

# Chatham News + Record

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'IT'S JUST A LOT'

## Some Chatham students tackle remote learning — but without internet

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

Nearly a month into the school year, 7th-grader Addison Culbertson could finally attend his virtual classes consistently. After three weeks of waiting, he'd received a hot spot.

Prior to receiving one of the devices — which provide mobile internet access through a cellular signal — his mom, Ashley Culbertson, printed off his assignments while she was at work. Before that, she was picking up the packets at school every two weeks, as she'd done when Chatham County

Schools first moved to remote learning due to the coronavirus last spring.

"It's just really inconvenient to do as a working parent," Culbertson said, adding that it was frustrating to start a new school year with all the same challenges. They'd been told they'd receive a CCS hot spot, but didn't know exactly when it would arrive. In the meantime, there was nothing to do but keep up with the paper-only learning packets provided by each school for students without internet access.

"Receiving all of these emails from all of these teachers as requested, following his work, and I'm going back

and forth and taking pictures of his work emailing it to them — it's actually a lot to organize," she said at the time. "Not that it's not possible, but it is just a lot to do."

Now that her son finally has a hot spot — his first official day of online school was Sept. 4, 15 days after the district's first day of class — things have been much better. The first day, figuring out how to connect his computer to the hot spot was a challenge. Now, the biggest challenge is figuring out a way for her son to keep track of

See REMOTE, page A3

ELECTION 2020  
N.C. HOUSE, DIST. 54

## Incumbent Reives, challenger Gilson locked in battle of ideologies

BY LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Correspondent

In competition for the N.C. House of Representatives District 54 seat — which includes all of Chatham County and parts of Durham County — incumbent Rep. Robert Reives II and challenger George Gilson Jr. represent a dichotomy of ideologies that would likely result in antithetical legislative action over the next two years.



Gilson



Reives

Gilson, 46, an Illinoisan who moved to Chatham County in 2016, thinks the General Assembly is plagued by non-essential spending. As a Republican and a self-described "very conservative" politician, he said the state government's current fiscal policy is outrageous.

Reives, on the other hand, is a 50-year-old Sanford native who joined the House as a Democrat in 2014 by appointment and is completing his third tenure as an elected representative.

He has opposed legislative action to cut budgets and supports additional government spending with a view to long term civic improvement.

Gilson is critical of Gov. Roy Cooper for his response to the coronavirus pandemic which, he said, has "stagnated the education side of things, business and the economy." Reives applauds the current administration for doing "a heck of a job on the fly."

While Reives feels Joe Biden is the best candidate to lead the country out of its pandemic doldrums, Gilson endorses Donald Trump's decision-making, including his response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Gilson was in favor of removing foreign citizens from voting rolls, reducing the franchise tax, the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Act, the Small Business Healthcare Act and an act to adjust the selection of instructional materials for public schools. Reives voted against all of the above.

In almost every belief, the two men diverge.

"I'm a sharp contrast to him," Gilson said of his opponent. "I'm hoping that come Nov. 3, I highlight the difference between us, and we'll see what the constituents are really looking for."

Chatham County constituents are almost equal parts Republican and Democrat. The county's political bent aligns with that of the greater Triangle region, favoring the Democratic side, but with a more moderate skew than neighboring Wake and Orange counties. (In 2016, Chatham County voted 53.6% for Hillary Clinton as compared to 43.5% for Donald Trump, according to Politico.)

This voting season, however, transcends

See ELECTION, page A9

Candidate questionnaires  
PAGE A9 & A11

## Remote learning brings some Latinx students stress, more responsibility

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

For Jordan-Matthews senior Daisey Gaspar Samayoa, school wasn't just a place of learning or a ticket to a good future — it was a refuge.

Before COVID-19, she had a full plate: besides schoolwork, she played tennis, participated "in like 10 clubs" and babysat her two younger siblings nearly every day upon returning home from school. "I really liked school," Gaspar

Samayoa said. "I enjoyed going there and socializing with people a lot and I would say being away from home for a good time ... (It was) a breather, because I knew that night afterwards I had to go and help (my family) out."

But since COVID-19 forced schools online, Gaspar Samayoa and other Jordan-Matthews Latinx students have lost that "breather," missed out on the high school experience and been forced to take on greater responsibilities. Adjusting to remote learning and

the reality of "being stuck at home" has been one of the biggest challenges Selina Lopez — the Hispanic Liaison's youth leadership program manager — has seen among the Latinx youth she works with, a group that includes Gaspar Samayoa.

Many haven't seen their friends since March, she said, since the transition into remote learning was so abrupt, and some didn't even get the chance to say goodbye in person.

"I think it's just been really lonely for a lot of them, especially since their support system is usually their friends

See CHALLENGES, page A3

### PRIMO PARTNERS: BEN & JERRY'S FRANCHISEES

## Chatham County natives expand multi-state ice cream business

BY LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Correspondent

In August, a trio of Chatham County natives, operating as Primo Partners, LLC, purchased two new Ben & Jerry's ice cream franchise locations — marking an unusual move to expand as many storefront retail companies face ongoing contraction.

The team of young entrepreneurs, who now own eight Ben & Jerry's stores after the recent acquisitions, started their business in 2008 when Antonio McBroom — now the company's CEO at 34 — was a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill.

"I worked at Ben & Jerry's throughout college," McBroom said, "and decided I wanted to purchase the store."

To help launch his career in franchise ownership, McBroom reached out to his childhood friend and mentor, Eric Taylor, 37, then working as an engineer in Boston. The two



met as Chatham Central High School students where they played football together.

"I'd been out of college two years when Antonio approached me with the idea of owning a business," Taylor said. "It was pretty exciting for me. I've always been financially savvy, so I was wondering, at that time, what additional things I could invest in."

The Chapel Hill Ben & Jerry's matched Taylor's criteria and he agreed to come on as the budding company's COO.

"We put our resumes together and then we met with Ben & Jerry's and asked them to take a chance on us young entrepreneurs," McBroom said, "and they did. And so, it began."

Ben & Jerry's got its own start in 1978 when friends Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield took a \$5 correspondence course in ice cream-making from Penn State and opened their first ice cream scoop shop in a renovated gas station in Burlington,

See ICE CREAM, page A12

'IT'S VERY CONVENIENT IN A SMALL CITY'

## First baby born at Chatham Hospital in nearly 30 years

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — For the first time in nearly 30 years, a baby was born at Chatham Hospital — thanks to the hospital's new Maternity Care Center, which opened Sept. 8.

After just one week of being open, the birth of a baby boy, Se'kani Maurice Foxx, marked a major milestone for the new center and the hospital's efforts to improve accessibility and equity.

But for parents Jasmine Smith and Shaquille Foxx, the hospital's milestone paled in comparison to theirs: having a baby.

"My family was more excited than I was, I was more in shock, like, 'Really that's me? That's me on someone's Facebook page, that's me on a news-



Photo courtesy of Chatham Hospital

Se'kani Maurice Foxx was born last week — the first baby born at Chatham Hospital in nearly 30 years.

paper? That's my baby — are you

See BABY, page A6



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

## PepperFest royalty

PepperFest King Adrian Moreno (from left) and Queen Tami Schwerin share a laugh during the 13th annual PepperFest, held Sunday in Pittsboro, along with Marcela Slade and Ally DeJong of Abundance. See story, additional photos, inside on page B5.

### IN THE KNOW

Q&A: COVID-19 rages on, but Chatham's fight sees positives. **PAGE A6** Chief Wagner, others work to address homelessness in Siler City. **PAGE A7**

Census: Chatham's rate is at 69.8% as the deadline approaches. **PAGE A11**

How Pittsboro's Jesse Greenlee pulled off a 73-day cycling trip. **PAGE B1**



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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

### CANCELLATIONS

- **Chatham County Council on Aging:** both centers are closed at this time until further notice. If you need to pick up supplies, call the Siler City or Pittsboro location or check our website at [chathamcoa.org](http://chathamcoa.org).
- **Chatham County Historical Museum:** For the safety of visitors and volunteers, the Chatham County Historical Museum is closed until further notice. See our website: <https://chathamhistory.org>.
- **Chatham Community Library:** Closed to the public at this time.

### ON THE AGENDA

- **The Chatham County Board of Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro. For more: [www.chatham.k12.nc.us](http://www.chatham.k12.nc.us)
- **The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 28, at town hall, 635 East St., in Pittsboro. For more: [www.pittsboronc.gov](http://www.pittsboronc.gov)
- **The Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 5, at the second floor courtroom of the Historic Chatham County Courthouse, 9 Hillsboro St., in Pittsboro. For more: [www.chathamnc.org](http://www.chathamnc.org).
- **The Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 5, in the courtroom at town hall at 311 N. Second Ave., Siler City. For more: [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org)
- **The League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham counties (LWVODC)** reminds everyone of the availability of VOTE411.org, their online 2020 Election Voter Guide. The League's nonpartisan election

resource offers voters a "one-stop shop" for all things election related. Visit [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), enter your address and see: Your customized ballot; Candidate profiles and responses to questions in the candidate's words; Where and when to vote; Voter registration status, and more.

- **Census takers** are visiting every household that has not already responded to the 2020 Census. If a census-taker comes to your home, please cooperate. Siler City needs your response. If you haven't already, you can respond online at [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov), by phone, or by mail.
- **Central Carolina Community College:** Whether you are looking for flexible course choices to meet your personal schedule or starting a new program of study, C.C.C.C.'s 8-week term allows you to find courses that fit your academic and career goals. The next 8-week classes begin Oct. 15. To register for courses, contact your advisor or the Admissions office at (919) 718-7300 (Lee Main Campus), (919) 545-8025 (Chatham Main Campus), and (910) 814-8827 or (910) 814-8867 (Harnett Main Campus). See [www.cccc.edu/12and8](http://www.cccc.edu/12and8) for a list of classes.

### THURSDAY

- **The Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open with seasonal items year-round from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. It is 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 Striders:** The Chatham County Council on Aging has kicked off its Chatham Striders Walk & Learn

educational walking and wellness series with a virtual session. For more information on this series or how to register, contact Liz Lahti at 919-542-4512 or Faye Tillman at 919-742-3975.

- **The Chatham County Challenge** is a virtual walk, run, or bike challenge that is taking place September 1-30. Bikers are challenged to complete a 100k (62 miles) and runners/walkers are challenged to complete a 50k (31 miles). Participants will be asked to track their miles through a mobile app called Map My Fitness. The top 25 bikers and top 25 walkers/runners with the most distance logged in the Map My Fitness challenge will receive a free T-shirt. A weekly leaderboard and end of challenge winners will be announced on the Parks and Recreation website, Facebook, and Instagram. Head over to [chathamnc.org/parks-recreation](http://chathamnc.org/parks-recreation) for details on how to sign up for free.

- **Movies in the Park Series:** Chatham County Parks and Recreation will host a free outdoor movie night series at The Park at Briar Chapel. Due to COVID-19, temperatures will be taken, hand sanitizer will be provided upon arrival, and the field will be grid off to maintain social distance guidelines. There will be space available for 25 people to sit on the field, and 17 cars in drive-in spots. Attendance is first-come, first-served. Movie Schedule: Spider-Man into the Spider-Verse: Sept. 25, movie starts at 7:30 p.m.

- **The Chatham County Council on Aging** will host drive-thru immunization clinics at each of its two centers. Flu, shingles and pneumonia vaccines will be available. Masks required. Participants will remain in their cars at all times. Cost based on health insurance. Please bring insurance card and photo ID. • Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City, RSVP

suggested by Sept. 29. Call 919-742-3975 or email [FayeTillman@ChathamCOA.org](mailto:FayeTillman@ChathamCOA.org).

- **Youth Jump Rope Classes:** Class 2: Meets at Northwest District Park on Wednesdays 6 p.m. to 6:55 p.m., until Oct. 21. This jump rope class is all about fun and fitness. The class is suitable for youth who are both beginning and intermediate jumpers. Participants will learn and perfect single rope, Double Dutch, and long rope skills. Jumpers will develop strength, agility and endurance throughout the class. For details on how to register, visit the parks and recreation website: [chathamnc.org/parks-recreation](http://chathamnc.org/parks-recreation) or call the office at 919-545-8555.
- **Chatham Arts & Recreation: Youth Art Class** will meet Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m., through Oct. 22. This is a six-week exploration of various art and craft skills. Participants will experiment with projects such as watercolor painting, dot painting, paper crafts (quilling and/or origami) and 3D art. For details on how to register, visit the parks and recreation website: [chathamnc.org/parks-recreation](http://chathamnc.org/parks-recreation) or call 919-545-8555.

- **Chatham Arts & Recreation: The Trunk or Treat Boo-Thru** will have candy drive-thru and a pumpkin carving contest this year. Event 1: A "Monster Hunt" will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in Southwest District Park on Thursday, Oct. 29, and Event 2: from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, in the Northwest District Park.

- **Central Carolina Community College** will offer the **Teacher Preparation degrees** this fall. To register for the programs, visit [www.cccc.edu/apply-register/](http://www.cccc.edu/apply-register/) or call **CCCC Student Services** at 919-718-7300. Students can earn an Associate in Science - Teacher Preparation degree or Associate in Arts - Teacher Preparation degree in only two years, and then transfer to a four-year institution and enter as a junior. These degrees

allow students to pursue a teaching degree in the K-12 field of education.

- **Join the Chatham YMCA for Virtual Trivia** at 7 p.m. on Oct. 1. You can form teams of 4 to 6 to compete. Trivia topics will include Chatham County facts and legends, in addition to others. Great local prizes to the winning team! Event is free but donations are encouraged. Register by Sept. 28 at <https://forms.gle/x3sM9NQxQFQnwmCF7>.

### ALSO HAPPENING

- **Second Bloom of Chatham:** Come see us 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 10 Sanford Rd., Pittsboro (on the Courthouse Circle). Credit cards are accepted. Profits go to support services for survivors of domestic or sexual violence and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.
- With COVID-19 sweeping the country, artists' livelihoods are being challenged like never before. The Chatham Arts Council has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called **CAARE: Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort**. For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit [ChathamArtsCouncil.org](http://ChathamArtsCouncil.org).
- **JMArts** hosted a **JMACoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMACoronaConcert performances and #JMACoronaConcert program.
- **Adult Volunteers Needed** at Chatham Hospital in Siler City, a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital located in Siler City and part of the UNC Health Care System. All prospective volunteers must complete an on-line application, a criminal background check, an orientation and have documentation of required immunizations. To learn more go to: [www.chathamhospital.org/ch/about-us/volunteer](http://www.chathamhospital.org/ch/about-us/volunteer).

[www.chathamhospital.org/ch/about-us/volunteer](http://www.chathamhospital.org/ch/about-us/volunteer).

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

- **Foster and/or adoptive information:** Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more.

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

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

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

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

- **Scout News** — Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit [www.bstrop93.org](http://www.bstrop93.org) for more information.

- **Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C.** meets on from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.

- **Pack 900 in Bear Creek** meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

2020-21 ISSUE | \$5

# chathamlife

ENGAGING LIFE IN A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

CHATHAM NAMED A TOP COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC ED

WINE Q&A WITH MASTER SOMMELIER PAULA DE PANO

AFTERNOON AT THE FEARRINGTON FARMER'S MARKET

CHATHAM LIBRARY TRANSFORMS IN THE PANDEMIC

WORSHIP AT DRIVE-IN CHURCH

PRESCRIPTION FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

## Introducing 'chathamlife'

Chatham County has a brand new lifestyles magazine: **chathamlife**, published by the News + Record in partnership with the Chatham Chamber of Commerce. This 40-page, full color publication will be delivered to News + Record subscribers in October and distributed throughout Chatham County. It'll be the largest-circulated magazine in all of Chatham and feature stories and snapshots from life in our vibrant community.

# You're Invited

## Join Girl Scouts

Calling all adventure-seekers, problem-solvers, and go-getters! **New Girl Scout troops are forming now** to meet the needs of today's girls. Girl Scouting never stops, and we are here to provide girls with an outlet to unleash their creativity, make new friends and memories, and discover their passions from the safety of their home or backyard. Learn more at [JoinGirlScoutsNC.org](http://JoinGirlScoutsNC.org) or by calling **1-800-284-4475**.

girl scouts north carolina coastal pines

## Chatham News + Record

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# CHALLENGES

Continued from page A1

or these other adult mentors in their lives, like some teachers or counselors,” she said, adding, “School for some of them is their safe space, (and) coming to our office is like a second little home. For them, losing these spaces is really, really rough.”

That’s why virtual learning dealt a heavy blow to Jordan-Matthews junior Ashley Perez.

“I am that person that gets motivated seeing other people being happy and seeing other people with me, knowing that I’m not really alone,” she said, adding, “Just knowing that I’m not near friends (or) my teachers that I really care about, it kind of like makes me feel like, ‘Oh, wow, do I care?’”

Ever since the school district switched over to remote learning, Perez said she’s been grappling with procrastination and lack of motivation.

“I don’t like admitting that I’m competitive because I want everyone to have a chance, but I’m low key competitive,” she said, “and if I’m not around people, I don’t have the motivation to be like, ‘Oh, wait, I can do better (than) that.’”

## ‘I feel like I’m teaching myself’

It’s also just hard to focus and participate, students say.

Berenice Diaz-Acosta, another junior at Jordan-Matthews, feels like she’d learn and perform better if she were in school. In the classroom, she said, there’s always a teacher right there to help her learn.

“But right now, I can’t really focus as much because I have to worry about the other assignments, and sometimes the teacher won’t be there to help me throughout those assignments or help me do the



Submitted photo

**Daisey Gaspar Samayoa is a senior at Jordan-Matthews High School. She’s also a captain of the school’s women’s tennis team.**

assignment,” she said, adding, “Throughout this whole process, I feel like I’m teaching myself by doing the assignment.”

School starts at 8 a.m. and finishes by 3:15 p.m., though Diaz-Acosta said she usually finishes her schoolwork two or three hours later. Perez’s day is a bit longer: Sometimes she said she finishes her schoolwork closer to midnight.

“Everyone thought we would get more sleep, but honestly, I feel like we’re losing sleep,” she said. “It’s just an adjustment we’re trying to get through and get used to a new normal.”

Her teachers build in several live Zoom sessions throughout the week, during which students can seek help or ask questions, Perez said, but it’s not that simple.

“Lots of students — I am also one of those — have this fear of asking for help, just because it’s not the same as face to face,” she said. “And we have the fear of like, ‘Oh, what if they’re busy?’ or, ‘Oh, maybe I’m just not looking at this right or I’m not reading the directions clearly, and I really don’t need to ask for help.’”

Many worry that their



Submitted photo

**Ashley Perez is a junior at Jordan-Matthews High School. To settle her mind during times of stress, she’ll often paint or read science articles.**

questions will sound stupid, she said, and since everyone’s cameras are off, no one really wants to put him or herself out there.

“It’s just hard,” Perez said. “I turn off my camera because I don’t want to be the only one to turn on (her) camera. And everyone’s muted, and you just don’t know what to say. You just listen along. You’re like, ‘OK.’”

That’s why she wishes teachers would be a bit more open and relaxed with students.

“I want them to know that we students really do care about them, and hope they’re doing just as great, and that they have the right to feel open,” Perez said, adding, “The more open you are, the more students will probably feel very comfortable and be like, ‘Hey, we want to get to know you more, too.’”

## ‘Hey, get on your class’

Remote learning has also forced some students to assume many responsibilities that teachers and parents traditionally fulfilled.

Many students live with younger siblings and parents

working to put food on the table, Lopez said, which means many family responsibilities — like house chores, feeding their siblings and supervising their siblings’ education — have fallen to them.

“I think that’s the biggest barrier for a lot of them,” she said, “that time management of juggling their younger siblings attending school and then also them attending their Zoom meetings.”

Diaz-Acosta said that’s partly why she’s so stressed. Her younger brother is a sixth grader, and she’s in charge of waking him up every morning and getting him to his Zoom meetings.

“He’s not used to being online and everything, so I have to help him throughout that process,” she said. “And I have to keep him aware like when his Zoom meetings (are and) when he has to turn things in.”

On top of that, said Diaz-Acosta, she’s got to worry about “a month’s worth of assignments,” house chores and fitting in breaks for herself to “make sure (she’s) not stressing way too much.”

Perez and Gaspar Samayoa juggle similar responsibilities. Perez’s younger brother is in his second year of middle school, and she also has to help him navigate his online classes, which takes time away from her own schoolwork.

“I wake up early in the day just to get a head start for work,” she said. “And then I see him watching TV, and I’m like, ‘Oh my God. I need to get him motivated (to go to) school.’”

Gaspar Samayoa has two younger siblings, a 5-year-old brother and 10-year-old sister, both in elementary school. She said a typical day for her starts at 5 or 6 a.m. and doesn’t end until her younger siblings go to bed.

“My mom works the night shift,” Gaspar Samayoa said.

“She sometimes wakes up to wake me and my younger siblings, but sometimes I wake them both up, and then I make them breakfast. And then I try to

put in as much of my own work, and then I do his class, and then I’m like, ‘Hey,’ (to) my younger sister, ‘Get on your class.’”

Due to language barriers, she also acts as the liaison between her parents and her siblings’ teachers, who she said usually message her for everything.

“I’m always emailing their teacher because the language barrier between parents and staff is always there and it’s always hard,” she said.

But Gaspar Samayoa said these experiences have helped her grow and taught her to be more self-dependent.

“(At first) I would tell my mom, ‘Remind me this. Remind me that,’” she said. “Now it’s on me to remind myself and my siblings.”

And for all three students, a pervading sense of loss adds salt to the wound. With schools closed for the foreseeable future, they may not get to participate in many traditional high school “rites of passage,” like prom or graduation.

“Last year, I thought junior year was going to be like my year,” Diaz-Acosta said. “I felt like we’d have the same experiences as the other students who used to be juniors and now seniors.”

Samayoa Gaspar said she was excited to be a senior and had anticipated taking part in the school’s annual senior parade in which they “drive in looking crazy, like honking.” She was looking forward to prom, too — both as a senior and a junior.

“Junior year, I bought my dress last year and it didn’t happen,” she said.

Perez shares these sentiments, but she’s still optimistic.

“I feel like I am missing out on a lot, but at the same time safety comes first, and I’m not the only one,” she said. “And so when the day comes where we are able to (return) and it’s safe, it’ll be bigger and better.”

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at [victoria@chathamnr.com](mailto:victoria@chathamnr.com).

# REMOTE

Continued from page A1

all his assignments and Zoom meetings — after months of only completing paper packets, the transition to online assignments and meetings has been a little overwhelming.

“I’m kind of taking myself out of it because it was stressing us both out,” Culbertson said with a laugh. “Just making sure he’s accountable is a little stressful, but I mean, he’s doing it. I think he’s doing a really good job — it’s hard.”

Culbertson and her son are not alone. In Chatham County, increased dependence on

internet during the pandemic has underscored a lack of dependable broadband access across the county, particularly due to the district’s decision to start the first nine weeks of classes with remote learning. There have been more than 1,200 hot spot requests, Executive Director for Digital Teaching and Learning Emma Braaten said, though some of those requests are duplicates from the same families.

By the first week of September, 530 devices were distributed throughout the county as part of the district’s first hot spot distribution — the Culbertsons included. Following the completion of the first distribution, Braaten

said CCS plans to distribute another round of devices to families still in need.

“We received far more requests than what devices we had available,” she said. “So prioritizing definitely those with financial needs, learning and academic needs, accessibility needs and putting those as top priority as we looked at our first review, and then as we move into our second review with the remaining hot spots — loosening some of those priorities a bit as we know that we’ve tried to meet those top priorities first.”

## ‘Access is going to be so critical right now’

At a specially called meeting last Thursday, the CCS Board of Education heard updates on COVID-19 and remote learning in the district, including costs related to technology. At that time, CCS had spent nearly \$66,000 on hot spot devices — with each device costing \$149.99 plus the 6.75% sales tax rate. At an earlier presentation, Braaten told the board that most of those costs were reimbursed or covered through grants and state and federal funding, but the \$9,000 of monthly service fees for those devices were not.

The district is also working to set up more than 50 school bus hot spot locations, where students or families would be able to connect to the internet by sitting in range of one such bus. The Wi-Fi devices to be installed in buses cost around \$53,000, completely funded by the state. Still, installation and then use of these locations has its own challenges, particularly whenever students return to in-person learning and buses are regularly being used again. The earliest that can happen is after the nine weeks of remote learning expires on Oct. 16. (Chatham’s board was set to meet Wednesday, after press time for this edition, to decide what happens after that point. Check [chathamnewsrecord.com](http://chathamnewsrecord.com) for updates.)

“It is more complicated than what it might seem when you hear about it,” Braaten said.

Chromebook laptop computers are still being distributed throughout the county, which Braaten said is another important piece of ensuring access to students right now.

“I’m really, really proud of the work that our team has done to be able to make that happen across the district,” she said. “We’ve made it a big priority for us because we know that access is going to be so critical right now.”

Still, all the district’s efforts don’t necessarily ease the burden of a lack of internet access for families that still don’t have it.

Before her son got a hot spot, Culbertson understood this frustration well. On Aug. 24, she posted in a Chatham community Facebook page regarding this frustration, writing: “Parents who are still waiting on a hot spot or do not have internet at home, how are your kids doing so far? I feel lost!”

At that time, she’d received multiple calls from her son’s school, Margaret B. Pollard Middle School, saying he was absent — because he wasn’t at any of his class Zooms. Her post received 44 comments: a mixed bag of equally frustrated parents, people commiserating with Culbertson and others offering advice, including sitting in church or school parking lots to connect



Submitted photo

**‘He’s doing it. I think he’s doing a really good job — it’s hard,’ parent Ashley Culbertson says of her son Addison, pictured here. He is a 7th-grader at Margaret B. Pollard Middle School and is finally able to access online class after receiving a mobile hot spot.**

to their Wi-Fi.

