

Chatham News + Record

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Following the holidays, accentuated grief is normal

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

It's been nearly five years since her son, Zafer Estill, died, but this year, Tami Schwerin still put up his stocking, along with her Christmas tree.

Her family labored over what to put in the stocking. Eventually, they decided to add in letters.

"No one tells you what to do with that stocking," Schwerin said. "The holidays do kind of give a focus on it because that's

typically when you're all together. And it's difficult."

Like Schwerin, many people struggle with the heaviness of grief that seems to intensify during the holidays. And while Schwerin said she can lean on several friends who've also lost children, the season is still always a particularly challenging one.

"It's the worst of the worst — I can't think of anything worse," she said. "But it's also a time to remember all the good times, when you can bring up the pictures,

and they're on my tree. There's little baby pictures of my kids. It's great, and I cherish those, and it's also so hard to look at them."

Even during a normal year, the holidays can accentuate grief, said licensed clinical mental health counselor Michelle Moseley, particularly because of the emphasis on spending time with family or reflecting on memories. But during a pandemic, that grief is compounded for many people.

See **GRIEF**, page A9

Chatham distributes vaccine

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Public Health Department is updating its vaccine distribution plans to align with Gov. Roy Cooper's modified eligibility requirements as announced by the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services last week.

Under the new guidelines, all persons ages 65 and older now qualify to receive the vaccine regardless of their exposure risk to the coronavirus.

The previous distribution plan divided eligibility between four phases with several subgroups. Health care workers directly fighting the pandemic and long-term care facility residents were first in line for the vaccine, followed by adults 75 and older — before several more categories of health care workers.

Adults aged 65 to 74 were fifth in order of priority.

The former eligibility breakdown was criticized for adding confusion to what has already been a bungled vaccination effort. State officials hoped to inoculate about half a million North Carolinians within the first weeks of distribution. The latest data as of Tuesday indicate that 450,000 had received the first shot — still a small part of the state's population, but a

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Chatham's top doc:
'Don't be fooled' by COVID numbers; it's still a threat

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IN THE KNOW

Chatham's Latino residents share hopes, fears for Biden administration. **PAGE A3**

Prep basketball: Northwood boys, girls take down Orange at home. **PAGE B1**

Q&A: How COVID-19 vaccinations were done at this Pittsboro facility. **PAGE B4**

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INTRODUCING THE SYCAMORE

Former Roadhouse owners to open new gourmet restaurant



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The Sycamore — Maria and Greg Lewis' latest restaurant project — will bring a new gourmet dining experience to Pittsboro's Chatham Mills.

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — After a brief absence from Pittsboro's restaurant scene, Maria and Greg Lewis, the former owners of the Pittsboro Roadhouse, are back at it with a new fine dining experience: The Sycamore.

The gourmet steakhouse is nearing completion at the historic Chatham Mills and is tentatively scheduled to open in March.

"We're really far along," Maria said. "We've got the restaurant pretty much where it needs to be to open except that we have a lounge, which

is a separate room, and that is close to completion."

In addition to the restaurant and lounge area, the new space will include a catering hall for wedding venues and other events.

"Our difficulty right now is that we also have a catering business, 39 West," Maria said, "and we're continuing to do catering from the restaurant kitchen. But the restaurant kitchen is not big enough to do both the restaurant and the catering business. The health department won't allow it; it's just too small."

To fix their capacity issue,



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Greg and Maria Lewis, former owners of the Pittsboro Roadhouse, hope to open their latest restaurant, The Sycamore, in the spring.

the Lewises are renovating a second space on the Chatham Mills site which will serve as a dedicated catering kitchen.

But the catering business is slow while the pandemic drags on. "It's close to non-existent ..."

Maria said. "We've been hearing from a lot of brides that are looking at the hall, but these events aren't going to be until the fall or even spring of the following year, you know, so we're not looking

See **LEWIS**, page A6

'NOT THE NATION WE WANT TO BE'

Chatham leaders reflect on Capitol attack, impeachment

BY D. LARS DOLDER & HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

State Senator Valerie Foushee was at home on Jan. 6 — isolating in place like she has for most of the last year — when she turned on the news to a scene unlike anything she'd seen in her life: rioters breaking down the doors of the nation's Capitol building. Congressmen and women wearing gas masks. Capitol police being attacked.

"And yet when I first saw the report," said Foushee, a Democrat who represents Chatham and Orange counties as part of Dist. 23 in the N.C. Senate, "I must say that as disappointed and frightened as I was, I was not surprised."

In Raleigh, N.C. Rep. Robert Reives II, the House Democratic party leader who represents Dist. 54, was working in his legislative office with his chief

of staff preparing for the start of the General Assembly's 2021 session.

"Neither of us had looked at our phones," he said, "neither of us had checked any websites or anything of that sort."

Upon leaving the office, Reives noticed he had 132 text messages and 40 voice-mails.

"I went down to our security station and I was checking in because I had to cross the street to get to my car," Reives said, "and one of the security gentlemen approached me. He said, 'Man, I'm so glad nothing is going on here. You be careful.'"

"And I said, 'Did something happen?'"

'I certainly was not surprised'

The events of Jan. 6 were not were not unimaginable; the violent

See **IMPEACH**, page A3

N.C.'s 2021 General Assembly session has begun, but last year's issues linger

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — North Carolina's General Assembly gathered last Wednesday to launch the 2021 session in which legislators from both sides of the aisle hope to lead the state away from 2020's tumult.

The first day of a new session is typically more ceremonial than productive. This year's, however, stifled by pandemic restrictions, lacked much of the event's traditional pageantry.

"It was my fifth one, and certainly unlike the others inasmuch as we could not gather as we have," said Sen. Valerie Foushee (D-Dist. 23),

who serves Chatham and Orange counties. "There was



Reives

a feel of bonding with your colleagues within your caucus and across the aisle."

Despite its humdrum format, though, Foushee considered this session's opening a greater success than some in year's past. The timbre of discussion in Raleigh's legislative building was dissimilar to the contentious debate that plagued last year's Assembly. The most obvious manifestation of newfound harmony:

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

ON THE AGENDA.
• The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 25, at Pittsboro town hall.
• The Chatham County Board of Education will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 8, in the multipurpose room of Horton Middle School in Pittsboro.

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=Vk0xMHc1eWloWE00STVhN2pQOU-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.chatham-connecting.org.
• Foster and/or adoptive information: Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more.
• Alcoholics Anonymous — North Carolina District 33, call

the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.
• Motorcycle Association — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.
• Narcotics Anonymous — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings.
• Al-Anon Meeting — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro.
• Scout News
• Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information.
• Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.
• Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

What would a federal waiver mean for CCS state test results?

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

The State Board of Education approved on Jan. 7 a request asking the U.S. Dept. of Education to not hold N.C. schools and districts accountable for this year's state exams. If approved, that federal waiver could allow for less than 95% participation rate among students due to COVID-19, and it would also allow individual districts increased flexibility in enforcing makeup exams for students who opted to take their exams at the end of next semester. Currently, there is no indication of when this waiver could be approved, said Kelly Batten, the executive director of Chatham County Schools Career & Technical Education. "Unfortunately, this is statewide for all students," Batten said regarding in-person state testing, which took place at CCS last week. The district previously applied for a waiver last fall, Batten said, but Betsy DeVos, who was then the secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Education, issued multiple statements saying such waivers would be denied. "The only thing that's happened is the state has publicly said, we had we will continue to apply," Batten said of the board's Jan. 7 approval. That approval came at a time when COVID-19 cases have soared following the holidays, with some parents expressing concern that state exams — typically worth 20% of a student's final grade — could negatively impact students who are uncomfortable with taking an in-person exam. "The state board, they did that action just to be very public," Batten said. "It was bipartisan, that they absolutely believe in state tests, because it's im-

portant to measure quality. But during the pandemic, they wanted to assure across North Carolina that this waiver was requested." If the waiver is approved, Batten said it'd be significant. "It means that for those students, they're not then faced with and our teachers aren't faced with, how do we prepare students for essentially a makeup test at the end of the school year, for a course that they completed in January?" he said, referencing the state allowing students to take exams as late as June. The district began communication with students in families regarding in-person testing and COVID-19 safety protocol in November, when it became clear a federal waiver would likely not be granted. It's unclear how COVID-19 impacted student attendance of exams, Batten said, though he expects the district will have more information by early February. Jordan-Matthews High School Principal Tripp Crayton said 88% of J-M students took their respective CTE state-mandated exams last week, with 86% taking their end-of-course exams. Crayton said the school was pleased that a majority of students, including those who are a part of the CCS Virtual Academy program, came to campus for testing. "Based on state guidelines, students who did not test will be given the opportunity in the spring to take their state-mandated exam," he said. "Until then, an incomplete will be noted as a final grade on their transcript until the test is completed by June 2021. These will be scheduled with students once the second semester begins, and we will continue to work with students and families with scheduling." "Our faculty and staff truly came together in welcoming our students,"

Crayton added, "along with adhering to established protocols with enforcing the three Ws — wear a face-covering, wait at least six feet apart maintaining social distancing, and washing hands/using hand sanitizer regularly." Over the last few months, many parents have expressed concerns about the required in-person testing on social media and at prior CCS Board of Education meetings. Kimrey Rhinehardt, who has a daughter at Northwood High School, said that while she understands the state's and district's hands are tied, she wishes communication had been clearer. CCS high school students, with the exception of those in Extended Content Standard E.C. courses, have not been back to in-person learning since last March — they're slated to return on Feb. 1 under Plan B, a little over one week after the second semester begins. Rhinehardt's daughter will remain on the Virtual Academy track. "I think Northwood did a very good job based on what she told me, that they were in very small groups in classrooms that were spread out," Rhinehardt said. "Our daughter was very anxious, and in her mind had mapped out a plan for how she would handle every single moment that she might encounter. I think she maintained that level of anxiety on top of what she normally would experience with testing anxiety — it was like a double whammy." Natalie Bell, a student in 11th grade at Northwood, said she felt her teachers communicated with students well. She attended one day of exams, and will be returning to hybrid in-person learning on Feb. 1. "They did a wonderful job dealing with safety — the desks were six feet apart, we kept our masks on and they also provided

hand sanitizer," she said. "(In-person learning) will be great at long as they continue to do well with all the safety precautions." Batten said regardless of whether a federal waiver is granted, it'll be important for teachers to examine their testing results to identify any learning gaps — particularly which units had the lowest grades, or at which points low remote engagement correlated with lower grades. "The test results, at the designed mile-high view," he said, "they're really intended to just provide for an entire school or school system, 'What's the quality of curriculum implementation?'" Rhinehardt said she felt the district's communication "met the bare minimum requirements," expressing concern that some families felt backed into a corner in taking the exams. Though her

daughter felt safe once she arrived for testing, she was very anxious going into school unsure of what testing would look like. Much of that anxiety could have been prevented, Rhinehardt said, if the district over reassured families worried about safety. Still, she recognizes that there's only so much the district could do about a federal policy. "The state's hands are completely tied with all of this, and this is a require-

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Chatham County Council on Aging

WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: What did the Chatham Mill in Pittsboro make?

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‘WE NEED IT BAD’

Chatham’s Latino residents share hopes, fears for Biden’s term

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

Twenty-year-old Siler City resident Ruben Ocelot wants to see the federal government pass immigration reform more than any other legislation — and now that Joe Biden’s taking the reins of the presidency, he thinks it just might happen.

“We need it bad,” he said, later adding, “I mean, immigration reform — it would help out so many people in my community.”

Five Latino residents in Chatham, including Ocelot, told the News + Record they hold high hopes for the Biden administration. Besides immigration reform, some hope to see Biden’s administration get the pandemic under control and the economy back on track; yet at the same time, they worry Biden won’t be able to unite a divided country.

Among other promises, Biden, a Democrat, has pledged to reverse Trump-era immigration policies, provide permanent protection to DACA beneficiaries and work to provide undocumented immigrants a path to citizenship.

The latter two promises, Ocelot said, would make a world of difference to many Hispanic families in Chatham County, including his own, and that’s why he hopes to see them fulfilled.

“I have siblings who have DACA,” he said. “... Seeing them struggle now with the coronavirus, having to pay \$500 plus to send the application in and then having to reapply for a driver’s license — it’s just sad. I feel lucky and grateful every day that I don’t have to go through that, but it hurts to see *them* go through that.”

That’s why he hopes the new administration and Congress will pass legislation that will offer DACA recipients a path to citizenship.

“They’ve been here their whole lives, so I don’t see them having to go somewhere else when they grew up here,” he said. “Like, this is their home. This is where they belong.”

Providing undocumented immigrants a path to legal status, he said, would also allow families to reunite or visit loved ones they hadn’t seen in years after illegally entering the U.S.

“Some people haven’t seen their parents for 20 years,” he said, adding, “My parents — their parents passed away, and they never saw them again. ... It hurts that they went through that, and I hope that other people that still have their parents alive, have the opportunity to go see them.”

Franklin Gomez Flores, Chatham’s first Latino county commissioner, said he also would like to see undocumented families gain a path to citizenship.

“For those who don’t like immigration,”

he said, “really a plan to reduce immigration would be to reduce/eliminate the United-States’ intervention in governmental affairs of Latin American countries.”

Beyond those two pledges, Alirio Estevez, the leader of Voto Latino Chatham, also hopes to see Biden protect and expand the Temporary Protective Status (TPS) designation, which provides protection from deportation and temporary work authorization to people fleeing violence or natural disasters from certain countries, like El Salvador. The Trump administration moved to phase out TPS for several countries, and the courts have so far ruled in the government’s favor, but litigation is ongoing.

“I would like (Biden) to address that, and also to include people from Venezuela,” Estevez said. “People need refuge from Venezuela ... They are here fleeing from the tyrannic President Maduro.”

He’d also like Biden to stop “indiscriminate ICE

raids.”

“Sometimes they go after a lot of people and they intimidate a lot of families: Latino families, Asian families, African families,” he said. “They go after people who are hardworking families, parents, and they have a lot of children.”

In a way, he said, Biden owes the Latino community. Barack Obama’s administration deported immigrants by the hundreds of thousands — more than the Trump administration, according to the Pew Research Center — and couldn’t deliver the immigration reform Obama promised. Many Latino activists famously called Obama “the Deporter-in-Chief.”

“The fact that he deported a lot of immigrants, especially parents, that was something that has made some people skeptical of Biden, and I understand that point of view,” he said. “But I will say, hopefully, he has learned the lesson, and he knows that he has to deliver. He has to do something about immigration and make it real.”

The DACA program, created under the Obama administration, was “a step forward,” Ocelot said, and now he hopes Biden will “resume” ushering in reform.

“I trust him,” he said. “We have a female vice president, so I know he’s trying to look forward and just work on us moving forward, not backwards.”

Paul Cuadros, a Pittsboro resident and Jordan-Matthews men’s soccer coach, said he too thinks the country needs immigration reform after 30 years of “dealing with it poorly.”

“I do believe that the country has an obligation to maintain its sovereignty on all its borders and at its ports of entry,” he said. “So that needs to be balanced with the needs that we have for labor, and the

needs that we have for our population to continue to grow.”

But until the government gets the pandemic under control and plans for future ones, he said he doesn’t think the Biden administration can really start on other issues. Better management of the pandemic and efficient mass vaccination — those are two priorities Cuadros hopes the incoming administration will work toward in the first 100 days.

“I’m hoping the Biden administration will be able to get the vaccine out in the next month, two months, three months and beyond, so that we can begin to put the pandemic behind us,” he said. “And then in the next couple of years, you know, if we can get our hands around the pandemic, we can then begin to grow the economy back.”

Ocelot and Estevez likewise hope to see Biden’s administration speed up the vaccine distribution process and look forward to Biden’s proposed \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 stimulus package.

“(The pandemic’s) getting out of hand, or it’s out of hand already,” Ocelot said, adding, “I mean, I’ve seen it firsthand. It sucked seeing (my dad) go through that. Thankfully, I was non-symptomatic. But he wasn’t that fortunate. ... There was one day that it was hard for him to breathe, and he was like, it was — he was preparing, you can say. It was tough.”

Beyond COVID-19, several residents, including Ocelot and Estevez, have expressed hopes that the new federal government will raise taxes on those who make over \$400,000 annually, raise the minimum wage to \$15, increase education funding and expand health care coverage. Siler City resident, Kimberly Lara, 19, also said she expects him to tackle climate change.

“I have high expectations for Biden,” she said, adding, “He’s created a plan to help fight climate change that’s similar to the Green New Deal. ... I’m most excited for his economic plans to raise taxes for the rich and raise the minimum wage.”

“We’re not in 2005 anymore,” Ocelot added. “Prices are going up. The people can hardly pay rent with this minimum wage that we have right now.”

Gomez Flores told the News + Record that he would like the federal government to improve labor laws, wages and benefits.

“Many of our community members are overworked and underpaid, dedicating countless hours to work and not enough to family,” he said. “I hope for an administration that puts people and small/local businesses in need first.”

‘Hopefully, we start this healing process’

Nearly all of those interviewed, however, worry whether Biden will be able to heal the nation’s political divide, as he promised in his victory speech last

November — especially after the Capitol riots on Jan. 6 and Trump’s subsequent impeachment.

“In November, (Biden) said unity is the most important thing for him, and I agree,” Lara said. “We’re so fast to judge people; we should take a second to look at the bigger picture and re-evaluate our morals. My biggest worry is we won’t meet our expectations and it’ll increase the division.”

The riots and ongoing threat of violence particularly struck a chord in Estevez, who immigrated to the U.S. from Colombia.

“The way I see Washington, D.C. right now is like when I was a child in Colombia, and you see soldiers everywhere in the city, in Bogota,” he said. “... I feel like I’m back in my country, third world country, in the middle of the Cold War. That’s scary.”

In light of that, he said he thinks Biden will try to restore unity, though he thinks ultimately, it’ll be up to the American people.

“I don’t doubt he wants to be a united country, but to unite, you have to have two parts willing to be together,” Estevez said. “And so far, I only see him trying to be together, and the other led by Trump doesn’t want it at all. Hopefully, they’ll change their minds.”

Though the final decision rests with citizens, Cuadros said Biden could still lead people in a certain direction.

“We’ve seen that in the past two weeks when people are led astray by misinformation and lies, and how people can get stoked up to do bad things,” he said. “(The) question to ask is ... Can you inspire people to do good things? That takes a really special leader. So I think that remains to be seen with President-Elect Biden.”

But most immediately, Cuadros worries that both parties won’t be able to join together to govern.

“We’ve had gridlock in government for a long time now, but we’re in a national crisis, and we can’t have gridlock at this point,” he said. “We need to have things streamlined to be able to respond to the pandemic so that we can re-establish the economy.”

Political divisions won’t heal overnight, Ocelot said, but he’s holding out hope.

“We need to all work together because right now, we’re not united, we’re all divided,” he said. “And it’s sad because we need to get stuff done and move forward and be a better country altogether. Hopefully, we start this healing process. I look forward to a better United States that works together, no matter (their) political sides.”

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

IMPEACH

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attempted coup at the Capitol was the result of extremists incited by President Donald Trump’s calls to “fight like hell” to overturn the “stolen” presidential elections results. Though the majority of those attending the two-day rally did not storm the Capitol, the surrounding area was littered with signs eliciting false claims about the election and symbols associated with white supremacy: a large noose, Confederate flags and apparel and flags for a fictional white ethnostate.

While many Chatham leaders expressed horror at the events of Jan. 6, few perceived the insurrection as uncharacteristic of the recent political scene.

