

Chatham News + Record

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'I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN SUCH EXCITED PARENTS'

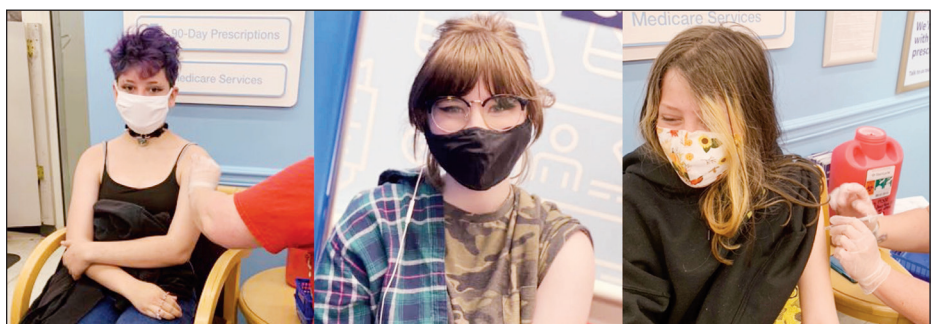
Chatham residents 12 and up getting vaccinated

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

65 and older have been eligible to get vaccinated since December; 16- and 17-year-olds were eligible in N.C. April 7 and 12- to 15-year-olds on May 13, following the CDC's recommendation.

"As a result of the FDA and CDC's decision, all Chatham County residents ages 12 and older are now eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and have a variety of means to do so in Chatham County," Chatham Public Health Dept. Communications Specialist Zachary Horner said in a May 13 statement.

See **VACCINE**, page A6



Submitted photos

From left to right: Georgia Schmidt, 14; Jillian Parker, 13 and Emma Schmidt, 12, were vaccinated last week following the FDA's emergency authorization of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 12- to 15-year-olds.

Last week, 136 youths between the ages of 12 and 17 were vaccinated in Chatham, following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's May 10 emergency authorization of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to include 12- to 15-year-olds.

According to the state's vaccination dashboard, of those who've received one vaccine in Chatham, 12- to 17-year-olds made up 1.4%; 65-74 year olds make up the largest vaccinated age group, at 26.1%. In North Carolina, most adults

'THE PERSONAL IS PROFOUND'

How one family's Chinese immigration story taught students about history

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff



Screenshot from, Karalee Wong Nakatsuka's presentation

Karalee Wong Nakatsuka, a history teacher in California, presents her family's immigration story for a high school history class at Chatham Central.

King invited her friend, Karalee Wong Nakatsuka, to discuss her own family's immigration story as King taught about immigration restrictions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries which made it nearly impossible for Chinese people to immigrate to the United States. Nakatsuka, who is

Chinese American, is a U.S. history middle school teacher in Arcadia, California. She and King met virtually as finalists for the 2019 National History Teacher of the Year. What started as connecting over both being "pandemic moms" eventually led to Nakatsuka sharing her family's story: her grand-

father immigrated from China in the 1920s as a "paper son," or a Chinese immigrant who arrived in the U.S. with purchased citizenship papers. "I was like, 'Oh, my gosh, my kids need to hear this story,'" King said. "I said, you know, See **HISTORY**, page A11

U.S. Marshals apprehend Siler City murder suspect

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON & D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Five months after the killing of Ramon Hernandez in Siler City, U.S. Marshals apprehended his suspected killer, Sergio "Yovani" Rodriguez Pereira, in Gwinnett County, Georgia, early Tuesday morning.

Rodriguez is in custody without bond, Chatham County Sheriff's Office Lt. Sara Pack told the News + Record, and he will be extradited back to North Carolina in coming days. The Sheriff's Office has been investigating Hernandez's death since the shooting in December and coordinating with a network of law enforcement agencies nationwide.

"I really appreciate the help we have received from other agencies on this case, including the United States Marshals who located Mr. Rodriguez in Georgia this morning," Sheriff Mike Roberson told the News + Record. "Their support has been instrumental to the case."

Hernandez, 28, died Dec. 20 in the UNC-Chapel Hill Medical Center after he

See **SUSPECT**, page A3



Rodriguez

Shooting at Moncure's 'Club 51' and fear of retaliation keep neighbors worried

Party-goers, they say, brag about 'paying off' cops to overlook parties

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

MONCURE — Dozens of shots were fired during a party at a Moncure home earlier this month, injuring one man

and confirming claims from some residents who live in the vicinity about alleged criminal activities there.

Anthony Davis, 27, of Sanford was shot in the early morning hours of May 9

at 3800 Old U.S. 1 Hwy. The property is well known for raucous parties, which have been especially concerning through the pandemic's worst months, Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson told the

News + Record. When asked if the property had some notoriety for other illicit activity, Roberson confirmed it has that reputation, but emphasized that his office has not received calls for anything but noise

complaints — until the report of the shooting.

Davis has since been released from the hospital after sustaining a non-fatal gunshot

See **MONCURE**, page A11

PRINCETON: N.C. is the country's most gerrymandered state

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — North Carolina is the country's most gerrymandered state, and the General Assembly is likely to again promote unjust voting maps during this year's biennial redistricting, according to election researchers at Princeton University. Gerrymandering is the illegal practice of manipulating voting districts to favor a political party.

It has plagued North Carolina for decades and the problem, members of the Princeton Gerrymandering Project say, is that legislators are endowed with too much unchecked power to create districts that serve the majority party's political agenda.

"What's happening in North Carolina right now is a very unique case of opportunity and intent," said Hannah Wheelen, the team's senior analyst and project manager.

See **GERRYMANDER**, page A6



Wheelen

NUMBER 2235

Remains of man found in Siler City in 1986 still unidentified

BY LINDELL J. KAY
Special to the News + Record

SILER CITY — In Norse mythology, the Valkyrie were warrior women who plucked the souls of worthy dead from the battlefield and delivered them to Valhalla, the heavenly resting place of Viking heroes.

Valkyrie are usually depicted as riding flying horses, but the Valkyrie tattooed on the upper right arm of a man found dead in a Chatham County rock quarry decades ago is straddling a giant cobra.

That unique image might be the most valuable clue in one day identifying the

still unknown tattooed man found Sept. 9, 1986.

While Valkyries ascended into the heavens, the tattooed man looks to have been dragged down to hell — missing finger bones and teeth point to possible torture, followed by a coup de grâce gunshot to the head and being thrown down into the abyss of a mine pit.

The tattooed man had a bullet entrance wound to the left temple area with an exit wound on the right side of his head, according to his autopsy report signed by Dr. Cheryl Thorne. The manner of death

See **REMAINS**, page A7

IN THE KNOW

CHAT: Coalition working to remember Chatham's Black history. **PAGE A9**

It's back: Hispanic Heritage Fiesta to return in September. **PAGE B6**

Chapel in the Pines to host bilingual vaccination clinic Sunday. **PAGE B7**

Siler City board adopts economic plans, talks budget, taxes. **PAGE B8**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

• The Friends of the Chatham Community Library has cancelled its Spring Book Sale due to the continued lockdown of government offices and businesses, ordered by federal, state, and local government. More information can be found on the website: friendscl.org. **Chatham County Council on Aging:** Both centers are closed at this time until July. If you need to pick up supplies, call the Siler City or Pittsboro location or check our website at chathamcoa.org.

ON THE AGENDA

The **Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will hold work sessions concerning the budget at 9 a.m. on Thursday and Friday of this week (May 20, 21) and Tuesday, May 25, at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro.

The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will have its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 24, only via Zoom.

• Siler City Parks and Recreation invites you to start your days off right with a few laps at the Indoor Walking Program each weekday morning, Monday thru Friday, from 7 to

9 a.m., at the Ernest Ramsey Gymnasium Indoor Walking Track, 512 East 6th Street. The program is free and no pre-registration is required. Operations are subject to COVID-19 guidelines and mask requirement indoors. For more information, visit www.silercity.org or contact Siler City Parks and Recreation at 919-742-2699 or email recreation@silercity.org.

THURSDAY

Pittsboro Farmers Market is open with seasonal items year-round from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays, at 287 East St. **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.

FRIDAY

OTHER UPCOMING:

Meet Rednap Howell at the **Chatham County Historical Association's Program:** Sunday, May 23, 2 p.m. in the Historic Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro. Public invited., w/free admission. We will be following the Governor's directive on occupancy, masks, and social distancing. The program will consist of a re-enactment of Rednap Howell, a key leader in NC's War of Regulation. Howell earned the title Poet of the War of Regulation by writing songs that spread the news of the corrup-

tion of local officials and kept the flames of the Regulation Movement growing. Hear Rednap's first-hand account of the War of Regulation, in which many settlers of what would become Chatham County participated. More info: <https://chathamhistory.org>

• Chatham Community Library is offering free online classes on Microsoft Word and Online Privacy & Security in May. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found at www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. Microsoft Word Basics, Part 2: May 24, Monday, 3 p.m. -- Online Privacy & Security: May 26, Wednesday, 3 pm. **The Chatham Historical Museum** is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. We will be following the Governor's directive on occupancy, masks, and social distancing. Adult and kid friendly; no admission fee. Don't miss our new exhibit of the paintings of Annie Lutterloh Bynum. 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 Thrift Store is open** at the Food Lion Shopping Center. Store hours are Tuesday until Saturday, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Masks are required and hand sanitizer is also available. Proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County. **Pittsboro Youth Theater**

(pittsboroyouththeater.com) is offering in-person theater camps this summer! All campers will learn a comprehensive variety of theater skills, rehearse and perform a live play at Sweet Bee Theater. Camps will be led by experienced Pittsboro Youth Theater Director(s) and Assistant(s). Camp themes include Princess Camp, Fairy Camp, Jungle Camp, and Alien Camp. There will also be a 3-week musical intensive one resulting in performances of Frozen Jr., as well as a 2-week intensive for younger campers resulting in performances of Frozen Kids. Enrollment is open now on a first-come, first-served basis. Ages: 6-12; 3 weeks for ages 10-18. Dates: Weekly camps, 2-week summer intensive, and 3-week summer intensive, June 14 - August 13, 9 am to 5 pm, (early drop-off and late pick-up for an additional fee). Frozen Jr. and Frozen Kids: See website for details, COVID-19 Precautions, full details and accommodations - PYT Marketing Team, pytmktg@gmail.com - 18A E. Salisbury St., Pittsboro; 919-533-6997.

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. **Foster and/or adoptive information:** Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more. **Alcoholics Anonymous** — North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area. **Motorcycle Association** — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com. **Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings. **Al-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro. **Scout News** • Boy Scout Troop 93 in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information. • Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts. • Pack 900 in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

CHATHAM COMMISSIONERS

Public hearing on proposed budget hindered by virtual audio issues

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

Technical difficulties with the virtual offering of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners' regular meeting Monday night prevented remote attendees from hearing the majority of meeting business.

The meeting was supposed to include a public hearing on the county's recommended budget, first presented two weeks ago. But two people who signed up to speak remotely couldn't speak because of the audio glitches. One person who signed up to speak in-person did not show up, county Public Information Officer Kara Dudley said. All comments were submitted before the meeting to be entered into public record, she said.

Those comments included requests to prioritize conservation of Chatham's natural resources and "necessary improvements" to the Bynum Mill site and trail along the Haw River to Route 6 in this year's budget. There will be no additional public hearing on the budget, but people can submit written comments or given them in-person, Board Clerk Lindsay Ray said in an email to the News + Record.

Dudley sent an email regarding Monday's meeting alerting the public to the technology issues 30 minutes before it was set to begin.

"There is no legal requirement for the County to provide an online version of the meeting," that email said. "The public is still welcome to attend the meeting in person at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center... County staff are

working to address the technical issues and appreciate the public's patience."

Monday's audio glitches followed months of poor online audio quality of board meetings, but this was the first meeting in which discussion and presentations were rendered almost entirely unintelligible — with the exception of BOC Chairperson Mike Dasher's comments and the clerk's report at the end of the meeting. The chat feature on the GoToWebinar video platform streaming the meeting included several complaints about the poor audio.

"As you know, remote listeners cannot hear anyone speaking," one attendee sent in the chat. "Will the audio of the recording of the meeting that will be posted online afterwards be better so that we can listen to the meeting later?"

"The audio is being recorded on a handheld digital recorder," Ray responded in the chat. "I am unable to put that online. Residents are welcome to request a copy which will have to be put on a flash drive and mailed or picked up from our office."

She added that the county could not hear remote speakers, but that residents could submit comments to her via email at lindsay.ray@chathamcountync.gov.

The county is not required to record the meeting, Ray said, but they started recording on the digital record 18 minutes into the session, during the middle of the budget hearing. Up to that point, the county had been re-presenting a slideshow previously shown to the commissioners about the budget.

"...I cannot promise the audio will

be up to everyone's standards but I use these recordings all the time for other meetings," Ray said of the recording.

North Carolina law concerning the meetings of public bodies requires official business of a public body to be open to the public, with any person entitled to attend such a meeting. That law also requires remote meetings to be open to the public, though it does not require remote meetings to be offered.

Last spring, governing bodies across the country moved online to meet public meeting requirements while also meeting public health guidelines and gathering limits meant to slow the spread of COVID-19. As North Carolina opens up and gathering restrictions are no longer required, in-person attendance of meetings can increase.

The last few commissioners meetings were hosted in the exhibit hall at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center with social distancing in place. Following Gov. Roy Cooper's lifting of restrictions last week, there were no restrictions in place at Monday's meeting. The board will return to the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro on June 21, Ray said, and meet there without restrictions. Once those meetings resume, residents can watch a live stream of the meetings at <https://chathamnc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, which can be viewed during the meeting or the following morning once the video is finalized.

The meeting included two legislative requests from Moncure Holdings and Moncure Holdings West, both of which were approved.

The first, a legislative public hearing for a general use rezoning, requested to rezone approximately 249.036 acres — parcels spanning from R-1 Residential to IH Heavy Industrial — located off Old U.S. 1, Pea Ridge Road, Christian Chapel Church Road, and Moncure Flatwood Road, Cape Fear Township. The second involved a request to amend Section 302 (E)(2)(b) of the Watershed Protection Ordinance "to establish an overlay district where the 10/70 option applies in the Cape Fear WS-IV Protected Area watershed district," and to amend the Watershed Protection Map to establish the boundaries of the overlay district.

The board also heard two other requests: one from F-L Legacy Owner for subdivision Final Plat review and approval of 69 lots and 29.59 acres at The Legacy at Jordan Lake, and another by Kirk Metty for subdivision First Plat review and approval of 14 lots at Chestnut Creek on the corner of Jones Ferry Road, or 49.15 acres.

Neither request was voted on, as both motions failed for lack of a second and no vote was taken.

The board's June 7 meeting was canceled due to no agenda items being submitted, so its next regular session meeting will take place June 21. The board is set to hold work sessions concerning the recommended budget on Thursday and Friday, as well as May 25 if needed.

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @HannerMcClellan.

NEWS BRIEFS

Galloway Ridge at Ferrington certified as 'Great Place to Work'

PITTSBORO — The Great Place to Work Institute has honored Galloway Ridge at Ferrington with certification as a Great Place to Work.

The certification process considered more than 170 employee surveys from Galloway Ridge's current workforce. Great Place to

Work, an independent research and consulting firm, evaluated more than 60 elements of team members' experience on the job. These included employee pride in the organization's community impact, belief that their work makes a difference, and feeling their work has special meaning. Rankings are based on employees' experiences, no matter who they are or what they do.

"We are excited to be recognized as a Great

Place to Work," said Kim Hutter, Senior Director of Human Resources at Galloway Ridge. "Galloway Ridge is committed to attracting and retaining employees who embrace our core values of caring, commitment, empowerment and integrity."

Under the direction of CEO Bob Zimmer, the Employee Engagement Task Force has diligently worked on elevating the employee experience through a

variety of initiatives that have included robust onboarding programs, culture training and development, and ongoing support and recognition.

"We applaud Galloway Ridge for seeking certification and releasing its employees' feedback," said Dr. Jacquelyn Kung, of Great Place to Work's senior care affiliate Activated Insights. "These ratings measure its capacity to earn its own employ-

ees' trust and create a great workplace for high performance and overall satisfaction."

— CN+R staff reports

Chatham County Council on Aging

WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: When was the Mount Vernon Springs Post Office opened?

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

Chatham News + Record

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PITTSBORO'S BUDGET

KENNEDY: Insights into town's proposed spending plan

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Since his arrival last summer, Town Manager Chris Kennedy has overseen Pittsboro's dramatic expansion plans — both to accommodate expected growth and address longstanding issues. In the proposed town budget for fiscal year 2021-22, which Kennedy developed in partnership with town staff and the board of commissioners, he addresses the town's water contamination issues, its stressed sewer capacity limits, the demand for a larger administrative staff and more.

The town's ambitious plans will cost residents more money than they're used to paying, but Kennedy hopes the compensatory value will outweigh heightened expenses.

The News + Record talked with Kennedy to get some more insight into what town leadership hopes to achieve with the proposed budget, and what he thinks is most important for residents to know. The town will host a public hearing on Monday, May 24, to discuss the budget a final time before the board of commissioners can vote to adopt it. Anyone interested in attending can access the Zoom meeting via the town's website, pittsboro.gov.

In the proposed budget, the town's enterprise fund sees a dramatic jump in spending (264.8% in its capital expense) as compared to the current year budget. Can you explain the basics of a general fund versus an enterprise fund, and why the latter saw a big increase in proposed expenditures?

The Town budget is comprised of two funds, the General Fund and the Enterprise Fund. The General Fund covers the basic operations of the Town — the police department, administration, planning, engineering, recreation, all those types of things. Enterprise funds throughout North Carolina can be comprised of different things, but for Pittsboro, our Enterprise Fund covers our water and sewer operations. The Enterprise Fund in Pittsboro includes the Town's water treatment, water distribution, sewer treatment and sewer collection. In other places, for instance in Apex, their Enterprise Fund also includes a storm water utility and an electric utility. But, again, for us here, we just have water and sewer.

The Enterprise Fund is run similar to a private business, and I think the major difference between the Enterprise Fund and the General Fund for folks to understand is that when we talk about tax dollars — the ad valorem revenue that a municipality receives — none of those tax dollars go to the Enterprise Fund. The Enterprise Fund is only funded by the user rates our water and sewer customers pay. So, when you get your water and sewer bill, those receipts to the Town are what pay for the water and sewer side of our operation.

With regard to the increase in expected expenditures next year, the Enterprise Fund is seeing such a big increase in the proposed budget over the current year budget because the Town is increasing the number of water and sewer projects in next year's work plan. As I stated during the Board's budget retreat and the May 10 public hearing on the budget, next year's budget strives to get us closer back to "par" with our infrastructure. We have many needs, but projects targeting water quality and sewer I&I (inflow & infiltration) are top priorities and are seeing dollars commensurate with the needs.

Part of that is addressing the town's PFAS contamination in the drinking supply, which has been a hot-button issue for more than a year. Can you explain what plans the town has in the next year and beyond to improve water quality, and how we see that reflected in the proposed budget?

For several months we've been planning and implementing an advanced water treatment project that is bringing a PFAS targeted water filtration system at our water plant. The initial project will install a GAC (granular activated carbon) system. As we have discussed during our Board of Commissioner meetings, this GAC project is designed

to filter out in excess of 90% of all PFAS from our drinking water.

Next year's budget currently proposes \$1.4 million, which is in addition to \$1.2 million that's already been appropriated by our Board thus far. The \$1.2 million appropriated by our Board in February is to get the project going — these dollars allowed us to buy the vessels that hold the GAC media, to buy the media itself and to pay for the necessary engineering work for the project.

The second part of this first phase implementation comes in next year's budget, in the amount of an additional \$1.4 million to complete the project. The Town is expected to receive \$1.28 million in funding from the federal ARP money, and our Board has agreed with my recommendation that we spend 100% of that \$1.28 million towards this water quality project. With the additional funds, we anticipate to purchase the remainder of the infrastructure required and to be complete with the initial advanced water treatment project by the end of this calendar year. So, by the end of December 2021, we expect that advanced treatment to be live and providing GAC filtered water to our customers.

This initial advanced water treatment project is what we call our "fast track" project, and the one we have discussed over the last few months. The fast track project aims to provide advanced treatment measures in a quick manner that reduces time and costs. For instance, we will have pipes and other infrastructure that is commonly buried, not buried with this project because the expense is too great. We are also designing the project to treat just over the first million gallons, which is right around our average daily consumption — the water plant's capacity is two million gallons per day — to keep costs down. For the next phases, where more permanent practices of construction are desired, we hope to be recipients of a \$2.2 million grant from the federal government to go towards us installing filtering measures to treat the full plant capacity. We are also keeping a keen eye on grant or no interest loan opportunities that are expected to come with the other sections of the ARP funding. We are focusing our energy mostly on this first phase to ensure timely completion, but we are also planning ahead for the next series of projects.

You mention hoping to secure some federal grant money, and I know in the past you and the board of commissioners have explored several different ways to secure funding so as to limit how much you need residents to contribute through utility rates or taxes. Can you tell me more about some of what you're working on?

Yes, back in April, I submitted a request to Congressman David Price's office to be a part of his list of projects that he is eligible to take to the U.S. House Appropriations Committee as part of a funding opportunity titled Community Project Funding. This earmark funding opportunity has not been available in the last 10 years or so, but it is back this year to fund any number of projects defined in the House guidance. The project eligibility list includes projects tied to PFAS removal. The Town submitted its project to Congressman Price and fortunately we made his top 10 list that he will send to the U.S. House Appropriations Committee. We asked for a \$2.2 million grant under the Interior and Environment section of the Community Project to help us with our PFAS issue. We are hopeful that by around next February or so we will get some good news and find out the federal government funded phase two of the project. Again these dollars will bring us closer to providing 100% of the water plant capacity with advanced treatment.

In addition to grants and State funding, we have also talked to a few private institutions about financing to reduce the financial burden on one year's rate payer base. But as you might imagine, financing for these types of projects is not like getting a common mortgage, and so we've struggled to find a good partner to be able to say, 'OK, let's do a three to five year loan on some of these infrastructure projects and see what we can do to not put that financial burden just on one year's rate payer base.' But we are still trying and continue to explore a myriad of funding

options.

For now, the payer base will have to assume some of the cost burden for these projects. Utility rates will almost certainly go up to support infrastructure development. The most recent iteration of the proposed budget increases water rates by 43% and sewer rates by 30%. Can you talk a bit about the behind-the-scenes process to arrive at those increases?

In a way, the process is kind of like balancing your checkbook or your household bills. You take what you anticipate to be your expense, and then you look at your revenue and say, 'OK, can we match these?' One thing that's important to keep in mind is that, unlike the federal government where they can just draft an appropriations bill and have a budget that is not balanced, we cannot do that. As our budget officer, I have to present to my Board a balanced budget. We look really hard at the projects that are included and try to decide what are top priorities within our funding constraints.

We went through a lot of filtering to decide on a reasonable project list. There are many projects that we need to do, but only so much that we can do, constrained by both our resources and our dollars. Our top needs for next year included solutions to the water quality issues and our sewer capacity constraints. Also, in budgeting at our level and like that of your household, we had to make some assumptions and do our best with averages to see how much we have to work with. Projecting on the water and sewer side can be complex because we have averages but consumption varies. The average customer in Pittsboro uses just over 3,100 gallons of water per year right now, but that could change as technology improves the efficiency of fixtures and appliances; we have to account for such things. So, using the information available to us, we've factored our best judgments into our projections and into our calculus to arrive at these proposed rate increases that we expect will generate enough revenue to see important projects through.

Originally, at the budget retreat, my budget proposal had 53% and 68% increases for water and sewer. Those proposed percentages were needed to fund the anticipated projects with simple math using only user rates. After the Board consented to the project list as a reasonable list of projects, we then sought alternatives for funding these projects to offset some of these costs and lessen the percentage increase. Using existing dollars generated via our System Development Fee collected, moving projects into Capital Project Funds to shield them from our fund balance policy, and the appropriation of reserve dollars has allowed us to reduce the percentages down to 43% to water and 30% to sewer.

After the budget retreat on April 17, we really took a deep dive looking for the best strategy to fund these projects. Striving for creative and defensible solutions from a budgeting perspective, allowed us to bring those numbers within a lower stratosphere. We know that those numbers are still high, but at same time they're for much needed projects. We hope that people see value in the Town investing in their infrastructure.

You were able to keep taxes constant in the proposed budget — \$0.4333 per \$100 of property valuation. How were you able to keep taxes down, and do you think the future tax rate might even decrease as commercial growth continues?

