

Chatham News + Record

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Students with D's, F's up 74% in Chatham County Schools; engagement challenges persist

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

Nearly 22% of Chatham County Schools students received a grade of D or F in a class during the first two grading periods of the current semester — a 73.96% increase from last year's 12.56% districtwide failure/at-risk rate, according to data released by the district's central office.

During a semester marked by pandemic adaptations and remote learning challenges, the district

shared at December's Board of Education meeting that the failure/at-risk rate, defined as having a D or F in any subject, ranged from as little as 2% to a whopping 49% among the district's schools. At that meeting, the district said the failure rate was up 9.29% — a number the News + Record previously reported — but the rate actually increased by 9.29 percentage points.

"What we're seeing in the data, it really can depend upon a couple of things," Amanda Hartness, the

CCS assistant superintendent for academic services and instructional support, told CCS BOE members in December. "One, our more rural areas seem to have the higher failure rate differences. That could be as a result of connectivity lag or issues with students having to be able to get the video from our teachers — many of our students in our rural areas are on (paper-only) packets, so they're not getting that direct connection with their teachers, or not as much."

Hartness also said schools that

have higher at-risk numbers or are lower socioeconomic schools also are showing higher differences.

She emphasized that the failure/at-risk rates the district released include grades of a D or F, even though a D is not a failing grade. The district chose to track more than just failing grades in order to better support a larger number of struggling students, she said.

"We fully understand that remote learning is not ideal and

can never replace the day-to-day interaction between teachers and students," Hartness told the News + Record. "With that said, our schools are working tirelessly to support students during the pandemic by providing meals, mental-health services, hotspot devices, laptops, a variety of instructional pathway options for families to choose from, as well as a variety of supports for students who may be struggling."

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CHATHAM'S REIVES | HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

'If it's not you, who is it going to be?'

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Robert Reives II, then a teenager, was sitting in his childhood home watching TV when he overheard a conversation that would inspire a lifetime in public service.

His father, Robert Reives Sr., had been leading the Black community for months in pursuit of fair political representation.

"It all goes back to my dad," Reives said, "My father did not at any point in his life believe he was ever going to end up in public service or politics or anything."

But in 1970s Lee County, injustice in the political sphere was reaching a climax, and the elder Reives was determined to affect change.

"It became acutely clear to him that we had a real problem in Lee County," his son said, "and that you couldn't elect anybody African American — or anybody who even depended on the African American vote — because of racial gerrymandering."

Lee County's Black community at the time was centralized inside Sanford's city limits. Voting districts, how-



Reives

ever, were deliberately arranged to partition Black neighborhoods and dilute the community's influence in selecting county leaders who would represent its wishes.

Said Reives: "Instead of treating it as a homogeneous community, what was happening is that it was being divided so that you had 10% in this district, you know, 15% in that one, that type of thing, where they never could affect the outcome of elections."

Reives wasn't privy then to what his father knew: the systemic issues infused into his county's political system.

"I pieced that all together as I got older," he said.

But he knew his father's efforts were important.

"And so he ended up basically being in a legal proceeding that involved ultimately the Department of Justice," Reives said of his father, "that caused Lee County to have to redraw their districts in a way that allowed more African American

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COVID-19 VACCINE



COVID-19 vaccine distribution across the state has fallen short of expectations. Chatham County health experts warn against equating the vaccine with immediate relief from an ongoing pandemic.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Vaccine distribution continues, but 'we're not out of the woods'

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Chatham ranks better than most of North Carolina's 100 counties in stifling coronavirus spread.

But data can be misleading, county health department leaders say, and dispensation of the COVID-19 vaccine will not immediately redirect the pandemic's worsening trajectory.

In a press conference last week, Gov. Roy Cooper announced that "96 counties are now labeled as red or orange, meaning critical or substantial virus spread." Chatham, however, is among the four labeled yellow — indicating "significant" spread, the lowest level. As of Tuesday, Chatham had the lowest case rate in the state: 434 cases per 100,000 individuals over the last 14 days.

Chatham's relative success in preventing spread of the disease is encouraging. But the figures could be misleading, and the

reasons for them are unknown.

"We don't track numbers of who all is wearing their face covering and who all is practicing social distancing," Chatham County Health Department communications specialist Zachary Horner said, "but it's important to know that the (North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services) map only captures so much."

While Chatham's data remain better than elsewhere in the state, they are still trending in the wrong direction.

"People are still getting sick in Chatham County," Horner said, "and we're still seeing hospitalizations and deaths."

So far, 67 people have died in Chatham from COVID-19 and more than 3,100 cases have been recorded.

"We're not out of the woods — not by a long shot," Horner said. "We can't let our guard down. So, while we appreciate the ef-

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'THERE IS NO TIMELINE'

Jefferson Davis Highway marker to be removed

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — When the United Daughters of the Confederacy sought to have a highway named for Confederate president Jefferson Davis in 1913, they decided to mark their chosen route — about 160 miles — with signs, stone markers and honorary designations from local governments. In North Carolina, while the UDC was unsuccessful in officially naming the highway after Davis, they did place about 16 to 18 markers along the route, according to the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, about every 10 miles along U.S. 15 between Virginia and South Carolina.

Today, NCDOT believes there are eight Jefferson Davis Highway markers in the state — one of which remains in front of the Chatham County Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro.

"The markers were placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy sometime in the

1920s, and it was a part of a multi-state project," said Steve Abbott, the NCDOT assistant director of communications. "The NCDOT was never a part of the project and never approved the naming of the highway, and never approved the installations in our right of way."

Even so, the department began moving to erase some of the last remnants of the highway last summer, The Raleigh News & Observer reported in November, by removing signs and markers in the state-owned right of way.

In Virginia, the name was officially adopted. But in North Carolina, the N&O reported that NCDOT officials said requests from the Daughters of the Confederacy in the 1920s and again in the late 1950s were both denied.

"Since the Board of Transportation never took action designating or naming any road in North Carolina for Jefferson Davis, there is not

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Staff photo by Kim Hawks

This Jefferson Davis Highway marker, which stands in front of the Chatham County Historic Courthouse, was installed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in the 1920s. It is one of the eight remaining markers in the state.

IN THE KNOW

Hispanic Liaison raises thousands to help DACA applicants. **PAGE A10**

Sports: runners and teams gear up for cross country regionals. **PAGE B1**

Pittsboro says town's water could be clean within a year. **PAGE B4**

N.C. reacts to D.C. insurrection: 'Dark day for this country.' **PAGE B9**



A PITTSBORO DETOUR

Traffic circle makeover begins; completion set for October

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro's iconic traffic circle is getting a functional and aesthetic overhaul to make it safer for pedestrians and drivers.

The \$2.48 million project, on which work began Monday, will include the milling and resurfacing of the circle and about 250 feet of roadway stemming from it in each direction, according to N.C. Dept. of Transportation officials. The joint venture between

NCDOT and the town is being performed by Carolina Sunrock LLC of Raleigh. Completion is scheduled for October of this year, weather permitting.

The traffic circle carries U.S. 15-501 and U.S. 64 Business through the heart of Pittsboro. Truck and through traffic will be detoured for the duration of the project. The U.S. 15-501 detour will follow N.C. 87 and U.S. 64 Bypass, which will also serve as

See **TRAFFIC**, page A7



Work on the \$2.48 million overhaul of Pittsboro's iconic traffic circle began Monday. Until the planned completion scheduled for October, drivers will face detours in the vicinity.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events are subject to change based on closures related to the coronavirus pandemic. Verify with organizers prior to events.

CANCELLATIONS

- The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District will not have the regularly scheduled SWCD board meeting in January.
- **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

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** will be observed Monday, Jan. 18. It's a federal holiday and many government offices and banks will be closed.
- **The Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at Siler City town hall.
- **Chatham Community Library's Virtual Winter Reading Program** will offer its virtual Winter Reading Program "Ten to Try" through Jan. 15. For more information, contact Youth Services Librarian Katy Henderson at cclkatyh@gmail.com.

THURSDAY

- **The Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open with seasonable items year-round from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. It is located at 287 East St., Pittsboro.
- **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** provides a healthy, meal at no cost to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.
- **The next Wake Up Wednesday** networking meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20. Begin logging on at 8 a.m. to take care of any technical issues you may encounter. The structured meeting will begin at 8:30 and end promptly at 9:30. This month's speakers are Caren Osborne with Memory Lane Photo Solutions and Cindy Schmidt with the Chatham County Historical Museum. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82606470013?pwd=Vk0xM-Hc1eWloWE00STVhN2pQOU-ZlZz09> -- Meeting ID: 826 0647 0013 -- Passcode: chomp

OTHER

- **The Chatham Historical Museum** is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Masks required and groups will be distanced. Adult and kid friendly; no admission fee. Our current special exhibit is vintage toys. Don't miss

it! Our permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history. The Museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the circle. More info: <https://chathamhistory.org>

- **Second Bloom of Chatham Thrift Shop** has made the move to Chatham Commons, at 630 E. St., Pittsboro, in the Food Lion shopping center. We will be accepting donations when we reopen. Our hours are Tuesday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. All proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.
- **Chatham Community Library** is offering free classes on internet skills and NC LIVE resources in January. 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. -- #1, Internet: Beyond Basics: January 20, Wednesday, 3 p.m. -- #2, NC LIVE: New Online Resources for 2021: January 26, Tuesday, 3 p.m.
- With COVID-19 sweeping the country, artists' livelihoods are being challenged like never before. The Chatham Arts Council has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called CAARE: **Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort**.

For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit ChathamArtsCouncil.org.

- **JMArts** hosted a **JMACoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMA-CoronaConcert performances and #JMACoronaConcert program.
- **Adult volunteers needed** at Chatham Hospital in Siler City, a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital located in Siler City and part of the UNC Health Care System. All prospective volunteers must complete an on-line application, a criminal background check, an orientation and have documentation of required immunizations. To learn more go to: www.chathamhospital.org/ch/about-us/volunteer.
- **Volunteers needed:** Nonprofit agencies in Chatham seek teen volunteers to help with many projects. Teens can help at food pantries, in gardens, fundraising projects, office work, and care for animals. Chatham Connecting website lists many volunteer opportunities for youth. See where you are needed to help in the community: www.chathamconnecting.org.
- **Foster and/or adoptive information:** Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or

Adoptive parent? Call 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.

20 UNDER 40

Deadline for project recognizing top young professionals here

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, and nominations are due now. "We want to recognize young men and women who work or live in Chatham County whose professional achievements, community involve-

ment and character represents the best of what the county has to offer," News + Record Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III said. The nomination period ends on Jan. 15. 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 separate "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. To make a nomination, go to cutt.ly/20under40 and complete the simple form. For more information about the News + Record's 20 Under 40 recognition project, email us at 20u40@chathamnr.com.



New data suggests grim economy in Siler City

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Updated analysis of Siler City's economic trends and job market health paints a troubling picture of fiscal instability, according to recent data from a team of experts at the North Carolina Main Street & Rural Planning Center, a subset of the N.C. Dept. of Commerce. The findings were presented last Thursday in a regular meeting of the Siler City economic development strategic five-year plan steering committee, the goal of which is to evaluate Siler City's economic needs and develop a short-term plan of corrective action. The 11-person committee includes members such as Siler City Commissioner Lewis Fadely, EDC Project Manager Sam Rauf and Chatham Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) megasite owner Tim Booras under advisement from MS&RP economic developers Bruce Naegelen and Ann Bass. One of the most telling metrics of economic health, according to the MS&RP report, is "retail leakage," which

the report defined as "a statistical tool to help understand the retail dynamics in a certain geography." The measurement is also known as "retail gap analysis because it identifies gaps in the retail market where demand for retail goods and services in a specific category is not being satisfied by the existing retail businesses in that geography," per the report. Previous data from 2017 showed leakage in excess of \$80 million in the secondary trade area of Siler City — a five-to-10-mile radius outside of town — for retail goods plus food and drink sales. Within the primary trade area — meaning downtown and most of Siler City's shopping areas — more sales had been made in those categories than expected based on population figures. In 2020, however, that changed. "What I noticed is that there was sort of an increase in leakage over the past two or three years," Naegelen said, "and so I thought that was kind of interesting." More than \$4.6 million leaked from the primary trade area in retail, food and drink sales. In the

secondary trade area, the gap exceeded \$81 million. But Naegelen warned against taking aggressive counteraction to rectify some leakage numbers. For example, "it looks like \$12 million (in the primary trade area) or \$27 million (in the secondary trade area) in motor vehicles and parts dealers is a lot of leakage," he said, "... but I wouldn't go out and recruit a new dealership because they require about \$60 million." Other industries with significant leakage include clothing and accessories stores; sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores; general merchandise stores; and building materials, garden equipment and supply stores. In total, between all major industry groups, Siler City leaked \$103 million in 2020 between its primary and secondary trade areas. The figure can seem alarming, Bass and Naegelen admitted, but it should not be used to represent a comprehensive evaluation of the town's economy. "It's a snapshot of a given time," Naegelen said. "It's not something that I would go out and

start a business on, using that information. But it kind of gives you an idea of some of the potential opportunity." But such figures can still be used to inform the town's economic strategy. MS&RP can "extrapolate" the data, Bass said, to project tangible goals. The numbers can be used, for example, to "try to get an idea of how many square feet of potential new retail might be supported with the supposed gap," Bass said. "So, if there was a real interest in doing that, and maybe if retail comes up as one of your categories that you want to develop further, these numbers can be more useful. And Bruce has more at other levels, as well, that we can use for a little more examination." Members of the Siler City economic development strategic five-year plan steering committee are currently reviewing MS&RP's report and are expected to discuss its findings further in the committee's next meeting on Jan. 21. Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @dldolder.



Chatham County Council on Aging WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: How did Chatham County get its name?

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

Public Notice

TOWN OF SILER CITY LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Loose leaf pick up is coming to an end. Please have your loose leaves out by January 30, 2021. As we will be making our final round the following week. Thank you for your understanding as we finish up this leaf season.

La recolección de hojas sueltas está llegando a su fin. Por favor, colocar sus hojas sueltas al borde de la calle antes del 30 de Enero de 2021. Haremos nuestra ronda final la semana siguiente. Gracias por su comprensión mientras terminamos esta temporada de hojas.

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'I LIKE REMOTE LEARNING'

For some Chatham students, remote learning's not a disaster — it's an opportunity

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — If she's honest, Jordan-Matthews senior Jacquelinne Marroquin Tobar isn't the biggest fan of remote learning.

Without it, however, she probably wouldn't have had the opportunity to take several Harvard courses for free.

"It's just so amazing ..." she told the News + Record. "No, (remote learning's) not my thing, but it gives time and opportunities to do many things."

For most students in Chatham, remote learning has stunted growth and dampened motivation, as parents, teachers and students have repeatedly told the News + Record over the past nine months, since COVID-19 first halted in-person schooling. Yet for some students, like Marroquin Tobar, remote learning has also provided a unique opportunity to pursue their interests, learn new things and even thrive.

Starting her online journey with Harvard wasn't how Marroquin Tobar had originally planned to spend her summer. She had planned to return to Guatemala, her home country, and lead a water bottle recycling project in one of Guatemala's public schools; she'd also planned to buy students meals from McDonald's. The pandemic, of course, canceled her plans.

"It was a big project," she said, "but I couldn't do it. The airport closed, and it wasn't safe ... So my summer was like, 'What do I do?'"

While she was searching for something, a friend in California told her that Harvard University was offering free, online courses to everyone with internet access.

"At first, I didn't believe her," she said. "Nah, Harvard? We're talking about Harvard. No way they're saying, 'Hey, here are some free courses. Go take them.' Like, no way."

But when she went to Harvard's website, she found out her friend hadn't been joking.

Back in 2012, Harvard partnered with MIT to create edX, an online learning platform that provides access to free and paid courses in dozens of topics from top universities all over the world. Many courses are free to attend, but users have to pay a fee to receive a verified course completion certificate; the courses don't provide college credit.

After reading about the classes, Marroquin Tobar enrolled in two Harvard courses, which matched her interests in political science and international relations. She

attended both classes for free, though she decided to pay the fee to receive completion certificates for both.

"The first one was 'Religion, Conflict and Peace,'" she said, "which I took with so much happiness, because it's really related to the United Nations and something like what I'm planning on doing."

The second was "Lessons from Ebola, Preventing the Next Pandemic," which she started a few weeks into her eight-week "Religion, Conflict and Peace" course.

"So I was doing both courses at the same time," she said. "Ooof, it was a little bit stressful, but I loved it. I loved it so much. I really was able to understand about the Ebola outbreak in Africa, what the (World Health Organization) did, and the national response and the local response."

The courses were designed to last eight and four weeks respectively, and beyond lectures, they included regular tests and discussion boards.

"(They said) it will last eight weeks, but uh-uh. That's a lie. No," she said, laughing. "They're very long, and the lectures are long. You have to read a lot. And their vocabulary is like Harvard-level. It's difficult."

Since she'd started her first course late into summer, Marroquin Tobar ended up taking both Harvard courses while she attended her J-M Zoom classes, completed her classwork, submitted college applications and applied for scholarships, including UNC's Morehead-Cain scholarship. All of that at once, she said, led to "many, many, many, many late nights."

But she doesn't regret it for a second — and now that she's finished up college applications, she said she's going to sign up for more.

"It challenges you, but at the same time, it teaches you how to be responsible, to actually read before lecture," she said. "It helps just to see how college is like and how Harvard is like. I really do recommend it. ... I think many students can do the same thing because this is such a great opportunity."

J-M junior Vielka Gonzalez also took advantage of remote learning to develop new skills and hobbies. Gonzalez, 16, moved to Siler City with her family in June of 2019 from Chihuahua, Mexico.

At first, she knew little English beyond the colors, greetings and the word for "baño" (bathroom), but since enrolling in ESL classes at J-M, her English skills have skyrocketed — and remote learning



Photo courtesy of JMArts

Vielka Gonzalez submitted this painting, "December Night," to JMArts' 2020 Holiday Card contest last year.

hasn't changed that trend in the slightest.



Gonzalez

She even began reading a 200-page book about medicine to push her knowledge further.

"I can say that it is improving in the part of writing and reading and speaking, sometimes, because I can speak a lot with some friends or with the teachers," Gonzalez said, adding, "So I think this time has helped me for understanding more words ... I can speak more than before the remote learning."

Besides working on her English, she's also taken advantage of her time to improve her painting skills, a hobby she'd fostered since she was in middle school.

"I always liked painting, because you can paint something beautiful and then show it to the people," she said. "You can express feels in that. You can express sadness or happiness."

In just a few months, Gonzalez taught herself over six new painting styles, including chiaroscuro, pointillism, surrealism, and she entered a few paintings into several art competitions. One was JMArts' annual holiday card contest, which she didn't win. Gonzalez also learned to bake vanilla cakes, cupcakes, bread and even cream cheese pie.

"I discovered I can bake, so what's up!" she said, laughing. "One day, I said, 'I wanted cake. I will bake.'"

It's all possible through a schedule she set herself for her classes: finish all of her school work during the week, fit in small breaks and reserve the weekends



Submitted photo

Jacquelinne Marroquin Tobar, a senior at Jordan-Matthews High School, holds up her college acceptance letters.

for art, baking and learning new things. And even though she misses her friends and teachers, she said she wouldn't mind staying in remote learning.

"I like remote learning," she said. "I think that you can do more things in your house because in a school you need to change classes or go to lunch."

And besides, she added with a laugh, "I don't want to get up early."

It's not just high school students, either. Diana Ciro, Silk Hope School's only ESL teacher, told the News + Record last November that a few of her students — all 5th and 6th graders — had done exceptionally well during remote learning.

Two of her students, both siblings, had always struggled with content, especially reading; during remote learning, however, both made progress in leaps and bounds.

"They're doing really well," Ciro said. "They're doing their homework. They attend their classes. They send emails to their teachers. They even want to do more."

Before, she said her students felt pressure being inside the classroom and not knowing how to say something; now from behind a screen, she thinks some have gained confidence they didn't have at school.

"Teachers are amazed seeing the progress they have made, because again they have always been, 'These kids don't participate. They're very quiet. Now they are so active,'" she said, adding, "When the teachers told me, I was proud. That was a proud moment."

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

FAILURE

Continued from page A1

Diana Ciro, the only English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Silk Hope School, a K-8 school located in Siler City, told the News + Record in November that remote learning — even under the hybrid model — has been challenging for her students. Last semester, she taught ESL to 23 Hispanic students between the 1st and 8th grades, some of whom are also EC students.

"It's definitely very hard, very challenging," Ciro told the News + Record at the time. "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."

An ESL teacher at Jordan-Matthews High School, Wendi Pillars, also said remote learning made engaging her students more challenging.

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

Across all of the district's high schools there's also been an increased failure at-risk rate, Hartness said, which she said spoke to the challenge of

keeping students engaged as remote learning continues. These rates are subject to change, the district said, as schools work with students to receive course credit by accepting late assignments.

High school students in the district — with the exception of Extended Content Standard E.C. students — have been learning remotely since last March, when Gov. Roy Cooper first closed North Carolina public schools to help slow the spread of COVID-19. On Sept. 23, the BOE voted to continue Plan C through the semester, which ends Jan. 15. Less than a week later, the

board pivoted, deciding to send some students back to hybrid in-person learning on Oct. 19, later deciding to send more students back on Nov. 19 and Dec. 7.

The board maintained that high school students would return to in-person learning on Jan. 21, the start of the second semester, until Monday, when the board unanimously voted to delay the start of in-person learning for high school students under Plan B to Feb. 1, a little more than one week after they were originally scheduled to return. High school staff will still return to in-person work on the 21st.

CCS public relations coordinator John McCann said staff and families report that engagement is the biggest barrier to learning right now, particularly as the semester and remote learning continue. Even with the younger students who returned to in-person learning in October, the hybrid learning model still requires some form of remote learning a few days each week. And at high schools, the increase in Ds and Fs was higher during the second reporting period, with a percentage of 38.22%.

Still, McCann said students had various support options, which vary based on their grade level: teacher office hours, tutoring groups, extensions and credit recovery opportunities, a 24-hour homework support line with Princeton Review in English and Spanish, social-emotional check-ins with teachers, guidance counselors and administrators and more.

Hartness said the district was particularly proud to provide the 24-hour homework support line.

"That's just one example

of the many new platforms and resources we implemented to support our students who may be struggling during remote learning," she told the News + Record. "We are proud of the hard work of our families, students and staff during this unprecedented time in education."

At the board of education's last several public input comments, some parents raised concerns with the district's Virtual Academy option, which allows families to remain on a fully remote-learning track, regardless of the board's future decisions for learning plans.

While some parents report in-person learning has increased their children's school success, others report difficulty helping their students learn and focus on remote days — particularly now that their teachers are working with other students in-person while they are virtual.

At Monday's BOE retreat, the district said 77.74% of CCS families have chosen face-to-face instruction, while 22.26% opted for the fully remote Virtual Academy track. Among high school students, there's been a 7% increase of students choosing Virtual Academy since December, the district said. Feb. 3 is the final deadline to change paths, 10 days after the semester virtually begins on Jan. 21.

Emily Harrison, the parent of two students at Pittsboro Elementary, told the News + Record in December that she hoped to see the board and district commit more resources to improving the remote learning experience.

"This morning, I keep thinking about all the kids who are failing right now,"

Harrison said the morning after the BOE's December meeting. "What that would feel like and how frustrating that would be. The board thinks the answer is to get the kids into the classroom through Plan B. But that answer isn't right for every family. And, with hybrid learning, the majority of the week is still remote learning ... students who are struggling right now are some of those suffering the most during this pandemic. They deserve more attention and conversation from our leaders than whether or not certain sports should be played on school grounds."

The board's discussion regarding the learning plan under COVID-19 has continually emphasized the students struggling under remote learning, particularly those without reliable internet access. At the board's Sept. 23 meeting, Chairperson Gary Leonard addressed this concern; he was the only board member to vote against continuing Plan C through the semester at that meeting.

"I do value our staff tremendously," Leonard said at the time. "But we left out students that are at home with not a whole lot of internet access — a lot of frustrations from some. We have heard from others that are doing well with this, so just want to make sure that we think about how we're doing that."

To learn more about supports for Chatham County Schools students, visit the district's At-Home Learning site at <https://sites.google.com/chatham.k12.nc.us/ccs-ahl/>

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

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VIEWPOINTS

My vision wasn't 20/20 in 2020. But it is now, as long as you (or my glasses) are close by.



BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

I'd been dreading my eye examination. An inordinate amount of my waking hours are spent in front of a computer screen. In the last few months, dry, itchy eyes, painful styes and blurry vision have been more commonplace for me, so I'd been worried that the cumulative effects of all that time glued to my laptop's keyboard were ruining my eyesight.

Not that I see that well anyway.

I'm nearsighted, meaning that I'm a part of that roughly 25% of the population with an eye disorder created by a refractive error which occurs when light entering the eye doesn't focus correctly onto the retina. It makes objects close to me appear clear, but anything

in the distance — and we're talking about 4 feet or more — blurry.

The medical term for this condition is myopia. Being "myopic" also refers to someone who is lacking in intellectual foresight or discernment. I don't readily confess to *those* traits, but I can attest to the fact that if you're standing 20 feet from me, or more, I won't be able to discern who you are (or even *what* you are) on most occasions.

