

Chatham News + Record

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Local bookstores are struggling, but McIntyre's won't be shelved



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Independent seller has survived thanks to a loyal customer base and an unparalleled shopping experience

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Local bookstores are in bad shape.

It's not a recent phenomenon; since the advent of online megalodons such as Amazon and the proliferation of e-readers (besides that fact that people just don't read books as much as they used to) the one-time retail staples have been fading into the obscurity of niche interest.

In the last eight months, in fact, the bookstore plight has worsened. More than one independent seller has closed per week since the coronavirus pandemic began in earnest, according to the American Booksellers Association. A combination of dwindling customer support and higher expenses make the landscape increasingly untenable.

Just ask McIntyre's Books.

"The floor just fell out from under us," said Keebe Fitch, the founder and manager of the bookstore in Pittsboro's Farrington Village.

She opened the store in 1989 when her parents, R.B. and Jenny Fitch, were still developing the Farrington project. Since then, she has watched the independent bookstore model become marginalized over her three decades in business.

A cursory examination of data would suggest otherwise, however. Book sales have risen in 2020, increasing more than 6% compared to

last year, according to NPD BookScan, a publishing industry data collection and tracking company. But indie shops are underrepresented in the figures. Besides online retailers, nationwide chain stores like Barnes & Noble command a disproportionate segment of the market.

The big box stores will never match what independent booksellers like McIntyre's have to offer, though, staff members say.

"If you go to a Barnes & Noble in Durham and a Barnes & Noble in L.A., you'll find the same selection," said Pete Mock, a McIntyre's book buyer since 1995.

"And everything they're buying is determined by a group of people in New York or somewhere," Fitch added. "... Local is better. Bigger is not better."

The big chain stores see books as products, she said, much like how Jeff Bezos saw books when he decided to open Amazon — they made up a diverse and expansive commodity.

But McIntyre's is different.

"To us, it's not a product," Fitch said with chagrin. "It's a book."

The fundamental difference in philosophy dictates the way McIntyre's operates. In the quaint shop, stocked floor to ceiling with thousands of books across half a dozen rooms, its customers have come to expect a customized and intimate shopping experience. It is what

See MCINTYRE, page A3

Siler City development presses on — despite the pandemic

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Planning and Community Development Director Jack Meadows has seen the town through more economic troughs than peaks in his almost 20 years at the helm, but finally it seems

Meadows

that Siler City is poised for expansion and improvement — despite a global pandemic.

In 2002, upon his arrival after a stint as a planner for the city of Greenville, Meadows found a strong industry-town in Siler City. Poultry was its backbone, and between two major processing plants, it was by far the town's biggest industry.

But as the country's booming market slowed toward its eventual collapse and recession, Siler City buckled under the economic strain.

"We started seeing some decline and some negative things probably about 2006," Meadows said. "I had been in for just a couple years and then we had some plants start closing."

First went Pilgrim's Pride, the town's largest facility — employer to 830. A couple of years later, Townsend followed suit, and another 550 residents lost their jobs.

"I think the recession started a little earlier here than it did nationally and statewide," Meadows said. "And then once we got into the recession, we pretty much stayed there for about a decade. I'll be honest

See DEVELOPMENT, page A3

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Board appoints Zelek permanent health director, discusses diversity policy

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Board of Health voted unanimously at its meeting last Monday to



Zelek

appoint Mike Zelek as the county's permanent public health director.

Zelek has served as the interim director since June 1.

His selection as health director followed a multi-state and multi-county search, according to a Nov. 24 release from the health department. Zelek has worked for the department for eight years, the release said, first as a social research associate and later as its health promotion and policy division director.

He began serving as interim health director following the retirement of the county's previous health director, Layton Long.

"We've done a long search, and we had the perfect candidate right underneath our roof," Board of Health chairperson Carol Reitz-Barlow said at Monday's meeting.

"Michael, there's nothing like a pandemic to make sure that you're really the right guy for the job," board member Lewis Lampiris added.

As interim director, Zelek has overseen the health department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as working to advance health equity initiatives within the county.

"I want to thank you all for your tremendous support,"

See ZELEK, page A3

'I FEEL LIKE WE'RE FAILING THEM'

Chatham ESL teachers struggle to overcome remote, hybrid learning challenges

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

Last year, ESL teacher Diana Ciro watched with pride as her shy students presented a Day of the Dead altar to their entire school. But now, after several months of remote and hybrid learning, she worries about just how far behind they've fallen.

Ciro is the only English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Silk Hope School, a K-8 school located in Siler City. This year, she's teaching ESL to 23 Hispanic students between the 1st and 8th grades. Some, she added, are also EC students.

"It's definitely very hard, very challenging," she told the News + Record. "It has proven awful for the kids because they're falling behind, most of them. The lack of contact and socialization — it's been awful. We cannot hide that. That's the reality."

For several ESL teachers across Chatham County, remote learning has proven to be a disaster. Teaching ESL involves



Submitted photo

Wendi Pillars, a Jordan-Matthews ESL teacher, writes notes to her students on J-M hotspot bus earlier this year.

See CHALLENGES, page A6

NEWS + RECORD'S '20 UNDER 40' AWARDS

Who are the best among Chatham's young professionals?

CN+R Staff Report

Who are the most outstanding young professionals in Chatham County?

The News + Record wants to recognize them with a new "20 Under 40" project, which will formally launch next week.

We're seeking nominations for people who work or live in Chatham County

whose professional achievements, community involvement and character represents the best of what the county has to offer.

The nomination period will begin on Dec. 10 and end on Jan. 8. Anyone can make a nomination. To be eligible, nominees must be younger than 40 as of June 30, 2021, and live or work in Chatham. All nominees will be invited to complete a "20

Under 40" application and winners will be announced and featured in a special section of the News + Record in early March, as well as recognized at a community-wide virtual event. If it is safe to gather, a community-wide event will be held.

For more information about the News + Record's 20 Under 40 recognition project, email us at 20u40@chathamnr.com.

IN THE KNOW

Chatham Schools' Mutual Aid effort gears up for holidays. **PAGE A9**

Chatham Central outlasts South Stanly in 'total team effort.' **PAGE B1**

Scant context overshadows performances in 'Hillbilly Elegy' **PAGE B2**

Pandemic pushes some N.C. teachers out the school door. **PAGE B10**



NOTE TO READERS

Beginning next week, the News + Record will be changing printers — moving from The Winston-Salem Journal's facility to that of the News & Observer in Raleigh. For subscribers, starting in next week's edition this space on the front page will contain your name and address label. For single-copy buyers, this space will be blank. If you're not a subscriber, you can become a CN+R member at chathamnewsrecord.com/subscribe.

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 **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 7, at town hall in Siler City. The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14, at town hall in Pittsboro. • **The Chatham County Soil and Water District** will hold its SWCD Board Meeting on Thursday, December 10, at 7 p.m. at the Agriculture Building in Pittsboro. • **Central Carolina Community College:** Whether you are looking for flexible course choices to meet your personal schedule or starting a new program of study, CCCC'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. The Library is offering free classes on Microsoft Word and Online Privacy & Security in December. While the library is closed, all classes will be offered online. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found at www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. - Microsoft Word Basics, Part 1: December 7, Monday, 3 pm; Part 2: December 14, Monday, 3 pm; Online Privacy & Security: December 16, Wednesday, 3 pm. Chatham Community Library is offering

free classes on Microsoft Word and Online Privacy & Security in December. All classes will be offered online. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found at www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. Microsoft Word Basics, Part 1: December 7, Monday, 3 pm, Part 2: December 14, Monday, 3 pm; Online Privacy & Security: December 16, Wednesday, 3 pm. • **Chatham Community Library's Virtual Winter Reading Program** kicked off December 1st and is thrilled to offer its virtual Winter Reading Program "Ten to Try" from December to January 15. Ten to Try is a challenge to encourage community members to read a book in each of 10 categories, keep track of their reading, and share their favorite discoveries with the library and fellow readers. Participants will be entered in a prize drawing when they have read a book in at least 5 of the 10 listed categories. Readers can broaden their horizons and earn a chance to win a \$50 gift card to McIntyre's Books, courtesy of the Friends of the Chatham Community Library. For more information, contact Youth Services Librarian Katy Henderson at cklkatyh@gmail.com. • **Chatham County 4-H** will also host a virtual 4-H Holly Jolly Afterschool Crafting Workshop December 18 from 3 to 5 p.m. Participants must pre-register for this event. Registration closes December 9 at 5 p.m. - Craft kits will be available for pick up on December 14. Crafting workshop and kits are limited to Chatham County residents, and kits must be picked up at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro. Kits are limited to 45. • On Sunday, December 13 from 12 to 5 p.m., Copeland Springs Farm and Kitchen will host their **Market Sundays Holiday Shop** at The Plant in Pittsboro. This is a COVID-conscious holiday shopping experience aiming to connect shoppers with a variety of local vendors including artists, local music, local farms, herbal-

ists, craftsmen and women and more. In addition, the Kitchen will be serving the award-winning farm to fork food al day, with a selection of freshly harvested vegetables grown on site. The event is a fundraiser for CORA Food Pantry. All shoppers and vendors are required to wear a mask at all times, except when seated and enjoying food or drink. The Plant is located at 193B Lorax Lane.

THURSDAY

• The **Central Carolina Community College Foundation** is sponsoring a special holiday season drive-thru event on Thursday, Dec. 3, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center parking lot. The event is geared toward small children and will include cookies and candy canes, elves, a snowwoman — and, Santa Claus. Appropriate COVID-19 measures are in place and will be observed. • **The Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open with seasonable items year-round from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. It is located at 287 East St., Pittsboro. • **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** provides a healthy, appetizing **meal at no cost** to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays, but it will not be held on Thanksgiving. 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. • Mark Hewitt Pottery, **Holiday Kiln Opening**, by appointment, through December 23rd! Choose from hundreds of beautiful pots, etc. as well as Mark's signature Big Pots. Families are welcome as we have lots of room for social distancing and swings! We are following COVID guidelines to keep us all safe — face coverings, only a few appointments per hour, and physical distancing in our large barn/showroom and tent. Book your appointment now! For more information contact: sales@hewittpottery.com,

919-542-2371. • **Chatham Literacy** is hosting its first "Holiday Door Decorating Event." If family can't visit this holiday season, open your doors anyway through Chatham Literacy, Decorate your door celebrating a holiday between Thanksgiving and New Year's and you may win a prize and bragging rights. \$20/door, per entry, now through Dec. 21. Registration details at chatham-literacy.org or 919-214-1269. • **The Chatham Historical Museum** with regular hours Wednesday, Thursday, and Fridays 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 at Pittsboro. More info: chathamhistory.org.

FRIDAY

• The Chatham County community is invited to get into the holiday spirit with the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department's **2nd annual Holiday in the Park** event on Friday, December 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Northeast District Park. Modified due to COVID-19, this year's event will take place as a holly jolly drive-thru, where participants will be asked to stay in their cars while in attendance. During Holiday in the Park, families can collect an ornament kit to decorate at home, reindeer food, and candy canes, while supplies last. Participants are encouraged to write a letter to Santa Claus ahead of time. Children will be able to hand their letters to Santa himself and wave at him through their car window. • The Silk Hope Ruritan Club is hosting an outdoor **Christmas event at Farm Heritage Park** on Saturday, December 12. The free event will take place from 2:30 to 6 p.m. and will be COVID-19 guideline friendly. Festivities include a Santa

trailer, where you can take your very own pictures with Santa, a Christmas movie, a tree lighting, constant Christmas music, live animals, and a free door prize drawing (ages 0-10) at the end of the event. We suggest that all attendees who plan to watch the movie bring a lawn chair, blanket, or any other sitting device. For those who plan to take a picture with Santa, we recommend bringing a camera as there will not be one provided. Additionally, we strongly advise that all attendees adhere to current NCDHHS and CDC guidelines concerning COVID-19 throughout the evening. The Club will be accepting monetary donations that support our club as well as non-perishable food donations that support The West Chatham Food Pantry throughout the evening but the event is free to attend. The Club will also be selling sodas, cookies, hot cocoa, and hot apple cider throughout the evening each for only \$1. For more information call (919)-368-0288 or visit www.silkhopenc.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 **JMA-CoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMA-CoronaConcert performances and #JMACorona-Concert 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.chatham-hospital.org/ch/about-us/volunteer. • **Volunteers needed:** Non-profit 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.chatham-connecting.org. • **Foster and/or adoptive information:** Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more. • **Alcoholics Anonymous** — North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area. • **Motorcycle Association** — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com. • **Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings. • **Al-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro. • **Scout News** • Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information. • Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on from 7 to 8:30 p.m Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts. • Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

NEWS BRIEFS

Water quality task force bemoans lack of commissioners' response

PITTSBORO — It has been more than a month since Pittsboro's water quality task force submitted a report to the board of commissioners outlining its findings from a months-long investigation into the extent of the town's drinking water contamination. So far, the Town of Pittsboro has offered little response, according to Haw Riverkeeper Emily Sutton, a member of the 20-person task force. "This report was submitted in October, and the task force has received no response from the Town of Pittsboro," Sutton said in a statement last week. "Presentations to discuss the report and recommendations have been delayed for several months." The board of commissioners has time allotted to consider a task force presentation in its Dec. 14 meeting,

but it is unclear the extent to which it will take steps to address the problem. Since 2018, experts from Duke University and water quality watch groups have decried the condition of Pittsboro's drinking water. PFAS — perfluoroalkyl substances, chemicals known as potential carcinogens and contributors to other severe health complications — appear with startling concentration in Pittsboro water samples as compared to those from neighboring towns and across the nation. The difference is that Pittsboro alone draws its drinking water from the Haw River. "The Haw River (has) high levels of PFAS and 1,4-dioxane from upstream industrial sources," Sutton said. "The task force was charged with focusing attention on the issues of PFAS and 1,4-dioxane, evaluating alternative supplies, and recommending actions and alternatives for board consideration." In its report, the task force recommended a three-fold strategy to sty-

mie PFAS proliferation in the town's water, including short and long-term solutions. The situation is dire, it reported, and must be taken seriously. Task force members like Sutton, then, are disillusioned with what they interpret as negligence from the town. Town representatives, however, deny accusations of sluggishness. "On behalf of the Town of Pittsboro and its board of commissioners, I can categorically state that any delays in disseminating and presenting the Pittsboro Water Quality Task Force final report are not resultant of any inaction of the town or its board of commissioners," Town Manager Chris Kennedy said. "... The final water quality task force report was to be due back to the board of commissioners in the May/June 2020 time frame; this did not occur. Since I have been here as town manager, since mid-August 2020, I have repeatedly requested the final report and a formal


presentation of its findings to the board of commissioners and the public at-large. (In) each successive regular meeting of the board of commissioners since August 24, 2020, the water quality task force has asked for more time to finalize a document and additional time to present the report." — *CN+R staff reports*

Chatham County Council on Aging



WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: How large is Chatham County, in square miles?

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



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CORRECTIONS

In a story about policing in Chatham ("Bringing the situation to light": Locals discuss police reform in Chatham) in last week's edition of the News + Record, the group Chatham Takes Action was incorrectly credited with leading the effort to remove the Confederate monument in downtown Pittsboro. The group which actually did that work is Chatham For All, which argued before the Chatham County Board of Commissioners for the monument's removal. Chatham Takes Action was formed after the decision to

remove the monument. The News + Record regrets the error, which was made in the editing process. In a Q&A with members of The Local Church about its Anti-Racism Task Force ("Pittsboro church works to 'take a stand' against injustice of racism"), one question stated that the Chatham County Public Health Department had declared "structural racism" to be a health crisis. It was actually the Chatham County Board of Health which made that declaration.

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NEWS BRIEFS

CORA Food Pantry will be open on Saturday, Dec. 5

PITTSBORO — While CORA served more than 15,000 individuals over the past year, they estimate there are many more residents who would benefit from their services.

So during the holiday season, CORA (the Chatham Outreach Alliance) is opening up for a one day Saturday service on Dec. 5 — from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 40 Camp Drive, near the Chatham Community Library, in Pittsboro.

The client intake process will take place outside, and clients receive their groceries curbside in a drive-through manner. CORA will distribute pre-packed bags of shelf-stable food including canned fruits and vegetables, rice or pasta, soups, breakfast cereal or cereal bars, and a variety of other nutritious

food. They also supplement these staples with fresh produce, bakery items, milk, and eggs when available.

Chatham Outreach Alliance’s mission is to provide food to individuals and families within our community who are in need during difficult personal economic periods. For more information, please visit corafoodpantry.org or contact Rebecca Hankins at rebecca@corafoodpantry.org or (919) 491-5896.

Chatham Marketplace selects United Way as December ‘round up’ beneficiary

Chatham Marketplace has selected the United Way of Chatham County as its December beneficiary of its monthly round up campaign. Chatham

Marketplace clients will be given the option to round up their total to the next dollar, or, to round up even more in any amount they wish. One hundred percent of all round up funds will be distributed to United Way’s agencies and will stay in Chatham County.

Evan Diamond, the store’s general manager, said Chatham Marketplace is committed to advancing the well-being of each community member and serving as a community hub, and its round up campaign is an easy and effective way to serve and keep the community strong.

“United Way lifts our community up out of poverty and that certainly improves the well-being of those impacted,” Diamond said of United Way of Chatham County.

Focusing on education, health, financial stability and basic needs, United Way works to create an environment

of opportunity where thousands of families in our communities can have a chance for a better life.

“We are very thankful for the support that United Way receives from Chatham Marketplace,” said Katie Childs, the United Way’s interim executive director. “With every dollar raised, they are engaging employees and customers in our important work to make sure the people who need help the most receive it during this unprecedented time.”

Chatham Marketplace is a co-operative business owned entirely by members of the community and located in Chatham Mills, 480 Hillsboro St., in Pittsboro. For more information about the United Way of Chatham County and the agencies it serves, visit unitedwayofchathamcounty.org.

— CN+R staff reports

ZELEK

Continued from page A1

Zelek told the board. “It was truly an honor to be the interim director. It’s another honor to be selected into the permanent role. I just have to say that it’s really because of the staff that I’m in the position that I am and that I have the confidence to move forward, so I want to thank all of the staff who have been so supportive.”

Before unanimously appointing Zelek as the permanent health director, the board also discussed its orientation and diversity policies, reviewed results

from the Organizational Equity Assessment the health department participated in and heard updates on the county’s recent cyber incident.

Board member John Kessler asked if language concerning diversity training was included in the department’s current orientation policy, and if not, if the board would consider updating that language. Zelek clarified that such language was currently housed in the department’s workforce development policy.

Zelek also gave the board an update on the cyber incident that took place Oct. 28 and knocked out Chatham County

government’s computer network, telephones and email. Health department staff are still waiting to get their computers and emails back, he said, but he’s hopeful there will be progress in those fronts in the coming weeks.

“This is a pretty major disruption and something that takes time,” he said.

Regarding rising COVID-19 trends across the state, Zelek expressed concern over the approaching holidays and winter months, emphasizing that the health department’s messaging around safety would be crucial in the months ahead.

The board also heard a presentation about

the health department’s results from the Organizational Equity Assessment by Casey Hilliard, the department’s interim director of health promotion and policy division. The assessment was distributed by Equity for Moms and Babies Realized Across Chatham (EMBRACE), a two-year grant-funded project aimed at achieving equitable birth outcomes in the county.

Hilliard shared key results from the assessment, stating that community engagement efforts, service delivery and culture of the department were each identified as strengths by participants. Opportunities for growth reflected

in the results were hiring and promotion practices and organizational climate — the feeling that the workplace is safe and confidential space to share concerns related to race and discrimination.

“It just goes to show that maybe there is this opportunity to listen, learn and try to work together to figure out how we address these things,” Hilliard said. “What do we need to see in our organization to make these spaces feel safe and make people feel confident that we’re acting consistently around these issues?”

The board also discussed its diversity policy, with members suggesting several minor changes to

definitions and specific language in its “goals” subheading. Michelle Wright, the equity and community engagement lead in Chatham, gave a brief presentation and emphasized the department’s desire to continue engaging the health board in its diversity processes.

“We know we have to do more in terms of how we are changing structures and how we are changing the language we are using,” Wright said.

The board will not meet in December, meaning its next meeting will be in January.

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

DEVELOPMENT

Continued from page A1

with you, others came out of the recession, you know, 2013 or so. But we were still in it.”

Besides its poultry plants, the town lost several other major employers as the economic slump dragged on.

“We had textiles, we had home building industry, all those things,” Meadows said. “And a lot of those things left, you know. Just a number of large industries that were in Siler City had to leave.”

But after 10 long years, the town was infused with economic potential upon the arrival of a new poultry company.

“I think it was about ‘16, ‘17 that Mountaire Farms announced that they were coming to Siler City,” Meadows said.

