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J-M, CC track programs thriving under first-year coaches, PAGE B1

# Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | JUNE 3-9, 2021 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

## **'Tiger King Park' cats** find refuge at Pittsboro's **Carolina Tiger Rescue**

#### **BY D. LARS DOLDER** News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Carolina Tiger Rescue now counts four celebrity cats among its newest residents: rescued tigers from Tiger King Park, the Oklahoma private zoo made famous in a Netflix true-crime series.

The tigers were among 68 big cats seized from the complex last month in a large-scale rescue by the U.S. Dept. of Justice and several accredited sanctuaries, including Carolina Tiger Rescue. The cats included lions, tigers, lion-tiger hybrids and a jaguar, according to CTR officials.

The operation was the latest in a series of federal interventions as

part of a months-long investigation into "Endangered Species Act violations" at Jeff and Lauren Lowe's Tiger King Park, a CTR release said. In early May, "a judge found the couple in contempt for failing to comply with court orders to employ a qualified veterinarian and establish a program of veterinary care for the animals," according to the Associated Press.

The facility and animals are most famous, though, for their prominent role in the Netflix show, "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness," which explored an investigation into the park's former zookeeper. Joseph Maldonado-Passage — better known as Joe Exotic, an eccentric,

mullet-sporting, cultural sensation, singer and one-time presidential candidate — is now serving a 22year prison sentence for attempted murder.

Carolina Tiger Rescue is caring for the four tigers in its possession while the Justice Department seeks their permanent forfeiture.

"While in Carolina Tiger Rescue's care, they will receive the best in veterinary care, diets, daily enrichment and enclosure space and design," Louise Orr, the sanctuary's communications director, said in a release.

Orr declined a News + Record request for further comment on

See TIGER, page A7

## EQUITY IN EDUCATION Nearly 32% of CCS students are Hispanic. What services are offered to them?

#### **BY VICTORIA JOHNSON** AND HANNAH MCCLELLAN News + Record Staff

Editor's note: In this second of a series of reports, the News + Record is examining school equity in Chatham, looking specifically at the services the district provides for Hispanic students and families. Future installments in the series will provide a deeper dive into various areas of school equity.

Sitting in Jordan-Matthews' auditorium nearly four years ago, Mexican immigrant Guadalupe Tavera remembers thinking, "My God, why don't I know English?'

Her son, Ervin Martinez, was just about to start 9th grade at J-M, and the school held a meeting to inform parents about its requirements and curricula. While various school staff presented in English, a school interpreter translated the information for Tavera and other Spanish-speaking parents via translation headsets. Still, Tavera said she didn't understand the meeting. "It was very fast," she told the News + Record in Spanish. "(The interpreter) said a little, nothing more, just what little she could say before another speaker came and said something else. ... I had a lot of questions, but there wasn't time for them to help me clear up my doubts.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

## **CHATHAM BEVERAGE** DISTRICT The Plant unveils new Bath House

#### **BY D. LARS DOLDER** News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — It's not often businesses host ribbon-cutting ceremonies for their lavatories. but last Wednesday's Bath House reveal at The Plant on Lorax Lane matched the site's commitment to "quirkiness."

The new Bath House isn't what it might sound like — it's not a meeting place for public bathing, nor any of the more tawdry operations sometimes associated with the name.

It's a new standalone building housing three private bathrooms.

"You might think this is a bit quirky to celebrate a bunch of toilets," said Tami Schwerin, The Plant's co-owner and founder of Abundance NC, an event-planning company and non-profit incubator. "But this is by far a lot more.'

In keeping with The Plant's whimsical aura, the Bath House bathrooms were decorated to distinguish each stall from run-of-the-mill restrooms. The aesthetics were designed and assembled by a

See BATH HOUSE, page A9

## Siler City Police Department carries out major drug investigations

**BY D. LARS DOLDER** News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City Police Department, in partnership with North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement, conducted two search and seizure operations last month, producing almost 200 charges for drug sale and other crimes. On May 5, SCPD officers and ALE agents "executed several search warrants for the sale and distribution of illegal narcotics, weapons violations and violations of probation and parole," SCPD Chief Mike Wagner said in a press release. The months-long investigation produced 173 charges against 12 people, including seven for illegal alcohol sales, 91 drug charges, six miscellaneous charges and 69 felony charges. Seven firearms were also seized, according to the press release. On the same day, Siler City Police Dept., ALE agents and the North Carolina Highway Patrol served a search warrant on the home at 812 North Chatham Ave. Siler City. Officers located and seized 61.2 grams of marijuana, 6.7 grams

"So I felt, wow, overwhelmed because I asked myself, 'How am I going

#### dual-language teacher at Chatham County Schools, in his 2nd-grade classroom at Siler City Elementary.

to help my son?""

Later, the Hispanic Liaison's Selina Lopez answered her questions. Still, that experience, Tavera said, stands out to her as one of the only times she felt disadvantaged as a Spanish-speaking mother in a predominantly English-language school system.

Chatham County Schools has more than 2,700 Hispanic students, according to the district's May 2021 Ethnic Enrollment report, or 31.6% of its total student population. In the district's Siler City schools, those numbers are higher: 65.5% of students at Siler

City Elementary are Hispanic, 73.4% at Virginia Cross Elementary, 71% at Chatham Middle School and 62.6% at Jordan-Matthews High School, according to the same report.

In recent years, the district — which offers a certified dual language program at five of its schools — increased its translation serices, CCS's Amanda Hartness told the News + Record, after recognizing the need to provide better access to information and services for Hispanic/Latino students and families.

See EQUITY, page A3

See RAID, page A9

## DA's office initiates extradition of suspected Siler City murderer

BY D. LARS DOLDER News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — A specialized team of law enforcement agents will retrieve Sergio "Yovani" Rodriguez Pereira



Rodriguez Pereira

the primary suspect in a Siler City murder case who was found last month in Georgia – and return him to Chatham County to begin court proceedings within about two weeks, according to the managing assistant district attorney

for Chatham and Orange counties.

Rodriguez has been wanted for almost six months since the killing of Ramon Hernandez in Siler City. Hernandez, 28, died Dec. 20 in the UNC-Chapel Hill Medical Center after he was shot several times in the torso.

He'd been found earlier the same day on Waterford Street 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 charged Rodriguez, 24, with one count of first-degree murder and three counts of assault with a deadly weapon, but were unable to find him. On May 18, U.S. Marshals apprehended Rodriguez in Gwinnett County, Georgia, where he remains in custody without bond, according to Chatham County Sheriff's Office Lt. Sara Pack.

Rodriguez will stand trial for his suspected crimes in Chatham County after an extradition team, in cooperation with the local district attorney's office, returns him to local custody. "What most people don't know is we

See MURDER, page A7

## THE CN+R Q&A | FRANKLIN GOMEZ FLORES Chatham's first Latino commissioner reflects on his first six months in office

Last November, Chatham County narrowly elected its first Latino county commissioner, Franklin Gomez Flores, to replace incumbent Andy Wilkie as District 5's representative. Gomez Flores took office a month later and has now been serving as commissioner for nearly six months. This week, we speak with him to see how the job's been treating him as well as how he's used his role to advocate for the county's Hispanic community, which was a central part of his campaign.

You've been a county commissioner for about six months now. So, is the role what you expected it to be? In what ways has the job met and/or defied your expectations?

I definitely had my expectations. I think the first months of my first time serving were unique. It began during a pandemic, in the midst of the cyber incident, with the first significant project being the Capital Improvement Plan. It definitely has required a lot of reading, listening and learning.

Meetings can occur at various times during the day, and some weeks are heavier than others, making it difficult to have a full-time job during the first or second shift. I am glad I had anticipated that and that I positioned myself for the time commitment.

See REFLECT, page A13

### IN THE **KNOW**

New bill is allowing students to get driver's licenses sooner. PAGE A9 Will teaching about America's history with racism change? PAGE A13

CORA expands age group for summer SNACK! program. PAGE B8 a lot more \$\$. PAGE B11

Get ready for fuel (and everything else) to cost



### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

• Siler City's City Hall is currently under renovation. The 1st and 2nd floors are closed to the public. The Planning and Community Development Department is located in the basement and can be accessed through the far left door facing E. 3rd St. Parking is available at the 100 block of E. 3rd St.

 The Friends of the Chatham Community Library has canceled 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: friendsccl.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 Siler City Board of Commissioners will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 7, at the Library Conference Room at 500 N. Second Ave. in

Siler City. The Chatham County Board of Education has changed the date for the

next regular meeting to June 7. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. in the George Moses Horton Middle School multipurpose room.

 The Chatham SWCD Board Meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on June 10. If you wish to attend this meeting, reach out to Brandy Oldham at 919-545-8440 for details. We will also have a teleconference number for attendees who wish to attend remotely.

Chatham County Public Libraries has reinstated its pre-COVID hours of operation, at all three branch locations. In honor of LGBT Pride Month in June, Chatham **Community Library** will play a role in highlighting diversity and the many contributions of the LGBT community by offering a weeklong virtual screening of the documentary, Deep Run (2015), running June 10 -17. This program is free and open to the public. Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning June 10. A password is required at the time of viewing. Individuals should contact social.library@ chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information. Residents may also visit the libraries

libraries.org, or contact the Library at (919) 545-8084 or rita.vanduinen@ chathamlibraries.org for more information. 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.

website, www.chatham-

#### THURSDAY

 Pittsboro Farmers Market is open with seasonable items yearround 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.

#### **OTHER UPCOMING:** • The Siler City Parks and Recreation Department announces the Bray

Park Aquatic Facility had opened for the 2021 season with modified operations. The pool will operate through Labor Day weekend and is open Monday-Friday from 4:30-6:30pm during the School Year, Monday-Friday from 12 - 6 p.m. during the summer months, and Saturday and Sunday from 12 - 6 p.m. General admission includes a \$5 entry fee for ages 3 and over. Children ages 2 and under receive free entry. Senior Citizens, 50 or better receive a 50% discount. Siler City is offering Two-Fifty Tuesdays again where patrons may enjoy the pool each Tuesday when the entry fee is only \$2.50. To adhere to COVID-19 guidelines, masks/face coverings are encouraged for all patrons when in the bathhouse and not able to socially distance at least 6-feet from others. Pool furniture will be available with sanitation stations located on the pool deck for patrons to utilize. Outside furniture is not permitted. To schedule swim times for daycares and camps, to register for swim lessons, purchase season passes, or to rent the pool for a pool party, contact Carolina Pool Management at 336-854-8884. Chatham County Public Libraries invite families with young children to enjoy the great outdoors while

reading this summer with Outdoor Story Time. These programs will be offered June 14 through August 31, with the following weekly schedule: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Natural Chef Café seating area on the Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro Campus, adjacent to the Chatham Community Library, 197 NC Hwy 87 N, Pittsboro; Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. – Washington Avenue Park picnic shelter, 1305 Washington Avenue, Siler City; and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at Goldston Public Library lawn, 9235 Pittsboro-Goldston Rd, Goldston. Story time is geared toward children who have not yet entered kindergarten (ages 2-5), but anyone is welcome to join in on the fun. Children will hear stories, sing songs and enjoy more activities. Story times will be offered rain or shine. Chatham **County Public Libraries** are pleased to partner with Central Carolina Community College and the Siler City Parks and **Recreation Department** to offer these programs. Chatham County Public Libraries invite children and teens to participate in its 2021 Virtual Summer Reading Challenge "Tails and Tales' from June 3 through July 31. This program, sponsored by the Friends of the Chatham Community Library, is open to children and teens, ages 2 and up. Readers will participate online this year by signing up on the libraries' Beanstack site, https://chathamnc. beanstack.org, and win prizes for completing 10 hours of reading. Using Beanstack, readers can log their time and titles online, as well as create book reviews for others to see. All readers who reach the 10-hour goal will earn a free book and will be entered into a grand prize drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to McIntyre's Books. The Virtual Summer Reading Challenge kicks off online on June 3rd at 4 p.m. with a special program "Animal Stories in African Art," an interactive virtual program hosted by the N.C. Museum of Art. This event will be most appropriate for children

experiencing the joy of

snack and drink each day, and a CCCC camp T-shirt. For more information or to register for the Cougar Basketball Camp, visit www.cccc. edu/sports-camps/ or contact Athletic Director Jonathan Hockaday at jhockaday@cccc.edu. · Central Carolina Community College summer volleyball camp will be held Monday through Friday. July 12-16. It is open to rising 3rd to 5th graders. Registration fee of \$75 includes T-shirt. Registration/check-in is at 8 a.m., with sessions from 8:30-11 a.m. Class limited to 12 participants. The Cougar Volleyball Camp for rising 6th through 8th graders (middle school) will be held Monday through Friday, July 12-16. Registration/check-in time is 1 p.m., with session times from 1:30-4 p.m. Registration fee of \$75 includes a T-shirt. Class limited to 16 participants. The Cougar Volleyball Training Workouts for rising 9th through 12th graders will be held Monday through Friday, July 12-16. Registration/check-in time is 6 p.m., with session times from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Registration fee of \$75 includes a T-shirt. Class limited to 16 participants. For more information or to register for the Cougar Volleyball Camp, visit www.cccc. edu/sports-camps/ or contact Athletic Director Jonathan Hockaday at jhockaday@cccc.edu. 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. All campers will learn a 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 #JMACoronaConcert 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 Anony-

mous — North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.

Motorcycle Associa-

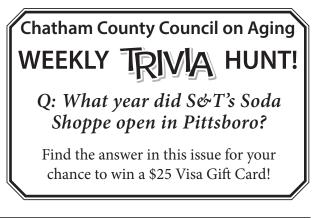
tion — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance coun ties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www. chathamCBA.com.

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.



ages 4-10, but everyone is invited to participate and learn. Registration information can be found on the libraries' online Events Calendar.

• Everyone is invited to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the New Chatham County ABC Store at 10435 U.S. 64 Hwy. East. Apex, Wednesday, June 16 at 10 a.m., located next to Cruizer's at the intersection of Hwy. 64 E. and Farrington Road.

· Central Carolina Community College will host a basketball camp for 3rd through 8th graders from 5:30-8:30 p.m. July 26-29. The \$100 cost includes

## Wednesday Spotlight

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## EQUITY

Continued from page A1

While many parents and students say they're grateful for these services, others wish the district would do more, particularly when it comes to engaging immigrant parents as well as offering more bilingual and bicultural resources.

"I know the district is pushing that equitable (lens), you know, sessions, professional development. I think that's really good. I don't think I see a lot of counties doing that kind of work," Jazmin Mendoza Sosa, Communities In Schools Student Support Specialist at Virginia Cross Elementary, told the News + Record.

"... We're moving towards having that equity lens, (and) we are making steps toward preparing teachers, preparing principals, to continue giding them to have more equitable tools and access to our families," she said. "However, I think there's some areas to improve like any other county."

#### CCS supports

When Ángel Gabriel Rioz Ortega immigrated to Chatham from Mexico five years ago, he didn't know English. Now a senior at Jordan-Matthews, he credits his ESL classes for teaching him.

"ESL helps a lot to be honest," he said, "because maybe without them, I wouldn't understand English or speak English."

Neither of his parents speak English very well, so the district's translation services have helped a lot with communication of school information.

"It's very helpful because that's how my mom knows how I am at school," Rioz Ortega said. "There was one time that they called my mom and told her that I wasn't doing that well, whenever I started high school. Well, right now I'm doing pretty good and she knows everything that I do over there, and they help her a lot."

CCS provides Spanish translations for most of its messaging and news updates online and by phone. The district's website also has a built-in Google translate tool at the top of the homepage to translate the entirety of the page. The district also expects administrators at each of its 19 schools (20, including Seaforth High School, which will open next fall) to provide Spanish translations for schoolwide emails, phone calls and brochures at special events.

This expansion of Spanish translation services is a part of the district's strategic plan for the last few years, according to Hartness, the district's assistant superintendent for academic services and instructional support. Besides consistent translations, the district hired an additional translator, provided translation certification



Jazmin Mendoza Sosa grew up in Siler City and now works in the community as a student support specialist for Communities In Schools of Chatham County.

Global Student Support Center also connect students and families to community resources. The center is part of the Title III federal program, which seeks to ensure that any student whose native language is not English receives appropriate English instruction to learn and perform at grade-level.

The center primarily employs bilingual staff who connect directly with families and also serve as in-house translators for the district.Staff members help with ESL services and also assist incoming families with enrollment, paperwork and any food insecurity or homelessness issues.

"That's actually a huge, probably one of the bigger resources that we do districtwide," Hartness said.

The district also provides services specific to migrant students and families.

Orlando Hernández, CCS's Title I/Migrant specialist, works with schools to ensure they explain to parents how school programming works under Title I, a federal law which requires schools to provide all children with a fair, equitable and high-quality education. Hernández also monitors the academic performance of migrant students and assists in creating academic improvement plans when needed.

In addition to preparing applications for federal grants funding at the local level, Hernández is also one of the distict's primary translators for districtwide messaging and materials, which was an especially prevalent need during COVID-19 school changes.

"During our monitoring visit this year, we got an opportunity to hear what parents said to intervewers," Hernández said in an email to the News + Record. "They said this district sends bilingual communications to them as never before."

He emphasized that CCS offers the same academic programs to Hispanic students that all students are entitled to receive, even if some resources specifically target the needs of Hispanic students and families. said she asks her son to read or listen to the English version and then explain it to her in Spanish — something J-M sophomores Lilibeth Pavón Villalobos and Aylin Tepile said they sometimes do for their parents as well.

"They'll be asking us what they mean and stuff, and we don't even know half the time what to say. We have to look at the English one," said Pavón Villalobos, adding, "It's not the Spanish we're used to. ... It feels like it's what you look up on Google Translate."

"It just doesn't seem right," Tepile added. "My parents are usually like, 'What is this word? I've never heard this word, and I speak Spanish fluently.""

Hartness said while most families are pleased with the increased translations, the district has received some negative feedback regarding literal translations, particularly when it comes to school jargon. For example, she said, "homework log" in English might be translated in Spanish to "homework stick," which wouldn't make sense. This can become a problem when the district relies on translation tools to translate quickly.

There are many different dialects and styles of writing in Spanish, Hartness said, and so some translations could be confusing if they don't match the dialect of where a family is from.

Beyond better quality, parents also said they'd like schools to provide Spanish interpretation for more programs and events. According to Torres, Tavera and several high school students, not all CCS schools offer Spanish interpretation for all school events — like award ceremonies, for instance.

"There are few events (with interpretation)," Torres said. "I remember that (the) PTA, sometimes they have this person speak in Spanish, and also the phone calls, but normally, for programs, no. No, you just go, and especially programs like Honor Roll, or when the kids sing or do specific things, it was just English."

A few years ago, Tavera's son received an award at a ceremony only offered in "pure English."

"I wanted to know what they said to my son (in that ceremony)," she said, adding, "They work hard, and well, their triumph is that of the parents as well, and I would like to share it with him and know exactly what it was that he did to achieve that diploma."

Hartness said ceremony and brochure translations "should be things that schools are doing" because the district "definitely has the services to be able to have that."

But it's not just about translating school announcements, documents or events, said CIS's Mendoza Sosa; it's about helping parents understand and navigate the system. She works with 45 students at Virginia Cross Elementary School, and about 41 are the children of Spanish-speaking parents. "The school system is very complicated, even sometimes scary," she said. "Let's just say that your kid has a reading intervention. ... We can have up to five to 10 people in a meeting talking about the needs of the student, and the parent can get very overwhelmed, especially if they (never) experienced that even in their own home countries, or just overall their school experience was not like this at all.' That resonates with Torres and Tavera, immigrants from Honduras and Mexico respectively. When Tavera attended J-M's first meeting for parents, she said she didn't understand much of what the staff presented — even in her native language — because her own school experience in Mexico was drastically different. In Mexico, Tavera said, "high school" is called "preparatoria," and the school provides all students with the same curriculum. In American high schools, students can choose their classes. Sometimes, she said, they'd have one teacher for all of their classes in Mexico, while here in the U.S., there's usually one teacher per class. "It's very different," she said. "The academic level from here to Mexico is very different. So, I wasn't accustomed to these kinds of changes because I imagined, 'Well, it'll be just like in Mexico.' No, just no. It's different - completely different." Likewise, Torres said she struggled to figure out a lot of the programs the school's letters home offered and spoke about especially before her daughter's school began sending Spanish translations. "They sent me a note about AIG for Maya, and I was like, What is this?" she said. "You

know, the Academically or Intellectually Gifted; it's a program the school has for the kids that have some fast learning in math or reading, so I remember, they sent me this, and I was like, 'What is this? I don't have any idea.''

She had the same question when the district came out with the superintendent search, too, and even events like prom. Not knowing the system as well as people raised in America do, she said, is a huge disadvantage for other Spanish-speaking and immigrant parents.

"The opportunities — I don't know if they are the same or not, but definitely when you don't have the knowledge of language and the knowledge about the system, it's not an advantage for your kid," she said. "Because families who know the system and know the programs, they are always looking for this, but for the ones who they don't know, and they don't have the language, they just send the kids to school."

That's why she thinks the schools should employ someone whose job is to reach out directly to immigrant families and serve as a liaison.

"Because you have the fear," Torres said. "You don't want to be the one who goes and says, 'I don't understand this. Can somebody help me?"

More than that, she added, this person, or group of people, could inform the school district about what's really happening — and why, perhaps, they don't see as many Latino parents participating in their children's education as they do American parents.

At first, Torres found she wasn't able to volunteer at her daughter's school or chaperone field trips thanks to the type of immigration permit she held.

"The school asked for a police report because you cannot be with the kids if you don't have this police report," she said. "So what happens when the parent doesn't have papers, and is not able to, even if they want to? So there are a lot of limitations for immigrants in that way."

For others, the language barrier or a lack of transportation could hinder involvement.

"I remember my daughter asking me many times: Why can't you go to the field trips? Why don't you come to the Honor Roll (ceremony), Mommy?" she said. "And I was like, 'I promise I will, I promise.' So sometimes I had to ask friends, and say, like, 'Can you give me a ride?""

Other parents, added Mendoza Sosa, may have to work long hours and don't have time.

"Many Hispanic families value education," she said. "They want their kids to graduate from high school. However, because of the unfortunately not livable wages, they have to work many more hours. And so therefore, many of them are at work, and their kids kind of have to be very self-motivated to continue and make sure they go to school. It is hard for parents to engage." improved over the years."

Hartness said some schools looked specifically to hire bilingual staffers for positions, and in those cases, translation and interpretation services would be considered a part of that person's job. If staffers write dual-language curriculum, translations needed at night or anything else "above and beyond the normal job," they are compensated, she said.

Several J-M students, like 9th grader Heidi Aguirre Moscoso, said teachers have asked them to interpret for students who recently arrived from Spanish-speaking countries and don't know much English.

"I can help out teachers translating English to Spanish," she said. "But I don't really know anybody or any organization translating."

"I don't mind doing it, but it's kind of, like, weird I have to do it," J-M junior Leo Ortiz said.

A better solution, students said, may be having classroom interpreters.

"I just feel like (there) should be like a teacher's assistant that knows Spanish," Tavera's son, Ervin said. "For example, in my class, I have a teacher that knows exactly how to speak Spanish. So I think having more teachers who are actually prepared and know how to speak well, Spanish, can actually be like assistants and help people out."

### 'Serve students as they deserve'

The district began formally addressing equity issues through the creation of its Equity and Excellence for Everyone (E3) team more than five years ago. The team, which has representatives from each of the district's schools, works to support students by eliminating barriers for student groups as well as by using and providing culturally relevant resources across the system.