"I waved to you the other day, and you didn't wave back," I've been told dozens of times.

"Oh, I was probably deep in thought; I can get very focused," I used to lie.

Now it's just: "Oh, I probably didn't have my glasses on and didn't see you. I'm just about blind without them."

(Then, of course, there's, "I honked at you the other day when you passed me in your car. Did you not hear me?")

The truth is, with near-

sightedness, my "up close" vision is perfectly fine. I'm not anywhere near blind, but as an introvert, myopia is a wonderful trick to avoid talking to people. If I can't see you, it's easier to ignore you. (I *do* confess to lacking the foresight for engaging in small talk with people I barely know, a condition which I understand also affects about 25 percent of the population.)

These days, working a good part of my week remotely from home, I can go an entire day without putting on my glasses. Being near-sighted, I wear the glasses primarily to drive, to watch TV or to play golf. And given that I haven't teed it up on the links going on two years now, that means I wear them even less.

But I always keep them nearby. Just in case.

Years ago, a new co-worker expressed his perplexity about me and my glasses.

"I can't figure it out," he said.

"You're continually putting your glasses on and then taking them off again. I can't decide if you're nearsighted or farsighted."

Of course he couldn't. He was farsighted. The medical term for that is hyperopia, of which I'm pretty sure the word "hyper" is a derivative. Naturally, he was an extrovert with reading glasses. How *could* he relate?

At any rate, I *did* go see my eye doctor last month for the aforementioned exam. I'm at that age now (closer to 60 than 50) where more things in my body are breaking down, and I was fearing the worst. At around age 40, in addition to losing the ability to park a car between painted lines, I was told I'd soon need bifocals as my myopia worsened. That experiment didn't pan out (bifocal contacts were also a failure), so the glasses-on, glasses-off thing has been going on for a while

now, especially when I'm in my office.

I described to my optometrist the vision issues I was having; I anticipated a big prescription change.

His verdict?

Turns out there was a good explanation for the blurred sight when wearing my glasses: while the vision in my right eye stayed the same, the vision in my left actually improved. "It's been known to happen," my doc said. A new weaker prescription, some eyedrops for the dryness, and I was good to go.

I picked up the new sunglasses on Friday and did a tour of the neighborhood on foot in Saturday's bright sunshine. I was astounded at what I could see that didn't seem to be there before, now that my eyes were working in unison again. The new regular glasses arrived on Monday; same result.

A small victory, I know. If it's a trend for 2021, I'll take it.

Little things do mean a lot

Much of modern society, major advertising especially, tells us that "new" and "bigger" equal "better."

Years ago, or so it seems, products from cars and clothes to radios and rugs all seemed to last longer than they typically do today. Folks complained that production practices changed from making stuff to last as long as it could to what became known as "planned obsolescence." That meant, of course, that the quicker things would wear out or break the sooner the public would need to buy another to replace what they had.

And along with that came the notion that "new and improved" was worth the extra bucks the thing would cost.

I'm not against productivity and free enterprise and the notion of building a better mousetrap, but the more birthdays I have the more I'm becoming convinced that bigger isn't necessarily better; that it often is the small things of life that get us through and not only get us through but get us through in a more preferred way.

This whole train of thought got started a few days ago — not so much on buying something or seeing the latest gadget, but rather on a small physical concern.

Cold weather, in addition to making me long for spring, also tends to do not so nice things to my hands. Maybe it's from picking up bales of hay or other farm chores; maybe it's that I wash my hands 74 times a day in this age of virus and pandemic; maybe it's just that I'm turning into an old man. I don't know but I do know that when the weather gets cold, I tend to get little nicks and scrapes on my hands.

Those little nicks are especially a pain when using hand sanitizers, again one of the byproducts of our virus age. Since those products are mostly alcohol it's not hard to notice where the nicks are. But there's another reminder on my hands of just how important small things can be sometimes. On my right thumb is a small nick, a broken place in the skin. It's not a big thing but the problem is it's right where I push to fasten buttons on my shirts, especially the top collar button right before tying the ol' necktie.

It's amazing how much that little nick hurts when it's pushed.

I say all this not to whine so much about a little something I hope will go away soon but rather to point out how important the little things in life can be. It's like the old story about a nail in a horseshoe.

As I remember, that little piece went something like, "For want (or lack) of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of the shoe the horse was lost; for want of the horse the rider was lost; for want of the rider the battle was lost; for want of the battle the war was lost; for want of the war the kingdom was lost ... all for the want of a nail."

Kind of puts a different perspective on things, doesn't it? Hope you can take care of your small stuff.

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.

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The trouble with the Nazi Comparison

I was doom-scrolling through my Facebook feed last Wednesday when

a comment on a local's post stood out to me. It compared the government's response to the Capitol attack to the Nazi occupation in Germany.

RACHEL HOROWITZ
Millennial Musings

I've seen similar statements crop up throughout the past year, taking aim at everything from Confederate monument removal to stay-at-home orders.

On this same day, a viral photo showed an insurrectionist wearing a "Camp Auschwitz" shirt. Under the phrase were the words "work brings freedom," a rough translation of the "Arbeit macht frei" sign that still hangs at the aforementioned Nazi death camp. I remember last seeing that sign when a Holocaust survivor came to speak at my college campus. He described how he and his family hid in the woods

for months on end, dying of starvation in fear that the soldiers would find and kill him.

You may be paying close attention to this piece because you know that I am Jewish, either from my last name or from my prior columns. You may have also seen the contrasting photos of law enforcement's response to last summer's protests and their response to the storming of the Capitol building. We need to separate these events and ask why they were handled so differently, just like we do with historical genocides and the current political climate.

The Nazi comparison isn't new at all, but it does return in a flurry every year or so. When Chatham County took down the Pittsboro courthouse's Confederate monument in 2019, someone posted the comparison in a Facebook group, noting that Auschwitz is still standing because "only idiots destroy history ... others learn from it." However, we do not celebrate or worship Auschwitz, while people absolutely idolize the confederate statues the quote alluded to.

Another comparison arose

during the stay-at-home measures, with many social media accounts taking to N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper's Facebook feed. "Cooper has turned into Hitler!" one proclaimed. Anyone who has studied the horrors of the Holocaust would never equate it to being barred from a bar after 9 p.m.

Finally, we must discuss the latest Nazi comparison — social media censorship. People like to label the Silicon Valley social media creators "fascists," as well as compare the private companies' rules to George Orwell's "1984." "This is how it starts," shared one misinformed Facebook commenter. "This is how the Nazis took over Germany."

Actually, Hitler rose to power in part because of his speeches that incited violence in the hearts and minds of his supporters.

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.

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VIEWPOINTS

Process and prudence always matter

It was the summer of 1987 when I first stepped inside the United States Capitol to work instead of visit.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

As part of a summer program, I spent a couple of months interning with syndicated columnist Don Lambro. Rather than have me run errands or fetch coffee, Don sent me right off to cover committee meetings and lurk outside the General Accounting Office so he'd be among the first to get his hands on newly published GAO audits of government waste (obviously a man after my own heart).

I loved it. I'd previously worked as a local government reporter, so the journalism bug had already bitten me. And it was an exhilarating summer to be in the Capitol with a press pass and a fascination with

politics. (Ever heard of the Iran-Contra Affair?)

The following spring, I was back in Washington for a semester-long fellowship through UNC-Chapel Hill's journalism school. I spent much of it deployed to the office of then-House Minority Whip Trent Lott. While I did constituent service and correspondence, most of my time was spent in committee rooms and hallways meeting a wide variety of people — from young staffers and harried journalists to seasoned lobbyists and powerful lawmakers.

A year later, when I returned to the nation's capital for the third time as a reporter-researcher for *The New Republic*, I again spent much of my time on Capitol Hill. I relished the work. I drenched myself in the history and grandeur of the place.

So, how did I feel as I watched a mob tramp through the Capitol building on Jan. 6, battling police officers, destroying property, and attempting, however cluelessly and inef-

fectually, to halt the peaceful transfer of power?

I was angry, of course. Weren't you? But I also felt literally sick to my stomach. They were trashing a place I revere. They were trashing an institution that, whatever its inherent limitations and manifest flaws, has inspired generations here at home and around the world. They were trashing the American republic itself.

Led into the building and encouraged by a cadre of alt-right provocateurs, the mob also produced priceless propaganda for the enemies of our country. "The celebration of democracy is over," one Russian official wrote. "America no longer forges that path, and consequently has lost its right to define it. Much less force it on others." A state-run Chinese newspaper headlined its coverage this way: "An iconic humiliation! The madness of the U.S.'s standing into its Waterloo!"

I'm disgusted, then, as well as angry. And I'm deeply sad-

dened. What happened on Jan. 6 was not an isolated incident. It was the latest in a series of punches to the gut of our body politic. Attempted assassinations and kidnappings of public officials. Riotous attacks on other public buildings, from state capitols to police stations. Property destruction and vandalism. Violence and threats of violence.

Mob psychology has been extensively studied. We know that human beings will often do things as part of a mob that they would never imagine themselves doing on their own.

Reversing this dangerous turn in American life and politics will require multiple steps. First, all of us, across the political spectrum, must denounce violence. We must tell all activists, including those whose goals we may share, that no matter how much they may be frustrated by electoral or legislative outcomes, they have no right to take the law into their own hands. Period.

That's the easy part, actual-

ly. Here's the harder one: each of us, across the spectrum, must make integrity our No. 1 criterion when choosing leaders. The mob that trashed the Capitol had been fed a constant diet of misleading statements, exaggerated claims and false promises. They were lied to and whipped into a frenzy by President Trump and his allies in Congress.

The Capitol will survive its trashing. But will America's institutions of freedom and self-government? Only if we elevate real leaders, with integrity and courage, to the highest offices of our republic. In the spirit of the exception proving the rule, most lovers of liberty accept that government has a critical role to play in combating communicable disease.

John Hood is chairman of the John Locke Foundation and author of the forthcoming novel Mountain Folk, a historical fantasy set during the American Revolution (MountainFolk-Book.com).

We got another inoculation

We got inoculated last week. Or I think we did.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

I hope we did. I am not thinking about the COVID-19 vaccine that some got recently and others, I hope, will be getting soon.

Nor am I thinking about flu shots or measles. I bet you remember the smallpox vaccine that many of us got when we were kids and how it worked by giving us a mild case of something like smallpox. That mini-infection, without hurting us too much, caused our bodies to respond with antibodies that protected us from future cases of the main disease.

The discomfort from the vaccine protected us from the major, disabling or fatal disease that we had been inoculated against.

Similarly, last week's events in Washington may have jolted us into being better prepared for more serious threats to come.

The mini-insurrection, the occupation of the Capitol, and the crudely planned but real attempted coup were disturbing and painful. They caught us off guard, unready and unprepared.

If the take-over had been better planned and orchestrated, or if it had a little more support from a larger group of insurrectionists, it could have prevailed.

Also, the result could have been different if just a few facts had changed. Texas Senator Ted Cruz might have been Senate majority leader, for instance, and had the clout to persuade his colleagues to postpone the certification of Joe Biden's election until a new commission could reexamine the election results and propose a different outcome.

Or, if Missouri Senator Josh Hawley had been vice president instead of Mike Pence, he might have refused to certify the electoral votes.

We escaped disaster because this insurrection disease was not quite strong enough to overcome our defenses — as weak as they were.

Nevertheless, we were embarrassed and humiliated by this close call.

Hawley, the first-term senator from Missouri, who argued against certification of the Electoral College results even after the Capitol Building had been trashed, earned scathing criticism from commentators such as David Brooks, who wrote that Hawley "gave permission to dark forces he is too childish, privileged and self-absorbed to understand. Hawley sold his soul to all that is ugly for the sake of his own personal celebrity."

Brooks' fellow columnist, Michelle Goldberg, was stunned by the entire episode: "If you saw Wednesday's scenes in any other country — vandals scaling walls and breaking windows, parading around the legislature with enemy flags and making themselves at home in quickly abandoned governmental offices — it would be obvious enough that some sort of putsch was under way."

As Gabby Giffords, former Democratic representative from Arizona from 2007 to 2012 and wife of the new Senator Mark Kelly, pointed out: "There's no magic recovery in store for us as a nation. We have a long way to go. We are living with the consequences of years of inflammatory speech and false accusations. Through hard work, intention and commitment, our country will overcome the rage of those who stormed the Capitol with symbols of hate. We draw strength from the bravery and determination of our first responders and frontline workers. We will move ahead together. When one person flags, another person steps in — to lift up the weak, and give strength to the doubtful. Together, our resolve and determination will be fuel for years to come."

By understanding the seriousness of the dangers Brooks and Goldberg point out, with the guidance of leaders like Giffords in building our resolve, and preparing our peacekeeping forces to meet the threats, we can strengthen our country to face and defeat future insurrections and rebellions.

And if we do, the events of last Wednesday will have proved to be a successful inoculation.

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.



Thinking about people I've lost...

The relentless advance of COVID-19 into my family continued this month.

No sooner had the doctors pronounced my cousin George fully recovered than they pronounced his granddaughter infected. That branch of the family lives on the other side of Charlotte. I pray for them every day.

I also recently learned this insidious virus has taken the life of my friend and former boss, A. Lynn Lockrow.

For those of us lucky enough to know him, he was not A. Lynn Lockrow, but *THE* A. Lynn Lockrow, a professor emeritus of design and production at Auburn University as well as the production manager of Paul Green's outdoor drama "The Lost Colony." I am proud to say I was one of the many hundreds of people who affectionately referred to him as "Daddy Lynn" when he was out of earshot.

I was lucky because when I was 19 years old he was the first boss I ever had.

Like young people everywhere I was bursting with that particularly sophomoric combination of energy and ignorance that made me a danger to myself and others. I was furious at a world that for some unfathomable reason refused to acknowledge me as the teenage genius I considered myself to be. Lynn brooked no guff; he had seen plenty of angry young men like me and was unimpressed. I was in

complete awe of him, so when he said jump, I said how high.

It helped that he was a great hulking bear of a man, well over 6 feet tall and built like a linebacker: rawboned and broad abeam. But while he was physically imposing he never used his presence as a threat. I remember him placing his hands squarely on my shoulders to make sure he had my full attention before telling me how I had fouled up and how I could prevent it from happening again before he fined my already measly paycheck of \$67.69 a week. After saying his peace, he turned me around with those same big hands to pat me on the back to send me on my way.

The fine was not an idle threat; it was a tool he used to get unruly young people like me to straighten up and fly right. When he chastised me I was crushed. When he praised me I was elated. But my hero worship did not affect him in the least; he had seen all that before, too.

Having never attended Auburn, I never studied under him formally. I could say he was a mentor, or a father figure, or a role model, and he was all those things, but most of all he was a teacher: the teacher who taught me how to teach myself, how to ask the right questions, how to anticipate potential problems and act on them instead of simply reacting after the fact. From him I learned questions often can have more than one right answer, but that some answers are better than others. He taught me how to talk around a subject, too, not as mere circumlocution, but as another tool to define a problem. Complex problems require sophisticated answers.

The world is rarely black or white; the best answer almost always lies in that murky gray penumbra between two polar opposites. Even today, when facing an intricate task requiring sequential steps, I often wonder, "What would Lynn do?"

I last talked with him at length when I was writing my book "Backstage at The Lost Colony" in 2017. He had known Paul Green, the show's author, and I wanted to know more about the show's history, so I drove down to Roanoke Island to interview him. The publisher was paying for the hotel, and I supposed no one knew more about the show than Lynn. He talked, and I took notes. Towards the end of our visit he stood up from his dining room table, stretched, and said, "Wait here," before lumbering off to another room in his house. He soon returned with an armful of books and pamphlets related to the show's 80-year history.

"Here you go! I can't find the monograph I'm looking for, but you'll have it before you leave the island."

"Lynn, I don't want to take all your books!"

"All?" He paused for effect before continuing: "All my books? Dwayne, do you know how many libraries I have?"

Even after 35 years he was still teaching me.

Dwayne Walls Jr. has previously written a story about his late father's battle with Alzheimer's disease and a first-person recollection of 9/11 for the newspaper. Walls is the author of the book "Backstage at the Lost Colony." He and his wife Elizabeth live in Pittsboro.

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VIEWPOINTS

Where will the jobs be? Will we return to farm life?

The overwhelming economic concern for a majority of individuals is jobs. There are two elements to this concern: will there be enough jobs for people who want to work, and what kind of training will those jobs require?

The worry about jobs has been elevated with the pandemic. The biggest drop in jobs during a three-month period in our history happened last spring. Although jobs have increased since then, all jobs — and particularly all the same kinds of jobs — have not yet come back. So, if anything, the focus on how many and what types of jobs will be available in the future has become even more intense.

In looking at the future job market, there are three questions to ask. First, will the number of new jobs be sufficient to keep unemployment low? Second, what specific occupations will be hiring? Third, what skills and training will be needed for these jobs?

Fortunately, a recent report provides some answers to these questions. Published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), the report gives specifics on

the occupations, skills and numbers of jobs forecast in coming decades. The report can be used to inform not only job seekers, but also educational institutions teaching work skills.

The WEF sees job opportunities in seven broad areas, collectively accounting for 90% of future job growth. The categories are data and artificial intelligence (AI), engineering and cloud computing, product development, sales and marketing, healthcare, energy and human resources. Importantly, WEF sees more jobs collectively created in these areas than jobs that will be replaced by technology and machinery. In short, there will be jobs for those needing work — and who have the necessary skills.

I don't have the space in this column to describe all the jobs and skill requirements of each job category, but here are some highlights. Jobs in data involve collecting, organizing and analyzing the massive amounts of information that is now available. Jobs in AI use these data to equip machines with decision-making capabilities, such as in driverless autos. Top skills required for these jobs are computer programming and networking as well as statistical analysis and modeling.

If you have a job in engineering and cloud computing,

you'll be working with developing, improving, managing and expanding the storage and use of data and information on physical servers external to your computer, termed "clouds." Such storage devices have become popular because they can be accessed from multiple devices, and they have a high level of security and safety. Simply put, the "cloud" is the way today's businesses and individuals store their information and programs. Computer software development, computer networking and web development are some of the sought-after skills for these jobs.

People involved in product development do — well — what the term says, product development! These can be new products — as well as services — in any field. Engineering and management are valued skills here, but so too are computer software skills and "trouble-shooting" skills, also known as quality control.

For those of you who aren't computer experts — and I include myself as a non-expert — the next set of jobs in sales and marketing is more understandable. These types of jobs have been around forever, but they've added some recent changes. Rather than using face-to-face contacts, today's marketing and sales

are increasingly done using computers, and specifically the internet (sorry for those of you stuck in the 20th century, like me). Social media is rapidly becoming the go-to way to advertise products, as I recently discovered with my most recent books. Today's jobs in this area combine skills in advertising, writing and graphic design with training in digital marketing and video production.

Jobs in health care are growing due to our aging population and our goal of addressing more health issues in the population. Typical occupations like MDs, nurses, therapists and support workers are included with newer jobs in making and operating medical equipment and developing and applying exercise programs. Each of the occupations requires specialized training. A newcomer skill in health care is simulation, where individuals with appropriate computer skills replicate operations and treatments for study and analysis. Also in the future will be greater needs for skills needed to perfect "remote operating."

Energy is important to any economy because it's the fuel that keeps economies going. Today we are likely on the cusp of a great shift in the type of energy used, moving from fossil-fuels to renewable fuels. Hence, jobs in renewable

sources like solar, wind and biomass will be in demand, as will occupations that focus on making fossil sources cleaner. Skills in construction, installation, marketing and evaluation will be important to these jobs.

Last are occupations in human resources. These jobs cut across all industries and include people who work in short-term training and re-training, the interface between employer and employee, as well as in recruiting talent for companies. Skills in leadership, management, personal relationships and even foreign languages will be sought for these positions.

So there you have it — a roadmap to the fastest growing jobs of tomorrow, and what's needed to get them. If you have children or grandchildren who ask you what they should study, now you have some answers. If you're old like me (age 70), does it make you wish you were young again and just beginning a job career? I'll let you decide!

Michael Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook and public policy.



MIKE WALDEN
You Decide

GUEST COLUMN | ANDREW DUNN,
CAROLINA JOURNAL

Cooper, Robinson paint sharply different versions of North Carolina

As Gov. Roy Cooper enters his second term as governor, he sees North Carolina dragged down not just by the COVID-19 pandemic, but by racism, unaffordable health care and unequal opportunity.

In a sharp contrast, Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson cast himself as an example of North Carolina's successes as he was sworn in as the state's first black lieutenant governor. In his North Carolina, the people of the state are locked in a larger, national battle for freedom.

These radically different views of the state and its trajectory, illustrated in the two men's inaugural addresses, set up another conflict between the state's top executive branch leaders. Again, North Carolina's governor and lieutenant governor are of differing parties — Cooper a Democrat, Robinson a Republican. Robinson was elected in November to succeed Republican Dan Forest, who served for the past eight years.

In Cooper's brief speech Saturday, he described the need to pull together to improve a state awash in "disinformation and lies" and hampered by lack of access to doctors, good schools and good jobs. He said the state's resilience and strength would be enough to succeed.

"Let's reach together to find ways all North Carolinians can afford to see a doctor, to get a quality education and a good paying job, to reform our systems that hurt people of color and to live and work in an economy that leaves no one behind, no matter who they are or where they live," he said.

In Robinson's estimation, North Carolina is a lot farther along that path. He described the poverty of his own humble upbringing and praised the state and the country for giving him the opportunity to rise.

"Anybody that does not believe that the United States of America is the greatest country on earth — I have a story to tell you," Robinson said at the conclusion of his swearing-in ceremony last week. "I have a story of pride, I have a story of overcoming all the bad things and raising up into good things. I have a story, and I intend to tell that story and I intend to fight for the freedom that God has given us."

These two views are likely to clash repeatedly in the coming years as North Carolina navigates its recovery from the coronavirus and its associated economic restrictions, as well as the state's perennial fights over education funding and Medicaid expansion.

Already, Robinson has used his perspective on the nation's history to push back against proposed social studies standards in his new position on the State Board of Education.

Cooper's address did little to forecast his policy priorities in the upcoming long session. But Robinson foreshadowed his approach to governing. Much like his grassroots-heavy campaign for office, the new lieutenant governor indicated he would try to mobilize popular support to influence the General Assembly.

"Those of y'all that got the number of the legislative building over there, I want you to call them and I want you to tell them that justice is coming," Robinson said. "Righteousness is coming. Good is coming. Common sense is coming. Tell them the people of North Carolina are coming and they want their freedom, and they're going to keep their freedom, come hell or high water."

Andrew Dunn is the state political reporter for Carolina Journal. He has spent a decade as a journalist in North Carolina, previously serving as the founder of Longleaf Politics, the editor-in-chief of Charlotte Agenda and a reporter and editor for The Charlotte Observer.

Could you pass the citizenship test?



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

Without consulting "the Google" or any other resource, see whether you can answer these questions: What are the three branches of government? How many justices serve on the U.S. Supreme Court? What do we call the first 10 amendments to the Constitution? How many voting members are there in the U.S. Congress? Name at least three rights guaranteed every citizen of this country. Finally, on what day was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

These are among the questions people who seek to become U.S. citizens are asked, but the Annenberg Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania reported that only 51% of Americans could identify all branches of government, only 54% understood what happened if the Supreme Court had a 5-4 verdict and only 19% could name a single First Amendment right.

Are you surprised? Tommy Tuberville, the former Auburn University football coach and recently sworn-in U.S. Senator from Alabama, didn't know the answers. In his first interview after being elected, he said the three branches of government were "the House,

Senate and Executive." He further said that his dad had fought in World War II to free Europe from socialism and that Al Gore had actually served as President-elect in 2000 for 30 days. All wrong. Look 'em up.

The obvious solution to this depressing lack of knowledge about U.S. citizenship is that we need to do a better job educating our young people (and adults) in our history, what it means to be a good citizen and how government works. Unfortunately, North Carolina has recently taken steps that will ensure even less knowledge about the core principals of our country.

Last January, the State Board of Education changed requirements for high school graduation to mandate four social studies courses: World History, American History, Civic Literacy and Economics and Personal Finance. The latter course was added after legislators determined that it was more important for young people to know more about managing their credit cards than it was to know our history.

North Carolina history is introduced to students in 4th and 5th grades, with an emphasis in the 8th grade. The World History class begins at the year 1200. Obviously, nothing important happened before that date. American History has been consolidated from two courses into one; that course covers from 1763 to the recent election. Students are expected to learn the most significant devel-

opments of the past 257 years in one course. Are our shortcomings more understandable now?

We believe these changes were made with good intentions and join in recognizing the value of young people understanding how to handle their finances, especially knowing how much interest they are being charged. But our lawmakers and educators took the easy path rather than the correct one. We could have eliminated some of the many work-days or trimmed the number of days in fall, Christmas or spring breaks. We could have even extended the school day by 30 minutes, or even expanded the current 180-day school calendar. Any of these suggestions would have been met with opposition from parents, educators or lawmakers, but we would probably turn out better citizens.