“I’m having the same exact problems,” wrote Michelle Truelove, a parent of students at Moncure and Northwood. “Who wants (to) go sit in (their) car all day for kids to do their work?”

Truelove ended up getting a hot spot Sept. 10, but unfortunately, it wasn’t helping much — she “lives in the boonies with trees all around.”

Braaten acknowledged these challenges, saying hot spots were just a “Band-Aid” for the problem of broadband connectivity in Chatham. Still, for some families, hot spots can make a big difference.

“We’re really trying to help make sure that families can still be engaged and part of that classroom community, even though they’re not able to fully engage in that digital learning environment,” she said. “We’ve been challenged with this tremendous task, and trying to find all of those variables that will help it be successful. So it’s just been really important that we all come together to work toward this common goal — I think hot spots are one of those areas that can really help further and push this along.”

Now that her son has had the hot spot for a

few weeks, Culbertson said he thinks it’s easier than doing the paper-only assignments. At first, it was an adjustment to do work for grades — last semester, he wanted to burn all of his completed paper packets in their fire pit when he found out they weren’t being graded.

He’s always been on the honor roll, Culbertson said, but has temporarily had some low grades because of missing assignments. That has improved as he’s gotten used to his Zoom class schedule and where to check for work. There are still times when he gets distracted with remote learning — Culbertson has busted him with his kittens sitting on the Zoom call or playing Minecraft while listening to a science video — but all in all, having a hot spot has made remote learning much smoother.

“Hopefully, you know, next week will be a fresh start to not having any of these issues,” she said. “But they’re doing remote until mid-October so we’ve got another month of this and then after that — we don’t know if they’re gonna go back or not, but I sure hope that they do.”

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at [hannah@chathamnr.com](mailto:hannah@chathamnr.com).

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# VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | JUSTICE ROBERT F. ORR

## Reflecting on Ruth Bader Ginsburg — and about what should follow

The news of the death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg struck the soul of America like few others in recent times. Perhaps not unexpected given her long running battles with cancer, the sense of loss of this icon in American public life as well as the timing of her death seemed unbearable.

Why RBG? Why now, with the presidential election only weeks away?

In the days since the news was announced, an outpouring of remembrances, stories by colleagues, praise for her extraordinary career and all kinds of accolades have inundated the airwaves and print. And while a portion of the nation grieves, the inextricable hand of politics is driving the last wedge of 2020 into the heart of our country. President Trump has said he will quickly nominate a woman to replace Justice Ginsburg and Mitch McConnell has sworn to bring the nomination to a vote. The battle lines are being drawn.

The ensuing partisan struggle over Justice Ginsburg's

replacement in so many ways does her and her colleagues on the Supreme Court a great disservice. The tendency to label members of the Supreme Court with a partisan or ideological "brand" demeans the Court, paints its members with a partisan brush and calls into question the independence of our nation's highest court. This self-serving perspective by elected officials and even the media, only serves to undermine the public view of how the Court decides the most challenging and important cases impacting our citizens and our government.

I've never bought in to the labels of "conservative" and "liberal" based upon the political background of a judicial officer. Far more important are the life experiences and professional course that brings a lawyer to the bench. In Justice Ginsburg's case, her early experiences with gender discrimination and inequities clearly shaped her views as both a lawyer and a judge. She was a ferocious advocate for equality and fairness throughout her career as a law professor and litigator.

She was what all of us would want for our lawyer in a case of discrimination. Her successes in shepherding litigation through the system and ultimately to the Supreme Court were reflections on her passion for those causes and her intellectual and personal skills as a lawyer.

When she first became a judge on the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia, Justice Ginsburg was perceived as a "moderate." What that reflects was her ability to exchange her role as an advocate for one as a neutral adjudicator of incredibly challenging issues of constitutional interpretation and statutory construction. Did she agree always with other members of the Court? Of course not. Perceptions and experiences impact how judges and justices view principles of interpretation and concepts of the law. The job of deciding these issues and articulating in opinions the legal basis for the decisions is really the most demanding and challenging part of the work. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was exceptional in doing this work.

In 2019, I had my only opportunity in a long career to actually sit at counsel table for an argument at the U.S. Supreme Court. From that incredibly close perspective, you look up at the pinnacle of the legal profession and the rich historical tradition of our nation's highest court. As the Court adjourned at the close of the argument, the justices rose from their chairs and left the bench by way of a black curtained backdrop behind them. I watched as the fragile, tiny figure of Justice Ginsburg turned to go through the curtain behind her. As the curtain opened, a black arm and hand, robed in black, reached from behind the curtain to take her hand and assist her down the steps.

The simple act of curtsy and respect shown by Justice Clarence Thomas to his fellow justice symbolizes the inherent collegiality and friendship that exists in the judiciary. Strong majority opinions, biting dissents and philosophical differences on constitutional interpretation do not override

respect, courtesy and appreciation for each other. Ruth Bader Ginsburg had earned that respect with her remarkable life story, professional accomplishments and personal courage. Her colleagues undoubtedly mourn the loss.

Perhaps the partisans gearing up to fight over her still warm seat on the Supreme Court, should pause and reflect on the damage being done to the Court and the judiciary. Then they should focus on her qualities as a person and the lessons her life teaches us. Ruth Bader Ginsburg always tried to do the right thing. Now it's time for others to do the same.

*Bob Orr is an attorney licensed in North Carolina since 1975. He practiced law in Asheville prior to serving on the N.C. Court of Appeals and as a Justice on the North Carolina Supreme Court, retiring in 2004. He won four statewide judicial elections as a Republican over the course of his judicial career. Orr is the founding executive director of the N.C. Institute for Constitutional Law.*

## A case for charity

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity (1 Cor 13:13).



**ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN**  
Hope Matters

This New Testament text is likely familiar because it is often read at weddings, whether the ceremony is Christian or not. Likely familiar, that is, except for one word, "charity," is usually translated as "love."

Charity is a word that may cause many to stumble, for the term calls to mind an action or event that helps a specific person or community in need. But as used in the New Testament, this particular kind of love — agape — is not just about a tax write-off.

It is love, but neither the stuff of a Hallmark card nor any warm fuzzy.

This idea of charity/love is one of action. It is to do justice — to do all one can to ensure that the standards, practices and laws are applied fairly and equitably to all.

It makes me think of the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Before she became a judge, the Notorious RBG (as she later came to be known) successfully argued five cases before the Supreme Court that have had wide-ranging consequences for women ever since. The genius of this young lawyer was to fight the imbalance of power in favor of men by arguing for gender equality on behalf of male plaintiffs.

My favorite example is the case of *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld*. In 1972, Stephen Wiesenfeld's wife, Paula Wiesenfeld, died in childbirth. According to the law at that time, this widower was not entitled to his wife's Social Security benefits, even though he was struggling to raise their child on his own. The assumption of the law was that a man was the primary wage earner in a household, which was not true in the Wiesenfelds' marriage.

Thinking this was unfair, Stephen Wiesenfeld wrote a letter to the editor of the local newspaper — and the rest is history.

Ginsburg argued before the highest court that the Social Security Act of 1935 discriminated against men like Wiesenfeld based solely on their gender. Before an all-male Supreme Court, she won a unanimous verdict and simultaneously legitimized women's payments into the Social Security system.

Here's the icing on the cake — the wedding cake! Forty years after the verdict, Ginsburg officiated Wiesenfeld's second marriage.

The case of *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld* demonstrates that a hallmark of justice is that the same rationale is applied to different decisions. Without waiting for the results of a president election in less than six weeks, Senator Mitch McConnell, the Republican Senate majority leader, vowed to hold a vote on President Donald Trump's nominee.

In 2016, this same senator prevented President Barack Obama's nominee to the Supreme Court from reaching the Senate floor for 10 months, claiming, "The American people are perfectly capable of having their say on this issue, so let's give them a voice. Let's let the American people decide. The Senate will appropriately revisit the matter when it considers the qualifications of the nominee the next president nominates, whoever that might be."

Now that a member of his party is the president, McConnell clearly wants to have his cake and eat it, too.

I say to McConnell: be charitable in the sense of consistency and fairness.

Still, even if justice is not served in this particular case, RBG gives me hope: "So often in life, things that you regard as an impediment turn out to be great, good fortune." To which I say: Amen — may it be so.

*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.*



## Life hangs, changes on slender threads

I don't do computers — or any other technological gadget — very well at all.



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around

The height of my techy ability pretty much rests in a No. 2 pencil and some Blue Horse notebook paper or a legal pad. And that's fine; I've gotten used to it and it doesn't bother me.

For a while, though, I was sort of embarrassed about all that since Shirley was making her living teaching young folks computer use and I was limited to turning one on. But I got over it since eventually I did learn to use a word processing program, to play FreeCell and to go to certain web sites.

No, not those. Good sites like the National Hurricane Center or old '50s and '60s rock and roll sites and places where they talked about baseball.

I learned how to follow baseball in general and my beloved Cardinals in particular on MLB.com, the official site of Major League Baseball. That doesn't mean all is well. Sometimes the server goes to sleep and, since we are relegated to dial-up because our local phone company says we live in a place so far out we have to pipe in sunshine, I sometimes spend 20 minutes taking care of eight seconds worth of business.

Be that as it may, however, the task usually gets done. But each time I read stuff about the Cardinals, I remember how at one time in my life I wanted to live and work — it didn't matter doing what — in St. Louis so I could go to the home games at Busch Stadium.

It didn't matter that such a prospect would probably cost me a gazillion dollars, or that it's really hot and humid in St. Louis during the summer, or that this ol' country boy really does not like cement, tall buildings or congestion. It just seemed like a good idea at the time.

Shows how well I had thought out things. Kind of like the time I thought I wanted to be a pig farmer; had the land and desire and enough knowledge to be dangerous but forgot to see if the bank would loan me the cash for the project. Fortunately, they said no. I'd still be up to my snout in debt if they had.

Anyway, in time, the St. Louis desire went away and I decided instead I would go to journalism school at Carolina, become a sports writer for the Durham Morning Herald and be assigned to the UNC beat so I could cover Tar Heel football at Kenan Stadium, eat fried chicken in the press box, watch the games and get paid for all that.

The mere fact that I forgot to go to class while in college or to study for exams allowed me to cram a four-year degree program into seven years, and by the time I did get a diploma we had a little one on the way and The Herald wasn't hiring.

And that brings me to my point: who we are today and where we are hangs on so many decisions that it is intriguing mental exercise — or maybe sometimes agony — to consider where would we be today if we had done even one thing differently ... or not done it at all.

For instance, what if I really had gone to class like my folks thought I was? If I had actually studied instead of pretending? If I had gone to the library as much as I went to the snack bar at midnight, or to the student union to

shoot pool and listen to the free-play jukebox where the Fifth Dimension wailed out "The Age of Aquarius" every 10 minutes, and so on and so forth?

Sometimes that sort of brings me up short since I like my life pretty much as it is now. If I had gone through college in four years instead of seven, my path wouldn't have crossed with that of my much-better half and I wouldn't have the two 40-somethings who used to be teenagers who lived at my house for a while, or now the teenager who once lived there with me and would tell people "Granddaddy knows everything," or his younger sister and her younger sister whose smiles light up a room and my heart, or Numbers Three, Four, Five and Seven, my next door neighbors who hold my hands and my heart.

I wouldn't like that. I think that kind of pondering should do a couple of things for us: one, it should make us appreciate what we do have and, two, help us to realize the importance of making good choices as we move along life's highway.

So, here's my two cents' worth of practical suggestions and good ideas for the journey: never pet a burning dog, never roller skate in a buffalo herd and try to miss the potholes in the highway of life as you travel along it.

That should go a long way toward fulfillment.

*Bob Wachs is a native of Chatham County and retired long-time managing editor of the Chatham News/Chatham Record, having written a weekly column for more than 30 years. During most of his time with the newspapers, he was also a bi-vocational pastor and today serves Bear Creek Baptist Church for the second time as pastor.*

### What's on your mind?

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

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

# VIEWPOINTS

## Who wins the debate about debates?

What is more interesting than the upcoming debates between candidates for major political offices?



**D.G. MARTIN**  
One on One

Of course, it is the debate about the debates. Some friends, well informed and experienced in political activities, say the importance of such debates is vastly overrated. For instance, one said the recent first debate between North Carolina U.S. Senate candidates Republican Thom Tillis and Democrat Cal Cunningham was meaningless because nobody was watching.

They reminded me about the 1992 U.S. Senate televised debate between Terry Sanford and Lauch Faircloth. Most viewers agreed that Sanford won the debate with sharp authoritative responses to questions while Faircloth fumbled.

But Faircloth came out on top when it counted.

Republican campaign consultant Carter Wrenn strongly disagrees. He thinks debates are critically important. Undecided voters are the key to winning elections. To win their votes, they have to see a difference between the candidates on an issue that is important to them or on a difference in the way they handle themselves under pressure.

Wrenn is a legendary expert on developing hard-hitting campaign materials such as the ones Jesse Helms used to defeat Jim Hunt in the 1984 U.S. Senate race.

In a recent radio interview with Wrenn, I agreed with him about the importance of televised debates. Citing the 1960 presidential debates between John Kennedy and Richard Nixon, I argued that demeanor of the candidates is a key factor. Kennedy looked calm, cool and collected, while Nixon was nervous, sweating and fidgety. A candidate who appears au-

thoritative, courteous and nice has the edge, I said.

But Wrenn does not go along with my reasoning. He says a debate is the place to take advantage of your opponent, to show the differences on matters important to potential supporters, to set traps and jump on the opponent who falls into one. It is a battle, not a beauty contest, he said.

In their first debate, Tillis turned the tables on Cunningham and tried to trap him for saying that he would hesitate taking a coronavirus vaccine if one were available by the end of the year.

Tillis called that irresponsible.

"We just heard a candidate for the U.S. Senate look into the camera and tell 10 million North Carolinians he would be hesitant to take a vaccine," he said. "I think that that's irresponsible."

In the next two debates Cunningham will have the opportunity to push back on the issue of irresponsibility

of the Republican president's campaign organizing coronavirus-spreading rallies in North Carolina.

These Cunningham-Tillis events are a warm-up for the presidential debates beginning next Tuesday.

Supporters of both Donald Trump and Joe Biden are worried and wondering. Neither is free from making gaffes in a debate.

Each candidate should consider Wrenn's advice. It would lead Biden to hit Trump hard on mismanaging the pandemic, and being sure to anticipate Trump's rejoinder that the pending availability of a vaccine makes up for all the lack of leadership.

Wrenn's advice might lead Trump to focus on Biden's inconsistencies and changed positions. Wrenn took me back to his work in the Hunt-Helms race in which Helms overcame a 25% early lead by the popular Hunt. Wrenn remembers discovering inconsistencies in Hunt's views on controversial

issues. Then the campaign developed ads and debate themes in which Helms set out his positions on the then current issues such as the Martin Luther King holiday, busing, school prayer, and the Panama Canal "give-away." Then Helms would ask, "Where do you stand, Jim?"

Wrenn said again that debates give candidates the opportunity to tell voters where they differ from their opponents. He and I do not agree on lots of things, but I think Wrenn wins the debate with my friends who say candidate debates do not matter.

Debates are gold mines and minefields for candidates and important for voters searching for candidates whose views and character are worthy of their support.

*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.*

## State economic recovery is sputtering

According to the latest jobs report, North Carolina's headline unemployment rate fell to 6.5% in August, down from 8.5% in July. Good news worth celebrating, right?



**JOHN HOOD**  
John Locke Foundation

Don't pop the cork on that champagne just yet. This was mostly a statistical artifact, not a major improvement in the state's labor market. While the government counted about 100,000 fewer North Carolinians as unemployed last month, only 28,000 got jobs. The remaining 72,000 dropped out of the labor force.

In other words, they either gave up looking for a job in North Carolina or left the state. In a healthy economic recovery, your labor force should be growing, not shrinking. Indeed, according to other measures, North Carolina is experiencing the worst economic recovery in the southeastern United States.

Let's begin with the issue I just referenced: labor-force participation. In February, 61.6% of North Carolinians at least 16 years of age and not living in some kind of institution were participating in the labor force. That is, they were either employed or actively looking for a job.

In August, that rate was 57.5%. North Carolina's labor-force participation is down 3.9 percentage points. The other 11 states in the Southeast all had smaller declines. The regional average dropped by just 1.5 points.

Now let's look at employment itself. Unlike the unemployment and participation-rate statistics, the government's job count comes from a survey of employers, not households. This survey has a much-larger sample size and produces more stable results. Unfortunately, it doesn't paint a rosier picture of our state's labor-market recovery to date.

In August, North Carolina employers reported 4.3 million filled positions. That comes to about 350,000 fewer jobs than in February, before the onset of the COVID-19 recession, a drop of 7.6% in total employment.

Again, that's the worst performance in the Southeast. The next-hardest-hit state, Louisiana, experienced a 7% decline during the same period. Among our neighbors, employment fell 6.1% in Virginia, 5.6% in South Carolina, 5.4% in Tennessee, and 4.7% in Georgia.

Want to broaden our perspective beyond the labor market to take in the rest of the state's economy? Unfortunately, the resulting picture has a built-in time lag. The most-recent measure of gross domestic product (GDP) by state was for the first quarter of 2020, which includes only the initial month of COVID impact (March). With that caveat in mind, however, our state's performance still lags the regional average, although not by as much. North Carolina GDP fell 5.1% during the first quarter. That's worse than in Georgia (4.7%), South Carolina (4.8%), Virginia (3.8%) and the Southeast as a whole (5%) but better than Tennessee's 6.2% drop.

Perhaps the next wave of economic reports will be more positive. Perhaps North Carolina's second-quarter GDP growth will turn out much better. Perhaps our labor markets will look much healthier by October or November than they do right now. Taking an accurate temperature of any economy is always a challenging task — and COVID-19 has made it more so in a number of ways. So we should always be open to the possibility that employment and GDP statistics will undergo significant revisions in the future.

Right now, though, based on the available evidence, it would be fair to say that North Carolina's economic recovery is sputtering. Thousands of North Carolinians are finding new jobs every month, to be sure, but thousands more — frustrated, depressed, angry — are being left behind.

For some, their employers or their own small businesses have gone bankrupt. Others have intact employers but, faced with school closures, are having to cut back their hours at work or leave their jobs altogether so they can stay home with their young children. And some are exiting the state in search of better opportunities elsewhere in the region.

As we are in the middle of election season, you are of course free to draw whatever political conclusions you like. But first, please just give a thought, and say a prayer, for the North Carolinians who are suffering.

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

## I lived in the woods for a month. Here's what I learned.

*"I went into the woods because I wished to live deliberately." — Henry David Thoreau*



**RACHEL HOROWITZ**  
Millennial Musings

Every year, the Carolina Center for Public Service sends around a dozen college students into the Blue Ridge Mountains. These Outward Bound newbies learn how to survive on weird meal concoctions and a lack of indoor

plumbing.

The friends I told about my 2017 trip reacted with some variation of: "That sounds awful. Why would you choose to do it?" Perhaps if I had known that our personal challenge was to run a half marathon, or that I would get lost on said half marathon, I would have changed my mind. Perhaps not.

The part of my trip that I want to share with you is a three-day mandated solo experience, which

in some ways prepared me for this year. During Solo, I didn't know what time it was, nor what anyone else was doing. I had complete control over what I did and how I spent my time. Here is a snapshot of what I learned, taken directly from my Solo journal:

*I do not feel the need for my phone or to think of what others are doing at this moment. I appreciate little things and surprises that would have definitely gone unnoticed in my day-to-day life: a perfect camping spot, splashes of water, fresh clothing, and a warm meal. I am hardly fazed by insects and dirt (but unlike some members of my group, I didn't try to taste the ants).*

*I have laughed harder than I have in a while, and when I am close to crying, others are there to lift me up. Each day is a challenge, but there is always a reward that comes, no matter how small.*

On my first day back in the real world, I felt a little like Buddy the Elf when he landed in New York City, except my NYC was Asheville. I landed in the middle of a yoga

festival and had the strong urge to run away from everyone. I spent a week at my parents' house trying to adjust to sleeping in a bed and actively talking to people. Even now, Outward Bound seems like a distant memory.

My favorite climbing gym reopened last week, and the first visit was as embarrassing as I predicted. After working my way up to advanced rope climbs and joining a bouldering league, the six-month hiatus left me struggling with beginner routes. I could have blamed this on my face mask or lack of recent exercise, but something internal was happening too. I was doubting my every move.

It is then that I try to remember what it was like to pass the point of no return on a cliff face or high ropes course. Scary, sweaty, but fully worth it.

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

### LETTERS

#### Vote for all three Republican candidates to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

TO THE EDITOR:

With a 4-1 majority currently for the Democrats, it is important to vote for all three Republican candidates to the Board of Commissioners. All are veterans and Chatham County natives.

JAY STOBBS is running for District 1. A West Point graduate, he worked for the Northrop Grumman Corporation.

JIMMY PHARR is a candidate for District 2. A businessman and Bible Professor, he served in the U.S. Air Force.

ANDY WILKIE is the incumbent candidate for District 3. Commissioner Wilkie was a paratrooper in the U.S. Army Reserves.

All the three Republican candidates agree on four issues: debt, courthouse statue, tax, and zoning. Even though Chatham County consistently ranks in the top five in North Carolina for per capita income, 11.7% of the residents are within the federal poverty level. With wealth concentrated in the eastern part, particularly in the northeast quadrant, the county can expect poverty challenges at the extreme ends of the income curve.

According to historical documents, the Chatham Country Confederate statue was owned by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Chatham County gave permission to place the statue on public grounds. The 2015 Historic Artifact Management and Patriotism Act prohibited moving or removal of

Confederate statues in communities across North Carolina. On the matter of the Confederate statue, the consensus of the Republican candidates is to oppose its removal.

Property tax, on the actual value of the property, is an important source of revenue for county and town/city governments. The rate is set by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Another noteworthy source of revenue is sales tax from businesses. All three Republican candidates are opposed to raising property and sales taxes.

Local governments regulate land use zoning ordinance. In 2015, the Board of Commissioners voted to begin the zoning process in areas that were not then zoned. Whereas bona fide farms are exempted from zoning regulations, farmers in western part of Chatham County are concerned. The above three Republican candidates are committed to safeguarding farmlands.

To reiterate, in borrowing from locals, the county government needs to listen to everybody, but the Democrats govern like they are entitled to power. Let me emphasize again that we need to vote for all three Republican candidates to the Chatham County Board of Commission: Jay Stobbs, Jimmy Pharr, and Andy Wilkie.

**Rolin Mainuddin**  
Chapel Hill

#### 'And the Band Played On'

TO THE EDITOR:

In 1987, Randy Shilts, a San Francisco Chronicle journalist, wrote a book by this name describing the events that shaped the epidemic of

AIDS and how it was brought about by "government indifference and political infighting — specifically in the United States."

He also showed how incompetence and apathy toward those initially affected allowed its spread to become much worse. After all, it only happened to gay people so the rest of us "moral people" should not "panic." We all know the devastating results of AIDS. Hustling, fast-talking politicians spoke and the American population turned a blind eye or outrightly supported the negative political narrative.

Now let's go back further. During World War II, as people disembarked from cattle cars upon arrival at Nazi concentration camps, they were either sent directly to the gas chambers or to horrendous work farms. The Nazis made sure that people were soothed and bands played music so the people would not "panic." With Nazi pressure and hustling-fast talking politicians, the German population turned a blind eye or outrightly supported the negative political narrative.

Can you see a familiar thread here? Our president did not want us to "panic," so he told us a fabrication. We are now totally entrenched in COVID-19 with up to 200,000 deaths. We should have a degree of "panic" that after eight months of mixed messages, hustling, fast talking politicians, lies, poor leadership and thousands of deaths some are still turning a blind eye and outrightly support this negative political narrative that everything is "under control."

History does not have to repeat itself.

**Marie Vanderbeck**  
Pittsboro

### Chatham News + Record

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### What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

# COVID-19 rages on, but Chatham's fight sees positives

As staggering benchmarks are reached —



Horner

200,000 U.S. deaths and 200,000 N.C. cases — the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact nearly every aspect of life. In Chatham County, cases now exceed 1,600. For an update on the latest about COVID-19 here at home, we speak this week with Zachary Horner, a communications specialist for the Chatham County Health Department. A former journalist and News + Record reporter (and the son of CN+R Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III), Zach Horner now works with the CCPHD on health promotion efforts and serves as the department's public information officer and spokesman. A 2014 graduate of Elon University, he lives in Sanford with his wife, Sarah, who teaches in the Lee County Schools system.

ic/Latinx community in Chatham County. The most recent census data showed that around 12% of our county's residents belong to that population. The most recent COVID-19 data from the state shows that 55% of our confirmed positive cases are in that community. It's just one example among a litany of examples of the negative health outcomes that disproportionately affect historically marginalized communities in Chatham County, and something we continue to monitor.

**We're six months into the pandemic and six months down the road from Chatham County's first case. Let's start here: what's the good news? And the bad news?**

The good news is that generally our case numbers per day are declining. Since September 3, our rolling seven-day average of new confirmed cases has been in decline. Additionally, some of the outbreaks at nursing homes and long-term care facilities that we saw at the beginning of the pandemic are no longer ongoing. But that doesn't mean we need to let up.

The pandemic is not over — and likely will not be over for several months still. Additionally, 57 people in Chatham County have died from COVID-19. Every life in Chatham County is valuable to us, and we mourn these losses. Additionally, people are continuing to contract the virus and become sick. While our numbers are on a general downslope right now, they've gone down and come back up before. Again, this is no time to let up.