“I don’t know that anybody who has been listening to the rhetoric over the last six weeks was surprised that something would happen,” Senator Foushee said, “though perhaps not an insurrection.”

By the time this is published, Trump will no longer be president; Biden will take office officially on Wednesday — Inauguration Day — which Trump has said he will not attend. Much of the perimeter surrounding the event is already heavily guarded against the threat of more violence by Trump supporters and extremists.

After four combative years, Foushee said, it seemed fitting that President Trump’s term would climax dramatically.

“I certainly was not surprised that people who have been told time and time again that something has been taken away from them,” Foushee said, “something that they value, that

something that they feel like they own has been taken away from them and taken away from them illegally and to their detriment — that they were coerced and cajoled into fighting.”

Especially when Trump’s language suggested his blessing.

“To be told by the leader of the greatest nation in the world, ‘I will be alongside with you,’” she said. “Did we really expect that nothing would happen?”

What did happen was unlike anything in American history, at least at the Capitol. When the building was stolen in the 1840s, Reives said, it was stormed by foreign British invaders.

“It’s interesting, when you hear people talk about the events of the 6th, a lot of people say this has not happened since the 1840s,” Reives said. “That’s actually an inaccurate way to put it. What actually is true is that this has never happened in our history ... This is the first time we have ever had American citizens launch an assault attack, insurrection — whatever you want to call it — this type of campaign against the Capitol building.”

‘I can’t fathom a more serious crime’

A week after the failed coup, Trump earned a new entry on his list of firsts: the first American president twice impeached. Ten Republicans joined the House Democrats in charging him with “incitement of insurrection” of the violent mob that attacked the Capitol. It was the most bipartisan impeachment vote to date.

In Chatham, Republican and Democratic leaders alike have condemned the Capitol attacks, but views on

his impeachment vary.

Reives said the urgency behind impeachment was relayed by several House Republican congressional members, who expressed the need “to do something.”

“What they talked about was the fact that we need a way to express our disapproval of the president’s actions that day,” he said, “and we’re not being provided that by our leadership.”

In impeaching Trump, the House of Representatives effectively voted to remove Trump from office and revoke his privilege to ever run again. But the Senate has final say in Trump’s fate. It is tasked with either convicting the President, thereby upholding the impeachment, or acquitting him.

While the House can impeach with a simple majority, the Senate requires two-thirds support to convict the President, and Foushee is skeptical that enough Republicans would turn on Trump to yield the necessary count.

“I don’t know. It’s hard for me to say with that,” she said, followed by a long pause. “I will be surprised if the impeachment is confirmed.”

Reives likewise predicts little agreement on the Senate floor, but said inaction would be a disservice to the American people.

“Really, something’s got to happen,” he said.

Jan Nichols, chairperson of the Chatham County Democratic Party, said the party was “saddened and distressed at the terrorist violence” displayed on Jan. 6 and sparked by Trump.

“We believe that President Trump must be held accountable, and we fully support impeachment and conviction of President Trump for high crimes and

misdeemeanors,” Nichols said. “All Americans must work together to overcome the dissension caused by dangerous and baseless conspiracy theories. Our nation and our institutions will hold, our democracy will survive, and President-elect Biden will soon begin the necessary work of healing the soul of our nation.”

The Chatham County Republican Party posted on Facebook on Jan. 6 that the news coverage at the Capitol, namely by NPR, was “beyond rational.” The group questioned the difference in coverage of the Capitol compared to coverage of protests against police brutality this summer, evoking a false equivalency many Republicans have suggested in the weeks following the Capitol attack.

“We are adamantly opposed to the break-in at the Capitol. We are also sure that 99% of the people at the protest did not break into the Capitol,” the Jan. 6 post said. “If you believed NPR, this was the start of the revolution. If you believe your eyes as you watched the live broadcast, you see Capitol Police fail to do their duty to protect the Capitol. We saw thousands of people protesting in a legal, peaceful manner.”

Before the social media site Parler went offline — following a purge of white supremacist threats from popular social media platforms — the site contained multiple calls from Trump supporters likening the Capitol attacks to the beginning of a revolution and threatening continued violence. Amazon withdrew its hosting of the app, citing 98 examples of posts that “clearly encourage and incite violence.”

By Jan. 7, Chatham’s Republican Party posted

another update, this time affirming the counting of the electoral votes and a peaceful transition of power. The party did not immediately respond to requests by the News + Record for comment.

“We will not form a ‘resistance.’ We will not support formal Congressional investigations into President-Elect Biden’s campaign based upon false dossiers,” the Jan. 7 post read, adding that they also would not support impeachment proceedings “based upon second-hand information from an unknown whistle-blower.”

“We firmly believe that the will of the The People is expressed at the ballot box, and we will do everything legal in our activities going forward to [ensure] that Chatham County has fair, honest, and transparent elections,” the post said. “The 2022 election campaign begins today.”

Republican commenters were critical of the post, with one calling it “pathetic” and another “spineless.”

“You can’t stop me from forming the resistance,” one commenter said.

“[You] are right! We cannot stop you,” the party replied. “However, we can invite you to participate in the only legal process that will reverse the decline in our country. Join us in the process to win in 2022.”

Chatham Commissioner Diana Hales, who is a registered Democrat, also emphasized the importance of upholding legal expression of opinion and honoring the people’s vote — “the foundation of our government.”

“The president lost both the popular vote, and the Electoral College, because more people voted for Joe Biden,” Hales said. “Trump’s malicious dis-

regard for the truth of the vote, and his call to arms directed at his followers, led directly to this insurrection on January 6, killing people in the assault. The House of Representatives is authorized to act, as stipulated by the US Constitution, to remove a president from office through Articles of Impeachment.

“I can’t fathom a more serious crime than for a sitting president to refuse to acknowledge a fair election and then set a mob on Congress,” she added.

Commissioner Jim Crawford, a Democrat, called for Republicans, such as N.C. Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr, to no longer look the other way, as he said they did when Trump attempted to coerce Ukraine into investigating a political rival, showing “the rising generation of North Carolinians the difference between bravery and cowardice.”

“The attack on the Capitol demonstrates the high price we pay for mendacity. Donald Trump’s biggest lie is that he loves our country,” he said. “As the FBI arrests the thugs and investigates their networks of coordination, we will see how pervasive is the mind-poison that Trump has peddled for four years. ... How anyone could be inspired by a grifter from Queens to commit treason against the United States in its hallowed temple is simply beyond my comprehension. This is not the nation that we want to be.”

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | TIM TYSON

Our inconvenient American icon: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Jan. 15, 1929-April 4, 1968

From the 1960s on, self-proclaimed radicals have echoed Malcolm X’s dismissal of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a “foolish” and even cowardly “modern Uncle Tom.” Current critics interpret King’s nonviolence as reluctance to challenge entrenched power. They interpret his embrace of love as the engine of social change as a sell-out for white approval, failing to note that polls before his 1968 assassination show Dr. King to be one of the most hated men in America.

Meanwhile, contemporary conservatives and neo-liberals often quote Dr. King, painting his views as an endorsement of their own “colorblind” white supremacy and blind worship of capitalism. Less than two weeks after a violent white supremacist coup that left five people dead, President Trump called for Americans “to recommit themselves to Dr. King’s dream by engaging in acts of service.” President-elect Joe Biden packed groceries for a local charity. The holiday’s namesake, however — gunned down among the sanitation workers of Memphis — had not come to that city to ladle soup for them. He came to join their union’s battle for decent wages and safer working conditions, pausing to call for “the dispossessed of our nation” to become a “multiracial army of the poor” and “organize a revolution.” Self-congratulatory ideologues who regard Dr. King as the first mate on America’s Good Ship Lollipop would

amuse if they were not such a testimony to our dangerous and deepening social amnesia.

In fact, Dr. King was a pessimistic theologian with a Deep-South sense of tragedy; he saw humanity as mired in a sinful nature and regarded evil as “rampant” in the universe, conclusions that in his view “only the superficial optimist who refuses to face the realities of life” could fail to see. Offered leadership of the Montgomery bus boycott after police arrested Rosa Parks for defying the segregation law, the then-26-year-old King hesitantly consented, but applied for a pistol permit and accepted offers of guns and guards to protect his home.

When Rev. Glenn Smiley, a white Methodist pastor, and Bayard Rustin, a gay Black Gandhian socialist, came to investigate the young leader of the Montgomery Bus Boycott for the Fellowship of Reconciliation, they found Dr. King an impressive prospective leader — committed, brilliant, well-educated and eloquent. Dr. King’s sole shortcoming, they reported back to FOR’s national office in early 1956, was that he did not understand nonviolence. Writing from King’s own kitchen table, Rev. Smiley writes, “This place is an arsenal.”

Dr. King’s crucial insight was not so much the power of nonviolence as his insistence that coercion was essential. Dr. King understood that the global struggle for influence and resources between the U.S.

and the Soviet Union offered Black Southerners the unique leverage to redeem or repudiate American democracy. He first unveiled this strategic judo in his first speech at Holt Street Baptist Church at the first mass meeting of the bus boycott on December 5, 1955, saying: “God is not just the God of love, but also the God that standeth before the nations and says, ‘Be still and know that I am God — and if you don’t, I’m gonna cast you out of the arms of your national and international relationships, and break the backbone of your power.’”

He stressed that while America ought to listen to their moral appeals, the movement could never rely upon them: “Not only are we using the tools of persuasion,” he said, “but we have got to use the tools of coercion.”

In Albany, Birmingham and Selma, Dr. King launched street-theater morality plays that captured both the brutal social order of Jim Crow and the obvious justice of black demands. Their audiences included federal officials and a mostly-dark-skinned planet torn by Cold War; their goal was to force the federal government to intervene. “Mr. Kennedy is battling for the minds and the hearts of men in Asia and Africa,” he told a crowd in Birmingham, “and they aren’t gonna respect the United States of America if she deprives men and women of the basic rights of life because of the color of their skin.”

Any noises Dr. King made about changing things through moral suasion or inevitable triumph were strictly aspirational calls to lift the movement’s hopes and seize the moral high ground, or bouquets tossed to white liberals. The prime example is his constantly quoted truism borrowed from abolitionist Theodore Weld: “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” Dr. King firmly believed that arc of the moral universe bends toward justice only when people build enough power to bend it. His favorite Love, Power and Justice moral framework that plainly shows that he was committed to Black power — the reality, not the slogan — in the mid-1950s. Power without love, he said, was morally bankrupt. Love without power, however, was sentimental and vacant, morally pointless. What must be done, said Dr. King, is to harness Love to Power, and through the force of that power act on love, which moves us toward justice.

Martin Luther King Jr. was no coward. He lived his whole movement career from 1955 to 1968 aware that he could not plausibly hope to die of old age, surrounded by his family. And yet he risked his life every day to build the political power necessary to crush white supremacy, create a new Black sense of self, and force white America to grant Black citizens the full blessings of American life. That none of this has fully flowered is not

because he lacked courage or strategic sense. It is a long-haul struggle.

Rather than remember him as he was, we have transformed Dr. King into a kind of innocuous Black Santa Claus, genial and vacant, a benign vessel that can be filled with generic good wishes. These misrepresentations remain convenient for those who are long on words and short on deeds, or who cannot grasp that there is not one correct ideology to address all our dilemmas. The radicalism of Dr. King’s thought, the confrontational nature of his methods, and the public rebukes that he offered to American capitalism and militarism have given way to a sugar-coated caricature that never existed. The real Martin Luther King Jr. remains complex, to say the least, a challenge to his critics in the movement and his enemies in the neo-liberal national security state, and immensely inconvenient to all.

Timothy B. Tyson is senior research scholar at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University and adjunct professor of American Studies at the University of North Carolina. His most recent book, The Blood of Emmett Till, won the 2018 Robert F. Kennedy Book Award; made the “long list” of 10 books for the 2017 National Book Award, and was named Best Book of 2017 by both the Los Angeles Times and National Public Radio.

Is there a textbook on cell phone usage?

It was in 1946, long before my mama and daddy dreamed of me, that comic-strip creator Chester Gould introduced the two-way wristwatch radio for his (and later my) hero Dick Tracy.

That was one fascinating piece of equipment as the detective and his associates, including Sam Catchem, called upon yet-undeveloped technology to go along with their superb thinking and hard work to

keep the world safe for honest law-abiding citizens.

Today that technology is here; only we don’t call the things “two-way wristwatch radios.” Instead, terms like “cell phone” and “.mp3” and “iPod” and “Twitter” and other things I’m not even sure I know how to spell or put in print are what drives much of the world. Mainly for me they just drive me crazy.

To me, a “cell phone” is what the fellow who was just arrested gets to use one time before they put him away for awhile. And “twitter” is what’s supposed to happen to your heart when you see your sweet patootie.

And “parler,” when it’s politically allowed to exist, is the word the French-speaking world uses to mean “talk” or “to talk.” To them, the word is pronounced “par-lay,” in the same way that margarine product of yesteryear — Parkay — was also pronounced. It’s also the mother of the word cowboys used, at least in the old movies — pronounced “parley” — to mean a conversation between the cavalry and the Indians or the sheriff and the outlaws.

In actuality, those things really happened some, at least between the Indians and the troops, but Washington often conveniently forgot the treaties it made with the natives so they could engage in all sorts of atrocities, a fact not garnering much attention in most history books.

Anyway, North Carolina has a statute that makes it against the law to send text messages while driving ... or maybe it says it’s against the law to drive while sending text messages. I’m not sure which way it goes.

But I do know that some folks must have seven or eight hands because I see them up and down the road exercising their thumbs, looking down all the while as the cars are still moving along. Their thumbs must be in superb physical condition.

And let me be up front here. I have a cell phone. I use it to see if my better half has enough peanut butter on hand before I return home from town. And I call the two 40-some-things who used to be teenagers who lived at my house to see if they need anything. Invariably the older, a female, says, “Just some time with my daddy,” while her younger brother asks for a “50-pound bag of hundred-dollar bills.”

I don’t get on the thing in a restaurant — even when I could go in the pre-mask days — and talk to the person at the next table or punch it up in

the theatre (again, if I could go) to find out that my running buddy is sitting on the front row and that he should “come on up here!”

Technology is a fascinating thing. It’s given us the development of electricity so we don’t have to watch television in the dark. And it’s helped develop plumbing that makes daily — and nightly — trips to the little house out back where Mr. Snake and Mr. Spider live a thing of the past. Technology has given us microwave ovens so we can cook in a hurry or warm whatever that thing is in the back of the refrigerator and then decide if we want to eat it. Technology also came in handy for the cardiac surgeons — and for me — when we spent several hours together in the operating room some time ago.

And technology has also given us instant communication. My grandpa had to wait three or four days in his Alabama home for a letter from me. We had a telephone but when you’re 7 years old it’s not on the list of recommendations for you to pick up the handset and go to turning the dial. Today we flip the cover on something about the size of a pack of cigarettes, hit “speed dial” and we’re talking to Ivan Awfulutch in Moscow about the weather or to Raul in Bombay about why my computer doesn’t like me.

And news of the planet? Whether you’re a CNN guy or a Fox gal (not to be confused with a “foxy” gal), it’s instant. Correspondents now can “embed” themselves with troops shooting live bullets, which does live damage, and show us the day’s carnage. News coming to the home front from World War II took days, even weeks, while WWI, that “war to end all wars,” required a month or two sometimes.

What’s it all mean? You’re asking the wrong person. Into the list of dinosaurs our oldest grandchild once enjoyed, you can now add the “Grandaddysaurus.” I remember getting our first VHS player and one of those VCR cameras that doubled as a small machine and wore out your shoulder over time, which may explain why I’ve seen the bone doctor several times for both shoulders. Anyway, I never did learn how to program the player so I could watch whatever I’d missed. But my (at that time) 10-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter had PhDs in it.

I don’t think it’s all going away; that’s my bottom-line prediction. I just hope all the folks going “tappity-tap” on their texting or “yakki-ty-yaack” on their cellulating phones will watch out for me as I motor along. I’d like to have a few more years and maybe be even more amazed with the next technological development.

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.

Will we choose community or chaos?

“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters
Washington, D.C.?

Can anything good come out of Raleigh?

Can anything good come out of today’s politics?

This week, we remember the preacher, prophet and civil rights activist, Martin Luther King Jr., who is best known for his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. King asked many questions as well, particularly toward the end of his life.

In the last book he wrote before his assassination, King insisted, “We must not consider it unpatriotic to raise certain basic questions about our national character.” He questioned white America’s commitment to racial equity — why do so many say one thing, yet do another? He also lamented that so many citizens of the richest nation in human history still languished in poverty. He interrogated the reasons his country invested money and lives in the Vietnam War as well as called into question the morality of killing foreign citizens.

Despite his belief that such questions were necessary, King drew heavy criticism from even former supporters. But he did not probe the political realities of his time in order to sow seeds of cynicism or despair. He believed that our country faced an ultimate moral decision: to choose either community or chaos.

This same choice came to mind as I watched a mob storm the Capitol building in Washington on Jan. 6. I saw images of armed white supremacists and neo-Nazis. I saw images of the gallows that had been erected outside the building and pictures of Confederate flags waved inside our legisla-

ture.

Can anything good come out of this?

In the first century, there was a religious group known as Zealots who called for armed revolution. Their mission was to create chaos through a campaign of intimidation and violence.

Jesus specifically condemned such tactics, declaring that those who live by the sword shall die by the sword (Matthew 26:52).

At the same time that these zealots called for conflict and chaos, Jesus called for a new community — a community formed not by blood or birth, but by a command to love one another (John 13:34). For this reason, King called this movement “the beloved community” and extended it to all people of good faith in peacemaking.

King emphasized that the creation of this beloved community depended on nonviolent methods of civic action, including civil disobedience. It’s not that historically oppressed people have no right to be upset. They should question the unjust authorities and work for societal change.

But King argued that the ends do not justify the means. While previous revolutions may have succeeded in creating change, they nevertheless resulted in bloodshed. The killing of innocents is never good. If America was to realize the cherished ideals of liberty and justice for all, it would not be at gunpoint.

The rioters in our nation’s capital obviously believed otherwise, which raises the same fundamental question that King asked in his last book: “Where do we go from here? Community or chaos?” This remains a poignant question as our nation prepares for the presidential inauguration under the threat of more violence.

Yet, something good may come of this. We can choose the beloved community over violent chaos.

Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church and author of Gently Between the Words: Essays and Poems. He is currently working from home with his wife and three children.

VIEWPOINTS

Competing schools serve families well

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our schools have gone in a variety of directions. Some public school districts that shut down last spring have never reopened for in-person learning to any significant degree. Others have welcomed at least their younger students back to school, as have most charter and private schools.

I think the latter group got it right. Online learning has its place. But as delivered over the past year to large masses of students, without sufficient preparation or support by teachers untrained in its best practices, virtual instruction has been largely a bust.

Moreover, the best-available evidence suggests that the risk of COVID spread in schools is

minimal, particularly when schools follow basic protection protocols. Children just don't seem to contract or transmit the virus to the same degree that adults do. As a recent study of North Carolina schools by Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill researchers concluded, "within-school infections were extremely rare."

However, rather than relitigate this issue, I'd like to focus on a different aspect of our education system's reaction to the pandemic. Because North Carolina had a rich and expanding array of school choices going into the crisis, North Carolina families have been better served than those of many other states.

If parents of school-aged children deemed it unacceptable to take even the minuscule risk that their children might catch or carry home the virus, they were free to continue virtual learning in every school district in the state, regardless of what the "default" position of that district became. Some North Carolinians

will never let their children enter a school, preschool, restaurant, store, or community center until widespread vaccination confers herd immunity. I don't agree with their risk calculation, but they have both the right and the means to act on it.