E3 team member Ricardo Valladares teaches 2nd grade dual language at Siler City Elementary. He's originally from Honduras and has raised concerns for the Hispanic community at his school and with the equity team.

One big example is working toward culturally responsive teaching that acknowledges the different cultures of students from language to food to discipline norms.

"I mentioned that culture is not just food or celebrations, there's so many other things that come with it, and we as teachers, we have to start looking at those things," Valladares said. "We have to go deeper, not on the surface level because if you only do that, you are never going to serve students as they deserve."

CCS recently began its twoyear equity training efforts with a group called The Equity Collaborative, which will involve staff training on topics like culturally responsive teaching.

two-way translation devices.

The district doesn't currently provide translations at its board of education meetings, which is something Hartness said she's working toward.

"We just tried to be really intentional and I think that's where we've made a lot of growth as a school district — just being more intentional with making sure that we're meeting the needs of all families versus kind of leaving that up to each school to just do the right thing," she said. "Like with anything else, there's always room for improvement, which is like I mentioned, the board meetings that's something that we've got to address."

The district also hired a third-party contractor to translate its EC documents and meetings. One such document is a student's IEP — Individualized Education Program — which outlines a student's levels of academic and functional performance, goals and service plan, and can sometimes span as many as 40 pages.

Hiring a certified translator is especially important for meetings, where education terms and jargon don't always have a direct Spanish translation. The outside service also takes the load off of bilingual staff members, such as CIS's Mendoza Sosa.

When she first started working at Virginia Cross, Mendoza Sosa said she was doing interpretation for IEP meetings. Now, she no longer does, as the department has its own translators outside of the county and at the district's Global Student Support Center.

"That's a pretty big expense that we've taken on, but we've gotten good feedback," Hartness said.

During the pandemic, the district added a 24-hour homework support line with Princeton Review in English and Spanish — a suggestion that came from one of the district's family focus groups.

School social workers and the

### 'Their triumph is that of the parents as well'

Honduran native Carolina Torres still remembers a time when she didn't receive the district's bilingual letters, phone calls and emails that she does now. Her daughter Maya — a 5th grader at George Moses Horton Middle School — attended Pittsboro Elementary School at the time.

"I can tell now, having a lot of years here, and with Maya at school, I don't know if the Latino population increased or what it is, but they definitely do it different now," she said. "I think now it's getting better than it used to be... They are doing their job. But I'm pretty sure, like, it is not enough for the families to have the 100% as American families have."

To achieve that 100%, various Hispanic parents, students and school support specialists recommend that the district hire more bilingual staff in key district and school positions, provide interpretation for more school events and ramp up outreach to Spanish-speaking parents.

By and large, parents and students say they appreciate the district's and schools' bilingual communication. While some praise the quality of the translations, others question it.

Sometimes, Tavera said she finds herself confused by the Spanish used in school calls and emails.

"I don't want to say it's bad, but sometimes, well, I think it's the same as it is for me in English. Maybe I say it backwards and they write it backwards," she said, adding, "So, sometimes, I don't understand what it said in Spanish."

When that happens, Tavera

### 'More bilingual staff in key positions'

Students, parents and others also said they'd like to see the district — and individual schools — hire more bilingual and bicultural staff in key positions. Many main office bilingual staff members, Mendoza Sosa said, are overworked and overextended: Besides interpreting parent conferences, they also answer incoming phone calls and help parents.

And that, she said, limits their effectiveness. At Virginia Cross, she said, they're "very fortunate" to have a bilingual data manager and receptionist. The school also has a bilingual social worker, Mendoza Sosa herself, plus three other teachers and a reading specialist. VCE has more than 500 students.

"We do have two pre-K teachers who are bilingual, one ESL teacher who is bilingual, one reading specialist who's bilingual, but that's it," she said. "So we're talking less than 10 people who are bilingual in a school whose population is 80% to 90% Hispanic. So I think there are some areas of improvement. That's just with Virginia Cross itself."

But the role also matters: only two social workers in the county speak Spanish, Mendoza Sosa said, and few, if any, school counselors are bilingual. Neither, she added, do they have bilingual nurses.

"And with COVID, nurses depend on bilingual staff to be able to track families if there's a COVID situation," she said. "So I would say one area to improve in Chatham County is having more bilingual staff in key positions such as nurses, school counselors, social workers. And again, that is an area to improve. I think they have CCS is forming a partnership with the Hispanic Liaison, Hartness said, with hopes to finalize a memorandum of understanding after its June 7 board meeting. The Hispanic Liaison has long supported CCS students, but the partnership will give them access to the building and resources such as Power School — along with funding that can potentially increase the number of services offered.

Hartness will also ask the board on June 7 to consider using part of the district's COVID-19 recovery funding to hire an additional district translator that would work directly with Public Relations Coordinator John Mc-Cann to more directly engage the Hispanic community. Hartness said she hopes that position will be filled in the next year.

Valladares said he feels like the concerns he brings to discussions are taken seriously and that the district is headed in the right direction.

"I think every work in equity is necessary," he said. "It's relevant and it's important. It's an obligation; it's a moral obligation. Especially for me, as an educator, as a minority, I have to make sure that gaps do not exist - not achievement gaps, not learning gaps. I need to make sure that they do not exist, and I think that every county in the state should be doing something about equity. ... And I think that if you can change one life, if you can make the life of one person better, it's already worth it.'

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# VIEWPOINTS Making the most of an 'l'm sorry'

Parenting is a difficult job, an enterprise made tougher when



BILL HORNER III ble. Publisher + Editor

I've seen it happen a lot. My wife and I raised three children to adulthood. So many things about that experience were remarkable, but two things in particular never failed to astonish us:

1. Babysitters who cared for the kids at our house, or at their own, always, *always* marveled to us about how well-behaved they were. We always, always were incredulous at

that bit of news, and, as parents who can't possibly fathom their own being nice to each other, we'd wonder aloud who made off with our brood and replaced them with courteous, polite and mannerly replicas. Which made #2 all the more

vexing .. 2. Put all three of our kids in the same room (or car, particularly) and let enough time go by, and chaos (and inevitably tears) often occurred. Drop that number to two, though any two, the combination didn't matter — and they paired off as best friends. Three = turbulence; two = tranquility.

Thankfully, today, our three — now ages 28, 26 and 24 are close. No more fighting, name-calling, hitting or pestering. Rather, they're mutually supportive, loving and gracious, and go out of their way

when a brother (or sister) is in need.

What was our secret? Danged if I know.

But one practice we insisted upon, I think, may have played a role: we taught our children how to apologize, and to do it the right way.

Apologies weren't a matter of facing each other, uttering a grunted "SORRY!" under duress and then making up with a stiff side-hug. Figuring that unreasonable behavior was a problem of the heart, we focused there. Doing so gave the offender room (space and time) to look inward to think about the cause of the conflict and their role in escalation.

We knew we'd taught and trained them well; reflection on the matter at hand should, given the love we poured into them and a little time for an

emotional re-set, result in enough self-reflection that awareness (and regret) would occur. The nurtured heart would come alive.

Here's the kicker: next, the offender would have the responsibility of writing a letter of apology. We didn't dictate the terms, but we insisted on two simple things: say WHAT you're sorry for (specifics, please) and WHY you're sorry. In writing.

Once delivered to the hurt party, then that child would have a chance to practice the art of forgiveness.

This process wasn't always smooth. It happened with enough regularity, however, that my wife Lee Ann kept many of those little hand-scribbled notes of apology — including a few our children wrote to us for infractions we weren't

even aware of until said note was placed in our hands by a contrite child.

An ancillary benefit, of course, is that the principle was reinforced as we parents practiced what we preached. Not being a perfect dad, I've had a number of occasions (including one on a family trip back in April) to sit with Zachary or Addison or Karis and simply say: "I blew it. That was wrong of me. I'm so sorry. Can you please find it in your heart to forgive me?" They always did.

We nurtured our kids' hearts. Now they nurture each other's. I can't be more thankful to see their hearts flourishing still.

Bill Horner III can be reached at bhorner3@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @billthethird.

## Saying 'never' good way to wind up being wrong

Through the years I've tried to avoid making too many absolute statements.



**BOB WACHS** 

Movin' Around

It's not that I don't have some basic core beliefs that, while maybe open for conversation, aren't open for change.

Rather, it's that I've come to realize that the saying which I heard for years before experiencing it myself is true — namely that you ought to keep your words soft and sweet because you never know when you might have to eat them.

So I don't often say or use the word "never," as in when I was a boy I noted to anyone who would listen, You'll never catch me eating turnip greens." The transformation in my taste buds is complete and today, I often order them when eating out.

Through the years, however, there have been a few other similar revisions of behavior associated with "never." I once was given a pink dress shirt which I vowed never to wear but which I did, since it was a gift, a time or two, before accidentally spilling ink or gravy — I forget which

across the front of it. And it really was an accident. And then my uncle was the local Ford dealer and it was sort of family tradition that we would never drive anything other than one of his offerings. Today we have a Dodge and not too long ago drove around in a Chrysler. I hope he wouldn't be upset with me if he were still around.

The list could go on for a little ways, but of all the times "never" crept into my vocabulary the biggest reversal came about over the issue of bottled water.



## In limbo, do no harm

Limbo refers to an uncertain period of waiting for a decision or resolution. Some religious

Some wore theirs over their noses issue. Wanting to follow the sciand mouths, others as chinstraps. ence and respect our neighbors, Still others wore no masks. Some wore their masks inside and outside the coffee shop. Others just inside. Of course, no one pins their vaccination card to the front of his or her shirt, so it's hard to know everyone's reasoning. But why is there such discrepancy regarding masks worn by vaccinated people? The term "performative" feels too judgmental. A mask-wearer could have cancer or an autoimmune disorder. That person could have unvaccinated children at home. They could act out of a desire to protect themselves or their loved ones. Yet, we wonder if some behavior is based more upon feeling than science. We discussed a recent interview with the mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, that aired on NPR. After deciding to keep a mask mandate in place, citizens argued "You've said listen to the CDC for the last 14 months; you should listen to the CDC" now. The mayor agreed to drop the mask mandate and instead focus on convincing the vaccine-hesitant to get the shot.

was not a consistent use of masks. a mask is an emotionally charged we wish to call readers attention to an ethical guide found in Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism: ahimsa. Literally, ahimsa means "do no harm." The premise is that all living beings have a spark of divine spiritual energy. Ahimsa is an affirmation that, as poet William Blake claimed, "Everything that lives is holy." There is little evidence to suggest statistical probability that any variant of COVID-19 can break through the vaccine or that a vaccinated person might pass along the virus and infect someone who is unvaccinated However, humans being human, we judge risk differently. Wearing or removing one's mask often involves complicated, contradicting feelings. In the spirit of ahimsa, we will keep our masks with us and willingly don them if it puts someone else at ease. In this limbo time of uncertain resolution of the pandemic, we know one thing: we want to be respectful and kind to all.

Water 1s, of course, a necessity for life and still, I think, in most places fairly plentiful. The folks in Texas might dispute that but around here we're not all that close to running out. Water used to be that thing that was always "free," as in no charge for it. Restaurants would give you a glass; there was no charge if you had it with your meal.

I'm not sure who the fellow was or exactly when it all started but sometime since the Spanish-American War somebody started putting water into plastic bottles and selling it for a quarter or 50 cents or whatever they could get for it. Soon entire industries were busy bottling it and selling it in containers from one-swallow size to office dispensers.

For a while there was the general feeling that some bottles that said "Crystal Clear Mountain Water" on the label, complete with a picture of a waterfall from somewhere, was actually tap water out of the Newark, New Jersey, water system. And maybe some of it was early on but I don't think the Federal Trade Commission would or did allow that.

As the interest and the acceptance of it grew I often said, "I can't believe people pay a dollar for an 8-ounce bottle of water. My grandfather or my father wouldn't believe it. I'm never going to buy a bottle of water.'

I still don't think they would but I can't make that statement any longer.

Actually it's been awhile since that fateful day and while I still don't do it much, I have done it — that is buy a bottle or two ... or three .. or more, depending on how hot and/or thirsty I was.

I still remember the event. We were at a theater while on vacation watching a play. The show was long; it was the dead of summer and the heat must have been a gazillion degrees, both outside and inside, perhaps as an incentive to buy some water. At intermission, sugary sodas just didn't seem like a good idea so I gave in and bought water. Kept the empty bottle for a long time. Couldn't believe I'd done what I did.

I don't give it a second thought now; I've bought water out of the cooler at the convenience store as well as the 24-pack on sale at my favorite grocer. But I am working on a project along those same lines, a business venture that, if successful, will bring me untold fame and fortune.

I call it "Air in a Jug." See, the deal is the air is already in there; I don't have to bottle it. I just can't figure out how to market it. But I don't think a couple of dollars per jug is too much. Do vou?

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.



#### **ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN** Hope Matters

My co-columnist today, Paul Isom, says he learned about limbo not from church but from the 1968 Walt Disney

afterlife.

traditions spec-

ulate about the

limbo status of

the soul in the

movie "Blackbeard's Ghost," in which Dean Jones conjures up Peter Ustinov (Blackbeard) who has been "bound in limbo" by a curse. Blackbeard can only move on to the next place once he has performed a good deed.

Similarly, we want to know, what in the world are we to do with our masks? (How do we move on to the next phase? Hasn't wearing a mask for the past year been enough?)

We met for coffee the other day. We are both fully vaccinated. We wore masks to the sidewalk table, then removed them once we sat down. This is standard protocol and procedure now, but we still made sure we were both comfortable with masklessness. Simple meeting and greeting has its awkward moments these days.

Watching pedestrians, there

### **Chatham News + Record**

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Again, we recognize that some vaccinated people need to take extra precautions to protect their health and the wellbeing of loved ones. We also believe that wearing

Paul Isom lives in Chapel Hill and teaches journalism at N.C. State. Andrew Taylor-Troutman is pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church.

#### 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 **Crisis hastened health-care reforms**

For all the suffering and damage caused by the COVID-19

pandemic,

there's at

least one

silver lining:

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North



care system JOHN HOOD for the better. John Locke Carolina is Foundation

among many jurisdictions that adjusted its policies so medical providers could effectively respond to the crisis. The federal government changed its rules to allow more Medicare coverage of telemedicine services. Our state lifted a ban on out-of-state providers offering telemedicine, and also relaxed certificate-of-need restrictions so hospitals could add beds, ambulatory surgical centers could act as emergency hospitals and a range of providers could buy more equipment.

The worst of the COVID crisis is over, thank God.

(And thanks to our top-notch pharmaceutical industry.) As lawmakers consider the longer-term consequences and implications, they ought to consider making their temporary policy responses into permanent policy reforms.

Ask North Carolinians who did a telemedicine visit at some point over the last year. While some had a poor experience — and of course there are many doctor visits and medical procedures that can only performed in person - most telehealth patients say they are satisfied with the care and insights they received.

Similarly, to the extent medical providers exercised their enhanced flexibility, were patients harmed? Did offering more services in more places make health care less responsive and more expensive? In the main. no.

Improving access to health care is about more than who pays the bill. It's about options. It's about price and quality. It's about the size of that bill, in

other words, and who possesses both the information and the incentives to make decisions about it.

As American Enterprise Institute fellow Bret Swanson observes, a lack of innovation in the delivery of medical services is a key reason why American productivity isn't going up as fast as it once did. The health-care sector is rapidly approaching 20% of the nation's total gross domestic product. And it is notoriously bureaucratic and hidebound.

Here's another way to think about the problem. Since 2000, average consumer prices have gone up by 54%. That average is, however, the result of a very large spread. The prices of high-tech products such as phones, computers and smart TVs have plunged — by 80% or more in some cases. Cars, clothes and furniture have also experienced lower-than-average inflation.

Hospital services, on the other hand, cost about 200% more today than they did two

decades ago. And, no, hospital care is not 200% more pleasant, comfortable or efficacious.

The late economist William Baumol observed long ago that productivity gains may be inherently more difficult to achieve in sectors such as health care, education and the performing arts because introducing technological innovation doesn't just increase output per worker. It also alters the actual service being delivered — and not for the better.

Baumol famously offered the example of symphonic music. Assembling, staging and compensating a full orchestra is an expensive undertaking and reaches an inherently limited audience. You can reach a vastly larger audience by recording the orchestra's performance and selling it. But listening to an audio file is just not the same thing as experiencing a live orchestra.

Point taken. But, of course, most of us still listen to most of our music in the form of recordings. We happily take

the tradeoff, because if we can only listen live, our access to music would be severely curtailed.

Similarly, while an in-person visit to the doctor has features that a telehealth visit can't duplicate, the difference isn't infinitely valuable. For some routine check-ins and minor afflictions, an online or video consultation is sufficient. By permanently changing our financing and regulatory policies to accommodate that, we save scarce resources for redeployment to other medical services or to other goods and services — which confer greater consumer benefits per dollar spent.

I wish North Carolina had already liberalized its healthcare regulations years ago. Naturally, I wish it hadn't taken a deadly pandemic to break the logjam. But broken it is. And it shouldn't be rebuilt.

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

## Whirligigs to the rescue

Why make the small eastern North Carolina city of Wilson my first post-COVID break-out vacation trip?



D.G. MARTIN

One on One

In a word, whirligigs. More later.

But I had other reasons. Wilson is home to several eating places that were to be featured in a new edition of my "North Carolina Roadside Eateries," a book that was ready for printing when the COVID-19 pandemic forced its postponement in the fall of 2020.

Parkers Barbecue, not far from I-95, is still going strong, serving the barbecue

and fried chicken that has gained favorable attention in national magazines. Wilson's other barbecue icon, Bill's Barbecue and Chicken Restaurant, suddenly closed in early 2019 after being in business for 56 years. For people in Wilson, it was like a death in the family. All is not lost. After Bill's death, his son Lawrence, who grew up learning the business from his dad, opened his own restaurant and named it after his deceased brother, Marty. Bringing more than 30 years of experience working with his dad, he has turned his new restaurant into a bustling business.

People in Wilson are dividing up into Parker's and Marty's

Reflecting on my boyhood, I remember living in a house that sat behind Quaking Aspens in a pretty valley that the locals called "Hawks Hollow," You could see U.S. Rte, 11 out our front windows. Its traffic tenderized asphalt trotted right past our little farm and then parkour'd north toward the U.S. Army Reservation of Fort Drum, home of the 10th Mountain-Light Infantry Division encamped on 107,000 acres.

Dad was a Staff Sergeant in the Army National Guard for six years. He was employed as an ag teacher and was an upstate husky version of Popeye, able to literally bend a framing nail with his bare hands. My brother could do herculean deeds as well but I was stuck with a shriveled Olive Oil silhouette. One could say I was the Ichabod Crane (boy) of Hawk's Hollow.

The Hollow's geography was idyllic for a scrawny kid hoping to grow into something bigger. I was on constant alert for Army truck convoys from Fort Drum that growled near the horizon. They plodded along at a steady pace and were loud muffler puffers, diesel furious and khaki relentless. The imminent arrival of Jeeps, trucks, tankers and mysteriously covered flatbeds was signaled by a low rumbling sound at first. Just like a groundhog, I'd stand myself tall, freeze in place and slowly rotate my head/ears/ eyes. Then, I'd beat feet as fast as my little body could go uphill to a rough outlook that I had built above our house. It was a perfect spot. Out of sight of my parents, I timidly waved and uniformed guys would wave

### **GUEST COLUMN | ED BRONSON** Good guise

back or honk their horns or — holy cow-salute!

Early settlers, dismissive of Native people in the way of their progress, had a very different army. Chatham County, North Carolina, was named after William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham in the Kingdom of England during the colonial era. Trained as a cavalry officer, he managed England's military during wars on two continents: The Seven Years' War in Europe and the French and Indian War in America. More than 150 places in the United States honor, by name, this famous orator that history calls "Chatham" or "Pitt.'

"It is the people who have sent me here," Chatham thundered at his aristocratic colleagues. For such concerns, he was considered a good guy by English and Scottish Colonists alike. After managing the defeat of France, he advocated for political representatives from the Colonies, as legally mandated, but was stymied by a smug Parliament. Common town and rural folks struggled to live here under unfair policies and excessive taxation, bluntly enforced by an English Governor intent on replenishing the victorious but bankrupt, post-war homeland. I'm older and have a plumper philosophy of life now. It is hard, for example, to find goodness in a man who would whip his sweaty workhorses or covly lie to them about getting fresh oats later on in the evening shade. Is there anything lower than a bitter fool who kicks away his devoted dog?

Yet even broken men, under a miserable guise and too callous to care about being despised, need more than what they swear about. Is cruelty ever really cured by a "How do YOU like it?" thicker bullwhip? Showing no mercy is scantily disguised revenge.

Chatham abhorred callous privilege. His military commission was taken away very early in his political career because of his withering criticism of the government. He was later credited with saving the Kingdom for what he did after announcing, "I am sure I can save this country and nobody else can!"

The crucial differences between good guys and bad guys are revealed by identifying their real motivations. Ditto gals. Leadership in the USA too often promotes dubious goals under the guise of being good for the common (wo)man.

If only we had a clear picture of Chatham's glaring eyes. He was famous for the penetrating gaze that emphasized his passionate speeches. America seems hopelessly

ans. The best thing for a visitor to do is sample both.

Wilson also has another southern food staple down pat: biscuits. The "cat's head" biscuits at Flo's Kitchen will make you happy if you follow two rules: bring cash and get there before noon. Don't be surprised if there is a big crowd both inside and outside.

On my recent visit, I learned about and enjoyed Dick's Hot Dog Stand, at the corner of Nash and Pearson streets. It began in 1921 when a Greek immigrant, Socrates "Dick" Gliarmis, sold his first hot dog. A century later, Dick's family is still there in a cozy building with walls posted full of North Carolina memorabilia. You can bet Dick's will be featured in any revised "Roadside Eateries."

Good eating is important, but we came to see the whirligigs.

A friend, Susan Hudson, arranged for us to be guided by Henry Walston, who, as chairman of the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park and Museum, was instrumental in bringing the whirligigs to downtown Wilson.

The late Vollis Simpson, a farmer, welder, house mover and handyman turned out to be an important American artist who could turn heaps of metal junk into gigantic, toylike, playful sculptures.

Simpson assembled his artwork on his farm, which became a popular, local attraction.

Walston was a leader in a community effort to gather, repair and display Simpson's work in downtown Wilson.

In 2017 he explained to WUNC's Frank Stasio, "When we embraced this project we had creative placemaking in mind. Creative placemaking being when you take an art/cultural project and you use it as a vehicle to stimulate economic development in the area the project is located."

Wilson's loss of its tobacco markets and bank headquarters had stunned the town.

The whirligigs have come to the rescue. They are on display from 5 a.m. to midnight. It is the best kind of art museum — no tickets, no lines, no guards — just an open park full of Simpson's quirky, colorful, structures moving differently with every breath of wind.

The whirligigs have helped attract other artists and businesses to downtown Wilson. Artist Sebastian Correa, a native of Chile, joined with George Newsome and Reggie Harrison to form Artisan Leaf, where they use epoxies and tobacco leaves to make lovely, sturdy tables and smaller objects that they sell for a fair price.

Former Chapel Hillian Barb White moved her art gallery to a downtown building in Wilson called the Edge. In her totally renovated space, she displays and sells her work and that of others.

Other artists are bringing life to the town.

Thanks in large part to the whirligigs, Wilson is on the move.

It was a perfect post-COVID trip.

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.

divided by who we put our trust in these days. But we need visionaries that can somehow reunite US(A).