While early in the pandemic, many of the cases in Chatham and around the state and country were associated with workplaces such as meat processing plants where close contact is difficult to avoid and when PPE (personal protective equipment) was in very short supply. COVID-19 has been present across the county for quite some time and transmission is most likely to occur in gatherings where the "3 W's" are not properly followed. Therefore, it is important that we are all taking these actions to slow the spread of the virus.

We're also continuing to see the pandemic disproportionately affect members of the Hispan-



Good news is that we have a strong team dedicated to outreach in the Latinx community. This team has been able to provide zoom meetings with churches and other agencies to discuss COVID-19, provide resources, including providing more than 10,000 masks to the Latinx community.

We also continue to work closely with higher-risk settings, such as nursing homes, to protect those who are more likely to become severely ill if they are infected.

**One of the more frustrating aspects of following the pandemic is the varying accounts of data trends and trying to interpret those trends. From your department's perspective, how would you assess the state of the numbers of cases and where we're heading? The percentage of positive COVID-19 tests in Chatham (3.9%) is lower than the state average (5%). What can we glean from that?**

While it is difficult to know exactly where the pandemic is going, the decline in figures such as the percent of tests that come back positive is good news. If you look at the state dashboard data for Chatham County — which you can find at [chathamnc.org/coronavirusdata](https://chathamnc.org/coronavirusdata) — the last six-plus months have been somewhat inconsistent in the number of cases reported by day, which is why looking at trends can be more telling. Thankfully, we are also seeing the number of tests returning positive in the county dropping.

That said, we're still seeing nearly 4% of tests return positive, which is just one sign that we're not out of this yet. It's still important that everyone follows the 3 W's — wait

six feet apart from others, wear a face covering at all times in public and when in close proximity to others and wash your hands for 20 seconds or more with warm water and soap or hand sanitizer. These actions have been critical to slowing the spread of the virus, and will remain important to continue to move in this positive direction. Until we consistently see no cases for a long period of time, we're still in a pandemic. That means these safety measures are still necessary.

**What do people need to know about how the county, local agencies and the health department are continuing to address COVID-19 in and around Chatham?**

As a health department, we have put into place measures to keep residents and staff safe while working to operate as normally as possible. Many of our staff who are able to are working remotely at least part-time, but they're continuing to serve the community well. Environmental Health personnel are continuing to perform restaurant inspections, septic system inspections, and well water testing, along with providing COVID-19 guidance to businesses, long-term care facilities and child care facilities. Our clinic staff is continuing to see clients and provide services ranging from immunizations to maternity care to well child checks. And our Health Promotion & Policy team continues to lead many community-focused services: we're getting ready to kick-off virtual QuitSmart tobacco cessation classes again next month and our Focus on Fathers program staff members are continuing to meet in a socially distanced or virtual way with participants.

We've also partnered with Emergency Management to distribute more than 100,000 face coverings for community members.

We actually just finished highlighting some of our staff members through our Facebook page — [facebook.com/ChathamHealth](https://facebook.com/ChathamHealth) — with our #BeforeDuringAfter campaign. The posts highlighted what 12 staff members from various divisions and with various

**'While it is difficult to know exactly where the pandemic is going, the decline in figures such as the percent of tests that come back positive is good news.'**

ZACHARY HORNER,  
Chatham County Health Department

responsibilities have been doing since the pandemic began and comparing it to their jobs prior to March. We're so proud of all of our employees, all county employees, and our community partners for all the work they've put in over the last six months, and it's an honor for us at the Public Health Department to work alongside of them.

Testing has become more available, and we continue to work with our partners to expand access. More information can be found at [chathamnc.org/coronavirus-testing](https://chathamnc.org/coronavirus-testing).

**We hear about the 3 W's a lot. One of them is "wear a cloth mask over your nose and mouth." We can all probably cite why (or why not) that's a good idea, based on how we've developed our beliefs and opinions about the coronavirus, but even in public spaces where masks are "required," you see people without them. Even businesses which have signs requesting patrons wear them have people walking in and refusing to. What's the department's stance on that?**

Overall, our community has responded very well to the 3 W's, and it's been so encouraging to see so many Chatham County residents overwhelmingly wearing face coverings in public spaces. We conducted a survey in May and June with members of our Chatham County Community Assessment Cohort — the same representative group of Chatham residents who gave us insight for our community assessment — and more than 90 percent of respondents said they were following all of the 3 W's. We believe that the strong compliance with the 3 W's in Chatham County is one reason that the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 has decreased in the last few months.

The fact remains that face coverings are the best way to slow the spread of the coronavirus, especially when social distancing cannot be maintained. Dr. Robert Redfield, the director of the CDC, tweeted last Wednesday that "the best defense we currently have against this virus" are the 3 W's. It's the most practical way right now we have to slow the spread. That's worth repeating a couple times. For more on the

efficacy of face coverings, visit [chathamnc.org/face-coverings](https://chathamnc.org/face-coverings).

We encourage all Chatham County residents to take Dr. Redfield's advice and wear a face covering whenever they are out in public and around others. If anyone has a question or concern about enforcement or how businesses are operating, they may call our Environmental Health division at 919-542-8220 for clarification.

**What can we find on the county's coronavirus website that's good to know about?**

So much! By visiting [chathamnc.org/coronavirus](https://chathamnc.org/coronavirus), you can find everything you need to know about Chatham County's response to the pandemic. We'll point out three spaces in particular. Our "Coronavirus & Face Coverings" page, which was already mentioned in these responses, provides insight on why face coverings work and what all Gov. Cooper's executive order means for Chatham County residents. You can find that at [chathamnc.org/facecoverings](https://chathamnc.org/facecoverings). "Coronavirus Testing & Contact Tracing" speaks to who should get tested, where to be tested and what contact tracing looks like. That can be found at [chathamnc.org/coronavirus-testing](https://chathamnc.org/coronavirus-testing). Finally, the most recent COVID-19 numbers for Chatham County can be found at [chathamnc.org/coronavirusdata](https://chathamnc.org/coronavirusdata). You can also visit us on social media at [Facebook.com/ChathamHealth](https://facebook.com/ChathamHealth) for the latest updates and important information.

**And ... flu shots — what's the word on those?**

Get your flu shot! There are many options across the Chatham community, and this year is as important as any to get the vaccine. Our clinic in Siler City began to offer flu shots by appointment on Monday — you can learn more about that at [chathamnc.org/flu](https://chathamnc.org/flu). That webpage also has answers to several pressing questions about flu season in general and how the flu relates to COVID-19.

As our Interim Public Health Director Mike Zelek said in a news release last week, "It is more important than ever to get the flu vaccine this year because COVID-19 remains present in our community. As we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, getting a flu shot will not only help you and your family to stay healthy, but will also reduce the burden on the healthcare system and help our frontline medical workers maintain capacity."

The word on flu shots is this: get them. The flu shot has proven to be one of the most effective ways to limit what is a deadly disease. During the 2019-2020 flu season, according to CDC estimates, somewhere between 39-56 million people in the United

States got the flu, around 410,000-740,000 were hospitalized and between 24,000-62,000 people died from the flu.

If someone begins to get symptoms of the flu, stay home and practice good hygiene and immediately contact your medical provider. Be sure to get tested for COVID-19 as well, as many of the symptoms are the same as the flu. Common symptoms of the flu include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches, chills and fatigue. And as always, during the pandemic, wear your face covering, wash your hands consistently and wait six feet apart from other people. These actions can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the flu, which are both respiratory viruses.

**The pandemic has changed things for many of us in drastic ways, but what are a few "good news" stories that you've seen that are worth talking about?**

I was at the Moncure location of Piedmont Health Services for a Chatham Health Alliance event last week and was so encouraged to see Chatham County residents wearing their face coverings and serving one another. Sara Martin with Insight Human Services and Elizabeth Fridley with the Health Department were speaking to residents there for appointments and providing free face coverings, medication lock boxes and information on the health department and COVID-19 testing sites. It's that on-the-ground work that symbolizes county residents' dedication to serving one another.

We're also very proud of the work community members have been doing to inform and assist the Chatham community, including members of the Hispanic/Latinx community, during the pandemic. I want to give a big shout-out to Nellie Benitez and Vicky Guetgemann, who have other jobs but have thrown themselves fully into this public health work.

Lastly, we're excited about Chatham Hospital restarting its maternity care unit this month. The new five-bed unit was created in partnership with Piedmont Health Services and fills a significant gap in our county. Prior to the unit's construction, Chatham ranked in the bottom quarter of North Carolina counties for average distance between home and a hospital offering childbirth services. That list hasn't been updated yet, but we feel good about where we'll stand next time that list is compiled. Chatham Hospital recently delivered its first baby in the new center, which we know is the start of something beautiful and will be a tremendous community asset.

For more on the good things going on across the county, visit [chathamnc.org/ChathamTogether](https://chathamnc.org/ChathamTogether) for stories and photos!

## BABY

Continued from page A1

sure?" Smith said regarding seeing her baby on social media posts marking the event. "But family and friends were more excited. They were really happy about it, seeing that it was the first birth in 30 years at the hospital."

Smith lives in Siler City, right across the highway from Chatham Hospital. She'd seen news of the new maternity center on Facebook, and after going into labor a couple days earlier than her due date, she thought it "was very convenient and easy to go around the corner" to the hospital to give birth — "my fourth and last," she laughed. Their other three children were delivered at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, nearly a 45-minute drive from where they live in Siler City.

"I didn't really think too much of how hectic or how nervous everyone will be," Smith said of her experience. "But as much as they were saying they were nervous, they really did a good job with taking care of me and walking me through the steps of giving birth and with labor. I would highly recommend, seeing that it's very convenient in a small city not having to drive 45 minutes to Chapel Hill or to the nearest hospital — I think they did a really good job; they helped ease a lot of pain and a lot of frustration with having to drive that far."

Kristen Coleman, the nurse manager who oversees the new Maternity Care Center, said the hospital is offering tours and education sessions for patients who are potential deliveries at the center.

"I think things have gone really well. We had the delivery, we'll have another one either today or tomorrow — we have a patient that's being induced today," Coleman said of the center's first two weeks being open. "It was the first delivery at time hospital in almost 30 years, so it's very exciting times for the hospital."

She added: "It's a big milestone for the community as far as rural health care and our patients not having to drive 30 minutes to Randolph, or 45 minutes to UNC, or 30 minutes to Central Carolina — and these people basically lived five minutes from the hospital, that delivered last week."

Looking forward, Coleman said the hospital hopes to continue growing the services the maternity center offers, as well as expanding their patient volume. "This project was about more than delivering the babies in Chatham County," Chatham Hospital President Jeff Strickler said in a promotional video for the new center. "Before we started this service back, mothers might have to go an hour or more to get maternity care. There's a lot of excitement in the community related to this program, and it's also a challenge for our staff. They really want to get this right and provide the highest level of care, they want to provide a great patient experience and they know they're on somewhat of a

cutting edge of innovation."

For Smith, once she made it to Chatham Hospital, it was a fairly quick, albeit painful, labor process. She was excited to have a midwife and said the nurses took very good care of her, helping make the experience "very, very calming."

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, masks were worn and Smith could have only one visitor, meaning extended family relied on pictures and virtual calls to "meet" Se'kani. Though there were less visitors present than at her previous times giving birth, Smith said it made the experience more special.

"It was very intimate," she said. "Not a lot of people came in other than nurses, which made it more special being that it was just us three, that we got to spend that quality time with the baby. We didn't have to pass him around."

Now one week old, Se'kani is doing well, Smith said, with two older brothers and an older sister who are excited to be around their little brother. For mom and dad, they're just happy to have their newborn home and healthy — with a good report from his first doctor's appointment on Monday.

"I just wanted to thank the staff over there at the Chatham Hospital for taking their time and being patient with me during the labor process," Smith said. "I know their nerves were through the roof, seeing that it was the first birth, but I do want to thank everyone for doing a great job handling me and my baby."



Photo courtesy of Chatham Hospital

**Se'kani Fox, Jasmine Smith, and Shaquille Fox, pictured here with mom, Jasmine Smith, and Shaquille Fox, was born last week — the first baby born at Chatham Hospital in nearly 30 years.**

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at [hannah@chathamnc.com](mailto:hannah@chathamnc.com).

THE CN+R Q&A | ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN SILER CITY

# SC police chief, others work to find solutions

Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner recently convened an online meeting to address homelessness in Siler City, which has previously prompted complaints from business owners. This week, the News + Record queried Wagner and Town Planner Jack Meadows, who helped facilitate that online meeting, about the issue — and what’s happened since.

**We normally associate the issue of homelessness with metropolitan areas, but of course most communities of any size deal with the issue. Officials in the town of Siler City have had a few conversations — in a meeting coordinated by you, Chief Wagner, as well as in town board meetings — on the subject. Let’s start with that — why has the topic more on the minds of everyone now?**

WAGNER: I believe that the issue has come to the fore front due to recognition. We have had several issues with the homeless population based on public inquiries and calls to town government

**What do we know about the root causes of homelessness that everyone should understand?**

MEADOWS: There’s a lot of root causes such as mental health, substance abuse, poverty.

WAGNER: Life circumstances is a factor in homelessness

... this can include health and mental health issues, lack of a family support system, loss of financial resources and a lack of transportation both public and private. So in fact, it’s usually several different factors that happen in a short period of time.

**How does the issue of affordable housing, particularly in the western section of Chatham, play into this issue?**

WAGNER: Affordable housing is a concern in most jurisdictions. The issue with the homeless is there in not a support function in place for a short-term layover until persons can reach sustainability, after a major life change.

MEADOWS: Per our partners, this is not just an issue of affordable housing in the western section of Chatham. Affordable housing is an issue county-wide. The reason more homeless is showing up in Siler City is because of more resources here such as hotels, more fast food restaurants, shopping and grocery stores are in walking distance.

The Chatham County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee may have data and information.

**Statewide, there are about 9,000 homeless people. In Siler**

**City, you’ve stated that fewer than 10 individuals have been identified as homeless. We know that just with COVID-19, there’s an elevated risk of spread among the homeless. But aside from the empathy we all feel toward them, why should we all be concerned about homelessness?**

WAGNER: The same precautions should be in place during the pandemic for all of us. The homeless are at a higher risk because often they do not have the access to water and other products to protect them.

MEADOWS: Per our partners, it’s been reported that many are one or two paychecks away from being in need of assistance.

**One of the difficult questions that Chief Wagner brought up during a meeting back in August was the question of whose responsibility it is to address the situation of homelessness. Often law enforcement gets calls, as do social services-related agencies. All stakeholders in a community are impacted, but where does the responsibility start to help the homeless — particularly when those who are homeless may not be willing to help themselves?**

WAGNER: Again, I believe that the responsibility is shared among all members of the community, the key is to have a coordinated plan in place to maximize service and reduce redundancy.

MEADOWS: Homelessness is a community shared responsibility — shared along with the one who is homeless.

**What shelter options are there in and around Siler City and in Chatham?**

MEADOWS: People can contact the Salvation Army, Community One Solutions and Central Piedmont Community Action regarding the lodging opportunities for the homeless.

WAGNER: The only shelter options available are at the local motel/hotel where a cost is in play, not ideal but with community support short stays have been paid for.

**How has the town officially addressed the issue, and what plans are being developed?**

MEADOWS: Per our partners, the Town Board of Commissioners in previous budget years provided funding to nonprofits organizations that provided assistance to the homeless.

Town Staff:  
 • identified resources: Salvation Army, Community One Solutions, Central Piedmont Community Action, Central Carolina Community College, Chatham County Managers Office, Freedom Family Church, and True Community Church  
 • facilitated an open dis-

cussion via Zoom with the resource team and concerned businesses

- discussed the item at a regular session meeting.
- notifies the resource team via email of any assistance needed.
- reviews news articles and websites from other communities
- has communicated with property owners regarding trash and debris placed on their property from homeless camps

**What needs to happen next?**

WAGNER: The town is addressing the issue and we are working with several interested stakeholders in formulating plan of action. The future is unclear, but I remain optimistic that with willing partners we will provide a solution to help offset community concerns while meeting the need of our homeless clients. Anyone interested in helping can contact the police department and I can guide them in the right direction.

**Available resources**

This link provides a large list of food pantries, their contact information, and their days/hours starting in Siler City and then branching out into the surrounding area: [cutt.ly/shelters](http://cutt.ly/shelters).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Celebrate Halloween with Chatham County Parks and Recreation

PITTSBORO — Ghouls and goblins across the community are invited to celebrate Halloween with the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department. There are fun opportunities for families to get into the spooky spirit while being in a safe environment.

### Pumpkin Carving Party

On Sunday, October 25, 2020, from 2 to 4 p.m., Chatham County families can transform pumpkins into the jazziest of jack-o’-lanterns. The Pumpkin

Carving Party will take place at the Northwest District Park picnic shelter located at 2413 Woody Store Road, Siler City.

For \$15, families will receive two pumpkins, and carving utensils will be provided. Participants must wear face coverings and will be required to maintain physical distance from those not in their household families. Pumpkin carving participants must register in advance at [recreation.chathamnc.org](http://recreation.chathamnc.org). Registration is open from September 21 at 8:00 a.m. to October 19 at 5:00 p.m.

Those who would like to carve a pumpkin but cannot attend the carving party may carve their own pumpkin and drop it off on Wednesday, October 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

at the Parks and Recreation office located at 964 East Street, Suite 100, Pittsboro, or on Thursday, October 29 from noon to 4 p.m. at Northwest District Park.

All carved pumpkins will then be judged at the Trunk or Treat Pumpkin Carving Contest the following Thursday.

### Trunk or Treat Boo-Thru

The 11th annual Trunk or Treat event will be modified this year due to COVID-19 still being present in the community. The Trunk or Treat Boo-Thru, a drive-thru event, will be held Thursday, October 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Northwest District Park.

The Trunk or Treat Boo-Thru will

offer families the opportunity to wear their best costume and enjoy lots of fun decorations and yummy candy. Jack-o’-lanterns carved at the October 25 Pumpkin Carving Party and those entered ahead of time will be judged in a contest.

“We are excited to provide recreational activities and special events to allow Chatham County families the opportunity to enjoy fun times while also maintaining safety during the pandemic,” Chatham County Parks and Recreation Director Tracy Burnett said.

For more information, contact Mallory Peterson at 919-545-8553 or [mallory.peterson@chathamnc.org](mailto:mallory.peterson@chathamnc.org).

— CN + Staff Reports

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# OBITUARIES

## GEORGE LINCOLN CARTER



George Lincoln Carter, age 91, of Staley, passed away with his family by his side on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

Mr. Carter was born February 12, 1929, the son of Robert L. and Lucy Owens Carter. He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers and two sisters. George was a native of Randolph County, and a member of the Calvary Holiness Church in Liberty. He enjoyed his church, fishing and camping.

He is survived by his wife, Rachel Branson Carter; and sons, George "Chucky" Carter and wife Judy, Ronnie

Branson and wife Laurie, Eddie Branson and Teresa, Danny Branson and wife Debra; sisters, Alpha Routh and Helen Allred; brother, James Carter and wife Mary; grandchildren Mary Ann House and husband Brian, Tommy Branson and Kristi, Tabitha Branson, Stephanie Branson and Andy, Rebecca Pugh and husband Eric, and great-grandchildren Hagan and Bella Branson, Caidance Collins, Luke House, Reese and Paisley Pugh.

The graveside service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, September 19, 2020, at Shady Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, 6853 Old Staley Road, Staley, N.C., with Pastor Mark Hurt officiating. The family received friends following the ceremony at the home.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Carter family.

## PAUL CLINTON COMER

Paul Clinton Comer, 83, of Seagrove, passed away on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at First Health Hospice House in Pinehurst.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 19, 2020, at Beulah Baptist Church with Dr. Neil Jackson and Dr. Curtis Barbery presiding.

Paul was born in Moore County, on December 25, 1936, to Gurney Clinton and Mary Alice Brewer Comer. He was a member of Beulah Baptist Church. Paul worked in maintenance with Eveready. He previously worked part-time at Joyce-Brady Chapel. His parents preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia Mae Brady Comer; son, Gary Wayne Comer of Seagrove; daughter, Sherry Comer Atkins of Troy; sisters, Mae Comer Hussey of Robbins and Nell Comer Allen of Greensboro; and four grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Beulah Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 104, Bennett NC 27208 or First Health Hospice, Applecross Road, Pinehurst, N.C. 28374.

Condolences may be offered online at [www.joycebrady-chapel.com](http://www.joycebrady-chapel.com).

## MARK FLYNN

Mark Daniel Flynn, 69, of Pittsboro died Friday, September 18, 2020, at his home.

A funeral mass will be held at a later date in Phillipsburg, N.J.

Mr. Flynn was born in Phillipsburg, N.J., on December 20, 1950, the son of Daniel J. and Doris Hackett Flynn.

He is survived by his parents, sister, Kathleen Flynn; and brother, Daniel Flynn-Canon Key.

## FELIPE ORTIZ GONZALEZ

Felipe Ortiz Gonzalez, 49, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, September 10, 2020, at UNC Hospice in Pittsboro.

Funeral services were held at 12 p.m., Thursday, September 17, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home.

## STEVEN 'STEVE' WRENN BROOKS

Steven "Steve" Wrenn Brooks, 56, of Siler City, died Monday, September 21, 2020.

Steve will lie in state on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, from 12 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 2 p.m. at Oakley Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Spencer Andrews and Rev. Jeff Johnson officiating.

Mr. Brooks was born June 26, 1964, the son of C.L. and Faye Brewer Brooks. He was a member of the Oakley Baptist Church, and he was a cabinet maker.

He is survived by his parents; a daughter, Nicole Brooks of Asheville; son, Ethan Brooks of Pittsboro; sisters, Susan Sanders and Wanda Constantino, both of Siler City; brothers, Greg Brooks of Siler City, and Scott Brooks of Charlotte; and five grandchildren.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Brooks family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.pughfuneral-home.com](http://www.pughfuneral-home.com).

## DONALD EUGENE ANDREWS

Donald Eugene Andrews, 66, of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at Cape Fear Medical Center in Fayetteville.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## JAMES OLIN WRIGHT

James Olin Wright, 87, of Ramseur, passed away Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at Genesis Center in Siler City.

The funeral, with military honors, was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 20, 2020, at Pleasant Grove Christian Church where he was a member, with Pastor Don Edwards officiating.

Olin was born in Chatham County, on November 11, 1932, to Harvey Lee Wright and Bonnie Davis Wright. He served in the U.S. Army and retired from B.B. Walker Shoe Co. after 40 years of service. After retirement, Olin worked at Routh's Grocery. His parents preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Myrldeen Baxter Wright, of the home; son, James Dean Wright of Ramseur; sisters, Helen Wright Brady of Bennett, Lucy Wright Emerson of Goldston; one granddaughter, and four great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pleasant Grove Christian Church Cemetery Fund, 5946 Pleasant Grove Church Road, Bennett, N.C. 27208.

Condolences may be offered online at [www.joycebrady-chapel.com](http://www.joycebrady-chapel.com).

## BEATRICE DIANNE (MCNEILL) HOOKER

Beatrice Dianne Hooker, 70, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, September 19, 2020, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services are entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## EMMA OLDHAM SLOAN

Emma Oldham Sloan, 80, of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation.

A graveside service was held Friday, September 18, 2020, at 2 p.m. at Buffalo Cemetery with Rev. Robert Thomas officiating.

She was born in Lee County on November 7, 1939, to the late Irene Oldham. She worked at J.T. Davenport.

She is survived by her sons, Robin Sloan and Steven Sloan, both of Sanford.

Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

## ADAM 'A.D.' AUSTIN

Adam "A.D." Austin, 86, of Pittsboro, passed away on Thursday, September 10, 2020, at his home.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, September 18, 2020, at the First Baptist Missionary Church with burial following in the Pittsboro Community Cemetery.

## LEOLA 'BUNNIE' COLLURA

Leola "Bunnie" Collura, 83, of Pittsboro passed away on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

Cremation Society of the Carolinas in Raleigh are handling the arrangements.

## NEIGHBOR2NEIGHBOR UPDATE

# Her job went away because of COVID-19. And then she got sick.

BY MARCELA SLADE  
Abundance NC

*Editor's note: this is another in a series of updates on Chatham's "Neighbor2Neighbor," a grassroots collaborative project of Abundance NC, the News + Record and the Caremongering Pittsboro Facebook group. N2N's objective is to connect those in need during the pandemic with those who have the capacity to help. Marcela Slade, an organizer for Neighbor2Neighbor, is Abundance NC's event coordinator and art director.*

Nelly hadn't been able to work cleaning houses due to COVID-19 since March. She was desperate and decided to look for a job with her newly (prior to the pandemic) acquired commercial driver's license (CDL) to be able to commercially drive in North Carolina. She thought she would have a higher chance of getting a job during COVID-19.

Nelly lives with her husband, 82-year-old mother and two kids. Her husband is also out of work due to COVID-19 as well. In June she finally got a job as a driver, and

then was diagnosed with the coronavirus.

She says she knows exactly when she got it. Nelly had been very careful in avoiding the virus. She had stopped at a rest stop to use the bathroom and had her mask on, but took it off to look at herself briefly in the mirror. She went into her stall and started hearing someone coughing excessively in another stall. When she came out, there was a feverish, sick looking white woman, who had just used the bathroom and now was cleaning her face with a damp paper towel. She had no mask on and continued to cough excessively. Nelly left immediately.

When she got home, she started throwing up and had diarrhea. A week later, she tested positive with COVID-19 and had the sickness for about a month. It was followed by pneumonia which she was able to kick with antibiotics ... but she was weak for several weeks after.

Nelly reached out to me through the Neighbor2Neighbor/VecinoA-Vecino program to get help paying her rent. She hadn't paid since March

and her family had been sent her an eviction notice.