On the other hand, a fair number of parents with different risk calculations — ones informed by the disastrous consequences that would flow from losing their jobs — had other options to pursue. Many charter and private schools have been flooded with requests. Homeschooling vendors and support groups have, too.

Across our state, enterprising parents and educators have also formed "learning pods" so that students shut out of their school buildings could get help with their online studies. A parent skilled at tutoring children in algebra, for example, might help pupils from multiple households in exchange for other educational or child-care help.

While North Carolinians were

fortunate to have more school choice than the national average, far too many parents were left holding the bag. Even as we move into the spring semester, many are still holding it. And it's still empty.

The General Assembly and other state policymakers should see this challenging experience as a learning opportunity. The more options, the better. The more options, the more likely it is that families will be able to find the educational arrangements that best fits their needs and circumstances.

Does advocating more parental choice in education mean that I disdain district-run public schools? Hardly. I appreciate the many fine educators who work in them, as my parents did for most of their respective careers. Millions of North Carolinians cherish their local schools. They want to see them improved, not destroyed.

Parental-choice initiatives advance that goal, too. When schools must compete to attract and retain students, their offerings generally

get better, as do their outcomes. Empirical research isn't unanimous in support of this effect — that's not how academic research works — but well-constructed studies have linked higher school competition to higher student performance for decades.

In a recent paper published in the journal *Applied Economics*, three professors delved deeply into the case of Mississippi. They found that in communities with higher concentrations of private schools with religious affiliations, in particular, public schools tend to respond in ways that boost learning. The authors concluded that "policymakers should consider competition-based school reform policies to increase public-school outcomes."

I think the COVID experience will end up changing our education system for good, in both senses of the term.

John Hood (@JohnHoodNC) is chairman of the John Locke Foundation.

Jim Bryan, a doctor for Allan Gurganus

Dr. Jim Bryan, who died on January 8 in Chapel Hill at age 88, was the kind of caring physician whom author Allan Gurganus is drawn to.

Last Sunday's *The News + Record* profiled Gurganus to prepare readers for the author's new book, "The Uncollected Stories of Allan Gurganus."

The lead story in the new book, "The Wish for a Good Young Country Doctor," features a rural Illinois town beset by cholera in 1849. Its young doctor fights valiantly against the awesome power of the epidemic.

In his classic debut novel, "Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All," Gurganus made Doc Collier preside over the death of lead character Lucy Marsden's infant son.

But it is Dr. Marion Roper, the lead fictional character in Gurganus's novella, "Decoy," who most reminded me of Jim Bryan.

Both Bryan and Roper went north to medical school after college at Davidson, Bryan to Penn and Roper to Yale. Each was brilliant and could have become a successful medical specialist or researcher. However, both came back to North Carolina where their careful attention to patients earned them the devotion of the countless people they served.

Both took pleasure in knowing their patients and giving them medical advice that was both informed and understandable.

Both found facing retirement to be a challenge. But their responses were very different. Roper simply closed his office and took up a hobby, carving duck decoys, leaving his former patients behind.

Not Jim Bryan. When it came time to retire, he decided to keep on doing what he loved: caring for patients, teaching medical students, and mentoring new doctors. He summed it up, "I believe my patients are my responsibility. They need a generalist to follow them through life, and that's me. Having a primary care champion is the best medicine."

One of his friends remembered that whenever he drove through Chapel Hill, he "would see Jim taking someone's pulse, giving solace to patients on the Franklin Street sidewalk. It was clear to me, early on, that Jim was a role model who was born to take care of people."

Bryan took a special interest in providing support and care for people approaching the end of life. He was a founder and longtime active supporter of hospice in North Carolina. UNC's medical school established a fund in his honor to help finance construction of a UNC hospice inpatient facility in Chatham County.

Bryan was never ready to give up his patient and people centered life. He served as a volunteer physician at a medical clinic for the uninsured. He continued his interest in end-of-life care and advocating for doctors to be servant centered.

One of his students, Paul Chelminski, remembered hearing a story that illustrated Bryan's approach. When asked what he was doing as he went into a clinic to see patients, Bryan said "I'm just going to fold socks."

Chelminski said that was just Bryan's modest way of explaining his approach to patient care. "It was the work of a servant — humble, necessary and of fundamental importance — it was done simply."

Teaching by example was always Bryan's strength. Even as he discontinued treatment for the cancer that was taking his life, he showed us that, with courage, life could still be rich. On December 27, just days before his death, he and his wife Betsy read a poem as a part of the regular service at Chapel Hill's University Presbyterian Church.

The poem, "Mysteries, Yes," by Mary Oliver, begins with "Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous to be understood."

It concludes with words that could have been written by Dr. Bryan:

"Let me keep company always with those who say, 'Look!' and laugh in astonishment, and bow their heads."

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.

Ranse could really spin a yarn. We need more like him.

The world needs fewer liars and more tellers of tall tales. We need more men like Ransom Crump.

Ransom Crump was the unlikely name of the widower who became my grandmother's second husband after she herself was widowed. Both he and my grandmother were hill folk from western N.C. who tumbled down the mountains to the Piedmont in search of work in the textile mills. Ranse said he started work in the mills when he was 12 years old. Maybe those mills were where he learned to spin a yarn.

My sister and I called her "Mamaw," but we were not allowed to call him "Pawpaw," or to refer to him as our grandfather, because our biological grandfather lay buried in the graveyard of the Baptist church up the road where he had been a preacher. Our parents insisted we call him Ranse like everyone else did. I never understood why I could not call him "Pawpaw." He was the right age and shape and size as other kids' grandfathers, and since Ranse had grandchildren by children of his late first wife, I saw no reason why I could not be an adoptive grandchild. This line of reasoning dead-ended at the wall of authority called my father, who told me to call him Ranse. My prayers at bedtime always included a phrase asking God to bless "Mamaw

and Ranse" along with the other members of our family. I loved the old man because when no one else was listening, Ransom Crump told me tall tales.

I recall sitting on the front porch late one Sunday afternoon in August; he in his wooden rocker, I in the metal glider that fascinated me no end. In a few short weeks I was to return to grade school, and like most boys my age, all I wanted was to go fishing. Seeking sympathy for my plight, I asked Ranse if he ever had to go to school.

"Yep," he said, nodding to the rhythm of the rocker. "They told me I had to go to school when I was a boy about as old as you are, so I did. I went to school. I went to school for three days."

I gaped at him in wonder, waiting for him to continue. He did not disappoint.

"The school was a couple of miles away and I had to walk the whole way. The first half was on the path from our house down to the creek. The school house was on the other side of the creek, and to get across I had to walk on a foot log made from a big tree they'd felled. The root ball was on one side and all the limbs was on the other, so I could haul myself up with them onto the trunk. I was just a boy, and they told me never to cross on the foot log if it was wet, 'cause it was so slippery. They said I would drown if I fell in 'cause I was so little. Across the creek was a good road leading on to the school house. On the first day of school no one was there but the teacher. The teacher

said I was a day early. School didn't start until the next day. So I turned around and walked home.

"The second day I got up and started walking to school. But it had rained the night before, and the water was up over the foot log. I had been told over and over not to try and cross when the water was up over the log, so I turned around and went home."

"On the third day I went to school," he continued, "the school had burned to the ground."

He stared off into the distance, as if his memory was over the horizon. He waited for me to pick my jaw up off the floor before finishing.

"It weren't nothin' but ashes and a rock chimney," he said.

Ranse was about 80 when he died. Towards the end, when his doctors said he was running on empty, his blood relatives took turns keeping a bedside vigil, and he woke briefly while one of his younger, less than thoughtful relatives was keeping the watch. She cooingly suggested to him that he should let go and accept his own death; after all, he had led a long and fruitful life. Ranse's reported last words still astound me.

"But I never rode a bicycle ... Uphill ... Back wards..."

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 News + Record. Walls is the author of the book "Backstage at the Lost Colony." He and his wife Elizabeth live in Pittsboro.

Get the children back in class

COVID-19 is raging. More and more school districts

are making decisions not to return students to in-class instruction until early spring; some will not return for the remainder of the school year, even though the numbers of students contracting the virus aren't alarming. We understand the schools' health concerns, often coupled with staffing shortages, but there are other important factors.

Sociologists say that cognitive, social and emotional, and physical development are also essential. While much can be learned at home, these skills are greatly enhanced in classroom settings. Lessons like learning to take turns, to raise your hand when we wish to speak, being called on to answer questions, learning respect and cooperation — along with developing social relationships — are

very formative. Lessons best learned experientially.

It is commonly agreed most children lost one-third of the last school year and now are being threatened with much the same experience this year.

Virtual learning doesn't work for four reasons. Let's begin by admitting that our educators are still not properly prepared to deliver virtual learning across all grade levels. Give educators high marks for effort, but the quality of instruction is just not comparable with being in-class, as end of year test scores will confirm. Secondly, younger children and those with learning differences don't have the attention span needed, even in 30-minute sessions. Further, experienced adult supervision is needed to help see student progress, enrich the material and answer questions. Virtual just isn't as responsive.

The fourth reason is the deal-breaker. As many as 25 percent of rural students don't have access to the high-speed broadband internet necessary to participate in virtual learning. It is no substitute to park at a fast-food

restaurant, business or even church parking lot to get the internet. We cannot deny the intellectual development of so large a segment.

And let's not discount the additional factor of parents who work, either in or outside the home. Childcare issues are huge in many households.

We are on the proverbial "horns of a dilemma." Do we keep kids at home and pray they learn enough to prevent them having to repeat a year of instruction, or do we force them back into the classroom, throwing health concerns to the wind?

This needn't be an "either/or" question. There are viable options. First, we may need to restructure the school day and re-purpose facilities. Children are obviously our priority, but equally so are teachers, bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria workers and administrators. They should get in front of the line for COVID vaccine shots. And we must plan for adequate relief staffing when necessary.

Unless there are health issues, masks, social distancing and frequent hand

washing should be required, both for students, teachers and staff. Students who refuse these requirements will be assigned to virtual learning. Teachers and school employees who refuse can either be reassigned or find employment elsewhere. We have the right to require them to observe precautions that are best for the most.

More frequent testing and supplemental instruction will be necessary to give more individualized attention to students and communicate more often with parents and guardians.

We have to acknowledge it won't be easy and will cost much more than we are accustomed to spending. But the State of North Carolina has \$4 billion unallocated at this moment. Can you think of a better investment than in making sure we don't lose a generation of children?

Let's get the children back in class.

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.

HONOR LISTS

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Anna K. Scott has been named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll for the Fall Semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Scott is from Bennett.

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

Reagan Riddell, a sophomore Business Administration major has been named to the Fall 2020 President's List at Bob Jones University. Riddell is from Snow Camp.

Courtney Frazier, a freshman Culinary Arts major has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Bob Jones University. Frazier is from Siler City.

EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE

Emery Laethem has been named to the

Fall 2020 Dean's List at Emory & Henry. Emery is from Pittsboro. Rachel Watts, also a resident of Pittsboro, has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Emory & Henry.

BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE

Erika Nettles, a sophomore majoring in Psychology has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Bridgewater College. Nettles is from Pittsboro.

LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE

Tyler Romel, who is pursuing a B.S. degree in accounting, has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania. Romel, is a graduate of Northwood High School.

LEWIS

Continued from page A1

at much of anything right now."

In contrast, Maria hopes The Sycamore will coincide easily with pandemic restrictions.

"The steakhouse is going to be limited seating anyway," Maria said, "so I don't think the allowable capacity will affect us because we want to keep it small."

Yet to be determined, however, is whether enough diners will feel comfortable returning to a public space to support the fledgling restaurant.

"I think people's, you know, attitude or feelings about going out and dining, that's going to be the biggest challenge," Maria said, "the comfort when it comes to dining out."

Few restaurants have opened during the pandemic. Overwhelmingly the industry has trended in the opposite direction.

"Interestingly, we've been to two restaurants that opened during the pandemic," Maria said, "and they're not doing very well. So, I know it's going to be a challenge."

Unlike those restaurants, though, Maria and Greg are starting with an established clientele.

"The one thing that we have going for us that these other two restaurants do not," Maria said, "is that we already have a following."

A storied career

The Sycamore is the latest in what has been a decades-long career in restaurant ownership for the Lewises.

After moving to North Carolina in 2000, the couple settled in Cary where they opened a restaurant and a catering business — Catering by Design — which is still operating under different ownership.

"And then in 2007, we moved from Wake County to Chatham County because we both grew up in rural areas and preferred the environment here," Maria said.

At first, they planned to keep their business interests in Cary.

"But when the General Store Cafe closed in 2012, which was what the Roadhouse was before we took it over, there was a lot of sadness in the community about that closing and we were sad," Maria said. "Having that background, you know, we thought, let's see what we can do to keep this going. And so that's when we decided to buy it out of bankruptcy and create the Roadhouse."

The result was an instant success — fine dining coupled with a concert hall. It was a singular experience in Pittsboro, akin to what you might find in Nashville, and the community embraced it. The 10,000 square-foot space hosted a variety of musical performances several times a week which, coupled with Greg's signature dry-aged steaks, packed in customers from all of Chatham County and beyond.

When the pandemic began, however, the Roadhouse's model proved untenable. The Lewises were forced to cut staff by more than 70% and operate at half capacity. They hoped

to ride out the lull, but circumstances prevented them from keeping the space.

"We found out rent was going up — it was going up in August \$1,000 a month, which was during the pandemic," Maria said. "So, while we were struggling just to meet our bills as it was, our bills were then going to increase. And so, we couldn't figure out how to meet the increase in expenses given the business climate, given the limitations. So, it couldn't be done. And that's when we decided to walk away."

Even before the Roadhouse officially closed in mid-summer, though, Maria knew the couple would find a new restaurant project to fill the void.

"Actually, we started to have talks with Tom Roberts up at Chatham Mills just prior to the pandemic, I would say within days or weeks of it starting," Maria said. "It was just an idea that we were kind of fleshing out hoping we could stay at the Roadhouse and then have a second location. But since we just couldn't keep the Roadhouse open, that enabled us to more seriously consider an upscale steakhouse."

And thus, The Sycamore was born.

"But there are so many people who are playing a part in bringing this production, so to speak, to the community," Maria said. "It couldn't be happening without all these talented people and generous people."

Much of the restaurant's unique aesthetic and upscale ambiance are thanks to collaborations with local talents, Maria said.

Styling guidance was contributed by Ashlie Campbell and Shana O'Leary of Chatham's An Acquired Style, both of whom Maria knows well from their partnership on Pittsboro's tree lighting ceremony and Summerfest.

"I had this vision for the space — I knew the feel that I wanted, the look that I wanted," Maria said, "And Ashlie knows me so well, I was able to communicate it to her and she was able to pull in some of the details."

Other accent pieces were put together by craftsmen such as Daniel and Randon Rickard of Silk Hope, local woodworkers, and a metal work company called DLSS, formerly based out of Pittsboro.

"Dan and his brother created our bar for us ..." Maria said, "DLSS did our copper-covered bar, our copper table tops, the bronze on the bar. They've done just a beautiful job."

Two-way community support

"When the Roadhouse closed, a lot of people volunteered to help them clean up and take everything to the new place," said Geo deSocio, a sound engineer who worked with Wes Newell and others from their Chatham-based sound and lighting group to produce the Roadhouse concerts.

"It was a community effort to help them do that, because they've done so much for the community."

Amid the disappointment of having to close the Roadhouse, and the difficulty of launching a new enterprise under pandemic limitations,

Maria and Greg never stopped their years-long practice of community engagement.

That's why, according to deSocio, Chathamites are eager to see the couple succeed.

"Maria is a heck of a leader, organizer, and pusher of these ideas and concepts," deSocio said. "And Greg has always got his feet on the ground and he's always moving forward to implement what he can implement, along with what Maria's overall concept of things are."

Shortly after the pandemic began, the couple directed many of their resources to support the county's relief efforts. For months at the height of the pandemic, they prepared and donated about 200 family meals a week through the CORA Food Pantry and Chatham County Schools. These days, they work with Communities in Schools Chatham County to distribute about 40 meals per week.

But their commitment to charitable donation began long before the pandemic.

"For five and a half years, we delivered meals to our senior citizen shut-ins around Chatham County," Greg said.

When the pandemic started, that work stopped to prevent spreading the disease to high-risk older people.

"But there is still a link on our website where people can donate to help us continue to feed families in need," Greg said.

For all the good Maria and Greg do for Chatham, deSocio said, he is confident that Chatham will rally to support The Sycamore.

"Everybody wants them to succeed," he said. "Nobody's backed away from them at all. Everyone's there to help them whenever. And that's because of what they've given to the town."

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

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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).

La Escuela de Chatham Charter es una escuela pública, multidenominacional, y no lucrativa que provee una educación de la calidad para los niños de todas las razas, los credos, una condición de discapacidad, y los orígenes nacionales.

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OBITUARIES

MARY MARGARET LANIUS ‘SISSY’ ALLEN



Mary Margaret Lanius “Sissy” Allen, age 71, passed away peacefully at UNC Hospitals on January 17, 2021, with her family by her side.

Mary was born September 26, 1949, to James Peabody and Lucilia Partin Lanius. She grew up in Bynum, with one brother, Archie Lanius, now deceased. Mary was her given name, but she was known by family and friends as Sissy or Nana. She worked at Boling Chair Company for 17 years until she retired to keep

her first grandchild. Later on, she got to travel some with her husband, Virgil. They visited different jobs he was on while working in the construction field. She loved spending time with her family, that was what truly brought her the most happiness. She would love the visits, reminiscing and sharing stories. She was quite the storyteller when it came to sharing stories about her kids and grandkids and she did not leave out a detail. Her puppies Chico, Reece and Tater will miss her companionship. She was a supportive, caring, and selfless person who always gave more than she took.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Virgil Coen Allen; sons, Virgil James (Jimmy) Allen and wife Sherry, Norman Lee Allen and wife Kristie; granddaughters Auburn Jade Allen, Keeley Paige Allen and grandsons Cooper Lee Allen and Caden Layne Allen; future grandson-in-law, Matthew Ryan Barrier; special childhood friend into adulthood, Dolly Lindley. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews, sisters-in-law who fondly called her Sissy.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, from 6-8 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home and Crematory in Pittsboro.

Graveside services will be held Thursday, January 21, 2021, at Bynum Methodist Church Cemetery, at 11 a.m. Due to COVID-19, masks and social distancing precautions are required.

JOE LARRY JONES



Joe Larry Jones, age 77, of Gallatin, Tennessee, passed away January 9, 2021, in Gallatin.

He was preceded in death by wife Ada (Jean) Vaughn Jones, and parents, Joe Anderson Jones and Mary (Evelyn) Cockman Jones. A long-time resident of Sanford, N.C., he lived on Lake Tillery, N.C. for many years after the passing of his wife, and before moving to a home on Old Hickory Lake in Tennessee to be close to his children.

On April 21, 1943, Joe Larry was born in Bennett, N.C. He attended Bennett High School and maintained close relations with his classmates until his death. He graduated from Elon College in 1964, and earned his Masters’ of Education from the University of N.C. at Chapel Hill in 1969. He married Ada Jean Vaughn on May 14, 1971, in Goldston, N.C. Jones served as Principal at Goldston Elementary School, Principal at Moncure School, and retired as Principal at J.S. Waters School, after 34 years of service to his community. He attended Fall Creek Baptist Church, Bennett, N.C. with his parents, and was a member of Antioch Baptist Church, Goldston, N.C.

