

Poll workers will be vital for the November election. We're expecting to need 25,000 to 30,000 election workers to make this election a success.

To assist in this effort, we created the Democracy Heroes campaign to raise awareness and increase interest in becoming an election worker for early voting and on Election Day. We're asking interested individuals to complete an interest survey, which can be found

on our website at www.ncsbe.gov and at this link: bit.ly/2Yh8Aj6

The State Board is also working with other government, civic and educational institutions to distribute a flyer to affiliated individuals about serving as an election worker this November.

Recruitment will be an ongoing process, but it is a priority of our organization heading into November.

And finally, can you outline what's ahead for the November election? Remind voters what they need to know (key dates, etc.) and how they can vote ...

For November, we encourage each and every voter to cast a ballot the way they're most comfortable. Three options will be available to each voter — in-person early voting, in-person on Election Day and by mail.

The voter registration deadline is October 9, 2020. Eligible voters who miss this deadline may register and vote at the same time during early voting, which is October 15-October 31, 2020. A voter may vote at any one-stop early voting site in their county. The sites will be announced in late August or early September.

The deadline to request a ballot by mail is October 27, 2020. The deadline to return a ballot is 5 p.m. on Election Day. Absentee ballots received after 5 p.m. on Election Day will be timely only if they are received by mail no later than 5 p.m. on the third day following the election, and postmarked on or before Election Day.

The envelope may be mailed or delivered in person to the county board of elections office or an open early voting site during the early voting period.

On November 3, polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Voters must vote at their precinct polling location on Election Day.

How different will Chatham's November election be?

'People need to know about how to vote more than ever before'

BY CASEY MANN
News + Record Staff

It goes without saying that for voters and poll workers, November's general election won't look normal in Chatham County.

Just how different remains to be seen, but for elections board Executive Director Pandora Pascal, one thing seems certain in the age of COVID-19: an increase in absentee voting.

In the meantime, as COVID-19 continues to spread and take lives, both the state and Chatham County Board of Elections have been working to put safeguards in place to protect voters and poll workers leading up to November's general election.

"People need to know about how to vote more than ever before," Pascal said.

Pascal said the elections board has been working on a series of options for addressing this year's elections. Though the final plans will not be voted on until its July 21 meeting, she shared several of the options under consideration.

For example, there has been discussions on expanding the number of early voting sites in the northeastern portion of the county, where the population is densest, to ease traffic flows in early voting sites. The board is also considering, based on guidance from the North Carolina State Board of Elections, extending early voting hours and potentially including Sundays.

The board is also changing several polling sites on election day so that voters can cast their ballots safely. The board determined that some of the polling sites will not allow for the safety and social distancing measures required to keep both voters and workers safe. The Chatham County Board of Education has already agreed to make election day a teacher workday so that schools will be available for polling sites. And while not

all the precinct sites have been decided, Pascal said that voters should be aware that their regular polling site in their precinct may change.

In addition, there are concerns about having enough poll workers to manage sites during early voting and on election day. Typically, polls workers are residents who are retired and can therefore give their time to assist voters. That age group is also one of the more susceptible to contracting and falling very ill from COVID-19.

Both the state and the county board of elections are participating in a program called Democracy Heroes. The project is encouraging people "of all ages" to "protect democracy, learn about the elections process, serve their communities and get paid in the process," according to a release from Chatham County last week about the program. The state has created two different "election worker surveys" — one for adults and one for students age 17 and up — to help fill poll worker spots.

At the same time, Pascal said that it's important for voters to "know there are options" for voting.

"If they don't feel comfortable, if they are high risk or just afraid, they can request an absentee ballot," Pascal said.

Absentee ballots are those that are requested by the voter, mailed to their home, completed by the voter, then returned by mail to the local board of elections office. On a typical year, absentee ballots make up for about 5% of all ballots cast. Both the state and the county are estimating that number to rise to at least 30%. Pascal said that while the process is not complicated, it is important for voters to know how to "do it right."

Nancy Jacobs, an activist who lives in the northeastern portion of the county, has been working with

friends and neighbors to help in educating the public on how to absentee vote. The group calls itself "Neighbors for Safe and Accessible Voting." They have created flyers and other materials to walk voters through the absentee voting process, from request to submittal.

"We made them to share with everyone in Chatham County," Jacobs said. "We just want people to get out and vote."

Any registered voter can request an absentee ballot by sending completed absentee ballot request form by mail to the Chatham County Board of Elections. The form, which can be found on the Chatham County Board of Elections website (www.chathamnc.org/government/departments-programs/board-of-elections), must include the voter's name, date of birth and either a driver license number or the last four digits of the voter's social security number. The form also requires residence and contact information.

Residents can request their absentee ballot now, but the ballots will not be mailed out until September. Once voters receive their ballot, it is important to complete the ballot correctly and return it to the local elections office in a timely fashion. All absentee ballots require the voter's signature and a signature of a witness in order to be considered valid. Also, it is important for voters to know that it may require two postage stamps because of the ballot's size.

Pascal suggests voters who are unfamiliar with the process call the elections office and staff can assist with the requests. The elections office also is creating multi-partisan assistance teams to help voters complete absentee ballots. These teams include members of both political parties to ensure accountability.

With all the changes and final plans still subject to change based on additional guidance from the state,

Chatham County Board of Elections

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MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 111, Pittsboro, NC 27312
EMAIL: elections@chathamnc.org
WEBSITE: www.chathamnc.org/government/departments-programs/board-of-elections
ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM:

www.chathamnc.org/home/showdocument?id=50995
ELECTION WORKER SURVEY: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=31F2etC5mkSFw-zCbNftGbSu5CXmvORFtQ9-DB1johdUOU4xMU5CMzVVVTJBTVDN0RGWFBDRkFYVy4u>
STUDENT ELECTION WORKER SURVEY: www.ncsbe.gov/Portals/0/Forms/Student%20Election%20Assistant%20Guide.pdf

Pascal said voters need "to be diligent" in seeking information about where and how to vote.

"Don't wait for the last minute to find out where you can vote," Pascal said. "Any voter can call our office or visit the website to get the information as soon as it's available. We want everyone to vote

and we want everyone to be safe."
Casey Mann can be reached at CaseyMann@Chathamnr.com.

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