Well, to answer the first part, going into the making of this budget we expected that utility rate increases were going to be needed to move languishing projects forward. Also, factoring in the context of the last year — job uncertainties with COVID, other types of financial insecurities and uncertainties — we knew that keeping the tax rate the same was important. Regardless of the yearly context, we never wish to go into a budget saying, 'Hey let's go raise rates and raise taxes.' That's never our intent. We strive to provide high quality service at an affordable rate, at a rate where everyone feels they get exactly what they pay for. We strive for high quality service provision, within the funding restraints, and we will only plan to

propose tax increases when we see services suffer. Again, knowing that the utility side was likely to go up, I worked with our staff to keep the taxes on the other side of the ledger static. This year we also we got a little help, honestly, with the revaluation. Since values went up, that certainly helped us remain fixed on the tax rate.

To your second question, I do think there will be a point in the future when the tax rate can go down. I am not sure how quickly we will get to that plateau as for the next few years I anticipate we're going to grow in expense as the demands of the community also grow. However, eventually I expect our growth in operations to level off and I can see us definitely lessening the tax rate because we'll get to an equilibrium where we can provide equivalent service to greater populations without needing to raise the tax rate. I'm not sure if that'll be in five years, 10 years or longer, but I think we all hope to be there sooner than later.

The proposed budget funds eight new positions. How many were requested in the budget process, and how did you determine which requests to fulfill?

I think the number was probably well in excess of 20 new positions. In conversations we had, the question was really, what we do we need immediately for next year. We get a lot of calls about maintenance of roadways, our right-of-way mowing, our parks maintenance, utility work, street work, any number of things. But what you'll see in this year's budget are the foundational positions that support all of these functions. Human Resources, public information, grants, purchasing and the like support all sectors of our operation. Right now, everyone's doing about three or four different things, and that is not sustainable. We will lose our talent to other agencies and our service will suffer. Having a few more folks around will allow all of us to do our job better.

The town has elected to host two public hearings on the proposed budget although only one is required. What would you encourage residents to do, to read, to consider in advance of the second hearing scheduled for Monday?

I would just say if you read the budget and something doesn't make sense, just ask the question. Whether it's during or before the public hearing session, call me, call one of your elected officials on our Board of Commissioners, and ask why something is in there, or why something isn't in there. We may not have an answer for everything, but for us to be ultimately responsive and adaptive to the needs of our community, we need to listen. And so that's why we're having two public hearings when the State only requires us to hold one.

Sometimes people think it's not worth it to come to the hearings and speak because they feel like the budget's already done, so why bother now? But even if something doesn't end up in this year's budget, I take note of it and try not to forget it for next year's budget preparation. We try to have a long memory with this stuff. So, even if it does not fit within the budgetary constraints this year, simply asking the question may get something funded for future years.

Anything important you want residents to know that we might not have covered in previous questions?

We've worked really hard here at the Town to try to present a budget that's responsive to the needs of the public. We developed a budget that we hope represents the entirety of the population; we tried not to ostracize anyone while funding our most pressing needs.

We want an open process with public input on it. COVID has hampered that somewhat, but we're trying to do our best to be transparent and present ideas and project designed to help Pittsboro. Like any budget, there may be some who are for or against parts of it, but at the end of the day, we hope that people look at it and say, 'You know what? Chris and his team at the Town are really looking out for us, they want to do right by us and bring us a high quality level of service.'"

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

SUSPECT

Continued from page A1

was shot several times in the torso. He'd been found earlier the same day on Waterford Street in Siler City after authorities received reports of several gunshots.

A witness later identified Rodriguez — a Siler City resident and Hernandez's brother-in-law — as the shooter. The Chatham County Sheriff's Office

subsequently charged Rodriguez, 24, with one count of first-degree murder and three counts of assault with a deadly weapon.

Hernandez's older sister, Tania, told the News + Record that Rodriguez was in custody earlier Tuesday.

"Someone called the hotline and left a tip last week," she said. "Marshals were informed, and he was apprehended this early morning. (In a matter of days, maybe, he will be brought to N.C.)"

It is still unclear how Rodriguez escaped to Georgia and with whom he was staying. Authorities found Rodriguez's car abandoned within the county line less than a week after Hernandez died, according to Tania.

Rodriguez is expected to be turned over to the Sheriff's Office, and it is likely he will stand trial in Chatham County, Roberson said.

"Our staff members have worked diligently alongside partnering

agencies to bring Mr. Rodriguez into custody, but there is still more work to be done," he said. "The next step in the process will be extraditing Mr. Rodriguez back to North Carolina to face charges here in Chatham County."

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

VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | JOCK LAUTERER

Masking down in the 'new not-normal'

For all y'all who've gotten your shots, and in light of the CDC's new masking guidelines, this week I'm offering a visual celebration of this weird but hopeful period we're going through. I've heard it called "the New Not-Normal."

JOCK LAUTERER
Guest Columnist

On one of my daily walks back in early February, I chanced upon a COVID-19 facemask lying in the gutter, and I was filled with the sudden urge to take a picture of the discarded object. (Yes, I go nowhere without a camera.)

The editor/critic in my head at once demanded, "Stop! What on earth are you doing, wasting your time making such a silly photo? What are you going to do with it, anyway?!"

But as a photographer, I have long since learned to shush this inner cynic — for experience has taught me to obey



the Nike mantra of "Just Do It." And then, without fail, the reason will present itself, as the Zen followers say, "in the fullness of time."

Sure enough, the next day, another discarded facemask presented itself, as if it were beckoning to me: "Here I am.

Take my picture too." Suddenly, I had a pair. And the next day, a trio. Three's a crowd and four is a quartet, five a quintet ... and so on.

Soon the idea of the facemask photo-quilt evolved — and from then on, for the last three months, daily walks

turned into scouting missions, photo-hikes in search of tossed, lost or thrown away facemasks.

Structurally, I realized my patchwork quilt needed to be constructed of consistently presented images, all photographed mindfully for an aspect ratio to fit a 4x6 inch

horizontal frame.

My ground rules were simple: I tried for the most part to photograph each mask as I found it, untampered with, untouched, "en plein air" — in gutters, sidewalks, lawns, ditches, parking lots or woods trails — each one a bit of found visual poetry. A plaintive fabric statement about our plague year. Evidence of our common plight, suffering and eventual triumph.

I would hope that 10 years from now this collage will be looked upon as a documentary photo-poem, and viewers will shake their heads, recalling that awful year of 2020. And how we pulled together to earn the right to breathe freely again.

Jock Lauterer is an allegedly retired photojournalism professor at the Hussman School of Journalism and Media at the UNC-Chapel Hill. He writes a weekly photo-blog, "Through a Townie's Lens," for an all-local volunteer non-profit community newspaper, The Local Reporter, in Carrboro-Chapel Hill.

Perception not always reality, but sometimes it is

It's been said that perception is reality. I think that's true for the folks who really believe something at the time they believe it but the truth is that sometimes it isn't.



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

Reality, that is.

What's reality, some might ask? Well, for instance, if you're swimming in the Florida Everglades, you might think you can swim faster than that alligator that just slid into the water with you, especially if you've got a good backstroke. But the reality is you can't. Or maybe you can run a 12-second 100-yard dash. That's fast for a human but not too impressive over the long haul compared with a cheetah who can travel at more than 50 miles an hour over a long distance.

Then there's the classic — to me — example of what is reality. If you've got an eight-ounce glass and it's got four ounces of sweet tea (is there any other kind?) in it, is the glass half-full or half-empty? The answer is "yes." They're both realities.

And in case you're wondering, "reality TV" isn't reality. You do know there are other people around on those programs where people take off their clothes and run around naked in the jungle looking for a bug or two to eat, don't you? After all, who do you think is filming all that mess?

But then there's real reality, the reality that reality can and will change over time.

One of those realities about that for me is that I can no longer swing a maul over my head to split a piece of red oak for the wood heater. My shoulders have long ago checked out for the duration and my friendly orthopedic doc said I should carefully avoid such activity. Coupled with the surrender of that part of my body for that task is the reality I am no longer able to launch a three-point shot on the local basketball court, which in the past I could do. Or toss a 90-mile per hour fastball toward home plate, which in the past I never could do. Or even a 40-mile per hour fast ball, for that matter.

Such revelations and truths come faster and more frequently as I arrive at the age where if there were a candle for each of my years, it would take a large cake to hold them all. But one day this week, I got a reminder of how perception sometimes really isn't reality, a reminder that first poked its head into my world when I was the tender age of 17.

It was a weekday afternoon not too late on an autumn day in 1965. I was at home doing my homework or watching cartoons or bugging my mama or something equally significant when my dad came home early from his route of collecting insurance premiums.

"Come on and ride uptown with me," he said, town being about two miles from where we lived. As I remember, I didn't ask him why, most unusual for me. Instead, I just hopped into our '64 four-door Ford Fairlane and he drove.

In a few moments, we pulled into a parking space on the main street of Pittsboro, parking in front of where Verlie's restaurant is today. But in that day and age, it was a vacant lot the Ford dealership used to display new vehicles. Some two spaces or so from where we sat was parked a new '65 burgundy Mustang with black interior, spinner wheel covers and the gear stick in the floor, the poor man's sports car. I got out of our car and stepped up on the sidewalk to take a look at it.

"Whatta you think of that Mustang?" he asked.

"Oh man, it's sharp," or something like that was my response.

"It's ours."

The estimation of my dad's cool factor and hipness went up a hundred-fold immediately. In my teen mind, he was no longer completely out of touch with life, even at 54 years old.

The reality is he never was.

This week at my local auto service shop someone brought in their '65 burgundy Ford Mustang for service. Afterwards, as I stood in that parking lot and watched the car go out of sight, listening to the rumble voice of that 289 motor, I once again sensed the reality that my dad was pretty sharp after all.

Thankfully, I seldom doubted that again after that day. And the reality is, I'm glad there was time to share more life with him. If you've still got yours — your father, that is and even your mama — take some time to tune in and check out whatever reality you've got left.

The reality is I don't think you'll be disappointed.

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.



LETTERS

Jobs Plan would reduce climate impacts

TO THE EDITOR:

Hurricane season will be starting again in just over two weeks. Another dangerous and above-average season is forecast. At least this year we can see that some actions are being taken to address the climate chaos that is contributing to more intense hurricanes and other climate disasters.

President Biden's proposed American Jobs Plan focuses on jobs and infrastructure in a way that looks at both the impact and the cause of climate change. The plan would make our infrastructure more resilient to climate impacts, while including initiatives to reduce emissions to avoid the worst effects of climate change. We know that North Carolina is no stranger to the impact of climate change: more intense hurricanes, drought, heat waves and rising sea level. The administration's

plan would provide not only funding for roads and bridges, but also for sustainable housing and buildings, electric vehicles, and research and development for clean energy technology.

Extreme heat, floods, forest fires and the like pose dire threats to our energy, water, transportation and communications infrastructure. We must encourage Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr and Representatives Ted Budd and David Price to pass The American Jobs Plan to bring good work, improved infrastructure, and real protection to Chatham County and North Carolina.

Vickie Atkinson
Chapel Hill

Beware the failure of the U.S. government

TO THE EDITOR:

Every day, when we turn on the TV, we see news covering the unrest in America. No one in the news ever talks

about what will happen if the U.S. government fails. With no government, there will no longer be government-funded checks, including Social Security checks, welfare checks and government pension checks. There will no longer be government-funded food stamps or government funded housing. U.S. currency will have no value except to use as wallpaper or toilet tissue.

Everyone will soon realize that hunger does not care about a guise-based lie that there is more than one race. The fights that have taken place at gas pumps will pale in comparison to those over a piece of bread. Without police protection millions of U.S. citizens will die.

Failure of the U.S. government will have no effect on people like the Obamas who probably have investments and currency in other countries. Once the U.S. government fails, all they will have to do is board a private plane and fly away.

Carol Gene Good
Conover

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What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

VIEWPOINTS

Vaccine as a learner's permit

I celebrate last week's updated guidelines from the CDC. Not only do the vaccines safeguard an overwhelming majority of recipients from COVID-19, the vaccines are incredibly effective at preventing serious cases that require hospitalization. This gives many people a whole new sense of freedom. I love that a doctor in New York City wrote the following prescription for a vaccinated patient: "You are allowed to hug your granddaughter."

As I am fully vaccinated, I can safely resume many activities



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

with people I love: dinner dates, backyard barbecues and beach trips with extended family. I want others to experience such joys in community. But not everyone is eligible to receive the vaccine. There are people with medical conditions that make the vaccine too risky and others for whom their health issues render the vaccine much less effective. And I am ever mindful of people ineligible for the vaccine because they are under the age of 12, including my three young children. The feeling of being vaccinated has reminded me of receiving my learner's permit to drive. After waiting for what seemed like forever, I was finally out on the road in my (parents') car! I was giddy with the intoxicating, heady feeling of liberation! But would it have been safe

for me, or for the people around me, if I could have put the pedal to the metal without any limits or parental oversight? Especially with my rowdy friends packed in the backseat? (I am a pastor's kid, so you can imagine my crew!) I had the documentation verifying that I'd passed the test and was therefore "safe." But was I ready for complete freedom on the open road? If you're the caregiver of a teenager, I imagine you're thinking, "Of course not!" (Perhaps you'd add a few choice words.) If you're a teen (congratulations for reading a paper!), you may begrudge the truth, but hopefully you still recognize the need for restrictions that keep you and everyone else on the road safe. The metaphor with vaccines is not that we are inexperienced, but

that we want all the freedoms now. But without precautions, that freedom puts those who are ineligible for the vaccine at risk. It is like the Apostle Paul's warning to the ancient church: "Take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to others" (1 Corinthians 8:9). Perhaps you have seen the handy, color-coded chart just updated by the CDC. As a fully vaccinated person, I have been given the green light to remove my mask for almost every activity, whether outdoors or indoors. But for unvaccinated people, many of the same activities are marked in red, meaning the same activities are "least safe" for them. This should wave a yellow caution flag for vaccinated people who enter large, public gatherings. Remember that restrictions

(like masks and social distance) for public gatherings are only temporary, like a learner's permit. In the meantime, we can still return to the activities with close family and friends that bring joy! But I imagine certain readers might still be groaning: "You've got to be kidding me! I am so over this darn mask!" I hear you. To be sure, I complained about the driving restrictions when I was 15 years old. Deep down I was grateful, though, for I knew the restrictions were in place to keep everyone on the road safe.

Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church. His forthcoming book is a collection of his columns for the Chatham News + Record titled "Hope Matters: Churchless Sermons."

Enforce rules to ease labor shortage

President Joe Biden wants you to believe that there is no relationship between the extra \$300 a week many are receiving in enhanced unemployment-insurance benefits and the shortage of workers now manifest in stores, restaurants, hotels, and other businesses here in North Carolina and across the country. But doesn't paying lower-skilled workers more to stay on the sidelines than they could earn on the job make it more likely they'll remain unemployed? "We don't see much evidence for that," the president said May 10 at the White House.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

Biden's claim isn't quite as ridiculous as it may sound. During the early months of the Great Suppression last year, when Congress jacked up UI benefits by \$600 a week, there seems to have been a surprisingly small effect on the jobless rate — even though some two-thirds of recipients were receiving more in UI payments than they'd likely have made by working.

How do we know that? Several scholars have since examined the data closely, exploiting differences in timing and benefit levels across states to test the effects of enhanced benefits on the willingness to work. All other things being equal, you'd expect to find such an effect. But all other things weren't equal during 2020. So the effect was, at most, modest.

Think about what was happening last year. Lots of businesses were still shut down, or their hours and services were severely curtailed by government edict. Many Americans were afraid to stay in enclosed spaces for long, as consumers or workers. And because most schools were substantially closed to in-person instruction, many parents who might otherwise have taken jobs were forced to care for and supervise the virtual schooling of their children.

Given those adverse conditions, many workers would have stayed home, or failed to find jobs, even if their UI check had been smaller.

Democrats and progressives contend that what was true in 2020 is largely true today. That's why they reject arguments by Republican lawmakers and governors, conservative economists, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and business owners across the country that the \$300-a-week supplement needs to end now, not in September.

I've talked to managers who say they simply can't get former or prospective employees to come in, at least at wages consistent with keeping their businesses afloat. My wife recently informed me that a restaurant we've frequented for years during beach vacations will be closed for the season because they can't find enough kitchen and wait staff.

Anecdotes aren't data, say left-wing activists. They dismiss the idea that the extra UI checks are creating an artificial labor shortage, even though many more businesses are now open and trying to hire, many more Americans are willing to venture out to work or shop, and more schools and day-care centers are open to mind the kids.

President Biden said what he said — but his actions say something else. While refusing to budge Monday on the benefit amount, he pledged to work with state governors to reimpose job-search requirements and enforce the fundamental rule of the program as described by the White House: "Anyone receiving UI who is offered a suitable job must take it or lose their UI benefits."

As unprecedented and disruptive as the COVID pandemic has been, it didn't repeal the laws of economics or the realities of human nature. As the labor market has begun to reset towards normal, the disincentive effects of enhanced UI benefits are coming into focus. It's one reason why the April employment report showed hundreds of thousands fewer Americans getting jobs than expected, and why the March estimates were revised downwards.

North Carolina is among the states already taking steps to tighten the rules and shut off payments to workers who refuse to accept job offers. It's good news that the Biden administration won't stand in the way. Our labor-force participation rate is still much lower today than it was in February 2020. It's time to get folks back to work.

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

Biden's reelection campaign

What is going on? President Joe Biden is on prime-time television almost every day. He looks into the camera directly, seriously and calmly explaining the country's challenges and possible solutions. He has a near monopoly on network news coverage and the non-Fox cable news/opinion channels. The free news coverage is priceless. Ask former President Donald Trump. He could tell you how coverage of his rallies and his use of social media gave him a unique edge in his two runs for the presidency. Democrats and progressives are loading up paid TV message ads that promote Biden's programs and portray him as calm, cool, collected, competent and healthy. Certainly, this media campaign is designed to secure and sustain public support for Biden and his proposed economic recovery legislation. Also, it is certainly designed to bolster Democratic chances in the 2022 mid-term congressional elections. Still, with Biden everywhere, you could believe that the 2024 presidential campaign has begun. And Biden is running hard. I remember thinking during the 2020 Trump-Biden contest that Biden, at 78 years old when he took office, would only be a "bridge"



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

president. After beating Trump, he would, at age 82 in 2024, step aside for a younger Democratic candidate who would secure his legacy. It might be Vice President Kamala Harris or another popular senator, governor, or other high office holder. The problem with this scenario is illustrated by the losing campaigns of Al Gore, Bill Clinton's vice president, in 2000 and Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama's first term secretary of state, in 2016. Neither Gore nor Hillary Clinton could win an Electoral College victory, even though Bill Clinton and Obama, arguably, would have won reelection had they been permitted to run. Will Biden really run again? Here is what he said at his first news conference as president, "My plan is to run for reelection. That's my expectation."

But he also said, "I'm a great respecter of fate. I've never been able to plan four and half, three and a half years ahead for certain." Biden asserts an intent to run again so he is not perceived as a lame duck who loses the influence, authority, and sway that belong to a president who could be elected to another term. But he seems to be preserving the option to change his mind. Whether or not he runs again, Biden has been running for president most of his life. Some remember a North Carolina connection to his decades-long series of presidential candidacies. As I reported earlier, in 1986 I was the Democratic candidate for the

U.S. Congress in a district that had been represented by Republicans for many years. The race was close. Lots of senators and members of Congress came to campaign with me. I loved hobnobbing with famous political personages like Jim Wright, Claude Pepper and Charles Rangel — and future presidential candidates Bill Bradley, Dick Gephardt and Gary Hart. But these visits often drove our campaign volunteers crazy trying to figure out how to readjust our campaign schedule, develop an "appropriate" program for them and gather respectable crowds to greet them. One of these visitors was Senator Joe Biden, then in his mid-40s. His staff gave our campaign scheduler Marcia Webster only a day or two to prepare. She called some of the loyal supporters who never said "no" even to the most challenging requests. One of these, Brenda Barger, remembers that she and her husband Hugh hosted a small group at their farm near Davidson. Mayor Russell Knox and College Union director Shaw Smith came to meet Biden and hear him talk about a run for president some day. I lost that congressional election, but we learned that Biden was energetic and focused, traits that will serve him again if he runs in 2024.

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.

Lessons found at The Lost Colony

I happily report I returned to Roanoke Island last week to work for The Lost Colony, America's premier outdoor drama. I have worked for the big show under the stars off and on (mostly off) for 38 years. Being here feels like wearing my favorite pair of old blue jeans. This was not always so. In 1983 I signed a contract to be one of two dozen actor/technicians. Like young people everywhere I was bursting with that particularly sophomoric combination of energy and ignorance that made me a danger to myself and others. I thought I was a genius, but for some inscrutable reason no one else did; instead, the Master Carpenter who ran the crew said I was the worst A/T he had ever seen and cursed me in the vilest terms I had ever heard in my young life. Four years later, though, I needed a gig — so I went back and had a great summer, rewarding enough to make me return again in 1990. I had grown up a lot by then. I returned 1997 and '98 as the Master Carpenter. I was 34 years old when I signed that contract, with an established reputation in New York and a technical resume as long as your arm. I ran the A/T crew that summer, but I never thought it could teach me anything new.



DWAYNE WALLS JR.
The Roundabout

How wrong I was. Early in the season one of my A/Ts screwed up, injured another A/T, and knocked him out of the show. The next evening before he went to the dressing room I called him out and demanded he tell me what had happened. I craved the satisfaction of hearing from his own lips why he had screwed up so badly. Broken scenery I could fix; broken bones I could not. But as he launched into an obviously well-rehearsed explanation for his appalling lack of judgement I realized I was not listening to him. I was marveling at him. He was tall and strong, with well-proportioned features and big hands. I studied the soft fuzz of the beard on his face, probably the first one he had ever grown, possibly the only one he ever would grow. I saw, as for the first time, his taut, sun-burned skin, and when he glanced at me between sentences I saw how clear his dark brown eyes were. He was so young. A warm, wet wave washed over me, and I realized I was seeing myself 15 years earlier. True, my eyes were blue and my hair was blonde, but I was peering back in time as if I were looking through a magician's mirror or some gypsy's crystal ball. In a flash I saw the entire arc of his life: his wedding and his children and his balding head flecked with wisps of gray. Even now, on the advent of his adulthood, his black hair was already thinning. He was still blathering when it dawned on me there would be no bawling out. I could not be mad at him anymore than I could be mad at myself for who I was all those years ago, so told him to not do it again

and dismissed him as quickly and as quietly as I could before retreating into the carpentry shop to be alone with the smell of sawdust. I was still struggling to make sense of what I had experienced when I remembered the last time I had prayed. "Lord, please don't let me screw this up!" is what I had said aloud to the empty room when I had signed that contract. My prayer had been answered in the physical sense: the show was up and running. But my prayer also had been answered on a deeper, more subconscious plane: I had not crushed this young person with verbal abuse as I had been flattened all those years ago. The show closed and Hurricane Bonnie blew me back to NYC. Within weeks I began my first of many seasons building props and scenery for Saturday Night Live. The SNL scene shop was in the rough-and-tumble Brooklyn Navy Yard, and when I broke up a fight between two carpenters during my first week I impressed the old-school shop foreman. He brought me back for every show despite the fact that I did not have the union card I would eventually earn. I had broken up worse fights between my A/Ts that summer, but I did not tell him that. I wonder what this season will teach me.

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

GERRYMANDER

Continued from page A1

“I think in most states when there’s a slight bit of partisan control, there’s probably a little bit of an intent to use power to draw lines. But in North Carolina, we don’t see a lot of the mechanisms that in other states block it from getting out of control.”

Wheelen is a founding member of the research group, which falls under Princeton’s Electoral Innovations Lab. The team was assembled in 2017 to identify gerrymandering with quantitative data and analysis, and isolate countermeasures that can effectively stifle proliferation of the illegal practice.

“We do a couple of different things,” said Jason Fierman, the group’s communications associate, “provide numbers that prove gerrymandering, draw maps, design tools to help gerrymandered communities, use legal analysis and build networks of activists and organizations in all 50 states.”

Some obvious trends have emerged from the researchers’ nationwide investigation. First, independent commissions tasked with drawing district lines produce the fairest maps. About nine states have “truly independent commissions,” Wheelen said, “and a couple others have something that has some legislative influence, but they don’t have complete control.”

In states where legislators draw maps but the court system has been historically inclined to intervene immediately when gerrymandering is identified, legislators are discouraged from drawing unfair boundaries. And in states where the governor has authority to veto gerrymandered maps, the research group found fewer aberrations.