Ed Bronson became a wood shop teacher for exceptional middle school students at age 40. He wonders what became of them as well as thousands of high school students who graduated from a Career & Technical Education campus where he was principal until his retirement in 2015. He has a B.A. in Cultural Studies: Religion and a M.S. in Instructional Development.

#### **Government should** stav out of health care

#### TO THE EDITOR:

The coronavirus pandemic has been tough on everyone. I am one of many Americans who contracted COVID-19, and fortunately, I was able to recover. I cannot say the same for many others in our community. This is a dire time, but the promising results of vaccines give me hope that we may soon emerge from this bleak period.

These vaccines are the key to ending this pandemic. My hope is that individuals and communities across the country will soon be inoculated so that we may finally put an end to this devastating moment in time. The shots are safe and effective and offer us long-term protection from a disease that has already taken so much from us.

As someone who suffers from heart disease, I am well-versed with the nuances of the pharmaceutical industry. The medication I take is a direct result of free-market innovation among biopharmaceutical companies, something that I hope we continue to promote and support. Unfortunately, not all politicians feel the same and appreciate the industry's work and research.

I believe that if politicians were to understand how many patients

**LETTERS** lives stand to benefit from innova-

tion, government leaders would stay out of their way and out of health care. Patients stand to lose when politicians get involved, especially when government tries to dictate the price of medication. Price setting and government involvement means companies have less to invest in cures and treatments. Why would we threaten such a future?

> **Moses Matthews** Bear Creek

#### The importance of broadband in ARP

#### TO THE EDITOR:

Gov. Roy Cooper outlined his spending priorities for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) money coming to North Carolina, specifying how he thinks the billions of dollars would best be used. His largest single expenditure would be what he calls Closing the Digital Divide: \$1.2B in broadband access and affordability.

Currently, North Carolina is home to hundreds of thousands of people who do not have access to high-speed internet. That leaves a lot on the table: without access to quality internet. businesses and education suffer. With the move to remote instruction over much of the past year,

parents and educators saw how far rural areas like Chatham can be regarding broadband access.

But now help is here. In Gov. Cooper's proposed spending plan for the ARP funds, \$1.2 billion will go toward ensuring high-speed internet is equitably adopted across our state. This historic investment in broadband would bring our rural communities up to speed, literally. Gov. Cooper has set a goal of having high-speed internet in 100% of households with children.

The recommendation doesn't just provide for the infrastructure needed to expand broadband — it includes ample funding for affordability, too. \$420 million would go toward lowering cost barriers to internet access. It's not enough to build out the capability if people can't afford the service.

All told, broadband is just one piece of the American Rescue Plan funding coming to North Carolina. We can build back even better than before the pandemic if we make the right investments. Broadband access is a great place to start.

**Rep. Robert Reives** Goldston

Rep. Reives represents District 54 (all of Chatham County and a portion of Durham County) in the N.C. House.

# VIEWPOINTS

#### **GUEST COLUMN** | GARY PEARCE

## Race defines N.C. politics — again

A national political reporter recently asked me how I would explain North Carolina politics to a class of college students. "One word," I told him:

"Race."

It has always been about race. It still is.

The latest front is the battle at UNC-Chapel Hill over tenure for a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. Conservatives cloak their objections to her in academic robes. But they dislike Nikole Hannah-Jones, a UNC alumna and New York Times reporter, because she produced "The 1619 Project" about slavery's impact on America.

As with conservative complaints about public schools teaching "critical race theory," opposition to her is aimed at stifling uncomfortable discussions about history — and stirring political passions.

The 1619 Project goes to an inescapable and fundamental contradiction in American

history: Our great nation is the only one founded on a set of ideals: freedom, liberty and equality. Yet, our nation was also built on the cruel, ugly brutality of human slavery.

Our Constitution was designed to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." Yet, it also protected slavery.

Thomas Jefferson wrote eloquently in our Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal." Yet, Jefferson owned slaves and fathered children by an enslaved woman. Four of our first five Presidents — George Washington, Jeffer-

son, James Madison and James Monroe — owned slaves.

Slavery caused secession and the Civil War.

This tension between the ideals of 1776 and the reality of 1619 — and its impact on our history — is worth studying. But powerful forces in North Carolina don't want that study: the UNC-CH Board of Trustees, the John Locke Foundation and the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal.

The latter two are creations of conservative megadonor Art Pope, who sits on the UNC Board of Governors. The ultimate opposition to Hannah-Jones, some at UNC believe, comes from Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger.

This is nothing new in North Carolina politics.

The right of Blacks to vote — and white opposition to that right — dominated the decades after the Civil War. The white supremacy campaign at the end of the 19th Century disenfranchised Blacks for 60 years. The civil rights movement in the 1960s led to the rise of the Republican Party and, ultimately, to today's politics.

Race has infused modern campaigns since Willis Smith's "White People Wake Up" campaign against Frank Porter Graham in 1950. Graham was President of UNC.

Conservatives have always resented the university; they think it turns too many young men and women into liberals. That's why the General Assembly passed the infamous Speaker Ban Law in 1963.

Jesse Helms, who had a hand in the Willis Smith campaign, editorialized on television in the 1960s against alleged communists at UNC and against civil rights. Race-baiting helped him win five U.S. Senate campaigns. When Jim Hunt challenged him in 1984, Helms filibustered (unsuccessfully) against the national holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Since 2011, the conservative majority in North Carolina's legislature has pursued a voter ID law that one court said targeted Blacks with "almost surgical precision."

Now, the targets are "critical race theory" and the 1619

Project.

Growing up in North Carolina and working in politics, I've seen this over and over all my life. But I'm hopeful.

Last week, 1,619 UNC-CH alums signed a newspaper ad protesting the handling of Hannah-Jones's tenure. More than 90% of them graduated after 1990.

They, like many young North Carolinians today, are free of the prejudices of older generations. They're committed to a fair and just society.

They're stepping up. They're ready to move North Carolina forward, not backward. More power to them.

Gary Pearce was a reporter and editor at The News & Observer, a political consultant, and an adviser to Governor Jim Hunt (1976-1984 and 1992-2000). He blogs about politics and public policy at www.NewDayforNC. com.

# Should North Carolina follow California or Texas?

Both California and Texas have developed dominating economies in recent decades. The states are No. 1 and No. 2 in both size of their economy



WALDEN

You Decide

and population. If each were countries, California would have the 5th largest economy in the world, and Texas would be the 9th largest.

Yet, one of the oddities making these accomplishments noteworthy is they were achieved with very different economic models. California is a high-tax, high public spending state, whereas Texas is the opposite: a low-tax, low public spending state. Can North Carolina learn anything from these two states with their different approaches to economic development?

First, here's some background on California and Texas and reasons why they have approached their economies so

differently. California and Texas have developed their economies around very different business sectors. Technology and entertainment are huge movers of the California economy. The state's Silicon Valley — a region around San Jose — is the headquarters for numerous global tech firms as well as start-ups. The production of movies, TV shows and music — involving tens of thousands of jobs — has been a major component of the California economy since the 1920s.

In contrast, today's Texas economy revolves around energy and manufacturing. Texas is a major producer of oil and natural gas, and it refines those resources into finished fuel products. A maze of fuel pipelines sprouts out from Texas to all parts of the country.

The different economies of the two states mean different workforces. California's workforce includes a large percentage of highly educated and professional workers at the top of the pay scale, and an equally high percentage of service jobs at the lower end of the pay scale, with fewer middle-income jobs in-between. As a result, income inequality in the state is very high, with California ranking 4th among states in the unequal distribution of income.

## 43 N.C. economic experts: We ask Tar Heels in Congress to act on climate

The earth is warming at an alarming rate the five warmest years in recorded history all occurred during the last decade.

There is little doubt that this warming is caused by human activity. Climate change poses a threat to both our natural environment and our economic prosperity. North Carolina is already bearing the costs of climate change.

For example, rising sea levels caused by climate change are eroding beaches, submerging low lands, exacerbating coastal flooding and increasing the salinity of estuaries and aquifers. Stronger storms also increase the risk of inland flooding. Elevated flood risks pose significant challenges for infrastructure investments across the state. Unfortunately, climate-related damages will continue to worsen if we continue to emit carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases at current rates. Addressing climate change will require effective policies guided by sound economic principles. To that end, more than 40 professors of economics and related fields from Appalachian State University, Davidson College, Duke University, East Carolina University, Gardner-Webb University, High Point University, UNC-Asheville, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro, Wake Forest University and Winston-Salem State University are asking North Carolina's congressional delegation to support the following policies:

inflict, we experience a market failure — the unregulated economic system does not deliver an efficient outcome for our society.

A carbon price corrects the market failure by sending a clear price signal about the damages of carbon pollution to market participants and makes both consumers and producers pay for damages they cause. In particular, a carbon price creates incentives for producers to use cleaner inputs and encourages consumers to use or purchase less pollution-intensive goods. Notably, a carbon price achieves the necessary emissions reductions at the lowest possible cost to American households and businessitive advantage to U.S. companies that are more energy-efficient and use cleaner production processes. Moreover, the border tax adjustment would encourage other countries to adopt similar climate policies.

#### Meeting Emissions Reduction Targets

The policy should include emissions reduction targets and mechanisms for enforcement. The carbon price should start low, then increase each year until we achieve these targets. A carbon price that gradually increases over time will give firms and consumers time to adapt to the new policy while also providing a strong incentive to immediately innovate and invest in new low-carbon technologies.

Texas, meanwhile, has an income distribution that provides relatively more middle-income jobs than California, but also relatively more lower income jobs and fewer higher income jobs. Texas ranks below California and below the national average on income inequality.

These economic differences between California and Texas can provide an explanation for the opposite tax and public spending policies each state follows. In California, high income taxpayers in a very income-unequal state may feel an obligation to pay more taxes in order to fund more generous social programs for low-income residents. Additionally, the elite tech companies attract a highly educated workforce, one that often comes with a more favorable view of income redistribution.

With its more egalitarian workforce, residents of Texas may be less inclined to pay higher taxes to support better funded social programs. Their attitude may be more tilted to a "pull yourself up by your bootstraps" philosophy.

Currently North Carolina's economy is more like Texas than California. Manufacturing's share of our state's economy is 70 percent higher than in California, but it is also 30 percent greater than in Texas. The tech sector's share of the North Carolina economy is the same as in Texas, but the tech share in both states is 60 percent under California's share. The split between upper income, middle income and lower income jobs is almost identical for Texas and North Carolina, and income inequality in North Carolina is slightly lower than in Texas and much below California. The biggest difference between the North Carolina and Texas economies is the large size of the energy sector in the Lone Star state.

The state fiscal policies of North Carolina and Texas are also similar. The Tax Foundation ranks North Carolina 10th best and Texas 11th best for tax systems attractive to business expansion. California is ranked 49th. Both Texas and North Carolina are below the average of state spending as a percent of the economy, while California is above the average.

Two key questions are: where does North Carolina want to go from here, and what kind of policy will take the state there? If North Carolina wants to focus on attracting businesses that are labor intensive and increase middle-income jobs, then the current policy may be the best fit. If the state wants to expand its footprint in the technology and professional areas in order to attract higher paying jobs and top educated workers, then making policy more like California's may be appropriate.

Of course, there are debates about both the California and Texas models. Recently, California has lost some population and companies who, in part, have complained of the state's high tax rates. At the same time, Texas's model has been criticized for being too stingy in funding public services and relying too heavily on more regressive taxes.

Ultimately the debate about the best fiscal policy will be decided by North Carolina's residents. If in the future more of those residents are highly educated professionals working in high-paying industries — such as technology

— then North Carolina could easily migrate closer to the California model. Conversely, if most of the state's future growth is in sectors like manufacturing, agribusiness and perhaps energy, then the pendulum could swing the other way to favoring the Texas model. Either way, the decision will be a "collective you decide."

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

#### **Carbon Price**

A national price on carbon dioxide emissions offers the most cost-effective policy lever for reducing carbon emissions. Carbon dioxide is a pollutant created during the production of many goods and services across the economy. These pollution emissions impose indirect damages on other members of society through rising temperatures and changes in precipitation. When polluters do not pay for the damages they

#### **Carbon Dividend**

All revenue collected under the carbon price should be returned as lump-sum payments to Americans each year. Returning an equal share of the carbon price revenue to each American as a dividend is simple to implement and increases the policy's equity and fairness. Importantly, the carbon price and dividend policy would benefit most Tar Heels and households across the US, including the most vulnerable. The majority of families would receive a larger dividend payment each year than they pay in increased energy prices and prices of other goods.

#### Border Tax Adjustment

To ensure that U.S. carbon emissions and production are not diverted abroad, we recommend the carbon price and dividend be paired with a border tax adjustment. The border tax adjustment would tax imported goods, where the tax depends on the carbon emissions associated with producing those goods. In addition, the border adjustment would offer rebates to U.S. producers who export to countries without carbon prices. Therefore, the border adjustment would provide a compet-

Craig Richardson is the BB&T Distinguished Professor of Economics at Winston-Salem State University. Qingxin He is a Teaching Assistant Professor in economics at East Carolina University. This opinion was signed by the following economists: David M. McEvoy and John C. Whitehead - ASU; Shyam Gouri Suresh, David W. Martin and Fred H. Smith - Davidson; Ravi Bansal, Charles M. Becker, Philip J. Cook, Henry Grabowski, Ron Leven, David McAdams, Marjorie B. McElroy, Manoj Mohanan, Thomas J. Nechyba, Jeremy Petranka and Curtis R. Taylor Duke; Andrew G. Keeler, Ausmita Ghosh, Gregory Howard, Jonathon M. Lee, Philip Rothman, Nicholas G. Rupp and Vera A. Tabakova – ECU; Anthony Negbenebor – Gardner-Webb; Peter Summers – High Point; Hongkil Kim and Robert Tatum – UNC-Asheville; Rita A. Balaban, Richard E. Bilsborrow, Patrick J. Conway, Lutz A. Hendricks and Peter Norman UNC-Chapel Hill; John M. Gandar, Peter M. Schwarz and Carol O. Stivender -UNC-Charlotte; Stephen P. Holland, Dennis P. Leyden and John L. Neufeld UNC-Greensboro; Allin Cottrell, Mark Curtis and Andrew C. Graczyk -Wake Forest.

## TIGERS

Continued from page A1

the specifics of CTR's involvement in the rescue operation or on any of the tigers' details, such as names and genders. Despite a challenging year navigating the pandemic, though, she emphasized to the News + Record that CTR has not pared down any of its care services.

"The cats never noticed a difference in their care," she said. "They were and continue to be happy, healthy and well-cared for.'

With the addition of Tiger King's four tigers, Carolina Tiger Rescue now cares for 44 big cats, which Orr says it has received from shuttered zoos, backyard breeders, private owners and the entertainment industry. CTR, located at 1940 Hanks Chapel Rd., is not a zoo; its cats are never taken from the wild.

"All in all, we believe that wild cats should never be exploited or kept as private pets," Orr said. "They are wild animals that deserve the utmost care and respect, which is what we strive to give them at Carolina Tiger Rescue. They didn't ask for a captive life, so we want to make sure they can live the rest of their lives in peace. We are here for them, not the other way around."

Carolina Tiger Rescue is North Carolina's only federally and GFAS (Global Federation of Animal Sanctuar ies)-accredited big cat sanctuary. It is a 501(c)3 non-profit funded mostly through donations and visitor ticket prices. When the pandemic began, the sanctuary was forced to suspend its tours, and revenue plummeted.

"During the height of the pandemic, it was a pretty substantial loss because we do rely on tour tickets as a significant source of revenue for us," Orr said. "But our supporters really rallied around us during that time and helped us with a number of different fundraisers that we held during quarantine ...'

Despite financial strain, CTR reopened cautiously after it was discovered COVID-19



Courtesy of Carolina Tiger Rescue

One of four tigers recovered by Pittsboro's Carolina Tiger Rescue from 'Tiger King Park,' the Oklahoma zoo made popular by a Netflix true-crime series. CTR Communications Director Louise Orr declined to provide more details, such as this tiger's name or gender.



Courtesy of Carolina Tiger Rescue

Queen Serval was one of four servals Carolina Tiger Rescue acquired in 2019 from a backyard breeder in British Columbia. 'Servals are very popular in the pet trade,' Orr said. 'They are small-ish cats and can appear to be an easier way to keep an 'exotic' pet. On the contrary, servals are wild and have wild instincts that make them dangerous and difficult to care for. Because of this, several of our servals have been turned over to us by private owners who regret their decision to try to keep a serval as a pet.'

to be easily able to pass it amongst one another and can contract it from humans who are either asymptomatic or symptomatic."

So far, no animals

Carolina Tiger Rescue offers public tours, private tours and twilight tours through the end of summer. Starting on July 22, CTR will host its second

## Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse and Exploitation Awareness Month focuses on protecting the vulnerable

Only 1 in 6 cases of abuse get reported From the Chatham Council on Aging

PITTSBORO — Having celebrated Older Americans Month in May, the Chatham County Council on Aging is joining the Chatham County Department of Social Services and the Chatham County Sheriff's Office in raising awareness about abuse and exploitation of vulnerable and older adults.

Monday, June 15th, is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It is a date originally recognized in 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations.

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners has issued a proclamation in support of this awareness campaign. The commissioners have joined the State of North Carolina in recognizing the period between Mother's Day and Father's Day as Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse and Exploitation Awareness Month.

As noted in the proclamation, "Research suggests that 4 to 6% of older adults suffer from some kind of abuse, most of which goes unreported." The research also finds that abuse, exploitation, and neglect (self and caregiver) of vulnerable and older adults affect persons of every social, economic, racial and ethnic background.

"This is a serious issue that too often lacks the attention and the commitment of resources to address," said Dennis W. Streets, director of the Council on Aging.

Various organizations within Chatham County have a role in raising awareness and addressing specific in-

## **MURDER**

Continued from page A1

have a specialized team of state employees that work in Raleigh that do nothing but extradite people on these serious cases," Kaley Taber, the managing assistant district attorney for Chatham and Orange Counties, told the News + Record.

The district attorney's office typically presides over one or two extraditions per year, Taber said. Right now, though, she is coordinating four extradition efforts, including Rodriguez's.

Upon confirmation from the Gwinnett County Jail that Rodriguez had been detained, Taber notified the extradition team — an independent

stances of abuse, neglect and exploitation when they become known.

The Chatham County Department of Social Services has legal authority to evaluate reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation. According to state law, "any person having reasonable cause to believe that a disabled adult is in need of protective services shall report such information."

Yet, researchers report that only one of every six instances of elder abuse get reported.

We can only do our job of evaluating the need for adult protective services if we learn of cases that may require such assistance," said Renae Minor, Adult Services Supervisor at the Chatham County Department of Social Services.

Another form of exploitation affecting many seniors is fraud and scams.

"These acts to defraud and scam our residents usually cause loss of income and dignity," said Mike Copeland, Certified Financial Crimes Investigator at the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

As Mike Dasher, chairperson of the Chatham County Board of Commission ers, encouraged in signing the proclamation, "we call upon all in Chatham Coun ty to honor and respect vulnerable and older adults by helping prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation and take steps otherwise to promote their well-being.

To report possible abuse, neglect or exploitation, contact the Chatham **County Department of Social Services** by phone during regular office hours at 919-642-6988. To report a concern after hours or on weekends and holidays, contact the 911 Emergency Communications Center at 919-542-2911.

To report a suspected case of fraud or a scam, contact the Sheriff's Office at 919-542-2911.

ties or the arrested party demand a local court prove the suspect matches an out-of-state warrant. But Rodriguez relinquished his right to a hearing in Georgia, Taber said, "which allows the process to move quite a bit quicker.

"He did sign a waiver down there in Georgia, which activated the process," she said. "So we're hoping to have him back here in North Carolina, and in our Chatham County Jail for his charges, I would say in two weeks."

After his extradition is complete, Rodriguez will appear before a local judge to be advised of his charges.

"I would expect that to happen pretty rapidly once he's back here in Chatham County,' Taber said. "And I would expect, in light of the serious nature of the charges, that a public defender will ultimately be representing him." Within 15 days of his first appearance before a judge, Rodriguez will attend a preliminary hearing for his case, the first "significant deadline in any felony criminal case," Taber said. "It's a hearing to

determine whether or not the person charged is probably the person who committed the offense," she added. "It's not proving beyond a reasonable doubt, but just, is it more likely than not this is the person that committed the offense?'

Taber declined to comment on what sentence she might expect in Rodriguez's case if he's found guilty, citing fear of prejudicing the result. But conviction of first degree murder in North Carolina is punishable by life in prison without parole or the death penalty.

First degree murder is a Class A felony, commonly known as premeditated murder. A conviction usually requires the prosecution to prove malicious intent. Besides asserting actual innocence, a defending attorney could try to reduce Rodriguez's charges by arguing the killing was committed in self defense, in the heat of passion, due to insanity or after mistaking the victim for someone else. Those who knew Hernandez remembered him as "always a happygo-lucky person." Paul Cuadros, an associate professor of journalism at UNC who knew Hernandez for many years, works as the head soccer coach at Jordan-Matthews. He met Hernandez when the latter was a student and star on the soccer team. "Ramon was a class act all the way," Cuadros said. "He was a decent and good young man who was developing his leadership skills and was dedicated to helping people in the community.' Hernandez assisted Cuadros as a coach and had begun work as a social worker with Chatham County schools, helping the next generation of young people - especially those in the Hispanic community to achieve success. "This was a big loss for the community .... Cuadros said. "It's going to be felt by lots of people in our community; we are all shocked and dismayed by the tragic loss of Ramon. I think that's the general feeling right now - it's one of shock.'

infects and afflicts many cat species much like it does humans.

"It manifests very similarly to the way it manifests in humans," Orr said. "(T) hey tend to suffer from an upper respiratory infection and things like a loss of appetite and cough, but so far, all of the animals who have contracted it have recovered. They seem

at Carolina Tiger Res cue have contracted COVID-19, Orr pointed out, and staff hope to keep it that way. All visitors must wear masks despite the loosening of statewide mask mandates.

"That being said, we are very glad that tours are back at full capacity," Orr said, "and folks who are looking to visit and support us can do so in a variety of different ways."

Tiger Day 5K virtual fun run in celebration of International Tiger Day on July 29. To learn more about the weeklong event, guided tours or how you can donate, visit www.CarolinaTigerRescue.org.

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

agency within the N.C. Dept of Public Safety to facilitate his recovery.

"So, North Carolina gets together a team that travels to Georgia to take custody of him," Taber said, "and return the suspect safely here to North Carolina and place him in our confinement facility, which is the Chatham County Jail." Sometimes the extradition process is drawn out when arresting authori-

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



## chool of the A or Boys Acades

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School of the Arts for Boys Academy (SABA) empowers and BUILDs culturally and linguistically diverse boys to be strong, creative academic scholars, critical thinkers, and community leaders through a culturally responsive arts-based education.

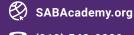
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## Wren Center staff, B&GC of Central Carolina make big changes, sacrifices during pandemic

Children thankful for a safe and fun environment for learning

#### BY SHELLEY SMITH

Outreach Coordinator, United Way of Chatham County

SILER CITY — Three employees, 50 children, zero volunteers and 10hour days. The Boys & Girls Club Wren Family Center's programs have made many shifts over the past year.

"It's been hard," said Joy Roberts, club executive director of the Wren Family Center. "Really hard."