I explained our program didn't have enough funds to cover rent costs but that I would reach out to people who have signed up to help and see what we could do.

More than \$1,000 was raised in just four days! The amount she needed to cover her rent from March-August. I couldn't believe it. She couldn't either and she blessed me over and over.

Last week, Nelly called me to ask for help paying her bills. She was scared they would cut her water and electricity and couldn't take that risk since her mother was vomiting and had severe diarrhea. She thought she might have COVID-19 and was considering taking her to the hospital if she continued to get worse. I suggested hot tea/drinks and that she should go to the Chatham County Health Department or a state-owned hospital, if needed, because they usually have free COVID tests and offer financial assistance.

I called her before the weekend to see how her mother was progressing

and give her confirmation numbers on bills we were able to put some money towards, BUT NOT cover. She said she was much better. She no longer had diarrhea and had a low-grade fever. She was very grateful for the bills and my attention.

COVID-19 is not going away, people are in worse situations then they were in the first months of this pandemic. Eviction restrictions have been lifted and so have utility cut offs. People continue to have NO WORK, continue to get SICK and are now getting evicted. I have started to get calls from people who have had their water cut off and are desperate to get help paying bills.

Please, if you can afford to help someone in need, consider donating. Your contribution, no matter the amount, will help us get people back on track. Together, we can get through this stranger than strange time.

To donate: Write a check to Abundance NC and mail to: Abundance NC / Neighbor2Neighbor 220 Lorax Lane Pittsboro, NC 27312 or use this GoFundMe fundraiser to donate online: [www.gf.me/u/x4j2c2](http://www.gf.me/u/x4j2c2) Once we receive and process, you will receive a tax deductible receipt.



Drawing courtesy of Marcela Slade

If you have time and/or resources to help a neighbor or need help,

please join our program by completing this form: English version: [bit.ly/ChathamNeighbor2Neighbor](http://bit.ly/ChathamNeighbor2Neighbor). Spanish version: [bit.ly/ChathamVecinoAVecino](http://bit.ly/ChathamVecinoAVecino).



Photo courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County  
**Shawn McClarnon (left) accepts the Ormsbee Robinsion Award from United Way Interim Executive Director Katie Childs.**

# Shawn McClarnon receives Chatham United Way's highest honor

From the United Way of Chatham County

Ormsbee Robinsion was the organizer of the first United Way campaign in Fearrington Village, which helped to solidify United Way's presence in Chatham County. As a founder, he helped lead the group that built a vision for this United Way, developed the bylaws and created the operating standards. Ormsbee exemplified selfless giving and committed service to Chatham County through the United Way.

Each year, the Ormsbee Robinsion award is given by the United Way Board of Directors to those who have demonstrated Ormsbee's legacy of strong leadership and long-standing commitment to the United Way and its mission.

This year's recipient is Shawn McClarnon.

McClarnon became active with the United Way more than seven years ago. He has served on the United Way board of directors, chairing the board for two years. He led the United Way Campaign at the Preserve and Big Woods communities, served on allocation panels and multiple other committees to further United Way's presence in the county. McClarnon has been instrumental in furthering the strategic planning, financial oversight and program evaluation of United Way of Chatham County. He has worked diligently to ensure that donor dollars are being administered responsibly and effectively.

McClarnon was presented with Unit-

ed Way of Chatham County's highest award on the organization's Day of Service, which was held on Sept. 3. His participation in this community service day is a perfect example of why Shawn is an invaluable member of this community. He is always willing to roll up his sleeves and get to work — even when its

90 degrees outside and the job requires outdoor manual labor.

The United Way congratulates McClarnon on this achievement.



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# N.C. House 54 candidates talk issues, candidacies

## GEORGE GILSON JR.

### Why are you seeking this office?

I am seeking this office because we are at a pivotal point in time where we need conservative, common sense leadership at all levels of government. We need a leader who will fight for fiscal constraint, who is not afraid to fight for what is right despite the party line. Who will support the U.S. Constitution and the NC Constitution and protect our Second Amendment rights. We need a leader who understands that we need a better education system in NC and will support and ensure that the taxes that we currently pay are being better funneled to the classroom level. We need a leader who supports jobs and the economy with economic friendly policies that create job growth in NC. We need a leader committed to protecting our environment and our water supply with a sensible, sustainable approach. We need a leader who will protect our nation, state, history and our borders, and support legal immigration while working to pass strong voter ID and voter verification laws. Last but not least, we need a leader with strong family values and faith in God who is honest, ethical, and personally accountable!

### What is your understanding of the responsibilities of a state legislator, and why do you believe you're qualified to fill that role?

A state legislator creates and ratifies state laws and regulations by working in committees, debating and voting on bills. I am qualified because I have served as a City Alderman in my past, I have been in the infrastructure industry for over 20 years and I am a doer. I would work tirelessly to read all bills presented in their entirety. I am meticulous and am not afraid to ask the hard questions and look forward at the ramifications of the policies and bills/laws presented and passed. Last but not least, I will listen and never forget that I serve the people of N.C. House District 54.

### What's working best, and what's not working, in N.C. government?

What's working is that N.C. has been fiscally responsible and has ran a budget surplus that has served us well in these challenging times.

What's not working is that we are practicing too much partisanship, and not getting enough done for the state of NC and our constituents. There are too many politicians pointing fingers, not standing up for what they were elected for and their ideals and beliefs,

and being controlled by the lobbyists at the detriment of the people. We need to bring honesty, ethics, and accountability back to the Legislature and to public service in NC.

### What are the most significant challenges facing the state in the coming year, and how you'd plan to address them?

1) Lack of a Good Sound Voter ID Law – I would work to restore and pass a good Voter ID Law as shown necessary by the Referendum passed in NC

2) Rising Taxes and our State Budget – We need to make sure we continue to operate on a balanced budget and create surplus that can be utilized in times of need such as now. We need to stop spending on non-necessities, and plan and budget for our growth and all issues such as health-care, education, and our economy.

3) Our State Healthcare System will be insolvent in three to four years without sound reform. We need to address this now and be proactive instead of reactive and trying to address our problems in a crisis.

4) Leandro and the budgetary ramifications of having to remedy any court order specifying how much money the General Assembly needs to spend immediately and in what manner. This will need to be discussed and a solution needs to be presented.

5) Where our taxpayer dollars are our going in the NC Educational K-12 System. I would like to see these dollars better channeled down to the classroom level, especially in the rural areas. I also am a big advocate of School Choice in NC.

### Give us two goals that are specific, measurable and attainable you would have if elected:

1) Passing a strong Voter ID and Voter Verification Law

2) Addressing health-care insolvency issues and educational reform with sensible and sustainable laws and policies for the good of the people and the state, and passing legislation that promotes and supports more competition in NC in our energy market thus driving costs down to the consumer.

### Look ahead two years from now ... what would you like to see the General Assembly to have accomplished in that time?

Addressing and coming up with solutions to all of the stated above challenges, and working together to pass legislation that supports and addresses these solutions instead of kicking the can down the road and leaving it for our children and our children's chil-

dren to have to deal with in crisis.

### If you are not elected, what steps will you take to serve Chatham County?

I will continue to volunteer at my church, push for conservative and common-sense political reform at all levels, and raise my family to volunteer and serve in all capacities for the betterment of Chatham County and all who live here.

### How do you think Gov. Cooper and the state have handled the coronavirus pandemic?

Not well. Governor Cooper made policy decisions based on a political agenda that has hurt NC businesses and the economy, and our children's need to go back to school and learn in an environment more conducive to learning, social interaction, and keeping healthy through sports and extracurricular activities. Governor Cooper's lack of making decisions and waiting last minute to delay Phase 3 has caused problems for planning for businesses and the NC economy, parents and their occupational needs, and teachers and schools.

### What are your thoughts on this summer's racial injustice protests and calls for action/reform?

I feel that this summer's racial justice protests were amplified into violence and destruction by groups with political agendas such as BLM, Antifa and the likes. I support all citizen's rights to peacefully protest and that all lives matter, but I am adamantly against social justice groups promoting and committing violence against people and destruction of property and communities in the name of social justice. I feel these groups and their violence and destruction has only increased and amplified racial divide, and their actions are not logical or justifiable no matter how you look at them.

### What question do you want to be asked?

What sets you apart from your opponent in ideals, policy and action?

My opponent voted against removing foreign citizens from the voting rolls.

My opponent voted against the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Act.

My opponent voted against the Small Business Healthcare Act.

My opponent voted against reducing the Franchise Tax (which is a tax on your business's net worth).

My opponent voted against the reallocation of Film Grant Funds to Water Infrastructure.



## GEORGE GILSON JR.

**Date/place of birth:** Born in 1974 in Illinois; lived in Chatham County for four years

**Current occupation:** Southeast Sales Manager

**Campaign website/social media:** www.GilsonJrfor54.com; Facebook: @GeorgeGilson2020

**Married for 20 years with 4 children ages 16 to 11**

**Party affiliation:** Republican

**Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service:** Served as an Alderman in Illinois for three years before relocating to Iowa.

**Campaign manager:** Joyce Cotten

**Campaign treasurer:** Sharon Miller

### Biographical Facts

**Political/government hero:** President Abraham Lincoln

**Favorite book:** 12 Rules for Life by Jordan Peterson

**Book most recently read:** Suicide of the West by Jonah Goldberg

**Favorite film:** Lord of the Rings

**Hobbies:** Hunting, Fishing, Boating and Sports

**Church/civic involvement:** Member of the PUMC, Vice President of the Northwood High School Boosters Friends and Alumni Association, and a Free and Accepted Master Mason.

**Personal motto or one-line philosophy:** Honest, Ethical, and Personally Accountable!

**Most significant life goal you've accomplished:** Raising a good Christian, hard-working family who loves and cares for each other deeply and will always be there for one another no matter what obstacle life throws at us!

**Goal you haven't accomplished yet:** Serving in the House or Congress & mastering a good consistent golf swing!



## ROBERT REIVES II

**Date/place of birth:** Sanford, N.C.

**Current occupation:** Attorney; member, N.C. House of Representatives

**Campaign website/social media:** www.reivesforhouse.com; Facebook: @reivesfornc54, Twitter: @electreives

**Family:** Cynthia Reives, wife; daughter Brianna, 15; and son Robert III, 9

**Party affiliation:** Democratic Party

**Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service:** Appointed to N.C. House District 54 in 2014. Elected again in 2014, 2016 and 2018.

**Campaign manager:** Jan Cashion Tart

**Campaign treasurer:** Shayne Thoman

### Biographical Facts

**Political/government hero:** Robert Reives Sr.

**Favorite book:** The Alienist

**Book most recently read:** Moby Dick

**Favorite film:** The Godfather

**Hobbies:** Anything with the kids, Reading, Music (listening & playing)

**Church/civic involvement:** Various community groups and activities connected to my present office

**Personal motto or one-line philosophy:** "There are two ways to live your life: one is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle" – Albert Einstein

**Most significant life goal you've accomplished:** Fatherhood

**Goal you haven't accomplished yet:** Raised my children to the point they have what they believe are successful personally and professionally

My opponent voted against Instructional Material Selection, which gives parents to the right to be aware of and review and changes to health and safety curriculum in our schools.

My opponent voted against the State Health Study, which would begin reform on a State Health Plan System that will be insolvent in NC in three to four years.

I would have voted the opposite on all of these bills for the betterment of the constituents of NC House 54 and the State of NC. These votes are a true representation of the opposite of my ideals stated above in this interview questionnaire, and are truly opposite of how I will vote and behave as your State Representative for NC House 54!

## ROBERT REIVES II

### Why are you seeking this office?

Public service is a passion of mine, and my pedigree has pre-

pared me for it without separating me from the voters. I lived and grew up in some of our more economically disadvantaged areas, but have served with and became friends with some of the most economically advantaged people in the state. I can be a voice for all, and I've been lucky to come from a family which placed more importance on relationships than on material success.

### What is your understanding of the responsibilities of a state legislator, and why do you believe you're qualified to fill that role?

The number one priority for any public servant should be to improve the lives of the people they represent, whether that's through robust investment in our education system, promoting legislation that respects the rights and dignity of every citizen, or protecting our green spaces and natural resources like Jordan Lake from pollution and other

threats. My voting record reflects these values and will continue to if I'm re-elected.

### What's working best, and what's not working, in N.C. government?

Like every state, North Carolina faces immediate challenges with regards to the COVID pandemic that are unprecedented in modern times. While we've had our ups and downs, I applaud the actions which have ensured that our state hasn't suffered the high number of deaths or rate of infections seen in places like Georgia, Texas and Florida. If we continue listening to the advice of medical and scientific professionals, we can weather this situation.

I would like to see more partisan balance in the legislature. Since the breaking of the Republican supermajority in the North Carolina General Assembly in 2018, leaders from both parties have been forced to work

See **CANDIDATES**, page A11

## ELECTION

Continued from page A1

the usual issues of partisan policy habits and political party allegiance. The winner may well be the candidate whose opinions on this year's volatile social issues align with the majority of Chatham County residents' — irrespective of political party. At least, that is what both candidates hope for in a rare instance of unanimity.

"It is ridiculous to me how badly partisan politics has gotten in the way of good government," Reives said. "Party allegiance is getting in the way."

Voters recognize the problem, he said, but still they perpetuate obduracy.

"You hear people always fuss and say they don't like partisan politics," he said. "But then you'll hear things, like I've literally heard one person say, 'You've done such good stuff. I really appreciate how you've stood for Chatham County and, I mean, man, if you were Republican, I'd vote for you in a second.' That's crazy to me."

Gilson agrees that partisanship should be a secondary consideration to voters in evaluating candidates.

"Listen, I am conservative and I align myself more with the Republican Party," he said, "but I think some decisions

that the Republican Party have made have been bad for our country and our state. I also think the same on the Democratic side. Sometimes you have to look outside party allegiance and do what's right for the state and the country."

It will not be hard for voters to identify the candidate who most closely reflects their opinions of what the county and state need; Reives and Gilson are, again, opponent.

On education, for example, their respective plans to address issues with virtual learning are discordant. To Gilson, the solution is simple — children must return to in-person learning.

"I would have liked to have seen our kids go back to school in a hybrid approach," Gilson said, "and then if it went well, get back to 100% in-person learning."

As to whether prohibiting in-person schooling has limited the number of coronavirus cases in North Carolina compared to states that opened more aggressively, Gilson suggests reported figures from other states may be inaccurate or misrepresented in the news.

"I don't believe they're true," he said. "There are many states who have gone past Phase 2 and have our kids back in school and have businesses open that are doing very well."

Reives supports distance

learning, but identifies inadequate internet connections as the primary inhibitor to an effective virtual experience.

"I'm very proud of the school system and what they've done," Reives said. "The biggest problem we have in Chatham County isn't the remote learning system. The biggest problem is our lack of good broadband."

Reives has observed firsthand how unstable internet access can detract from virtual learning.

"I live in Goldston," he said, "and the broadband my kids get is completely different than what people are getting right up the street in Bear Creek right off of (N.C. Hwy.) 902. Right off 902, they have fiber. Where I am, they have DSL. And so, you know, unfortunately, that makes a huge difference."

On bigger issues of racial injustice and social reform protests, Reives and Gilson further polarize.

"I'm a strong supporter of our First Amendment," Gilson said, "and I believe people should have the right and exercise the right to protest. What I don't believe in is violence. I don't believe in rioting, looting. I don't believe in people and groups pushing for division and I think that's what Black Lives Matter and Antifa have done. I think it's a bad movement and I think it's going in the wrong direction."

He believes also that BLM's tenets are founded upon a mistaken perception of race in America.

"I don't believe there's institutional, systemic white privilege," Gilson said. "If it means that white people who have worked hard in life to get where they've been are doing well, if that's white privilege, I think that's commendable."

He did concede, however: "I don't know how they (the BLM movement) are defining white privilege."

Reives takes umbrage at Gilson's dismissal of calls for social reform.

"I think it's complete, willful ignorance," he said. "You have people at times who, when they are not affected, they say there's not a problem. Or they say, 'If there is a problem, deal with it, that's life,' because it's not them experiencing the problem."

The suggestion that protests, in general, have augmented violence makes Reives bristle. "We hear all about the violence that has been involved," he said. "Well, Time Magazine did a full-on survey and they stated 93% of all protests have been peaceful protests."

The Time article, published on Sept. 20, cited a study by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project that analyzed more than 7,750 BLM demonstrations across

the country. According to the report, 2,400 locations reported peaceful protests with only 220 reporting "violent demonstrations."

"So, to me," Reives said, "the created problem isn't the issue of the incidents that have occurred. The created problem is when people have spoken out about these incidents like my opponent has done, and they say, 'All this is violence.' I'd love to talk to somebody in Chatham County who tells me that they had their windows broken or something like that during a protest because it didn't happen to my knowledge."

Despite strong opinions on controversial subjects, both candidates list objectivity among their strengths.

"If you have that general capacity to listen to both sides of an argument," Gilson said, "whether you like both sides or not, and to be able to sort out the facts and evaluate them without emotions, you can serve in any capacity in the government."

Reives the key to good governance stems from adopting perspective beyond one's own experience.

"We've got to be empathetic," he said, "but we've lost empathy completely in this country."

For more of what you need to know about the 2020 vote in Chatham, go to [cutt.ly/voteinchatham](http://cutt.ly/voteinchatham).

CHURCH NEWS

EMMAUS BAPTIST CHURCH

King's Court Basketball registration is taking place at Emmaus Baptist Church via the website [emmausbaptchurch.org/the-kings-court-basketball](http://emmausbaptchurch.org/the-kings-court-basketball). The church is

offering teams for K4/K5, first and second grade boys and girls and third and fourth grade boys and girls. Practice begins the week of October 26. For more information, contact the church at (919) 542-4974.

SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

# Board discusses potential removal of left turn restrictions at Raleigh Street and Chatham Avenue

BY OLIVIA ROJAS  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on Monday to grant a performance guarantee request, discussed the left turn restrictions at Raleigh Street and Chatham Avenue and reviewed an update surrounding criminal activity at a local convenience store.

The performance guarantee is for the development of the multifamily residential apartments on W. 4th Street to allow a certificate of occupancy to be obtained. The proposed guarantee is a check made payable to the Town of Siler City for \$82,062.50 — 125% of the cost estimate.

In addition, the board discussed the Siler City Downtown Advisory Committee's recommendation of removing left turn restrictions at the intersection of Chatham Avenue and Raleigh Street.

The recommendation, which was advised and approved by the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, is to hold no left turn restrictions throughout the week from 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. at that intersection. These restrictions would be placed on a sign.

Concerns surrounding drivers who could potentially not be aware of the sign were brought up by commissioners. "Well, my gut tells me if it's not illuminated in some way or another then it's going to be ignored," Commissioner Chip Price said.

Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner recommended for the sign to be illuminated in red.

"So the recommendation to make sure would be to have an illuminated no left turn signal during the designated time period, as opposed to just a placard sign," he said. "But even if you have difficulty reading the sign, every DOT test says you must be able to recognize the sign. So if it's a bright red illuminated

sign, it really mitigates excuses that someone might have and we enforce it." The board also brought up potential issues with potentially more truck traffic coming from Mountaire Farms.

"I just want to make sure that you know that we're not going to send more truck traffic down through downtown because that's going to create more problems" Commissioner Bill Haiges said. "I think that, you know, with all of the parking and everything, it would be difficult for that."

The board recommended that the issue would be researched more and then brought back for additional discussion. The board also received an update about crime taking place at the Rite Stop Convenience Store located at 801 E. 11th St. and the corner of MLK Jr. Boulevard.

According to the memo, at the Sept. 8 board meeting, Commissioner Tony Siler asked Town Manager Roy Lynch about the loitering at the Rite Stop location.

Chief Wagner identified this area as a hot spot. The behavior associated with this type of loitering is consistent with the selling and purchasing of illegal drugs, prostitution, and the illegal consumption of alcohol, he said. The Rite Stop is one of several convenience stores where this type of behavior is observed.

In November 2019, the Siler City Police Department and North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement paired together in an eight-hour "Wolfpack" operation. During that timeframe, 39 people were cited/arrested, with a total of 58 charges.

Currently, the Rite Stop is under a 90-day suspension for illegal alcohol sales from the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement. In order to minimize that suspension, the owner paid a \$10,000 fine to reduce it to 15 days.

NEWS BRIEFS

- No sign is permitted in the right of way of a limited-access highway such as an interstate;
  - No sign can be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road;
  - No sign can obscure motorist visibility at an intersection;
  - No sign can be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement;
  - No sign can be larger than 864 square inches; and
  - No sign can obscure or replace another sign.
- The N.C. Dept. of

Transportation has the authority to remove any signs that violate these rules. If anyone else removes or vandalizes a sign, they could be subject to a Class 3 misdemeanor citation from law enforcement.

Campaign signs can remain in place for 10 days after the Nov. 3 election. Signs still in the right of way after the deadline are in violation of state law, and the NCDOT is authorized to remove and dispose of them.

— CN + Staff Reports

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

BEASTLY SNACK

- |                                      |                                 |                               |                                |                                    |  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                        | 47 Ghana's capital              | 99 Novelist or dramatist      | 10 Natural gas component       | 43 Operate wrongly                 | 79 Big laughs                            |
| 1 Tea and ale                        | 51 Whiz                         | 100 Professors' privileges    | 11 Knotted neckwear            | 44 Ratchet wheel                   | 81 Like some lotteries and liquor stores |
| 6 Brunch menu items                  | 52 Printing proof, informally   | 101 Provo or Orem native      | 12 Declare airport stats       | 48 When doubled, tot's train       | 86 Diatribes                             |
| 13 Difficult to pin down             | 56 Riddle, part 3               | 104 Doily material            | 13 Approx.                     | 49 Versatile stoves                | 87 Part of SFPD                          |
| 20 Newswoman                         | 61 Jinx                         | 105 Belly muscles             | 14 Ritchie Valens hit          | 50 Peaceful, simple place          | 89 Take forcibly                         |
| 21 Ancient Italian region            | 62 Whim                         | 107 Old Russian space station | 15 Small guitar, for short     | 53 "Goodbye, Columbus"             | 90 Monkly title                          |
| 22 Like adoptees and swindle victims | 63 A single time                | 108 "Trinity" novelist Leon   | 16 One drafted for service     | 54 Divide into different districts | 91 Fish part                             |
| 23 Start of a riddle                 | 64 Eastern "way"                | 109 Barge in                  | 17 Trapped by habit            | 55 Some daisies                    | 92 Like a wise bird                      |
| 25 French scholar                    | 65 Shirt tag                    | 111 Riddle's answer           | 18 Manly                       | 56 Activist                        | 93 Lingua —                              |
| 26 Buddy                             | 66 Andre of tennis              | 117 Cleaned thoroughly        | 19 Win the affection of        | 57 "No more for me, thanks"        | 94 One who triumphs                      |
| 27 Sly-fox link                      | 67 Application to thinning hair | 118 Runs in                   | 24 Pound fraction              | 58 NBA Hall of Famer               | 95 Uno or dos                            |
| 28 Passenger-screening org.          | 69 Give a job to                | 119 Gads about                | 28 Shorten                     | 59 Stoops (to)                     | 96 Spring blooms                         |
| 29 Shallowest Great Lake             | 70 Food fish                    | 120 Draft horse's gear        | 30 Capone and Pacino           | 60 Go-getters                      | 97 Most minimal                          |
| 30 Crocheted coverlet                | 71 Zip                          | 122 Fashion flair             | 31 Puddy                       | 65 Spreads apart                   | 98 Most minimal                          |
| 33 Mess up                           | 72 Abbr. on military mail       |                               | 32 Big black-and-white mammal  | 67 Public unveilings of products   | 102 Wedding cake layers                  |
| 36 Retina spot that might degenerate | 73 Almond confection            |                               | 33 "Yuck!"                     | 68 Fishing tools                   | 103 Knotted neckwear                     |
| 38 Chou En- —                        | 74 Lip                          |                               | 34 Football's time             | 70 Agra's Taj —                    | 106 Mattresses' places                   |
| 39 Riddle, part 2                    | 75 Almond confection            |                               | 35 Big 1940s computer          | 73 Basil-based green sauce         | 108 Pre-'91 superpower                   |
| 42 Running herd                      | 76 Food fish                    |                               | 37 Crooning cowboy Gene        | 75 Propel a bike                   | 110 Suffix with script                   |
| 45 Marked with stripes               | 77 Riddle, part 4               |                               | 40 Set — (start wedding plans) | 77 Allowance                       | 111 U.K. military fliers                 |
| 46 "Alfie" actress Long              | 78 Riddle, part 4               |                               | 41 R&B singer — Marie          | 78 Unconfined                      | 112 Mess up                              |
|                                      |                                 |                               |                                |                                    | 113 Beatified Fr. woman                  |
|                                      |                                 |                               |                                |                                    | 114 Wall-climbing plant                  |
|                                      |                                 |                               |                                |                                    | 115 Food fish                            |
|                                      |                                 |                               |                                |                                    | 116 Dir. from Fresno to L.A.             |

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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Election campaigns means it's sign season

RALEIGH — Drivers traveling on North Carolina roadways are likely seeing what has become an election year tradition: a lot of campaign signs. A state law passed in 2011 allows campaign signs to be placed in the state road right of way as early as 30 days before the start of early voting, which starts on Oct. 15. That means signs legally started going into place this week.

There are restrictions regarding the signs. They include:
 

- Whoever places a sign is required to get the permission of any property owner of a residence, business or religious institution fronting the right of way where a sign would be placed;

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2020 CENSUS Q&A: TIME'S RUNNING OUT

# Chatham's completion rate at 69.8% as deadline approaches

CN+R Staff Report

As the deadline for the 2020 Census approaches, Chatham County Public Information Officer Kara Dudley — a member of the Chatham Complete Count Committee — spoke to the News + Record about the importance for Chatham residents to take part in the nation's

**Chatham County was among the highest in terms of completing the census earlier in the spring and summer. Is that still the case coming closer to the deadline?**

Since it initially began in April, Chatham County residents have stepped up to complete the 2020 Census. Currently with 69.8% completion, Chatham County remains ahead of the N.C. completion rate which is at 62.2% and the U.S. completion rate of 66.0%.

