

IN NEXT WEEK'S CN+R: Inaugural edition of our 'Chatham Life' magazine

Chatham News + Record

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ELECTIONS 2020

Foushee and Glendinning vie for N.C. Senate Dist. 23 seat

BY LARS DOLDER
News + Record Correspondent

Both candidates for the N.C. Senate Dist. 23 seat, which covers Chatham and Orange counties, have platforms typical of their political parties. But each has a unique history — bringing experience from sectors important to the other's party — which informs a moderate stance and a drive to allay contention between the two parties.

The incumbent, Democratic Sen. Valerie P. Foushee, 64, grew up in segregated Chapel Hill. After studying

Afro-American studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, she worked for the Chapel Hill Police Department in a variety of positions, including budget administrator.

From her secular experience, Foushee believes that police departments need more assistance than ever if they are to serve their communities effectively. That takes more money, she said, not a slashed budget.

Her Republican challenger, Thomas Glendinning, 76, has lived in Chatham County since attending UNC-Chapel

Hill as a young man. He moved from Cleveland, where his family has been prominent in the medical community for more than 200 years. Glendinning

was a Democrat for many decades before his opinions on healthcare conflicted with the party's under President Barack Obama's administration.

If Foushee retains her seat in the Senate, tackling the pressing issue of insufficient broadband in

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Candidate questionnaires
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'WE'RE IN A NO-WIN SITUATION'

Chatham reacts to BOE's Plan C exemptions, to begin Oct. 19

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Every time Holly Rohaly's 8-year-old daughter even hears the word, "school," she cries.

Her daughter, a 3rd-grader at Silk Hope Elementary School, usually loves learning, Rohaly said. But now, every day she grows more frustrated by all the platforms she must navigate for her classes and the work she still can't quite keep track of, despite having nearly nine weeks of remote learning under her belt.

Remote schooling is so emotionally challenging, Rohaly said, that she worries it's ruining her daughter's educational experience.

"I feel like there's so much uncertainty, there's no good answer," she said. "We're in a no-win situation trying to pick the best of the worst, as far as a solution. But we were so disappointed with the decision of pushing the kids out until January. I mean... that was devastating for us."

Two weeks ago, the Chatham County Schools Board of Education voted 4-1 to extend the fully remote Plan C option through the end of the semester, which ends Jan. 15, 2021. Rohaly and her daughter were not alone in their disappointment with the decision, or their fear for how students would be impacted — even the most ardent supporters of schools remaining in fully remote learning acquiesce that it creates myriad challenges for students and teachers alike.

Still, as disappointed as Rohaly was with the board's decision to extend Plan C, others parents and residents were equally as disappointed with the board's unanimous decision last week allowing the resumption of extracurricular activities and approved in-person instruction under Plan B starting Oct. 19 for Extended Content Standard E.C. students, Pre-K students and K-2 students.

Some people thought the decision was unsafe, opening county schools up too quickly; others felt the decision did not open schools up quickly enough. This reality is one that's been emphasized by several board members.

"The painful part of this decision-making is that there is no answer which is the good or perfect answer," board member Jane Allen Wilson said in an email to the News + Record following the board's Sept. 29 decision. "We know we want to focus on the immediate safety and health and well-being of all our county's children and all who serve them, along with the long-range well-being of students in their brain

See PLAN C, page A8

PITTSBORO'S CHRIS KENNEDY

Town manager lays out vision for Pittsboro; talks growth and historic character



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chris Kennedy, Pittsboro's town manager, dropped by the grand opening of the Pittsboro Gallery of Arts last week. Kennedy says he wants to be 'approachable and trusted' in leading his team at town hall.

BY JAMES KIEFER
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — Landing in Pittsboro is something Town Manager Chris Kennedy might say he's been groomed for.

He describes the areas he grew up in — Welcome, a town a few miles north of Lexington, and later Asheboro — as feeling more "rural" than urban. He jests that after living in Davidson and Randolph counties, moving to Chatham County is part of his plan to "gradually relocate east."

Kennedy, who was unanimously chosen in July for the position by Pittsboro's Board of Commissioners from a pool of 65 candidates, replaces former Town Manager Bryan Gruesbeck, who resigned in late January at the request of the town board. Interim Town Manager Robert Morgan had been serving as town manager since February.

Kennedy got a taste of small town life while attending Davidson College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Fine Art and had the hopes of becoming an architect — until he

saw the job market after graduation.

"I graduated undergrad in 2010, probably a terrible time to be an architect (and) one of the worst times if there ever was one," he said.

So when someone recommended the idea of exploring city planning in graduate school, Kennedy said it felt like a good fit. After getting master's degrees in both Community Planning and Public Administration from Auburn University, he found himself working

See KENNEDY, page A7

RECONCILIATION, PART 2

Chatham resident Pearson examines lasting benefits

Editor's note: In the second of this two-part interview with News + Record Publisher Bill Horner III, former U.S. diplomat W. Robert Pearson, 77, looks at the healing process of reconciliation at a time when political and racial divisiveness are on the rise. Pearson, the former leader of an international humanitarian charity (IREX), has been engaged in reconciliation, problem-solving and building relationships worldwide for more than four decades.

There's no question the time we're in has placed us at a fork in the road. What is it about a time such as this that opens the door for a new path?

This is the third major civil rights struggle in U.S. history. In the first, after the Civil War, Black Americans achieved important gains for a brief period, but were forced for 100 years to give up their constitutional rights. The second struggle, during the 1960s, saw key legal breakthroughs but seemed to fail to make over white American attitudes. The surprise, however, is that many children of the 60s and thereafter learned what their parents would not see — that color should make no difference in how one lives one's life or how the country protects its citizens.

Now in this third struggle, we see

people of every shade demanding that we actually live by the principles we espouse. That surge of additional support from the white community now has ushered in a widespread and deep commitment to make it better now that it ever has been before.

I went to the rally at the Courthouse Justice Center on June 6. There were a large number of white citizens who attended, including many young white people. This reflects the fact that this third struggle is different. Those new white supporters — many young — are making it more likely that more progress is possible, supporting and working with Black leaders.

What exactly is it that we are reconciling?

We are reconciling history and its consequences, and the changes the consequences require. In Chatham County, today we have two separate histories — one Black and one white. We must start there — sharing the same history

See PEARSON, page A3



Pearson

Siler City crime persists, but Wagner, police cracking down

BY LARS DOLDER
News + Record Correspondent

SILER CITY — The Siler City Police Department faces an uphill battle as it fights to suppress ongoing crime. According to Chief Mike Wagner, it's the result of systemic failures beyond the department's control.

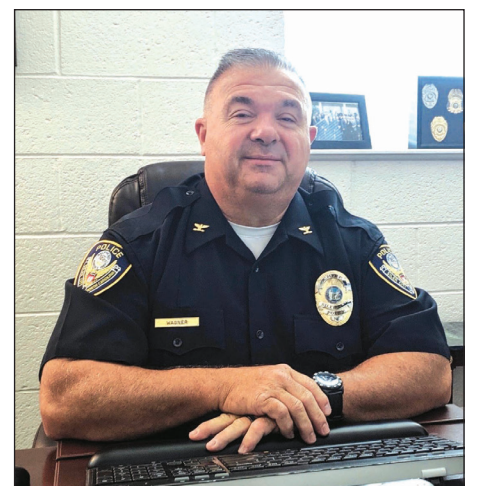
As Wagner sees it, the fundamental problem is three-fold.

"There's been a very significant increase in single-family homes..." he said. "The dynamic of the family has changed significantly. You take that and also the fact that we've seen — I don't know how to say this correctly — but God taken out of the home, or worship taken out of the home. And then you have a society that doesn't want our teachers and our school administrators to discipline children."

Take those "three dynamics," he said, "and where do our generational youth end up? Sometimes, on the street."

Misguided youths contribute to frequent petty crime, the chief said, but sometimes it escalates to more serious infractions including drug trade and prostitution. Behind much of town's criminal activity is a discrete gang presence.

"Store owners are good about covering up and getting things cleaned up pretty quickly because we don't want our city to be plagued by that," Wagner



Submitted photo

Siler City Chief of Police Mike Wagner sits in his office in Town Hall.

said, "but we do have gang activity in Siler City. I'm not afraid to say that. I'm not proud to say it, but I want the community to understand some of the challenge that the sheriff and I are facing in Chatham County and particularly in our city."

The growing issue harkens back to the family unit's breakdown.

See CRIME, page A7

IN THE KNOW

Norma Boone, a longtime CCS administrator, appointed in Dist. 2. **PAGE A10**
High school sports: they're back this week. (To some degree). **PAGE B1**

Local breast cancer survivors share, reflect on their experiences. **PAGE B4**

CORA: 1.3 Million meals served? It's just the start of 2020's story. **PAGE B5**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

CANCELLATIONS

- **The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors** meeting scheduled for Thursday Oct. 8 has been cancelled.
- **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.
- **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 Monday, Oct. 12, at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro.
- **The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 12, at town hall in Pittsboro.
- **Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling** will have mulch sales during the month of October. at the Main Facility, at 28 County Services Rd., Pittsboro. Saturday sales are from 7:30 a.m. to noon on October 10, 17, 24 and 31. Wednesday sales are from 7 a.m. to noon on October 7, 14, 21 and 28. Solid Waste & Recycling staff will load the mulch, and residents must haul it. Mulch is \$5 per scoop, (about one cubic yard). Staff will load large trailers and dump trucks only with a large scoop for \$10 per scoop. Note: Saturday sales are cash or check only. Sales will continue as long as supplies last. All loads of mulch MUST be secured. Learn more about securing your load. Tarps are available for purchase at the Main Facility and during mulch sales. The tarps are \$3 each and are 6x8 feet.
- **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, 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.
- **COUNTING** for the #2020 CENSUS will continue through Oct. 31 for now, according to a new court order U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh issued Oct. 1. 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, 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 for a list of classes.
- **Chatham Community Library** is also offering free classes on Digital Genealogy, Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel in October. All classes will be presented virtually. Register online to receive a meeting link. A description of each class, including topics covered and prerequisites for attending, can be found at www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. Going Digital with Genealogy: Now in progress, Wednesdays, 3 p.m.; Microsoft Word: Beyond Basics: Oct. 13, Tuesday, 3 p.m.; Microsoft Excel Basics, Part 1: Oct. 21, Wednesday, 3 p.m.; Microsoft Excel Basics, Part 2: Oct. 28, Wednesday, 3 p.m. For more information, call 919-545-8086 or email reference@chathamlibraries.org. A full list of upcoming programs can be found on the library's events calendar.

THURSDAY

- **The Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open with seasonable 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.

SATURDAY

- **NEW HOPE VALLEY RAILWAY** is Back on Track October 10. The nonprofit railway reopens with limited capacity Halloween train rides in Bonsal. The North Carolina Railway Museum, which operates New Hope Valley Railway (NHVR) will reopen to the public and resume train rides on Saturday, Oct. 10, with its popular Track or Treat: Halloween Express trains. Located at 3900 Bonsal Road in New Hill, and nicknamed the Triangle's Train. NHVR's family-friendly Halloween trains are planned for four weekends in October, Saturdays Oct. 10, 17, 24 and 31. Trains will depart at 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30 and 7:45 p.m. and tickets will only be sold online prior to ride days and not at the railroad on the day-of. Tickets cost \$14 for all ages.

- **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 class is all about fun and fitness, and 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 or call the office at 919-545-8555.
- **The next virtual WAKE UP WEDNESDAY** networking meeting is Oct. 21. Please join us! Below is the link to join in. You may start logging on at 8am to take care of any technical issues you may encounter. Please make sure your camera/audio works. The structured meeting will begin at 8:30am. This months speakers are Jeff Spear, Senior Loan Consultant and Kristi Farrell representing Burlington Animal Services. Join Zoom Meeting, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82606470013>, Meeting ID: 826 0647 0013, One tap mobile 19292056099,82606470013# US (New York).
- **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 or call 919-545-8555.
- **Chatham Arts & Recreation: The Trunk or Treat Boo-Thru** will have candy drive-throughs 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.

- **SILER CITY FRIDAY NIGHTS FLICKS** series concludes Oct. 23. Make plans to join Siler City Parks and Recreation for the final Friday Night Flick of the 2020 season series. "The Addams Family," a 2019 animated film, will premier on the big screen at dusk at Bray Park. Grab your blankets, chairs and enjoy the final free family-friendly movie under the stars.
- **Central Carolina Community College** will offer the **Teacher Preparation degrees** this fall. To register for the programs, visit 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.

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.

- **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.
- **Volunteers Needed:** Nonprofit agencies in Chatham seek teen volunteers to help with many projects. Teens can help at food pantries, in gardens, fundraising projects, office work, and care for animals. Chatham Connecting website lists many volunteer opportunities for youth. See where you are needed to help in the community: www.chathamconnecting.org.
- **Foster and/or adoptive information:** Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive

parent? Call 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.
- **Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings.
- **Al-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro.
- **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.bstroop93.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.

Chatham County Council on Aging

WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Question: Who were the three original founders of the Chatham County Council on Aging?

Find the answer in this issue for your chance to win a \$25 Visa Gift Card!



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PERSPECTIVE | CARL THOMPSON

A debt owed

The cost of economic injustice

BY THE REV. DR. CARL E. THOMPSON SR.
Special to the News + Record

Something remarkable happened in our state in July of this year. The City of Asheville apologized for its participation in and sanctioning of slavery. I admire and applaud the Asheville City Council for having the moral courage to pass this resolution, promising to pay reparations to the African American citizens of the city.

Race relations in our country are worse now than ever before. There is a lot of discussion about reconciliation in this country, but nothing is happening on a major scale, and there is a desperate need to do so. The result of not coming to a resolution on racism could result in devastating violence and destruction in America! Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said: "We must live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

I believe I speak for many African Americans throughout this land when I say that we will fight to eradicate systemic racism, and all of the resultant disparate outcomes to our community, with every fiber of our being. As Dr. King termed it, we live with a "fierce urgency of now." That urgency is to tear down what 400 years of oppression has produced, so that future generations of our children will not have to endure the fear and deprivation of the present.

There are many areas of injustice that need our attention today, such as criminal injustice, inequality in our health care system, inequity in our educational systems, and I could go on. But I believe the greatest area of need currently is a focus on economic injustice.

Black people in this country own about one half of one percent of the wealth. A 2020 Brookings Institute study reported that White families have the highest median wealth of \$171,000, as opposed to Black families at \$17,600. Many people will argue that we have had 400 years to work at this thing. Why have we not accumulated more?

The truth is, White families have been accumulating wealth for 400 years, beginning with the free labor of Black people. A recent Brookings Institute study revealed that in 1860, more than \$3 billion was the value assigned to the physical bodies of African Slaves, used for free labor and production. In 1861, the value of cotton produced by slaves accrued to \$250 million.

History will show that from the time of slavery until recently, the government of the United States acted in concert or willingly overlooked the violation of established laws in this country. This gross neglect led to the detriment of African Americans, while enriching White Americans. We've heard people say: "All you have to do is work hard and pull yourself up by the 'bootstraps.'"

It is a little difficult to pull yourself up with no bootstraps! How fair is it to become wealthy on another person's free labor, and then tell them that through hard work they can become as wealthy as you are? That is like starting a race three miles behind the front runner and expected to win a four-mile race.

So, there is a need for economic justice in this country in the form of reparations to be paid to the descendants of African Slaves, who were forced to enrich White America, through much pain and suffering. The definition of reparations is "the making of amends for a wrong one has done, by paying money to or otherwise helping those who have been wronged."

Allow me to reveal the truth about the wrongs that were done, of which many Americans are not aware.

After the Civil War ended, in 1865, President Lincoln ordered General Sherman to give reparations of 40 acres and a mule to the freed slaves. Now, all immigrants who came to this country were given the same, if not more. When Lincoln was assassinated, President Andrew Johnson rescinded the order and gave the land assigned to the freed families back to the plantation owners.

After a brief period of Reconstruction



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

The Rev. Carl E. Thompson Sr. speaks at a Chatham County racial reconciliation event in Pittsboro in July.

(10 years), presidents Grant and Hayes made a series of compromises with the Southern Democrats to literally give control and power back to the Southern States. These states thereafter instituted a series of laws to repress and control Black people economically, socially, and politically. The laws were called the "Black Codes" and allowed the courts to incarcerate Black men on trumped up charges and use them as free prison labor.

Then came "Jim Crow" segregation, the Ku Klux Klan and violence that followed, even into the 1950s and '60s. Black men were lynched and many times their property stolen and whole towns destroyed. Consider Wilmington, N.C., and Tulsa, Oklahoma, where hundreds of Black people were killed, their properties looted and confiscated, and no one was held accountable by the government.

In 1929, when the stock market crashed, and President Roosevelt, who was supported by Blacks, produced his \$50 billion "New Deal" to the country, Black people were left out. After World War II, the GI Bill was passed to give low interest loans to soldiers to build homes in the suburbs, as well as grants to fund education and business enterprises. Unfortunately, but true to form, our government denied

Black Soldiers the benefits that it gave to soldiers of every other nationality!

The idea of paying reparations to aggrieved people is not new to our country. Native Americans have received lands and billions of dollars for being forcibly removed from their land. America paid \$1.5 billion to the Japanese for wrongfully interring them during World War II. Under the Marshall Plan, the U.S. helped to pay reparations to the Jews for the Holocaust. Our government, in 1863, even paid reparations to slave owners in Washington, D. C., when their slaves were freed!

Black Americans are the only group that have not received reparations for state-sanctioned racial discrimination, while slavery afforded some White families the ability to accrue tremendous wealth.

In my opinion, the only way to close the enormous wealth gap that exists in this country between White and Black families is to compensate those whose ancestors helped to build this country on free labor. After 400 hundred years, I think it is time for that restitution to occur, by the government of the United States of America, making good on the debt that it owes.

Some one may argue that I am not telling the truth here and may be a little loose with my facts. But you do not have to take my word for it. Just read the historical facts for yourself and let your conscience be your guide.

As a man of God, I will continue to pray for reconciliation in America. I greatly fear the consequences of not coming together in truth and love to bring about justice and peace. That is why I have given this historical account, because I believe that reconciliation can only come when truth is acknowledged and embraced. I also believe that there can be no reconciliation without the payment of reparations to the millions of African American descendants of slaves. If America has ever been great as a nation, it surely owes a debt to the millions of African American, who helped to build this country, who fought valiantly and gave their lives for America through at least five wars. And yet, even today, we still need to remind people that our lives matter.

Former Chatham County Commissioner Dr. Carl E. Thompson Sr. is senior pastor of the Word of Life Christian Outreach Center in Siler City.

PEARSON

Continued from page A1

— Black and white — of Chatham County. Then we can see how to come together to do better.

What might be the benefits or advantages we'd accrue on that path?

Here in Chatham, we would have a brighter economic future for our children. A community at peace produces more jobs, takes advantage of more skills, creates an attitude of "forward together" in which all can share. Raleigh is listed in a United Nations economic study as one of the two fastest-growing cities in

America for population size. We are now part of the expansion of the Triangle. Having the Black and white communities sharing equally in the economic growth opportunities ahead would release enormous potential for growth and prosperity in Chatham County.

Part of "truth and reconciliation," of course, is the notion of truth. In a divisive age, in a divisive community, how do we arrive at what the truths are?

Truth is an event — an undeniable fact — such as lynchings where no one was ever tried, where no one was ever given a chance to defend oneself, and where hundreds watched but no one was

ever indicted, tried or convicted. Truth is the history of suppression of constitutional rights. (See sidebar story, "For Black Americans, it's been opportunities lost," in the Oct. 1-7 edition of the News + Record.)

Truth is both the event and the consequences of the event. Quite often what is asserted as "truth" is actually an opinion. Truth speaks quietly and clearly. The facts of history — especially as concerns actions regarding race in America — are there for all to see.

What is it about truth — and history — that causes people to disavow it, or to claim ignorance of it? And why is that harmful?

No one wants to be blamed for something, yet much of the talk we hear on race is designed to blame. Blame produces a defensive reaction. After that, the listener tunes out. Personal accusations of blame and shame usually do not lead to reconciliation. I've mentioned countries where blame has produced no positive result and countries where blame and shame have not been part of the reconciliation process and progress has been achieved.

Why must it be a community-wide conversation? We are already having a community-wide

conversation. Those who feel strongly that there is a great deal to be done are making their points publicly. The newspapers and media are reporting those views. We cannot separate ourselves in this country entirely from what is going on around our country. All over the country, responsible leaders of every race are engaged in serious discussions about what is wrong and what should be righted.

We are open to dialogue and invite conversation with those who are interested in sitting together in the spirit of finding the common space where justice is real for every one of us. Since May 25, it seems to me that there is here in Chatham County a momentum in attitude and commitment that is going in the direction of equal justice in practice as well as principle in our political, legal, educational and social actions. Our political, criminal and religious leaders seem to be heading in the same direction.

What is restorative justice, and what role does that play?

Restorative justice historically has focused largely on the relationship between the perpetrator of a crime, often one of violence, and the victim. Today, if you were to imagine something like restorative justice on a large scale, it would have to include acknowledgment of the wrong and agreement on how to set the wrong right. The spirit of restorative judgment could help greatly if done in a non-judgmental process.

What was the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and what role did it play, historically?

The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission exposed the wrongs of centuries of repression of Black Africans in their own land. It allowed those who committed the wrongs to avoid punishment if they told the whole truth of their deeds. It allowed the Black community to hear the acknowledgment of those wrongs and the acceptance that a new day had come for South Africa. Most importantly, it avoided civil war and revenge-taking from both sides for what had happened, and it gave both sides a chance to work for a better tomorrow. It worked. South Africa made a largely peaceful transition from white rule to democratic rule

in which both Blacks and whites were empowered to participate.

Reconciliation also has worked in other countries that have experienced great hardships. In my work I saw how other countries treated their minorities. I saw that injustice often led to violence. I saw truth lead to reconciliation. I saw courageous people in Ireland, Canada, Rwanda, and Liberia reach across the gap of distrust and misunderstanding — and sometimes horror — to work with each other to rebuild their societies. On the other hand, I saw examples in Turkey, China and Myanmar where hatred led to violence which has not ended.

Olufemi Táiwò, the chairperson of African Studies and Research Center at Cornell University, wrote recently in The Washington Post that reconciliation requires "acknowledging and atoning for the wrong done — asking for their victims' forgiveness while resolving never to repeat the wrongs and working to restore their victims to full humanity as fellow citizens." If "the wrongs" discussed here were perpetrated by people no longer alive...why is forgiveness necessary?

We've talked about the legacy of bias that has come down to the present day and the damage caused. Where perpetrator and victims as individuals are no longer alive (though the consequences certainly are), it is collective acknowledgment of the wrong and collective recognition of the need to right the wrong that opens the path to reconciliation.

A report from truth and reconciliation work done in Greensboro in 2006 stated that the work "promotes the belief that confronting and reckoning with the past is necessary for successful transitions from conflict, resentment and tension to peace and connectedness." Do you think it's possible for us to get there?

Yes, it is possible. The history and its consequences are there for all to see. In my experience, confrontation seldom leads to reconciliation. The truths we are bringing to light do not require conflict. There are difficult passages on the road to reconciliation — some very difficult — but they are based on acceptance of facts that long were hidden and consequences that long were ignored. There is a reason why the hard truth and con-

About Bob Pearson

During his long diplomatic career, W. Robert Pearson, 77, was an innovative diplomat, leader and crisis manager at the top levels of the U.S. government. He was U.S. ambassador to Turkey and completed a 30-year career in 2006 with the Department of State as Director General of the Foreign Service. He is a frequent writer and speaker on diplomacy, foreign policy, Turkey, NGOs and development.

Pearson served under six presidents (four Republican and two Democratic) and 11 secretaries of state. Retirement brought him to Chatham County; he lives in Ferrington Village with his wife of 45 years, Maggie.

A native of Tennessee, Pearson traces his Southern lineage back more than 300 years, with ancestors who fought in the American Revolution and the Civil War. Two great-grandfathers were at Bennett Place in Durham in 1865 in the last surrender of a major Confederate army.

sequences were hidden. Doing so permitted those in power to pretend that all that mattered was the present. That pretense covered up all the reasons why it had to change. So yes, it's very possible to get to reconciliation by starting with the past and following the trail of truth.

Since all those who were discriminated against or say they were discriminated against and therefore suffered harm for past events — whether white or Black — are certainly not going to forget and are going to find it hard to forgive, why must we try to make it better? What is the purpose of forgiveness when we still have hard work to do?

This is a difficult step in a reconciliation process, but it is a necessary one. No one should forget the wrongs, no one should forget the struggles, but all we have to work with is today and tomorrow. In this sense, forgiveness means the willingness to move forward together to a better future. That is an achievable outcome.

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VIEWPOINTS

The day mean Mr. Wray taught us about kindness

Mr. Wray was built like a fire hydrant.



BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

He was on the short side and carved from granite. By my 5th grade year, I had to look down slightly at him when we stood face

to face, as did a couple of the girls in our class. I was a husky, athletic kid, but I think if I'd taken a run at him full-speed, Mr. Wray wouldn't have budged an inch.

He was nearly bald, with dark, full eyebrows and intense, piercing eyes. When he spoke, the words came from the back of his throat in a deep, intentional, almost methodical way.

Mr. Wray was our grade school principal, and I learned early on that he was serious about discipline. I was fairly new to the school back in 1972, having moved to Kansas from North Carolina in the fall of my 4th grade year. One day a couple of months after I joined the class, Mr. Wray subbed for our teacher, Mrs. Lynch. I remember us working quietly on an assignment when he stopped at my desk.