The Wren Family Center's Power Hour is an essential part of its after-school program, and typically consists of one hour of tutoring and homework assistance once the children have had their afternoon snack. Once the pandemic reached the U.S. in March of 2020, children were forced out of their classrooms, away from their after-school programs, mentors, tutors and friends, and into their homes to end their school vear virtually. Knowing that the lockdown would negatively impact the children, the Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina acted quickly when they were forced to close in mid-March.

"We completely restructured our programming to virtual," said Elizabeth Colebrook, resource development and marketing coordinator for Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina.

Power Hour continued, and the Wren Family Center also began virtual tutoring from 3 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. each day.

"It was our way of staying connected with them," Roberts said. "We continued Power Hour, and our Smart Girls and Passport to Manhood programs. We tried to do spirit days and just stay connected with the children."

Traci Newby, the Wren Family Center's mentor coordinator, said he was a little anxious about connecting with the children via Zoom versus in person, but he quickly realized how much the children were excited to connect with something familiar. "Seeing them light up when they saw us, it calmed my nerves," he said. "It motivated me to keep staying on for them." While continuing the virtual programming through the end of the school year, the Boys & Girls Club worked with local and state officials to get bills passed to allow their clubs to become childcare facilities. The Wren Family Center was usually open for three to four hours each day after school, and once it gained certification as an emergency childcare facility, staff reopened the center at 50% capacity last June 8, providing full summer programming from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Summer programming was a challenge because there were no field trips, and the children had to wash their hands every hour, wear a mask and stay away from each other. "Keeping them motivated and active while keeping them apart was a challenge," Newby said. Volunteers were not available either, but Roberts said virtual opportunities proved to be a success, including virtual Bingo and Family Feud games, virtual panel discussions with the girls and discussions with the boys. "We had to think outside the box," she said. "Our volunteers were able to help us virtually."



Photo courtesy of the United Way

Member Malachi Dean gets his temperature checked during a recent visit to the club.

came in August when the children began a new school year, 100% virtual.

"Power Hour turned into an all-day Power Hour," Roberts said. "All of the kids were on different schedules, so we had to make sure we had everyone's school schedule. We had to teach them how to log on. Wifi was in and out because everyone was pulling from one source."

Roberts said they separated everyone by grades, and then separated the boys and girls. She said they eventually found their routine. The children were also able to gain additional assistance from their teachers and the teachers helped the staff, too.

"We were lost," Roberts said. "We were able to ask them questions, and they helped us so much."

Because the children were at the Wren Family Center for 10 hours each day, the center provided breakfast and lunch to every child. To provide the meals, the Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina went through the process of becoming a food distributor. Club staff purchased food from a distributor for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern N.C., prepared the meals, and had a bus drive from

"We like spending time together and celebrating each other's birthdays," she said.

### Mental health challenges

Colebrook said retraining and providing new training for staff was one of the biggest challenges they faced. Not only were they facing challenges surrounding the worldwide pandemic, but the nation and world were also responding to the death of George Floyd — with school still in session.

"The murder of George Floyd caused a wave of sadness and disappointment throughout our club community," she said. "Not just at home but nationwide. The accumulation of this and other incidents like these that followed left an indelible mark on our young people, especially young people of color."

Colebrook said that she and fellow club leaders believe they have a responsibility to use their positions as supportive adults to help members process the world around them, especially when times are hard.

"These events, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in a number of issues. — sitting in chairs, raising their hands, asking permission. So for the younger ones school is helping them now. But it's harder for the older ones."

#### The silver lining

For the three staff at the Wren Family Center, their main focus continues to be supporting the children in the program and providing them with the resources and attention for academic and personal growth.

"The pandemic showed us why we do what we do," Newby said. "We had kids who weren't being encouraged or motivated. We are that second support system for these kids."

Roberts says she's proud of her staff, and proud of herself, too. "This was really, really

hard — physically and

emotionally," she said. "We just didn't know. I was being pulled in every direction. I'm so thankful and grateful for my staff. None of us got sick, and we were able to be here for the kids."

Now that children are back in school, the Boys & Girls Club will be operating its after-school program until the summer program begins. The staff is vaccinated, but still taking temperatures and asking each child symptom questions before he or she enters the building. Children must continue to wear their masks and wash their hands multiple times each afternoon.

Roberts says she dreams of the day she'll be able to hug the kids again, and she said the kids need the hugs, too. Until then, she and her staff will continue to give them air high-fives.

"Things are getting back to normal now," Roberts said. "We can be excited together. The children are coming in from school and telling us different things now. It's getting better for everyone."

For 3rd-grader Zaria, the Boys & Girls Club continues to be a happy place.

"The Boys & Girls Club helped me because I got to see more friends," she said. "At home it was super boring because I was communicating with the same people. When I came here I was happy." Second-grader Aireas

says she loves tie-dying, being creative and thinking of new things to do with each other. But more than anything, she loves "hanging with the girls."

"We love sitting in the shade and talking," she said.

For most of the children with the Boys & Girls Club, the Wren Family Center and its staff have been their silver lining, and a safe space where they can learn, share their feelings and hang out with their friends.

"When I was home all day, I felt like I was in a cage," said 5th-grader Jaysa. "But when I came here, even with my mask on, I felt like I was free to just be me."

## About the Boys & Girls Clubs

The Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina serves Chatham, Lee and Harnett counties. The Wren Family Center is located in Siler City, and a Pittsboro club is in the formation stages. From June through December 2020, 19,000 meals were served to the children at the Wren Family Center, and during the Fall 2020 academic school year, the Wren Family Center provided more than 7,000 hours to school-aged youth. Despite operating at 50% capacity in the past year, the Wren Family Center was able to enroll the children on the waiting list and never turned away a child based on his or her parents ability to pay. The United Way of Chatham County currently funds 28% of the Power Hour program at the Wren Family Center.



#### Back to school

The real challenges

meals each day and drive them to the club sites.

Aside from five to six hours of Zoom each day, staff needed to provide breaks for personal development and exercise. They said it was hard to keep the children motivated.

Newby said overtime staff figured out what motivated the children, and determined what did not work as well.

"We provided them with incentives and rewards," he said, and implemented "Fun Days" on Wednesdays and Fridays. Fun Days included making smoothies, a taco bar, time at the park and Pelican's Snowballs days. Another big hit with the children was the creation of a boys' room and girls' room. The children held a doughnut fundraiser, and voted on what they wanted to purchase for each of their rooms.

The girls' room has a makeup station and ring light station for video creation, and the boys' room has a television station with video games, LED lights, posters and weight station.

"The girls' room is the most important part of the Wren Center," said 5th-grader Kylie. "We also like swimming in the summer, and we formed a dance group."

Kylie also enjoys sewing, which Roberts has taught the children the basics of and hopes to continue.

Aireas, a 2nd grader, said she enjoyed having a separate space from the boys, and the girls decorate the room according to holidays and birthdays.

many surrounding mental health and fear," she said. "We were facing a mental health crisis along with a public health crisis. We had to work to prepare our staff to be able to assess for trauma — whether it was abuse or neglect, the stress and impact of the pandemic and the murder of George Floyd, trauma associated with loss of family and friends. In response, we went through the process of training all staff on trauma-informed care and resilience training."

Danae Johnson, youth development professional for the Wren Family Center, started her role in February of this year and said she notices the children continue to struggle emotionally.

"This has stressed them out psychologically and emotionally," Johnson said. "Starting with the fear of people around them getting sick, and then dealing with virtual school, it's been crazy."

"The kids were struggling like we were," Roberts said. "We would talk, and I asked them how do you feel, how do you feel not seeing your grandparents? And we shared our own concerns with them, too, and that's how I got the kids to open up. We have helped each other."

Johnson said even though the children are back in school, they are still stressed.

"A lot of them feel like they're so behind," she said. "They feel defeated. It's hard to encourage them. For the younger kids who had never been to school, they missed out on the hidden curriculum

## Chatham Hospital would like to say **'THANK YOU'** to Biscuitville for donating biscuits to our hospital employees in recognition of National Hospital Week, May 9-15, 2021.

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## 'Thank you Roy': New bill lets students get driver's license sooner

#### BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN News + Record Staff

A few hours after learning that Gov. Roy Cooper had signed a bill temporarily shortening the length of time required for holding a driving learner's permit, Northwood sophomore Nellielou Errett decided to make a TikTok about it.

The video — captioned, "Thank you Roy!!!" — shows Errett in front of the PDF green screen of the bill, with the audio and captions: "I can finally get my driver's license! You only need your learner's permit for 6 months to get a driver's license in 2021!"

Fittingly, Olivia Rodrigo's hit debut single "Driver's License' plays in the background.

"In my journalism class, the editor-in-chief came up with the idea of a TikTok and I thought it would be fun," Errett, who is a part of Northwood High School's student news magazine, Northwood Omniscient, said. "It took less than 20 minutes to film, edit and post the entire TikTok."

The legislation, Senate Bill 69, was signed May 24 as a growing number of new drivers wait to get their licenses following pandemic delays. The law temporarily shortens the minimum length of time required for holding a driving learner's permit before getting a license from 12 to six months; all other requirements are the same.

With the state Division of

Motor Vehicles road tests and driving schools shut down due to COVID-19 until recently, many students have been unable to get their permits, despite meeting the state's age requirement. These delays created a backlog of - and frustration for — thousands of students.

"North Carolina's teen driver's license requirements save lives, and as a state senator the Governor sponsored this national standard," Cooper's office said in a statement about the bill. "This temporary adjustment keeps life-saving training while smoothing a process disrupted by the pandemic."

#### 'Really elated'

The lengthy delay played out in different ways for students and their parents. Some students took the classroom portion of driver's ed in January or February of 2020, but still haven't taken the behind-thewheel portion required before a learner's permit can be issued. Others became eligible to take driver's ed during the pandemic and haven't gotten into a class yet, while some who have done both portions are waiting for an appointment with the DMV.

The bill maintains the requirement that a new driver complete 60 hours of supervised driving with a permit, in addition to driver's ed and 30 hours of formal instruction. The only change is that those 60 hours can occur over six months, rather than the previous 12 months. The change is set to expire Dec. 31, 2021.

Northwood's Errett said the bill is "definitely something (she's) been looking forward to." She learned about it from a friend, who'd also received her permit later than usual due to the pandemic. Errett took driver's ed in February 2020, but didn't get a call until last September to get her six hours of driving with an instructor.

'I got my permit in October, and have had my permit for almost eight months," she said.

Under the new provisions of bill, she's now eligible to get her limited driver's license.

"I've also always wanted to drive on my own since I was little so I am excited for the bill,' Errett said. "I can finally drive myself to work, to my friends' houses, school, school events, etc. I am definitely excited for the overall independence that comes overall with a license.'

Though Errett, 16, understands some people are concerned that six months is not enough time to practice driving, she thinks the road test alleviates concern in that regard. Many of her friends already received their licenses, but those who hadn't were also excited about the bill.

"The few people I have talked to are really elated to get their license and to have some more independence," she said. "The friend who told me about the bill also has a job so this would be helpful for them also because of the fact that they could drive themselves to work now.'

#### 'There's already a backlog'

Chatham parent Kimrey Rhinehardt said the independence that comes from having your license is important for teens, particularly during the pandemic.

Her daughter Tyler completed her driver's ed road hours right before the pandemic and was able to get her permit in April 2020. She was able to get her limited provisional license, which has a 9 p.m. driving curfew, this past April.

"It's been really mentally challenging for everyone, but a lot of students are really suffering," Rhinehardt said. "And to be able to get in the car and drive to a park at 3 p.m. on your own, just observing my daughter and her ability to be independent, and do things that are safe, it's helped. That helps."

She's concerned then, for students caught up in the delay. Her daughter is "one of the lucky ones," she said.

"But there's already a backlog," she said. "I mean, the concern is there's so many people backed up, how are they possibly going to accommodate that?"

Jaime Detzi, a Chatham resident who is also the director of Chatham Education Foundation, said her daughter, Brooke Detzi, finally got her permit last August; she had become eligible the previous April. Now, according to the new state bill, her daughter will be eligible to get

her license a few months earlier. Detzi ended up paying for private driver's ed instruction after the class her daughter signed up for in March 2020 was canceled.

"These things are so expensive. I think it was like \$600," she said. "This is just one more example of how having money gets you access. Not that it wasn't challenging to pay the \$600 — it wasn't like a drop in the bucket, which is why we weren't doing it to begin with because it is a nice service offered by the public school system.'

In addition to the costs of private instruction, Detzi said there are other non-financial costs, too, such as the time required to take your child to the DMV.

As with many other aspects of the pandemic, Detzi said this process highlights equity concerns, even if the process is frustrating for all students.

"Those with means can still find a way to get around the arduous process of state regulations and the way the public schools are funded," she said, "but kids that probably need their driver's license more than my child, because they're working or their family's working multiple jobs, are those kids that didn't get it yet."

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

## RAID

Continued from page A1

of cocaine, four firearms, U.S. currency and "multiple items of drug paraphernalia indicating drug usage and manufacturing," a press release said.

Harry Raymond Watson, 47, of Siler City, was arrested in connection with the investigation's findings and charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon; possession with intent to manufacture, sell, and/ or deliver cocaine; and possession with intent to manufacture, sell, and/ or deliver marijuana. Watson received a \$5,000

ner said in the release, and more charges are possible. Lt. Jason Boyd, commander with the Criminal Investigations Division, is leading the SCPD's investigation. Wagner did not respond the News + Record's request for additional comments before press time.

Both operations were part of the department's ongoing effort to crack down on Siler City's notorious crime scene, and they represent the latest in a history of collaboration between SCPD and ALE. Shortly before the pandemic, the two agencies partnered for an eight-hour sting, known as Operation Wolfpack, which led to the arrests or citations of 39 people on 58 charges and

yielded several counts of underage alcohol possession, underage tobacco purchase, alcohol sales to an underage person, possession of and intent to sell marijuana and possession of cocaine, according to the police department's report.

Since arriving in Siler City two years ago, Wagner has lobbied for additional resources to better address the town's criminal activity, which surpasses that seen in other Chatham municipalities. At the town's budget retreat in February, Wagner cited startling statistics in his call for added funds. In the two major divisions of crime — violent and property-related — Siler City's trends depicted a troubling landscape.

"In both those categories, we're well elevated above both the state and national level," Wagner said in the meeting. "We've had 67 violent crimes (between Nov. 2019 and Oct. 2020) in Siler City, and they are from homicide to rape, sexual assault and shootings."

property crimes during the same period.

Siler City's board of commissioners were alarmed by Wagner's presentation<sup>^</sup> and vowed to shore up his department. In the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-22, which the board is likely to adopt this month, the police department is awarded four new

"Priority was set by the board to focus on the needs within the police department," Town Manager Roy Lynch previously told the News + Record. Only eight new positions, including the police department's four, are represented in the proposed budget for all of the town's departments. SCPD is slated to receive \$813,000 to fund the new jobs and other needs.

Other Chatham agencies have likewise sought increased budget allocations to expand law enforcement operations in the next year. Chatham County government's proposed budget calls for multiple expansions for the Public Safety CIT,

other safety hazards. The budget recommends 11 new detention officer positions to "address improvements needed in cell block monitoring" and return officers currently assigned to the county's detention center to its Law Enforcement Division — a \$655,688 cost.

If approved, the budget will also add a Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement (\$39,697) and various staff positions to respond to increased demands in emergency communications.

Pittsboro's proposed budget calls for a new deputy chief of police.

Reporter D. Lars Dolder

There had also been 325

ecurea bona. Police are still investigating Watson, Wag-

positions: three police officers and one evidence technician.

which includes departments that respond to emergencies, crimes and

can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @dldolder.

## **BATH HOUSE**

Continued from page A1

collaboration of local artists, including Janice Rieves, Marcela Slade, Maxi Molina, Gillian Corzine and others.

Each bathroom features a unique theme. The first is Death Faire, The Plant's yearly festival exploring grief, healing and different cultural beliefs on death. The second stall includes several music motifs with a special tribute to Bruce Springsteen. The third is an homage to nature.

"We like to do things different here," Schwerin said, "and that's true even of our bathrooms."

More than 50 people attended the outdoor celebration — the first such event Pittsboro has hosted since before the pandemic — including many town leaders.

"It's been well over a year since we've had a ribbon cutting in Pittsboro," said Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass, who spoke at the event and cut the "ribbon" — in fact a string of toilet paper ornately draped across the building's entrance.

"When I asked the mayor to come out for it, I asked him if he'd ever done something like this," Schwerin said, laughing. "And he definitely hadn't."

But Nass was glad to do it, he said. The Plant has long embodied the attitude and character he and other town leaders have worked to promote, he said. "This whole area really epitomizes the soul and heart of Pittsboro," especially its "funkiness." Keeping the funk in Pittsboro has been a recurring theme at board of commissioner meetings as the officials endeavor to preserve the town's charm without stifling its growth.

Besides Nass, attendees at the ribbon cutting included County Commissioners Karen Howard and Mike Dasher, Pittsboro Commissioners Michael Fiocco and John Bonitz and Pittsboro Public Works Director John Poteat, who was the town's primary liaison to the project. Tim Smith of Summit Engineering and Taylor Hobbs of Hobbs Architects designed the building, which Integrated Commercial constructed.

The Bath House has been more than a year in development as part of The Plant's ongoing expansion. There are about 15 active businesses within the complex, Schwerin said, with limited restrooms to serve them all. The area has long been known as the Chatham Beverage District, but newer businesses include hemp product distributors, a coffee roaster, a bike rental shop and Copeland Springs Farm & Kitchen, which serves seasonal meals made from produce grown on site. So far, Copeland Springs has been The Plant's only food option, but Schwerin says more is on the way, including a possible butcher and sandwich shop.

The Bath House's primary beneficiary, though, will be BMC (Bite My Cookies) Brewing, a taproom and brewery set to open at The Plant in the next few weeks. BMC's owners, John and Carmen Rice, settled on The Plant for their new brewery after John — a 30-year home brewer -ditched his career in pharmaceutical research to craft beer full time. Almost immediately thereafter, the pandemic began.

'But it kind of worked out," Schwerin said. "The town told us we needed three more bathrooms if BMC was going to open their business. So things slowing down in the last year sort of gave us the chance to get this important stuff out of the way and finished when there weren't that many customers walking around."

Now, with pandemic mandates receding and normalcy making a comeback, Schwerin hopes The Plant's new offerings will bring back old regulars and attract new visitors. Nass hopes the complex will further burnish the town's budding reputation.

"The word is out on Pittsboro," he said. "This is the place to be.'

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



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass cuts the 'ribbon' — actually it's toilet paper — to officially open the new bath house at The Plant.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The Plant in Pittsboro features several new businesses, including a brewery. The bath house was built to accomodate local codes for restroom availability.

## OBITUARIES

#### THOMAS 'TOMMY' SHELTON EDWARDS



July 20, 1945 - May 22, 2021

Thomas "Tommy" Shelton Edwards died in Pittsboro on May 22, 2021, following a short and hard battle against pancreatic cancer. He was 75. On Friday, May 21, Governor Roy Cooper awarded Edwards the Order of the Longleaf Pine for exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and to his community. In North Carolina's central Piedmont, and throughout NC, Edwards

was a bluegrass music legend. A founding member of The Bluegrass Experience, Edwards was a prolific songwriter and lightning-fast guitarist whose vigorous downstrokes imbued his songs with power and tone, earning him World Champion Guitarist trophies at the 1970 and 1971 Union Grove Fiddlers Convention.

Edwards originally joined the Green Valley Ramblers with brothers Paul and Donald "Earl" Beane and Jerry Stuart. In 1971, Edwards and the Beanes enlisted Thomas "Snuffy" Smith, Charles Lee Conard and "Fiddlin" Al McCanless to form The Bluegrass Experience, the award-winning combo celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Success came early and, though the band toured extensively and won the World Champion Bluegrass Band award in 1972 at the Union Grove festival, they won their most ardent followers closer to home during their nine-year Thursday night engagement at Chapel Hill's Cat's Cradle from 1972 through '81.

A 1970 graduate of East Carolina University, Edwards worked in the Chatham County School District for more than 30 years. He taught N.C. History, Health and Physical Education, and served several years as assistant principal. He loved coaching middle school football and basketball, and he enjoyed playing local pickup games for many years.

Tommy blended his love of history and music into his songwriting, contributing his original songs to his band and solo CDs, including 2011's "North Carolina: History, Mystery, Lore and More." Tommy's solo albums feature such bluegrass luminaries as Bobby Hicks, Russell Johnson, Jim Mills, Matt Hooper, Jerry Stuart, and Dewey Brown. In addition to playing with The Bluegrass Experience, Tommy played professionally with numerous friends and local musicians and enjoyed a late in life solo performance schedule at many venues, including the Roost at Fearrington Village.

He also shared his passion with listeners on "Bluegrass Saturday Night," the weekly broadcast he hosted for 16 years on WLHC-FM in Sanford. Tommy's dedication to promoting and preserving North Carolina's heritage was recognized by his induction into the prestigious North Caroliniana Society.

In 1981 Tommy and his wife, Cindy, opened Edwards Antiques and Collectibles in downtown Pittsboro, where it continues today. Almost any afternoon, Tommy could be found behind the counter of the antiques store. Often as not, Tommy would be picking out a tune or holding an impromptu jam session with a friend or musician passing through town.

To younger musicians, including Mandolin Orange's Andrew Marlin, Chatham Rabbits' Sarah McCombie, and Joseph Terrell of Mipso, Tommy was mentor, friend, and musical partner. He was generous and patient, offering encouragement and complementing the musical savvy of his youthful friends.

Affable, charming, and sincere, with quick wit and grace, Tommy was a rare soul who never met a stranger. He was a small town guy who loved and was loved by his community. In addition to donating his musical talent to organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, the Chatham Arts Council, and the Southport Songwriter Festival, Tommy also devoted his time and ideas to local boards, serving Central Carolina Community College, Chatham Trades, and Chatham Arts Council.

Tommy is predeceased by his parents Roy A. and Lucy S. Edwards of Siler City, NC. He is survived by his wife, Cindy, cousins Charlotte Wainwright, Stella Shelton, and Bill Shelton, and current Bluegrass Experience band mates, Stan Brown, Mike Aldridge, Keith Thomas, and Snuffy Smith. Truly original, Tommy leaves a legacy of friends, music and memories North Carolina is not likely to experience again. Plans for a celebration of Tommy's life are pending. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Tommy's memory to Pinecone, Chatham Arts Council, or Southern Folklife Collection, Wilson Special Collections Library, UNC-Chapel Hill.

#### JANE D. HOLLINGSWORTH, MD



4/26/1951 - 5/21/2021 Jane Dixon Hollingsworth, MD died in her home, surrounded by family, on Friday, May 21, 2021.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas Miller, MD; her children, William Miller PhD, Jack Miller and his wife Brett Routon, Katherine Miller MD and her husband Joel Sivertsen; her mother Dorothy Hollingsworth and her sister Melissa McCoy and her husband Michael McCoy. She was preceded in death

by her father, Hansel Hollingsworth, and her sister, Amanda Hollingsworth.

Born in Nashville, Tennessee, Jane moved to Decatur, Georgia, where she spent her early years before moving with her family to Chapel Hill in 1960. Growing up in Chapel Hill she attended Glenwood Elementary School, Guy B. Phillips Junior High and Chapel Hill High School. At UNC, where she earned her undergraduate degree, she majored in American Studies and over the years living near Chapel Hill enjoyed running into former professors. After graduating from UNC Jane worked as a research assistant, first for Dr. Ernest Craig and later for Dr. Mario Batigelli. Both encouraged her to apply to medical school. She took their advice and graduated from UNC School of Medicine in 1981.