“But I think in North Carolina we sort of see none of that happening,” Wheelen said, “and we see the legislature having control to get whatever lines they want passed in the next redistricting cycle. And so I think that’s what’s different, that’s what makes North Carolina feel so much worse. And it’s also combined with a history where North Carolina has been able to do this and it’s been part of the politics for so long.”

For example, in 2011, a newly Republican-controlled legislature passed voting districts that were widely decried as unjust and partisan. The issue launched several court cases, the most recent of which concluded just last year. In at least two instances, a panel of judges deemed the districts unconstitutional and required the General Assembly to revise them.

But the issue is not strictly Republican. When Democrats held majority power, they, too, drew unfair districts, according to Rep. Robert Reives II of Goldston, the N.C. House of Representative’s top Democrat. The problem, he says, is that North Carolina’s system would have legislators set aside their personal interests — and that almost never happens.

“When you’re asking elected officials to draw the districts in which they are going to be running, you’re asking them to do something that’s completely counter to human nature,” Reives said. “And on top of that, even if legislators are able to overcome their own inclination to do something that benefits them, you still have to make them believe that everybody else is going to do the same thing, and I just think that doesn’t make sense. Why even put ourselves in that position when you can just have somebody else do it?”

Reives, whose district includes all of Chatham County and part of Durham

County, is a primary sponsor of House Bill 437, the “Fair Maps Act,” which would delegate redistricting authority to an independent commission of voters. The bill would promote a more united General Assembly, he says, where legislators are compelled to work for all North Carolinians’ interests and narrow the political divide.

“Your best democracies and your best governments are governments that have to govern somewhat from the middle,” Reives said. “Governments that govern from either side of the political spectrum always tend to be your worst governments. And if you gerrymander, you’re encouraging government from the edges.”

The Princeton team agrees. HB437 would introduce a system similar to what other states — such as Arizona, usually a Republican stronghold, and California, a Democratic bastion since the 1990s — have used to minimize gerrymandering.

“Our feeling is that fair process is really what leads to fair maps,” Wheelen said, “and an independent redistricting commission is what I would call really the gold standard to redistricting reform right now.”

But the bill is unlikely to pass. An independent commission never suits the majority party’s interests, Reives says. In North Carolina’s history, both Democrats and Republicans have proposed bills to introduce an independent commission when each was part of the minority party. The majority always strikes them down.

To enact any lasting change, Wheelen says, voters would first have to voice displeasure with the current system.

“I don’t think the legislators are going to do anything unless they’re pushed, and we’re hoping that citizens and citizen groups get a hold of this

‘... (I)f you gerrymander, you’re encouraging government from the edges.’

ROBERT REIVES II, NC House of Representatives

data, and once it becomes so clear that the maps that are being proposed are clear gerrymanders, I hope that there’s a push back,” she said. “I think legislators have been able to pass these really bad gerrymanders because there isn’t really a price to pay for doing it. And so if they for once feel like their constituents are angry, and they might possibly not get reelected if they push such a bad map through, they might respond.”

To Reives, change cannot happen until voters understand that gerrymandering affects everything legislators are able to accomplish. Hot-button issues won’t be fairly resolved, he said, until the General Assembly accurately reflects North Carolina’s constituency.

“I think people just aren’t aware how important the issue is,” Reives said. “When I listen to voters, there’s always one or two issues that just makes them burn, either in a good way or a bad way. But nobody seems to realize that every issue that you care about is affected by gerrymandering — every single issue. And if they understood that, it would be everybody’s number one issue. The number one issue wouldn’t be their passion issue; the number one issue would be gerrymandering, and they’d say, ‘Hey, get these districts fixed so that we can have a government that’s more responsive to my needs.’”

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

VACCINE

Continued from page A1

The N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services expanded vaccine eligibility to North Carolinians 12 and older last Wednesday.

“Having a vaccine for our younger teens brings us that much closer to being able to end the pandemic,” said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen in a May 13 statement. “By getting more teens vaccinated they are protecting themselves from the impact of COVID, and they are protecting their families and their communities by stopping the spread of the virus.”

NCDHHS said in that statement that nearly 123,000 children up to age 17 have tested positive for COVID-19, with the percentage of cases for that age group increasing.

In the clinical trials with the 12- to 15-year-old age group, the most commonly reported symptoms among teens were pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache,

chills, muscle pain, fever and joint pain, NCDHHS said. The reactions typically lasted between one and three days and were similar to symptoms reported in clinical trials of participants age 16 and older.

On Facebook, a few Chatham parents commented on a News + Record post regarding the vaccine expansion, noting their children received the first dose of Pfizer last week without complications. One parent said the process was “easy peasy;” another said her child had a little headache and slight fever that was gone 24 hours later.

Chatham resident Krista Westervelt called Pittsboro Pharmacy regarding her 13 year-old son, Kiernan Reed, after learning they were starting a wait list in preparation of the expanded eligibility. Westervelt is fully vaccinated, as is her 19-year-old daughter, a student at Appalachian State University.

“It was frustrating to feel like my youngest was

still in limbo while we had the opportunity to get ours,” she said.

A few days after contacting Pittsboro Pharmacy, they reached out to her on Thursday asking if her son could come in later that day.

“...I jumped on it,” Westervelt said. “When we arrived at the pharmacy on Thursday, there were a handful of other moms and young people there to get their vaccines. I don’t think I’ve ever seen such excited parents.”

Westervelt lost a friend to COVID-19 last April, so mitigating the risk of the virus is especially personal and important to her. Her son getting vaccinated also means he can have more social interactions with friends — which as an extrovert, he’d been missing.

“No one’s excited to get shots. They’re shots. They hurt,” Reed said. “It’s another shot I am obligated to take. I will take the shot. Also, if it means I can see my friends more, I’m fine.”

“To be a functioning

member of society,” he added, “I should do it.”

Though his arm felt “a little weird” for a few minutes after the vaccine, he said he didn’t experience any other symptoms. His arm is better now, he said.

Chatham parent Whitney Beers Schmidt made appointments for both of her children, Georgia Schmidt, 14, and Emma Schmidt, 12, at the Carrboro Walgreens after she saw Wednesday’s announcement.

“Covid was scary for us, and we have been tremendously careful over the past year,” she said. “Our kids have been likewise affected, and while they were 100% on board with the precautions, they are anxious to feel safer doing the things that they love.”

Schmidt, her husband and her kids all did a lot of research before getting vaccinated, ultimately deciding the benefits outweighed any potential risks. They’re excited to soon safely gather with grandparents, as well as with friends who’ve de-

cidated to not get vaccinated, or been advised not to.

“I think giving kids a vaccination that is pretty new to the public eye can be scary for parents — it was for us, I checked both kids frequently,” Schmidt said. “Except for some fatigue and sore arms, all has been well, and we are grateful for that.”

NCDHHS said it is working to connect vaccine partners with schools interested in hosting on-site and off-site vaccine events for students and their families. Chatham County Schools has not yet hosted a vaccination event, but the district has shared multiple posts regarding clinics offering vaccinations to young people on social media.

Moderna is also seeking to lower the approved age limit for its COVID-19 vaccine, as it’s currently approved for 12- to 17-year-olds. Both Pfizer and Moderna have started tests with younger age groups, from 6 months to 11 years. Vaccines for younger children are currently not expected to be

approved until the fall.

With COVID-19 restrictions for fully vaccinated people lifted in North Carolina, the accessibility of vaccines to teens and young people is an important part of families and people who interact regularly with kids being able to return to pre-COVID-19 interactions. Since children under 12 are viewed as being unvaccinated, the CDC has recommended the continuation of wearing a mask.

“Young North Carolinians will now have an extra layer of protection against this virus,” Gov. Roy Cooper tweeted May 13 regarding the FDA announcement. “This move forward will help us turn the corner on this pandemic and get back to the things we love.”

To find providers with the Pfizer vaccine, go to MySpot.nc.gov and filter for Pfizer.

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @HannerMcClellan.


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REMAINS

Continued from page A1

is listed as homicide. “The body is at an angle with the pelvis on a rock and back of the skull lying on cardboard. The skull is markedly shattered. The right foot is flexed underneath the left leg,” Thorne noted.

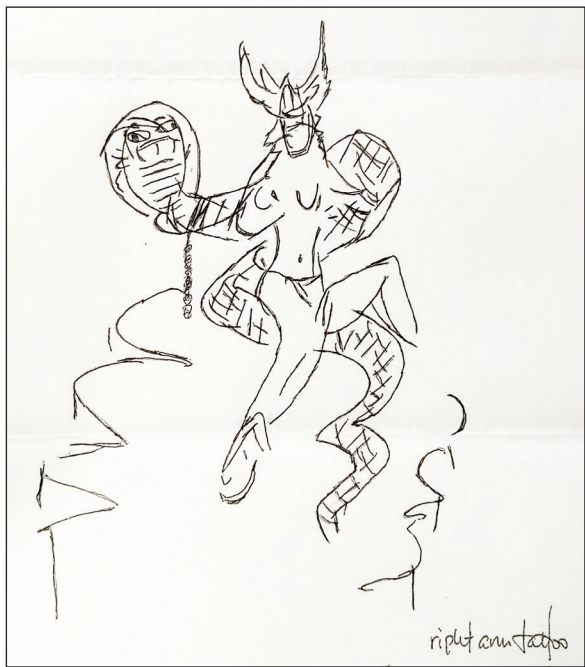
The body’s positioning indicates the tattooed man was tossed into the pit after being shot.

Washed ashore, unearthed in shallow graves, stumbled upon in the woods, discovered in abandoned houses, killed on busy roads or located in rivers, ponds and along railroad tracks, more than 120 bodies remain unidentified in North Carolina. This is one of their stories.

Workers discovered the partially decomposed body, nude except for a pair of white boxer shorts, in a mine pit off Mount Vernon Springs Road just outside Siler City.

The 20- to 30-year-old tattooed white man stood 6 feet tall with a slender build and unknown weight. He had long and straight light brown hair. His eye color remains unknown. He also had a small tattoo of a peace sign on his right ankle.

A dental examination shows the tattooed man may have had a root canal on tooth No. 10, which is



Submitted photo

This sketch depicting the tattoo of a Valkyrie and cobra found on the upper right arm of an unknown man’s body found in a Chatham County mine pit is included in a 1986 autopsy report signed by Dr. Cheryl Thorne.

the upper left incisor. Fingerprints aren’t available because the remains were too decomposed. DNA isn’t available because samples weren’t retained, according to information from the Doe Network, a volunteer-run international clearing-house for unidentified and missing persons.

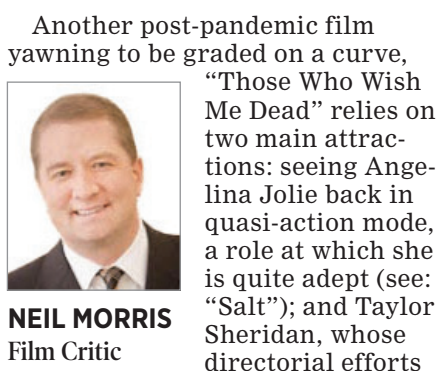
The tattooed man is listed in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System under the number 2235.

The N.C. State Bureau of Investigation handled the case from the beginning. Anyone with infor-

mation about the tattooed man can call the SBI at 800-334-3000, the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner at 800-672-7042 or Team Cold Case at 252-406-6736. A monetary reward is available.

Editor’s note: “Unidentified” is a series of stories examining the more than 120 cases of unidentified human remains discovered in North Carolina. Reporter Lindell J. Kay produces each installment for The Enterprise of Spring Hope and other Restoration NewsMedia newspapers.

‘Wish Me Dead’ a watchable, but unmemorable film



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

Another post-pandemic film yawning to be graded on a curve, “Those Who Wish Me Dead” relies on two main attractions: seeing Angelina Jolie back in quasi-action mode, a role at which she is quite adept (see: “Salt”); and Taylor Sheridan, whose directorial efforts (“Wind River”; the

TV series “Yellowstone”) have never quite measured up to his screenplays when put in somebody else’s hands (“Hell or High Water,” and “Sicario”). The finished film mildly sates the former and affirms the latter with a watchable, yet unmemorable, potboiler.

Jolie stars as Hannah Fabe, a smokejumper in Montana haunted by the lives she lost in a recent forest inferno. Her PTSD lands her a seasonal stint atop a firetower in the midst of big sky country, with only the counsel of her ex-boyfriend Ethan (Jon Bernthal) to keep the demons at bay. Meanwhile, the brothers Blackwell (Aiden Gillen and Nicholas Hoult), a couple of mob enforcers, take out a Florida prosecutor targeting their boss (Tyler Perry, in a too-brief appearance) before setting their sites on a forensic accountant, Owen (Jake Weber), in possession of incriminating evidence. Rather than contact, ya know, the police, Owen and his son Connor (Finn Little) strike out for the Montana survival school run by brother-in-law Ethan and Allison (Medina Senghore), Ethan’s six-month-pregnant wife. In the event that misfortune befalls Owen, he inscribes a MacGuffin for Connor to make public when the time is right.

The remainder of “Those Who Wish Me Dead” is a standard-issue search for redemption in the face of literal and figurative hellfire. After starting a forest fire as cover for their bloody mission, the Blackwells inexplicable morph from ruthless precision into typical dumb movie villains, monologuing their way along a path to ineptitude. Still,



THOSE WHO WISH ME DEAD

GRADE: C +
DIRECTOR: Taylor Sheridan
STARRING: Angelina Jolie, Finn Little, Nicholas Hoult, Aiden Gillen, Jon Bernthal and Medina Senghore
MPAA RATING: R
RUNNING TIME: 1 hr. 40 min.

their rapport is one of the film’s most compelling and, at the same time, least explicated plot points. Instead, Sheridan splits up the screen time with Owen and Connor, then Hannah and Connor, with a few passing scenes featuring Ethan and Allison sprinkled along the way.

The unfortunate result is that no relationship feels fully developed, particularly Hannah and the kid, who spend most of their time together hiding or trudging through the woods.

Although Jolie finally gets to wield a pickaxe late in the story, the movie we end up really wanting to see is Allison, a pregnant woman of color living in red state isolation who hones, and is the only character to really deploy, a steely defense to the world’s wickedness. While Jolie and her cheekbones take center stage, it’s Senghore who truly fills the “last stand” Western movie motif — perhaps it is no coincidence that Allison is the only character who gets to ride a horse. She should have been the film’s fiery fulcrum. The rest of “Those Who Wish Me Dead” goes up in smoke.

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OBITUARIES

MADALYNE MONROE JEFFRIES



Madalynne Monroe Jeffries, 2 months old, of Goldston passed away on Friday, May 14, 2021, at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill.

Madalynne was born in Lee County on February 24, 2021, the daughter of Kristopher Jeffries and Anna Wall.

Madalynne Monroe Jeffries, you were so loved by many. She had a smile that could light the night. She loved waking up in the morning with her dad. She was attached to her mom's hips. She loved everyone, she

had her dad's attitude and her mother's charm. Madalynne is preceded in death by her paternal great grandmother, Shirley Monroe Jeffries; and maternal great grandfather, Robert Nelson Wall.

She is survived by her parents; sister, Natalie Jeffries; maternal grandfather, Darrell Wall of Chapel Hill; maternal grandmother, Brenda Armstrong of Siler City; aunts and uncles, Lisa, Tyler and Kyle Wall, Kimberly and Kelly Jeffries, Jessica Armstrong (Jody Harris), Jamie Armstrong (Jake Thorne), and Jill Armstrong; and multiple cousins.

The family will hold a memorial service at a later date. Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Jeffries family.

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

JUDY GREY HUNTSMAN



Judy Grey Huntsman, 75, of Carrboro, died Thursday, May 13, 2021, at Longleaf Neuro-Medical Treatment Facility.

Mrs. Huntsman was born in Carrboro on May 29, 1945. She was the daughter of Jesse Suitt and Beulah Lacock Suitt. Judy is preceded in death by her husband, Ken Huntsman and former spouse, Larry M. Smith.

Judy is survived by her daughter Lisa Smith Powell and husband

Bobby of Pittsboro; four grandchildren, Cali Powell, Hanson Powell, Quin Powell, Mason Powell; one step-daughter, Alicia Huntsman of Burlington; one brother, Phil Suitt and wife Beverly of Carrboro; two nieces, Miranda Suitt Fearrington and Ashley Suitt Covington, both of Pittsboro; several great-nieces and nephews; and her dog, Toby.

A graduate of Chapel Hill High School, she retired from UNC Hospitals. She spent several years working at Sutton's Drug Store, as well as nursing homes in Chapel Hill after her retirement.

The family will receive friends Thursday, May 20, 2021, from 1 to 1:45 p.m. at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church. A Celebration of Life will follow at 2 p.m. with Pastor Dan Robinson presiding.

Online condolences may be left at: www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

HENRY OSCAR DAVIS



Henry Oscar Davis, 75, of Siler City passed away on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, surrounded by his family at UNC Hospice, Pittsboro.

Mr. Davis was born in Chatham County on February 21, 1946, the son of Billy June and Myrtle Brower Davis. Henry was a member of Loves Creek Baptist Church, but attended Piney Grove UMC in his later years. Having a passion for hard work, Henry formed his business, Davis Rigging & Welding, in 1977 where he

served as Owner/Operator until his retirement in 2015. Henry was also a member of the U.S. National Guard. He would spend his free time at auctions, collecting antique cranes, tractors and attending tractor shows. Henry loved spending any time he could with his grandson, Davis. Henry is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Robert A. Davis.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Bonnie Walters Davis; daughters, Sonya Davis Wilson of Siler City, Stacey Davis Rhodes and husband Dustin of Siler City; sister, Brenda Davis Washburn of Smyrna; grandson, Davis Rhodes; and several nieces and nephews.

Henry Laid in Repose on Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. The funeral was held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at Loves Creek Baptist Church, with Rev. Parker Coppock and Rev. Jim Folks officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Donate Life North Carolina, donatelifenc.org, P.O. Box 5536, Cary, N.C. 27512 or Chatham Animal Rescue and Education, P.O. Box 610, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Davis family. Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneral-home.com.

CARL GRANT SANKEY



Carl Grant Sankey, 77, of Siler City passed away on Friday, May 14, 2021, surrounded by his loved ones at his home in Siler City.

Mr. Sankey was born July 9, 1943, the son of Ralph Sankey and Dorothy McConnell Crocker. Carl was a Private in the National Guard. He spent his working years as a truck driver, then as the Owner/Operator of Carl Sankey Trucking. Carl loved spending his free time by a pond fishing, or just spending time outdoors.

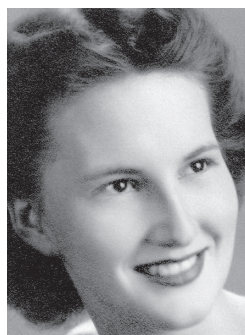
He loved his family and his land. Carl is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Dale, Paul and Wayne Sankey.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Lucille Cox Sankey; daughter, Tammy Sankey Fox; son, Todd Sankey; grandchildren, Corey and Taylor Fox and Andrew Sankey; and great grandchild, Jason Perla, all of Siler City.

The family will plan a Celebration of Life at a later date. Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Sankey family.

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

ANNE ELIZABETH EUBANKS ATWATER



Anne Elizabeth Eubanks Atwater, 94, of Chapel Hill, peacefully passed away in her home surrounded by her children and Walter, her loving husband of over 71 years.

Anne was born in April of 1927 to Jacob and Nora Eubanks of Cane Creek. She is predeceased in death by her parents and brothers, Joe, Robert, Brack and Warren. She is survived by her children, Alana (Gene) Finney of Kannapolis, James (Jeanett) Atwater of Chapel Hill,

Beth (Pete) Junquera of Benson, NY and Maria (Dwayne) Hendrix of Clemmons. She was blessed to have nine wonderful grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Anne was a caregiver to many and considered a mother to multiple generations. She will always be remembered as "Mama Anne" by the entire community.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask that donations be made to Chatham County Council on Aging (Pittsboro branch).

A visitation was held from 1 to 2 p.m., Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at Cedar Grove United Methodist Church, 2791 Jones Ferry Road in Pittsboro. A graveside service will follow at 2 p.m. with Pastor Danny Berrier presiding.

Please leave online condolences at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

Donaldson Funeral Home and Crematory is honored and grateful to serve the family of Mrs. Atwater.

WILLIAM HOYLE DIXON



William Hoyle Dixon, age 93, of Siler City passed away on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at Brookridge Retirement Community in Winston-Salem.

Mr. Dixon was born in Guilford County on June 22, 1927, the son of Willie A. and Lula Victoria Griffin Dixon. Hoyle served in the US Merchant Marines. He was a member of the Oakley Baptist Church, where he served as a Deacon and the Choir Director. He spent his working years as a dedicated shop teacher. He was

a great carpenter, and always building things like custom kitchen cabinets and picture frames. Hoyle is preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Ann Bray Dixon; daughter, Vanessa Thompson and husband Phillip of Siler City; son, Keith Dixon and wife Mary Ruth of Boiling Springs; sister, Marian Phillips of Winston Salem; brothers, Royce Dixon and wife Eloise of Rock Hill, S.C. and Ronald Dixon of Kingsport, Tennessee; grandchildren, Mandy Oldham and husband Todd, Travis Thompson and wife Amber, Jeremy Dixon and wife Melea and Jacob Dixon and wife Colleen; great grandchildren, Dylan, Will, Savanna, Maggie, Lilly, Willow, Christopher, Cooper, Quinn, Luke, Reese and Jack.

Mr. Dixon Laid in Repose on Sunday, May 16, 2021, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. The funeral was held at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 17, 2021, at Oakley Baptist Church with Dr. Jeff Johnson and Rev. Keith Dixon officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Oakley Baptist Church, 2300 Siler City-Glendon Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344 or the Baptist Retirement Homes of NC, P.O. Box 11024, Winston Salem, N.C. 27116.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Dixon family.

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

DAVID HERMAN JONES SR.



November 6, 1941 - December 14, 2020

David Herman Jones Sr., 79, of Cary, passed away on December 14, 2020.

He is survived by his wife, Lois Atkinson Jones; sons, David Jones, Jr., and Michael Wayne Jones; and sister, Carolyn Jones Stinson.

A memorial graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 23, 2021, at Loves Creek Baptist

Church Cemetery.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Jones family.

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

JEREMY 'CHAD' SMITH

Jeremy "Chad" Smith, 39, of Bear Creek, passed away Friday, May 14, 2021, at Moore Regional Hospital.

A graveside service was held on Monday, May 17, 2021, at 2 a.m. at Pleasant Grove Christian Church with Rev. Don Edwards presiding.

He was born in Chatham County on December 5, 1981, to Billy Joe and Jeannette Whitt Smith. He attended Pleasant Grove Christian Church and was a salesman for C.E.D.

He is survived by his parents, Billy Joe and Jeannette Smith of the home; brother,

Christopher Lynn Smith of Bear Creek; and grandmother, Mary Dell Smith, of Bear Creek.

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

ALUTHER ALLEN

Mr. Aluther Allen, 81, formerly of Chatham County, passed away on Sunday, April 18, 2021, in Brooklyn, N.Y.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford. Burial followed in Lee Memory Gardens.

ANDREW GEORGE SIEGNER JR.

Andrew George Siegner Jr. (Andy), 96, died on May 15, 2021.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at First Baptist Church of Sanford. Burial followed at Lee Memory Gardens.

Andy was a member of First Baptist Church of Sanford. He was born in Sanford on January 9, 1925, to the late Leila Bobbitt Siegner and Andrew George Siegner, Sr. He was preceded in death by his parents, and sisters, Catherine S. Thomas and Leila Mae S. Mann.

He was a Boy Scout earning the rank of Star Scout. Andy joined the U.S. Navy, serving in World War II on the USS Albemarle in the South Pacific. He had owned Jones Printing Company until his retirement. Through his life of service, he built 384 wheelchair ramps for families and individuals in Lee County. He received the Governor's Volunteer Award for this work.

Survivors include his wife of 76 years, Audrey Thomas Siegner; children: Andrew G. Siegner III of Bear Creek, Carolyn S. Spivey of Sanford, Judith S. Thomas of Sanford; nine grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to First Baptist Church, Wheel Chair Fund or Capital Improvements Fund, 202 Summit Dr., Sanford, N.C. 27330

Online condolences may be made at www.rogerspickard.com.

WALLIE CONNER LAMM

Wallie Conner Lamm, 79, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, May 17, 2021 at his home.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 11 a.m. at Cameron Grove Cemetery with Pastor Darrell Wood officiating.

He was born in Lee County on October 11, 1941, to the late Nathaniel Lee Lamm and Letha Mae Godwin Lamm. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his siblings Earl Lamm, Margie Thomas and Juanita Crissman. Wallie worked for Line Construction for 10 years, then worked at Central Electric Membership Corporation where he retired after 32 years.