The acquisition was monumental for Siler City’s crippled economy. Mountaire, which took over Townsend’s former 265,000 square-foot facility, revitalized the town with more than 1,000 new job opportunities.

“And since then, we’ve been seeing development interest increase,” Meadows said. “We’ve seen development, you know, actually happen. And it’s across the board. There’s manufacturing growth, there’s retail growth, there’s apartment growth, there’s redevelopment downtown happening — it’s been great.”

Even following the onset of the novel coronavirus pandemic eight months ago, Siler City has largely maintained its development pace.

“We have continued to look at site plans,” Meadows said. “We just issued site plan approval for the Dr. Lane (dentistry) office the other day. Dollar General started about a month ago. The downtown redevelopment project came in at the same time. So, I didn’t see a stifling of development processes and permits during COVID at all.”

On the contrary, new project propos-



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

While downtown Siler City has its share of vacant buildings, recent development like Chatham Lofts (shown at right) and in-process developments are set to change the look and feel of the area.

als come in regularly, many of which involve new or renovated housing. They include two sets of Wren Apartments both to be located downtown, the Cambridge Manufactured Home Park, Siler Square Apartments, the Hampton Village Manufactured Home Park and Tripp Cottages.

“I think our future looks bright,” said Tim Booras, owner of Siler City’s heavy industrial CAM site and a member of the town’s downtown advisory committee. “With the Wren family project as a catalyst for downtown, I think we will see more of that sort of development. Housing inventory is low and there are opportunities for more residential development. As we all know the ‘COVID reset button’ has been pushed and rural areas have become more desirable, as working from home has become of the norm.”

Even as demand increases, however, the town is determined to keep living expenses reasonable, Meadows emphasized.

“I should point out we’re looking at

‘I’ll be honest with you, others came out of the recession, you know, 2013 or so. But we were still in it.’

JACK MEADOWS, Siler City Planning and Community Development Director

ways to make those developments more affordable,” he said. “And so, we’re making some changes to our regulations from time to time. And we’ve done some of that like reducing parking requirements. Maybe even making it easier to get a project approved without having to go through a board process. All the approval would be through town staff.”

But it’s not all about new development. The town is also making concerted effort to improve housing standards in existing buildings, a measure Meadows said will achieve the effect of improving Siler City’s standard of living across the board.

“Now, there is another sort of effort that we’re working on,” he said, “it’s not usually thought of because it’s not new, affordable housing. But it would be making sure folks are in a living situation that meets minimum housing standards. And so, we’ve got a minimum housing enforcement program.”

To elevate living standards in low-income housing areas around town, Meadows and his team have partnered with several Chatham organizations to secure the funding and other vital services needed to upgrade and maintain extant affordable housing facilities.

“So, I’ve got partners that have funding to help people make repairs,” Meadows said. “They have funding to help with utility assistance or rent assistance. There are some organizations who even provide labor.”

Meadows credits the town’s strong industry representation — the very thing that crippled its economy in 2008 — for

keeping it afloat during the pandemic.

“You know, I’m not an economics professor,” Meadows said, “but another thing I’ve noticed that I’ve heard others talk about, like at the Chamber (of Commerce) meeting that we had a few months ago, and others have mentioned is that the entertainment industry, movie theaters, coliseums, sporting events, hotels — there’s not a strong presence of those in our city. And it seems to be in COVID, those industries didn’t do so well. But those businesses weren’t here so they couldn’t lose. So, you know, that’s something I think that’s a positive for now. But they’re also something we’d like to have.”

Booras agreed the town escaped potentially more serious repercussions.

“I think our base line was already low, so we didn’t have quite as much to lose, especially in the way of retail,” Booras said. “There are certainly businesses that were affected, but our downturn was mitigated by the level of activity that already existed. I would assume our business tax base is mostly from businesses that are deemed essential and therefore were able to be sustainable.”

Of course, Siler City is not entirely devoid of businesses from the entertainment and hospitality industries and those business owners have undergone hardship.

“Obviously, everybody’s not unscathed,” Meadows said. “There were service industries that remained closed for a time period and some retailers and others were impacted.”

As a whole, however, the town is fairing well, and Meadows has no plans to change course.

“We’re going to continue what was started before the pandemic, we’re going to continue those same things,” he said. “We’ve got good signs of economic growth and economic opportunity.”

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

MCINTYRE

Continued from page A1

Fitch and Mock describe as “bespoke” — McIntyre’s selects books according to its readers’ individual preferences.

“I get to know the people that come in,” Mock said. “As I’m ordering I think about them and what they might like to read.”

Mock’s life has revolved around books for almost 40 years. “In college I spent more time in the bookstore than in class,” he said, laughing. He realized then that books were inextricable from his being.

Even outside of work, Mock does little that doesn’t involve books. He never watches T.V.; he only reads. In any given year, Mock will read more than 200 books — four or five per week. The mystery genre is his favorite (it provides “escapism,” he said, “I want to get away from things, especially now”) but his appetite for new reading material covers the spectrum.

And with every new book he reads, Mock ponders which customers might enjoy it. When they next visit the shop, he is poised to make targeted recommendations.

“How he has the mind to do that,” Fitch said, “I don’t know ... Pete is a craftsman.”

In recent weeks, Mock finished “The Searcher: A Novel” by Tana French, which he described as just “O.K.,” and “The Kingdom” by Jo Nesbo which he preferred. His most glowing review, though, was for “Home-land Elegies” by Ayad Akhtar.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Besides stocking the ‘finest mystery book selection’ in the south, McIntyre’s offers a variety of genres to satisfy every reader’s taste.

“What a book,” Mock said, “just what a book. It’s the best book I’ve read all year.”

The complex, socio-political autofiction (a fictionalized autobiography) novel has also found its way on the New York Times’ 10 best books of 2020 list.

“It starts with a three-page history lesson that’s a punch in the gut,” Mock said, “and ends with a perfect sentence that sums up the whole thing.”

Other favorites include Barack Obama’s “A Promised Land” and “Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art” by James Nestor, a non-fiction investigation into ancient breathing practices which Fitch especially enjoyed.

Even when the store’s four staff members, whom Fitch has managed to keep employed

throughout the pandemic, are not on hand to give personalized suggestions, though, customers can browse the store’s “recommendation flags” — paper tabs that decorate various books around the store with staff-written reviews and teasers.

“It was a great idea of Keebe’s and our customers love it,” Mock said. “They get to know our handwriting, so if we’re not here they still know what’s good.”

It’s those little touches that set the store apart from its competition.

“They work hard to make a genuine connection with us,” said Tom, a customer who was browsing in the store one day last week.

But the store’s personal touch and unique selection were not

enough on their own to keep McIntyre’s Books above water when the pandemic hit. In-person sales dropped off precipitously with the first round of restrictions, and the store didn’t have an online marketplace.

“We’d had a website a few years ago,” Fitch said, “but it wasn’t worth it at the time.”

She scrambled to reestablish McIntyre’s online presence in March, but site developers were backlogged.

“Everyone wanted their websites made or updated,” Fitch said, “so we were added to the waiting list.”

After several months in limbo, mcintyresbooks.com finally went live two months ago.

“We had more sales in the first day back online in October,” Mock said, “than we’d had in the three years of having a site before.”

McIntyre’s has also taken its hallmark event hosting routine to the virtual world.

“We don’t have any (in-person) events which hurts,” Mock said. “We were very event-driven.”

In the past, McIntyre’s has hosted big-name authors several times per week for interviews, Q&As and book signings. The schedule has slowed down now in the virtual world, but Fitch is still working hard to book authors for online events. Interested parties can check the bookstore’s upcoming events on its website and reserve virtual seats through Eventbrite.

“We play a big role in the community,” Fitch said. “The authors we bring in are a big deal.” Stand-out names have included “Jack Reacher” series author Lee Child and New York Times bestselling

author Gregg Hurwitz.

Shortly before the pandemic started, Mock recalled, the store had one of its most exciting events — a weekend double feature including Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and historian Jon Meacham. More than 600 attended.

“That kind of thing is amazing,” Mock said, glowing with pride. “We are very singular. There is only one McIntyre’s.”

But virtual events — even showcasing esteemed guests such as former professional basketball player and UNC legend Larry Miller and “Longmire” novel series author Craig Johnson — have failed to capture the same magic.

“They’re just not as good,” Mock said.

His melancholic sentiment transcends industry. Matching pre-pandemic fiscal health and community engagement is likely impossible for most small businesses; survival is the order of the day.

“I’m hopeful,” Fitch said of the store’s future. “I mean, books aren’t going anywhere.”

She and Mock are grateful to have seen the community rally behind them. “I’m so thankful for that,” Fitch said. It won’t be easy riding out the pandemic’s indefinite conclusion, but they hope that bolstered local support will carry them through.

“In some respects, we’re doing better than before,” Mock said. “People realize now that they have to keep their local stores alive.”

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

VIEWPOINTS

THE CN+R EDITORIAL

Our local retailers are already suffering. Give them relief with your consideration — and your dollars

Black Friday beget Small Business Saturday, which, at some point, ultimately led to Cyber Monday.

You won't find those "holidays" trailing behind Thanksgiving on your wall calendar, but a cursory look at your email (or your TV, or your social media feeds) gives you a loud and clear indication of their purpose: beating you over the head with an urgent message to buy, buy, buy.

That's how marketing works, but with the Christmas shopping season upon us, the urgency has a decidedly different feel this year. COVID-19 has pushed all of us to become more isolated and more digital. Logically, that has applied to the world of commerce, too. (After all, you don't need a face covering to pop onto a website and order your significant other that cool gift that'll make their season

bright, and last we checked, none of the dot-coms were requiring social distancing.)

The traditional kickoff to the holiday buying season was Black Friday. Estimates early this week say that Americans spent some \$9 billion online that day. That number not only smashed the previous record of \$7.4 billion, but it underscores the reality of business in a pandemic: only about half as many Americans visited stores on Black Friday as they did last year.

And while more spending records are great news for Amazon and other retail behemoths with smoothly-navigable websites and easy-in, easy-out e-commerce, it puts more traditional retailers — the independents, the mom-and-pops, the small-town storefronts and the local entrepreneurs trying to make a mark (and a living) —

in a prickly spot.

This all serves to send a very rough signal to retailers in Chatham County relying on your dollars to "make" their year.

COVID-19 has devastated many businesses and created a serious health risk in one fell swoop. So sure, it's a tough call. Go online or go to downtown? Log on, or stand in line at Southern Supreme Fruitcake in Bear Creek? Browse and buy from your recliner or drive to JR Moore & Son in Gulf? Choose from a gazillion toys on Amazon, or find something handcrafted at Pittsboro Toys? Get something run-of-the-mill in response to a mass-targeted email message, or check out creations on display at Fragments (or Fragments Too) in Siler City?

Here's a suggestion: call that store you used to go to in

Chatham, or that place you've been meaning to check out, and ask them: can I order from you online? Can I buy gift certificates? What do you carry that I might consider buying for this person on my list who's difficult to shop for? Do you ship? Can I order on the phone and have you bring my purchases to me in my car as I park outside?

In the world of economics, the pandemic has, unfairly, it seems, been a boon to some and a disaster for others. Winners and losers have been, and are being, sorted out. Along the way jobs and livelihoods have been lost, which means we're all more careful with our spending and how we're approaching our holiday gift-buying.

But we also need to be more cognizant and aware of how shopping local, of how spending money locally, benefits us

all. Nearly \$68 out of every \$100 spent in a community stays there when spent at a local business, compared to only \$43 for a national chain. Dollars spent locally churn — get re-invested — within the local economy, nurturing and preserving additional commerce.

For some of the "still standing" retailers in Chatham County who are eying the calendar and their account balances with apprehension, it's make-or-break time. One person ordering this or that odd gift online or outside Chatham won't be the end of them, but each one of us giving "shop local" a second thought and making an earnest attempt to prop up our local economy — our neighbors — will definitely make a positive difference.

Make Chatham your first stop this shopping season. Keep it local. You won't regret it.

Christmas meaning both constant and changing

It's about this time of the year I miss my folks all over again and, yes, it has to do with Christmas.

Through long-ago years of young adulthood, somewhat older adulthood, and — hopefully — more older adulthood to come, I've learned a few things and have changed my mind about others as it relates to Christmas.

For instance, it's now no longer, "What am I going to get?" or "What's Santa going to bring me?" The reality is I really don't want or need anything I don't have. And the things I don't have that I'd like to have are things money can't buy, things Walmart doesn't offer during a Black Friday sale. And besides all that, while there's a place for Santa if he's presented in the right way, that's not really the true meaning of Christmas.

Let me hasten to add — and I think I've said this before — I'm not an opponent of the American Free Enterprise System. As a matter of fact, I think we need more of it. Rather, I'm just saying the sun and moon and stars don't rise for me in that world.

I don't need clothes; as my grandpa once said, "I've got enough clothes now to last me until I die if I die when I'm supposed to."

Books and music are big things for me but I won't live long enough to read all the ones already given as gifts, or that have been purchased at the Friends of the Library Sale or on sale at Barnes & Noble. Ditto for tapes and CDs and even some old vinyl LPs that I can play on the electric gizmo Shirley gave me some time ago that I still haven't figured out how to operate.

Nope. As the years fly by, I'm really coming to believe even more and understand the same that what The Book says about it being "more blessed to give than to receive." All I want now are things related to time — better use of it, especially, for things like those notes I need to send, those folks I want to visit, those times with loved ones ... and a good cup of stout coffee.

But still this season evokes still-strong memories that lay asleep until December, especially when it's a bit nippy, comes around.

When I was a child, we found our Christmas tree in the woods, usually a cedar that was mostly shaped the way it should be — but still sometimes it had the Charlie Brown Christmas syndrome going on. It went into the corner of the living room where the two windows let it cast its lights out toward the highway and it became a beacon as I headed home. Mama covered it with old-fashioned big multi-colored lights and strands of shiny garland.

Packages began to appear under the tree and most of them invited a good shaking. On Christmas morning shoeboxes full of candy bars and seedless raisins and fruit and nuts appeared. I ate the chocolate first and then tried to substitute the almonds for my brothers' candy when they weren't looking.

Sometimes Mama would start a fire in the fireplace, which was for decoration most of the year. Out would come the coat hangers and marshmallows. One year they bought a console stereo and Christmas meant great music, including the Harry Simeon Chorale's rendition of "The Little Drummer Boy," which is, as far as I'm concerned, the only approved version. It also reminds me of my Dad, who dearly loved the tune. Even today my eyes tend to become a bit more moist when I hear it.

And the kitchen, of course, took on a life of its own, although I had to experience most of it by way of my nose since I'd often hear, as I approached: "Stop running in the kitchen; you'll make my cake fall." And the doors in the dining room and the door frames held a bazillion Christmas cards Mama carefully taped to them.

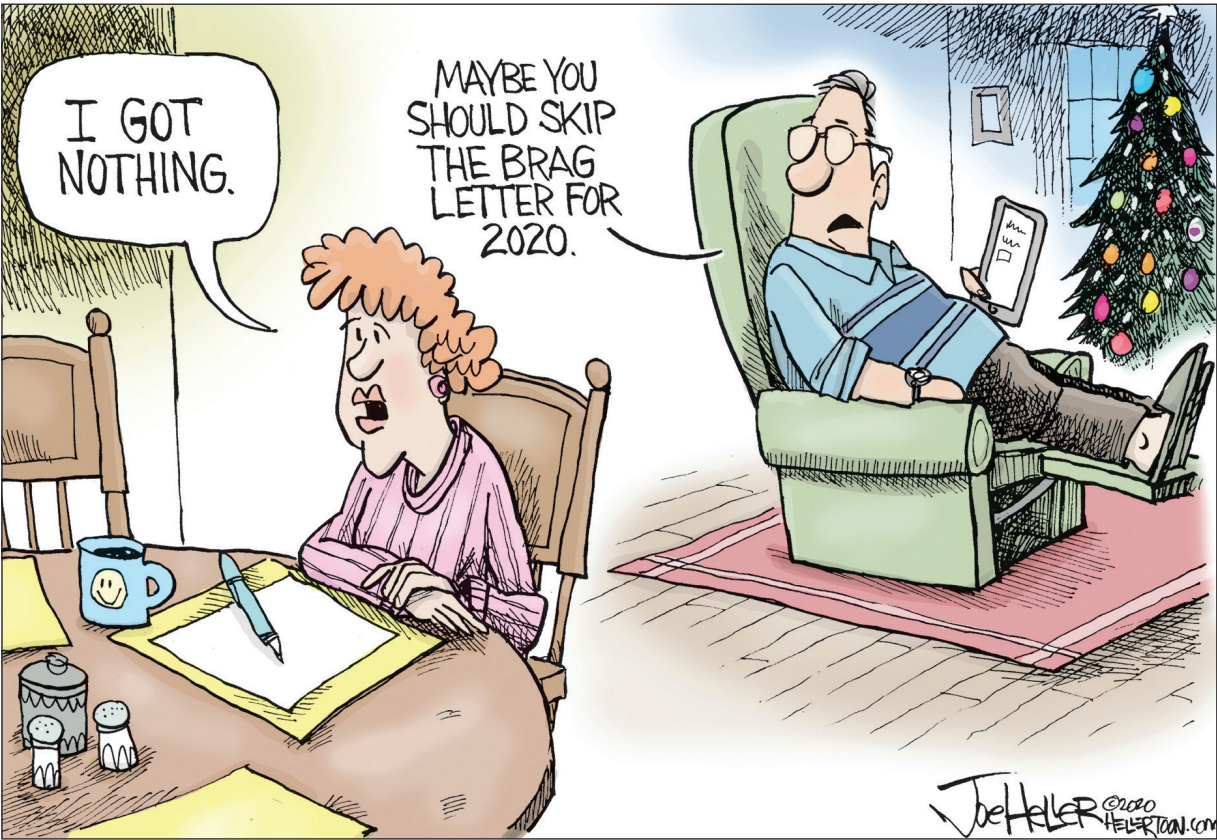
Now, from the vantage point of being old enough to ask for a "senior drink" when I go through the drive-thru, I realize several things about Christmas — that it's all about what, or rather, who — we were given and about what we can give in return.

I wouldn't take a penny for all those memories and certainly don't intend to exchange them. Now I'm just trying to add to them and give some to other folks, especially in this time of virus and a different society.

And I hope you'll take advantage of yours and not lose sight of the opportunities you may have as you move through this time of year.



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around



A simple, sublime light

George Harrison was known as the quiet Beatle. He was not as famous as John Lennon, Paul McCartney or Ringo Starr. Yet, he is my favorite member of the band. He was a gardener, a spiritual singer and the writer of my favorite Beatles song, "Here Comes the Sun."

The song has only a couple of chords. A very mediocre guitar player like I am can more or less hack the tune. The lyrics are repetitive and simple. The studio recording is only three minutes long. The song is simple — simply sublime.

Harrison picks out each note in perfect syncopation with his soft vocals. "Here Comes the Sun" is the most downloaded Beatles song of all time. It is a masterpiece.

Though written in 1969, the lyrics are particularly poignant in this time of the coronavirus. The past year has felt like "a long, cold, lonely winter." But lately I have seen "the smiles returning to the faces." Not just one but several vaccines are on the horizon. The future promises brighter days. Hope rises like the sun.

The metaphor of hope as the rising sun is likewise found in simple, sublime scriptures.



ANDREW TAYLOR-
TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

Many other religions evoke metaphors of light, specifically the sunrise as a symbol of rebirth and new life. Harrison became a devotee of Eastern spirituality. He studied the ancient Hindu text, the Bhagavad Gita, in which the god Krishna appeared to a warrior named Arjuna during a great battle. Harrison interpreted the text as an allegory for the spiritual struggle to find hope in the chaos of life.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy shall come in the morning (Psalm 30:5). People who have walked in darkness have seen a great light (Isaiah 9:2). Morning by morning, new mercies I see (Lamentations 3:23).

For Christians, the season of Advent has dawned. This is the time when we look for the coming of the Son — the Son of God who is the light that shines in the darkness (John 1:5).

Many other religions evoke metaphors of light, specifically the sunrise as a symbol of rebirth and new life. Harrison became a devotee of Eastern spirituality. He studied the ancient Hindu text, the Bhagavad Gita, in which the god Krishna appeared to a warrior named Arjuna during a great battle. Harrison interpreted the text as an allegory for the spiritual struggle to find hope in the chaos of life.

I've heard "Here Comes the Sun" my whole life in places as diverse as skating rinks and baseball parks, in movie theaters and elevators, during weddings

and funerals. This uplifting song can give hope even at the graveside. Harrison died at the age of 58 years because of a respiratory illness (lung cancer). In addition to his music, he left us with these bright words: Look for the light. The light is within you ("I, Me, Mine").