After finishing medical school she moved with her husband to Cooperstown, N.Y., where she completed her residency in internal medicine. Jane and Tom then moved back to this area and settled in Chatham County where they raised their family. She started her medical career by opening a practice in Chapel Hill. After a few years she closed her practice and started work at the Moncure Health Center. In the late 1990s she pioneered Piedmont Health's efforts in exploring the PACE model and in 2009 she was appointed medical director of the Piedmont Health PACE program and worked there until her retirement in 2016. For her work there she was recognized in 2015 with a Merit Award from the NC PACE Association. Her calm leadership and her unfailing kindness and compassion toward coworkers and patients earned her love and admiration.

Jane loved a good murder mystery and once revealed that her favorite time came at the end of the day when she would read one of her mysteries before going to bed. Donna Leon, Janet Evanovich and Lee Child were some of her favorite authors and she read their series from start to finish.

She entertained friends and family with uncommon grace. In the kitchen she channeled Bill Neal and Vivian Howard and numerous others to prepare meals that never failed to please. Somewhere along the way, perhaps from her mother who was known for her mean fried chicken, she learned to set the table early and on holidays and special occasions always had an elegant table set by midmorning.

She loved traveling and planning trips and organized family vacations to Greece, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Guatemala and Brazil. It was Greece that most captured her fancy and she made five trips to her beloved island, Sifnos, always staying in the same house and settling into familiar routines of reading at the beaches and taking meals at tavernas. When she wasn't vacationing abroad she was backpacking with friends and family in the national parks and once hiked 200 miles on the John Muir Trail along the spine of the Sierra Nevadas. She was a whiz at planning and organizing and for her trips to the beach or the family mountain house she prepared like a quartermaster organizing a campaign, using lists on her clipboard to be sure that nothing was left behind.

At the age of 40 she convinced her husband to take dancing lessons thereafter they enjoyed dancing together. It was dancing zydeco that brought her most joy and together they danced whenever they could at Jazz Fest, the Rock 'n' Bowl, Shakori and small clubs. Strangers often approached to comment on her grace and beauty on the dance floor.

Jane was known most for her remarkable kindness. Unknowingly, she served as an inspiration to many. Though she never put any sort of life philosophy into words, it was clear from the way she lived that she always put others first. Of all her accomplishments she was most satisfied knowing she had raised three children who loved each other and who like their mother, put others first. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Piedmont Health Services PACE program, Attn, Marianne Ratcliffe, 88 Vilcom Center Dr, Suite 110, Chapel Hill, NC, 27514 or through https://piedmonthealth.org/friends-of-piedmont/.

#### **EVELYN FRYE**

Mrs. Evelyn Frye, 65, of Moncure, passed away in her home Monday, May 24, 2021, after a lengthy illness.

A graveside funeral service was held 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at Chatham Memorial Park in Siler City. Mari lyn F. Grant was the officiant.

Evelyn is preceded in death by her parents, Ella and Spencer Rhew; four brothers, Robert, Ricky, George and Donald Cone.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Scottie Frye; daughter, Melissa Martinez of Burlington; sister, Lisa Rodriguez of Burlington; and step-brother, Dale Rhew of Graham.

Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to have assisted the Frye family.

### NANCY 'GRAN' STANLEY CRAVEN

Nancy "Gran" Stanley Craven, 90, of Ramseur, died Saturday, May 29, 2021, at McLeod Seacoast Hospital in Little River.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at Ramseur Wesleyan Church, with Rev. Roland Cavanaugh officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Visitation was from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the church prior to the service.

Nancy was a native of Chatham County, a longtime resident of Ramseur, and a member of Ramseur Wesleyan Church. She spent her career as an instructor with Asheboro Beauty School and Jordan-Matthews High School. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hollis Wrenn Craven, her parents, Jesse and Evie Stanley Light, and brother, John Roy Light.

Survivors include her daughter, Rhonda Atkinson of Franklinville, Jeanne Cox of Ramseur, Susan Cord of Julian; sister, Elner "Bill" Shaw Brown of Ramseur; eight grandchildren and, 11 great-grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Ramseur Food Pantry, P.O. Box 1168, Ramseur, NC 27316 or In Touch Ministries, PO Box 7900, Atlanta, GA 30357 or to Ramseur Wesleyan Church, PO Box 501, Ramseur, NC 27316-0501.

#### MARY DELL JOHNSON SMITH

#### JAMES ADDISON (JA) WEBSTER JR.



James Addison (JA) Webster Jr., age 74, of Pittsboro, died Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at home.

JA was born in Guilford County, N.C., on May 20, 1947, to the late James Addison Webster Sr. and Faydine Johnson Webster. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Nellie Faye Rollins. Surviving relatives include his wife,

Doni Webster of Pittsboro; two sons, James Addison (Jay) Webster III and wife Shannon Stamps Webster of Pittsboro (James Addison Webster IV,

Allie Webster, step-grandson, Seth Winders), Cecil Ryan Webster and wife Kelly Petty Webster of Pittsboro (Cecil Ryan Webster Jr.); one daughter, Faith Webster Johnson, and husband Tommy of Bismarck, North Dakota, (Mary Avery Johnson, Aubrey Faith Johnson; step grandsons, Austin and Nicholas Johnson); one stepson, Jon Black and wife Christy of High Point (Leah Black); three stepdaughters, Ashley Hargett and husband Steve of Moncure (Summer Belcher), Traci Williams of Pittsboro, Cassie Graveen of Pittsboro (Logan Thomas.)

The family received friends Sunday, May 30, 2021, from 2 to 2:50 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory Griffin Chapel. The funeral service followed at 3 p.m. with Rev. Bob Wachs and Rev. Ray Gooch presiding. Burial followed at Emmaus Baptist Church Cemetery.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com . Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Webster family.

#### JOHN F. SHUKE

John F. Shuke, 61, of Siler City went home to be with the Lord on May 20, 2021. He was a loving husband and father.

He is survived by his wife, Joy Shuke; and daughter, Autumn Norris and husband Samuel Norris.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, June 5, 2021, at Calvary Missionary Methodist Church in Olivia, NC. Visitation will be begin at 2 p.m. with the service following at 3 p.m.

#### **BESSIE JANE COX**

Ms. Bessie Jane Cox, 94, of Sanford passed away on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at her home.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 29, 2021, at Mt. Pisgah Freewill Baptist Church.

#### ANTONIO GALES

Antonio Gales, 54, of Siler City passed away on Friday, May 28, 2021, at UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill. Services entrusted to Knotts & Sons.

#### CLARENCE PERCELL JORDAN

Deacon Clarence Percell Jordan, 86, of Siler City passed away on Saturday, May 29, 2021, at his home. Services entrusted to Knotts & Sons.

#### **RUDOLPH STONE**

Mr. Rudolph Stone, 84, of Pittsboro, passed away on Monday, May 31, 2021, in Durham. Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.



#### JASMINE DRUCKEMILLER ALHADDAWI

Jasmine Hampton Druckemiller Alhaddawi, 24, of Sanford, died Thursday, May 27, 2021.

The family will hold a memorial service at a later date.

She was born in Lee County, the daughter of Chad Druckemiller and Rebecca Combs Presley. Surviving are her parents; children, Zain Alhaddawi and Landon O'Quinn; husband, Ali Alhaddawi; sister, Akasha Combs; brother, Draven Druckemiller; and her grandfather, Odos Druckemiller.

Online condolences can be made at: www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com .

#### TIMOTHY LOUIS MCNEILL SR.

Timothy Louis McNeill Sr., 64, of Sanford passed away on Friday, May 28, 2021, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

Mary Dell Johnson Smith passed away Thursday, May 27, 2021, at the UNC Hospice House in Pittsboro.

A graveside service was held Sunday, May 30, 2021, at 3 p.m. at Pleasant Grove Christian Church with Rev. Darrell Garner presiding.

Mrs. Johnson was born September 20, 1935, in Chatham County, to the late James Dewey and Nancy Moody Johnson. She was married to the late Ralph Smith. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, James William Johnson and Elmer Douglas Johnson; sister, Marie Thomas and one grandson. She worked at Glendale for many years.

She is survived by her sons, Billy Joe Smith and Everett Lee Smith, both of Bear Creek; sister, Frances "Shorty" Jones of Graham; and three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pleasant Grove Christian Church Cemetery Fund, 5946 Pleasant Grove Church Rd., Bennett, NC 27208 or the charity of your choice.

Condolences may be offered online at: www.joycebradychapel.com .

See OBITUARIES, page A12

	CHATHAM MONUMENT CO.
4	Charles Campbell Campbell
C	Quality Monuments At Affordable Prices Phone: 663-3120
0	Over 50 years experience designing, lettering and erecting monuments in Siler City and surrounding area. <b>Opposite Smith &amp; Buckner Funeral Home</b>

Pittsboro.

for the indoor service.

We recommend everyone wear a mask

church," located at 201 Hadley Mill Rd.,

Come and again enjoy worship

and fellowship at the "little country

#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### Vessel registration increase may result in more boats on the water

RALEIGH — The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is urging the public to make safety a top priority when on the water. The Wildlife Commission reported a 13% increase in vessel registration between May and December 2020 and has seen a 10% increase in vessel registrations in the first four months of 2021. The surge in registrations will likely result in more boats on the water this year.

"We've seen an increase in activity at our boat access areas since COVID restrictions were issued last year," Captain Brandon Jones of the Wildlife Commission said. "People are choosing to recreate outdoors and that means our state's waterways are likely to be more crowded."

With COVID restrictions now lifting, there is a strong desire to travel and spend time with friends and family on the water as warmer weather approaches. New and novice boaters are asked to take the following precautions:

· Wear a life jacket or Coast Guard-approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) at all times. Put your life jacket on prior to entering the boat and make sure its snug, yet comfortable, and will not move above the chin or ears when lifted at the shoulders.

· Appoint a designated driver for the boat. Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol is illegal and is just as dangerous as driving a car impaired.

• Assign an adult "Water Watcher" to actively supervise children in or around the water at all times. Young children and people who are not strong swimmers should always be kept within arm's reach.

· Swim only in designated areas. You are less visible to boaters and more vulnerable to accidents. Avoid diving in unfamiliar areas, as there may be hidden structures.

• Throw, don't go. Be prepared to throw a floatation device or use a pole or tree branch to reach someone struggling in the water. Never jump in to save someone because you could go under too.

• Attend a boater safety course. The Wildlife Commission offers an array of boating education classes. If you were born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, you must complete an approved course before operating any vessel propelled by a motor of 10 HP or greater.

Following these tips can help ensure that you and your friends and family remain safe on the water. Boaters can help keep our water systems safe too by eliminating the spread of aquatic nuisance species. Protect our waters by following these basic steps:

 Clean equipment of all aquatic plants, animals and mud.

• Drain water from boats, live wells and all equipment.

• Dry all equipment thoroughly.

 Never move fish, plants or other water organisms from one body of water to another.

For more information about boating laws and safety, visit ncwildlife.org/ boating/laws-safety.

- CN+R staff reports

16 15

18

PREMIER		VORD/ By F	rank A. Long		
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competitions	60 German word		14 Composer	51 Cat variety	81 Chew the —
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praise to <b>19</b> Pesticide	61 Donkey Kong	repeats —"	15 — Reader	stats	rescue, say
	and others	112 Make a	(magazine) <b>16</b> Turn a — ear	54 DJ Casey 55 Fall chill	84 Three 19th-century
compound <b>21</b> The "A" of	62 Riddle, part 4 65 Lacerate	phony copy of	17 Hence	56 Bear, in Baja	
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#### **HICKORY MT. UMC**

Hickory Mt. United Methodist Church will have homecoming services

at 11 a.m., Sunday, June 6. We will have a covered dish lunch outside following the worship service.

**CCPHD UPDATE** 

**CHURCH NEWS** 

## Health Department encourages Chathamites to get vaccinated, explains latest face mask guidance

From Chatham Department

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Public Health Department continues to encourage Chatham County residents to take advantage of the many COVID-19 vaccination opportunities across the county.

By visiting myspot. nc.gov, residents can put in their city or ZIP code and find multiple locations in their area to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, Locations are also sortable by type of vaccine: the Pfizer vaccine, which is available to all individuals 12 years of age and older, and the Johnson & Johnson and Moderna vaccines, which are available to all individuals 18 years of age

The local options include:

 The Chatham County Public Health Department is offering first- and second-dose Moderna COVID-19 vaccinations at its Siler City clinic (1000 S. 10th Ave.) on Fridays. To make an appointment, call 919-742-5641. Walk-ins

 StarMed Healthcare is continuing to operate Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination clinics at the Chaand Conference Center in Pittsboro on Fridays and Saturdays from 2 - 6 p.m. To pre-register, visit starmed.care or call also accepted.

 StarMed Healthcare provided Pfizer vaccinations at the Goldston Town Hall (40 Coral Ave. #A) on May 26th. Second-dose appointments will follow three weeks later. To pre-register, visit starmed.care or call 980-445-9818. Walk-ins are also accepted. With individuals ages 12-17 now eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, Chatham youth and their parents are encouraged to find an appointment and roll up their sleeves. Along with the StarMed Healthcare vaccine include:

Centers for Disease **Control & Prevention** (CDC) updated guidance for people who are fully vaccinated to say the following: "Fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.'

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 has been shown to have many benefits. In short, those who are fully vaccinated face low risk from getting or transmitting the virus through indoor and outdoor activities. This is based on research from the US and around the world showing that COVID-19 vaccines are both safe and effective.

Based on this research and from hundreds of millions of vaccinations already administered, those who are fully vaccinated are safe to resume activities indoors and outdoors without wearing a mask or social distancing, with low risk of getting sick from COVID-19 or spreading it to others. This means individuals can gather with their friends and go out in public, inside or outside, without wearing a mask

"We continue to see the benefits of getting vaccinated against COVID-19," said Mike Zelek, Chatham County Public Health Director. "Those who are fully vaccinated are much less likely to get COVID, get very sick or die from COVID, or pass COVID to others. That is why it is safe for fully vaccinated people to get back to doing what they love without wearing masks or keeping their distance. This is very positive news and what we have been anxiously awaiting for over a year."

Order No. 215 cites a few reasons why the change to the face mask mandate is being made, including: "The new CDC recommendations advise that a growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to transmit COVID-19 to others; more than half of all North Carolinian (adults) have now received one vaccination dose, and North Carolina is on track to have more and more people be fully vaccinated and at low risk from the disease; in the totality of these circumstances the undersigned [Gov. Cooper] has determined that at this time the Face Covering requirement should be lifted in most settings."

There are still several types of places where face masks are required by executive order, including:

· Public and non-public schools

 Child care facilities · Day and overnight

camps • Healthcare settings, including the CCPHD clinic in Siler City

Public transportation

· State and local correctional and detention facilities

 Homeless service providers

Additionally, private businesses may require face coverings if they so choose, and it is "strongly recommended" that all individuals wear masks in large indoor seating facilities with 5,000 seats or more

For those who are not yet vaccinated, face mask usage and social distancing is still strongly encouraged, especially when they are indoors. We know that getting the COVID-19 vaccine is a big decision and many are still looking for information to help them make that decision,' added Zelek. "If you have not yet gotten vaccinated, we encourage you to reach out to your doctor with questions you may have, look up trustworthy information about the vaccines from sources like our website, and talk to your loved ones who have already gotten vaccinated to hear about their experiences." To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and the CCPHD's vaccination plans, visit www. chathamcountync.gov/ coronavirusvaccine. To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit www.chathamcountync. gov/publichealth or www.facebook.com/chathamhealth.

County Public Health

and older.

will also be welcome.

tham County Agriculture 980-445-9818. Walk-ins are

clinics, other Chatham locations offering the Pfizer

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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 Pittsboro Pharmacy, 630 East St., Suite 13, Pittsboro, NC 27312

• Walgreens, 321 East St., Pittsboro, NC 27312

• Walgreens, 1523 E. 11th St., Siler City, NC 27344

• 501 Pharmacy, 98 Chapelton Court, Suite 300, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

#### **New CDC mask** guidance for fully vaccinated people

On May 13th, the U.S.

For the CDC's guidance for those who are fully vaccinated, visit https:// www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/ fully-vaccinated-guidance.html.

#### Gov. Cooper lifts face mask mandate for most places

On May 14th, Gov. Roy **Cooper signed Executive** Order No. 215, which "lift(ed) the indoor Face Covering requirement on most businesses and operations," but kept some requirements in place.

North Carolina has had a face mask mandate in place since June 2020 in response to the spread of COVID-19. Executive



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## **OBITUARIES**

Continued from page A10

#### JOHNNIE MIKE MILLER

Johnnie Mike Miller, 68, of Deep River Community, passed away on Monday, May 31, 2021, at First Health Moore Regional Hospital.

The family will greet friends at the home.

He was born in Lee County on October 12, 1952, to the late Johnny Willie Miller and Callie Jane Benton. Mike was the owner and operator of his own painting business; he worked as the Paint Pro at Lowes Home Improvement, Wyeth, Sandoz, and Carolina Meadows in Chapel Hill. He served as Chief of Deep River Fire Department and was a Mason. Mike was preceded in death by his three brothers and one sister.

Survivors include his wife,

Debra Phillips Miller of the home; daughters, Tammy Bridges of Sanford, Brandy Johnson of Bear Creek, and Sherry Stackpole of Sanford; a sister, Billie Hunter of Sanford; and nine grandchildren.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made at: www.bridgescameronfuner-

alhome.com.

#### **ROBERT LOUIS DENNY**

Robert Louis Denny 85, passed away on Monday, May 24, 2021, at U.N.C. Hospitals, Chapel Hill.

Funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Pittsboro, with burial following at the Pittsboro Church of God Cemetery.

#### GREGORY DALE SANDERS

A memorial service will be held for Gregory Dale Sanders on Sunday, June 6, 2021, at 3 p.m. at Solid Rock Baptist Church, 3903 U.S. Hwy. 64 West, Pittsboro. Mr. Sanders is the son of

Jerry and Louise Sanders, pastor of Solid Rock Baptist Church.

#### LUCILLE JACKSON MIMMS

Lucille Jackson Mimms, 86, of Broadway, passed away at her home on Monday, May 31, 2021.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, June 3, 2021, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. A funeral service will follow in the chapel at 2 p.m. with Chaplain Randy Beasley officiating. Burial will follow at Jonesboro Cemetery. She was born on June 15, 1934, to the late James William and Belva Tickle Jackson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel George Mimms; son, Daniel Ray Mimms and siblings, Lester Ray, Ralph, Calvin, Glenn, James, Margaret and Mary.

She is survived by her children Lorraine Mimms Bunnell of Broadway, Ricky Dale Mimms of Broadway, Marsha Mimms of Augusta, Ga. and Janet Mimms of Broadway; brother, John Jackson of Sanford; sister, Dorothy Stanley of Sanford; ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com .



#### CHARLES KEITH SMITH



Charles Keith Smith, age 57, of Asheboro died Monday, May 3, 2021. Mr. Smith was born August 5, 1963, to Charlie Smith and Patrice Rummage who preceded Keith in death. He was employed with Lazar Industries in Siler City. He attended First Wesleyan Church in Siler City, Fellowship Baptist Church in Asheboro and Vintage Church in Randleman. Keith loved everyone and led many people to Christ.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Evelyn Gongaware, Todd Brady and Chris Knox and so many others too numerous to mention for their loving support during this time.

He is survived by his wife of 17 years, Sandra Lee Smith; son, Josh Smith and wife Stephanie of Siler City; grandchildren, Madysin, Josselin, Judah and Conor; stepson, Christopher Canter of Climax; brother, Chad York of Pleasant Garden; stepfather, Larry Rummage of Pleasant Garden; aunt, Helen Honbarger of Siler City.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, June 5, 2021, from 1 to 2 p.m. at First Wesleyan Church, 608 North 3rd Avenue in Siler City. A Celebration of Keith's life will follow at 2 p.m.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Randolph, 416 Vision Dr., Asheboro, NC 27203, www.hospiceofrandolph.org

Pugh Funeral Home in Asheboro is serving the family. Remembrances and online condolences may be made at www. pughfuneralhome.com.



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# N.C. House Bill could limit how schools teach about America's history with racism. Here's what's in it.

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN News + Record Staff

A bill that could put new rules on public school curriculum regarding race and history — such as prohibiting schools from teaching the U.S. was created to oppress people or that people are inherently racist or sexist — was passed 66-48 by the North Carolina House along completely partisan lines earlier this month.

The bill, House Bill 324, was approved amid growing debate over how history should be taught in schools, particularly when it comes to topics such as racism and slavery.

It was referred to the Committee on Rules and Operations of the Senate on May 12. Having passed the House of Representatives ahead of the General Assembly's crossover deadline, the bill is set to make its way to the Senate floor, where the chamber must vote to approve it. If both groups of legislators approve the bill, Gov. Roy Cooper could veto the bill should he choose.

"This bill does not change what history can and cannot be taught," said bill sponsor Rep. John Torbett, a Gaston County Republican. "It simply prevents schools from endorsing discriminatory concepts."

N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt also expressed support for the bill, posting on her candidate Twitter page that she helped craft the bill.

"I worked closely with NC House leadership to draft a common sense bill that provides reasonable expectations for what we want our children, teachers and public school staff to experience inside the classroom," she tweeted on May 12. "HB324 does just that..."

### What is critical race theory?

House Democrats disagreed, with Rep. Kandie Smith, a Democrat from Pitt County, equating the bill to "book burning." Other legislators, joined by some state educators, called the bill anti-history and anti-education.

"A small group of enraged individuals are looking to ban an entire concept of thought because it makes them uncomfortable," Smith said.

Though not specifically included in the bill, some Republicans said the legis lation is needed to combat "critical race theory," an academic concept widely criticized and incorrectly or very vaguely defined by some vocal conservatives, according to those who teach about critical race theory. The concept, more than 40 years old, is wide-spanning. But a core tenet is that racism, though a social construct, is embedded in legal systems and policies including America's. Another key principle is that backlash often follows gains toward racial equity that the country has made.

The introduction of this bill follows a statewide debate on how to teach history, including the passage of new social study standards, controversial among some conservatives, which include language to discuss racism, discrimination and the perspectives of marginalized groups.

The bill also follows Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson's creation of a task force in March to collect complaints from parents, students and teachers in public schools across the state about

"indoctrination" in the classroom, as reported by the News & Observer.

In a news release supporting the bill, Robinson criticized "pseudo-science social justice initiatives like the '1619 Project' and 'Critical Race Theory,'' which he said teach people that "the systems of our Republic and the history of our great American experiment are shameful."

The 1619 Project, created by Nikole Hannah-Jones as an ongoing initiative from The New York Times, explores the legacy and history of Black Americans and slavery and won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary. The project marks the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. Some historians and politicians criticized the project; The New York Times issued a clarification to one passage of the opening essay but said it still stood "behind the basic point." Since the project's August 2020 publication, many historians and educators have crafted lessons and curriculum to teach about 1619 — a move many Republicans have opposed.

Several other states have introduced legislation to limit the use of critical race theory in schools, including the passage of a bill in Tennessee that would withhold funding from schools when students are taught about systemic racism and white privilege.

#### What's in the bill?

In North Carolina, HB324 would prohibit schools from "promoting" certain concepts, including:

• An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.

• Any individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress.

• The belief that the United States "is a meritocracy is an inherently racist or sexist belief, or that the United States was created by members of a particular race or sex for the purpose of oppressing members of another race or sex."