Mr. Lamm is survived by his wife of 40 years, Janice; daughter, Vickie Edmonds of Cameron; sons, Lee Lamm and John Lamm, both of Sanford; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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

DANNY WAYNE CRAIG

Danny Wayne Craig, 69, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, May 15, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, May 20, 2021, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. A funeral service will follow in the chapel at 3 p.m. with Rev. Bob Yandle officiating. Burial will be at Grace Chapel Church Cemetery.

He was born in Lee County on May 3, 1952, to the late Cecil Calvin Craig and Nellie Virginia Kirby Craig. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Brenda Craig and son Daniel Craig. Danny was retired from Weyerhaeuser where he worked for 40 years.

He is survived by his daughter, Joyce Marie Craig Herring of Carthage; brother, Paul Craig of Sanford; sisters Judy Craig Davis of Georgia and Joan Craig Suddarth of Sanford; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

See **OBITUARIES**, page A9

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A8

YOLANDA YEVETTE CRUMP

Yolanda Yevette “Oodie” Crump, 52, of Sanford, passed away Friday, May 7, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital. Funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Friday, May 14, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home. Yolanda was born January 15, 1969, to Theresa Crump Jackson and the late Robert Crump.

RANDOLPH THOMAS FOX SR.

Randolph Thomas Fox Sr., 66, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, May 7, 2021, at Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst. Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 13, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

LUTHER TILLMAN BYRD

Luther Tillman Byrd, 91, of Broadway, died Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at Duke Hospice - Hock Family Pavilion in Durham. Graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at the Shallow Well Church Cemetery with Jody McNeill officiating. He was born in Lee County,

son of the Luther Garland and Elizabeth Queen Womack Byrd. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Neil M. Byrd and sister, Ella Savannah McCain. No immediate survivors. Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

MARVIN TAYLOR SR.

Mr. Marvin Taylor Sr., 83, passed away Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at Westfield Rehabilitation and Health Center in Sanford. Graveside services were held at 2 p.m., My 18, 2021 at Lee Memory Gardens.

CHARLES EDWARD COX

Charles Edward Cox, 75, of Broadway, passed away Saturday, May 15, 2021, at his residence. Funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at Cameron Grove A.M.E. Zion Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

MARGARET ANN (MCLEAN) BAKER

Ms. Margaret Ann McLean Baker, 71, of Sanford passed away on Thursday, May 13,

2021, at her residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

VENICE (TYSOR) DOWDY

Ms. Venice Dowdy, 88, of Sanford passed away on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital. Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

DEMETRIUS LAMUR SNIPES

Demetrius Lamur Snipes, 29, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, May 9, 2021. Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

DORETHA SCOTTEN MATTHEWS

Doretha Scotten Matthews, 72, of Siler City, passed away Monday, May 10, 2021, at Laurels of Chatham in Pittsboro. Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home of Siler City.

CHIQUITA DANIELLE HARRIS

Chiquita Danielle Harris, 36, of Graham, passed away Saturday, May 15, 2021, at her residence. Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

ELAINE T. GAINES

Elaine Teague Gaines, 72, of Siler City passed away on Monday, May 17, 2021, at Randolph Hospice House, Asheboro. Mrs. Gaines was born in Chatham County on January 7, 1949, the daughter of Tommy T. and Mary Lindley Teague. Elaine was a member of Rocky River Baptist Church, where she was a Sunday School teacher for 2 and 3-year olds, the nursery coordinator, a member of the Adult Sunday School Class, and played in the Hand Bell Choir. She spent her working years at Boling Chair Company and Basic Machinery, as a receptionist and secretary. She was a wonderful sewer and loved to spend her free time crocheting and reading. Elaine loved going to the beach and spent all the time she could with her granddaughters. In addition to her parents, Elaine is preceded in death by her daughter, Cathy G. York. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Eddie F. Gaines; daughter, Allison Gaines Loyd and husband Eric of Goldston; sisters, Gayle T. Black of Siler City, Shelby T. Wilson of High Falls and Martha T. Curry of Lexington; granddaughters, Casey and Maggie York; step-grandson, Jake Loyd; and son-in-law, Barry York of Liberty. A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 21, 2021, at Rocky River Baptist Church, 4436 Siler City-Snow Camp Road, Siler City, with Dr. Greg W. Burriss officiating. Inurnment will follow in the church cemetery. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Randolph, 416 Vision Dr., Asheboro, N.C. 27203, www.hospiceofrandolph.org Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Gaines family. Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneral-home.com.

TIMOTHY ANDREA DORSETT

Timothy Andrea Dorsett, 45, passed away on Thursday, May 13, 2021, in Fayetteville. Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

THERESA ANN (PRATT) ALSTON

Theresa Ann (Pratt) Alston, 64, passed away Friday, May 14, 2021, at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro. Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

CHATHAM CHAT | COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE COALITION

Remembering Chatham's Black history

Chatham County's observance of its 250th anniversary is well under way, but the recently-formed Community Remembrance Coalition of Chatham is also at work — finding ways to remember and acknowledge the achievements and experiences of Black, Indigenous and people of color from that same time period.

This week, we speak with CRC-C President Mary Nettles — who also serves as president of the Chatham Community branch of the NAACP — and other leaders about those plans. The team includes Mary Harris from the Siler City NAACP branch and Bob Pearson, who are co-coordinators for the CRC-C's work. Find more at www.crc-c.org.

“Overall,” Pearson says, “we continue to focus on the longer term goals: truth, acknowledgment, and reconciliation for a rapidly growing county that could be an

example to others.”

The CRC-C has earmarked Sept. 18 as the prime date for Black History Celebration as part of the county's 250th anniversary. Why that date?

We asked for a date in the fall so we could have a public event if possible. Having the community together in one place to listen to and support the telling of Black History of Chatham County is important to all of us. Sept. 18 is also the 100th anniversary of Eugene Daniel's lynching; he was 16 years old at the time of his death; he's buried in the New Hope Baptist Cemetery.

A number of events have been planned for before that date. The first is a virtual discussion of the book “Caste,” which examines how America has been shaped by a hidden caste system described as “a rigid hierarchy of human rankings” involving race, class and other factors. Why



Submitted photo

Mary Nettles

has that book resonated so much in the U.S. in the last few months?

The author, Isabel Wilkerson, says most white Americans insist they are not racist, but the divisions in our society and the injustices in our criminal, educational and economic systems still persist even though laws have changed. She's giving us a wake-up call to look deeper at habits and practices that have to change for all of us, regardless of color, to be

treated equally in our nation.

The Black History Celebration will also include music, storytellers and drama presentations. What's your hope for what those events will convey about Chatham's Black history?

Black History in Chatham County has largely been hidden. Black families and churches have preserved that history but the broader community largely has never heard it. Yet, that history has existed from the moment that African-Americans came into the county as slaves over 250 years ago. They built this county as much as anyone else, yet their contributions remain unappreciated. The events we plan are open to the whole community to learn more about the richness of this cultural history and to learn the realities faced by Black citizens of Chatham in that history.

You also have a mural project in process. What can you share about that?

We have selected a Chatham County muralist, Stayce Leanza, to lead our mural effort. We are looking for a location in Pittsboro to place a mural celebrating the Black History of the county. Other local artists, including young people, will participate. It will be a place to recall and celebrate the county's Black History. Readers may have

recommendations about the location of the mural, and we welcome suggestions.

Your group is looking for sponsors for these and other elements of the celebration. How can people find out more?

Our schedule of events is posted on our website: CRC-C.org. We need support that we will use for publicity for the events, for the choir presentations, for more storytelling events (designed for children), for preparing a walking tour of Pittsboro's Black history, for our mural project, and for further drama presentations. We will provide publicity for all sponsors, individuals, charities and companies, and want to show the wide-ranging support of the community for what we are doing.

What else can you share about your plans?

Our events will be posted on our website. We are also looking into the possibility of doing a videography of the history of the Black community in Chatham County. If we decide to go ahead with this project, we would aim to produce a film documentary that could be used in schools in the county to teach local Black history. Its purpose would be to objectively reflect the contributions of the Black citizens of the county to its development as well as the hard

history endured during the long period of Jim Crow rule. The basic theme of the videography will show our broad goal for the Equal Justice Initiative — to tell the whole truth, accept the history, and achieve reconciliation and move forward to build a better county and better race relations.

We will have a commemoration ceremony for the last lynching victim, Eugene Daniel, on the morning of Sept. 18. Looking toward the spring of 2022, we plan to have commemoration ceremonies for the other five victims of lynching in the county.

Your group helped organize a trip for Chatham residents to Montgomery, Alabama, to visit important Civil Rights sites and the Equal Justice Initiative's memorial and museum. COVID-19 prevented that trip — has it been re-scheduled?

The trip is scheduled for October 19-21. We are filling a charter bus to keep costs down and will have a group rate for the hotel rooms. We have a number of people who are signed up and a waiting list. Anyone interested in joining our trip should click on the “participate” section of our website and complete the contact form there. If we get about 50 new people to sign up and reserve a place, we will add a second bus.

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CHURCH NEWS

EDWARD HILL FRIENDS MEETING
Homecoming service will be held at Edward Hill Friends Meeting on Sunday, May 23, in the 11 a.m. worship hour. Lunch will follow after that service. All are invited.
The church is located on Ed Leonard Road off the Edward Hill Church Road.

OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m., Sunday, May 23, at Oakley Baptist Church.
There will be no extended special music prior to the service or meal following, due to COVID precautions.
The church is located at 2300 Siler City-Glendon Rd., Siler City.

HONOR STUDENTS

PHI KAPPA PHI INDUCTEES ANNOUNCED
Connor Kidd of Siler City was initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at North Carolina A&T State University.

New Hill: Alyssa O'Shields
Pittsboro: Joseph Carreiro, Brooklyn Craig, Kelsey Dillon, Michael Hubbard, Joshua King, Vincent Kressevich, Melanie Mather, Patrick McCaw, Katherine Skeen, Kayleigh Smith, Amelia Spell, Leslie Wiseman
Siler City: Sarah Lawter, Colin McDaniel, Chadwick Moore, Miguel Olivares, Margaret Safrit, Sarah Walters
Snow Camp: Bianca Camilo

CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Phi Kappa Phi at Central Carolina Community College has announced its spring inductees into the Phi Theta Kappa Chapter for Chatham County. Inductees include:
Bear Creek: James Keith Heidi Schouten
Bennett: Grace Jones
Goldston: Miranda Butler, Holley Clark

DEAN'S LIST
Courtney Frazier of Siler City has been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Bob Jones University, Greenville, S.C. Laura Balan of Pittsboro has been named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List at Belmont University, Nashville, Tennessee.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo "OH GEEZ!"

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 50 Safe sword | 93 Cellar, in ads | 4 Children's author | 40 Rock singer | 80 Good egg rating |
| 1 Gets married again | 52 Question about one's relentless following | 95 Makes accused | Madeleine L'— | 42 Bit of work | 81 Israeli weapon |
| 7 Playmate for Spot | 56 Thinks alike | 99 Tooth doctor's org. | 5 Abbr. for a handyperson | 44 Itty-bitty | 84 ABC a.m. show, for short |
| 11 Fed. loan agency | 59 Sch. in the Nutmeg State | 100 Expectant father | 6 Refused the request | 46 "Wow, neat!" | 85 Police vehicle |
| 14 The — & the Papas | 60 Saturated | 103 Latin I verb | 7 Blast from a lighthouse | 48 Gets mature | 86 Reagan-era scandal |
| 19 Greek Muse of astronomy | 61 Royal daughter who always moves with short, quick motions? | 105 Fore and — | 8 Pet collar attachment | 49 Cpl.'s boss | 87 Positive vote |
| 20 Take way too much of, for short | 66 Berlin article | 106 Way to pack fresh fish | 9 Homer | 51 Austin-to-Houston dir. | 88 Auction offer |
| 21 That lady | 69 Effortless | 109 Heroic American spy's petty bargaining? | 9 Simpson cry | 53 Dir. opposite | 89 Doc treating sinusitis |
| 22 Scarlet of Tara | 70 Prefix with chic or tourist | 112 Whopper dropped in water? | 10 "Be right there" | 54 Santa — winds | 90 Ski resort in S. Vermont |
| 23 Equipping a ranch with light, horse-drawn vehicles? | 71 Love-letter "hugs" | 116 — about (around) | 11 Carpet style | 55 Be a debtor | 94 Most ogreish |
| 26 Anatomical sacs | 72 Cab | 117 British islet | 12 Big icy chunk | 56 Impersonated | 96 Cartoon gorilla of 1960s TV |
| 27 Playa — Rey | 73 Indigo, e.g. | 118 City in central Florida | 13 Gls' force | 57 Silver-haired | 97 Lions, 49ers or Steelers |
| 28 Qatari capital | 74 Goose flocks making people chuckle? | 119 Dancing woman's moves? | 14 Coffee flavor | 58 Increase | 98 Canonized Fr. woman |
| 29 Brie exposed to heat? | 81 Suffix with event or context | 123 Suppressed | 15 "Now I remember" | 59 Gp. patrolling shores | 100 Cotillion gal |
| 31 Cooing bird wearing fancy duds? | 82 Wove rattan into | 124 Lyric poem | 16 Italian sports car | 60 Info to input | 101 "That's — haven't heard!" |
| 34 Port in Iraq | 83 Tire marks | 125 Discontinues | 17 Cultural exhibition hall | 61 Chopped down | 102 — & Noble |
| 35 "I'm — loss" | 84 Big brown beast seeking handouts of salmon? | 126 Money, informally | 18 Encl. with a manuscript | 62 Division: Abbr. | 104 Scampi food |
| 36 Dark film style | 90 Steak or ham | 127 Filled cookies | 24 "Can't, I'm already late" | 63 Errand runners | 107 Inuit dwelling |
| 37 Forest cats | 91 — Claire (magazine) | 128 Abel, to Eve | 25 Diminish network | 64 Top Olympic medal | 108 Greenish-blue colors |
| 41 Bar brew | 92 Berlin article | 129 Sing like Ella | 30 "MacGyver" network | 65 Mauna — | 110 Accord maker |
| 43 Months before Oct. | | 130 Neighbor of Colombia | 31 Faux — (slip) | 66 Info to input | 111 Be choked by |
| 45 Pre-Q queue | | | 32 Without assurance of payment | 67 Chopped down | 112 Merely OK |
| 47 Prez Lincoln | | | 33 Disappear as if by magic | 68 Knights, e.g. | 113 Sci-fi vehicles |
| 48 Furrier John Jacob — | | | 34 On the — (hiding out) | 72 Eta-iota link | 114 Overhaul |
| | | | 35 Kobe sash | 74 Look intently | 115 Fed. agents |
| | | | | 75 Wholly | 120 U.S. "Ltd." |
| | | | | 76 Heart chart, in brief | 121 — long way |
| | | | | 77 — AFTRA (showbiz union) | 122 — Na Na |
| | | | | 78 Due to wagering | |
| | | | | 79 Sport — (off-roader) | |

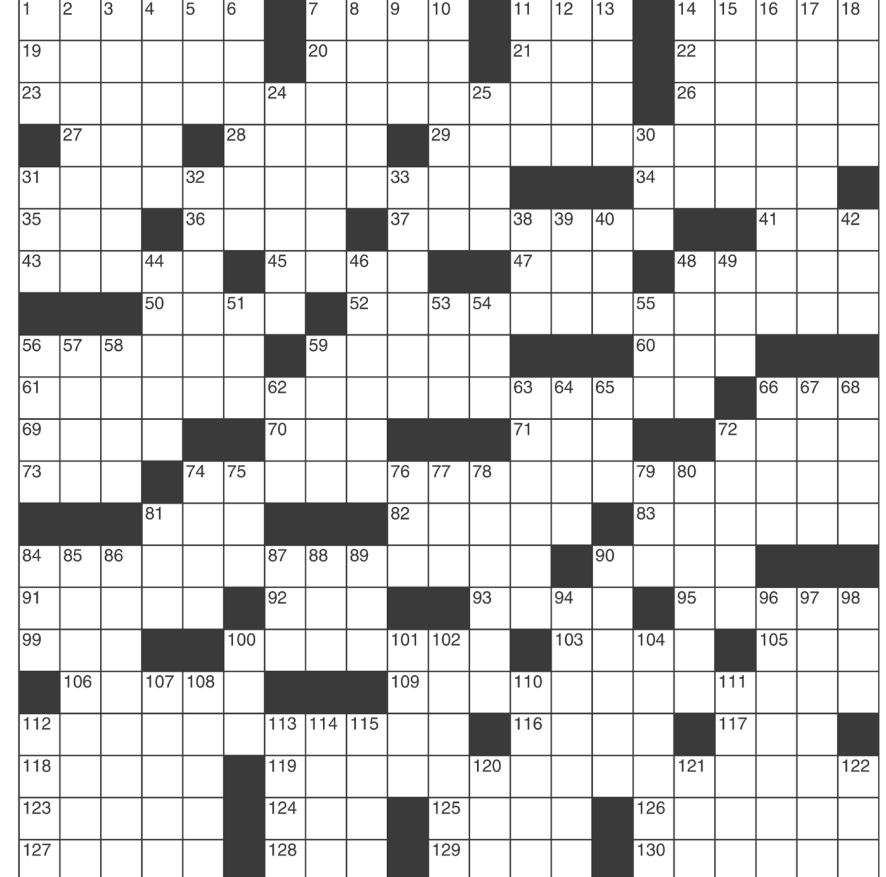


Photo courtesy of Chatham County Schools

George Moses Horton Middle School educator Tracy Miller is the NCASA Middle School Scholastic Director of the Year.

Writin' Wildcats claim Quill crown, help collect School District Cup

From Chatham County Schools

WINSTON-SALEM — Chatham County Schools ran away with this year's School District Cup for medium school systems in competition through the North Carolina Association for Scholastic Activities (NCASA).
The award was presented during NCASA's annual meeting May 10 at Atkins High School.
Chatham County Schools won the School District Cup with 400 points. The closest challenger was Surry County Schools with 175 points. Harnett County Schools had 125 points.
NCASA promotes academic excellence among the state's students through scholastic competitions such as Quiz Bowl — think group



Photo courtesy of Chatham County Schools

Horton Middle's Bradyn Robinson is the NCASA Middle School Principal of the Year.

"Jeopardy!" — and a test of writing prowess called The Quill. There's also space for dance ensembles and show choirs, among other categories.
George Moses Horton Middle School educator Tracy Miller emerged as the NCASA Middle School Scholastic Director of the Year.

She steered a team of the school's students to a state championship in The Quill.
Horton's Bradyn Robinson is the NCASA Middle School Principal of the Year, a tip of the cap for his touch toward nurturing a campus where academic student enrichment is thriving.

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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NEWS BRIEFS

CCCC Accounting program recognized

SANFORD — The Central Carolina Community College Accounting program has been recognized by Best Value Schools as one of the Best 24 Associate Degree in Finance in 2021. CCCC was ranked No. 5. See rankings at www.bestvalueschools.org/associate-degree-in-finance/.
"Our program is tailored to give students real world experience in accounting software along with developing a passion for Accounting," said Martin C. Haley Jr., CCCC Lead Accounting Instructor. "They will be able to hit the ground running when they start their accounting career and they will have the skills necessary to be successful."
"The Accounting & Finance

degree offered at CCCC prepares students for the workforce," said Erynn Stainback, CCCC Accounting Instructor. "Our courses are designed to give students hands-on experience with scenarios, software, and tasks they will encounter in the profession. As a part of the degree, students learn the accounting applications of Microsoft Excel, QuickBooks, Intuit's ProConnect tax software and payroll accounting. Our program is accessible to all learners as it is offered on-campus and in an online format."
The accounting instructional program at CCCC focuses on many business functions and emphasizes learning Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
— CN+R staff reports

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NEWS BRIEFS

Library to host virtual program on the history of African Americans in Chatham

PITTSBORO — In honor of Juneteenth, and in conjunction with the Chatham 250 celebration, Chatham Community Library will host a virtual program entitled, “From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans in Chatham County, N.C.,” from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 19. This lecture will be presented by Dr. Charles Johnson, Associate Professor

and Director of Public History at North Carolina Central University. This program is free and open to the public. As Director of the Public History Program at NCCU, Dr. Johnson teaches courses on archives and oral traditions, and his research has emphasized preserving local histories of the African American experience as well as Public History in the African Diaspora. Dr. Johnson is an award-winning teacher, and a co-author of the book *Topics on African Diaspora History* (2016). Dr. Johnson is the former Director of the South African Research and Archival Project at Howard University where

he helped to create a web-accessible database of information on relations between African Americans and South Africans. He has given lectures, presentations and held fireside chats on three continents, and he has appeared on television and radio broadcasts in the United States and abroad discussing the Black experience. Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day and Emancipation Day, is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it is now celebrated annually on the 19th of June

throughout the United States, with varying official recognition. It is commemorated on the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865, announcement by Union Army general Gordon Granger, proclaiming freedom from slavery in Texas. Registration for this program is required and is available at <https://tinyurl.com/JohnsonLecture>. Residents are encouraged to visit the libraries’ website, www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org for more information.

— CN+R staff reports

MONCURE

Continued from page A1

wound to his foot. Police questioned Davis regarding the shooting incident, but said he was not forthcoming with any details. “He says he doesn’t know what happened,” Roberson said. “We went to the scene and collected some evidence, but to say that we’re getting cooperation would not be true.” The house where Davis was shot is known as “Club 51,” essentially an unlicensed nightclub. According to several neighboring property owners and Facebook posts from attendees, Club 51 is the site of frequent late-night parties.

The property is owned by Shirlene Thomas, according to Chatham County tax records, who neighbors say is the mother of the alleged host of the parties, James “JT” Thomas.

The News + Record made multiple attempts to contact James Thomas about the shooting and allegations of other crimes on his mother’s property. Multiple calls to a telephone registered in the name of a James Thomas in Moncure were not answered and voicemail messages left over the course of the last



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Truth Missionary Baptist Church on Old U.S. 1 Hwy. sits across from a property known as ‘Club 51,’ where a man was shot earlier this month.

week were not returned. On the night Davis was shot, neighbors who spoke to the News + Record said they heard 50 shots or more. And it wasn’t the first time they’ve heard gunfire or witnessed activities they say are troubling. Members of multiple families in the area spoke — on the condition of anonymity — about Club 51 and what they’ve witnessed, on nearly a weekly basis, for the past two years. Each cited fear of physical retribution from Club 51 “regulars” if their names were made public. “Everybody’s terrified — they don’t come out and they don’t want to fight for the commu-

nity because they’re so afraid,” one resident said of others who live in the area. “And if they find out I’ve talked, I could be in grave danger because it doesn’t bother them one bit, they would harm us. That’s why I said I never want to give my name; you can never give my name.” Other neighbors expressed similar dread. “It is a dire situation down here and has been for a long time,” one said. “We are pleading for help, for someone to help us. We don’t get to sleep at night, we’re up all night from the partying, and there are issues with drugs there and prostitution, just all kinds of things. We hear the gun-

shots and can’t sleep. We have to get a motel room sometimes just to get some peace and rest.” Independently, at least three neighbors told the News + Record they’ve witnessed prostitution and drug use during the parties. “The prostitution we know for a fact is going on, we’ve seen that,” one said. “And you can hear the ladies screaming, we can hear them through our window, saying they don’t want to go in those trailers.” Neighbors claim Club 51 regulars have suggested they might burn down Truth Missionary Baptist Church, across the road from Thomas’ house, if church representatives reach out to police. (Church representatives did not respond to multiple News + Record requests for comment). “The property that they park on is church property, but the church is too afraid to say anything, afraid they’ll burn the church down,” one neighbor said. “(The church) did put up no parking signs when it got so bad here a month or two ago, but they just tore them down, tore them all out.” “The church doesn’t want to do anything because they’re afraid

they’re gonna burn the place down,” said another neighbor. “They like to park at the church’s property during the parties, and the church won’t do anything about it because they’re afraid, again, of getting the place burned.” In addition, residents living in the vicinity say party-goers have bragged to neighbors about “paying off” police officers to overlook criminal activity. One neighbor told the News + Record he smelled marijuana from his front porch, about a quarter mile from the location of the party. “And I called the cops out there, and the party still continued on through the night,” the neighbor said. “So, it was obvious that they had drugs out there, and the cops just didn’t do anything.” Each of the local residents who spoke claim they have made the same reports to law enforcement. But Chatham County Sheriff’s Office representatives say that isn’t the case. “To date, no one has contacted us to report any crime or suspicious activity at that location other than noise complaints,” Lt. Sara Pack

said in an email. As for suggestions of police corruption, Pack says the Sheriff’s Office is looking into it. “Those are definitely some jarring allegations, and we take all allegations of wrongdoing seriously,” she said. In a separate email she added: “Any time a tip is received, we investigate it fully. Again, we take the allegations being made by your anonymous sources very seriously and encourage them to come forward if they have information to share that might aid in an investigation.” Police are still investigating Davis’ shooting and ask that anyone with information call 919-542-2911. “No one should live in fear,” Roberson said. “We want to partner with individuals and the community to make Chatham County a safe and enjoyable place to live and work. We encourage anyone who sees suspicious or criminal behavior to report it immediately by calling 911 or reaching out to us directly to file a report.” Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @dldolder.