COVID-19 is still a threat. Infections are rising along with hospitalizations and the death toll. Vaccines are on the horizon, yet we must be cautious into the foreseeable future.

While we wait for a new time, we can listen to the quiet Beatle. I encourage us to use this time of relative solitude and isolation to contemplate the simple, sublime truths. For illumination, we can sing of bright hope — "Here comes the sun, do-do-do."

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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What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

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.

VIEWPOINTS

LETTERS

Nass: We quarrel, but we're still one family

TO THE EDITOR:

Tonight, we gather again for our tree lighting ceremony. This year will be virtual, as nearly all of our activities have been, for what seems like forever, and we thank all of those who volunteered their time and skill in making this happen. This was a complicated and new process, and all of the hard work epitomizes the volunteer spirit in Pittsboro.

We remember those that have died during the pandemic, and those who are still fighting the virus, and those who risk their own health, caring for the sick and dying with compassion and love.

Lights, like those on our tree, are an integral part of major celebrations around the world. Hindus celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. Muslims celebrate Ramadan with lit lanterns.

Buddhists celebrate Makha Bucha with a massive lamp lighting ceremony.

Soon, Kwanzaa will be celebrated, and Hanukkah will be celebrated, and their lights will shine with all the others.

All of these lights inform us and teach us and remind us that we are all family. I think they will shine all the more brightly in this dark year.

Tonight, we will add the lights of our Christmas tree to the lights shining brightly around the world, to bring us hope and love and remind us that we are all one big family. We squabble and quarrel, but we are still one family.

As we look out across the battlefields of war, race, religion, "the other," the haves and the have nots, climate change, and politics, we can all choose to see the faces of members of our human family that we love. As Robert F. Kennedy once said, "Some men see things as they are and ask why. I dream of things that never were and ask

why not."

May the lights from our tree give us all hope and joy in this festive season!

Jim Nass
Pittsboro

Nass, who is the mayor of Pittsboro, shared these remarks at Pittsboro's virtual Christmas tree lighting on Nov. 22.

A plug for the CAG Studio Tour

TO THE EDITOR:

Once again, a loose collection of like-minded creative souls called the Chatham Artists Guild is flinging open their studio doors to the public, just as they have every December since the early '90s. But opening their doors to whomever rolls up the driveway does not mean they are throwing caution to the wind; masks and social

distancing are required for this year's studio tour. And although some artists have opted for visitation by appointment only, certainly an understandable precaution, 42 artists are participating. I recommend this art crawl to everyone I know in Chatham County.

My wife and I go every year as a way to support local artist and craftsmen while Christmas shopping for family and friends. We always find something perfect, from her hand-woven baskets for the home and garden to my smiling ceramic Buddha who bears a remarkable resemblance to Elvis. The King looks peaceful and serene surrounded by our houseplants.

The studio tour is a great excuse for the two of us to get out of the house and take in locally wrought art; not to say these folks are all from down home, as we have heard accents ranging the Great

White North of Canada to the backwoods of Yankee-land to the British Isles to somewhere in continental Europe. And make no mistake: these are artists who are passionate and serious about their work. Mark Hewitt's pottery was featured in shows at the Nasher Museum on the campus of Duke University. Janet Resnik's ceramics are on display in the lobby of the new UNC Family Medicine facility in Pittsboro. Minnie Gallman's photographs are on display at UNC Hillel House. Eva Green is a fourth-generation basket weaver. You will find no dilettantes here.

Do yourself a favor: pick up a Chatham Artists Guild 2020 Directory. Inside is a list of the participating members along with the physical addresses of the studios and a map showing their locations around Chatham County. These people are worth the drive.

Dwayne Walls
Pittsboro

When shorthand gets it wrong

If the Republican Party were only the party of white men, it would never win an election.

When discussing electoral matters, we all tend to use the political equivalent of shorthand. It's a handy tool. We use it to identify the tipping point that determines electoral outcomes — the bellwether county, the interest group with shifting allegiances, the decisive issue that turned the tide.

In doing so, however, we can badly mislead ourselves and others. Political behavior is far too complicated, and too inter-



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

esting, to be summed up in a couple of percentages and a few stock phrases.

To return to my initial example, it is true that far more white men voted more Republican than Democratic this year. In North Carolina, 69% of white men picked Donald Trump over Joe Biden. But we don't cast and count ballots according to demographic groups. We do so as individuals. Hundreds of thousands of white men voted for Biden. That's a lot of individuals.

On the flipside, while Biden did in fact win majorities of among women, non-whites, young people and urban voters, there were plenty of people in each of those categories who voted for Trump. Indeed, while urban counties such as Wake, Guilford and Mecklenburg have gotten increasingly blue in recent election cycles, Republican candidates won hundreds of thousands of votes in those places this year. Without them, the North Carolina GOP would have been creamed.

Misusing political shorthand in this way is a version of the fallacy of composition. It reflects an assumption that what is true for part, or even many parts, must be true for the whole. Wrong.

Another abuse of political shorthand, a less forgivable one actually, is to grab and hype a current statistic without placing it in proper context. Sometimes this mistake arises from haste. All too often, though, it arises from cognitive bias. We so much want something to be true that we fail to do our homework. It's a version of "too good to check."

A good example coming out of the 2020 cycle is the claim that the GOP, thanks to Donald Trump's unique appeal, has now become a "multi-ethnic workers' party." The claim is not accurate.

But what's inaccurate is not the "multi-ethnic" or "workers" terms. The faulty term is "now."

There are two different sets of exit-poll data available for the Trump-Biden race. With regard to Black voters, the most-favorable poll to Trump shows that he won 12% of that group. For Hispanics, the share is 35%. For Asians, 31%.

In 2004, George W. Bush won 11% of Blacks, 44% of Hispanics, and 44% of Asians. In 1988, his father won 12% of Blacks and 30% of Hispanics (the "Asian" category was not captured in exit polls at that time). Ronald Reagan won 11% and 33%, respectively, in 1980. Richard Nixon won 18% and 35% in 1972.

What about the "workers" term? I think that is a silly label, anyway, because nearly everyone in the electorate works or has worked. I dislike class analysis that has its roots in Marxist claptrap. But even if we look at, say, households with labor-union members, as many as 41% voted for Trump this year. They went 40% for Mitt Romney and George W. Bush, and 39% for John McCain. Reagan won 44% in 1980 and 46% in 1984.

Especially when you factor in the inherent fuzziness of exit-poll data, there just isn't much distinctive about the 2020 results. Developing some sweeping new political theory from them would be like building a mansion on a few rickety stilts.

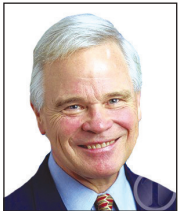
Just to be clear, I think Republicans can and should be thinking about how to win more votes from blue-tending communities. I also think Democrats can and should be thinking about how to win more votes from red-tending communities.

That means going beyond simple generalizations (as if fourth-generation Americans of Japanese descent and newly arrived immigrants from Baluchistan should be lumped together as "Asian voters"). It means writing in longhand, politically speaking.

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

More North Carolina books for gift giving

I thought it was enough. Maybe more than enough.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

But the long list of North Carolina books I recently shared for readers to consider as holiday gifts or book club choices did not do the job.

One reader complained that I did not include recent bestselling books by North Carolina-connected authors John Grisham and Nicholas Sparks.

For instance, in Grisham's latest, "A Time for Mercy," he brings back Jake Brigrance, the hero of "A Time to Kill," one of the most popular novels ever.

Sparks sets his latest, "The Return," in New Bern where Trevor Benson, a Navy surgeon, is recovering, in body and mind, from having been blown apart in Afghanistan.

Pat Conroy's widow, Cassandra King Conroy, writes about her challenging but successful marriage in "Tell Me a Story: Life with Pat Conroy."

Kristy Woodson Harvey's "Feels Like Falling" follows the life of a successful businesswoman whose life is jolted when her husband suddenly leaves her.

When a hurricane threatens their coastal homes, a diverse group of people in Mary Alice Monroe's "The Summer Guests" make their way to their friends' horse farm in North Carolina near Tryon.

In Martin Clark's "The Substitution Order," a once beloved attor-

ney — now broke, on probation and disbarred — is the hero who breaks up a complicated scam.

"In the Valley" by Ron Rash shares a short sequel to his acclaimed novel, "Serena," and nine of his best short stories.

In Ann Tyler's "Redhead by the Side of the Road," a single, wonderfully weird self-employed tech expert meets a teen who claims to be his son.

Therese Anne Fowler's "A Good Neighborhood" is a tragedy of racism's effect on a teenage boy living in a mostly white Raleigh neighborhood.

Randall Kenan died three weeks before his short story collection, "If I Had Two Wings," was selected as one of 10 nominees for the National Book Award.

Two of North Carolina's favorite food authors, Jean Anderson and Vivian Howard, have new books. Anderson combines great food and North Carolina pottery with favorite recipes contributed by 24 North Carolina potters in "Kiln to Kitchen: Favorite Recipes from Beloved North Carolina Potters." Howard's "This Will Make It Taste Good: A New Path to Simple Cooking" would make an appreciated gift. Her earlier "A Chef's Life" is a lasting classic and makes a good gift at any time.

For Civil War buffs, David Silkenat's "Raising the White Flag: How Surrender Defined the American Civil War" looks at the war through the lens of numerous surrenders on both sides.

Rachel Lance's "In the Waves: My Quest to Solve the Mystery of a Civil War Submarine" recounts her

struggle to determine how and why the crew of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley died in Charleston harbor.

There are two possibilities for sports fans. "Larry Miller Time: The Story of the Lost Legend Who Sparked the Tar Heel Dynasty" by Stephen Demorest is about one of Dean Smith's earliest and best basketball recruits.

In "Marching Toward Madness: How to Save the Games You Always Loved," John LeBar and Allen Paul examine the risks of losing college sports as we know and love them.

"UNC A to Z: What Every Tar Heel Needs to Know about the First State University" by Cecelia Moore and Nicholas Graham is a readable, entertaining, and authoritative encyclopedia of information about everything UNC.

"Fragile Democracy: The Struggle Over Race and Voting Rights in North Carolina" by James Leloudis and Robert Korstad tells the story of race and voting rights, from the end of the Civil War until the present day.

"A Warren Court of Our Own" by Mark Davis compares the U.S. Supreme Court of Earl Warren with the N.C. Supreme Court led by Jim Exum.

There are many more, but I promise, no more holiday book lists — for now.

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

Selective information and confirmation bias

Last week, I wrote about how to locate and deter-



RACHEL HOROWITZ
Millennial Musings

mine reputable media sources. A friend pointed out that sometimes people will start at a predetermined conclusion and then find articles to back up that position. This is known as confirmation bias, or the tendency to seek out or interpret information in a way that supports existing beliefs or values.

So, for example, let's say I believe that the Earth is flat. I would start with that conclusion and then research evidence that confirms it, while ignoring any evidence that supports the contrary. I typically would not evaluate my sources for validity and reliability, and I may throw out my own experiments if they don't provide the

result I want.

I could cite scientists and experts who know a lot more than myself. Somewhere along the way, though, trust in scientific experts has become a political issue (a recent Pew Research study shows this was happening long before the 2020 pandemic). Thus, if I cite experts to people who don't trust them, my argument will always be wrong.

Here's another example a little closer to home: Like many of you, I attempted to get a COVID-19 test during the week of Thanksgiving. My partner and I weren't traveling anywhere, but our jobs regularly bring us in contact with others. So I scheduled an appointment at the local urgent care center, which neglected to tell me that they now charge \$50 co-pays for the tests. I searched elsewhere in the area, but because of high demand, all of the slots were taken. My partner finally got tested after waiting in a 250-plus person line at UNC.

I internally debated whether or not to write about this experience. I feared that others who were traveling this holiday season might read this and decide not to get tested. I wanted to portray a narrative about the importance of getting tested, staying vigilant and following information from the CDC and health department. The experience I just described might not fit that narrative.

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I believe the best solution is to balance firsthand experiences with valid and reliable research. We should, of course, use evidence to support our

claims, but we can also address valid evidence that doesn't support them. We also don't need to give equal weight to claims backed by scientific evidence and claims that are not. That is why I trust holiday travelers to read about my experience — and still try to get a COVID-19 test anyway.

Rachel Horowitz resides in Chatham County and works in Pittsboro. She is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill's Hussman School of Journalism and Media and can be reached at millennialmusings.nc@gmail.com.

Chatham News + Record

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What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

WHAT DOES THE BOC'S NNP DECISION MEAN?

NNP-Briar Chapel final plats set for approval Dec. 18

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

On Dec. 18, NNP-Briar Chapel LLC's Final Plat review is set to move forward without a vote from the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

That's because after deciding to delay the decision regarding NNP's request in October, the BOC decided at its regular session Nov. 16 to neither approve nor deny the request — effectively meaning it will be passed by operation of the law on the 60-day mark since the review was submitted.

The Nov. 16 proceeding followed months of troubles for NNP-Briar Chapel, the company which owns Briar Chapel at Newland Communities and has experienced delays on approval of its Final Plats, consisting of Phase 13 Section 3 and Phase 14. The county has approved approximately 75 or more requests for NNP for preliminary or final plats for Briar Chapel, but the approval of its last two single family residential plats has been delayed by a major issue: wastewater and sewage concerns in Briar Chapel.

Residents of the neighborhood have voiced concerns during public comment sessions over the last few months regarding the odor caused by the plant as well as spillages — with 47,000 gallons of raw sewage spilling from Briar Chapel's sewage lines since 2016, as of August.

"We were expecting a final decision from the (Chatham County) commissioners on Newland's final two plats," a Nov. 20 state-

ment on the StopChathamNorth website read. "Instead of voting to approve or deny, the commissioners simply did not vote ... In effect, by not voting they simply defaulted to approve at 60 days."

StopChathamNorth is an unincorporated nonprofit association representing homeowners within Briar Chapel who do not support a regional wastewater treatment plant within the residential community of Briar Chapel. The group declined to comment for this story and instead referred the News + Record to the above statement.

"We are still trying to find a way to work with Chatham County and the commissioners to get these issues resolved," Liz Rolison of StopChathamNorth said.

The decision made Nov. 16 not to vote either way was suggested as an option by the county's attorney, Bob Hagemann. He emphasized the importance of not conflating the concerning things they'd heard from residents with the items required by the county in its subdivision ordinance.

"Nothing I'm going to say about the law is in any way intended to minimize or discount the legitimate concerns that have been raised," Hagemann said at that meeting, going on to explain that state regulations would better address the concerns with wastewater and sewage spills.

"But I'm cautioning you to ... not bring those (concerns) into the subdivision plat approval unless we can find an ordinance-based reason for doing so."

Hagemann told the News + Record that county staff determined the final plats complied with all ordinance requirements, outlined in the pre-2008 subdivision ordinance which is applicable to Briar Chapel.

"During the October meeting, I invited anyone who believed that the plats did not comply with the ordinance to submit their reasoning to me," he said, adding that StopChathamNorth's attorney then submitted an argument contending that the developer had not complied with the "public filing of wastewater documents" provision found in Section 7.2 of the Compact Communities Ordinance. Though this is not part of the subdivision ordinance, Hagerman said the SCN attorney argued it was incorporated into that ordinance "pursuant to Sec. 9.3 of the subdivision ordinance."

But "on October 9, the developer submitted materials to Planning that were determined to satisfy this requirement," he said.

Old North State Water Company in Briar Chapel and Envirolink, the company which manages its operations, have been plagued with problems of sewer spills in the Briar Chapel community in the last few years. Responsibility for sewage spills legally falls on them, though NNP-Briar Chapel has expressed a commitment to finding solutions at prior board meetings. Hagemann said at the November meeting that he believed all the requirements of the ordinance had been met by NNP. He also mentioned that state regulation can act as a safeguard

regarding sewage and wastewater concerns, whereas the board might be limited in its approach.

"This is based on a legal doctrine known as preemption," Hagemann said. "Specifically, if the State provides a 'complete and integrated regulatory scheme' that deals with a subject, a local government is preempted (i.e., precluded) from also regulating in that area."

Since North Carolina statutes and regulations give the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality the responsibility of ensuring that Wastewater Treatment Plants have adequate capacity before approving sewer extensions, as well as the responsibility and authority to bring enforcement actions for operational violations, Hagemann said it was his opinion that the county is preempted from using concerns over capacity or operational issues as a basis for denying a subdivision plat.

"... Not to mention that the subdivision ordinance doesn't list WWTP capacity/operational concerns as a basis for denial," he added.

In its Nov. 20 statement, Stop-ChathamNorth urged residents to continue documenting their concerns, stating that they'd received more than 325 resident complaints since February 2020, with some 225 of those involving odor complaints around the wastewater treatment plant.

"While we regret that our residents are experiencing these issues, we believe this documentation will make a difference in showing that Briar Chapel

residents have serious concerns that have been underreported," the statement said.

If you have a complaint, the statement said, you can call Integra Water's customer service number at (877) 511-291. They encouraged residents to also email concerns to STOPCHATHAM-NORTH@gmail.com, stating that complaints will be shared with NCDEQ and Briar Chapel's HOA.

If no further action is taken by the Board of Commissioners, NNP's Final Plats will be approved Dec. 18. Regardless, it is clear that action must be taken in some capacity to address the myriad concerns Briar Chapel residents continue to have with the wastewater treatment plant.

At the board's October meeting, one speaker characterized the NNP-Briar Chapel troubles as a "pervasive quality-of-life issue for so many of us in Briar Chapel." Several other residents spoke out against the approval of NNP's final plats at that meeting.

"The past 10 months of my life have been dominated by issues surrounding the Briar Chapel wastewater treatment plant as an inhibitor to my daily life," Briar Chapel resident Patricia Van Hoy read at the time. "Once the commissioners approve the two plats, Briar Chapel will have no leverage. Please delay Newland plat approvals until Old North State stabilizes the system and implements odor control."

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

CHALLENGES

Continued from page A1

a lot of body language, specialized attention and immersion — and beyond depriving teachers of those tools, remote learning has also forced them to grapple with students' limited technological literacy and motivation.

ESL isn't a Spanish class, **Ciro** said, even though Chatham's ESL students overwhelmingly speak Spanish. It's language support for students who are still learning English.

There are several different ESL teaching models, she explained — including the "pull-out" and the "push-in" models. In the first, ESL teachers pull their students out of their main classrooms to work with them separately on specialized language skills. In the second, teachers go into classrooms to support their students and co-teach with other teachers. **Ciro's** classes align with the "pull-out" model, but in some schools — like **Jordan-Matthews** — teachers use other models.

Teachers instruct students in English, designing writing, reading or speaking activities from content their students are learning in other classes.

"You should generally speak at least 90% in the target language," said **Juliana Maul**, an ESL teacher at North Chatham Elementary School in Chapel Hill. "Most of the day, ESL students are not isolated from ... English speakers. We're more in the classroom and surrounded by that and even working on skills with native English speakers."

Jordan-Matthews ESL teacher, **Wendi Pillars**, also said there's also a lot of repetition, modeling and visuals.

"There's a lot of acting out and being silly," she added. "If we do it right, we're exhausted by the end of the day. People are like, 'What's wrong with you?' We use our hands a lot."

It's different for every teacher. In a normal year, **Ciro** would see all of her students every day for 30- to 45-minute blocks. They're divided by grade level instead of English-language level, which requires her to "differentiate" a lot between students and challenges her students to work harder.

"It's very personalized," she said. "My largest group is four kids. It's almost like one-to-one."

But in March, the move to remote learning brought things to a complete halt: When schools first closed, none of **Ciro's** students had internet connection. Her students' teachers began emailing and calling her to say her students weren't attending their Zoom classes or completing their homework.

"So I had to say, 'Hey, you have to cut (them) some

slack. These kids have no connection,'" she said. "And they don't have connection because — I mean, either you have internet connection, or you pay some bills."

Even once students received county hotspots and laptops, neither they nor their parents really knew how to navigate virtual learning platforms or use the technology itself.

"(Parents) know how to go on Facebook," **Ciro** said. "They know how to text, but that's it. Even the kids, that's something that I think we all have learned is that we kept saying, 'Now these kids, I mean, they come with (the) technology gene, like they have it. They know.' No, they don't. ... They had no idea, and even less my students."

She found herself making home visits to sort out technology problems; she also created and sent little how-to videos to all of her families through WhatsApp. But the challenges took a toll on her students, who she called the school's "most vulnerable population."

"Some other kids are completely disengaged," she said. "We haven't been able to contact them. They have just stopped answering questions, answering the phone. ... And they're falling behind by the minute."

She tries to work with her students on Zoom between two to three days a week, but it's complicated since they've got other classes and her EC students have to work with their own teachers. She doesn't assign grades or homework, just a few activities — but she said language learners need more than that.

