

Chatham News + Record

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'THE GOAL IS TO SEE THE KIDS, TO BE SAFE'

Students, teachers at Bonlee adjust to Plan B

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

'The goal is to see the kids to be safe, and to move them academically from where we left off March 13,' said Bonlee School Principal Kim Taylor. 'And it's happening.'

BONLEE — On a Monday morning at Bonlee School, the return of students learning at desks instead of behind computer screens almost seems normal. That is, if you can get past the arts and crafts lining the walls of student self portraits decked in masks, neon yellow X's and arrows taped along the hallways and masked students marching in a line six feet apart from one another.

It is, Bonlee Principal Kim Taylor says, "a new normal" under COVID-19. "They want to follow the rules, they're glad to be here," Taylor said of her students. "Other than just changing your mindset, that's not typically a human nature thing — wearing a mask, not being able to hug. We do virtual hugs, we're mak-

ing it work and it's going so well. I think if you're prepared and you have those things in place, then it becomes a normal school day."

Bonlee School has around 315 students in grade K-8; nearly 100 returned to school last Monday for the first time in almost seven months. This follows the Chatham County Schools Board of Education's Sept. 29 unanimous decision to send Extended Content Standard E.C. students, Pre-K students and K-2 students back to school under hybrid learning starting Oct. 19; for now, all other students will be in Plan C until Jan. 15.

Under the plan, a group of students attends in-person Monday and Tuesday while another attends virtually. Wednesday serves as a deep-cleaning day, and then

See PLAN B, page A6

ELECTIONS COVERAGE

• A note about the Nov. 3 elections: given changes in the way voters cast ballots this year, we anticipate Chatham's results may not be known by press time for next week's edition. Follow our coverage online at www.chathamnewsrecord.com for breaking elections coverage and up-to-date vote totals and results. Subscribers to our free Chatham Brew e-newsletter will get bonus coverage.

• Inside: Tillis, Cunningham vie for U.S. Senate seat (page B5); the latest on early voting and a look at Chatham County's ballot (page B9); more coverage online at our website.

Early voting continues through Saturday, Oct. 31, with six local early voting sites open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



CHATHAM COUNSELING & WELLNESS



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Ashleigh Glover (right) co-founded Chatham Counseling & Wellness in Siler City with her husband, Stacy.

New business will offer crucial, accessible mental health treatment

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Ashleigh Glover could have gone to Chapel Hill or Cary or Apex to start her career as a mental health counselor. Quite frankly, it would have been a lot easier. But that didn't sit right with her.

"I didn't want to outsource," she said. Instead, Glover decided to blaze a new trail in Chatham County, an area that's been a definitive part of her life from her time at Silk Hope School, Jordan-Matthews High and Central Carolina Community College. Chatham is

See WELLNESS, page A11

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Pittsboro club, Chatham's second, set to open in early 2021

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Kyle Shipp thought of himself as just an ordinary citizen when he attended a Pittsboro town hall meeting in late 2018.

"Some people came to the meeting and gave public comments about middle school kids going downtown after school," he said. "They said there had been some fights and stuff."

The notion bothered him, but Shipp thought he was in no position to address it. A year later, though, he was campaigning for a seat on Pittsboro's Board of Commissioners when the subject resurfaced.

"As a candidate, I was at the NAACP forum when the problem came up again. So, I thought, 'Why don't we have a Boys & Girls Club?'" he said. "It's obviously something the community really needs and could use."

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America is a national organization with the stated mission to "do whatever it takes to build great futures for America's young people." BGCA is divided into more than 4,700 local chapters around the country serving 4.6 million young people, according to its latest annual report.

In Shipp's evaluation, Pittsboro was the perfect candidate for a new chapter.

See CLUB, page A3



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Paul Drake, left, architect with Hobbs Architects, and Pittsboro Commissioner Kyle Shipp at the Kiwanis Club of Pittsboro facility, which may be used to host a newly-proposed Boys & Girls Club there.



The Pittsboro Kiwanis Club facility may soon become the home for Pittsboro's Boys & Girls Club.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Some Hispanic voters in Chatham face language barriers, lack of information

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — When it came time to vote this year, Siler City resident Natalia Franco López didn't go to Paul Braxton Gym. She went to the Hispanic Liaison.

She arrived with her absentee ballot, a witness and her mind made up. She knew who she wanted to vote for. The only thing left to do? Ask a staff member to help her fill out the ballot.

"I don't know a word in English," said López, who became a U.S. citizen in 2018. "I don't know how to do it, but I asked for help. I asked (the Hispanic Liaison) to help me do what I wanted to do, what I needed to do."

For some first-generation Hispanic voters like López who speak limited or no English, voting is a bit more compli-

cated than a simple walk-in visit to the polls. Ballots, candidate information and election protocols come primarily in English, which can prove a difficult barrier to overcome for some Spanish-speaking voters without assistance.

But in López's case, the Hispanic Liaison provided that assistance. Staff members helped López, a 75-year-old native of Guanajuato State in Mexico, request an absentee ballot. They also read the ballot aloud to her in Spanish and tracked it online to ensure that Chatham's board of elections received it.

"I don't read very well, so they told me someone (on the ballot) is running for so-and-so. For example, 'So-and-so is running for president and he's named this. For the other party, he's named this,'" she said, adding, "I was

See BARRIERS, page A7



JOHN GRIMES | 1943-2020

A life of 'devotion to Siler City'

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Mayor John F. Grimes' funeral was held Saturday on the Chatham Charter School grounds to commemorate his lifetime of service and decades of leadership in Siler City government.

Only a small group attended in person, but the Grimes family live-streamed the event internationally via NFI Radio Gospel Network and Facebook. More than 3,300 have watched the funeral recording posted on Grimes' Facebook page; nearly 200 have commented with expressions of remorse and support for the family.

John Franklin Grimes III was born in Davie County and grew up in Coolee. His athletic prowess as a young man earned him 22 football scholarship offers, including one from every school in the ACC. Grimes chose to stay local and attend Wake Forest — a decision, his family said, that he made to ensure his parents could attend all his home games.

After graduating, Grimes enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving with the 8th Infantry Division in Germany during the Cold War. On the day of his passing,

See GRIMES, page A3



CN+R staff photo

Siler City Mayor John Grimes, who died last Tuesday, and his wife, Cecilia. This staff photo was taken in 2019, during their 54th year of marriage.

IN THE KNOW

First-time Hispanic voters in Siler City share their experiences, hopes. **PAGE A7**

Pittsboro board appoints new chief, rezones land, honors late mayor. **PAGE A9**

Death Faire: 'Medicine for the soul' event helps with grief, healing. **PAGE B8**

Chat: Upcoming holidays will be different, but busy, for Wrenn, Army. **PAGE B12**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

CANCELLATIONS

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

ON THE AGENDA

• **The Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2, at the historic Chatham County Courthouse.
• **The Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2, at City Hall in downtown Siler City.
• **The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9, at Pittsboro Town Hall.
• **The Chatham County Schools Board of Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9, at Horton Middle School.
• Check the respective board websites for information about online access to meetings.
• **The Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees** will meet virtually at 6 p.m. Wednesday, October 28. To join this meeting by video, visit https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/3954a3516a5f4f-9886b4ec0537658988.
• **Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling** is having 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 31. Wednesday sales are from 7 a.m. to noon on October 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.

• **Central Carolina Community College:** Whether you are looking for flexible course choices to meet your personal schedule or starting a new program of study, CCC's 8-week term allows you to find courses that fit your academic and career goals. 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.

THURSDAY

• The Chatham Historical Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Masks required and groups will be distanced. Adult and kid friendly; with no admission fee. The current special exhibit is vintage toys. Don't miss it! Our permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history. The Museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the circle. More info: https://chathamhistory.org
• **The Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open with seasonal items year-round from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. It is located at 287 East St., Pittsboro.
• **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** provides a healthy, appetizing meal at no cost to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income
• **Second Bloom of Chatham** is having a Halloween Sale. All black and orange clothing will be 50% off until October 31. Treat yourself to some fine clothing and jewelry. Masks are required and hand sanitizer is also available. The store is open 10a.m. to 4p.m. Tuesday thru Saturday. We are now accepting donations of clean, new and gently used men and women's clothing, shoes, accessories and jewelry. We accept credit cards. We are located on the Courthouse Circle at 10 Sanford Road, Pittsboro.

FRIDAY

• The Bray Park Sports Complex and Parking Lot, 200 Bray Park Complex Drive, Siler City, will temporarily close on Friday, October 30, beginning at 12 p.m. for preparation of the annual Fall-O-Ween Trunk R' Treat event. Loves Creek Greenway patrons are encouraged to park at the Bray Park Aquatic Facility parking lot, located at 700 Alston Bridge Road, and access the greenway at 623 South Second Avenue on Friday, October 30, 2020. The park and parking lot will reopen on Saturday, October 31. In case of

inclement weather, the event rain date is Saturday, October 31, 10:30a a.m. to 1 p.m.

SATURDAY

• **New Hope Valley Railway** is back on track. The nonprofit railway reopens with limited capacity Halloween train rides in Bonsal. The North Carolina Railway Museum, which operates New Hope Valley Railway (NHVR) has reopened to the public and resumed train rides with its popular Track or Treat: Halloween Express trains. Located at 3900 Bonsal Road in New Hill, it is nicknamed the Triangle's Train. NHVR's family-friendly Halloween trains are planned thru Saturday, Oct. 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.
• **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.
• **Supper with Santa and Mrs. Claus** will be held on Friday, December 4, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Paul Braxton Gymnasium, where the facility will be turned into a winter wonderland. This is a floating event and pre-registered tickets are required to enter as space is limited. Event tickets are available online at www.silercity.org or in City Hall, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City. Adult tickets are \$10 and tickets for children age 12 and younger are \$5. The deadline to register is November 27, 2020 or until full. No tickets will be available on the day of the event. For more information, contact Daniel Spivey with the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at (919) 742-2699, email recreation@silercity.org, or visit us online at www.silercity.org.
• **Thales Academy**, a college preparatory network of K-12 independent schools, will be opening its newest campus in the Vineyards neighborhood of Chatham Park in July, 2021. The first school to open in the Chatham Park community is now accepting applications for grades K-4 for the 2021-2022 school year. Subsequent grades will be added in the future to ultimately serve grades K-12. Applications are first-come, first-served and will be open until seats are filled and a waitlist is created. Enrollment is open to all area families, not just Chatham Park residents. Tuition at Thales Academy Pittsboro will be \$5,300 per year. Scholarships, discounts, and payment plans are available to further reduce this cost. Families may apply

right from our website, ThalesAcademy.org, and if they have any questions, they may contact admissions@thalesacademy.org."
• 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, fice 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.
• **AI-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers AI-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro.
• **Scout News**
• Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstrop93.org 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!

Q: Who sang at the open house celebration of the COA's original Hill House location?

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

FREE PRESCHOOL

Quality Preschool Openings Available

Chatham County NC Pre-K has openings for eligible 4 year old children in its high quality classrooms for FALL 2020.

Pre-K openings are available at Bennett School, Chatham Child Development Center, Children First Learning Center, North Chatham School, Pasitos Felices, Perry Harrison School, Pittsboro Elementary, Siler City Elementary School, Telamon Head Start, and Virginia Cross Elementary School.

The program is FREE for children who qualify. To be eligible for NC Pre-K, a child must turn 4 years old on or before August 31, 2020 and meet other qualifications. Applications are available at www.chathamkids.org/NCPK or at each school site. Call Sheen at 919-542-7449 ext. 131 for more information.

NC Pre-K is administered by Chatham County Partnership for Children

PREESCOLAR GRATIS

Las Escuelas del Condado Chatham NC Pre-K tiene puestos disponibles para niños elegibles de 4 años de edad en sus salones de clases de alta calidad para el OTOÑO del 2020. Las matriculas para Preescolar están disponibles en las siguientes escuelas y centros educativos.

Bennett School, Chatham Child Development Center, Children First Learning Center, North Chatham School, Pasitos Felices, Perry Harrison School, Pittsboro Elementary, Siler City Elementary School, Telamon Head Start and Virginia Cross Elementary School.

El programa es GRATIS para los niños que califican. Para ser elegible en NC Pre-K, un niño debe tener 4 años en o antes del 31 de Agosto, 2020 y llenar otros requisitos. Las aplicaciones están disponibles en línea: www.chathamkids.org/NCPK o en cada escuela o centro educativo. Comuníquese con Sheen al 919-542-7449 ext. 131 para obtener más información.

El Preescolar NK es administrado por la Alianza por los Niños del Condado de Chatham (Chatham County Partnership for Children)



Ready for Halloween

Letting the dead bury the dead? That could be the message from this Halloween scene in Chatham County.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham News + Record

www.chathamnewsrecord.com

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VIEWPOINTS

A word on journalism

Last week, my colleague Hannah McClellan and I attended a



LARS DOLDER
Out of the Dolderums

pair of rallies in downtown Pittsboro. We went not as participants, but as journalists — objective parties to what became a fiercely polarized confrontation of ideologies.

Here's what we came to understand about the day's event after painstakingly inquiring of many tight-lipped attendees: some Trump supporters, many of whom drove in from Alamance County, were the first to plan a rally, having publicized their intentions two weeks earlier. In response, a left-leaning organization called Chatham Takes Action scheduled a counter-rally to fall on the same day.

What ensued was mild chaos.

Is that description an oxymoron? Sure is. But given the constancy of chaotic energy in this country, we've reached a point where we must assign degrees

to its severity. So, on this day, the chaos was mild.

In practice, that means there was only one fistfight, just three inimical standoffs (read: mob confrontations) and police only had to interfere twice (that we witnessed).

In the moment, adrenaline and a hyper-awareness consumed me as I think it does all reporters when the prospect of breaking coverage looms behind every spittle-ridden expletive to cross a picket line. My focus was the story — don't miss the quotes; don't miss the action; capture everything just the way it is.

Those tenets are, really, the journalist's creed. As an engineer is committed to building a safe bridge and a doctor committed to saving his patients' lives — so, too, are journalists committed to capturing the truth.

It is the very reason I worked hard to break into this career for which, on paper (math degree?), I was not strictly qualified. Because I love the truth.

Now, I understand that just as there are engineers who cut corners, and doctors who practice recklessly, there are some journalists who neglect

the beautiful trust with which they have been endowed — that is, to accurately represent the goings-on of their communities.

But all three of those retromingent scoundrels are the minority in their respective fields.

Journalists — real journalists from respectable outlets, not social media hacks and organization-backed shysters — take pride in their commitment to the truth. They go to painstaking lengths to ensure fair coverage of their subjects.

Truth-telling is our focus at this paper, and not for fear of reprisal. Frankly, it's not like we're under intense scrutiny akin to what The New York Times or The Washington Post might experience; we could exaggerate here and omit there without serious retribution. But we would never. Why? Because we take pride in ethical journalism.

So, it irked me when at last week's rallies some attendees attacked not just our paper, but our very profession. All of us — journalists, that is — are "communist pawns," they said. "Liars...garbage." To

paraphrase some of their more lurid insults: "excrement, and that from whence it comes."

Nasty people have always reviled truth-tellers. Richard Nixon famously despised newspapers. Years after the Watergate scandal broke, Henry Kissinger, secretary of state in the Nixon administration, reflected on Nixon's vehement campaigns against a free press: "He really hated the press," Kissinger said. "As soon as there was an unfavorable article about him, he'd send notes around prohibiting you from you from talking to the (Washington) Post or to this or that reporter ... It was a big mistake."

It's true that most articles about Richard Nixon from 1971 onward were not positive. But why? Because a communist press set out to undermine his reputation? Nope. It was because Nixon did bad things and tried to hide them. That was the truth.

Granted, writing the news is an imprecise craft, but so is medicine. We can't dismantle the medical industry because doctors occasionally make mistakes and we can't we discount the press because reporters

sometimes get it wrong. Phil Graham, former publisher of The Washington Post, once described our work as an "inescapably impossible task of providing every week a first rough draft of history that will never be completed about a world we can never really understand..."

It's a tall task, but a noble one. It is important.

I know those loud people from last week's rallies, should they read this, will not likely change their minds about the value of a free press and the ethical standard to which journalists closely subscribe. To them, truth is whatever they choose to believe, whatever they want to hear. That's O.K. — I'm sure the astute reportage of Facebook groups and private subreddits will keep them abreast of what's really going on in the world.

But to you, dear readers, who demand a more rigorous standard of journalism — if you care more about reading truth than confirmation bias — let me be clear: that is our commitment, too.

Take comfort, there is still truth to be found.

There are lessons to be learned from saving

Throughout most of my life — at least the adult part, which I'm still working on — I've been a pack rat.



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

You name it; I've probably saved it. And most of the time not just one or two but many of them.

From time to time, I've wondered why. Is it insecurity? Maybe a deep-seated one but it shouldn't be since I've usually had what I needed and most of the time what I wanted. And while Mama and Daddy instilled in my brothers and me the understanding that the world did not revolve around us, they also gave us a belief and awareness that we had some value in and to the human race, as did the majority of other folks who make up that

membership.