HISTORY

Continued from page A1

I’m not good on this topic. I need to do better, will you help me with really bringing to life what Chinese Americans have faced? And she was like, ‘Oh yeah, I’ll do this thing.’” Nakatsuka prepared a video presentation about her grandfather’s immigration story, connecting his story to the broader context of the Chinese Exclusion Act. That law was passed in 1882 and was the first significant law restricting immigration into the U.S., with very few professions exempted. It was repealed in 1943. For Nakatsuka, who

teaches in a largely Asian school district, teaching her students more accurate Asian American history is an important part of increasing representation for her students. But this history is important for non-Asian students too, she said, because it helps all students make better sense of the world around them. “The personal is profound,” she said. “That’s why we hope for historical empathy that we teach our kids to look empathetically at the past — that laws affect real people. Because people today vote, and they don’t think about the people that it’s affecting.” In America, there are ideals and there is reali-

ty, Nakatsuka said. She and King stressed this is not part of a political agenda, but something that is backed by historical facts and primary source documents. Like Nakatsuka’s grandfather, many Americans were excluded from participating in the free America the founders wrote about. In North Carolina, the State Board of Education and state legislature has argued over the history of America — namely whether teaching students about systemic racism is appropriate. Republican board members and legislators have said teaching that America is racist takes away from the good things the country has accomplished.

Many history teachers — King and Nakatsuka among them — disagree. “We’re not trying to take away history. We’re not canceling history,” Nakatsuka said. “We’re trying to show the history of ‘We the people,’ an inclusive ‘we.’” King aims to teach the “hard history” in all her lessons, not shying away from teaching about events such as lynchings, segregation or exclusionary immigration laws. In recent years, she’s put an emphasis on using current events to teach about history. Her work led to her being named a Grosvenor Teacher Fellow, a field-based professional development opportunity with National Geographic meant to

help educators bring new geographic awareness into their learning communities. “Unfortunately, in the last year, I’ve had a lot of opportunities to talk about some very, very difficult things going on in our country, and one of those is this violence and hate and discrimination and verbal attacks on Asian Americans,” King said, adding that many of her students are surprised they’ve never been taught about the historical marginalization of Asian Americans before. “I think it is often a wake up call to them as to why things are happening today,” she said. “And they see, ‘Oh, this isn’t new’ — that this

anti-Asian hate has been going for a long time.” For many of her students, especially those who are seniors, King’s American history courses could be their last history class ever. Chatham Central, located in Bear Creek, is in a rural area and King said many of her students have not previously heard about the “hard history” she teaches. Raeshaun Cline, a senior at Chatham Central, is taking American History II with King. Like some other students, he was surprised to learn about how devastating America’s bombing retaliation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki was for the Japanese people, with some effects still felt today. “We don’t really talk about it that much and that is a travesty,” Cline said. “I think it’s really important and something that needs to be taught. ... People don’t really think about it, especially in the country where I’m from — there’s not a huge Asian American population. So it brought more awareness to that.” King stressed that lessons like the one she and Nakatsuka taught rely on facts, not political slant. “We teach about politics, all throughout history. But we don’t teach students how to think, we teach them to think,” she said. “We teach them to think about these complex issues, and to see that many of these complex issues have long stories behind them. We want them to recognize those stories, to be informed and for that to help them make informed choices and decisions.” Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @HannerMcClellan.

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TRACK & FIELD

Northwood sets a number of personal records in first home meet since 2018

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
 News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Over the last few years, Northwood's football field has been the primary vessel for Chargers competition.

In the process, it's been battered, torn up, stomped on and soaked with mud and bodily fluids through a plethora of wins, losses and draws across the sports landscape.

Throughout all of the sports played on that field, the track surrounding it has remained mostly dormant, minus the occasional track practice, mid-game cheerleading routine and other miscellaneous activities.

On Thursday, though, after three long years, the charcoal-colored surface became the main focus of a sporting event: Northwood hosted its

first home track and field meet since 2018, this time against Big-8 conference opponents Cedar Ridge, East Chapel Hill and Northern Durham.

By all accounts, the track handled it well.

"This is my first home meet that I've held here, but I thought it ran very smoothly," said Cameron Isenhour, Northwood's head track and cross country coach, hired in 2019. "It's a lot of work setting up the hurdles, making the heat sheets, making the score sheets, tallying the scores, timing the starts, but it's well worth it."

During Thursday's Big-8 Quad Meet, the track saw plenty of action — 33 total events — and a few venue records broken, including one by Chargers junior Caroline Murrell, whose 2:26.00 time set the record in

the girls 800-meter run on Northwood's track.

East Chapel Hill, the first-place finishers in both the women's (90.17 points) and men's (78 points) team scores, set two women's venue records of its own as sophomore Anna Ivanisevic ran a time of 11:21.00 in the girls' 3200-meter run and the relay team of Ivanisevic, freshman Eliza Gilliom, sophomore Sofia Cagnoni and sophomore Margaret Sept earned a 10:20.10 time in the girls' 4x800 meter relay.

As a team, the Chargers finished second in both the men's (72 points) and women's events (63.5 points), setting 45 different personal records in the process, 19 on the women's side and 26 on the men's.

Even for those who didn't

See **TRACK**, page B2



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

Northwood senior Malachi Levy (right) and junior Colin Henry come out of the turn, neck-and-neck, during one of their two races in the Big-8 Quad Meet with Cedar Ridge, East Chapel Hill and Northern Durham last Thursday. Levy won the boys 800-meter run (2:09.60), while Henry came in second and third place in the boys 800-meter and 1600-meter runs.

CHATHAM CENTRAL 11, SOUTH STANLY 0

Moore throws no-hitter, hits walk-off grand slam to cap off career night in Bears blowout

BY BRENNAN DOHERTY
 News + Record Correspondent

BEAR CREEK — Naturally, most no-hitters end with the pitcher recording the final out.

Chatham Central's Michael Moore had other plans: He went yard.

With the bases loaded and his team firmly ahead of visiting South Stanly by seven runs in the bottom of the fifth on Thursday night, Moore expected a fastball and got a fastball. The result was a crushed baseball, one deposited over the left-field fence.

The grand slam triggered the NCHSAA's 10-run rule, which goes into effect in the fifth frame of seven-inning games, as the Bears earned an 11-0 win to improve to 3-2 overall, 2-1 in the Yadkin Valley 1A conference.

And just as most typical no-hitters end, Moore, a senior three-sport athlete, was mobbed by his teammates by the night's end — but as he crossed home plate, not while standing on the mound.

In addition to not allowing a hit in five innings of work against South Stanly, Moore went 2-for-4 at the dish, driving in a team-high seven RBI and recording two extra-base hits, including the game-ender.

"I knew I was getting fastball," said Moore, who also served as Chatham Central's starting quarterback and recently committed to play football collegiately at Catawba College in Salisbury. "I was up in the count, and just swung at it and hit it pretty good, I guess."

Moore's see-ball, hit-ball approach at the plate was simple and proved to be effective. The same can be said for his gameplan on the mound as well.

Although he walked two of the first three batters he faced — Moore allowed five baserunners: four via bases on balls and one on a fielder's choice — he quickly settled in, showing that his



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central players congratulate senior Michael Moore (right-center, with helmet) as he approaches home plate following his game-ending grand slam in the fifth inning of the Bears' 11-0 win over South Stanly in Bear Creek last Thursday. The home run enforced the 10-run rule and secured a no-hitter for Moore, who struck out six and recorded two extra-base hits as a batter, driving in seven runs.

early troubles locating the strike zone were an anomaly and not a precursor to what was to come.

The 6-foot-4, 170-pound righty never necessarily overpowered the South Stanly hitters, but instead consistently got ahead in counts and kept them guessing from there. Batters didn't know to look for Moore's heater or his

off-speed stuff, and they struggled to guess his location.

"When you're ahead in the count, the hitter's on their toes," Moore said. "Instead of being aggressive, they're sitting and waiting to see what you throw. So, it helps a lot for sure."

At one point, Moore retired 10 consecutive batters from the first to the

fourth inning, and he finished with six strikeouts. When he struck out South Stanly's Jaxon Barbee on three pitches to end the third, Moore enthusiastically slapped his glove as he returned to the dugout.

Moments later, Moore drove in the

See **BEARS**, page B4

GAME 1: RANDLEMAN 13, J-M 1 | GAME 2: RANDLEMAN 8, J-M 1



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews freshman Ian McMillan (11) waits for a pickoff throw at second base as Randleman junior Braylen Hayes (4) slides to safety in the Tigers' 13-1 win over the Jets on Tuesday, May 11.

Jets stumble in two-game series with top-ranked Randleman

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
 News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Jordan-Matthews hadn't seen a team quite like Randleman. And it showed.

The Tigers' offense is built like a high-powered machine, churning out runs at a consistent pace, chipping away, inning-by-inning, at any hopes opponents have at keeping up.

Randleman's defense — pitching included — is also a daunting force to face, protecting home plate as if it were the

most valuable item on earth.

And even if you're a 3-1 Jets team that's responsible for scoring 50 runs in four games, hanging with a high-scoring, hard-to-hit Tigers squad is a tough task.

In their 13-1 loss to Randleman last Tuesday night, May 11 — and a subsequent 8-1 defeat in the rematch on Thursday — the Jets learned that the hard way.

"They're the number two team in the state for a reason, that's what happens when you have freshmen and

sophomores playing against juniors and seniors," said John Headen, the Jets' head coach, after Tuesday's matchup. "We tried to keep them off pace and it was good experience for our youth to try and figure that out because we want to be in the same place that they're in and there's only one way to get there."

Since defeating the Jets twice last week, the Tigers have moved up to the top-ranked spot in MaxPreps' 2A baseball

See **JETS**, page B4

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

This week, things have slowed down on the postseason front with golf and men's tennis state championships having officially wrapped up. In Chatham County, we still have a variety of sports happening now with baseball, coed track and field, women's tennis and wrestling all in full swing, gearing up for the last month or so of high school sports for the 2020-21 school year. Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, May 19

Track & Field: Jordan-Matthews at T.W. Andrews, 1 p.m.
Tennis: Chatham Charter at Raleigh Charter, 4 p.m.
Tennis: Chatham Central women vs. South Davidson, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Jordan-Matthews women at Randleman, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Northwood women vs. Cedar Ridge, 4:30 p.m.
Track & Field: Woods Charter at Parkland Magnet (Winston-Salem), 4:30 p.m.
Baseball: Northwood men vs. South Granville, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 20

Tennis: Chatham Central women at North Stanly, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Jordan-Matthews women at Wheatmore, 4:30 p.m.
Track & Field: Chatham Central at North Stanly, 4:30 p.m.
Track & Field: Northwood vs. Southern, 4:30 p.m.
Wrestling: Jordan-Matthews men vs. Providence Grove, 6 p.m.
Wrestling: Northwood men at Southern Alamance, 6 p.m.
Baseball: Chatham Charter men vs. Clover Garden, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 21

Wrestling: Chatham Central men at South Stanly, 6 p.m.
Baseball: Chatham Central men at South Davidson, 7 p.m.
Baseball: Jordan-Matthews vs. Southern Alamance, 7 p.m.
Baseball: Northwood men at Cedar Ridge, 7 p.m.
Golf: The Jordan-Matthews men had two golfers competing in the 2A Men's Golf State Championships in Pinehurst: senior David Miller (T-13th, 79, +7) and sophomore Noah Snyder (T-15th, 80, +8).
Golf: Northwood's Jacob Conklin finished tied for second place in the 3A Men's Golf State Championships in Southern Pines, shooting 70 (-2) on the day.
Golf: Chatham Charter freshman Mackenzie Crossman (82, +10) finished tied for 10th place in the NCHSAA 1A/2A Women's Golf State Championships in Pinehurst, while Woods Charter's Teddy Taylor (100, +28) finished tied for 36th place.
Golf: Northwood's Lily Jordan (84, +12) tied for third place at the NCHSAA 3A Women's Golf State Championships in West End.
Tennis: The Jordan-Matthews women defeated the Providence Grove Patriots, 5-4.
Tennis: The Northwood women won a close match against the Carrboro Jaguars, 5-4, to improve to 2-0 on the season.
Track & Field: Jordan-Matthews competed in a four-team track & field meet with PAC-7 conference opponents Eastern Randolph, Providence Grove and Wheatmore (host), where the Jets' men's team finished in first place (69.50 points) and the women's team finished in third place (5 points). Winning their respective men's events were Jacquez Thompson (first place, boys 100-meter dash, 12.04), Aiden Harrison (first place, boys

800-meter run, 2:33.30) and Emanuel Larios (first place, boys 110-meter hurdles, 22.70). J-M's men's team also won the boys 4x100 meter relay (45.60), the 4x200 meter relay (1:36.10) and the 4x400 meter relay (3:49.70).
Baseball: The Chatham Central men earned a commanding victory over the North Rowan Cavaliers, 21-1, to improve to 2-2 on the year. Seniors Michael Moore (3-for-5, 2 2B, 3 RBI) and Parker Crowley (2-for-5, 3 RBI) and sophomore Hasten T. Paige (1-for-4, BB, 4 RBI) led the Bears in the win.
Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men fell to the undefeated Randleman Tigers, 13-1, in just five innings to fall to 3-2 on the season. Leading the Jets were juniors Brenden Rivers (1-for-1) and Carson Whitehead (1-for-1). See game report in this week's edition.
Baseball: The Northwood men earned a close win over the Northern Durham Knights, 7-6, fending off a late-game comeback by the Knights. Junior Nick Lovingood (1-for-1, 2 RBI) and sophomore Zach Barnes (1-for-4; 6.1 IP, 9 H, 3 ER, 3 K) lifted the Chargers in the victory.

LAST WEEK

Monday, May 10

Baseball: The Chatham Central men earned a commanding victory over the North Rowan Cavaliers, 21-1, to improve to 2-2 on the year. Seniors Michael Moore (3-for-5, 2 2B, 3 RBI) and Parker Crowley (2-for-5, 3 RBI) and sophomore Hasten T. Paige (1-for-4, BB, 4 RBI) led the Bears in the win.
Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men fell to the undefeated Randleman Tigers, 13-1, in just five innings to fall to 3-2 on the season. Leading the Jets were juniors Brenden Rivers (1-for-1) and Carson Whitehead (1-for-1). See game report in this week's edition.
Baseball: The Northwood men earned a close win over the Northern Durham Knights, 7-6, fending off a late-game comeback by the Knights. Junior Nick Lovingood (1-for-1, 2 RBI) and sophomore Zach Barnes (1-for-4; 6.1 IP, 9 H, 3 ER, 3 K) lifted the Chargers in the victory.

Tuesday, May 11

Baseball: The Chatham Central men earned a commanding victory over the North Rowan Cavaliers, 21-1, to improve to 2-2 on the year. Seniors Michael Moore (3-for-5, 2 2B, 3 RBI) and Parker Crowley (2-for-5, 3 RBI) and sophomore Hasten T. Paige (1-for-4, BB, 4 RBI) led the Bears in the win.
Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men fell to the undefeated Randleman Tigers, 13-1, in just five innings to fall to 3-2 on the season. Leading the Jets were juniors Brenden Rivers (1-for-1) and Carson Whitehead (1-for-1). See game report in this week's edition.
Baseball: The Northwood men earned a close win over the Northern Durham Knights, 7-6, fending off a late-game comeback by the Knights. Junior Nick Lovingood (1-for-1, 2 RBI) and sophomore Zach Barnes (1-for-4; 6.1 IP, 9 H, 3 ER, 3 K) lifted the Chargers in the victory.

Wednesday, May 12

Baseball: The Chatham Charter men defeated the Millenium Charter Academy Lions in blowout fashion, 13-4, to remain unbeaten on the season. Leading the Knights in the win was senior Trevor Golden (3-for-4, 2B, 3B, HR, BB, 4 RBI), junior Landon Hussey (2-for-4, 3 RBI; 3.0 IP, 2 H, ER, 2 BB, 4 K) and senior Jacob Brannon (1-for-3, BB, 3 RBI).

Thursday, May 13

Tennis: The Chatham Charter women defeated the Chatham Central Bears, 5-4, in an inter-county match for their first win of the season. Winning singles matches for the Knights were junior Lorelei Byrd (7-5, 7-6 (7-1)), junior Ashlyn Hart (6-0, 6-4), sophomore Rebecca

Brookshire (6-0, 6-4) and junior Emily Stecher (6-4, 6-2), while the duo of Brookshire & Stecher won their doubles match (8-1). Winning singles matches for the Bears were senior Sophie Phillips (3-6, 6-2, 0-0 (10-8)) and senior Mary Grace Murchison (6-3, 6-1), while the duos of Phillips & Murchison (8-1) and sophomores Ellie Phillips & Olivia Brooks (8-4) won their doubles matches.
Tennis: The Jordan-Matthews women lost to the Randleman Tigers, 8-1.
Track & Field: Chatham Central competed in a track & field meet with Yadkin Valley conference opponents Gray Stone Day, South Davidson and South Stanly (host), where the Bears women's team finished in second place (51 points), while the men's team finished in fourth place (12 points). Winning their respective women's events were senior Madison Gaines (first place, girls 100-meter hurdles, 19.70), senior Grace Jones (first place, girls shot put, 25-08.00), junior Carleigh Gentry (first place, girls triple jump, 29-06.00) and sophomore Kailey Green (first place, girls high jump, 4-06.00). They also won the girls 4x100 meter relay (56.10) and girls 4x200 meter relay (2:04.60). There were no first-place finishers in the men's events for the Bears.
Track & Field: Northwood hosted a four-team track meet with Big Eight conference opponents Cedar Ridge, East Chapel Hill and Northern Durham, with the women's team (63.5 points) and men's team (72 points) finishing in second place. Winning their respective women's events were junior Caroline Murrell (first place, girls 800-meter run, 2:26.00), junior Charlotte Cantrell (first place, girls 200-meter dash, 26.60), senior Liv Riggsbee (first place, girls discus throw, 82-03) and junior Kennedy Poston (first place, girls shot put, 27-02.00).

Winning their respective men's events were senior Elijah Miller (first place, boys 100-meter dash, 11.10), senior Malachi Levy (first place, boys 800-meter run, 2:09.60), sophomore Jack Nicholson (first place, boys long jump, 18-04.50) and senior Jacob McCall (first place, boys pole vault, 10-00.00). See meet report in this week's edition.
Wrestling: The Jordan-Matthews men lost to the Wheatmore Warriors in a road match.
Baseball: The Chatham Central men earned a dominant shutout victory over the South Stanly Rowdy Rebel Bulls, 11-0, in just five innings to improve to 3-2 on the year. Senior starting pitcher Michael Moore had a career night, throwing a five-inning no-hitter while also hitting a mercy rule walk-off grand slam to end the game. Leading the Bears on the night were Moore (2-for-4, 2B, HR, 7 RBI; 5.0 IP, 0 H, 0 ER, 6 K) and junior Collin Lagenor (3-for-3, BB). See game report in this week's edition.
Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men fell to the Randleman Tigers, 8-1, for the second time this week to fall to 3-3 on the season.

long jump, 18-09.00) and senior Dylan Hernandez (first place, boys shot put, 35-06.00). Winning their respective women's events for the Jets were sophomore America Cuanalo (first place, girls 1600-meter run, 7:10.00), freshman Anna Vicente (girls 400-meter dash, 1:19.28), freshman Damisela Rivera (first place, girls discus throw 62-03) and freshman Lia Carter (first place, girls long jump, 8-06.00). The Jets also won the boys 4x100 meter relay (44.91), the boys 4x200 meter relay (1:35.20), the boys 4x400 meter relay (3:58.40) and the girls 4x100 meter relay (58.44). The Chatham Charter Knights' men's (6 points) and women's (19 points) each finished in fourth place. Winning his respective event for the Knights men was junior Brandon McKoy (first place, boys 3200-meter run, 10:32.40). Winning her respective event for the Knights women was junior Brooke Garner (first place, girls triple jump, 27-08.00).
Baseball: The Chatham Central men kept their three-game winning streak alive with a 9-2 thumping of the Gray Stone Day Knights, improving their record to 4-2 on the year. Leading the Bears in the win were senior Michael Moore (1-for-2, 2B, 2 BB, 3 RBI), sophomore Travis Crissman (1-for-4, 3 RBI) and junior Colby Williamson (5.0 IP, 3 H, 0 ER, 2 BB, 4 K).
Baseball: The Northwood men fell to the East Chapel Hill Wildcats, 8-3, to drop back to .500 on the season (3-3).
Baseball: The Chatham Charter men defeated the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 7-2, to stay undefeated on the season at 5-0. Leading the Knights were senior Trevor Golden (1-for-3, 2B, BB, 3 RBI; 6.2 IP, 4 H, 2 ER, BB, 19 K) and freshman Aidan Allred (2-for-3, BB).

Friday, May 14

Tennis: The Chatham Central duo of seniors Jayden Gilliland and Preston Cox lost in the first round of the NCHSAA 1A Men's Tennis State Tournament
Doubles Quarterfinals to Raleigh Charter's Griff Whalen and Ethan Meyerhoffer (6-1, 6-3), who went on to win the state championship.
Track & Field: Jordan-Matthews hosted a track & field meet with Chatham Charter, Eastern Randolph and Research Triangle, where its men's (107 points) and women's (56 points) teams finished in first place. Winning their respective men's events for the Jets were senior Jacquez Thompson (first place, boys 100-meter dash, 11.19; first place, boys

state championship." Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@Frezeal33](https://twitter.com/Frezeal33).

Friday, May 14

Tennis: The Chatham Central men defeated the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 7-2, to stay undefeated on the season at 5-0. Leading the Knights were senior Trevor Golden (1-for-3, 2B, BB, 3 RBI; 6.2 IP, 4 H, 2 ER, BB, 19 K) and freshman Aidan Allred (2-for-3, BB).
Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@Frezeal33](https://twitter.com/Frezeal33).

TRACK

Continued from page B1

earn first-place honors in an event, it wasn't a bad day.

One of the major highlights for the Chargers was the girls 4x800 meter relay team — consisting of junior Caroline Yell, senior Liv Riggsbee, senior Tessa Yell, Murrell and junior Emma Serrano — qualifying for the 3A Mideast regionals based on their time of 10:23.70. They placed second in the event.

Each season, the NCHSAA sets regional qualifying standards for 18 different events that, if met, allows an individual or team to participate in regionals at the end of the regular season.

Northwood's girls 4x800 meter relay team cleared the standard time of 10:30.00 by nearly seven seconds, punching its regionals ticket and joining the boys 4x800 meter relay team (8:28.47) and Murrell (girls 1600-meter run, 5:14.03), both of which qualified on May 6 in a meet in Chapel Hill. Murrell has also qualified for the 800-meter run and 3200-meter run.

If Isenhour's making predictions, they won't be the only ones. "I think Tessa Yell could definitely end up qualifying in the girls 3200(-meter run)," Isenhour said. "And then Malachi (Levy) and Colin (Henry) could definite-



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Northwood juniors Caroline Murrell (third from left) and Caroline Yell (far right) trail a pair of opposing runners during the girls 800-meter run in the Big-8 Quad Meet with Cedar Ridge, East Chapel Hill and Northern Durham last Thursday. Murrell ended up 'leav(ing) them in the dust,' according to Chargers head coach Cameron Isenhour, finishing in first place by more than eight seconds.

ly get in the mile (boys 1600-meter run)."