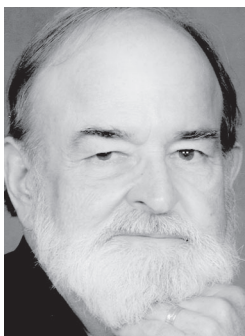
Jones is survived by two children, Susan Jones Hodges (Dan Hodges Jr.), David Larry Jones (Valerie Jones); four grandchildren, Josie Caroline Hodges, Lillian Jean Hodges, Dan Galen Hodges III, and Makayla Lynn Cox; a Service Dog, Gretta; and many close friends and family who made his last year a joy.

Jones treasured time in person and on the phone with family, enjoyed the beach and lake life by entertaining family and friends, traveled extensively, read endlessly, and learned something new each day. He never met a stranger and built networks of friends through his love of cars, rental properties, and boating. During his younger life he inspired thought often expressing, “What a man oughta do is...” and in later years said “You can do it all, but you don’t have to do it all today.” He challenged those whom he loved and was the first to invite them to relax on the porch as well. Joe Larry will be remembered for his conversations and his unique benevolence.

The family will host a service in N.C. for a later date and thanks Sumner Regional Medical Center for their loving care and Williamson Memorial Funeral Home in Franklin, Tennessee for their support.

Memorials should be directed to Samaritan’s Purse in Boone, N.C., in honor of his years serving children, or to Antioch Baptist Church or Fall Creek Baptist Church.

ERBIE LEE SULLIVAN JR.



Erbie Lee Sullivan Jr., 74, of Pittsboro, died Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at Wake Med.

Lee was born in Pittsboro’s Mathiesen’s Clinic on June 28, 1946, the youngest child of Erbie Lee Sullivan Sr. and Ora D. Frizzell Sullivan. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers Billy and Beverly Henry Sullivan.

Lee is well remembered as being active in the community. He was the current president of the Cha-

tham County Historical Association and the Pittsboro High School Alumni Association. He also was past president and member of the Pittsboro Kiwanis Club and a member of the Pittsboro Presbyterian Church. He also volunteered his time with the Salvation Army. He served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969. Lee was the owner of a fence company for 50 years. He is remembered as someone who always helped others, especially those who were in the most need, and standing up to injustices he witnessed.

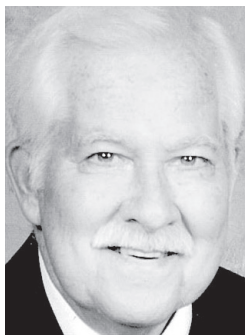
Lee loved spending time with his grandchildren and was blessed to have them close to him so he could shower them with his love. Lee also loved celebrating and decorating for the holidays, in particular the Fourth of July. For many years, he held an annual Fourth of July celebration at his home called Lee Fest, filled with family and friends, food, and fireworks.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Reba Parker Sullivan; sister, Betty Bullard of Fayetteville; sons, G. Niegel Sullivan of Durham, Jason Sullivan and wife Jennifer of Pittsboro; grandchildren, Gage Sullivan of Denver, Colorado, and Ella, Matthew, and Abby Sullivan of Pittsboro.

A celebration of Lee’s life will be held at a later date.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Pittsboro Kiwanis Club Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 703, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

GARY PHILLIPS JONES



Gary Phillips Jones, 75, of Asheboro, passed from this world into the arms of his Savior on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at Cross Road Retirement Community in Asheboro.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m., Thursday, January 21, 2021, at Bennett Baptist Church, Bennett with military honors by the Randolph County Honor Guard, with Rev. Tim Strider and Rev. Boyd Byerly officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Gary was a native of Chatham County. He was a member of Bennett Baptist Church and attended Sunset Avenue Church of God in Asheboro. Gary was a veteran of the United States Navy and retired from Eveready Battery where he worked as a line manager. He was a kind and gentle man that loved his family and serving in his church and community in any capacity that was needed. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clina and Leona Phillips Jones, a sister, Geneva Saunders, brothers, Wayne Jones, Ray Jones, and Howard Jones.

Survivors include wife, Donna Langley Jones of the residence; daughters, Stacy Jones Boxell and husband Kevin of Apex, Molly Jones Upchurch and husband Bradley of Bear Creek; step-son, Tyler Voncannon and wife Tina, of Asheboro; brother, Dwight Jones and wife Ruby of Bennett; grandchildren, Kyndall Boxell and Carter Boxell, both of Apex, Leona Upchurch of Bear Creek, Bailey Voncannon of Asheboro, Lauren Milioni and husband Gabe of Raleigh.

The body will lie in repose on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, from noon until 5 p.m. at the Loflin Funeral Home.

The family would like to express a special thank you to the staff of Cross Road Retirement Community and to Community Hospice for their loving care.

Condolences may be made online at www.loflinfuneralservice.com.

Arrangements by Loflin Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Ramseur.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Bennett Baptist Church, P.O. Box 91, Bennett, N.C. 27208.

JAMES DAVID ‘JD’ CLINE



James David “JD” Cline, 71, of Siler City passed away on Sunday, January 17, 2021, surrounded by his family at Chatham Hospital Inc.

Mr. Cline was born in Princeton, West Virginia, on November 25, 1949, the son of Essie D. and Roberta Vest Cline. JD was preceded in death by his parents and was a supervisor for a steel manufacturing company.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Vickie D. Cline; daughter, Terry C. Harrington of Siler City;

son, Jimmy Cline of Cameron; one sister, Janet C. Meadows of Bluefield, West Virginia; grandchildren, Joseph Noble, Jacob Cline, James and Alex Harrington, Lauren Cline; nieces, Shelia Lusk, Sherry Jones and Rhonda Lester; best friend, Carl Tabor and wife, Linda.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. on Friday, January 22, 2021, at Smith & Buckner Chapel. A memorial service will follow at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a charity of choice.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Cline family.

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

MAUDIE MARIE MARTIN



Maudie Marie Martin, 71, of Chapel Hill passed away on Monday, January 11, 2021, at UNC Hospitals in Hillsborough.

Mrs. Martin was born in Chatham County on November 8, 1949, the daughter of Elmer Edward and Maudie Emily Brower Martin.

Maudie was a simple woman. She loved her coffee and enjoyed spending time at her niece’s home. Maudie is preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her sisters; Ethleen DiGregorio of Murrell’s Inlet, S.C., Hazel Johnson and Jenny Hayes; and brother, Morgan Castevens, all of Siler City; niece, Tina T. White of Siler City; great niece, Morgan Shaw and great nephew, Hunter White.

A graveside service was held on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at 4 p.m. at Rives Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery, 4338 Rives Chapel Rd., Siler City, with Dr. Tripp Foltz officiating.

Memorials may be made to RSI, 111 Providence Rd., Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Martin family.

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

BOBBY GERALD PETTY

Bobby Gerald Petty, 61, passed away Thursday, January 14, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Service, Sanford.

EFFIE RUTH (MCDUGALD) LYLES

Ms. Effie Ruth Lyles, 89, of Capital Heights, Maryland, passed away on Saturday, January 9, 2021, at her home.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Saturday, January 16, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

MILDRED REBECCA (DOUGLAS) HILL

Mildred Rebecca (Douglas) Hill, 93, of Moncure, passed away on Monday, January 11, 2021.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

CECIL WOODARD JR.

Cecil Woodard Jr., 68, passed away Thursday, January 14, 2021, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

HAZELENE (PATTERSON) DEARMAN

Hazelene (Patterson) Dearman, 63, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Graveside services were held at 12 p.m. Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at Moore Union FWB Church.

ANNIE WILMER (JOHNSON) BENNETT

Mrs. Annie Wilmer (Johnson) Bennett, 93, of Sanford passed away on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at her residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

LEVI LEWIS EVANS

Levi Lewis Evans, 74, of Sanford passed away on Sunday, January 10, 2021, at Vidant Medical Center.

Funeral service was held at 12 p.m. on Saturday, January 16, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home. Burial followed at Lee Memory Garden.

FLORENCE VIRGINIA ‘GINGER’ BURNS

Florence Virginia “Ginger” Burns, 72, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation.

There will be no services held at this time.

She was born in Harnett County on July 20, 1948. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Stella Burns Hornaday. Ginger worked in the public School System in the cafeteria and as a bus driver.

She is survived by her daughter, Joyce Burns Thomas of Southport; a sister, Ruth Baker of Fuquay-Varina; four grandsons, and nine great-grandchildren.

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

BARBARA SPIVEY POOLE

Barbara Spivey Poole, 82, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at FirstHealth Hospice.

A private graveside service will be held at Shallow Well Cemetery with Rev. Robert Thomas and Rev. Donald Thompson officiating.

She was born in Chatham County on July 11, 1938, to the late William Ralph and Frances Cole Spivey. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Glenn Marshall Poole. She was a member of Shallow Well United Church of Christ. Barbara worked for JC Muse Company before opening her own accounting business.

She is survived by her children, William Wesley Finch of Asheboro, Curtis Poole of Four Oaks, Marshall Poole of Arkansas, Karen Ricker of Cary and Mary Ellen McLaughlin of Alabama; brother, Ralph “Ed” Spivey of Sanford; sister, Brenda Marsh of Sanford; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

DEBORAH ‘DEBBIE’ SUE GUNTER CAUSEY

Deborah “Debbie” Sue Gunter Causey, 60, of Goldston, passed away on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Funeral services were private due to COVID-19. Debbie laid-in-state for friends pay their respects at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home on Saturday, January 16, 2021, from 9 a.m. until 12:45 p.m.

She was born in Lee County on June 9, 1960, to the late James Daniel and Edith Wilson Gunter.

She is survived by her son, Travis Causey of Cameron; daughter, Tonya Carver of Cameron; brother, Danny Gunter of Sanford; sister, Vicky Daniels of Sanford; six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

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

MARGARET ANN MCLAURIN

Margaret Ann McLaurin, 93, passed away at her home on Thursday, January 14, 2021.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 17, 2021, at Rives Chapel Baptist Church. A celebration of life will be planned later.

Margaret was born in Chatham County on July 15, 1927, to Eva Carl and Roxie Dawkins Hart. She was predeceased by her husband, Joe McLaurin of 69 years and son, Darrell McLaurin. She was a member of Rives Chapel Church where she served on the Church Cemetery Committee. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She is survived by her sister, Doris Hart Denny of Rockingham; sons, Harrell McLaurin of Bear Creek, Keith McLaurin of the home; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

COMMISSIONERS' MID-YEAR RETREAT

Board hears update on county staff pay and benefits, next year's budget trends at retreat

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners met last week for its two-day budget retreat, discussing the current fiscal year and a preliminary outlook for next year's budget.

Here's a deeper look at some of the items from Tuesday's docket:

Chatham County Schools

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.

During his introduction to the board, Bridges praised the board for its collaboration with the school district, saying he'd heard many positive things about the relationship between the county and CCS.

"Don't take that for granted because that's not the norm in other parts of North Carolina," he said. 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 the district's presentation, it said its local current expense fund balance totaled \$4,426,570, and that it had been recognized for financial accountability and reporting 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 areas of need listed for this request were due to Seaforth High School, \$180,000 for a salary supplement for licensed employees and an operational increase for Chatham Grove Elementary.

Seaforth, a new high school set to open to 9th and 10th graders in the fall, is 98% complete, the district said, and set to finish under budget. Commissioner Jim Crawford asked whether it would be possible for commissioners to get a tour of the facility.

"There's a lot of public interest in it," he said, "so it'd be nice to be able to say we know firsthand, (that) this is a great thing."

"I would love to take you there and walk you around," CCS Chief Operations Officer Chris Blice said.

Blice also answered the board's questions about Seaforth's attendance zone, saying that despite some public controversy, the CCS Board of Education paid close attention to demographic balancing and income distribution when creating the new zone from Northwood's existing zone.

Crawford said he would like to see three of the district's elementary schools — Bennett, Silk Hope and Bonlee (the latter two of which are technically K-8 schools) — moved up in the capital improvements plan.

"There's an opportunity there to have facilities

that could be used like the Chatham Grove School," he said, "for (Chatham County) Parks and Rec and to provide a service to the community and build a more integrated school site."

The district emphasized its thanks to the county for its support, and said the local current expense per pupil funding (including charter schools) had increased approximately \$490 per student since the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

HR presentation on pay and benefits

Carolyn Miller, the county's human resources director, provided an update on pay and benefits for county employees, reminding the board and staff that there were no meets adjustments in July 2020 and that salaries were not adjusted during the year.

"We do exam reclassifications through our budget process built into our operating budget process," Miller said. "We're getting ready to start with that."

Miller said a pay and classification study is underway, conducted to determine whether the current pay structure needs to be modified, as well as to identify any changes that may have occurred in the nature of any employee's work — with a focus on both external and internal equity.

By early February, Miller said the department plans to have collected and analyzed external and internal data, with the goal of submitting a preliminary report to county management by early March.

The data presented regarding county turnover showed that 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, down from 14% in 2020 and 15% in 2019.

"By far most of our turnover is due to resignations, voluntary resignations," Mille said. "That will likely continue — there are a handful of retirements, we've had six thus far this year, and I know of two more that are coming in the next two months. So that average is about 10 a year or so."

Miller also said that total program cost versus funding was projected to be on point for the fiscal year, and that COVID-19 testing and treatment was covered under the county's health plan at no cost to employees through March 31.

"One of the things that has taken up a lot of our efforts this year is the implementation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act that was passed at federal level," Miller said. "You all passed a policy effective April 1, extending COVID leave to those people who are identified close contacts and those who test positive."

Miller said fewer than 40 people have tested positive since April, with one hospitalization.

Expected conditions to impact next year's budget

The board also heard a presentation regarding next year's budget. That presentation showed that the Register of Deeds excise revenue was "up considerably over the same time last year," including increased number of refinancings and sale/transfer of high value properties. The Watershed and Environmental Health were both ahead of last year through Q1, with Q2 still being finalized.

Due to the Oct. 28 cyber incident, the county said its largest months of revenue collection for property tax were not accounted for. The motor vehicle tax was performing above last year, with counties likely to benefit from a one-year "bump" due to the six-month pandemic-related suspension that expired early in this fiscal year.

The county held its sales tax flat due to the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, but through four months, it's ahead of last year by \$800,000, or 15.2% over the same time period last year.

The county said the statewide transition in sales tax is likely driven largely by the lack of entertainment industry, increase in online shopping and less commuting to large metro areas for shopping.

Overall, the county is currently projected to break even, though staff encouraged county departments to monitor spending as much as possible.

Known expenses for fiscal year 2021-22 included:

Chatham County Schools

- Additional \$2.4 million to open Seaforth High School
- Additional \$180,000 retirement increase for local supplement
- Additional \$33,539 operational increase for Chatham Grove

County operating

expense

- +1.2% increase in retirement contribution (\$240,000)
- +2% increase in health/dental insurance (\$119,000)
- +7% increase in property/liability insurance (\$43,000)
- Increase of approximately \$70,000 for new FY21 positions budgeted mid-year
- Increased operating costs of new/expanded County buildings: expanded/renovated Animal Shelter (\$188,000); new EMS base (\$405,000)

Potential expenses

- ~ \$1 million for adjustments in employee pay
 - +/- \$415,000 inflationary increase in operating
- The county predicted its total expected expansion requests were +/- \$4 million.

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@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.



Martin Allen (Marty) Loflin

October 3, 1975 - January 19, 2010

Missing you everyday for the last 11 years. We think about all the great memories we shared and wish you were here with us. We will love and miss you always.

Mama, Daddy and Matt
Becky, Ennis and Matt Loflin

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

PROGRAM FINALES

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1	Sci-fi zapper	47	Holiday song	101	Movie-rating org.	9	Ticked off	48	Library penalty	79	Occur at the same time	10	"Flashdance" star Jennifer	49	Optimistic attitude	103	Defendant's opponent	11	Dig out from the ground	50	Old railroad watchdog agcy.	80	Acquired the film rights to	15	1,152, to Caesar	55	Give and take	104	Part of LAPD	12	Impose — on (outlaw)	13	Some nobles	51	— Bo (exercise system)	81	Army meal companion	20	Stateside	57	False appearances	105	"Necktie," or "bathrobe" or "jumpsuit"	14	Affirms solemnly	52	Age-verifying cards	82	As a team	21	U-shaped bend in a river	58	Flaky dessert	108	College bigwig	15	Suburb of D.C. in Virginia	53	Top dentures	83	"So yucky!"	22	Protest shout	62	USMC rank	110	Furry foot	16	Wheat — (cereal)	54	Food fish from Africa	85	Do some lawn work	23	Gave spirit to	63	Frat dude	113	Taken together	17	Judge of the O.J. Simpson trial	56	Eye squintingly	59	A DJ might spin them	93	Young salmon and sea trout	24	Chicago airport	66	Soon-to-be adolescents	114	Great values	18	Owing	19	"Don't worry, things are going to work out"	60	Furiousness	61	Gene stuff	94	Clerk on "The Simpsons"	25	See	69	Inquire into	115	Subsequent stage	28	60-min. periods	30	"You're preaching to the choir"	62	Co. big shot	63	Gold-winning figure skater	96	Tristan's love	26	Bad grade	70	Monk's title	117	Coup —	29	"Give — whirl"	31	Lung cell	34	Pen maker	35	Egg cells	36	Boat-rowing guys	37	Style of jazz	38	Bathtub sponges	39	Great reviews	45	Scale notes after dos	46	Bullring cheer	48	Library penalty	50	Old railroad watchdog agcy.	51	— Bo (exercise system)	52	Age-verifying cards	53	Top dentures	54	Food fish from Africa	56	Eye squintingly	59	A DJ might spin them	60	Furiousness	61	Gene stuff	62	Co. big shot	63	Gold-winning figure skater	64	Hotfoot it	65	Slugger Mel	67	Burned a bit	68	Sentimental pop songs	71	Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"	72	Ida. neighbor	73	China's	74	Suffix with Brooklyn	75	Comedian	76	"Ask Me Another" ailer	77	Available without an Rx	79	Occur at the same time	80	Acquired the film rights to	81	Army meal companion	82	As a team	83	"So yucky!"	85	Do some lawn work	86	Add- — (peripherals)	90	Pupil-widening drug, e.g.	93	Young salmon and sea trout	94	Clerk on "The Simpsons"	96	Tristan's love	97	Surgery assistants	98	TV magnate	99	Olympic athlete, e.g.	102	She sang "Hello"	106	Strategize	107	Stand by	108	Sub shop	109	Part of 62-Down: Abbr.	110	El —, Texas	111	Almost like	112	Departed	115	— de plume	116	"— So Shy"

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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On my grandpa: a life well lived and well loved

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN

News + Record Staff

The night before my grandpa died, I told a close friend at the end of our nearly two-hour phone call that I wasn't too sad that his passing was likely imminent.

Just 10 hours later, my mom told me that he actually had died — from congestive heart failure — at 2:30 that morning. He was 85 years old.

Less than two weeks before, I'd seen him for Christmas, along with my grandma, where they'd lived for the last 40-plus years in Spotsylvania, Virginia. My family isolated so that we could safely visit him for what he repeatedly told us would “probably be his last Christmas.”

That was the visit I told my friend about the night before he died. He'd been in end-stage heart failure for the last few years, so we knew he might be right about it being his last Christmas. As maybe is reflected by my comment to my friend, I didn't expect it to come so soon. Or to hurt so much.