I looked up at him from my seat. Mr. Wray always wore dark dress slacks — he favored brown — and a short-sleeved shirt (even in winter) with a tie. “Bill,” he said, “please stop humming.”

It's been 48 years, so I don't remember what song was going through my head. But I vividly recall what happened next, moments later, when Mr. Wray circled back in front of me and stopped a second time.

“Bill, what did I ask you to do?”

“Stop humming,” I sheepishly replied, realizing only then that I'd in fact *not* stopped.

And with that, Mr. Wray slapped me across my face. Hard.

My face burned. It was more from embarrassment and shock than pain, but I felt the stares of all my classmates as tears welled in my own eyes. I wanted nothing more than to bolt for the door.

I hadn't intentionally ignored Mr. Wray's request; I think I must have just been engrossed in the assignment.

Nowadays, I can't imagine an elementary school principal slapping a child. But when it came to doing what you were told, our principal had some unusual methods of motivating us — some of them, by today's standards, fairly hardcore.

So why, then, do I remember Mr. Wray so fondly?

It was because of what happened one day two years later, in 6th grade, when he gathered our class together on the asphalt basketball court on a chilly spring morning and taught us something about compassion and kindness.

It was an object lesson about one of our classmates.

Cathy, I'll call her — she might read this, so I won't use her real name — was homely, unattractive in a peculiar way. She was also awkward and unkempt, and as a result was teased mercilessly, ridiculed with such regularity that it became sport to the class.

The worst times were at recess, when the teacher would pick two captains to choose sides for kickball or some other game. Cathy was always, *always* chosen last.

That's bad enough, but when the pickings among our less-athletic classmates got down to the last few kids, the rest of us figured out long before she was chosen whether our team, or the other guys, would end up with Cathy.

“Haha, you get Cathy!” someone on the team choosing next-to-last would invariably squeal with delight. Others

would join in; kids on the opposing team would groan at being forced to endure Cathy as a teammate.

I don't know how long it was like that. But it was Mr. Wray — the man who slapped me, the principal who occasionally made students stand for entire class periods on their tiptoes, their noses inside a circle he'd drawn on the chalkboard — who finally came to Cathy's rescue, and ours.

Here's how it happened: one morning at recess, it was he, not our teacher, who gathered us in a semi-circle on the blacktop outside the classroom and began talking about Cathy. When we all started looking around nervously, he held up hand and said softly: “Cathy's inside with Mrs. Johnson; she'll be coming out in just a few minutes.”

Mr. Wray talked about how we'd been mistreating Cathy. About how mean we'd been. About how wrong our taunts were.

He asked us to put ourselves in her place, to imagine what it must feel like to be teased and put down day after day. To think about how it must hurt her to always be the low person on the totem pole, kicked about for fun.

A few of the girls cried. Most of us boys looked down at

our shoes, unable to meet Mr. Wray's face.

He wasn't asking us to pick Cathy first. He was just asking us to be *kind*.

Cathy eventually joined the group and we picked teams. One of the captains picked Cathy around 6th or 7th overall, I recall. During the ensuing game, several of us offered Cathy words of encouragement.

I've love to report that the world was set straight and Cathy eventually became homecoming queen and class valedictorian. That didn't happen, but what did is that we all changed just a little bit on that playground. We learned a lesson someone should have taught us years before — from a man who knew how to teach you a lesson.

For me, I can't think of one of them without thinking of the other.

I lost touch with Cathy after graduation. She's works today as a faculty assistant at a large university, but I know she's endured pain in her life. Mr. Wray died in 2003. The website which lists his obituary has a few nice entries of remembrance, but nothing, to me, that rises to the significance of that morning in 6th grade.

I'll never forget either.

Today is a gift; that's why it's called the present

Apparently at some point, someone — poet, writer, songster, who knows — said something like “Time heals all wounds.” At least, someone had to have said it first because so many of us repeat it as we encounter life and what it brings us.

But, also apparently, not everyone agrees with that sentiment. Rose Kennedy, whose wealth and fame did not remove her from the pain of a mother losing several children to violent deaths, including a president, U.S. senator, and war hero, was one of those. “It has been said,” she said, “that ‘time heals all wounds.’ I do not agree. The wounds remain. In time, the mind, protecting its sanity, covers them with scar tissue and the pain lessens. But it is never gone.”

Time is a funny thing. Not “funny” as in funny “haha” but funny as in interesting or whatever in how it and its companion — the human mind — works ... or doesn't. There are all sorts of quotes about time: “How did it get so late so soon?” — Dr. Seuss. “Time is the longest distance between two places.” — Tennessee Williams. “You may delay but time will not.” — Benjamin Franklin.

The list is infinite. To those quotes and the understanding or lack of it in regard to time, I would add another famous quote: “Where does it go?” — Bob Wachs.

No doubt it was the passage of time that caused me momentarily not to remember (or forget, to use a harsher word) that one day a few days ago was the anniversary of the day my dad slipped across the Great Divide. I guess it was the passage of these 25-plus years that caused that. I haven't forgotten him; it's just that thinking of him isn't the first thing I do daily anymore, like it was once.

When the awareness of the day came to mind (there's that word again) I paused a moment in my consciousness and his face came to my mind's eye and his voice whispered in my ear and I began to remember ... to remember the good times spent with him, to remember the life lessons taught, the words said, the shared experiences.

Once again, I remembered riding with him as he made the rounds collecting payments on life insurance policies from the good folks of Pittsboro and Bynum and northern Chatham, which is not to be confused with North Chatham of today. I remembered that those payments amounted to 25 cents a week or \$2 a month or whatever folks could afford as a payment for an insurance policy that would basically amount to burial insurance. And I remembered how sometimes when his policy holders and friends — they were the same people — didn't have enough money to make the payment that he would do it for them.

Again, in my mind were nights harvesting frogs from area ponds and of me paying my dues to climb up the ladder in the world of frog-gigging. In frog gigging, you started out holding the burlap bag containing the haul. Then if you proved reliable, you could move up to holding the five-cell flashlight that spotted the little critters or you could carry (“tote” was our preferred word) the single-shot .22 rifle used for dispatching snakes. You hit the big time when you moved past snake shooting and could be trusted with the gig. I made it to that spot briefly before my father's health ultimately put an end to our tradition.

There were other times — grilling barbecue chicken under his carport and his need occasionally to kick the grill to stir the coals down in the bottom, of taking in college football games on gorgeous autumn Saturdays, of countless games of rummy or hearts or carom or Saturday nights with “Bonanza” and “Gunsmoke.” There were the platitudes and proverbs: “Keep it between the ditches,” or “You can't have your cake and eat it, too,” or “Don't wish your time away.”

And there, there is that word ... time. He was right; it came and went and passed much too swiftly.

Maybe that's the lesson of it all about time. We can't make any more time. We can't save it, despite all the advertising claims about “time-saving” this or “time-saving” that. We can only spend it. At this stage of my young life, I'm pretty sure that's why God invented grandchildren. They haven't yet grasped the bit of irony and sometimes agony time lays on us. Instead they live in the moment. When I'm with mine, I try really hard to be with them.

That means, of course, some project I just had to do or some place to go or some something else or another often gets off its schedule. To that, I say to myself, “So what?” I hope that someday, whatever that is, those little folks will remember me and appreciate the time we spent together like I remember the time I spent with my dad.

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.



The bullies, the bullied, and the election

My bully's name was Kayla. She gained momentum by

feeding off other kids' self-esteem. I'm not sure what exactly made her target me in 4th grade, but it was around the time that kids were walking advertisements of brands like Aero-

postale and Juicy. My parents didn't allow me to shop at those stores, and she quickly noticed.

Kayla bragged that she lived in the biggest mansion in our town and her dad was the Fitch in Abercrombie & Fitch. I realize how ridiculous her claims sound now, but as a kid, I took them to heart. One day, she followed me home from school to stake out the size of my house. She then proceeded to taunt my mom when the latter volunteered; my mom, the experienced adult, shut her down.

In the worst kind of underdog evolution, I took my bully's

ammunition to become a temporary bully myself. I didn't steal anyone's lunch money, but I did fall in with the middle school “mean girls.” My tactics included the following:

Bandwagon: “Everyone is wearing Sperry Top-Siders, so why aren't you?”

Glittering generalities: “We have the best hangout spot on the playground.”

Ad hominem attacks: “How can you get a boy if you don't even wash your hair?”

Straw man: “You can't tell on us if you sneak off at recess every day.”

Now I hope I don't lose you, because this next part is important. These same logical fallacies were used by our president in last Tuesday's national debate. Examples from the official transcript include:

Bandwagon: “If you could get the crowds, you would have done the same thing. But you can't. Nobody cares.”

Glittering generalities: “We have a phenomenal nominee respected by all,” “the greatest economy in history, lowest unemployment numbers, everything was good.”

Ad hominem attacks: “There's nothing smart about

you.” Straw man (discussing trade deficit with China): “China ate your lunch. And no wonder your son goes in and he takes out billions of dollars.”

In response to President Trump's interruptions and attacks, presidential nominee Joe Biden called Trump a “clown” and retorted, “Will you shut up, man?” I used similar defenses to shut down Kayla on the playground, and I don't condone Biden stooping to that level. The moderator, Chris Wallace, should have — quite literally — taken a page from a teacher's debate handbook.

I plan to watch the next debates, and I hope my bully will, too. I've long since grown out of my mean-spirited rhetoric, but can we say the same for our political leaders? The American people need intellectual leadership, not petty jabs. Let's remind ourselves how we got to this point and do what we can to change the future.

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.

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VIEWPOINTS

Prayers for President Trump



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

I regularly pray for Donald J. Trump.

I am dismayed by his administration's mismanagement of the COVID-19 crisis. By his own admission to reporter Bob Woodward, Trump has downplayed the severity of this deadly disease. He continues to contradict and dismiss the scientific and medical opinion

of experts, as well as his own advisers, which has had the effect of distorting the truth and dividing Americans.

Just a week before he was infected, Trump told a rally of supporters that the disease "affects virtually nobody." He made this claim as the deaths in this country alone topped 200,000 people.

The president has played politics with

the public health.

Now that Trump has tested positive for COVID-19, I pray for his speedy recovery, for to celebrate in the suffering of others is wicked.

But what will be the lingering effects of this president's COVID-19 on the national response to the pandemic?

It is true that this virus affects people differently. Even certain people with the same high-risk factors as Trump (age and obesity) recover fairly quickly.

Would his speedy recovery not fuel this president's falsehoods that the virus is essentially harmless? Would this not embolden his supporters, as well as a percentage of the larger public, to flaunt the best practices of precaution and safety?

As I pray for the president to recover, I also pray for a change in his attitude.

Perhaps this prayer seems futile. This president has shown little regard for those who think differently than him. He has

demonstrated little remorse for his mistakes, let alone displayed the humility necessary to accept responsibility for his errors.

Yet, he could have a change of heart.

Witness the story of the exodus in the Hebrew Bible. After Moses parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could flee to the other side, the waters closed over the pursuing Egyptian Army. In the words of the African American spiritual: "Pharaoh's Army done got drown!" From the safety of the far shoreline, the Israelites celebrated the defeat of the Egyptians with dance and song (see Exodus, Chapter 15).

But later rabbinical tradition taught a much different lesson by imagining the scene in heaven. When the angels celebrated the deaths of Israel's opponents, God rebuked them: "Are these drowned Egyptians not also my children?"

To celebrate the suffering of others is wicked. The best lights of many religions and philosophies teach compas-

sion and care toward all people.

May Trump imagine the pain and grief of the hundreds of thousands who have suffered and grieved in this country. May he listen to the overwhelming scientific opinion about the best ways to prevent infection and set a good example by wearing a mask in public and maintaining social distance. May he require his supporters to do the same at his campaign rallies.

Instead of playing politics with public health as a means of seeking reelection, may President Trump rally everyone in this country to prevent the spread of this deadly disease.

In praying this prayer for our president, may you and I model such grace as well.

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.

LETTERS

Severe doubts about board's plan

TO THE EDITOR:

I seriously hope the school board knows what it's doing, but I have severe doubts.

In mid-September, the Chatham County Board of Education voted to keep all K-12 students remote until January. Last week, though, it reversed course, and without advance notice to parents or teachers or anyone, really, voted to open K-2 to in-person instruction this month. As a parent and as the husband of a CCS employee, I found myself blindsided. From the texts other parents sent me the evening of the vote, I know I'm far from alone.

We're frustrated. We're ticked off. We want to know what's at all unclear about the words "uncontained," "lethal" and "pandemic?"

I recognize that the board's move echoes recent decisions statewide, including the governor's similarly baffling and unscientific recent Phase 3 decision. I also know that these decisions are being made in an election year and would like to remind school board members that pro-reopening activists may be loud, but reactionaries of their stripe are not the entire voting public.

Remote school is imperfect. We all know that. What's getting lost in the drive to reopen, however, is infection risk to staff, students, and the entire community — not to mention the logistical headaches of hybrid remote/in-person learning. The grass is not greener, and by reopening we are guaranteeing two things: one, that teachers will be stretched even thinner in trying to serve multiple pods of students in multiple formats, and two, that we will see infections and deaths within our school system. It's a pointless and dangerous disruption, reflecting the fallacious belief that a return to normal is possible during — again — an uncontained lethal pandemic.

Indeed, and as a recent and particularly thorough study by the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy in New Delhi found, children are not only likely to get infected by COVID-19, but are likely to transmit the disease amongst themselves and to other age groups, and often without showing any symptoms whatsoever. What use is a temperature check with an asymptomatic carrier? It's little more than theater — a talisman providing a false sense of security, but no real protection.

As I said, I seriously hope the school board knows what it's doing. A lot of lives are at stake.

Corbie Hill
Pittsboro

The writer is a parent of 3rd and 5th grade students.

School board's reasoning is unsatisfactory

TO THE EDITOR:

I recently wrote to the Chatham County Board of Education urging them to reverse their vote to begin Plan B on October 19. Plan B means that some kids will go to school two days a week, be virtual the other three, and that some kids can remain virtual. Regardless of the parents' choice, this vote, coming so soon after their decision to stay Plan C until Jan. 15, deserves greater discourse.

Chairperson Gary Leonard said the decision came because, "students are falling behind." I admire that Mr. Leonard responded. He exhibited both a willingness to engage and an acknowledgment of his accountability as an elected official.

But this response, particularly without supporting metrics,

is unsatisfactory.

We deserve to know the board's answers to the these questions:

- How is the board measuring performance, and how will these metrics factor into future decisions?

- What level of virus spread is acceptable to the board? What's unacceptable?

We deserve to know what level the board expects students to perform in the midst of a pandemic.

Moreover, how is performance being weighed against the public health concerns not only of the entire school system, but also the greater community?

The Duke panel suggested that schools are no more dangerous than the general community in terms of spread if masks are worn universally and an effective system is in place to stop secondary infections. These conditions are not currently being met in the greater community.

This current decision implies the board accepts that virus spread will occur within our schools. What level of community spread would be unacceptable in the schools and force the return to Plan C?

Members of the board and other stakeholders may be surprised that parents are not accepting this decision. Personally, I am hearing nothing but dismay and frustration from parents, teachers, and staff. For K-2 students, families feel their kids are experimental stepping-stones towards the greater goal of opening all the schools. Especially in this tumultuous time, we crave consistency, transparency, and stability from our school system. The challenges of equity exist, albeit differently, at every possible plan.

Join me in urging the board of education to reverse their decision, return to Plan C, and focus on providing the best education possible through a single platform: virtual.

Emily Harrison, Ph.D.
Pittsboro

The writer is a parent of a kindergarten and a 2nd grader at Pittsboro Elementary School.

A woman supporting President Trump

TO THE EDITOR:

As a mother and grandmother, I would like to leave behind for my daughter and grandson an America that promises physical security, traditional morality, and economic prosperity. In order to ensure these goals, the country needs clairvoyant, bold, and resolute leadership of President Donald Trump for four more years.

Living in Chatham County, North Carolina, the relatively sparse population in the rural landscape makes gun ownership important for physical security. Thus, gun rights are important to rural families. I very much appreciate that Trump has been clear and forceful in his support for the Second Amendment.

In firmly supporting our police and veterans, Trump favors a strong military. This provides a sense of security both locally in Chatham County and nationally in America. Also, he wants to get the United States out of endless foreign wars and save us from the quagmire of nation-building.

According to Hans von Spa-

territorial integrity as a sovereign country and the well-being of the citizenry.

Mary Vought of Real Clear Politics noted that the 3.2% unemployment rate for women has been the lowest since 1953. A strong economy provides employment; the U.S. economy boomed under the free-market policy of Donald Trump. In spite of the temporary challenge under the current pandemic, a second-term for President Trump promises the fastest and surest way to economic recovery.

The Trump Administration changed for the federal civilian workforce 12 weeks in the 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act from unpaid to paid parental leave in caring for a new baby after birth, adoption, or starting foster care. This will tremendously benefit working mothers (and single fathers) in rural and urban America, including in the suburbs.

People may not agree with Donald Trump's personality and New York brashness, but he has been very courageous in raising issues that are important to many Americans, including to women. In earning my confidence and trust, Trump will surely have my vote for a second-term as the President of the United States.

Vickie Day Terll
Pittsboro

Appreciation to the Chatham Board of Elections

TO THE EDITOR:

An open letter to the Chatham County Board of Elections members and staff:

The League of Women Voters Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties Inc. appreciates the hard work that the Chatham Board of Elections members and staff have done to ensure that absentee voters' ballots are counted accurately in the 2020 General Election.

Several League members who are Chatham County residents viewed the webcasts of your marathon sessions on Sept. 29 and 30, and we were impressed with your professionalism and teamwork. We also appreciate the expertise of the staff in this time of shifting directives from the state board of elections.

We are aware that political parties are pressuring members of boards of elections across the state to try to protect partisan interests. We encourage all members of the Chatham Board of Elections to continue to put the voters first as the absentee review meetings go forward, as we observed in the Sept. 29 and 30 meetings. You are truly doing the people's work.

We look forward to observing the rest of the Absentee Review meetings, and we hope that you don't have to process anything close to 4,200 ballots in one week in the future!

Patricia A. McDaniels, Vice President and Member of Chatham Unit
Victoria Shea, Terry Landers and Valeria Gist, Members of Chatham Unit
Chatham County

Administration's policy puts patients at risk

TO THE EDITOR:

The world is being held hostage by a tiny virus. It often feels as if the walls are closing in, as families stay home whenever possible in order to protect ourselves, our high-risk loved ones, and our communities from COVID-19.

I'm retired from a career working in healthcare here in Chatham County and I can't imagine how our healthcare professionals are coping with

these challenges.

The best hope for a rapid return to normal is biopharmaceutical progress. We need a vaccine to bring America back to a semblance of normal life.

Unfortunately, the current administration has recently signed a new executive order that would impact our biopharmaceutical industry. On the one hand, Operation Warp Speed aims to accelerate a COVID-19 vaccine. On the other, the "Most Favored Nation" executive order, which includes the International Pricing Index (IPI), could undercut pharmaceutical research.

I've worked in health care, and I've heard about IPI before. It's been raised and rejected many times. Sadly, the latest incarnation is the worst ever and will soon restrict access to treatments for Americans and rob hope from patients suffering from serious disease.

IPI is pretty simple—it's a policy that American patients will pay the average price other countries do for a particular prescription drug. Hiding in that simplicity, however, is a big problem. What if that price isn't enough to get the medication at all?

That actually happens a lot. Low prices in Canada mean their patients can access only about half of advanced cancer therapies, while Americans can obtain nearly all of them. Canada's prices will be part of IPI, so how many life-saving treatments might our patients lose?

Then there is the research and development issue. Today's prescription medications fund tomorrow's innovations. Imposing government price controls means reducing investment in new therapies and cures — for COVID-19 and everything else.

This will have extreme negative impacts. For example, my mother died of complications from Alzheimer's and I, like many North Carolinians, eagerly await a cure in case I am also vulnerable. Nothing would upset me more than if promising research into degenerative neurological conditions was abandoned because of an IPI pricing scheme.

Our leaders in Washington should recognize that voters are paying attention to health care. We want increased choice, innovation, and access. Lawmakers running for reelection who put themselves on the opposite side — in favor of importing harmful price controls from countries with socialized medicine — might have something to worry about come November.

Olga Phillips
Chatham County

You have rights — but don't be cavalier

TO THE EDITOR:

Don't want to wear a seat belt? Don't want to put your child in a child seat? No problem. No driver's license? — hey, you're an American with rights, so no worry. Don't want to pay your mortgage? — that's OK, too, since you have "rights." Don't want to wear your mask? That's OK — you have rights.

How about the No Smoking signs in restaurants? Go ahead — you're an American and smoke where you want.

It's a free country. "Live free or die." You have rights. You live in a democracy. Don't let anybody tell you that you have to do any of these things. And don't let anybody tell you to isolate or wear a mask or stay away from crowds to prevent this hoax of a virus from spreading.

Bill Barr, our U.S. Attorney General, arrogantly says telling people to "lock down" to prevent COVID-19 from spreading is like "house arrest" and compares it to "slavery." (How disturbing is that?). He says it's "the greatest

intrusion on civil liberties in American history." Hmmm!!

Being cavalier about the spread of this highly infectious virus by not wearing a mask, gathering in crowds, not isolating if you've tested positive for COVID-19, is not only selfish, it's down right harmful to the rest of us. Your freedom does not give you the "right" to harm me.

Coughing, breathing, sneezing spreads like second-hand smoke; you exhale, we inhale.

So, wear your mask, stay out of crowds and stay home if you test positive — for decency's sake. You'll keep your democratic "right" to live in a humane society!

Marie Vanderbeck
Pittsboro

Centennial of 19th Amendment should make us examine prejudices

TO THE EDITOR:

Strong emotions were stirred up in me, a white female (retired high school teacher raised in the South), as I read the quarter-page Chatham County GOP Campaign advertisement in the Chatham News + Record a few weeks ago, celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote (19th Amendment).

Sure, it was a hard-fought, 72-year battle ... worthy of celebration ... but the signing of that important constitutional amendment was certainly not the end of the struggle for equal voting rights. The 19th Amendment was a colorblind law on paper ... but the way it was implemented throughout the states WAS NOT. It took another humiliating 45 years for all non-white women (and men) to be able to even safely register to vote, mostly in the southern states, without being harassed, assaulted, charged unfair poll taxes and required to take ridiculous "literacy tests."

Our words have the power to affirm or offend (even through omission). The celebratory ad should have also recognized some of the Black female suffragist leaders who worked just as hard as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Stanton and Lucy Stone. Some of those "fighters" included Ida B. Wells, Hallie Brown, Anna Cooper, Frances Harper, Sojourner Truth and Mary Bethune (who literally faced down the KKK at her home in Florida) ... The truth is the white female suffragist leaders abandoned the Black suffragists later in their movement because they were afraid their cause would lose votes from the southern white supremacist state legislators.

ALL women were not protected at the voting booths until 1965 when the Voting Rights Act was signed. Also, Native American Indian women and men were not allowed to vote until they "earned" citizenship (even though they are our country's indigenous people!), which began with the Snyder Act of 1924. The 24th Amendment in 1964 finally outlawed poll taxes that had kept poor Black and Native American women and men in the South especially from being able to vote. Sadly, the struggle for states to do away with racially discriminatory voting laws continued through the 1980s... and continues today.

I sincerely believe this historical 100th anniversary can act as a catalyst to encourage us to think more deeply with an open mind about our not so honorable white, Anglo-Saxon, prejudicial history (especially involving the South), and strive to correct the racial injustices that still plague today's United States of America.

Cindy Wilson
Moncure

VIEWPOINTS

Candidates clash on reopening schools



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

When Democrat Jen Mangrum and Republican Catherine Truitt first filed to run for N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction, neither could have expected

about safety. Mangrum, a former classroom teacher who now serves as an associate professor of education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, is the more skeptical of the two when it comes to reopening schools.

During a recent televised debate hosted by the N.C. Institute of Political Leadership and Spectrum News, she largely defended the go-slow approach of relying on distance learning rather than in-person instruction during the fall semester. For teachers, Mangrum argued, the first responsibility is to protect “student welfare.” Delivering academic content is fourth on the priority list, she said.

“We know children are carriers” of COVID-19, Mangrum said, so it is necessary to prioritize the risk of spreading the virus at school over the risk that distance learning might prove inadequate for some.

North Carolina’s educators have “been like ninjas” since the coronavirus outbreak

in March, setting up their distance-learning systems overnight and then improving them significantly over the subsequent months. “There are populations of students who are falling behind” with schools closed, Mangrum said, but there are also “populations of students who have more one-on-one [attention] than they’ve ever had before.”

The Republican nominee, Truitt, is also a former classroom teacher who now works in academia — in her case as chancellor of Western Governors University North Carolina. WGU is an all-online university, so one might expect Truitt to be at least as sanguine about the potential upsides of distance learning as Mangrum was. But Truitt argued during the debate that disadvantaged children, in particular, often require the kind of attention that only in-person instruction can provide.

“We have children who were already significantly behind and unfortunately they are our most vulnerable students,” Truitt said. Only

28% of Hispanic 8th-graders can read and do math at grade level. For black students, the share drops to 14%. These students are frequently the ones who lack good Internet access and parents available at home to supervise and assist with their children’s online learning, she said.

“My first priority is to get kids back in school,” Truitt added, while Mangrum argued that the schedule for reopening public schools is “going to depend on metrics” such as the share of COVID-19 tests that come back positive in a community.