"We need to learn with our bodies, and we need a lot of hands on," she said. "That is so hard. Because I mean, you can see it, but if you don't make that connection, it's hard to learn it and acquire it and to internalize it."

It's been even more challenging for her three "newcomers," who recently arrived to the U.S. from Guatemala. The parents are Indigenous people, she said; although they speak Spanish, that isn't their native language. So in her weekly house visits, she said she had to use "even more basic language" with both parents and students to explain to her new students how to use the technology, type and access their school emails.

"They (the kids) don't read. They don't write," she said. "So can you imagine? I mean, so it's been very hard. But I mean, we're getting there. At least they are joining their classes."

Hybrid learning has helped a bit, she added, especially for the newcomers. Her first through fifth graders now come in about twice a week, and more students are set to return Dec. 7.

"Right now, we're (her newcomers) working on the alphabet, and they're doing so much better because here I have puzzles," she said, adding, "They are seeing it, and they actually have the pieces here in their hands ... and that makes it more meaningful."

'They're more engaged'

So far, hybrid learning has lifted the spirits of ESL teacher **Juliana Maul's** students.

Maul is one of three ESL teachers at North Chatham Elementary in Chapel Hill, where she's taught for about four years. Between the three of them, they serve about 100 students, and this year, she's teaching about 30 in the 2nd and 5th grades.

"I think definitely having hybrid learning, students are completing more assignments. So in that way, they're more engaged," she said. "They can't be like, 'Oh, I didn't get your email.' I told it to you in person. I think everyone would agree hybrid is better than all remote learning in the sense of growth and education."

Normally, Maul would be co-teaching. She'd plan lessons with her students' other teachers and provide them general literacy support. She would also provide additional support in "intervention blocks," where students can seek help with particular subjects.

North Chatham's also a bit different from most schools: They have a Dual Language Program, which means some students receive instruction that's half in English and half in Spanish. Since most of her students are Spanish speakers, that has made it easier for them and their families to adjust to remote and hybrid learning.

When some found themselves struggling with remote learning technology, many families were able to reach out and get the help they needed.

"Because we're dual language, almost half of our teachers are native Spanish speakers," she said. "So it's still a challenge because they're not always the ones calling, but thankfully, we have a lot of teachers who can communicate with parents on a daily basis."

Since the school board allowed elementary students to return under Plan B, Maul has been at school four days a week. Sometimes she'll be teaching students face-to-face; other times, she'll be on Zoom calls with other students. Normally, she'd see about 100 students in a day, not all of them hers, but now she's seeing about 30.

Despite eight months of remote learning, she said she doesn't think her students have fallen any further behind than any other student in the U.S.

"I haven't noticed that they have bigger gaps than other students do," she said, adding: "I think the program that we've got, and the methods that we have for teaching are pretty effective. We've seen growth in our ESL students if you look at our school's data, so that's always encouraging."

'Miss, what is remote learning?'

In **Jordan-Matthews**, however, it's a different story altogether. There, ESL students haven't been in the classroom in months, and no one knows when they're going back.

"(My students) still ask me on a weekly basis, 'Miss, why don't we go on back?'" said **Wendi Pillars**, one of four ESL teachers at J-M. "Like, 'Last I know was January 15. It hasn't changed yet."

Pillars has taught ESL at J-M for the past seven years. This year, she and the ESL team are working with about 130 students. She's teaching two "stand-alone" classes with 27 and 21 students online respectively; in a normal year, she'd be co-teaching science in classrooms with other teachers, too.

"But our space is pre-COVID," she said. "It used to be the 'Hangout space' in the morning, which was really nice. The kids would come in there and they'd meet each other and connect before they go to First Block."

Now during COVID, she sees her students via three weekly live Zoom sessions per class, where a sneak peek might reveal blacked-out cameras, awkward silence and lots of prayer.

"We're trying to channel

some divine intervention," she joked.

Since making the transition to remote learning, she said many students are no longer motivated to complete their work; others procrastinate on short assignments, and for the most part, she's seen their drive to improve sputter and die.

"Curiosity is gone, I think," she said. "Some students will ask right away, 'What does this word mean?' But I haven't seen that as much where you're like, 'Do you understand what that word is?'"

And then some just aren't there at all.

"We've lost a handful of students due to full-time work," Pillars said. "Some of them have moved. Some of them are just MIA. We don't know where they are."

All of it has hit her pretty hard as an educator. She's been trying new things as she can — different apps, participation incentives, and she's even considering a Zoom watch party — but little seems to work.

"Uncertainty is hard because it pushes you to say, 'Alright, I can't invest my time or my energy in that bigger picture. Because if I don't know when I'm going back, I'm just gonna hunker down and focus on the next day,'" she said, talking about some of her students' mindsets. "... I feel like we're failing them and not preparing them for what life will throw at them."

Many have fallen behind: At J-M, students take four classes per semester, and she said "a handful" are failing a couple of classes, if not all four.

One moment a week ago particularly stood out to her. She was with her advanced class, talking to them about remote learn-

ing. She had asked them a question, and some responded in the Zoom chatbox, but it was mostly quiet.

"And I was like, 'You guys don't have any ideas?' And then one of the kids said, 'Miss, what is 'remote learning?'" she said. Then she paused, lowering her voice. "And I was like, 'Woah.'"

She'd been using that term since March.

"It just highlights where I assumed that they understood what remote learning was, especially as advanced learners," she added. "But when he asked that, I was like, 'OK, what else am I missing?'"

In the classroom, usually "body language nuances" would tell her right away if a student understands or is paying attention. Virtually, she said, "you don't know what they're doing on the other side of the camera."

She's seen some students rise up to the challenge, she said, but most remain unengaged and unmotivated.

"I deeply, deeply believe that our students at the high school level would be far more successful than they are right now if we were back in person," she said, though she's worried what it might mean for some veteran teachers with health issues or those who live with older family members.

Despite the uncertainty, though, she said she's still holding out hope for next year.

"We know that there's a lot of unknowns, but we're here," Pillars said. "We're here for the long haul and hoping for the best. We'll keep trying. We're stubborn."

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



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OBITUARIES

RUTH LASSITER FIELDS



Ruth Lassiter Fields, 92, of Siler City went home to be with her beloved Lord on Friday, November 27, 2020.

She was born in Moore County to the late James Arthur and Maude Melissa Smith Lassiter. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, James B. Fields; sisters, Nannie Maude Lassiter, Allie Blake, Myrtie Elkins, Ollie Chrisco and Alberta Gunter; brothers, Harold Lassiter, Leonard Lassiter, Arthur "Bug" Lassiter and Floyd William Lassiter.

Ruth is survived by her daughter, Darlene Fields Green and husband Robert of Greensboro; and grandchild, Valerie Senning and husband Daniel of Greensboro. Also surviving are sisters-in-law, Lucy Ann Wall and Elva Fields, as well as many beloved nephews and nieces.

Ruth was a treasured member of the Hart Furniture family for 45 years. After retirement at 86, she assisted in serving meals to seniors at the Siler City Senior Center. She was a member of the Siler City Chapel for more than 60 years.

Ruth never met a stranger and always put others first.

Thanks to the many friends, family, neighbors and church members who brought so much joy to her life with their cards, calls, visits and lots of love. A special thanks to all the wise and kind physicians, nurses, and caregivers who supported Mom all her life.

A graveside service was held Sunday, November 29, 2020, at 2 p.m. with Reverend Steven Harrell officiating at Chatham Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the following: Liberty Hospice Care, 1005 Carthage Street, Sanford, N.C. 27330; Wesley Long Cancer Center, 2400 West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, N.C. 27403; or Siler City Chapel, P.O. Box 431, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Smith & Buckner assisted the Fields family.

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

SANDRA PERRY LOVE



Mrs. Sandra Perry Love, 77, of Graham passed away at the AuthoraCare Collective Hospice Home on Wednesday, November 25, 2020, at 6:50 a.m.

A native of Alamance County, she was the wife of Tommie Love, who survives and the daughter of Melvin Boyd Perry and Geneva Clark Perry, both deceased. She was a homemaker and a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

In addition to her husband of their home, survivors include a daughter, Tami Sharpe and husband Todd of Haw River; four grandchildren, Rachel Sharpe, Chloe Sharpe, Phoebe Sharpe, Nathan Sharpe; and two sisters, Jean Smith of Mechanicsville, Virginia, and Joan Frazier and husband Bill of Swepsonville.

The funeral service was conducted at Mt. Olive Baptist Church on Saturday, November 28, 2020, at 2 p.m. by Dr. Joshua M. Peeler. The service was broadcast outside for those not wanting to come inside. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family greeted friends at the church following the service, and other times they were at the residence.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to AuthoraCare Collective Hospice, 914 Chapel Hill Road, Burlington, N.C. 27215 or to Mt. Olive Baptist Church Memorial Association, 5043 Mt. Olive Church Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Rich & Thompson Funeral and Cremation Service in Burlington assisted the family.

Condolences can be offered online at: www.richandthompson.com.

DONALD 'DON' JOSEPH WHITT



Donald "Don" Joseph Whitt, age 80, of Pittsboro, passed away, Monday, November 30, 2020, at UNC Hospitals.

Don was born in Chatham County on December 7, 1939, to the late Dewey Whitt and Mazie Sumner Whitt. He was also preceded in death by four brothers and three sisters. Don served the Chatham County Sheriff's Department for 35 years, retiring as Sheriff in 2000. He served 6 years in the U.S. Navy, was a 32nd degree Mason and Past Master of Columbus Lodge 102 and past President of the Pittsboro

Kiwanis Club. Don was active in Pittsboro Baptist Church. He was a farmer and loved horseback riding.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Jean Roberson Whitt; three daughters, Pam Whitt Brady and husband Phil Brady of Bennett, Donna Whitt and husband Wade Minges of Pittsboro, Robin Davis and husband George Davis of Pittsboro; son, Jamie Whitt and wife Tiffany Whitt of Bear Creek; brother, C.D. Whitt and wife Lucille of Sanford; grandchildren, Corey Sturdivant, Whitney Brady Clendenin, Chloe Brady Lundy, Michaela Brady Buchanan, Sawyer Whitt, Cody Whitt, Tanner Whitt, Jonah Minges and Eli Minges, six great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held Thursday, December 3, 2020, at 11 a.m. at Pittsboro Baptist Church with Rev. Ray Gooch and Rev. Bob Wachs presiding. Burial will follow in the church cemetery with Military Rites and Masonic Rites. There will not be a public visitation. Masks are required to attend the church service and committal service.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like memorial contributions to be made in Don's memory to Pittsboro Baptist Church or the American Heart Association.

Condolences may be made at: www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Whitt family.

CHARLIE BALDWIN JR.



As recorded in Revelation 14:13, "Blessed are those who die in the Lord...for they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds will follow them." On a peaceful afternoon on the 19th day of November, 2020, Charlie Baldwin Jr. was released from his hard work and he went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Charlie was born in Pittsboro, North Carolina, on March 6, 1932, to the late Charlie Walker Baldwin and Sarah Perry Baldwin. He was raised on the family farm, with his six brothers and sisters, where he learned to appreciate the values of a strong work ethic and good Christian living. After graduating from Horton High School, he attended N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, completing four years of ROTC and graduating with a degree in Agricultural Science. He then completed two years of Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and was appointed Reserve Commissioned Officer, Second Lieutenant. Between his college and Basic Training years, Charlie courted and married Lucille Hanner. They were blessed with five children.

Later, he relocated to Winston-Salem where he was employed at Western Electric for 17 years. During his time with Western Electric, he spent two years on Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, where he had a significant role in the development of the anti-ballistic missile system for the U.S. government. When Western Electric closed, Charlie gained employment with R.J. Reynolds where he worked for 20 years before retiring as supervisor. People who worked under his leadership, years ago, continued to call him before his passing, attesting to their love and respect for him.

After many years in Winston-Salem, Charlie returned to Chatham County to be closer to family and friends and to pursue his passion for farming. He derived such satisfaction from tilling the earth, plowing and planting, and sharing the bounty with everyone. In a 2005 article from the Chapel Hill News about his gardening, it was stated, "If you love greens as much as he does, then you are invited to walk out in his fields and pick them to your heart's content. A handful or a garbage bag full, it costs the same — free!"

For years, family and friends enjoyed attending his, and wife Imogene's, annual 4th of July Fish Fry, where they had an opportunity to fellowship and catch up with each other.

Charlie loved his community and he was charitable to many community organizations. He was a member and supporter of the NAACP. He also served on the Board of Advisors for the Chatham County Agricultural & Industrial Fair Association, sponsoring the prize money each year for one of his favorite events, the largest pumpkin contest.

Above all else, Charlie was a God-fearing man, always humble and soft-spoken, and always willing to help anyone in need. He was a faithful member of Terrell's Chapel Church until his health declined. At Terrell's, he served as Steward, Trustee, and Usher, and he was a Lifetime member of the Durham District Lay Council. In addition, he served as Captain of the Baldwin Family for Family and Friends Day. He especially enjoyed the latter and the friendly competition of helping his team raise money to support the church.

He was loved and respected, and he will be greatly missed.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Imogene Weston Baldwin; his siblings, Nellie Gregory, Thomas Earl Baldwin, James Baldwin, George Baldwin, and Mary R. Evans.

Charlie leaves with cherished memories, his daughters, Sharon Luanne Nettles (Phillip), Loretta Nettles, Myra Kearney (Mike), Jacqueline Waddell (General); and son, Kenneth Baldwin; sister, Geneva B. Vincent; sisters-in-law, Grace Baldwin and Nancy Weston; brother-in-law, Jonathon Weston (Claudia); eight grandchildren, Candice Nettles, Amber Hester (Curtis), General Waddell, Kyle Nettles, Cordea Nettles, Brittany Nance, Clay Nance (DeLisa), and Amber Kearney; six great-grandchildren, Laila Waddell, YaShari Waddell, Aria Williams, Alex Williams, Elijah Hester and Raegan Hester; special cousin, Helen Baldwin; special friend, Catherine Johnson; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at Terrell's Chapel AME Zion Church. Burial followed in the cemetery at Pittsboro Church of God.

TERESA ANN (ALSTON) WATKINS

Teresa Ann (Alston) Watkins, 63, of Pittsboro, passed away on Monday, November 23, 2020, at Raleigh Rehab Center in Raleigh.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

CARL FORD SMITH

Carl Ford Smith, 76, of Goldston passed away on Friday, November 20, 2020, at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Mr. Smith was born February 6, 1944, the son of Carl B. and Hazel Ford Smith. He worked as a shop foreman for Welford Harris and retired from Chatham Motors. In addition to his parents, Carl was preceded in death by his sister, Joyce Smith.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Gayle (Beal) Smith; son, Jay Smith of Sanford; sister, Carla Martin of Cameron; and three grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 1300 Baxter St., Suite 150, Charlotte, N.C. 28204, or at www.diabetes.org/honor

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Smith family.

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

VOY LEE BLUE

Voy Lee Blue, 79, of Cameron, passed away Sunday, November 22, 2020, at Firsthealth Hopice House in Pinehurst.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

ROGER LEE PHILLIPS

Roger Lee Phillips, 78, of Bear Creek, passed away on Thursday, November 26, 2020, at his home.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 29, 2020, at Fair Promise U.M.C. with Rev. Tom Halberg presiding.

Roger was born in Chatham County on November 9, 1942, to Dabney Mack Phillips and Mamie Lambert Phillips, who preceded him in death. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard and was a lifelong dairy farmer. Roger was a member of Fair Promise U.M.C. where he had taught Sunday School.

He is survived by his brother, Roland M. Phillips.

Flowers will be accepted or memorials may be made to Fair Promise U.M.C., 192 Glendon-Carthage Rd., Goldston, NC 27252.

Condolences may be offered online at www.joycebrady-chapel.com.

NELLIE MAE (PERKINS) HART

Nellie Mae Perkins Hart, 66, of Raleigh (formerly of Pittsboro) passed away Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at her home.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home in Pittsboro.

Survivors include a son, Calvin A. Law of Moncure; daughter, Danielle R. Smith of Carthage; three grandchildren; brothers, David Perkins, Samuel Perkins, both of Fayetteville, James H. Perkins of Huntsville, Alabama.

ELLEN JANE GORDON

Ellen Jane (Lunsford) Gordon, 68, of Sanford passed away on November 18, 2020.

No service is planned at this time.

Ellen was born to William and Ellen Lunsford on April 28, 1952, in Natick, Mass. She attended the University of Massachusetts and worked at Cahner's Publishing. She later worked at Belk's of Sanford.

Survivors include a brother, William Lunsford of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, as well as her son, William Gordon of Raleigh.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making contributions to assist with expenses.

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

CARL 'JOEL' TYSON

Carl "Joel" Tyson, 64, of Indianapolis, Indiana, passed away Friday, November 13, 2020.

Funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford, with burial at Union Grove AME Zion Church in Bear Creek.

THOMAS HOWARD HARRIS

Mr. Thomas Howard Harris passed away on Wednesday, November 25, 2020, at his home.

Mr. Harris laid in repose from 12 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 29, 2020, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 30, 2020, at Lambert Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Franklin Seymore officiating.

Mr. Harris was born February 25, 1942, and was a graduate of Chatham High School. He was a Deacon at Harris Grove Missionary Baptist Church. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, James Howard Harris, a sister, Mildred Harris Wiley, a brother, Eugene Harris, step-brother, Robert Lee Headen and half-sister, Lula Mae.

Survivors include his wife, Kathryn Cheek Harris; one grandson and a great-grandson.

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

CLETUS WAYNE DARK

Cletus Wayne (Hamburger) Dark of Siler City passed away Monday, November 23, 2020, at his home.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Friday, November 27, 2020, at the First Missionary Baptist Church, with Pastor Barry Gray officiating.

He was born February 16, 1959, to C.J. Snipes and Sally Mae Crutchfeild, both preceding him in death. He attended Northwood High School, and was a member of the First Missionary Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Betsy Farrish-Dark; sisters, Susan Dark, Nancy McSwain, Judy Snipes, Shenja Jones, Kim Perez, Rita Snipes; brothers, Cecil Dark, T.J. Snipes and Curtis Snipes.

WILLIAM DAVID MURPHY

William David Murphy, 74, of Sanford, died Wednesday, November 25, 2020, at UNC Hospitals.

A graveside celebration of life was held at 3 p.m. at Lee Memory Gardens, Sunday, November 29, 2020, with Chaplin Joel Cameron and Pastor Larry Martin presiding.

David was born in Lee County on February 13, 1946, to the late Joyce Murphy and Callie Tuttle Murphy. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Timmy Murphy; brothers, Wayne Murphy and Darius Murphy; and a sister, Annie Lou Garrett. He served his country in the U.S. Army, retired from Cherokee Brick Company and then worked for Lee County Transit System (COLTS).

He is survived by his daughters, Tonia Murphy Gunter of Broadway, Tina Murphy of Sanford; sisters, Linda Hupp of Sanford, Brenda Holder of Cameron; and two grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home, 600 W. Main St., Sanford, N.C. 27332.

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

See **OBITUARIES**, page A9

CHATHAM MONUMENT CO.

Charles
Campbell



Greg
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Over 50 years experience designing, lettering and erecting monuments in Siler City and surrounding area.

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WWW.CHATHAMNEWSRECORD.COM

THE FLU OR COVID-19?

Differences in the viruses and symptoms

BY BROOKE CAIN
Raleigh News & Observer

The timing is pretty awful: we're entering flu season during the COVID-19 pandemic, at a time when most of the nation is experiencing serious spikes in coronavirus cases and hospitalizations.

So what are the differences between the two illnesses, and how do we know which one we might have? Can you get them both at the same time?

First, a few fast facts: The flu (influenza) and COVID-19 are both respiratory illnesses, and both are contagious, but they are not the same virus.

COVID-19 spreads more easily than the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control, and can cause more serious illnesses in some people.

COVID-19 symptoms don't

always show up as fast as flu symptoms, and people seem to stay sick longer with COVID-19 than with the flu.

But as far as the actual symptoms, there are few differences.

The CDC advises that since it's hard to tell the difference between COVID-19 and seasonal flu symptoms, it's best to get testing to confirm a diagnosis.

Here's more information on symptoms.

COVID-19 symptoms

Not every person infected with the new coronavirus has all symptoms listed here.

COVID-19 symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, con-

gestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea.

Seasonal flu symptoms

The list of flu symptoms is very similar to COVID-19 symptoms: fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue.

With the flu, some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

The bottom line: COVID-19 and the flu essentially have the same symptoms, except the "new loss of sense of taste or smell" is unique to COVID-19. The other main difference is that COVID-19 causes more serious illnesses and more deaths in some people, so take

it seriously.

Could you have COVID-19 and the flu at the same time?

The CDC says that yes, it's possible to have both viruses at the same time. If you are experiencing symptoms and believe you are sick, contact a physician to be tested for the flu and COVID-19.