Thinking about all that from time to time as I moved some of my stuff around, it seems that most of that attitude comes from my folks — mainly Mama. That's not to lay all the blame on her, but she had a high degree of stuff-saving skill and, I think passed it on to me. I learned it well.

Often, I would ask her why she saved bits of aluminum foil or to-go order packs of ketchup or dozens of slightly used tissues, which I found in large numbers in the purses she left me when she checked into a nursing home.

"If you had grown up in the (Great) Depression," she'd say, "you'd save everything, too. You might need it one day."

We do differ in one regard, however, about the stuff we saved. She could usually find hers and put it to use while I tend to misplace — which is not the same thing as lose — mine. That is an almost daily nod to my dad who, more than once, told me I'd lose my head if it weren't glued on.

A significant part of what I've saved through the years has revolved around the written word. Decades in the newspaper business can do that to you.

Part of that written word has been books. I love books. Have almost as many as the county library. Haven't read them all, of course, but, boy, do they look nice on the shelves in my study or stacked on the floor or on top of the file cabinet or ... I cannot, repeat cannot, throw away a book.

But there's also a nod to newspapers. It started out because I didn't get to finish the Sunday edition. Went through the comics, which got to the point where they weren't funny, and the sales papers and society sections. But those features and some sports and news stories I wanted to look at in depth were never finished. So, I started a little stack, which grew and grew and ... well, you get the picture.

Eventually I not only had stacks in several places in several rooms but moved on to the big plastic storage boxes. Through it all, my better half has been kind and long-suffering.

A few days ago, as part of the stay-at-home lifestyle of today, I began to go through some of those stacks and boxes of mainly old editions of the Chatham News/Record. I haven't finished yet but have thrown out some, after carefully clipping to save articles for a later day. The residue will go into a fire in our outdoor pit some cool fall evening.

What I have learned from that exercise of reading and clipping is about words — mainly that we should keep them tender and sweet since we never know when we might have to eat them, AND that the written word can often be confusing since it doesn't allow for body language and expression or nuances.

Case in point about this item I found: long ago I wrote a column about federal income taxes, lamenting that filing that year had cost me a truckload of extra cash since taking a deduction on the advice of a tax advisor had been ruled a "no-no" by the auditor who objected. In that column, I tongue-in-cheek suggested we shoot the advisors for giving out bad advice, much as Shakespeare once wrote, "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers."

In the next week's edition, in a letter to the editor, a county resident raked me over the coals for that written comment and noted before closing that apparently the "IRS caught him good," which sounded like he was accusing me of doing something illegal. As I remember, I wasn't about to get into a war of words but I did send him a strongly worded letter suggesting he not go any further down that particular road and sent a copy to my family's lawyer of record.

So, friend, remember this point. Sometimes we can learn life lessons long after the event, as I hope I have with the written word. Still, it can be difficult to always hang onto the truth that the written word can convey various meanings, such as the note in a church bulletin once which read, "For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."

Keep trying.

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.



I want a dog

Give me this one fantasy. I want a dog.



ANDREW TAYLOR- TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

I grew up with a half-Lab, half-Golden Retriever named Lucy. Right out of college, I adopted a black-haired puppy I named after the poet Nikki Giovanni. Nikki lived with me

across two states as I married and had two sons. Now my wife and I have a third child, a daughter, and our young family is crammed into a 1,700 square-foot home with a backyard I can spit across. And I want a dog.

Our youngest is my accomplice. She wants to take home every canine she encounters in the neighborhood. Her two older brothers are skittish around dogs, which to my mind is another reason to get one. The middle child was bit when he was about his sister's age. He needs a new, positive experience.

I need a new, positive experience.

More than seven months have passed since the first case of the coronavirus in North Carolina. This past Friday set a record high in new infections. For me, a dog represents a return to normalcy. A simpler

time when the flu was the only vaccine I thought about on a regular basis. In her poem "Small Kindnesses," Danusha Laméris reminds us that saying "bless you" after a sneeze is "a leftover ... from the Bubonic plague." We had turned a deadly fear into a polite response. Now a sneeze is no longer just a sneeze.

Such is my desire for an idealized, simpler past that I even started a dinner conversation about the perfect name for our fictional dog. Our daughter's suggestions — Flower and Clover — elicited groans from her brothers. The boys like the names Force and Fire, both of which are non-starters with their parents. Finally, their mother suggested Moon. I envisioned a white-haired puppy, a Husky mix with blue eyes. Perfect.

The very next weekend my daughter and I encountered a black Lab on a neighborhood walk. The dog's name was Luna. A sign from the heavens!

Though willing to humor me, my wife is quick to point out that we don't have the space in our home for another life force, much less the time or energy. We are already stretched too

thin between pastoring two churches and our eldest's virtual classroom. In the parlance of our time, we don't have enough bandwidth. I'm tired of that metaphor, for I'm tired of the computer. Tired of Zoom calls and emails. I'm so tired of being

tired that I can't sleep.

I woke up early to scratch these thoughts on the back of my daughter's discarded painting. My days run together like her watercolors.

But I remember carefree days with my dog Nikki. When she was a puppy, I'd walk her to the park near my crummy, one-bedroom apartment and she'd try to eat goose poop. Ah, those were good ol' days! A few years later, my wife and I walked Nikki down the city streets of Richmond. Then came after-dinner walks with one of us holding the leash, the other pushing the stroller.

The holidays are coming. I daydream about our kids running downstairs on Christmas morning and can almost hear squeals of delight over the white-haired puppy in my arms. As our kids fawn over her soft fur and pale blue eyes, Moon gently licks their faces. My wife lovingly catches my eye. I would never say I told you so.

I'm under no illusion that we will magically return to a time when a sneeze is just a sneeze. But give me this one fantasy. I fear it's going to be a long winter.

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.

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

PLAN B

Continued from page A1

the two groups swap on Thursday and Friday. As of Tuesday, there were 12 positive cases among CCS staff — one at Bonlee — and zero student cases, according to the district's COVID-19 tracking Google document.

While it's a lot of change to get used to, it's worth it to see students in person, said Jayme Edwards, who teaches a combination-class of 1st and 2nd graders at Bonlee. While reading a book about the adventures of Spookley the Square Pumpkin to the class, Edwards was sure to show the pictures to the seven students spaced around the room in front of her, as well as the seven others watching from Zoom.

"I'm gonna leave y'all with that," Edwards says into her computer screen after finishing the reading. "Get ready for Thursday. All right, I'll see you later. Bye, guys. I love you!"

A moment later she adds, "Go do Seesaw," a virtual learning platform that houses assignments for students.

As she teaches, Edwards gently reminds one student to pull their mask above their nose; she adjusts her own pink mask a few times to ensure she is constantly setting the right example for her students.

"It's been really, really smooth. The kids are super excited to be here," Edwards told the News + Record in a break between classes. "I guess my biggest challenge I'd say is for students without internet, still making sure I'm reaching that one child. Personally I think my biggest challenge is not hugging them, but academically it's probably just making sure that I'm reaching all kids and differentiating with them."

At Bonlee, Principal Kim Taylor said about 10% of students have slow or no internet — about 30 students. Out of the stu-



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Bonlee School student Mary Catherine Walden is happy to be back at school under hybrid learning. That happiness is confirmed by the slogan on her mask: 'There's a smile under here.'

dents able to return, Taylor said there are about 40 students who have chosen not to return to in-person learning, opting instead to continue with completely remote learning. For those students who are doing remote learning without reliable internet access — whether completely or as part of their hybrid schedule — Taylor said teachers are making paper packets to send to students as well as calling them each day to check in on how they're doing.

Every day, students are dropped off by parents or the buses starting at 7:30. Students in the parent-drop off must have their temperature checked and partake in a short symptom screening before getting out of their car. By that point, school employees have all already done health

screenings too.

A new typical day looks like this: Students walk down the hallways marked by yellow tape, pick up their breakfast bags and eat them in their classrooms. While they eat at their desks — spaced six feet apart — they are not allowed to talk, at least not until their masks are covering their mouth and nose once more. For Edwards, then there's a social-emotional lesson, a reading lesson, a mini lesson, lunch, recess, two separate math lessons (for 1st and for 2nd grade), specials (PE, music and art, "which are always a favorite") and finally, social studies and science.

Through it all, students wear masks and remain at least six feet apart. Each student



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham County Schools sent some students back to in-person learning under Plan B last Monday. Artwork outside of Bonlee School's 1st and 2nd grade classrooms emphasizes the new COVID-19 reality of being at school.

has a CCS lanyard with double-breakaway that attaches to their mask to keep it from falling even when it's off for water breaks or eating. For Edwards, seeing her students in person makes keeping track of all the new rules worth it.

"Oh my gosh, my favorite part for sure is seeing the kids — just having them in my classroom. I mean, this is my passion. I love it," she said. "I was absolutely sick to my stomach losing them. But just having them here face to face, even though I can't touch them, I can only be but so close, just being able to see physically what they're doing, what they're capable of is absolutely my favorite part."

One of Edwards' students, Mary Catherine Walden, says she's happy to be back at school and doesn't mind wearing a mask too much. Her favorite part of school is specials — namely art — and she's glad to see her friends and teachers again.

When asked how her first three days back to in-person school have been, Mary Catherine only gives a shy, "Good." But the slight wrinkle of her eyes confirms the slogan on her mask: "There's a smile under here."

So far, the transition has felt smooth and doable, Taylor said. Since the first day, the school added more yellow X's to stretch the full duration of the outdoor sidewalk, and they've had to replace some tape in the hallways. But it's given Taylor confidence that they'll be able to handle more students returning, whenever the BOE decides for all students to return under Plan B.

As more and more counties around Chatham send students back to school — more than 8,000 Wake County Students returned Monday and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools began a phased-in in-person approach Oct. 12 — it seems likely the board will move toward reopening, particularly if CCS does not see many COVID-19 cases. There is stark disagreement in the community about the best way to proceed; as many parents who are happy about the phased-in reopening are angry about it, either because they think the plan is moving too slowly or too quickly.

The BOE meets next for its regular meeting Nov. 9, when it plans to discuss a timeline for additional students to return under Plan B. The

current phase of reopening affects just over 2,000 CCS students, but it also impacts teachers and the schools' staff. While many proponents of school reopening have emphasized the fact that parents have a choice in whether to send their students back or not, teachers and staff do not have the same luxury. Many teachers like Edwards seem thrilled to be back with students, but for other teachers who feel unsafe, some feel choosing to speak openly could cost them their careers. Currently, teachers can only opt to work completely remotely with a medical doctor's note.

Taylor told the News + Record that all of her staff have been eager about returning, and that none have had "questions or concerns" about the return. She's immensely grateful for her staff, who she says makes the transition possible.

"They have just embraced the new world," Taylor said. "The goal is to see the kids, to be safe and to move them academically from where we left off March 13. And it's happening."

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



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First-time Hispanic voters in Siler City share voting experiences, hopes for 2020 election

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City resident Kimberly Lara has been sending letters to her congressional representatives and political leaders since she was in elementary school.

"In class, the teachers would jokingly ask, 'Who here has talked to Obama?'" Lara said. "And I would tell them like, 'Oh, I sent a letter,' and people thought I was joking. They didn't understand that was a thing you could do."

But this year, she raised her voice another way. Finally 18, she just voted in her first general election — just like hundreds of thousands of first-time Hispanic voters across North Carolina, young or old, foreign-born or not.

Lara voted early Monday at Paul Braxton Gym with a fellow first-time voter — as well as quite a few cheerleaders for democracy.

"The part that really stood out to me was how many people were there in support of first-time voters," she said, adding, "As soon as we stepped out of the car, I asked where we were supposed to go. And they're like, 'Are you a first-time voter?' And I said, 'Yeah,' and they started cheering us on."

Though she said she



Submitted photo

Kimberly Lara, 18, voted early on Monday at Paul Braxton Gym in Siler City with her boyfriend, Fernando Soto. Both of them voted for the first time in a general election.

knows local government has more direct influence on her life, national — and even global — issues drove her to the polls.

"Something I'm very, very passionate about is climate change, and I really like Biden's plan," she said. "It's not exactly the Green New Deal that I wanted, but it's really close to something and I really appreciate that."

Lara also said she'd like to see immigrant families reunited after many were separated under the

Trump administration's "Zero Tolerance" policy, which sought to deter illegal immigration by separating parents and children who illegally crossed the border.

"It's devastating," she said.

Likewise, immigration policies are a top priority for Noemi Mora, a 19-year-old Siler City resident who works with the Hispanic Liaison. She just voted in her first general election, too.

"Voting is very im-

portant to me because it allows me to use my voice to stand up for others who can't," she said. "An issue that is very important to me is immigration, as I am the daughter of immigrants."

Yet voting wasn't quite the smooth ride she had hoped it'd be. She'd voted in person in the March primaries, and she said it'd been a quick experience, but this time, as always, COVID-19 changed everything.

"In these elections, I kind of always knew that I was going to vote through mail," Mora said. "Just because what's going on with coronavirus, I didn't exactly want to be in line in a place where a lot of people were going to be."

She sent out a written absentee ballot request in late August but heard nothing back. She began to get a little worried, especially after she heard her colleagues had received their ballots about a week after they'd requested them.

"And I was like, 'Oh, my God, really? What did I do wrong?'" she said.

She sent out another written request and yet again didn't receive a response, so finally she submitted an online request, which she said was "a lot better." She received her ballot, and the ability to track it helped put her mind at ease.

"It was a little stressful

simply because I was scared that my ballot wasn't going to be accepted or that it was going to take too long to get to the Chatham County Board of Elections," she said, but everything worked out.

María Asunción Rosas Moreno immigrated from Mexico to Siler City six or seven years ago. In 2017, she became a U.S. citizen, and now in 2020, she just cast her ballot for the first time.

"I got to vote now because previously, when there was the other national election, I was still a resident," she said, "and now that I'm a citizen, I can vote for the president ... the national (candidates), local (candidates), the governor, everything."

Rosas Moreno, 40, wanted to vote in 2018, but she wasn't sure how to register and couldn't send in her application in time. But this time, she got help from the Hispanic Liaison.

"They helped me a bit with the address because I had the form completed," she said, "but I just needed the exact address to know where to send it."

Once registered, Rosas Moreno voted in person on Oct. 16, the second day of early voting. Among other things, she said she hopes election winners will work to bring jobs back from abroad.

"The changes I hope to see more than anything are that they give priority to the people residing in the country," she said, adding, "And it's also important all that we do to stop climate change because it affects people as much as it affects animals."

All three first-time voters expressed faith in the power of even a single vote.

Voting is a privilege, Lara said, and it's one many people in her community don't have. That's why she values even a single vote.

"It makes me kind of sad that I know that a lot of people want to do something that was so simple, and they can't have the privilege of doing something that only takes a couple of minutes," she said, "but it makes me feel good to know that I can do something about it even if it's small."

Besides, Lara added, if 1,000 people all think one vote doesn't matter, "we lose 1,000 votes."

That also resonates with Rosas Moreno. "By voting, we make our voices count," she said. "If we don't vote, well, someone else has to decide for us."

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at victoria@chathamnr.com.

BARRIERS

Continued from page A1

the one who decided. I was the one who said, 'I'm going to vote here. Here is where my vote will go.' And that's how it went."

The language barrier is one of several challenges Ilana Dubester, the His-

panic Liaison's executive director, has seen some Spanish-speaking voters struggle with in Chatham and other counties across North Carolina. In the past, she said, the North Carolina Board of Elections would supply a translated ballot upon request. Though citizens wouldn't actually vote on these translated ballots,

they could use them as side-by-side guides when casting their official English ballots.

"It's formatted exactly the same," she said. "It looks exactly the same as an English ballot, but everything is in Spanish, except for, of course, the candidates' names."

But the Hispanic Liaison hasn't yet received a

translated ballot from the state board — perhaps, Dubester said, because they'd sent in the request a little late. So instead, the Liaison went ahead and created their own for their clients. They asked the local board to approve the translated ballot as an official guide for Spanish-speaking voters at the precincts but haven't yet heard back.

The Hispanic Liaison is also offering in-person voter assistance, in which staff and trained volunteers read ballots in Spanish to voters at polling places all over Chatham County.

"We have flyers in English and Spanish that are posted at every precinct that state that if you need assistance in Spanish or Portuguese, point to this flyer and the election official will call somebody from the Hispanic Liaison," Dubester said, adding, "And (then) we can go drive to the polling place and assist the voter."

But the language barrier doesn't just disadvantage some Spanish-speaking voters when it comes to filling out the ballot.

"When we're talking about the older generation, first-generation immigrants, we're talking about a lack of access of information in Spanish, although it is getting better," she said, adding, "What the candidates stand for, and who they are, what they believe in — things like that are scarce in Spanish."

Many lack access to information about local candidates and offices especially, said María Gomez Flores, the Liaison's advocacy and civic engagement program manager.