While the reopening question has become the central one in the superintendent’s races, it wasn’t hard for Mangrum and Truitt to connect it to other longstanding issues of contention in North Carolina education. Mangrum argued that a lack of sufficient funding for personal protective equipment, cleaning, and training was a significant barrier to getting schools reopened — and that the state legislature, under Republican

control for the past 10 years, hasn’t give the education system enough money to clear that barrier.

Truitt argued that a “one-size-fits-all” approach was keeping North Carolina from grappling effectively with the COVID challenge. Local districts should have been given more flexibility to respond to the pandemic, she said, and parents should have more authority to decide what kind of educational setting — in-person or at home, district-run public school or something other option — best advances the welfare of their children.

The state superintendent of public instruction is only one of many voices in formulating education policy. But it’s an important one. And North Carolinians have an important choice to make.

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

Fighting for America

We both love America? We would fight for our country. And we would fight to keep it the way we love it. And we would fight to make it the way we could love it more.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

It is just that we love different Americas. Even before the president was struck down by the coronavirus that has been stalking him for most of the year, I tried to figure out what underlies his solid support from a large segment of Americans.

That support has stood firm notwithstanding a series of presidential gaffes, revolving door staff, and loss of respect from foreign allies and adversaries.

The New York Times columnist David Brooks wrote on Oct. 1, “The key events of the campaign have been moral events: Trump reportedly calling military veterans and the war dead suckers and losers; Trump downplaying a deadly pandemic to the American people; Trump failing to pay fair taxes; Trump siding up to white supremacists, resorting to racist and QAnon dog whistles.”

How can the president keep the support of many Americans, notwithstanding Brooks’ description of the downsides of his campaign season?

Some of that support comes from people whose strong views on taxes and other economic issues overcome a distaste for the president’s mean-spiritedness and bumbling of government business.

Others with passionate views on issues like abortion overlook his failures and crudeness because they believe he will work to end or at least restrict a woman’s choice.

Even more people line up with the president, not because they like or admire him, but because they think he will advance their positions on matters before the government.

But I think the president’s core and unshakable strength is somewhere else.

It has to do with our different ideas about what kind of America we want our country to be.

Some of us want America to be open and tolerant, a country that welcomes the participation of people of all colors, backgrounds, sexual orientation, and national origin. These people support the country’s diversity. This is the America they love.

Other Americans have a different idea. They look back to the small-town America brought to life at my house every day when the Andy Griffith show runs repeatedly. The North Carolina town of Mayberry is a good and simple place where neighbors are almost always kind, fair, considerate, and white.

Or a place like the Alabama small town where “To Kill a Mockingbird” was set. Blacks and whites lived together in harmony, each knowing their places. Atticus and Scout were kind to their servants, but everybody knew their places.

In those places and others like them, white people were not ashamed of their race or status. They did not have to give way to other kinds of people. It was their country, their America, a place worth fighting for.

Today, many Americans would fight for this kind of America. To keep it or to get it back.

What they want is a leader who understands their version of America. They want someone who will stand up for them and for their America. If that someone will fight for them, they will be loyal to him.

If he is their champion, they will overlook every flaw, every lie, every broken promise, every scam.

And they will fight for him until the end and afterwards. At the voting places and in the streets, if necessary.

You may not like the Proud Boys of “Stand back, and stand by.” But understand that they are ready to fight for their version of America.

They and others who love that version are not going to abandon their champion, whether he is right or wrong, sick or well, election winner or election loser.

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.

Fixing the ‘last great experiment’

Politics is hyper-partisan. Government is dysfunctional.



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

People have lost faith that elected officials work for the common good and there is a growing sense that what George Washington once described as “the last great experiment,” the contract “of the people, by the people and for the

people” formed by our Constitution, is under threat.

How to fix it? One good step would be term limits. Nowhere are the problems more egregious than with our federal government, but let’s focus on North Carolina and our legislature, where four changes would result in fast and notable improvements.

From our earliest beginnings North Carolina insisted on having a “citizen legislature,” eschewing professional lawmakers. But in recent years the position has become almost full time. Only the wealthy, retired or those with special interests can take the necessary time to serve. A number list legislative pay as their single source of income and they purchase or lease year-round housing in Raleigh.

We need to decide whether we want salaried full-time lawmakers, or a part time legislature. If the latter, we must impose strict limits on the number of days the legislature meets and lawmakers will be required to attend meetings. Other states have the discipline to accomplish these limitations.

Historically, a person would get

elected, serve one, two or three two-year legislative terms and return home. Today, far too many have served 15, 20 or more years, perhaps explaining why lawmakers established a legislative retirement system for themselves. Let’s change the length of a term from two years to four years. It costs the typical legislator \$100,000 or more to stage a successful legislative election campaign and much of their financing comes from lobbyists, political action committees and special interests. A four-year term would reduce the pressure to constantly raise money and reduce the influence of these special interests.

Next, we must set term limits for how many years a member can serve. Newly elected legislators are told to take their place on the back benches, keep respectfully quiet, then they can rise in ranks of responsibility and power. It is expected they will serve many terms. We propose a limit of three four-year terms or 12 total years. This would ensure more new faces (and ideas), eliminate this apprenticeship system and promote more cooperation and compromise among members, who know there are limits for how long they have to serve. We could also eliminate costly legislative retirements.

Finally, we need to return to the days prior to 1977, when there were finite terms for leadership. The Lieutenant Governor, as President of the Senate, made appointments and set the agenda. Since that person could only serve four years, there was a regular rotation of powerful appointments. But in 1988, a Lieutenant Governor not from the party in control of the Senate was

elected, the Lieutenant Governor was stripped of power, and it was vested in the Senate President Pro Tem, with no limits on how long he or she could serve.

Prior to that time the House allowed a Speaker to serve only one two-year term, so committee chairmanships rotated frequently. After the Senate change the House felt the need for more equal footing with the Senate and allowed the Speaker to serve more than two years. Leadership can now serve as long as they garner enough votes to get re-elected. Too much power is now held by too few for too long.

Former House Speaker Joe Mavretic once observed that a legislative leader uses the first four years or so in power working for the people; they spend the years following working for their friends and themselves. Mavretic led a coup that overthrew a Speaker who had become too powerful. We would propose leadership be allowed to serve no more than eight years.

These changes would reap great benefits. More people could serve, power would be distributed more frequently, our system would become more effective and it might promote a better cooperation among the two chambers and with other branches of government. To fix the “last great experiment” we must begin with term limits.

More on this subject next week.

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

GUEST COLUMN | ED BRONSON

Sleepless nights and WTC 7

“For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst and to provide for it.” — Patrick Henry

Sitting at our breakfast table, I’m relieved that Pittsboro mostly ducked the wrath of Hurricane Sally. Other states were definitely not as lucky. Videos of extreme weather events are bewildering to watch. Hundreds of firefighters have been working in (and breathing in) the orange-glowing, smoky plague of western skies ablaze. When I was a senior in high school, my parents took us to visit a family they knew in Oregon. It’s really hard to see the now charred ruins of gorgeous places that they showed us. We had traveled by car and trailer across the entire continent but the week we spent in Oregon was truly spectacular.

Maybe it’s another sign of old age that a night of good sleep has become so hard to have anymore. There was a recent segment on a regional TV newscast about more people than ever grinding their teeth while asleep. They interviewed a dentist from Durham who noted his business had spiked because of it. Pictures and X-rays of even fractured teeth, self-inflicted, suggest a collective trauma too “awe-full” to sleep away. No matter which camp you prefer to pitch your tent in (left, right, or centrist), the cumulative effects of multiple things simultaneously going wrong is widely felt and grieved. Worse, “truth” has become a cruel Joker’s game. Nothing seems beyond debate these days except, perhaps, the need to breathe. Medi-

ators advise us to breathe mindfully and slowly. Don’t clench. No problem.

This Labor Day was followed by the 19th anniversary of 9/11. That surreal tragedy doesn’t need more drama than it already moans. Yet, I can’t forget that a group of us went to NYC only a few weeks before the WTC Twin Towers collapsed in 2001. I paid for tickets in the lobby of Two World Trade Center to the outdoor observation deck on its roof. An elevator yanked us 110 stories above Liberty Street. It made us dizzy to look across the windy gap to One World Trade Center and its 360’ tall TV tower. I can’t imagine the horrific visions of doomed ticket holders on 9/11/01. That is simply too much tooth enamel to swallow.

There was barely any mention in the national news this year that a third tower, WTC 7, also collapsed on 9/11. When it happened, a lot of folks (like myself) yelled, “What the heck?!” Although some debris impact damage from the twins was reported at the lower southwest corner of WTC 7, office fire heat in the vicinity of Floor 13 is blamed for the first known instance in the world of a skyscraper (47 stories) collapsing, quite instantly, due to fire! Tall steel framed structures are very carefully designed to ensure emergency access and egress, since the tallest fire truck ladder made (by Germany) only reaches about 17 stories. Reports by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA, May 2002); the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST, Nov. 2008); several commercial building insurers; as well as Popular Mechanics (March

2005), insist that their conclusions are sufficiently legitimate about why a uniquely historic and catastrophic failure ever happened.

A growing number of construction industry experts, belittled as “conspiracy theorists” by some, think otherwise. Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth commissioned a 125-page engineering study, completed at the University of Alaska/Fairbanks-Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, entitled, *A Structural Reevaluation of the Collapse of World Trade Center 7* (March 2020). A petition (ae911truth) has been signed by 3,337 professional architects and engineers (at last count) to reopen the NIST investigation into the global (not sequential) failure of all WTC 7 support columns. Inexplicable omissions and inconsistencies in the NIST report are way too plentiful to begin listing here. I encourage you to browse the AE911 site if your heart can somehow withstand it. As AE911 Truth founder and architect Richard Gage noted on 9/11/20, “It’s not about buildings, is it?” Objections to the shoddy NIST WTC 7 “findings” simply aren’t going to disappear folks.

Swallow hard and good luck sleeping.

Ed Bronson became a wood shop teacher for exceptional middle school students at age 40. He wonders what became of them as well as thousands of high school students who graduated from a Career & Technical Education campus where he was principal until his retirement in 2015. He has a B.A. in Cultural Studies: Religion and a M.S. in Instructional Development.

CRIME

Continued from page A1

“The number one reason for gang activity is lack of family structure,” Wagner said.

After growing up with a “lack of financial stability, and drug trade and solicitation ... it becomes a mindset,” Wagner said. Crime perpetuates more crime. The police cannot solve the root cause, he said, they can only address its consequences. The idea is encompassed in something called the broken window theory.

“The broken window theory started back in the 1990s,” Wagner said. “Basically, it was a theory that if you park one car broken down and leave it there, and then the wheels get stripped off and then the windows broken in, this behavior will continue to happen because people have no sense of ownership. And so basically,

that’s what’s happened here in Siler City.”

Before the pandemic started, Wagner’s department teamed up with agents from N.C.’s Alcohol Law Enforcement to facilitate a series of sting operations at the town’s most notorious crime sites — its convenience stores.

“Studies show that within one square mile of all convenience stores you’re going to see an elevated level of crime,” Wagner said.

One store in particular, the Rite Stop on E. 11th St., is the frequent launch point for a litany of crimes. It was the primary target of a raid Wagner and ALE conducted before the pandemic stifled their plans for future operations.

“In my experience, what I see up there,” Wagner said, “is loitering, people selling drugs, prostitution and other criminal offenses taking place.”

The sting operation,

which took place in November 2019, led to the arrests or citations of 39 people on 58 charges. Operation Wolfpack, as it was dubbed, lasted eight hours and yielded several counts of underage alcohol possession, underage tobacco purchase, alcohol sales to an underage person, possession of and intent to sell marijuana and possession of cocaine, according to the police department’s report.

It was just a snapshot of what happens every day, Wagner said. But in keeping with the broken window theory, Siler City residents have become desensitized to the misconduct around them; rarely do they call the police when they witness crime.

“The reason we don’t get a lot of calls for it is because it’s become acceptable behavior,” Wagner said. “And as long as we continue to accept it as OK, it’s what we’ll continue to see here.”

At least one Siler City

‘We do have gang activity in Siler City. I’m not afraid to say that. I’m not proud to say it, but I want the community to understand some of the challenge that the sheriff and I are facing in Chatham County and particularly in our city.’

MIKE WAGNER, *Siler City Police Chief*

resident, whose name has been withheld to protect his privacy, does not condone what he sees, though. At a recent meeting of the Siler City Board of Commissioners, he described in detail the vulgar scenes that have become commonplace in his neighborhood.

“I’ve seen some ungodly stuff,” he said. “...I used to hear fighting, a whole lot of commotion going on. How can you invite anybody to your house with all of that kind of stuff going on? And you talk about the girls, I’ve seen them — walking back and forth.” The “girls” are prosti-

tutes who use the streets by his house as their staging ground to solicit business.

“I’ve seen them smoking crack,” he said, “and don’t tell me I don’t know the difference between crack smoke and cigarette smoke. I’ve seen them having sex down there, out there in the woods, looking dead into my house.”

But it is not just having grown accustomed to crime that prevents Siler City residents from calling the police. Many of the town’s residents fear repercussion for involving law enforcement.

“A lot of citizens live in

fear,” Wagner said, “they don’t want to call. And that’s unacceptable. When you quit hearing from the public, that’s when you know that your mission as a police department is not reaching its full potential because you have to have those lines of communication open. They can’t live in fear of crime, and they can’t live in fear of consequences for reporting crime.”

Wagner’s department is short-staffed and the pandemic has made its challenging mission more difficult than ever to achieve. But he is confident, with Siler City residents behind him, that he can expunge the town’s unsavory reputation.

“It’s a lot of work,” he said. “With limited staff it’s even harder work. But the philosophy here in the police department is changing. Our citizens want us, they deserve better police services, and I’m determined to give those to them.”

KENNEDY

Continued from page A1

for the town of Southern Pines.

He said Southern Pines, in Moore County, felt like the most urban place he’d ever lived in up to that point. Starting out as a city planner, he worked his way up to heading the town’s public works and planning departments and eventually settled in as assistant town manager.

Then Pittsboro came calling, followed by a unanimous nod from the board of commissioners hiring Kennedy as town manager. Since starting the job in mid-August, Kennedy said he’s still adjusting to the role, but there’s plenty in his resume that has him feeling prepared.

Full service

While working in Southern Pines, Kennedy said he saw a small town that didn’t act like a small town. Instead of expanding city limits and skylines, he explained town hall was a full service operation where refining systems and municipal efficiency was more the city’s focus. He pointed to the city’s mainte-

nance teams as an example.

“This is really kind of a municipal thing, but to go out, have a water problem, be able to go out dig it up, fix it and patch back the road — a lot of places can’t do that,” Kennedy said. “They don’t have the utility crew to go fix it. They don’t have the expertise to try and fix it. They don’t have the asphalt worker to try and fix the road. I think that was one thing in Southern Pines — it allowed me to look at a place that was mainly developed.”

And development is still on his mind. Pittsboro’s growth has it feeling the pinch of large-scale development, like a stressed wastewater management system and major, once-in-a-generation projects such as Chatham Park. He said other areas which deserve focus include affordable housing and water quality as the town deals with the “explosive, exponential type of growth” that comes with being a part of the Triangle region.

Kennedy also realizes the town manager’s job comes with a balancing act. As a town that was incorporated just two years before George Washington was inaugurated as the nation’s first president, Kennedy said protecting aspects of Pittsboro’s more than 200-year

existence is a legitimate concern.

A unique patina

He likened the town’s legacy to antique woodwork.

“Our downtown is kind of like a piece of barn wood,” Kennedy said. “You can try to replicate the patina on a piece of barn wood, but you cannot beat 200 years of wind, rain, sunshine, snow, all that dry air, whatever you want to call it, beating on the piece of wood on the outside of a barn or wherever it sits. That patina is unique and cannot be recreated. Our downtown and some of our older areas are like that; they cannot be recreated. I think we can balance the old stuff with the new stuff and not treat them like different things.”

Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass agrees, telling the News + Record that Kennedy’s biggest challenge is “the very rapid changes that are happening in Pittsboro and how to respond to those changes in a way that preserves the soul of our town.”

And crafting the appropriate response isn’t going to come without some needed help. Kennedy said that if Pittsboro stays on its current growth trajectory, it could easily become

one of the largest 15 towns in the state in terms of population size. He added that cities in that population range have municipal staffs in the hundreds. Even his old haunt Southern Pines — with something like three times the population of Pittsboro — has around 200 employees.

Kennedy is working with a fraction of that with just over 40 staffers in Pittsboro, which he says isn’t going to be enough for both projected and current demands.

“I think it’s a necessary action that’s going to have to occur that we’re going to need more people,” he said. “It’s going to be everything, it’s going to be your street maintenance operators, people who maintain vehicles, people who are in the finance department, more planners, you name it. You could probably add 20% and we might not still cover everything. So I think that’s going to have to be part of our growth.”

A unique mix

But he also sees potential in Pittsboro to offer a unique mix of rural, modern and historic qualities. That could be everything from offering an electric car charging station outside

of Virlie’s Grill, a revitalized downtown or things like innovative stormwater infrastructure. Part of his plan is tapping into the “funkiness” that he hears about from residents, a quality that he thinks gives the town heart.

Kennedy said that’s going to come from earning the trust of residents, but also from building an organization that fosters camaraderie among existing staff. It’s the level of planning and foresight of someone who — like an architect — knows how something is built.

“I hope in five to 10 years that town managers in other places are begging me to quit my job because they want to be in Pittsboro,” Kennedy said. “Because we’re doing things the right way, because we’re doing things that no one else is messing with. That’s the opportunity and the vision that we have... that we don’t have to create this overly planned, very sterile environment. Pittsboro’s got that artistic flair, that funkiness that has made it what it is for so long, that we will keep some of those historical qualities (and) the character, but with some modern touches. We hope it becomes the envy of the region.”



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CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

BOE pivots, Plan C may not last through the end of the semester

Subset student groups to start under Plan B on Oct. 19

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

At a specially called meeting last Tuesday night, the Chatham County Board of Education unanimously passed two motions: one approving in-person instruction under Plan B for Extended Content Standard E.C. students, Pre-K students and K-2 students, and a second allowing the resumption of extracurricular activities.

The instruction exception will apply at the conclusion of the original nine weeks of remote learning, with those students able to begin in-person hybrid learning on Monday, Oct. 19. All other students will remain in the fully remote Plan C option, though the board indicated potentially phasing in other groups of students before the Jan. 15 date they decided on the week before.

The board's motion regarding extracurriculars will allow high school volleyball and cross country teams to resume workouts Oct. 7, with future teams to start preseason workouts 20 to 30 days before their first practice date.

These decisions follow the board's Sept. 23 motion, which passed 4-1, for the county's schools to continue classes under remote learning through the end of the semester, which ends Jan. 15, 2021.

"Of course, this is definitely a difficult process and decision to make," board chairperson Gary Leonard said at that meeting. "We appreciate all of those who've been working with us."

Last Tuesday's meeting, specially called at last week's meeting with the purpose of discussing exceptions to the

Plan C decision, lasted two hours. The meeting began with a brief discussion on workouts from CCS district athletic director Chris Blice and a few questions from board members concerning scheduling and differences in middle school and high school athletic programs. Fifteen minutes into the meeting, the motion to resume extracurricular activities, made by Leonard, passed.

Discussion surrounding exemptions for subset student groups under Plan C was a different story.

Similarly to the broader discussion for all students the previous week, the presentation to the board began with survey results from Pre-K and Exceptional Children Teachers. That survey opened shortly after the board's Sept. 23 meeting and was closed on Sept. 25. There were 140 responses.

At the board's last meeting, concern over CCS employees' feelings of readiness to return to in-person instruction dominated much of the board's discussion. Members referenced a district-wide survey which showed nearly 30% of respondents felt comfortable returning to in-person learning; 41% did not feel comfortable and 30% said they were unsure.

"I think those numbers are really glaring," board member David Hamm said at that Sept. 23 meeting.

The E.C. and Pre-K teacher survey data presented on Tuesday indicated that 42% (59 responses) felt comfortable "returning to in-person instruction with the students that I serve" while nearly 60% (81 responses) did not feel comfortable. Personal safety risks, concern about how to handle the additional workload and difficulty maintaining social distance with "these specific populations" requiring close care were among top reasons respondents gave for not feeling com-

fortable returning.

The board did not directly discuss these numbers.

After the presentation of this survey, CCS Exceptional Children Director Melvin Diggs clarified that in regards to E.C. students, the district was specifically looking at bringing Extended Content Standard students back — E.C. students with "significant cognitive disabilities." This marks a slight difference from the "self-contained" phrasing used at the board's Sept. 23 meeting, when the possibility of the exceptions for E.C. students was first raised. While he said these students often are self contained, this category is slightly more precise in naming which students are affected by the decision.

Following some discussion about substitute teachers, board member Melissa Hlavac mentioned using a hybrid schedule as a more "measured approach" for K-2 students. At this point, the conversation seemed to include K-2 students in the discussion of making exceptions to Plan C. The agenda for the meeting did not specifically mention K-2 students as one of the subset groups to be discussed.

Board member Jane Allen Wilson raised concerns that district surveys were completed before CCS employees had all the information about reopening plans — a sentiment board member David Hamm echoed.

"That survey was done before the teachers knew that 'Aha,'" Hamm said regarding the initial survey CCS distributed to employees. "We've learned a lot in two weeks and have a chance to step back and re-evaluate, and that's I think that's what we're doing."

The information referenced specifically by Hamm and Wilson was presented a week before the board's Sept. 23 decision to remain in Plan C through the semester,



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

At their Sept. 29 meeting, the Chatham BOE unanimously approved exceptions to Plan C for certain student groups. The meeting took place at Horton Middle School and was also live-streamed.

when it heard updates on COVID-19 in the county and state on Sept. 17. In an email to the News + Record, Wilson later clarified that it was the combination of that information — specifically the ABC Science Report — along with details the board learned in following weeks from school administration that made her feel comfortable with a phased-in hybrid approach.

"Before we could consider even our own very amended and limited version of Plan B, I needed to see that all the safety protocols and enforcement could be met," Wilson wrote in that email. "I was not prepared to vote for anything other than C until we could have more assurances that the highly-specific safety recommendations would be followed to the letter and that we had considered every turn."

CCS Superintendent Derrick Jordan clarified last Tuesday that the two groups surveyed for Tuesday's meeting had access to information before responding — through the board's meeting and a meeting

hosted by the department — and "the results were the results."

At this point, the board's discussion indicated board members were considering a phased-in approach to Plan B for other student groups, earlier than the Jan. 15 date decided by the board the previous week. Board member Del Turner, who said last week that she wasn't "going to entertain" Plan B, said she wanted students to come back to school because "in-person is the optimal learning for them."

Following back-and-forth discussion related to different facets of Plan B at Tuesday's meeting, the board planned to hear recommendations from CCS administration regarding a timeline for phasing in other age groups at its next regular session meeting on Oct. 12 — indicating the possibility that even high school students could begin in-person learning before the end of the semester.

The district clarified that Virtual Academy and remote learning options would be avail-

able for students under this phased-in approach, though it was said that switching back and forth between Virtual Academy and in-person learning would not be an option due to the number of scheduling changes involved to do so. Soon after this discussion, Leonard made the motion to bring back the subset student groups under Plan B on Oct. 19.

"Melissa mentioned it may turn sour, well it may turn real sweet and things are better," Hamm said regarding Hlavac's earlier suggestion to opt for a cautious phasing-in approach.

The board's next regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 12 comes one week before the Extended Content Standard E.C. students, Pre-K students and K-2 students are set to begin instruction under Plan B. This decision impacts just over 2,000 students: 98 Pre-K students, 134 E.C. students and 1,853 in K-2, along with those students' teachers.

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

PLAN C

Continued from page A1

and scholastic development too, and not create irreparable inequities."

One of these main inequities, Wilson said, is students falling behind due to lack of reliable internet access, phone service or support from a parent or guardian to stay on task in their work.

Even for older students, the adjustment to remote learning is a challenge, particularly for those facing additional responsibilities such as working or caring for younger siblings. Learning under Plan C has brought some Latinx students in Chatham a sense of heightened stress, the News + Record's La Voz de Chatham Project reported in September, often in part because of such extra responsibilities.

Wilson emphasized that the information presented at the board's Sept. 17 COVID-19 update meeting by ABC Science Collaborative, a project which analyzes COVID-related data in partnership with Duke, UNC and surrounding school districts, including CCS, was crucial in her personal comfort with small populations of students returning under Plan B. That report highlighted several key findings: the importance of social distancing, wearing masks at all points of exposure and limiting the capacity of indoor school locations through hybrid models. The group found that no surges had occurred in N.C. public schools, though that was a different case for schools in other states not opening under a hybrid model.

Throughout their discussions surrounding possible exceptions to Plan C, board members mentioned several times that parent choice would still be a priority. According to state mandates for public schools, all districts must continue offering a remote learning option for families uncomfortable with their student returning to any form of in-person learning. This remote option is in addition to Chatham's Virtual Academy, which enrolls students in a different virtual teacher and course rotation from the one they'd be in at their base school



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

'The painful part of this decision-making is that there is no answer which is the good or perfect answer,' Board member Jane Allen Wilson said in an email to the News + Record, following the board's Sept. 29 decision approving in-person instruction under Plan B for certain student groups and the resumption of extracurricular activities.

with a semester-long commitment.

Still, the same level of choice does not extend to teachers, who technically can only request to teach remotely under very specific circumstances, such as an authorized medical reason.

At the board's Sept. 23 meeting, concern over CCS employees' feelings of readiness to return to in-person instruction dominated much of the board's discussion. Members referenced a district-wide survey which showed nearly early 30% of respondents felt comfortable returning to in-person learning; 41% did not feel comfortable and 30% said they were unsure.