Chatham County's response for the 2010 Census was 81%, so we want to do everything we can to surpass that and reach 100% completion.

**We know it's not a competition, but how does Chatham stack up in terms of census completion compared to other NC counties?**

**'Completing the 2020 Census is safe, easy and important.'**

**KARA DUDLEY**, Chatham Complete Count Committee

As of September 20 (the latest date in which data are available), Chatham County remains in the top 5 of North Carolina counties in regards to completing the 2020 Census. Here are the standings for the top 5 N.C. counties:

- 1) Union County – 73.7%
- 2) Wake County – 72.0%
- 3) Orange County – 71.9%
- 4) Davie County – 70.6%
- 5) Chatham County – 69.8%

**Which areas of Chatham County have seen lower response rates?**

Chatham County's areas with the lowest response for the 2020 Census are Siler City, Bear Creek, Goldston/Gulf and Matthews Township.

**What is the county doing to reach these areas with lower response rates?**

The Chatham Complete Count Committee (CCCC), which is made up of county, municipal, church,

organization and business leaders across Chatham County, has been meeting regularly since summer 2019. Committee members have participated in numerous community outreach efforts for more than a year including: media outreach (such as interviews like this one); the Chatham County Census web page [chathamnc.org/2020census](http://chathamnc.org/2020census); social media channels including the county's channels (Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor); professional and residential outreach channels of all CCCC members; flyer and poster distribution across the county through efforts of each committee member (including county and municipal government buildings, businesses, non-profits and clinics); information to the Chatham Council on Aging distributed through newsletters to seniors and area churches; yard signs posted outside buildings across the county; Chatham County Sheriff's Office is deploying five electronic signs with census messaging in the lowest response areas week of Sept. 21.

**What is the county doing to reach non-English speaking families to make them aware of the census?**

The Hispanic Liaison is part of the CCCC, and the committee's community outreach efforts include messaging in Spanish. Flyers in Spanish have been distributed to areas reaching our Latino population including food distribution events, stores and churches. Social media posts have been provided in Spanish, including a Facebook live event. Spanish-speaking media outlets have also been included in outreach efforts.

**How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected outreach efforts that you had planned, and how has the county been able to adapt to still get the word out?**

The CCCC had its own events planned as well as attending other community events across the county to have a presence and answer questions about the census for folks. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee has adapted and continued stepping up over the last several months, reaching people across our community. Whether it be through media stories, social media outreach or various other communications and signage across the county, the CCCC has maintained its focus to reach all pockets of the Chatham

County community.

**Why is completing the census so important, and for every Chatham County household to be counted?**

Chatham County receives approximately \$133 million in federal funds annually which support services including hospitals, schools, roads and emergency services. It also supports federal programs such as Medicare, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Head Start. The census is also an essential part of our democracy. Our numbers obtained from the census determine the number of seats North Carolina has in the U.S. House of Representatives. The data are also used for redistricting at the national, state and local levels. If not all Chatham County households are counted, then this funding and political representation could decrease, affecting our community for the next decade.

**We keep hearing that completing the census "takes just a few minutes." So...if I haven't done it yet, walk me through what's involved?**

The Census is just 10 short questions for the person completing

the questionnaire and 6 follow-up questions about each individual in the household. The Census can be completed online, by phone or by mail. You can visit [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov), call 844-330-2020 or return the questionnaire that was mailed to you.

**As you've spoken to people about the census, what are the most common excuses for NOT completing it – and how do you respond to those reasons?**

Some common reasons for not completing the 2020 Census include people being too busy, their household not making a difference if they aren't counted, and being reported if they aren't a U.S. citizen.

Completing the 2020 Census is safe, easy and important. The census is safe: By law, your responses cannot be used against you or shared with any government agency, law enforcement, or even landlord. The census is easy: There are only 10 questions that take about 10 minutes to answer for 10 years of impact on Chatham County. The census is important: A good count means more money for local schools and other services for Chatham County residents.



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### State Elections Board sends judicial voter guide to N.C. households

RALEIGH — All North Carolina households, about 4.7 million in all, will soon receive the Judicial Voter Guide 2020.

The 2020 guide contains information about all candidates for N.C. Supreme Court and N.C. Court of Appeals. It also includes important election dates and deadlines, tips for voters, information about the three options for voting, and a removable North Carolina Absentee Ballot Request Form.

The guide also features a letter from State Board Executive Director Karen Brinson Bell, which details safety precautions that will be in place at all early voting sites and Election Day polling places to minimize the opportunity for COVID-19 transmission.

"We are excited for voters to receive this year's edition of the Judicial Voter Guide," Brinson Bell said. "Along with judicial candidate profiles, we've included a wealth of information to ensure North Carolinians are ready to vote in the upcoming election."

All three voting methods are still available for

North Carolina voters: (1) by mail (2) in-person during one-stop early voting, October 15-31; or (3) on Election Day, Nov. 3.

Voters who have already requested an absentee ballot — either on paper or through the State Board's Absentee Ballot Request Portal — should not submit another request.

To track the status of their absentee ballot, voters can create an account on BallotTrax. BallotTrax allows voters to receive text, email, or phone messages as their ballot moves through the process.

For more information

about the Absentee Ballot Request Portal and BallotTrax, please visit [ncsbe.gov/voting/vote-mail/absentee-ballot-tools](http://ncsbe.gov/voting/vote-mail/absentee-ballot-tools).

Any North Carolina registered voter may request and receive a mail-in absentee ballot for the 2020 general election.

Although the request deadline is 5 p.m. Oct. 27, the State Board encourages voters who wish to vote by mail to request a ballot as soon as possible.

The Judicial Voter Guide 2020, which is required by state law, is also available electronically on the State Board's website.

— CN + Staff Reports

## CANDIDATES

Continued from page A9

together in order to enact legislation. This is a good thing, but we need more. I believe fairer districts will help bring this about.

**What are the most significant challenges facing the state in the coming year, and how you'd plan to address them?**

Again, the pandemic has impacted every area of public policy, and we need to meet those challenges by ensuring that everyone has reliable access to healthcare,

that we are working toward a sustainable reopening which will allow our economy to rebound, and that our children and educators can do their work in safe but academically rigorous way. Broadband policy has to be changed immediately. Calls for reform of the criminal justice system must also be heeded — we can do things like examine the ability of people to pay fines and assessments so we are not criminalizing poverty, and we can ensure that the system as a whole — from prosecutors offices to magistrate and judicial officers — are diverse and as representative as possible of the communities they serve.

**Give us two goals that are specific, measurable and attainable you would have if elected:**

- 1: Our budgets should reflect education as a priority, and recent budgets have failed to do so. We should increase teacher pay to the national average, empower local communities to make decisions about what works for them regarding education, and be wary of attempts to privatize education or divert tax funds away from public schools through unnecessary charter school funding or so-called vouchers.
- 2: I will support the establishment of a nonpartisan redistricting commission. Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around.

**Look ahead two years from now ... what would you like to see the General Assembly to have accomplished in that time?**

First and foremost, I'd like to see that our state and the rest of the nation have both gotten past this pandemic so we are no longer worried on a daily basis about the lives and health of ourselves, our friends and our families. I would like to see a budget which reflect education as a priority, and I would like to see important reforms to our criminal justice system implemented. I would like to see us move toward fairer elections by allowing a nonpartisan redistricting commission draw our political maps after the 2020 cycle, and I would like to see everyone have access to healthcare, broadband and an affordable public education.

**If you are not elected, what steps will you take to serve Chatham County?**

I'll continue to serve my community in my career as an attorney, which allows me to help everyone navigate the court system whether that's as a party in a civil suit, a defendant in a criminal case, or a victim of a crime. I'll also continue to volunteer my time to organizations which are working to improve life for everyone in Chatham County.

**How do you think Gov. Cooper and the state have handled the coronavirus pandemic?**

I don't envy anyone

having to make the difficult decisions faced by Governor Cooper, but I've learned not only from him but from other governors who have taken different paths that it's wisest to err on the side of caution, and that we should continue listening to the voices who understand this pandemic best — doctors, scientists and qualified healthcare professionals.

**What are your thoughts on this summer's racial injustice protests and calls for action/reform?**

Calls for change are important, but action is more important. The most obvious place to start is with our criminal justice system. I worked as a prosecutor for five years, and I was lucky to work for an elected district attorney that was incredibly progressive in the area of race relations — we were a diverse staff empowered with discretion to take different approaches to situations. This allowed for both victims and the accused to be heard so that we could achieve justice and fairness. I would like to see more prosecutors offices operate in this way.

**What question do you want to be asked?**

Why is diversity important to have in government? Why is it important to return civil discourse to our governmental process? Why is it important to return some governmental offices and operations to be in non-partisan?

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# Ben & Jerry's franchisees committed to responsible — but fun — business practice

**BY LARS DOLDER**  
News + Record  
Correspondent

The three founders of Primo Partners LLC, a franchise management company which owns and operates Ben & Jerry's stores across the southeastern United States, say their shared upbringing in Chatham County prepared them for the rigors of entrepreneurship and the responsibility of caring for dozens of employees.

"Chatham County gave me a commitment to diversity and equality," said Antonio McBroom, 34, Primo Partners' CEO. "Growing up here in the late 1990s and early 2000s offered me a global perspective and allowed me to literally see people and the world not in black and white, but as a continuum of perspective and opportunity."

Philip Scotton, 29, the company's president of store operations, seconds McBroom's enthusiasm for Chatham County values.

"Chatham County will always be home," he said. "Growing up during one of the most diversified times throughout its history and attending high school at Jordan-Matthews could not have been at a better time. The knowledge gained will always follow the important steps as I continue to build my path to the future."

Their shared path has included Primo Partners' expansion from a single Chapel Hill location to eight franchise stores spanning from Texas to Tennessee. Their commitment to diversity and inclusion has made the founders — which includes COO Eric Taylor in addition to McBroom and Scotton — star members of

the Ben & Jerry's family. They strive to embody the company's threefold mission to achieve economic, social and product goals.

The mission "guides the everyday vision of the company," Scotton said. It's the reason Primo Partners decided to become a part of the Ben & Jerry's community.

"The economic mission is for everyone in the company, from scooper to CEO, to benefit financially," McBroom said. "And the social mission is to make a difference in the communities we serve."

But when the partners are not busy working to improve the world in serious matters of social reform and equal pay, they make sure never to neglect the mission's third tenet: sell an outstanding product, and do it in a fun way. After all, they sell ice cream, and Ben & Jerry's ice cream at that. The compa-

ny's longstanding motto is "If it's not fun, why do it?" The Ben & Jerry's commitment to fun is evident in the ice cream maker's unusual flavor naming convention. There have been some especially sensational examples over the years.

"(The) craziest flavor ever," McBroom said, "was Schweddy Balls." As a pun and parody on the famous Saturday Night Live skit, it was vanilla ice cream with hint of rum, loaded with fudge-covered rum and malt balls.

Samples are an important feature of the Ben & Jerry's business model and the wacky ice cream names make for a jocular customer experience.

"It was quite humorous," McBroom said, "when our fans would come in for this flavor and say, 'Can I taste some Schweddy Balls?'"



Submitted photo

**Ben & Jerry's franchisees Antonio McBroom (from left), Phillip Scotton and Eric Taylor are pictured at a store opening in Atlanta. McBroom and Taylor attended Chatham Central High School together; Scotton is a graduate of Jordan-Matthews High School.**

Other funny, punny flavors have included Chubby Hubby, AmeriCONE Dream, Netflix and Chilled and Chip Matters, Taylor's personal favorite. The flavors come and

go — they are often retired after a few years — but the fun never stops. That's why, McBroom said, they "serve up the best ice cream in the world."

## ICE CREAM

Continued from page A1

Vermont, after borrowing \$4,000 as part of a \$12,000 investment. In the year 2000, the socially and politically conscious pair sold the company — which makes ice creams, frozen yogurts and sorbets with flavors such as Cherry Garcia, Chubby Hubby, Chunky Monkey and Glampfire Trail Mix — to Unilever.

Today, Ben & Jerry's locations can be found in more than 40 countries; for franchisee Primo Partners, its operation grew to include four locations in the Triangle within four years.

Phillip Scotton, 29, son of longtime Siler City barbershop owner Phil Scotton, joined Primo Partners in 2012. He met McBroom as a student at Jordan-Matthews High School and later followed McBroom to UNC-Chapel Hill. Scotton was the perfect candidate to help the senior partners move beyond North Carolina into other southeastern states, McBroom said.

"Phillip was getting ready to finish up college and he did a marketing internship with me," McBroom said. "He did such a phenomenal job we ended up becoming business partners in opening our Atlanta

**'We decided to anchor ourselves in the quote that bad companies fail, good companies survive and great companies improve.' So, we doubled down and looked to use that time to improve our business.'**

**ANTONIO MCBROOM, Primo Partners CEO**

Ben & Jerry's franchise."

In early 2020, Primo Partners added a sixth location to its chain in Houston.

Then, the COVID-19 pandemic arrived. Operations at all of the stores ground to a halt.

"For our business, it was a really bad time for it," McBroom said. "We began to shut down just as the busy season was getting started."

Storefront retailers and the restaurant industry, both of which rely on foot traffic for business, suffered the most palpable losses of the pandemic shutdown. For ice cream stores especially, however, the operational restrictions came at an inopportune time; spring and summer are by far their

most profitable seasons.

Still, the company has made steady improvement since its stores reopened with limited activity.

"We've been surprised at the recovery that we've had since we opened on May 22," Taylor said. "We started out of the box kind of slow. Most of our stores will probably operate at anywhere from 40% to 70% of the prior year-over-year sales. Obviously, foot traffic isn't what it was before the pandemic hit, but we've been happy with the results that we've had since returning to stores."

When the pandemic started, the executive team met to evaluate the company's standing and plot its next steps.

"We decided to anchor ourselves in the quote that 'bad companies fail, good companies survive and great companies improve,'" McBroom said. "So, we doubled down and looked to use that time to improve our business."

They arrived at a chancy decision to purchase two new franchise locations in Chattanooga and Athens, Tennessee. Accurate fiscal assessment is tenuous while the pandemic persists, but the acquisitions seem to have paid off.

"It's not exactly what we had planned," McBroom said, "but we saw an opportunity and we want to continue to move forward in that way. Our vision is that Primo Partners

continues to be the largest and fastest growing Ben & Jerry's franchise."

But McBroom and his partners hope to use their positions of leadership in a multi-state enterprise to achieve more than just ice cream sales.

"We're a 100% Black-owned and 90% Black-led organization. I think we have the ideal position for us to be change agents," McBroom said. "We have the platform of a hundred thousand different customers that we come in contact with every year."

In harmony with that assertion, Primo Partners' Ben & Jerry's stores host pledge-to-vote programs, voter registration drives and educational programs to raise awareness of racial inequality and social injustice and to promote financial empowerment and literacy.

"We certainly haven't been exempted from any of the structural racism barriers that you face in terms of obtaining desired locations in real estate, in financing and in banking," McBroom said. "But that's kind of the reason why we do what we do. We want to break down those barriers. We want to create an opportunity for folks who don't necessarily see a ton of opportunity. As business owners and entrepreneurs, we want to show a roadmap for how to make that happen."



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'IT TAKES A LOT OF STRESS OFF'

# Jake Mann, Northwood's five-star long snapper, commits to Florida State

BY CHAPEL FOWLER  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Northwood's star long snapper will wear the garnet and gold next fall.



Mann

Jake Mann announced on Twitter early Saturday he'd committed to Florida State football as a preferred walk-on over Virginia, Arizona State and UNC-Charlotte. The senior's commitment came a week after an unofficial visit to Tallahassee for the Seminoles' Sept. 12 season opener against Georgia Tech.

Once back home in Chatham County, Mann said he checked in by phone with FSU special teams coordinator John Papuchis and analyst Curt Baldus. They laid out a detailed final pitch, emphasizing how Mann, a consensus five-star prospect, fit in as their long-term long snapper of the future.

That, combined with his self-guided tour of Florida State's "really impressive" campus, sealed the deal.

"They made it clear that I had a really good opportunity to start," Mann told the News + Record on Sunday, "and I thought, 'It probably doesn't get better than that.'"

In Mann, Florida State is getting the No. 1 long snapper in the class of 2021, according to Kohl's Professional Camp rankings. His snap speed — the time it takes a ball to leave the long snapper's hands and reach the punter 15 yards behind him — has been clocked at an NFL-cal-



Submitted photo

Jake Mann committed to Florida State over Virginia, Arizona State and UNC-Charlotte.

iber 0.65 to 0.66 second range. Mann also plays linebacker for Northwood's football team (and lacrosse in the spring).

As a preferred walk-on — a common route for college special teamers — Mann won't immediately be on scholarship at Florida State. But he said he'll have a chance to earn one later in his career, especially if he secures a starting job. That's a challenge he's already embracing.

FSU has an entrenched starter at the position in redshirt junior Grant Glennon, who is in his third year as the primary snapper on field goals, punts and extra points. By the time Mann is on the roster in 2021, though, Glennon will be in his

final year of eligibility, clearing a path for Mann as a potential successor.

Given that the coronavirus pandemic canceled many of the spring and summer showcase camps he'd planned to attend, Mann was ecstatic for an opportunity like that at a storied ACC program.

Florida State, a three-time national champion that has churned out NFL talent, is in its first year under former Memphis coach Mike Norvell after the program faltered under coach Willie Taggart.

Mann said his family — including father Chris, who long snapped at Delaware in the 1980s — provided constant support and encouragement

through the process. They've been seriously evaluating schools since April, when Mann got his first three offers from FSU, Virginia and Arizona State. (UNC-Charlotte made an offer in June.)

Virginia ended as a close second on Mann's list. He and his father visited the Charlottesville campus in late August, and Mann had a good relationship with UVA. special teams assistant Drew Meyer. As such, he made sure he broke the news to Meyer over the phone.

"It was kind of hard to tell them something they didn't want to hear," Mann said, "but (Meyer) was so supportive and happy for me."

After alerting other coaches of his decision via Twitter direct message, Mann started drafting an announcement post for his social media accounts. He slept on it Friday, and fired off a simple message Saturday morning at 8:28 a.m.: "Honored. Blessed. Committed."

And if you were one of the many to wish him well, he may still be getting back to you. After announcing his commitment, Mann spent all of Saturday in a truck, dropping off and picking up deflated bouncy houses around the Triangle for his job at Inflate-A-Party, a rental service business.

"Today's a catch-up day," he said Sunday, laughing.

Mann isn't sure what his senior year at Northwood will look like. As of now, he's planning to play his final coronavirus-delayed football season in the spring with his teammates, but he's also willing to graduate in December and enroll early at Florida State, a common practice for recruits.

It all depends on what the FSU coaching staff thinks is best, Mann said, and he won't make the decision for a few weeks. Regardless, he's already feeling the relief of having a college plan set in stone. He doesn't need to get his name out there. He doesn't need to keep in touch with the coaches of multiple programs every week.

"It takes a lot of stress off," Mann said. "Now, I'll just talk to one staff. I know where I'm going."

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

## FROM WOODS CHARTER TO UGA



Submitted photo by Rich von Biberstein

Woods Charter alum Maddie Homovich was a 2019-20 All-American in the 200-yard backstroke for the University of Georgia, where she's a junior.

# Halfway through college swim career, Homovich enjoying the process

BY CHAPEL FOWLER  
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — This spring, Maddie Homovich was a fish out of water.

Swimming is a year-round sport, and Homovich has embraced its grind for a decade. Since age 10, the Woods Charter alum guessed, she has never been out of the water for longer than two weeks, as she tackles practices, club seasons, national qualifiers, national events and more.



Homovich

But 2020 changed that. Thanks to North Carolina's coronavirus-induced safety restrictions, Homovich couldn't backstroke or freestyle or butterfly for two months. She held tight from late March until late May, when Gov. Roy Cooper's Phase 2 allowed pools, including the one she uses in Cary, to re-open under strict guidelines.

"It was definitely challenging, and kind of scary, just because I hadn't ever done that," Homovich said. "But I honestly think it was a very good thing for me, too: to mentally reset, be able to explore different things out of the water, stay safe and have fun doing it."

A combination of that two-month refresher period and a full adjustment to the training, academic and personal schedules of a college student-athlete has Homovich, 20, ready to hit the ground running this fall at the University of Georgia, where she's a junior on

the varsity swimming and diving team. "I've more so figured things out," she said. "More than I did for the past year or two."

Not like Homovich has struggled so far.

She's made the Georgia and SEC academic honor rolls in all four of her completed semesters. Last season, she set new career-low times in four different events. And in February, she qualified for the NCAA Championships and earned an All-America nod for her 1:53.95 time in the 200-yard backstroke, which was also UGA's sixth lowest time in program history for the event.

"I definitely made some improvements last year," she conceded.

Homovich, originally from Pennsylvania, has been holding herself to high standards for years now.

She was the rare toddler who actually enjoyed the majority of her baths, and she started swimming at 4 years old. When the Homovichs moved south to Pittsboro, 7-year-old Maddie joined the North Carolina Aquatic Club, a team that practices at the Koury Natatorium on UNC-Chapel Hill's campus.

Along with a few Roy Williams sightings — Homovich practiced directly across from the Smith Center — she made plenty of waves with NCAC, mostly for her distance races. Swimming World Magazine named a 13-year-old Homovich one of its swimmers of the month in April 2014, noting she swam the 400-meter freestyle event faster than

See **HOMOVICH**, page B2

## FROM CHARLOTTE TO ASTORIA

# How Pittsboro's Jesse Greenlee pulled off a 73-day cross-country cycling trip

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Correspondent

A little over 26 years ago, America became enthralled by the epic tale of a man's otherworldly physical endurance as he ran the length of the United States several times, totaling 15,248 miles in three years, two months, 14 days and 16 hours.

That man, of course, was Forrest Gump, the title character portrayed by Tom Hanks in the 1994 Oscar-winning film.

While Gump's journey from his hometown of Greenbow, Alabama, is entirely fictitious, for one Chatham County resident, it became an inspiration.

"It's something I've always kind of wanted to do," said Jesse Greenlee, a 23-year-old Pittsboro native and 2015 Northwood alum. "As a kid, I watched a bunch of 'Forrest Gump' and saw the whole running across the country thing, so I've always wanted to do something really long distance like that."

So back on June 9, Greenlee set off on a cycling expedition from Charlotte with the goal of making it to Astoria, Oregon. He may have one-upped Gump by venturing via bicycle rather than on foot, but the trek was far from easy. Greenlee's route primarily followed the 4,228-mile TransAmerica Bicycle Trail, created by the Adventure Cycling Association in 1976 and stretching from Astoria to Yorktown, Virginia.

Each year, about 3,000 cyclists find themselves traveling along the coast-to-coast trail, which passes through 10 different states.

Because Greenlee started in Charlotte rather than Yorktown — and he had the additional plan of seeing his girlfriend, who was working in Steelville, Missouri, at the time — he had to use Google Maps to find his way through North Carolina and Tennessee before hopping on the trail in Missouri.

As it turns out, Google Maps isn't always reliable.

"One time (my phone's GPS) took me 10 miles deep into a military base," Greenlee said. "It turned me onto a back road, which turned into a gravel road, which turned into a dirt path, which turned into an overgrown and rocky mountain bike path, and that turned into a ditch where I wrecked my bike."



Submitted photo

Northwood alum Jesse Greenlee, 23, set off for the trip of a lifetime on June 9.

Thankfully for him, a utility truck with two off-duty military officers drove by and allowed him to hitch a ride with them back to the main road.

This was just one of many obstacles — or "ordeals," as he describes them — Greenlee faced throughout the trip. On average, Greenlee traveled about 70 miles per day, sometimes going as few as 50 or as many as 120.

Early on, he would often push himself toward that 100-mile mark, often without concrete plans about where he might finish for day. That led to him stopping for the day in the middle of nowhere, camping in unideal places and experiencing burnout, a common feeling among cyclists who overwork themselves.

"The first time I really felt burned out was when I got to Nashville, Tennessee," Greenlee said. "I was getting kind of cranky, and there was just so much distance in front of me at that point, it felt like I barely made a dent in the mileage."

Greenlee called his parents to vent, leading him to take a couple of days' hiatus in Nashville. It gave him the chance to rest, regain his energy and gear up for the next 3,000-plus miles.

See **GREENLEE**, page B2

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- Logo must NOT include any political or religious sentiments.
- If artist's logo is selected, artist must sign a release statement for Chatham 250.

**Submissions evaluated based on:**

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- Logo en formato JPEG o PNG
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- El arte debe ser bidimensional (no animado).
- El logo debe ser una obra de arte original (no duplicada ni plagiada).
- No se permite que el logo incluya pensamientos políticos o religiosos.
- Si el logo es seleccionado, el/la artista debe firmar una carta de autorización de uso para Chatham 250

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Graphics courtesy of Chatham County

## Chatham's 250th

The Chatham 250 committee — working to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Chatham County — is hosting a logo contest for this unique moment in the county's history. All Chatham County artists, aspiring and expert alike, are asked to submit a logo design. The flyers (pictured) provide information about how to submit a logo design.

## GREENLEE

Continued from page B1

The burnout he experienced in Nashville acted as his wake-up call and forced him to realize the importance of planning. From then on, he made sure to arrange stopping points in areas where he could find a place to set up camp, grab food and buy coffee in the morning. He also lowered the number of miles he traveled each day.