The bill defines a school promoting such concepts as compelling school community members to affirm or profess belief in such concepts, including such concepts in curriculum, reading lists, workshops or trainings or "contracting with, hiring, or otherwise engaging speakers, consultants, diversity trainers, and other persons for the purpose of advocating" them.

Many education experts have said the implications of the bill are not clear, calling into question who will be the judge of whether teaching promotes the listed concepts and whether the bill would cause teachers to censor themselves from teaching certain historical facts or events out of fear or uncertainty.

If passed, Chatham County School's Amanda Hartness said, the bill could potentially pose challenges in discussing school equity or "hard history."

"On the surface, when anyone reads the title of the bill, 'Ensuring Dignity & Nondiscrimination in Schools,' I think we would all agree that is something we would all strive to do," said Hartness, who is the district's assistant superintendent of academic services and instructional support.

"The part that I think has some question marks behind it that we'll continue to watch closely would be the components particularly about being able to teach certain parts of the social studies curriculum," she said. "And depending upon how you interpret the way the bill is currently written, one could take from it that it would prohib it us from having certain equity-related conversations that many school districts are having across the country to help address achievement gaps."

#### 'We'll certainly be watching this particular bill closely'

State Democrats also voiced concern that the bill could confuse teachers and make it difficult to accurately discuss American history.

Chatham Central history teacher Amy King previously told the News + Record teaching "hard history" is an important part of learning accurate history. Though not directly referencing HB324, King emphasized her lessons on lynchings, segregation or exclusionary immigration laws — rely on facts and primary documents, not political opinions or agendas. "We teach about

we teach about politics, all throughout history. But we don't teach students how to think, we teach them to think," King 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."

While the bill could potentially create confusion and challenges for districts in teaching the newly passed social studies standards, Hartness said she thinks equity discussions can move forward regardless.

"We'll certainly be watching this particular bill closely," Hartness said. "...I don't see that this bill would cause our district to not be able to move forward with our current equity work. There's so many aspects of closing achievement gaps and building relationships with students and families that can be done with or without this bill in place."

On Twitter Tuesday, Hartness directly addressed the criticism of critical race theory, sharing a recent NC Policy Watch article about the history of CRT and how attempts to ban teaching it are spreading across the country.

One year ago, the concept "was a niche academ ic term," that report said. Now, Idaho, Oklahoma and Arkansas have passed measures prohibiting the teaching of the theory, with proposals in Iowa and Tennessee awaiting governor approval. Those who teach about the concept, according to the NC Policy Watch report, say conservative politicians are not accurately describing the approach or how it's used in schools.

Hartness' tweet seemed to agree.

"Teaching critical race theory doesn't mean we hate our nation," she wrote. "It means we share the hard history behind how our nation was formed. It means we love our country enough we want to make it better by ending historical racism."

Reporter Hannah Mc-Clellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr. com or on Twitter at @ HannerMcClellan.

**REFLECT** Continued from page A1

What's been your most memorable moment as commissioner since taking

many activist groups and environmentally conscious businesses. There is a great desire to address environmental concerns especially the reduction of our carbon iootprint. Many residents have sought to capture solar energy, businesses planning to install electric vehicle charging stations and innovative technology being developed in Chatham to reduce the amount of "rejected energy" within our energy grid.



have been dedicated to learning and observing the mechanisms in place. I will continue to engage with community members to learn from them, to connect them with one limited to, our educational, financial, political and health systems in the United States. Partnerships are key, I would like for the board to continue to seek to close these gaps and to establish partnerships when opportunities are presented. I benefited from a partnership with Scholars' Latino Initiative that helped me learn the educational system while at Jordan-Matthews. I am confident we can establish more partnerships to address these gaps.

#### office?

Initially, of course, getting sworn in. But as time passed, it became when vaccines began getting administered in Chatham County. While I had nothing to do with that, it provided a sense of hope for the well-being of our community, and for an end to the pandemic.

Being on the Board of Health has proven to me that Chatham is blessed to have a

great

staff

work

UNC HEALTH CA

ing in our Public Health Department during the pandemic. They have been strategic with the funds we received for COVID and with establishing partnerships so that the department can better use its resources for the benefit of the county.

#### What have been the best and worst parts of the job for you so far?

The best part of the job is the opportunity to serve Chatham. For example: being in a position to lead and create change. Not for the power, but to inspire others to do good in Chatham and to work as a team for the benefit of our community.

As I engage with individuals, businesses and organizations, I realize that Chatham is a gem. We are home to committed individuals, we have My least favorite part is the limitations on what we can and cannot do when it

HAM Chatham residents need or

Mountairewant. For ex-

ample: currently, as I prepare these answers, N.C. counties cannot invest taxpayer money for broadband/internet, making it an issue since we urgently need access to high-speed internet in Chatham. This has become a major issue given that funds from the American Rescue Plan will be allowed to be used for broadband. Thankfully, we have legislation at the state level to address this restriction. We are also limited in how we can generate revenue. It would be nice to have more flexibility so that we do not rely heavily on taxes.

Last year, you told the News + Record that you sought to provide the Latino community a voice on the county board. Since taking office, in what ways have you used your position to advocate for the Latino community and amplify Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Gomez Flores

#### Latino voices in Chatham County?

The members of the Latin American community are more likely to live below the poverty level, and my district, District 5, has one of the lowest average incomes in Chatham. I have been placing myself in positions that combat the effects of poverty. I am a voting member of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and of the Board of Health.

In 2017, the Public Health Department transitioned out of adult primary care and expanded Public Health communication and epidemiology programs. Recently, the Board of Health (myself included) voted to transition out of being a primary care provider for children to focus on community-based and population health services.

A good concentration of the Latin American community lives in the west and in District 5. I am ensuring that District 5 has the representation it deserves. I have appointed Eric Andrews from Bear Creek, and Dustin Mauldin from Siler City to the Chatham County Planning Board for District 5. While neither of my two appointments are Latinos, they both live in District 5 and represent everyone in District 5, including Latin Americans. They replaced the former District 5 appointments, one from Apex and another from Pittsboro.

I supported the appointment of Alirio Estevez to the Affordable Housing Committee as a county-wide appointment. While he does not live in western Chatham, he does serve Siler City as an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher at Siler City Elementary. He engages with families and understands the plight of the Latin American community and of western Chatham.

### How will you moving forward?

First of all, I will continue having faith in my Lord. I will continue to make my usual prayers: thanking the Lord for a new day of life and asking for the opportunity to learn, understand and grow wiser. These first months to those who may be of assistance to them.

#### How has the Latino community received you so far? What kind of feedback have you received since taking office?

Many community members are optimistic. I am a key individual with influence, so there are high expectations. Fortunately, they are aware that I, alone, do not make the decisions. Many have thanked me for the courage, and have shared that I have inspired them to get involved with our community. Others have thanked me for being a positive role model to their children.

#### Can you tell us what you think are the most pressing issues facing Chatham's Latino community and what you'd like to see the board do about them?

Jobs are an issue that resonates with all communities. We all want quality jobs, the type of jobs that values and appreciates their employee's time, energy and efforts. I believe the board has been committed to attracting high-quality jobs. Efforts to extend utilities to [Chatham County's two] megasites have been and are being made, and investments in education have been made. I would like for us to continue to find creative ways for Chatham to stand out and be more appealing to potential employers.

Within minority communities, there are gaps in the education and understanding of, but not

#### What advice do you have for a member of Chatham's Latino community who may be thinking about following in your footsteps?

First and foremost, I placed my faith in my Lord; I am a believer and I do pray.

I believe respect is bi-directional. Always be respectful and always be an active listener.

Get involved! There are county advisory boards that provide an opportunity to learn about how the county functions. Identify what you are passionate about and get involved. I began serving Chatham County on the Chatham County Planning Board. There are also town advisory boards that serve town boards. I encourage you to submit your applications!

Take the leap of faith. Municipal elections are coming up. They are also important, they elect who serves your town or city. In 2017, I ran for Siler City town board. While I lost, I considered it a blessing in disguise because it led to me being considered for the Planning Board.

Reach Gomez Flores at franklin.gomez@chathamcountync.gov or by calling 919.799.3965.

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## Chatham News + Record SPORTS NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS

JUNE 3-9, 2021 | chathamnewsrecord.com/sports | SECTION B

#### **TRACK & FIELD**

## 'Everybody has fun': J-M, Chatham Charter track programs thriving under first-year coaches

#### BY VICTOR HENSLEY News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — As far as passion goes, high school track & field coaches — and parents — are rarely lacking.

Spending hours in the blistering heat, setting up and hosting meets and helping out with events in addition to coaching their student-athletes, among other things, are all indicators of coaches who love the sport they're involved in and want to see their students thrive.

In a sport often overshadowed by some of high school's more popular choices, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Charter have managed to roll out competitive track programs spearheaded by firstyear coaches that have worked hard to drum up interest and keep things afloat during a pandemic-shortened season.

"A lot of it is just getting

them out here, just showing them the events," Lamont Piggie, J-M's head track & field coach, said after last Tuesday's meet in Siler City. "Because everyone's familiar with football, basketball, baseball, stuff like that. A lot of them aren't familiar with track. ... But once they learn it and grasp it, it takes off from there."

On Tuesday, May 25, the Jets hosted their second home meet of the year alongside the Knights and two PAC-7 conference rivals — the Wheatmore Warriors and Eastern Randolph Wildcats — finishing first place in the men's competition (83 points) and second place in the women's competition (41 points, 30 behind Wheatmore's 71 points).

Six days earlier, in the PAC-7 Championship Meet, the Eastern Randolph men narrowly edged out J-M by just two points, 102-100, to take the conference crown after senior Jacquez Thompson was held out of the boys 200-meter dash due to injury, which could have acted as a meet-winner depending on his placement. Last week's meet was a taste of revenge.

In total, the Jets took first place in seven events — five men's, two women's — as the men's team claimed the top spot over the Wildcats by a razor-thin margin of four points, J-M's 83 to ER's 79.

The Jets were led by some of the team's usual suspects, including Thompson, who won the boys 100-meter dash (11.15); senior Eral Jones, who placed second in both the boys 200-meter dash (23.87) and high jump (6-02.00) and junior Geneva Woolford, who won both the girls 100-meter hurdles (21.00) and 300-meter hurdles (1:03.47), though she was the only runner in the latter.

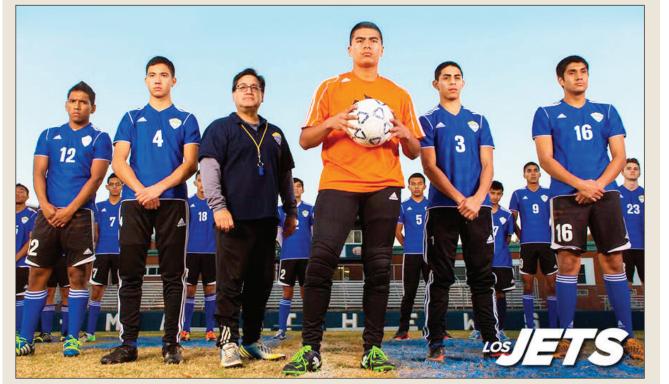
See TRACK, page B4



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham Charter junior Brooke Garner (left) and Jordan-Matthews junior Geneva Woolford jump over hurdles in the girls 100-meter hurdle event in their teams' quad meet with Eastern Randolph and Wheatmore on Tuesday, May 25. Woolford edged out Garner by .09 seconds.

## Cape Fear Museum to host virtual 'Los Jets' event for team's 20th anniversary



The NBA's fan problem illustrates why athletes deserve respect

As the number of vaccinated Americans continues to increase, so has capacity at many sports venues across



**HENSLEY** 

the country. For the NBA playoffs, seven of the 16 teams participating in the first round have opened their stadiums to more than 80% capacity, including the Atlanta Hawks, Boston Celtics and Milwaukee Bucks.

Sports Editor Other teams, like the New York Knicks, have planned to only sell tickets to fully vaccinated patrons if they advance further into the playoffs - by the time you're reading this, however, the magic at Madison Square Garden may have already run out – – in an effort to increase capacity even further. As of now, the Knicks are open at around 75% capacity with no vaccination required to attend. Having the ability to attend games or watch them on TV with louder crowds and visibly full stands has many breathing a sigh of relief as a sense of normalcy slowly trickles back into sports. But if these last seven days in the NBA have shown us anything, it's that fans have clearly been cooped up for too long. Some of them have forgotten how to act like decent human beings, much less respectable spectators. Since May 26, the NBA has had five incidents of unruly fan behavior targeted toward athletes or their families in Philadelphia, New York, Utah, Boston and Washington.

Submitted photo

Promo photo for the NUVOtv six-part series 'Los Jets,' which aired in 2014.

#### BY VICTOR HENSLEY News + Record Staff

WILMINGTON — Wilmington is giving you a chance relive a piece of Chatham sports history.

The Cape Fear Museum in Wilmington is hosting a virtual event to honor the 20th anniversary of Jordan-Matthews' famed soccer program on Wednesday, June 9. The hour-long affair will begin with a showing of an episode from the six-part television series, "Los Jets," which originally aired on NUVOtv in 2014. The episode will be followed by a discussion about the TV series and the soccer program, which will feature J-M men's soccer coach — and the man behind the soccer program's formation — Paul Cuadros, along with a couple of Jets alumni.

"I was notified by the person in

charge of the event — her name is Jorey Stanley — and she wanted to do a program with 'Los Jets' and do some history," Cuadros said. "This is going to be a conversation, kind of like a gathering."

This isn't the first time that the Jets have been the focal point of a museum's attention.

In 2016, the North Carolina

See JETS, page B2

That's five too many.

It all started with Wizards star guard Russell Westbrook leaving the court in Game 2 of his team's series with the East's top-seeded Philadelphia 76ers on May 26.

through 8th graders

@Frezeal33.

See RESPECT, page B4

## Chatham high schools announce variety of summer youth camps

Where: Chatham Charter

When: June 28-30, 8:30-11:30

graders

School

Who: Rising 3rd through 9th

#### BY VICTOR HENSLEY

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — As the school year comes to an end and summer approaches quickly, high schools across Chatham County are gearing up for their annual athletic summer camps — many of which weren't able to take place last year, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

From Jordan-Matthews to Northwood, camps give kids — from elementary to middle school — a chance to meet coaches, learn the sports' fundamentals and get a head start on their high school athletic journey.

To get more information on camps, please visit each school's website.

Here is a list of all of the

announced high school camps happening around Chatham this summer, with likely more announcements to come later:

#### Chatham Charter Basketball

Who: Rising 2nd through 8th graders Where: Chatham Charter

School When: June 21-24, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$45 per camper

#### Tennis

Who: Rising 2nd through 9th graders

Where: Chatham Charter School

When: June 14-18, 8-11 a.m. Cost: \$90 per camper (or family discount of two campers for \$170)

#### Volleyball

a.m Cost: \$50 per camper **Jordan-Matthews Baseball/Softball** Who: Rising 1st through 9th graders Where: Jordan-Matthews High School When: July 19-22, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Cost: \$60 per camper **Basketball** Who: Rising 1st through 9th graders Where: Jordan-Matthews High School When: July 19-22, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Cost: \$60 per camper Football Who: Rising 1st through 9th

graders Where: Jordan-Matthews **High School** When: July 26-29, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Cost: \$60 per camper Soccer Who: Rising 1st through 9th graders Where: Jordan-Matthews **High School** When: June 28-July 1, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Cost: \$60 per camper Volleyball Who: Rising 1st through 9th graders Where: Jordan-Matthews **High School** When: July 26-29, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Cost: \$60 per camper

#### Northwood Cheerleading

Who: Kindergarten students

Where: TBA When: July 26-28, 6-8 p.m. Cost: \$65 per camper Soccer Who: Rising 1st through 8th graders Where: Northwood High School When: July 12-13, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost: \$60 per camper, paid on the first day of camp Softball Who: Rising 1st through 9th graders Where: Northwood High School Softball Field When: July 16-17, 4-7 p.m. Cost: \$60 per camper Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at

## CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN This week's schedule and last week's results

#### **BY VICTOR HENSLEY** News + Record Staff

This week, we're rounding into the last couple of weeks of the school year, meaning exams are here in full force. Students throughout the county will be taking exams for most of this week, limiting games, matches and meets to allow student-athletes to focus on academics. But there's still plenty of action to go around in baseball, track & field, women's tennis and wrestling as we head into the home stretch just before postseason play. Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

#### THIS WEEK

#### Wednesday, June 2

Tennis: Chatham Charter women at Central Tar Heel Conference Tournament, hosted by Raleigh Charter, 1 p.m.

#### Thursday, June 3

No sporting events; exams.

#### Friday, June 4

Tennis: Chatham Charter women vs. Chatham Central, 4 p.m.

Tennis: Northwood women vs. Northern Durham, 4:30 p.m.

Baseball: Chatham Charter men vs. Cornerstone, 7 p.m.

Baseball: Jordan-Matthews at Wheatmore, 7 p.m.

#### Saturday, June 5

Track & Field: Woods Charter at Parkland Magnet (Winston-Salem) against Lexington, Parkland Magnet IB, Walkertown and Winston-Salem Prep Academy, 12:30 p.m.

#### LAST WEEK

#### Monday, May 24

Tennis: The Chatham Charter women fell to the Research Triangle Raptors, 5-4. The Raptors won five out of six singles matches, with junior Ashlyn Hart (8-6) being the only Knight to win hers. However, Chatham Charter won all three of its doubles matches, including wins by the duos of freshman Elphie Spillman & Emery Eldridge (8-5), Hart & junior Lorelei Byrd (8-6) and sophomores Rebecca Brookshire & Julia Moore (8-5).

Baseball: The Chatham Charter men earned a 10-6 win over the NC Leadership Academy Falcons. Leading the Knights in the victory were freshman Aidan Allred (2-for-5, 3 RBI), senior Trevor Golden (2for-3, 2 2B), junior Thomas O'Hara (3-for-4, 2B, RBI) and sophomore Cameron Turner (4.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 2 BB, K).

#### Tuesday, May 25

Track & Field: Jordan-Matthews (host) and Chatham Charter competed in a quad meet alongside Eastern Randolph and Wheatmore, where J-M finished in first place in the men's

events (83 points) and second place in the women's events (41 points), while Chatham Charter placed fourth in both the men's (15 points) and women's (37 points) events. Winning their respective events for the Jets were junior Geneva Woolford (first place, girls 100-meter hurdles, 21.00; first place, girls 300-meter hurdles, 1:03.47), freshman Damisela Rivera (first place, girls discus throw, 64-07), senior Jacquez Thompson (first place, boys 100-meter dash, 11.15) and senior Dylan Hernandez (first place, boys shot put, 35-05.00). The Jets also finished in first place in the boys 4x200 meter relay (1:33.31) and boys 4x100 meter relay (44.97). Winning their respective events for the Knights were sophomore Tamaya Walden (first place, girls 100-meter dash, 12.91; first place, girls 400-meter dash, 1:03.72; first place, girls 200-meter dash, 27.25) and junior Brandon McKoy (first place, boys 1600-meter run, 4:54.40; first place, boys 800-meter run, 2:13.10). See meet report in this week's edition. Track & Field: Northwood hosted a Big-8 tri-meet with conference opponents Cedar Ridge and Orange, placing second in both the men's (62 points) and women's (57 points) events. Winning their

respective events for the Chargers were senior Charlotte Cantrell (first place, girls 100-meter dash, 12.6; first place, girls 200-meter dash, 27.0), senior Tessa Yell (first place, girls 1600-meter run, 5:56.20), junior Caroline Yell (first place, girls 800-meter run, 2:44.70), junior Emma Serrano (first place, girls 3200-meter run, 12:57.90), junior Bentley Brooks (first place, girls discus, 88-04), junior Kennedy Poston (first place, girls shot put, 28-07.00), junior Marco Sanchez (first place, boys 100-meter dash, 11.3), senior Malachi Levy (first place, boys 800-meter run, 2:05.40), senior Christopher Poston (first place, boys discus, 97-09; first place, boys shot put, 40-00.00) and senior Jacob McCall (first place, boys pole vault, 11-00.00). Northwood also finished first in the girls 4x800 meter relay (11:04.80), boys 4x800 meter relay (9:08.70), girls 4x400 meter relay (4:37.00) and boys 4x400 meter relay (3:39.90).

Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men snapped their four-game losing streak with a 6-5 road win over the Trinity Bulldogs. Leading the Jets in the victory were senior Carson Rickman (1-for-2, 2B, 2BB, RBI), sophomore Mason Phillips (1-for-2, 2B, BB, RBI) and sophomore Jackson Headen (3.0 IP, 2 H, ER, 2 BB, 2 K).

Baseball: The Northwood men dropped a road game against the Cape Fear Colts, suffering a 5-0 shutout loss.

Wrestling: The Northwood men lost an outdoor match against the Panther Creek Catamounts, 45-36.

#### Wednesday, May 26

Tennis: The Chatham Central women swept the North Moore Mustangs, 9-0. All of the Bears won their singles

matches, including senior Sophie Phillips (6-3, 6-3), sophomore Ellie Phillips (6-3, 6-1), sophomore Olivia Brooks (6-2, 6-2) and senior Taylor Ferguson (6-4, 4-6, 0-0 (10-6)). All three Chatham Central duos also won their respective doubles matches.

Tennis: The Chatham Charter women won both matches of a double-header against the Southern Wake Academy Lions (8-1, 9-0) to improve to 5-4 on the season. In the first team match, the following Knights won their singles matches: freshman Elphie Spillman (6-0), junior Emery Eldridge (6-0), junior Dana Szpunar (6-1), senior Lacie Clark (6-1) and senior Lauren Scotten (6-1); the duos of Spillman & Eldridge (6-1), Szpunar & Clark (6-2) and sophomore Calley Suits & Scotten (6-2) won their doubles matches. In the second match, the following Knights won their individual singles matches: junior Ashlyn Hart (6-0), junior Lorelei Byrd (6-0), sophomore Rebecca Brookshire (6-0), sophomore Julia Moore (6-2), Szpunar (6-2) and Suits (6-0), while the duos of Hart & Byrd (6-0), Brookshire & Moore (6-0) and Clark & Suits (6-0) won their doubles matches.

Tennis: The Jordan-Matthews women lost to the Trinity Bulldogs, 6-3. Winning their singles matches for the Jets were sophomores Maggie Thornton (10-0) and Jocelyn Sanchez (10-1), while the duo of freshman Jillian Bogart & sophomore Sarai Ibarra-Rivera (9-7) won its doubles match.

Tennis: The Northwood women won a road match, 6-3, against the Chapel Hill Tigers to improve to 3-1 on the season. Winning their singles matches for the Chargers were senior Suzanne Earnshaw (10-2), junior Julia Earnshaw (10-4), sophomore Destyn Rader (10-8) and freshman Evelyn Atkins (10-3). The Northwood duos of juniors Evelyn Lippers & Julia Earnshaw (8-6) and Rader & Atkins (8-5) also won their doubles matches.

Track & Field: Woods Charter participated in a quad meet with Apex (host), Apex Friendship and Holly Springs. The Wolves finished fourth in both the women's (3 points) and men's (19 points) events. Wilfred Charbonneau (first place, boys 400-meter dash, 52.77) was the only firstplace finisher for the Wolves on the night.

Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men earned their second straight win over the Trinity Bulldogs, 11-5, to improve to 5-5 on the season. Leading the Jets were senior Carson Rickman (3-for-4, 2 R, 2 RBI), senior Huston Causey (2-for-4, 2 R; 3.1 IP, H, 3 ER, 3 BB, 4 K) and sophomore Conner Martin (1-for-4, R, RBI; 3.2 IP, H, 0 ER, BB, 4 K).