My grandpa, Charles Donnie Britt, was a special man. As I suppose many people feel about their grandparents, he was both a fixture of familiarity and mystery in my life. I knew he'd served in Korea in the U.S. Air Force as a young man, and that he worked over 50 years in the retail industry. I'd heard many funny stories about him — like the time he allegedly almost traded my grandma, Gay Britt, for camels on



Submitted photo

A family photo of the author, Hannah McClellan, and her grandpa, Charles Donnie Britt, who died last week from congestive heart failure at 85.

a trip to Jerusalem or when he gifted my mom a Beanie Baby bullfrog as a funny apology for saying she looked like a bullfrog when she cried a few years before. I'd also heard the sentimental stories, like how he met my grandma when she was a young and widowed single mother — they were married for 57 years when he died — or how he prioritized attending all of his grandchildren's baptisms, no matter the drive required for a five-minute ceremony.

For me though, my grandpa was simultaneously less and more than those things. To me, he was the man who never said no to reading me a book as a child, who taught me the words to “Jesus Loves Me” and always said the blessing before a meal, until his health meant he didn't have enough breath left to say it anymore. He is the man who gave me my middle name — Britt — and my propensity for

crying. He was the man I loved fiercely, even when that love was hard to pin down. He is the man I miss already, even after years of what I thought were preparation to say goodbye.

In the last few years, my grandpa and I bonded over UNC-Chapel Hill; my grandpa, a lifelong Tar Heels fan, was so proud of me for attending and graduating from UNC. Talking about UNC became something of a lifeline for us — particularly as even his hearing aids didn't allow him to fully join the conversation, and as we saw each other less and less.

Our time together was easy, if not a little awkward. I have a bad habit of saying a lot of words at one time, knotting many sentences and thoughts into one. With my grandpa, this habit was especially cumbersome, as he typically couldn't keep up with sentences longer than a few words. Our conversations often

resembled an unskilled tennis match, with many conversation starters served, but few returned. And lots of shouting. In college, I began trying to more regularly call my grandparents. Once, when my grandma didn't answer, my grandpa hung up on me after I'd said, “Hi Grandpa, it's Hannah” — to which he replied (sounding quite exasperated, I must add) “No, it's not, wrong number.”

Even so, my grandpa always knew what I was up to. He listened intently to what he could hear, asking when he saw me about how the job search was going or my latest article. The last few times I saw him, he began talking with all of us about his death in the casual and peculiar way old people do. Each time I saw him, he gave me another of his vintage UNC sweatshirts or windbreakers. In recent years, I've given most of my UNC apparel away

— due mostly, I suppose, to disillusionment about and disappointment in the institution I used to love — but when I wear one of my grandpa's worn out sweatshirts, it only makes me smile. In the last year, every time I saw him or talked on the phone, he'd taken to reminding me of my singleness. “Now Hannah, I just want you to know, I've come to terms with the fact that I'll never see you get married,” he'd say. “I'm just glad I got to see you graduate, twice.”

I'm glad, too. In the midst of what feels like surprising grief, I am holding onto the memories my grandpa and I do have together — along with his laugh captured in old pictures, and the stories all the people who love him have shared in recent days.

Several friends have sent condolences, expressing sorrow that I lost my grandpa during what is already such a difficult time. It's true — every day over the last week has felt heavy with the weight of grief; my individual sense of loss weaving with the collective loss and brokenness so pervasive in the world around us. That brokenness certainly bled over into my family's life: my grandma was heavyhearted that she couldn't throw my grandpa the “celebration of life” he deserved due to COVID-19. And though I love and respect my grandpa deeply, the disagreements we did have — mostly political — were very painful to me. Navigating the com-

plexity of grief is hard at any time, but I'm realizing that navigating it now offers a small gift: space to grieve openly and with others, if over different things.

This past weekend, my family held a small funeral for my grandpa, and gathered together wearing masks, never truly hugging. I cried throughout the weekend, a lot. One day, my grandma was talking to my grandpa while looking up at her mistletoe decoration. My Aunt Carla jokingly asked, “Is Daddy up there?” My grandma, pausing for a moment, smiled and said, “Well, no, I just talk to him anywhere.” She then told us the story of how he died, for at least the third time, and that his last words were “I love you.” I cried more.

I am a Christian, so I believe in the resurrection of the dead, and hope for the day that all will be made right — from the broken world and systems around me to the death of my grandpa. But today, that hope doesn't necessarily shrink my grief or stop my tears. When I saw my grandpa's armchair — where he spent most of his time as his health sharply declined the last few months — empty, or occupied by another, or looked at his makeup-laden face in his casket, I couldn't immediately call to mind the vision of a new heaven and a new earth.

I just missed him.

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

GRIEF

Continued from page A1

“With this year, with so many other and additional types of grief ...” said Moseley, who works in Lee County. “Folks are very emotionally drained from this. You know, as humans, we were not designed to go through long-term stressors. And with the pandemic, if you have suffered from loss and death and sickness in your family, that's a stressor.”

“And if you haven't suffered from those specific things,” she added, “we have all been going through this 10-month stressor together.”

For Tania Hernandez, whose brother, Ramon, died on Dec. 20 after being shot, not being able to be with all her family made grieving through

the holidays even more of a challenge. She had COVID-19 in April, so she said she's been dealing with the pandemic since the beginning.

“I come from a very cultural family, in which gatherings are a big, big must for graduations, for birthday parties, holidays, you name it,” she said. But COVID-19 restrictions coupled with the loss of her brother, made for a traumatic holiday season.

“It's completely destroyed... I don't think any Christmas is going to mean the same,” she said. “I didn't even feel Christmas go by. I didn't feel the days go by — if it was a Friday, I didn't know.”

New Year's Eve is typically Hernandez's favorite holiday to celebrate; this year she went to sleep by 11 p.m. She

woke up to the sound of fireworks and sparklers — a sound that brought painful memories to mind, reminding her of the shooting that killed her younger brother.

“This past holiday was just not the greatest,” she said. “New Year's is destroyed for me and Christmas is just remembering an event that has not ended.”

Hernandez said it's been most helpful to not be left alone as she grieves, though she feels she is still very early in the process. Schwerin echoed this sentiment, saying it's important to find ways to connect with loved ones as you grieve, even if it looks different this year.

For Schwerin, the smaller gatherings brought about a sense of “intimacy and simplicity” that made the

holidays this year much better than she'd anticipated. She is the founder of Abundance NC, a Chatham organization that hosts the annual Death Faire event, which aims to educate about grief support, healing and different cultural beliefs around death and dying.

She said this year's event, held on Oct. 31 with COVID-19 protocols in place, emphasized the importance of facing grief head on, particularly in a year marked by sickness, political corruption and racial injustices and upheaval.

“It's just devastating and so sad,” she said of current events in mid-December. “And I think there's a grief that our country has come to this ... I'm hopeful that we're gonna get through this, but I think addressing

grief all the time is so important. And we've got to keep this front and center because it's the root of so many things.”

Moseley emphasized that grief is different for everyone, and that there is no correct progression of “stages of grief” to go through. She encouraged checking in with what you need: sometimes as simple as exercise or sleep, other times a bigger need, like asking a friend for help or investing in therapy. Moseley also stressed the importance of loved ones checking in with people after their initial loss, and respecting what others need from you.

Sometimes, that can mean checking in with a friend, while other times it can mean letting a person have the time and space to grieve alone. It's

also important, particularly in the Bible Belt, Moseley said, to not impose your own spiritual language on someone, as that can feel dismissive of the grief a person is experiencing.

“Grief can really be seen as being connected to how much you loved and valued the person or the experience, how important whatever it was you lost is to you is, because we grieve people and things that are important to us,” she said. “The cliché that time heals all wounds is not really true — time changes the wounds, and you figure out how to move forward and adapt to that loss in your life, but that's still part of your story, and it doesn't go away.”

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



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! !!

Worth knowing.

Worth reading.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

ONE YEAR FOR ONLY \$45 in county \$50 outside county

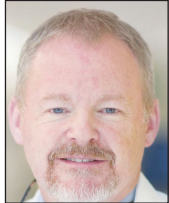
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Chatham’s top doc: ‘Don’t be fooled’ by COVID numbers. It’s still a significant threat.

Compared to other counties across North Carolina, the numbers found on Chatham’s “COVID dashboard” look positive.



Hannapel

But don’t be fooled, says the county’s top physician. Dr. Andrew C. Hannapel, Chatham Hospital’s Chief Medical Officer, tells the News + Record that community spread here is still significant. He’s sounding a warning bell about what he’s seeing at the hospital in terms of COVID admissions, cases among healthcare workers and other indicators related to what he calls “COVID fatigue.”

Dr. Hannapel received his Doctorate of Medicine from George Washington University in 1992. He did his internship and residency at the Womack Army Medical Center Fort Bragg and served in the U.S. Army until 1998, when he joined the Department of Family Medicine at UNC.

Since then, he’s served as faculty for the family medicine residency program, training and teaching medical students, physician assistant students and family medicine residents. In 2016, he became the first Chief Medical Officer at Chatham Hospital. The following year, he began the work that has resulted in a family medicine residency training tract opening June 2019 at the Piedmont Health Services Siler City Community Health Center, and the opening of the Maternity Care Center at Chatham Hospital last month.

Can you give us a brief update about the state of things inside Chatham Hospital as it relates to COVID-19 cases and treatment and vaccinations?

Chatham Hospital is currently caring for many COVID patients. Between 40-50% of our available beds are occupied by COVID patients. We have admissions daily and are transferring the very sick patients to UNC Medical Center. UNC Hospitals continue to support Chatham Hospital and patients from Chatham County. We

are grateful for our partnership with UNC Health. This relationship benefits UNC Health, Chatham Hospital and our community.

Community spread of the virus is significant. At Chatham Hospital, we have healthcare workers out with COVID related absences due to both exposures to COVID and COVID infection. Our infection control and occupational health determined that exposures and transmissions of COVID infections occur outside of work, in the community. At Chatham Hospital and UNC Health, healthcare workers are always practicing universal precautions, which is always wearing of both mask AND eyewear, to reduce exposure risk to our healthcare workers and patients. All patients who are admitted receive COVID tests prior to admission.

Vaccination started for Chatham and community healthcare workers (HCWs) in the 1A group on December 16. We have offered the vaccination to all HCWs at Chatham. We have completed the initial two-shot vaccination program for HCWs and last week, starting Jan. 11, we opened the Chatham COVID Vaccine Clinic to the next phase — 1B. Initially all HCWs and people more than 75 years old were in that group. By the end of the week N.C. DHHS had progressed to group 2 — older adults more than 65 years old. We vaccinated 1,250 persons last week. The clinic is expanding and working to handle up to 250/day. Contact/sign up information is below.

To schedule your COVID vaccine (we have the Moderna vaccine) and you are in the over-65 year-old age group (or HCW), you can call 984-215-5485. You can also schedule if you have a UNC MyChart account, or online at yourshot.health or vaccine.unchealthcare.org. At this website you can get up to date information on the vaccine, vaccine locations and schedule your appointment on line (yourshot.health is a link to vaccine.unchealthcare.org).

We really need to get this information out to our Chatham community. On the website listed above, there is valuable

information about the vaccine: safety, studies, how it works, testimonials of those who have received the vaccine. It is important for the groups of the historically marginalized — communities of color, Black, Latino, indigenous, and poor — to know that they have an opportunity to receive the vaccine if they choose to do so. There is no cost to get the vaccine! This is how we protect the most vulnerable in our community.

Within the state’s COVID-19 County Alert System, Chatham is one of only four counties designated “yellow,” or the lowest level of viral spread. To what do you think that can be attributed to?

Do not be fooled by that way of presenting the data. (By the way, “yellow” is still indicative of significant community spread.) The county alert system is a combination of three covid metrics: case rate, the percent of tests positive, and hospital impact within the county. Chatham County’s case rate is higher than 500/100,000 population and test positive rate is more than 20%, and Chatham County residents are hospitalized with COVID-19. Other counties have case rates of 800-1,600/100K population. Chatham County has significant amount of COVID infection and community spread. It is going to get worse before it gets better due to the holiday gatherings and COVID fatigue.

Can you explain why the percentage of COVID-19 tests coming back positive has increased so much recently?

We are seeing an increase in positive COVID-19 PCR tests at our RDC (Respiratory Diagnostic Center). We are testing between 35-55/day and averaging more than a 20% positive rate.

This is due to the increasing community spread. The combination of winter months pushing people inside, families and people coming together in larger groups (Thanksgiving and holiday family events, other group events), COVID fatigue — less masks and physical distancing. All of this is contributing to the

increase in community spread.

Can you talk about the flu? Why are we not hearing more about flu cases — and what are you seeing there at the hospital?

Flu is significantly lower in our region and state (and the U.S.). We have not seen any flu cases at Chatham Hospital. We are testing for influenza along with other respiratory illnesses when we test for COVID. We are seeing a small amount of common cold viruses (rhinovirus and adenovirus), and no influenza. I find this remarkable. Healthcare will be changed forever due to this pandemic and not all of the change is bad.

This is due to the wearing of masks, physical distancing, handwashing and most importantly, significantly reduced travel between the southern and northern hemispheres. The southern hemisphere had a 90% reduction in influenza during their winter (our summer, here in the northern hemisphere.) This is remarkable. We are seeing this now but know that our highest influenza incidence is usually in January and February each year.

When we spoke last, in October, three months ago, we talked about potential vaccines and what was at that time the increasing case count (numbers which we’ve seen more than double lately). Looking back on the fall and looking at the situation now, what has surprised (or disappointed) you the most?

I am not disappointed. I am realistic. I know that we are human beings and we want this to be over. We are now able to see how this pandemic will end. We have to do what we know is effective in limiting the spread. I want to encourage everyone to continue with the measures that we know will work — wear a mask, keep your distance and wash your hands. We know that the vaccine will be the way for us to overcome this pandemic.

I am surprised at the vaccine. It was developed and tested in a safe and expeditious way. It is extremely effective — more effective and way better than what we expected. I will say it with one word: HOPE!

VACCINE

Continued from page A1

target that was anticipated weeks ago.

While vaccine distribution has been sluggish, daily coronavirus cases have remained at alarming seven-day averages and the death count has accelerated. Just two weeks ago, the state topped 7,000 COVID-19 deaths. On Saturday, it surpassed 8,000.

State officials hope the revised guidelines will simplify the process for county health departments as they execute N.C.’s vaccine distribution plan.

“We know there has been more confusion than there needs to be, and so we are definitely hearing the message about simplicity and speed,” said Dr. Mandy Cohen, the state secretary of health and human services, in an announcement last week. “That’s why we’re trying to really be clear: what we’re vaccinating right now is all health care workers and those 65 and older.”

Dr. Mike Zelek, Cha-

tham County public health director, warned, however, that guideline changes may introduce more confusion than clarification while the county adjusts. But soon, he thinks, it will contribute to a more efficient vaccination effort.

“Although changes to the prioritization guidance once vaccination efforts are already underway can create initial challenges with communications and cause an influx of calls and messages, we will continue to work with the state and other partners to implement plans according to the updated guidance and get Chatham County vaccinated against COVID-19,” Zelek told the News + Record. “We do expect to accelerate as more mass vaccination clinics are scheduled, depending on allocation.”

To receive a vaccine, you may add your name to the list of eligible Chatham County residents by following the instructions at chathamnc.org/coronavirusvaccine.

You can also schedule an appointment with UNC Health to be vaccinated in

Siler City or Chapel Hill, among other locations around the state. Both UNC Health patients and non-UNC Health patients are being accepted. For more information, visit vaccine.unchealthcare.org/get-vaccinated or call (984) 215-5485.

For Chathamites with accessibility challenges or who have trouble navigating the internet, CCPHD has made arrangements to facilitate mobile vaccination clinics. But residents in those categories should expect longer waits to receive their vaccines.

“We have worked closely with the Chatham County Council on Aging to identify and schedule vaccination appointments with residents who have access issues and who do not have access to our online Vaccine Information Tool,” Zelek said. “... We have established a mobile vaccination team to set up vaccination clinics in different community spaces in coordination with these partners and have a hotline (919-545-8323) to take contact information of those

who want the vaccine in the current phases and follow up with appointments. The call volume has been very high, and it will take time to reach the individuals who have left their information.”

After adults aged 65 and older have been vaccinated, inoculation will open first to essential workers, then younger adults at high risk for exposure and increased risk of severe illness, and finally everyone else.

The complete breakdown of prioritization criteria is as follows, according to the NCDHHS website:

- Group 1: health care workers fighting COVID-19 and long-term care staff and residents

First up for vaccination were health care workers in direct contact with the coronavirus. They include dentists, home health aides, nurses, optometrists, pharmacists and physical therapists.

Long-term care facilities have been notorious hotbeds for the pandemic, so long-term care staff and residents — people in

skilled nursing facilities, adult care homes and continuing care retirement communities — were also included in group 1.

- Group 2: older adults

Since the governor’s announcement last week, North Carolina has opened vaccination to members of group 2 — anyone 65 years or older, regardless of health status or living situation.

- Group 3: frontline essential workers

Frontline essential workers “are in sectors essential to the functioning of society and who are at substantially higher risk for exposure to COVID-19,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Group 4: adults at high risk for exposure and increased risk of severe illness

Anyone between 16 and 64 years old (coronavirus vaccines have not been approved yet for children) with high-risk medical conditions fall under group 4. Their conditions may include cancer, COPD, serious heart conditions, sickle cell disease, Type 2 diabe-

tes and anything else that increases risk of severe disease from COVID-19.

Group 4 also includes prisoners and anyone else living in close group settings who did not receive a vaccine as part of group 1.

Essential workers who were not earlier vaccinated may also fall under group 4. These include, according to the CDC, “workers in transportation and logistics, water and wastewater, food service, shelter and housing (e.g., construction), finance (e.g., bank tellers), information technology and communications, energy, legal, media, public safety (e.g., engineers) and public health workers.”

- Group 5: Everyone else

For updates on the vaccine’s distribution in Chatham County, follow CCPHD’s social media channels and website at chathamnc.org/publichealth and facebook.com/chathamhealth.

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

SESSION

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almost everyone wore a mask.

“In the Senate chamber, every person had on a mask,” Foushee said. “Every single senator present in that chamber had on a mask.”

In the House of Representatives, too, most faces were masked, according to Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist. 54), who serves Chatham and Durham counties.

“The speaker and majority leader, in particular, I know, made efforts within the (Republican) caucus to get people to wear masks and to be more active about protectionist measures,” he said.

Mask-wearing is a basic preventive measure touted by most health officials to stymie spread of the coronavirus disease. But in the year since COVID-19 first emerged in the United States, the decision to wear a mask has become less a metric of one’s interest in health, and more about political allegiance.

“But I think, with the numbers rising — not just the number of people infected by the virus, but indeed the rising numbers of people dying with the virus — and the underwhelming rollout of the vaccine,” Foushee said, “messages about caring for each other and respecting each other’s space are resonating.”

That most legislators chose to wear masks suggests a fresh determination to work together, Foushee said — a renewed interest in collaboration across party lines.

“I’ve had conversations with my Republican colleagues who say that is the intent,” she said, “and I have to believe that, based on where we are and, you know, the uncertainty of what’s going to happen in the near future. I just think that there is a sense of urgency among members of the General Assembly, that our goal should be about bringing relief to people in our state.”

Reives echoed Foushee’s optimism.

“I was really happy at the atmosphere,” he said. “I think there really has been effort on both sides to try and see if we can put away some of the differences that we’ve already had and try to move forward.”

The new session will be Reives’ first as House minority leader. In his new position of authority, he hopes to promote bipartisan efforts to improve the state’s pandemic response.