"I think those numbers are really glaring," board member David Hamm said at the time. Later, Hamm told the News + Record that the "key component between the two votes was the fact that critical information on protocols was shared with the CCS employees." Prior to voting to approve Plan B for certain student groups, Hamm and Wilson questioned whether district employees had seen the same information as board members.

The E.C. and Pre-K teacher survey data presented on Tuesday indicated that 42% (59 responses) felt comfortable "returning to in-person instruction with the students that I

serve" while nearly 60% (81 responses) did not feel comfortable. The board did not directly discuss these numbers prior to unanimously approving for subset student groups to start under Plan B on Oct. 19.

"I have, for just about my whole adult life and of course, growing up too, been around fantastic people and many, many of them have been teachers, employees, administrators, staff at these schools" board chairperson Gary Leonard told the News + Record. "I know this will make their job even more difficult, because of the things that are pushed on them. Do I feel like our staff is going to step up to the challenge and do quality work? They've been doing quality work, I think they will continue."

He added that he felt the district's sanitizing protocol would be followed well and that it would protect teachers and students.

Following the board's decision last week, a few people commented on the News + Record's Facebook meeting update with questions about how moving to Plan B would work for the impacted teachers. While the board has heard presentations and thoroughly discussed matters related to sanitization, lunch and bathrooms, it has not discussed very clearly things like classroom social distancing logistics or how

teachers are to provide in-person and remote instruction. The board did approve a draft employee guidebook document on safe returning at their Sept. 17 meeting, which is supposed to address such topics.

Near the end of the board's meeting last week, members indicated that even high school students might begin in-person learning prior to the Jan. 15 date they'd decided on the week prior. For as many people pleased by the board's decision, others were also confused or upset by it. Some wondered why students could return to sports before all students could return to school for in-person learning.

"This is absurd!" one person commented on the News + Record's Facebook update from the meeting.

"But they just had a plan...?!" another posted.

This frustration is reflected in two of this week's News + Record letter to the editors.

Corbie Hill, a Pittsboro resident and parent of 3rd and 5th-grade students, wrote he had "severe doubts" about the board's decision-making process.

"As a parent and as the husband of a CCS employee, I found myself blindsided," Hill wrote. "From the texts other parents sent me the evening of the vote, I know I'm far from alone. We're frustrated. We're ticked off. We want to know what's at all unclear about the words 'uncontained,' 'lethal' and 'pandemic?'"

He acknowledged the pitfalls of remote school, but ultimately said the move to in-person learning will stretch teachers thinner and guarantee infections and death within the school system.

"Remote school is imperfect," he said. "We all know that. What's getting lost in the drive to reopen, however, is infection risk to staff, students, and the entire community — not to mention the logistical headaches of hybrid remote/in-person learning. The grass is not greener."

Pittsboro resident Emily Harrison, the parent of a kindergarten and 2nd grader at Pittsboro Elementary School, expressed similar criticism in her letter.

"Members of the board and other stakeholders may be surprised that parents are

not accepting this decision," Harrison wrote. "Personally, I am hearing nothing but dismay and frustration from parents, teachers, and staff. Especially in this tumultuous time, we crave consistency, transparency, and stability from our school system. The challenges of equity exist, albeit differently, at every possible plan."

She continued: "Join me in urging the board of education to reverse their decision, return to Plan C, and focus on providing the best education possible through a single platform: virtual."

Chatham resident Kimrey Rhinehardt, a CCS parent, echoed that frustration, saying she felt blindsided by the board's decision to send K-2 students back to school, as it wasn't on the agenda released to the public.

"The board's action this evening does nothing to provide stability for teachers, students, and their families," she said that night. "It was only six days ago that the board voted to continue remote learning for the remainder of the semester, with two possible exceptions."

She added: "Students and families deserve better. We need consistency and stability."

The board will meet next on Oct. 12, which marks one week before the Extended Content Standard E.C. students, Pre-K students and K-2 students are set to begin instruction under Plan B. This decision impacts just over 2,000 students: 98 Pre-K students, 134 E.C. students and 1,853 in K-2, along with their teachers and school staff.

For some, that number is far too high. For others, like Rohaly, it's not high enough — her 3rd-grader will still be tackling remote learning.

"I'm concerned, I'm not saying I'm not concerned," Rohaly said, adding that she felt "the damage that we're doing to the psyche of these little kids" outweighed the risk of returning to school with masks and safety protocols.

"I think parents should be allowed to opt out, teachers should be able to opt out," she said. "But I think the kids need to go back."

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

Veterans for Chatham County Commissioner



Jay Stobbs
COL (R) United States Army
District 1



Jimmy Pharr
SSgt United States Air Force
District 2



(Incumbent)
Andy Wilkie
SPC 5 United States Army Reserve
District 5

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Our team, Stobbs, Pharr, & Wilkie, must be elected to win issues on your behalf!

We believe our experience with a conservative, not liberal, world view and truth, not political correctness, combined with fiscal responsibility and a deeply profound respect for individual freedoms, for all citizens, is a clear, positive choice for Chatham County voters. We start here:

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- Reduce spending and per capita debt
- Restore Veteran's Memorial consistent with NC law
- Repeal County-wide zoning, restore property rights
- Increase wastewater monitoring
- Support better rural broadband capability, working with Raleigh legislature and Governor
- Listen to all citizens, govern for everyone

WE NEED ALL THREE GOP COMMISSIONERS TO BE ELECTED FOR THESE CHANGES.
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OBITUARIES

JOSHUA GRANT GAINES



Joshua Grant Gaines, 35, of Siler City passed away on Friday, October 2, 2020, at his home.

Mr. Gaines was born August 2, 1985, a native of Chatham County, the son of Lynn Reid and Sue Nall Gaines. He loved spending time with his family, friends and beloved dog Honzo. Joshua was a member of the Goldston United Methodist Church. He was a lover of all sports, and a member of the Burlington Putting Club. Joshua was preceded in death by his grandparents, Helen and Frank Nall, and Vera and Herbert Gaines.

He is survived by his parents, a brother, Adam Gaines and wife Amanda of Siler City; nieces, Arabel and Vera Jo Gaines; and special friends, Stacey Glidewell and her daughter, Brianna Gallimore.

Joshua laid in state from 12 to 5 p.m. on Monday October 5, 2020, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. A graveside service was held Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at 2 p.m. at Goldston United Methodist Church Cemetery, with Rev. Lucas Nelson officiating. The family received friends after the service in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Memorials may be made to the Goldston United Methodist Men's Group, P.O. Box 99, 185 Hillcrest Ave., Goldston, NC 27252.

Smith and Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Gaines family.

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

BILLY RAY WEST



Billy Ray West, 84, of Washington, N.C., died Friday, October 2, 2020, at his home.

Mr. West was born July 3, 1936, a native of Wayne County, the son of the late Brodie and Nora Crumpler West. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Helen J. Clark West, and son, Mike West.

Mr. West graduated from Guilford College with a Master's Degree in education. He started teaching and coaching at Aurelian Springs High School. From there he came to Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City, coaching boy's football. After leaving Jordan-Matthews, he went to Albarne High School, then to South Stanly High School where he was coach and Vice Principal. Next, he went to Aquadale Elementary as the Principal. While there, he was awarded Principal of the Year in March, 1989. Among his many accomplishments were winning the 1965 2A Eastern State Football Championship while at Jordan-Matthews as well as multiple conference coach of the year awards throughout his career. After retiring, he helped his son Mike in his coaching career. Mr. West loved to travel with his wife.

He is survived by his daughter, Amy W. Jones and husband Wade of Mt. Holly; son, David West and wife Sherry of Washington, N.C.; grandchildren, Brodie and Gray West, Sam and Jordan Jones; and daughter-in-law, Shana West.

The family received friends Monday, October 5, 2020, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Rocky River Baptist Church, 4336 Siler City-Snow Camp Rd., Siler City.

A graveside service followed at 2 p.m. at the church cemetery with Dr. Greg Burriss officiating.

Smith & Buckner assisted the West family.

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

JOSEPH ROGER LEDBETTER SR.

Joseph Roger Ledbetter Sr., 40, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at Duke University Hospital in Durham.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

ELIZABETH JUDITH BETHEA

Elizabeth Judith Bethea, 81, passed away Saturday, September 19, 2020, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Friday, October 2, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home. Burial took place Monday, October 5, 2020, in All Saints Cemetery in Great Neck, N.Y.

VERTA MAE (JACKSON) GILL

Verta Mae Gill, 70, passed away Friday, September 25, 2020, at her residence.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, October 3, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home, with burial following at Tempting Congregational Church.

CARLYLE CASWELL LEWTER

Carlyle Caswell Lewter, 90, of Apex, died Monday, October 5, 2020, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday, October 8, 2020, at Mount Pisgah Baptist Church with Rev. Randy Umberger officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

He was born in Chatham County, son of the late Dallas Caswell Lewter and Florence Mae Thompson Lewter. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Christine P. Lewter. He was a member of the Mount Pisgah Baptist Church.

Surviving are daughters, Brenda Dail of Holly Springs, Dawn Markham of Apex; brother, Grover Lewter of Cary; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, social distancing guidelines will be followed and masks are requested.

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

Arrangements are by Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

MARVIN ANTONIO SAUNDERS

Marvin Antonio Saunders, 61, passed away on Saturday, September 26, 2020, at Advent Health Hospital in Orlando, Florida.

He was born in Lee County on August 24, 1959, to Glen Edward and Mary Maxine Saunders.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 3, 2020, at Johnsonville Community Cemetery in Cameron.

ARTHUR LEE MCNEILL

Arthur Lee McNeill, 85, of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at Magnolia House Retirement Center.

A virtual memorial service was held at 3 p.m. Saturday, October 3, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home Facebook Page.

GREGORY JACKSON CLARK, II

Gregory Jackson Clark II, 35, of Sanford passed away on Sunday, September 27, 2020.

Donations can be made by calling Knotts Funeral Home at 919-776-4345.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

LARRY D. WHITE

Larry D. White, 63, of Haw Branch, passed away Thursday, October 1, 2020, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

JONES RICHARD THOMAS

Jones Richard Thomas Sr., 80, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, October 1, 2020, at his home.

A graveside service was held Sunday, October 4, 2020, at 2 p.m. at Lee Memory Gardens with Mr. James Holt, Miss Melinda Yule and Miss Waverley Pierson officiating.

He was born in Lee County on March 28, 1940, to Roy Shepard Thomas and Elizabeth Wofford Thomas. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Tammy Sue Thomas; brother, Wallace Thomas; and sister, Margie Ellis. Richard worked as a supervisor at GKN. He served his country in the U.S. Navy.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Jackson Thomas; daughters, Sandra Hickman, Judy Atkins, both of Sanford; son, Jones Richard Thomas, Jr. of Southport; brother, Fred Thomas of Sanford; sister, Ann Black of Sanford; seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

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

JULIA ANN (MCAULEY) WASHINGTON

Julia Ann McAuley Washington, 95, of Cameron, passed away on Monday, October 5, 2020, at Liberty Commons Rehabilitation Center.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

RICHARD MAURY SMITH

Richard Maury Smith, 73, of Staley, died Monday, September 28, 2020, at his home.

A graveside service with Military Rights by the Randolph County Honor Guard was held Friday, October 2, 2020, at 2 p.m. at Oakwood Cemetery with Rev. Bob Wachs officiating.

Mr. Smith was born January 7, 1947, a Bladen County native, the son of Harvey and Fleda Gillespie Smith. He was preceded in death by his parents; wives, Juanita Smith, Lessie M. Smith; and sister, Mary Smith Morgan. Richard was of the Baptist faith, an engineer in the U.S. Army.

He is survived by daughters, Tammy Smith Macon of Bennett, Tina Lynn Smith of Staley; and son, Michael Smith of Asheboro; sisters, Margaret Joyner and Carolyn Brewer; brothers, H.B., Charles, Weldon, Paul Smith; and five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675, www.support.woundedwarriorproject.org.

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

SUSAN KAY MICHELL HODGES

Susan Kay Mitchell Hodges, 74, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, October 2, 2020, at SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan UNC Hospice Home.

A graveside service will be held Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 2 p.m. at Lee Memory Gardens with Dr. Calvin Sayles officiating.

She was born in Newport News, Virginia, on November 30, 1945, to the late John Baptist Mitchell and Kathleen Womble Mitchell. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Larry Lee Hodges and brother Steven Ray Mitchell. Susan retired from Central Carolina Hospital where she worked in the Dietary Department as a supervisor.

Susan is survived by her sons, David Chandler Hodges of Sanford, Derrick Lee Hodges of Harrisburg; and five grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorials to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

'IT WILL BE A LEARNING CURVE'

Boone, a longtime CCS administrator, appointed in Dist. 2

She'll fill seat of 'icon' Larry Cheek, who died in May

BY JAMES KIEFER
News + Record
Correspondent

SILER CITY — Norma Boone will fill the vacant seat of the late Dist. 2 commissioner Larry Cheek following a unanimous decision by Siler City's Board of Commissioners last Tuesday night.

In a special session, board members selected Boone over two other residents who'd expressed interest in the position — Travis Patterson and Albert Reddick.

Cheek, who'd also served as Mayor Pro-Tem, passed away in May. His tenure was acknowledged by current Mayor Pro-Tem and at-large commissioner Cindy Bray.

"We know how much everyone thought of Larry," she said. "He's an icon; he'll be hard to replace."

While interviewing the three candidates, questions asked by commissioners included subjects like the potential closure of a portion of Third Street, how the candidates plan to fill the remaining two years of the term and what their respective visions were for Siler City.

Each candidate was concerned about potential negative impacts on traffic and business activity if part of Third Street were to close — as has been



Photo courtesy of Chatham County Schools

Norma Boone, Siler City's new Dist. 2 commissioner.

requested by Mountaire Farms — and that the welfare of residents in the area is a priority.

Boone said that she was especially worried about the Pine Glades senior community suffering from an overflow of traffic, and said she'd rather have the decision postponed because of too many unknowns. Boone also brought up potentially expanding the town's parks and recreation programs to cater to more people above the 12- to 13-year-old age range. She also added that making legitimate connections with her constituents and having routine community engagement would be crucial in taking on the role.

On the subject of economic growth, Boone said Siler City needs to do a better job of marketing itself if it wants to attract business. She called projects like the downtown revitalization a step in the right direction.

"We've got to have more appeal," Boone said.

A point hammered rou-

tinely by Patterson in his interview was the need for affordable housing. He cited it as a linchpin in creating economic development and job creation.

"We need a trained workforce, but by increasing affordable housing, you can also encourage spending locally," he said. "Without affordable housing, people come from out of town (to work) and take their money back home."

Patterson echoed Boone by saying having a strong community makes a more attractive landing spot for potential businesses, but he also said it's important to ask young adults already in the community what businesses they want to see and what will encourage them to stay as they develop professionally.

Reddick, the former mayoral candidate who's challenged and lost to current Mayor John Grimes three times, said he was deeply worried about the town's drop in sales tax revenue and

city-run agencies finding themselves cash-strapped. He added that if he were appointed to the seat he'd work to make Siler City more of a destination and create a supportive town environment.

In the end, the board's vote to name Boone to the seat was unanimous. In a phone interview after the decision, Boone told the News + Record it felt good to have the board's unanimous confidence behind her and she's hoping to live up to expectations.

Boone is a lifelong resident of Siler City with more than 30 years of experience in Chatham County Schools, including serving as principal at Jordan-Matthews High School. She holds several advanced degrees and serves as executive director for teacher instruction for Chatham County Schools. She also serves on the boards of BB&T Bank and Chatham Habitat for Humanity and is a member of the West Chatham branch of the NAACP.

She mentioned she expects to do some learning while taking on the new role, but it some of it may feel familiar.

"I know it will be a learning curve with looking at (municipal) codes and looking at the town budget," she said. "But the one thing I look at is I've run a school, I've also served on different boards of directors in different capacities. I know how to navigate those kind of things, so I think I'll be able to adjust. Working on those smaller organizational boards... that's a smaller portion

of what the bigger picture is with Siler City. It's going to command more attention (from myself) because it's not just one organization. This is a town."

Boone is also coming into the job with reverence for the man who up until a few months ago held the seat. Boone explained Cheek was someone she always came to with community issues, and that he encouraged her to get involved with projects like National Night Out. Boone further stated that while she hopes to do some things that carry on Cheek's legacy, her main goal is to show what she brings to the table.

Election laws vary on the protocol for replacing an elected official by the nature of the office. For

municipalities, a vacancy on a town board is usually filled by the board appointing someone to serve the remainder of the term.

On July 20, the Board of Commissioners decided to fill Cheek's vacancy with the same model it used in 2013 to replace a Dist. 4 vacancy, the Chatham News + Record previously reported. That vacancy was created when then-commissioner John Grimes was appointed by the board to serve the rest of Mayor Charles Johnson's term; Johnson died in office. The board appointed Bill Haiges to Dist. 4, who was later elected to his seat and is still serving.

Boone was sworn in at the commissioners meeting Monday.

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CHATHAM COMMISSIONERS

Board approves edits to Emergency Housing Fund policy, schedule for meetings

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — At a specially called work meeting Monday late afternoon, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved edits to the county's Emergency Housing Fund policy and received an annual report from the Chatham County Cooperative Extension 4-H Program.

Following this special meeting, the board also met for its regular session at Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, with both meetings livestreamed through the GoTo Webinar platform.

Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, a policy analyst with the Chatham County Manager's office, presented the edits to the policy for the Emergency Housing Fund, which is comprised of funds allocated for emergency housing by the BOC in a given fiscal year. This year, there are also coronavirus-related funds, many of which must be dispersed by Dec. 31.

The purpose of the funds are to provide support to those experiencing homelessness, mass displacement or need of immediate shelter. During the pandemic, Watkins-Cruz said she realized the fund could be more accessible by creating another way to request assistance. Now, in addition to writing a letter, people can complete a form at the following link: cutt.ly/housingform.

This change, along with a note about the allowance of an abbreviated administrative process in the case of crisis, was noted in red font as an edit to be approved.

"This is sort of giving the policy, and staff, the space and flexibility to immediately begin as funds are available," she said. "2020 has taught us that we really don't know what to expect — being prepared and being able to disperse funds quickly is important."

The county's 4-H program then provided a report, breaking down their presentation into "pre-COVID-19" planning from January to March, and then from April to now. The presenters noted that their normal programs — 4-H Healthy Living Teen Leadership Retreat, School Incentives and Developing Healthy Habits course — were unable to continually normal due to COVID-19 meeting guide-

lines. The organization hosted multiple virtual camps this summer, as well as distributing craft kits with CORA and Chatham Resources Hub. In the future, presenters said Chatham 4-H plans to host club Zoom meetings, school enrichment and after-school hybrid programs and subscription learning kits.

"COVID really did affect all aspects of our 4-H program here in the county — from school programming, to club work, to workshops, to camps, at the state level and truly, national events for us as well," said Ginger Cunningham, a county 4-H extension director and extension agent. "Engaging youth and volunteers truly took on another meaning for us as we really pivoted."

Commissioner Diana Hales applauded the group's efforts.

"Your staff seems to have risen to the occasion of creating new opportunities in COVID," she said. "I am definitely delighted in terms of the partnership you all have had with CORA and food distribution."

"Thank you for pivoting so quickly," Commissioner Karen Howard added.

The board's regular session meeting, which began at 6 p.m., was shorter than usual, with presentations regarding approval for final plats and a reclaimed water system from NNP Briar Chapel, LLC and Old North State Water Company, LLC postponed to the board's Oct. 19 meeting. Nick Robinson, who presented on behalf of both groups, gave a brief update, saying he would "report some hopeful news."

"There's much we would like to report," Robinson said. "But I'm also given to understand that some of the representatives of the Homeowner's Association and Stop Chatham North were prepared as well to make comments in the public input session tonight and have deferred."

He added: "In the meantime, in the background, over the last few weeks at Briar Chapel's urging, there have been very productive conversations afoot to try to reach a compromise as to all the pending wastewater treatment issues and concerns. This would be a great development, I think you all would agree, for all the parties."

He said positive progress had been made, but

there are still issues the four parties are hoping to resolve prior to the full presentation before or on the Oct. 19 meeting.

During the board's public input session, two residents spoke in opposition to approval of the projects, while two other people yielded their time until the Oct. 19 presentation. In September, the Chatham County Planning Board voted for non-approval of Phase 13 & 14 final plats for Briar Chapel, and it was after that point that NNP Briar Chapel, LLC and Old North State Water Company, LLC took the matter to the BOC.

At the end of the meeting, the board voted to adopt a resolution amending the board's meeting calendar for the rest of the year — to hold work sessions at 2 p.m. and regular sessions at 6 p.m. — and approved the meeting calendar for when and where the board will meet in 2021. That calendar indicates that the board will meet at the Chatham County Historic Courthouse, something that Board Clerk Lindsay Ray said could be adjusted if need be.

During his county manager report, Dan LaMontagne addressed COVID-19 updates in the county, and said a press release would go out later in the week to inform the public of all changes at county facilities. He emphasized that as things open back up, social distancing and the wearing of masks will still be required.

"As you know, the governor moved us to Phase 3 of the stay-at-home order, that went into effect Friday at 5 p.m.," he said. "I've notified all our department heads that we would be moving towards reopening some of our lobbies in certain facilities to in-face service to our public. This is by no means a business-as-usual, as we know the coronavirus is still with us ... keeping everyone safe is paramount to us, our employees and our customers and clients, but the departments are coming up with plans of how the can reconstitute those services."

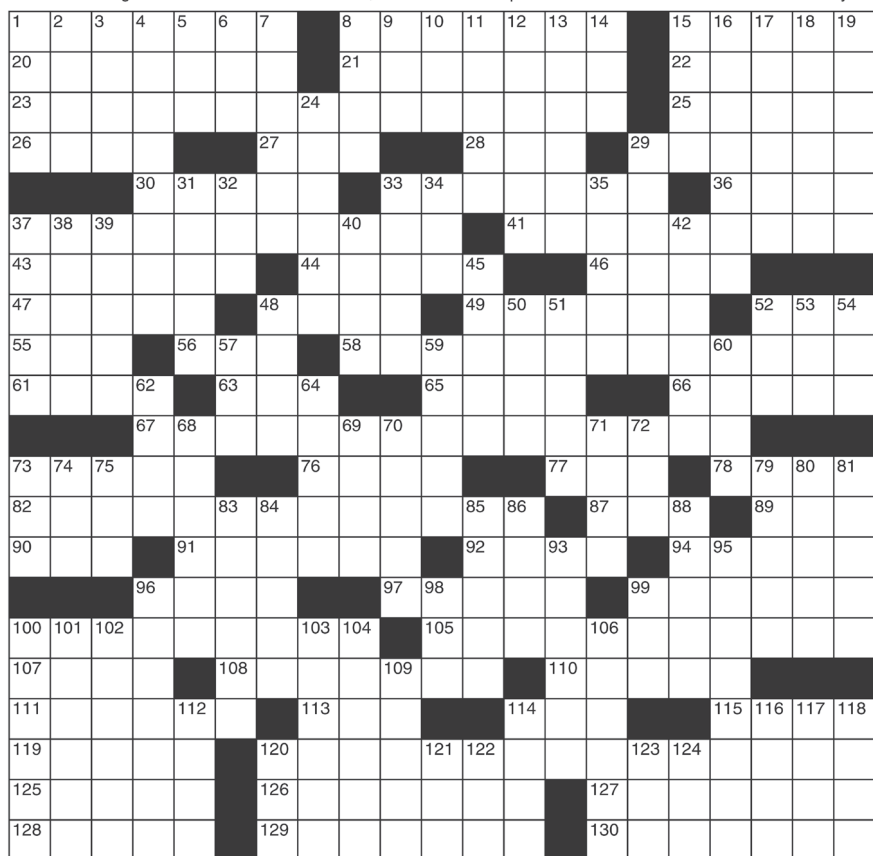
The board's next meeting will take place on Oct. 19 at the Historic Courthouse, according to the county's website, and it will also be livestreamed over GoTo Webinar.

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

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

GOOD DOGS!