What about flu and COVID-19 vaccines?

There are flu vaccines available, and the CDC advises everyone age 6 months and older get the shot (with rare exceptions).

The COVID-19 vaccines are starting to be approved by the FDA, with health providers, first responders and the el-

derly listed as among the first people expected to receive it by the end of this year. For most people, the COVID-19 vaccine will be available later in 2021.

What about colds and allergies?

Signs of a cold commonly include sneezing, a runny/stuffy nose, aches and a sore throat. A cough can accompany a cold (particularly in later stages of a cold), but fevers are considered rare.

With airborne allergies, common symptoms include a runny/stuffy nose, sneezing and itchy eyes. You will sometimes have a sore throat with allergies and sometimes a cough. Sinus congestion can also lead to headaches. You should never have muscle aches or fever with allergies.

NEW BRIEFS

County's cyber incident still under investigation

PITTSBORO - Chatham County officials said Tuesday that the "cyber incident" which knocked out the county government's computer, email and phone systems on Oct. 28 is still under investigation.

"While we are making progress, the recovery from an incident such as this takes time," said Kara Dudley, the county's public information officer. "A timeline has not been established for full-service restoration; however, we continue to make progress in our ability to communicate with the public."

Dudley previously told the News + Record that Chatham County has cyber insurance, and that state and federal authorities are leading the incident investigation. Last week, she also said no additional information was available as the inves-

tigation was ongoing.

"Most Chatham County office phones are operating again; however, the voicemail system is still being repaired and expected to be restored in the coming days," Dudley reported last week.

Dudley said Geographic Information Systems (GIS) rebuild is nearing completion and that web applications are becoming available to the public as they come back online systematically. Chatham County will soon be moving to a .gov email domain for county employee email addresses. In the meantime, alternative contact methods have been established and can be found at chathamnc.org/cyberincident.

"Updates on the restoration of services/systems will continue to be provided. We appreciate the community's continued and support and patience as we continue to work through this situation," she said.

— CN+R staff reports

MERRITTS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Road to Bethlehem, a drive-through Nativity Display, will be presented from 6 to 8 p.m. at Merritts Chapel United Methodist Church on Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6. All are welcome.

The church is located at 1090 Farrington Pt. Rd., Chapel Hill. For more information, go to merrittschapel.org.

RED HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Revival services will be held Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 7-9, at 7 p.m. at Red Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Tyler Gauden from Church Street Baptist Church in Greensboro will

CHURCH NEWS

be the guest speaker.

The church is located on N.C. Hwy. 42 in Goldston and everyone is invited to join any or all of these services.

CARBONTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Welcome to Our World, a lighted Christmas drive-through, will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, and Saturday, Dec. 5, at Carbondon United Methodist Church.

The church is located at 5442 Goldston-Carbondon Rd., Goldston.

The event is free, but a non-perishable food donation for the West Chatham Food Pantry is suggested.



PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ACROSS										DOWN									
1	Conceptual framework	44	Road named for a head of state?	94	Subatomic matter that may or may not exist?	1	Italian tenor	43	One of a flight of steps	82	Mil. officer								
7	Nickname of jazz pianist Earl Hines	50	Intent	101	"Penn & Teller: —" (TV series)	2	Devise, as a plan	45	MPG monitor	84	Bean curd								
12	Cat feature	53	Golf average	102	Maui "hello"	3	Would really rather not	46	USA's Uncle	85	Touch								
16	Mailbox item: Abbr.	54	Mental sharpness	103	Hunter constellation	4	Application filename extension	47	A Gershwin	86	Traitor								
19	Cajoles	55	Santa — winds	107	Three in "minimum"	5	Actor Gibson	48	Be an omen	87	Yale alum								
20	Backcountry	56	One who's bad at playing practical jokes?	108	Big tea vessel	6	According to	49	Feudal vassal	88	"The Good Doctor" aier								
21	Actor Alan	62	Richard of "The Jackal"	110	Aviator who was really courageous?	7	Not stale	50	Big galoot	91	Virgin Mary's mother: Abbr.								
22	Before	63	Former AT&T rival	114	Little squeeze from a fuddy-duddy?	8	Vienna's nation: Abbr.	51	Outrage	95	Actress Lancaster								
23	Saving a Hilton from being demolished?	64	Creepy	118	Grain variety	9	Two after uno	52	Impair	96	Many #1 songs								
26	Rove (about)	65	Tax audit org.	119	NASA's Eagle, e.g.	10	Persists in discussing	57	Frank Sacks' "— the Unicorn"	97	Calder Cup rink org.								
27	Eisenhower, informally	66	Hunchback creator Victor	120	Suffix with resin or riot	11	Thomas — Edison	58	Plunk lead-in	98	Writer Santha Rama —								
28	Dawn deity	67	Belgian river	121	Forehead border you had before you started going bald?	12	British bye-byes	59	Helpful hints	99	Email giggle								
29	Country that's the setting of a story told by Jesus?	68	Favorite crucifix style?	126	— kwon do	13	Perp's excuse	60	Get it wrong	100	Verdi's "— tu"								
31	Confusion when a golfer can't find the club for the green?	74	"I see!" facetiously	127	Coal source	14	Revered one	61	"— Be My Girl" (top 5 tune for the O'Jays)	104	Instead (of)								
36	2000-15 CBS show	77	Match units	128	Door reply to "Who's there?"	15	Narrow road	66	Source of CBD oil	105	Danish port								
37	Two racing Unsers	78	Cruise of "Top Gun"	129	Most current	16	Groups of trial lawyers	67	"Right on!"	106	Big Apple MLB squad								
38	Strike — (do some modeling)	79	Actress Bette	130	Antiquated	17	Fleeting quality	69	Ancient Egyptian god	108	Coll. in Philly								
39	Admission of defeat	83	No, in Fife	131	Fax, e.g.	18	Comic Foxx	70	Dwarfs' count	109	Made								
41	"The way things now stand ..."	84	DVR choice	132	"The battle —!"	24	Mythical bird	71	Vodka brand, familiarly	111	Skater Sasha								
		85	Evangelizing in remote areas?	133	Provides, as with power	25	Bitterly cold	72	In support of	112	Python in "The Jungle Book"								
		89	Fast internet svc.			30	Jungle den	73	Govt. health agcy.	113	Scrabble								
		90	Final words from a bully			32	Recipe qty.	74	"— you act now ..." (infomercial segue)	114	Hernando de —								
		92	Tirana's nation: Abbr.			33	Always	75	Is unrivaled	115	Engine stats								
		93	Picnic pest			34	Assistance	76	Hardly ever employed	116	A Great Lake								
						40	Sky light	80	By way of	117	Roman 402								
						41	40-Down studier's sci.	81	Hostel	122	Sydney's state: Abbr.								
						42	Eyelid malady			123	Non- — food								
										124	Sprinted								
										125	"Inc." relative								

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A7

JORDAN ELIAS DAKDOUK

Jordan Elias Dakdouk, 20, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, November 28, 2020, at Moses Cone Hospital.

A graveside service was held on Monday, November 30, 2020, at 11 a.m. at Buffalo Cemetery with Father David Winn officiating.

He was born in Ohio on July 25, 200,0 to Rick Elias Dakdouk and Deborah Jervis. Jordan was preceded in death by paternal grandparents, Chafik and Patricia Dakdouk; and maternal step-grandfather, Fred Berger.

Jordan is survived by his father and bonus mom, Rick and Kim Dakdouk of Cameron; mother, Deborah Jervis of Florida; twin sister, Sarah Patricia Dakdouk of Florida; bonus-brother, Cameron Himes of Sanford; maternal

grandmother, Rosie Berger of Florida; maternal grandfather, John Jervis of Florida; paternal step-grandparents, Nancy and Dave Mead of Cameron. Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

JENNY BOGGS LOGWOOD

Jenny Boggs Logwood, 62, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, November 30, 2020, at her home.

Graveside funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at Baptist Chapel Church Cemetery with Rev. George Stallings and Rev. Curtis Norris officiating.

She was born in Lee County, daughter of Grace Howard Boggs and Albert Waylon Boggs. She was preceded in death by her father and brother, Steve Boggs. She was a member of Moore Union Christian Church, where she played the piano and organ for many years.

Survivors include her mother, Grace Howard Boggs of Sanford; her husband of 32 years, Lee Logwood of the home; sons, Kevin Crissman and Brian Crissman of Broadway; and three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Lee County Gideons, P.O. Box 1032, Sanford, N.C. 27314.

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

Arrangements handled by Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

LILLIE MAE MCLEOD

Lillie Mae Rogers McLeod, 78, of Broadway, died Friday, November 27, 2020, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Graveside funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at Lee Memory Gardens with Rev. Keith Miller officiating

Lillie was born in Surry County, December 20, 1941,

the daughter of the late Bert Townsend Rogers and Phoebe Hardy Rogers. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Lee Rogers, sisters, Joan Dale and Mary Elizabeth Rogers, and her husband, William Thomas McLeod.

Survivors include her sisters, Susan Driggers of Sanford, Virginia Davis of Burlington; brothers, Richard Rogers of Broadway, and Keller Pate of Oak Island.

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

Arrangements handled by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

MARGARET LILA FOUSHEE RIDDLE

Margaret Lila Foushee Riddle, 90, of Pittsboro passed away on Sunday, November 29, 2020, at Laurels of Chatham.

The family will receive friends Thursday, December 3, 2020, from 12 to 1 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home.

A graveside service will follow at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Jim Jones officiating. The family requests that you wear a mask for all services.

Mrs. Riddle was born September 15, 1930, a native of Chatham County and the daughter of Tom and Emma Jordan Foushee. A member at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, she retired from Carr Mills. In addition to her parents, Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Leton Riddle, a son, Gilbert Riddle, brothers, Raymond and Alfred Foushee, and a half-brother, Lewis Poe.

She is survived by her daughter, Frona Morgan of Lancaster, S.C.; sons, L.D. Riddle and Ricky M. Riddle, both of Pittsboro; six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Riddle family.

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

‘QUITE A COMMUNITY RESPONSE’

New CCS mutual aid page gears up for holidays

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN

News + Record Staff

As the holidays approach and colder weather ensues, a new Facebook page affiliated with Chatham County Schools is working to increase the public awareness and meeting of community needs within the school district.

The site, “Chatham County Schools Mutual Aid” on Facebook, is “based on the idea that everyone can help and everyone has something to bring to the table,” the page said. Mutual-aid systems involve people working cooperatively to meet the needs of everyone in their community.

Crystal Carroll, the district’s McKinney-Vento liaison, said the Facebook page is an initiative to create such a network to help meet the needs of CCS students. The MicKinney-Vento Program ensures rights to students based on federal law aimed at assisting students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

“The Facebook page is our first step in the initiative and will be used to publicize specific needs of our students and families and a beginning platform for the network of community members,” Carroll said. “The idea stems from not only being a place to solicit donations/giving but also to have a contact person (myself) if there is a need and I can help publicize and make people aware

of the need for help.”

As of Tuesday morning, the page had 97 followers and 79 likes. Carroll said her goal was to reach 100 members by Dec. 31, so she’s been pleased with the engagement with the page so far.

Even though Thanksgiving aid requests were only posted for 48 hours before the district went on break, Carroll said they were able to donate a turkey to a CCS family in need of one. Since closing those donations, the page received several offers, which are now being added to the page’s holiday service goal — to collect donations to give out gifts, food and decorations.

The page’s first PR initiative will be “5 Days of Mutual Aid,” where page members can post a story in response to daily prompts regarding a person or nonprofit that has helped them to cultivate a sense of community. Carroll said she is hopeful this initiative will gather more followers and engagement with the page.

“I have seen quite a community response already and can’t wait to cultivate more,” she said.

So far, the majority of resources collected have been monetary, Carroll said. Donations can be mailed to the CCS Central Office at 369 West Street in Pittsboro, or, if there is enough notice, delivered directly to a school social worker. Resources are distributed based on needs, with donations to be separated

“as evenly as possible” between all the district’s schools.

Prior to creating the Facebook page, Carroll spoke with representatives from several local nonprofits — Chatham Connecting, Chatham Education Foundation and Chatham Connecting Holiday Wishes — whom she said were “extremely helpful” in spreading the word about the page and garnering additional resources.

Carroll, originally from New York City, has not been in Chatham for very long, but she said she’s already been impressed by the desire of community members to help others.

“I never imagined I would get any response for joining the Facebook community, particularly without a recognizable name and being a new member of the community. I had been told about the great ability of Chatham County to give, and I felt that with the immediate response,” she said. “Within a week, we received numerous likes and follows on our page (all from a snowball effect of sharing the page). Upon giving out our first request, there was an immediate response and need was quickly met. Anytime I get the opportunity to speak with a community member, I am met with a pure interest in how to help.”

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

CHATHAM CHAT | ADAM WADE, CCCC

College focuses on ‘transformative lifelong learning’ for Chatham residents

Enrollment at North Carolina’s stellar system of community colleges typically goes up as the job market weakens. And while that’s



Wade

been the case at some of the state’s colleges, it’s not necessarily true at Central Carolina Community College.

This week, we speak with CCCC’s director of admissions, Adam Wade. Wade has worked for the college for five years, and as director of admissions he oversees new student advising and registration, new student orientation and placement testing. Previously, he served as lead success coach, overseeing success coaching initiatives.

Wade received his master’s degree in college student development from App State and his bachelor’s degree in communication studies from UNC-Wilmington.

CCCC will host a special “cruise-in” event at the Pittsboro campus on Tuesday for those interested in enrolling at the college.

What is enrollment like at CCCC?

Even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Central Carolina Community College recorded its second-highest enrollment ever during the Fall 2020 semester — a total of 5,453 students enrolled. The all-time high enrollment was 5,900 students

enrolled for the start of the 2019-2020 school year. We are looking forward to the spring semester and serving students in multiple formats.

Why should potential students consider CCCC?

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sidering using Financial Aid to pay for courses. Be aware that typically there is a 1-2 week processing time. Additionally, we would encourage students to complete the CCCC Scholarship Application at cccc.edu/financialaid/types-of-aid/scholarships/foundation-scholarships.

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Pippin, Cox lead Northwood cross country in sweep of Jordan-Matthews



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood freshman Harry Mendlovitz (92) and Jordan-Matthews senior Shane Conroy (65) sprint to the finish line in a Nov. 23 meet in Pittsboro.

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — As Sydney Cox looped back onto the track at Northwood High School, her legs burning from a nearly completed three-mile run, she had one thing on her mind.

“I had to push through,” the sophomore cross country runner said.

Energized by some final yells of encouragement from her father, Randy, in the bleachers, that’s exactly what Cox did. Running in her first career meet for the Chargers, Cox led from start to finish and used a final burst to set a new personal-record time (22:35.08) in the women’s 5K last Monday afternoon.

Her first-place finish was one of many highlights at the Chatham County Cross Country Championships, a non-conference meet that pitted Northwood against Jordan-Matthews. (Woods Charter was scheduled to participate but canceled last week as a safety precaution after coronavirus complications.)



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Jordan-Matthews and Northwood women’s runners ready up for the start of their race on Nov. 23.

The Chargers won both events handily on their home turf, logging six of the top seven times in the men’s 5K and all six of the top times in the women’s 5K against the

Jets. Despite the relatively uneventful final scores, both schools’ coaches found positives to glean from the in-county matchup.

“I think, all in all, it was a



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood sophomore Sydney Cox (75) was the top finisher in the women’s five-kilometer race.

great meet and great atmosphere,” J-M co-head coach Tyrone Hanner said.

On the Northwood side, head coach Cameron Isenhour leaned on youth. Since the NCHSAA’s COVID-19 guidelines limit schools to 14 runners each in a head-to-head meet, Isenhour sat out some of his top men’s and women’s finishers from last Wednesday’s season opener and opted for JV prospects.

Make no mistake: the Northwood varsity runners who did participate led the pack. Senior Carter Pippin logged a comfort-

able 19:12.38 first-place finish, and sophomore Jackson Adams and junior Andrew Kimbrel finished third and fourth, respectively. But Isenhour was just as excited for his rookies.

“We had a bunch of newcomers and a bunch of PRs,” he said.

The lone Jordan-Matthews runner among the men’s top 10 was Robert Train, a senior who finished second behind Pippin with a final time of 19:17.00. Train hopes to drop his time to the 18-minute mark by sea-

See **CROSS**, page B2

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week’s schedule and last week’s results

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

Chatham County’s five NCHSAA high schools continued volleyball and cross country competition last week, while swimming and diving held its first week of practice. Here’s a rundown of this week’s schedule and last week’s results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, Dec 2

Cross country: Woods Charter vs. Chatham Charter, Research Triangle and Cornerstone Charter at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, time TBA

Cross country: Northwood at Southern Durham, 4 p.m. (Vance also attending)

Cross country: Jordan-Matthews at Providence Grove, 4:30 p.m.

Volleyball: T.W. Andrews at Jordan-Matthews, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Dec 3

Volleyball: Gray Stone Day at Chatham Central, 6 p.m.

Volleyball: Wheatmore at Jordan-Matthews, 6 p.m.

Volleyball: Northwood at East Chapel Hill, 6 p.m. (JV 5 p.m.)

Volleyball: Research Triangle at Woods Charter, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec 5

Cross country: Chapel Hill at Northwood, 10 a.m. (Millbrook also attending)

LAST WEEK

Monday, Nov. 23

Cross country: Northwood’s

men and women swept Jordan-Matthews in the non-conference Chatham County Cross Country Championships meet. Senior Carter Pippin (19:12.38) and sophomore Sydney Cox (22:35.08) were the top finishers, respectively, in the men’s and women’s five-kilometer races.

Volleyball: Chatham Central fell in straight sets at Uwharrie Charter (25-7, 25-19, 25-19) on the road. Top performers included junior Taylor Poe (five kills), junior Sadie Gaines (three serving aces) and senior Grace Jones (three blocks).

Volleyball: Reigning 3A state champion Chapel Hill swept Northwood 25-14, 25-19, 25-21 at home. Junior Hannah Forbes and freshman Asia Thigpen had five kills each for the Chargers, and senior Kennedy Cox had five assists. Junior Annika Kearsley added six blocks.

Tuesday, Nov. 24

Cross country: Chatham Central at North Stanly

Volleyball: Chatham Central rallied from down 8-2 in the fifth set to beat South Stanly 3-2 at home (23-25, 25-17, 24-26, 25-17, 15-12). Seniors Savannah Stilwell (13) and Grace Jones (11) paced the team in kills, and the Bears racked up 10 total serving aces from six different players.

Volleyball: Jordan-Matthews dropped to 0-2 on the season with a 3-0 road loss at Trinity (25-9, 25-6, 25-8) in Randolph County.

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



Chatham Central senior Savannah Stilwell (15) rises up for a hit against South Stanly on Nov. 24.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham Central volleyball outlasts South Stanly in ‘total team effort’

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — Same opponent. Same score. Same situation.

When Chatham Central’s volleyball team broke its final pre-set huddle last Tuesday night, the Bears were feeling some serious déjà vu. This time around, they used it to their advantage.

A year after falling in five sets to South Stanly at home, Chatham Central rallied from down 8-2 in the final set to take down the same conference foe,

3-2, in a thriller of a match that didn’t come easy.

Head coach Brett Walden put it simply: “They didn’t quit.”

And Chatham Central certainly could have. Up until that point, the Bears’ night had been one of inconsistency. In the first set, they led 21-18 but dropped four straight points in an eventual 25-23 loss.

Then, after a relatively effortless 25-17 second set win, Chatham Central was again surging in the third — up 22-17 — before burning that lead, too, in a 26-24 defeat. Volleyball’s a game of momentum swings; through three sets, the

Bears were too often on the wrong side of them.

“We had to just settle back down,” senior Lindsay Polston said.

So that’s what they did. Trailing 2-1, Chatham Central got out to an early fourth set lead behind a steady stream of offense from seniors Savannah Stilwell (13 kills) and Grace Jones (11 kills).

South Stanly took a timeout trailing 20-13 — but, unlike they did in the first and third sets and much to the relief of Walden, the Bulls couldn’t

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page B2

Scant context, lessons overshadow performances in Howard’s ‘Hillbilly Elegy’

J.D. Vance’s 2016 memoir “Hillbilly Elegy” is a sometimes confounding, always provocative overview of the author’s experiences as a second-generation Appalachian descendant raised as a first-generation Ohio middle class transplant.

Vance’s assessment of the virtues and drawbacks of so-called “hillbilly culture” and its (de)evolution into the 1990s drew both praise and criticism from each end of the political spectrum. Vance himself has been branded an insightful soothsayer by some and a partisan carpetbagger by others.

Whether you regard Vance’s book as perceptive or controversial, at least it is about something. The same cannot be said for director Ron Howard’s “Hillbilly Elegy,” a film adaptation that supplants any cultural and political commentary with a standard-issue family melodrama and redemption story.