“You know, a lot of issues follow from COVID,” he said. “We need COVID monies, broadband is going to be addressed, education is going to get addressed ... and we also know we’re going to have to address healthcare.”

Glaring issues

Statewide, remote learning has often failed to uphold minimum education standards. In Chatham, nearly 22% of students received a D or F in a class during the first two grading periods of the current semester — a nearly 74% increase from last year, the News + Record previously reported.

“All of us are concerned about what we’re going to be looking like in the next school year,” Reives said. “We’ll have the highest — potentially the highest — failure rate that the state has had in over 100 years, at the end of this school year.”

The pandemic has also taxed healthcare institutions and laid bare systemic inequality.

“A lot of inequities and a lot of other issues we already had in healthcare are being exacerbated with the loss of jobs, loss of businesses, more uninsured care in hospitals,” Reives said.

According to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, North Carolina’s unemployment rate is still the highest it has been in almost seven years following decade highs over the summer.

“We’re trying to do something to spur growth,” Reives said, “and just show support for small businesses, and at the same time making sure that we’re showing support to those that are employed and unemployed, helping them get back on

their feet.”

Unclear solutions

Identifying the state’s problems is easy, Reives said. But translating ideas into effective legislative policy will prove challenging. Besides having to bridge what has become a chasmic party divide, this year’s legislators must contend with a catalog of issues unlike anything previously addressed by the state government.

“We’re going to have to think unique because this is unprecedented,” Reives said. “... Because of the fact nobody’s ever had to do this before, you see a lot of struggling when it comes down to how people want to handle it.”

But the stakes are higher than ever before, and that alone, according to Foushee, behooves the General Assembly to shed its penchant for bickering in lieu of united service to the people of North Carolina.

“I heard an expression this morning where it was noted that where people were on the cliffs before, now we have people in the ravine,” Foushee said. “And so, they need to be rescued. Our focus must be on rescuing people in the ravines and ensuring that folks who are on the cliffs are not falling off.”

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Orange provides a fourth-quarter scare, but Northwood men hold tight

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Last Friday was an early-season test for the uber-young, uber-talented Northwood men's basketball team. Thankfully for head coach Matt Brown, the Chargers passed with flying colors.

Northwood nearly saw its 20-point lead evaporate in a wild shootout of a fourth quarter — one in which the opposing Orange Panthers caught a collective Stephen Curry bug and rained down non-stop 3-pointers — but the Chargers held strong in crunch time for a 60-54 win at home.

That's no small task for a team that starts three freshmen, plays four consistently and relies primarily on 14- and 15-year-olds to initiate offense in a deep NCHSAA 3A conference. Then again, during Northwood's 3-1 start to the 2021 season, its young players have been playing like anything but.

"These guys, we're asking a lot of them, and they're stepping up big time playing against senior-heavy teams," Brown said last Friday. "I'm really sur-



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Northwood freshman guard Drake Powell (20) put up 11 points, 10 rebounds and six assists in the Chargers' home win over Orange last Friday.

prised they're holding their own." He paused, then corrected himself:

"I'm not really surprised, to be honest." Through four games, 6-foot-8 for-

ward Jarin Stevenson and 6-foot-5 guard Drake Powell lead Northwood in scoring at 15 and 11.3 points per game, respectively. Stevenson averages a team-high nine rebounds per game, too, while Powell leads Northwood in assists (4.5) and steals (2.3) per game.

Add in guard Frederico Whitaker Jr., another freshman starter who averages 9.3 points and 3.3 assists, and a slew of savvy veterans, and the Chargers have a team that's equal parts dangerous and still figuring itself out. That's why games like last Friday's are helpful, senior forward Tucker Morgan said.

"The goal is to be playing your best at the end of the year," Morgan said, "and you have to go through adversity to get to that point. So that was definitely a good experience for us."

Just about everything was going right for Northwood through three quarters against Orange. With Powell and Whitaker zipping the ball around the perimeter, Stevenson crashing the offensive glass and secondary players such as Morgan, senior Colby Burleson

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Scintillating second quarter defines Northwood women's basketball win

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Early in this 2021 season, Northwood women's basketball head coach Cameron Vernon has preached to his players: when they play with energy, they're a team to be reckoned with.

Last Friday's second quarter was quite the reminder.

In those definitive eight minutes, the Chargers racked up 27 of their 58 total points and all but ended the Orange Panthers' shot at an upset victory before the teams even left the floor at halftime. They played with pace. They rebounded relentlessly. They shared the ball. And they scored. A lot.

"Everyone was getting open," freshman guard Skylar Adams said.

That brief offensive explosion was all Northwood needed to topple Orange, 58-29, and move to 3-0. To Vernon, though, it was also a tantalizing glimpse at what his team can accomplish when every player on the court is 100% locked in.

In other words, when they play with energy.

"We just need to learn how to sustain that the whole time," Vernon said.

Friday's game — which also functioned as an early senior night for Northwood's Rae McClarty, Jillian McNaught and Jamarie Faucette — started simply enough, as the Chargers led 10-5 after a quarter.

Then the downpour started.

Adams, who's already seized starting point guard duties as a freshman, kicked things off with a 3-pointer. Then junior guard McKenna Snively sank

two free throws, senior guard McClarty converted an and-one layup and junior forward Natalie Bell made a 3-pointer of her own. Suddenly, it was 21-11.

"If we want to have a great team, we have to have everyone involved," Vernon said. "It's really difficult, as an opposing coach, to prepare for five or six girls who can score as opposed to one or two."

And as the Charger offense got going, one player was noticeably absent: sophomore forward Te'Keyah Bland, who by her own admission got off to a slow start with no points in the first quarter and a half.

"It took me a minute to get into the game," Bland said, "but once I realized where I was at — if I just got big and stopped playing so little — then it started falling."

Indeed, the 6-foot forward's first points of the game came on a left-to-right spin and layup in the post; Bland then immediately swiped the ball away on defense and sank a jumper. The Chargers were officially cruising, their lead ballooning to 33-13 after more layups from Bell and McNaught.

Finally, Bland made a layup on Northwood's last possession of the half — only for Adams to one-up her teammate by stealing Orange's subsequent inbounds pass for a layup of her own (and nearly stealing the inbounds pass after that). Four more points in about two seconds put the team's lead at 37-15.

"Everybody was scoring," Bland said. "We're not a selfish team."

Even though their production slowed a bit after halftime — Northwood outscored Orange 21-14 in the third and fourth quarters — the Chargers' scoring



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Northwood point guard Skylar Adams, who's already seized starting duties as a freshman, had eight points in the Chargers' home win over Orange last Friday.

remained well distributed. By game's end, six players had eight or more points: Bland (a team-high 12), Snively, Bell McClarty, McNaught and Adams.

Unsurprisingly, all six also scored at least once in the Chargers' scintillating second quarter, which — lingering defensive issues aside — showed how high

this team's ceiling is.

"That's how we're supposed to play," Vernon said. "That's Northwood women's basketball."

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

Local teams, runners off to states after a productive regional weekend

BY CHAPEL FOWLER
News + Record Staff

CARY — This weekend's cross country championships will have a distinctive Chatham County flavor.

Thanks to a string of personal records and top-10 finishes at their respective regional meets last Friday and Saturday, four of the county's five high schools will have at least one runner competing in the NCHSAA's state championship meets, which take place Jan. 22 and 23 in Kernersville.

For the Chatham Charter, Woods Charter, Jordan-Matthews and Northwood programs, that regional success was a penultimate notch on the belt in a season equal parts unpredictable and unforgettable.

Northwood saw its men's team qualify for the 3A state

meet a second year in a row and junior Caroline Murrell advance as an individual. The Woods Charter women advanced as a team to the 1A meet for the first time in five years. And Chatham Charter junior Brandon McKoy and Jordan-Matthews senior Robert Train also advanced as individuals to the 1A and 2A state meets, respectively.

It all played out last Friday and Saturday on Cary's WakeMed Soccer Park cross country course, which hosted the NCHSAA 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A midstate regionals in a rapid two-day span. For a sport that usually concludes in early November, the low temperatures, rain and brief snow flurries were an adjustment.

"I'd never dream of doing a cross country meet in January," McKoy said with a laugh.

Fresh off an individual conference title last week, McKoy was the first local runner to punch his tickets to states. He finished third in the 1A midstate men's race with a time of 17:28.50 and earned a bronze medal. It wasn't the exact finish he'd hoped for, but it was still a season-best time.

That gives McKoy plenty to work with in what will be his third state meet in as many years.

"I'm not going to be discouraged about it," the junior said. "I feel like I could have given a little bit more toward the end, but I'm glad I got this far."

Later on Friday, the Woods Charter women made history with their first ever regional runner-up finish. Second only to Research Triangle, the Wolves had five runners among the top 20, led by



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham Charter junior Brandon McKoy finished third in last Friday's NCHSAA 1A midstate regional and advanced to his third consecutive state meet as an individual.

freshman Ellie Poitras (second place, 20:06.71) and sophomore Maddie Sparrow (fourth place, 21:15.71).

It's the first time Woods Charter has qualified for the

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NORTHWOOD

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and freshman Griffin Hobbs all contributing, the Chargers were cruising. They led 18-10 at halftime and 40-23 entering the fourth quarter.

Said Stevenson of the team's mindset during that excellent stretch: "Once you get double-teamed, just kick it over. We've got some guys who can make shots."

Interestingly enough, Brown didn't fault Northwood's defense for what happened over the next eight minutes. Rather, he said, it was turnovers and offensive rebounds that allowed Orange to steadily make its way back into the game — and cut Northwood's lead all the way to just 46-44 with 3:39 to go.

The Chargers would play a solid possession of defense, only to allow an offensive board that sent the ball right back into the hands of a waiting shooter (the Panthers finished 10-35 from three). Then, on offense, they'd get sloppy (Northwood ended the game with 17 turnovers to Orange's eight). "We've just got to do better with the ball," Brown said. "I think our guys got a little excited about having a big lead. They haven't had that, obviously — this was just our third game."

After a gut-check timeout with 1:54

to go, though, Northwood got back to its roots. Whitaker found Stevenson and senior guard Troy Arnold for layups on consecutive possessions, and the Chargers starting pulling down the rebounds needed to prevent second-chance points.

They defended well, too, especially when Orange trailed 58-54 in the final 30 seconds and could have seriously threatened Northwood with a 3-pointer. Instead, the contested three fell short, and Stevenson grabbed the rebound and promptly went 2-2 from the free throw line, where he's shot 79% this season.

60-54 Northwood. Ballgame.

"The team was counting on me, so I had to perform," Stevenson said.

Film review will surely reveal some teaching moments from the fourth quarter, in which Northwood allowed 31 points (seven more than it had in the previous three quarters combined). But a win's still a win for the Chargers, who also beat Chapel Hill, 57-43, at home a day later. Brown said as much.

"A young team like this just needs to learn how to expand that lead," he said. "But I'm proud of the guys. When the pressure got onto them, they didn't fold."

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Staff photo by James Kiefer

Northwood freshman forward Jarin Stevenson (23) has already established himself as one of the Chargers' go-to scorers, averaging 15 points per game.

RUNNERS

Continued from page B1

state meet as a team in five years. And the Wolves did it with a team of primarily underclassmen: Poitras, Sparrow, senior Ember Penney (11th place), sophomore Chloe Richard (13th place) and sophomore Grace Costa (20th place).

That has first-year head coach Karen Hawkins excited for both the upcoming state meet, which will be held at the Ivey M. Redmon Sports Complex, and the future.

"They're young," she said, "but you wouldn't know it from the way they race."

Jordan-Matthews senior Train, who won a PAC 7 2A individual conference title last week, qualified for states early Saturday after finishing sixth with a time of



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Northwood head coach Cameron Isenhour (center) huddles with his men's team ahead of the NCHSAA 3A mideast regional last Saturday.

18:29.94 in the 2A mideast men's race.

Train's course time was

a personal record. And his performance headlined a solid showing for both Jets

team. The men finished fifth in team points, and co-head coach Michael

Milian said he saw "a lot of improvement" from the women's team, too.

"He's definitely a leader on this team," Milian said of Train. "A lot of people look up to him, the way he carries himself and the way he works hard. You're really happy for a kid like that."

Finally, on Saturday afternoon, Northwood's men racked up five top-20 finishes to place second behind Chapel Hill and advance to their second straight 3A state meet as a team (a stated goal all season).

The Chargers were led by senior Malachi Levy (ninth place, 16:32.58) and junior Colin Henry (10th place, 16:36.85), while sophomore Christian Glick (15th place), senior Glenn Porter (18th place) and senior Carter Pippin (19th place) also contributed.

"When the process is trusted and it's played

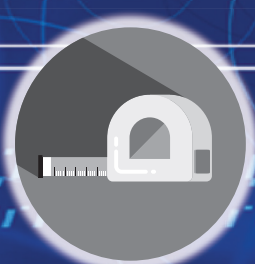
out like they play it out," Northwood head coach Cameron Isenhour said, "it's a sight to see."

The Northwood women came up just short on their goal of also qualifying as a team — they finished fourth in the meet, despite a number of season-best times — but junior Caroline Murrell, who finished sixth with a time of 19:10.12, advanced as an individual.

The Chatham Central cross country program didn't have any state qualifiers, but senior Parker Crowley (22nd place) and freshman Seth Gilliland (36th place) both competed in the NCHSAA 1A midwest regional in Kernersville last Saturday.

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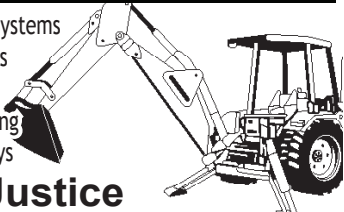
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How COVID-19 vaccinations were done at this congregate living facility

Editor's note: Cambridge Hills, an assisted living facility in Pittsboro, last week provided 139 COVID-19 vaccinations to its residents. Executive Director Mike Walters spoke about the preparation and execution of that process with the News + Record.

Cambridge Hills completed its first round of COVID-19 vaccinations Thursday. Before we get to that, can you talk about any changes in operations and procedures you've had since our last discussion, and how you've managed to prevent COVID infections at Cambridge?

Since we last spoke things had remained somewhat the same. We maintained a consistent posture of temperature checks at the start and end of employee shifts and daily checks of our residents. We resumed allowing our therapy providers into the building, as well. In fact, we had gotten to a point where we were able to allow socially distanced outdoor visits between family and residents. It was great, for morale, for everyone.

As the weather began to shift to cooler temperatures, we moved those visits into our lobby. Our families have been phenomenal in being compliant with our procedures to wear masks and use sanitizer.

Unfortunately, in mid-December we experienced our first resident with COVID-19. It was alarming, to say the least. We had managed to go so long without this happening that it really felt awful. With that, we stopped all visitation and increased our safety protocols to have staff wearing shields, in addition to being masked at all times in the halls. We elected to test all staff and residents for three consecutive weeks. Doing so led to the discovery of five positive staff members. In each instance we worked directly with the Chatham County Health Department to provide them as much information as we can to assist with contact tracing.

As difficult as the entire year has been, I

think that three or four week period was the hardest. Knowing that our residents are so

vulnerable, the last thing in the world I wanted to see was that one of them had contracted COVID.

The silver lining, in all of this, was that we didn't have any additional residents exposed and all staff have fully recovered.



Walters

What kind of preparations did you have to make before the vaccinations were actually administered, and who was involved?

We enrolled through N.C. DHHS (Dept. of Health and Human Services) to be included in the vaccine program once vaccines were being approved. We were notified on Nov. 24th that Walgreens would be our immunizer. They also conduct our annual flu clinic so we have a great working relationship with them, locally.

We received some basic information about the clinic and Walgreens, a webinar to watch and Vaccination Administration Records (VAR) to complete for each resident and staff member. With that, we had to obtain permission from residents or their authorized representative to enroll them.

Our next contact was on Dec. 16th from the area coordinator whom I understood was coordinating the clinics for upwards of 50 communities. At that time, she mentioned that their goal was to get vaccines to skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities by the end of the year. Unfortunately, the Moderna vaccine wasn't approved until Dec. 18 so that timeline slid to the right. Ultimately, we were scheduled for Jan. 14.

The day prior to the vaccine day I had to upload a spreadsheet of information pertaining to each person receiving the vaccine.

I believe that's what is ultimately being uploaded to DHHS and the CDC to track vaccine distribution and other demographic information.

It's been a few days now — how's everyone feeling?

The only reports that I had were a small number of folks with a little bit of soreness on their arms and three or four who had a small increase in temperature. By the next day everything was fine. With guidance from Callie Stegall, our medical provider, we were checking temperatures regularly throughout the couple of days after the vaccine.

The follow-up vaccine is scheduled for Feb. 11. How are you monitoring your residents and staff?

We're back to our routine again. From what I understand it takes about a week for the first vaccine to really take effect. I've read that the Moderna vaccine can reach up to 80% efficacy with the first shot and up to 95% with the second.

Can you talk about how you're handling visits from family members to your residents, and any changes in those procedures you've made or anticipate making?

Currently we allow residents to have 30-minute visits with up to two people. This is in compliance with what DHHS allows. With the colder temperatures we're conducting those visits in our lobby. Residents and visitors are about 10 feet apart with a plexiglass divider in between and everyone wearing masks. We conduct a health pre-screening of the visitors prior to allowing them into the building for the visit. At this time, we don't allow any physical contact with residents and visitors.

Throughout this year we've had the ability to allow in-room visits for someone who may be near the end of life. We refer to those as compassionate care visits. We recognize how

hard this has been to not be able to openly spend time together so we try hard to accommodate visits during the weekdays.

I'm required, by regulation, to cease visitation if we are in a COVID testing condition (when we're testing staff and/or residents due to a possible exposure) and if the county positivity rate is at or above 10%.

What are things like inside, among the residents, as the pandemic stretches on? Is there a light at the end of the tunnel?

I believe the residents feel safe and know that our No. 1 goal is to keep them safe. Our activities team have done an amazing job at keeping our building lively and as "normal" as possible. I'm very proud of our nursing staff who haven't wavered in their efforts; even when we had a few staff that got COVID our team stayed on course. I believe that our persistent efforts to protect our building and make it a safe place have helped; that, and some good fortune too.

We recognize that getting the vaccine doesn't guarantee our safety but it certainly is a huge step in the right direction. As more and more people receive the vaccine I'm hopeful that we will see a steady decline in the spread of the virus and the opportunity to open our doors up to families again.

2020 was exhausting. I feel hopeful now. I feel like there is a light at the end of the tunnel but we're not letting our guard down. One day, hopefully soon, we'll be talking about the year that was ...

About Mike Walters: Walters joined the Cambridge Hills Assisted Living management team as the executive director in October 2017 after more than 20 years in management in the consumer goods/HVAC industry. He's the senior member of the management team at Cambridge Hills and also has oversight of its sister company, Twin Rivers Independent Living, in Pittsboro.

Chatham courts might reopen, but pandemic effects will drag on

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Newly installed Chief Justice Paul Newby of the North



Newby

Carolina Supreme Court issued revised emergency directives for court procedures last week that will likely affect legal proceedings in Chatham County, according to local lawyers.

The order replaces former Chief Justice Cheri Beasley's final set of directives which expired on Jan. 14, including a pause on most judicial proceedings "to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our courts."

That moratorium suspended all superior court and district court proceedings unless they could be conducted remotely, were "necessary to preserve the right to due process of law," were "for the purpose of obtaining emergency relief" or were determined by a judge "that the proceeding can be conducted under conditions that protect the health and safety of all participants," according to Beasley's order.