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 48 Exam for some jrs. | 96 Shade trees | 7 "Mister" of ice cream trucks | 45 Mother-of-pearl | 86 Grads' dance |
| 1 Perfect places | 49 Acquire | 97 Acknowledge | 8 Bert of "The Wizard of Oz" | 48 Hammer end | 88 Lucifer |
| 8 Places | 52 Tally up | 99 Relax briefly | 9 "Go, torero!" | 50 Norse god in a chariot | 93 Lacking vitality |
| 15 Firing noise | 55 "The Ipcress File" novelist | 100 Relax the consequence | 10 Ill-bred dude | 51 Nonlethal stunner | 95 Medium to poor |
| 20 Italian province or its capital | Deighton | 107 A long time | 11 Assists in crime | 52 Jackie's hubby #2 | 96 Least difficult |
| 21 Mobile's place | 56 Maiden-named | 108 1988 NFL MVP | 12 Sumptuous | 53 HMO participants | 98 Lead-in to chic or hazard |
| 22 Goes the distance | 58 Bring items to someone as a server would | 110 Bearings | 13 Actress de Ravin of "Lost" | 54 Henna, e.g. | 99 Sow or cow |
| 23 "We were just talking about you!" | 61 Italian province or its capital | 111 Loosened, as a skate | 14 Actor Mineo | 57 SFO guess | 100 Dish under a cup |
| 25 Roast's host | 63 Steeped quaff | 113 From — Z | 15 — cheese dressing | 59 PC support givers | 101 Brush aside |
| 26 Early 1900s cars | 65 Love god | 114 Assist | 16 Sendup | 60 Writer Seton | 102 "Neon" tank swimmers |
| 27 The Raptors, on sports tickers | 66 Ouzo flavorer | 115 "That's awful!" | 17 Liftoff follower | 62 Merits a "so-so" | 103 Prone |
| 28 Up to, for short | 67 Insist that formalities are observed | 119 Actor | 18 Hi-fi system | 64 Acknowledge | 104 Triangular sail |
| 29 Actor Everett of "Stardust" | 73 Extensive destruction | 120 Place to teach the eight commands featured in this puzzle | 19 Feared fly | 68 Antigen | 106 Least narrow |
| 30 In accordance with | 76 "Air kiss" sound | 125 Rub away | 24 Swimmer | 69 Has | 109 Coke and Pepsi |
| 33 Really big | 77 Crude | 126 Mopped, e.g. | 29 Installed anew, as flooring | 70 Actor Conrad of early films | 112 Peepers |
| 36 Low-value billfold fillers | 78 Greek god in a chariot | 127 Crouched | 31 Beer vessel | 71 Nanny Poppins | 114 Roddick of tennis |
| 37 Yet to happen | 82 Make radical changes to the norm | 128 Relaxes | 32 Prof's degree | 72 Have a debt | 116 Pueblo people |
| 41 Regular way of walking | 87 Hi — graphics | 129 In a nervous way | 33 Having a dull finish | 73 Pres. elected in '48 | 117 Yuletide tune |
| 43 Slacked off | 89 Long time | DOWN | 34 Hurly-burly | 74 "Caught you!" | 118 Dated, quaintly |
| 44 "Your Song" singer John | 90 Beige | 1 Khrushchev's fed. | 35 Eschewer of animal products | 75 Boxy vehicle | 120 Mo. with the birthstone opal |
| 46 Acquire | 91 Father of Taoism | 2 Sticky stuff | 37 "The Little Rascals" girl | 79 Weaponize again | 121 Suffix with opal |
| 47 Martini's partner in winemaking | 92 Talk to a deity | 3 Butter | 38 Conical woodwinds | 80 "Traffic" actress | 122 Fish that can be shocking |
| | 94 Novelist Nin | 4 Field laborers | 39 Had no life | 81 Full of lip | 123 — Jeanne d'Arc: Abbr. |
| | | 5 Really bug | 40 Royal name of Norway | 83 Packed firmly | 124 "Friends" co-star |
| | | 6 Year, in Rio | 42 Soup holder | 84 Gas pump attachments | Courteney |
| | | | | 85 Novelist Sinclair | |



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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

READ IT ONLINE

Siler City Fire Department's
ANNUAL BBQ PLATES
 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
\$8.00/Plate (with drink)
OCTOBER 21ST
TAKE OUT AT: The Fire Dept.

CHURCH NEWS

CHATHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The "Wings" (Women in God's Service) annual fall festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, October 10 at the church. There will be bake, craft and yard sales, outdoors events, as well as a chicken pot pie meal available for take-out only for \$10. This will include chicken pot pie, cranberry sauce, cole slaw, dessert and a drink.

The church is located at 1826 Chatham Church Road in Moncure. Your support will be appreciated.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Honoring Carl Fox

The recently retired Carl Fox, a judge for the 15B Judicial District of the Third Division of the Superior Court, which presides over both Chatham and Orange counties, was honored by having the courtroom in Chatham County named in his honor. At the Sept. 21 meeting of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, commission chairperson Karen Howard displayed a sign that will be hung in the courtroom. 'I only had the privilege of knowing Judge Carl Fox from a distance and was a privilege to be able to recognize and celebrate his considerable contributions to our community, both in the courts and beyond,' Howard said. 'The naming of a courtroom is an honor that few can hope to obtain, but it is especially befitting of a man who used his intellect, courage and tenacity to serve his community in ways that directly impacted so many.' Howard said the list of honors and awards that Judge Fox attained over his career was a testament to his dedication to his community. 'But perhaps his greatest legacy of all will be the Save the Fox campaign which continues to educate and encourage bone marrow donation, especially amongst African Americans, who historically have not participated in donor programs,' she said. 'That he was willing to use his own battle with cancer to lift up a challenge facing others was nothing short of heroic.'

Prayer VIGIL
 Tuesday, October 27th, 2020
 at 11:00 AM
 Front Lawn of Chatham County Sheriff's Office
 295 West St., Pittsboro, NC
 Join us in prayer, to honor men and women of LAW enforcement of Chatham County, Pittsboro, Siler City and SBI Capital District

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2020 ELECTIONS | N.C. SENATE DIST. 23

Foushee and Glendinning talk goals, priorities if elected

News + Record Staff

Editor's note: The News + Record sent questionnaires to both of the N.C. Senate Dist. 23 candidates on this year's ballot. The biographical facts and civic involvement sections were com-

piled from each response, but the responses to the questionnaires were included in their entirety and only minorly edited for spelling and grammar. Any question not included for a specific candidate reflects their choice to leave the question unanswered.

This year, Democratic incumbent Sen. Valerie Foushee and her Republican challenger, Thomas Glendinning, are on the ballot for North Carolina's Senate Dist. 23 seat, which covers Chatham and Orange counties. Here, Foushee, who grew up in segregated Chapel Hill, and Glendinning, who has lived in Chatham since attending UNC-Chapel Hill, discuss their priorities if elected to state senate.

SENATE DIST. 23



VALERIE FOUSHEE

Retired police department administrator
www.valeriefoushee.com

Biographical Facts

Political/government hero: I have several; in this moment, Shirley Chisholm
Favorite book: "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou
Most recently read: Reread "Walking With the Wind" by John Lewis
Favorite film: The Color Purple
Hobbies: Reading, singing and dancing
Personal motto or one-line philosophy: To whom much is given, much is required.
Most significant life goal you've accomplished: Motherhood!
Goal you haven't accomplished yet: Re-election to the NC Senate 2020!
(Among others)

Civic Involvement

Chair, NC Black Alliance
Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP #5689 - Silver Life Member, Co-Chair Religious Affairs Committee
Member, Board of Directors, Marian Jackson Center (Chair: 2011-2014)
Member of First Baptist Church, Past Church School Superintendent
First Baptist Church Trustee Board and Board of Deaconesses
Member of the Gospel Choir
Randolph Chapter #185 Order of the Eastern Star
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School Board (1997-2004)
Orange County Commissioner (2004-12)
Elected to NC House 50 in 2012
Appointed to the NC Senate 23 in 2013, re-elected to N.C. Senate 2014, 2016 and 2018.



THOMAS GLENDINNING

Retired consultant/contractor in real estate development and property management
Facebook: Tom Glendinning for NC Senate 23

Biographical Facts

Political/government hero: Harry S. Truman/Dwight D Eisenhower
Favorite book: the Bible Book
Most recently read: the Bible
Favorite film: Too many
Hobbies: Visiting family & friends, then, gardening, landscaping, sailing
Personal motto or one-line philosophy: Do right
Most significant life goal you've accomplished: Founded and established one industry and one management practice in North Carolina, both of which improved water quality and the environment
Goal you haven't accomplished yet: Still on training wheels to be more like Jesus

Civic Involvement

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Boy Scout Liaison, Veteran Headstone Project
Kiwanis
Church mission projects
A dozen and a half non-profit groups over the years
American Institute of Parliamentarians, secretary, treasurer
Warden at Church Vestry
US Marine Corps, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, communications intelligence, clearance Top Secret

VALERIE FOUSHEE

Why are you seeking this office?

I have served in the General Assembly for nearly eight years in an effort to promote policies that better the lives of North Carolinians in general and citizens of District 23 in particular. I believe that service is the rent we pay for our space in this world. It is an opportunity to give back to those who have given so much to me and have influenced my values. I believe in providing a sound, basic education for all of our students; that we protect our natural resources; that all deserve access to affordable health care; and that the economy should work for everyone.

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

Legislators are respon-

sible for creating and revising laws and regulations (including the tax code) that provide for the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the state. They collaboratively pass a budget that defines the state's priorities and service goals. Legislators represent the values of the people of the district whom they serve not contrary to the greater good for all. I believe that my 23 years of public service at the state and local levels of government qualifies me to serve in this role.

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

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, members of the General Assembly have worked collaboratively to appropriate and allocate federal and state resources to mitigate the negative impacts on our economy, our educational and our health care systems. How-

ever, strong partisan politics have obstructed our ability to pass a budget, resulting in uncertainty for state agencies and inadequate responses to service requests from our citizens.

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

The most significant challenges have to do with dealing with the devastating effects of COVID-19 on our economy, our educational and health care systems. The General Assembly will need to approve a budget that provides for funding to assist small businesses and local governments as they work to recover from closures and decreased sales tax revenues. Lack of educational funding to raise salaries for teachers, non-certified staff, university and community college employees, along with infrastructure

and other school facility needs must be addressed.

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

- 1: Expanding Medicaid to provide access to healthcare for approximately 500,000 citizens
- 2: Passing a constitutional amendment to provide for establishing an independent redistricting commission to determine legislative and congressional districts

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

It is my desire that the next General Assembly will expand Medicaid to provide access to affordable health care for more than 500,000 North Carolinians and more than 40,000 jobs. I also hope that the General Assembly is successful in passing legislation to amend the constitution

to allow for the establishment of a non-partisan independent commission to draw new legislative and congressional voting districts.

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

Although, I do not reside in Chatham County, I support several Chatham County agencies and organizations. I will continue to support many of these agencies with in-person service and financial support.

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

Gov. Cooper has shown strong leadership in guiding us through the pandemic. He has been steady and consistent in using the expertise of Secretary of Human Services, Dr. Mandy Cohen, to enact executive orders to ensure that our health care system is not overwhelmed by the spread of

the virus. His measured, phased approach for re-opening our businesses and his deployment of available resources will help to ameliorate many of the negative impacts to our economy and hopefully allow us to re-open our schools. The General Assembly worked collaboratively in short order to appropriate relief funding to provide assistance for families and businesses struggling to meet unprecedented, unpredictable challenges.

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

Unfortunately, the continued acts of police brutality against African Americans have highlighted racial injustice in our country and have sparked widespread protests across the nation. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks and so

See **QUESTIONS**, page A13

SENATE

Continued from page A1

Chatham County will be first on her docket.

"The first thing I want to do if I am re-elected," Foushee said, "is continue to work for the expansion of broadband for unserved and under-served areas particularly in Chatham County. I will continue to support investments in education so that Chatham County continues to progress. And I will continue to push for legislation that will keep the environmental aspects of Chatham County — water and air — clean."

Glendinning is more concerned with zoning legislation, a topic with which he is intimately familiar, having watched the evolution of zoning laws in the county over the last 40 years.

"This is dear to my heart because it has to do with property rights and personal rights," he said. "In other words, that you can use your property or the resources around you as you need to. Our two counties (Chatham and Orange) are probably the most strictly zoned and restricted by planning code and zoning code in the state."

Such close oversight can be beneficial, he said, if it's what the people want. In his experience, however, Chatham County residents view increased legislation as a burdensome imposition.

"Some people would say that's good so that you always have a handle on what's going on with development," he said. "But there's an area of overlap between that and

property rights — personal rights. In fact, it's not an overlap, it's a direct confrontation."

The two candidates' primary goals are the most docile of their differences, though. On controversial topics that have commanded the nation's attention in recent months, Foushee and Glendinning sharply diverge.

One topic is race in America. Both candidates lived through the 1960s civil rights era — and both said they supported the movement. Now, however, they perceive 2020's incarnation of social justice reform in contrasting ways.

"If you talk about structural (racism), that doesn't mean anything to me," Glendinning said. "If there's some sort of social organism sending racist views, I think that needs to be dealt with individually."

Glendinning believes racial disparity was mostly resolved 50 years ago. Today's grievances are "basically a tea party by comparison," he said.

"I would agree that, yes, we've got problems that exist," he said. "But racism is certainly not one of the larger ones."

The real problem, as Glendinning sees it, are calls to defund and withdraw support from police departments across the country.

"We need to support the police and let them do their job," he said. "It's as simple as that. They're trying to defund the police; if we don't have the police, we have chaos."

But little evidence suggests the popular social media cries for police defunding are under serious consideration in the polit-

ical sphere — by Democrats or Republicans. Foushee, who counts herself more qualified than most to comment on the goings-on inside police departments, is the first to denounce rumors of widespread support of police defunding.

"I don't know any Democrat within my caucus — let me just speak for the Senate Democratic Caucus — who supports that," she said. "Defunding the police is not something that we promote and I certainly, as a 21-year police department employee, am not an advocate for defunding the police department. By and large, police departments do what the communities set out for them to do and that is to protect them first."

But neither are police departments absolved of responsibility for their wrongful conduct, she said.

"There are police officers who have not followed processes and procedures established by their own departments," she said. "There is a need, I believe, in this country, to reform policing such that the rights and privileges of a citizen are preserved in any process, whether it be criminal or civil."

That process starts with confronting and then abolishing institutional racism.

"We need to work to eliminate the vestiges and current impact of systemic racism," she said.

Glendinning's opinion is, therefore, reductionist, Foushee said. And defunding is not the solution. On the contrary, police departments need help to innovate and

progress.

"We need to provide funding," she said, "and require training for law enforcement officers in de-escalation strategies and about implicit bias and racial profiling. We have a duty to innovate. I don't think anybody who watched what happened to George Floyd can understand why other officers would not innovate."

There are few things on which Foushee and Glendinning agree. One, however, is the reason for which they so often disagree: American politics has never been as divided as it is now.

"I've never seen the parties farther apart than now," Glendinning said. "I would say the left has moved from being a reasonable and negotiable party in politics to a group that just will not yield on the basic principles of government. I've seen the Democratic Party, which I was a part of for 40 years, degrade."

Of course, members of both major political parties frequently level such accusations against their opponents. Each side contends the other is inflexible to a fault.

"For example, Republicans said, 'We're not going to touch Obamacare with a 10-foot pole,'" Foushee said. "They made that decision in 2013 and have not moved the needle since that time. Even where we are today, it is not a consideration. To say with the force of all of the authority you have that you will not consider such a bill when you have rural hospitals closing, when people don't have access near them to healthcare — how caring is that? Where is the com-

passion?"

Compromise is important to Glendinning. Its absence in modern politics is the reason government accomplishes so little, he said. But if elected, the Affordable Care Act may be one topic on which he cannot concede. It is not the solution to problems in today's healthcare system, he said, and he feels better poised to make such a determination than his opponent.

"My great-great-great-grandfather became a doctor in 1805," he said. "On my dad's side it goes doctor, doctor, doctor. My dad founded two hospitals. My great-grandfather and grandfather were founders of the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio and that's where I was raised. I wandered the halls of the Cleveland Clinic while my dad was in residence there and I had my first job at the other two hospitals founded by my granddad. My experience is personal in healthcare."

So, when the Affordable Care Act passed, "my upbringing just clashed with the party," he said.

The Democrats' handling of universal healthcare measures under Obama's administration fell short of Glendinning's expectations and standards. But the Republican Party, Glendinning said, has followed a different trajectory.

"I found a focused Republican Party," he said. "It was very clear on its goals: following the Constitution, the Bill of Rights — basically, I'd say, honoring what God gave us when we founded this country."

Vitriolic debate over healthcare has simmered

at all stages of government since the Affordable Care Act passed 10 years ago. But especially since the novel coronavirus emerged in late 2019, healthcare has become incendiary kindling for contentious political discourse.

"Are we so polarized," Foushee said, "that we would, in America, gloss over 200,000 Americans dying of a disease, when we could have done some things that would have prevented that in many of those cases? That comes from pure polarization and partisan politics that we would stand by and allow our own citizens to die."

But Glendinning contests the very premise of Foushee's argument. COVID-19 is not as serious as Democrats would represent it, he says, compared to things like education and the economy. As for masks and social distancing, he thinks they are ineffectual.

"The masks do no good," he said. "Social distancing doesn't matter — and I can verify that from some doctors' reports."

Most doctors and epidemiologists agree that masks and social distancing minimize the spread and contraction of COVID-19. Even President Trump, who notably opposed masks and denied their effectiveness, has reversed course in recent months. But a minority of experts still exist who decry their benefits. Glendinning is among their supporters.

"I'm adamant about this," he said, "and I may be unelectable because of that view, but to me that's just the way it is."

NEWS BRIEFS

New Hope Valley Railway is back on track

BOSNAL — The North Carolina Railway Museum, which operates New Hope Valley Railway (NHVR) will reopen to the public and resume train rides on Saturday, Oct. 10, with its popular Track or Treat: Halloween Express trains.

Located at 3900 Bon-sal Rd. in New Hill, and nicknamed the Triangle's Train, NHVR's family-friendly Halloween trains are planned for four weekends in October — Saturdays on Oct. 10, 17, 24 and 31. Trains will depart at 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30 and 7:45 p.m. and



Photo courtesy of NHVR

The New Hope Valley Railway's Halloween Express Train.

tickets will only be sold online prior to ride days and not at the railroad on the day-of. Tickets cost \$14 for all ages.

Passengers and guests will notice several new safety measures and protocols: Train capacity will

be limited to 30 percent for socially distanced seating in accordance with government mandates. Each passenger car normally holds up to 60 riders. In addition to individual tickets, a private Family Caboose will be available with seating for up to 10 family members.

Face coverings will be required for all guests, passengers and volunteers while in the rail yard and when riding the train. Costumes are encouraged, but Halloween costume masks may not replace proper face coverings.

Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the railway and at each boarding platform.

One person from each reservation party should check-in at the ticket office upon arrival at least 30 minutes before their departure time to pick up train tickets. Only one family will be allowed in the gift shop at a time and only cashless transac-

tions will be accepted. "The health and safety of the families and train enthusiasts who visit our museum and ride our train, as well as our all-volunteer staff, are our top priorities," says NHVR Marketing Representative Tom Hutchinson. "Our train rides are an all-outdoor activity and our passenger cars are open-air making our Halloween train rides a fun way for families to enjoy the cooler fall temperatures and celebrate the spooky season."

Along the tracks, train passengers will see kid-friendly scenes of flying witches, smoking cauldrons and other creatures. Additionally, young riders can play Mummy Mayhem, where from the comfort of their seats children can search for hidden mummies along the train route.

Kid's activities that are usually setup throughout the rail yard won't be happening, but families can still take photos with Halloween-themed backdrops

and watch model trains zip around the Garden Railway. The Birthday Party caboose, along with museum exhibit cars, will be closed until further notice.

The North Carolina Railway Museum is an educationally focused nonprofit organization operated by volunteers and relies solely on ticket fare revenue and donations. Learn more about the museum, purchase tickets for upcoming train rides or make a contribution at www.TriangleTrain.com.

Chatham 250 extends deadline for our logo contest to Oct. 12

The deadline for the county's contest to create a logo for Chatham's 250th anniversary has been extended to Oct. 12.

Submissions should be sent to chatham250thanniversary@gmail.com.

— CN+R staff reports

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QUESTIONS

Continued from page A12

many others, underscore the need for reforms in policing that include accountability, transparency, better training for law enforcement officers and the elimination of unnecessary police actions. Additionally, doctrines of qualified immunity, duty to intervene and use of force must be revisited and reformed.

What question do you want to be asked?

"What other important issue do you want the legislature to consider in the next legislative session?"

The General Assembly must enact legislation that will assist in expanding access to broadband across the state. In 2019, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) voted to make expanding broadband access the number one legislative priority for North Carolina's counties. This can be accomplished by establishing beneficial public-private partnerships using county assets. Last year, without warning, and certainly without adequate preparation, every k-12 public school student became a virtual learner — many without access to high-speed internet. Many students who live in rural areas or other under-served communities cannot join their classes from home using one of the video web-based platforms. We must acknowledge that access to high-speed internet is not a luxury; it is a utility.

THOMAS GLENDINNING

Now that you're seeking office ... in 100 words or fewer.

Now that I am seeking office, I have had the privilege of meeting people all over Orange and Chatham counties. The good, hard working, faithful, and patriotic citizens who have built this state and care about its future.

Why are you seeking this office?

I am seeking office on a twofold mission:

1. I want to continue the fine work of the Republican legislature over the past ten years.
2. I want to represent the business owners, workers, planners, industries, families, and God fearing people of the state.
3. 50 years of business experience, 10 years of serving on government boards, 20 years serving on non-profit boards grants me a broad, inclusive view.
4. 50 years in service of our country, local government, as an employer qualifies me.

Give me the chance to serve you. You will not be disappointed.

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

I have been closely involved with legislative boards (water quality, recycling), local boards (planning, tax, and adjustment), service projects, and ministries for decades. I want to represent Chatham County again, as well as Orange County, home of UNC-Chapel Hill.

The 1984 Water Quality Act and the 1993 Recycling Act were guided by groups over which I presided or chaired. I wrote parts of those bills. I have also kept in touch with legislators over the years on several issues. I am no stranger to the halls in

Raleigh.

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

What is working best is legislation helping the middle class working family, jobs, business, industry. What needs attention are careful consideration of laws, rules, regulations effecting seniors, law enforcement, legal representation, and, generally, dispensing justice equally.

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

- 1) Crafting a recovery strategy from the effects of Corona virus state government policies;
- 2) Maintain low individual and corporate tax rates;
- 3) Remove confusing, unclear, or contradictory language from existing laws, rules, regulations;
- 4) Review, in detail, any wording in laws, rules, regs effecting seniors negatively;
- 5) Making sure that law enforcement officers, officers of the courts, and state and local officials have the necessary ability to use judgment and common sense in applying judgment & justice.

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

- 1: Change wording in the land use law effecting property tax for seniors and farmers
- 2: Making sure that local laws may be flexible enough to apply to similar applications elsewhere in the state.

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

I want to see the general assembly again respected for honoring the wishes of North Carolinians across the state, for reflecting the values of all North Carolinians, and for creating a welcoming environment for employers, large and small.

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

I will continue to serve Chatham and Orange counties by making myself available for service and offering the benefit of my broad and long experience in business, government, and environment.

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

We need a new governor who will respect the citizens of North Carolina in ALL regards.

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

I would ask the question, if they were not getting paid to protest, disrupt, destroy, maim and kill, would they still be doing those things?

On November 3rd, vote Robert Reives for State House

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**Robert Reives for State House
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Board of Education: high school athletics are exempt from Plan C

Volleyball, XC will work out today

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — This week, high school sports are back. To some degree.

The volleyball and cross country teams at Northwood, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central are all resuming voluntary preseason non-contact workouts this week — some as early as Wednesday — in advance of their first official practices on Nov. 4 and games on Nov. 16, as set by the NCHSAA.

When they do hit their respective fields and courts, they'll break a nearly three-month "dead period" in Chatham County Schools athletics — thanks to a decision last week from the CCS Board of Education.

At a special meeting last Tuesday night, the BOE voted unanimously, 5-0, to approve a plan that cleared the way for workouts to resume as an exception to the district's at-home learning Plan C.

Other high school sports teams will resume workouts four weeks before their first official practice dates set by the NCHSAA, according to a presentation by district athletic director Chris Blice. Football is an exception: those teams will start six weeks ahead of their first practice for injury/conditioning reasons.

In the same plan, Blice also



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

District athletic director Chris Blice (right) presented an updated workouts plan to the Board of Education on Sept. 29.

laid out a calendar for the district's middle school sports teams, governed by the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction, to resume their season in January

with a condensed schedule. Last Tuesday's meeting was well attended, with the main multipurpose room at Horton Middle School reaching its full

25-person capacity and families filtering into two nearby overflow rooms. One attendee brandished a "Let Them Play!" sign, and a handful of Chatham

Central volleyball players were present.

But the decision itself wasn't
See **WORKOUTS**, page B2

On national fishing stage, Chatham County's Gibson found a way to give back

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

By Jason Gibson's standards, the bass he caught while fishing this weekend was small: 1.64 pounds, almost eight pounds lighter than the large-mouth he reeled in on Lake Wheeler three months ago.

But Saturday's catch was still worth plenty — \$10,480, to be exact.

And no, that's not a typo. Gibson, a 17-year-old Chatham County native, ended up turning his appearance in the 2020 Big Bass Zone Junior Championship into a major gift for ALS research.

Ahead of the national tournament in Idaho, Gibson set up a fundraiser where supporters could pledge a certain amount of money per pound — \$5, \$20, \$100 — for the single largest bass he caught on the massive Lake Pend Oreille, rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Every penny of the proceeds would go to the Healey Center for ALS at Massachusetts General Hospital, where Gibson's longtime friend, Chris Smith, has gotten treatment since being diagnosed with the disease last summer. Gibson secured \$5,240 worth of pledges before he hit the water Saturday — and by Tuesday, he was finalizing the logistics of a big-time donation for a cause near to his heart.

"With all the stuff Chris has done for me and helped me with," Gibson told the News + Record, "this was the least I could do to give back to his family."

Fishing has been a hobby for Gibson since he was 3 years old, using a red and blue children's rod in the ponds around his house in Governors Club.

When he turned 6, he specifically requested an all-day fishing excursion with his dad, Andrew, as a birthday present. They caught 100 fish.

"Looking back, it's not as much as it seems," Gibson said, "but it's still amazing at that age I was willing to stay out eight to 10 hours."

Sure enough, that kindergarten-aged dedication proved a precursor. As he attended elementary and middle school at Durham Academy, Gibson zeroed in on the idea of someday fishing in the big-time tournaments: Major League Fishing, Fishing League Worldwide, the Bassmaster Elite Series.

He drained his savings as a 12-year-old for a small \$300 boat — "I was so proud," Gibson recalled — and upgraded three years later to his current ride, a 14-foot Alumacraft fishing boat. He fell in love with every aspect of fishing: the strategy, the waiting game, the serenity, the thrill of a catch.