"I was helping out somebody, and they were really shocked with all the names on there," she said. "They were expecting maybe two positions on there, so they were very shocked to see all these things. They're like, 'Wow, all these judges' seats.' And it's like, they don't have that access to information about what these positions do and how they affect their lives."

Many voters face that problem across the United States, Spanish-speaking or otherwise, Dubester added, but it's particularly acute for Spanish-speaking voters. After all, even if people refer Spanish-speaking voters to candidates' websites, those sites are all mostly in English.

"A lot of us are bilingual, and (the) second generation mostly is," she said, "but nonetheless, we still have a lot of first-generation immigrants in America and in our county who may speak English



Staff photo by Patsy Montesinos

Ilana Dubester, the Hispanic Liaison's executive director, helped organize an early voting event with Poder NC Action and Voto Latino Chatham to support Hispanic voters. The event, called 'Abrazo de Poder,' took place on Sunday in front of Paul Braxton Gym.

but may not read English well enough to understand the jargon of a candidate and what it is they're going to do for them."

Gomez Flores also said she's noticed that organizations and political parties haven't engaged in much Hispanic and Spanish outreach in Siler City — perhaps, she said, because of the language barrier or historically lower turnout among the Hispanic community.

"This one-on-one interaction is important with the Latinx community because it's how you get to mobilize the Latinx community," she said. "COVID has exacerbated or it has hindered that especially because like in the Latinx community, it's bad manners if you don't 'saludar' (greet others). 'Saludar' is very big in our community."

The annual Hispanic Heritage Fiesta would have helped bridge that gap somewhat, Dubester said, since some candidates would attend and set up outreach booths, while other groups would help register voters.

"COVID has really hampered those door-to-door efforts and things like that," she said, "so it's all kind of confined to the virtual world, which makes it even harder because there is such a tech divide for our people in terms of access."

But despite challenges, López didn't find it too difficult to vote — and she wouldn't let anything stop her anyway. For her, the decision to vote is a very simple one. After all, she's not just voting for herself. She's voting for working class families, the downtrodden poor and parents separated from their children.

"We Hispanics ... the majority come here out of necessity," she said. "They don't come for fun because they suffer here. They

don't come here to enjoy themselves. They come here to suffer and work."

She, too, came to work. López arrived in Siler City around 1994 and worked at the Townsend poultry processing plant for 17 years alongside her husband until the plant closed. Now retired, she votes to make political leaders see "us as people, not as things without importance."

"I hope everything will get better," she said. "Whoever ends up with the presidency, well, I just ask our father God that he be aware, that he be considerate of all the people and (especially) the poor ... I hope that he will think of everyone — everyone — in need."

But voting also represents something more to her. It's the right and privilege she won in 2018, when she became a U.S. citizen after long hours of studying and memorization — something made all the harder by the fact that she didn't have the opportunity to attend school in Mexico.

"It was very important for me to achieve citizenship," she said, adding, "I never imagined that I would achieve it in my life. Never."

In Mexico, her father used to tell her that voting was his civic obligation, and now she's following his example.

"He didn't know how to read or write, but he always completed his civic duty," López said, adding, "There was never a year he didn't go vote. I feel like I have to do it. I like it, and I think it is an obligation that we have to fulfill — even people like us who aren't originally from this country."

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at victoria@chathamnr.com.

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A8

SYLVIA ROUSE



Sylvia Rouse died at her home on October 23, 2020, in Chapel Hill, N.C., surrounded by her family.

Sylvia was born on August 31, 1937, in Jamesport, N.Y., to her parents Joseph and Helen Konchalski. She married Edward Rouse in 1956. She was employed by the Town of Southold for 25 years and retired in 1995.

After retiring, the Rouse's moved to Chapel Hill where they enjoyed 25 years of active retirement. Sylvia was a long time member of the Chapel Hill Tennis Club and won many

awards for her baking skills. Sylvia was a loving and caring wife and mother.

Sylvia is survived by her husband, Edward, her daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Kieran O'Dwyer of Pittsboro, N.C., her sister Jeanette Cain of Flanders, N.Y., and three nieces and a nephew.

She is preceded in death by her daughter, Cathy Miller and her sister JoAnn Grathwohl of Cutchogue, N.Y.

Sylvia will be buried in a private ceremony on October 30, 2020. A funeral mass will take place at 10:00 a.m. Friday, October 30, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Chapel Hill. All are welcome to celebrate Sylvia's life.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Chapel Hill.

Walker's Funeral Home of Chapel Hill has been entrusted with the caring for the Rouse family.
www.walkersfuneralservice.com.

MACK GALE BLACK JR.

Mack Gale Black Jr., 80, of Broadway, died Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at his home.

Graveside funeral services were conducted on Friday, October 23, 2020, at 2 p.m. at Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church Cemetery with Rev. Doug Houston officiating.

He was born in Lee County, son of the late Mack Gale Black Sr. and Wilma Morrison Black. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his first wife, Inez McCormick Black. He was a member of Mount Pisgah Presbyterian Church and retired from This End Up Furniture.

Surviving are his wife, Ann Thomas Black, of the home; sister, Carolyn Sutton of Sanford; brothers, Jerry Black of Ash, and Mitchell Black of Sanford; step-children, Paula Layton of Sanford, and Bob Hart of Topsail Beach; three step-grandchildren and twelve step-great-grandchildren.

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

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

NANCY CAROLYN BYRD HORTON

Nancy Carolyn Byrd Horton, 81, of Durham, passed away on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at Duke Regional Hospital.

A celebration of life service was conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday, October 24, 2020, at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church with the Rev. Tim Williford and Rev. Randy Umberger, officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

She was born in Chatham County on August 28, 1939, daughter of Paul Preston Byrd and Minnie Thelma Johnson Byrd. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Richard Byrd and Preston Byrd, sisters, Dottie Wayne Farrell and Odell Currie. She had worked for Belk.

She is survived by her husband of 60-plus years, Percy W. Horton of the home; daughters, Cindy A. Horton of the home, Wanda G. Horton and Pamela "Pam" H. Powell, both of Durham; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made in

her honor to New Life Church, 10260 Chapel Hill Road, Morrisville, NC 27560 to be used toward Operation Christmas Child boxes.

WALTER SWANSON

Walter Swanson, 88, of Sanford, died on Sunday, October 18, 2020, at Westfield Rehabilitation and Health Center.

Walter was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 26, 1932, to Olga and Eugene Swanson. A graduate of Upsala College, Easy Orange, N.J., he joined Alpha Metals, and he remained there until he retired. He was proud of his service in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marie Anderson Swanson.

He is survived by his wife Ellie Swanson; children, Peter Swanson and Ingrid Cotterell, both residing in England; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

Pittsboro appoints new chief, rezones land, honors late mayor

BY D. LARS DOLDER

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The town's board of commissioners swore in a new police chief on Monday before addressing matters of land development and honoring the late mayor of Siler City, John F. Grimes.

After six months without a police chief, Town Manager Chris Kennedy has made one of his first major public decisions with the selection of Lt. Clarence "Shorty" Johnson Jr. to fill the role.

Johnson has served as Pittsboro's interim police chief since Chief Percy Crutchfield's retirement in March. Johnson has worked in law enforcement since 1994, starting his career with the Chatham Sheriff's office before moving to Siler City's police department in 2003 and eventually to Pittsboro in 2015 where he had been working as a detective before his promotion.

As part of his swearing in, Johnson pledged, in part, that he would "not be influenced in any matter on account of personal bias or prejudice, and that (he would) support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution and laws of North Carolina..."

"I want to just thank you all and thank Mr. Kennedy," Johnson said, "for putting

the trust in me to lead the town. I'm looking forward to it — looking to continue working with the guys and pushing the police department forward."

Town manager's report

In his brief comments, Chris Kennedy reminded board members and the public that Halloween safety will require extra vigilance this year amid an ongoing pandemic.

"With Halloween being this Saturday I've worked with our police department to put together a few Halloween tips," he said. "It's pretty customary for the police department to put together some items for the safety of our citizens, our residents, as we do trick-or-treating and things of that nature in any given year. Certainly, now, in the era of COVID, some of those tips are a little more refined."

The Halloween recommendations and guidelines will be posted to the police department's Facebook page and the town website.

"I also have a couple of comments about our utility billing migration," Kennedy said. "As many people know, we've been converting from one enterprise software to another enterprise software on the utility billing side. There have been a few hiccups as can

always be expected with some of that stuff. We appreciate the public's patience as we go through that in trying to get the online payments."

The online payment system was inoperable on Monday, but Kennedy expected to have the system up and running within a few days.

Land development news

The board discussed and approved two plots of land for rezoning and development:

- A section of land near the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 64 and Roberson Creek was rezoned for development of a low-density residential neighborhood. The applicant previously requested and was granted rezoning of a larger portion of land surrounding the one in question on Monday. That both pieces of land were not rezoned at the same time last year was an oversight. "The applicant actually thought both pieces got rezoned (last year)," said senior planner Theresa Thompson, "but looking back it was only requested for the larger one to be rezoned."

- Chatham Park Investors LLC proposed to subdivide 66.3 acres of land north of the U.S. Hwy. 64 bypass near Exit 383 into 154 residential lots. The subdivision will be age restricted to 55 and older

and will include 110 single-family homes and 44 two-family duplex homes. Minimum lot size will be 4,200 square feet. The average lot size will be 6,176 square feet.

Other news

The town of Pittsboro read and approved a resolution to honor Grimes, the late mayor of Siler City, who died last Tuesday. It read, in part:

• Whereas Mr. Grimes served with distinction as Mayor of the Town of Siler City since 2013, preceded by four terms as a commissioner on the town of Siler City town board and one term as a Chatham County Commissioner; and ... whereas, Mr. Grimes rendered invaluable service working for the betterment of his town and his community, Mr. Grimes was awarded the Order of the Longleaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian honor, ... Now, therefore, be it resolved by the mayor and the board of commissioners of the town of Pittsboro that we hereby express our sincere sympathy to his family including his widow, ... and be it further resolved that this resolution be spread upon the permanent records of the town of Pittsboro.

"We feel for the town of Siler City," Kennedy said, "as well as (Mayor Grimes') family and friends."

(Presentation for ladies groups on "FAITH, FAMILY, SCHOOLS, JOBS, SUCCESS") by Jimmy Pharr

I'm a bible professor, former owner of 3 businesses, and a Personnel Manager ... I'm not a politician. I am governed by biblical and conservative principles, whose priorities are the God who created me, the wife He gave me, the children He loaned me, and a desire to serve them all and others put in my path.

Ida and I have 3 (grown) children, 2 with Special Needs – both attended Chatham public schools. Two grandchildren are attending them now. So, I am a strong advocate for school safety, quality, and choice. In my 14 years teaching at CCCC, every private and home schooled student made A's and were at the top of my classes – others did too, but ALL of those were. But, my hardest school battle was trying to get my son with CP into our PUBLIC elementary school. They were ok with it but all the professionals were not. After 2 IQ tests scores of 68, which we rejected, and other criteria, their "expert" view was that Trey was totally incapable of ever succeeding academically, socially, physically, mentally, and emotionally. We had a fight on our hands and an uphill battle, but we were adamant. The experts eventually and reluctantly backed down and Trey, despite many surgeries, went to Pittsboro Primary. Many 4-6 hour homework sessions that would normally take 1-2 followed. By middle school he was doing it on his own and making good grades. By high school at Northwood, he made all A's, won numerous awards, was basketball manager, socially well-liked by all, and earned Eagle Scout !! At NC State, Trey made the Dean's list 4 of 8 semesters, all while working in the basketball and football offices. Today, he has a successful career in the IT field. So I'm big on parents knowing their kids and what's best for them. He also had great teachers and a supporting church family.

I firmly support Law & Order, Law Enforcement and 1st Responders - safety of citizens is government's top duty. By listening, I've learned we hire & train deputies (and jailers), only to lose them to counties with higher pay. I want them paid more.

JOBS. Chatham has been a "bedroom community", but many want to work HERE and have good jobs. That is only possible by attracting business and industry HERE, rather than them choosing elsewhere. When we looked for a second location for our retail business, taxes, rents, and regulations affected our decision. (We chose Sanford.) They are attracted by lower taxes and reasonable regulations.

SUCCESS. Parents want their children (and themselves) to succeed. Life has always had, and will have, adversity, suffering, obstacles, roadblocks. If anyone has not yet faced severe adversity, they will. Two options will emerge. One is very tempting as water runs downhill, taking the path of least resistance - we want our pain stopped !! Some will encourage and promote what a victim you are; then how they can help you live in it by giving you what you need to survive. Then push the absurd notion of eliminating the source of it.

There is a second option.

While persuasion might change some minds, only God can change the heart. Mankind's biggest problem has always been PRIDE – a heart problem. Pride's only remedy will always be HUMILITY. God will change a heart that humbles itself to Him. While programs give some relief, there IS a better life out there. That opportunity IS achievable. It requires a certain ATTITUDE. Adversity, suffering, obstacles are real, are hard and painful, but millions HAVE overcome them and will continue to do so. Helen Keller said, "Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it". "Safety nets" are essential for those physically and mentally unable to do for themselves; and seniors on fixed incomes and the elderly. Others may at times need temporary help until back on their feet, but remaining in a meager existence instead of being productive will not get that better life; a rich, fulfilling, successful one dreams are made of. Getting it is to be elevated up to it and out of just getting by. True self-esteem comes from achievement, from accomplishment.

Once a heart change and an attitude change that dreams and goals CAN be realized; an important step for overcoming life's obstacles is to WISELY PICK ROLE MODELS. Ones who fit your particular circumstance. And, if money is your issue, adopt the attitude that, "being broke is temporary, being "poor" is a state of mind".

A next step is that "Success is when Preparation meets Opportunity." One must PREPARE. That requires the biblical (and secular) models of Willpower, Free Will – freedom to make choices, and Work – hard work. Studying, researching, learning, acquiring skills, abilities and knowledge; are necessary but doable. Hard work, making choices and applying willpower to stay the course and avoid the temptations to not work hard or to succumb to poor choices.

I'll close by adding that this "preparation" tool is in two parts. One is for our kids of school age for getting ahead of the game. The other is for adults past that who have either made poor choices and/or been dealt unfortunate blows. My 14 years at the community college has seen many of those, and they are courageously attempting to rebuild their lives or start over. Many have baggage, but they HAVE understood that there IS that better life, that it CAN be realized; and regardless of the obstacles, they ARE determined to overcome. **They are setting goals, dreaming dreams again, keeping their eyes on the prize, AND THEY WILL SUCCEED !!!** Attitude, proper role models, goals and dreams, a preparation plan – and ALL include surrounding yourself with a positive, supportive "circle of influence", of which God is at center.

Finally, we must recognize our REAL enemy. Ephesians 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against powers, rulers of darkness, spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm."

Again, I'm Jimmy Pharr ... Thank you all for your time.

Paid for by CTE Jimmy Pharr

CHURCH NEWS

OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Candy Land will be held at Oakley Baptist Church from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, October 31. Wear your costumes and bring your candy buckets to play fun games and earn candy!

COVID-19 precautions will be in effect.

Located at 2300 Siler City - Glendon Road, Siler City.

SANDY BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

Everyone is invited to the Drive Thru Trunk or Treat

from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 31 at Sandy Branch Baptist Church.

The church is located at 715 Sandy Branch Church Road, Bear Creek.

To make you feel safe, participants will be wearing gloves, a mask, and passing out pre-bagged candy.

NEWS BRIEFS

Realty World's Allen gets national recognition

SILER CITY — Sherry Johnson Allen of Realty World Carolina Properties has been awarded the Accredited Buyer's Representation (ABR) designation by the Real Estate Buyer's Agent Council of the National Association of Realtors.

Allen joins more than 27,000 real estate professionals in North America who have earned the ABR® designation. All were required to successfully complete a comprehensive course in buyer representation and an elective course focusing on a buyer representation specialty, both in addition to submitting documentation verifying professional experience.

REBAC, founded in 1988, is the world's largest association of real estate professionals focused specifically on representing the real estate buyer. There are more than 40,000 active members of the organization world-wide. National Association of Realtors, "The Voice for Real Estate," is the world's largest professional association, representing more than 1.4 million members involved in all aspects of the real estate industry.

Insurance commissioner reminds Medicare beneficiaries to compare plans during open enrollment

RALEIGH — N.C. Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey reminds Medicare beneficiaries to compare and evaluate their current plans and make necessary changes during the annual Open Enrollment Period.

Medicare plans and prices change. It is important for Medicare beneficiaries to take advantage of the Open Enrollment Period by contacting local Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselors to save money, im-

prove your coverage or both.

The Open Enrollment Period began on Oct. 15 and runs for eight weeks to give you enough time to review and make changes to your Medicare coverage. Changes must be made by Dec. 7, 2020, to guarantee your coverage will begin without interruption on Jan. 1, 2021.