Newby, a Republican, defeated incumbent Beasley, a Democrat, for the chief justice seat by just 401 votes out of nearly 5.4 million ballots cast in the November election, although her concession didn't come until Dec. 12.

In practice, Beasley's directives halted most court activity and suspended jury trials.

"I don't think there have been any jury trials," said Ben Atwater, a longtime Siler City lawyer who practices criminal law, among other disciplines.

Following his installment as chief justice, Newby suggested that Beasley's executive decision to close courts violated the state's constitution, which states, "the courts shall be open, and that justice shall be administered without favor, denial or delay."

"That is the constitutional requirement that the courts shall be open," Newby said at the N.C. State Supreme Court ceremonial investitures for all newly elected members. "Open courts available for all the citizens is not a luxury, it is a mandate."

Still, he admitted that an ongoing pandemic behooves judicial leaders to consider amendments to regular procedure.

"Nonetheless, how do we operate in the midst of our global and local pandemic with regard to COVID?" Newby said. "That is the great stress of our time as we seek to protect the public health and our court personnel and fulfill our constitutional mandate."

To balance what he sees as a constitutional necessity with responsible activity amid the coronavirus pandemic, Newby will leave it to local judicial officials to evaluate their districts' needs and outline court practices.

"Today's order allows local courthouse leadership, who assess the threat of COVID-19 every day, to tailor preventative measures to meet their specific local challenges," Newby said in a press release. "But they are not alone in this fight. I have requested that the Governor prioritize our court personnel in the COVID-19 vaccination schedule so we can fulfill our constitutional 'open courts' mandate to provide equal justice to all in a timely manner."

In Chatham, the responsibility to mandate court procedure under Beasley's new order falls to Superior Court Judge Allen Baddour. Baddour's office did not immediately respond to the News + Record's inquiry, but local attorneys said the matter of Chatham court procedure was still unsettled.

"I don't think we've received any word from Judge Baddour on what we're going to do in that regard," Atwater said.

Even if Baddour should permit court proceedings to resume, Atwater said he would be apprehensive about stepping back into court. "I myself do not like going into court in a crowded situation with the current pandemic," he said. "... It would just be a logistical nightmare to do a jury trial under the current conditions."

And it might compromise the integrity of the process.

"With everybody having to wear a mask, you could run into a problem with whether the witness can wear a mask while testifying," Atwater said. "Because of a criminal trial, the defendant could object that it was

violating his Sixth Amendment right to confrontation, to observe the demeanor of the witness and things such as that. So, it would really be difficult to do."

But Atwater is fortunate, he said, to have more flexibility than some lawyers — none of his clients are waiting in jail for the courts to hear their cases.

"I can imagine, however," he said, "some of those folks that do have clients in jail want to get their trials done as quickly as they can."

"It is really tough when you've got some of those cases that just can't be resolved without a jury trial," said Chatham's Rep. Robert Reives II, who is also a partner at the law offices of Wilson, Reives & Silverman in Sanford. "Having those clients sitting really what is an extra year at least past where they should have been, that's tough."

Normally, when defendants have served prison time unjustly due to prosecutorial misconduct or other mistakes in the judicial system, they are entitled to financial reimbursement from a state fund designed for such cases.

"But I don't think you're going to see that apply with people just being held without bond awaiting trial," Atwater said. "I mean, this is not something that the state, nor the district attorney can control with COVID. Probably just because they're found not guilty doesn't give them the right to any kind of compensation for the jail time."

Such cases are the anomaly, though. Most defendants, even in criminal proceedings, can have their cases settled outside of court without a jury.

"We've been able to have District Court trials because that's before (a) judge only," Atwater said, "and also, guilty pleas, things like that ... most superior court criminal trials are resolved through plea bargaining and things of that nature."

Judges have also adjusted their practices to avoid sending defendants to jail when possible.

"Judges have been really, really cognizant of the circumstances," Reives said. "You've seen fewer people sitting in jails that don't need to be sitting in jail right now, you know, because they have lesser crimes or don't pose

a danger to the community and things of that sort."

Regardless of what local courts decide to do following Newby's order, however, Reives anticipates long-term issues in the court system. The pandemic's effect will hamper judicial procedure after

most normal activity has resumed.

"Once the gates open back up, there's going to be a flood of cases that are coming through — not just people who are in jail, but civil trials, all kinds of things — and you might have fights for the court

space," Reives said. "It's going to be really difficult for the next couple of years, frankly, no matter how fast we open back up."

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

Chatham COA Events & Announcements

January 21st-27th

Thursday, January 21st

- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 8:45 AM 📶
- [Chair Yoga with Liz](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [January Birthday Celebration](#) at 11:15 AM 📶

Friday, January 22nd

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

Monday, January 25th

- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 8:45 AM 📶
- [Chair Yoga with Liz](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Bingo with Joe](#) at 11:15 AM 📶

Tuesday, January 26th

- [Laughter Yoga with Lisa from the Dementia Alliance](#) at 11:15 AM 📶

Wednesday, January 27th

- [Bible Study with Neriah](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Science with Alan](#) 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/>

Virtual VITA Income Tax Preparation Assistance

Virtual VITA is coming! NO APPOINTMENTS. Pick up your information packet at the Eastern or Western Chatham Senior Center in the VITA box, 24/7 after January 20th.

Drop-off your tax documents for processing from February 9th through April 6th. Complete info packet before dropping off your tax documents at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro on Tuesdays 1-6 PM, Thursdays 8:30 AM-2 PM or on Saturdays, February 27th and March 27th from 11 AM - 3 PM. **Call 919-542-4512 for more info.**

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.

Congratulations to our December winner, Bobby White!

The Chatham COA is Here for You!

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

Eastern Chatham Senior Center 365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512	Western Chatham Senior Center 112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975
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Your Chatham County property values are being calculated now. Here’s how that’s happening.

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

With the bulk of assessed 2020 property taxes already collected and in the county’s coffers, Chatham County Tax Administrator Jenny Williams and her staff at the county’s tax offices are in the process of turning their attention to a significant quadrennial event: the once-every-four-years reappraisal of each of the county’s 45,564 parcels of property.

This year’s revaluation — the process of which actually began two years ago and follows Chatham’s last reappraisal in 2017 — will culminate in new assessed market values for each and every parcel.

So far, some 36,000 parcels have been reappraised and reviewed. And within a few weeks, whether it’s residential, commercial, agricultural or industrial, every other privately owned piece of land — and any improvements, from a structure like a home or outbuilding to a new deck or concrete pad — will have been assigned a new fair market value, all tied to the Jan. 1, 2021, date.

Why? North Carolina law requires all counties to conduct a reappraisal at least once every eight years. Williams, a 30-year county employee who’s been in the county’s tax office for two years after spending a large part of her county career in the finance department, says Chatham County is on a four-year reappraisal cycle, as are most larger

counties in the state. Once it’s performed, Williams says, the reappraisal distributes the overall property tax burden equitably across the county based on updated fair market values. The new market values will be used by Chatham’s county commissioners to set a county-only tax rate (currently 67 cents per \$100 valuation) and to calculate tax bills mailed each September until the next reappraisal occurs.

As tax administrator, Williams is both Chatham’s official tax assessor and tax collector. As her tax *collection* work nears its zenith (see sidebar story), those initial stages of the revaluation process — the *assessor* piece of her job — is nearing completion. For that work, the county contracted with Vincent Valuations, an Elizabeth City-based company which specializes in working with counties on the reappraisal process.

How do the reappraisals occur?

“They (Vincent Valuations) do what’s called a full list and measure,” said Williams. “They visit every property in Chatham County and as long as the homeowner didn’t have a problem with them being on their property, they measure every house as part of the process.”

Vincent Valuations works all around N.C., but this is the company’s first time contracting with Chatham County. Once the field work — 10 or so company employees making those visitations to each parcel of property

over a period of months, performing measurements and makings notes of changes since the last reappraisal — is completed, the data collected is processed by Vincent Valuations staff. Data entry is input into the company’s computer system within its temporary offices of the tax department, and then, recent sales of properties in Chatham are analyzed — “We’re trying to figure out what people are paying for what kinds of houses in what kinds of neighborhoods,” says company owner Ryan Vincent — and valuation models and schedules are then built for the appraisals and revaluation.

A smaller number of Vincent’s staff, around four or five employees, then review each of the 45,000-plus appraisals to determine the final fair market value. That part of the work should be completed by the end of February, he said. A reappraisal presentation will be made to the board of commissioners on March 1, and later in the month, reappraisal notices will be mailed to all property owners.

“There are a lot of misconceptions about our process,” Vincent said. “Some people think we’re just going out there and putting a value on a home. We’re not. We are trying to mimic the market. We’re looking at what homes are buying and selling for, the style of the home, the age, the quality of construction ... In the reappraisal process, things are constantly changing until the very

When it comes to collecting taxes, they’re keeping an eye on the revenues — as well as the calendar

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

Chatham County’s tax office — like similar offices in North Carolina’s other 100 counties — keeps a close eye on tax receipts. Those collected funds, after all, provide the largest share of the revenue stream used to pay for government operations, including county services and the operation of public schools on an annual basis.

But Tax Administrator Jenny Williams and her staff also keep a watchful eye on the calendar.

Now that the deadline for paying real and personal property taxes (which was Jan. 5) has passed, the department’s next deadline is Feb. 1. That’s when personal and business property tax listings for all Chatham County property owners as of Jan. 1 are due.

Those listings forms have been mailed out, but property owners who need to make changes to their real or personal property listings can also pick up forms at the tax office in Pittsboro or download a form at chathamnc.org/TaxForms. (For more information, call (919) 542-8250.)

As for property taxes, as of this week, a little more than \$70 million of the total amount of property (or ad valorem, in official terms) taxes billed in Chatham have been collected within Williams’ office. That’s about 94% of the \$74,798,920 in taxes that were due on Jan. 5. And Chatham’s collection rate is about 2% ahead of last year’s at this same time, which is a good sign — particularly given

that the county temporarily stopped enforced collections last spring as the COVID-19 pandemic took root.

Still, not everyone pays what’s due.

Unpaid taxes trigger a series of events on the department’s calendar. In February, Williams will prepare and present a report to the county’s board of commissioners about unpaid taxes. Commissioners will follow suit by issuing an order for Williams’ office to advertise the tax liens on properties associated with the unpaid taxes.

About a month before that advertisement is published — as a listing of unpaid taxes printed in the News + Record, by name of the registered property owner — those who are delinquent in paying taxes will get a notice from the county. That notice, in the form of a registered letter, serves a dual purpose, according to Williams.

“It’s sort of a joint letter and notifies them if they don’t pay their taxes, then they will be in the newspaper, and also notifies them that we can garnish any lottery winnings or their state income tax refund,” Williams said. “That initial letter serves that purpose. That way, we’re notifying you about those processes. And the delinquent tax collector, he’s the one that sends out the garnishment letters.”

The exact dates for those events haven’t been set yet, but they’ll end up as another starred date on the department’s calendar. And as Williams reminds taxpayers who haven’t paid, that due date — Jan. 5 — should have been starred on their calendars, too.

Pre-Retirees: Plan Now for Health Care

If you’re close to retirement, you’ll have several financial issues to consider. But you’ll want to pay attention to one of the most important of these issues: health care costs. How can you prepare yourself for these expenses?

First, get an early start on estimating health care costs. More than two-thirds of those planning to retire in the next 10 years say they have no idea what their health and long-term care costs will be in retirement, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave *Four Pillars of the New Retirement* study. And some people don’t worry much about these costs, which may be considerable, thinking that Medicare will pay for most of them.

While Medicare does cover many medical expenses, it also has its own costs. You probably won’t pay a premium for Part A (inpatient/hospital coverage), since you likely had this cost deducted from your paycheck when you were working. But if you are hospitalized, you’ll have to pay deductibles and coinsurance (the percentage of costs you pay after you’ve paid your deductible). Part B (doctor’s visits) requires a premium, deducted from your Social Security checks, and you must pay an out-of-pocket deductible. After you meet this deductible for the year, you typically pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for most doctor’s services. And when you enroll in Part D (prescription drug plan), you will likely also have to pay a monthly premium, an annual deductible and coinsurance or copays.

To help pay for the Medicare deductible, coinsurance and copayments, you may want to get supplemental insurance, known as Medigap. Premiums for Medigap vary, depending on the plan you choose.

As an alternative to original Medicare, you could select Medicare Advantage (sometimes called Part C). Medicare Advantage plans are offered by private companies approved by Medicare, but the benefits and costs vary by plan.

These plans generally will incorporate Medicare Parts A and B and will provide additional medical coverage, such as prescription drugs.

When you incorporate all the above, the annual out-of-pocket costs for traditional medical expenses likely will be about \$4,500 to \$6,500 per year, per person — not insignificant, but certainly a number that can be addressed by careful planning.

But there’s one more expense to keep in mind: long-term care. The average cost of a private room in a nursing home is more than \$100,000 per year, according to the insurance company Genworth. And Medicare typically pays few of these expenses.

Clearly, between regular medical costs associated with Medicare or those not covered by it, and costs resulting from the possible need for long-term care, your health care bills can mount. To meet these costs, you need to plan ahead — and take action.

For example, it’s essential that you incorporate health care expenses into your overall financial strategy. You can also work with a financial professional to run some “what-if” analyses to see if your strategy would be derailed by a potential long-term care stay. And the professional you work with may be able to suggest specific protection vehicles that can help you meet the costs of long-term care.

The best time to prepare for your health care costs during retirement is well before you retire. So, if you haven’t already started, now is the time to do so. When it comes to paying for health care, the fewer surprises, the better.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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end.”

And it’s a joint effort, according to Williams.

“We rely on them,” she said. “We meet often and discuss certain situations. We work together with them. They’re not doing it solely on their own.”

Those final assessed valuations — again, based on the fair market value as of Jan. 1, 2021 — will be a part of that March presentation to commissioners and the subsequent mailing of revaluation notices. And while neither Williams nor Vincent would comment on what they’re seeing insofar as trends in the new valuations — “Some properties are going up in value, and some are going down,” Vincent said — it’s certain that valuations will surprise some property owners when they receive their notifications.

The county has set

aside the months of April through August to hear appeals from property owners who think the reappraisal of their property is too high (or, in rare cases, too low). Chatham has established a Board of Equalization and Review — made up of community members appointed to hear appeals — to provide a method for property owners to challenge revaluations.

For his part, Vincent says those who end up making appeals throughout the spring and summer need to gather evidence to support their cases.

“A lot of time we get appeals in the mail that are just blank,” he said. “People will write, ‘I don’t like my property value,’ or, ‘My taxes are too high.’ We need some sort of evidence ... some sales, some evidence, something about the property.”

Vincent also urges

property owners to review the information contained in the mailing for accuracy and to compare their homes to others which have recently sold.

“If you still disagree, then file an appeal” he said. “I tell people to treat the appeal process like they’re going to court. Submit evidence you have ... a recent appraisal, or maybe you’ve refinanced. And there may be something wrong with the house we don’t know about.”

Williams says all the work done so far is being checked and double-checked as reviews take place.

“And they’ll go back through them again, one more time,” she said.

Her advice for property owners?

“If they can provide documentation to us that changes things,” she said, “we can adjust the value.”

NEWS BRIEFS

County to designate February as ‘We Love Seniors’ month

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners was set to designate February as “We Love Seniors” month in Chatham County and consider a rezoning request at its regular meeting on Tuesday night, which was moved to accommodate the Martin Luther King Jr. Day federal holiday.

The meeting began before press time this week.

A legislative rezoning request was to be made by 919 Storage LLC on Parcel No. 3080, located at 72 Marvin Edwards Lane, for self storage mini warehouse facility, William’s Township. The board was also set to hear COVID-19 county and state trends and updates as of Jan. 14, including updates on internal and external relief funding and the Chatham Food Hub and Chatham Resource Hub.

Siler City Commissioners consider UDO amendments

The Siler City Board of Commissioners was set to hold a public hearing for several proposed text amendments to the town’s Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) in keeping with new N.C. general statutes. The board was also scheduled to consider a rezoning request at Tuesday’s regular meeting, which was moved to accommodate the Martin Luther King

Jr. federal holiday.

County sets new location for residents to pay tax and water bills

Chatham County residents have convenient new options to pay their tax and water bills.

Starting Jan. 19, Chatham County began accepting property tax payments, water connection applications and water payments at a new location, 192 West St., Pittsboro.

The West Street location (formerly SunTrust Bank) offers the public access to a night deposit box and drive-thru payment service. Drive-thru hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Vehicles should access the drive-thru from Rectory Street.

Property Tax Collections is moving to this new location from 12 East St. Property tax payments will no longer be accepted at the East Street location, but property tax listing and appraisal will remain at 12 East St. Additionally, water utility is moving from 964 East St. to the new 192 West St. location.

To protect the health and safety of staff and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person payments and water utility applications will be made by appointment only. Residents may call 919-542-8260 for tax collections and 919-542-8270 for water utility billing inquiries.

— CN + R staff reports

POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

James Calloway II, 44, of Asheboro, was charged Jan. 5 for violation of a domestic violence protection order. Calloway was issued no bond with a Jan. 7 court date in Asheboro.

James Calloway II, 44, of Asheboro, was charged Jan. 5 for failure to appear on charges relating to child support. Calloway was issued a \$2,000 secured bond with a Jan. 26 court date in Asheboro.

Paris Baldwin, 21, of Staley, was charged Jan. 6 for failure to appear on charges of speeding, reckless driving/wanton disregard. Baldwin was jailed on a \$1,000 secured bond with a Feb. 17 court date in Graham.

Jonathan Burke, 26, of Siler City, was charged Jan. 8 for possession of

drug paraphernalia and possession of firearm by felon. Burke was jailed on a \$10,000 secured bond with a Feb. 1 court date in Pittsboro.

Stephen Garcia, 29, of Siler City, was charged Jan. 5 for violation of a domestic violence protection order. Garcia was issued no bond with a Jan. 26 court date in Pittsboro.

Morgan Collins, 25, of Garner, was charged Jan. 9 for assault inflicting physical injury on a law enforcement officer, resisting a public officer, assault and battery, injury to real property and injury to personal property. Collins was issued no bond with a Feb. 3 court date in Pittsboro.

Derek Headen, 53, of Siler City, was charged Jan. 9 for failure to appear on charges of communicating threats, misdemeanor

probation violation, driving while impaired, communicating threats, resisting a public officer, interfering with emergency communications, misuse of the 911 system, second degree trespassing and filing a false report to a police station. Headen was jailed on a combined \$1,400 secured bond with a Jan. 20 court date in Pittsboro.

Thomas Ritter, 24, of New Hill, was charged Jan. 11 for failure to appear on charges of failure to wear a seat belt and driving while license revoked. Ritter was issued a \$500 secured bond with a Jan. 29 court date in Graham. Ritter was also issued a \$100 secured bond with a Feb. 9 court date in Wilmington.

Daniel Yarborough, 36, of Siler City, was charged Jan. 12 for misdemeanor stalking. Yarborough was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a Jan. 26 court date in Pittsboro.

John Garibay II, 52, of

Spring Lake, was charged Jan. 13 for failure to appear on charges of misdemeanor larceny and show cause. Garibay was issued a \$945 secured bond with a Feb. 15 court date in Statesville.

Immanuel Duncan, 24, of Goldston, was charged Jan. 13 for assault by strangulation. Duncan was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold

with a Feb. 1 court date in Pittsboro.

Stacey Currie, 48, of Siler City, was charged Jan. 14 for assault on a female. Currie was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold with a Jan. 26 court date in Pittsboro.