#### Thursday, May 27

Track & Field: Chatham Charter competed in a meet alongside East Chapel Hill (host), Northern Durham and Raleigh Charter, where the Knights placed third in both the women's events (1 point) and men's events (5 points). The only first-place finisher on the

day for Chatham Charter was junior Brandon McKoy, who ran a 4:51.00 (one scond away from qualifying for regionals) in the boys 1600-meter run.

Tennis: The Chatham Central women were swept by the Gray Stone Day Knights, 9-0, to fall to 4-3 on the season

Tennis: The Jordan-Matthews women were swept by the Providence Grove Patriots, 9-0.

Track & Field: Jordan-Matthews hosted a quad meet with PAC-7 opponents Eastern Randolph, Randleman and Trinity, taking first place in both the men's (72 points) and women's events (40 points). Winning events for the Jets were sophomore Linda Ocampo (first place, girls 800-meter run, 3:43.00), junior Geneva Woolford (first place, girls 100-meter hurdles, 20.91; first place, girls 300-meter hurdles, 1:01.06), senior Xavier Woods (first place, boys 100-meter dash, 11.37), sophomore Aiden Harrison (first place, boys 800-meter run, 2:23.60) and senior Jayden Davis (first place, boys long jump, 19-00.00). J-M also took first place in the boys 4x100 meter relay (44.48).

Wrestling: The Northwood men split their matches on the road, beating Jordan, 53-24, and losing to Athens Drive, 48-33.

Wrestling: The Jordan-Matthews men lost to Montgomery Central, 46-28.

Baseball: The Chatham Central men lost a close game late against the North Stanly Comets, 8-7. The Bears had a 7-3 lead entering the sixth inning, but the Comets scored five runs in the final two innings to take the lead and earn the win. Leading the Bears on the night were senior Michael Moore (2-for-3, R, RBI; 5.2 IP, 5 H, 3 ER, 5 BB, 3 K) and senior Parker Crowley (1-for-4, 2B, R, 2 RBI).

#### Friday, May 28

Baseball: The Chatham Central men dropped their second straight game in as many nights, this time against the North Moore Mustangs, 9-4. With the loss, the Bears fall to 6-4 on the season (4-3 in the Yadkin Valley Conference) as their playoff hopes hang in the balance. Leading the Bears on the night were junior Collin Lagenor (1-for-2, BB, R, 2 RBI) and sophomore Hasten T. Paige (1-for-3, RBI).

Baseball: The Chatham Charter men dominated the River Mill Academy Jaguars, 16-0, in just five innings. The Knights' record improves to 8-1 overall (4-1 in the Central Tar Heel Conference) Leading the Knights in the win were senior Trevor Golden (3-for-4, 2B, R, 3 RBI; 4.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 9 K) and junior Thomas O'Hara (1-for-2, HR, R, 4 RBI).

Baseball: The Northwood men earned a close road win against the Chapel Hill Tigers, 2-1, to improve to 6-5 on the season. See game report in this week's edition.

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



plish. Instead, it was opposed to sports like soc about using the TV screen cer, a sport that hadn't yet gained much popularity in to bring Latinx representhis part of the state. tation to sports in the U.S., which is notorious for a Despite public backlash and qualms over lack of Latinx players. the program costing too In 2011, he was conmuch money, Cuadros tacted by director Mark Landsman, who wanted was persistent in fighting to give his mostly Latinx to turn his book into a athletes a chance to play six-part series that would organized soccer at J-M. air on NUVOtv, a network geared toward the Latinx And in 2001, it finally happened. community with En-"It was a struggle to get glish-language programming. Cuadros obliged. the program together and it took two, almost three, Interestingly enough, years to get the school syspopular actress and singer tem to say 'yes' to creating Jennifer Lopez was the the soccer program," chief creative officer for the Cuadros said. "It was a network, which led to her difficult thing to pitch in becoming one of the show's and convince people that four executive producers. "It was a little bit out it'd be a good idea.' A mere three years later, of the blue, but not too in 2004, the Jets won the unexpected since we NCHSAA 1A state title, were actively working on forever changing the way this for a while," Cuadros said. "And it all kind people viewed the soccer program both in Chatham of came together. I just County and across the state. didn't think that it was It was the perfect way going to come together through Jennifer Lopez." to add to Los Jets' story. "I knew there was a During the Jets' 2013 championship program in season, a year removed Siler City when I started from falling to Carrboro coaching middle school in the NCHSAA 2A Final kids with Chatham Soccer Four, camera crews League," Cuadros said. "I followed the team around could tell there was enough during their conference talent to do something in season, capturing the high school soccer." highs and lows of a typical year at J-M. 'It was a little surreal' There were cameras For years after his on them during practices, book's publication, he games and even some strove to have it made off-the-field activities. into a television film, As high-schoolers who pitching it to directors weren't used to being multiple times before filmed, many of them finally receiving an offer. being seniors, it was a difficult adjustment to make. His primary motivation for pitching the story Playing and coaching while being "mic'd up' was not to glorify his book, give publicity to the and filmed isn't easy. school or brag about what "It was hard because we he'd been able to accomhad cameras on us all of

the time," Cuadros added. so yean, very weird. "If I'm coaching a game, If you're interested in streaming all six episodes I know the cameras can shoot me from 50 yards of "Los Jets," you can find it for free on Pluto away, 100 yards away and TV (pluto.tv). I'm mic'd up, so I'm trying to present a good charac-Cape Fear Museum's free virtual event will ter and leadership. But take place from 11:30 it's pretty hard to do when you're being filmed." a.m.-12:30 p.m. on June

9. You can find more info, including the Zoom link, at https:// www.facebook.com/ events/936536743582113/.

#### JEIJ

Continued from page B1

Museum of History in Raleigh dedicated a small bilingual exhibit to J-M's soccer program entitled "Los Jets: Playing the American Dream," which included photographs and memorabilia from the Jets' early days including the trophy and game ball from the 2004 1A state championship game, which the Jets won, 2-0, over Lejeune.

#### The making of a champion

The story of the Los Jets soccer team began to gain traction with Cuadros' 2006 book, "A Home on the Field," that documented his journey to starting the soccer program at J-M and navigating a tumultuous time for the Latinx community in Siler City.

Cuadros — an investigative reporter for Time magazine, among other outlets, prior to becoming a journalism professor at UNC-Chapel Hill in 2007 moved to Siler City from Chicago in 1999 on a fellowship to research the impact of Latinx poultry workers on rural towns in the South.

He'd found his home.

"I ended up staying on, and I'd never lived in a rural community before and I didn't know what to do with myself," Cuadros said. "So I started coaching soccer."

But as Siler City's Latinx population increased, so did animosity in the community, according to Cuadros in the documentary. Some residents were

That doesn't mean it was any less fun.

"The experience as a whole was pretty cool, just to get to know the producers and directors and the cameramen, basically the whole crew,' said Daniel Estrada, senior goalkeeper for the 2013 Jets and one of the series' featured players. "I feel like it was a little nerve-wracking at first, but as the season progressed, it kind of became a new norm.'

Estrada was one of the players who accompanied Cuadros to the premiere of the series in New York City at the annual convention for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), where a "sizzle reel"—short trailer—of the series was played.

Some of the players had never even been on a airplane before, Cuadros said, much less been showcased in front of thousands of people at an event in New York City that included Michelle Obama and Lopez as featured speakers.

"It was a little surreal," Estrada said with a laugh. "(Siler City) being a small town, we kind of know everybody here, you know everyone in the school and everyone knows you, but being in New York is like completely random people coming to see a group of us from a really small town

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



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#### **CHARGERS 2, TIGERS 1**

## 'We're going to be deadly': With playoff hopes slim, Northwood's young core learns in win over Chapel Hill

**BY BRENNAN** DOHERTY News + Record Correspondent

CHAPEL HILL -Whatever you want to call it — a turning point, a momentum shift, a pivotal moment — Northwood head baseball coach David Miller has been around the game long enough to know how one play in a game can quickly change a team's fortunes.

A team hanging on for dear life can suddenly become the one in charge.

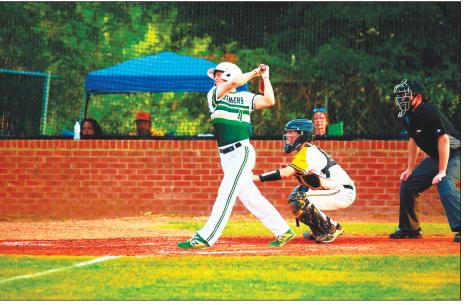
Such was the case for Northwood Thursday night on the road at Chapel Hill, where the Chargers used stellar pitching, timely hitting and - most importantly – a moment of defensive brilliance to top the Tigers, 2-1, improving to 6-5 on the season (5-4 in the Big Eight).

Starting pitcher Salvador Delgado went four innings and picked up the win for the Chargers, while sophomore third baseman Zach Barnes delivered the go-ahead two-run single in the top of the fifth.

Not long before the Chargers took the lead, however, they found themselves on the brink as Chapel Hill batted with the bases loaded and only one out in the bottom of the fourth. Up to that point, Delgado, a sophomore, had done well to limit the Tigers, commanding the strike zone. Getting out of a jam like this, though, appeared to be a tough task to face.

His teammates in the field gave him a helping hand.

Chapel Hill junior Will



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Northwood junior designated hitter Walker Johnson swings at a pitch during his team's 2-1 win at Chapel Hill last Thursday. Johnson reached base twice on a pair of walks in the victory.

Epstein hit a grounder to Barnes at third, who fired home to Northwood catcher Luke Smith for the force out at the plate. Smith took a glance at first, saw there was no play to be made, then quickly pivoted and threw a bullet to third, where Barnes tagged out Chapel Hill sophomore Tyler Stillson, who had come off the bag.

Just like that, Northwood turned two and got out of the inning unscathed. Considering what could have been, the one-run deficit the Chargers faced felt doable.

"Momentum is a crazy thing," Miller said. "That flipped the game right there. We took the momentum, scored two runs and then we held on."

For Delgado, the play was the perfect way for his night on the mound to end.

Throughout his four innings of work (2 H, 1 ER, 2 BB, 2 K), the righthander gave his club a chance to win. Chapel Hill's lone run came in the bottom of the first on a sacrifice bunt by junior Taran Coyne-Smith, but the Tigers could never break through otherwise.

Delgado's approach was to be content with Chapel Hill putting the ball into play — as long as he didn't give them anything too good to hit — because he trusted the guys behind him.

"To me, it's all about the defense," Delgado said. "It's all about my defense behind me. I'm not the biggest guy on the field, but I put it where it needs to go, and my defense, they had my back."

For much of the night, Northwood couldn't muster together enough solid at-bats to get on the board. The Chargers struggled against Chapel Hill junior starter Josh Campos, who threw

three scoreless innings, although Northwood leadoff man Mason Bae (3-for-4, three singles) came close to scoring in the top of the third on a single by sophomore Seth Davis before being thrown out at the plate.

Following the momentum-shifting play in the field, the Chargers took advantage in the top of the fifth. Junior nine-hole hitter Martin Gallegos got things going with an infield single, then Bae and Davis each followed up with singles of their own.

With the bases loaded and one out, Barnes who has also featured prominently as a pitcher for Northwood this season — delivered with a grounder through the left side of the infield, scoring Gallegos and Bae to put Northwood ahead.

"You hit it where they're not," Miller said.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Northwood sophomore pitcher Salvador Delgado delivers a pitch during his team's 2-1 road win against Chapel Hill last Thursday. Delgado earned the win, giving up one run in four innings of work.

field wasn't the hardest ball we hit, but there's nobody standing between the third baseman and the shortstop and we hit it in the right spot."

Delgado earned the win on Thursday, but Northwood junior reliever Nick Lovingood also massively helped his team by closing the night out with three scoreless innings.

While Delgado primarily offered fastballs and changeups, Lovingood provided a different look with his slider, which proved effective. Lovingood only needed to face 10 batters to record the final nine outs and pitched 1-2-3 innings in both the fifth and seventh.

"He's a fastball and "The ball that got into left slider guy, and he came

in and hammered the sliders and located it," Miller said. "He did a great job. We couldn't ask any more of (Delgado and Lovingood)."

With three games remaining, Northwood's playoff hopes are slim, according to Miller, as the NCHSAA postseason will feature half the number of teams as a normal year. Yet, both he and his players understand the importance of finishing strong for a young team that features zero seniors and had seven freshmen and sophomores in its starting lineup Thursday night.

"Give us a couple of years," Delgado said with a smile. "We're going to be deadly."





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## RESPECT

Continued from page B1

Westbrook, who had suffered an ankle injury in the fourth quarter, was being escorted back to the locker room by team officials when a Sixers fan leaned over the railing and dumped a carton of popcorn on his head, immediately infuriating Westbrook, who had to be held back by Wizards staff.

That same night, Hawks guard Trae Young was spat on by a Knicks fan as he inbounded the ball in New York, and the family of Grizzlies guard Ja Morant was harassed by a group of Jazz fans in Utah, who allegedly berated them with lewd and racist remarks.

On Sunday in Boston, a Celtics fan threw a water bottle at Nets' star guard Kyrie Irving as the team was exiting the court after a 141-126 victory, possibly upset after Irving stomped on the Celtics' logo at mid-court. Irving and the Celtics have a rocky history, having spent two seasons with the team from 2017-2019 before leaving in free agency to join the Nets, causing a rift between him and the fans. Prior to the game, which was his first game in Boston since his departure, he said he hoped the fans would "just keep it strictly basketball" and attempt no other antics. On Monday, a fan in Washington, D.C., ran out onto the court and jumped up to touch the backboard in the middle of Game 5 of the Sixers-Wizards series before being tackled to the ground by a security guard.

"It has been that way in history in terms of entertainment, performers and sports for a long period of time and just underlying racism and just treating people like they're in a human zoo," Irving, who played for the Celtics for two seasons, said after the incident in Boston. "Throwing stuff at people, saying things. There is a certain point where it gets to be too much." He's right.

Fans being belligerent, vulgar and racist towards the athletes they're paying to see isn't a new concept. Neither is them using various items as projectiles.

In 2013, Baltimore Orioles centerfielder Adam Jones, who is African American, had a banana peel thrown at him by a Giants fan in San Francisco. The fan has since said the incident wasn't racially motivated, though the context might say otherwise.

In 2004, the infamous "Malice at the Palace" event took place in Detroit, where a Pistons fan threw a beverage at Indiana Pacers forward Ron Artest (now Metta Sandiford-Artest). Artest went into the stands to confront the fan, resulting in an all-out brawl between fans and players which led to suspensions, fines and criminal charges.

While heckling and trash-talking have always been an acceptable form of opposing fan behavior — which doesn't make it any less annoying for athletes — when those turn into slurs of any kind, way-too-personal jabs or throwing items from the stands, it's gone too far.

Yes, there have always been — and will always be — examples of fans getting out of hand, such as the occasional streaker during an NFL game or excessive heckler at an NBA arena. But having this many issues with fans in such a short period is a sign that things are spiraling out of control.

The NBA needs to get it together.

Regardless of age or celebrity status, athletes are people, too.

If you wouldn't launch a water bottle at a high school basketball player, what gives you the right to do it to a professional?

While it may seem as if their only purpose in life is to entertain us, that's simply not the case. It's their job, just like you might work on construction sites or in courtrooms or factories or schools. If someone came to your place of employment and dumped popcorn on your head, how would you like it?

As fans, we have the privilege of

watching some of the greatest athletes in the world do something most of us could never dream of.

They give us some of our best memories, some of our most heartbreaking moments and provide us with something so many of us revolve our lives around.

If we want to keep the privilege of attending games, one we're finally beginning to get back, then we must treat athletes with respect.

I'm not saying you have to like every player that appears on your TV screen. Part of the beauty of sports is passionately hating your team's opponents no matter what. It doesn't matter if your team's rival had a player save a puppy from a burning building, you still can't stand their face while they're wearing their uniform. And that's OK.

But you still need to treat them like humans. Stop the popcorn dumping, the water bottle tossing, the bodily fluid flinging. Don't spew slurs or hateful language at them or their loved ones.

If you're going to buy tickets to a sporting event, don't be one of the fans who make sports less fun for everyone. It's not cool or edgy. It's embarrassing, appalling and flat-out disgusting.

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

## TRACK

Continued from page B1

J-M is also led by strong men's relay teams — of which Thompson and Jones are crucial parts of — and two of them won their respective races on Tuesday: the boys 4x100 (44.97) and boys 4x200 (1:33.31, personal best).

According to NC Milesplit, J-M's 4x400 men's relay team is ranked top in the 2A Mideast Region, while the 4x100 and 4x200 are also ranked the best in the PAC-7.

As of now, the Jets have qualified for 2A Mideast Regionals — which will take place on June 19 at Franklinton High School — in nine events, including Thompson (boys 200-meter dash and long jump), Jones (boys high jump), the boys 4x100 meter relay, the boys 4x200 meter relay, the boys 4x400 meter relay, the boys 4x800 meter relay, the girls 4x100 meter relay and the girls 4x200 meter relay teams.

To qualify for regionals, the state sets a benchmark time, distance or height for each event that athletes must surpass in one of their school's official mosts



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham Charter sophomore Tamaya Walden (left) poses with her mom and coach, Tammy Walden, after her team's quad meet with Eastern Randolph, Jordan-Matthews and Wheatmore on Tuesday, May 25. Walden has qualified for regionals in three events: the girls 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes.

has to come from behind in his races, often getting out in front from the get-go and never looking back.

"I take the first 100 (meters) really fast, that's just how I grew up learning," McKoy said. "You go out hard to get your place ... then you settle in around the 75-meter mark and that's kind of how you go for the rest of the race. ... Don't try to noid your opening pace. McKoy is three seconds off from qualifying for regionals in the mile (1600 meter-run; standard is 4:50.00) and four seconds off of the 800-meter run (standard is 2:09.00), both of which he says are "doable."

long as Rakes came on board with her. But they needed more help.

As a duo, they spoke with Tammy Walden, Tamaya's mom, about joining their coaching group, who agreed. And to round it out, Tammy Walden — who works as a health science teacher at Jordan-Matthews asked Rahma Mateen-Mason, J-M's former track & field coach, if sne wanted to join their team. She was happy to volunteer. Rakes and Mateen-Mason now act as the two head coaches, but in reality, all four parents are heavily involved in making sure things run smoothly and that the program continues to grow. In addition to having more athletes come out for the women's team, this is also the first season the Knights have participated in high jump, triple jump and hurdle events, events smaller schools often have to sit out "It's been fun," Rakes said. "It's really has been hard, but I think they're just really glad that they're getting the opportunity, all of them, regardless of if they're the fastest or they're not. Track is something everybody can be successful at because everyone can get faster. You don't have to win to be successful.' As first-year coaches at their respective schools, Rakes/Mateen-Mason and Piggie have done their part in drumming up interest in the sport, often attending other sporting events to find players that look like they could be good at track. Then, it's all about recruiting. For example, Piggie picked up freshmen Logan Gunter and Lia Carter simply from attending a few softball games and convincing them to try it out. They didn't turn back. "I was talking to them,



saying, 'You need to run track, you're quick. Just give it a shot, give me a week and if you don't like it, then hey,''' Piggie said. "Coming in, it's just trying to get that respect from the kids, getting them to trust you and buy into the system. ... then everybody has fun."

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



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

May's winner will be drawn from eligible entries provided by 7/1/2021. The June winner will be announced in an July issue of the Chatham News + Record. One entry per household, per week. Employees of the COA and their dependents not eligible.



Chatham COA Events & Announcements June 3rd through June 9th

#### Thursday, June 3rd

• <u>Body Conditioning with Jackie</u> at 8:00 AM (Outside at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center Bocce Court)

Jordan-Matthews senior Jacquez Thompson gets in starting position before a relay race in his team's quad meet with Chatham Charter, Eastern Randolph and Wheatmore on Tuesday, May 25. Thompson helped lead the Jets to two relay wins on the day.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

official meets.

Chatham Charter, on the other hand, finished in last place (fourth) in both the men's (15 points) and women's (37 points) competitions, but were just four points behind J-M for second place in the women's competition. However, two Knights' runners – sophomore Tamaya Walden and junior Brandon McKoy — won all but one of the events they participated in with Walden qualifying for regionals in two separate events based on her Tuesday times.

Walden, who entered the meet at J-M having already qualified for the girls 400-meter run, also punched her ticket to regionals in both the girls 100- and 200-meter dashes in Siler City as she cruised to three wins on the day.

"(I feel like I did) really good, to be honest with you," Walden said after the meet. "Because my knees have been hurting for a while and I'm proud of myself for not mentally getting down on myself."

McKoy — the team's top distance runner who's already qualified for regionals in the boys 3200-meter run — won two out of three events, the boys 1600-meter run and the boys 800-meter run. In both of them, he bested the second-place finisher by at least six seconds. He won his 1600-meter race by a whopping 37 seconds.

One of the major keys to McKoy's success is the way he starts. He rarely

#### Saving the season

Believe it or not, the Knights almost didn't field a team this year. Before the season began, Chatham Charter

struggled to find a track & field coach in just its third season as a recognized program.

With the season fast approaching, the roster consisted of just a few kids and they had nobody to lead them. It appeared that after already losing their 2019-20 season to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Knights were going to have to sit out yet another season.

That's where dedicated parents came in.

"Landon said, 'We didn't find (a coach) so that means we won't have a track season. Unless you want to coach,<sup>3</sup> and I just laughed," Tina Rakes, the mother of Landon and Hayley Rakes, said. "I just thought, 'Well, I am the kind of mom that makes things happen when I need to, for my kids,' and then in my head I was like, 'I can't do that.""

Rakes, who ran track in high school and college, ended up having a conversation with McKoy's mom, Lashawn Lafranque, who wasn't opposed to the idea as Edotern endendin beiner benter better botter

- Arthritis Foundation Exercise at 10:00 AM
- <u>Alzheimer's/Brain Health Awareness By Therapeutic</u> Alternatives at 11:15 AM <sup></sup>
- Tai Chi for Arthritis at 3:00 PM ᅙ

#### Friday, June 4th

 <u>Senior Games Awards Ceremony</u> at 10:00 AM (at CCCC. RSVP to liz.lahti@chathamcoa.org)

#### Monday, June 7th

- Chair Yoga with Liz at 10:00 AM 🤶
- Bingo with Joe at 11:15 AM 🔶
- Tai Chi for Arthritis at 3:00 PM 🔶

#### **Tuesday, June 8th**

- <u>Body Conditioning with Jackie</u> at 8:00 AM (Outside at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center Bocce Court)
- <u>Strong & Fit with Jackie</u> at 9:15 AM
- <u>Chatham Striders Health Topic: Dementia Healthy Fitness</u> <u>Habits</u> at 11:15 AM <sup></sup>?

#### Wednesday, June 9th

- Bible Study with Neriah at 10:00 AM 奈
- Chair Yoga with Liz at 10:00 AM ᅙ
- <u>Diabetes Discussion Group Meal Planning w/Ann Clark</u> at 11:15 AM
- Short Stories with Chris at 12:30 PM 📞

#### 🔶 On Zoom 🛛 📞 On Conference Line: 727-731-8717

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

#### 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.

### The Chatham COA is Here for You!

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

Eastern Chatham Senior Center 365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center 112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975

## Chatham's recommended budget to be approved June 21, with "relatively minimal" changes

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN News + Record Staff by 11%, when they're actually

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners concluded its work sessions for the county's recommended \$149.9 million 2021-22 budget early on May 20, and canceled the remaining sessions scheduled for May 21st and 25th.