It's important to contact your local SHIIP counselor before making a decision about coverage because you may be able to receive more affordable and better Medicare health and/or drug plan options in your area. For example, even if you are satisfied with your current Medicare Advantage or Part D plan, there may be another plan in your area that covers your health care and/or drugs at a better price.

SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and offers free, unbiased information about Medicare, Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance and other health insurance issues. In addition to helping Medicare beneficiaries compare and enroll in plans during the Open Enrollment Period, SHIIP counselors can help people find out if they are eligible for Medicare cost savings programs.

Get one-on-one help from SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, by calling 1-855-408-1212, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also request in-person assistance in your home county.

Visit www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare your current coverage with all of the options that are available in your area, and enroll in a new plan if you decide to make a change.

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day, seven days a week, to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

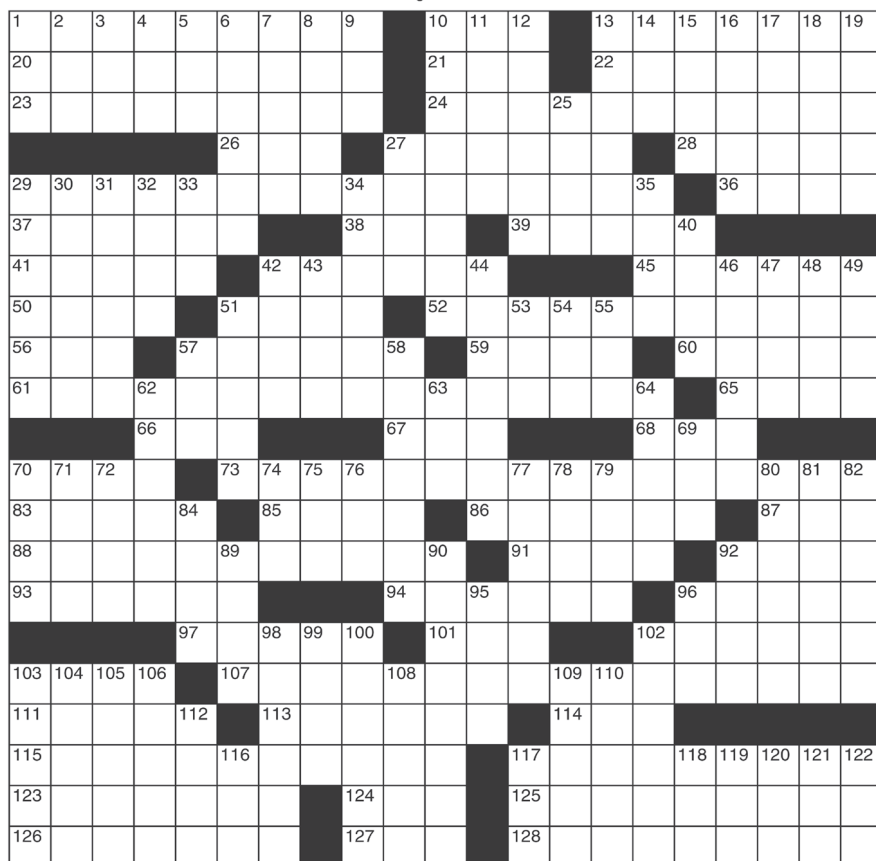
For more information about SHIIP and the Medicare Open Enrollment Period, call 1-855-408-1212 or visit www.ncshiip.com.

— CN + R staff reports

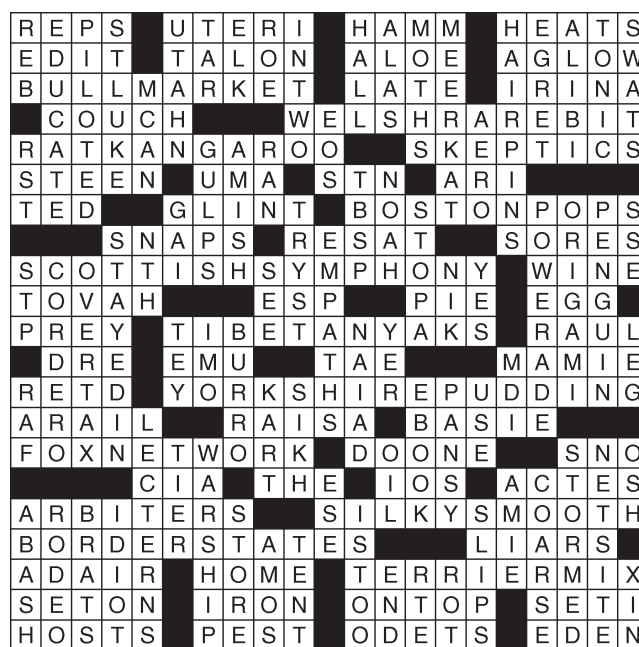
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

AWOL

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 59 Lawn tool | 103 Move, to Realtors | 3 Groom grass | 46 Jewelry beetle | 89 Hair gel, e.g. |
| 10 Hailed ride | 60 He has a famous lap | 107 Song about a fire breather who uses Apple computers? | 4 Nav. officer | 47 Rattan | 90 Eats as a snack |
| 13 Nightwear | 61 Stiller and Affleck co-hosting a New Year's Eve special? | 111 Put on — (pretend) | 5 The "D" of DJIA | 48 Comedian Johnson | 92 Actress Merrill or Spybey |
| 20 Rust, essentially | 65 Really smell | 112 One or the other | 6 Mass emigration | 49 Pipe problem | 95 Swerve |
| 21 Corrida cheer | 66 Chaney of horror | 113 One or the other | 7 Highest or lowest point | 51 Pitcher's spot | 96 The "A" of USDA |
| 22 Topped with ice cream | 67 Grazing field | 114 Child's amuser | 8 "A Bell for —" | 53 Chatter idly | 98 Brings up to speed |
| 23 Katie Couric or Diane Sawyer | 68 Oolong, e.g. | 115 People who relax by listening to singer Johnny? | 9 Hankering | 54 Squeak (out) | 99 "Don't believe a word —!" |
| 24 Spell-casting cartoon infant? | 70 Premiering of film | 123 Honored academic retirees | 10 Having two or more parts | 55 Bear's retreat | 100 Dessert, to Brits |
| 26 Commotion | 73 2 and 8, in Morse code? | 124 Antique car | 11 "Mr. Klein" star Delon | 57 Spooky cry | 102 Rustic poems copy |
| 27 Per unit | 83 Writer Kafka | 125 Medications taken by mouth | 12 Gives rise to | 58 Applies, as some deodorant | 103 Goes fast |
| 28 Brewskis | 85 Sources of 1-Down and 84-Down | 126 One backing up a soloist | 13 Toyotas of the 1990s | 62 One making an exact copy | 104 As a friend, in French |
| 29 Chimed unstopably? | 87 "Kaboom!" | 128 AWOL soldier ... or a feature of eight answers in this puzzle | 14 Boxing's "Greatest" | 63 Really small | 105 Zapped with light |
| 36 Unit of force | 88 Boxer Spinks, to non-Americans? | 129 Put on a blog again, e.g. | 15 Doorframe part | 64 Smarted | 106 Earthy tone, to Brits |
| 37 Turns inside out | 91 Slimy garden crawler | 130 Loch monster moniker | 16 Fired (up) | 69 Sp. mobilized by a 911 call | 108 One more than a pair |
| 38 Outback bird | 92 With 94-Across, old hack paperbacks | 131 Mem. of Congress | 17 Saunter | 70 Rip — (filmflams) | 109 Old game console |
| 39 Sarandon of "Alfie" | 93 Big name in canned heat | 132 Ex-Giant Mel | 18 Ornament | 71 Jogging pace | 110 Soft drinks |
| 41 Put forward | 94 See 92-Across | 133 Ex-Giant Mel bitterly | 19 Smell or taste | 72 Weight deduction | 112 Light haircut |
| 42 Able to speak easily | 95 Was sick | 134 Quarreled | 25 Tan shade | 74 Ending for buff or bass | 116 Guess at Sea-Tac |
| 45 Cheeky kid | 96 Wintery quaff | 135 Tomb-raiding | 27 Highest point | 75 Address for a techie | 117 Male turkey |
| 50 Depose | 97 Hot winter quaff | 136 Tomb-raiding | 29 Put on a blog again, e.g. | 76 Apiary buzzer | 118 Exiled Amin |
| 51 Alice, for the Bradys | 98 Was sick | 137 Tomb-raiding | 30 Affirm | 77 Pant-length measurement | 119 Suffix with northeast |
| 52 Where old Venetian magistrates dropped off their tots to be watched? | 99 Wintery quaff | 138 Tomb-raiding | 31 Loch monster moniker | 78 Money tray | 120 Used a spade |
| 53 Cheeky kid | 101 Salty water | 139 Tomb-raiding | 32 Bits of sand | 79 Entre — | 121 Fleece-lined boot brand |
| 54 Alice, for the Bradys | 102 Snub | 140 Tomb-raiding | 33 Ex-Giant Mel bitterly | 80 Literary last words | 122 Chi follower |
| 55 Where old Venetian magistrates dropped off their tots to be watched? | | | 34 Quarreled bitterly | 81 "Batman" actor Cesar | |
| 56 — fi flick | | | 35 Tomb-raiding | 82 Ikea's home | |
| 57 One trying for strikes | | | 36 Tomb-raiding | 84 Element in bronze | |
| | | | 37 Tomb-raiding | 85 Element in bronze | |
| | | | 38 Tomb-raiding | 86 Element in bronze | |
| | | | 39 Tomb-raiding | 87 Element in bronze | |
| | | | 40 Tomb-raiding | 88 Element in bronze | |
| | | | 41 Tomb-raiding | 89 Element in bronze | |
| | | | 42 Tomb-raiding | 90 Element in bronze | |
| | | | 43 Tomb-raiding | 91 Element in bronze | |
| | | | 44 Twister | 92 Element in bronze | |



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



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To Register: Return registration form to Brad Fogleman in the prshop (b.fogleman@yahoo.com)

WELLNESS

Continued from page A1

home. Its people are her people — or, as she more often calls them, her folks.

And, just as much as anyone living in the Triangle or another major metro area, the folks of Chatham County, from Bennett to Bear Creek to Bynum, deserve high-quality and accessible mental health care.

“Therapy is for everybody,” Glover said. “Everybody goes through life changes. Everybody goes through adjustments. Everybody has stress. Everybody has anxiety at some point. So why not provide services here and allow those people to feel better?”

That, for her, was a logical reason to spend the last year and change building her own clinic from the ground up. The end result, Chatham Counseling & Wellness — located at 123 E. Raleigh Street in Siler City, directly across from the post office — will officially open for business on Monday, Nov. 2.

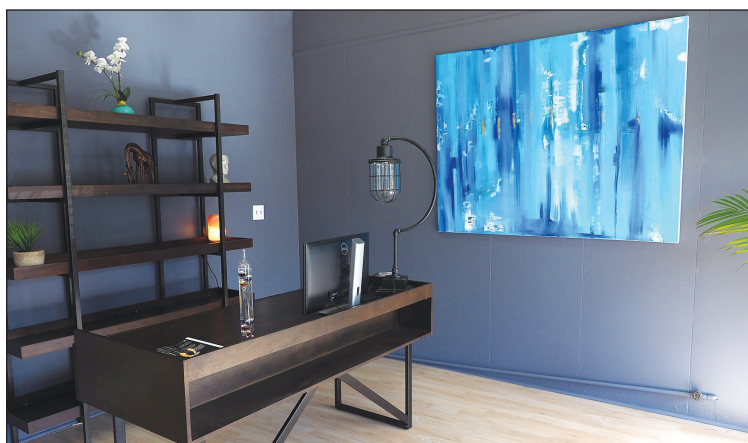
“It’s so rewarding it’s finally here,” she said.

“It’s been a year of planning,” her husband, Stacy, added. “One week, there’s a challenge that might pop up, and we get through it. And then we turn around, and the same time that next week, there’s another challenge. You have to figure it out.”

Glover, 30, took a roundabout path into her current field, where she’s already proved a rising star with multiple honors from the North Carolina Counseling Association. And her underlying motivation in every career she’s tried — to serve others, always — came from a childhood she described as “less than easy.”

When Ashleigh was 3, her mother, an alcoholic, left home. She was mostly raised by her father in Silk Hope as her mother floated in and out of jail. When she was 5, her father was arrested on drug charges, and she had her first experience with child protective services, ultimately living with her grandparents.

When she was 12, her mother died. When she was 13, her stepmother was abusing her and CPS got involved but “ended up missing it,” she said. All of it, Glover said, had a root:



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham Counseling & Wellness will officially open Nov. 2.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks.

Chatham Counseling & Wellness is located at 123 E. Raleigh St., directly across from Siler City’s post office.

her biological mother, who lost eight family members in a short timeframe as a child, including five siblings in a 1987 house fire.

“She never had mental health treatment,” Glover said, “and I think that’s where it originally started.”

Today, she can diagnose her teenage self with secondary trauma — an after-effect common among the family members or loved ones of someone who’s experienced something traumatic firsthand. Back then,

though, she wasn’t aware of it. She picked up bad habits and hung out with the wrong crowd.

But Silk Hope School’s prom, of all things, proved a turning point. That was when Stacy, an 8th-grader, asked Ashleigh, a 7th-grader, to go to the dance with him. They’ve been together ever since.

“And no breakups,” Stacy said, smiling.

“Yep,” Ashleigh said. “We’ve been straight through.”

They were a grade apart in



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Faced with outside opportunities, Ashleigh Glover realized there was nowhere she wanted to serve more than her home county.

school, but ultimately ended up graduating at the same time in 2007 — Stacy from Jordan-Matthews, and Ashleigh with her GED from CCCC. (She’d dropped out J-M as a 16-year-old junior after falling behind on schoolwork when a rib injury kept her out of the classroom for weeks.)

Next came Campbell University, where they both earned bachelor’s degrees. Married in 2010, the Glovers had their first child in 2012 (they now have two daughters and a son) and balanced family duties with work duties to the extreme, as Stacy worked in tech support and Ashleigh in CPS and social work across Harnett, Johnston and Lee counties.

“I put my all into it,” she said. “I was so passionate about it.”

Eventually, though, she got burnt out in a field she was determined to improve based on her own CPS experience. Glover worked primarily with the parents of children in CPS, setting up case plans with them to get back on track: taking parenting classes, maintaining a permanent residence, holding a job.

But in her five years of CPS and social work, she only reunited one family.

“I had to terminate parents’ rights,” she said. “I had take kids back out. A lot of people were failing my drug tests. It got really disheartening.”

It was at that point, in 2018,

Chatham Counseling & Wellness

123 E. Raleigh St., Siler City, NC, 27344

(919) 742-0259

chathamcounseling.org

that she realized her true calling: mental health counseling. As a cognitive behavioral therapist, she could tackle root issues and help people tangibly break unhealthy cycles. So she went to work on a master’s degree at Campbell.

Hours of classes, commuting and certifications later, she had the credentials to seek out a job as a mental health professional. Finding Chatham Counseling & Wellness’ ultimate location was pretty serendipitous; Glover stumbled upon the open spot while strolling downtown Siler City last August, took a photo of the contact information on the door and signed a lease that same afternoon.

“Everything came together so perfectly,” she said.

This week, the Glovers will be putting finishing touches on the space, which is intentionally designed to soothe customers with velvety couches and chairs in two private therapy rooms, dark mahogany desks and drawers up front and wall art placed throughout, courtesy of the Jordan-Matthews Arts program.

Stacy, 31, will manage day to day operations and billing as the office coordinator. Ashleigh will provide the counseling — for individuals, for couples, for families — as the owner and lead therapist.

And come Nov. 2, when Chatham Counseling & Wellness opens, their dream for the last year will become official — and, they hope, help a lot of folks in the process.

“People can expect a place to come and work through all of their issues and problems,” Ashleigh said. “We’re not judgmental. Come as you are. We’re here to support you. We’re here to help you heal.”

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

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Chatham News + Record

SPORTS NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS

OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 4, 2020 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

‘SUCH A BEAUTIFUL COURSE’

Chatham Chamber’s annual golf tournament has highest attendance in 32 years

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Correspondent

CHAPEL HILL — If you didn’t have a calendar handy at the Governors Club on Monday, you may not have realized anything was out of the ordinary.

The 32nd annual Chatham Chamber Golf Tournament, played in Chapel Hill, was originally scheduled for April, but was moved to October due to the coronavirus pandemic. Based on the weather, you wouldn’t have been able to tell.

Morning chills aside, the sun shone brightly as temperatures reached nearly 70 degrees on the course, replicating a comfortable spring day for the 116 golfers in attendance — the largest number to register for the tournament in its 32-year history.

“The Governors Club is beautiful, it’s just such a beautiful course,” said Cindy Poindexter, the president and CEO of the Chatham Chamber of Commerce. “It automatically relaxes you.”

The tournament offered plenty of incentives to golfers, most of whom played on behalf of a business. The winning team (lowest combined score), along with the second- and third-place teams, was awarded a package comprised mostly of golf-related items.