Jonathan Burke, 26, of Siler City, was charged Jan. 14 for trafficking opium and heroin, maintaining vehicle/dwelling/place for use of controlled substances, selling/delivery of a scheduled II controlled substance, simple

possession of Schedule II controlled substance and felony probation violation. Burke was issued a \$20,000 secured bond with a Feb. 8 court date in Pittsboro.

Jeremy Tharp, 42, of Bear Creek, was charged Jan. 14 for felony aiding and abetting, accessory after the fact, receiving stolen goods/property and possession of stolen goods/property. Tharp was issued a \$2,000 secured bond with a Feb. 1 court date in Pittsboro.

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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 Thursday.

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 mem-

bers throughout the watershed.

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.

Edward Jones will serve as a drop-off location for CORA Food Pantry.

Edward Jones is partnering with the CORA Food Pantry to help collect donations of

canned food items. If you would like to help remember those in need, please donate canned perishable items to any Edward Jones office in Chatham County now through Feb. 15.

To help safeguard everyone's health, the donation box will be located outside the front of our office. We will check it regularly and move donations inside.

Please contact our office at 919-545-0125 for additional information and a complete list of the items needed.

County Boards of Elections begin regular voter list maintenance processes

In 2021, county boards of elections across North Caro-

lina will conduct several important and required processes designed to keep the state's voter rolls accurate and up to date.

These routine processes are required by state and federal laws. Accurate voter rolls are maintained by removing voters who have moved or died or are otherwise ineligible to vote in that jurisdiction.

Voter roll list maintenance is important because it ensures ineligible voters are not included on poll books, reduces the possibility for poll worker error and decreases opportunities for fraud.

As a result of these processes, the number of North Carolina voter registrations will decrease in the coming months. As of January 9, nearly 7.2 million voters were

registered in the state.

"The removal of voters who have moved and are no longer eligible to vote in that jurisdiction is a routine and important aspect of elections administration," said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the State Board of Elections (NCSBE). "Before any voter's registration is canceled, the county boards of elections attempt to contact the voter to allow them to confirm or update their registration."

NCSBE will also remove inactive voters, deceased voters and confirm change of address data.

To learn more about registering to vote in North Carolina, visit: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/registering>.

— CN + R staff reports



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PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

The **inauguration** is the ceremony in which the new or reelected president is inducted into office. This year it will be held at noon on January 20. It takes place outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C.

The President's Oath of Office

At the inauguration ceremony, the president takes an **oath of office**. With right hand raised and left hand on an open Bible, the new president says the following statement:

the United States."

"I do solemnly swear that I will

ability, preserve, protect and

and will to the best of my

defend the Constitution of

President of the United States,

faithfully execute the office of

Whoops! Cut out the Presidential Oath and paste it on a sheet of paper in the correct order.

Hottest and Coldest Inaugurations

Some presidents have had two inaugurations. That's because they served two terms. One of these two-term presidents had the hottest (55°F/12°C) and coldest (7°F/-13°C) inaugurations. Use the code to discover the name of that president.

1 = A	5 = L					
2 = D	6 = N	8	7	6	1	5
3 = E	7 = O					2
4 = G	8 = R	8	3	1	4	1
						6




Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

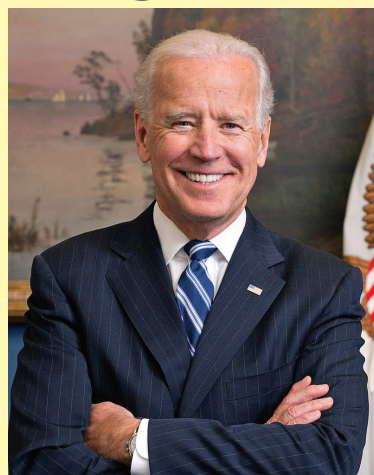
The words in the scrambled sentence below make up a very American sentence. Can you put the words in the right order to reveal the sentence?

THE UNITED PLEDGE OF STATES AMERICA OF ALLEGIANCE FLAG I TO THE.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Inauguration Day 2021



Joseph R. Biden will be sworn into office as the 46th president of the United States during his inauguration celebration on January 20th. He will take the oath to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

This inauguration will make history because Kamala Harris will be first woman vice president of the United States.

Standards Link: Civics: Understand the primary responsibilities of each branch of government in a system of shared powers.

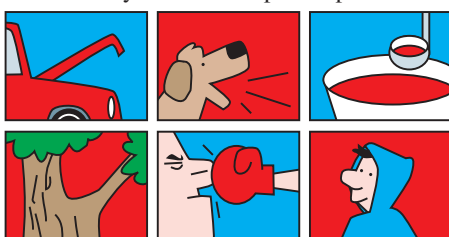
How many members of the armed services will take part in Inauguration Day activities? Circle every other letter:

Q F T I A V B E C T Y H S O L U R S D A P N M D

The Inaugural Ball

America's fourth president, James Madison, and his wife, Dolley, were the guests of honor at the first official Inaugural Ball. An Inaugural Ball does not bounce. It is actually a big party.

Like the word **ball**, many words mean more than one thing. Each object shown here has the same name as another object shown. Can you match the picture pairs?



bark
punch
hood

Standards Link: Reading: Identify words with multiple meanings.

Presidential Seal

The Seal of the President of the United States contains a circle of white stars representing America's 50 states. The banner that reads **E PLURIBUS UNUM** is Latin for "out of many, one" meaning out of many states, one country and also, out of many peoples, one nation. There are 13 stars, clouds, leaves and arrows that represent the original 13 states.

Starting with the first letter in each line below, circle every other letter to discover what the olive branch represents and what the arrows the eagle is holding represent.

P T E Y A N C K E L
D W E B F P E D N A S J E V

Word Order

Look through the newspaper to find five or more words that begin with the letter **I**. Cut out the words and glue them onto a piece of paper in alphabetical order. Challenge: Can you do this with more than five words?

Standards Link: Spelling: Alphabetize words to a second or third letter.

Double Word Search

CEREMONY
PRESIDENT
SWEAR
PROTECT
PRESERVE
DEFEND
OATH
FIRST
PARTY
SWORN
HAND
HONOR
WHITE
NOON

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

H F H U N S T Y O P
O I R P W O N I R R
N R S H A O O E A E
O S I T M R S N E S
R T H E O I T C W E
E M R O D R D Y S R
D E F E N D I N M V
C E N R O W S C A E
N T C E T O R P T H

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

Kid Scoop Together: Missing Words

Fill in the missing words in the below article.

Growing Up in the White House

Several presidents have had children who lived with them in the White House.

Thomas (Tad) Lincoln was the youngest son of

President Abraham Lincoln. Known for his

around the White House, Tad once

discovered how to make all of the White House

ring at the same time, much to the

surprise of the entire staff and residents of the building!

John and Jacqueline Kennedy were among the

youngest presidential to live in

the White House, and their children

it as a playland. Caroline Kennedy, almost 4, and

John Jr., just an infant, in on

February 4, 1961. John Jr.'s favorite

place was under his father's desk in the Oval

Office. He could hide behind a secret

built into the desk.

Amy Carter was 9 when her father became

president. She attended schools near

the White House and had a tree house built on the

White House grounds. When she labeled White

House trees as a school project, her father liked

the idea and made it official. Now all White

House trees have labels with their and

Latin names, as well as information about who

or donated them.

COUPLES
ANTICS
DOOR
PLANTED
TREATED
PUBLIC
BELLS
COMMON
HIDING
MOVED

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Read a variety of grade-level appropriate expository text.

Write On!

Dear Mr. President

What do you think the new president should do for kids? Send your letter to:

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500



Chatham YMCA

- CHATHAM YMCA SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PERRY HARRISON SCHOOL

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Pittsboro, NC 27312
More Info: 919-545-9622

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

LEARN ABOUT LAND - Chatham Land Experts - www.learn-aboutland.com - 919-362-6999. Jy2,tfnc

OFFICE SPACE RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT, Approximately 2,000 sq. ft. reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, 919-930-1650. Jn15,tfnc

MOBILE HOME RENTAL

3B/R 2BA Located: 487 Graham Moore Rd., 3 miles west of Siler City on Hwy. 64 - Total electric, no water bill! Deposit \$500; Rent \$550/mo, Call 336-879-4870, J21,1tp

2B/R, 1BA - No Smoking! Taking applications. Maintain yard - No pets. Bear Creek District. 919-837-5689 J21,28,2tp

RENTAL APARTMENTS

POWELL SPRINGS APTS Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for LWVODC: Advocates For Inclusive and Diverse Schools Reopening Task Force adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 - 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD # 1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, A2,tfnc

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. \$486/mo., no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. A2,tfnc

FOR SALE

2-HORSE NISSEN Wagon, like new! Call 336-581-3672, J14,21,28,3tp

FESCUE HAY, \$4 Square Bale, Crutchfield X-Rds area; No rain/in shed. 984-265-0402 or 919-663-5780. J14,21,28,F4,11,5tp

AUCTIONEERS

RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, S3,tfnc

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call... We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, S3,tfnc

SERVICES

JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfnc

I PAY IN CASH FOR Junk Cars and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or Cell: 910-639-5614. God Bless! J9,tfnc

CARPENTRY WORK - all types, repairs, renovation, installation, windows and doors. Call Robert Clark, 919-742-3194. My25,tfnc

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

HELP WANTED

PART-TIME FARM WORKER - in Silk Hope area. Call 336-669-6357, J21,28,F4,11,4tp

F-T ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Needed. Customer service, clerical duties, social media, data entry, promotion of events and programs, excellent communication skills required, and other varied duties. Please send resume and cover letter to the Chatham Chamber of Commerce at 531 East 3rd Street, Siler City, NC 27344 or by email to info@ccucc.net. J21,1tc

HOMECARE SEEKING, Now hiring for immediate positions in Pittsboro/Siler City: Certified

Nurse Aides - Competitive Weekly Pay, CNA's start at \$10.00/hr. & up for extra care cases - Total LifeCare, Call (919) 799-7275 or visit 106 Village Lake Rd. Ste. A, Siler City for more info or to apply. J21,28,F4,11,4tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY - UTILITY MAINTENANCE WORKER - Performs intermediate skilled and semi-skilled work in the installation, replacement, repair, and maintenance of water and sewer lines. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications - High School diploma or high school equivalency. Some experience in construction-related utility work. Possession of a valid NC driver's license. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Possession of a NC Class B commercial driver's license upon hire. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. - Conditional Employment Requirements: Possession of a NC Class B commercial driver's license within six months of hire. - Annual Hiring Salary, \$29,010.00. - Please refer to our website for a full job description. To Apply: This posting is open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application is required and 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, 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 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. J21,1tc

WELL-ESTABLISHED HOME CARE AGENCY is looking for committed CNAs and Habilitation Technicians in Chatham, Orange and Durham Counties FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE. Must be compassionate, have a pleasant demeanor, possess good work ethics, and passionate about making a difference in people's lives. CALL 919-967-0507 NOW!!!!

J21,28,F4,11,4tp

RAINBOW WATER FILTERED VACUUMS, Alice Cox, Cox's Distributing - Rainbow -- Cell: 919-548-4314, Sales, Services, Supplies. Serving public for 35 years. Rada Cutlery also available. J21,1tp

LEGALS

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

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.

corporations having claims against BEATRICE SEROTKIN, deceased, of Chatham County,

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA
Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.

400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312

919-542-5410

TDD 1-800-735-2962

Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMGTCOM

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Looking for employment? Spring into 2021 with a career at Mountaire Farms in Siler City at our Career Fair.

- **General Labor positions with wages up to \$14.90 dependent on shift and position.**
 - **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

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Elizabeth Kernodle 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,J28,4tp

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 WILIS, 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 plead 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 Shanell K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 J7,J14,J21,J28,4tp

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,F4,4tp

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,F4,4tp

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

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,F4,4tp

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified on the 13th day of January, 2021 as Executrix of the Estate of ALAN W. KAPLAN A/K/A ALAN WILLIAM KAPLAN, 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 21st 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 21st day of January 2021. Barbara Kaplan, Executor of the Estate of Alan W. Kaplan a/k/a Alan William Kaplan PO Box 51579 Durham, NC 27717-1579 Candace B. Minjares, Esquire Kennon Craver, PLLC 4011 University Drive, Suite 300 Durham, North Carolina 27707 J21,J28,F4,F11,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The Undersigned having

Statewide Classified

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qualified as the Executor of the Estate of ALMA S. BERGMANN, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 29th 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 21st day of January, 2021.

Jayne Seebach vanDusen, Executor
20008 Grier
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Charles L. Steel, IV
Manning Fulton & Skinner, PA
Diamond View II, Ste. 130
280 S. Mangum Street
Durham, NC 27701
J21,J28,F4,F11,4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF GOLDSTON
The Goldston Town Board of Commissioners will hold two (2) Legislative Public Hearings on Monday, February 1 at 7:00 pm. The Public Hearings will be conducted in person and remotely via Zoom, a teleconference software, for the following items:

1. Legislative Hearing on a Proposed Annexation .

Rock Hill Farms Holdings, LLC has requested a voluntary satellite annexation of its 25.56 acre tract of land at 12365 US 421 South, Goldston, NC. (Chatham County Tax Parcel 9032) The purpose of the hearing

is to determine whether the property should be annexed into the Town of Goldston.

2. Legislative Public Hearing on a Rezoning Request: The Town, on its own motion, is proposing to rezone a 25.56 acre tract at 12365 US 421 South, Goldston, NC which will be unzoned if the property is annexed into the Town of Goldston to Light Industrial (IL) (Chatham County Tax Parcel 9032)

SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING.

The purpose of these legislative public hearings is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the requests. Pursuant to Section 2.17.5 of the Town's recently adopted Unified Development Ordinance, the second hearing will be held jointly with the Town Planning Board.

If you wish to participate in the legislative public hearing you may speak in person (subject to Covid -19 limits), via Zoom or submit written comments for consideration by the Board. The Comments will not be read, but will be provided to the Board and included in the minutes. Written comments may be sent (via email or USPS) to the Town Clerk, Annie King-Gaines at akkgaines@americansouthgc.com. 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 29, 2021 if you wish to participate.

Instructions on how to join the Meeting can be found on the

Town's page under the County Planning Department website: <https://www.chathamnc.org/government/departments-programs/planning/town-of-goldston>

J21,J28,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of William F. Milholen of Chatham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before April 21, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms or corporations indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 21st day of January, 2021.

Sallie T. Milholen, Co-Executor of the Estate of William F. Milholen
79 Medinah Lane
Siler City, NC 27344
Laurie M. Nunnery, Co-Executor of the Estate of William F. Milholen
207 Fairwinds Drive
Cary, NC 27518
Martha T. Peddrick Johnson, Peddrick, & McDonald, P.L.L.C.
440 West Market Street, Suite 300
Greensboro, North Carolina 27401
Telephone: (336) 574-9720
J21,J28,F4,F11,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
20 E 535
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Executor or of the Estate of JOHN GEORGE LOSAK of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all creditors that they should present their claims to Bonnie Joyce Losak, Executor, c/o Kratt Dedmond & Associates, PLLC, 5623 Dura-leigh Road, Suite 111, Raleigh, NC 27612 on or before April 22, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 21st day of January, 2021.

Bonnie Joyce Losak, Executor
Estate of John George Losak
c/o Kratt Dedmond & Associates, PLLC
5623 Dura-leigh Road
Suite 111
Raleigh, NC 27612
J21,J28,F4,F11,4tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY
NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS
To: All Heirs, Known and Unknown of Ernest Roseboro and wife Lula Roseboro, Donnie Harrington (aka Donnie Roseboro Brooks; Donnie L. Harrington; Donald Roseboro), Earnest Roseboro, Jr., Mary R. Glover, Ray Roseboro, Ada Palmer, and Alan Palmer. The Town has filed a Notice of Lis Pendens with the Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court pursuant to NCGS 1-120.2.

The ordinance enforcement proceeding pending before the Town Ordinance Enforcement Officer is for violations of the Town Code of Ordinances under Chapter 8 Buildings, Article IV. Minimum Housing Standards. The real property affected by this ordinance enforcement proceeding is described as 429 E. 9th St. and Tax Parcel Number 16786. The subject finding of fact order in said ordinance enforcement proceeding shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the owners of (including heirs) and the parties in interest in the subject dwelling. The Notice of Lis Pendens shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. A copy of the Finding of Fact Order and Notice of Lis Pendens can be obtained by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at 311 N. 2nd Ave., Siler City, 919-742-2323, or jmeadows@silercity.org.

J21,1tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY
NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS
To: All Heirs, Known and Unknown of Dock D. Siler and wife Ella Siler Gwendolin or Gwendolyn Siler. The Town has filed a Notice of Lis Pendens with the Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court pursuant to N.C.G.S 1-120.2. The ordinance enforcement proceeding pending before the Town Ordinance Enforcement Officer is for violations of the Town Code of Ordinances under Chapter 8 Buildings, Article IV.

Minimum Housing Standards. The real property affected by this ordinance enforcement proceeding is described as 1125 N. 5th Ave. and Tax Parcel Number 16572. The subject finding of fact order in said ordinance enforcement proceeding shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the owners of (including heirs) and the parties in interest in the subject dwelling. The Notice of Lis Pendens shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. A copy of the Finding of Fact Order and Notice of Lis Pendens can be obtained by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at 311 N. 2nd Ave., Siler City, 919-742-2323, or jmeadows@silercity.org.

J21,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
21-E-6
All persons having claims against JAMES DONALD THORNTON, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st 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 21st day of January, 2021.

Anne T. Wood, Administrator
958 Taylors Rd
Boones Mill, VA 24065
J21,J28,F4,F11,4tp

NEWS BRIEFS

American Pickers coming to N.C.

American Pickers, a reality antiquing show hosted by Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz on the History Channel, is coming back to North Carolina in March and looking for leads throughout the state, specifically interesting characters with interesting items — and lots of them.

The show's hosts are looking for different, unusual and unique items, too — something they've never seen before and with an interesting story.

If you think your antique collection meets the above requirements, reach

out to American Pickers via phone at 1-855-OLD-RUST (653-7878), by email at AmericanPickers@cinetflix.com or on Facebook @GOTAPICK.

Please note that Mike and Frank only visit private collections, so no stores, malls, flea markets, museums, auctions, businesses or anything open to the public qualify for consideration.

School board seeking public input on superintendent search

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County

Board of Education has launched a survey seeking input on the characteristics, experience and skills desired in the district's next superintendent. Board members want to hear from students, parents and community members. The survey is available in English and Spanish.

Survey responses are due by Feb. 19. The North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) will compile and present the results March 8 during the 5:30 p.m. Board of Education meeting. The NCSBA is helping to facilitate the Board of Education's superintendent search process.

Chatham County Schools employees will receive a separate survey.

Local groups and organizations may submit written statements regarding the leadership qualities they would like to see in the next superintendent. Those statements should be mailed to: NCSBA, Attn: CCS Superintendent Search, 7208 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 301, Raleigh, NC 27615; or emailed to jorourke@ncsba.org. The deadline to submit statements is Feb. 19.

The Board of Education invites community members and staff to participate in sessions for public comment during its 5:30 p.m. meetings on Feb. 8 and

March 8. More information about the location of those sessions will be available on the Board of Education's webpage. All individuals and groups must

sign up to speak before the meeting begins and must otherwise comply with applicable board policy.

— CN + R staff reports

Eureka!

You found the answer!

A: Clothing labels.

To enter the COAs 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.

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