### 'A different kind of motivation'

For a majority of the trip, Greenlee biked solo.

Each day, he would get up around 7 a.m., eat breakfast, bike about 70 miles, stop somewhere to eat and set up camp, go to sleep, then wake up the next day and do it again.

He stayed in parks, campsites, national forests, strangers' backyards (with permission), churches and hostels when they had space available. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, however, many hostels were either closed or only open at limited capacity. COVID-19 also affected how he ate.

"If I did want to eat at a restaurant, depending on what state we were in, it wasn't an option," Greenlee said. "Even to go to a fast food place, I had to bike up to the drive-thru instead of being able to go inside. I went to Burger King once and rode up with my bike fully loaded, and they just had to do a double-take."

It took him until he reached Kansas, more than 1,000 miles into the journey, before he saw another cyclist making a similar trek. Excited to see someone else on the same type of adventure as him,



Submitted photo

To Greenlee, Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park (pictured here) was the most beautiful place he visited on his trip.

Greenlee took pictures of the man and spoke with him for half an hour.

When he reached Colorado, cyclists became more frequent, though most, if not all of them, were going in the opposite direction.

He remained on his own until he arrived in the small town of Dubois, Wyoming — population 768 — where he found three people that completely changed his journey.

Two of them, Kenneth and Alli, are a couple who met while hiking on the Appalachian Trail last year and were also making the trip to Astoria. While passing through Missouri, they had met another cyclist, Athena, who joined them.

The four of them clicked almost instantly, becoming what Greenlee called "a unit."

After Greenlee joined the group, they took a detour to Jackson, Wyo-

ming, where they took a small break from cycling to go on a whitewater rafting trip. For the first couple of days with his new group, Greenlee felt a little like an outsider, but that feeling didn't last long.

"I was enjoying traveling alone, because it takes a different kind of motivation and thought process to do it, but it was cool to have the balance of finishing in a group setting," Greenlee said. "There's people to socialize with, people to split expenses with and just joke around with and get closer to."

Along the TransAmerica Trail, many people and places aren't afraid to open their arms — and homes — to cyclists because of how often they encounter them. As the group climbed down from McKenzie Pass in Oregon, a mountain pass at an elevation of 5,225 feet, they came across a

man named Oscar who was intrigued by how far they'd traveled.

Greenlee mentioned that the group would be in Eugene, Oregon, the following day, which happened to be where Oscar lived. He extended an invitation to his home and the group biked about 70 miles that night to Eugene to stay with him.

"They had so much food cooking for us," Greenlee said. "I was eating for a solid hour. It was kind of like we were an addition to the family. That was really great, the most hospitality I've ever experienced."

### 'A lot of fortitude'

From Eugene, the group made the 200-mile journey to Astoria, the trail's final destination. They bought bottles of champagne, celebrated on the beach and reveled in what they had accom-

**'You wake up, you eat, you bike, you eat and then you go to sleep.'**

**JESSE GREENLEE,**  
*Pittsboro native and cross-country cyclist*

plished.

The trip, however, wasn't exactly over. They had made a plan to visit Greenlee's sister, Sara, in Portland, nearly 100 miles from Astoria.

Two days later, on August 20, they arrived in Portland. After 73 days of planning, biking, camping, sightseeing and overcoming adversity, Greenlee had done it. He'd traveled the length of the United States on a bicycle.

"Portland was more the final destination for me, so that morning, it felt kind of weird," Greenlee said. "Because for the past two and a half months, when I was biking, it was kind of a lifestyle. You wake up, you eat, you bike, you eat and then you go to sleep. And then going from that to being done, it was like, 'Now what do I do?'"

Greenlee considered adding another 800 miles to his trip because the group was riding down to California, but funds were running low, so he decided to split off from them and head back to Charlotte. He rented a car — made possible by his friends from home, who pooled together \$500 to help fund his way back — and pointed it easy, driving home for the first time in months.

When discussing his trip less than a week after arriving back in N.C., Greenlee was already excited for what might be his next adventure. He wants

to complete both a triathlon and a marathon, along with the triple crown of hiking: the Appalachian Trail, the Continental Divide Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail.

"He has a lot of fortitude," said Kathy Greenlee, Jesse's mother. "If he sets his mind up to do something, he's generally going to pull it off. He's fine with just living very simply and putting his money toward experiences rather than material items."

Throughout the journey, Greenlee encountered a plethora of things that would make most people throw in the towel. He had two major mechanical mishaps with his bike, weathered an extreme storm in Kansas, carried his belongings three miles in the mud (also in Kansas), endured threats from motorists and withstood the scorching mid-summer heat while cycling 70 miles — or more — nearly every day.

But he never faltered. "You can't prevent everything from happening, so just believing that I could handle whatever came, that was the mindset I went into it with," Greenlee said. "I want to try and center my life to where I can do more of these kinds of adventures, rather than making other things the main focus. I'm trying to gear everything I do towards becoming who I want to be."

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## HOMOVICH

Continued from page B1

Olympic gold medalist Katie Ledecky did at the same age.

"That was a long time ago," Homovich said, laughing, "but that was a huge deal to me."

At age 15, she moved up to Marlins of Raleigh, another top area club led by coach Paul Silver. Homovich logged plenty more accolades there, including a gold, silver and bronze medals in various national meets and a fifth-place finish at the 2017 Junior World Championships in Indianapolis. One recruiting site, CollegeSwimming.com, tabbed her as the No. 10 women's swimming

recruit in the country in 2018.

An interesting catch: despite all those accomplishments, Homovich's name doesn't appear once in the NCHSAA's extensive 30-page swimming and diving record book.

She never swam in an officially sanctioned race, because Woods Charter fields neither a middle school nor high school swim team. But since Maddie and her family enjoyed the Chatham County school's rigorous academics and small classes, she stayed put and worked exclusively as a club team swimmer.

She committed to Georgia over Florida and N.C. State at the end of her junior year. And when she arrived in Athens as a

freshman to join Georgia's roster in 2018, dual meets — when the entire Bulldogs team would face another in a head-to-head event — were "kind of odd," she said.

"But it was fun and something that I never really experienced before," Homovich said. "Plus, my club team (MOR) was pretty rigorous when it came to training, so that wasn't as big of an adjustment."

In March, Homovich was days away from competing in the 2020 NCAA Championships — hosted on Georgia's campus — before COVID-19 delayed and canceled the end of her second season.

She spent her summer at home, substituting the 2020 U.S. Olympic Trials

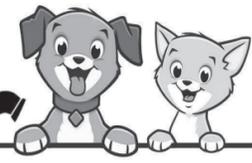
that she'd qualified for with nightly Jeopardy! viewings with her family and, on one occasion, swimming laps in Jordan Lake.

Now, Homovich is back in Athens for her junior year, taking classes for her risk management and insurance/management information systems double major and prepping for the Bulldogs' abbreviated 2020-21 season, which will run from Oct. 1 to Jan. 25. And the Woods Charter graduate is ready to go.

"I'm pretty excited about where I'm headed now," Homovich said.

*Reporter Chapel Fowler can be reached at [cfowler@chathamnr.com](mailto:cfowler@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at @chapel Fowler.*

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# BOC approves legislative goals, hosts public hearings

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

At the Chatham County Board of Commissioners' regular session meeting on Monday, the board discussed legislative goals to submit to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and hosted three public hearings: a quasi-judicial hearing for a request by the Chatham County Emergency Operations director for a new 325-foot communications tower, a legislative hearing for a request by Campbell Towing and Recovery, Inc. for a general use rezoning and an additional legislative hearing for a conditional rezoning request by Arylex Properties, LLC.

The meeting — which had a work session at 2 p.m. and regular session at 6 p.m. — was held at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center and live-streamed over the GoTo Webinar video platform.

During the work session, the commissioners emphasized the importance of their legislative goals to expand broadband and Medicaid access, saying those needs have been especially underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic. While deciding how to rank their priorities, board Chairperson Karen Howard emphasized the fact that all the priorities were crucial, asking the board to weigh which items had the most direct impact on individuals. Commissioner Jim Crawford echoed that sentiment, seemingly referencing criticism about board spending from Republican commissioner candidates.

"This seems to all be necessary spending if the purpose is the well-being of people in our community," Crawford said.

During the regular session, the board approved a request to adopt a resolution proclaiming September 2020 as Hispanic Heritage Month. Howard read the resolution first in

Spanish, then English, thanking members of the Hispanic Liason present at the meeting to witness the passing of the resolution for their continued partnership with the county.

"We hope to continue to be an ally in this fight that affects all of us," Howard said.

During the public input session, two citizens signed up to speak: Valerie Broadway and Douglas Sedlak. Broadway, who gave remarks at the board's last regular session meeting, urged the board to dedicate mental health resources to the homeless population in the county. Sedlak, of Pittsboro, criticized the Chatham County Board of Health's decision to declare structural racism as a public health crisis, likening the statement to the behavior of "police states" and claiming the board's discussion was secretive.

Crawford addressed these remarks during his commissioner report at the end of the meeting, reading the board's statement, defining what "health disparities" means and providing myriad examples of such disparities in Chatham.

"Using the word 'crisis' is meant to stimulate this discussion," he said. "We are doing some of the right things, but we need to do more and we need to reckon with the fact that history is how we got here, a long history. I will assert that it is an inequity to obfuscate, deny or obstruct the discussion of this issue — and that's not new, it's just wrong."

All three of the public hearings were referred to the planning board without any public discussion from speakers or members of the planning board. The board's next work and regular session meetings are scheduled to take place Oct. 5 at the Historic Chatham County Courthouse, according to the county's website.

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

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Submitted photo

# College y Consejos advising program helps Latinx students

CN + R Staff Reports

The feelings that arise when applying to college can range from excited and happy to stressed and confused. Not to mention, students are now applying to college in a pandemic. For Latinx students this process can be extremely hard due to language barriers, additional documentation and other tasks.

To help with this process, LatinxEd, a non-profit educational initiative to provide targeted, multi-year support to Latinx students and immigrant families striving for high-

er education and greater opportunity, started College y Consejos — a free online college advising space that centers cultura y comunidad for Latinx students in North Carolina.

The program is open to students in the 11th and 12th grades.

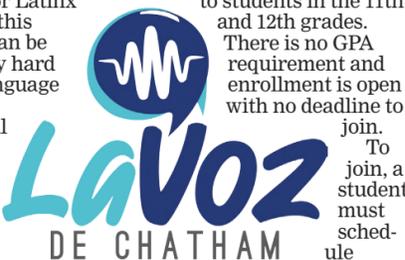
There is no GPA requirement and enrollment is open with no deadline to join.

To join, a student must schedule a brief conversation with a College y Consejos coach via Zoom to be a part of the resources provided which include workshops and access to a Facebook Page.

According to its website, the program has two coaches, Kiara Aranda and Lina Palacares.

Aranda is the daughter of Mexican immigrants and a graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Latin American studies.

Palacares attended Duke University where she majored in International Comparative Studies, with a certificate in Civic Engagement and Social Change and a minor in French. She also has a Masters degree in Anthropology from the University of Chicago where her research focused on Spanish language and its influence on Latinx identity.



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CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

# Special BOE meeting discusses remote learning, hears COVID-19 updates

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

At a specially called meeting last Thursday, the Chatham County Board of Education heard COVID-19 updates from district and state partners, ultimately deciding to host a second special meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 23, to make any decisions regarding the district's current remote learning plan.

That meeting, which was to begin at 5:30, will take place in person and also be live-streamed. Check [www.chathamnewsrecord.com](http://www.chathamnewsrecord.com) for updates from this meeting, which took place after press time for this week's edition.

The board's meeting, which began Thursday afternoon and lasted into the evening, got under way less than an hour after Gov. Roy Cooper announced children in K-5 public schools could return to full capacity in-person learning — known as Plan A under state school guidelines — on Oct. 5. In his announcement, Cooper said students in middle and high schools must still operate under the hybrid or remote learning models. The board did not explicitly discuss Cooper's announcement nor any CCS elementary schools operating under Plan A, but it did discuss possibilities for returning to school under Plan B after the nine weeks of remote learning end on Oct. 16.

"I just wanted to take just a moment to do a shout out to our staff, teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, TA's, our administration, just for the phenomenal job they're doing in difficult conditions," board chairperson Gary Leonard said to start the meeting. "We want to thank our students for being willing to try new things and our parents to work hard to help them learn and to be patient with us. We will continue to work hard... We just appreciate your time and listen up, and hopefully we will all continue to move forward in this."

The board heard updates on statewide trends from the ABC Science Collaborative, a project which analyzes COVID-related data in partnership with Duke, UNC and surrounding school districts, including CCS, and from Chatham's Public Health Department. The district also presented employee survey results, cleaning protocols and the draft for a "return-to-school" employee guidebook. The board unanimously approved revisions to employee leave, temporarily granting the

**CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS**

## PLAN B: ROTATING DAYS (DRAFT)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Group A</b>					
<b>Group B</b>					

**Cleaning and disinfecting will occur daily.**

**Group A** Students will attend school two days per week on Monday/Tuesday (Group A) or Thursday/Friday (Group B). Groups will be assigned at the school level. Every attempt will be made to keep siblings on the same schedule.

**Group B**

**Groups A&B** will be engaged in at-home/remote learning for three days each week.

**Wednesdays** Professional development, planning, PLCs, small group instruction (as appropriate), etc. will take place on Wednesdays.

superintendent authority to make discretionary leave of absence without pay approval decisions.

### 'There will be infections'

ABC Science Collaborative presenter Danny Benjamin, a professor of pediatrics at the Duke University School of Medicine, stressed a few of the group's key findings studying school re-openings in North Carolina: the importance of social distancing, wearing masks at all points of exposure and limiting the capacity of indoor school locations through hybrid models. Benjamin stressed that a detailed plan for preventing spread in all school-wide interactions would be crucial to successfully reopening.

"If schools open in Chatham County there will be infections in children in the community and there will be infections for teachers and other staff," Benjamin said. "And if schools stay closed in Chatham County, there will be infections in children in the community and there will be infections for teachers and other staff. The key question for the board is, 'Will there be more infections as a result of going to school?' Do you have a plan that will help prevent that spread? And then balancing that with the benefit of having schools open up."

Board member Jane Allen Wilson asked whether the group had found any strategies that successfully mitigated exposure during school meal times. Benjamin said limiting meals to 15 minutes — the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's time measurement to quantify "exposure" — was import-

ant, as was wearing masks before and after eating, and eating in socially-distanced spaces.

Board member David Hamm then asked about any surges in the state from schools that had opened under Plan B, saying it was "pretty compelling" that those schools had met in person for five or six weeks without significant outbreaks. Benjamin said he thought Hamm was right about the lack of surges in N.C. K-12 schools operating under Plan B, but added that wasn't the case in other states where schools didn't require a hybrid schedule or mask-wearing. After board member Del Turner asked about the feelings of teachers in the state regarding a return to school, Benjamin stressed the importance of school leadership adhering to its plan and then leading by example to ensure the plan is actually followed.

Mike Zelek, the Interim Director of Chatham's Public Health Department, echoed this guidance during his presentation on county-wide trends, emphasizing that mitigation strategies once there are positive cases will be crucial to schools remaining open safely.

Following Zelek's presentation, Executive Director for Digital Teaching and Learning Emma Braaten shared employee survey data. The survey, which had about an 80% completion rate, included CCS faculty and staff, with teachers making up 64% of respondents. In response to the question, "Do you feel comfortable beginning in-person instruction with students?" nearly 30% of respondents said "yes," 41% said "no" and another 30% answered "unsure."

"I think that in the unsure column," Superintendent Derrick Jordan said of the data, "there are certainly some folks who if they were forced to choose yes or no would say 'no.' And there are some folks who if forced to choose would say 'yes,' and then there are some who would need some additional information before they were able to make an informed decision."

### 'We need to move swiftly'

The board also heard updates from Chris Blice, the district's Superintendent for Operations, regarding the district's cleaning and disinfecting protocols, which had an estimated cost of \$276,610 — with some items to be reimbursed and others to be recurring costs once schools do reopen. The district's cleaning plan has a few key elements: the daily plan for when students are in the

building, school bus plan, classroom plan and evening plan, to prepare campuses for the return of students and staff the next day.

"Thank you for being so thorough about this," Wilson said following the presentation. "This is really good to hear and I like a lot of the things that you have considered — it sounds possible and doable and reassuring."

Following updates on remote learning and the presentation of the drafted employee guidebook for a safe return, board member David Hamm asked what lead time the district would need in order to feel prepared to move to the hybrid model. Jordan said the district put together a planning team to plan for the possibility of operating under Plan B as soon as the nine weeks of remote learning expired.

"Our task that we put before our planning team is to work to provide the necessary components of

a workable plan," Jordan said. "Again, there are a lot of unknowns — you've heard some of them talked about today. But in terms of how much more time we will need, I'm not sure that I'm prepared to say that I have a definitive answer to that. I think that my response simply is that you gave us a timeline and a set of expectations and we are working toward that timeline and those expectations."

After the board unanimously passed revisions to the county's leave policy, board member Melissa Hlavac suggested that the board meet the following week to "make a decision on this as soon as possible."

Following brief discussion, the board called a special meeting to consider actions related to COVID-19 for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The meeting will take place in the Horton Middle School Multipurpose room — with face coverings, social distancing and symptom screenings required — and it will also be live-streamed. The online agenda for that meeting notes "Considering Actions Related to COVID-19" as the only action item for the board.

"We've gotten a lot of new information today," Hlavac said. "I also recognize that we need to move swiftly because teachers certainly want an answer but certainly the families and students want to know what it looks like moving forward so that they too can plan ahead."

You can find documents and presentations from the board's Sept. 17 meeting on the district's website. [https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB\\_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=190&MID=7669](https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=190&MID=7669)

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at [hannah@chathamnr.com](mailto:hannah@chathamnr.com).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### CCCC 8-week classes begin Oct. 15

SANFORD — Whether you are looking for flexible course choices to meet your personal schedule or starting a new program of study, Central Carolina Community College's eight-week term allows you to find courses that fit your academic and career goals.

The next eight-week classes begin Oct. 15.

To register for courses, contact your advisor or the admissions office at (919) 718-7300 (Lee Main Campus); (919) 545-8025 (Chatham Main Campus); and (910) 814-8827 or (910) 814-8867 (Harnett Main Campus).

See [cccc.edu/12and8](http://cccc.edu/12and8) for a list of classes.

New, accelerated Fast Track options are now available to prepare you for faster entry into the workforce or for transfer to a four-year college. See [cccc.edu/fast/](http://cccc.edu/fast/) for more information.

For more information on Central Carolina Community College, visit [cccc.edu](http://cccc.edu).

### N.C. DMV surpasses 2 million REAL IDs issued

RALEIGH — The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles reached a milestone with the issuance of its

two millionth REAL ID license or ID enhancement late last week, more than a year before the REAL ID Act will go into effect.

Starting Oct. 1, 2021, federal agencies will require a REAL ID, U.S. passport or another form of federally approved identification to board commercial airlines and to enter many federal buildings or facilities. The original date was Oct. 1 of this year, but it was delayed a year last spring due to COVID-19.

A REAL ID is optional and not a requirement, but depending on one's situation, it could make flying domestically or entering federal facilities easier by not requiring you to carry multiple identification documents.

Obtaining the REAL ID enhancement is easy. If you need to renew your license or ID card, are getting either one for the first time, or just want to upgrade what you already have, it just requires you to provide additional documentation beyond the normal license and ID process requirements. The details on what is required can be found on the REAL ID section of the DMV website. The current process requires making an appointment at a license office, which can be done online on the DMV website.

Once someone has a REAL ID, noted by a gold star in a corner of your license or ID, it remains in

effect even when it is time to renew your identification, so you will not have to show the additional documentation again.

### Chatham mulch sales event

Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling's mulch sales will take place on Saturdays and Wednesdays in October. Saturday events (7:30 a.m. to noon) are scheduled for Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31; Wednesday events (7 a.m. to noon) are set for Oct. 7, 14, 21 and 28.

Mulch sales take place during the same times on Saturdays and Wednesdays at 28 County Services Rd., Pittsboro. Sales in October will continue as long as supplies last.

Mulch is \$5 per scoop; each scoop is about one cubic yard. For large trailers and dump trucks, large scoops are \$10 each. Saturday sales are cash or check only.

All loads of mulch must be secured. Chatham County is not responsible for damage caused by the mulch or for any damage that you or your property may suffer from loading of mulch.

If you have any questions please contact the main office between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays at (919) 542-5516 or by email at [recycle@chathamnc.org](mailto:recycle@chathamnc.org).

— CN + Staff Reports

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# How the 13th annual PepperFest went down

**BY KIM HAWKS**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Past PepperFests in Pittsboro have drawn as many as 3,000 visitors.

In the days of COVID-19, though, adjustments were made for the safety of all for the 2020 event, which was held Sunday.

This year, the event was a picnic and farmers' market-styled event along with the creativity of the Piedmont's top chefs. Tickets were limited to 100 high-end baskets full of pepper themed dishes.

PepperFest's 13th annual event was held on a beautiful sunny, fall day. Everyone followed the safety precautions and rules of engagement during the pandemic. There was a refreshing diversity of vendors

and delicious food was cooked on-site by Copeland Springs Farm. A variety of beverages were served. Live music was provided by Certain Seas and Sankofa, West African Drumming. The highlight of the day was the crowning of the new PepperFest King and Queen: the official photographer for Abundance NC, Adrian Moreno, was named Pepper King and Tami Schwerin, Abundance's executive director, was named Pepper Queen.

I must admit: PepperFest marked the first time I've been to a large public event since COVID-19 began, and it couldn't have been a more enjoyable experience. Kudos to the Abundance NC team for all the attention to safe planning and real-time monitoring.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The day's ideal weather was perfect for an outside, socially-distanced PepperFest.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

David and Finn Yale of Bynum enjoying the music at PepperFest in Pittsboro on Sunday.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Alex Gunter of Pittsboro with 'upcycled' face coverings made from earlier PepperFest tee shirts.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Tami Schwerin, Chatham County's favorite Pepper Queen.



Rye Withington of Goldston brought his own bike to get around The Plant during PepperFest.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Bill and Shannon McCarthy of Pittsboro enjoyed the booths and seeing friends at Sunday's PepperFest.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

PepperFest featured an invitation to express yourself.

## BATTLE FOR 'MULAN' | A REVIEW

# Love conquers slings and arrows aimed at new version

**BY BUCK RYAN AND LEI JIAO**

Citizen Kentucky Project

*Editor's note: A \$5 movie theater ticket for Lei Jiao, a university English instructor in Wuhan, China, compares with a \$30 Disney+ online pass for University of Kentucky journalism professor Buck Ryan to see "Mulan," whose box office debut "fizzled" in China on Sept. 11.*

"Hey, Lei! Something's bothering me. Can we talk?"

"Sure, what is it, Buck?"

"Mulan."

"I took my teenager to the grand opening at the movies. We absolutely loved it!"

"Oh."

"What's wrong?"

"Mushu is missing. I just loved that dragon! And Eddie Murphy's voice. So Ruby saw no problems?"

"She thought the animated version couldn't be beat. Her only problem was, how come they speak English and write in Chinese?"

"And you?"

"The scenes, colors, cast, acting...made me ignore the glitches."

"Yeah, the glitches. Is that why the New York Times said the film 'fizzled' with its box office debut?"

"Well, it still finished No. 1 among other movies with 23 million U.S. dollars."

"The Hollywood Reporter called that figure 'disheartening,' saying analysts expected 30 to 40 million from September 11-13 for the \$200-million-production. Plus moviegoers in China



Photo courtesy of Buck Ryan

A statue of Mulan stands in a museum in Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia, an autonomous region in the north of China, where the invading Huns used to roam.

threw some 'Rotten Tomatoes' — the Douban site rated it 4.9 out of 10."

"The expectations were so high, no question there was some disappointment. That can happen when Disney American-izes a Chinese heroine."

"Yeah, I keep hearing that netizens in China are trolling Disney. What are their gripes?"

"They think Disney made Mulan look Japanese, sapped her filial piety, turned her into a feminist-supowered Jedi knight with super 'qi' and created bad juju with her ancestors."

"Oh."

"If that wasn't enough, Disney dressed the actors

in costumes from the wrong dynasty and set her family in dwellings that wouldn't even have existed in Mulan's time."

"Gee, I guess we really do need to talk. What do you mean, Japanese?"

"When they painted Mulan's face with white makeup, that made her look like a Geisha girl. Chinese concubines back in the day of Confucius wore heavy white makeup — not a good look for Mulan, either."

"How do we know Mulan wore any makeup at all?"

"It's in the Ballad of Mulan. It's a poem I had to memorize as a kid. Ruby recited it to me when she was 12 years

old, something right out of her 7th-grade textbook. Mulan's yellow forehead decoration was mentioned in the ballad."

"So Disney sapped her filial piety, eh?"

"Yes, that's a tenet of Confucianism — respect for parents. Sure, she became a warrior lioness, but it had nothing to do with 'I am woman, hear me roar' as a feminist."

"Tell me about qi. It's pronounced chee, right?"

"Yes, qi is the central principle underlying both Chinese traditional medicine and martial arts. It's the life force."

"So not exactly a superpower?"

"Disney turned Mulan into a mystical jedi

knight. May the force of cultural appropriation be with you!"

"But you believe in qi as a concept, right?"

"Well, my mother sure does! When I was a kid, my mom's arthritis started acting up, so she retained a 'master of qi' to come to our home."

"I'll never forget witnessing the great power of the master as he stood three feet away from my mom waving his arms to send the 'qi' to her. That made me wonder."

"How did they create bad juju?"

"Did you see the red lanterns in the ancestral hall? Red is for celebration, not death. When people die, the family hang white lanterns. If you worship your ancestors well, good things happen. No wonder Mulan's father wasn't also blessed with a son."