Golfers could also win a variety of prizes by competing in three additional contests: longest drive, closest to the pin and a hole-in-one shot contest — sponsored by Siler City’s Welford Harris Ford — with the prize of a three-year lease on a Ford EcoSport.

While the tournament was primarily golf-focused, it represented a lot more.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

From left, golfers Neil Matthews, Ron Dameron, Keith Moore and Neill Lindley prepare to hit their tee shots on a par-3 hole during the Chatham Chamber of Commerce’s annual golf tournament held Monday at Governors Club.

“Our main goal was to create more visibility for our members, to support them, advocate for them and bring them together,” Poindexter said. “It’s a fun day of golf, it’s a chance for them to meet new golfers and network with them and for businesses to connect.”

Golfers were able to enter as teams or as singles, giving them the opportunity to play with people they’ve never met before.

“I don’t think any of us knew each other before this morning,” said Rafe Martin, a participant representing ComTech,

one of the event’s sponsors. “We all just signed on as singles and got grouped together, so it was great to meet new people and make those connections.”

The tournament — like most of the Chamber’s events — also acted as a fundraiser, allowing it to raise the money it needs

to accomplish its annual goals through entry fees, sponsorships and a 50-50 raffle.

But in the end, prizes, fundraising and networking were just perks. For the golfers, it was more about having fun on

See **GOLF**, page B2

SPORTS BRIEFS



Staff file photo

Chatham Charter men’s basketball athletes stretch at a socially distanced workout in June.

Chatham Charter places workouts on pause

After an “individual with a connection to the school” tested positive for COVID-19, Chatham Charter paused all high school preseason workouts last week, along with face-to-face instruction.

The Knights won’t work out until at least Friday, Oct. 30, in compliance with state and local health department guidelines. High school students haven’t been on campus yet for classes — only K-5 students returned to the Siler City school earlier this month before the shutdown.

In an email to the News + Record, school communications director Beth McCullough said Chatham Charter administration learned of the positive coronavirus test on Sunday, Oct. 18. Administration held a virtual meeting and alerted staff, students and families that same Sunday afternoon.

The Chatham Charter athletic department had been holding workouts in some form since mid-June, when the NCHSAA first allowed schools to return under strict coronavirus safety protocols.

Per the NCHSAA, the Knights’ varsity cross country and volleyball teams can begin official practices/tryouts on Wednesday, Nov. 4, and competitions on Monday, Nov. 16.

Murrell, Henry set more cross country records

Running unattached last weekend, Northwood cross country junior Caroline Murrell set a school record. Murrell completed a 5K in 18:59.10

at the Monster Dash event in Hope Mills on Saturday, becoming the first ever Charger women’s runner to log a sub-19-minute time in the race. Per head coach Cameron Isenhour, it was also the first sub-19 5K for any women’s runner in Chatham County history.

Murrell ultimately finished fifth in the event. At the same event, junior Colin Henry also set a new school and personal record with a 16:10.30 time in the men’s 5K. He finished 11th in the Monster Dash event.

NCHSAA essay contest opens

Chatham County student-athletes can compete in the NCHSAA’s fall essay contest through the end of November for a chance at first-place and runner-up prizes.

The NCHSAA partnered with Click It Or Ticket, a program under the Governor’s Highway Safety Program, to put on the event. This year’s essay prompt is: “How has the shut-down impacted how teen drivers think about roadway safety? What messages can you share with other young drivers and how can you impress upon them the importance of defensive driving?”

Essays are limited to 400 words, must use proper citations and must be submitted through an online portal by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on Monday, Nov. 30. Two first-place winners — one male, one female — will receive an Amazon gift card and “prize pack,” with possible gifts for runners up, too.

For more information, visit the portal at cutt.ly/essaycontest or email NCHSAA director of marketing Kayla Dempsey at kayla@nchsaa.org.

— CN+R staff reports

‘WEIRD, BUT I GOT USED TO IT’

At Woods Charter, Wolves tackling preseason workouts with gusto

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — This summer, Woods Charter got quite the aesthetic upgrade: a brand-new gym floor that made its sidelines and baselines and midcourt green and gray Wolves logo shine.

Now, finally, it’s getting some substantial use.

“By the time it gets to mid-basketball season, it’ll need to be re-waxed,” varsity men’s basketball coach Taij Cotten said last Thursday, almost gleefully, as he stood at the gym’s front entrance.

Dribbling basketballs. Bouncing volleyball. Squeaking and scuffing shoes. In a year of coronavirus restrictions, they’ve all been familiar and comforting noises for the Wolves, who over the last month have ramped up their most substantial preseason “skill sessions” under NCHSAA guidelines.

Nowadays, on Woods Charter’s K-12 campus just inside the Chatham County line, you can find at least a handful of high school basketball or volleyball athletes working out, every Monday through Thursday.

“A lot of us were really disappointed when we couldn’t start the season at the normal time,” junior volleyball player Jana Thompson said. “Being able to get back in the gym — even if it’s limited people, limited time — I think it’s still been fun.”

And intense. When Thompson spoke with the News + Record, her “pod” of eight athletes had just finished its sixth workout in three weeks, all on Tuesdays and Thursdays. And since a second pod goes on Mondays and Wednesdays, volleyball head coach Scott Green had just finished supervising his 12th.

“I’m just thankful that we’re going to have a season,” he said. “For a long time, I was fearful that we weren’t going to have one. So I’ll go through whatever extra stuff I have to go through.”

Along with the regular duties of volleyball coaching — getting out, setting up, taking down and wrapping up the net every day can get old — Green and assistant coach Taylor Ritchie have embraced the cards dealt to them for workouts: no contact, six feet of distancing between everyone, 90-minute time limits.

With full-on scrimmages out of the questions, the Wolves have gotten



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

From left, Woods Charter freshmen basketball players Eli Hutter-DeMarco, Alex Smollen and Ethan Green participate in a free throw drill last Thursday on campus.

creative with a mix of drills, which are listed at each workout in blue dry-erase marker on a whiteboard Green props up in the bleachers.

Last Thursday, those included some standard ones (serves, serve receives, two-person rallies) and unique ones (reaction balls, cone drills, three-on-three points on a slimmer, half-sized court).

“(Ritchie’s) brought a lot, and I think the drills have been really good for the pods,” Thompson said. “It’s different with not a lot of people, but it’s more engaging.”

Earlier on Thursday, Cotten was working on getting personal, too. His Monday pod includes all of the Wolves’ returning varsity players, but his other group is small: just three freshmen.

So Alex Smollen, Eli Hutter-DeMarco and Ethan Green (volleyball coach Scott’s son) each had a goal and a ball to themselves — plus a better chance at individual work with Cotten, a former Northwood player.

“In a lot of other circumstances, these freshmen and sophomore guys

See **WORKOUTS**, page B2

WORKOUTS

Continued from page B1

would be playing JV ball," Cotten said. "They might not even get any action with the varsity coach. For them, I definitely think it's a good opportunity."

Smollen, a freshman who's hoping to join his older brother, Luke, on the varsity roster, agreed. The reps are valuable, he said, even if they're contactless and distanced.

"It's kind of weird, but I got used to it," Smollen said. "Ball-handling, knocking off the rust, getting my shooting form down again."

For Cotten and Green, there's a sense of urgency, too.

Both coaches are entering their third year with their respective programs. The basketball team is a combined 4-33 since 2018, and the volleyball team is a combined 3-35. Both are still trying to gain traction in the Central Tar Heel 1A Conference, an all-charter conference (Chatham Charter's also a member) that sent five volleyball and four men's basketball teams to the NCHSAA playoffs last year.

But the players on those young Woods Charter teams of old are experienced upperclassmen now.

"The older group on

Monday, I've seen a big change in them," Cotten said. "There's a sense of readiness, preparation (as compared to) last year. That's all I've preached on them: preparation, preparation."

Considering how far off basketball season is — NCHSAA schools don't officially practice until Dec. 7 and play until Jan. 4 — Cotten has also been encouraged by workout attendance. At a small school like Woods Charter, seeing 15 or 16 guys throughout the week "is like perfect attendance for me," he said.

For volleyball, Green said he's expecting his eight juniors to be the "core of the team," performance- and leadership-wise. Thompson, a returning team captain who will play middle hitter this season, is among that group. She said the Wolves' goal this season is tangible results — not just moral victories.

"We're not really known as a winning team," Thompson said, "but I think this year we have a lot of potential. We're playing well together, meshing. I hope we can do that with the other pod, too. Our main goal is to just win some."

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



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

On Thursdays, Woods Charter men's basketball coach Taij Cotten has gotten a chance to work one on one with players, including these freshmen.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Woods Charter volleyball coach Scott Green is in his third year coaching the Wolves.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Woods Charter's Isabella Ansarijaberi sets a volleyball during a drill last Thursday night.

GOLF

Continued from page B1

the course.

"It was better than a day at the office," Martin said. "This course is fantastic, well taken care of and challenging, too. We don't have any delusions that we may win. But hey, there's always the raffle."

The ultimate winners of Monday's tournament:

- First place: Schneider Electric's Ken Kendra, Brent Elliott, Paul Trag-

eser and Brady Moran

- Second place: Luck Stone's Lynn Palmer, Harry Bryant and Toby Towler

- Third place: New York Life's John M. Crowell, Ashley Berry, Grant Brown and Erich Hottenstein

- Fourth place: Welford Harris Ford's Lynn Gaines, Howard Willett Jr., Robert Murchison and Craig Elmore

- Closest to the pin, on Hole 4: Brent Jacques (John Flynn Team)

- Closest to the pin, on Hole 21: Jeff Baker

(Bateman Civil Survey Company team)

- Longest drive, on Hole 7: Lynn Gaines (Welford Harris Ford team)

And the following businesses were the primary sponsors for the tournament:

- Title sponsor: Fidelity Bank

- Gold sponsors: Mountaire Farms, Samet Corporation, Sanford Contractors, Myrick Construction

- Silver sponsors: Eco CP Partners (Mosaic at Chatham Park)

- Contest sponsors: Carolina Farm Credit, Welford Harris Ford

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'AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION'

Chatham Charter pauses in-person learning due to COVID-19 case

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Just 12 days after Chatham Charter School began phasing in a return to in-person learning, the school has paused all face-to-face instruction and athletic workouts through at least Friday, Oct. 30.

This decision was made “out of an abundance of caution,” the school’s Executive Director of Secondary Programs & Communications Beth McCullough told the News + Record after the administration was notified that “an individual with a connection to the school” had tested positive for COVID-19.

“Today I became aware of a second case tied to close contact with the original individual,” McCullough wrote in an email statement Monday. Last week, the school only knew of one additional individual with a positive test who may have been in close contact with the initial individual.

Up to this point, only K-5 students had returned to school at Chatham Charter; kindergartners started in-person learning Oct. 7, with 1st- through 5th-grade students returning the following week. Older students were set to return last Monday.

“The administrative team immediately held a virtual meeting, consulted with the Chatham County Health

Department, out of an abundance of caution chose to pause face-to-face instruction and athletic workouts through at least Friday, October 30,” McCullough said.

Chatham Charter administration staff communicated their decision later that Sunday, McCullough said, first with faculty and staff and then with families and students.

Located in Siler City, Chatham Charter is a K-12 public charter school that is unaffiliated with Chatham County Schools. That school district sent PreK students, K-2 students and Extended Content Standard E.C. students back to hybrid learning on Oct. 19. There have been 12 reported positive cases among CCS staff and zero among students, according to the district’s COVID-19 Tracking webpage; no public statement had been made by the district at the time this edition went to print. As of now, the remainder of CCS students will continue under the remote learning Plan C option until Jan. 15, though the board has recently indicated that decision could change.

At the time of this story’s publication, Chatham Charter had not released any public statements or posted anything on social media regarding the decision to close, but McCullough said the administration plans to announce a school update Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning. The entrance to the school’s

now nearly empty parking lot sign currently reads, “We Are In Fully Remote Instruction.”

Chatham Charter has not reported any clusters of cases. According to the state’s COVID-19 Clusters in North Carolina Report, there have been 38 reported clusters in K-12 schools as of last Monday, with 295 total associated cases. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services defines clusters in non-congregate living settings as:

- A minimum of five cases with illness onsets or initial positive results within a 14-day period and
- Plausible epidemiologic linkage between cases (meaning cases should be present in the same general setting during the same time period)

So far, there has not been clear guidance given to schools by the state in terms of how many cases should require temporary school closure. Last month, Gov. Roy Cooper announced public K-5 schools could return completely under Plan A, which allows schools to operate at full capacity. Most health officials have said cases of COVID-19 of school community members are inevitable upon reopening, and suggested the school’s focus should be on preventing clusters through contact tracing of known positive cases and maintained distancing and mask-wearing during the school

day.

The fact that Chatham Charter is closing due to what appears to be a singular case, then, does seem to be very cautious.

“Though the state and local protocols only require that anyone who may have been in close contact with the individual stay home from school for 14 days, the administration also took into consideration the recent rise in cases across the state and nation in making its decision,” McCullough said.

Last week, the state saw record highs of daily new cases of COVID-19 and hospitalizations, with Oct. 15 and 16 setting consecutive high marks. Chatham County’s numbers have appeared to plateau though, according to Interim Health Director Mike Zelek and data on the county’s coronavirus dashboard.

“The Chatham Charter administrative team and school nurse have worked closely with local health officials throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,” McCullough said Friday. “(We) are following state guidelines published in the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) in implementing campus health and safety measures. The administration and staff will continue to do so.”

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

County’s Public Health Department partners with StarMed Healthcare to host weekly COVID-19 testing

From Chatham County Health Department

PITTSBORO —The Chatham County Public Health Department is working with StarMed Healthcare and the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) to host two weekly and recurring COVID-19 testing events in Chatham County as the public health department continues to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

StarMed will offer nasal swab PCR tests for no cost and optional rapid blood antibody tests for \$50 at each. Testing events will be held the following days and location:

- Mondays: 12:30-4:30

p.m., Chatham Central High School, 14950 N.C. Highway 902, Bear Creek

- Thursdays (next event October 22nd): 12:30-4:30 p.m., Northwood High School, 310 Northwood High School Road, Pittsboro

The PCR test tells individuals whether they currently have COVID-19. These tests are available at no cost to individuals and are covered either by their insurance or N.C. DHHS through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Results are sent in three days on average via text message and/or e-mail.

The rapid blood antibody test tells individuals

whether they have been infected with COVID-19 in the past. Results will be available within 15 minutes of being administered. Individuals are charged \$50 for antibody tests at the time of testing.

Text the word “COVID” to 704-850-6996 to pre-register and complete your virtual visit to reduce wait time for testing. Patients can also register onsite and be screened by a provider.

“We are grateful for this partnership with N.C. DHHS and StarMed to expand no-cost COVID-19 testing in Chatham County,” said Mike Zelek, Chatham County Interim Public Health Director.

“Testing is an important component of our response efforts, and this initiative complements other testing options in our community. I have participated in one of these testing events myself, and encourage residents, particularly those who have been exposed to the virus or have symptoms, to take advantage of these resources and get tested.”

In addition to testing, the Chatham County Public Health Department urges all to continue to consistently practice the 3 Ws: wear a face covering, wait six feet apart from others and wash your hands often.

“Just last week, our

state hit record highs in the number of new daily cases,” Zelek said. “This is very concerning, but we have the tools to keep ourselves healthy while doing the activities we enjoy: Practice the 3 Ws, get tested and stay home if you are ill or have been exposed to the virus, and get your flu shot.”

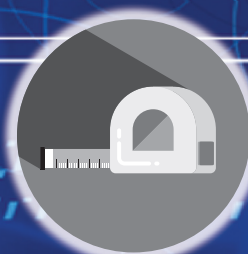
A full list of Chatham County’s testing sites, along with information on the types of COVID-19 tests, the role of contact tracing and more resources, can be found online at chathamnc.org/coronavirustesting. Learn more about Chatham County’s response to the coronavirus pandemic in English

‘Just last week, our state hit record highs in the number of new daily cases. This is very concerning, but we have the tools to keep ourselves healthy while doing the activities we enjoy...’

MIKE ZELEK, Chatham Health Department

at chathamnc.org/coronavirus, in Spanish at chathamnc.org/coronavirusespanol and facebook.com/chathamhealth.

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Duke researchers conclude study into Pittsboro's water

Contamination levels much worse than national average

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Duke University researchers presented their findings from a study of PFAS contamination in Pittsboro's drinking supply at a virtual town hall meeting on Saturday.

Stapleton

Their conclusion: PFAS levels are trending the wrong way, but more research is still needed.

The research group, led by Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment professor Heather Stapleton, launched its investigation into Pittsboro's water supply after disconcerting results came back from an earlier study of PFAS levels around the greater Triangle region.

"The reason we got into this study was based on some work we were doing in 2018," Stapleton said. "We were collecting tap water samples from different communities in research triangle park... For Pittsboro, the average concentration was 95 nanograms per liter, and this was higher than the concentrations we measured in the other areas."