In total, Northwood had eight individual first-place finishers in the Big-8 Quad Meet, including:

- Junior Charlotte Cantrell (girls 200-meter dash, 26.60)
- Senior Liv Riggsbee (girls discus throw, 82-03)
- Junior Kennedy Poston (girls shot put, 27-02)
- Junior Caroline Murrell (girls 800-meter run, 2:26.00)
- Senior Elijah Miller (boys 100-meter dash, 11.10)
- Senior Malachi Levy (boys 800-meter run, 2:09.60)
- Sophomore Jack Nicholson (boys long jump, 18-04.50)
- Senior Jacob McCall (boys pole vault, 10-00)

Murrell has been one of the standouts for the Chargers this season and on Thursday, she proved why. Midway through the girls 800-meter run, Murrell trailed Northern Durham junior Catherine Kiplagat and East Chapel Hill sophomore Margaret Sept for the lead by a few steps, appearing as if she might be bound for a third-place finish. But after running another 100 meters, Murrell squeezed her way past them and took a sizable lead in mere seconds. By the time the race was over, she had beaten them by 8.2 and 9.3 seconds, respectively, setting her own personal record for the 800-meter run in the process. "She has that mentality

of a go-getter," Isenhour said. "She was sitting behind two girls for about 450 meters, then she made her move, accelerated out of the turn and left them in the dust. ... She has a quick cadence and a phenomenal form. She's a phenomenal runner."

Later in the meet, as events were still taking place, Murrell could be seen running around the track in idle moments, going through workouts despite having run in a couple of events earlier in the day. Isenhour said she'll miss the next two meets to prepare for the SAT, so it's best to go ahead and get "a little work in" now.

Due to the cancellation of the Big-8 Conference Championship meet, which was cut to make the season shorter, Northwood has two regular-season meets left — a dual meet against Southern Durham on Thursday, May 20, and a tri-meet with Orange and Cedar Ridge on May 27, both at home — before NCHSAA 3A Mideast Regionals on June 19 in Sanford, meaning the Chargers still have a couple of opportunities for runners to qualify for postseason competition. There are plenty of reasons to be optimistic in Pittsboro.

"I'm fairly happy with how we're doing with our competition so far," Isenhour said. "I wish we had a conference cham-

pionship meet to see how we do at the end, but our distance teams, I'm really quite proud of ... they've really been turning it on in hopes of winning that

state championship."

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@Frezeal33](https://twitter.com/Frezeal33).

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Colleges & Championships

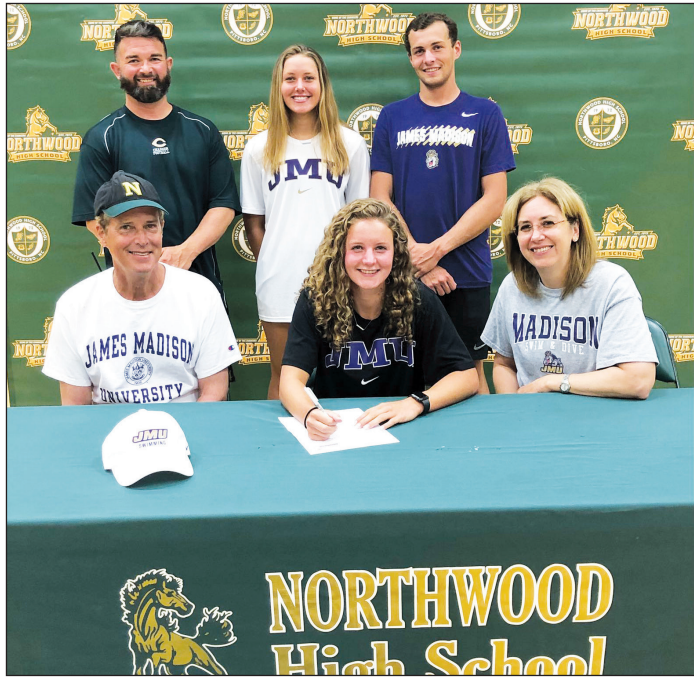


Submitted photo

Jordan-Matthews swimmer Jennah Fadely (center) signs her letter of intent last Wednesday to attend Kenyon College in Ohio, where she'll swim for the Lords next season, who have the most successful swimming and diving program in the NCAA (57 national titles). This year, Fadely became a state champion with a record-setting performance in the women's 100 breaststroke (1:02.11) at the NCHSAA 1A/2A Swimming State Championships in Cary.

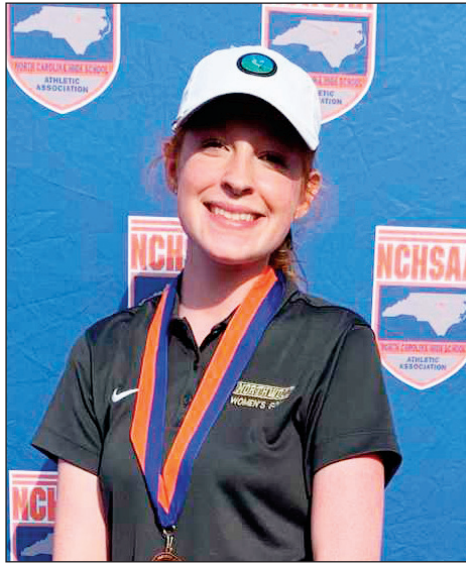
Northwood swimmer Suzanne Earnshaw (bottom row, center) signs her letter of intent to attend James Madison University surrounded by her family and Northwood staff on Tuesday, May 11. Earnshaw is a four-time NCHSAA state championship qualifier and a 2021 3A Central region champion (women's 100-yard breaststroke, 1:07.94).

Submitted photo



Submitted photo

Northwood senior Michael Anthony (center, in red) signs his letter of intent to attend Guilford College last Thursday surrounded by his family, coaches and other Northwood staff. Anthony, a dominant defensive tackle during his time with the Chargers, will play football for the Quakers this fall.



Submitted photo

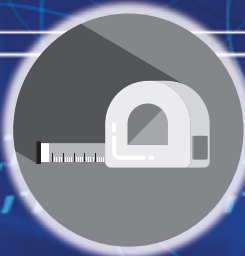
Northwood golfer Lily Jordan poses with her bronze medal after taking third place (84, +12) at the NCHSAA 3A Women's Golf State Championships in West End on Tuesday, May 11. Her Northwood teammate, Jacob Conklin, finished tied for second place in the men's championship (70, -2) a day earlier.



Submitted photo

Chatham Charter freshman Mackenzie Crossman competed in the NCHSAA 1A/2A State Championships in Pinehurst last Tuesday, May 11, where she placed 10th (82, +10). 'We're proud of Mackenzie, appreciative of Coach Tally and Mackenzie's family support, and looking forward to her bright future in golf,' said Chatham Charter Athletic Director Clint Fields. 'She represents our school well both athletically and academically.'

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JETS

Continued from page B1

rankings, holding strong to a 6-0 record. They're ranked 12th amongst all classifications in North Carolina, second in the NCHSAA.

In six games, they've allowed a total of six runs. They've scored 58.

They have two juniors — Brooks Brannon and Trey Way — who are already committed to play for two different ACC schools in 2022-23: Brannon to North Carolina and Way to Virginia Tech. They're bound to have a few more players make college rosters in the next couple of years, too.

In short, Randleman is a team rich with talent and in the midst of one of the best seasons by any team in the state. J-M's struggles against its PAC-7 conference rival are no surprise.

On Tuesday, those struggles reared their ugly heads early as Randleman took control in the top of the first inning.

J-M sophomore starting pitcher Jackson Headen (1.1 IP, 4 H, 7 ER, 3 BB) put himself in a jam from the get-go, walking the Tigers' first two batters and allowing a single by sophomore Hunter Atkins to load the bases with Brannon — the team's clean-up hitter — up to bat.

He used his plate appearance to drive in a run on a sac fly, giving the Tigers an early 1-0 advantage, but it was junior Braylen Hayes who dug an even deeper hole for the Jets, doubling to left field and clearing the bases to put his team ahead, 3-0, in the first.

Hayes had himself a perfect night at the plate, going 4-for-4 with four RBI, including two singles, a double and a home run as the Tigers' main source of offensive production. He was a



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews freshman pitcher Brian Johnson (12) listens to Jets' head coach John Headen (left, in blue) on the mound in his team's 13-1 loss to Randleman on Tuesday, May 11. Johnson was one of five J-M pitchers to step on the mound in the five-inning contest.

triple away from hitting for the cycle.

In total, Hayes reached base five times on Tuesday (four hits, one hit-by-pitch), the same amount as the entire J-M roster.

"I think our pitchers were just trying to strike people out early instead of just pitching to good zones," Headen said. "These are good hitters and good hitters are going to take advantage of that."

It didn't matter what type of pitch was thrown at them or who was throwing it, the Tigers' hitters were going to make contact.

J-M used five pitchers against Randleman, with all but Headen throwing an inning or less. Four allowed at least two runs, while three of them gave up a home run.

In the third inning, the Tigers' power began to shine through, with the Virginia Tech-bound Way — who also pitched the last three innings for Randleman — hitting a long ball that narrowly floated over the left-field wall for a lead-off home

run off of J-M freshman pitcher Brian Johnson.

A couple of batters later, after Jets junior Brenden Rivers took over the pitching duties, Hayes hit a booming shot to left field for a two-run homer, which gave the Tigers a 10-0 lead and officially put J-M on mercy-rule watch.

While the Tigers had no issue putting up runs, the Jets never managed to string together multiple rallies.

All three of J-M's hits came in the bottom of the third inning, where a string of three straight singles allowed the Jets to finally get on the board.

J-M catcher Carson Whitehead singled on a hard-hit line drive to short, but an errant throw to first allowed him to slide safely into second base. On the ensuing at-bat, Rivers hit a ball to right-center field for a single, but the ball was dropped by the outfielder in an attempt to get it back into the infield, resulting in J-M sophomore Gavin Campbell (pinch-runner) getting across home plate

on another error.

That wrapped up J-M's scoring.

Jets senior Huston Causey singled immediately after, but senior Carson Rickman flew out on the following plate appearance. On the fly-out, Rivers got caught in between second and third base and was tagged out, ending the inning on a double play and stranding two runners with his team down 10-1.

"I think when we had opportunities to capitalize, we made some mistakes, whether it be on the base path or taking pitches we normally wouldn't take," Headen said. "I don't know if it was nerves or what. These guys know when they're playing against real competition, that could have had something to do with it."

The Tigers tacked on another three runs — including a two-run homer in the fifth inning by junior Gus Shelton — before the game concluded in just five innings, marking the Jets' largest loss of the season at 13-1.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Randleman junior Trey Way (15) stands on first base after walking in his team's 13-1 win over Jordan-Matthews on Tuesday, May 11. Way — a 2022 Virginia Tech commit — finished the day 1-for-3 with a solo home run.

Two days later, J-M found itself suffering another lopsided loss to Randleman, 8-1, to fall to 3-3 on the year after allowing 21 runs in the two games.

With the Jets' underclassman-heavy roster, however, games like these — against high-level competition — make for great experience for the team's younger players.

"We have to make sure that they play and get as many reps as possible," Headen said. "In our hunt, the next two weeks are games that can prepare us to make the playoffs. We'll see how that shakes out."

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Frezeal33.

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Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central senior first baseman Brady Cunnup (12) tosses a ball to himself in the dugout during his team's 11-0 win against conference foe South Stanly in Bear Creek last Thursday. With the win, the Bears improved to 3-2 on the season.

BEARS

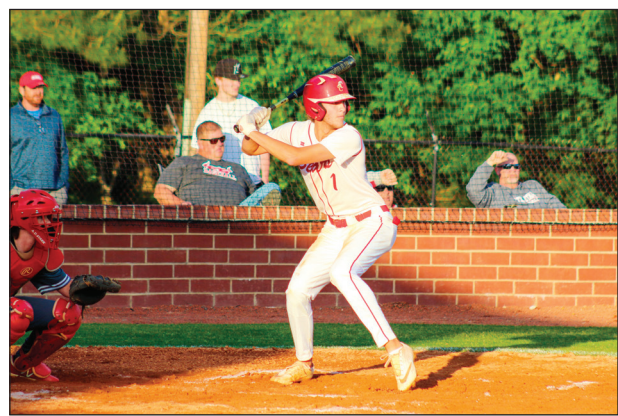
Continued from page B1

game's first run with a run-scoring groundout to second base in the bottom of the third.

An inning later, with Chatham Central then ahead 3-0, Moore hit a gapper to left-center that sent in teammates Collin Lagenor and Brady Cunnup, breaking the game open at 5-0.

As a pitcher, Moore's abilities "give us a chance every time out," Chatham Central head coach Brett Walden said. His senior's power at the plate is a welcome new development, however. Case in point: If first base wasn't occupied when Moore approached the plate before subsequently homering, Walden said he would've considered a safety squeeze.

"Up until this year, he really hasn't hit," Walden said. "Freshman year, we had to bring him up early because we needed an infielder. Sophomore year, he didn't hit particularly well. Last year, we only had four games but



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central senior Michael Moore prepares for a pitch from South Stanly's Reece Crump during the Bears' 11-0 win in Bear Creek last Thursday. In addition to throwing a five-inning no-hitter, Moore went 2-for-4 at the plate, drove in seven runs and hit a game-ending grand slam.

he didn't hit particularly well early. But he's gotten stronger and he's started hitting well recently. I hope he keeps it up."

Beyond Moore, the Bears played soundly as a group and got contributions up and down their lineup. Chatham Central didn't commit any errors, and each Bears batter reached base at least once, including the leadoff hitter, Lagenor, who hit three singles, scored two runs and stole a base as the designated hitter.

Even third baseman Colby Williamson, hitting in the 8-hole, recorded a single and executed a pair of sacrifice bunts.

That's good news for Walden, who knows his team will need contributions from everyone to compete at the top of the Yadkin Valley, along with powers Uwharrie Charter Academy and North Moore.

"I hope the guys continue to play confident," Walden said. "Hopefully, we can be in the mix for a playoff spot late."

Chatham COA Events & Announcements

May 20th - May 26th

Thursday, May 20th

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (Outside at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center Bocce Court)
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [May Birthday Celebration](#) at 11:15 AM 📶
- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 3:00 PM 📶

Friday, May 21st

- [Strong & Fit with Jackie](#) at 9:15 AM 📶
- [Weekly Call with Director, Dennis Streets, with a COVID update from Mike Zelek](#) at 10:15 AM 📞
- [Virtual Yoga for Senior Athletes](#) at 3:00 PM 📶

Monday, May 24th

- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Bingo with Joe](#) at 11:15 AM 📶
- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 3:00 PM 📶

Tuesday, May 25th

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (Outside at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center Bocce Court)
- [Strong & Fit with Jackie](#) at 9:15 AM 📶
- [Bluegrass Music with the Original Haw River Crawdaddies](#) at 11:15 AM 📶

Wednesday, May 26th

- [Bible Study with Neriah](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Chair Yoga with Liz](#) at 10:00 AM 📶
- [Celestial Science with Alan](#) at 11:15 AM 📶
- [Short Stories with Chris](#) at 12:30 PM 📞

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

Join the Trivia Hunt & Win!

Each week we hide trivia question in the *Chatham News + Record*. Find the correct answer and enter to win a \$25 VISA gift card in the COA's monthly drawing. Look in **Section A** for this week's question.

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Good Samaritan Law saves lives

BY RACHEL CRUMPLER
Special to the News + Record

Opioids aren't the only drugs contributing to the rise in overdose deaths. Overdose deaths from prescription sedatives known as benzodiazepines or "benzos" are also on the rise.

However, less attention and education are focused on their dangers in comparison to opioids. Benzos include Xanax, Valium, and Klonopin, which are commonly prescribed for anxiety and insomnia. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdose deaths involving benzodiazepines rose 830% from 1999 to 2017.

The rise in deaths parallels the increase in benzodiazepine prescriptions. With more of these drugs being prescribed, benzos are easily accessible in family medicine cabinets and on the streets. This accessibility as well as the incorrect perception among many that benzos are safe drugs — especially safer than opioids — helps fuel their misuse.

Julie Boone Cummins discovered firsthand how prevalent benzos like Xanax are in the community. Her son, Boone Cummins, started experimenting with them in high school — as did many of his peers. Cummins said she learned friends on social media competed with each other over how many Xanax they could take and would post about it — content that earned lots of likes. Cummins said she finds the glorification of Xanax in popular culture and social media to be problematic in normalizing it and portraying a false sense of safety. She said at the time, she and her son both did not realize the seriousness of Xanax and how addictive it can become.

On July 19, 2017 — the night Boone died — Cummins said friends dropped him off by the local quarry after he had taken high doses of Xanax. They thought Boone would be fine, not realizing the dangers of the drug. As he was at the quarry alone, Cummins said he sent texts and social media calls for others to join him to memorialize Sean O'Donnell, his best friend who died six weeks earlier at the quarry. Sean died after passing out from alcohol consumption and drowning in the water when his friends left him alone. Similarly, Boone was left alone, and Cummins said she believes he rolled into the water and drowned due to his inability to swim in his compromised condition.

In both cases, no one called for help. "They just didn't know what to do," Cummins said. "Even though Sean had just died and they had just heard about this Good Samaritan Law, nobody really believed in it. Nobody really felt comfortable with it. They were still thinking if we call on Boone, he's going to get in trouble or we're going to get in trouble for knowing about it."

Both mothers believe someone calling for help could have saved their sons' lives. In honor of their sons, both families have raised awareness about the Good Samaritan Law. In sharing what happened to their sons, they have attached faces and names to the law in a way they hope helps kids remember.

Under North Carolina's Good Samaritan Law, enacted in 2013, a person can seek medical assistance by contacting 911, a police officer, or EMS

'If you are ever in the position to call 911 on behalf of someone experiencing an overdose, do not hesitate. Remember, the law is on your side and you could be the hero who saves someone's life.'

MIKE ROBERSON, Chatham County Sheriff

for themselves or someone else experiencing a drug overdose without fear of prosecution for the following:

- Possession of small amounts of drugs
- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- Underage possession or consumption of alcohol
- Violating conditions of probation, parole or post-release

Currently, the law requires the caller to provide his or her name to law enforcement or EMS to qualify for legal protection. While it may feel uncomfortable to share your name, you will not get in trouble and it is far more important to help the person in need.

"Deputies and first responders in Chatham County are here to save lives, not pass judgment," Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson said. "Our deputies are trained and equipped to use Narcan to help reverse symptoms of an overdose, but we can only provide timely assistance if we are called to help."

Their sons were not saved by the Good Samaritan Law, but Sean and Boone's moms say it has been meaningful to hear of several cases where someone made the call and saved a life — many the result of hearing about their sons.

In 2020, first responders were dispatched to 43 overdoses in Chatham County. Roberson said they were able to revive all but four individuals, thanks to the rapid responses of friends or family who called for help.

"If you are ever in the position to call 911 on behalf of someone experiencing an overdose, do not hesitate. Remember, the law is on your side and you could be the hero who saves someone's life," Roberson said.

O'Donnell said she believes education about the Good Samaritan Law should begin in middle school so teens are informed prior to the peak time of experimentation in high school and college. After first learning of the law, she said there needs to be continued, periodic education in order for teens to absorb the information. In Chatham County, the Good Samaritan Law has been added to the driver's education curriculum. Roberson said raising public awareness about the law is part of the county's response to the opioid epidemic.

When employed, the Good Samaritan Law is powerful and can save lives. But people first have to know about it. Familiarize yourself with the law and tell others about it.

If there is an overdose situation, make the 911 call. As both mothers say, "It's just a no-brainer, be kind, leave no one behind."

Rachel Crumpler is a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill studying journalism and working with Safe Kids Orange County and Safe Kids Chatham County.

J-M's Conroy awarded Park Scholarship

From JMArts

Shane Conroy, a senior at Jordan-Matthews High School, has been awarded a Park Scholarship to attend



Conroy

N.C. State. The four-year scholarship is awarded on the basis of outstanding accomplishments and potential in scholarship, leadership, service and character.

Conroy is the son of Kathleen and Nathan Conroy of Siler City. As captain of both the FIRST Robotics and Quiz Bowl teams, Conroy has honed his leadership skills while at J-M. He's also excelled in other areas, including as a state finalist in DECA, and has served his community as a volunteer at the West Chatham Food Pantry. Conroy completed the Dual Language program, a K-12 initiative that prepares students to be bilingual in English and Spanish.

"N.C. State aligns with my academic interests in biology and math," Conroy said. "The Park Scholarship program also offers enrichment grants for creative, service and research projects. They also have good support for internships and a strong alumni network."

Conroy is one of 40 students selected

for the Park Scholars Class of 2025, selected from a pool of more than 2,200 applicants from five countries, 42 states, and 97 of North Carolina's 100 counties.

"Right now, I'm planning to study bioprocessing, which is using cells to make chemicals, and statistics," said Conroy. "Bioprocessing is going to become very important in fields like pharmaceuticals, and statistics helps us understand everything about the world."

J-M social studies teacher Jay Palmer, who has taught Conroy in several classes, spoke highly of his academic achievements.

"Shane works diligently each and every day, task by task, to maximize his intellectual capacity," said Palmer. "I have rarely encountered a student who possessed a willingness to work as hard as he does to fully realize his true potential."

The Park Scholarships program develops and supports Park Scholars in scholarship, leadership, service, and character, preparing them for lifelong contributions to the campus, state, nation, and world. The Park Scholarship is a four-year scholarship valued at approximately \$112,000 for in-state students and \$203,000 for out-of-state students. Learn more about the Park Scholarships Program at park.ncsu.edu.

'A BIG STEP FORWARD'

Gov. Roy Cooper loosens mask mandate

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — Gov. Roy Cooper announced last Friday a loosening of the statewide mask mandate per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest recommendation.

All gathering limits and social distancing requirements have been lifted in all settings, and masks are no longer required in most settings.

"This is a big step forward in living like we did before the pandemic," Cooper said.

Still, the mask mandate will continue in some situations.

"Masks will still be required in child care, schools and camps as most children are either not yet vaccinated or are not yet eligible to be vaccinated," Dory MacMillan, press secretary for the governor, said in a release. "Everyone, including people who are fully vaccinated will still be required to wear a mask in certain settings such as public transportation, health care settings like hospitals, doctor's offices and long-term care settings like nursing homes, and certain congregate settings like correctional facilities and

homeless shelters."

In addition, businesses and venues reserve the right to enforce mask wearing and social distancing despite the state's loosened restrictions. Some, such as Home Depot, have already suggested they will maintain the mask requirement in their buildings for both employees and shoppers, according to Dr. Mandy Cohen, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services secretary. Others, including Target, later said fully vaccinated customers would not be required to wear face coverings.

Cities and local governments are also at liberty to impose COVID-19 restrictions beyond the statewide guidance, including mask wearing and social distancing. But most counties and municipalities have followed the state's lead with previous mandate changes.

"I would expect most of them to follow what we are doing," Cooper said of the most recent adjustment.

Chatham County Public Health Dept. representatives had not discussed their response to the governor's adjusted mandate immediately following the press conference, CCPHD Communications Specialist Zachary Horner told the News + Record, but will probably follow the state's direction.

"Chatham has always followed the governor's order and has not enacted one of its own," Horner said. "Any decision on that front would be made by the Board of Commissioners."

While the mandate applies to all North Carolinians, Cooper emphasized that the safest option for unvaccinated residents is still to wear a mask.

"We will continue to have strong public health recommendations for individuals to continue to protect one another until more people are vaccinated," he said. "People who are not vaccinated should wear a mask and maintain distance in all indoor public settings and in outdoor settings when they can't maintain six feet of distance."

As of last Thursday, almost 35,000 Chathamites — about 47% of the county's population — had received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine,

according to the CCPHD.

Just more than 41% of the county was completely inoculated. The proportion of Chatham County residents to have received the vaccine exceeds North Carolina's as a whole. Just more than 41% of the state had been vaccinated with at least one dose as of Tuesday, and about 37% were fully vaccinated.

"It is becoming clearer and clearer that vaccinations are our best tool to safely return to the activities we love, both as individuals and as a community," said Mike Zelek, the director of the Chatham County Public Health Department. "Emerging evidence shows that the COVID vaccine makes you less likely to get COVID, get very sick or die from COVID, and spread COVID to others. On the flip side, if you are not vaccinated, you remain at risk of severe illness and spreading COVID to others. If you are looking to ditch the mask while around others, there is a simple answer: Get vaccinated."

Also last Thursday, CCPHD announced it would begin offering vaccinations to residents aged 12 and older. Only the Pfizer vaccine is approved by the Food and Drug Administration to anyone younger than 18. Opening the vaccine to a new demographic should help the state more quickly reach its goal of inoculating two-thirds of the population, Cooper said — a critical milestone toward sustainable herd immunity. Until then, he warned, the pandemic could still make a resurgence if unvaccinated North Carolinians disregard health officials' advice.

"This is not the end of the pandemic," Cooper said. "... The work isn't finished."

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines and where you can find them, visit yourshot.nc.gov. CCPHD's vaccination plans can be found at www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvaccine. To learn more about the CCPHD, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth or www.facebook.com/chathamhealth.