"What about the costumes?"

"They look like something out of the Tang or Song dynasties, which happened centuries later than the story of Mulan. Same for the buildings used for her family's rural dwellings. Plus those buildings — called Fujian tulou — come from the south of China. Mulan's story is about an invasion from the north."

"So did Mulan really save the emperor from the invading Mongolian Huns?"

"Well, that's tricky. She may have been more Hun than Han."

"Huh?"

"China has 56 different ethnic groups, but almost all the people — more than 90 percent — consider themselves Han Chinese. One sliver of the

remaining 55 are Mongols, and most of those in China live in Inner Mongolia."

"Yes, that's where I saw a statue of Mulan! It was in a Hohhot museum in the capital. Next to the statue was an engraved version of the Ballad of Mulan, which they think was composed in the year 400 AD before Attila was made King of the Huns."

"That's it! Well, listen to this passage from the ballad:

*The Khan is issuing a great draft—  
A dozen volumes of battle roll,  
Each one with my father's name.*

"It says Khan, not Emperor, right? The title of Khan was given to rulers in ancient Turkey and Mongolia, so Mulan might have been Turkish or Mongol, not Han."

"Oh gee. I don't know what to believe anymore."

"Aw, don't worry, Buck. It's an Eastern story told in a Western way — fiction, technically, not history. Here you go."

"Popcorn?"

"Yes! I know you prefer the cartoon version of 'Mulan,' so let's watch that one. We'll party like it's 1998."

*About the authors: Buck Ryan, a University of Kentucky journalism professor, and Lei Jiao, an English lecturer at Wuhan University of Technology, Hubei Province, China, collaborate on articles to advance cross-cultural understanding. Ryan, who is collaborating with the News + Record on several projects, is a frequent academic guest at universities in China.*

# POLICE REPORTS

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Andrew Heins, 32, of Bear Creek, was charged Sept. 11 for possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. and maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance. He was jailed under a \$5,000 secured bond with a Sept. 21 court date in Pittsboro.

Xzavier Allison, 19, of Siler City, was charged Sept. 12 for probation violation.

He was placed under a \$10,000 secured bond with a Sept. 30 court date in Pittsboro.

Haile Mosino, 46, of Chapel Hill, was charged Sept. 13 for assault on a female, interfering with emergency communications, false imprisonment and resisting a public officer. He was placed under a 48-hour domestic violence with a Sept. 30 court date in Pittsboro.

## STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Jessica Harvey of Roanoke Rapids was cited Sept. 15 for driving while intoxi-

cated/child restraint on SR 1012 near Pittsboro.

John Branham of Holly Springs was cited Sept. 16 for failure to reduce speed/possession of and display an altered fictitious or revoked driver license and driving while license revoked on U.S. Hwy. 1 near Pittsboro.

Jadyn Clark of Moncure was cited Sept. 16 for failure to reduce speed on SR 1012 near Pittsboro.

Howard Jackson of Cleveland, Tennessee, was cited Sept. 17 for failure to maintain lane on U.S. Hwy. 64 in

Pittsboro.

Diana Lizzaralde of Durham was cited Sept. 17 for exceeding safe speed/failure to maintain lane on U.S. Hwy. 64 in Pittsboro.

Madilynn Ray of Spring Lake was cited Sept. 17 for exceeding safe speed/failure to maintain lane control on U.S. Hwy. 1 near Sanford.

Jerome Martinez of Bennett was cited Sept. 18 for reckless driving-wanton disregard/failure to maintain lane control on N.C. Hwy. 902 near Siler City.

## Chatham Education Foundation hosts school supply drive

From the Chatham Education Foundation

With remote learning in full swing for at least the beginning of the 2020/2021 school year, the need for school supplies is now greater than ever. Students would normally have access to school supplies in the classroom, if needed.

Currently, that is not an option.

The Chatham Education Foundation (CEF) saw a need and created a plan to fill it. All students need school supplies at home to be prepared and successful in remote learning, not just students that can afford them. The foundation didn't want the education resource gap to further expand between students because they did not have the supplies they needed to stay engaged and complete assignments.

After polling teachers in the Chatham County Schools, an Amazon wishlist was created and shared in the community. The outpouring of support was truly amazing! The CEF received donations of supplies totaling

more than \$6,200! This included over 12,000 pencils, 2,000 erasers, 2,000 glue sticks, 650 crayons, 700 packs of paper, and 400 packs of graph paper. The graph paper was for grades 3 and above. This allowed CEF to make over 650 complete bags of supplies, helping the students to be prepared for success.

"We are very thankful to the volunteers at Reaching Chatham's Children for helping us to pack the bags," said Sarah Linkhorn, CEF's marketing manager.

CEF staff delivered more than 500 bags of school supplies to some of the Chatham County Schools. The remainder of supplies are set-up and available for counselors, social workers, and teachers to use for students, as needed.

"We cannot thank the community enough for coming together to support the students. Together, we are making a significant impact on the lives of children in Chatham County," Linkhorn said.

To see how else you can help support teachers and



Photo courtesy of the Chatham Education Foundation

Supplies at Pittsboro Elementary School ready to be distributed.

students in the Chatham County Schools, please visit [www.ChathamEducationFoundation.org](http://www.ChathamEducationFoundation.org).



Photo courtesy of the Chatham Education Foundation

Some of the supplies donated through the Chatham Education Foundation for its school drive.

## LIBRARY'S VIRTUAL READ

# Poet Langston Hughes featured in CCL event

From Chatham Community Library

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Community Library will host a virtual community read honoring the poems of James Mercer Langston Hughes

Hughes (1901-1967), an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright and columnist, on Oct. 3.

Hughes, a central figure in the Harlem Renaissance, filled his poetry with pride in his blackness and African heritage and his strong belief in democracy and patriotism. He stressed a racial consciousness and cultural nationalism devoid of self-hate. His thought united people of African descent and Africa across the globe to encourage pride in their diverse black folk culture and black aesthetic. Hughes was one of the few prominent black writers to champion racial consciousness as a source of inspiration for black artists.

Mitch Capel, an award-winning author, actor, poet, recording artist and Master Storyteller, will be the narrator and facilitator for this event, which will be held from 3 to 5 p.m.

Capel, who has been called a national treasure, a word magician and a transformer of lives, is also acknowledged as the "national interpreter" of the works of Paul Laurence Dunbar. He has

been featured at countless prestigious events and venues, including the Kennedy Center, the United Nations, the 2009 inauguration of President Barack Obama, the International Folklife Festival, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and the National Storytelling Festival.

Attendance is limited to 50 individuals and registration is required at [tinyurl.com/CCL-Hughes](http://tinyurl.com/CCL-Hughes). Once registered, participants will receive login credentials to the online meeting space. Registration is limited to one household per participant.

Each registrant will receive a complimentary

copy of Selected Poems of Langston Hughes and a packet containing a list of selected readings and discussion questions. Participants are encouraged to read in advance of the Oct. 3 event and to familiarize themselves with the themes throughout Hughes' works and related discussion questions. Participants should call the Chatham Community Library at (919) 545-8084 to arrange picking up their materials weekdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The event is made possible through the generous support of the Friends of Chatham Community Library.

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**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



# A certain nip in the air

I'm not sure who enjoys that first day more — me or our very large black Akita, Crowley.



**DEBBIE MATTHEWS**  
The Curious Cook

This past (you don't know how chuffed I am to write "past") summer was almost intolerable. Combine our normal ghastly N.C. summers, uncertainty about the pandemic, anger and anxiety concerning racial and social justice, and the resulting mental stress was almost too heavy to bear.

And the rotten cherry on top of this misbegotten sundae is having to wear a mask during humid weather in the 90s. I hadn't had acne for years, but this summer my face looks like it belongs on the head of a 13-year-old.

But it's over. Being cheerful is so much easier when you're wearing a sweater and boots. Being friendly is practically automatic when the trees are putting on a technicolor show. Optimism is no burden when the days are shorter and the air smells of pumpkin spice.

This weekend was the first time in many months that the air has been cool and dry. Crowley and I reveled in a very long, very pleasant walk, greeting friends and neighbors like something out of a Norman Rockwell illustration. We were both feeling a might frisky.

It was both a hope and a fervent wish of an early autumn day that I planned our Saturday dinner.

The menu was very slowly dry-roasted short ribs, glazed carrots, and Petey's newest potato obsession: smashed baby potatoes. Everything took some time on stove or in oven and the dishes were on the heartier, rib-sticking side of things.

In the middle of August, I would have rather gone hungry and been flayed alive than cooking and eating such a meal. On Saturday? It was welcome and delicious and didn't raise the temperature of the house one degree.

There were three ingredients in the dinner that you may not have in your pantry, but all are both delicious and versatile.

**Duck Fat:** Chefs call this liquid gold and there's a reason why. It makes everything tastier. It doesn't taste like duck, but it does bring a savory richness that can not be duplicated. You can find it in good grocers and gourmet shops. I got mine at Whole Foods.

**Za'atar:** A Middle-Eastern spice blend containing thyme, sumac, sesame seeds, and a few other herbs. It's lemony and light. It gives everything a depth of flavor and an herbal vegetal flavor. You can find it in Middle-Eastern and Asian markets and online.

**Chinese five-spice:** There are different formulations, but it usually contains some blend of cinnamon, cloves, fennel, star anise, and Szechuan peppercorns.



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

## Short ribs highlight a fall dinner.

If you've eaten much Chinese food, you've had it. It brings a warm, aromatic spiciness to recipes, and I wouldn't make a ham without it. It's found in Asian grocers and nowadays, many supermarkets. Even McCormick sells its own five-spice blend (although I prefer a more authentic mix).

So, you may not have on hand these three ingredients. But at least, put on a light jacket or cardigan, and get outside. That nip in the air is your gift for surviving this heinous, horrendous summer of 2020. Thanks for your time.

Contact debbie at [debbie@bullcitymom.com](mailto:debbie@bullcitymom.com).

### Short Ribs

6 pieces boneless short ribs  
2 onions, quartered with root left on  
6 cloves garlic, peeled

2 teaspoons duck or bacon fat  
Herbs:  
2 teaspoons kosher salt

1/2 teaspoon freshly cracked pepper  
1 teaspoon za'atar blend

Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

Liberal season ribs all over with herbs and place on large piece of parchment paper in one layer. Tuck in vegetables all around meat.

Cover with a second large sheet of parchment. Starting on one side, crimp the sheets together sealing as you go.

When the paper is a nice neat packet, tightly wrap with foil, making sure there are no gaps or holes.

Place into a baking dish and put into oven. Turn oven down to 275 and bake for 3 hours.

After 3 hours, raise the temp to 300 and cook an additional 30 minutes.

Remove from oven and let rest, still wrapped while you complete the side dishes (approx 30 minutes).

### Smashed Baby Potatoes

2 pounds small potatoes (sometimes called baby creamers)

2 teaspoons duck or bacon fat  
1 teaspoon za'atar bland

1 tablespoon toasted sesame seeds  
salt and pepper

Boil spuds in heavily salted water until just tender — don't overcook.

Drain, then place into large bowl along with fat, za'atar, salt, and pepper.

Toss until the potatoes are evenly covered.

Place onto a flat surface and with a metal measuring cup or another flat surface, press each potato until the tops and bottoms are flattened, but the spud is not breaking apart (approx. 1/2 inch thick).

Cook in center rack under broiler for 30 minutes, turning frequently until browned and crisped.

### Bourbon and Spice Glazed Carrots

2 pounds baby rainbow carrots  
1/4 cup Jim Beam Honey or other Bourbon  
1/2 cup water

2 tablespoon honey  
1/4 teaspoon Chinese five-spice powder  
2 teaspoons bacon fat

2 teaspoons butter  
salt and pepper to taste

Place everything into heavy skillet and cover. Cook until medium-low until just tender and uncover. Cook until the liquid has thickened to a syrup. Take off heat and stir in the butter (this is called mounting). Check for seasoning and serve.



# Bowen

Insurance Agency, Inc

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1345 Thompson Street  
(formerly APC Insurance)

Give us a call at 919-444-2499





## Sunflowers

Pittsboro's Billy Mason grows some of the region's most spectacular sunflowers. Although the growing season is now past peak, these photos — taken by the CN+R's Kim Hawks — showed some of Mason's flowers from a week ago.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



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## Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE  
 Find Kid Scoop on Facebook  
 © 2020 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 36, No. 42

### Scots-Irish

Long ago, a group of people who lived in what is now western Scotland and north-eastern Ireland came to America to escape English rule. Today, they are called the Scots-Irish.



Each year they celebrate this heritage with festivals. This year, because of the COVID-19, many festivals are cancelled, so they celebrate and share their traditions by educating kids!



#### Map Math

Do the math to identify each country. Then, draw a line from the name of each country to its location on the map.

- Scotland = 22 - 11
- Northern Ireland = 34 - 16
- Ireland = 23 - 10
- England = 31 - 16
- Wales = 30 - 13

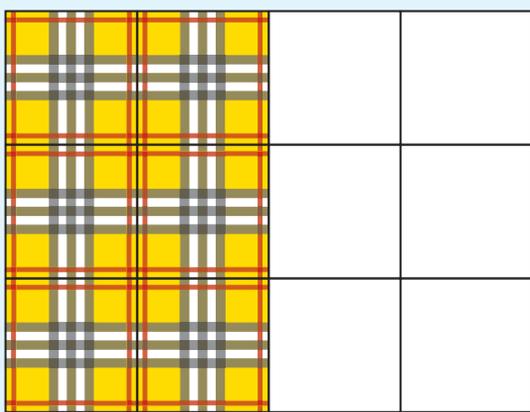
### Tartans

A tartan is fabric with different color stripes that criss-cross to form a pattern. These fabrics are also called plaid. Traditionally, each family or clan had its own special tartan pattern.



Complete the tartan at right by using crayons or markers and a ruler to copy the pattern into the empty boxes.

Standards Link: Math: Repeat geometric patterns.



### Extra! Extra!

#### Paper & Plaid

Make your own tartan using the newspaper. Color the columns of text on a page of the newspaper different colors to make the tartan stripes going one direction. Then, using a ruler, make stripes going across. Use different colors to create your own plaid design.

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

### A Scots-Irish Tale

Circle each word when you find it in this old Scottish story.

- heilan:** highland
- coo:** cow
- wee:** small
- glen:** field
- loch:** lake
- kelpie:** a mythical water monster, often shaped like a horse.
- dagger:** a kind of knife
- braw:** good, fine
- middling:** medium size
- muckle:** large size
- bonnie:** pretty, attractive

Long ago, three coos lived in a bonnie glen with lots of fresh, green grass. They ate the grass from sunrise to sunset and soon it was all gone.

There was more yummy grass across a bridge. The bridge was guarded by a terrifying Kelpie that loved to eat coos!

Wee Heilan Coo was the first to reach the bridge. She tried to walk very softly, but the Kelpie heard her. It rose from the water with eyes burning red and teeth bared like daggers. "I'm going to have you for my supper!" roared the Kelpie.

"Oh no!" Wee Heilan Coo cried. "I am only wee. Wait for my sister. She is much bigger and tastier than me."

The greedy Kelpie sank beneath the water to wait for the bigger meal and Wee Heilan Coo galloped over the bridge.

When Middling Heilan Coo began to cross the bridge, her bigger hooves clipped and clopped noisily and the Kelpie had no trouble hearing her. The Kelpie leaped onto the bridge.

"On no! You don't want to eat me," said the Middling Heilan Coo. "My big sister will make a meal fit for a braw big beastie like you." The Kelpie thought that idea sounded good. It sank below the water again and waited.

Muckle Heilan Coo hurried to join her sisters on the other side of the bridge. Holding her horns high, she clopped onto the bridge. The Kelpie rose from the loch. But Muckle Heilan Coo was not scared.



The Kelpie and Muckle Heilan Coo rushed at each other and met in the middle of the bridge. Muckle Heilan Coo caught the Kelpie in her horns and threw it from the bridge into the deep, dark water of the loch below.

The Kelpie disappeared in a huge splash and sank. It was never seen again. Muckle Heilan Coo shook the seaweed from her horns and walked across the bridge to join her sisters. The glen was full of delicious grass. But the coos had learned their lesson and ate only what they needed.

Adapted from [visitscotland.com](http://visitscotland.com)

Thank you to the Scots-Irish Festival in Dandridge, Tennessee for their help with this page. Visit them at [scotsirishfestival.com](http://scotsirishfestival.com)

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

A Scots-Irish food that is enjoyed by some people but disliked by others is made from parts of sheep, oatmeal and spices. Circle every third letter to reveal the name of this sausage dish.

A D H B G A M L G T W G Y O I D A S

H \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



Long ago, men in Scotland and Ireland displayed their athletic skills by putting two swords on the ground in an "X" shape and then dancing within the edges of the swords. Music was played on a traditional Scottish instrument. Circle every third letter to reveal its name.

T E B J S A V W G E S P R X I K N P O U E D R S

B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

### Double Double Word Search

- FESTIVALS
- HERITAGE
- MIDDLING
- HERDING
- TARTANS
- HEILAN
- KELPIE
- DAGGER
- MUCKLE
- IRISH
- GLEN
- LOCH
- BRAW
- DOGS
- WEE

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

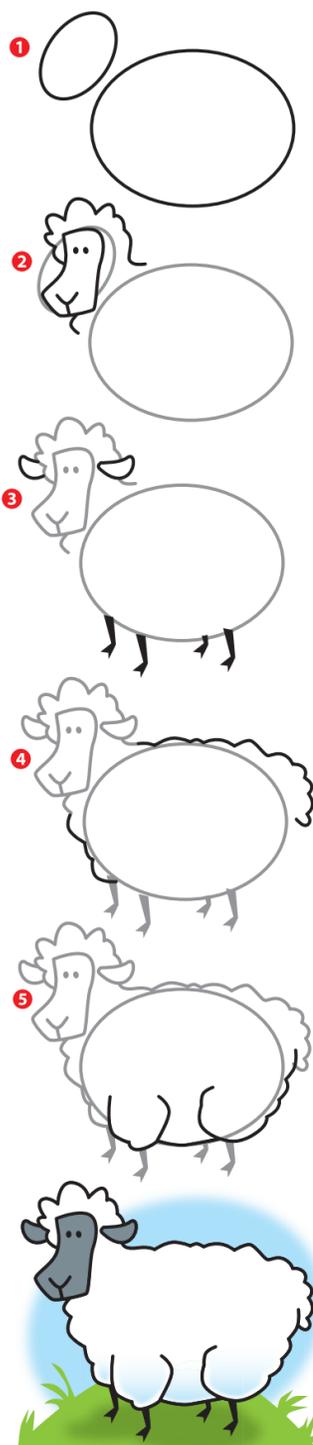
C	E	L	K	C	U	M	F	S	M
G	B	K	E	L	P	I	E	N	I
N	R	C	R	N	E	G	S	A	D
I	A	O	E	E	A	S	T	T	D
D	W	L	L	T	G	T	I	R	L
R	G	I	I	O	C	G	V	A	I
E	E	R	D	E	C	R	A	T	N
H	E	A	D	I	H	H	L	D	G
H	W	I	O	I	R	I	S	H	N

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

### Kid Scoop Together Have You Herd?

The Scots-Irish raised cattle and sheep. Herding dogs helped them care for their cattle. These dogs are very smart and love to work. Scots-Irish festivals feature herding dog competitions.

Follow the steps below to draw a sheep. Then have other family members try. Can you draw a whole flock of sheep?



Learn to draw lots of animals in **Kid Scoop's A Kid's Guide to Drawing Cartoon Animals**. Available now at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or local bookstores.

### Write On!

#### Sell Those Spuds!

How do you like to eat potatoes? Write an advertisement to sell others on your idea of the best way to eat potatoes.



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# Baking COVID-19 into your assumptions: NC economic development adjusting to the pandemic

After an initial decline in interest from industries as the pandemic began, economic developers in North Carolina have seen a rebound as companies look to relocate

BY KATE MARTIN  
Carolina Public Press

Back in March, as COVID-19 began to grip the globe and economies slowed and then stopped, Christopher Chung, CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, said deals the agency had been working on for months started dropping off the table.

"When something comes along as disruptive as a pandemic, it really throws into question the near-term economic outlook," Chung said. "It throws into question whether consumer demand stays solid."

Expansion plans, relocations and other investments that were once in play statewide were now in question. Economic development professionals started to hold their breath and plan for the worst.

As we continue to endure the pandemic and executives get used to the "new normal," economic development professionals are seeing a renewed interest in North Carolina.

Chung's organization is a private-public partnership nonprofit company that's contracted by the N.C. Department of Commerce to conduct economic

development work, in an effort to bring new jobs and an increased tax base to the state.

He said June, July and August saw 10% to 20% more new prospects compared with the same period last year.

Some that postponed their projects have started their search again.

Economic development professionals around the state said they, too, are starting to see renewed interest despite the continuing pandemic.

## Shifting away from the headquarters

Some companies around the country are abandoning their headquarters in favor of satellite offices in a metro region or distributed in talent sectors throughout the country.

For instance, social media company Pinterest paid nearly \$90 million to cancel its 490,000-square-foot San Francisco office lease last month in a yet-to-be-built high-rise near its existing headquarters.

"We have seen companies say they will reduce reliance on in-person offices. Will they stick to that? I don't think even they know," Chung said. "But who is to say that won't change?"

In another example, REI, the outdoor gear co-op, will never occupy its new 380,000-square-foot Seattle-area headquarters, favoring a "less centralized approach" that offers "flexibility for more employees to work outside of the Puget Sound region." Social media giant Facebook just inked a deal to buy the property for nearly \$368 million, according to the Seattle Times.

Workers whose jobs don't have to be conducted in person all the time are reconsidering their living arrangements. Five North Carolina cities appeared on a top 25 list for "newly remote workers." The list by FinanceBuzz examined the cost of living, availability of high-speed internet, parks per capita and other metrics.

Winston-Salem's No. 15 ranking on that list buoyed local officials. The city's unemployment rate has also bounced back from 13.1% in May to a more recent 8.2%.

"Our economy has been fairly resilient," said Laura Lee, the senior vice president of Greater Winston-Salem Inc.

The new economic development organization came from a merger of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce and

Winston-Salem Business Inc.

Lee said the area has seen continued interest from large-scale manufacturing firms as well as food and beverage companies.

## Limited mobility

Continued travel restrictions and quarantine requirements are stymieing some business travel.

Site visits, talking to existing employers about the business climate, angling for state incentives and talking to county and city officials about permits are best done in person, Chung said.

"All of those things companies want to do those in person because there's a lot riding on it, and it's not one of those things companies easily decide to replace with a virtual conversation," Chung said.

He said in late May and early June, the EDPNC was speaking with a manufacturer based in New York City.

"They wanted to schedule some time to look at potential real estate," Chung said. "If they sent folks from New York to North Carolina, theoretically once those folks turned around and went back home, they would've

had to self-quarantine upon return to New York."

One Europe-based company was ready to open a bank account for a project in Cumberland County, but executives could not fly here because of travel restrictions, said Robert Van Geons, president and CEO of the Fayetteville-Cumberland Economic Development Corp.

"Their interest remains high, and we are hopeful that as soon as travel issues pass to push those forward," he said.

Absent in-person visits, Van Geons said staff at his EDC are using drone videos to showcase sites.

"In most cases, it is followed up with in-person visits," Van Geons said, though he added that he'd heard of companies buying warehouses after a video call without visiting the site. "The reality is you have to adjust. Contracts still end, and customers have demands, and you have to adjust accordingly."

A good example of working around pandemic restrictions is the August announcement of an expansion of a Dansons distribution and customer service facility. The Canada-based company produces barbecue pellet

grills. Van Geons said the EDC started working the project in May — about the time when businesses were starting to open back up in the state.

"In their case ... they had to charter a plane to get here," he said.

## Summer rebound

When the pandemic hit, many companies that had considered North Carolina put the brakes on their efforts, Chung said. And the number of new deals coming through the door in March, April and May dropped by 30%.

"Before they can spend \$10 million or \$100 million or \$1 billion on a new location — no one is going to make that decision virtually," Chung said. "That has to be done in person."

There was a marked change in June, July and August, he said. New deals were up between 10% and 20% — still a far cry from the aggressive goal the EDPNC had set, but not as bad as Chung had feared in March when the governor issued the first state of emergency and stay-at-home order.

"The nice thing is any company that has come into the door since March already has COVID-19 baked into its assumptions," Chung said.