Split between Vance’s 1990s Middletown Ohio childhood and his present-day life as a Yale law student, Vance (Gabriel Basso) is summoned back home when his mother Bev



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic



Photo courtesy of Netflix

Glenn Close (left) and Amy Adams star in Ron Howard’s film ‘Hillbilly Elegy.’

(Amy Adams) suffers her latest overdose in a decades-long battle with drug addiction. Vance temporarily leaves behind his girlfriend (Freida Pinto) and an impending interview for a prestigious summer internship as he reluctantly revisits a world he gladly left behind, replete with family abuse and social rot. As Vance drives into Middletown, the glimpses of boarded-up businesses, dilapidated houses and wayward youth wandering the streets portends a low-to-middle class rural America disassembled by a myriad of generational causes.

Howard eschews any in-depth analysis of how the search for success once sought by Vance’s grandparents’ when they moved out of the hills of Kentucky to the blue-collar job market of Ohio gradually devolved into a downward spiral of social and family

decay. Instead, we oscillate between Vance’s present-day fretting over having to risk his personal aims for the sake of his seemingly hopeless mom, and the semi-origins of Vance’s angst, which involve an angry, unlikeable Bev and an angry, unlikeable teenage Vance (Owen Asztalos). The only redeemable characters are Vance’s sister Lindsay (played as an adult by Haley Bennett), who never moved out of Middletown but seems more psychologically well-adjusted than her Ivy League brother, and Vance’s “Mamaw” (Glenn Close), a ramrod matriarch whose marriage was riddled with abuse and whose motherhood feels like a failure. Played by Close with clinched-jawed, steely-eyed intensity, Mamaw eventually seizes the reins of rearing Vance, sparing her grandson from the pitfalls of

Middletown and paving his path towards future success.

Exactly how Vance progressed from finally scoring As on his algebra quizzes to attending Yale Law School is never elucidated. As for present-day Vance, the entirety of his journey comprises how to extricate himself from mom and Middletown soon enough to make his job interview, and being reminded in the meantime of why he left in the first place. Vance’s ultimate destination is laudable, but there is scant context and even fewer available lessons to learn.

The strength of “Hillbilly Elegy” is the performances by the lead actors. You can practically see the flop sweat as Close’s harried and Adam’s hysterics wring

every drop of drama out of each scene. It is a testament to their talent that they salvage the film from being irredeemable to watchable for extended spans. But “Hillbilly Elegy” feels extraneous, less a poetic lament and more just lamentable.




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CROSS

Continued from page B1

son’s end, he said, but he couldn’t complain about a runner-up finish in his season opener — especially after so many months of waiting and uncertainty thanks to COVID-19.

“It feels a little better than just running to run,” he said.

Hanner, who coaches the Jets with Michael Milian, credited Train as a runner who “came back stronger than he was last

year” and dedicated himself to offseason workouts. His performance was a plus, the coach said, as were those of sophomore America Cuanalo and junior Jasmine Basilio, who finished seventh and eighth, respectively, in the women’s 5K.

The Jets were also missing their top men’s runner and three of their top five women’s runners at last Monday’s meet, Hanner said. That gives him confidence for future PAC7 2A conference meets.

“We had a few short-falls,” Hanner said. “But,

of course, Northwood is strong. I’m proud of the job they’re doing for cross country in the Chatham County area.”

In the women’s 5K, that took the form of a clean sweep, as Northwood placed in all six scoring positions. Sophomore Sarah Barbour placed third, senior Liv Riggsbee placed second and Cox, the sophomore running in her first ever meet, placed first — with an admitted assist from the sidelines.

“I really look up to my dad,” she said. “I could hear him in the stands

cheering me on, so right when I hit the track, I had to go for it. I just sprinted my heart out.”

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

Chatham Central volleyball head coach Brett Walden (middle right) and assistant coach Katherine Little (middle left) address the Bears during a timeout.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



VOLLEYBALL

Continued from page B1

spin it into a late comeback. Chatham Central won 25-17.

“We communicated a *lot* better,” senior Tanner Little said.

The fourth set win sent Chatham Central into an exact replica of a situation it faced last August: deadlocked with South Stanly 2-2 at home, a Yadkin Valley 1A Conference win just within their grasp.

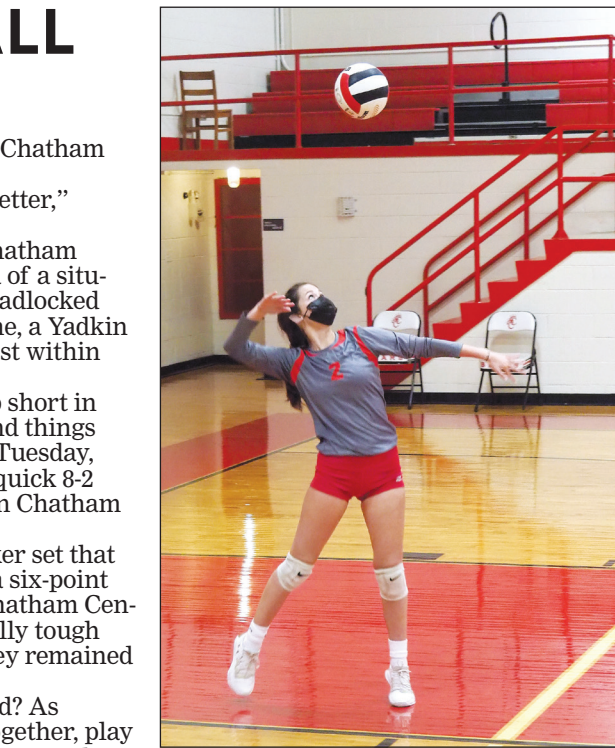
In 2019, the Bears came up short in that fifth set, losing 21-19. And things were trending that way last Tuesday, as South Stanly got out to a quick 8-2 lead and forced a desperation Chatham Central timeout.

In an abbreviated tiebreaker set that only goes to 15 points, such a six-point deficit spells disaster. But Chatham Central’s 2020 squad is a “mentally tough group,” Walden said, and they remained steadfast.

The strategy going forward? As Polston recalled it: “Come together, play as a team, be where you’re supposed to be and cover your spots.”

8-4. 9-7. 10-9. Bit by bit and piece by piece, Chatham Central chipped into South Stanly’s lead. And once the Bears played the Bulls to a 10-10 draw, they kicked it into high gear.

Junior Carleigh Gentry hit two consecutive serving aces to put Chatham Central up 12-10. Five points later, a left-side kill from junior Taylor Poe ended the set at 15-12, the Bears officially moved to 2-2 overall and in their confer-



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham Central senior Lindsay Polston (2) winds up for a serve.

ence and the gym collectively exhaled.

“That’s a total team effort,” Walden said.

And some déjà vu avoided.

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‘THE ULTIMATE GOAL’

How one Siler City immigrant family’s sacrifices put three kids in college

BY PATSY MONTESINOS & VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Mexican immigrants Margarito Parroquin and Leonila Herrera underwent 25 years of blood, sweat and tears to put three children through college and ensure they led better lives than their parents.

And so far, their labor has paid off: their two sons, Giovanni and Bryant graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with degrees in political science and sociology, while their youngest daughter, Yamil, just started attending Central Carolina Community College in Chatham with plans to transfer to UNC. She intends to study nursing.

“I’m grateful for everything they’ve done,” said Bryant, now the Hispanic Liaison’s communications manager. “And the position I am in, in my life right now, is because of them.”

Margarito immigrated to California in 1988 when he was 17 hoping to find better opportunities, earn some money and return home to Veracruz State, Mexico, where he’d intended to continue studying. At that point, he’d attended school for about 11 years — up until high school — and he’d dreamed of studying law so that he could defend the rights of others.

But then he met his future wife, Herrera, in California and started a family. They married in August of 1992.

“Having a family makes it very difficult to go back and adjust,” he said. “We went two or three times, but it wasn’t the same anymore. So, we decided to come back (to the U.S.) and stay, give our children a better chance at life here.”

They moved to Siler City in 1995. Margarito found work in hardwood flooring and on a farm, where he toiled most weekends. Herrera became a seamstress. While she bounced around different jobs, Margarito has held the same jobs since

’95, working nearly every day to provide their children with a better quality of life and the means to “become someone in this country.”

“A lot of it has to do with how you get along with them as parents, as a couple, being an example to them more than anything,” he said. “If there is not that communication, there is not that harmony and it is quite difficult for a boy to get where he wants.”

It’s been a difficult journey, Margarito said. As a young man, he had to leave behind his friends, family and studies. While raising a family, he and Herrera lived paycheck to paycheck. He rose early in the morning, worked in the scorching heat and freezing cold alike, and returned late to bed. Likewise, Herrera rose at 4 a.m. to get to work by 5 a.m.

“They said (in Mexico), ‘No, in the north, you make money.’ This is a big lie. Here you come to suffer,” he said. “At first you suffer (and) when finally you establish yourself, you begin to see your effort justified. There was a saying we had there, ‘You suffer a lot, but you enjoy yourself. You wanted America. Now get to work.’”

That’s why he urged his children to get an education.

“By having an education, you have many opportunities,” Margarito said. “As I told them when they were little, ‘Education is a key that can open many doors for you wherever you go.’ Without education, it’s very difficult.”

To drive this lesson home, he often took his children to work with him at the farm to show them “what it costs to earn a living if one doesn’t have an education.”

“Someone else tells you what to do,” he said. “You go out in hot weather, the heat, the mosquitoes, in the cold weather that we are almost in right now. (You get ready) at 5 in the morning. At 6 a.m. (you are) there with the cold, everything frozen. Going to school, prepar-



Bryant Parroquin (left) shares a beer with his dad Margarito in their front yard during a family cookout last Saturday.

ing yourself, educating yourself, being in an office making a living in another way — it’s not the same.”

Each of the Parroquin siblings heeded that advice and achieved — or is working to achieve — what Bryant calls “the ultimate goal” for the children of immigrants: graduating college.

“(Going to the farm) kind of taught me what hard work means and what it means to be putting food on the table for your family,” Bryant said, adding: “That put a better image in my head of like, why (I should) continue pushing in school. Do I want to end up working out here in the cold, working from like 5 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m., if not longer, or educate myself and find a better position for myself where I can actually help my family?”

It was hard to maneuver the college application process, he said — especially the application fees and FAFSA form, which he had to fill out himself — but his parents continued to motivate and support him, providing whatever they could to the extent they could.

“With no ifs and buts,” Bryant said, “(my dad) would really tell us, ‘What do you need? It might not be accessible, but we’ll figure a way to make it happen. Like, do you need a calculator? Do you need this textbook? We’re gonna get you

to college, no matter what.”

To get him and his siblings where they needed to go, his mother also prioritized their needs over her own.

“Everything she does, everything she does, she always does for her family first,” Bryant added. “It’s as simple as going to the store. She will never buy anything for her(self) to always make sure me, my brother, my sister, my dad are well clothed and well fed before herself.”

Never give up and keep pushing — that’s what he hears from them all the time.

“(My dad) sees his dreams in us,” Bryant said. “Not as far as he wants us to do what he wanted to do, but he wants to make sure that we reach our goals and our dreams.”

He holds one particular goal close to his heart: repaying all of his parents’ sacrifice and support by getting a high-paying job to help his parents out.

“I have goals ... like finding ways to help them live better, where they can, like, retire, stop working, and I can be like, ‘Yo, I got you if you need anything, like that one doctor bill, you ain’t gotta stress about it,’” he said, later adding: “I feel like the majority of life, they’ve been working and not really enjoying.”

But like many children of immigrants, that mindset puts a lot of pressure on his shoulders. Whether his parents’

efforts were worth it — that’s all on him, Bryant said.

“A lot of other kids, or people from my generation, can just lean more on their parents and have a more solidified foundation here in this country,” he said. “And whereas pretty much my only foundation (is) my two parents, and I can make or break their efforts that they put through so many years.”

Bryant felt that weight come crashing down on him when he graduated unemployed a year ago. He sent in job application after job application, only to be rejected again and again. He ended up working three months at a sawmill and spent every moment of it feeling like a “failure.”

“There were many days I would come home from work, and I would just close myself in my room,” he said. “My parents would be like, ‘Everything’s OK. Everything’s OK.’ It’s just these thoughts in my head that were like, ‘Yo, four years of college that was deemed a top five public university, and I’m still working on the saw mill.’”

That’s why achieving that 9-to-5 office job with the Hispanic Liaison meant everything to Bryant. It was the first step toward achieving his overarching dream — support and lift up his parents as much as they’ve supported and lifted him.

At the end of the day, Margarito’s biggest dream is to see his children succeed, achieve their goals and “be good people.” And what they’ve achieved so far, he said, has made him so proud.

“Imagine what great pride (I have) to see my son graduate from one of the best universities here at the state and at the national levels, UNC — the oldest, the second (have done it) and I hope my daughter achieves it, too,” Margarito said. “(It’s) triple pride in coming from where we come from and nowadays saying: ‘No, my son’s a college graduate, so is the other and I hope to have a third.’”

Reporters Patsy Montesinos and Victoria Johnson can be reached at pmontes2@chathamnr.com and victoria@chathamnr.com.

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It's a Christmas miracle cookie!

This is the only recipe that I offer every year, because these cookies are spectacularly, astonishingly delicious. But their very humble looks are infinitely deceiving. Finished, they look less like the cover girl of a food magazine, and more like a demented kindergarten art project. They are simple round, lightly golden, a little-too-thick sugar cookies. They are then spread with way too much garishly hued frosting and sprinkled haphazardly with store-bought jimmies, sprinkles, and/or colored sugar.

Somehow though, these cookies pack a flavor punch that will make even the most jaded palate sit up and take notice. The Kid and I discuss them each time we're lucky enough to get our mitts on some. We can't figure them out. How is it that this little, nondescript baked good can pack such an extraordinary punch? We joke that maybe she puts crack in them, or fairy dust.

While our little scholar was in college, Gramma baked a batch freshman year and shipped them up to the school in Vermont. Those NECI (New England Culinary Institute) people had no idea what they were in for.

There were probably four dozen cookies in the box. The Kid ate some and then decided to share with a few lucky souls.

Nobody was very enthused to be offered boring baked goods from some random grandmother in North Carolina. My child didn't try to talk anyone into a sample. If they didn't want one, it was just more for The Kid.

Then one person took



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

A table full of Christmas cookies — some decorated, some awaiting icing.

one. Eyes lit up, and word got around. People came out of the woodwork wanting these miraculous confections. Chef-instructors approached The Kid to ask when Gramma would send more.

So, welcome, Gentle Reader, to my family's most treasured holiday tradition. Although your participation will be by way of proxy, I am still very pleased you will be joining us.

It is time for the 46th annual cookie frosting party. And honestly, I couldn't be more excited.

Each year, my mother and father bake dozens (this year it's 13 dozen) of her famous sugar cookies. The recipe origin has been lost to the mists of time. Then they're frosted using a recipe which came from a cake decorating class she took in the 70s when we lived in Puerto Rico. It was taught by Winnie Chazaroo. (I've always thought her name sounded like the moniker of a sassy cartoon horse

from Australia.)

A couple of weeks before Christmas we go to my parent's house for their annual frosting party.

Three or four trunk-sized bins are full of freshly baked cookies, awaiting their prom dresses in the form of ridiculous amounts of Chazaroo frosting topped with a corsage of sprinkles.

The mixer almost never stops whipping frosting, making the kitchen hazy with powdered sugar — leaving a sweet taste when you inhale. Everyone's fingers are stained with the various food colors used to dye all of that creamy American buttercream. Each cookie artist sits in front of their own rimmed baking sheet so the stray sprinkles stray no further than the pan.

As the cookies are finished, they are carefully laid on the wax-papered dining room table to cure the frosting and give it the stability to be re-stacked into the bins. Then they will rest until they are gifted and served to guests.

They really shouldn't be disturbed until at least the next morning. But the final step in our process is to negotiate for a supply

Mom's Christmas Cookies

Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour	1/2 teaspoon salt	Crisco
1/2 teaspoon baking powder	1/2 teaspoon baking soda	1 egg
	1/2 cup sugar	2 tablespoons milk (whole or 2%)
	1/2 cup butter-flavored	1 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 400°

Sift dry ingredients into bowl. With mixer, cut in shortening until it resembles coarse meal. Blend in egg, milk, and vanilla.

Roll out to 1/8 inch and cut into shapes.

Bake on parchment-lined cookie sheet for 6-8 minutes or until golden.

Remove to cooling rack.

Frost cookies when completely cooled. Makes about 1 1/2 dozen.

Winnie Chazaroo frosting

Ingredients:

11-pound box powdered sugar	of tartar	less)
1/2 teaspoon salt	1/3 cup butter-flavored Crisco	1 tablespoon vanilla
1 scant teaspoon cream	1 egg white	1/2 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
	1/4 cup of water (or	

• For decoration: colored sugars, sprinkles, and jimmies food coloring

Dump all ingredients, except water, into mixer. Beat ingredients at low until it starts to come together. Put water in now, so you can judge how much to use. Beat until it's creamy, fluffy, and spreadable. Then very heavily frost each cookie (a 50/50 ratio is just about right), and decorate. Let cookies sit out overnight so frosting can set up and harden slightly. Then stack with parchment between layers. Lasts 3-4 weeks in airtight container.

• A few notes about the recipes:

You might want to fancify the ingredients or procedure. Don't do it!

The recipe is some brand of alchemy that only works if made as written. I've tried changing both ingredients and technique and was rewarded with mediocre cookies and regret. If you're an unrepentant fiddler, can't make it as written, with a tweak here and a nudge there, please, just make a different cookie.

The frosting is really good and works on anything that needs frosting, and even stuff that doesn't. My dad and I have been known to eat a bowl of it, on nothing more than a spoon.

to take home with us. Once Christmas gets closer, Mom will beg us to take home as many as we carry. But as an Italian girl from Jersey, she never thinks, that first day, that there will be enough to go around.

So, this recipe is my Christmas present to you. And once you taste them you will know that it is a gift of far more value than any expensive, colossal-bow-clad car, shiny jewelry featuring stones formerly known as carbon, or even a pony.

Just make a batch, you'll understand.

Thanks for your time, and from the Matthews

Family Band to you and yours, have the happiest of Holidays, and an un-

abashedly joyful 2021. Contact debbie at dm@bullcity.mom.

Eureka! You found the answer!

A: Chatham County's total area is 709 square miles.

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.

December's winners will be drawn from eligible entries provided by 12/31/2020. The December winner will be announced in a January issue of the Chatham News + Record. One entry per household, per week. Employees of the COA and their dependents not eligible.



Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

In 'Santa's sweat shop,' making cookies.

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Chatham COA Upcoming Events

November 26th - December 2nd

Thursday, December 3rd

- Arthritis Foundation Exercise at 10 AM
- Finding Comfort & Joy this Holiday Season at 11:15 AM

Friday, December 4th

- Body Conditioning with Jackie at 9:00 AM
- Weekly Call with Director Dennis Streets at 10:15 AM

Monday, December 7th

- Tai Chi for Arthritis at 8:45 AM
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise at 10:00 AM
- Bingo with Joe at 11:15 AM

Tuesday, December 8th

- Body Conditioning with Jackie at 9:00 AM
- Chatham Striders w/ Laughing Yoga at 11:15 AM

Wednesday, December 9th

- Tai Chi for Arthritis at 8:45 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 & Win!

Each week the COA will offer a 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.

Free Help with Your Medicare Open Enrollment Questions!

Give the Council on Aging a call to set up your appointment for free and unbiased information and assistance. Just ask for the SHIP program!

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

Commissioners talk development, Christmas and sewage in multifarious meeting

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The town’s board of commissioners dedicated most of its meeting time last Monday to discussions of town development plus an update on Pittsboro’s sewage capacity and general announcements regarding holiday activity and water treatment.

The town will forgo its annual Christmas parade this year, Town Manager Chris Kennedy announced to the board, in light of the coronavirus pandemic’s worsening trajectory and increasing limitations from the state on public gatherings.

“Unfortunately, the odds were just stacking against us,” Kennedy said. “It didn’t make very good sense to try to do something. We looked at a number of alternatives ... but it was just becoming too cumbersome trying to figure out a good safe way to have it, so unfortunately we had to cancel that for this year.”

Kennedy acknowledged and lamented the fact that many small businesses count on the parade for exposure during the holiday season. But, he emphasized again, the risk outweighed the potential benefits. He beseeched the public to understand.

“But we’re getting excited for next year’s,” Kennedy said. “Hopefully, it’ll be normal and it’ll be even better.”