Maybe we should mandate that to graduate from high school our students be required to get a passing grade on the citizenship exam. And without question we should expect those we elect to pass that test. It is sad that new immigrant citizens know more about civics than most of us. Find the link (uscis.gov/citizenship) or there are plenty of civics books you could obtain online or from your local bookstore.

Tom Campbell is a former assistant N.C. State Treasurer and was the creator/host of N.C. SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of N.C. issues that aired on UNC-TV until 2020.

Three cultures in one lifetime

My identity as a Latina only became clear and solid in my last year of high school, when I had to describe to colleges and universities who I was.



OLIVIA ROJAS
News + Record intern

Growing up in Sanford, I lived in a predominantly white neighborhood, went to a predominantly white school and Spanish wasn't really used in our house.

There will always be pressure to conform to one identity, and as a young Peruvian-Puerto Rican-American woman and a third-generation immigrant, I felt this pressure constantly. Some of my peers would tell me that I wasn't the same as the other Hispanics since I didn't fit their idea of what a Hispanic should be. Yes, I like to read classic literature; yes, I like '80s music; and yes, I like to watch Star Wars with my dad. Pero, me

encanta bailar, mi plato favorito es el lomo saltado y me gusta el reggaeton (a music style that has roots in Puerto Rico) también.

During those times, I joined NC SLI (Scholars' Latino Initiative), which is now LatinxEd. LatinxEd is an educational initiative in N.C. providing targeted, multi-year support to Latinx students and immigrant families striving for higher education and greater opportunity in a state. From the workshops and help with college prep, I learned that even though I might feel disconnected from my Hispanic roots, my experience wasn't different from others. The experiences that I've lived don't make me any less Latina.

Also, I have been fortunate to live with my grandmother, Maru. She has played a role in helping me form a strong sense of identity with my Hispanic roots. She has taught me a big part of my Peruvian culture and heritage. Because we had her in our household, my sister and

I experienced Peruvian Spanish (the best dialect according to her), tried arroz chaufa and listened to her stories from Peru about our family. Now, my comfort level using Spanish has increased a lot since I've been practicing with her. I understand conversations in Spanish, I just answer back in English — something that I'm working on.

I know now that because I get caught between two worlds, I have a solid sense of individualism and can reside in the cultural shades of gray. I realize what a blessing it is to experience three cultures in one lifetime.

As my grandmother would tell me, "Never forget who you are. Make sure you have character and do the right thing."

News + Record intern Olivia Rojas is a part of the newspaper's La Voz de Chatham reporting team. She's a sophomore at UNC-Chapel Hill and lives in Sanford.



Chatham News + Record



REIVES

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votes and presence in the community.”

It was a landmark victory for minority voices in Lee County. To Robert Reives Sr., it was the goal he'd set out to accomplish, and it would have marked the end of his political aspirations.

“So, you need to understand all of that background to understand the moment for me,” Reives said. “At that point in time, my dad was kind of back to living his life. He was really happy about what happened. But I believe if you asked a young Robert Reives (Sr.) at that time, he believed he had accomplished what he was trying to accomplish.”

But Ruth Reives, the senior's wife, knew that bigger things were in store.

“I remember sitting in my living room and hearing my mother talk to him,” Reives said. “Basically, she said, ‘If it's not you, who is it going to be? And how do you now abdicate this responsibility after bringing about such a significant change?’”

Ruth discussed at length the value of public service — the responsibility each person has to serve the community according to his or her ability. Her lecture achieved the intended result.

“He'll tell you,” Reives said, “nobody else on this earth could have been able to get through to him on that. But she really talked to him deeply about it, again, about what it would mean to have his mind, his abilities, centered in that type of position.”

His wife's admonition inspired Robert Reives Sr.'s political career. Today, he is serving in his seventh term as a Lee County commissioner and was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine last month, the highest honor that can be given for state service.

But what Ruth Reives didn't know when she delivered her exhortation was that she had launched two political careers: Reives Sr.'s and his namesake son's.

“It resonated with me,” the younger Reives said, “I've never forgotten it. And, you know, I wasn't even involved in the conversation. I was sitting off to the side and just happened to be lucky enough to be home and to be present.”

'We really need you to run'

His mother's words stuck with Reives as he attended UNC-Chapel Hill, first to earn an undergraduate degree in business and then a law degree. They motivated him as he took up the cause of community ambassadorship, first as a prosecutor and then in private practice where he still works as a partner at Wilson, Reives & Silverman. But that Reives would eventually enter the political arena was only a question of timing.

“By the time it was time for me to go into politics,” Reives said, “there was no issue in my mind that I've got to give back — no issue in my mind that I should be doing something to benefit the public. The whole issue was working out how.”

That question was an-

swered in 2014 when N.C. House Dist. 54 Representative Deb McManus resigned following her arrest for embezzlement.

“I got four calls on the day Rep. McManus resigned,” Reives said. “Two of those were from Republican friends of mine, and two of those were from Democratic friends of mine ... They were saying, ‘You know, we really need you to run for this office.’”

Now, six years later — and more than 30 years after his mother's impassioned discussion of community responsibility — Reives is beginning his fourth full term serving Chatham County in the North Carolina House of Representatives and his first as leader of the chamber's Democratic Party.

His quick ascension from fresh-faced appointee to party leader is probably historically unprecedented, but to some, fully expected.

Former N.C. Lt. Gov. Dennis A. Wicker of Sanford, a friend of both Reives men, said it was “no surprise” the younger Reives was elected minority leader.

“He is one of the most respected, well like, articulate and trustworthy legislators in the General Assembly ... a description heard about him from both sides of the aisle,” said Wicker, who himself served six terms in the N.C. House. “Robert understands the essence of public service. He knows he is there for the greater good, not for personal gain. He has driven to make the quality of life better for people than when he found it. It's a value that he learned from his parents. The people of Chatham

County are fortunate Robert is representing them in the legislature.”

Reives credits the indefatigable work ethic he learned from his father and a bevy of dedicated friends like Wicker with fueling his political success.

“At first, I had people really advocate for me to consider taking the position, but I thought it was going to be impossible,” Reives said. “At that time, I was a Lee County resident and had no business interest in Chatham, had nothing but my wife's family in Chatham ... And so, I literally just had to beat the bushes to get support. That experience served me very well going into the state House.”

'A natural leader'

Immediately after his appointment, Reives — who now lives in Goldston — had to file for reelection. He won the Democratic primary, but faced “a strong Republican candidate in Andy Wilkie.”

“It's no different once you get into the House from before,” Reives said. “You're working to kind of make people know who you are and get involved. Once I was in the House, I think I got really lucky to make some strong and good friendships right out the gate.”

Among those early friends were Rick Glazier and W.A. “Winkie” Wilkins, both now retired from the General Assembly, and Darren Jackson, who preceded Reives as Democratic Party leader.

“Darren was, at that point, first considering running for leader ...” Reives said. “And so, we ran

together as a ticket — which was the first time anybody had done that — to make sure that we were telling people that hey, if you vote for Darren for leader, you're going to be voting for Robert for deputy leader.”

His partnership with Jackson launched Reives into the spotlight and amplified his political acumen.

“He just believed in me,” Reives said. “And so, I would say, I'm here now because of a lot of people and also Darren in particular just having such a strong belief in me as a person and as a legislator. I couldn't have had a better friend in the General Assembly.”

Jackson won reelection to his House seat in the 2020 elections, but declined to run again for party leadership, opening the way for Reives. In December, Jackson resigned from the House to accept an appointment to the state Court of Appeals from Gov. Roy Cooper.

“The past four years Robert Reives and I have worked as a team,” Jackson previously told the News + Record. “Now that Robert is the House Democratic Leader, I am confident he will do a great job in bringing people together ... Robert is highly respected by Republicans and Democrats alike and he understands the needs of rural areas.”

As new leader, Reives hopes to save the contentious relationship between parties and promote a cohesive General Assembly that will work together for N.C. residents.

“My focus is on broadband, healthcare, education,” Reives said, “and

really getting people ... to a point where they can have a sustainable economy around them that helps them get through the effects of this pandemic. Because passing out checks is good, but we've got to replace the lost jobs. We've got to replace economic opportunities. You've got to do all those things.”

For now, serving as leader of the Democratic party in the state House is the best way Reives sees fit to accomplish his legislative goals. But pursuing other political aspirations in North Carolina — like Jackson did — or in the federal government are not unrealistic, he says. He will do what it takes to best serve his community.

“I have tried to keep all options open,” he said, “because ultimately, I just care about this state, I care about my community, I care about this country. I want to be able to walk out of this, whenever I decide to retire from everything, and feel like I gave everything I had in service. And I want to leave that message with my kids and grandkids, making them understand this is an important part of our life — it's something we've got to do.”

Wicker said that mindset is a part of what helps Reives “truly represent what is good about public service” in North Carolina.

“He is a natural leader,” Wicker said, “who I believe, is destined to play a bigger role in North Carolina politics.”

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

TRAFFIC

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the detour for U.S. 64 Business.

The town of Pittsboro will install detours for local traffic to access points near the traffic circle. Drivers should be

mindful of crews working in this area over the coming months and allow extra time for the detours.

This is the first phase of a broader project to improve about two miles of U.S. 15-501 in Pittsboro, widening and constructing roadway and streetscape improvements between south of U.S. 64

Business and Powell Place Lane near the bypass. Proceeds from the sale of Build NC bonds are earmarked to pay for \$1.5 million of the construction of the first phase.

In addition to that project, nine miles of U.S. Hwy. 64 that make up the Pittsboro bypass, between Exit 378 and the Haw

River bridge, are being rehabilitated. S.T. Wooten Corporation of Wilson was awarded the contract with the low bid of \$2.74 million. Work may begin as early as the week of March 15 and is scheduled for completion by June 2022; it will include milling, resurfacing and shoulder grading.

Who are the most *outstanding young professionals* in Chatham County?

Nominate a young man or woman who works or lives in Chatham County whose professional achievements, community involvement and character represent the best of what the county has to offer by going to cutt.ly/20under40.

Nominations close on January 15!

OBITUARIES

HARRISON ZIMRI 'ZIM' HINSHAW



Harrison Zimri "Zim" Hinshaw, 91, of Asheboro passed away on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at Green Valley Hospital, Greensboro. Mr. Hinshaw was born in Alamance County on December 19, 1929, the son of Harrison A. and Margaret Pike Hinshaw. Zim was well known in the community. He loved farming, working with dairy and beef cows, hay and poultry. He enjoyed spending time working and

watching sports, and he was a true Tar Heel fan. You could find him at any of his grandchildren's sporting events. Zim had a love for his cats. In addition to his parents, Zim is preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Helen Jeanette Hinshaw; brothers, George Clifford Hinshaw, Clinton Hinshaw, and sisters; Bernice R. Hinshaw and Glenna H. Blair.

He is survived by his daughter, Sandra Hinshaw Barrett and husband Darrin of Asheboro; son, Mike Hinshaw and wife Jackie of Asheboro; grandchildren, Michael Hinshaw, Neil Hinshaw and wife Vanessa, Madison Barrett, and great-grandchildren, Alexis and Cayson Hinshaw.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, January 9, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Bethel Friends Meeting with Ben Hurley officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Bethel Friends Meeting, 2519 Bethel Friends Road, Asheboro, N.C. 27205, or the Randolph County Animal Shelter, 1370 County Land Rd., Randleman, N.C. 27317.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Hinshaw family.

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

CLYDE THOMAS HUDSON, JR.



Clyde Thomas Hudson Jr. age 77, of Siler City died Monday, January 4, 2021, at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill.

Mr. Hudson was born in Chatham County on November 8, 1943, the son of Clyde Thomas Hudson Sr. and Annabel Elkins. Clyde was a member of Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church. He was Honorably Discharged from the Army National Guard. He was a farmer, carpenter and a welder, who loved working in

his workshop and being with his family. He is preceded in death by his parents Clyde and Annabel Hudson, and brother Jerry Earle Hudson Sr.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Brenda Shaw Hudson; daughter, Angela Hudson Senter of Siler City; son, Mitchell Hudson and friend Liz of Siler City; sister, Martha Hudson Pugh and husband Wiley; sister-in-law, Linda Hudson of Siler City; loving grandchildren, Landon and Annabel; very special nieces, nephew and great nephew, Jay Bray.

A private family service will be held inside of Mt. Vernon UMC on Saturday January 16, 2021, at 2 p.m.

Because of COVID restrictions, community and friends are welcome to come to Mt. Vernon UMC parking lot and listen to the service in their cars. Pastor Jason Dickerson will be officiating.

Memorials may be made to Mt. Vernon UMC c/o P.D. Fields, 140 St. Andrews Lane, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

HARVEY D. HOBSON

Harvey D Hobson, 80, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, January 8, 2021, at his residence.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. Monday, January 11, 2021, at Buffalo Cemetery with Sherry Baird and Pastor Ralph Baker presiding.

Mr. Hobson was born in Harnett County on July 27, 1940, to the late Harvey James Hobson and Lou Annie Gregory. He was also preceded in death by a brother and six sisters; a daughter, Pamela Sue Davis; a grandson, Harvey Daryl Hobson. Harvey worked at Lee Iron & Metal as a maintenance supervisor, retiring after 43 years.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Doris T. Hobson of the home; sons, Harvey D. Hobson Jr. of Cameron, Kenneth Wayne Hobson of Sanford; daughters, Debbie C. Preston and Rebecca Lynn Bouchard, both of Sanford; sisters, Annie Patterson of Broadway, Willa Dowd and Minnie Williams, both of Sanford, Joann Partin of Lillington, and Rosie Covington of Hamlet; twelve grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

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

WILLIAM MARION GARNER

William Marion Garner Jr., 90, of Whispering Pines, passed away on Monday, January 11, 2021, at his home.

A visitation will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 16, 2021, at New Covenant Community Church Cemetery with the graveside service following at 11 a.m. with Pastor Bryan Griffith and Jerry Morgan officiating.

Mr. Garner was born in Harnett County on November 10, 1930, to the late William Marion and Nina Hall Garner. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn Joyce Kennedy Garner and siblings, Robert Garner, Teddy Garner, Agnus Martin, Peggy Patterson and Hazel Black. Mr. Garner was a long-time tobacco farmer, carpenter and preacher.

He is survived by his sons, Harold Garner of Raeford, Eugene Garner of Sanford; daughters, Deborah Morgan of Whispering Pines, Linda Hardy of Vass; brother, Neil Garner of Carthage; sisters, Wanda Hinson of Jackson Springs, Joyce Ann Bobbitt of Niagara and Dorothy Weathers of Sanford; 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

TAMMY NUWANDA KAY (MOORE) RONE

Tammy Nuwanda Kay Rone, 50, of Pittsboro passed away on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at the UNC Hospice Home. Survivors include her parents, Bernice and Jacqueline Neal Moore; her husband of 28 years, Henry Louis Rone; and a sister, Tiffany Moore

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, January 11, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home with burial at 11 a.m. Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

MICHEAL MCLEOD

Micheal McLeod, 64, of Richlands, passed away on Thursday, December 31, 2020, at Onslow Memorial Hospital.

Michael was the son of Fannie Jean Heck Vaughan and William Nathaniel McLeod.

Services were held on Sunday, January 10, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford. A private interment was held at Sandhills Veterans Cemetery in Fort Bragg.

MAKE PEACE 'GEORGE' CHALMERS JR.

Make Peace "George" Chalmers Jr., 72, of Bennett, passed away at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts & Sons Funeral Home in Siler City.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY 'BUD' PRICE



William McKinley "Bud" Price, 70, of Bear Creek died Saturday, January 9, 2021, at his residence.

Mr. Price was born April 12, 1950, the son of William Harrison and Peggy Farrar Price. Bud loved spending time with his family, especially with his nephew Amare Lucas. His love of sports included playing softball and he was an avid Tar Heel and Washington Redskins fan. He loved traveling with his "travelers," Brenda and Clifton Snipes. Bud worked as

a Research & Development Technician for E'TI in Asheboro, N.C.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Callie Womble Price; sisters, Gladys Foxx and husband Glenn of Siler City, Dorothy Harris of Sanford, Penny Price of Siler City, Tammie Newby and husband Alex of Siler City, Tina Martin and husband Dawan of Liberty; brothers, Larry Price and wife Brenda of Siler City, and Jerry Price and wife Josephine of Winston Salem; nephew, Amare Lucas of Chapel Hill; aunts, Blondean Jordan and husband Clarence of Siler City, Helen Glover of Siler City; uncle, Jawade Price of Siler City; and a host of very special, nieces and nephews, and cousins with Frankie Farrar being like a brother.

Bud laid in state on Tuesday January 12, 2021, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City from 12 to 6 p.m. The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at St. Andrews Christian Church, 723 East Street, Pittsboro with Rev. Dr. Mary Gilmore officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Price family.

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

THOMAS 'TOMMY' WILSON GLOSSON

Thomas "Tommy" Wilson Glosson, age 86, of Pittsboro, died Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at the SECU UNC Hospice House.

Tommy was born in Chatham County, N.C., on May 9, 1934, to the late Lacy Eugene Glosson and Zula Lewis Glosson. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Elizabeth Thomas, and a brother, Bobby Glosson. He was very active and served on many boards including Chatham County Planning Board, Health Advisory Board, Cooperative Extension Advisory Board, Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and the Chatham County Fair Board.

Surviving relatives include his wife of 61 years, Hilda Russell Glosson; two daughters, Rose Marie Glosson of Pittsboro and Carol Ann Glosson of Pittsboro; one brother, Johnny Glosson of Pittsboro; one sister, Ann Johnson of Wendell, N.C.; and one granddaughter, Kelsey Marie Bombard of Pittsboro.

A graveside service was held Thursday, January 7, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Mt. Olive Baptist Church with Pastor Brian Biggers officiating.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made in Tommy's memory to a charity of your choice.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

DONNA LYNN BEASLEY



Donna Lynn Beasley, 62, of Broadway, died Saturday, January 9, 2021, at UNC Hospitals, Hillsborough Campus.

She was born in Cumberland County, N.C. on May 3, 1958, to the late James Earl Beasley Sr. and Dorothy Smith King and James King. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother Jaa Beasley. Donna was a Social Worker.

She is survived by a son, Ryan Woodell and wife Jennifer of Bonlee; daughter, Misty Womack of Sanford; sister, Pam Beasley of Broadway; and grandchildren, Jaylan and Aalyn Woodell.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 2 p.m. at the Smith Family Cemetery in Broadway with Rev. Billy Keith officiating.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

HAROLD THOMAS GILMORE

Harold Thomas Gilmore, 73, of Sanford, died Sunday, January 3, 2021, at Duke University Medical Center in Durham.

He was born in Lee County on August 10, 1947, son of the late James Gilmore and Marzell Thomas Blue. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Darlene Blue Bryant. Harold loved to mow grass and work in the yard. He loved people and was friendly and outgoing to all who knew him.

Graveside funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday at Baptist Chapel Church Cemetery with Rev. Alex Smith officiating.

Surviving are his children, Crystal Ussery and James Kelly.

Online condolences can be made www.smithfuneralhome-broadway.com

Arrangements are by Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

THOMAS BRAGG MCLEOD

Thomas Bragg McLeod passed away on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

Interment will be private. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Monitor www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com for date and time.

Mr. McLeod was born October 12, 1928, in Harnett County, the son of Edward "Ned" Walker and Alyce Kelly McLeod. He graduated from Boone Trail School and Duke University with a major in business in 1949

He bought Moss Trucking Co., later establishing McLeod Rigging Co. and Custom Transport. He served as president of The Heavy Specialized Carriers' Conference and The North Carolina Motor Carriers' Conference. Bragg was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Edward Walker McLeod Jr., John McLeod, Donald Harrington, and sister, Mildred McLeod Harrington.

He is survived by his wife, Betsy McLeod; his children, Mary Darden McLeod, Beth McLeod, and T McLeod; step-daughters, Sue Creighton, Ann Callahan; four grandchildren, one step-grandson, and five great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to Mount Pisgah Presbyterian Church, General Fund, P.O. Box 1302, Broadway, NC 27505 or the favorite charity of the donor.

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

MARGIE BRAY PHILLIPS

Margie Bray Phillips, 97, of Siler City passed away on Monday, January 11, 2021, at Coventry House of Siler City.

There will be a private graveside service on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at Greenlawn Memorial Park, 1311 Shipyard Blvd., Wilmington, with Rev. Keith Dixon officiating.

Mrs. Phillips was born in Chatham County on June 5, 1923, the daughter of Claude Lester and Lula Ann Hicks Bray. She was a member of Oakley Baptist Church. In addition to her parents, Margie was preceded in death by her husband Lonnie A. Phillips; brothers, Vaughn and Dee Bray; and sisters, Mamie Brown and Frances Groce.

Survivors include her sister; Ann B. Dixon of Siler City; a step-daughter and step-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Oakley Baptist Church Building Fund, 2300 Siler City-Glendon Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344 or the Charity of your choice.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Phillips family.

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

LORENA EVELYN MCLEOD ALLEN

Lorena Evelyn McLeod Allen passed away on Sunday, January 3, 2021, at Tara Plantation in Carthage.

Graveside service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, January 9, 2021, at Buffalo Jonesboro Cemetery.

DEBORAH ELLERBY

Deborah Ellerby, 70, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, January 2, 2021, at Rex Hospital in Raleigh.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Thursday, January 7, 2021, with burial following at Taylor's Chapel Mission Baptist Church.

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North Chatham Park Way development continues

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

The North Carolina Department of Transportation held a virtual presentation last Thursday to discuss the proposed construction of the North Chatham Park Way, a new north-south roadway to run east of Pittsboro.

The project is under development by NCDOT in partnership with the town of Pittsboro and Chatham Park Investors.

Plans for the 2.7-mile road have been coming together for years. Its potential was considered as early as 1994 in a NCDOT feasibility study and in 2015 and 2019 as part of Pittsboro's comprehensive transportation plan and a second NCDOT investigation.

Already, a section of the road has been constructed between U.S. Hwy. 64 and Suttles Road. North Chatham Park Way would extend the highway to U.S. Hwy. 15-501.

"All we're doing right now is just trying to connect where it currently terminates in the middle section and then trying to work our way north through all the village centers and then back to 15-501 on the north side of town," Pittsboro Town Manager Chris Kennedy said.

The extension is necessary to continue ongoing work to mitigate traffic issues through downtown Pittsboro, according to NCDOT community studies expert Jamille Robbins, who led Thursday's presentation.

"With new development in the area, traffic has increased, and creates mobility challenges in downtown Pittsboro," Robbins said.

Anywhere from "8,400 to a little over 18,000 vehicles per day" travel

through Pittsboro on U.S. 15-501, according to Robbins. But those numbers are projected to double by 2045, severely straining the current roadway system's capacity.

Construction is expected to begin soon and complete by 2023, but NCDOT must still navigate a series of hurdles.

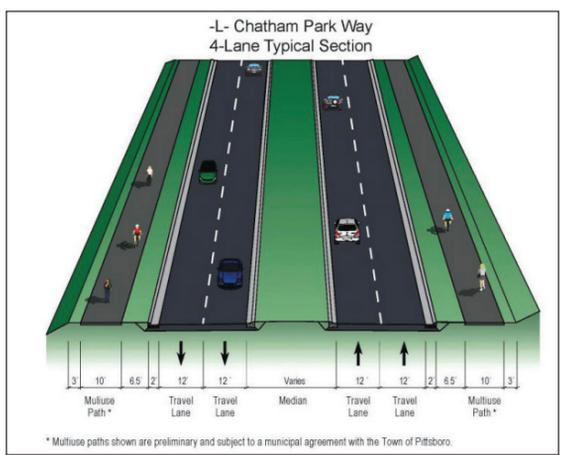
"NCDOT's public hearing, or public meeting, was part of the process to show that we've got the broad brushstroke design," Kennedy said. "We know kind of where the roads are going to go, but now we're getting into the actual design of it, we're looking at the complete streets. And so NCDOT's purpose was to vet that design and see if they are allowed to continue to move forward with ultimate construction of that road."

The project is estimated to cost just more than \$18 million, but according to Kennedy, the town and Chatham Park are not likely to be responsible for contributions to funding, despite their partnership with NCDOT.

"As I understand for this project, this is just NCDOT-funded," Kennedy said. "There's no town dollars or Chatham Park dollars being inserted to build this road for Chatham Park Way North. But again, that's just the best of my knowledge."

As per the state's funding system, money will be allocated in a 10-year cycle.

"Years one through six are funded and are actually going to go to construction," Kennedy said. "Years seven through 10 are funded, but they aren't necessarily going to go under construction. They are just earmarked for funding, but (NCDOT) is not actively taking over



Courtesy of NCDOT

A preliminary depiction of the North Chatham Park Way shows a four-lane, median-divided roadway with 10-foot wide multi-use paths on both sides.

those projects." Right now, the North Chatham Park Way project falls within one to six years and is therefore under consideration for government funding.

"So, they're going to go through environmental work," Kennedy said, "they're going to go through right-of-way acquisition and all the other things that have to be done in order to get that road built."

Project commencement also behooves NCDOT to entertain public comments on the roadway project, a process it began immediately following the virtual presentation. Many commenters expressed concern that North Chatham Park Way would negatively impact the surrounding environment. But Robbins assured listeners that results from environmental impact studies would dictate the project's continuation.