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# CLASSIFIEDS

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**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS** Now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. \$486/mo, no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. A2,tfnc

## FOR SALE

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## YARD SALES

**ESTATE/YARD SALE -** Saturday, September 26, 8-12 noon. Some antiques, furniture, household items. Rain date: Saturday, Oct. 3 - 908 Bonlee Caribonon Rd, Bear Creek. S24,1tp

## AUCTIONEERS

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## SERVICES

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## HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED, COUNTRY STORE -** 1004 S Chatham Ave, Siler

City. Apply in person. 919-663-2417, S24,01,8,3tc

**RANDOLPH ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION** is currently seeking a Geographic Information System (GIS) Technician for the Asheboro Office. Successful candidates will preferably have an ESRI Desktop Professional, Enterprise Certification, or GIS Certificate. Preferred experience in Arc-Map, ArcCatalog, SQL, Python, and Tableau. To apply, go to https://www.randolphemc.com/careers. Open Until Filled. Equal Opportunity Employer, including disability/vets. S24,01,8,15,4tc

**CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST -** Town of Pittsboro, N.C. - Position will be a team member in the Finance Department and will be responsible for providing reception, customer service, and accounts receivable/cash collections services for the Town. Must be able to perform a variety of administrative and clerical duties, including establishing and maintaining paper and electronic files, organizing information for a variety of users, an utilizing financial software and the Microsoft Office suite of products to perform required duties. Must also have a broad knowledge of financial operations to perform effectively as a competent back-up for other Finance Department positions, as needed. Must have experience in cash collections and must be highly accurate. Additional requirements include excellent communication, customer service, and prob-

lem solving skills. Positions requires an associate degree in Office Administration, Business or a related field and two years experience in a related position. An equivalent combination of education and experience will be considered. The anticipated salary hiring range is \$33,842-\$37,576, DOQ plus an excellent package of Town benefits including Town paid employee healthcare, LGERS retirement, life insurance, 401K contributions, and vacation and sick leave among others. - Applicants should send a current resume, letter of interest, and completed application to: Town of Pittsboro, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Applications can be obtained at Town Hall, 635 East Street, or from the Town website at pittsboronc.gov. For consideration, applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. October 2, 2020 EOE. S17,S24,01,3tc

**EQUIPMENT OPERATOR NEEDED -** Must be skilled in operating an excavator/dozer. Valid driver's license, drug free and ready to work - Must be able to communicate in English. Call 919-774-3107, Leave message. Au13-01,8tp

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tical experience preferably in a Manufacturing environment or Emergency Care. Knowledge of case management, workers' compensation and OSHA regulations preferred. Ability to work with limited supervision and high motivation., Ability to work well under pressure, meeting multiple and sometimes conflicting deadlines. Strong computer skills (MS Word, MS Excel and HRIS system), Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. - Job Type: Full-time. - Salary: \$18.00 to \$22.00/hour - https://mountairejobs.com, Au6,tfnc

## LEGALS

**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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **ETHEL AUDREY KNISLEY**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby 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 3rd day of December, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 3rd day of September, 2020. Linda Renee Jaeger, Executrix Estate of Ethel Audrey Knisley Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 S3,S10,S17,S24,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** Having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of **ROBERT EUGENE WEST JR.**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said

## 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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**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.

decendent to exhibit them to the undersigned at P.O. Box 5994, Greensboro, North Carolina 27435, on or before the 2nd day of December, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar

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of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 3rd day of September, 2020.  
Teresa J. Ladd, Limited Personal Rep. for the Estate of Robert Eugene West Jr.  
Jonathan M. Parisi  
Attorney at Law  
Spangler Estate Planning  
P.O. Box 5994  
Greensboro, NC 27435  
S3,S10,S17,S24,4tp

**IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION  
FILE NO.: 19 JT 62  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF CHATHAM  
IN RE: "A.B."**

**DOB: 06/04/2019  
NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PRO-CESS OF PUBLICATION**  
TO: Biological father/Unknown Father and/or Dominic Bush of the above male child born June 4, 2019, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, N.C. Orange County to Tasha Brooks.  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed to terminate your parental rights to the above-referenced minor child. You have forty days from September 10, 2020, the first date of publication of this Notice to respond to said Petition by filing a written answer to the petition with the Chatham Clerk of Court. Your parental rights to the juvenile will be terminated upon failure to answer the petition within the time prescribed.  
Any attorney appointed previ-

ously in an abuse, neglect or dependency proceeding and still representing you shall continue to represent you. If you are indigent and not already represented by an attorney, you are entitled to a court-appointed attorney.  
**STEPHENSON & FLEMING, L.L.P.**  
BY: /s/ ANGENETTE STEPHENSON,  
Attorney for Petitioner, CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
109 Conner Dr., Suite 208  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514  
Telephone: (919) 869-7795  
S10,S17,S24,3tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
20 E 436  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **HERBERT E. CHURCH, 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 DECEMBER 10, 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.  
The 10th day of September, 2020  
Lynn Church Ferguson, Executrix  
23 Benchmark  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
S10,S17,S24,01,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
20 E 406  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **PAULINE CARTAINO**, 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 DECEMBER 10, 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.  
The 10th day of September, 2020  
Christopher Cartaino, Executor  
907 Ravendale Place  
Cary, NC 27513  
S10,S17,S24,01,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
20 E 432  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **MARY ELIZABETH BARBER**, 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 December 10, 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.  
The 10th day of September, 2020.  
Co-Executors  
1. Charles Danny Barber  
2271 Stanton Hill Rd  
Cameron, NC 28326  
2. Samuel Ernest Barber  
1240 Mount View Church Rd  
Moncure, NC 27559  
S10,S17,S24,01,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
20 E 433  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HENRY BAYARD BASS**, 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 December 10, 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.  
The 10th day of September, 2020.  
Patrick Keith Bass, Executor  
146 Pine Forest Drive  
Siler City, NC 27344  
S10,S17,S24,01,4t

**IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
OF NORTH CAROLINA  
BEFORE THE CLERK  
CHATHAM COUNTY  
20 SP  
IN THE MATTER OF THE TAX FORECOURSE  
COUNTY OF CHATHAM  
VS  
TRACY LYNN NICHOLS AND FIRST BANK  
(15 CVD 51)  
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PRO-CESS BY PUBLICATION**  
To: Tracy Lynn Nichols:  
TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled special proceeding. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: First Bank seeks an order disbursing some or all of the surplus funds resulting from the foreclosure of the property at 556 CLAUDE PHILLIPS ROAD, BENNETT, NORTH CAROLINA.  
A HEARING IN THIS MATTER IS SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 AM, OCTOBER 20, 2020 AT THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, AT 40 EAST CHATHAM STREET, PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312, at which time the attorney for First Bank will request that the Clerk of Superior Court disburse all of the surplus funds.  
This is the 1st day of September, 2020.  
W. Eric Medlin  
NC Bar Number 29687  
Attorney for First Bank  
Medlin Law Firm, PC  
114 North Elm Street, Suite 500  
Greensboro, NC 27401

(336) 617-4280  
S17,S24,01,3tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **SUELLEN CABE**, aka **SUELLEN RIGNEY CABE**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 17th, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This 17th day of September, 2020.  
Jill C. Cabe, Executor  
Estate of SuelLEN Cabe  
c/o Roberson Law Firm  
1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
S17,S24,01,08,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **MERRITT DYAL LONG**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before the 18th day of December 2020, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This 17th day of September, 2020.  
Elizabeth Long Keena, Executor  
c/o David B. Alexander, Attorney for the Estate  
The Law Firm of David B. Alexander, P.C.  
5003 Southpark Drive, STE 230  
Durham, NC 27713  
S17,S24,01,08,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **ELLA SHEPHERD LUTSI**, deceased, of Chapel Hill, Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 17, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the Decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
This 17th day of September, 2020.  
John Donald Lutsi, Executor  
c/o Elizabeth K. Arias, Esq.  
Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP  
555 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1100  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
S17,S24,01,08,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of **STEPHEN N. BENDER**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 9th day of September, 2020, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before the 16th day of December, 2020, or this Notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.  
This 14th day of September, 2020.  
Lauren Bender and Ruth Bender,  
Co-Personal Representatives  
c/o Catherine L. Wilson, Attorney for the Estate  
McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson, & Hinkle, PLLC  
3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400  
Durham, NC 27707  
S17,S24,01,08,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY  
2020 E 444**  
The undersigned, having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the estate of **M. ROGER MCMILLAN**, deceased, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned at Post Office box 880, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 17th day of December, 2020, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.  
This 9th day of September, 2020.  
Laura S. McMillan, Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of M. Roger McMillan  
c/o Gunn & Messick, LLP  
Post Office Box 880  
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312  
S17,S24,01,08,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
20 E 417  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **FRANK N. TRAGANOS AKA FRANK NICHOLAS TRAGANOS**, 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 December 17, 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.  
The 17th day of September, 2020.  
Jennifer J. Hertslet, Executrix  
1367 Fearington Post  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
S17,S24,01,08,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**20 E 402  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **GEORGE ELLIOT ALSTON**, 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 December 17, 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.  
The 17th day of September, 2020  
Nickalus Elliot Alston, Administrator  
50 Goathouse Rd  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
S17,S24,01,08,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
20 E 453  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **BETTY JOHNSON MORGAN AKA BETTY LEE MORGAN**, 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 December 17, 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.  
The 17th day of September, 2020  
TIMOTHY BRETT MITCHELL, EXECUTOR  
2000 Lakewood Falls  
Goldston, NC 27252  
S17,S24,01,08,4tp

**PROJECT CHILD FIND LAUNCHED THROUGHOUT DISTRICT  
PITTSBORO, N.C. – Project Child Find in Chatham County Schools (CCS) runs from September 21st - October 2nd to identify youths between the ages of 3 and 21 who have disabilities and require special education and other related services. The local effort is part of a concentrated statewide push to identify young people requiring special education. Project Child Find informs parents and guardians of such individuals about services available in their local school systems and at other state and community agencies. Project Child Find seeks youths who have been diagnosed or are suspected to have mental, physical or emotional disabilities and are unable to benefit from a regular school program without special assistance. Those aware of such youths who are not in school or not receiving special assistance are encouraged to contact the principal at the school in their area, or they could call the district's Exceptional Children's Department at 919-542-6400. Community support would help the effort a great deal, according to Melvin Diggs, the district's executive director for exceptional children and AIG. The following organizations have more information: 1. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division: 919-807-3969 and Office of Early Learning (for ages 3-5): 919-807-3946; 2. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services: 1-800-662-7030 and 3. Family Support Network: 1-852-TLC-0042  
S17,S24,2tc**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
20 E 440  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **DEWITT BARNHILL GRIFFIN**, 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 December 17, 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.  
The 17th day of September, 2020.  
Co-Executors  
1. David Dewitt Griffin  
1013 Driftwood Dr  
Siler City, NC 27344  
2. Nancy Sue Griffin  
520 Cooper St; Unit 6B  
Asheboro, NC 27203  
S17,S24,01,08,4tp

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON INTENT TO PERMANENTLY ABANDON AND CLOSE A PORTION OF SECONDARY ROAD, OLD U.S. HWY. 15-501 N. RIGHT-OF-WAY**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that upon Petition filed by adjacent property owners to the above referenced subject Right-of-Way ("Petitioners"), the Chatham County Board of Commissioners has scheduled a public hearing to consider the closing of an abandoned Right-of-Way on Secondary Road, Old U.S. Hwy. 15-501 N. in Baldwin Township, Chatham County, North Carolina. The public hearing has been scheduled for October 19, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in Superior Court Courtroom, Historic Chatham County Courthouse, at 9 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro, NC. The hearing is being held pursuant to the provisions of NCGS §153A-241 and the Resolution of Intent to Permanently Abandon and Close a Portion of Secondary Road, Old U.S. Hwy. 15-501 N. Right-of-Way.  
S24,01,08,3tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
NORTH CAROLINA  
CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **V. GLORIA MYERS, A/K/A GLORIA LUCCHESI MYERS,**

**GLORIA L. MYERS, GLORIA MYERS**, late 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 at the office of their attorney at 110 Oakwood Drive, Suite 300, Winston-Salem, NC 27103-1958, on or before the 28th day of December, 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.  
This the 24th day of September, 2020.  
Brian P. Myers, Executor  
Estate of V. Gloria Myers  
Craig Jenkins Liipfert & Walker, LLP  
110 Oakwood Drive, Suite 300  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103-1958  
S24,01,08,015,4tc

**NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION CHATHAM COUNTY  
NORTH CAROLINA**  
A General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 in CHATHAM COUNTY to vote in the following contests: President and Vice President, US Senate, US House of Representatives Districts 4 and District 13, NC Governor, NC Lieutenant Governor, NC Attorney General, NC Auditor, NC Commissioner of Agriculture, NC Commissioner of Insurance, NC Commissioner of Labor, NC Secretary of State, NC Superintendent of Public Instruction, NC Treasurer, NC Supreme Court Chief Justice – Seat 1, NC Supreme Court Associate Justice – Seat 2, NC Supreme Court Associate Justice – Seat 4, NC Court of Appeals Judge – Seat 5, NC Court of Appeals Judge – Seat 6, NC Court of Appeals Judge – Seat 7, NC Court of Appeals Judge – Seat 13, NC State Senate District 23, NC House of Representatives District 54, NC District Court Judge District 15B-Seat 2, NC District Court Judge District 15B – Seat – 3, NC District Court Judge District 15B – Seat 4, NC District Court Judge District 15B – Seat 5, Board of Commissioners District 1, District 2 and District 5, Register of Deeds, Board of Education District 1 and District 2 and Soil and Water Conversation District Supervisor. Voters will not be required to show photo ID for elections held in 2020. Federal and state courts have temporarily blocked North Carolina's voter photo ID requirement from taking effect until further order of the courts. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the day of the election, Tuesday, November 3. One-stop early voting will be held at the Chatham County Agriculture Conference Center, 1192 US-64 Business, Pittsboro, NC 27312 in lieu of the Board of Elections office and Goldston Town Hall, 40 Coral Avenue, Goldston, NC 27252, Paul Braxton Gym, 115 S. 3rd Ave, Siler City, NC 27344, CCCC Health Science Center, 75 Ballentree Court, Pittsboro, NC 27312, Governors Village, 40150 Moring, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, and New Hope Baptist Church, 581 New Hope Church Rd., Apex, NC 27523. One-stop early voting will be open from Thursday, October 15 until Saturday, October 31. Weekday hours are 8:00 AM – 7:30 PM. Saturday hours are 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. Open the first two Sundays, 12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM. Canvass will be held in the CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections office at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 13. Absentee voting by mail is available. Requests for an absentee ballot must be made on an absentee request form (available on the State Board of Elections website and, at the county board of elections office, and must be received in the CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections office or any one-stop early voting site by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Completed request forms may only be returned in-person to the CHATHAM County Board of Elections office by the voter, the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian, or by a Multi-Partisan Assistance Team, or delivered by the U.S. Postal Service or designated delivery service (DHL, FedEx, or UPS). Absentee voting requires the voter to complete an application on the return envelope that must be witnessed by one qualified person. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections by 5:00 p.m. on Election Day (ballots received by mail after this time will be considered timely if they are received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6, and postmarked on or before Election Day). Voters may receive assistance voting a mail-in absentee ballot from a near relative or verifiable legal guardian, or by a qualified person of their choice if a near relative or legal guardian is not available. If the voter resides in a facility such as a nursing home, and the voter's near relative or legal guardian is not available, the voter or the facility can arrange to have the county board of elections schedule a visit by a Multi-Partisan Assistance Team to provide assistance and serve as a witness. All persons who are registered to vote with the CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections may vote in this election. Persons who are not already registered to vote in the county must register by Friday, October 9 to be eligible to vote in this election. Voters who are not registered in the county by that deadline may register and vote during one-stop early voting only, and will be required to provide documentation of their identity and residence. Voters who fail to timely make a change to their name or address in the county must update the information



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Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.  
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919-542-5410  
TDD 1-800-735-2962  
Email: [pittsborovillage@ECMGMT.com](mailto:pittsborovillage@ECMGMT.com)  
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FTCC. Fayetteville Technical Community College is now accepting applications for the following position: Communication Instructor (10 month). Senior Network Communications Technician. Part-time Success Coach (Grant Funded). For detailed information and to apply, please visit our employment portal at: <https://faytechcc.peopleadmin.com/>. Human Resources Office Phone: (910) 678-7342. Internet: <http://www.faytechcc.edu>. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

**COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM!** Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! Call 833-990-0354. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

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Applying for Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc., Social Security Disability Attorneys, 1-888-989-4947! FREE Consultations. Local Attorneys Nationwide [Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL (TX/NM Bar.))

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when presenting to vote, and may be required to vote a provisional ballot. Voters voting in person are entitled to assistance by an election official, or, if assistance is needed due to disability or illiteracy, by a qualified person of their choice. Voting sites are accessible to all voters. Curbside voting is available for voters who are not able to enter voting sites. Persons with questions about registration, polling places, early voting, absentee ballots, a Multi-Partisan Assistance Team visit to a facility, or other election matters may call the CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections Office at 919-545-8500. Laura Heise, Chairman  
Chatham County Board of Elections  
S24,01,08,3tc

**TOWN OF GOLDSTON REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**  
The Town of Goldston has received a Community Development Block Grant- Infrastructure (CDBG-I) award in the amount of \$1,999,550 by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) for sewer improvements.

The Project will extend sewer to a currently unsewered area by installing approximately 3,000 LF of 8-inch gravity sewer and 1,750 LF of 4-inch force main. A new 125 gpm pump station will also be constructed.

The Town is soliciting qualifications for geotechnical subsurface evaluation to assist Town's contracted engineering firm in the completion of project design. All work for this project will be conducted to ensure compliance with all applicable federal requirements and regulations under the CDBG-I program. The fee for geotechnical subsurface evaluation services will be paid with CDBG-I funds.

Copies of the detailed request for qualifications (RFQ), including a description of the services to be provided by respondents, the minimum content of responses, and the factors to be used to evaluate the responses, can be obtained by contacting Annie King Gaines at [akkgaines@americansouthgc.com](mailto:akkgaines@americansouthgc.com).

The above information should be submitted by EMAIL ONLY to Annie King Gaines, [akkgaines@americansouthgc.com](mailto:akkgaines@americansouthgc.com) no later than October 9, 2020 at 3:00pm. For more information, contact Michael Wicker at 919-535-5185 or [mwicker@wethersravenel.com](mailto:mwicker@wethersravenel.com).

The Town of Goldston is an Equal Opportunity Employer and invites the submission of proposals from small and minority and women-owned firms, historically underutilized businesses, and certified/registered Section 3 businesses concerns. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Annie King Gaines at [akkgaines@americansouthgc.com](mailto:akkgaines@americansouthgc.com) for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma

bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Annie King Gaines al [akkgaines@americansouthgc.com](mailto:akkgaines@americansouthgc.com) de alojamiento para esta solicitud.  
S24,1tc

**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

**SCHEDULE OF ABSENTEE MEETINGS**

The following is a list of the days on which the CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections will meet to approve the applications for absentee ballots for the General Election to be held on November 3, 2020. The meetings will be held at the CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections office located at 984 Thompson St., Suite F. Meeting information will be posted on the home page of the Chatham County website at [www.chathamnc.org](http://www.chathamnc.org). Any other necessary business by the Board may be done at this time.

- Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 9, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 16, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 22, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 30, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, November 2, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 12, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Chatham County Board of Elections adopted resolutions at their July 21, 2020, meeting to change or alter polling places for the November 3, 2020, Election due to the COVID-19 Pandemic for the safety of the voters and election officials to allow for proper social distancing. These changes are temporary for this election only. Voters will be mailed a notice of polling place change at a later date.

List of temporary Polling Place Changes Outside of Precinct for November 3, 2020 Elections Only.

- 3 Albright Current - Silk Hope Fire Station, 5226 Silk Hope Liberty Rd
- 3 Albright Temporary - Silk Hope Elementary School Gym, 7945 Silk Hope Gum Spring Rd, Siler City, NC 27344
- 9 Bynum Current - Bynum Ruritan Club, 28 Charlie Fields Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312
- 9 Bynum Temporary - Northwood High School Gym, 310 Northwood High School Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312
- 21 Hadley Current - Browns Chapel Church, 35 Chicken Bridge Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312
- 21 Hadley Temporary - Emmaus Baptist Church, 2430 Silk Hope Gum Spring Rd, Siler City, NC 273344
- 24 Harpers Crossroads Current - Harpers Crossroads Community Center, 20079 NC Hwy 902, Bear Creek, NC 27207
- 24 Harpers Crossroads Temporary - Chatham Central High School Gym,

- 14950 NC Hwy 902, Bear Creek, NC 27207
- 30 Hickory Mountain Current - Pleasant Hill UMC, 7019 Pleasant Hill Church Rd., Siler City, NC 27344
- 30 Hickory Mountain Temporary - Pittsboro Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room, 375 Pittsboro Elementary School Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312
- 45 Oakland Current - Pittsboro Fire Station, 60 Walter Bright Rd., Sanford, NC 27330
- 45 Oakland Temporary - Horton Elementary School Gym, 79 Horton Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Chatham County Board of Elections adopted resolutions at their July 21, 2020 meeting to change or alter polling places for the November 3, 2020 Election due to the COVID-19 Pandemic for the safety of the voters and election officials to allow for proper social distancing. These changes are temporary for this election only. Voters will be mailed a notice of polling place change at a later date.

List of temporary Polling Place Changes for November 3, 2020 Elections Only.

- 6 Bennett Current - Bennett Fire Station - 55 East Raleigh St, Bennett, NC 27208
- 6 Bennett Temporary - Bennett Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room, 61 East Randolph St, Bennett NC 27208
- 9 Bonlee Current - Bonlee Fire Station - 185 Bonlee-Bennett Rd, Bonlee, NC 27312
- 9 Bonlee Temporary - Bonlee Elementary School Gym, 152 Bonlee School Rd, Bear Creek, NC 27312
- 18 Goldston Current - Goldston Town Hall, 40 Coral Ave, Goldston, NC 27252
- 18 Goldston Temporary - J.S. Waters Elementary School Gym, 55 J.S. Waters School Rd., Golston, NC 27252
- 20 Three Rivers Current - Liberty Chapel Church, 1855 Old US Hwy 1, Moncure NC 27559
- 20 Three Rivers Temporary - Moncure Elementary School Gym, 600 Moncure School Rd, Moncure, NC 27559
- PITT113 Current - CCCC Multipurpose Room, 764 West Street, NC 27312
- PITT113 Temporary - Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center, 1192 US-64 Business, Pittsboro, NC 27312
- MCH110 Current - CCCC Health Science Bldg, 75 Ballentrae Court, Pittsboro, NC 27312
- MCH110 Temporary - Perry Harrison Elementary School Gym, 2655 Hamlets Chapel Road, NC 27312
- ESC114 Current - Earl B. Fitts Community Center, 111 S. Third Avenue, Siler City, NC 27344
- ESC114 Temporary - Paul Braxton Gymnasium, 115 S Third Ave., Siler City, NC 27344
- NWM114 Current - Carolina Meadows Club Center, 100 Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill, NC 27517
- NWM114 Temporary - Governors

Village, 40150 Moring Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
S24,1tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**20 E 465 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **JAMES RUSSELL LAWRENCE**, 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 December 24, 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. The 21st day of September, 2020  
Keith M. Lawrence, Executor  
256 Lone Oak Lane  
Apex, N.C. 27502  
S24,01,08,015,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**20 E 461 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **REBECCA CRISSMAN WILKIE**, 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 December 24, 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. The 21st day of September, 2020  
Rebecca Ann Wilkie, Administrator  
3214 Roberts Chapel Rd  
Goldston, NC 27252  
S24,01,08,015,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**20 E 438 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HARRY B. TOWE**, 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 December 24, 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. The 21st day of September, 2020  
Margaret Towe Kirtland, Executor  
c/o Steve Lackey, Attorney  
410 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
S24,01,08,015,4tp

**CHATHAM COUNTY - Advertisement Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Geotechnical/Materials Testing/Special**  
S24,1tc

**Inspections**  
Chatham County seeks to contract with an engineering firm to perform geotechnical materials testing and special inspection services for a construction project. The proposed project will be located off of Renaissance Drive in Pittsboro, NC 27312 and will include the materials testing and special inspection services as requested in the following documents. Services will include concrete testing, asphalt testing, steel connection testing, and other outlined items. The proposed project will consist of the construction of a new approximately 22,000 square foot Emergency Operations Center and an approximately 12,000 square foot warehouse building. Design development documents for this project are currently available and will be included in this RFQ for reference only.

It is understood that the project will have a schedule with an approximate 24 month duration and will begin November 2020. This will be a phased project with Phase 1 including construction of the access road, culvert creek crossing, and rough clearing and grading of the building site. Phase 2 will include further site work to establish utilities and the building pad and will likely begin January/February 2021. Phase 3 will contain the remainder of the project and should begin July/August 2021. It is anticipated the contract will include all three phases.

The complete RFQ document and details are located on the Chatham County Current Bids and Proposals webpage at: <http://www.chathamnc.org/government/current-bid-proposal-opportunities>.

The County is requesting 3 hard copies and one electronic pdf file, included on appropriate media. The submittal package must be received October 15, 2020 at 5:00 PM EST, to one of the following delivery addresses: Postal Address: Kim Johnson, Chatham County Finance Office, P. O. Box 608, Pittsboro, NC 27312, or Street Address: Kim Johnson, County Finance Office, Courthouse Annex, 12 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312

All inquiries relating to this request must be in writing and submitted by e-mail to Kim Johnson at [purchasing@chathamnc.org](mailto:purchasing@chathamnc.org). Late submittals will not be accepted under any circumstance and will not be opened or reviewed. All inquiries must be made no later than 12:00 PM on Thursday, October 8, 2020 to [purchasing@chathamnc.org](mailto:purchasing@chathamnc.org) or by fax to (919)-545-2417. No RFQ inquiries by telephone please. All addenda will be posted by 5:00pm on Friday, October 9, 2020 and available at <http://www.chathamnc.org/government/current-bid-proposal-opportunities>.

Chatham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability.

**Pets of the Week: BREANA & BRITNEY**



Photo courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Breana and Britney, a bonded pair of two 8-year-old, female, boxer/German Shepard mixes. These two sweet girls have been together since they were pups, so it is important to keep them together in their new home. The duo has been mourning the loss of a loved one and would benefit from lots of snuggles and understanding. They both have a calm, sweet demeanor and would do well in a relaxed, quiet household without children. Breana and Britney are a package deal, so it's only fitting that they should have a two-for-one price to match — the pair can be yours today for only \$100! This fee covers microchip implantation, spay, Rabies vaccination, and Bordetella/Distemper vaccinations for both Breana and Britney. For more information on how to meet or adopt Breana and Britney, call ahead to 919-542-7203 to schedule a visitation appointment or speak with an Animal Resource Officer. The ARC is located at 725 Renaissance Dr., Pittsboro.

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