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



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- 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.
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It's coming back: Hispanic Heritage Fiesta returns in September

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Last year, COVID-19 forced organizers to cancel Siler City's Hispanic Heritage Fiesta. The year before that, its primary organizer, the Hispanic Liaison, hosted an alternative anniversary celebration in its place.

But now, after two years, the crown jewel of Chatham's Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations will return on Saturday, Sept. 11, in front of the Liaison's office in downtown Siler City.

"It feels great (to announce)," the Liaison's executive director, Ilana Dubester, told the News + Record. "It's been a long two years. ... Just the possibility of being together again outside and in celebration and (in the) community is huge. I think everybody's needing some of that. I know we are."

The Hispanic Heritage Fiesta is a large outdoor festival that the Hispanic Liaison, community members and other organizations throw each year to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins on Sept. 15. It's a free, half-day event which usually takes place on a Saturday afternoon.

There, Fiesta-goers usually find a little bit of everything. Hispanic bands and dance groups perform, and food vendors sell a variety of traditional dishes from different Latin American countries. Some community members arrive dressed in traditional outfits from their home countries to participate in a traditional outfit parade. Dozens of nonprofits and local businesses, including the Hispanic Liaison, also use the opportunity to set up outreach tables and hand out information about their services.

And despite COVID-19, this year's Fiesta won't be too different from past celebrations, Dubester said. She still expects to see the "usual Fiesta things," plus a health fair, offered for the past few years. This year, Dubester hopes the fair will even offer on-site COVID-19 vaccinations.

"We will certainly have our parade of traditional outfits, which has been such a beautiful part of Fiesta and one of my favorite parts of Fiesta. I'm sure we'll have a raffle



Courtesy of The Hispanic Liaison

Participants in the 2018 Hispanic Heritage Fiesta's traditional outfit parade pose together in their quinceañera dresses in downtown Siler City.

thing," she said. "We're excited about it. ... We're moving full steam ahead and fingers crossed for the best."

The Liaison decided to move forward with Fiesta planning in part thanks to lifted gathering restrictions and increasing vaccination rates across the country, Dubester said.

"We are certainly hoping that there won't be any kind of strange turn of events," she said, adding, "Certainly if the winds are to change, we'll have to adjust accordingly, but from the looks of it, and from talking to different people that I've consulted with about the possibility of Fiesta and what they thought about it — folks in the health department to the sheriff even — (we're) feeling optimistic about the possibility of doing an outdoor event in September."

To ensure the public's safety, Dubester said for now they're looking at instituting several COVID protocols designed to prevent spread.

Among other measures, the Hispanic Liaison plans to place Fiesta tents a bit farther apart than they'd done in the past to encourage social distancing. At stations where they expect lines — mostly food stations — they'll also place six-foot markers on the ground.

The celebration will also have plenty of disinfecting and handwashing areas.

"We will ask people to wear masks," she said. "We will give out masks for those who don't have it. Of course, much like the governor, we can't force people to wear masks, but we will certainly be encouraging that."

But, Dubester added, they may reassess closer to the event.

As in years past, 2021's Hispanic Heritage Fiesta will also recruit a planning committee made up primarily of community members. Around 80 to 100 volunteers typically participate both in the event and in the event's planning, along with other community members and organizations. The whole planning process usually begins in May.

"We have much more of an equal partnership with community members working on Fiesta," Dubester told the News + Record last September. "And that's kind of the whole point anyway — to bring out local talents and help foment local leadership and ownership of the event and really reflect the community that we are."

The Liaison's begun looking for both community members and interested organizations to help with Fiesta

planning. Fiesta has a core group of volunteers who tend to participate every year, Dubester said, but anyone is welcome. Meetings likely won't start until June, and depending on members' vaccination statuses, they may meet outdoors.

"If it's mixed status, then we'll meet outdoors," she said. "... And if everybody's vaccinated, we might meet indoors at the Farmers Alliance, who've also been so kind as to loan us their space for meetings. So it just depends on the group and what levels of vaccination. But we hope to have at least 20 community members participate in the planning."

Meetings will probably be held in the evening as they have in the past. To ensure the planning process is "most accessible to our community," Dubester also said all meetings are held in Spanish.

"Sometimes we have folks that understand Spanish from the community at large and want to participate, but don't speak it that well and then we just do things like interpreting for them at the meeting when they want to talk," she added, "but it's not like full interpretation of everything."

To get involved, call the Liaison's office at 919-742-1448 and let staff know you want to help with Fiesta planning. Thereafter, you'll be placed on the participant list and will be called when the Liaison holds meetings. Businesses and nonprofits can likewise sign up



Courtesy of The Hispanic Liaison

Encuesta Norteña, a Siler City Hispanic band, plays during the 2018 Hispanic Heritage Fiesta.



Courtesy of The Hispanic Liaison

A dancer from Danza Azteca Tonanzin, a Raleigh-based group that performed during the 2018 Hispanic Heritage Fiesta.



Chatham News + Record



Submitted photo

Elena Gonzalez (right) prepares for the Hispanic Heritage Fiesta's traditional outfit parade a few years ago, a parade which she created and organized. She's wearing her traditional Chiapaneca dress, from Chiapas, Mexico, while Sophia Grimes wears another Mexican-style dress.

to receive updates by sending an email to info@evhnc.org.

"Our guest organizers really are community members," she said, "and we really can't do without them for sure."

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

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Chapel in the Pines to host bilingual vaccination clinic Sunday

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

CHAPEL HILL — The Hispanic Liaison and Better Care, a Greensboro-based medical provider, will hold a bilingual vaccination clinic at Chapel in the Pines on Sunday, May 23.

From 2 to 6 p.m., the event will offer about 200 vaccine doses — 100 each of the Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. They'll also have an additional 50 to 60 doses on standby in case demand exceeds supply, according to the Hispanic Liaison's COVID-19 project manager, Will Mendoza. The clinic's ultimate goal, he said, is to vaccinate at least 100 people.

"If there's more, the more the merrier, but the goal will be to get 100," Mendoza told the News + Record. "... If we need more vaccines, they'll become available. People won't have to wait for another event, or an hour or two."

The clinic's vaccine provider, Better Care, he added, told partners they had the capability to obtain and transport more vaccine doses if it turns out that more than 200 people attend.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Will Mendoza, the Hispanic Liaison's new COVID-19 Program Manager, volunteers at St. Julia Catholic Church's second vaccination clinic on April 24. Originally from Bolivia, Mendoza moved to the U.S. in 2007 to pursue postgraduate studies at UNC-Chapel Hill.

know, 600 people are gonna show up," he said. "It will be short by a large amount, but they said that they will be able to react if we need more vaccines, which is great."

Staff bilingual in English and Spanish will be volunteering at the

event and registering people. To schedule an appointment, interested Spanish speakers can call the Hispanic Liaison at 919-742-1448, while English speakers can call Better Care at 336-617-9333. No appointment is necessary.

Upon registering or walking up, Mendoza said people will be asked for their names, addresses and birthdates. That information allows providers to confirm when people are due for their second doses and to ensure no one misses their second shots.

ID isn't required, though Mendoza recommended that residents bring an ID if they have it.

"I tell people you don't need a document to register," he said, "but if I were them, I would make sure that the names are properly written and properly spelled and clearly established because I don't know if that vaccination card is going to hold more weight in the future than it does now."

Vaccinations will be administered at Chapel in the Pines, a Presbyterian church located on 314 Great Ridge Parkway in the "Chatham part" of Chapel Hill. It's near the Walmart off of U.S. 15-501, and according to Mendoza, the church will have signs to make it easier for people to find.

Anyone is welcome at the clinic, but the event particularly seeks to vaccinate underserved communities, Mendoza said — specifically minority and rural communities. That's why they chose to host a vaccination clinic on a Sunday.

"We have heard from the community that weekdays are tough," he said, adding, "A lot of our community members work for eight hours a full-time job on a Saturday, and they're trying to make it to the event at the end, at 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock after their jobs, but sometimes it's hard. We're hoping that by doing it on a Sunday, it becomes more available to people."

They also chose to offer the Pfizer and J&J vaccines for the same reason. The FDA has issued authorized providers to administer the Pfizer vaccine to those 12 years and up.

"For families who have younger adults in their household, high school seniors, high school juniors," he said, "this could be an opportunity

to get vaccinated as a family in one go, everybody."

And despite recent suspension and issues surrounding blood clots, Mendoza said the J&J remains the most practical option for many migrant farm workers. Many, he said, just don't know if they'll be available or able to return for their second shots three or four weeks later.

"They could be working, but also they may not be in this area at this farm in a month from now," he said. "... So sure if that's the only thing available — two doses — you know, they try to accommodate, but if there is an option for one shot that gives them a fighting chance against COVID, they'll take it."

If the Sunday clinic attracts a lot of people, Mendoza said he thinks it might signal to providers to begin moving vaccination clinics from Saturdays to Sundays.

"We're just trying to break down all the barriers that people are having to get their vaccines," he said, "and hopefully doing it this way, it's another way to make it easier for people."

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



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NEWS BRIEFS

CORA fights hunger in Chatham with help from the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation

PITTSBORO — Each year the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation demonstrates their unwavering commitment to critical community needs. This year, CORA is the recipient of a Ribbon of Hope Grant to address food insecurity and promote the expansion of our Mobile Market.

In April, CORA received \$25,000 from the N.C. GlaxoSmithKline Foundation to support the expansion of our Mobile Market to serve Chatham County residents living in areas beyond Pittsboro and Siler City.

Since launching the pilot phase of the Mobile Market in October of 2019, CORA has served an additional 178,500 meals to 8,500 people, the majority of whom are new to CORA. The Mobile Market has proven to be an effective model. CORA recognizes the importance of meeting the need where it

is and believes it is crucial that it distributes food closer to the families we currently serve, especially those families who find bridging the distance between their home and our pantry to be insurmountable.

To better address the demand for community-based resources, CORA has expanded its Mobile Market to two monthly distributions. One will remain in Siler City and another may rotate to strategic points around the county. Using our truck, CORA set up the monthly markets to distribute nutritious food to members of our community facing hunger. Each person receives enough food for 21 meals at each visit. CORA will also increase offerings to include products such as milk, cheese, yogurt and eggs. Expanded options will allow families to select from a wider variety of foods that meet their personal dietary needs.

“We at CORA are so grateful for this honor from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation,” Melissa Driver Beard, CORA’s executive

director. “Their dedication to working with us to realize a community without hunger is remarkable. It’s this kind of commitment to the cause that gives us hope that we will actually end hunger.”

“The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation is committed to serving our communities through fostering the creation and expansion of innovative initiatives,” said Marilyn Foote-Hudson, executive director of the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation. “We are excited about this new partnership and the expansion of CORA’s Mobile Market to provide additional assistance to those in need in rural Chatham County.”

Council on Aging seeking incontinence supplies

The Chatham Council on Aging is partnering with the N.C. Diaper Bank, which allows the nonprofit agency to provide incontinence supplies to about 200 seniors.

One recipient said, “I have been using incontinence diapers for at least 10 years or more and when I found out that the Chatham County Council on Aging has diapers, pull-ups and pads, that is saving me a lot of money every month.” Another recipient shared that she has to wear pull-ups as well as the pads and goes through at least a couple a day. She is so grateful, stating she spends anywhere from \$70 to \$80 a week.

While the Diaper Bank partnership continues, it cannot always meet the growing need. The COA is in very short supply of large and extra-large pull ups for women and men. It receives no public funds for this service nor charges a fee to those receiving the supplies. It’s asking for donations in the form of supplies or funds to allow us to support the dignity and care of seniors needing such assistance. To contribute or for more information, contact Wynne.Fields@chathamcoa.org or call 919-542-4512.

— CN+R staff reports

Kid Scoop THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

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MONEY MATTERS: Shop Local!

Ever wondered where the money you spend in a store goes? Where that money goes is different depending upon who owns the store where you shop. In a store that is owned by someone who lives locally, more money stays in your community.

When you shop at a locally owned business, \$68 stays in your community.

When you shop at a non-locally owned business, \$43 stays in your community.

Who cares? Everyone should care about how much money stays in the community. Why? Look at the pictures below. They show a few of the many ways local businesses use the money spent in their stores to help their communities.

Graph It! Here’s another way to show how shopping locally matters. Color these pie graphs. Color the parts that show money that STAYS in town GREEN. Color the part that shows money that LEAVES town RED.

Locally Owned **Non-Locally Owned**

\$32 leaves town **\$57 leaves town**

\$68 stays in town **\$43 stays in town**

Standards Link: Math: Organize and display data in graphs.

Source: Independentwestand.org/Civic Economics-Andersonville Study of Retail Economics

Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

Piggy Bank Workouts

Piggy Bank Shake

Pretend you are a piggy bank and shake yourself. Can you hear the jingle of coins? Shake to the left! Shake to the right!

Jingle Jump

Toss ten coins onto the sidewalk. Can you hop from coin to coin, standing on one foot? Next, do deep knee bends to pick them all up!

Heads or Fails?

Try to do ten sit-ups while balancing three coins on your head. Now have a friend try. Could either of you do it?

Balanced Budget

Try to walk across your yard with a dollar bill on your head. It’ll take some smooth moves to keep the dollar from dropping!

Standards Link: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

Missing Words Replace the missing words in this news article using these words:

SHOW STORE TEAM SCHOOL LOCAL

New Scoreboard Highlights Power of Shopping Locally

MID COUNTY – On Thursday night, the Mid-County Titans basketball _____ got to watch their shots light up a new scoreboard, thanks to Homer’s Office Supply. The Titans won the game and had extra reason _____

Homer Stapleton, the owner of the _____, said this was a good year for business and that many of the families did their back to _____ shopping at his store. Business was up by 70% over last year thanks _____

“I want to _____ my customers how much I appreciate their shopping at my store,” Stapleton said. “I know they have a choice and that my _____ store isn’t the only place to shop.”

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use context clues to determine the meaning of words.

Where I Can Shop Locally

Where can you buy the following items in your local area? Look through the newspaper or online and write the name of a local business that sells each of these items.

SPORTS GEAR **AUTO PARTS**

FLOWERS **CLOTHES**

SHOES **BIKES**

HARDWARE **BOOKS**

Local Business Use your newspaper to make a list of 10 or more businesses in your community. Find out which of these are locally owned and which are not. Create a chart to show your findings.

Standards Link: Data Analysis: Organizes data in simple charts.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

What is a skunk’s favorite kind of money?

To find out the answer, cross out every B-I-L-L and the remaining letters reveal the answer.

B I L l B i l L b
I l l C b I L l e
b i l L n B i l l
T b I L L b i L L
B i L L s B I L L

Double Double Word Search

CUSTOMERS
COMMUNITY
BUSINESS
SUPPLIES
LOCALLY
SCHOOL
GRAPHS
WHERE
STORE
SPEND
CARES
STAYS
PARTS
SHOW
TEAM

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

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

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

the Y YMCA

Chatham YMCA

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

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A YEAR IN THE MAKING

Siler City board adopts 5-year economic development plan

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The board of commissioners voted to adopt a 5-year economic development strategy at its regular meeting Monday, enacting a proposal which has been more than a year in the making.

A town-sponsored task force, dubbed the Siler City Economic Development Strategic Five-Year Plan Steering Committee, has worked on the plan since shortly before the pandemic's start. Its 11 members include such local leaders as Siler City Commissioner Lewis Fadelly, Chatham Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) megasite owner Tim Booras, Pastor Cecil Wilson and Siler City Realtor Cindy Dameron. Town Planner Jack Meadows presided over the group's meetings. After several months in hiatus following 2020's pandemic lockdown, the committee adjusted its plans and resumed activity last summer via Zoom.

The team has worked under advisement from representatives of the N.C. Main Street & Rural Planning Center — a subset of the N.C. Dept. of Commerce — to develop a community economic recovery and resilience initiative. Especially since Mountaire Farms opened its poultry processing facility in 2019, and with the prospect of several thousand new jobs to come at the CAM site, Siler City stands poised for economic growth and quality-of-life improvements.

MS&RP development planner

Bruce Naegelen presented the group's proposal to the board at its April 19 meeting, but the commissioners elected to defer action until they could more thoroughly evaluate the 67-page packet. At Monday's meeting, board members expressed their approval of what the steering committee had compiled.

"I didn't think anything that was in these requests was inconsistent with anything that we have discussed as a board," Fadelly said. "And I don't think any of it is inconsistent with the visions that we have talked about before."

But the proposal adds tangible action items to what have been abstract goals.

"It takes strategies, which are really broad visions," Naegelen said in the April presentation, "and then narrows each to a specific goal."

The proposed strategies for Siler City are to foster a lively and multi-cultural downtown; establish safe, connected neighborhoods; cultivate creative business and innovative industry; and promote an inclusive, healthy community. To achieve its new economic positioning and vision statement (see breakout box), the plan includes targeted objectives with projected completion dates staggered over coming years.

If the town adheres to its economic development plan, the Siler City of 2026 should look considerably different than it does now. The strategy prescribes several steps to enhance downtown's aesthetic, and plans to attract new businesses that will fill critical gaps in the local economy.

From an analysis of Siler City busi-

nesses, MS&RP found significant retail homogeneity — more than a healthy economy would reflect. Several industries are underrepresented in Siler City, or entirely absent, forcing residents to spend their dollars outside of town and the surrounding retail market. The phenomenon is known as "retail leakage." The primary industries in which Siler City lacks proportionate supply to meet demand include car and car parts dealers, electronics and appliance stores, sporting goods/hobby/musical instrument stores, clothing stores and general merchandise stores, among others, according to MS&RP.

Just within Siler City's primary trade area, a five-mile radius from the center of town, the economy forfeits about \$23 million in potential resident spending where businesses cannot meet consumer demand. In the 10-mile-radius trade area surrounding downtown, almost \$80 million "leaks."

Incentivizing new commerce and promoting greater cultural inclusion are central tenets of the 5-year plan, which ultimately endeavors to elevate Siler City's economy to rival the town's more affluent Chatham neighbor, Pittsboro.

"This was an opportunity to work with an organization in the Department of Commerce that works with towns all over the state," Meadows said. "They have given us additional tools in our toolbox so that we can steal some of those great ideas that we see in other communities. It's a written road map for where we need to go."

A complete version of the 5-year eco-

Siler City's new economic positioning and vision statement:

Siler City's inclusive community blends its bucolic and industrial heritage with a twenty-first century lifestyle. Our lively, multi-cultural downtown of shops, makers, and artisans is home to the NC Arts Incubator and entrepreneurs. Safe neighborhoods are connected to schools, parks, and world class health care. Siler City is logistically located in the center of North Carolina, minutes to interstate, rail, and air transportation. Innovative industries and businesses employ an engaged workforce with craftsman-like skills. Mega opportunities abound for small business and large industry.

economic development strategy is available on the Town of Siler City's website, silercity.org.

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

SILER CITY'S 2021-22 BUDGET

Taxes, utility rates unlikely to change in 2022

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City's proposed budget for fiscal year 2022 recommends keeping taxes and utilities at their current rates while increasing town spending by 12%. Total expenditures

are proposed to increase from about \$15.74 million in the town's current budget to more than \$17.67 million for fiscal year 2022. Much of the difference would fund new town staff salaries and raises for current staff members.

The numbers reflect

a more stable economic position than town leaders anticipated, according to Town Manager Roy Lynch. Following federally mandated moratoriums on utility fee collections and temporary closures of most businesses, he and the board of commissioners

braced for the prospect of a crippling deficit. But as the country emerged from the pandemic's worst months, Siler City's financial standing was healthier than some predicted.

"Water and sewer revenues have proven to be resilient throughout the last year even with all the anticipated reductions due to the closing of some of the local businesses and restaurants," Lynch said during a presentation at the board's regular meeting Monday. "This is evident through the actual performance and projections for year end. Once the mandates were lifted on the disconnects and late fees, we saw an increase in payments bringing our receivables back in line with the previous year."

The better-than-expected year end balance will permit Siler City to proceed with development and expansion objectives that were stagnated by the pandemic.

"The goals and objectives of fiscal year '22 are indistinguishable from last year," Lynch said, "with only a few minor changes." They include funding "enhanced technology integration" into town operations, funding "increases for continued

professional development and training" and recognizing "employee performance and service."

Of 12 new positions town departments requested, eight are accounted for in the proposed budget. Half would go to the police department (three police officers and an evidence technician), which alone stands to receive more than \$813,000.

The other four positions include a street maintenance worker, a water treatment plant operator, a water sewer utility maintenance worker and a Planner I employee in the planning department.

In its current iteration, the budget does not include any appropriations for non-profits, but Lynch suggested the board may use federal grant money from the American Rescue Plan to subsidize such organizations. The town expects \$2.41 million in ARP funding, but town staff and the commissioners have not yet discussed a potential spending plan.

"We will review the guidelines of the ARP funding once that is received," Lynch said, "and we will bring these requests back to the board."

Unlike towns such as

Pittsboro, which follow a traditional budgeting structure dividing revenue and expenditures between a general fund and an enterprise fund, Siler City organizes money between four funds. Besides general and enterprise (or water sewer) funds, the town has a Powell Mill fund and License Plate Agency fund. A complete breakdown of projected spending from within each fund is available on the Town of Siler City website, silercity.org.

"This budget was prepared during unprecedented times due to the global pandemic," Lynch said. "We continue to work through it toward recovery and have seen positive results. We are still cognizant of the effects concerning COVID-19, and the uncertainties ... but we are optimistic about the coming year."

The board of commissioners will host a public hearing for the proposed budget on June 21 after which they will vote to adopt or budget or send it back to staff for revisions. The new fiscal year begins on July 1.

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

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NEWS BRIEFS

TSWDB accepting applications for T3 Grant for Incumbent Workers

SANFORD — The Triangle South Workforce Development Board (TSWDB) is accepting applications for its T3 (Training Today's Teams) Grant for Incumbent Workers.

The TSWDB provides funding through its T3 Grant for Incumbent Workers to allow businesses with five or more employees operating in the Triangle South local area (Chatham, Harnett, Lee, and Sampson counties) to "skill-up" their existing workforce to meet the challenges of changes to production processes or market demands. The maximum amount is \$5,000 per grant, and \$10,000 per program year, with a lifetime funding limit of \$50,000.

The "skill-ups" that are addressed in a grant application can be a result of changing market conditions, a worker(s) changing responsibilities/requirements in her/his job, or for enhancement to production or services as part of the applicant organization's operations. The TSWDB T3 Grant for Incumbent Workers will result in workers with increased knowledge, certifications, and/or value to the company.

Eligibility is limited to North Carolina for-profit and not-for-profit businesses,

with five or more employees, that have been in operation in North Carolina for a minimum of one year prior to the semi-annual submission deadline date, are current on all federal and state tax obligations and are financially viable, are eligible to apply. Triangle South T3 Incumbent Worker Training Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Applications are available upon request from the Triangle South Workforce Development Board office. The application is a part of the T3 Grant for Incumbent Workers policy.

T3 Grants are awarded on a competitive, as-needed basis and are dependent upon the availability of funding. T3 Grant Applications will be accepted from Monday, May 17th until Monday, June 16th. Applicants should expect to be notified on their application status in July 2021.

For more information on this program, or to request an application, businesses can contact a member of the Triangle South Business Outreach team: Norman Collins can be reached at 919-704-6655, or by email at ncollins@cccc.edu; Jessica Ingram can be reached at 919-895-0302 or by email at jtingram@cccc.edu.

For more information on the Triangle South Workforce Development Board, visit www.trianglesouthworkforce.com.

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RENTAL APARTMENTS

POWELL SPRINGS APTS. Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for 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

YARD SALE

219 COLLEGE ST, SILER CITY - Friday and Saturday, May 21 and 22, 7 a.m. until... Bag A Bag Children's Clothes, \$5. - Men and ladies clothes, furniture, toys, lamps and household goods. My20,1tp

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE - May 22, 7 a.m. - Noon. Parking Lot at Downtown Automotive. Women, men, & children's clothing. Shoes, household items, seasonal items and new farmhouse decor.