"Throughout the development of this project, every effort was made to avoid and/or minimize impact," he said. The proposed roadway's location

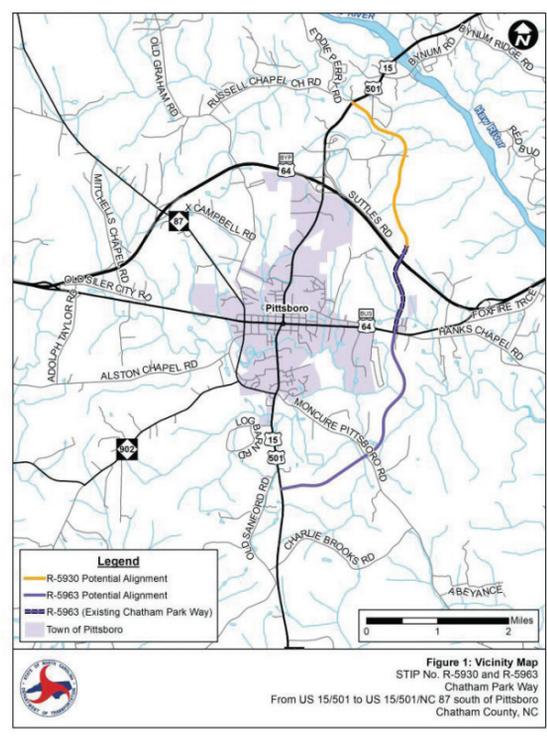
was chosen to "minimize the extent to which properties were divided," and no wetlands are to be impacted. However, 801 linear feet of stream will be affected by the new road.

Kennedy, too, was confident such concerns would be allayed in coming weeks as the project steps through each phase of development.

"It is our, Chatham Park's and the NCDOT's full intention to go through all the proper procedures," Kennedy said, "trying to have stakeholder meetings like we had ... to demonstrate that any concerns that may be had will hopefully be alleviated."

He emphasized that North Chatham Park Way, and eventually the entire completed Chatham Park Way, are not frivolous measures, but essential infrastructure to accommodate an aggressively developing town.

"It's going to be much needed in the future," Kennedy said. "I mean, there's going to be a lot of travel demand and keeping it off some of our



Courtesy of NCDOT

The proposed North Chatham Park Way, designated R-5930, will circumvent downtown Pittsboro to alleviate traffic congestion.

more local streets will be beneficial."

The project is preemptive, Kennedy said, but its value will become manifest in coming years.

"Too often, people have developments go in and then they realize they need road improvements," he said. "And so, I hope what this road presents is that there was some foresight applied to it — we knew the demand was going to come in and rather than bog down all the local roads in and around it, the road went in first, the development followed it and everything was as seamless as we could make it."

Even in the short term, though, before Chatham Park development significantly swells Pittsboro's population, North Chatham Park Way will relieve heavy traffic in

the downtown bottleneck.

"Already people talk about the traffic on Hillsboro Street, you know?" Kennedy said. "We've got residences on that road and it goes through our narrow corridor of downtown."

Kennedy admitted that, like with any project of this scale, "there's going to be some awkwardness there."

"But rather than stress and overburden our existing infrastructure," he said, "which is not designed to the same level that is going to carry the capacity that these roads are going to carry, I think it's going to be a much needed reprieve to have a road like this in place."

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham Conservation Partnership winter meeting set for Jan. 21

The Chatham Conservation Partnership (CCP) winter meeting will again be virtual, set for 9 to 11:15 a.m. on Jan. 21. The meeting focus is water resource planning.

An update of the Cape Fear basinwide plan is coming out in 2021. Nora Deamer of the NCDEQ Basin Planning Branch will share updates in the plan for the Haw, Rocky, and Deep Rivers, addressing questions that include: How are basinwide plans used to protect our rivers? Can we provide input into the basinwide plans?

The Jordan Lake Rules impact water users, drinkers, and community members throughout the watershed. How are they developed? Who follows them? And could we be managing Jordan Lake better? Find out when Patrick Beggs from NCDEQ Division of Water Resources presents an update from the Jordan Lake One Water Partnership and the re-adoption process of the Jordan Lake Rules.

Friends of the Lower Haw will share their efforts to bring the Haw River Trail to Chatham County in hopes that recreation can be the key to watershed conservation.

The meeting will take place via Zoom, and pre-registration is required. CCP meetings

are free and open to the public.

To register, or for more information, go to: chathamconservation.org.

Registration deadline is 10 p.m. on Jan. 19. Registrants will receive an email two days prior to the event with the Zoom link.

Governor Cooper Announces Judicial Appointments

RALEIGH — Governor Roy Cooper has announced two judicial appointments, one to the North Carolina Superior Court and one to the North Carolina District Court.

"The knowledge and legal experience of these North Carolinians make

them strong additions to our courts," Cooper said. "I'm thankful for their commitment to serving the people of our state."

In Judicial District 15B (serving Orange and Chatham counties), Cooper appointed Alyson Adams Grine as Superior Court Judge. Grine will fill the vacant seat of recently retired Judge Carl Fox. Since 2018, Grine has served as a prosecutor for the Durham Office of the District Attorney. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor at the North Carolina Central School of Law, Defender Educator at the UNC School of Government, an Assistant Public Defender in District 15B, and a judicial clerk for Chief Justice Henry Frye

and Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson. Grine earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her Masters of Arts in Spanish from the University of Virginia, and her Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina School of Law.

In Judicial District 10A (serving Wake County), Cooper appointed Rashad Hauter as District Court Judge. Hauter will fill the vacant seat of Judge Michael Denning who resigned. Since 2017, Hauter has worked as a criminal defense and immigration attorney in private practice. He previously served as the Regional Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor for the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys and as an Assistant District Attorney in the Wake County District Attorney's Office. Hauter earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his Juris Doctor from the Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law.

NCDOT: New projects, art contest, bike helmet initiative

RALEIGH — The following are highlights from this week at the N.C. Department of Transportation:

New Projects in the New Year: It is a new year and some new roads have recently opened. Just before Christmas, North Carolina of Department of Transportation, city and county officials cut a ribbon to welcome traffic onto a new U.S. Hwy. 64 route and the Zoo Connector

along the south side of Asheboro.

The department, ahead of schedule, also opened new sections of the Winston-Salem Northern Beltway and Greensboro Urban Loop.

NCDOT also announced new technology will be used to improve safety on a section of Interstate 95 that is currently being widened.

For more details, go to ncdot.gov and find the drop down for projects.

Aviation Art Contest: Each year, NCDOT's Division of Aviation sponsors the North Carolina Aviation Art Contest to engage young people in aviation and aeronautics. The contest offers children ages 6 to 17 and who live or attend school in North Carolina the chance to explore different aspects of aviation.

The contest theme for 2021 is "A Friendlier World with Air Sports." The entry deadline is Jan. 19.

Bicycle Helmet Initiative: To reduce bicycle injuries and deaths, NCDOT is encouraging people to apply to receive free bicycle helmets.

The Bicycle Helmet Initiative uses funds from the sale of "Share the Road" specialty license plates and has given out more than 40,000 helmets since its inception in 2007.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. Jan. 15 and can be filled out online.

For more information about NCDOT Now, contact the NCDOT Communications Office at (919) 707-2660. Additional news stories from throughout the week can be found on NCDOT.gov.

— CN + R staff reports

This Community ROCKS!

Abundance NC is matching folks in need during this Covid-19 period with volunteers and locals that have time and resources. Here is a recap of what **YOU** have accomplished since the pandemic started:

To DONATE:

For help or to help:

- Approximately 100 able + generous community members have bought & delivered groceries and paid utility bills directly for about 100 families in need, sometimes repeatedly. ~\$20,000
- Abundance NC has raised \$16,000 and paid \$11,000 worth of utility bills.
- You have avoided evictions several times by pooling in money to cover unpaid rent due to lack of work or reduced hours due to the pandemic.
- You have avoided disconnection of utilities and helped people get their utilities reinstated for about half a dozen families.
- We have connected approximately 50 families with other community resources available.
- We have been able to cover Abundance NC staff time to run this Neighbor2Neighbor program! !!

Thank YOU!

Much LOVE and BLESSINGS from the families YOU help! This is community resilience! !!

Hispanic Liaison raises thousands of dollars to help DACA applicants pay fees

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Hispanic Liaison has raised nearly \$13,000 in just two weeks to help first-time and returning DACA applicants living in Chatham cover their filing fees.

The money, raised both on and offline, will go into the Liaison's continuous DACA scholarship fund, which was created in 2017 to help DACA beneficiaries pay the \$495 application fee to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Applications for partial scholarships are open now; the link can be found on the Liaison's Facebook page.

They've held DACA fundraisers and received donations periodically over the years, according to the Liaison's executive director, Ilana Dubester, but this time is different. For the first time, the Liaison's scholarship fund will be able to help new DACA applicants.

"Before, it was just for renewals because new applicants couldn't apply," she said, adding, "Now the big change is that new applicants can apply again."

In 2017, the Trump administration ended the DACA program, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and later reduced the program's two-year renewal period to one year. Created in 2012, DACA provides temporary protection from deportation to young adults brought to the U.S. illegally as children. DACA also authorizes beneficiaries to work and drive,

but it doesn't offer a path to citizenship.

Following multi-year litigation against the Trump administration's decision, the Supreme Court voted 5-4 to uphold the program last June, and on Dec. 4, a federal judge reinstated it, allowing new applicants to apply for the first time since 2017.

That decision, Dubester said, inspired a fundraiser, which Emilio Vicente — the Liaison's former advocacy program manager — offered to organize. On Dec. 30, he created a fundraiser via Facebook for the Liaison with an initial goal of \$3,000, an amount another donor had promised to match.

It was perfect timing, Dubester said.

"We had a little bit of money left over (in the scholarship fund) that as people applied, we were helping them and hadn't run out yet," she said, "but it was getting to the point where we were getting to the bottom of the fund. ... Because new applicants also are eligible (now), that will be more people in need."

In just three days, the fundraiser accumulated \$6,880, thanks to a \$5,000 donation on Dec. 31. By Jan. 2, the fund was only \$2,510 shy of \$10,000, its new goal, and as of Tuesday, 70 donors had contributed \$9,680. The fundraiser will end in two days.

"It was really an amazing effort," said Dubester. "Our original goal was \$3,000 for the match that we were getting and (donors) just blew it out of the water, which is

really incredible. I think it's also good timing in terms of people getting extra money from the government and sharing that, so that helped as well."

She said she also thought people had a lot of sympathy for Dreamers — "and rightfully so."

"I hope you reach your goal for this worthy cause — helping Siler City/Chatham County youth pay the several hundred dollar fee to file for DACA!" one donor, Debbie Leiner Fields, wrote on the fundraiser's Facebook page. "Not the solution but a good stop gap until we have true, just immigration reform. I remain hopeful."

To apply for a partial scholarship, DACA youth just need to fill out a Google Form, which will soon be available on the Liaison's website. Eligible youth must live in one of the four counties the Liaison serves: Chatham, Alamance, Lee or Randolph. Among other things, the form will ask for personal information, like their counties of residence, how applicants heard about the scholarship and how much money applicants can contribute toward their fees.

"And that's it," Dubester said. "It's pretty simple. We don't ask for proof that they need the help if they're asking for the help, you know, these are mostly young people, (and) \$500 is a lot of money for a lot of people."

Since funds are limited, Dubester said the Liaison is only offering partial scholarships to serve as many people as they can. She estimated that hundreds of youth — perhaps even "several thousand" — are eligible for DACA across the four counties the Liaison serves, though she recog-

nized not all would need help paying the filing fees.

"Most recently, we had a maximum contribution on our part of \$300," she said. "And right now, we are basically just asking what they can contribute. And so ... they give their money to us, and we put it back into the DACA fund, so that we can help more people."

Once approved, applicants must have their DACA forms completed and ready to be mailed before the Liaison will cut them a check, which applicants will send themselves to USCIS.

"So we review their DACA application, and they come to the office to pick up the check," Dubester said. "And they mail it together with their DACA application. ... There's not much wait as long as the application is ready."

As of Monday, they've awarded two scholarships this year, received two new applications and have one scholarship "in transit."

Maria Gomez Flores, the Liaison's Advocacy and Civic Engagement Program Manager, is managing the program. For any questions, applicants can call (919)

742-1448 and ask for Gomez Flores or email her at maria@evhnc.org. The Liaison also helps refer applicants to attorneys who can help them fill out the DACA forms.

"Don't let this opportunity pass," Dubester said. "If you're eligible for DACA, this is the time to do it. Apply as soon as you can and go for it."

Once funds run out, Dubester said they'll "beat the bushes again" for money, but she ultimately hopes to see DACA beneficiaries become U.S. citizens and residents.

"We'll see what happens now with the new Congress and new president if this can be the year that we can actually pass the DREAM Act, as opposed to just having DACA," she said, adding, "So many of us work with DACA (recipients) — two of my staff members are DACA — and there's so many youth contributing in so many different fields who have DACA. They're really an important part of our society."

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

CHURCH NEWS

MAYS CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

A new sermon series, "God Wins," a line-by-line explanatory look at the book of Revelation, will be held at Mays Chapel Baptist Church each Sunday at 10 a.m. with an outdoor drive-in service. Social distancing and mask-wearing practiced. Pastor Gregory Lamb preaches from the porch of the church with services transmitted over the radio so you can hear the service while running the car's heater as needed.

The church is located at 24 Rosser Rd. in Bear Creek, 8 miles from the Pittsboro traffic circle.

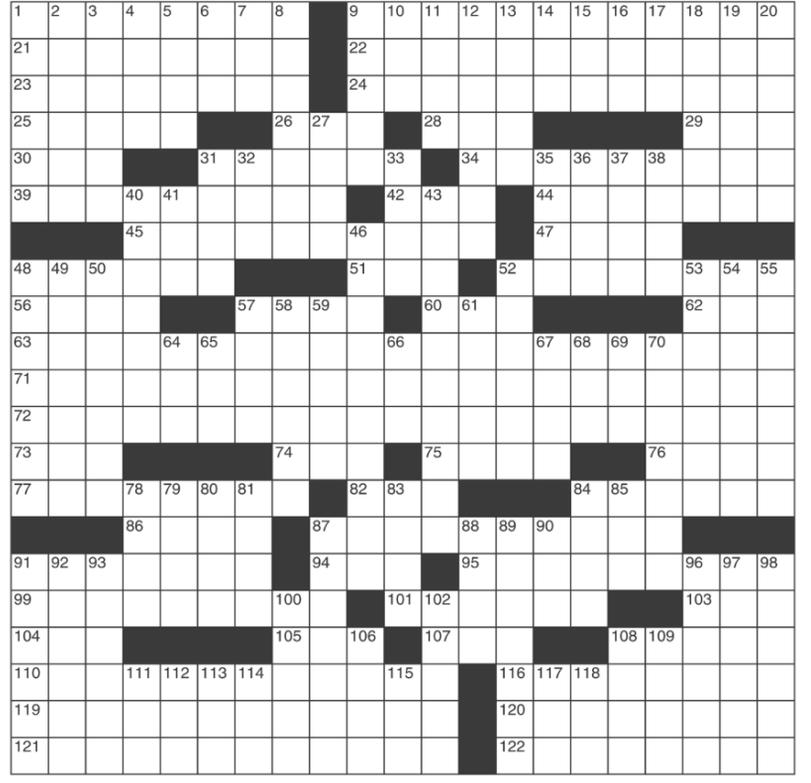


Chatham News + Record | CHATHAM HOSPITAL UNC HEALTH CARE



PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo UNTHEMED #3: STACKED CENTER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Like photons and gluons
 - 9 Exercise machine with steps
 - 21 Part of Turkey in Asia
 - 22 Money from work
 - 23 Getting wider
 - 24 Three-under-par scores
 - 25 Actors Epps and Sharif
 - 26 Scrape (out)
 - 28 Prefix with monthly or annual
 - 29 Refrain bit
 - 30 Distant
 - 31 Gives voice to
 - 34 Study of visual imagery
 - 39 Angler using artificial bait
 - 42 Suffix of sugar names
 - 44 Feels fretfully discontented
 - 45 Looking for
 - 47 Dog pest
 - 48 Geezer
 - 51 Rival of Gmail
 - 52 Gridiron player recruitment event
 - 56 Pit- (heartbeat sound)
 - 57 "Etc." for "et cetera," e.g.
 - 60 Kerfuffle
 - 62 Vetoing vote
 - 63 Start of a question in a Snow White story
 - 71 Influence of a country in other countries
 - 72 Explanation of a text based on its exact wording
 - 73 Mauna —
 - 74 After taxes
 - 75 Letters after pis
 - 76 Apple debut of 2005
 - 77 Charming
 - 82 "... boy — girl?"
 - 84 Truck fuel
 - 86 Prefix with monthly or annual
 - 87 Some hairless felines
 - 91 Mafia initiate
 - 94 China's Mao —tung
 - 95 Maestro's group
 - 99 Area with a pond and fountains, perhaps
 - 101 Attack
 - 103 Partakes of
 - 104 Trot quickly
 - 105 Conger, e.g.
 - 107 "Listen up!"
 - 108 Rises quickly
 - 110 Vehicle tag
 - 116 War prisoner
 - 119 Not merely figuratively
 - 120 Quality of being close
 - 121 Like a certain branch of geometry
 - 122 Schmoozing sessions
 - 11 In — (stuck)
 - 12 For short
 - 13 Saintry artifact
 - 14 B-F link
 - 15 Recline
 - 16 Pig — poke
 - 17 Director of 2000's "Charlie's Angels"
 - 18 Ballad singer Michael
 - 19 Materialize
 - 20 States again
 - 27 Deborah of "The King and I"
 - 31 Pre-'91 empire
 - 32 With 66-Down, Mr. or Mrs. Right
 - 33 Arty NYC district
 - 35 German composer Carl
 - 36 "Little" Dickens girl
 - 37 Pundit's paper piece
 - 38 Fibster
 - 40 Source of Adam and Eve's leaves
 - 41 Suffix with Carol
 - 43 Linked collection of photovoltaic panels
 - 46 Redheads
 - 48 Composer Saint-Saëns
 - 49 Personal view
 - 50 Once-popular Nerf game with blasters
 - 52 Amateur player
 - 53 38-Down in the Bible
 - 54 "Enough Said" actor Ben
 - 55 Alevite rival
 - 57 Human rights lawyer
 - 58 Clooney
 - 58 Chomping down on
 - 59 Ocean water
 - 61 Actor Lundgren
 - 64 Hockey legend Bobby
 - 65 Stranded cell stuff
 - 66 See 32-Down
 - 67 Very, to Yves
 - 68 In a tizzy, with "up"
 - 69 That, in Chile
 - 70 Liquid quality
 - 78 On the ocean
 - 79 Pricey stones
 - 80 Apple debut of 1998
 - 81 Ship of 1492
 - 83 Ostrich kin
 - 84 Writer Roald
 - 85 Ending for Bronx
 - 87 Strengthened
 - 88 Sniffing organ
 - 89 Getting an inside look at?
 - 90 Roman 201
 - 91 Florida major-leaguer
 - 92 Mother-or-son president of the Philippines
 - 93 Big name in yo-yos
 - 96 Macduff and Macduff
 - 97 Most scarce
 - 98 Take stock of
 - 100 Coke rival
 - 102 Glossy look
 - 106 Alleyway
 - 108 Feudal peon
 - 109 Writer Sarah — Jewett
 - 111 Poetic "prior to"
 - 112 Modern, in Germany
 - 113 Plant pouch
 - 114 Building addition
 - 115 Airport screening org.
 - 117 Org. for teachers
 - 118 Indenting key



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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

CORA THANKS YOU FOR HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED!



2020 was a year like no other — but friends like you were there through it all. You made sure that families had a place to turn for food when they needed it the most.

Thank you!



WWW.CORAFoodPANTRY.ORG

BOARD OF EDUCATION MID-YEAR RETREAT

CCS high school students to return to hybrid learning Feb. 1

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

At the end of the Chatham County Schools Board of Education mid-year retreat Monday, the board unanimously voted to delay the start of in-person learning for high school students under Plan B to Monday, Feb. 1, a little over one week after their originally scheduled return. The second semester will still begin virtually on Jan. 21.

Following that decision, the board passed another motion clarifying that high school staff will still return to in-person work on the 21st, unless they have approved accommodations through the human resources department. Board members said the decision to delay the in-person start date was made to give teachers additional time to plan and get accustomed to safety protocol.

Board member Melissa Hlavac, who made the motion to delay the in-person start date, emphasized the board's commitment to best helping ease teacher anxiety regarding the return, and also acknowledging many teachers have said they're eager to get back in the classroom.

"We certainly have heard from some teachers (who have not), and I think all five of us are clearly taking that into consideration," Hlavac said. "I know we all appreciate this discussion."

The board also discussed COVID-19 updates at length, hearing again from the ABC Science Collaborative, a project which analyzes COVID-19-related data in partnership with Duke, UNC and surrounding school districts, including CCS. ABC Science Collaborative presenter Michael Smith began his presentation with a reminder that the group shares and analyzes updated data and trends, but does not make specific decision recommendations.

During the presentation, Smith emphasized that the



Courtesy of Chatham County Schools

Dr. Randy L. Bridges was sworn in Jan. 11 as interim superintendent of Chatham County Schools. He replaces Dr. Derrick D. Jordan, who accepted a position with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. Dr. Bridges will serve the system until the Chatham County Board of Education hires a permanent superintendent.

group found schools are safe to remain open when the three W's are followed, under Plan B and Plan A. He did express less confidence in the safety of Plan A over Plan B — not because Plan A is "not feasible," but because the group has less data for Plan A. At the time of the presentation, the group was tracking data for 11 districts following Plan B and six operating under Plan A. Smith also stated that "schools are the safest place to be," noting that districts have more control over compliance with COVID-19 protocol.

Board member David Hamm asked whether waiting two weeks to return to in-person learning was a magic number as some have suggested. Smith said the district should plan as if COVID-19 is not going away any time soon, also noting the district should be encouraged by its lack of community spread of cases and the approaching vaccine roll-out for school employees.

In Chatham County Schools, there have been 43 positive COVID-19 cases among students and 38 reported among staff since the district's partial reopening Oct. 19. There have

been 50 total cases of COVID-19 among staff since the district's first day of classes on Aug. 17. As of Tuesday, there have been no reports of clusters, and only one known possible incident of any community spread.

"There's light at the end of the tunnel, I just think the tunnel is longer than two weeks," Smith said.

During its discussion on COVID-19, the board passed a motion postponing middle school winter sports schedule for four weeks to purchase and install Pixellot systems in each of its eight middle school gyms, costing \$5,000 each. That system provides live-event coverage; middle school athletics are not currently allowing spectators due to generally smaller gym sizes than in the district's high schools.

The board also presented a resolution to former superintendent Dr. Derrick Jordan — who has accepted a position with the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction — after swearing in Interim Superintendent Randy Bridges earlier in the meeting.

"I don't think we can honor him enough for the things he's done for our system," BOE Chairperson Gary Leonard said prior to reading the

resolution honoring Jordan's service to CCS.

Dr. Bridges has filled several interim roles as superintendent since retiring from running school systems, serving as an interim superintendent most recently at Orange County Schools. During his nine years as a superintendent in North Carolina he was recognized by the North Carolina Association of Educators and the North Carolina School Boards Association as the top superintendent in the state.

During the retreat, the board also heard a superintendent search overview, presented by Jim O'Rourke, an attorney with the North Carolina School Board Association. O'Rourke presented a draft timeline, which lists an advertisement of job to start Jan. 12, with a March 8 application deadline, along with approving several other minorly edited search forms.

The board also reviewed advertising options for the superintendent position, ultimately opting to pay for all the options O'Rourke presented, along with all the free options. Of those options, the board approved several organizations meant to advance and support educators of color, noting the "current climate" and its commitment to hiring diversity. After deciding to double all 30-day advertising periods to match the 60-day periods selected, the total cost amounted to approximately \$3,500.

Prior to leaving for his new role at DPI, Jordan thanked the board for its partnership and emphasized that he knew great things were ahead for Chatham County Schools.

"We're in good hands — Chatham County has some of the best students, faculty, staff, members of the community, and I will put all of our folks up against anybody," he said. "I am so fortunate to have been able to play a small role in the good things that I believe that Chatham County Schools has done for the past several years."

Here's what else happened:

- The board unanimously voted to apply for a one-year accreditation waiver for its 2021 accreditation review, noting that teachers shouldn't get "bogged down" with accreditation meetings as they adapt to pandemic protocol.

- The board heard quarterly updates on construction projects on the two projects currently being funded through the approved Chatham County Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget: Seaforth High School and a new Central Services building. Seaforth is currently 98% complete, expected to be completed in early April under budget.

"The pictures are great but they don't do it justice," Hamm said of the new school, to open next fall. "It is one fabulous facility." The board and district expressed commitment to spreading funds equally across the district, including older construction, too.

- The Exceptional Children (EC) Department presented its program review, sharing major commendations, recommendations and progress made. Major EC recommendations included clearly defining EC Instructional Facilitators roles, maintaining staffing models that meet projected student growth and adding a coordinated approach to offering professional development opportunities for EC teachers.