Blake Smith, one of Gibson's best friends since elementary school, loved fishing, too — as did Blake's dad, Chris.



Submitted photo

Gibson was one of 52 fishers competing at the 2020 Big Bass Zone Junior Championship in Idaho last weekend.

And with every hour on the water, hunting trip or hangout over the years, the Smiths started to feel like family. Chris has "honestly been like a second dad to me," Gibson said.

That made the news of July 1, 2019 — that Chris had been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, the neurological disorder also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease — extra rattling to Gibson.

"I was devastated," he said. "I wanted to help."

A year later and a little serendipitously, he found a way to do so.

The 2020 Big Bass Zone Junior Championship was limited to 52 anglers — in Michigan and Alabama, two people tied for first — who qualify through state tournaments. In North Carolina, fishermen ages 13 through 19 could sign up and compete from January to August 2020, trying to catch the heaviest bass.

Gibson didn't find out about the qualifying round until early July. His mom, Tracy, a freelance writer, came across the competition on social media and asked her son: "Why don't you try this?"

"So I fished my butt off," Gibson said, laughing. "Probably an average of five to eight hours every day of July. I took it seriously."

He was already on a bit of a hot streak this summer, winning first place and a \$2,000 grand prize with his friend for a bass fishing tournament

See **GIBSON**, page B2

'IT BROUGHT PEOPLE TOGETHER'



Submitted photo

Donald Trull, a retired photographer and videographer, won the Chatham County Challenge's bike division. Beth Goldston, an artist, placed in all three Chatham County Challenge divisions

Virtual Chatham County Challenge a success

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Walking, running and biking their way across parks, trails and backroads, 100 local participants made last month's inaugural Chatham County Challenge a success.

The county parks and recreation department officially announced Monday the winners of its 30-day virtual challenge, designed to keep the public active and engaged in some friendly competition this fall during the coronavirus pandemic, which has canceled a slew of previously planned events.

"This was a very good substitute," cyclist Donald Trull said.

"It made us feel like we were doing something together," participant Beth Goldston added. "We had that sense of community."

In the three-headed event, bikers were encouraged to complete a 100-kilometer race (62 total miles over a month) and runners and walkers were encouraged to complete a 50-kilometer race (31 miles total). All participants completed their exercises individually and logged their miles virtually via the MapMyFitness app.

Trull, 68, and Goldston, 67, were two of the challenge's top finishers. Trull earned first-place honors in the bike division, logging 750 miles, and Goldston was the only participant to place in all three events.

The two other first-place finishers were Lance Harden of Moncure, who logged 257 running miles, and Roger Saunders of Siler City, who logged 317 walking miles. In all, just over 50 of the 100-plus participants met the mileage

thresholds set for them by the department.

"(We're) so glad to have created something that promotes physical activity and motivation through community engagement," Tracy Burnett, the parks and recreation director, said in a release.

Trull, a retired photographer/videographer, heard about the Chatham County Challenge from his wife, who saw an advertisement for it just a few days before the Aug. 31 sign-up deadline. He tries to bike 80 to 100 miles a week already, so "I figured I could up it just a bit," he said, to around 200 a week.

"It's good therapy," he said, adding with a laugh: "This is a good time to have strong lungs."

Goldston, an artist who works primarily in oil painting, saw information for the challenge on the Nextdoor app. She, too, decided to work extra time into her routines — she's a frequent biker and runner. The only question: would she specialize?

"I thought: 'Well gosh, I like to run, I like to walk and I like to bike. So I'd do all of them,'" she said.

The parks and rec department posted weekly leaderboards on its Facebook page, and participants could also check them any time within the app. Although Trull ran away with first place after Week One with 267.5

See **VIRTUAL**, page B2

GIBSON

Continued from page B1

on Jordan Lake in June. Gibson quickly jumped to second place in the statewide competition after catching a 6.86-pound bass, but his true luck came on July 28.

He was fishing with his friend on Lake Wheeler in Raleigh that day, and neither was having much luck. Gibson navigated them back to the dock so he could use the bathroom, and they returned to a new spot on the water afterward. On his first cast, he immediately felt a pull.

He set his hook and reeled in a large-mouth bass that ultimately weighed in at 9.48 pounds — beating out the previous first-place fish, which weighed 9.43 pounds, by a razor-thin margin. In layman's terms, Gibson said catching a fish of that weight was equivalent

to a half-court buzzer beater in basketball or a completed Hail Mary in football.

"It was the most crazy, stressful and exciting thing," Gibson said. "I think it was really meant to be."

Once judges confirmed his fish's weight through measurement photos he provided, Gibson was locked in as North Carolina's BBZ Junior Championship qualifier.

He knew, almost immediately, he wanted to use the platform to help out Chris. Gibson checked in with Blake, who agreed his dad would love the idea. Tracy, Gibson's mom, gets credits for the unique and unpredictable pledge-per-pound idea. They surprised Chris with the concept earlier this month.

As Gibson described it: "It was kind of like gambling, but you know you're going to lose, but it's also going toward a great cause."

After a quick stop



Submitted photo

Gibson met Chris Smith through his son, Blake. Gibson and Blake have been friends since elementary school.

in D.C. — Gibson is a high school senior at a boarding school in nearby Alexandria, Virginia — he flew to Idaho on Friday and fished from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday with New Jersey's BBZ Junior qualifier as his boat partner. Gibson ultimately placed 35th



Gibson, 17, lives in Governors Club and attends boarding school near Washington, D.C., where he's a high school senior.

Submitted photo

out of 52 fishers.

But he left the event grateful: for the opportunity to fish on a national stage, and, more notably, for the opportunity to salute a friend with a \$10,000 catch that was, for once, made out of the water.

"It's more important than any prize I could have won," Gibson said.

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



A group of Chatham Central volleyball players, pictured here in one of two overflow rooms at Horton Middle, attended last Tuesday's meeting.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickle

WORKOUTS

Continued from page B1

controversial.

Blice's presentation was the first item on the BOE's agenda. After he briefed the board on the three documents in his plan — the NCHSAA's overhauled athletics calendar, the new CCS high school workout plan and the new CCS middle school schedule — he got just one follow-up question.

Chairperson Gary Leonard, a former Chatham Central athletic director and baseball coach, made a motion to approve the plan, and all five board members voted yes. The whole process took about 10 minutes, as the BOE quickly moved onto more Plan C exemption discussions for the rest of the night.

On Twitter, reactions to the news from local coaches and athletic directors was swift — and positive.

"We're excited!" Northwood cross country coach Cameron Isenhour wrote.

"On our way back!" J-M athletic director Josh Harris said.

"Let's roll!" Northwood football coach Cullen Homolka added.

Chatham Central baseball coach Brett Walden didn't include any words in his tweet but made his opinion clear with a string of 52 consecutive exclamation points instead.

CCS athletics were previously suspended indefinitely on Friday, July 17, after two weeks of workouts under the NCHSAA's Phase One guidelines. That came a day after the board first voted to start the 2020-21 school year under all-remote Plan C learning. When the board extended Plan C through the first nine weeks of the school year, the district said it would keep workouts suspended through that date, too.

But Tuesday's news confirmed athletics will be an exemption to that rule going forward, even with Plan C in effect for the majority of CCS students, teachers and employees until Jan. 15, 2021.

The principals and athletic directors



Staff photo by Peyton Sickle

Under the newly approved CCS plan, high school teams can resume workouts four weeks before their first official practice date.

of Northwood, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central all supported Blice's district-wide plan, which can be viewed online at cutt.ly/ccsplan. (Blice didn't respond to emailed follow-up questions on the plan before the News + Record's Tuesday afternoon print deadline.)

In allowing workouts to resume under the NCHSAA's Phase Two guidelines, CCS joins a majority of school districts, including Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Wake County Schools, who have done so in the last few months.

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

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28 County Services Road
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Chatham County residents can bring household hazardous items such as:

- chemicals • cleaners • solvents • paint
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For a complete list of items visit www.chathamnc.org/hhw

Future HHW events will be held the third Saturday of each month, through November.

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

Questions? Call (919) 542-5516

VIRTUAL

Continued from page B1

bike miles, Goldston found herself in a tight battle for second, third or fourth place.

"Every time you log activity, you see where everybody stands," she said. "Even though I say I'm not a competitive person, it did spur me on."

After a month, Goldston's final numbers were: 274 biking miles (second), 39 walking miles (32nd) and 31 running miles (18th). Everyone who completed the challenge got a free T-shirt via a department sponsor, but Goldston got an extra \$25 gift card from a co-sponsor for her versatility.

Feedback across the board was positive. Multiple participants have reached out and complimented the virtual program as something that "really enhance(d) their physical and mental health," Burnett said in the release. The department's now looking into

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a similar challenge in the future.

When and if that happens, count Trull and Goldston as possible participants and definite supporters.

"I thought it was a great idea," Goldston said. "It brought people together."

"I hope they do it again," Trull added. "It

definitely filled a void."

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

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SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Siler City board welcomes Boone, talks fiscal position

BY LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City's Board of Commissioners welcomed a new commissioner, honored a beloved judge, examined the town's financial health and continued plans to renovate City Hall at the board's meeting at town hall Monday night.

Siler City's District 2 commissioner seat had been vacant since Commissioner and Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Cheek passed away in May. His friend, former Jordan-Matthews High School principal Norma Boone, was selected to fill the position last Tuesday.

"It's a new experience," Boone told the News + Record, "one that I will treasure, because I am making my own footprints but also carrying on what my friend Larry Cheek was doing — caring for the people of the town and my district that I'm serving. It's a new endeavor and I'll try to make the best of it."

Boone's oath of office

ceremony was unusual. Judge Joe Buckner tied in via Zoom to conduct the swearing in, and the process began with some technical hiccups. But Buckner quickly allayed tension with a good-natured quip.

"That's it, there you go," he said to Boone as she shuffled about to get in frame. "Don't worry, I haven't lost anyone yet in 26 years."

Buckner, who retired in July, accomplished much in his decades as NC's District 15B judge, and in the many years prior as one of Siler City's finest lawyers. He started the first mental health court in North Carolina and the district's first drug court. Both innovations have made a positive difference in countless lives.

After Boone took her oath, Mayor Pro-Tem Cindy B. Bray asked Judge Buckner to "hang on Zoom for just a couple of minutes longer." Then she announced a special resolution from the Board of Commissioners.

"The town of Siler City has a resolution for you," she said, "appreciating the

honorable Joseph Moody Buckner for his 26 years of service to the town of Siler City, Chatham County and North Carolina... His legacy of excellence will continue to benefit all of Siler City for generations to come. We salute Judge Joe Buckner upon his retirement, and wish him well, and his family much happiness, in the many years to come."

Through stifled tears, Buckner graciously expressed his thanks.

"I really appreciate this, commissioners," he said. "...Siler City will always be my home. And I don't care what awards or recognition I may receive, there will be none higher than this one tonight."

After Buckner's departure, Town Manager Roy Lynch introduced Tina Stroupe, Siler City's Finance Director, to explain the town's financial "trends through the first quarter" of the fiscal year. The period is of special interest as the town evaluates the economic ramifications of an

ongoing pandemic.

At first glance, Stroupe's report would seem to indicate a flush of revenue in the first quarter. But the numbers are misleading, she warned — much of it represents money allocated strictly for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, more than half of the money in one general fund — \$381,000 — was endowed to the town as part of the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

"I want to point out," Stroupe said, "that that money is for coronavirus, or COVID-related expenses only. We didn't get free money."

If any money remains in the CRF after pandemic expenses have been addressed, however, it can be used to subsidize First Responder salaries.

While Siler City's financial standing is not quite as rosy as figures would indicate, the commissioners were still encouraged to see the town weathering an unprecedented economic maelstrom.

"I was extremely worried," Commissioner Chip Price said, "but it's gone well."

After examining the town's financial records, the board settled in to deliberate over a matter of substantial cost: plans to update City Hall with a main level ADA entrance (a handicap accessible entrance compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act).

The board first discussed the project on July 20 and elected to install a ramp. But after working through the details with Taylor Hobbs of Pittsboro's Hobbs Architects — who attended the meeting on Zoom — Lynch felt it would be prudent for the board to reconsider its decision.

"The projected cost," Lynch said, "estimated based on what was presented (on July 20), looks like it can be around \$146,000 which is over the original for the initial budget."

Considering the prohibitive cost, the commissioners could select one of two alternative options. For

\$25,000, they could leave the building as is with only minor renovations; it has a handicap access from the basement which satisfies the minimum standards required by law.

Or, they could install an ADA lift at about 40% of the ramp's estimated cost.

"The option would be to make the face, the stairs and new entrance," Hobbs said, "And then we could bid the ADA lift as an add alternate for you to choose, based on where the numbers fall, if you want to include it in this project, or install it at a future date."

The board reached consensus to pursue the latter option.

Before concluding the meeting, Lynch reminded the board that city hall departments which had been operating under restricted hours resumed regular operations as of Monday. Residents looking to consult the License Plate Agency or Water Department may visit the City Hall offices between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

NEWS BRIEFS

State board reminds voters: don't photograph your ballot

RALEIGH — The State Board of Elections is reminding voters that North Carolina law prohibits taking photographs of or videotaping voted ballots. Please refer to N.C.G.S. § 163-166.3 for more information.

"Voters should not take a picture of their completed ballot, whether they vote in person or by mail," said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the State Board of Elections. "We respect voters showing their pride in casting a ballot but ask that they do so in another manner."

The State Board has received multiple complaints of photographed absentee ballots and has been alerted to additional violations on social media in recent weeks. If a voter has taken a picture of their ballot and shared the photo online, the voter should delete the photograph.

When voting in person, voters may have phones or electronic devices with them as long as those devices are not used to photograph or videotape a ballot or communicate with anyone via voice, text, email or any other method.

Photographing a marked ballot is

illegal in part because such photographs could be used as proof of a vote for a candidate in a vote-buying scheme. Electronic communication while voting is prohibited because of limits on voter assistance and to prevent disruptions in the voting enclosure.

Voters may bring voting guides, notes and other materials into the voting booth. They also may use electronic devices to access a slate card or candidate information, provided they don't use the devices to communicate with anyone.

Construction & Demolition Recycling expanding to two Chatham County collection centers

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling is expanding the construction & demolition (C&D) recycling program to two more Collection Centers. During a recent pilot program, C&D was collected for recycling at the Hadley and Goldston Collection Centers. C&D recycling is also now available at the Martha's Chapel and Pittsboro Collection Centers.

C&D materials can only be accepted from residents with a current decal who are doing the construction or demolition work themselves. Materials accepted include: cabinets, carpet and padding, countertops, doors, flooring, gypsum/drywall, insulation, plumbing fixtures, shingles, siding, tile, windows and wood/lumber. Please visit the C&D page for more details on what can and cannot be accepted along with any special instructions.

Residents may bring a maximum of one pickup truck-sized load in a seven-day period to any of the Collection Centers. Residents with a large load will need to complete a form.

The Martha's Chapel Collection Center is located at 24 Gardner Rd., Apex. The Pittsboro Collection Center is located at 180 Martin Luther King Jr. Rd., Pittsboro. Visit the website for hours of operations.

Learn more about Solid Waste & Recycling programs at www.chathamnc.org/recycle. Residents who have questions may contact the Main Office Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at (919) 542-5516 or at recycle@chathamnc.org.

Chatham County Libraries encourage public to complete needs assessment survey

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Public Libraries are seeking input from the public in a new Needs Assessment Survey.

As the libraries plan for the next three to five years, staff want to ensure collections, programming, and services meet the needs of the growing community. The libraries hope to receive constructive feedback from residents, government officials, and community partners in order to best serve the people of Chatham County.

The Needs Assessment Survey is brief and takes just a few minutes to complete online at this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCPL_2020_Community_Survey.

Anyone with questions about the survey, may contact Karen Dash Consulting at karen@karendashconsulting.com.

For more information about collections, services or programming, contact the library at 919-545-8084 or visit chathamlibraries.org.

— CN+R staff reports

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A BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR SHARES

Embracing the rhythms that move us forward

BY MEGHAN RICHBOURG

Special to the News + Record

Editor's note: October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In the U.S., one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime, with one diagnosis happening every two minutes. Breast cancer survivor Meghan Richbourg of Briar Chapel shared with the News + Record her story of battling the disease, which began just under a year ago.

Last October 30 was easily the hardest day of my life.

I went into an imaging center for a mammogram, ordered by doctors since I had found a small lump after working out one day. I was quite anxious all day leading up to the appointment and knew something wasn't right. When the appointment was taking longer than expected, and the technician's face looked concerned, I knew it wasn't good news.

I immediately started to panic — the purest form of shock, fear, and anxiety I have ever felt. All I remember thinking was: "I'm too young for this, I have three little kids at home."

It actually was shocking to my doctors as well, who thought it was likely a cyst or related to breast feeding. Within weeks, I was getting my first chemotherapy treatment, and with that began my

journey to beat early breast cancer at the age of 34 with no family history or genetic factors. I'm not exactly sure when it

Richbourg

happened, though likely over many months, but I spent my time every single day praying, listening to scripture, taking notes, and meditating, and I talked to a wonderful therapist through the UNC Cancer Support Program weekly. I put in hard, hard work every day to shift my perspective from the "what ifs?" to being thankful in the most literal sense.

God sure held my hand tightly through all of this, and He guided me through journaling thankfulness each day. It could have been something as simple as: having more energy, minimal chemo symptoms, more time snuggling with my kids on the couch, amazing doctors, one of the best research hospitals essentially in my backyard, chemotherapy, targeted treatments, radiation, my tumors shrinking completely ("melting away" as my doctors described it) or having a pathological complete response after surgery. The lists goes on and on. When people hear words associated with treatment they are often scared, and I was as well, but I completely

changed my thinking. I am so very thankful for advancements in breast cancer treatment, and by God's great glory, that the treatment was working to kill my cancer.

Fast forward through chemo, radiation, and a double mastectomy/reconstruction (all during COVID-19), and I can feel like cancer is something that has moved into my back seat (maybe even my third row) instead of the passenger side. I can finally talk about it, share my story and hope to mentor other young women who have similar trials.

But back to October ... It's a month I could dread, hate, choose to block out, wish it was skipped over. Instead I'm choosing to "celebrate my life" and advocate for others. I think of it as a family birthday for me. The year 2020 seems to be stealing a lot of our celebrations, but we can still find moments of true joy and thankfulness in the slower pace we have been forced to live. I believe in looking forward, but I also know that October is a month I will never forget. I will force myself to look back and guarantee that October will not steal my love for the fall, warm lattes, pumpkins and my favorite holiday, Halloween!

I don't view it as counting specific years post diagnosis, but more as a life celebration for getting through something that took every single support system I had, every single ounce of strength I had

physically, and emotionally, to see the light at the end of the tunnel, or as my therapist would often say, "seeing cancer in the rear view mirror."

For the month of October, I am partnering with the UNC Lineberger Cancer Center as well as Buru Clothing Company to raise funds that will go directly to the UNC Breast Cancer Clinical Fund. This fund will be used for anything related to the clinical program or patient needs. The clinical program includes physicians from surgical, medical and radiation oncology; reconstructive surgery; fertility preservation and psychiatry, as well as radiologists, pathologists, oncology nurse navigators, nurse practitioners and geneticists. Patient, financial and pharmacy benefits counselors, clinical trial nurses, physical therapists, social workers and dietitians also take part.

In addition, money from this fundraiser could be allocated to the Dr. Lisa Carey Fund for Breast Cancer Innovations. This fund supports promising and novel breast cancer research and other essential priorities of the UNC Breast Center. I am passionate about the chance to raise money for a cause that hits so close to home for me. I would love to give back to the amazing hospital that treated me, to breast cancer research in general, and to patient funds for those diagnosed with this disease and

might not have the financial ability to treat it.

Here is my shout-out to UNC Lineberger, in case you don't know much about their program. (They are amazing!) UNC Lineberger is a Comprehensive Cancer Center located in Chapel Hill. As one of only 51 National Cancer Institutes designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers, UNC Lineberger is rated as exceptional, the highest category. What a wonderful blessing to have moved so close to this institution a few years back. God surely knew the plans he had for me, and they were good.

I'll say this in closing: So often our human nature wants a plan. We

are comforted by security and soothed by forward vision. And so the delicate dance of our days is learning to balance and to bend with the changes life brings. To face new rhythms, then embrace them until we can accept that change truly is the one thing we can plan on, until we see new rhythms need not be feared; that instead, they can actually open our hearts to the ways we are to go.

Join us for a very special BURU pop-up event to help raise money for breast cancer clinical funds, with 10% of all proceeds going toward the UNC Lineberger Cancer Center. To sign up, visit cutt.ly/buruevent.

Worth knowing.
Worth reading.

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Eureka! You found the answer!

The County Council on Aging was founded on July 8, 1974 by Mattie Paige, Lacy D. Marsh and Charlie Baldwin.

To enter the COA's monthly drawing for a \$25 Visa Gift Card, call the COA at 919-542-4512 and ask for extension 223. Leave the following info on the voicemail to complete your entry: 1) The names of the founders 2) The page # you found the answer on 3) Your full name 4) Your telephone number. October's winner will be drawn from the list of eligible entries provided by October 31st. The October winner will be announced in a November issue of the Chatham News + Record. One entry per household, per week. Employees of the COA and their dependents are not eligible to win. The COA is not responsible for any lost or misdirected entries.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Local survivors share what it's like

Editor's note: News + Record photographer Kim Hawks, herself a cancer survivor, reached out to other survivors in the Chatham County community to share thoughts about their experiences. Here's what they said:

We are put to the test. Cancer is life-changing. We fight it with our amazing doctors and nurses, an enormous team effort. Our survival is enhanced by incredible support from family and friends. We learn how strong we are.

Suza White of Pittsboro
Self-portrait

After getting diagnosed last year, just a month after my 40th birthday with breast cancer, I was in total shock. Looking back, I feel like I went into "fight or flight" mode for my daughters, for my husband, for my family. Now as a "survivor," I look at life much differently and how precious it is. I was blessed to meet other fighters who shared their story and I hope to be a positive support to others who may have to also share this journey. Please complete self-exams ... no one is ever too young or exempt from breast cancer!

Heather Dodd of Pittsboro
Photo by Jason Dodd

Since my breast cancer diagnosis, the kindness and selflessness I have received from not only family and friends but from strangers has given me a renewed faith in humanity. I also began to notice "angels," as I call them, who showed up exactly when I needed them. Six weeks of daily radiation was a difficult time

Root

— I wanted to quit — and then I made a new friend in the changing room who cheered me on every single day. Countless times I would meet someone that I was meant to meet for a particular reason. And very often I would receive an unexpected, encouraging word or a knowing smile from a stranger in the grocery store on a down day. I wish everyone would see this inherent kindness in people, without having to face death.

The kindness, support and shared knowledge within the online breast cancer community has been especially important as I quickly realized how little "Breast Cancer Awareness" has taught us. When I was diagnosed five years ago with Stage 3 Triple Negative Breast Cancer, I wasn't aware that there were different types of breast cancer nor that Triple Negative was aggressive and primarily strikes women in their 30s and 40s. I wasn't aware of just how difficult treatment and treatment decisions would be physically, emotionally and financially. Without my online tribe of cancer survivors, my journey would have been much so harder to navigate.

Breast cancer took away a lot, but it has given me an abundance of gratitude for things I took for granted. I remember one beautiful summer day while out for a walk, I looked up at the sky and a feeling of awe came over me and I began to cry. But they were tears of joy and profound appreciation for the beauty all around us in nature and in every living being. It was a reaction I struggle to explain, but will never forget. I have struggled a lot with survivor's guilt but try to remind myself that my friends who have died would want me to try and make the most of every day and find gratitude in the smallest of places.

Since beginning participation in this article, I have a new diagnosis, Stage 4 Metastatic Triple Negative Breast Cancer. I'll continue to advocate for breast cancer research for metastatic breast cancer which takes the lives of 40,000 men and women in this country every year.

Christina Root of Raleigh

Being diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 35 was shocking and terrifying! After under-

going chemotherapy, immunotherapy, mastectomy and reconstruction I

am so glad to say that I had no evidence of disease during my surgery. Although this last year was unbelievably difficult physically and emotionally, I was surrounded by an incredibly supportive husband, children, family, and friends. I completed all treatments June 2020. I am very thankful to have that all behind me and to have been reminded to cherish each day I have on this earth.

Jessica Hope of Briar Chapel
Photo by Chris Hope

From the day I got the call and was told my diagnosis, support flowed to me and appeared

from so many unexpected sources — people in my life wanted to help in any way that I could think of. I knew the next morning, as I walked with my dog, that I would survive; this was a "bump in the road," and I had been on other highways and byways with potholes and worse! I would trust the wisdom and expertise of my doctors, and keep my head and heart in the place where I could see myself on the other side of the journey through treatment. I would survive, and be a healthier person, with her spirit intact. I might even be a "poster woman" for breast cancer survivors! It really was my spirituality that enabled me to keep all of it in perspective. The demonstrations of love and support that my friends and family showered on me were also a big part of my healing, and made the

journey sweet in so many very special and unexpected ways.