AUCTIONEERS

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 wws. JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, My6,tfnc

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, My6,tfnc

SERVICES

AUTO BROKERS RECYCLERS - Cash paid for Junk/Wrecked vehicles. Call 919-545-0194. My13,tfnc

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. A22,29,My6,13,20,27,6tc

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

TWO PART TIME Apartment Maintenance Workers needed! One in the Siler City area and one in the Pittsboro area. Both jobs are 15-20 hours/week. \$12-\$14/hr DOE. Duties include routine maintenance, preparing vacant units, cleaning common areas, etc. Ideal candidate will be well-organized, pro-active, knowledgeable in troubleshooting maintenance needs and coordinating contractor services. Skilled trade replacements and extensive repairs are made by third party service contractors. Must be on-call for emergencies and you must provide your own hand tools. Credit and Criminal check required. Please email letter of interest to jobhiring0121@gmail.com. When applying, please specify which location is best for you. Equal opportunity provider and employer. My20,My27,2tc

ACTIVITIES AND FITNESS SPECIALIST - The Chatham County Council on Aging is hiring full-time Activities and Fitness Specialist at Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City. Must be team-oriented, computer proficient, an effective communicator and program planner, and experienced in group exercise (preferably with older adults). -- Minimum of a two-year degree in human services field. Conversational Spanish is a plus, as is certification in Senior Fitness. Salary based on qualifications. See job description and complete application online at www.chathamcoa.org. Due by Monday, May 31. EOE. My20,1tc

HOMECARE SEEKING, Now hiring for immediate positions in Pittsboro/Siler City: Certified Nurse Aides - Competitive weekly pay, CNAs start at \$10.00/hr. & up for extra care cases - Total LifeCare, Call (919) 776-0352 or visit 824 South Horner Blvd, Sanford for more info or to apply. A29,tfnc

HELP WANTED - EVENINGS & WEEKENDS, Please inquire in

person: Country Mart, 320 W. Raleigh St, Siler City, NC or Desperados, 602 North Second Avenue, Siler City A29,tfnc

CHATHAM MONUMENT COMPANY has an immediate opening for a monument installer. Work involves digging monument foundations, mixing cement and installing monuments. Work is generally Monday through Friday, 8 to 4:30 p.m. but some weekend work is necessary. Please apply in person to: Chatham Monument Co., Inc., 227 N 2nd Avenue, Siler City. My6,tfnc.

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 268
All persons having claims against **THELMA MARTHA BINKLEY ESTES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of July, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 29th day of April, 2021. Tara B. Hussey, Administrator 1795 Oakley Church Road Bear Creek, NC 27207 A29,My6,My13,My20,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **MARIE G. SETTINERI**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before July 29, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 29th day of April, 2021. Maria C. Mihok, Executrix c/o Monroe, Wallace, Morden & Sherrill, P.A. 3225 Blue Ridge Road, Suite 117 Raleigh, NC 27612 A29,My6,My13,My20,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **HERBERT WOLFF**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before July 29th, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 29th day of April, 2021. Carol Robbins, Executor Estate of Herbert Wolff c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514 A29,My6,My13,My20,4tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified on the 9th day of April, 2021, as Administrator of the Estate of **GEORGE BRIAN MOORE**, deceased, late of Cha-

tham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of July, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 26th day of April, 2021. Janice Moore-Thomas, Administrator of the Estate of George Brian Moore PO BOX 414 Goldston, NC 27252 Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 115 Chatham Street, Suite 302 Sanford, NC 27330 A29,My6,My13,My20,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 283
All persons having claims against **CHERRY LEE NICKS MUNN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 6th day of May, 2021. Jonathan L. Nicks, Executor 211 Sycamore Lake Drive Siler City, NC 27344 My6,My13,My20,My27,4tp

NOTICE OF EXECUTOR TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS
Wickliffe Winston Shreve, II, having qualified as Executor for the Estate of **BRANDON WICKLIFFE SHREVE**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned, at the address indicated below, on or

before August 6, 2021 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said estate should please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 6th day of May, 2021. Wickliffe Winston Shreve, II, Executor of the Estate of Brandon Wickliffe Shreve Estate c/o Schell Bray PLLC P.O. Box 21847 Greensboro, NC 27420 Michael H. Godwin SCHELL BRAY PLLC 230 North Elm Street, Suite 1500 Greensboro, NC 27401 My6,My13,My20,My27,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **BRUCE MILES CLEVELAND**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 6th day of May, 2021. Barbara Ruth Cleveland, Executrix c/o Bagwell Holt Smith, P.A.

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.

111 Cloister Ct., STE 200 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 My6,My13,My20,My27,4tp

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@ECCMGMT.com
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Now Hiring POLICE

The Town of SILER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA has openings in the Police Department for

- **POLICE OFFICER**
Starting Base Salary \$40,820
- **POLICE SERGEANT**
Starting Base Salary \$47,254

Base salary hiring incentives given for higher education, years of relevant work experience, and written and spoken fluency in a foreign language.

For more information and to view the job descriptions please visit

silercity.org

and click on "Job Openings"



Town of Siler City

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PUBLIC AUCTION • CHAPEL HILL, NC

LIQUIDATION FOR TOWN OF CARRBORO Register & Bid Online - Ends May 24th!



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TRUCKS AND CARS, JOHN DEERE TRACTOR W/ LOADER, TRAILERS, SHOP & LAWN EQUIPMENT!

PREVIEWS/INSPECTION:
Thurs, 5/20: 5-6 pm • Sat, 5/22: 10-Noon • Mon, 5/24: 12-1pm
7917 Old NC 86, Chapel Hill, NC

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CWS- Owner Operators CDL Class A. 1 year driving experience. Dedicated round trips paid weekly paid per mile, regular home time. Call 1-800-832-7036 ext 1626

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Guaranteed Life Insurance! (Ages 50 to 80). No medical exam. Affordable premiums never increase. Benefits never decrease. Policy will only be cancelled for non-payment. 833-380-1218

FTCC. Fayetteville Technical Community College is now accepting applications for the following positions: Admissions Evaluator, Success Coach, Director of Student Success and QEP. For detailed information and to apply, please visit our employment portal at: <https://faytechcc.peopleadmin.com/> Human Resources Office Phone: (910) 678-7342. Internet: <http://www.faytechcc.edu>. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

DISH Network. \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-877-920-7405

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Donate your car, truck or van. Help veterans find jobs or start a business. Call Patriotic Hearts Foundation. Fast, FREE pick-up. Max tax-deduction. Operators are standing by! Call 1-866-955-1516

Life Alert. 24/7. One press of a button sends help FAST! Medical, Fire, Burglar. Even if you can't reach a phone! FREE Brochure. CALL 844-902-2362

Attention: Auto Injury Victims. If you have suffered a serious injury in an auto accident, call us! Our attorneys have the experience to get you the full compensation you deserve! Call Now: 844-545-8296

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **GEORGE G. (GUS-TAV) PAULY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 6th day of May, 2021. Thomas A. Pauly, Executor c/o Mitchell Law Group, PLLC 2530 Meridian Parkway, Suite 100 Durham, NC 27713 My6,My13,My20,My27,4tp

PUBLIC NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
To all persons claiming an interest in **2018 - 9*11 - SEAD00-00065JC00SPARK - YDV83460D818**, HBS MOTORSPORTS will apply to SCDNR for title or watercraft/outboard motor. If you have any claim to the watercraft/outboard motor, contact SCDNC at (803) 734-3699. Upon thirty days after the date of the last advertisement if no claim of interest is made and the watercraft/outboard motor has not been reported stolen, SCDNR shall issue clear title. Case No: 20200518950368 My6,My13,My20,3tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 67
All persons having claims against **MAGGIE E. BAINES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 6th day of May, 2021. Brenda Kay Blade, Executrix 3054 Diana Circle Burlington, NC 27215 My6,My13,My20,My27,4tp

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION BEFORE THE CLERK NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE OF A DEED OF TRUST FROM ANTOINETTE ZEGEL THOMAS A/K/A ANTOINETTE T. ZEGAL, DATED SEPTEMBER 13, 2005, RECORDED IN BOOK 1209, PAGE 1023, CHATHAM COUNTY REGISTRY **NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

Pursuant to an order entered April 29, 2021, in the Superior Court for Chatham County, and the power of sale contained in the captioned deed of trust ("Deed of Trust"), the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at auction, to the highest bidder for cash, AT THE COURTHOUSE DOOR IN PITTSBORO, CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA ON MAY 26, 2021, AT 11:00 A.M. the real estate and the improvements thereon secured by the Deed of Trust, less and except any of such property released from the lien of the deed of trust prior to the date of this sale, lying and being in Chatham County, North Carolina, commonly known as 117 Elf Way, Pittsboro, NC and being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point in the center of a 60 foot private road, the northeast corner of Riggsbee, and running thence along the center of said private road North, 12 degrees 46 minutes 00 seconds E. 120.36 feet to a point in the line of Bouldin; thence along the line of Bouldin North 21 degrees 20 minutes 00 seconds West 292.74 feet to a point; thence North 49 degrees 58 minutes 55 seconds West 283.06 feet to a point; thence North 29 degrees 11 minutes 30 seconds West, 125.65 feet to a point; thence South 07 degrees 54 minutes 04 seconds West 57.81 feet to a point; thence South 38 degrees 18 minutes 01 seconds W. 45.68 feet to a point; thence South 05 degrees 40 minutes 08 seconds West 252.45 feet to an existing stake; thence South 04 degrees 24 minutes 07 seconds West, 239.02 feet to a point; thence South 77 degrees 14 minutes 00 seconds East 448.59 feet to the point and place of beginning containing 4.233 acres, according to a plat prepared by Gerald M. White, RLS recorded in Plat Slide 88-389, Chatham County Registry, reference to which is hereby made for a more particular description. Tax Map Reference: 0068039 Being that parcel of land conveyed to Antoinette T. Zegal from Tony Michael Boone and wife Penelope Cooper Boone by that deed dated 01/31/2003 and recorded 02/03/2003 in Deed Book 993, at Page 331 of the Chatham County, NC Public Registry. Subject to all easements, rights of way, declarations, restrictions, and agreements of records, including but not limited to the Declaration of Easements recorded in Book 535, Page 294, Chatham County Registry and the Road Maintenance Agreement recorded in Book 604, Page 586, Chatham County Registry.

In the Trustee's sole discretion, the sale may be delayed for up to one (1) hour as provided in Section 45-21.23 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The record owner of the real property not more than ten days prior to the date hereof is Antoinette Zegal Thomas and Kiriaki Thomas. A five percent cash deposit, or a cash deposit of \$750.00, whichever is greater, will be required of the last and highest bidder. The balance of the bid purchase price shall be due in full in cash or certified funds at a closing to take place within thirty (30) days of the date of sale. The undersigned Substitute Trustee shall convey title to the property by nonwarranty deed. This sale will be made subject to all prior liens of record, if any, and to all unpaid ad valorem taxes and special assessments, if any, which became a lien subsequent to the recording of the Deed of Trust. This sale will be further subject to the right, if any, of the United States of America to redeem the above-described property for a period of 120 days following the date when the final upset bid period has run. The purchaser of the property described above shall pay the Clerk's Commissions in the amount of \$.45 per \$100.00 of the purchase price (up to a maximum amount of \$500.00), required by Section 7A308(a) (1) of the North Carolina General Statutes. If the purchaser of the above described property is someone other than the Beneficiary under the Deed of Trust, the purchaser shall also pay, to the extent applicable, the land transfer tax in the amount of one percent (1%) of the purchase price. To the extent this sale involves residential property with less than fifteen (15) rental units, including single family residential real property, you are hereby notified of the following: a. An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to Section 45-21.29 of the North Carolina General Statutes in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold; and b. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least ten (10) days, but no more than ninety (90) days, after

the sale date contained in the Notice of Sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. This 29th day of April, 2021. DEACON SERVICES, LLC, Substitute Trustee James T. Martin, Manager 116 Cobblestone Court Rocky Mount, NC 27804 252-904-6272 My13,My20,2tc

REQUEST FOR BIDS Central Piedmont Community Action, Inc. (CPCA) is opening its bid for HVAC, Electrical, and Plumbing contractors in Anson, Chatham, Orange, and Richmond counties. Bids will be received May 10th through May 28th, 2021 at 5:30pm. If you are interested in becoming a contractor for Central Piedmont Community Action in any of our counties, please contact Doug Dixon at (919) 742-2277 ext. 105 M-TH 7am to 4:30pm or via email at dougdx@cpcanc.org. My13,My20,2tc

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 1008.446) Project is presently being amended. The project describes the special education programs that Chatham Charter School proposed for Federal funding for the 2021-2022 School Year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the Project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this Federal Program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended Project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project is open to the public for review and comments during the week of May 20th through May 27th, 2021, in the office of Debbie Coore, located at 2200 Hamp Stone Rd, Siler City, NC 27344. My13,My20,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
HAVING QUALIFIED, as Administrator, CTA of the Estate of **MABEL CRITE JONES**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before August 17, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 13th day of May, 2021. RONALD P. COLLINS, Administrator. CTA of the Estate of MABEL CRITE JONES 117 West Raleigh Street Siler City, North Carolina 27344 (919) 663-2533 My13,My20,My27,Jn3,4tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 15-CVD-726 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
COUNTY OF CHATHAM, Plaintiff, vs The HEIRS, ASSIGNS, and DEVEISEES or FAYE MCDONALD, et al, Defendants **NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS, and DEVEISEES of FAYE MCDONALD and spouse, if any, which may include TASHA TEJUANA MCDONALD'S SPOUSE, IF ANY, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on May 13, 2021. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after May 13, 2021, or by June 22, 2021, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought. This the 5th day of May, 2021. Zacchaeus Legal Services /s/ Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill Attorney for Plaintiff NC Bar #12852/56782 310 W. Jones St. P. O. Box 25 Trenton, North Carolina 28585 Telephone: (252) 448-4541 My13,My20,My27,3tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 19-CVD-739 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
COUNTY OF CHATHAM, Plaintiff, vs The HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVEISEES of MARY E. BIVINS A/K/A MARY E. BIVENS, et al Defendants. **NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION**
TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVEISEES of MARY E. BIVINS A/K/A MARY E. BIVENS and spouse, if any, which may include JOE D. BIVENS, Incompetent, and spouse, if any, and THE HEIRS, ASSIGNS AND



APPLY
— IN —
PERSON



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DEVISEES OF WILMA JEAN BIVENS and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder.

A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on May 13, 2021.

The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments).

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after May 13, 2021, or by June 22, 2021, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought.

This the 5th day of May, 2021. Zacchaeus Legal Services /s/ Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill

Attorney for Plaintiff NC Bar #12852/56782 310 W. Jones St. P. O. Box 25 Trenton, North Carolina 28585 Telephone: (252) 448-4541 My13,My20,My27,3tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 08-CVD-1217 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION TO: ROY STOUT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC. and any ASSIGNS or SUCCESSORS of ROY STOUT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC. or any other person or entity claiming thereunder

A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on May 13, 2021.

The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments).

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after May 13, 2021, or by June 22, 2021, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought.

NC 27312 or via email at Cbullcock@pittsboronc.gov by 4 p.m. on May 24, 2021. The Clerk will receive written comments that be included in the minutes for 24 hours after the meeting. My13,My20,2tc

TOWN OF PITTSBORO OFFICIAL NOTICE & PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE 2021-2022 BUDGET Notice is hereby given that the proposed budget for FY 2021-2022, pursuant to the provisions of N.C. General Statute 159-12, has been submitted to the Board of Commissioners and is available for public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and also on the town website http://pittsboronc.gov.

There shall be a public hearing on the proposed budget at 7 p.m., Monday, May 24, 2021 at the Board of Commissioners Virtual Meeting. See http://pittsboronc.gov for the link to join this meeting. Written comments on the Budget will be accepted up to 24 hrs after the Public Hearing is held. Cassandra Bullock, Town Clerk My13,My20,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **JOHN THOMAS MCGEE**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before August 13, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 13th day of May, 2021.

Elizabeth McGee Weaver and Katherine Elaine McGee, Co-Executors, c/o Timothy A. Nordgren, Sands Anderson PC 1005 Slater Rd., Ste 200, Durham, NC 27703 My13,My20,My27,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **PHYLLIS ELAINE LAMBERT** of Chatham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned c/o Charles N. Griffin, III, Esq., P. O. Box 19766, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27619-9766, on or before the 13th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 13th day of May, 2021.

Aaron E. Link, Administrator c/o Charles N. Griffin, III Kirschbaum, Nanney, Keenan & Griffin, P.A. P. O. Box 19766 Raleigh, NC 27619-9766 My13,My20,My27,3tc

PUBLIC NOTICE The tentative budget meeting for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 for the Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District was presented to the Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District Board on May 4, 2020 and is available for public inspection at the Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District Water Plant, JR Moore & Son Store located in Gulf and/or the Goldston Public Library. A public hearing will be held at 6:00 pm on June 1, 2021 at the Town Hall Building in Goldston, NC, at which time any persons who wishes to be heard on the budget may appear. Jane Owens Treasurer/Board Member My13,My20,My27,3tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified on the 5th day of May, 2021, as Executrix of the Estate of **LESLIE S. WRUBLE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 11th day of May, 2021.

Karen W. Burdick, Executrix of the Estate of Leslie S. Wruble 5637 East Angela Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85254 Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 115 Chatham Street, Suite 302 Sanford, NC 27330 My13,My20,My27,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 21-E-267 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Ivadale Law, having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of **HERBERT HOOVER PARKER**, deceased, late of Chatham

County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of August, 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 11th day of May, 2021. Ivadale Law Limited Personal Representative C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 My13,My20,My27,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 20-E-615 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Sonja Kitchings, having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of **DWIGHT HICKS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of August, 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 11th day of May, 2021.

Sonja Kitchings Limited Personal Representative C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 My13,My20,My27,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 21-E-139 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Joette Newkirk, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **THOMAS DAVID TOOMER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of August, 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 11th day of May, 2021.

Joette Newkirk Administrator for the Estate C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 My13,My20,My27,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 138 All persons having claims against **DONNA ELIZABETH HUFF** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 11th day of May, 2021.

Katherine Huff, Administrator c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC PO Box 31205 Raleigh, NC 27622 My13,My20,My27,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the ESTATE OF **JAMES L. ABRAHAMSON** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on October 12, 2020 are hereby notified to present their claims to JANET H. MCLAMB, EXECUTOR, on or before August 20, 2021 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the deceased, please make immediate payment. This 20th day of May, 2021

JANET H. MCLAMB, EXECUTOR ESTATE OF JAMES L. ABRAHAMSON 102 Presque Isle Lane Chapel Hill, NC 27514 My20,My27,3tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 15-CVD-727 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY COUNTY OF CHATHAM, Plaintiff, vs FLORENCE ELIZABETH CUMMINGS f/k/a FLORENCE ELIZABETH MONROE, et al **NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION** Defendants. TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS, and DEVISEES of **WILLIE PAGE MONROE** and spouse, if any, and any other person or entity claiming thereunder

A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought. This the 11th day of May, 2021. Zacchaeus Legal Services By: /s/ Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill Attorney for Plaintiff NC Bar #12852/56782 310 W. Jones St. P. O. Box 25 Trenton, North Carolina 28585 Telephone: (252) 448-4541 My20,My27,3tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 17-CVD-315 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY COUNTY OF CHATHAM, Plaintiff, vs MARK CURTIS LIEB, et al **DEFENDANTS. NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION** TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS or DEVISEES of **MARK CURTIS LIEB** and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, and **LESLIE F. LIEB** and ANY HEIRS, ASSIGNS or DEVISEES of **LESLIE F. LIEB** or any other person or entity claiming thereunder

A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on May 20, 2021. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after May 20, 2021, or by June 29, 2021, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought. This the 11th day of May, 2021.

Zacchaeus Legal Services By /s/ Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill Attorney for Plaintiff NC Bar #12852/56782 310 W. Jones St. P. O. Box 25 Trenton, North Carolina 28585 Telephone: (252) 448-4541 My20,My27,3tc

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 17-CVD-550 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY COUNTY OF CHATHAM, Plaintiff, vs The HEIRS ASSIGNS and DEVISEES OF **ERNEST N. LEE** Defendants. **NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION** TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVISEES OF **ERNEST N. LEE** and spouse, if any, which may include **ANTHONY POWELL** and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder

A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on May 20, 2021. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after May 20, 2021, or by June 29, 2021, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought. This the 11th day of May, 2021. Zacchaeus Legal Services By /s/ Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill Attorney for Plaintiff NC Bar #12852/56782 310 W. Jones St. P. O. Box 25 Trenton, North Carolina 28585 Telephone: (252) 448-4541 My20,My27,3tc

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after May 20, 2021, or by June 29, 2021, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought. This the 11th day of May, 2021. Zacchaeus Legal Services By /s/ Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill Attorney for Plaintiff NC Bar #12852/56782 310 W. Jones St. P. O. Box 25 Trenton, North Carolina 28585 Telephone: (252) 448-4541 My20,My27,3tc

GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION 20-CVS-5193 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF WAKE NEW SCHOOL INC v JAMIE GOFFMAN 5334C CASTLE ROCK FARM RD PITTSBORO, NC 27312 NOTICE OF SALE OF EXECUTED PERSONAL PROPERTY 05/19/2021 - Notice is hereby given that the property described below has been levied and attached upon by the Sheriff of Chatham County, North Carolina, under an execution issued by the Clerk of Superior Court of Wake County on February 16, 2021.

The Following Property will be sold, for cash, to the highest bidder at the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Administrative Office located at 295 West St., Pittsboro, NC 27312 on the 15th of June, 2021 at 10:00 AM/PM/ 2008 MERCEDES-BENZ ML 63 AMG AUTOMOBILE VIN #4JGBB77E18A351837 THIS SALE SHALL BE MADE SUBJECT TO ALL LIENS AND ENCUMBRANCES WHICH WERE OR BECOME EFFECTIVE ON THE RECORD FOR THIS ITEM PRIOR TO THE LEVY OF THE EXECUTION BASED ON THE SALE OF THIS ITEM. MIKE ROBERSON SHERIFF OF CHATHAM COUNTY My20,My27,2tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **PETER SINCLAIR WILSON, JR.**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before August 20th, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 20th day of May, 2021. Patricia M. Wilson, Executor c/o Clarity Legal Group P O Box 2207 Chapel Hill, NC 27515. My20,My27,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against, **PETER R. KLOEBLEN**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before August 20, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 20th of May, 2021.

Steven Kloeblen Ancillary Executor of the Estate of Peter R. Kloeblen c/o Paul A. Yokabitus, Attorney 155 Parkway Office Court, Suite 200 Cary, NC 27518 My20,My27,3tc

REQUEST FOR BIDS CHATHAM COUNTY WATER TREATMENT PLANT CHEMICALS PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITY DIVISIONS Chatham County (the "County") is soliciting firm Bids for the purchase and delivery of water chemicals for one year. All pricing shall include delivery. No fuel surcharges will be considered. The full bid document with the stated chemicals and quantities can be located on the Chatham County Bids and Opportunities Website at the web address

below. All bids must be received in the Chatham County Utilities Department 3:00 PM on Thursday, June 17, 2021, to: Kim Johnson, Chatham County Procurement Manager, 964 East Street., Suite 205, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (use for physical delivery) OR PO Box 608, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (use for mailed bids). Bids must be delivered in a sealed envelope, and plainly marked "Chatham County Water Chemical Bid. No bids will be accepted by fax, email or phone. No Bids will be accepted after the stated deadline above. A public bid open will be held sharply at 3:00 PM, on June 17, 2021 in the Chatham County Utilities Department, 964 East Street., Suite 205, Pittsboro, NC 27312. This bid and other County bids can be found on our webpage at: http://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/current-bid-proposal-opportunities For questions on this project, contact Kim Johnson, Chatham County Finance Office, P.O. Box 608, 65 East Chatham Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312, (919)545-8364, or kimberly.johnson@chathamcountync.gov. Chatham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Local, minority, female owned, and small businesses are encouraged to submit proposals. Chatham County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. My20,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Jennifer Kara Hughes having qualified as the Executrix of the Estate of **CHARLES RICHARD STATON**, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on May 7, 2021, 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 August 18, 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 20th day of May 2021. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vanderveer, 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. Vanderveer, Attorney of Record 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150 Chapel Hill, NC, 27517 My20,My27,3tc

PUBLIC NOTICE CONVEYANCE OF COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY TO A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION RESOLUTION - Declaring Property Surplus and Conveying Property WHEREAS, the Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling Center has a Used Mitsubishi Forklift (Asset #7483) to be declared surplus. The equipment is being removed from Solid Waste & Recycling and is no longer needed by the Department; and WHEREAS, NC General Statutes 160A-279 authorizes the Board to approve the conveyance of personal property to a non-profit agency with or without consideration; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Chatham: Section 1: The Board declares the above listed item to be surplus property; and Section 2: That the Board approves the conveyance of the identified property to Chatham Trades, Inc. for assistance with moving heavy equipment, West Chatham Food Bank and vocational training needs. Adopted, this the 17th day of May, 2021. Mike Dasher, Chair Chatham County Board of Commissioners ATTEST: Lindsay K. Ray, NCCCC, Clerk to the Board Chatham County Board of Commissioners My20,1tc

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