- The board signed off on the Five Year Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Facility Needs Survey, required by each school system in N.C. every five years. This document requires signatures from both the board of education and the board of commissioners.

That survey was approved unanimously, and shows an average daily membership (ADM) of 8,980 students in 2019-20 and cost summary (0-5 years) of \$7,392,158 for 2020-21.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Yoga Garden offers MLK Day community class

PITTSBORO — To commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Pitts-

boro's Yoga Garden is sharing a multi-offering livestream class from 9 to 10 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 18, which includes a Loving Kindness meditation led by Lexie Wolf, a Dharma talk led by

Cierra McEachern and a gentle flow yoga practice led by Chelsea Gardner.

In an effort to center the great legacy of Dr. King, we'll be holding space for community during this class and offering dona-

tions to the new Chatham County School of Arts for Boys Academy, which endeavors to empower and build underrepresented minorities boys to be strong, creative academic scholars, critical thinkers and com-

munity leaders through a culturally responsive arts-based education. More information can be found at sabacademy.org.

"We encourage you to register on our website and meet us on the mat for a great opportunity to practice gratitude, mindfulness, unity and community-building," Yoga Garden owner Lexie Wolf said.

Register for the Zoom session at yogagardenpbo.com/schedule-and-info.

Lee County Sheriff to retire

SANFORD — After 14 years in office, Lee County Sheriff Tracy L. Carter announced at a press conference last week that he will not run for reelection when his term expires in two years.

"I made a decision after a lot of thought for quite some time now that I will not seek a fifth term as sheriff of Lee County," Carter said.

Carter cited a personal belief that individuals should not hold power for extended periods of time as the primary contributor to his decision.

"In 2006, when I won my first sheriff's race, I thought how great it would be to serve one term and do a great job if that's all that I get," he said. "Well one term turned into four terms, and me personally, I don't think that anyone should be in this position for more than four terms. I mean, that's enough for anyone."

Carter thanked his staff and the local government for supporting him as sheriff, but expressed special gratitude for the people of Lee County.

"It's been a high honor," Carter said. "I can't stress that enough, how much I appreciate the citizens of Lee County

supporting me and our county government."

During his tenure, Carter expanded the Sheriff's Office and broadened its scope.

"Over the past 14 years we've made a lot of improvements here at the Sheriff's Office," he said. "We have 12 different divisions within my office and we've created some of those divisions and we've drastically improved each one of those, and I think that the work we've done here has contributed to Lee County being a better safer place for people to live."

Despite a hard year contending with the coronavirus pandemic, Carter said he is leaving a healthy and well-functioning office.

"My budget's in good shape; my employees are in good shape," he said. "The only concern that I have for my office is that my hard working employees get a good healthy raise this year ... They've done an outstanding job with COVID and all that's happened in the past year."

The next sheriff's race will begin in less than a year, but Carter declined to offer endorse a replacement.

"I do have someone I'm going to support from my office that I think is very capable of moving things in the right direction," he said, "but I'm not ready to talk about that right now."

Carter's retirement will mark the end of a 33-year-long career in law enforcement. When asked about his political aspirations, though, Carter suggested he might pursue alternative avenues of public service.

"My health is good, thank God, and I plan on retiring from law enforcement," he said, "but I do want to continue working. I think that keeps you healthy."

— CN + R staff reports

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VACCINE

Continued from page A1

forts of county residents to slow the spread, it's the current reality that the pandemic is getting worse in Chatham County."

Statewide, too, case numbers are escalating with a startling slope. Two months ago, state health officials expressed alarm when case numbers first exceeded 3,000 per day for several days in a row. On Saturday, the record daily case count was set at 11,581 following two days in excess of 10,000 cases.

"We've seen some of our highest case counts, percent positives, hospitalizations and ICU bed usage numbers in the past few days ..." Cooper said in his press conference, before the daily records were broken twice more over the weekend. "No matter where you live, work, worship or play, COVID-19 remains a deadly threat."

But, Cooper emphasized, there is hope for the pandemic's eventual end — COVID-19 vaccine distribution is underway, albeit slower than anticipated.

"Getting the vaccine out quickly is the most urgent priority right now," he said, "and we'll use everything and everyone needed to get the job done."

In Chatham, nearly 1,600 have received the COVID-19 vaccine so far. Since the first vaccines arrive, the county health department has facilitated vaccine distribution to members of phase 1a in the state's prioritization guidance: frontline health care workers caring for and working directly with

COVID-19 patients and those supporting the vaccine distribution, in addition to residents and staff at long-term care facilities.

But this week, the county health department and Chatham Hospital began administering vaccinations Phase 1b, group 1.

"We are compiling a list of individuals in Phase 1b, group 1," said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek in a press release, "adults aged 75 or older who want the vaccine."

But distribution is slow going.

"This process will take several weeks to reach all interested due to limited resources," Zelek said, adding, "while the news of the vaccine is exciting, we are still a long way from getting the vaccine to everyone who wants it."

The county's vaccine supply was always expected to dispense slowly, but rocky rollouts have undershot expectations. North Carolina ranks especially low on vaccine administration with about 211,000 total doses given as of Tuesday, according to the Centers for Disease Control — well shy of the almost 500,000 originally anticipated by this time. About 2% of the state's residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine, which requires two doses three weeks apart for maximum potency.

"We knew from the beginning of the process that resources were going to be limited," Horner said, "which is why we want to emphasize patience and waiting your turn."

After frontline workers, long-term care facility residents and adults aged 75 or older have been vaccinated, county officials will

open distribution to general health care workers followed by "adults at high risk for exposure and at increased risk of severe illness" (subdivided into four groups), then students and finally "everyone who wants a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination," according to the county's website.

But the vaccine will only work if a significant proportion of the population eventually receives it.

"We're concerned about reports and some people have declined to take the vaccine when it's their turn," Cooper said last week. "However, as more people get vaccinated without any serious safety concerns, we believe that many of those who are hesitant will gain confidence the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective."

To further assuage public anxiety, Dr. Mandy Cohen, the secretary of the NCDHHS, implored North Carolinians to examine the science behind vaccines before making hasty conclusions as to their safety.

"You need to understand these vaccines are built upon years of work to develop vaccines for similar viruses," she said following Cooper's address. "Like all vaccines, they were rigorously tested for safety and effectiveness. More than 70,000 people volunteered in clinical trials for the two vaccines to make sure that they were safe and that they worked to prevent COVID-19 and to date, these vaccines are 95% effective in preventing COVID-19 — you cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine."

While vaccine distribution continues in Chatham, the risk of contraction remains

high. Basic health measures are paramount to ensure that COVID-19 spread does not keep accelerating.

"Dr. Cohen emphasized, and we echo, the following actions that individuals can take to curb the spread of COVID-19, which is at an all-time high," Zelek said, "wear a mask and maintain physical distance from others; don't go to indoor public places where masks are not worn and social distancing is not practiced; stay at home as much as possible and avoid gatherings with individuals with whom you do not live."

He warned, too, that numbers may seem to improve in coming months as resources are redirected to the vaccine effort, but they may not indicate an improving situation.

"With vaccination efforts ramping up, our capacity to carry out other response efforts like case investigations and contact tracing is very limited," he said. "We will follow state guidance in shifting resources from these activities to vaccination efforts. This makes it that much more important for all to follow these steps to curb the spread of COVID-19, which is surging across North Carolina."

To schedule an appointment with UNC Health to receive a vaccine, visit <https://vaccine.unchealthcare.org/get-vaccinated/> or call 984-215-5485. If you are a member of Phase 1b, group 1, you may also register with the county to receive vaccination at www.chathamnc.org/vaccinetool.

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MARKER

Continued from page A1

any board action needed," Abbott told the News + Record. "When all this started some time ago, we were not sure what action was taken previously. So that was part of the long process of finding out what took place and when."

"We never found documented evidence of the naming," he added. "So the markers will be treated like any similar item that is placed in the right of way without DOT approval."

Still, when the board's road naming committee met in November, it signed off on NCDOT's plans to remove several Jefferson Davis Highway signs in Granville County, the N&O reported. Kevin Lacy, the department's traffic engineer, said at the time that though the signs are official highway signs, it's

unclear how they got there.

"There's no reason for those to be there," Lacy told the committee.

In Chatham, it's not clear when the marker will be removed. The markers belong to the United Daughters of Confederacy group, Abbott said, so the DOT will contact the group with "a request that they work with local government to remove or relocate" it.

"There is no timeline for any of that action," he said.

Lacy told the News + Record he had not sent any formal communication to the UDC at this time, though he'd spoken with a member and "told them what to expect from us." As the markers were placed in the 1920s, Lacy said he will verify that DOT does actually own the right of way.

"It is questionable in some cases," he said.

In November 2019, the Confederate monument that once stood

near the Jefferson Davis marker in front of the Pittsboro courthouse was removed after urging by local and out-of-town activists alike. Even after removal, the courthouse has remained a lightning rod for protests between Confederate supporters and self-described antiracist activists.

Since the monument's removal, Chatham officials have noted a desire to move forward from what many have called a "painful time" of the county's history. Most recently, the contentious U.S. presidential election resurrected the site as a battleground of ideologies.

While protesting activists have continued to also call for the removal of the marker honoring Davis — who in addition to serving as president of the Confederacy was part of a slave-owning family and believed to own slaves himself prior to his political career — conversation about doing so has been limited.

"After speaking with a representative from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, we understand that they are in the process of contacting the various chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who own the markers," county manager Dan LaMontagne said. "We will allow this process to move forward before determining next steps."

At this point, Abbott said, a deadline for that process has not been made.

"... This is no different than when someone else has put something on the right of way without permission," he said. "If it is not a safety issue and it can be determined who put the items there, then we work with that group and give it time to arrange to remove or relocate it."

While the dialogue in the county has largely focused on the Confederate monument, rather than the marker, the fact that the monument

sat near the road some colloquially and formerly knew as Jefferson Davis Highway was not lost on community organizers.

"It was only a matter of time before the monument here became a locus point of organizing," former Pittsboro Mayor Randy Voller told the News + Record last March. "This was becoming a national movement. They tore the monument down in Durham, then the Silent Sam situation (in Chapel Hill). Where's the next logical place? Well, look at the map and you can see the Jefferson Davis Highway, where they put these monuments. The one in Pittsboro — that's the significant one. It's right in the middle of U.S. 64 and U.S. 15-501. It's right in front of a prominent historic courthouse."

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BIG 8 3A CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Northwood takes care of business, sends both teams to regionals



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

At NCHSAA cross country meets this season, runners (including this group at the Big 8 3A conference championships) wear masks at the start line and are allowed to remove them once they run a few hundred feet and naturally spread out.

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Northwood cross country hasn't been shy about its lofty goals for 2021. At last week's Big 8 3A conference championships, the Chargers took their first official step in reaching them.

Hosting the conference meet on their Pittsboro campus, Northwood's men took second place behind Chapel Hill and its women took third place behind Chapel Hill and East Chapel Hill, automatically qualifying both squads for this weekend's NCHSAA 3A Mideast Regional in Cary.

Five athletes earned all-conference honors, too, while head coach Cameron Isenhour was named the Big 8 men's cross country coach of the year in a socially distanced post-meet ceremony.

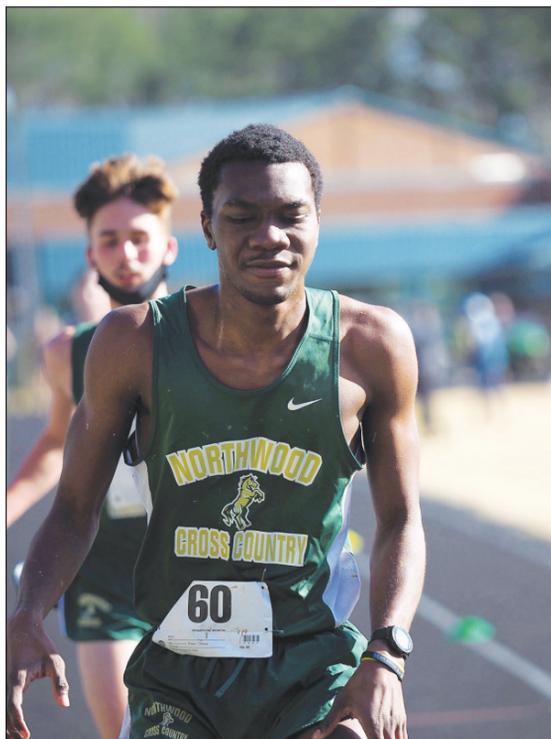
It was, all in all, a solid haul for the Chargers. As final scores were being calculated, though, Northwood's runners were already putting their success in context and zeroing in on the road ahead.

"We still want to progress," junior Colin Henry said. "When we go to regionals and states, we want to show up and win and do better against who we've raced against (here). It's all for the future of the team."

Last Wednesday's five-kilometer races were a litmus test for both teams, considering Chapel Hill is the reigning 3A men's champion and 3A women's runner-up. The rest of the conference is deep, too.

So the Northwood men had a strategy: to run "confident and smart," as Henry put it.

The Chargers know their home course well and ze-



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood senior Malachi Levy (front) finished third in the men's race at last Wednesday's Big 8 3A conference championships. Junior Colin Henry (back) finished fourth.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood junior Caroline Murrell (53) finished third in the women's race at last Wednesday's Big 8 3A conference championship. She was also named all-conference.

See NORTHWOOD, page B3

CENTRAL TAR HEEL 1A CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Chatham Charter, Woods Charter see mix of individual, team qualifiers



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Research Triangle senior Josh Lewis (left) and Woods Charter senior Primo Costa (right) make a final sprint for the finish line at Wednesday's conference meet. Lewis finished fourth; Costa finished fifth.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Woods Charter finished second in the women's race at the Central Tar Heel 1A conference meet and automatically qualified for this weekend's NCHSAA regionals in Cary.

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — A conference MVP. A team qualifier. Two individual qualifiers.

Neither Chatham Charter nor Woods Charter won the ultimate prize last Wednesday — a first-place team finish in the men's or women's Central Tar Heel 1A conference championship meets — but both programs left in good standing for this weekend's NCHSAA 1A Mideast regionals in Cary.

And that alone was worth celebrating, according to the runners

who are approaching the finish line of the weirdest North Carolina high school cross country season in recent memory.

"I'm just really happy things worked out the way they did," Wolves senior Primo Costa said.

Chatham Charter hosted Woods Charter, Research Triangle and Cornerstone Charter for the championship meet at its Siler City campus course. And since those four schools were the only ones in the conference to run cross country this season, it made for plenty of familiar opponents.

In the men's race, for exam-

ple, Knights junior Brandon McKoy knew he'd have to beat out junior Liam Johnston of Research Triangle if he wanted to place first. In two previous meets this season, McKoy had finished second to Johnston, a first-time cross country runner with a background in soccer.

Chatham Charter head coach Gary Oakley knew what was at stake, too. So last Tuesday night, he shot McKoy a final text of encouragement. In the message, which Oakley shared with the News + Record, he deemed McKoy "the greatest runner in school history no matter what happens tomorrow."

"But I want you to be legendary!" Oakley wrote. "I know you are gonna give everything you have and that's all I or anyone can ask of you. You'll be fine."

The following afternoon, McKoy did just that, maintaining a small lead and icing his individual win with a last-leg sprint down the third-base line of Chatham Charter's baseball field, which led to the race's grassy finish line near home plate. McKoy's final time: 18:20, six seconds ahead of the rest of the field.

"I'm so proud of Brandon," Oakley said.

Johnston finished second at 18:26 to lead Research Triangle, which won the race on team points

with 33. Costa finished fifth at 19:39, and Chatham Charter junior Caleb Kolb finished sixth at 19:49.

Neither team had the depth to beat out Cornerstone Charter, though, which earned the conference's only other automatic qualifier team spot with a score of 46. McKoy and Costa, whose teams had 56 and 94 points, respectively, will both race this weekend in regionals as individuals.

"I surprised myself today," Costa said, "so I'm happy with that."

In the women's race, Woods Charter freshman Ellie Poitras knew she also had a skilled

See QUALIFIERS, page B2

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

Volleyball season ended for Chatham schools, while cross country enters regionals and basketball enters its second week. Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Thursday, Jan. 14

Basketball: Chatham Charter women at Wakefield, 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 15

Cross country: Chatham Charter, Woods Charter at NCHSAA 1A Mid-east Regional in Cary, 2 p.m.

Basketball: Woods Charter men at Chatham Charter, 6 p.m.

Basketball: Orange at Northwood (women's 6 p.m., men's 7:30 p.m.)

Basketball: Chatham Central at South Stanly (women's 6 p.m., men's 7:30 p.m.)

Basketball: Jordan-Matthews men at Trinity, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 16

Cross country: Jordan-Matthews at NCHSAA 2A Mid-east Regional in Cary, 8:30 a.m.

Cross country: Northwood at NCHSAA 3A Mid-east Regional in Cary, 11 a.m.

Cross country: Chatham Central at NCHSAA 1A Mid-west Regional in Kernersville, 2 p.m.

Basketball: Chapel Hill at Northwood men, 4:30 p.m.

Basketball: Randleman at Jordan-Matthews men, 4 p.m.

LAST WEEK

Tuesday, Jan. 5

Cross country: Chatham Central's men beat Uwharrie Charter in a conference meet behind a second-place finish from Parker Crowley (19:31). Kailey Green finished first (25:25) in the women's race, which wasn't scored. The race was a final tune-up ahead of next weekend's NCHSAA 1A Midwest Regional.

Swimming and diving: Jordan-Matthews logged three first-place finishes in a road meet against Asheboro and Randleman: Jennah Fadely in the 200-meter individual medley and 100-meter breaststroke, and Ainsley Canipe in the 100-meter backstroke. Canipe also finished second in the 50-meter freestyle.

Volleyball: East Chapel Hill swept Northwood, 3-0, in Pittsboro (25-18, 25-17, 25-18). Junior Ainsley Fauth had 14 digs and 16 assists; junior Hannah Forbes had seven kills and three blocks.

Volleyball: Chatham Charter came out hot, winning the first set by 9 but dropped the next three in a 3-1 loss to undefeated Cornerstone Charter (25-16, 20-25, 7-25, 28-30).

Basketball: The Jordan-Mat-

thews men put together a complete performance in their season opener, leading quarter to quarter in a 76-65 win over T.W. Andrews at home in Siler City.

Wednesday, Jan. 6

Cross country: Chapel Hill swept the men's and women's team titles at the Big 8 3A conference meet, while host school Northwood finished second in the men's race and third in the women's race. Both Charger squads automatically qualified for next weekend's NCHSAA 3A Mid-east Regional.

Cross country: Woods Charter's women qualified for the NCHSAA 1A Mid-east Regional, while Chatham Charter's Brandon McKoy was named the men's MVP at the Central Tar Heel 1A conference. Hosted by Chatham Charter, the meet also saw Research Triangle sweep both races.

Volleyball: In a second straight home match, Northwood was swept, 3-0, by Chapel Hill. The loss ended the 2020-21 season for the Chargers, who won't qualify for the playoffs. Freshman Asia Thigpen had a team-high 17 kills and 12 digs. Junior Ainsley Fauth had 21 assists.

Basketball: Northwood's women routed Cedar Ridge, 57-11, behind a team-high 19 points (on 70% shooting) from junior guard McKenna Snively. Freshman guard Skyler Adams

added nine points and three assists. The Charger men were also victorious, winning 43-35 over the Red Wolves behind 20 points from freshman forward Jarin Stevenson in his Northwood debut.

Basketball: Chatham Central's men launched a furious fourth-quarter comeback and held on for a 70-67 double-overtime win on the road at Salisbury. Earlier, the Chatham Central women lost to Salisbury, 66-24.

Basketball: Both Chatham Charter squads cruised by Southern Wake Academy in their respective season openers. The women won 73-21 behind senior Morgan Lineberry (21 points) and sophomore Tamaya Walden (20 points, 10 steals). The men won 81-42 behind a dominant 52-26 halftime lead.

Thursday, Jan. 7

Cross country: Senior Robert Train's first-place finish in the men's race highlighted a solid Jordan-Matthews team performance in the PAC 7 2A conference championships. The Jets finished third in team points in the men's race (72) and women's race (76) to qualify for next weekend's NCHSAA 2A Mid-east regional.

Volleyball: In its season finale, Chatham Central swept Albemarle, 3-0 (25-4, 25-9, 25-7). Senior Lindsay Polston had nine of the Bears' 23 aces, and

senior Grace Jones had a team-high seven kills.

Volleyball: Woods Charter dropped a close match, 3-1, to Research Triangle at home (25-18, 22-25, 23-25, 18-25). The Wolves also honored two seniors: middle hitter Neo Adams and setter Hannah Fulcher.

Volleyball: Chatham Charter fell to Cornerstone Charter, 3-0, on the road to wrap up its season at 5-4 overall. The Cardinals will enter the NCHSAA playoffs at 12-0.

Basketball: Uwharrie Charter beat Woods Charter's men, 84-36, in Asheboro.

Basketball: Northwood's men lost, 68-65, on a buzzer-beater to Southern Durham in a game that stayed close throughout. Freshmen Jarin Stevenson (20 points) and Drake Powell (17 points) led four players in double figures for the Chargers. Northwood's women cruised to a 70-44 win over Southern Durham behind 20 points from McKenna Snively and a 17-point, 10-rebound double double from Te'Keyah Bland.

Saturday, Jan. 9

Basketball: Chatham Charter's men moved to 2-0 with a 77-58 road win over Cornerstone Charter.

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ALTERNATIVE BASEBALL ORGANIZATION

Nonprofit offering baseball for athletes with disabilities seeks Chatham expansion

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

Growing up in rural Georgia, Taylor Duncan loved baseball. But he didn't love the lingering stigma from select teammates and coaches who doubted what he, as a player with autism, could do on the field.

So Duncan took it upon himself to create the Alternative Baseball Organization, a nonprofit designed to provide an authentic athletic experience for teenagers and adults with physical and mental disabilities. No judgment. No frills. Just high-quality baseball, played with wooden bats and MLB rules.

Four years later, Duncan's now zeroed in on Chatham County as a potential expansion site.

"I believe everyone, regardless of geography, ought to have the same opportunity to be able to participate in an environment where everyone is accepted for who they are and encouraged to be the best they can be..." Duncan said. "And people shouldn't have to travel to the bigger places to find services that fit their needs. They should be able to have something in their own backyard."

The ABO started small in 2016: just six players, Duncan included, practicing baseball at a field in Georgia's Cobb County. Soon, though, they had enough players to hold full scrimmages.



Submitted photo

Taylor Duncan, the director and commissioner of the Alternative Baseball Organization, takes an at-bat in a game. Duncan, 25, was diagnosed with autism at age 4 and has spent the last four years building the ABO from the ground up.

And within the year, the ABO split into two teams, started hosting seven-inning games and earned profiles in ESPN's Baseball Tonight and NBC's TODAY morning show.

"With the national coverage, it wasn't just a local awareness campaign anymore," said Duncan, who was diagnosed with autism at age 4. "Instead, it basically became like a solution."

Before the coronavirus pandemic upended the league's spring 2020 season, the ABO had some serious momentum with 20 or so well established teams across the country. Once the league suspended games indefinitely, Duncan, its commissioner/director, decided to turn his extra free time into a net positive. He reached out en

masse to newspapers, TV news stations and other media outlets across the U.S., especially in metropolitan areas. He pitched himself and the ABO as a potential story idea during a months-long period where most professional, college and high school sports were on pause.

It worked. With word of the ABO traveling quickly through news stories and broadcasts, Duncan fielded countless calls and emails. He ended up confirming another 50 or so teams for the league's 2021 season, which — COVID-19 vaccine distribution pending — is tentatively scheduled for the late spring or early summer.

"It takes some time to find the players," Duncan said, "so why not get started now?"

For the Alternative Baseball Organization to take root in Chatham County — or, for that matter, any of the other dozens of locations it's advertising itself to — Duncan must find a coach/manager.

Baseball experience is preferred, but Duncan said the most effective coaches/managers are simply people who think positively, care about their community and empower athletes to be the best versions of themselves both on the baseball diamond and in society at large. From there, things get rolling.

"We've encouraged every individual area to have their own unique branding and identity so that they can become a local community staple for a long time to come," Duncan said.

Gastonia's Carolina Fireflies are a shining example of what those community staples can look like, Duncan said. Just ask Heather Stevens of Bessemer City, who stumbled across the team in 2019.

Stevens' younger son, Skyler, is 20 years old and has autism, epilepsy and verbal apraxia. He's played sports since he was 4, Heather said, and always loved baseball, where his favorite position is pitcher.

So when Heather's brother passed along a Gaston Gazette newspaper article he'd read,

previewing a brand new baseball club for local teenagers and adults with disabilities, it was a no-brainer for her to reach out to Allen Boyd, the Fireflies' new coach. He replied almost instantly, and the Stevenses were in.

"Skyler was very 'Let's go,'" Heather said, laughing. "He was very ready. He'd been participating with Special Olympics softball, so he was very ready to do baseball and to have a team."