Wilma Schroeder of Siler City
Photo by Kathryn Robinson

Chatham COA
Helpful Happenings
October 8th - 14th

Thursday, October 8th

- [Spill the Beans with Liz](#) at 11:15 AM 📶

Friday, October 9th

- [COA Update Call with Board President Larry Ross and storytelling guest, Neriah Edwards-Boone](#) at 10:15 AM 📞

Monday, October 12th

- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Bingo with Joe](#) at 11:15 AM 📶

Tuesday, October 13

- [Body Conditioning Exercise with Jackie](#) at 9:00 AM 📶
- [Chatham Striders Walk & Learn](#) at 11:15 AM 📶

Wednesday, October 14

- [Legal Aid: Scam Awareness](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Short Stories with Chris](#) at 12:30 PM 📞

📶 On Zoom 📞 On Conference Line: 727-731-8717

For more information or to register for these programs, visit our website:
<https://chathamcouncilonaging.org/coa-virtual-activities/>

Join the Trivia Hunt!

Each week the Council on Aging will offer a Chatham-themed trivia question in the *Chatham News + Record*. Find the correct answer in the paper and enter to win a \$25 VISA gift card in the COA's monthly trivia hunt contest drawing. See page **A2** for this week's question.

The Chatham COA is Here for You!

For more information on our ongoing programs and services for Chatham's seniors and their families, visit our website at chathamcoa.org or call our centers, Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

<p style="text-align: center;">Eastern Chatham Senior Center</p> <p style="text-align: center;">365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Western Chatham Senior Center</p> <p style="text-align: center;">112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975</p>
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CHATHAM CHAT | MELISSA DRIVER BEARD, CORA

1.3 million meals served? It's just the start for Chatham Outreach Alliance

CORA, the Chatham Outreach Alliance, found itself sorely tested by the onset of the coronavirus pandemic earlier this year. CORA's mission is to provide food to individuals and families within the community who are in need during difficult personal economic periods. This week, as CORA kicks off a major funding campaign, we speak with executive director about CORA's extremely busy year.

Melissa Driver Beard has been working in the nonprofit sector for 26 years at local, state, national and international levels. After working for many years in developing countries, she made the decision to address the issues of poverty and hunger closer to home and began her work with CORA in 2019. Beard is a North Carolina native, a UNC graduate, a self-proclaimed "travel addict" and a very proud mom.

You write in CORA's annual report: "The strength of our conviction that nobody should go hungry has been tested in unimaginable ways." Can we start by discussing some numbers? First, 1.3 million meals served, and second, the fact that you served 50% more people (57,000) than last fiscal year. If someone had sat you down a year ago today and given you those figures, how would you have reacted?

I've said repeatedly during the past few months that it feels as though I'm living in a Dickens novel. It's been the best of times and the worst of times.

The numbers are both worrisome and impressive. It's troubling to know that so many of



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

CORA staff other volunteers transport bags of food supplies from a donor's trunk.

our neighbors, especially since the start of the pandemic, have faced hunger. It's heartening to know that CORA, with the help of innumerable community partners and individuals, has been able to meet the increased need.

We did serve more than 1.3 million meals this year! That's actually enough food to feed every single resident in Chatham County 16 times! We absolutely could not have done this without incredible community support.

Our numbers are actually more impressive than they appear. In FY19, we served 10,660 "unique" individuals. That means that across all of our programs — the Pantry, SNACK! and our Mobile Market — we served 10,660 people at least once. We served more than 24,000 individuals across all programs and all visits. So 24,000 is a

duplicative number but represents the number of people who came to CORA for food and the number of times they came.

In FY20, we served 15,307 "unique" individuals. But we served more than 57,000 people across all programs and all visits. That number represents a 137% service increase over FY19 and demonstrates an increase not only in the number of people served, but the number of times people needed to visit the pantry.

Pre-COVID-19, the average client visited CORA one or two times per year. This past year, especially post-COVID-19, the average was four times per year. Visits have ranged to a low of one in the entire year per individual/family all the way to a high of 43 for an individual/family (for only one family reaching that extreme and having

no other source of food).

CORA typically plans for a 15 to 20% increase in demand year over year. If you had told me that some months, the increase in demand for our services would go up as high as 65% and that the increase in demand across all visits and programs would 137%, I would've 1) thought you were joking; and 2) been extremely worried about how we would manage to meet that need from both a budgetary and staffing perspective.

Sometimes numbers like that are hard to fathom — they're big numbers, they're significant, for sure. But can you give us a sense of the scope, particularly in light of the fact that you're a small nonprofit agency with a small staff, and you deal with the stressors that COVID-19 added?

The numbers are hard to put in relatable terms. As I mentioned earlier, 1.3 million meals would be like giving every single Chatham County resident 16 meals — almost one week's worth of food. Those 57,000 people would fill up the Durham Bulls ballpark five times over and would almost fill up the stadium where the Carolina Panthers play.

In FY19, CORA served, on average, about 25 families per day. Over FY20, we have served as many as 48 families per day. On the busiest day in our 31 year history, we served 176 families or over 750 people making up those families.

For safety reasons, I made the decision in April to discontinue the use of volunteers and to split our staff up into two teams. Our facility is not large enough to house the number of staff and volunteers who, pre-COVID-19, were on site at any one time while also practicing social distancing. I could not live with the idea that our work might endanger our volunteers. I also had concerns about keeping staff healthy as well as maintaining operations.

Rebecca Hankins (CORA's director of development & communications) and I have very much worked as one during this time in the event that either of us should contract COVID-19, the other could keep things running smoothly. Rebecca and several other staff members would work from home while my "team" and I would work from CORA on rotating weeks.

The desire to keep our staff and volunteers safe definitely impacted our ability to serve the public as we always have. We limited service days to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We changed service times from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. COVID-19 forced us to change our client choice model to a prepackaged, drive-thru model. From a staff perspective, the loss of volunteers and the changes in our choice shopping model were most significant.

While I'm extremely proud that we were able to demonstrate excep-



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Reggie Blue pauses for a portrait to display his custom CORA face mask, a stylish addition to a wonderful cause.

tional resilience and pivot to make these changes without shutting down for even a single day, I'm saddened by the fact that we cannot allow choice shopping at this time nor can we take the time to talk with our clients and volunteers as we once did.

All staff focused client services are cross-trained in new and very interesting ways. We all know so much more about each other's roles and responsibilities and have a completely new appreciation for the manpower and expertise our volunteers offer.

CORA's small staff has worked seamlessly as a strong team and have remained committed to the mission (and to each other) in ways I couldn't have previously imagined. I'm truly honored to be part of this group and can't overemphasize how hard everyone has worked. Many of us were regularly putting in 16 to 18 hour days through the end of August to ensure that clients were served, funds were raised, donations of food were received, etc.

There's no doubt that stress levels for both the clients and staff were much higher than usual. CORA has been incredibly fortunate to be part of this community where thousands of people donated both food and funds. Food donations were exceptionally important because for the first time ever, we could not buy food in bulk! Individuals, farmers, gardeners, businesses, foundations, and local government all played a key role in our ability to successfully navigate the day to day changes thrust upon us by COVID-19.

We've spoken with you several times before about CORA's work, but can we take a moment and summarize what else new and different has happened with CORA in the past year? The Mobile Market in Siler City is just one example ...

Since launching our Mobile Market in October of 2019, CORA has served more than 65,000 meals to 3,125 people. The Mobile Market has proven to be an effective model that we would like to scale for service other communities. CORA recognizes the importance of meeting the need where it is and believes it is crucial that we distribute food closer to the families we currently serve, and those families who find bridging the distance between their home and our pantry to be insurmountable.

To better address the demand for community-based resources, CORA plans to expand our Mobile Market to two monthly distributions — one to serve families in the western part of Chatham County in Siler City and one other strategically chosen location that will serve a vulnerable rural community. We envision that this second location may change monthly in order to reach more families. Food will be displayed much like it is at a farmer's market (assuming no further complications from COVID-19) and families will be able

to choose from several items in most categories (protein, vegetable, fruit, dairy, etc.). Each person will receive enough food for 21 meals at each visit.

Something you mention in your annual report that is particularly interesting is the fact that your supporters and the community at large responded to the pandemic with "resilience, kindness, hope, and FOOD!" You focus on the latter, of course, but can you share how resilience, kindness and hope have played a role in CORA in recent months?

In the early days of COVID-19, community members who were completely unknown to me would drive by our building, roll down a car window, and ask, "What do you need?" Depending upon the day, I might answer their questions with "food," "money," "canned chicken," or any other number of specific items. Without fail, a check would be written, or the individual would come back in a few hours with a car full of food.

Volunteers just started showing up! Community members who found themselves jobless wanted ways to get involved and give back. Several were devastated when I made the decision to quit using volunteers but they've thankfully come back to us now that we've reopened to volunteers.

Many of our volunteers know each other quite well. One gentleman who used to regularly volunteer with us knew that another volunteer he'd come to know was driving to CORA almost every day to pick up food for members of her community who couldn't get here for various reasons. He was so impressed with her commitment to serve her community that he gave her a gift certificate to a gas station so she wouldn't have to pay for gas to and from CORA on her own every day.

And every single day, farmers and gardeners have called and come by with excess fresh produce. That fresh food has made a tremendous difference in our ability to continue to provide enough food, especially healthy food. We're incredibly grateful for those who worked all year long to grow food and allowed our clients to benefit from their bounty.

There are endless metrics in the nonprofit world, but one — again, this goes back to your annual report — stands out: 100% of client requests filled. What does that mean?

That's easy ... we have never had to turn anyone away due to a lack of food at CORA. In March and April, there were nights I left the office wondering how we were going to provide for people the next day and somehow, we managed to get through. We never turned anyone away.

We're in October now, which means your Hunger Heroes fundraiser is happening. What can you share about that?

We are excited about this month-long food drive to help those facing hunger in Chatham County. During the month of October, we will be partnering with local businesses and community groups to collect food for the food pantry. People can donate food at businesses around Chatham County and this list of businesses can be found on our website at: cora-foodpantry.org/events/cora-hunger-heroes.

Also, we are having two drive-thru food drives mid-month. On Oct. 17, we will be at Bray Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on October 18 we will be at Central Carolina Community College from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as well. We hope this will be a fun way for families to support our work in the community.

Can you help?



VecinoAVecino

Your community needs you! Do you have time and resources to financially help your neighbors during these unprecedented, Covid-19 times?

So far we have helped 65 families with paying bills, buying & delivering groceries, referring them to other resources available and more!!!

If you want to help but don't have time, you can donate. To donate, sign up to help, or if you need help visit: abundancenc.org or call Marcela at 919.448.4888



Now is the time to quit tobacco — and COVID-19 makes it even more important

Chatham County Public Health Department

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a challenge for all Americans, but for cigarette smokers, the pandemic creates a different kind of hazard.

According to the N.C. Dept. of Health & Human Services, cigarette smoking suppresses the immune system and can lead to an increased risk of respiratory illnesses, heart disease, and diabetes. Smoking can increase the risk for COVID-19 complications. Additionally, people who smoke may have a harder time recovering from COVID-19.

It's against this backdrop that the Chatham County Public Health Department is kicking off its fall 2020 QuitSmart class. QuitSmart is a free, four-session program for Chatham County residents and employees that helps individuals quit the use of cigarettes, vaping, and smokeless tobacco products. According to Anna Stormzand, the department's Youth Health & Tobacco Initiatives Lead, the continuation of these classes by virtual means is critical.

"Quitting smoking is one way to reduce the risk of complications from COVID-19," Stormzand said. "So keeping these classes going is even more vital during the pandemic."

The most effective type of tobacco treatment, Stormzand said, is a combination of support, counseling and medica-

tions to help alleviate the withdrawal symptoms and cravings people often experience when they're trying to quit. To keep comfortable while quitting, Stormzand recommends matching and replacing nicotine levels with nicotine replacement therapies (NRT), replacing the habits associated with tobacco use, and learning new coping mechanisms for dealing with stressors and other triggers.

Three alumni of the Chatham County QuitSmart program say the strategies and resources they learned helped them quit and stay quit.

"I get support from my friends and I occasionally drop into conversations, 'And by the way I haven't smoked in 15 months,'" Joanne Sroczynski said. "Needless to say my doctor is happy."

Sroczynski used to smoke around 30 cigarettes a day. But now she uses a 2-milligram lozenge, a common NRT, every now and then when needed, along with the fake cigarette she got through the QuitSmart program.

Jani Brown, another former QuitSmart participant, used nicotine gum and patches in the early stages of her quit process, but it was a step-by-step journey. Now she keeps NRT gum in her bag and will pop a piece in her mouth when she has a stressful day.

"I still crave a cigarette but my brain knows that the gum is the second best thing," Brown said. "I

don't want to go back and have to do that hard work again. I feel better about myself now."

QuitSmart alum Carl Iceman used to be a dip user of tobacco, but he made a firm commitment, something Stormzand said is important. When he experienced a craving, Iceman would say to himself: "I am a dip away from a can a day."

"The mind controls the body," he said. "The body doesn't control the mind."

The fall 2020 round of QuitSmart classes — which start virtually on Thursday, October 15, and run from noon to 1:15 p.m. with classes on the ensuing Thursdays (Oct. 22, Nov. 5, 12) — will feature the same things other sessions have. All participants receive two free weeks of NRT patches and a personalized quit plan, developed with Stormzand. They will also benefit, Stormzand said, from the small group mentality of mutual support.

"Everyone in the QuitSmart group had the same fears and doubts," Brown said, "and instead of feeling isolated or that quitting is impossible, I felt that others felt the same as me, and you feel stronger."

For those not able to make the virtual group, county residents also have access to a free resource called QuitlineNC. It's another free cessation program that provides up to four free counseling sessions, and even more for pregnant women, those with mental health conditions, and teens,

with a trained counselor over the phone or through an online program or text messaging service. Many participants are also eligible for free NRTs such as patches, lozenges, and gum, which will be sent directly to their home. To learn more about this free resource, please call 1-800 QUIT NOW or visit <http://www.quitline.nc.com/>.

Those interested in registering for the QuitSmart program should contact Stormzand at (984) 214-2060 or anna.stormzand@chathamnc.org. Chatham residents can also learn more about various resources at chathamnc.org/tobacco cessation.



Anna Stormzand, the Chatham Health Department's Youth Health & Tobacco Initiatives Lead.

Photo courtesy of the Chatham County Health Department

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Chatham County partners with N.C. agencies in water rescue training

From Chatham County Government

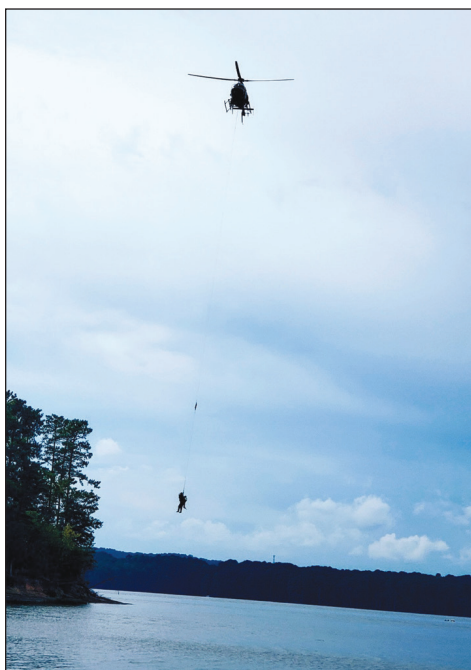
PITTSBORO — On Sept. 23-24, Chatham County Emergency Management, Chatham County Emergency Communications, Chatham County Sheriff's Office, North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department and Chatham County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) partnered with several other local and state agencies to practice water rescues at Jordan Lake.

The training is part of the North Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (NCHART) program. NCHART is a highly specialized team consisting of N.C. National Guard and N.C. State Highway Patrol aircraft and aircrews along with N.C. Emergency Management and local first responders. The team is always ready to lead the way with helicopter-based missions such as swiftwater/flood, urban and mountain rescues.

"This exercise is invaluable, because it's not something we can replicate in a classroom setting," Chatham County Emergency Management Director Steve Newton said. "Not only does the training allow us to go through realistic water-rescue scenarios, at also enables us to collaborate and communicate with other agencies which is similar to what would occur during a natural disaster or other emergency."

During the training, response agency members participated as "survivors" floating in Jordan Lake. Two Highway Patrol helicopters flew overhead with ropes hanging below. With each pass, the survivors were hoisted out of the water and delivered to shore.

"It takes exhaustive training to achieve this level of precision and synchronization, but the remarkable teamwork involved makes it look effortless," Chatham County



More than a dozen local and state agencies partnered to practice water rescues at Jordan Lake.

Photo courtesy of Chatham County Government

Sheriff Mike Roberson said. "These training exercises help ensure rescuers remain safe in real-life operations during critical events or disasters."

NCHART can respond at the request of a local emergency management coordinator or

N.C. Emergency Management Area Coordinator upon approval by the NCEM Director and State Air Boss. The public can learn more about the NCHART program on the N.C. Department of Public Safety website at ncdps.gov.



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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Daniel Barber, 22, of Pittsboro, was charged Sept. 22 for sexual battery, assault on a female, false imprisonment and interfering with emergency communications. Barber was jailed and issued no bond with a Oct. 21 court date in Pittsboro.

Michael Faircloth Jr., 30, of Durham, was charged Sept. 22 for failure to appear on charges of defrauding drug or alcohol screening test. Faircloth was issued a \$1,000 secured bond with a Oct. 20 court date in Pittsboro.

Karen Buckner, 46, of Siler City, was charged Sept. 23 for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Buckner was issued a \$5,000 secured bond with a Oct. 26 court date in Pittsboro.

Joey Lee, 47, of Pittsboro, was charged Sept. 23 for a Georgia fugitive warrant on charges of cruelty toward children and battery. Lee was jailed under a \$25,000 secured bond with a Oct. 26 court date in Pittsboro.

Morgan Collins, 25, of Garner, was charged Sept. 23 for assault and battery and resisting public officer. Collins was jailed on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a Oct. 14 court date in Pittsboro.

Randy Perkins Jr., 42, of Erwin, was charged Sept. 23 for assault on a female. Perkins was jailed on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a Oct. 23 court date in Lillington.

Shawnace Yarborough, 24, of Pittsboro, was charged Sept. 23 for possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, child not in rear seat, fictitious/ altered title/registration card/tag, failure to stop at a steady red light and failure to appear on charges of damage to property. Yarborough was issued a

written promise with a Oct. 14 court date in Pittsboro and also issued a \$350 secured bond with a Oct. 2 court date in Graham.

Karen Buckner, 46, of Siler City, was charged Sept. 24 for pretrial release violations related to charges of conspiring to sell/deliver methamphetamine and conspiracy to possess with intent to sell/deliver methamphetamine. Buckner was issued a \$20,000 secured bond with a Oct. 1 court date in Pittsboro.

Jeffrey Tyler Sipe, 22, of Siler City, was charged Sept. 24 for failure to appear related to a release order on charges of driving while impaired. Sipe was issued a \$1,000 with a Nov. 18 court date in Pittsboro.

Courtney Rodgers, 22, of Pittsboro, was charged Sept. 24 for simple assault. Rodgers was issued a written promise with a Oct. 21 court date in Pittsboro.

Kendrick Edwards, 37, of Pittsboro, was charged Sept. 24 for misdemeanor larceny. Edwards was issued a written promise with a Sept. 30 court date in Pittsboro.

Joshua Caviness, 31, of Liberty, was charged Sept. 24 for failure to comply with pre-trial release orders related to charges of possession of methamphetamine, domestic violence protective order violation and possession of drug paraphernalia. Caviness was issued a \$3,500 secured bond with a Oct. 12 court date in Asheboro.

Joshua Caviness, 31, of Liberty, was charged Sept. 24 for failure to appear on charges of assault on a female. Caviness was issued a \$1,500 secured bond with a Oct. 19 court date in Asheboro.

Jessica Derrick, 37, of Bear Creek, was charged Sept. 25 for failure to appear on charges of driving while impaired. Derrick was issued a \$4,000 secured

bond with a Oct. 6 court date in Fayetteville.

Billy Joe Phillips, 31, of Siler City, was charged Sept. 26 for assault by strangulation, assault on a female and false imprisonment. Phillips was jailed on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a Oct. 27 court date in Pittsboro.

Bart Meyer, 49, of Chapel Hill, was charged Sept. 26 for misdemeanor larceny and possession of stolen goods/property. Meyer was issued a \$5,000 secured bond with a Nov. 16 court date in Dobson.

Shane Brightwell, 33, of Chapel Hill, was charged Sept. 26 for indecent exposure. Brightwell was issued a written promise with a Nov. 4 court date in Durham.

Kristi Jo Hodge, 51, of Siler City, was charged by Deputy Brandal Harrington for larceny of motor vehicle, breaking & entering into a motor vehicle, injury to personal property, misdemeanor larceny, possession of a stolen motor vehicle, and possession of stolen goods. Hodge was issued a \$40,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Oct. 19.

Kristi Jo Hodge, 51, of Siler City, was charged Sept. 26 for possession of a stolen motor vehicle and resisting a public officer. Hodge was issued a \$5,000 secured bond with a Oct. 19 court date in Pittsboro.

William Deshazo, 38, of Durham, was charged Sept. 27 for domestic violence protection order violations and felony stalking. Deshazo was jailed on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a Oct. 19 court date in Pittsboro.

William Deshazo, 38, of Durham, was charged Sept. 27 for possession of marijuana up to 1/2 oz. and no operator's

license. Deshazo was issued a written promise with a Oct. 28 court date in Pittsboro.

James Sanderford, 28, of Pittsboro, was charged Sept. 27 for trafficking opium or heroin, possession with intent to sell or deliver a schedule IV controlled substance, possession with intent to sell or deliver a Schedule II Controlled Substance possession of drug paraphernalia and maintaining a vehicle/dwelling for the use, storage, or sale of controlled substances. Sanderford was issued a \$40,000 secured bond with a Oct. 19 court date in Pittsboro.

Sean Smith, 22, of Pittsboro, was charged Sept. 27 for assault on a female. Smith was jailed on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a Oct. 21 court date in Pittsboro.

Andrew Brown, 30, of Siler City, was charged Sept. 28 for breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering and possession stolen goods/property. Brown was issued a \$7,500 secured bond with a Oct. 15 court date in Carthage.

Kamari Marsh, 31, of Chapel Hill, was charged Sept. 28 for assault on a female and injury to personal property. Marsh was jailed on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a Oct. 29 court date in Hillsborough.

Cynthia Rizzo, 44, of New Hill, was charged Sept. 28 for assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill, discharging a weapon into occupied property, communicating threats and damage to property. Rizzo was jailed on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a Oct. 21 court date in Pittsboro.

Ken Mashburn III, 43, of Sanford, was charged Sept. 30 for forgery of instrument and uttering forged instrument. He was issued a written promise with a Oct. 21 court date in Pittsboro.

Dandridge Thompson, 39, of Bear Creek, was charged Sept. 30 for driving while impaired, driving left of center, reckless driving with wanton disregard for safety, carrying a concealed weapon without a permit and simple possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance. He was released on a written promise with a Nov.17 court date in Pittsboro.

Fredric Harris, 45, of Siler City, was charged Oct. 3 for failure to appear on charges of failure to wear a seat belt and driving while license revoked/impaired revocation. Harris was issued a \$300 cash bond with a Oct. 14 court date in Pittsboro.

Erik Nava-Morelas, 24, of Durham, was charged Oct. 3 for failure to appear on charges of driving while impaired and no operators license. Nava-Morelas was issued a \$2,000 secured bond with a Oct. 22 court date in Durham.

John Becker, 36, of Pittsboro, was charged Oct. 4 for felony possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia and intoxicated and disruptive. Becker was jailed \$5,000 secured bond with a Nov. 18 court date in Hillsborough.

Jonathan Alarcon, 18, of Siler City, was charged Oct. 4 for failure to appear on charges of allowing dogs to run at large. Alarcon was issued a written promise with a Oct. 14. court date in Pittsboro.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Florentino Arenasramos of Cameron was cited Sept. 29 for no license/failure to maintain lane on U.S. Hwy. 421 in Siler City.

Javier Monroyroman of Chapel Hill was cited Sept. 29 for failure to maintain lane on SR 1717 in Pittsboro

Council on Aging receives BAND-NC grant

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — The Institute for Emerging Issues at N.C. State recently announced its second round of grant recipients for Building a New Digital Economy in North Carolina (BAND-NC). Chatham County was selected as one of the additional 10 N.C. counties to receive a \$5,000 grant to help bridge the digital divide in their communities.

BAND-NC is a grant program designed to increase the number of people with the internet in their homes, with the goal of making the state "first in digital inclusion." The effort is a partnership with the N.C. Broadband Infrastructure Office, the John M. Belk Endowment, the Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation, Roanoke Electric Cooperative, the North Carolina Electric Cooperatives and the Duke Energy Foundation.

Chatham County's Council on Aging is the recipient



of the county's \$5,000 grant, which will be used for a pilot project to purchase computer tablets and subsidized internet service for 15 seniors currently lacking access to the internet in their homes. The council will then arrange for necessary training and support to enable the seniors to use these tablets and will measure their engagement and the impact of this access.

"This pilot program will help us further identify what challenges exist in terms of broadband internet access, technology skills and engagement to allow us to build a plan to expand access for many more residents in the coming

years," executive director Dennis Streets. "The project will immediately help some of our most isolated residents regain access to their Senior Center community, learn new skills, and combat loneliness."

Streets said it was just one more way the council was assisting Chatham County seniors and their families, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Out of ongoing concern for the health and safety of seniors, the Council on Aging has decided to continue the closure of its two centers to in-facility programming through December. At that point, it will reassess the status of COVID-19 and follow public

health recommendations. "We must find ways to bridge the digital divide for our senior residents, because as they stay at home and limit their engagement with the public, and as their family members keep a distance, their world grows smaller," Streets said. "Seniors, particularly those who live alone, are at the greatest risk of social isolation and loneliness, and research has demonstrated that loneliness is one of the single largest social determinants of health, increasing risks of heart disease, dementia and depression."