The figure surprised and worried the researchers. PFAS — a family of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances — have appeared regularly since the 1950s in consumer products such as Scotchgard, non-stick pans and fast-food containers. The

chemicals are incomparable as water, grease and stain repellents.

But they are also notorious health hazards.

"There have been a number of studies investigating health effects from exposure to PFAS," Stapleton said, "and we know based on these studies — laboratory studies and human epidemiological studies — that higher exposure to PFAS is associated with risks for thyroid disease, increased blood cholesterol levels, reduction in our bodies' abilities to fight off viruses, reduction in our response to vaccines — so, implicating our immune systems — and implications for reproduction and birth outcomes."

Their prevalence in drinking water is especially insidious. PFAS in consumer products are not readily ingested into the body and they can be thrown away and replaced with safer alternatives. Water, on the other hand, is inescapable.

"(They have) high persistence in the environment and it's the reason why they're called 'forever chemicals,'" Stapleton said. "They're very difficult to break down. Because of this persistence, they're found very often in the environment and they're commonly detected in people's blood and they do accumulate in our bodies over time."

The two most common PFAS are PFOS and PFOA. They have been rising steadily enough in water supplies around the country to earn a federal

health advisory from the Environmental Protection Agency.

"The EPA has established a health advisory for drinking water for just PFOA and PFOS and that advisory is 70 ng/L," Stapleton said. The figure represents a recommended maximum allowable contamination level.

"This is not enforceable as just a health advisory but there are efforts under way to consider and establish an enforceable standard for drinking water, a maximum contaminant level or MCL."

The researchers' preliminary measurements returned contamination levels much higher than the recommended maximum, but only in Pittsboro.

"So, we wanted to understand why?" Stapleton said. "Why are there PFAS in (Pittsboro's) drinking water and where are they coming from? Well the answer is because they're in the Haw River."

Pittsboro is the Triangle's only municipality that draws its drinking water from the Haw — and the river is teeming with PFAS.

After sampling the water at several locations upstream of Pittsboro's water intake, Stapleton's team concluded the contaminants are likely derived from factory effluents in Burlington.

"So, this led us, then, to wonder and question what this would mean for the residents of Pittsboro in terms of their actual exposure and their blood levels," Stapleton said.

To find out, the team recruited 49 participants from Pittsboro — 18 men and 31 women — for a follow-up study "with the

goal of trying to understand if levels in this population were higher than the general U.S. population," Stapleton said.

The volunteers, whose ages ranged from 33 to 86 with a median of 60, provided samples on two occasions approximately two months apart.

Both sets of collected data — PFAS levels in the participants' drinking water and from their blood — painted a worrisome picture.

PFAS concentrations in drinking water ranged from about 50 ng/L to as high as 452 ng/L. A handful of participants submitted bottled water as representative of what they drink most often; their samples returned no PFAS contamination.

Blood samples showed much less variability.

"PFAS was detected in all the blood samples, and there was very little difference in PFAS measured at the two different time points," Stapleton said, emphasizing the duration of PFAS retention within the human body.

The results confirmed what the town's residents have been hearing for two years: PFAS contamination in Pittsboro is much worse than elsewhere in the country — specifically, two to four times worse.

Some chemicals within the PFAS family, such as PFHxA, are not even measurable in other state's water supplies, but their concentrations are rising in the Haw.

"PFHxA, a PFAS that was detected in all the blood samples from Pittsboro ... is very abundant in the water," Stapleton said. "Back in 2018, the concentrations were almost 300 ng/L ... The

exposure and concentrations of this PFAS have been increasing over time."

But there is good news. Concentrations of some PFAS, such as PFOS, have decreased precipitously in the last 15 years.

"If you look back to what the levels have been in the past," Stapleton said, "... the measurement of PFOA measured in samples that were collected from the Haw River in 2006 was 200 ng/L. A follow-up study in 2013 collected samples from the Haw River and measured concentrations around 34 ng/L. So, this does suggest that the PFOA levels in the Haw have been coming down."

Still, the sum total of PFAS in Pittsboro's water continues to rise, a fact the EPA has neglected to recognize, Stapleton said. Their advisory applies only to individual chemicals within the PFAS family. But PFAS come in clusters.

"They're often found in mixtures," Stapleton said. "You're not going to find one without the other."

The EPA's 70 ng/L health advisory only applies to PFOS and PFOA, taken separately. In Pittsboro's water, there were on average 48 and 15 ng/L of PFOA and PFOS, respectively.

"So, the drinking water utilities have every right to say that the water is in compliance with all federal and state standards," Stapleton said. "It's not above the health advisory."

The sum of just five common PFAS in Pittsboro's water, however, totals 224 ng/L — well above healthy levels.

Recognizing the folly inherent to the EPA's

policy, many states have imposed their own PFAS regulations. New Jersey restricts PFOA levels to 14 ng/L. PFOS and PFNA may be no higher than 13 ng/L. Michigan is even stricter limiting PFOA to 8 ng/L and PFNA to 6 ng/L.

"Some states are taking an even more progressive approach like Vermont and Massachusetts," Stapleton said, "... they came to the conclusion that we should really be thinking about the sum total of PFAS in the drinking water, and so they developed an MCL of 20 ng/L for the sum total."

Stapleton hopes North Carolina will consider similar measures and that local leaders will take steps to stymie PFAS contamination in Pittsboro's water before levels reach critical concentration. Several government officials were present at the town hall including Representative Robert Reives II (N.C. House, Dist. 54) and Pittsboro Town Manager Chris Kennedy, whose own water quality task force recently concluded an investigation into Pittsboro's PFAS problem. You can read the highlights of their report in this edition.

Stapleton's research has made considerable progress toward understanding the scope of Pittsboro's PFAS crisis, but it will take more effort to enact any significant change.

"We really need more information to understand how the levels here are associated with any health outcomes, particularly cancer," Stapleton said. "... This is not the end by any means. Hopefully this is just the beginning."

WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE

Pittsboro group proposes solutions to town's PFAS contamination

Fixes expected to 'be complicated and ... require many points of view and expertise'

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Pittsboro Water Quality Task Force — a 17-person team of experts assembled by the town's board of commissioners last November to assess "unregulated contaminants in the Haw River and the appropriate response thereto" — has finalized its report and submitted a recommended action plan to the town.

The town's board of commissioners isn't expected to evaluate the report until its Nov. 23 meeting.

Why it matters

PFAS — Perfluoroalkyl substances, chemicals known as potential carcinogens — were discovered in Chatham County's water and identified as a serious public health threat to its residents in 2018. Since then, the News + Record has reported frequently on developing research into the contaminant's prevalence in Chatham County towns, most notably Pittsboro. With the PWQTF's formation, the town officially sponsored efforts to address the PFAS problem. The team's findings could represent a bridge from research and analysis to commensurate action.

Here is a breakdown of the report's most important takeaways:

Pittsboro's situation is grim, but not irreversible.

- "The Town of Pittsboro will face many challenges related to water resources over the coming years," the report said, "all of which will be complicated and will require many points of view and expertise."

The town's PFAS contamination is among the worst in the state. The most recent available research found PFAS levels of 844.8 parts per trillion (ppt) in the Haw River at Pittsboro's water intake point. For some perspec-

tive, Cary — which draws its water from Jordan Lake — measured 110.6 ppt. And parts of northern and eastern Chatham County, which source water from Durham's Lake Michie and the Jordan Lake, had just 65.4 ppt.

The most effective way to address contamination in the water supply would be to stop it at the source, the report concluded. But that may be unrealistic.

"There are multiple known sources of contamination stemming from within the municipalities of Reidsville, Burlington and Greensboro," the report said.

It is improbable those municipalities can significantly adjust their industries to minimize PFAS runoff. A more likely long-term solution to the town's water contamination is for Pittsboro to continue ongoing development of a regional water treatment plant designed to service a four-partner coalition called the Western Intake Partners.

The four partners are Pittsboro, Durham, Chatham County and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority. Together they are collaborating on plans to construct a water treatment plant at Jordan Lake's western shore.

But there is a problem: the plant, if it is built, will not be operational until 2031.

Therefore, the report said, "while (the water treatment plant) should be pursued, it will not adequately and urgently address the immediate emerging contamination problem."

Fortunately, viable short-term options exist to ameliorate the situation in the interim. Reverse osmosis has been shown to filter PFAS from water. The task force, therefore, suggested that Pittsboro front the cost to install reverse osmosis filtration systems across the county at public locations and in private homes.

"The recommended immediate solution for the Town of Pittsboro," the report said, "is to provide RO fill stations, RO instal-

lation rebate programs for low income families, discounted RO systems for renters, homeowners and businesses and RO point-of-use filters for the three public schools within Town limits."

It added: "All short-term options should be free to qualifying low income individuals. And those who don't qualify for a fully-funded option will still be eligible for a significant discount."

Finally, the committee suggested that Pittsboro establish a program of transparency and education to keep residents abreast of the town's progress in addressing the issue.

"This recommendation seeks to establish trust in the community by providing guidance and assistance from town government on the threat to our water and our health," the report said.

An important disclaimer

The PWQTF report portends a solution to Pittsboro's dire situation, but it would be premature to conclude that action will immediately ensue. The board of commissioners has not yet convened to discuss its reception of the group's recommendations or to potentially endorse the plan of action.

"I would be remiss if I did not mention the fact that our town board of commissioners has not provided any consent to this report aside from its commissioning," Town Manager Chris Kennedy told the News + Record. "The Task Force was established at the direction of our board, but this report was just placed in the hands of the board this week, so they have not had the necessary time to review, critique and accept its findings."

More information

The task force members include Karla Stone Eanes, Bill Holman, Becky Smith, Adam Pickett, Daniel Ayers, Bett Foley, Emily Sutton, Hugh Harrington, Mark Williams, Chris Attack, Kevin Russell, Karen Strazza, Karen Styres, Katie Bryant, Hunter Freeman, Jennifer Platt and Lori Cramer.

The 31-page report is available online at cutt.ly/pbwaterreport. Note

that it contains several hundred pages of supplementary research.

Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr.com.



Chatham COA Helpful Happenings

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- [Update Call with Director Dennis Streets](#) at 10:15 AM

Monday, November 2nd

- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise](#) at 10:00 AM
- [Bingo with Joe](#) at 11:15 AM

Tuesday, November 3rd ~ Election Day!

- [Body Conditioning Exercise with Jackie](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Craft & Music - Reflecting on Veterans](#) at 11:15 AM

Wednesday, November 4th

- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Wood Turning with Alan](#) 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. Look in **Section A** for this week's question.

Virtual Salute to Veterans

Friday, November 6th at 10:15 AM
on Our Conference Line: 727-731-8717

The Chatham COA is Here for You!

For more information on our ongoing programs & services visit our website at chathamcoa.org or call our centers, Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

Eastern Chatham Senior Center 365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512	Western Chatham Senior Center 112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975
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ELECTION 2020 | U.S. SENATE

Cunningham, Tillis talk plans for Chatham County

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Editor's Note: The following are exclusive interviews with U.S. Senate candidates Cal Cunningham and Thom Tillis conducted via email with the News + Record. Responses were included in their entirety and only minor edits were made for spelling and grammar.

Cal Cunningham, Democrat

What will you do that will specifically benefit Chatham County residents and how will you help stimulate a pandemic-racked economy? Especially in western Chatham County, industry has been faltering for some time and the situation has become more dire in recent months.

I grew up in the small town of Lexington, so I am no stranger to the issues small towns and rural communities in our state face, and I intend to be a strong voice for them in the U.S. Senate — from helping connect communities with federal economic development and re-



Cunningham

ruitment programs, to investing in priorities like expanding access to rural broadband and health care. From Siler City and Goldston in the west to Wilsonville and Pittsboro to the east, I'm committed to fighting for the needs of every Chatham County resident.

Chatham County is home to a robust network of open space, trails and parks, and I will work on federal efforts to preserve those public lands so they can be enjoyed by generations of North Carolinians to come.

We also know that forever chemicals remain a threat to Chatham County's water, particularly in the Haw River. In the Senate, I will be a partner at the federal level to ensure that cities and towns have the resources to spot these contaminants and clean our water, and that polluters are held accountable when they harm our communities and public health.

Too many of our communities have also been neglected when it comes to infrastructure investment. I've called for robust investment in infrastructure — not only in our roads and bridges, but also in our schools, public housing, and local wastewater and sewer systems. Infrastructure investment is not only a job creator, but will also

help communities like Chatham County attract economic stimulus to the area for years to come. I've also called for investing in expanded broadband access, something Senator Tillis has voted against funding in the past.

I also understand that in times of economic crisis, our small communities are often the hardest hit. That's why I support additional relief for towns and cities as they respond to the economic fallout of this pandemic.

Another top priority of mine will be health care. One of the most frequent issues I hear about is the urgent need to improve access and bring down the cost of health care for families — and that is exactly what I will fight for in the U.S. Senate. I will do everything I can to stop the dangerous lawsuit that would dismantle the Affordable Care Act and its protections, including protections for those with preexisting conditions. I also support expanding Medicaid in North Carolina and bringing down the cost of prescription drugs.

"Distrust" has been a buzz word around both candidates. In your case, ongoing coverage of infidelity concerns many voters. It is especially critical to many older, undecided voters with a conservative lean. So, why would you say that you still deserve and have earned your constituents' trust?

I have hurt my family, disappointed my friends, and am deeply sorry. The first step in repairing those relationships is taking complete responsibility, which I do. I ask that my family's privacy be respected in this personal matter.

I remain grateful and humbled by the ongoing support that North Carolinians have extended in this campaign, and in the remaining weeks before this election I will continue to work to earn the opportunity to fight for

the people of our state.

What will you do to ameliorate divisiveness in the political sphere and between American citizens?

From my Aunt Sis, who was an elementary school teacher, I learned that a good listener is a good learner — and I think you can say the same about leaders. In the Senate, count on me to listen first, to take on the biggest challenges, and never waiver in my commitment to serve the people of our state. I'll always put North Carolina first and stand up for the people I represent. That includes working with either party when it's right, and standing up to my own when they're wrong.

I'm also going to push for reform. I'm not accepting corporate PAC money, and I'll work to make Congress responsive to the voters, not the special interests.

Can you comment on your evaluation of how the president has negotiated race relations and socio-economic disparity?

Too many communities across North Carolina have seen generations of inequality due to institutionalized racial discrimination and the resulting disparities. I believe we need policies that break down historical barriers by:

Investing in public schools to provide the resources they need to succeed and closing significant funding gaps between districts — and achievement gaps between black and white students — including investing in Head Start and other early childhood programs.

Ensuring pursuing higher education is an opportunity available to anyone who seeks it by lowering the cost of college, expanding access to community college and technical training, and reducing the burden of student loan debt.

Strengthening and extending coverage under the Affordable Care Act, including creating a public health insurance option, and doing more to support rural hospitals and address doctor shortages.

Reinstating protections under the Voting Rights Act, so that any state or jurisdiction with a pattern of discrimination must have changes to voting practices approved by the Justice Department.

Enacting criminal justice reform that includes: revisiting mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent offenders, refocusing efforts on preventing violent crime instead of locking up people who need treatment, and reducing recidivism by investing in programs that give people who have paid their debt to society the opportunity to re-enter their communities. I also support curbing the abuse of cash bail and eliminating for-profit prisons.

Senator Thom Tillis, Republican

Note: Questions were answered by Tillis campaign spokeswoman Alex Nolley.

He promised to confirm well-qualified judges to the federal bench and he did. While Cunningham has been dodging the media and refusing to answer for his potential court-martial, Tillis has put the people of North Carolina first and he will continue to do so when he's re-elected on November 3.

What will Mr. Tillis do that will specifically benefit Chatham County citizens?

Through the USMCA, Senator Tillis is bringing jobs back home for Chatham's farmers and manufacturers and through the Paycheck Protection



Tillis

Program, he helped save 4,200 Chatham jobs. Whether in the agriculture, textile, energy or lumber industries, all residents deserve a Senator like Thom Tillis who will fight to rebuild the economy and get Chatham County back to work.

In keeping with the first question, how will Senator Tillis help to stimulate a pandemic-racked economy?

Senator Tillis believes the way to bolster North Carolina's economy is through lower taxes and fewer regulatory burdens. As North Carolina's Speaker of the House, he cut taxes and slashed regulations, making the state's economy one of the strongest in the nation. In the U.S. Senate, he did the same thing. He also supported strong trade policies that allow small businesses and farmers to flourish. Senator Tillis' pro-growth policies helped achieve record-low unemployment for women and minorities and generated a record high wage growth for blue-collar workers. Before this virus, Senator Tillis helped create one of the most prosperous economies in our nation's history and he'll never stop working until he does it again.

Despite his challenger's ongoing scandal, Mr. Tillis is still trailing in the polls. The New York Times reported a week ago that "distrust" was the problem. We'd like to give Mr. Tillis the opportunity to address that specifically — why should voters trust him?