The ABO environment was "perfect" for her son, Heather said, because it gave him consistent opportunities to both play the sport he loved and socialize with other teenagers (two things that aren't easy to find on their own). The Stevenses even traveled to East Cobb, Georgia, two falls ago, where Skyler played alongside Duncan in the ABO's inaugural Ole Time Classic all star game.

"Sometimes, as a parent of kids or adults with special needs, you feel kind of fearful or scared to get them out there," Heather said. "But this is a great way."

It's anecdotes like those that motivate Duncan, who spends his days on the phone securing donations, recruiting players and coaches and spreading the word about the ABO to Chatham County and beyond.

From personal experience, he knows what it means to be valued as a baseball player without judgment. And that keeps him going.

"When we're encouraged to be the best we could possibly be — when that negative perception is set aside — we can accomplish a lot more as a society together," Duncan said.

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QUALIFIERS

Continued from page B1

runner to compete with: senior Victoria Swepson of Research Triangle, who's excelled in conference this season.

Poitras' goal, as she put it: "to keep (Swepson) in my sights." If she was even semi-close to Research Triangle's top runner, she knew she'd be in great position to finish high for Woods Charter. That's exactly how it played out, as Swepson finished first (21:58) and Poitras finished second (21:58).

Research Triangle comfortably won the women's race on team points (29). But with sophomore

Maddie Sparrow (fourth place, 22:32) and senior Ember Penney (eighth place, 24:21) placing high alongside Poitras and two more runners in the top 15, the Wolves finished second in the meet with 40 points.

That earned the Woods Charter women an automatic team qualifying spot in this weekend's regionals.

"I thought this season was very different," Poitras said, "and even though we didn't have all of our best runners, we still did really well together."

Last Wednesday's event ended with a distanced awards ceremony; the Knights had two all-conference runners, McKoy and Kolb, and the Wolves had five: Poitras, Sparrow, Penney, Costa and sophomore Wiley Sikes, who didn't race in the

conference meet but had strong times earlier this season.

The Woods Charter men's and women's teams earned sportsmanship awards, too, and Oakley — who's retiring from coaching this season after a lengthy and productive career with Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Charter — got a surprise men's coach of the year award. So ended a productive meet for the Knights and Wolves, who are now gearing up for the larger challenge of regionals.

"I think everyone ran really well today," Costa said.

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In 'two-fold' decision, BOE delays start of middle school basketball

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Schools will delay the start of its winter middle school basketball season by four weeks after a unanimous vote from the CCS Board of Education on Monday afternoon.

The district's eight middle school teams were previously scheduled to start their basketball seasons on Thursday, Feb. 4. But since those games will go on without fans, the BOE approved a four-week delay so the district can purchase and install \$5,000 Pixellot cameras that will allow games to be streamed online.

The possibility of a "better (coronavirus) pandemic situation" when middle school basketball teams start in March also played into Monday's proposal, according to district athletic director Chris Blice.

"The idea in delaying the season was two-fold," Blice told the board at Monday's meeting.

During the extended delay, middle school basketball teams are still



Staff file photo

Margaret B. Pollard Middle School won the most recent Chatham County Schools men's and women's middle school basketball tournaments in February 2020 (before the COVID-19 pandemic).

allowed to hold socially distanced preseason "skill sessions," which they were eligible to start on Monday.

The BOE's decision has no effect on high school basketball, which is carrying on as per usual at Northwood,

Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central with coronavirus safety guidelines — including a mask mandate for everyone, active players included — and a capacity limit of 25 spectators.

The district installed Pixellot cameras at all

of its three high schools ahead of volleyball season in November and got positive feedback from parents who watched those games online through the NFHS Network, a streaming site that offers weekly and monthly subscriptions.

"The position we've taken is we want to provide as much access and ability to see those games as possible," said former CCS superintendent Dr. Derrick Jordan, who joined in on the BOE's COVID-19 discussion Monday before officially starting his new role at the state Department of Instruction.

Blice said CCS isn't allowing spectators at its middle school basketball games since those gyms vary in size and are generally much smaller than the district's high school gyms. As such, adding streaming capacities for those facilities took extra importance.

"We think it would make sense for us to install the same technology at the middle schools that's been installed at the high schools,"

Jordan said, "but that's going to require some time to get that done."

BOE member David Hamm complimented the proposal, saying it wasn't "just a knee-jerk reaction" since there are always parents who can't attend sporting events,

regardless of COVID-19. "This is an investment for forever," he said. "Not just this spring."

Hamm then made a motion to delay the middle school sports season by four weeks to install the Pixellot technology; his motion was seconded and approved unanimously, 5-0, by the BOE.

The district is finalizing a new amended game schedule and hasn't determined an official start date for winter basketball season, CCS spokesperson John McCann told the News + Record on Tuesday.

The delayed start of basketball season will also affect baseball, volleyball and women's soccer, the three middle school sports scheduled to follow basketball season later in the spring.

CCS has eight middle schools that will be affected by the move: Chatham Middle, Horton, Pollard, Silk Hope, Moncure, J.S. Waters, Bonlee and Bennett.

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

NORTHWOOD

Continued from page B1

roed in on a stretch about a third of the way through it, at the one-mile mark, to kick things into high gear after a more conservative start.

"I think that really helped me," Henry said. "I held back about 10 seconds on my average pace, and as I crossed over the hill coming to the end of the first mile, that's where I really picked it up."

It wasn't enough to catch Chapel Hill seniors Emil Arangala and Lucas Nervo-Jabaut, who finished first and

second at 16:26.12 and 16:36.24, respectively, but Northwood's Malachi Levy (third place, 16:41.29) and Henry (fourth place, 16:42.61) beat out the rest of the field by a good five seconds.

Add in solid performances by sophomore Christian Glick (named an all-conference runner along with Levy and Henry) and seniors Glenn Porter and Carter Pippin, and Northwood's final team score was 48 — far from Chapel Hill's meet-low score of 21, but comfortably above third-place East Chapel Hill's score of 90.

"We knew this race mattered," Henry said.

On the women's side, senior Tessa Yell

said most runners also rose to the occasion and hit their individual goals. She, for example, wanted to finish among the top 12 and ended up eighth at 20:51.33.

And junior Caroline Murrell, Northwood's top women's runner all season long, finished third at 19:48.27 behind individual champion Abby Weber of Chapel Hill (18:55.87) and East Chapel Hill's Anna Ivanisevic (19:24.60). Murrell and Yell were both named all-conference.

With freshman Anna Bolejack, senior Liv Riggsbee and junior Ella Hennessey rounding out the rest of the scoring, the Chargers finished third with 70 points behind Chapel Hill (26) and East Chapel Hill (51).

As both of Isenhour's squads start gearing up for the Jan. 16 regional at WakeMed Soccer Park, Henry and Yell said the Chargers feel as bonded as ever. And that may push them the extra mile.

"We get along well as a team," Yell said. "We're pretty much all friends. It feels like a family."

"We goof off with each other, but when it comes to work, we get it done," Henry said. "We know that's the most important thing."

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

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Pittsboro says town's drinking water could be clean within a year

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro could have clean drinking water within about a year, according to water treatment experts, but only if the town's board of commissioners act later this month to approve modification of its water treatment plant.

CDM Smith, an engineering and construction company which provides water solutions for government and private clients, has worked with the town of Pittsboro for more than two years — compiling data and preparing recommendations to mitigate the town's two water system deficiencies: capacity limitations that stifle development plans and a filtration system insufficient to address the town's increasingly polluted drinking water.

The latter problem has received widespread attention across the state and around the country after scientists and researchers discovered in recent years that Pittsboro's water — drawn from the Haw River — was teeming with carcinogenic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances known as PFAS.

In tandem with a town-sponsored task force that worked throughout 2020 to identify short-term solutions to the water contamination issue, CDM Smith has been devising a long-term solution involving Pittsboro's water treatment plant.

During Monday's Pittsboro Board of Commissioners meeting, two

CDM Smith engineers, Reed Barton and William Dowbiggin, presented the company's findings at the commissioners' first meeting of the new year, and recommended infrastructure changes that could resolve both of Pittsboro's water problems.

"The project approach is to move forward with advanced treatment and expansion of the water treatment plant," Barton said.

The changes would help to address both water "quality, meaning issues in the Haw River ... and quantity, dealing with growth that's coming to the town," Barton said.

Right now, Pittsboro's water treatment plant has a capacity of 2 million gallons per day, but projections indicate that incoming development will push the town's water demands in excess of that level by 2023 at the earliest.

"But whether it's by 2023 or 2025," Barton said, "additional capacity will be needed at the water plant."

As Chatham Park and other Pittsboro developments reach their construction goals, the town will need water capacity to exceed 14 mgd within the next 40 years. But CDM Smith recommended an initial project to expand capacity to 6 mgd, which could support the town's needs until 2040.

More challenging than simple expansion, however, will be to equip the water treatment plant with filtration systems robust enough to remove the Haw River's many

harmful chemicals. In the last year, CDM Smith conducted studies on Pittsboro's drinking water to isolate the most effective filtration systems. The team identified three combinations of filtration types capable of removing at least 90% of all PFAS compounds along with 1,4-dioxane, broad spectrum personal care and pharmaceutical products (PPCPs) and bromide/brominated disinfection byproducts (DBPs) — all of which are known to cause cancer.

The first "treatment train" option, as Barton called it, was a combination of granular activated carbon (GAC) and ion exchange (IX) filtration. The treatment systems alone would cost \$11 million to \$13 million. When coupled with \$31 million for facility expansion, the project would cost at least \$42 million.

The town could also elect for a modification of option one — GAC+IX paired with ultraviolet photolysis and an advanced oxidation process (UV/AOP). That option would cost an estimated \$45 million to \$48 million, including expansion.

Finally, low-pressure reverse osmosis (LPRO) could solve the town's water problems, but it would cost significantly more than options one and two — between \$59 million and \$67 million. LPRO would also require the town to attain extra permitting and navigate time-sapping government hurdles.

With that in mind, CMD Smith recommended the commissioners select GAC+IX.

"It provides superior performance and can achieve 90% PFAS removal," Barton said. "It can be incorporated into the existing water treatment plant pretty readily, requiring less space compared to RO."

Also, because it requires fewer permits than an RO system, GAC+IX can be installed on a shorter timeline, and it wastes less water in the treatment process compared to RO.

If the commissioners chose to pursue a GAX+IX system, Barton said, they could achieve cleaner water within as little as 12 months. Implementation would involve a two-fold process: installing a 1 mgd GAC treatment addition to the current plant to be operable in about a year while designing full expansion to a 6 mgd facility with GAC+IX to meet growing demand for water by 2025.

The drawback, however, is the town would likely have to pay out-of-pocket to begin construction. The design-build style it requires does not qualify for federal loads.

"The reason (this option) is so much more expedited is it basically means we have to pay cash or find some other mechanism to keep us away from ... intensive funding cycles," Pittsboro Town Manager Chris Kennedy said.

But Kennedy encouraged the board not to discount the option. "I think we can swing it," he said, either with available on-hand funds or through regular bank loans.

Still, the presenta-

tion was met with some apprehension from the commissioners.

"I remain concerned about the idea that — well, the fact — that RO is the most effective option in terms of removing all the contaminants," Commissioner John Bonitz said.

Kennedy, however, argued that while RO is the leading water filtration technology available, the GAC+IX combination achieved similar results.

"We wanted to find every way to say yes to RO ...," he said of town staff, who reviewed the presentation before it was given to the commissioners. "It's the best technology. And, you know, that's what we want to provide to our citizenry, the best technology available. But we found them both to be very comparable."

The CDM Smith representatives seconded Kennedy's assessment, reiterating that GAC+IX proved as effective as RO in the company's year-long study of Haw River water.

"And so, with the lower cost and just the expediency with which we could install a solution, it

seemed like GAC+IX was the proper path forward," Kennedy said.

The commissioners did not vote on a decision, though, but elected to defer official action until its next meeting on Jan. 25.

Other news

Town staff presented the commissioners with two site planning recommendations on Monday, both of which the board approved.

• A 7-acre vacant parcel at 1696 Hillsboro St. will be developed to house a 10,000 square-foot medical office to be used as a dialysis center.

• The property located at 56 Sanford Road will be developed into a two-story, 4,000 square-foot restaurant to be located within the downtown SoCo development. As part of this site plan request, the developers also requested approval of a sewer allocation request in the amount of 7,178 gallons per day which was granted.

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

Eureka! You found the answer!

A: From William Pitt,
Earl of Chatham

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 winner 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.

PROPERTY TAX LISTINGS

Chatham's tax office: listing forms are due by Feb. 1

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Tax Office reminds those owning real estate that personal and business property as of Jan. 1, 2021, must be listed with the Tax Office no later than Feb. 1.

Listings received after this date will be subject to a late listing penalty equal to 10 percent of taxes owed.

Forms will be mailed out, but property owners also can pick up forms at the Tax Office in Pittsboro or download a 2021 Listing Form at chathamnc.org/Tax-Forms. Property owners who do not receive their listing form by Jan. 20 should call 919-542-8250 to make arrangements to list property by the deadline.

This year online listing is available for personal property and business personal property at chathamnc.org/TaxListingDivision. Individuals can also mail their completed listing forms, and they must be post-marked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than Feb. 1 to avoid penalties. Property also may be listed in person at the county's tax office, located at 12 East Street in Pittsboro. Owners must bring all detailed information necessary to identify their property and its value, including forms that were mailed.

Note that personal property listing forms are not used to list real estate property and any registered motor vehicles with tags. Registered motor vehicles are handled by the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles.

Individuals who made any non-permit changes valued at \$100 or more to real estate property during 2020 or those who need to change the registration status of a vehicle should contact the tax office. Examples of changes to real property impacting the value include destruction, acquisition, erection and damage. Owners must list property such as unlicensed vehicles, trailers with multi-year registrations, mobile homes not designated as real property, all types of watercraft, aircraft, and items used in a business. Business property also includes items used for farming, a trade or profession, or furnishings or appliances provided to a tenant.

For businesses seeking an extension, owners should contact the tax office at 919-545-8475 to request a business listing extension form that extends the deadline up to April 15. However, the business extension form must be completed and submitted no later than Feb. 1.

Unpaid 2020 Property Taxes: Tax bills mailed in 2020 for real and personal property are due by 5 p.m. on Jan. 5. Interest will accrue on all unpaid balances starting Jan. 6.

Once tax bills become delinquent, the tax office can begin collection procedures for late bills through such methods as garnishing wages (removing taxes from paychecks), attaching bank funds from bank accounts and income tax refunds, attaching rental income, placing levies on personal property and foreclosing on property. Also, unpaid real estate property taxes will be advertised in the newspaper at an additional cost to the taxpayer. The taxes owed will be advertised in the current owner's name.

Tax Relief Options for Specific Property Owners: North Carolina law provides a few property tax relief options for the elderly and permanently disabled, disabled veterans and certain low-income property owners. Information about these options and how to qualify can be found at chathamnc.org/TaxRelief.

Those who no longer meet the requirements of these programs must notify the tax office. Persons receiving the tax relief options are by North Carolina law required to have a periodic compliance review conducted by the tax department. Those responsible for listing the property of someone who is deceased and who had qualified for the program last year, must notify the tax office.

Taxpayers are encouraged to review their personal property information online at <http://ustaxdata.com/nc/chatham/> or visit the tax office to verify information on file.

For more information about any of the items listed above, or payment of taxes in general, please contact the Chatham County Tax Office at 919-542-8250 or 919-542-8260.

Chatham COA Upcoming Events

January 14th - January 20th

Thursday, January 14th

- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 8:45 AM 📶
- [Chair Yoga with Liz](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Bluegrass Music with the Original Haw River Crawdaddies](#) at 11:15 AM 📶

Friday, January 15th

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

Monday, January 18th

- [The Council on Aging offices will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.](#)

Tuesday, January 19th

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

Wednesday, January 20th

- [Legal Aid of NC Outreach for Seniors](#) at 11:15 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/>

The COA offices will be closed on
Monday, January 18th
in observance of the Martin Luther
King, Jr. Holiday.

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.

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Chatham commissioners' retreat addresses budget, equity, growth

BY JAMES KIEFER
News + Record
Correspondent

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners met for a two-day budget retreat on Monday and Tuesday, with county commissioners and staff receiving an update on the current fiscal year and beginning initial conversations around next year's budget. Key topics on the agenda included reviewing department surveys, county-wide trends and data regarding early childhood development on Monday, and on Tuesday, receiving a revaluation update, HR presentation on county pay and benefits and presentation from Chatham County Schools.

Meeting in the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, Mike Dasher — elected as the board's chairperson in December — piloted the retreat. Dist. 1 Commissioner Karen Howard was absent from the sessions.

Budget Director Lisa West started off Monday's meeting by stressing to commissioners that a budget helps to forecast revenues and expenses, and is a tool for decision making to help monitor the county's performance. West added that because the county departments' needs and wants for the next fiscal year's budget are still premature, presentations wouldn't be focusing on hard numbers, as to avoid "sticker shock."

"It's critical to demonstrate that we are good stewards of public money," she added.

Collaboration in Chatham

As part of the planning for the 2021-22 budget, commissioners reviewed on Monday a survey from Collaborative Impact Teams. CIT is a group of six teams made up by county departments with similar job functions that range from topics

like natural resources to public safety and administration.

Policy Analyst Stephanie Watkins-Cruz outlined common responses from CIT into themes of needs across departments. The two biggest issues identified in the survey were equity and service availability and capacity; more diverse representation on county boards and committees was a commonly cited example of desired equity. Other concerns included maintaining quality of service as the county grows and department workloads increase, being able to recruit and retain employees effectively and navigating language barriers with residents.

Watkins-Cruz mentioned that certain phases of projects like Chatham Park can also increase the workload of over-stressed departments. For example, residential units planning and review falls under the workflow of issuing permits and inspecting.

She added that part of the CIT's work is to identify solutions that can be used across departments, not just in one area, as a tool for departments to operate more efficiently.

"I've been coming in front of you for two years presenting CIT surveys," she said, "But I haven't been able to present a strategic plan and that's a product of (employee) burnout."

Growing bigger and growing older

While current estimates place Chatham County's population at 77,713 for the current fiscal year, data from the State Demographer's Office projects the county will crest 110,400 residents by the 2040 fiscal year.

"As you can see and as you know, we are growing," West said Monday with respect to Chatham County data forecasts.

Other state data indicates that about 25% of Chatham County

residents are age 65 and older. That would be at around 20,000 residents now, according to the state demographer, but as many as 35,000 residents by 2035. The state also indicates residents 65 and older make up the largest segment of the county's populace; the current median age for Chatham County is about 49 years old.

Chatham County is tied for the fourth lowest unemployment rate in the state with Avery and Currituck counties, according to data from the N.C. Employment Security Commission. Although the county is below the national unemployment average, West said data doesn't reflect how many jobs a county resident may have and some people could require multiple revenue streams.

The Chatham County Register of Deeds Office is also seeing growth, which is projected to collect more than \$1 million in deed stamps for the 2021 fiscal year. County data show that property taxes make up about 69% of general fund revenue; the current tax rate is \$0.67, a cent lower than the state average. Taxes on residential property also make up about 90% of Chatham's tax base, which is a higher dependency compared to other counties and the state average. The county also outpaced similarly sized counties on spending in education, debt services and public safety.

Backlogs and money coming in

According to Budget Analyst Darrell Butts, two things from 2020 are having a clear impact on Chatham County's budget numbers: the COVID-19 pandemic and the cyber incident that staggered county systems in late October and is still being resolved and investigated.

"Even before the cyber incident, we encouraged departments to monitor expenses as much as they

could due to COVID," he said.

Butts added the cyber attack knocked out several departments' computers, forcing many processes to be completed by hand and creating a backlog of available information. While his presentation included revenues and expenditures for the first six months of the fiscal year, Butts said the county's largest months of revenue collection for property tax were not accounted for by the time of the retreat.

Despite those setbacks, Butts reported that excise taxes from the Register of Deeds Office are significantly higher than last year and county inspections have increased approximately 10%.

Ad valorem taxes are below anticipated numbers, which Butts said was expected. He also said motor vehicle taxes are up 7% from a year ago.

In terms of sales tax receipts, the county is ahead by roughly \$800,000 from the same time last year, and has collected around 41.1% of the budgeted amount. He also said every collection month for the current fiscal year has exceeded prior year's numbers.

Butts mentioned revenue is now coming in from the Article 46 sales tax approved by a county referendum in March. The county initially budgeted for \$968,111 for the 2021 fiscal year from the ¼ cent sales tax increase, and collected more than \$190,000 the first month the revenue became available. Butts estimated Article 46 could net the county \$1.7 million.

Chatham's children and schools

Other data presented Monday included figures on early childhood development outcomes within Chatham County. Community Partners Analyst Hilary Pollan explained the numbers were intended to help commissioners make better-informed decisions in regards to children's programs and services.

Citing the North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan — a guide laid out by the N.C. Dept.

of Health and Human Services — Pollan defined early childhood as the stages between birth and 8 years old. Major goals for the program are maintaining children's health, keeping them in safe and nurturing environments and setting them up for learning success.

Using data from 2013-2017, Pollan reported the county averaged around 10.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births; the state average is 7.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Pollan also said Chatham County's infant mortality rate among Black and non-Hispanics is 2.5 times higher than the state's average.

Other data showed that while more than 72% of Chatham's kindergarten students were reading at grade level, around 50% of students between 1st and 3rd grade showed reading comprehension at or above grade level, which parallels state numbers.

Pollan's findings also found Black, Hispanic and economically disadvantaged students had lower reading comprehension levels than white and non-Hispanic students within the county.

"Having only 50% of our children at or above reading comprehension levels isn't something that's necessarily great, but we're on par with the state," she said.

Pollan did say the county's strengths were in areas of partnership, resource sharing and delivering high quality services, but added broader communication and improved access across geographic areas could be improved. She also advised improved wages for childcare workers and the county developing a comprehensive early childhood development initiative.

On Tuesday, Chatham County Schools gave a brief presentation to the board highlighting its finances, reviewing its expanded budget request and introducing Interim Superintendent Dr. Randy Bridges, who was sworn in on Jan. 11.

The district said its local current expense fund balance totaled \$4,426,570, and that it had been recognized for financial accountability and report-

ing at the state, national and international level for eight consecutive years.

The district proposed a local current expense increase of \$2,530,000 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to assist with a growing student population, which would bring the county funding to \$40,280,000. The two areas of need listed for this request were due to Seaforth High School, a salary supplement for licensed employees and an operational increase for Chatham Grove Elementary.

During his introduction to the board, Interim Superintendent Bridges praised the board for its collaboration with the school district.

"I do want to compliment you all," he said. "(Everyone) speaks very positively about the relationship between the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education... don't take that for granted because that's not the norm in other parts of North Carolina."

Revaluation update

Also on Tuesday, the board heard a presentation on the county's reappraisal process, in which all real property in the county is appraised at its current market value. Reappraisal in Chatham took effect on Jan. 1, with 2021 reappraisal notices to be mailed to all county property owners in March. New market values will be used to calculate tax bills from summer 2021 until the next reappraisal occurs.

Though state law requires all counties to conduct a reappraisal at least once every eight years, Chatham is on a four-year reappraisal cycle. Chatham County has 45,564 parcels, and currently 35,764 parcels have been reviewed, according to the presentation given to the board by the county's reappraisal contractor, Vincent Valuations.

Ryan Vincent, with Vincent Valuations, said GIS is developing a map that will allow taxpayers to view parcels and compare sales to neighboring parcels and county staff is working on an online appeal form, too. Appeals will take place April through August of this year.

Other business in the retreat included:

- A motion that provides clarified language in how it operates with non-profit organizations, which the BOC passed.

- An update from Pollan on county-led, internally-focused racial equity initiatives. The Race and Equity Development Initiative has had initial conversations on how to better engage with staff and community members, and is continuing work to create an actionable set of goals

- The board discussed roles and expectations with staff for the future year, making some updates to its expectations for commissioners, for commissioners expectations of each other, as well as for committee liaisons, the county manager, attorney and clerk to the board.

- The board also heard updates on county pay and benefits, which showed that a pay study was in process and the average tenure for county staff (7.74 years) was on an upward trajectory. The unofficial overall turnover rate in the county was 13% for the 2020-21 year.

Reporter Hannah McClellan contributed to this story.