A spring phone survey of 69 participants in the council's congregate meals

program revealed that only 19 had email addresses and less than a third had internet-ready devices like smartphones, laptops, tablets or computers.

Maggie Woods, Policy and Program Manager at the Institute for Emerging Issues, credited the Chatham COA as submitting "one of the strongest applications and we are excited to see how this project develops."

The importance of addressing the digital divide is especially important as Chatham County is not only home to a diverse, but an aging population. Already, a third of all Chatham residents are age 60 or older. In the next two decades,

Chatham's population is expected to grow by 46%, but the population over 60 is expected to increase by 83%, with those over 85 by 208%.

"Building our capacity as an organization to provide engaging virtual programming and technology training while also improving access and technology skills for seniors will ensure we continue to expand our reach in the county and serve those most in need," Streets said.

For information about the work of the Chatham County Council on Aging, go to www.chathamcoa.org or call its Eastern Center in Pittsboro at 919-542-4512 or its Western Center in Siler City at 919-742-3975.

Pittsboro Gallery of Arts opens

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — The Pittsboro Gallery of Arts, near the center of downtown Pittsboro, began operating Oct. 2.

Owned and operated by local and regional artists, the purpose of the for-profit gallery is to exhibit and offer an opportunity for art lovers and patrons to see, purchase and collect fine art and fine crafts. In addition, the artists wish to raise awareness and appreciation for the visual arts and artistic crafts, promote artistic excellence and contribute to the cultural and economic welfare of the community.

Regular hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, as well as during Pittsboro's "First Sunday" events.

The artists use a variety of techniques to create their pieces. Among the

selections of wall art are paintings and drawings, done in oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel and pen and ink. Mixed media and collage images, as well as photography, both black & white and color, are on display, as well as sculpture, mosaic, stained glass, decorative and functional pottery, elegant jewelry, tapestry and fiber art.

The spacious gallery allows more than 30 artists to showcase their creations, in addition to an area for smaller artist-made gifts and a space for future art classes.

Because of the current pandemic situation, masks are required in the gallery.

For more information about the Pittsboro Gallery of Arts, go to pittsborogallery.org to see a list of artists and sample images of their art work, as well as a map showing the location in Pittsboro, North Carolina.



Pet of the Week: CALI

The Sheriff's Office would like to introduce Cali, a 1-year-old, female tabby with big dreams of finding her fur-ever home. Cali is a 'cool cat' with a Hollywood state of mind and flair for the dramatic. She is the kind of kitty who wants to be around her human all day every day, with no other felines starring in her show. If she feels lonely or ignored, she takes her cue and pours on the personality; don't be surprised if she takes up residence in your lap or saunters ostentatiously in front of your television screen until she regains your attention. Cali would be a fantastic addition to a relaxed household of cinephiles with no other pets or young children to steal her spotlight. She would do well with older children who respect her boundaries and won't ruffle her glamorous fur. Her low-cost, \$20 adoption fee covers her spay, microchip implantation, and vaccinations! For more information on how to meet or adopt Cali, call 919-542-7203 to speak with an Animal Resource Officer. If you would like to visit the ARC at 725 Renaissance Dr., please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

Photo courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

RANDOLPH COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC STANDING LIST

The following area students have been honored by placement for their 2020 Summer Semester standings:

- President's List:** Jason Armas Fentanez
- Academic Merit List:**
- Bear Creek:** Destinee Lee, Addie Pendry
- Bennett:** Misty Murray
- Franklinville:** Syed Abbas, Natalie Halll, Dillon McNeill, Madison Rewoldt, Ethan Wallace
- Liberty:** Brandi Baisley, Kimberly Flores-Perez, Heidi Hammond, Cathy Hartman, Ethan Hatfield, Makayla Hunsucker, Haley Linville, Michelle Lopaz, Yaheli Rangel, Alexis Robbins
- Ramseur:** Carlos Bringas, Britney Brown, Courtnee Carter, Sara Fox, Cesar Jaimes Montes de Oca, Kylie Lemonds, Abbey Kewis, Austin Muckenfuss, Kaslyn Switzer, Abbie Thompson, Makayla Wilson
- Robbins:** Megan Perry, Deandraya Terry
- Seagrove:** Braydon Byrd, Enriquetta Clark, Natalie Jennings, Annie McPherson, Courtney Pedigo, Brooke Richardson, Alex Rodriguez, Jessica Waite
- Siler City:** Skyy Nunn, Trenton Sloan, Doris Tomas Garcia
- Staley:** John Manley
- Star:** Sabrina Scott

Dental Insurance

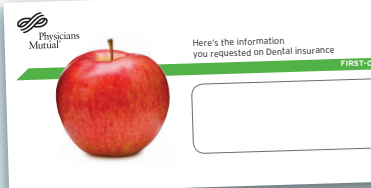
Get the dental care you deserve with dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It can help cover the services you're most likely to use -

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- X-rays
- Fillings
- Crowns
- Dentures

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

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844-903-1784

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dental50plus.com/chatham



Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-888-799-4433 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds B438/B439. 6154-0120



Pet of the Week: CLEO

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Cleo, a 10-month-old canine with lots of love to give! Cleo is a playful, energetic dog who loves to run and explore. She is very active and would do well with an individual or family who loves spending time outdoors and on-the-go. Need a hiking buddy? Fetch partner? Racing coach? Cleo fits the bill and will stick by your side through any adventure! She is a sweetheart who is slowly learning to be a dog - in many ways, she is like a toddler learning her potential and place in the world. With the right amount of activity and patience, she will likely make a lifelong, affectionate companion for her lucky new owner! For more information on how to meet or adopt Cleo, 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 Drive, Pittsboro.

Photo courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office



Bowen

Insurance Agency, Inc

We are **OPEN** and here for you.

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



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



Bowen Insurance Agency is located at:
1345 Thompson Street
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Chatham Public Health Department to offer flu vaccines, urges public to protect themselves

From Chatham County Health Department

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Public Health Department will begin offering flu vaccines at its Siler City clinic — located at 1000 S. Tenth Ave. — in September. The department urges all county residents age six months and older to get their flu shots this year.

During the 2019-2020 flu season, according to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates, between 39-56 million people in the United States got the flu, between 410,000-740,000 were hospitalized and between 24,000-62,000 people

died from the flu.

The CCPHD has updated its seasonal flu web page — found at chathamnc.org/flu — with new information on the current vaccine and FAQs on the 2020-2021 seasonal flu and COVID-19 from the CDC. According to the CDC, it is possible for individuals to have both COVID-19 and the flu at the same time. Getting a flu shot is the best way to protect against the flu.

“It is more important than ever to get the flu vaccine this year because COVID-19 remains present in our community,” Chatham County Interim Public Health Director Mike Zelek said. “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.”

In addition to getting the flu vaccine, CCPHD encourages everyone to practice good hygiene: Wash your hands regularly, cover your cough and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow, and stay home and away from others if you feel sick.

To get a flu shot at the health department’s Siler City clinic, interested individuals will need to call ahead at (919) 742-5641

and schedule an appointment. The vaccine is covered by most insurances, or available for \$40.

Children aged 6 months to 18 years can receive a State-subsidized vaccine if they meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Medicaid enrolled - a child who is eligible or enrolled in the Medicaid program.
- Uninsured - a child who has no medical insurance coverage.
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Underinsured, which includes:
- Children who have commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines.

Children whose insurance covers only selected vaccines.

Children whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount - once that coverage amount is reached, these children are categorized as underinsured.

Additionally, certain adults 19 years old and older without insurance can receive State-subsidized vaccines if they are either:

Non-Medicaid, uninsured women who are pregnant during flu season and currently receiving services at the clinic, or;

Persons enrolled in the Be Smart family planning program and are receiving services at the clinic.

ing services at the clinic.

In addition to the public health department, the flu vaccine is available through primary care providers and pharmacies throughout the county. Contact your doctor or pharmacy to request a flu shot.

For more information on the seasonal flu, visit chathamnc.org/flu or cdc.gov/flu. For more information on COVID-19, visit chathamnc.org/coronavirus or chathamnc.org/coronaviruspanol (in Spanish). For more information on the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit chathamnc.org/public-health or facebook.com/chathamhealth.

Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

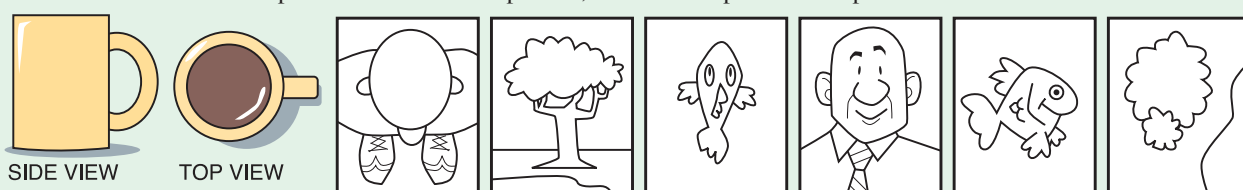
Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

© 2020 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 36, No. 44

Depends On How You Look At It

Objects, people and buildings look different from different points of view or perspectives.

Look at the two pictures of the coffee cup. Then, match each top view in the pictures below to its side view.



From On High

Imagine you are a bird, flying above your school and its surrounding neighborhood. What would the area look like from your bird's-eye view?

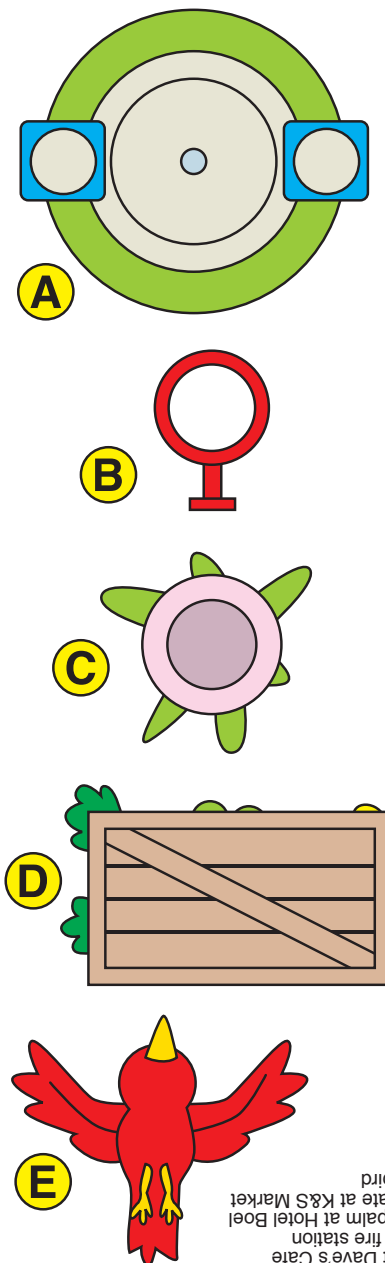
Here are some pictures of places in Kid Scoop City. Can you match each side view to the view from above on the map?

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Students know how different media, techniques and processes are used to communicate ideas.

ANSWERS:
 A: Table at Dave's Cafe
 B: Light at fire station
 C: Potted palm at Hotel Boel
 D: Fruit crate at K&S Market
 E: Flying bird

Kid Scoop Together: Upside Down Town

What if some of the things on today's page were viewed from below, rather than from above? Can you identify each object?



Standards Link: Visual Arts: Understand how different organizational principles cause different responses.

Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word HOTEL in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

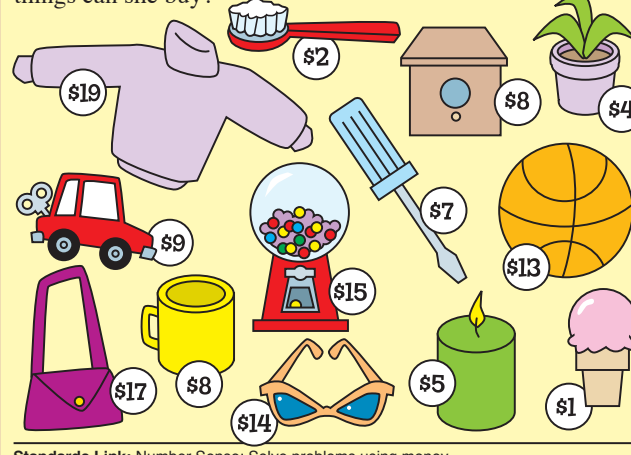
O	H		
E	L	O	
		T	
		E	O
		L	E

Write On! My Home Geography

Describe the geography of where you live. Do you live near a body of water? In a desert? In a valley? Describe the landforms, weather, colors and feel of the place in which you live.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Cathy has \$43. She wants to buy five things at five different stores in Kid Scoop City and spend exactly \$43. Which five things can she buy?



Double Double Word Search

POINTS VIEW PLACES COFFEE CITY OBJECTS MARKET HOTEL PEOPLE SCHOOL CAFE MATCH SIDE FIRE HIGH

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

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

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

Chatham YMCA

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

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

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

LEARN ABOUT LAND - Chatham Land Experts - www.learn-aboutland.com - 919-362-6999. Jy2,tfnc

OFFICE SPACE RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT, Approximately 2,000 sq. ft. reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, 919-930-1650. Jn15,tfnc

MOBILE HOME RENTALS

2BR 1BA MOBILE HOME in Bear Creek-Bonlee Community. No pets. No smoking. References required. Taking applications. Please leave message and phone number. Call 919-837-5689. O1,8,2tp

2 BEDROOMS 1 BATH mobile home on 5 acres in SC, window a/c, gas heat, no pets, washer/dryer connections, county water, call 919-545-0822. S17,S24,O1,O8,4tp

RENTAL APARTMENTS

POWELL SPRINGS APTS Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for LWVODC: Advocates For Inclusive and Diverse Schools Reopening Task Force adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 - 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD # 1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, A2,tfnc

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

BURIAL PLOTS FOR SALE - Four (4) burial plots, at discounted price, in beautiful location at Chatham Memorial Park. Please email tloman@ardurra.com for further information.

S24,O1,O8,15,22,29,6tp

YARD SALES

YARD SALE - All day Thursday, the 8th and Friday, the 9th (only), home of Jimmy Hancock, 2083 S Chatham Ave., 1/2 mile from Country Store on Old 421 South. Lots of men's clothing and much more. O8,1tp

AUCTIONEERS

RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, S3,tfnc

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call... We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, S3,tfnc

SERVICES

RETIRED MAN available for painting and small odd jobs. Cal 984-265-0647, leave message. O8,15,2tp

JHJ PAINTING & PRESSURE WASH - Interior/Exterior - Commercial/Residential, Staining Decks and Fences - Also home repairs. We specialize in all your home improvement needs! Call John Hayes, Jr., 919-548-0474, S3-N5,10tp

JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfnc

I PAY IN CASH For Junk Cars and trucks. Prompt courteous

service. Call 910-464-5434 or Cell: 910-639-5614. God Bless! J9,tfnc

CARPENTRY WORK - all types, repairs, renovation, installation, windows and doors. Call Robert Clark, 919-742-3194. My25,tfnc

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

HELP WANTED

VERTICAL WALLS-Se busca ayuda laboral - Buscamos trabajadores para una empresa de muros de contención para ayudar a apilar bloques y construir muros. 40 o más horas a la semana, con un pago a partir de \$17/hora. También ofrecemos pago de horas extras, así como beneficios de salud, dentales y de la vista. Para comprender mejor lo que hará, visite nuestro sitio web en www.verticalwalls.com. Si está interesado, llame a nuestra oficina al 919-852-0840. Estamos abiertos de lunes a viernes de 9 a 5. Si desea ingresar y completar una solicitud, llame para programar una cita antes de llegar. La dirección de nuestra oficina es 612 W Lane St., Raleigh, N.C. O8,1tc

FT OUTREACH COORDINATOR needed for nonprofit agency. Must have 3 to 5 years of experience. For a full job description, see: www.unit-edwayofchathamcounty.org. Salary range is \$31,000-\$35,000, DOE with Competitive Benefits Package. Send resume and letter of interest to: United Way of Chatham County, PO Box 1066, Pittsboro, NC, 27312. Position open until filled. O8,15,22,3tc

HELP WANTED, COUNTRY STORE - 1004 S. Chatham Ave., Siler City. Apply in person. 919-663-2417, S24,O1,8,3tc

RANDOPH ELECTRIC MEMBERHIP 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,O1,8,15,4tc

MOUNTAINE FARMS OF SILER CITY is seeking an OCCUPATIONAL NURSE, Hours 4:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m., to provide

first aid and emergency care for occupational injuries and illness, performing required pre-employment physicals and drug screens and record-keeping and documentation of visits to health services. Seeking an LPN or RN with 2 years of practical 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 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,O1,O8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

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.
Blind ads No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.
Errors In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

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,O1,O8,4tc

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,O1,O8,4tc

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,O1,O8,4tc

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 deceased 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,O1,O8,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20 E 417

HIRING CNA's 3RD SHIFT
CALL: 919-542-3151
Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm
for appointment to complete application and interview
Pittsboro Christian Village
1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC



Siler City, NC is Hiring!

GENERAL LABOR - ALL SHIFTS WILL TRAIN
Opportunities for advancement!

INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE MECHANICS
2nd or 3rd Shift
Up to \$30hr dependent on experience.
Bonus eligible!

Your experience should include:

- 2-3 years of maintenance experience within the industrial mechanical field, and/or relevant technical educational training i.e. apprenticeship, associate degree and certifications will be considered.
- Ability to use manuals and measuring instruments, read diagrams, sketches, and engineering specification.
- Knowledge of conveying systems, process equipment/systems, Automatic Debone Machines, and ability to complete preventative maintenance procedures.
- Able to remove defective parts by disassembling equipment using hoists, cranes, hand and power tools.

GARAGE & DIESEL MECHANICS
2nd Shift.
Bonus Eligible!

Your experience should include:

- 2-3 years' experience working as a Diesel or Garage Mechanic.
- Must possess high school diploma or equivalent.
- Must have valid driver's license, CDL preferred.

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EOE

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TDD 1-800-735-2962
Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMGt.com
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AUCTION

For Sale @ Auction Chatham Co., NC
Commercial Building & Corner Lot
223 W. Raleigh St. & 0 Beaver St., Siler City, NC
Register & Bid Online - Ends Oct. 21st!

5+/- Acres for Sale @ Auction Chatham County, NC
Lot #9, Indian Creek Lane, Apex, NC
*Last Vacant Lot Left in "The Woods of Chatham"!

Register & Bid Online - Ends Oct. 19th!
Register to Bid @ RogersAuction.com

RA ROGERS AUCTIONS & REAL ESTATE (919) 545-0412
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NCFL7360

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 Fearrington 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

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 Lipfert & 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 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 Ballentrae 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-Par-

tisan 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 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

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 CRISMAN 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 per-



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HUGE ON-LINE AUCTION 

ON-LINE Bidding from October 6th through Oct. 20th

220 Teague Trail, Snow Camp NC
Personal Property of the Late Dwight Teague and Bobbie Jean Teague (Moved to Assisted Living)

Antique Furniture, Collectibles, Melville Dairy Milk Bottles, Washer & Dryer, Kitchenware, Walnut Corner Cabinet, Cast Iron, Plus Lots More!!
House is FULL!!

90+ Acre Farm with Farmhouse will be up for auction soon!!!
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\$8,000 Sign-On Bonus
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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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APPLY - IN - PERSON

1015 Alston Bridge Road • Siler City, NC

9:00 am ante lagoverning board Junta Directiva de chatham Transit Network. Los interesados en asistir a la audiencia pública y necesitar ayudas y servicios auxiliares bajo la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA) o un traductor de idiomas deben comunicarse con Anna Testerman el **13 de octubre de 2020** o antes, en el número de teléfono 919-542-5136 o por correo electrónico a a.testerman@chathamtransit.org. El Programa de Transporte Comunitario proporciona asistencia para coordinar los programas de transporte existentes que operan en el Condado de Chatham, así como proporciona opciones de transporte y servicios para las comunidades dentro de esta área de servicio. Estos servicios se prestan actualmente utilizando servicios bajo demanda, suscripción y rutas fijas. Los servicios son prestados por Chatham Transit Network. El importe total estimado solicitado para el período comprendido entre el **1 de julio de 2021 y el 30 de junio de 2022**.

Participación	Importe total
Local Share	proyecto
Administrativo	\$265,604
\$53,121 (20%)	
Capital	
(Vehículos y	
Ostros)	\$422,000
\$84,400 (20%)	
5310 Operando	\$180,000
\$90,000 (50%)	
PROYECTO TOTAL	\$867,604
\$227,521	

Participación de Total financiancion Participacion

Esta aplicación puede ser inspeccionada en 127 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Pittsboro, NC de 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Los comentarios escritos deben dirigirse al Director Ejecutivo, P.O. Box 1032, Pittsboro, NC 27312 antes del 13 de octubre de 2020.

08,1tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Section 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 and applicable State funding, or combination thereof. This is to inform the public that a public hearing will be held on the proposed Chatham Transit Network Community Transportation Program Application to be submitted to

the North Carolina Department of Transportation no later than **October 23, 2020**. The public hearing will be held on **October 16, 2020 at 9:00 am** before the **Chatham Transit Network Board of Directors**. Those interested in attending the public hearing and needing either auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or a language translator should contact Anna Testerman on or before **October 13, 2020**, at telephone number 919-542-5136 or via email at a.testerman@chathamtransit.org. The Community Transportation Program provides assistance to coordinate existing transportation programs operating in Chatham County as well as provides transportation options and services for the communities within this service area. These services are currently provided using on-demand, subscription and fixed route services. Services are rendered by Chatham Transit Network. The total estimated amount requested for the period **July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021**

Project	Total Amount	Local Share
Capital(Vehicles	\$151,000	\$
30,300		
& Other)		
Total Project	\$151,000	\$
30,300		
Total Funding	Total	Request
Local		Share

This application may be inspected at 127 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Pittsboro, NC from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Written comments should be directed to Executive Director, P.O. Box 1032, Pittsboro, NC 27312 before October 13, 2020.

08,1tc

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA
Artículo 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 y la financiación estatal aplicable, o combinación de los mismos. Esto es para informar al público que se llevará a cabo una audiencia pública sobre la solicitud propuesta del Programa de Transporte Comunitario de la Red de Tránsito de Chatham que se presentará al Departamento de Transporte de Carolina del Norte a más tardar el 16 de octubre de 2020. La audiencia pública se llevará a cabo el 16 de octubre de 2020 alas 9:00 am ante lagoverning board Junta Directiva de chatham Transit Network.

Los interesados en asistir a la audiencia pública y necesitar ayudas y servicios auxiliares bajo la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA) o un traductor de idiomas deben comunicarse con Anna Testerman el 13 de octubre de 2020 o antes, en el número de teléfono 919-542-5136 o por correo electrónico a a.testerman@chathamtransit.org. El Programa de Transporte Comunitario proporciona asistencia para coordinar los programas de transporte existentes que operan en el Condado de Chatham, así como proporciona opciones de transporte y servicios para las comunidades dentro de esta área de servicio. Estos servicios se prestan actualmente utilizando servicios bajo demanda, suscripción y rutas fijas. Los servicios son prestados por Chatham Transit Network. El importe total estimado solicitado para el período comprendido entre el 1 de julio de 2020 y el 30 de junio de 2021.

Importe total del proyecto
Participación local
Capital (Vehículos y Otros)
\$151,500
\$30,300 (20%)
PROYECTO TOTAL
\$151,500
\$30,300

de pación
Solicitud Total Participacion Local financiancion Local
Esta aplicación puede ser inspeccionada en 127 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Pittsboro, NC de 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Los comentarios escritos deben dirigirse al Director Ejecutivo, P.O. Box 1032, Pittsboro, NC 27312 antes del 13 de octubre de 2020.

08,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 466 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **LINDA JONES BRADY**, 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

January 8, 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 5th day of October, 2020. Co-Executors, Anita Brady 2658 Fall Creek Church Road Bennett, NC 27208 Marta Brown Purvis 688 Putnam Church Rd. Carthage, NC 28327 08,015,022,029,4tp

ADVERTISEMENT - CHATHAM COUNTY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
Data Management Analytic Monitoring and Non-Revenue Water Loss Recovery Project
Chatham County, Public Utilities Department, is seeking proposals for performing, as part of a pilot program, a data management analytic monitoring and non-revenue water loss recovery project to install 5 strategically placed flow/pressure monitoring devices throughout the County's Southwest Water System to monitor, over a period of months, system anomalies that can help pinpoint potential leaks that can lead to excessive non-revenue water loss. The complete RFP 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, and included with the paper copies. The **submital package must be received by November 12, 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. 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 November 5, 2020 to purchasing@chathamnc.org or by fax to (919)-545-2417**. No RFP inquiries by telephone please. All addenda will be posted by 5:00pm on Friday, November 6, 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.

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TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Siler City, in accordance with National Flood Insurance Program regulation 65.7(b)(1), hereby gives hazard information, generally located between S. 2nd Ave. and the intersection of Pony Farm Rd. and Moonrise Meadow Dr. Specifically, the flood hazard information will be revised along Loves Creek from a point approximately 600 feet SW of S. 2nd Ave. to a point approximately 339 feet SW of the intersection of Pony Farm Rd. and Moonrise Meadow Dr. As a result of the revision, the floodway will widen and narrow and be relocated based on actual stream location, the 1-percent-annual-chance water-surface elevations will decrease, and the 1-percent annual chance floodplain will widen and narrow within the area of revision. Maps and detailed analysis of the revision can be reviewed by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323.

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