Cal Cunningham has spent his campaign pretending to be trustworthy and honorable, but is now under investigation by the U.S. Army Reserve for having an affair with the wife of a disabled combat veteran.

Senator Tillis has kept his promises to the people of North Carolina. He promised to cut taxes and through the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, he did. He promised to reduce burdensome regulations on small businesses and rolled back Obama-era regulations a record sixteen times. He promised to take care of veterans and he has improved veterans' access to quality health care, increased job opportunities and made bipartisan reforms to improve the VA system. He promised to rebuild the military and then secured over \$3.3 billion in funding for North Carolina's military installations.

Why has Mr. Tillis vacillated in his opinion of President Trump (opposing then supporting executive action around the wall)? What changed?

Senator Tillis has a record of both securing the border and increasing funding to North Carolina's military bases. He voted for the emergency declaration because he wants to crack down on illegal immigration, while Cal Cunningham wants to "enable" sanctuary policies that allow dangerous criminals back onto the streets and put North Carolinians at risk.

What will Mr. Tillis do to ameliorate divisiveness in the political sphere and between American citizens?

Senator Tillis knows that his job is to produce results by working with his colleagues no matter their political party, which is why he's made it a priority to seek out members of the other side and find areas to work together. He's worked across the aisle to protect veterans from predatory lending and partnered with Amy Klobuchar in 2018 to successfully pass legislation that created a new initiative at the VA to research the health effects associated with burn pits and treating veterans who become sick after exposure. He also introduced bipartisan legislation to make sure those who were exposed to toxic chemicals while serving at Camp Lejeune, Iraq, and Afghanistan receive proper medical care from the VA. As long as he is in the Senate, Thom Tillis will continue working with members from every side of the political spectrum.

Some fault the president, with whom Mr. Tillis is closely allied, with fomenting disunity in the country. Does Mr. Tillis support how the president has negotiated race relations and socio-economic disparity?

Senator Tillis is committed to addressing disparities within our communities. As Speaker of the House in North Carolina, Senator Tillis helped survivors of North Carolina's eugenics program and in the U.S. Senate worked with President Trump to pass the bipartisan FIRST STEP Act, which overhauled our criminal justice system. Under Senator Tillis' leadership, Black Americans' unemployment reached an all-time low and the Black community experienced record high wages. Gains like the ones Senator Tillis has helped secure are what reduce disparities and create greater unity among different communities.

Eureka! You found the answer!

A: Lula Watson. Watson was 104 years old when she sang for the November 19, 1978 event.

To enter the COA's monthly drawing for a \$25 Visa Gift Card, call the COA at 919-542-4512, extension 223 and follow the prompts on the voicemail.

October's winner will be drawn from eligible entries provided by 10/31/2020. 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 not eligible.

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



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- Fillings
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- ◆ Helps cover over 350 services
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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Oct. 16, Gary Lee Howard, 48, of 481 Ralph Moore Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for Interference with Electronic Monitoring Devices. Howard was jailed on a \$10,000.00 secured bond and was scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Oct. 19.

On Oct. 16, Gary Lee Howard, 48, of 481 Ralph Moore Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for Possession of Counterfeit Instrument/Currency and Obtaining Property by False Pretense. Howard was jailed on a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Nov. 9.

On Oct. 16, Gary Lee Howard, 48, of 481 Ralph Moore Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for Felony Larceny. Howard was jailed on a \$5,000 secured bond and was scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Oct. 19.

On Oct. 16, Gary Lee Howard, 48, of 481 Ralph Moore Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for Failure to Appear on charges of Obtaining Property by False Pretense, Financial Card Theft, and Identity Theft. Howard was jailed on a \$5,000 secured bond and was scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Oct. 19.

On Oct. 9, Alexis Simone Baldwin, 25, of 43 Edinborough Drive, Durham, was arrested by Deputy Andrew Gray for Failure to Appear on charges of Speeding and Reckless Driving to Endanger. Baldwin was jailed on a \$2,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Alamance County District Court in Graham on Dec. 1.

On Oct. 16, Crystal Leeann Tolley, 29, of 96 Garden Trace, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for Failure to Appear on charges of Defrauding an Innkeeper. Tolley was jailed on a \$250 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Jackson County District Court in Sylva on November 24.

On Oct. 16, William Juanzo-Harrison Deshazo, 38, of 1217 Liberty Street,

Durham, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for True Bill of Indictment relating to Domestic Violence Protective Order Violation and Habitual Violation of Domestic Violence Protection Order. Deshazo was issued a Written Promise to Appear in Chatham County Superior Court in Pittsboro on Nov. 16.

On Oct. 16, Steven Robert Allen, 26, of 7323 Pecan Avenue, Sunset Beach, N.C., was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Allen was jailed on a \$5,000 secured bond and was scheduled to appear in Brunswick County District Court in Southport on Oct. 20.

On Oct. 17, Steven Anthony Miller, 38, of 446 Moncure School Road, Moncure, was arrested by Deputy David Nixon for Possession of Heroin and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Miller was jailed on a \$1,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Nov. 9.

On Oct. 17, Tyler Steven Howard, 27, of 488 Edwards Hill Church Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Larceny of a Firearm, Possession of Firearm by Felon, and Injury to Personal Property. Howard was jailed on a \$10,000 secured bond and was scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Oct. 19.

On Oct. 18, Dean Allen Jenkins, 59, of 169 Archie Johnson Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for Failure to Appear on charges of Allowing Livestock to Run at Large. Jenkins was jailed on a \$500.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Dec. 9.

On Oct. 18, Kentric Rasheem McKoy, 27, of 185 Lucy Mae Page Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy David Nixon for True Bill of Indictment relating to Indecent Liberties with a Child and Sexual Battery. McKoy was issued a Written Promise to Appear in Chatham County Superior Court in Pittsboro on Oct. 26.

On Oct. 18, Nicholas Al-

xandre Smith, 27, of 3313 Cameron Drive, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for Failure to Appear on charges of Possessing/Displaying Altered/Fictitious/Revoked Driver's License, Expired/No Inspection, and No Liability Insurance. Smith was jailed on a \$2,000 secured bond and was scheduled to appear in Moore County District Court in Carthage on Oct. 28.

On Oct. 18, Nicholas Alexandre Smith, 27, of 3313 Cameron Drive, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for Failure to Appear on charges of Failure to Reduce Speed and Driving While License Revoked. Smith was jailed on a \$2,000 secured bond and was scheduled to appear in Lee County District Court in Sanford on Oct. 26.

On Oct. 19, Shaneil Mae Taylor, 37, of 1201 Red Sunset Place, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Marcus Hart for Exploiting Disabled/Elder Trust, Obtaining Property by False Pretense, and Identity Theft. Taylor was issued a Written Promise to Appear in Chatham County Superior Court in Pittsboro on Nov. 9.

On Oct. 19, Shawn Michael Seeley, 42, of 14226 NC 902 Highway, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Grant Carter for Second Degree Trespass and Breaking and Entering. Seeley was issued a Written Promise to Appear in Chatham County Superior Court in Pittsboro on Nov. 18.

On Oct. 19, Luis Antonio Perez-Rodriguez, 37, of 219 Cameron Drive, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for Domestic Violence Protective Order Violation. Perez-Rodriguez was jailed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and was scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Oct. 27.

On Oct. 20, Danny Joe Phillips, 46, of 8795 Siler City Glendon Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for Assault on a Female. Phillips jailed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and was scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Oct. 21.

On Oct. 20, Thomas Lee Saunders, 30, of 202 Post Office Road, Moncure, was arrested by Deputy David

Nixon for Fail to Comply with Judgement relating to Defrauding a Drug/Alcohol Screen Test. Saunders was issued a Written Promise to Appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Dec. 2.

On Oct. 20, Tarik Jihad Greene Jr., 24, of 2090

Hamlet's Chapel Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Dominique York for Maintaining a Vehicle/Dwelling/Place for a Controlled Substance, Possession of Marijuana Up to 1/2 oz., Possession Marijuana Paraphernalia, Felony Possession of Cocaine, Possession with

Intent to Manufacture/Sell/Distribute Heroin, Trafficking Opium or Heroin, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Greene was jailed on a \$50,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Nov. 9.

Public Notice

TOWN OF SILER CITY LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Siler City loose leaf collection will begin Monday, November 2, 2020. Persons living on the north-side of Raleigh Street will receive a leaf pick-up on Monday through Friday in the first week and persons living on the south-side of Raleigh Street will receive a leaf pick-up starting the next week on Monday, November 9, 2020.

Please Note: Pick up will take place on one side of town for the week, then move to the other side of town for a week.

Leaves should be placed in neat piles at the edge of the street (not in the street) where they will be accessible to the vacuum machine. **Foreign objects such as sticks, rocks and trash must be removed from the loose leaves and piled separately for later collection. To avoid damage to the leaf vacuum, leaves containing foreign objects will not be picked up**



Bagged Leaves Will Not Be Picked UP While Loose Leaf Collection Program is in Progress.

Your cooperation will make our leaf collection program a success.

For questions, please call 919-742-4732.

Noticia Pública

TOWN OF SILER CITY RECOLECCION DE HOJAS

La recolección de hojas sueltas de Siler City comenzará el Lunes 2 de Noviembre de 2020. Las personas que viven en el lado norte de Raleigh Street recibirán una recogida de hojas de Lunes a Viernes en la primera semana (11/2-11/6) y las personas que viven en el lado sur de Raleigh Street recibirán un recogida de hojas a partir de la próxima semana el lunes 9 de Noviembre de 2020 (11/9-11/13).

Tenga en cuenta: La recogida se llevará a cabo en un lado de la ciudad durante la semana, luego se trasladará al otro lado de la ciudad durante una semana.

Las hojas deben colocarse en montones al borde de la calle (no en la calle) donde serán accesibles para la máquina de aspiradora de hojas. **Los objetos como madera, piedras y basura deben ser retiradas de las hojas para otro día de recolección. Para evitar daños a la máquina de hojas, no se recogerán las hojas que contengan estos objetos o otro tipo de objetos.**



Las hojas embolsadas no serán recogidas mientras el programa de recolección de hojas sueltas esté en proceso.

Su cooperación hará que nuestro programa de recolección de hojas sea un éxito.

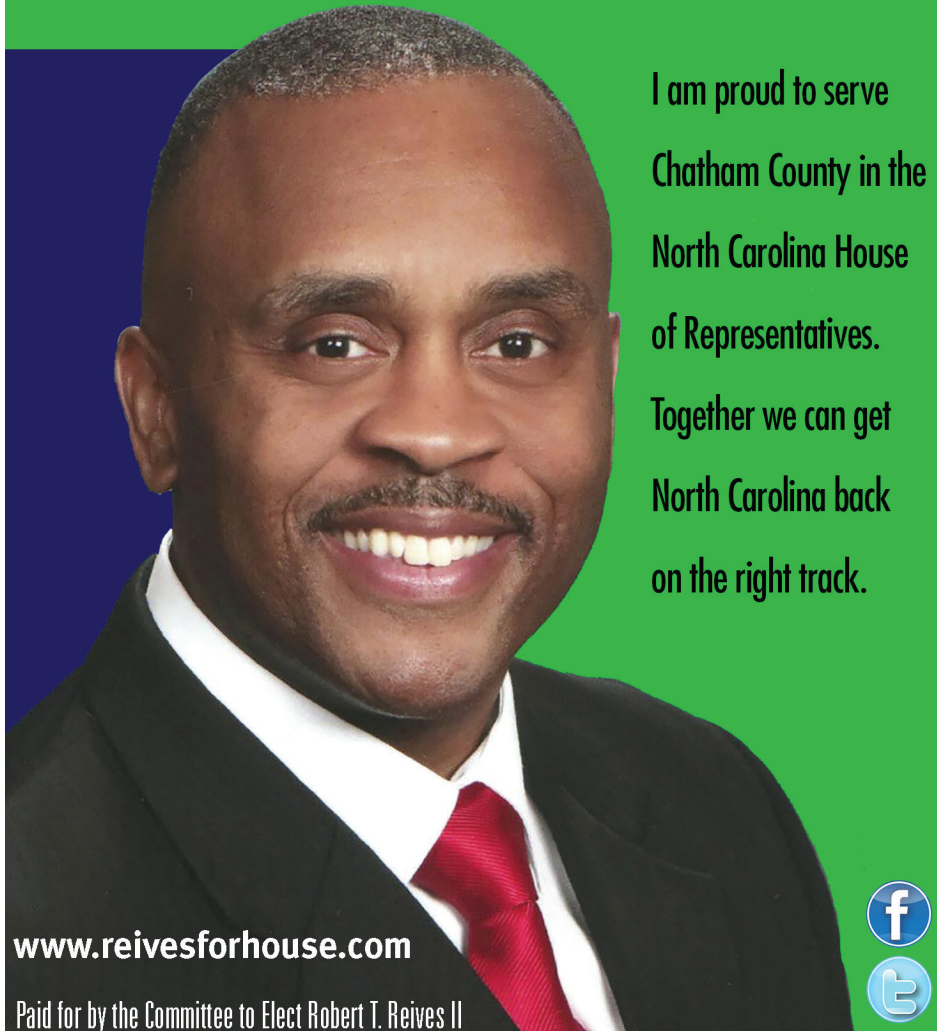
Para preguntas por favor llame al 919-742-4732.

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Mike DASHER



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Franklin GOMEZ FLORES



WE are

working to ensure that every student, at any age, can achieve their full potential.

Karen HOWARD



WE are

dedicated to protecting our natural resources, enhancing public spaces, and building a more sustainable and resilient Chatham County.



On Tuesday, November 3rd vote for **Mike Dasher, Franklin Gomez Flores & Karen Howard** for Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

COMMITTEE TO ELECT MIKE DASHER

DEATH FAIRE 2020

'Medicine for the soul' helps with grief, healing

BY CINDY CRAIG

Special to the News + Record

2016 was a challenging year. It was a time when I was experiencing the loss of one of my closest friends;



Craig

my daughter was dealing with the loss of two of her friends while I was also struggling with the continuous loss of life in my work in elder care. That year felt like there was hardly any time to mourn one loss before another came. My heart was very heavy, to say the least. I began to realize how out of touch I had been with the true process of grieving, honoring someone's life, facing this

inevitable part of our journey, and respecting my own need to allow myself time to properly mourn.

Then came the Death Faire ... which was incredibly healing for me.

To dive into a taboo subject the way the Death Faire has is true medicine for the soul. I learned about dealing with grief, ancestral healing, different cultural rituals, participated in the community altar, and was moved beyond words by beautiful song, dance, drumming and fire. These were powerful blessings that opened my mind, lifted the pain, and filled my heart. I realized how important it is to talk with our loved ones about these things. I began experiencing comfort in stepping out of the anxiety and fear surrounding death. I believe



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

An altar observing death from the 2019 edition of Death Faire.

Death Faire has given me a

IF YOU'RE GOING

DEATH FAIRE 2020

- The fifth annual event will be held from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31; for more information, go to abundancenc.org/death-faire.
- Location: The Plant at 220 Lorax Lane, Pittsboro
- Featuring keynote speakers Dr. Tashel

Bordere and Godi Godar Moteke Molanga, live music, meditation, interactive altars, story/prayer circles and much more.

- Tickets: abundancenc.org/death-faire (children free; adults \$10-\$75, sliding scale)
- COVID-19 regulations (masks, social distancing required) will be observed

much greater sense of peace in dealing with loss of life and has educated the community on the celebration of one's

life. I would encourage anyone, of any age to attend this valuable community offering with an open heart and mind.

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. 47

Halloween at Home

It's a rainy, stormy Halloween night. But Drusilla and her brother Darius are still going to have some spooky fun at home!

Party Pattern
 Darius made a string of Halloween decorations. Cross out the item that breaks the pattern.

Scary Movie Marathon
 Drusilla and Darius settled in to watch some spooky movies, but they got way too scared. What did they do instead? Use the code to find out!

1 = A	8 = K	13 = 6	4 = 14	11 = 4	1 = 3	
2 = C	9 = 0	10 = P				
3 = D	11 = R	13 = 6	4 = 7	11 =		
4 = E	12 = S	8 = 7	3 =	12 = 2	9 = 9	10 =
5 = G	13 = T	10 = 1	5 = 4 =			
6 = H	14 = Y					
7 = I						

Party Pattern
 Darius made a string of Halloween decorations. Cross out the item that breaks the pattern.

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 4 = E 12 = S 8 = 7 3 = 12 = 2 9 = 9 10 =
 5 = G 13 = T 10 = 1 5 = 4 =
 6 = H 14 = Y
 7 = I

Can you find all three of the groups at left on the larger grid below?

GROUP 1
 GROUP 2
 GROUP 3

How many pumpkins do you see?

Shadow Play
 Drusilla used a flashlight to make shadows on the wall. Can you find each shadow's exact twin?

What's as big as Frankenstein's monster but weighs nothing?

Popcorn Poetry
 Do you like popcorn? Look through the newspaper for words that make you think about popcorn. Try to find three nouns, three verbs and three adjectives. Use the words to write a poem or paragraph about popcorn.