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Data continues to be collected at Haw River

BY JOY HEWETT
Special to the News + Record

Haw River Assembly (HRA) volunteers spread out over the watershed of the Haw River to monitor water quality in the streams and creeks that join the river recently — which this team has done to collect data for the past five years on each solstice and equinox, since spring 2016. As a part of HRA's River Watch Program, teams go out four times a year to collect macroinvertebrates (creatures without spines, large enough to see without a microscope) such as water insect larvae, crayfish, snails and other aquatic life. They identify and count what they find before they



Submitted photo

Volunteers Maja Kricker with George Greger-Holt in 2019 analyzing the quality of Haw River.

release them back into the water. Using a chart to identify pollution sensitive to pollution tolerant, they count how many species they collect in each category to determine the water's health. During this past winter solstice, the team determined the

water to be of excellent quality. Maja Kricker, one of the volunteers, said: "We had a crayfish! We had two dragonflies! We had craneflies! We had stoneflies and sowbugs and the most beautiful ephemerae mayfly. And that stripey thing I saw that I couldn't identify, I am now pretty sure is a riffle beetle larva, so we get three more points for 24!" Not only does the team record the diversity of aquatic insects and other small aquatic life they find, they also record the pH, water temperature and other conditions of the river like algae, flow rate, and the presence of fish, mussels, beaver activity or new land distur-

bances or erosion. This data is sent to the Haw Riverkeeper at HRA, who uses it to note baseline conditions and changes over time. The Haw River Watch data is also sent to N.C. Division of Water Resources. Besides these three monitors, water quality has been usually excellent, sometimes falling to good, according to the scale used to count aquatic life. This stretch of the river below Pittsboro is part of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area and is downstream from the massive Chatham Park development under way upstream. Elaine Chiosso, the executive director of the Haw River Assembly, expressed concern that

the mostly excellent water quality seen at this monitoring site will be degraded by sediment during construction, and by increased storm water. "Collecting this data now gives us a way to monitor new impacts," she explains. This section of the Haw River has allowed for boasts of herons, osprey, bald eagles and many other animals, insects and plants that live in the riparian habitat. The area is also enjoyed by kayakers, canoeists, people walking their dogs and hikers. *The author is a part of the volunteer team which monitors the Haw River.*

A meat for thee

"I like pork chops." For my particularly lowkey husband, that statement is the equivalent of a fireworks and marching band declaration.

I grew up eating chops made with the store-bought crumb mixture. But one day, I had just tossed an empty bag of pretzels and realized it wasn't empty. There was a handful of pretzel shards in that bag. Around the same time, I began to wonder what's really in that box of pork breader. Even studying the

ingredients I couldn't discern the components of it. So, I tried to reverse engineer it. The goal of these products is to mimic fried pork chops. I'd never actually fried them or even eaten them. But I have both cooked and eaten plenty of other fried meat. The two coating choices one has when frying most proteins are flour-based (think fried chicken and country fried steak) or crumb-based (fried fish or schnitzel). Obviously, the pre-made breader was supposed to resemble the crumb type. So, I started collecting crumbs. I keep two zip-top bags in my freezer; one for the last few, stale slices of bread, and one for crackers, chips, pretzels, even plantain chips.

And when I need crumbs of any kind, they're right there in the chill chest waiting for me. I haven't bought breader or bread crumbs in literally decades. As far as the flavoring for your breader, that's really up to you. Go German with caraway and juniper. Try Herbs du Provence for some French flair. Or take it south of the border with some chole lime seasoning and fresh cilantro. Or Chinese five-spice and Thai basil. You could go Moroccan with mace, allspice, and oregano. Have some fun and take some chances with flavor, Gentle Reader. This week I decided that instead of sharing one dish with you, I would give you an entire dinner. The pork chops



Pork chops — regardless of how you prepare them — are a tasty focal point of any meal.
Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

and the potatoes make frequent appearances on our dinner table, but the leeks are a new creation. But leeks have a dirty little secret. And, it's dirt. Leeks are grown in very sandy soil, and like the onions they are related to, leeks are a layered veg. But because the layers are

loose and exclusively vertical, as it grows, a measure of sand gets deposited between the leaves. Sandy, when eaten becomes the most unwelcome of edible texture: gritty. Unless you enjoy the feeling of munching on broken glass and tiny eggshells, you need to be scrupulous about clean-

ing them. It's not hard, though, and I've told you how in the recipe. So, go stick a couple of zip-tops in your freezer and start your carb collections today. And with all that money you'll save, go shoe shopping! Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

Shaking, Baking, Pork Chops

4 1-inch pork chops, boneless or bone-in	placed in a zip-top bag	dish
2 cups flour with 1 tablespoon flour and 2 teaspoons pepper	2 cups fat-free buttermilk poured into a second shallow	1 tablespoon vegetable oil
	Breader	Breader (recipe follows)
3 cups crumbs of any sort	2 teaspoons dried herbs (usually thyme, and rosemary if I have it on hand)	Manchego or Parmesan
2 teaspoons spice (I usually use a Caribbean adobo seasoning)	1/2 cup grated, dry cheese, like	1/4 cup fat
		Salt and pepper to taste

If you're using any type of bread products as crumbs, toast them for 20 minutes in a 250° oven before grinding. Place all ingredients into food processor and grind until they're uniform in size. Taste a pinch and re-season, if necessary. Pour into a shallow dish.

Directions:
Preheat oven to 375°. Put oil into baking dish and set aside. Right before cooking, coat chops: one at a time, place chops into bag of flour and shake until well coated. Then coat with buttermilk. Finally, dredge in crumb mixture, pressing crumbs all over so there is a nice heavy coat of breader all over chops. Put chops into baking dish, being sure there is a little space (1/2-inch at least) between each chop. Bake for 15-25 minutes or until internal temperature is 145-150°. Let rest a few minutes before serving.

Poached New Potatoes

1 1/2 pounds new potatoes or small creamers	1 teaspoon salt	herbs (chives or Italian parsley work well here)
3/4 cup chicken stock	1/4 teaspoon pepper	
4 tablespoons butter	1/2 teaspoon dried thyme	
	2 tablespoons fresh	

Place everything except fresh herbs into a large, heavy pot with a lid. Cover and cook on medium until the potatoes are fork-tender (15-20 minutes). Uncover and cook until the liquid has cooked out. Gently stir in the fresh herbs. Serve.

Creamed Leeks

5 large leeks	dry cheese, like Manchego or Parmesan	15-20 gratings of fresh nutmeg (a large pinch)
2 tablespoons butter	1/3 cup 2% milk	Salt and pepper to taste
1 lb. bagged baby spinach	1/3 cup heavy cream	
1/4 cup grated		

Prepare the leeks: Cut 1/4-inch off root end as well as dark green part and discard. Slice in half, lengthwise, then slice into 1/4 inch half-moons. Place into a large bowl of cold water and agitate until the pieces are all separate. Let stand for 15-20 minutes. The sand and debris will fall to the bottom of the bowl. Carefully scoop out leeks and put into a colander to drain. Blot with a kitchen towel or paper towels to remove more of the moisture. Prepare the spinach: Put all the spinach in a very large, microwave-safe bowl and cover with a paper towel. Microwave for three minutes and 15 seconds until it has totally wilted. Once cooled, put it into a colander and let it drain. When ready to use, take it by the handful and squeeze your little heart out to get as much water from the spinach that you can. When you think you've gotten it all, squeeze it some more. Then put it on a cutting board and chop it. **Directions:** Melt butter in a large heavy skillet. Add leeks along with the salt and pepper. Cook on medium-low until the leeks are softened and all the water has cooked in. Stir in the rest of the ingredients and cook until the veg are tender and a thick, creamy sauce has formed. Check for seasoning and re-season, if necessary.

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Pittsboro Youth Theater caps off 2020 with nine regional awards

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record
Correspondent

PITTSBORO — The coronavirus pandemic has been unforgiving to many, but few industries have been hit harder than entertainment.

Hall

In 2020, many big-budget films were delayed; some major movie theater chains such as Regal Cinemas remain closed indefinitely; and Broadway has been “dark” since March 12, with hopes that it may reopen in fall 2021.

But in a year where entertainment fell by the wayside, Chatham County’s own Pittsboro Youth Theater persevered, adapted and never missed a beat, earning a total of nine awards from the online site Chatham Life & Style’s “Best of the Year 2020” live ceremony in December.

“We only missed a couple of days of rehearsal,” said Tammy Matthews, the co-owner of PYT. “We ended up shutting down on a Sunday night and were up and running on Wednesday. We had to immediately turn on our heels because we had four shows that were more than halfway through their rehearsal process.”

With Sweet Bee Theater — PYT’s performance space, which also housed Sweet Bee Caffe, on East Salisbury Street — closed for the year, Matthews and her partner and co-owner, Craig Witter, had to improvise.

The result? PYT’s family of arts organizations would end up putting on more than a

dozen productions from March to December through Zoom-recorded video uploads, virtual live streams and drive-in movie-style events.

Witter’s background in media, specifically videography, paired with Matthews’ passion for theater, turned out to be the perfect equation for a sudden shift, backed up by the three awards won for their live-stream production of “A Virtual Christmas Carol.”

“That’s one thing about Tammy: you don’t use the word ‘can’t.’ It’s more like ‘how can we?’” said Witter, who’s also the technical director for PYT. “I knew how a lot of things worked, but the skillset, working together in a completely new output of media, required that we learn some lessons.”

In addition to learning how to run theater groups virtually, Matthews and Witter had to find ways to keep the kids upbeat during a time of uncertainty and real-world isolation, often aiming to reinvent their rehearsals to create a fun and personal environment.

It’s this dedication both to their students and the arts that earned them the Outstanding Contribution to the Arts award from Chatham Life & Style.

Of the nine awards given to PYT, four were for “columbinus,” a pre-pandemic, in-person production put on by PYT’s Social Justice Theater of the Carolinas based on the 1999 Columbine High School massacre in Colorado.

The idea to work on the project stemmed from the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, in 2018.

“We were all at that point very familiar with



‘We only missed a couple of days of rehearsal. We ended up shutting down on a Sunday night and were up and running on Wednesday,’ said Tammy Matthews, co-owner of PYT.’

TAMMY MATTHEWS, co-owner of Pittsboro Youth Theater

the idea of school shootings, so emotions were running high and we just wanted to do something. So we did,” said 18-year-old Jacqui Anthenien, winner of an Outstanding Breakout Performance award for her role in the play. “Even if we could change just one mind, if we could show one person that something has to be done, then we would have won.”

The other production that garnered attention was “Heal 2020,” a timely musical centered around the stresses of the coronavirus pandemic and how music can help comfort us during difficult times.

“Heal 2020” was performed as a drive-in play in the parking lot at Haw River Christian Academy as the first in-person production since “columbinus.” With actors having to deal with the outdoors, occasional heavy rain and vehicles’ hoods staring at them rather than people’s faces, it was far from the traditional theater experience.

“It was pretty weird to be outside,” said 15-year-old Catherine Hall, win-

ner of an Outstanding Breakout Performance award for her role. “It kind of added another intimidating factor to it, and a little more nervousness, but I think it also inspired us to try harder.”

Outside of the awards, PYT was also the recipient of a North Carolina CARES for Arts grant from the N.C. Arts Council and Chatham Arts Council last month, which covered a full month of expenses, something for which Witter said he was grateful.

In total, PYT consists of seven different operations — including the youth theater group, the Chatham Community Players adult acting troupe, the Social Justice Theater, a music school, an art gallery, Sweet Bee Theater and Sweet Bee Caffe coffee shop — all housed in a “Center for the Arts” in downtown Pittsboro.

Because of COVID-related financial struggles, Witter said it’s unlikely that the coffee shop and art gallery will reopen. But he’s proud that, so far, they haven’t missed a

PITTSBORO YOUTH THEATER’S AWARDS

OUTSTANDING YOUTH PROGRAM

- “A Virtual Christmas Carol” by Pittsboro Youth Theater. Cast: Huck Boone, Reese Colwell, Clementine Janssen, Emmy Krawczel, Celeste Smith and Max Whittington

OUTSTANDING STUDENT THEATRE ENSEMBLE

- “columbinus” by Social Justice Theater of the Carolinas. Cast: Jacqui Anthenien, Hannah Conners, Abi Dasher, Jake Dusenberry, Ethan Galiger, Alayna McLandsborough, India Nkamp and Eden Priddle

- “A Virtual Christmas Carol”

OUTSTANDING BREAKOUT PERFORMANCE

- Alayna McLandsborough in “columbinus”
- Catherine Hall in “Heal 2020”
- Clementine Janssen in “A Virtual Christmas Carol”
- India Nykamp in “columbinus”
- Jacqui Anthenien in “columbinus”

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARTS

- Tammy Matthews and Craig Witter

single bill payment.

“We got the little grant and lots of people have given us donations to help and they’re small, but when you regularly get 10 or so of those per month, all of a sudden they add up,” said Witter. “It was just nice to have help.”

In 2021, PYT aims to hold in-person plays again, especially for its musicals. Whether that will be inside Sweet Bee Theater, at an outdoor amphitheater or through another drive-in style performance is still up in the air.

Coming off the success of “A Virtual Christmas Carol,” live streaming other spring productions is a strong possibility.

After winning two awards from Chatham Life & Style in 2019, PYT more than quadrupled that in 2020, clearly signaling that the hard work and ability to pivot paid off.

“We figured, in Sweet Bee Theater, two of the most outstanding performances in the Triangle?” Witter pondered. “I’m talking (Durham Performing Arts Center), Playmakers’ (Repertory Company) and Raleigh Little Theatre, so to win two last year astounded us. And we knew they were great performances like, man, if only people had any idea. Well, now, apparently people are getting the idea. Isn’t that cool?”

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N.C. reacts to D.C. insurrection: 'Dark day for this country'

Political leaders express shock, determination after rioters storm U.S. Capitol to prevent certification of presidential election results

BY LAURA LEE, KATE MARTIN & FRANK TAYLOR
Carolina Public Press

North Carolinians are expressing horror after a violent rioting mob of pro-Donald Trump extremists stormed the Capitol in Washington last Wednesday as Congress prepared to certify the result of the 2020 presidential election, won by President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

The failed attempt to halt the process more than backfired, as some Republicans who had been prepared to oppose certification changed their minds and supported it early Thursday morning, with Congress overwhelmingly defeating objections to accepting electors from several states.

Meanwhile, Trump's encouragement of the insurrection has led to some rumblings, even within his own party, for his removal from office before the end of his term.

Members of Congress expressed shock and dismay at the insurrection, while also rejecting the mob's ability to derail the democratic process.

"I'm safe, our staff is safe, and we are sheltering in place," tweeted Rep. Alma Adams, D-Charlotte, late Wednesday afternoon.

"The safety of our staff and colleagues is my number one priority. As soon as the situation at the Capitol passes, I stand ready to do my duty, certify the vote, and return to the business of working #For the People."

Rep. Deborah Ross, D-Raleigh, talked to Carolina Public Press last Wednesday evening about what had happened.

"It's really a dark day for this country," Ross said. "We have prided ourselves on the peaceful transfer of power over more than 200 years. ... That there is a segment of our population that doesn't respect the rule of law and the peaceful transfer of power, and that there are elected officials who have incited that, makes this a very, very, very sad time.

"But we've got to restore respect for the rule of law and the peaceful transfer of power. We've got to accept the electors. And then, we've got to

move on with healing and with the acceptance that we are going to have a new president and a new vice president."

Several Republican members of Congress from North Carolina also disagreed with the rioters' attempt to subvert the democratic process.

Republican Sen. Richard Burr strongly objected to both the violence and congressional Republicans' efforts to prevent Biden from taking office.

"For nearly 250 years, our nation's commitment to the peaceful transition of power has been the shining hallmark of our democracy," Burr said in a statement Wednesday evening.

"Today, America's core principles were threatened by those seeking to forcibly stop our electoral process and overturn the results of a presidential election with which they disagreed. Let me be clear: These actions are not a defense of this country, but an attack on it."

Burr noted the lack of evidence to support Trump's specious assertions that he really won the election he lost.

"I supported President Trump's legal right to contest the election results through the courts, but the courts have now unanimously and overwhelmingly rejected these suits," Burr said.

"No evidence of voter fraud has emerged that would warrant overturning the 2020 election. The president bears responsibility for today's events by promoting the unfounded conspiracy theories that have led to this point. It is past time to accept the will of American voters and to allow our nation to move forward.

"Congress will uphold its constitutional duty and certify the results of the election.

Rep. David Rouzer, R-Johnston County, said in a tweet Wednesday afternoon: "Thank you to all who have reached out. My staff and I are safe. The lawlessness witnessed at the Capitol today is despicable and should be condemned in the strongest possible way.

"This is not who we are as a nation. A vigorous debate and differences of opinion should never — ever — be an excuse for lawlessness and violence.

Praying for our Capitol Police, other law enforcement personnel and those injured today."

Rep. Dan Bishop, R-Charlotte, similarly tweeted, "Violence is always unacceptable and must stop NOW. We solve our problems through debate and peaceful protests, not violence."

The theme of support for law enforcement was a common one among North Carolina Republicans, including several who opposed certification of the election results but said they rejected the insurgents' violent methods.

"I've been evacuated from the House floor," tweeted Rep. Ted Budd, R-Davie County.

"We are safe thanks to the brave men & women of the Capitol Hill Police. I remain resolved to uphold my oath to the Constitution & debate our disagreements. Violence is not acceptable & protesters should disperse peacefully immediately."

While some Republican members of the North Carolina's congressional delegation voiced undiluted opposition to violence, the message of others compared the summer 2020 protesters marching against the killing of Blacks by police to the pro-Trump extremists who stormed the Capitol on Wednesday.

Republican Sen. Thom Tillis tweeted, "I proudly back the blue and support law and order, which is why I condemned the violence that took place in cities across the nation this summer. It's a national disgrace to have a mob attacking Capitol Police and engaging in anarchy. This is not what America stands for."

Rep. Greg Murphy, R-Greenville, also alluded to the earlier riots in his tweet Wednesday.

"Let me first and foremost, in the strongest way possible, condemn the anarchy and violence that has beset our Capitol today," Murphy said. "As I have said many times, peaceful protests are one of the most meaningful foundations of our democracy.

"However, violence like today or any type of violence like looting and burning in protest is not to be tolerated. We were having meaningful debate in the House chamber regarding beliefs about the United States Constitution and possible

violations of it by certain states. That meaningful dialogue has now been destroyed and marred by this violence. This is not how America operates. I am ashamed of this horrible behavior."

Pushing back

Rep. David Price, D-Chapel Hill, struck a defiant tone with blame clearly placed at the feet of the president and the Republicans who have supported him over the last four years.

"Our Republican House members from North Carolina have been ready to go along with these objections (to Biden's victory), with no justification, no factual justification," Price said in an interview with CPP Wednesday evening.

"One would hope that they would have second thoughts about that because we're playing with fire here. The violent potential is clear from what happened today, but the anti-democratic potential has been evident for a long time. You must have a peaceful transfer of power when a legitimate election dictates it, and to the extent this country can't manage that, we're no longer a real democracy, much less an example to the rest of the world."

But Price's harshest condemnation was directed at Trump himself.

"We've seen this coming and should have seen it coming," Price said. "I mean, when have we ever had a sitting president urging us, urging state officials to overturn a legitimate election, basically urging a coup on his behalf?"

"All his career, he's flirted with violence. You know how at his rallies he teased about people getting roughed up. He has that tendency, and he has an affinity for dictators, and we know all that. So, in that sense, his behavior has clearly led up to this, both in terms of not accepting the peaceful transfer of power and accepting the verdict of elections, but also in inciting violence.

"Still, I must tell you, I did not dream that it would come to what it did today, and I don't think anybody else did either."

Ross also warned that Wednesday's rioting to prevent the peaceful transfer of power "shakes the foundation of our democracy."

She also expressed hope that some of the Republicans who had engaged in a challenge they must have known was futile to the election's outcome would wake up to the poisonous

results of their actions.

"What I am seeing that is somewhat heartening is that many of the people who were interested in the procedure of challenging electors and making that into a spectacle have seen what it created," Ross said.

Safety and security

Several members of the North Carolina delegation commented on concerns about the handling of the riots and the security of the Capitol in a situation that went beyond anything that the nation has seen in its history at the halls of government.

"I think it was more than enough security for any kind of normal protest," Price said of the police presence on Capitol Hill on Wednesday. "And we've had a lot, but we have never had one like this, not in modern history, where it really is an insurgency. It's armed mobs storming the Capitol. I'm told that didn't even happen at the time of the Civil War.

"I do think there will be a reckoning here of the inadequacy of the security for this occasion. And we'll have to fix that and have to, going forward, assess these white nationalist groups and their tendency toward violence and how menacing this has become."

Ross described the tense moments as the rioting got out of control.

Members were asked to stay in their offices until they were voting, both for security and because of the coronavirus, she said, also describing an earlier evacuation of one congressional office building that ended ahead of the major rioting.

"What happens next, was that the protesters ... stormed the Capitol and incited violence," Ross said. "A woman was shot. They came ... through Statuary Hall. They ignored law enforcement. And the entire Capitol Complex had to be evacuated."

She added that law enforcement was still restoring order as she talked with CPP early Wednesday evening.

As members of Congress prepared to return to complete the disrupted process late Wednesday, Price spoke of his confidence in the system being allowed to work.

"It's important to signal dissent that we will not be derailed by thuggery and insurgency. That's just not going to happen in this country."

But Price said the ultimate future of the country remains to be decided.

"Going forward the big question is, can this country come together?" he said. "Can we overcome this polarization and this extreme ideology that has poisoned our national bloodstream?"

Political groups

Political advocacy groups on both the right and left in North Carolina issued statements condemning the violence Wednesday, even if they disagreed about the underlying election issues.

The right-leaning Christian Action League of North Carolina, while continuing to oppose the outcome of the election, condemned the pro-Trump extremists for actions contrary to Christianity.

"I fully understand the frustration of those who believe the election was stolen, the process constitutionally undermined," said the Rev. Mark Creech, CAL executive director. "I share those sentiments. Like many, I smell a skunk in the woodpile."

But Creech said he found the violent actions contrary to the teaching of Christian Scripture. Like some congressional leaders, he compared Wednesday's failed attempt to overturn the government of the

United States to summer 2020 protests.

"Mob violence, lawlessness, whether it is antifa or Black Lives Matter or Trump supporters, is not the way of Christ," Creech said. "You cannot coddle or cooperate with it, lest you stand against Christ himself."

The N.C. Association of Educators issued a statement calling for North Carolina leaders to take a united stand against what occurred Wednesday and linking it with the undercurrent of terroristic racial extremism that has been prominent among pro-Trump extremists for years.

"The violence and mayhem we are witnessing in Washington today is yet another symptom of the disease we have been fighting since before the founding of our nation: white supremacy," NCAE President Tamika Walker Kelly said.

"These actions amount to nothing short of a domestic terrorist attack on our country and on our very democracy.

"Those who continued to feed lies about this election, in a desperate attempt to hold onto power they clearly do not deserve and undermine the will of the people, are ultimately responsible for today's clashes.

"We are calling on all of North Carolina's elected officials to immediately condemn not only the actions of these provocateurs but also to condemn those who have fanned the flames of hatred and ignorance that enabled these anti-democratic ideas to take root.

"Make no mistake, an angry mob of armed white people inside of our Capitol, threatening our government, including the very Republican leaders complicit in this attack, is nothing short of terrorism, and it must be condemned as such. We must name it in order for our nation to move forward from this moment."

Former presidents

At least two former presidents from each of the major parties were united in their disgust over Wednesday's events, according to statements they issued.

Republican former President George W. Bush said he and his wife, Laura Bush, watched events with "dismay."

"It is a sickening and heartbreaking sight," Bush said in a statement. "This is how election results are disputed in a banana republic — not our democratic republic.

"Insurrection could do grave damage to our nation and reputation. ... Our country is more important than the politics of the moment."

Democratic former President Barack Obama, under whom Biden served as vice president, also voiced alarm.

Obama said the violence at the Capitol was "incited by a sitting president who has continued to baselessly lie about the outcome of a lawful election."

Obama called the actions Wednesday "a moment of great dishonor and shame in our nation. But we'd be kidding ourselves if we treated it as a total surprise."

He said the Republican Party and "its accompanying media ecosystem has too often been unwilling to tell their followers the truth," that the election was not close and that Biden will be inaugurated on Jan. 20.

"Their fantasy narrative has spiraled further and further from reality, and it builds upon years of sown resentments," Obama said in a statement.

"Now we're seeing the consequences, whipped up into a violent crescendo."

Chatham Charter School

Chatham Charter School is now accepting applications for openings in kindergarten and limited openings in first through twelfth grade for the 2021-2022 school year. Kindergarten applicants must be five years of age on or before August 31, 2021. The application period ends on January 29, 2021. Applications may be submitted online (www.chathamcharter.org) under the "Admissions" link, at the school (2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City) or by calling (919) 742-4550.

Chatham Charter School is a nonprofit, nondenominational public school providing quality education for children of all races, creeds, handicaps, and national origins.

La Escuela de Chatham Charter

La Escuela de Chatham Charter ahora está tomando aplicaciones para espacios del primer grado hasta el grado doce para el año escolar 2021-2022. Los niños que asistan al kinder deben tener cinco años de edad antes del 31 de agosto, 2021. El periodo de aplicación termina el 29 de enero, 2021. Puede obtener una aplicación al Internet (www.chathamcharter.org) al enlace admissions, a la escuela (2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City) o por una llamada (919.742.4550).