In the board’s previous meeting on Nov. 9, the commissioners discussed in a public hearing an engineering report and environmental information document with suggestions for the town’s wastewater treatment system improvement. A follow-up period for town residents to express their opinions on the matter should have ended by last Monday. Instead, Kennedy requested approval to set a new hearing date.

“You may ask why we’re doing this again,” Kennedy said, “setting a public hearing to talk about the same thing again. It turns out it was improperly noticed. I don’t think it was any fault of the town’s, but, nonetheless, we don’t

feel like we had the proper two weeks’ notice.”

Out of “an abundance of caution,” then, a new public meeting to discuss the ER/EID was scheduled for Dec. 14. Town residents interested in participating may attend via the Zoom link posted on the town’s website.

Development news

The commissioners discussed three development projects last Monday, approving two and tabling one for future review.

- Subdivision south of the N.C. 87 bypass and Burnice Place.

Griffin Farms Townhomes petitioned the board of commissioners to approve a special use permit and a subdivision preliminary plat for a 99-lot townhome subdivision southwest of downtown Pittsboro. It was the third time the commissioners reviewed the developer’s plans since early August. Twice the matter has been deferred without taking action, a pattern the board upheld again last week after expressing substantial displeasure with the proposal.

“I am very disappointed,” Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin said.

She took greatest issue with subdivision’s lack of a second accessway, an oversight she said would compromise resident safety in cases of emergency.

“I really don’t agree to that particular situation,” she said, “... I know it’s not in the ordinances. But with a development this large, I really think it needs another access.”

Other commissioners seconded Baldwin’s apprehension and supported her calls for amendment. Representatives from the developer, however, expressed frustration with what they interpreted as board indolence.

“Honestly, it’s a little bit disappointing that it’s being tabled,” one representative said. “... This has dragged out a long time...”

- Rezoning 2539 U.S. 64 Business West

In several of its recent meetings, the

board of commissioners considered a request to rezone a 3.75-acre parcel due west of downtown Pittsboro. The change would permit the land owners, John and Denise Mitarotondo, to proceed with a rural development project. A much larger plot of land surrounding the parcel in question was already rezoned a year ago, but the 3.75 acres were accidentally omitted from that proposal.

On Nov. 2, the town’s planning board reviewed the request for rezoning and voted 5-1 in favor of approval. The board of commissioners followed suit last Monday, voting unanimously to approve a motion to rezone the land.

- Site plan review, Mosaic Cruizers

Holmes Oil Company of Chapel Hill requested the board approve its site plan to construct a 5,000 square-foot convenience store with five gas station islands in the Mosaic development at Chatham Park off of U.S 15-501, northeast of downtown. The site would also include 32 parking spaces, exceeding the town’s requirement of 25.

In its Nov. 2 meeting, the town planning board unanimously recommended approval of the proposal. The commissioners upheld the recommendation, also voting unanimously to approve with several board-members applauding the site plan.

Commissioner John Bonitz, a clean energy expert, was especially pleased to see electric vehicle charging sites in close proximity to the future Cruizers.

“That’s good easy walking distance to your convenience store,” he said to Edward Holmes, the company’s founder, who attended the meeting, “thank you.”

Other news

Pittsboro’s sewer capacity has long been a weak point in the town’s ambitious development plans. For ongoing construction to proceed smoothly, sewage allotment must expand, Kennedy told the board.

“I hope to be in Pittsboro for a long time,” he said, “... but I want all my

successors for quite a number of generations not to have to worry about this.”

The town is aggressively pursuing other construction initiatives in its effort to increase Pittsboro’s population more than 10-fold in the next few decades, but Kennedy warned that it must take sewage capacity expansion more seriously in the imminent future.

“We need to consider other types of projects to increase our capacity,” Kennedy said.

The quickest solution would be to purchase extra capacity from nearby Sanford which is in the process of expanding its treatment plant. For a relatively inexpensive sum, Kennedy said, Pittsboro could send an extra million gallons worth of flow to Sanford, a short-term fix that would address the town’s capacity issues over the next four years. After that, more substantial and permanent fixes would need to be made.

“My job as staff is to provide you that silver platter that says, ‘Board, would you like to develop? If you’d like to, you have sewage capacity,’” Kennedy said. “I don’t like to come to the board and say, ‘Unfortunately, I think you’re going to have to provide a bunch of caveats and conditions on this, so you can’t develop.’”

As things stand now, though, the town is trending toward the latter scenario in which development goals will be stifled by insufficient sewage capacity.

Kennedy’s presentation to the board followed months of investigation into the town’s sewage needs and shortcomings, but did not include specific recommendations for approval. In coming weeks and months, Kennedy hopes to compile more concrete suggestions for the commissioners’ consideration.

“I will get something to you all,” he said, “so that hopefully the board and the public at large can better understand where we stand with this.”

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

EDUCATION BRIEFS: WEEK OF DEC. 3

CN+R STAFF REPORTS

More students return under Plan B

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Education voted to provide the option for students in 3rd grade through 5th grade to participate in a mix of in-person instruction and remote instruction beginning Nov. 19. The vote also provided the same option for students in sixth grade through eighth grade beginning Dec. 7. That mix of instruction is the statewide option known as Plan B. Individual schools will communicate directly with the appropriate individuals to provide more information in the coming days.

Since October 19, Plan B has been an option for Chatham County Schools students in preschool through 2nd grade, as well as the district’s extended-content standards students.

Board members continue exploring the feasibility of phasing in additional students over time. Updates will be provided accordingly.

Students enrolled in the Chatham County Schools Virtual Academy will continue participating in total remote learning. Please direct questions about the Virtual Academy to Mitch Stensland at mstensland@chatham.k12.nc.us.

— *Chatham County Schools*

CCS COVID-19 at-home learning tools

Since August, Chatham County Schools has updated a website with tools and resources for at-home learning. The site included information related to remote learning at each of the district’s schools, technology resources for students and families,

community resources and more.

“Chatham County School System believes that every student deserves access to rigorous, relevant and engaging learning opportunities,” the website’s homepage said. “While we cannot replace the value of the teacher-to-student interaction in the classroom, we are working to provide supplemental resources and activities that will help students remain engaged in learning while schools are closed.”

Since Oct. 19, some students have returned to in-person learning under Plan B, with more returning Nov. 19 and Dec. 7. Still, under the hybrid learning plan, at-home learning will continue to be a part of the district’s learning plan. You can access this resources page from the district’s website or at sites.google.com/chatham.k12.nc.us/ccs-ahl.

Chatham Reads and CEF Book Drive collecting donations through Dec. 16

Sixty-one percent of low-income families have no books at home for their children, reads a Chatham Education Foundation flyer.

That’s a statistic the organization is partnering with Chatham Reads to hopefully combat — collecting new and gently used books to distribute in Chatham. Collections are taking place now through Dec. 16.

To donate, you can drop off at Briar Chapel Clubhouse porch, 501 Pharmacy, Opus Financial or Peppercorn Coffee Shop in Siler City.

“Are you cleaning out your bookcases to make room for the Christmas joy that will be coming? Please consider donating your gently used or new books to our book drive,” CEF posted on its Facebook page. “The books

will help fill libraries of Chatham County children. Thank you for your generosity!”

For more information, contact Sarah Linkhorn at sarah@cefmail.org or go to www.chathamreads.org.

CCS virtual science fair project applications due by Dec. 4

PITTSBORO — The look of the Chatham County Schools Science fair has changed but not its mission of having students developing questions about the world and answering them using scientific tools and methods.

This edition of the science fair is virtual. Students will share projects through Google Slides or PowerPoint presentations. They’ll use the Zoom platform to interact with judges.

There are no school-level science fairs this time around. Students from kindergarten through 12th grade may submit an application at <https://rb.gy/bjetkp> for a project by Dec. 4. Each school has a science fair site coordinator, who will provide specifics and resources along the way.

Group projects of two or three students are allowed, but the district strongly discourages those in the interest of safety. Parents and guardians would make that decision and assume the responsibility of students adhering to safety guidelines.

More general information about the how the science fair works both in the district and across the state can be found at ncsef.org/index.php/students/students.

The science fair culminates with a virtual awards ceremony the district will broadcast live Jan. 26.

— *Chatham County Schools*

CHATHAM COUNTY COVID-19 DASHBOARD

Updated as of TUESDAY, Dec. 1

IN CHATHAM

Cases: 2,371

Deaths: 65

Trendline: Chatham is "orange," meaning "substantial," but not critical, spread. 6% of all tests have come back positive.

Chatham County Schools:

23 staff, 10 students.

Overall hospital impact: MEDIUM

NORTH CAROLINA

Cases: 364,512

Deaths: 5,261

Trendline: The rolling average is 3,617 cases, up from about 2,100 cases one month ago.

UNITED STATES

Cases: 13.3 million

Deaths: 266,051

The 7-day moving average has trended down since Nov. 25.

SOURCES: N.C. DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CHATHAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT, CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS, COVID TRACKING PROJECT, NEWS + RECORD RESEARCH. BECAUSE OF DATA RELEASE TIMES, SOME AGENCY UPDATES MAY PROVIDE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT NUMBERS.

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

On Nov. 24, Shawnace Lamont Yarborough was charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, breaking and entering, terrorizing and inflicting injury and assault with a deadly weapon. He was taken before a Chatham County magistrate who advised hi of his charges and set a Dec. 9 court date. He was turned over to the detention staff without incident.

On Nov. 25, Shawnace Lamont Yarborough was charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of a stolen firearm and keeping and maintaining a vehicle, dwelling or other place for use, storage or sale of controlled substance. He was taken before a Chatham County magistrate who set a Dec. 14 court date. He was issued a total secured bond of \$50,000.

SILER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

On Nov. 24, Glen Todd Smith Jr. was arrested for assault on a female and communicating threats. He was transported to the Siler City police department for processing. The defendant refused to provide his fingerprints and he refused to have his picture taken. He was then brought before a Chatham County magistrate who found probable cause for the stated charges and issued a Dec. 15 court date. The magistrate issued a domestic violence hold on Smith.

On Nov. 27, Joseph Roy Scott Sr. was arrested for burning of personal property and assault on a female. He was transported to the Siler City police department for processing. He was then brought before a Chatham County magistrate who issued a no bond and set a Dec. 15 court date. Scott was turned over to the custody of the Chatham County detention center.

CCPHD asks residents to take diabetes seriously

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

According to the 2018 Chatham County Community Assessment, 15.5% of residents surveyed said they had been diagnosed with diabetes. National estimates say that anywhere from 9.4% of Americans to more than 10% are living with the disease.

It is a disease that’s a primary concern of the Chatham County Public Health Department, department registered dietitian Laura Hearn said, because of the negative health effects of developing diabetes.

“According to the CDC, one in three people in the U.S. have prediabetes and many do not know it,” Hearn said. “This is certainly a concern when we think about the negative health consequences of diabetes.”

One common perception of diabetes focuses on people giving themselves insulin shots and monitoring their blood sugar. While that is certainly part of managing a diabetes diagnosis, the potential long-term consequences of diabetes are worth paying attention to.

“One reason Chatham County should take the threat of diabetes seriously is the risk of developing other health complications such as heart disease or kidney disease,” Hearn said. “Of course COVID-19 is a major health concern right now and there is evidence to suggest that people with underlying conditions, including diabetes, are at higher risk of severe complications if they contract COVID-19. Additionally, there are economic burdens of medical costs and time out of work due to diabetes complications.”

When it comes to diagnoses, there are multiple disparities along racial/ethnic and educational lines. In 2018, 12.7% of America’s Hispanic/Latinx adults and 12.1% of Black/African-American adults had been diagnosed with diabetes, com-



Submitted photo
Registered Dietitian Laura Hearn, who works for the Chatham County Public Health Department.

pared to 7.4% of the white adults. Additionally, those with less than a high school education were nearly twice as likely to have diabetes as those with more than a high school education.

Diabetes is also the seventh-leading cause of death in Chatham County annually, accounting for 3% of all deaths.

This is why the Chatham County Public Health Department urges the public to take the threat of diabetes seriously and, if you are already diagnosed, take proactive steps to protect your health.

CCPHD offers two programs, the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) and Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME). DPP is a CDC-recognized program and is led by

a lifestyle coach to focus on nutrition and physical activity to prevent participants from developing Type 2 diabetes. DSME is designed for those who have been diagnosed with diabetes and addresses not only nutrition and physical activity, but ways to reduce and prevent risks of complications. DSME participants are required to have a referral from their medical provider. The department also has a Registered Dietitian on staff to provide nutrition counseling to county residents.

Hearn said Chatham residents without diabetes can also play a role in the fight against diabetes.

“Chatham County residents can work to achieve their own diabetes goals, but also empower others to be proactive with their health,” Hearn said. “The American Diabetes Association is encouraging us to do that several ways. We can address social and economic barriers to care, we can speak up for others, and we can adopt healthier lifestyles through nutrition, physical activity and stress management.”

The American Diabetes Association’s motto for this year’s American Diabetes Month is “We Stand Greater Than.” It is the commitment of the Chatham County Public Health Department to help all Chatham residents to “stand greater than” their health challenges, including diabetes, by providing education, personal care and resources.

“Chatham County residents should feel empowered to discuss their risk of developing diabetes with their healthcare provider and encouraged to choose healthy lifestyles,” Hearn said, “as we know that even small steps can lead to great improvements in health.”

For more on CCPHD’s efforts to combat diabetes, visit chathamnc.org/publichealth. You can also find CCPHD at facebook.com/chathamhealth.



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HELP WANTED

JOB ADVERTISEMENT - The Town of Pittsboro Police Department has an opening for Police Officer I. The Town of Pittsboro is in Chatham County which is in the heart of North Carolina. Pittsboro, along with Chatham County, is one of the fastest growing areas in the state. Our town will continue to grow due to the growth of Chatham Park, an expansive work-live-play community which will occupy over 8,000 acres to the east of our town and west of the Haw River.

The position of Police Officer I performs general law enforcement duties to include, but not limited to: traffic enforcement and investigation; criminal enforcement and investigation; protecting life and property; responding to calls for service and complaints; writing detailed and accurate reports; testifying in court, and performing other job-related tasks as required. - The hiring salary range is \$43,323-\$47,655 depending on qualifications and experience. Applicants must possess a high school diploma or the equivalent, must be 21 years of age, must possess or be able to obtain a North Carolina driver's license, and must hold a North Carolina Law Enforcement Certification upon hire. - This posting is open until filled. A completed Town of Pittsboro employment ap-

plication and a North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standard Commission F-3(LE)-Personal History form are required to be submitted for hiring consideration. An employment application can be found at <https://pittsboronc.gov> under Employment Opportunities. The F-3(LE)-Personal History form can be found at <https://ncdoj.gov/law-enforcement-training/criminal-justice/forms-and-publications/#91-114-wpfd-law-enforcement-p2>. Documents may be mailed or delivered to Chief of Police at Town Hall, 635 East Street, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or submitted via email to sjohnson@pittsboronc.gov. Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. N26,D3,2tc

SENIOR PLANNER (Parks) - The Town of Pittsboro Community Development Department is seeking a Senior Planner, a position that crafts the department's long-range planning and policy documents and provides policy analysis and advise to department leadership. This includes responsibility to engage the public, work closely with staff from other departments and agencies, as well as elected and appointed officials, on topics across the varied fields of park development, open space preservation, natural resource protection, recreation, and community. Further, this position participates actively in high-profile town wide planning initiatives that will shape the growth and development of Pittsboro. Pittsboro is noted for its diversity, community involvement, intellectual excitement, artistic pursuits, and natural beauty. - **ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** • Responsible for all phases of developing and updating the department's primary planning and policy documents, including the Parks & Recreation System Plan, the Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan, and others. • Serves as technical advisor and analyst to senior management on long-range planning, strategic planning and policy development. • Actively participate in town wide long-range planning initiatives, contributing professional expertise on parks, natural resources, recreation and community services. • Act as a resource for elected and appointed officials.

• Regularly present to and generally support the work of Board of Commissioners, advisory committees, including the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. • Administer and maintain agreements and contracts with public agencies and private organizations. • Facilitate large or small groups dealing with complex issues, balancing competing viewpoints and desired outcomes. • Develop and conduct complex public engagement processes on highly visible projects. • Write or assist others in writing budget documents, successful grant submittals or other fundraising efforts. - **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:** • Expert depth of knowledge about planning processes and program development in the fields of parks, recreation, natural resources, and habitat preservation. • Knowledge of the principles, legal requirements, regulations, and laws applicable to parks, natural resources, recreation, park property acquisition and development. • Ability to prepare and administer plans based on analysis of data, public engagement, existing policy and other influencing factors. • Exhibit strong leadership skills with ability to build consensus with diverse groups. • Ability to communicate effectively with individuals and groups regarding complex or controversial public policy issues or regulations. • Demonstrated strength in writing. • Ability to identify, write and oversee grant submittals or other funding efforts and comply with federal, state and/or local agency statute and regulation. • Ability to develop and maintain trust-based working relationships with employees of other departments, representatives of other organizations and grant agencies, property owners, neighboring jurisdictions, Town officials, and the public. • Ability to think conceptually; observe and evaluate trends; analyze data; draw logical conclusions and make sound decisions. - **QUALIFICATIONS:** EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS: • Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university in land-use planning, urban planning, landscape architecture, geography, real estate, public administration, environmental studies, or a closely related field. • A minimum of five years of experience that provides the applicant with a comprehensive knowledge of planning principles, practices, and techniques as they relate to functional areas such as parks, open space and recreation, the environment, or other related areas. • Or any demonstrated combination of education and experience. • Valid North Carolina driver's license. • Completion of a background check. - **PHYSICAL DEMANDS:** The physical demands and work environment described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully

perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable the individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. • Work involves walking; talking; hearing; using hands to handle, feel or operate objects, tools, or controls; and reaching with hands and arms. • Vision abilities required by this job include close vision and the ability to adjust focus. • The employee may be required to push, pull, lift, and/or carry objects up to 40 pounds. • Work may periodically require the employee to climb, balance, bend, stoop, kneel, crouch, and/or crawl. N26,D3,2tc

POSITION, Public Health Nurse I,II, or III; Location, Moore County Government – Health Department; Salary, \$61,267. To apply or for more information please visit: <https://www.moorecountync.gov/human-resources/careers/> - For questions, please contact Moore County Human Resources, (910) 947-6362. N26,D3,2tc

MOUNTAINE FARMS OF SILER CITY is seeking an **OCCUPATIONAL NURSE**, Hours 4:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m., to provide first aid and emergency care for occupational injuries and illness, performing required pre-employment physicals and drug screens and record-keeping and documentation of visits to health services. Seeking an LPN or RN with 2 years of practical experience preferably in a Manufacturing environment or Emergency Care. Knowledge of case management, workers' compensation and OSHA regulations preferred. Ability to work with limited supervision and high motivation,. Ability to work well under pressure, meeting multiple and sometimes conflicting deadlines. Strong computer skills (MS Word, MS Excel and HRIS system), Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. - Job Type: Full-time. - Salary: \$18.00 to \$22.00/hour – <https://mountairejobs.com>, Au6,tfnc

LEGALS

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Jeanne Wilson Vaughn, having qual-

ified as Administrator of the Estate of **JIMMIE RAY WILSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 12th day of November, 2020.

Jeanne Wilson Vaughn, Administrator 238 Walter Wilson Road Bear Creek, NC 27207 W. Ben Atwater, Jr., Attorney at Law P.O. Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2850 batwater@pinehurst.net N12,N19,N26,D3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Jeanne Wilson Vaughn, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **HELEN EDWARDS WILSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 12th day of November, 2020.

Jeanne Wilson Vaughn, Administrator 238 Walter Wilson Road Bear Creek, NC 27207 W. Ben Atwater, Jr., Attorney at Law P.O. Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2850 batwater@pinehurst.net N12,N19,N26,D3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 556 All persons having claims against **SHERWOOD E. JOHNSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of November, 2020. Helon Joy Wellons, Executrix 400 Johnson Farm Rd New Hill, NC 27562 N12,N19,N26,D3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 452 All persons having claims against **ROBERT LEE GRAY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before

the 12th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of November, 2020. Jackson C. Gray, Administrator 214 Stone St. Siler City, NC 27344 N12,N19,N26,D3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of **WOODARD W. HEATH**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to present the same to the personal representatives listed below on or before February 12, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to make immediate payment. This 12th day of November, 2020. Co-Executors: Louise Heath Cockrell, Thomas W. Heath, III, Woodard Heath Wilder WHITE & ALLEN, P.A. 106 S. MCLEWEAN ST. KINSTON, NC 28501 N12,N19,N26,D3,4t

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20E548 All persons having claims against **MARGIE COUNCIL LANEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of Febru-

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Line ad deadline Tuesday — Noon

Display ad deadline Monday — 5 p.m.

Rates and payment Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.

Blind ads No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.