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

Kid Scoop Puzzler
 Circle the rows of numbers on this ghastly tombstone that add up to 12. Look up, down, sideways and diagonally.

Standards Link: Mathematics: Add sums to 12.

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

HALLOWEEN
 MONSTER
 PUMPKINS
 POPCORN
 STORMY
 GHASTLY
 FUN
 SPOOKY
 CAT
 MOVIES
 RAINY
 CANDY
 HOME
 POEM
 BIG

NEE WOLLAHW
 SOJSEIVOMY
 PUMPKINSOL
 OOFDFHCYNT
 OYPUPOMASS
 KDOCNRMVTA
 YNEYOHBEEH
 CAMTYRSIRG
 BCSRAINYGN

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

Kid Scoop Together: Funny Filler
 Have a friend give you each type of word to fill in the blanks. Then read the story aloud!

Count Alucard's castle was a total mess. Several _____ were floating in the courtyard fountain.
 A _____ was tangled in some cobwebs above the parlour. The staircase was covered in _____ . An expensive _____ had been knocked over and broken.
 " _____!" cried Count Alucard. "This mess makes my blood boil!"
 "We'll help you clean up the place," said his niece Rue, as his nephew Muerto began to _____ the entry way.
 Soon, Rue had _____ through the first floor, replacing the suit of armor's _____. Muerto cleaned up the courtyard, planting fresh _____ all around the castle moat. They worked together to remove the _____ from the castle's _____ tower.
 By sunrise, the castle looked _____, just the way Count Alucard likes it!

Standards Link: Grammar: Use nouns, verbs and adjectives correctly in reading and writing.

Kid Scoo-doku
 Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word BATS in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

	B		T	
	A			
	T			
T	S			

Write On! Halloween Jokes
 Write down several of your favorite Halloween jokes and send them to a friend!

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 • 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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ELECTIONS 2020 | A QUICK FINAL LOOK AT THE BALLOT

If you haven't voted yet, here's what you need to know

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Just days remain before the polls close on Nov. 3. But chances are, if you planned to vote during this election season, you've already cast your ballot.

As of Tuesday morning, 34,737 Chatham County votes were already in. With 57,557 registered voters county-wide, that means 60% had already made up their minds with five days still left of early voting.

"I can't believe how many people have voted already," said Pandora Paschal, director of Chatham's Board of Elections. "It's blowing my mind."

By day eight this year, the number of ballots cast had already surpassed that of 2016's entire early voting season.

"In 2016 we voted, I think, just over 30,000 during the whole early voting period including absentee by mail," Paschal said. "We've well exceeded that this year and we haven't even gotten to the last day of early voting."

The turnout phenomenon is likely due to two unusual circumstances: a global pandemic and the most contentious presidential race of modern times. As the Washington Post noted on Monday, "the tens of millions of ballots already cast show highly enthusiastic voters are making sure their votes are counted amid a pandemic."

Concerning rhetoric of voter suppression and fraudulence — much of it coming from President Donald Trump — has cast a pall over the integrity of the voting process. It would seem that many voters came out early anticipating a bungled process. But whatever the impetus, the fact remains: more people have voted by this point in the election season than ever before.

"People have been turning out in records all over the country," Paschal said.

While she emphasized that the BOE does not involve itself in any kind of political discourse, Paschal conceded that it's obvious there are fewer undecided voters this year than usual.

"It seems like a great many are not undecided,"

she said, "because you can just tell by the turnout."

In Chatham, a county with already historically strong support of early voting, the deluge of voters has nearly overwhelmed the system.

"It's been crazy here," Paschal said. "If we keep voting like we're voting, we will have voted probably most of our voters (by election day). There probably will be some on election day, but I don't know how many. I had no idea this many people would vote this early. I knew early voting was popular, but I didn't know people would come out in droves like this."

If, however, you are among the dwindling number of registered voters still to have withheld a ballot — and if you don't already know what names you're going to check — here's the lowdown:

U.S. Senate

It's probably fair to say you don't need a debriefing on the presidential candidates, so let's jump right to Congress.

Incumbent Senator Thom Tillis (R) is running for re-election. His only realistic opponent is Democrat Cal Cunningham. (You may also vote for Libertarian Shannon Bray or Constitution Party candidate Kevin Hayes.)

Tillis' platform emphasizes his accomplishments over a long political career. He was elected as a senator in 2015 having previously served in the House of Representatives since 2006. He is a loyal Trump supporter, and many of his policies are reflective of the president's.

"All residents deserve a Senator like Thom Tillis who will fight to rebuild the economy and get Chatham County back to work," Tillis campaign spokeswoman Alex Tilley told the News + Record.

Cal Cunningham, a veteran of the Iraq war and the war in Afghanistan with a law degree from UNC and a Master of Science in public policy from the London School of Economics, hopes voters will identify him as a well-rounded and capable leader despite his short time on the political scene.

"From Siler City and Goldston in the west to Wilsonville and Pittsboro

to the east, I'm committed to fighting for the needs of every Chatham County resident," Cunningham said in an interview with us.

For more in-depth coverage of the U.S. Senate race, check out our exclusive interviews Cal Cunningham and a Tillis spokeswoman in this edition.

N.C. Governor

North Carolina's gubernatorial race features Democratic incumbent Roy Cooper and Republican challenger Dan Forest, N.C.'s current lieutenant governor. Libertarian Steven DiFiore and Constitution Party candidate Al Pisano are also on the ballot.

Cooper has served as governor since narrowly beating former Governor Pat McCrory in the 2016 race. During his term, Cooper has worked to expand Medicaid, increase teacher pay and add jobs around the state. He has also presided over the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic — a point of emphasis in his campaign as N.C. has managed lower infection and mortality rates than many surrounding states.

Forest, however, has been a vocal critic of Cooper's leadership through the pandemic. If elected, he hopes to redirect the state's pandemic navigation. He also lists second amendment rights, pro-life legislation and combating illegal immigration among his primary goals.

DiFiore emphasizes public education reform among the most prominent features of his platform. Improved access to healthcare and decreased housing costs are also important to him.

Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Three of the board's five seats are up for grabs in this year's election. The incumbents — Democrats Karen Howard (Dist. 1) and Mike Dasher (Dist. 2) and Republican Andy Wilkie (Dist. 5) — each face opposition.

Howard, Dasher and Dist. 5 challenger Franklin Gomez Flores are running on a shared platform. They prioritize affordable hous-

ing, county-wide broadband service and quality public education as the principal features of their plan for the county.

Likewise, the three Republican candidates — incumbent Wilkie along with Dist. 2 candidate Jimmy Pharr and Dist. 1 candidate Jay Stobbs — are campaigning together. They hope to win a Republican majority and enact changes to employment regulation and county budgeting. They have also made restoration of the confederate monument in Pittsboro a central feature of their platform.

Chatham County Board of Education

The BOE has five non-partisan seats. Two are up for re-election this year.

Melissa Hlavac (Dist. 1) has served on the board since 2016. She is associate dean of MBA programs at UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School. Her goals include reducing the student achievement gap to address equity and raising the school state rankings.

"In this precarious environment, COVID-related decisions are some of the most critical decisions we will render," Hlavac told the News + Record, "yet we must move forward with the backdrop of ongoing policy setting and guidance that must continue to propel the school district in a positive direction."

She faces two opponents, Timothy Winters and Ryan Armstrong. Winters hopes to negotiate a larger share of incremental county revenue for education and implement maximum class sizes of 18. Armstrong is running on the Chatham Republican campaign ticket despite the board's non-partisanship. He maintains that his contributions to the board, if he is elected, will not come from a political agenda.

In Dist. 2, longtime Chatham educator David Hamm is facing opposition for the first time in his last two terms. Continuing to increase the local pay supplement for teachers and prioritizing access to high speed broadband are among his goals. His opponent, Dennis Lewis, says he'll represent parents better than they have been in the

past. Like Armstrong, Lewis is running on the Republican campaign ticket.

N.C. House Dist. 54

Democrat Robert Reives II has served in the state legislature since 2014. His district has most recently included all of Chatham County and parts of Durham. He plans to continue a practice of policy making which he believes has served all of Chatham's citizens irrespective of party allegiance.

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

Reives' challenger, George Gilson Jr., is new to North Carolina but believes his conservative beliefs are exactly what Chatham County needs moving forward. Still, he agrees that intensifying division between the two major political parties will not serve constituents.

"Listen, I am conservative and I align myself more with the Republican Party," he said, "but I think some decisions that the Republican Party have made have been bad for our country and our state. I also think the same on the Democratic side. Sometimes you have to look outside party allegiance and do what's right for the state and the country."

N.C. Senate Dist. 23

Democratic incumbent Valerie Foushee faces Republican challenger Thomas Glendinning for the N.C. Senate Dist. 23 seat which covers all of Chatham and Orange counties.

"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's platform focuses more on zoning legislation.

"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."

Other Races

- U.S. House of Representatives: Republican incumbent Ted Budd faces Scott Huffman
- N.C. Attorney General: Democrat incumbent Josh Stein faces Republican Jim O'Neill
- N.C. Auditor: Democrat incumbent Beth Wood faces Republican Anthony Wayne Street
- N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture: Republican incumbent Steve Troxler faces Democrat Jenna Wadsworth
- N.C. Commissioner of Insurance: Republican incumbent Mike Causey faces Democrat Wayne Goodwin
- N.C. Commissioner of Labor: Republican Josh Dobson faces Democrat Jessica Holmes. Incumbent Cherie Berry is not on the ballot.
- N.C. Secretary of State: Democrat incumbent Elaine Marshall faces Republican E.C. Sykes
- N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction: Republican Catherine Truitt faces Democrat Jen Mangrum. Incumbent Mark Johnson is not on the ballot after a failed gubernatorial effort.
- N.C. Treasurer: Republican incumbent Dale Folwell faces Democrat Ronnie Chatterji
- There are two uncontested races: Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor J. Lynn Mann and Register of Deeds Lunday Riggsbee.
- Three N.C. Supreme Court races, five N.C. Court of Appeals races and four N.C. Court Judge seats are also on the ticket.



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OCTOBER: NATIONAL MEDICINE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Take steps to prevent prescription drug abuse

BY GEORGE GREGER-HOLT

Special to the News + Record

We all have them, but most of us don't know what to do with them — old medications from dental work, an injury, illness or hospital visit. Most of the time, they just sit in our medicine cabinets or under our bathroom sinks, collecting dust.

Occasionally, we'll think to dispose of them, throw them in the trash or flush them down the toilet. But, we don't want those medicines, many of which can be toxic in large doses, to get in to the water supply or contaminate our landfill.

Chatham Drug Free, along with the Chatham County Sheriff's Department, Pittsboro Police Department, Siler City Police Department and Siler City Pharmacy, have partnered to provide Chatham County residents with a safe, convenient and responsible way to dispose of those unwanted and unneeded medications — Prescription Drug Disposal Drop Boxes.

According to the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA), deaths from prescription drug abuse have skyrocketed over the

past few years, making it higher than the number of deaths involving heroin and cocaine combined. In addition, misuse of prescription drugs often leads to abuse of heroin, which is also on the rise.

Every day in the United States, 2,500 youths abuse a prescription pain reliever for the first time. Teens often mistakenly believe that taking prescription medication is safer than illegal or street drugs, regardless of for whom they are prescribed. Chatham Drug Free is working to educate parents and other caregivers about the dangers of prescription drug abuse and ways to keep those medications out of the wrong hands. Our partnership with local law enforcement and area pharmacies gives residents of Chatham County a safe place to dispose of their medications so that our youth will be less likely to abuse them.

Parents and other caregivers have a crucial role in reducing youth access to medications that could potentially be deadly. In addition to disposing of unwanted medications, parents and caregivers can inventory and secure all medications in their home, monitor their child's activity and

become knowledgeable about the warning signs of prescription drug abuse in order to help protect them.

CADCA, the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America advises the following:

- **TALK** to your teen about prescription and over-the-counter cough medicine abuse. Teens listen, even if they act like they don't. In fact, teens that learn about the risks of drugs from their parents are 50% less likely to use drugs.

- **SAFEGUARD** your medicine cabinets. Take steps to protect your teens by safeguarding all the medicines you have in your home. Know what you have and how much, so you will know if anything is missing. Properly discard any medicines you no longer need.

- **SHARE** what you have learned with other parents. Get to know your children's friends. Don't be afraid to call parents to verify that there will be supervision at parties and outings.

- **SPEAK UP** at school meetings, sports events, community events and other gatherings of parents to make sure others active in your teen's day-to-day activities know about the dangers of

medicine abuse. Circulate articles via your school Listserv or write a letter to the editor to your newspaper. Blog, Facebook or Tweet about it to alert your friends and peers.

Learn more at www.PreventRxAbuse.org and www.StopMedicineAbuse.org.

Prescription Medication Drop Boxes, which look like UPS or FedEx mail boxes, are available at the Pittsboro Police Department, Siler City Police Department, Cha-

tham County Detention Center and Siler City Pharmacy. In addition, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office has a portable drop box that is available for community events. Call the Community Service Officer at 919.542.2811 for more information or to schedule a time to have the drop box come to your community. Scheduled mobile drop box events can be found at the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

The Drop Boxes are a wonderful resource for our community. We hope community members will take advantage of them and help us keep prescription medications out of the wrong hands.

George Greger-Holt is the coordinator of Chatham Drug Free. For additional information, visit the Chatham Drug Free at www.chathamdrugfree.org, or contact Greger-Holt at ggregerholt@gmail.com or by phone at (919) 545-5333.

CHATHAM CHAT | JANE WRENN, SALVATION ARMY OF CHATHAM

Approaching holiday season will be different — but busy — for Wrenn, Army

Chatham County's Salvation Army service unit is gearing up for a busy fall and winter season. This week, we speak with Jane Wrenn, the Army's local director, who's been in Chatham County for more than 40 years and 11 years with The Salvation Army of Chatham. Most of Wrenn's career has been working in nonprofits in Chatham. A graduate of Elon, she and her husband Robert, a Siler City native, live in Siler City.

Fall has arrived, and it's typically an especially busy time for the Salvation Army. But we also know you've been dealing with needs for people in Chatham County impacted by the pandemic. What can you share with us about that?

We have seen an increase in services about 65% from this time last year. It is true that many people in our county continue to suffer and especially now with the COVID-19 pandemic. Safety is our utmost priority, so we have changed many familiar efforts to slow the spread of the virus for our employees, volunteers, and the clients we see, and our homeless population. We are not seeing folks face to face and only accept applications through the mail or by email.

Where are you seeing the biggest need right now, and how are you responding?

The biggest need we are seeing is help with rent, utilities and food. Right now, we are partnering with Central Piedmont Community Action and the Department of Social Services as well as the county to provide for help with rental assistance and utility needs. Food is also a major concern. We have also partnered with Freedom Family Church to form a food train to help our homeless population in need of a hot meal and Community 1 Solutions, who help to fill any gaps we might find in those needs.

What can you tell us about the Harris Teeter "round-up" program that's in place now?

Our community partners have stepped up to help The Salvation Army of Chatham. Since many of our typical locations for our Red Kettle Campaign have limited kettle ringing outside of their stores, to protect customers, staff and the community, other avenues have come to light.



Harris Teeter at Chatham Downs is running a "round-up" campaign through Nov. 17 to support our service unit and United Way as well. More exciting happenings at Walmart is the North Chatham and Siler City stores for another round-up campaign that will take place from Nov. 2 through Dec. 31. Please make every effort to do all your holiday shopping at one or all of these stores in Chatham County.

Hard to believe, but Thanksgiving is just a month away. What will the Army be doing to help families for Thanksgiving?

This holiday season is definitely seeing some challenges we hope to overcome. For Thanksgiving we are hoping to receive a complete meal box again this year through local churches provided by Mountaire Farms in Siler City. All the fixings are included in this box, even dessert. Last year, our Pathway of Hope families received these boxes and we are hoping they will be blessed again.

Christmas brings the Army's Angel Tree program, as well as the Red Kettle program, which is a major fund-raiser for you. What do you have outlined for those during the upcoming holiday season, and will COVID-19 compel you to make any changes to "business as usual"?

Our Angel Tree program is going "contactless" this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our application for this program is online at salvationarmy.carolinas.org/greensboro/chatham. Many changes will be seen to protect our applicants, volunteers and staff and donors. Please feel free to make a donation to our Angel Tree program by mailing in a check and designate on the memo line Angel Tree to The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 752, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

Our Red Kettle Campaign is still on go for Walmart in Siler City and

Chatham Downs and the Governors Club Food Lion. In addition to their round-up program, Walmart has agreed to set up our kettles at their stores. They have even agreed to let us start ringing early this year on Nov. 21 to help support our kettle program in this challenging time. If you would like to make a donation to our Red Kettle Campaign, you may visit one of those locations listed or mail in a check and designate on the memo line "Red Kettle." Our mailing address is The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 752, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

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