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JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfnc

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CARPENTRY WORK - all types, repairs, renovation, installation, windows and doors. Call Robert Clark, 919-742-3194. My25,tfnc

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF SILER CITY - POLICE OFFICER - Performs protective service work enforcing laws, investigates criminal activity, ensures safety of public, collects evidence, testifies in court, maintains files and records, prepares reports, promotes community policing. Required Education and Experience Qualifications: High school diploma or high school equivalency. Possession of a valid North Carolina driver's license or ability to obtain. Completion of Basic Law Enforcement Training with current certification (transfers from other agencies or out-of-state must meet NC Training and Standards criteria for a Police Department). Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Possession of Radar, Intoxilyzer, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), and DCI I certifications upon hire. Bilingual in both

written and spoken English and Spanish. Additional Employment Requirements: Possession of Radar, Intoxilyzer, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), and DCI I certifications within 12 months of hire. Maintain Radar, Intoxilyzer, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), and DCI I certifications at all times with no lapse. Annual Hiring Salary, \$40,820 (additional pay incentives for bilingual, years of relevant work experience, and education level). **DETECTIVE** - Performs intermediate protective service work enforcing laws; investigates criminal activity; ensures safety of public; interviews and/or interrogates victims, witnesses, and/or suspects; gathers evidence; prepares reports; testifies in court; maintains files and records; serves the public with dignity and respect; promotes community policing. Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Graduation from a community college with an associate degree in criminal justice, or related field, and considerable experience in law enforcement, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Current certification through a Training and Standards program (transfers from other agencies or out-of-state must meet NC Training and Standards' criteria for a Police Department). Extensive training in areas related specifically to Investigations. Possession of a valid North Carolina driver's license or ability to obtain. Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Current Radar, Intoxilyzer, Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), and DCI I Certification upon hire. Completion of Basic Narcotics Investigation, Crime Scene Investigation and Interview and Interrogation training upon hire. One year of experience in an investigations unit. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. Additional Employment Requirements: Completion of Basic Narcotics Investigation, Crime Scene Investigation, and Interview and Interrogation training within 12 months of hire. - Annual Hiring Salary, \$45,004 (additional pay incentives for bilingual, years of relevant work experience, and education level). **POLICE SERGEANT** - Performs difficult protective service work partic-

ipating in, and supervising, a squad of police officers on an assigned shift or performing a specialized activity in the Police Department; supervises the community-oriented policing program; maintains files and records; prepares reports. Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Graduation from a community college with an associate degree in criminal justice, or related field, and considerable experience in law enforcement, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Current certification through a Training and Standards program (transfers from other agencies or out-of-state must meet Training and Standards' criteria for a Police Department). Possession of Intermediate Law Enforcement certification or 640 hours of law enforcement training, which must include 40 hours of first line supervision training, upon hire (BLET hours do not count towards these 640 hours). Possession of a valid North Carolina driver's license or ability to obtain. Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Extensive training in the areas of traffic, investigations, and community-oriented law enforcement training upon hire. Possession of Radar, Intoxilyzer, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), and DCI I certifications upon hire. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. Additional Employment Requirements: Completion of training in the areas of traffic, investigations, and community-oriented law enforcement training within 12 months of hire. Maintain Radar, Intoxilyzer, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), and DCI I certifications at all times with no lapse. - Annual Hiring Salary, \$47,254 (additional pay incentives for bilingual, years of relevant work experience, and education level). Please refer to our website for full job descriptions. To Apply: These postings are open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application and current F-3 is required for consideration for all positions. The application may be found on our website at www.silercity.org or picked up at City Hall. The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, Attention: Human Resources, 311 N. Second

Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to dritter@silercity.org. Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. - The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided necessary accommodations. Such accommodations may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. - This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. - Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. J14,1tc

PAT'S GROOMING & BOARDING KENNEL needs an extra part-time morning person for Thursdays and Fridays. Healthy, like to clean, has driver's license, car to get to work; not afraid of animals, loves being around pets, comes to

work on time, dependable, honest, and COVID negative. Will train. Someone that only needs to work few days per week. Must provide three references. Safe place to work! Call 919-548-5567. J7,14,2tc

FULL-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT available in Chatham County. Customer service, social media, data entry, promotion of events and programs, excellent communication skills required, other varied duties. Please send resume and cover letter to PO Box B, C/O Chatham News, PO Box 290, Siler City, NC 27344. J7,14,2tc

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 636 Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of **JEREMY ANTHONY WILLIAM PIERS WAINWRIGHT**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 17th day of December 2020, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office

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.

of the attorney for the estate on or before the 26th day of March 2021, or this Notice



Career Opportunities Available

Visit www.chathamnc.org and click on Jobs

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3RD SHIFT

CALL: 919-542-3151

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

for appointment to complete application and interview

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Pittsboro, NC

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TDD/TYY # 800-735-2962

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- Plant Industrial Maintenance Mechanics, all shifts up to \$30hr dependent on experience.
- Diesel Mechanics needed with wages up to \$18.00.

Salary positions available both shifts.

Date: January 23, 2021

Where: 1100 E 3rd St., Siler City, NC 27316

Time: 10am-2pm

Phone: 919-663-6712

Bring your resumes, interviews on site.

Apply on line at Mountairejobs.com

EOE

will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 This 24th day of December 2020.
 Ruth Ann Burk, Personal Representative
 c/o Larry H. Rocamora, Attorney for the Estate,
 McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson, & Hinkle, PLLC
 3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400,
 Durham, NC 27707.
 D24,D31,J7,J14,4tc

in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
 This the 24th day of December, 2020.
 Susan Dixon, Executrix
 372 Jourdan Acres Dr
 Bear Creek, NC 27207
 D24,D31,J7,J14,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20-E-626
 All persons having claims against **JAMES ANDREW HACKNEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of December, 2020.
 Shebra Annette Hackney,

Adminstrator
 P.O. Box 92
 Moncure NC 27559
 D24,D31,J7,J14,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20-E-628
 All persons having claims against **ARTHUR "HAROLD" PRICE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 31st 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 31st day of December, 2020.
 Kimberly M. Price, Executor
 18145 U.S. Hwy 64
 Siler City, NC 27344
 D31,J7,J14,J21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20-E-638
 All persons having claims against **REX THOMAS JESSUP**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 31st 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 31st day of December, 2020.
 Wendy J. Bullis, Administrator
 917 Tanglewood Drive
 Siler City, NC 27344
 D31,J7,J14,J21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20-E-640
 All persons having claims against **JOHN ROBERT HANCOCK**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 31st 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 31st day of December, 2020.
 Samuel A. Hancock, Administrator
 73 Thrift Street
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 D31,J7,J14,J21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
 The undersigned, **ROLAND M. PHILLIPS**, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ROGER LEE PHILLIPS**, 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

3rd day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 Roland M. Phillips, Executor
 8270 Hwy #42
 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
 D31,J7,J14,J21,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **BEATRICE SEROTKIN**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before April 7th, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
 This 7th day of January, 2021.

Paul Serotkin, Executor
 Estate of Beatrice Serotkin
 c/o Roberson Law Firm
 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514
 J7,J14,J21,J28,4tp

COMMISSIONERS' SALE
 Pursuant to the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. Chapter 38A and the Secretary's Foreclosure Commissioner designation, a **COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF 175 Goldston Glendon Road, Goldston, NC 27252 a/k/a 175 Colonial Street, Goldston, NC 27252** (Short Legal Description: G03-31832) will occur at public auction outside the main entrance to the building of the Superior Court of Chatham County, NC located at 40 E Chatham Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312 on January 29, 2021 at 11:00 AM, pursuant to a default of a note secured by a deed of trust executed by Mosely Allen Barber and Edna D. Barber recorded March 25, 2011, in the Register of Deeds for Chatham County, NC, as Instrument No. 03043, in Book 01560, Page 0232, and the Assignment in favor of the Secretary of HUD recorded March 15, 2017, in the Register of Deeds for Chatham County, NC as Instrument No. 02764, in Book 01911, Page 1088. **TERMS OF SALE** can be reviewed by the recorded notice of default on file with the Register of Deeds for Chatham County, NC, for which all terms are incorporated herein into this notice. A 10% deposit is immediately required for winning bidder in certified funds.
 Anderson Law
 2492 N. Landing Rd, #104
 Va Beach, VA 23456
 J7,J14,J21,3tp

TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
 The Board of Commissioners will conduct a **public hearing on Jan. 19, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the City Hall Courtroom located at 311 N. 2nd Ave.** Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests:
 Town of Siler City proposes text amendments, because of the new Chapter 160D of the NC General Statutes, to the following sections of the UDO: §2 Authority (zoning regulations), §3 Jurisdiction, §8 Fees, §11 Word Interpretation, §12 Effect On Prior Laws, §13 Zoning Conflicts with Other Development Standards, §14 Statute of Limitation, §18 Definitions (administrative decision, administrative hearing, bufferyard, building, close familial relationship, comprehensive plan, conditional zoning, decision-making board, determination, developer, development, development approval, development regulation, DBH, due diligence, dwelling, dwelling unit, evidentiary hearing, good faith, governing board, land development regulations, landowner, legislative decision, legislative hearing, loading and unloading area, local act, multi-phased development, perennial waterbody, person, planning and development regulation jurisdiction, property, public water supply system, quasi-judicial decision, site plan, sleeping unit, special use permit, stream, ephemeral stream, intermittent stream, perennial stream, subdivision, subdivision regulation, surface water, tract, vegetative buffer, zoning map amendment, zoning permit, zoning regulation), §19 Lots Divided by District Lines, §24 Meetings of the Planning Board, §25 Quorum and Voting of the Planning Board, §27 Powers and Duties of Planning Board, §28 Advisory Committees, §29 Meetings of the Board of Adjustment, §30 Quorum of the Board of Adjustment, §31 Voting of the Board of Adjustment, §32 Land-Use Administrator, §33 Notice of Determinations, §35 Town Board of Commissioners, §42 Permits Required, §43 No Occupancy, Use or Sale of Lots Until Requirements Fulfilled, §44 Who May Submit Permit Applications (permit), §45 Applications to be Complete (permit), §46 Staff Consultation Before Formal Application (permit), §47 Staff Consultation After Application Submitted (permit), §49 Performance Guarantees: Authorizing Use or Occupancy Before Completion of Development, §50 Special-Use Permits, §52 Recommendations on Conditional-Use Permit, §53 Town Board Action on Conditional-Use Permit, §54 Board of Adjustment Action on Special-Use Permits, §55 Additional Requirements on Special-Use Permits, §56 Authorizing Use, Occupancy, or Sale Before Completion of Development, §58 Expiration of Permits, §59 Effect of Permit on Successors and Assigns, §60 Amendments to and Modifications of Permits, §61 Reconsideration of Board of Adjustment Action, §63 Maintenance of Common Areas, Improvements, and Facilities (permits), §64 Regulation of Subdivisions, §65 No Subdivision Without Plat Approval, §67 Major Subdivision Approval Process, §68 Endorsements on Major Subdivision Plats, §81 Appeals, §82 Variances, §83 Special Exception Permits, §84 Interpretation, §85 Requests to be Heard Expeditiously, §86 Burden of Proof in Appeals & Variances, §87 Board Action on Appeals & Variances §91 Hearing Required on Appeals and Applications, §92 Notice of Evidentiary Hearing, §93 Evidence, §94 Modification of Application at Evidentiary Hearing, §96 Written Decision, §97 Judicial Review, §103 Procedures Upon Discovery of Violations, §104 Penalties and Remedies for Violations, §105 Permit Revocation, §106 Judicial Review (limitations), §107 Stop Work Orders, §114 Extension or Enlargement of Nonconforming Situations, §116 Change in Use of Property Where a Nonconforming Situation Exists, §118 Completion of Nonconforming Projects, §119 Noncontributing Residential Exemption Permit, §129 Floodplain and Floodway Districts, §130 Conditional-Use Districts Established, §132 Official Zoning Map, §133 Amendments to Official Zoning Map, §136 Uses Defined (bona fide farm), §137 Use of the Designations P,S,C in Table of Permissible Uses, §140 Accessory Uses, §141 Permissible Uses Not Requiring Permits, §144 Combination Uses, §147 Table of Permissible Uses (special events), §148 Residential Uses (family care home, manufactured home, single family residences), §151 Temporary Uses (special events), §152 Agricultural Uses (bona fide farming, voluntary ag district), §153 Amateur Radio Antennas, §156 Public Buildings, §157 Solar Collectors, §164 Air Pollution, §229 Utilities (power line exemption), §235 Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, §236 Local Environmental Regulations, §251 Sedimentation and Erosion Control (enforcement), §252 Watershed Protection Ordinance, §259 Signs Which Do Not Require a Permit (construction signs), §307 Retention and Protection of Large Trees (airport exemption), §309 Forestry Activities, §311 Intent (amendments), §312 Amendment Initiation, §316 Review and Recommendations of the Planning Board (amendments), §317 Public Hearings (amendments), §318 Town Board Action (amendments), §320 Citizen Comments (amendments), §322 Comprehensive Plan, §323 Development Agreements,

§324 Moratoria, §325 Staff Consultation Before Formal Application (conditional zoning), §326 Staff Consultation After Application Submitted (conditional zoning), §327 Application Procedures (conditional zoning), §328 Site Plan Required (conditional zoning), §329 Planning Board Review (conditional zoning), §330 Action by the Board of Commissioners (conditional zoning), §331 Effect of Approval (conditional zoning), §332 Changes in Use (conditional zoning), §333 Revocation of a Conditional-Use Permit, §334 Performance Guarantee (conditional zoning), §335 Completing Developments in Phases (conditional zoning), §336 Reconsideration of Board Action (conditional zoning), §337 Maintenance of Common Areas, Improvements, and Facilities (conditional zoning), A-1 In General (applications), A-2 Written Application, A-3 Development Site Plans, A-4 Graphic Materials Required For Plans, Appendix B-Development Agreements, F-4 Conditional Use Required (sexually oriented business), F-5 Location Of Sexually Oriented Businesses, F-15 Injunction (sexually oriented business), G-3 Conditional Use Required (landfill), G-4 Supplementary Use Regulations (landfill), H-1 Authority And General Regulations (watershed), H-6 Definitions (existing development), Appendix J-Permit Choice & Vested Rights Ordinance, K-3 General Provisions (flood), K-5 Provisions For Flood Hazard Reduction, K-6 Legal Status Provisions (flood).

The proposed items are available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the application are invited to attend the public hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced items. The Planning Board will meet on Jan. 11 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. If you are interested in attending the meetings via Zoom, then contact jbridges@silercity.org for the Planning Board meeting and jjohnson@silercity.org for the Board of Commissioner meeting. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.
 J7,J14,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
20-E-590
 All persons having claims against **RONALD L PHILLIPS aka RONALD LEE PHILLIPS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
 This the 7th day of January, 2021.
 Joshua Keith Williams, Executor
 7302 Pecan St
 Great Falls, MT 59405
 J7,J14,J21,J28,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
 Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of **EILEEN P. MCENANEY**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 22nd day of December, 2020, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before the 9th day of April, 2021, or this Notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 This 31st day of December, 2020
 Bridget McEnaney, Personal Representative
 c/o Anthony D. Nicholson,
 Attorney for the Estate
 McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson, & Hinkle, PLLC,
 3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400
 Durham, NC 27707
 J7,J14,J21,J28,4tc

CHATHAM COUNTY Request for Proposals (RFP) Data Management Analytic Monitoring and Non-Revenue Water Loss Recovery Project
 Chatham County, Public Utilities Department, is seeking proposals for performing, as

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Interested applicants please email resumes to penni@navarrogroupp.org

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part of a pilot program, a data management analytic monitoring and non-revenue water loss recovery project to install 5 strategically placed flow/pressure monitoring devices throughout the County's South-west Water System to monitor, over a period of months, system anomalies that can help pinpoint potential leaks that can lead to excessive non-revenue water loss.

The complete RFP document and details are located on the Chatham County Current Bids and Proposals webpage at: <http://www.chathamnc.org/government/current-bid-proposal-opportunities>.

The County is requesting 3 hard copies and one electronic pdf file, included on appropriate media, and included with the paper copies. The submittal package must be received by February 4, 2021 at 5:00 PM EST, to one of the following delivery addresses: Postal Address:

Kim Johnson, Chatham County Finance Office, P. O. Box 608, Pittsboro, NC 27312, or Street Address: Kim Johnson, County Managers Office, Courthouse Annex, 12 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312

All inquiries relating to this request must be in writing and submitted by e-mail to Kim Johnson at purchasing@chathamcountync.gov. Late submittals will not be accepted under any circumstance and will not be opened or reviewed. All inquiries must be made no later than 12:00 PM on Thursday, January 28, 2021 to purchasing@chathamcountync.gov or by fax to (919)-542-8272. No RFP inquiries by telephone please. All addenda will be posted by 5:00pm on Friday, January 29, 2021 and available at <http://www.chathamnc.org/government/current-bid-proposal-opportunities>. Chatham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability.

J7,J14,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Elizabeth Kernoodle Hussey, having qualified as the Executrix of the Estate of **HAROLD BRADLEY HUSSEY**, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on November 25, 2020, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having

claims against the Estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned attorney of the Personal Representative on or before April 7, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate please make immediate payment. This the 7th day of January 2021.

Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandever
50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150
Chapel Hill, NC, 27517.
This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1.
Austin C. Vandever, Attorney of Record
50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
J7,J14,J21,J28,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM

The undersigned, having heretofore qualified as Executor of the Estate of **FRANKLIN DURANT BELL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before April 7, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of any recovery thereon. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 7th day of January, 2021.
David T. Bell, Executor
Franklin Durant Bell, Deceased
Gregory S. Williams, Esq.
Carruthers & Roth, P.A.
Attorneys & Counselors at Law
235 North Edgeworth Street (27401)
Post Office Box 540
Greensboro, North Carolina 27402
J7,J14,J21,J28,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-408

All persons having claims against **BARRY DEAN NEWLIN** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make

immediate payment. This the 7th day of January, 2021.

Jacqueline Claire McDowell, Co-Executrix
165 Copperhead Lane
Siler City, NC 27344
Kelly Newlin Martin, Co-Executrix
5488 Lake Juno Rd
Liberty, NC 27298
J7,J14,J21,J28,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITOR 20-E-547 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, Ellen Larkin Willis and Don F. White, Jr., having qualified as Executors of the Estate of **DONNA WILLIS**, 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 7th day of April, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 7th day of January, 2021.
Ellen Larkin Willis and Don F. White, Jr.
Executors for the Estate
C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds
Attorney for the Estate
Hopper Cummings, PLLC
Post Office Box 1455
Pittsboro, NC 27312
J7,J14,J21,J28,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 31th day of December, 2020, as Executrix of the Estate of **MALVINA J. BRADY**, Deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of April, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 14th day of January, 2021.
Susan M. Brady, Executrix
Estate of Malvina J. Brady
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
J14,J21,J28,F4,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA

CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **RUTH L. FIELDS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the said decedent or her estate to present them to her at 3305 Kenmore Street, Greensboro, NC 27408 on or before the 15th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All of those indebted to the said estate are hereby requested to make prompt payment to the undersigned. This the 14th day of January, 2021.
Darlene F. Green, Executrix of the Estate of Ruth L. Fields
3305 Kenmore Street
Greensboro, NC 27408
J14,J21,J28,F4,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21-E-14

All persons having claims against **FRANCIS ANTHONY MADALENA**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 14th day of January, 2021.
Elizabeth M. Turner, Executor
111 Southpointe
Pittsboro, NC 27312
J14,J21,J28,F4,4tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO

The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following Public Hearings on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The Public Hearings will be conducted remotely via Zoom, a teleconference software, for the following items:
Red Moose Brewing Company, LLC is requesting the following text amendments to the Pittsboro Zoning Ordinance:
1. Chapter 5 (District Regulations), Section 5.2.1 (Table of Permitted Uses) to add Micro-Brewery as permitted use in the C1, C2, C4, M1, and M2 Zoning Districts.
2. Chapter 12 (Legal Provisions), Section 12.1 (Definitions) to add Micro-Brewery and add definition.
Eco Northwood MUPD, LLC is

proposing an amendment to the rezoning approved April 9, 2018 by the Board of Commissioners. The amendment is to rezone a 2.91 acre lot that fronts on 15-501 & US 64 E Byp from R-A2 to MUPD (PID 72825).

The purpose of the legislative public hearings is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. **SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING.** The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. The meeting will be held via Zoom, a teleconference software. Instructions on how to join the Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website under the BOC Agenda, Minutes, and Audio tab (pittsboronc.gov). If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov by 4 p.m. on January 25, 2021. The Clerk will receive written comments to be included in the minutes for 24 hours after the meeting. Please sign up with the Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on January 25, 2021 if you wish to participate.
J14,J21,2tc

ADVERTISEMENT CHATHAM COUNTY

Request for Proposals (RFP) Water Treatment Plant Lagoon Biosolids Removal & Disposal Project

Chatham County is seeking proposals for the removal and disposal of bio-solid materials at the Chatham County Water Treatment Lagoon located at 290 Beaver Creek Road, Apex, NC 27502. The complete RFP document and details are located on the Chatham County Current Bids and Proposals webpage at: <http://www.chathamnc.org/government/current-bid-proposal-opportunities>. The County is requesting 3 hard copies and one electronic pdf file, included on appropriate media, and included with the paper copies. The submittal package must be received by February 11, 2021 at 5:00 PM EST, to one of the following delivery addresses: Postal Address: Kim Johnson, Chatham County Finance Office, P. O. Box 608, Pittsboro, NC 27312, or Street Address: Kim Johnson, County Managers Office,

Courthouse Annex, 12 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312 All inquiries relating to this request must be in writing and submitted by e-mail to Kim Johnson at purchasing@chathamcountync.gov. Late submittals will not be accepted under any circumstance and will not be opened or reviewed. All inquiries must be made no later than 12:00 PM on Thursday February 4, 2021 to purchasing@chathamcountync.gov or by fax to (919)-542-8272. No RFP inquiries by telephone please. All addenda will be posted by 5:00pm on Friday, February 5, 2021 and available at <http://www.chathamnc.org/government/current-bid-proposal-opportunities>. Chatham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability.
J14,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-648

All persons having claims against **ELIZA ANN SCHAEFFER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 14th day of January, 2021.

John Clay Schaeffer, Executor
114 Bittercress Ct
Cary, NC 27518
J14,J21,J28,F4,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20-E-652

All persons having claims against **WANDA ANN PREVOST**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of April, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 14th day of January, 2021.
Clinton Prevost, Executor
4249 Devils Tramping Ground Rd
Bear Creek, NC 27207
J14,F21,J28,F4,4tc

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Mulligan a standout in potboiling revenge flick 'Promising Young Woman'

A movie thriller for the #MeToo movement writ large, "Promising Young Woman" is like a bit of stale "Hard Candy," the

NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic



Photo courtesy of FilmNation Entertainment

Carey Mulligan stars in 'Promising Young Woman.'

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN

GRADE: C +
DIRECTOR: Emerald Fennell
STARRING: Carey Mulligan, Bo Burnham, Alison Brie, Clancy Brown,

Jennifer Coolidge, Laverne Cox, Connie Britton and Alfred Molina
MPAA RATING: R
RUNNING TIME: 1 hr. 53 min.

2005 film also premised around vengeance against a sexual predator that features a standout leading performance. While "Hard Candy" was Elliot Page's breakthrough role, the already accomplished Carey Mulligan makes "Promising Young Woman" a nearly one-woman show.

Mulligan plays Cassie Thomas, an erstwhile medical school student turned barista. We learn early on that Cassie spends her weekends visiting bars pretending to be drunk and/or stoned to lure in lascivious men who spy an easy mark to take home and force themselves upon. Before matters go too far, Cassie unveils her true condition to the shocked bros.

The origin of Cassie's nocturnal exploits dates back to med school, when Cassie's best friend Nina was raped by a fellow student, disbelieved, and shunned before she eventually committed suicide. The trauma of the experience prompted Cassie to drop out of school and move back home with her parents.

For a while, the film teases the degree of retribution Cassie metes out to the would-be assaulters. We soon see that Cassie merely gives them a chance to before chronicling their names in a notepad. Indeed, writer-director Emerald Fennell spends much of the film balancing between the titillation of Old Testament-style wrath and the desire to shield Cassie from hypocrisy. Twice Cassie concocts elaborate scenarios whereby someone who

enabled Nina's attack — or their loved one — appears to be sexually assaulted themselves, only for them and the audience to later discover it was all a ruse. Cassie designs some unexplained reprisal against the attorney (Alfred Molina) who once defended Nina's attacker by savaging her reputation, only for Cassie to relent after she learns that the lawyer has repented and renounced his old career.

One of the biggest victims, however, is Cassie herself, whose relationships with family, friends, and would-be lovers are upended by Cassie's psychological demons and single-minded atonement. A light seems to pierce her darkness when she meets Ryan (Bo Burnham), a doctor and former classmate whose unquestioned interest and devil-may-care persona are well-suited for the troubled Cassie. However, Ryan's arrival also triggers the memory of those involved in Nina's assault and its aftermath, including her rapist. Cassie becomes torn between turning the page on

avenging Nina and exacting punishment against those who got away with ruining her life.

What "Hard Candy" lacked in nuance it at least made for in audacity. Unfortunately, "Promising Young Woman" wants to be all things: a revenge flick that does not go too far, a black comedy whose humor doesn't risk trivializing its subject-matter, and a feminist clarion call that stays sensational without delving into the deep recesses of ingrained, cultural sexism. There is a lot floating around here about female objectification and subjugation as an offshoot of social elitism, but the film does not fully explicate this proposition.

Instead, we are left with a moderately engaging potboiler buttressed by a superlative performance from Mulligan, whose every scene unearths emotional depth not found in the screenplay. This will likely be Mulligan's second Oscar nomination, for a film whose title most aptly describes its star.

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