Errors In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

ary, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 12th day of November, 2020. Mark Laney, Executor 9120 White Eagle Court Raleigh, NC 27617 N12,N19,N26,D3,4tc

HIRING CNA's 3RD SHIFT

CALL: 919-542-3151

Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

for appointment to complete application and interview

Pittsboro Christian Village

1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

PARTNERSHIP

PROPERTY // MANAGEMENT

APPLY TODAY

Apartment Communities in Siler City, NC
Budget friendly – Water, trash incl. in rent
Rental assistance available, Rent based on Income

Windsor Arms Apartments
(919) 663-2473
1409 East 11th Street Apt 2-B
Mon-Wed 4:30pm-8:30pm

Apply today for the waiting list. Visit us or call for more information (Relay TTD/TTY dial 711). \$25 application fee, credit/criminal check required. Accessible units designed for persons with disabilities subject to availability. Equal Housing Opportunity. This institution is professionally managed by Partnership Property Management, an equal opportunity provider and employer.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Join the News + Record's Team

HELP WANTED

Part-time A/R - Billing Clerk

The Chatham News + Record is seeking a part-time accounts receivables clerk to handle billing, affidavits and payment processing. Monday-Thursday; daytime office hours will vary. Two years of A/R and billing experience preferred.

Please email letter of introduction, resume and references to Karen Pyrtle at karen@chathamnr.com.

Chatham News + Record

EOE

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA

Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.

400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-5410
TDD 1-800-735-2962
Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMGt.com

 EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES 



Career Opportunities Available

Visit www.chathamnc.org and click on Jobs

AUCTION

SATURDAY, Dec. 5th, @ 9:00 AM

REAL ESTATE IS ZONED COMMERCIAL

Personal Property and Real Estate of the late Porter & Virginia Johnson and others, real estate to be sold at 12 noon.

1401 East Raleigh St., Siler City, NC

PARTIAL LISTING

Antiques, Mowers, Pottery, Glass Wear, Hand Tools, Furniture etc.

RICKY ELLINGTON - AUCTIONEER - NCAL #7706 (919) 548-3684 - RickYEllingtonAuctions@yahoo.com Janet Hill NCRL #72493 NCAFL #10123 (336) 382-4279

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **DOROTHY O'CONNELL**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 12th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 12th day of November, 2020. **MARK O'CONNELL, EXECUTOR ESTATE OF DOROTHY O'CONNELL**
Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC
501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
N12,N19,N26,D3,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 06E311
All persons having claims against **CLATTIE JANE FAISON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make

immediate payment. This the 19th day of November, 2020. Mildred Brooks, Administrator
746 Stockyard Road
Staley, NC 27355
N19,N26,D3,D10,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-592
All persons having claims against **DELORES G. REGISTER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of November, 2020. Clara R. Robbins, Executrix
c/o Bagwell Holt Smith P.A.
111 Cloister Ct., STE 200
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
N19,N26,D3,D10,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20E589
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ROBERT L. GUNN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at her

address, P.O. Box 880, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 19th day of February, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 13th day of November, 2020. Rebekah McBane Gunn
P. O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
C/O GUNN & MESSICK, LLP
P. O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880
N19,N26,D3,D10,4tc

PUBLIC NOTICE

On November 16, 2020 the Chatham County Board of Commissioners adopted a Schedule of Values, Standards and Rules to be used for the Chatham County 2021 Property Tax Reappraisal. Anyone choosing to challenge the validity of these schedules, standards and rules by appealing to the North Carolina Property Tax Commission, must do so in writing by December 16, 2020. The mailing address is NC Property Tax Commission, PO Box 871, Raleigh, NC 27602. For more information, please contact the Chatham County Tax Department at 919-542-8211.
N19,N26,D3,D10,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-558
All persons having claims against **MICHAEL EDWARD POE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of November, 2020. Katie Lawrence Poe, Executrix
360 Bob Horton Rd
Apex, NC 27523
N19,N26,D3,D10,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-492
All persons having claims against **ARNOLD M. YOUNG**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of November, 2020. Elizabeth A. Wylie, Executrix
10 N Madison St
Walla Walla, Wa. 99362
N19,N26,D3,D10,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-568
All persons having claims against **VIRGINIA STUART CLOER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of November, 2020. Burton Wayne Stuart, Jr., Executor
81617 Alexander
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
N19,N26,D3,D10,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-527
All persons having claims against **HARVEY EDWARD KENNEDY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of November, 2020. Connie Grayce Kennedy Shuping, Executrix
117 Bowden Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Kendall H Page, Attorney
210 N Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
N19,N26,D3,D10,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-521
All persons having claims against **DOROTHY MAE CHILDRESS KENNEDY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of November, 2020. Connie Grayce Kennedy Shuping, Executrix
117 Bowden Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
Kendall H Page, Attorney
210 N Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
N19,N26,D3,D10,4tp

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 19JT79 IN RE: "A.N." DOB: 11/23/16 NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PROCESS OF PUBLICATION TO: Biological father/Father of the above female child born November 23, 2016 at South-eastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, NC, Robeson County to Tina Smith. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed to terminate your parental rights to the above-referenced minor

child. You have forty days from November 19, 2020, the first date of publication of this Notice to respond to said Petition by filing a written answer to the petition with the Chatham Clerk of Court. Your parental rights to the juvenile will be terminated upon failure to answer the petition within the time prescribed. Any attorney appointed previously in an abuse, neglect or dependency proceeding and still representing you shall continue to represent you. If you are indigent and not already represented by an attorney, you are entitled to a court-appointed attorney. **STEPHENSON & FLEMING, L.L.P.** BY: /s/ **ANGENETTE STEPHENSON**, Attorney for Petitioner, **CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES** 109 Conner Dr. Suite 208 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 Telephone: (919) 869-7795
N19,N26,D3,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Co-Executors for the Estate of **PEGGIE LEE BELL a/k/a Peggie Lee Redding Bell**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, Korean Bell Thomasson and Charles Arthur Bell, the undersigned do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Liipfert Law Group, PLLC, 380 Knollwood Street, Suite 210, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103, on or before February 17, 2020, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 19th day of November, 2020. Korean Bell Thomasson, Co-Executor
Charles Arthur Bell, Co-Executor
Estate of Peggie Lee Bell 20-E-595
Liipfert Law Group, PLLC
380 Knollwood Street, Suite 210
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103
N19,N26,D3,D10,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-599
All persons having claims against **JEFFREY SCOTT BLACKMON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of November, 2020. Sherry Jourden Blackmon, Administrator
174 Mountain Laurel
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
N19,N26,D3,D10,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-538
All persons having claims against **ROBERT W. DILKS AKA ROBERT WARREN DILKS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 19th day of November, 2020. Edward Albert Freshwater, Executor
9 Southampton Place
Durham, NC 27705
N19,N26,D3,D10,4tp

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE NO.: 20CVM256 CHRISTOPHER JAMES ROUNDTREE, PLAINTIFF 3618 Hamlets Chapel Rd Pittsboro, NC 27312 VS UNKNOWN OWNER 2017 MAC TRAILER, Abandoned 01/05/2020 5MADN402411W035184JAN 5HT 2020 NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION RE: COMPLAINT TO ENFORCE POSSESSORY LIEN ON MOTOR VEHICLE
N26,D3,D10,3tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-561
All persons having claims against **KATHLEEN N. LEMONS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of February, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 26th day of November, 2020. Jeri Lemons Powell, Executrix
534 Haw Branch Rd
Sanford, NC 27330
N26,D3,D10,D17,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-454
All persons having claims against **MARY ELLEN J. BRENNAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of March, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 3rd day of December, 2020. Ruth O'Mealia, Administrator
CTA
1002 Nottinghill Walk

Apex, NC 27502
D3,D10,D17,D24,4tp

NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE

Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled **COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. INGRID COLLETTE CAMPBELL** as Trustee and not personally under the provisions of a Trust Agreement dated the 12th day of May, 1998, known as Trust number 3401 Hwy 87 North Land Trust, et al, 17-CVD-294, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 16th day of December, 2020, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction at the courthouse door in Chatham County, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina at 12:00 o'clock, noon, the following described real property, lying and being in Center Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pipe in the Western Margin of S. R. Highway No. 87, said iron pipe being located North 41 degrees 40 minutes East 146.47 feet from the center line of a private road that enters into the State Highway from the West, and running thence from an iron pipe, North 84 degrees 39 minutes East 357.67 feet to an iron stake, a new corner of Henry Major Lee; thence North 35 degrees 15 minutes West 225 feet to a new Henry Major Lee corner; thence South 84 degrees 59 minutes East 385.39 feet to the Western margin of State Highway No. 87; thence with the Western margin of said Highway, 41 degrees 40 minutes East 146.67 feet to the point of beginning, This is a portion of the lands conveyed to Henry Major Lee from James Lee by deed dated August 12, 1968 and recorded in Book 337 at page 294, Chatham County Registry. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. **Parcel Identification Number: 0005927**
The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 19th day of November, 2020. Mark D. Bardill, Commissioner
P.O. Box 25
Trenton, NC 28585
D3,D10,2tc

NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE

Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled **COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. SIMON AGUILA** and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of **SIMON AGUILA** and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, **OLIVIA AGUILA** and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of **OLIVIA AGUILA** and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, **11-CVD-1048**, the undersigned Commissioner will on the **16th day of December, 2020, offer for sale and sell for cash**, to the last and highest bidder at public auction at the courthouse door in Chatham County, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina **at 12:00 o'clock, noon**, the following described real property, lying and being in Matthews Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: That certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the Town of Siler City, Matthews Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a stake in the Northern margin of East 4th Street, corner with Lot Nos. 14 and 13 as per Plat of Edwards Place, Siler-Wrenn Real Estate Co., Owner", and running thence a Northerly direction with the dividing line of Lot Nos. 14 and 13, 100 feet to a point; thence an Easterly direction, a line parallel with East 4th Street, 50 feet to a point in the dividing line of Lot Nos. 12 and 13; thence with the dividing line of Lot Nos. 12 and 13 a Southerly direction 100 feet to a point in the Northern margin of East 4th Street; thence a Westerly direction 50 feet to the point of BEGINNING, and being a portion of Lot Number 13 as designated upon a map of Edwards Place, made by F.E. Womble, surveyor, November 4, 1926, which map is recorded in Plat Book 1 at Page 10, Chatham County Registry. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. **Parcel Identification Number: 0061422**
The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20

percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 19th day of November, 2020. Mark D. Bardill, Commissioner
P.O. Box 25
Trenton, NC 28585
D3,D10,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **CHRISTINE ANNE MORTENSEN**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of March, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 30th day of November, 2020. Rebecca Schmitz, Executor of The Estate of Christine Anne Mortensen
Post Office Box 1806
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
MOODY, WILLIAMS & LEE, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
BOX 1806
PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312
(919) 542-5605
D3,D10,D17,D24,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **JOHN DAVID LUENING AKA J. DAVID LUENING** [hereinafter 'J. David Luening'] of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 7th day of September, 2020, are notified to present them to Adam Broome and Doris A. Luening, Co-Executors of the Estate of J. David Luening in c/o David R. Frankstone, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before March 11, 2021. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Co-Executors, and the devisees of J. David Luening. Those indebted to J. David Luening are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. David R. Frankstone, Attorney Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834
D3,D10,D17,D24,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 241
The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **BRYAN KEITH GRAHAM**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at her address, P.O. Box 672, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 3rd day of day of March, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 30th day of November, 2020. Peggy R. Hackney
P.O. Box 672
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
D3,D10,D17,D24,4tc

**IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.: 20 CVD 519 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ANSON MICHAEL JAMES HILDRETH, Plaintiff vs DONNA CARROLL HILDRETH Defendant. NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION TO: DONNA CARROLL HILDRETH TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: a claim for divorce (marriage of August 18, 2008 with date of separation of June 1, 2016). You are required to make a defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after December 3, 2020, the first date of publication of this notice, exclusive of said date, and upon your failure to do so, Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief sought. This the 30th day of November, 2020. Adam D. Johnson, Attorney for Plaintiff COLLINI & JOHNSON, P.C. 115 E. Wade Street Wadesboro, NC 28170 (704) 694-9311
D3,D10,D17,3tp**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-596
All persons having claims against **MARION DANIELS BROWN III**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of March, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 3rd day of December, 2020. Caroline C. Brown, Administrator
1303 Hawkins Ave
Sanford, NC 27330
D3,D10,D17,D24,4tp

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This holiday season, open your doors to your extended family — creatively!

From Chatham Literacy

While COVID-19 has forced many senior citizens to stop visiting with their extended families, seniors are still finding creative ways to enjoy a virtual visit with their families — especially over the holidays.

One way is decorating their front door as a family project and entering Chatham Literacy’s Holiday Decorated Door Contest.

“No matter where your mom or dad live, the entire family can plan, create and put up a unique front door for their loved ones that will be very special for all,” said Chatham Literacy executive director Vicki Newell.

For a \$20 registration fee, decorate a door through Dec. 18 and your household may win a prize and bragging rights. Winners in the contest will have door photos published in the News + Record and on the websites of Chatham Literacy and Chatham Homes Realty Company.

To begin the decorating process with your loved ones, Newell suggested, try planning a Zoom or other virtual discussion to brainstorm fun ideas that all family members can create together. Perhaps both parents grew upon a farm; then have someone in charge of



Submitted photos

Chatham Literacy’s Holiday Decorated Door Contest is accepting entries through Dec. 18. These local entries show Christmas and Thanksgiving themes.

making color or black and white copies of all children at the farm over the years. Have kids create their own memories of special farm visits. Then either

send the copies and memories and other decoration ideas by mail — or, if allowed, have the family simply drive up to decorate and “visit” through

the front door as new type of family gathering.

“If you get your children involved, not only is this a great way to emphasize helping grandparents you can also demonstrate care and concern for neighbors as well as others in your community,” Newell said. “This simple act of decorating for others fosters feelings of goodwill in the community through their creativity.” Their \$20 entry donation will help make a difference in people’s lives in their community. That’s because Chatham Literacy is “opening doors” of opportunity for others by helping them learn how to speak and read in English, or help them get their GED or develop better job skills and even enable them to become a US citizen.

“What better way to kick off our holiday season,” said Chatham Literacy chairperson Linda Nalty, “than by supporting adult learners and their families through Chatham Literacy.”

The goal of the door decorating event is the mutual planning, sharing, creating and constructing a very special 2020 memory for your loved ones. For more information or to register, go to www.chathamliteracy.org or call (919) 742-0578.

EDUCATION

Pandemic pushes some N.C. teachers out the school door — or off the screen

The demands of teaching during COVID-19 pandemic, plus unpredictability, leads some North Carolina teachers to leave the profession entirely

BY JENNIFER BRINGLE
Carolina Public Press

For more than a decade, Chasity Robinson worked as an elementary school teacher in Cumberland County. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, she was suddenly thrust into the world of virtual learning, both as a teacher and as the parent of a 1st grader.

“I was being asked to do 10 times more than I normally would in the classroom while still trying to parent and keep my kid alive,” she said.

“I would have meetings at the same time that he was supposed to be in class. I felt that I wasn’t doing anything well, and I surely wasn’t teaching effectively.”

So, before the start of the 2020-21 school year, Robinson made the difficult decision to leave teaching and pursue a home business full time.

“The resources were nonexistent, and even though I worked for an amazing principal, I knew that I wouldn’t be able to survive mentally through it,” she said.

She’s not alone. According to recent data from the Federal Bureau of Labor and Statistics, North Carolina has lost more than 27,000 education jobs — K-12, higher education and community colleges — this year between February and September.

While some of those losses can be attributed to shifts in student enrollments during the COVID-19 pandemic, evidence has also pointed to educators and school staff leaving the profession due to COVID.

“One of the things that we have been seeing are educators who are very concerned about their safety, particularly having to go back into classrooms, and particularly our educators who are high risk for contracting COVID,” said Tamika Walker Kelly, president of the N.C. Association of Educators.

“They’re deciding that it is unsustainable, or because their requirements for accommodation have been denied, they’re deciding to leave the profession through voluntary resignation or retiring early.”

A complex problem

Some teachers are choosing to leave because they or someone in their home is at higher risk of experiencing complications from COVID, and they don’t feel safe returning to in-person teaching.

Others, like Robinson, find the additional burden associated with virtual teaching — including added preparation work outside the classroom, as well as struggles with technology — either too difficult or unsustainable for their families.

“The scheduling in particular has been difficult, as it has rolled out in late summer and into the fall for K-12, some teachers have had to balance in-person and online instruction, and it’s been incredibly challenging,” said Alisa Chapman, executive director of the Association of Teacher Educators.

Those schedules continue to change, almost weekly, across the state as COVID-19

numbers have increased in several counties. Guilford County Schools, for example, has halted an expanded return to full-day in-person learning for grades K-2 several times due to spikes in virus cases across the county.

“I’ve heard teachers who have very deep concerns around their own personal health,” Chapman said. “Especially those going into the classrooms and schools to teach, and then coming home and mingling with their families.”

Those who have to teach virtually, or in a hybrid of both in-person and virtual, suddenly find their workload doubling without pay increases to compensate for the additional efforts.

“The workloads during the pandemic have increased substantially for educators,” Walker Kelly said. “And because the workload doesn’t balance the rate of pay and the flexibility required to make teaching this way work, some educators are making difficult decisions.”

Chapel Hill-based Chapman, who assesses national education trends in her role with the Association of Teacher Educators, says the problem is not unique to North Carolina.

“Different states are following policies in different ways, depending on how COVID has impacted local communities, states and regions across America,” she said.

“For instance, we’ve seen the pandemic viral loads increase across states now in the Midwest; prior to that the concern

was in the Southeast.”

Changing policies in a pandemic

The politicization of education in an election year complicates an already difficult challenge. Many of the state decisions to reopen schools were made along party lines, with Republican-led states returning to in-person instruction at a faster rate than states with Democratic governors.

In North Carolina, Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, who was reelected to a second term, took a cautious approach to reopening schools, with virtual instruction gradually giving way to in-person learning. His reluctance to fully reopen the way some neighboring states did was repeatedly criticized by the Republican-led state legislature.

Cooper’s tiered approach to reopening also left the final decision of if and when to return to physical school up to each school district leader. With so many parties weighing in on school opening procedures, there’s been a lot of confusion and conflicting information for educators.

“From a policy perspective, this is a huge issue,” Chapman said. “There does seem to be a balance at the policy level with getting children back into formal learning structures beyond online, but at the same time balancing the safety risk with teachers and staff. They’re trying to make the best-informed decisions that they can, but it’s been an issue.”

The ever-changing infection numbers mean decisions change frequently, further complicating teacher and student schedules with last-minute changes to remote or in-person learning.

“The biggest thing I could

see policywise that would be helpful is being mindful of providing information and policy changes and decisions in time to give teachers and families time to adjust,” said Kristin Papoi, program director of the Master of Arts of teaching program at UNC Chapel Hill.

“I know people are eager to get back to school as soon as possible, and I support that, but if we could smooth things out to decide what could we expect for, say a year, it would be helpful.”

Education advocates like the NCAE also emphasize the need for more educational funding at a governmental level to help provide the resources and support teachers need, as well as money to recruit and pay teachers competitively.

“It’s important as well to have federal funding to protect provisions to get educators the help they need,” Walker Kelly said.

“We would like to see investing in public education so we can recruit teachers to the profession here in North Carolina and honor what they’re doing.”

Lasting repercussions

With educators choosing to exit an already understaffed education system, the problem of teacher shortages could increase dramatically over the next couple of years.

While some of teachers leaving due to COVID may eventually return to the classroom, many of those taking early retirement are unlikely to return.

“We have a teacher shortage already, and this will exacerbate that if we continue to see more and more retirements and people leaving the profession,” Papoi said.

“It will be important for us

to focus on recruitment and teacher retention, putting a lot of focus on early career teachers being engaged and happy, feeling effective and energized in the profession.

Beyond an overall shortage, a loss of quality educators could mean some schools, particularly those in low-performing or rural districts, don’t have a full-time instructor for certain subjects.

“I have an increasing concern that when it comes to teacher supply and demand across America, particularly in states like North Carolina, the pandemic will exacerbate issues of not having licensed teachers in math and other essential subjects,” Chapman said.

Papoi sees a possible silver lining. This situation presents opportunities for school districts to take lessons they learn during the pandemic to create more flexibility for both teachers and students, she said.

“How are we thinking about the use of time in schools?” Papoi said.

“We might be more creative with how we’re using students’ time in schools now that we have infrastructure for flexibility to engage in the online and offline world. There’s an opportunity to look at how students are taking ownership of things on their own rather than schools just delivering curriculum.”

She hopes school districts can learn from the difficulties and mistakes during the pandemic to better support educators and students.

“What we really need to pay attention to is the social and emotional needs of students and teachers,” she said. “How we are going to take care of one another after we’ve been collectively through this?”

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