The next and final step in the budget process is for it to be approved at the board's regular meeting on June 21 to meet the state-required June 30 budget adoption date. The county's fiscal year begins July 1.

"Based on the discussion at the work session, and the direction of the Board at that time, there are a few (relatively minimal) changes to the manager's recommended budget," Chatham County Budget Director Darrell Butts said in an email to the News + Record.

Two of those changes include correcting errors identified in the budget message.

On page 21 of the recommended budget, one paragraph says intergovernmental revenues are expected to increase by 11%, when they're actually expected to decrease by 9%. Other places in the budget message listed this correctly.

The other error, found on page 22 of the PDF budget message document, said other taxes and licenses revenue was expected to decrease by 5%, when it should actually increase by 29%. That revenue represents locally collected taxes apart from the property tax.

The board approved making both of those corrections.

The only other change to the recommended budget, Butts said, was the explicit inclusion of the Board of Commissioners in the 3% salary adjustment recommended by the county manager for all employees.

During the May 20 work session, board members discussed how the current salary might discourage mange qualified residents from seeking office. The 3% increase equates to an increase of \$450 annually for board members and \$481.50 for the board chairperson, Butts

said

"If approved, this will be the first adjustment of the Board of Commissioners salary since FY2006-2007 when it was increased by \$3,000," he said.

The work session followed the board's regular May 19 meeting, at which technical difficulties with the virtual offering of the meeting prevented remote attendees from hearing the majority of meeting business, which was supposed to include a public hearing on the county's recommended budget.

Two people who signed up to speak remotely couldn't speak because of those 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.

The board discussed such input at its May 20 work session, acknowledging that there wasn't much input, and that what was received concerned the trail coordinator position and expanding land conservation along the Haw River.

Near the end of the work session, Vice Chairperson Diana Hales stated the budget was just shy of \$150 million, and inquired what it was four years ago. Butts said it was just under \$111 million in FY2018; it was just over \$94 million in FY15.

The recommended budget represents a 10.4% increase in expenditures from the current budget — funded in part by expected additional tax revenue, including an increase in property taxes, permitting, excise and sales tax collections. The proposed budget, expected to be approved later this month, also includes an additional \$2.4 million to support the opening of Seaforth High school, funding for 31 new county positions and a 3% pay raise for all county employees.

County Manager Dan LaMontagne previously said in regard to the budget that the county was in a good position to recover from challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and last October's cyber attack, but needed to look ahead to prepare for population and development growth.

"For several years, we have discussed the need of being properly prepared for growth. As a county, we are now at the point that the rapid growth and development we have long expected is happening," LaMontagne said in a May 4 news release about the proposed budget. "Throughout this budget, you will see that we are focused on ensuring that the development that is occurring is well monitored and aligns with the long-term vision that Plan Chatham has laid out for Chatham County.'

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

## **Graduation season is back**



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham Charter School celebrated its annual commencement last Friday, where its 44-member class of 2021 graduated following more than a year of school amid a pandemic.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham Charter graduate Landon Oakley embraces his mom after receiving his diploma. The school's graduation ceremony took place at the school's baseball complex last Friday night.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The Chatham School of Science & Engineering had 14 graduates this year. The graduation services were held at the Chatham County Agricultural and Conference Center in on Friday.

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### **This Community ROCKS!**

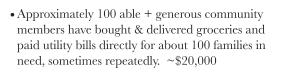
Abundance NC is matching folks in need during this Covid-19 period with volunteers and locals that have time and resources. Here is a recap of what **YOU** have accomplished since the pandemic started:











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

### Thank YOU!

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

#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### CARE kicks off 'Pet-Casso' contest

Do you think your pet is talented? Maybe he or she is the next Picasso or Renoir?

Now's your chance to show off their talent! Chatham Animal Rescue and Education (CARE) is looking for pet artists with a Pet-Casso contest. CARE is asking pet owners to go to the CARE website at www. chathamanimalrescue. org to watch the instructional videos to see how to get your pet to paint a picture for the contest. All you need is some paper, a gallon-sized plastic sealed bag, some acrylic paints and something

your cat or dog will lick off the top of the plastic to get them to spread the paint around. Then, take a photo of your pet's creation and upload it to the website.

Entries will be accepted through June 11. Starting on June 12-26 get your friends and family to vote for your entry from CARE's fundraising site, also found at www. chathamanimalrescue. org. Each vote is a \$10 donation to CARE!

The winning entry will have their artwork hung in Liquidambar Gallery and Gifts in downtown Pittsboro and will be featured in a CARE newsletter.

— CN+R staff reports



## CHATHAM CHAT | COUNTY LIBRARIES RE-OPEN CHECK IT OUT: Chatham's public libraries welcoming patrons again

More than a year after a pandemic turned operations at Chatham County's public libraries upside down, they've re-opened to patrons. This week, Rita Van Duinen, the branch manager for Pittsboro's Chatham Community Library, talks about opening doors, going back to "pre-COVID-19" operating hours and other goings-on at the county's three-library system.

A native of Greensboro, Van Duinen has been a Chatham County resident for more than 20 years. She began working in libraries while pursuing a degree in Russian Language and Literature at the University of Oregon in the 1980s. Van Duinen returned to North Carolina and in the early 1990s began a 17-year career at the UNC University Library system, during which she earned a Master of Science in Library Science from the school. Following a stint as lead instructor for Central Carolina Community College Library and Information Technol ogy program and time spent as a consultant to the Washington, D.C.-based Council on Library and Information Resources, she became branch manager of the Chatham Community Library in 2017.

Nothing — aside from going into a grocery store unmasked (if you're fully vaccinated) — says "post-pandemic" like the Chatham County Public Libraries announcing the resumption of pre-COVID hours of operation. You and your staff have been working without patrons for 14 months now ... first, let's talk about how that feels to each of you, being able to welcome visitors inside the county's three libraries again...

Chatham County libraries did a "soft" reopening on April 5, with limited hours and limited services. Admittedly, it's been quite slow at the Pittsboro branch, but we think that will change once more people are fully vaccinated and our COVID numbers continue to trend down. I also think it's a matter of personal comfort levels; most staff are fully vaccinated, and we continue to mask up while inside the building as a matter of personal choice.

It's been a very quiet 14 months without our patrons, so we are delighted to have visitors inside our facilities again. It's what we do! The library is one of the most public-facing services I can think of.

For the record, what are the hours of operation and what other procedural changes are being made (any post-COVID changes, or are we essentially turning the clock back to pre-pandemic operational plans)? And what's the word on mask requirement? Effective May 24, Chatham County libraries returned to their pre-COVID hours of operation, which vary slightly at each branch. Hours of operation are:

#### Chatham Community Library (Pittsboro):

• Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

- Friday: 9 a.m. 6 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m. 5 p.m.

#### Goldston Library:

• Monday & Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., 2 – 6 p.m.

- Tuesday: CLOSED
- Thursday: 10 a.m. 1 p.m., 2 8 p.m.
- Friday: 10 a.m. 1 p.m., 2 5 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m. 1 p.m.

#### Wren Memorial Library (Siler City):

- Monday: noon 8 p.m. • Tuesday – Friday: 10 a.m. –
- 6 pm. • Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Per NC Executive Order 215 (issued May 17), masks are no longer required in a public setting such as the library, especially for the fully vaccinated. Masks are recommended for the unvaccinated, but not required. Free masks are available at the Pittsboro branch for anyone who might want to be extra cautious while inside. Capacity limitations inside the libraries has also been lifted as a result of the executive order.

#### Curbside pickup is still available, right?

Curbside service is still offered at all three branches for those patrons who aren't yet comfortable coming indoors and as a convenience. Curbside service hours remain the same, Monday-Friday, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Call your local branch to schedule a pick-up time.

### How did you all come to the decision to re-open to the public?

Once Executive Order 215 was signed, we knew we (had) to act quickly to reconstitute our services. We followed the lead of county management who in turn, follows that at the state level. We've been busy changing signage, moving furniture back in place, and making the library as welcoming as ever while also providing plenty of hand sanitizer and contactless service points.

#### One of the staples of the Chatham Community Library is programming. Lectures, classes, etc. What has to happen in order for those to resume in-person?

At present, all library programming will remain virtual until further notice. This includes our Summer

Reading program, an adult programming in the works, and instruction. One exception is the new Outdoor Story Times which will begin each week in June and held at three different locations across the county, outdoors on the patio at CCCC's Natural Chef Café, outdoors at the Goldston Library and at Washington Street Park in Siler City. Kudos to our Youth Services staff who've been working diligently to return to some sense of normalcy in their programming. And as a result, have created a new partnership with Siler City Parks and Recreation. Visit the library's website for more details on Outdoor Story Time, www.chathamlibraries.org.

In person programming can take months in advance to plan. I don't foresee us returning to in-person events until the fall at the earliest.

#### Anything else you want to highlight or discuss?

Our Friends of Library is currently planning a return to their fall book sale in September. They are still working out all the details so stay tuned for more information on that. The book sales are quite popular and a great community event. We are excited to return to a sense of "community" with reopening and the eventual return to programming and events!

# Weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics continue in Pittsboro, Siler City and Goldston

**NEWS BRIEFS** 

From Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Public Health Department announced today that COVID-19 vaccination clinics that occurred regularly through May in Pittsboro, Siler City and Goldston would continue throughout the month of June.

As of May 29th, 36,208 Chatham County residents had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, making up 48.6% of the county's population; 32,339 are fully vaccinated, 43.4% of the county's population.

Even more Chatham residents have the opportunity to receive their vaccine at these locations:

The Chatham County Public Health

ond-dose Moderna COVID-19 vaccinations at its Siler City clinic (1000 S. 10th Ave.) on Fridays. To make an appointment, call 919-742-5641. Walk-ins will also be welcome.

StarMed Healthcare is continuing to operate Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination clinics at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro on Fridays and Saturdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.. To pre-register, visit starmed.care or call (980) 445-9818. Walk-ins are also accepted.

StarMed Healthcare is providing Pfizer vaccinations at the Goldston Town Hall (40 Coral Ave. #A) from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Second-dose appointments will follow three weeks later. To pre-register, visit starmed.care or call (980) 445-9818. Walk-ins are also "We are thankful to all of the COVID-19 vaccine providers in Chatham County, who have been instrumental in our efforts to beat the pandemic," said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek. "We remain grateful to them for their ongoing commitment to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines across the county."

CCPHD has also been boosting its communications efforts about the COVID-19 vaccine and young people. The department created a new webpage with a video created by CCPHD staff specifically for parents of children who are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. The page also includes some frequently-asked questions and locations to receive the Pfizer vaccine. The page can be found at www.chathamcountync.gov/covid-vaccineyouth.

By visiting myspot.nc.gov, residents can put in their city or ZIP code and find multiple locations in their area to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Locations are also sortable by type of vaccine: the Pfizer vaccine, which is available to all individuals 12 years of age and older, and the Johnson & Johnson and Moderna vaccines, which are available to all individuals 18 years of age and older.

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and the CCPHD's vaccination plans, visit www.chathamcountync. gov/coronavirusvaccine. To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit www. chathamcountync.gov/publichealth or www.facebook.com/chathamhealth.

Department is offering first- and sec-

accepted.

#### Siler City Town Clerk honored

SILER CITY — Jenifer Johnson, Siler City's town clerk, has been awarded for the second time the prestigious designation of "N.C. Certified Municipal Clerk" (NCCMC) from the North Carolina Association of Municipal Clerks, along with the School of Government of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for achieving its high educational, experience, and service requirements.

As an established member of NCAMC), Johnson was among the class of municipal clerks from North Carolina who received their initial State designation in 2016, and after meeting extensive continuing education requirements has been awarded the N.C. Certified Municipal Clerk designation through July 2026.

The NCAMC is a professional organization of city, town and village clerks from across the state, dedicated to the continued growth and development of clerks and their municipalities.

Established on November 5, 1975, the Association, among other things, promotes educational and professional development opportunities for municipal clerks to enhance their knowledge and effectiveness. This is no small task, considering the wide array of duties performed by municipal clerks, which often vary from municipality to municipality. The Association partners with the North Carolina League of Municipalities, the School of Government of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) to meet the needs of each individual municipal clerk.

The North Carolina Certified Municipal Clerk Program is a five-year designation with requirements for continuing education to sustain and develop the ever-changing knowledge of the profession of municipal clerks. The NCAMC, together with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, strives to promote educational and professional development to enhance the clerk.

This Certification Program was developed with the assistance of the UNC School of Government at Chapel Hill and will be administered in cooperation with the School of Government. Qualifications of applicants are reviewed and approved by the NCAMC State Certification Committee.

- CN+R staff reports

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## JM honors top student artists at **JMArts Awards**

From JMArts

SILER CITY — Ten Jordan-Matthews High School artists received awards on Mav 27 during an annual ceremony highlighting outstanding student musicians, actors and visual artists.

Awards are usually announced as part of JM Awards Night, an annual presentation highlighting top students across all disciplines. But because of the pandemic, arts awards were announced by faculty members in video presentations on JMArts Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

The ceremony is pinned to the top of JMArts Twitter at twitter.com/JMHSArts or is accessible on all platforms with the hashtag #JMAawards2021.

Karsyn Vann, a freshman, received the 2021 Young Actor Award for her outstanding work in a particularly challenging role, as Old Man Warner in the spring theater workshop production of "The Lottery.'

Jennifer Diaz Garcia, a junior, received the 2021 Young Artist Award for her outstanding talent, ability to work in various media and willingness to experiment and take risks.

Andy Ayala Jimenez, a freshman and tuba player, received the 2021 Young Instrumentalist Award for his musicianship, dedication and ability to overcome obstacles.

Cassidy DeShazo, a freshman, received the 2021 Young Vocalist Award for her outstanding voice, understanding of music theory and quality work

Hannah Redding, a senior, received the 2021 Kaitlin James Theater Award for her exceptional work as Tessie Hutchison in the spring theater production of The Lottery." Though the award is presented annually to an actor or crew member for their contribution to a production's success, this year's presentation also honored Redding for her dedication and leadership over four years of theatrical work. Wesley Apple and

Daniel Escalona Fernandez were named the 2021 Outstanding Graduates in Band, the first time two artists jointly received an outstanding graduate award. Both trumpet players were honored for their musicianship and impressive growth as musicians over four years. Apple will begin undergraduate study this fall at East Carolina University with a major in music education and a minor in music

performance. Conrad Suits was named the 2021 Outstanding Graduate in Theater. The JMArts Scholar performed most recently at Jordan-Matthews as Hutchison in "The Lottery," The Baker in "Into the Woods" and Eric in "The Little Mermaid." He enrolls at Appalachian State University this fall with plans to complete the B.A. in Theatre Arts.

Tiana Brooks was named the 2021 Outstanding Graduate in Visual Art. The 2020 JMArts-Rotary Scholar's digital work, 'symbol of strength,' was commissioned this winter for the first JMArts spring greeting cards and her painting, "Say Their Names," was one of only 35 student works statewide selected to exhibit at The 2021 Emerging Artists Invitational, an annual exhibition for high school artists sponsored by the Sechrest Gallery of Art and the High Point University School of Art and Design. She will enroll at Appalachian State University this fall to study arts management. Rilee Rains was

named the 2021 Outstanding Graduate in Vocal Music. The vocalist has not only performed with JM vocal ensembles, but appeared on stage in musical productions, performing as Rapunzel in "Into the Woods" and Adella in "The Little Mermaid." She begins undergraduate study this fall at Central Carolina Community College. More information about JMArts, including details about JMArts Scholars and upcoming events, is available at jmarts.org.

## William 'Chip' Pate honored with **JMArts Community Hero Award**

#### From JMArts

SILER CITY — William "Chip" Pate, a marketing and public relations consultant serving clients in the education and nonprofit sectors, was



Pate

named the 2021 **Community Hero** by JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation. The annual award was created to honor a volunteer from the commu-

nity who has contributed significantly to the success of the arts at Jordan-Matthews High School.

The award was presented on May 27 by JMArts President Rose Pate as part of the JMArts Awards, an online ceremony highlighting outstanding student musicians, actors and visual artists. Arts awards are usually announced as part of JM Awards Night, an annual event highlighting top students across all disciplines. But because of the pandemic, arts awards were announced by faculty members in video presentations on JMArts Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

The awards ceremony is pinned to the top of JMArts Twitter at twitter.com/JMHSArts or is accessible on all platforms with the hashtag #JMAawards2021.

Chip and Rose Pate are married; Chip was one of the founders of JMArts, working with, Rose, the current JMArts president, to create the foundation one decade ago. Since then, Chip, the owner

of Pate and Associates Marketing in Pittsboro, has donated more than one-third of his billable hours every year to help nonprofit organizations, most of those hours contributed to JMArts.

He has been involved in setting the strategic direction for JMArts and has handled the nonprofit's marketing and public relations including its website, social media, news releases, JMArts Update newsletter, photography and media relations.

Drawing on his Ph.D. in higher education from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chip also has helped develop the foundation's educational programs. He helped create JMArts's "Performing in College" educational roundtable for high school students considering majoring in performing arts in college and he designs the foundation's annual New York Arts Adventure.

That signature educational trip is built from the ground up each year around the interests of traveling students. Chip books hotels and flights, plans meals and works with associates in New York City to arrange special events like backstage tours on Broadway and extended lunches for students to learn from nationally respected theater critics, actors and producers

While students have enjoyed the benefits of his work with JMArts, he says he's been blessed as well.

"I've said this many times before, so it's no secret, that these student actors, musicians and

visual artists are the one thing that gives me hope for the future," he said. "They work unbelievably hard, even without some of the advantages that many schools take for granted. They're genuinely outstanding people and, most of all, they encourage each other and take care of each other.

"It's something you probably don't see unless you're backstage, at rehearsal or in the art studio, but, honestly, it's impressive. I just wish everyone else could see what I've seen, so they could be encouraged and inspired, too.'

Because Chip is involved each year in preparing and promoting the arts awards, Rose had to tell her husband about the honor in advance. She prefaced that discussion by saying, 'This was the committee, not me,' knowing it could be a little uncomfortable presenting an award so close to home. On the other hand, the decision

made sense.

"We both got involved with supporting the arts programs at JM when our son was a student here, and we found it so fulfilling that we've stayed active," Rose said. "There's no way we could have had the impact we've had without Chip's service. If you've ever heard of JMArts, it's because of his work.'

All arts award winners over the last several years are listed online at jmarts.org/awards.

More information about JMArts. including its flagship JMArts Scholars program, is available at jmarts.org.

## About 90 student artists exhibit at **2021 JM Spring Art Show**

#### From JMArts

SILER CITY — Tiana Brooks and Chloey Johnson took top prizes at the 2021 JM Spring Art Show, a juried event held on May 26 at Jordan-Matthews High School.

Work from about 90 artists from across the academic community was on display during a show usually held over a full week in downtown Siler City. But because of pandemic complications, this year's show was moved to one night in the high school media center.

Tiana Brooks received the \$100 first prize for "Say Their Names," a mixed media work. The piece also was one of only 35 student works statewide selected to exhibit at The 2021 Emerging Artists Invitational, an annual exhibition for high school artists sponsored by the Sechrest Gallery of Art and the High Point University School of Art and Design. Chloey Johnson received the \$50 second prize for her untitled acrylic and wax series of six works.



'Say Their Names,' a mixed media work by senior Tiana Brooks was awarded first place in the 2021 JM Spring Ar

Local artists Barbara Hengstenberg and Bronwyn Watson, who returned as judges this year, were impressed with the art, which included works from several classes — Art 4 Honors, Art 3 Honors, Art 2, Art 1 and Basic Life Skills.

"After this past year, we are amazed to find such introspective and expressive works of art here at JM," Hengstenberg said. "We have high regard for all of the artists and their teacher.'

Rahkie Mateen-Mason, the art teacher at Jordan-Matthews, said this year's show reflected a wide range of topics. This unusual semester in the pandemic focused on "choice-based" art — a direction that allowed students to develop their own projects after instruction in media and methods. "That meant they had a lot of freedom, but also a lot of responsibility," she said. "I'm proud so many of them followed through with their plans." Photos of many works from the 2021 JM Spring Art Show are available in an album on the JMArts Facebook page at facebook.com/ imhsarts.

Four other artists were recognized for honorable mention. They were Carlin Brown for "Galactic Cruise," an acrylic painting; Anna Brooke Fuller for "Tic-Tac-No," an acrylic painting; Linda Ocampo for "Man with Cello," a mixed media collage; and Isabella Palacios for "Bubbles," an acrylic painting.

## Dance instruction returns to J-M with spring theater workshop

#### From JMArts

SILER CITY — Formal dance instruction returned to Jordan-Matthews High School for the first time in decades with a two-day workshop that kicked off next school year's production of the Broadway musical, 'Oklahoma!"

The six-hour stage dance workshop in mid-May was organized by JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation, thanks to a Grassroots Grant awarded last fall by the Chatham Arts Council. It taught dance terminology and basic steps, helped students understand what to expect at a dance audition and allowed the performers to work through some choreography for the upcoming theatrical production.

"For most of our students, this was a real challenge," said JMArts President Rose Pate, who created the workshop. "Only a few have ever had dance lessons. But it was great to see their enthusiasm and delight in learning something new, and I'm extremely proud of how hard they've worked. And this dance is going to be a memorable moment in our production of 'Oklahoma!' next year."

More than a dozen students



Courtesy of JMArts

Peggy Taphorn, Producing Artistic Director for Temple Theatre in Sanford, teaches steps during the six-hour JMArts Theater Dance Workshop at Jordan-Matthews High School.

participated in the free workshop. They filled the auditorium stage two Monday afternoons, beginning slowly with stretching before moving into more rigorous steps introduced by workshop instructor Peggy Taphorn, who is in her 14th season as the Producing Artistic Director at Temple Theatre in Sanford.

It was a rare opportunity for young actors to work with

someone like Taphorn, who has directed, choreographed and performed across the world, including numerous productions on Broadway, London's West End, and touring the United States, Canada, South America and Asia.

After learning some basic steps, the pace picked up and focus shifted to choreography for "Kansas City," a wellknown number from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical.

At times, Taphorn walked methodically through segments of the dance with the entire group. At other times, she split the group in two and worked with each half separately. Every time she turned on the music, things got almost frenetic, with bodies moving across the stage and Taphorn's voice towering over the score, keeping the rhythm with short words reminding the dancers about their techniques, turns and steps.

Though she works with some of the most talented theater professionals in the world, Taphorn said it's also rewarding to teach beginning actors and dancers.

"It was very enjoyable to work with such a committed and fun group of young people in this class on learning this classic dance," she said. "We also talked about a life in the theater and the different opportunities on and behind the stage. A lot of the skills learned in theater and the arts are transferable to 21st century learning, including learning how to cooperate and how to think creatively."

Judging from upbeat banter during water breaks, enthusiasm on stage and responses after the workshop, it was a huge hit with the students — including junior Wendy Castillo Mejia, for whom it was all a new experience.

"This is my first time doing anything with theater, but the theater kids seem like they have everything together and they are having fun," she said. "Even though this is new, I'm feeling good. I'm still trying to decide between working backstage and auditioning for the show."

Sophomore Buck Thornton had a similar reaction to this flurry of activity to kick off the production, "It's a work in progress, but that's what makes it fun," he said. "This is my first time having dance lessons and I am excited to learn more!"

The Grassroots Grant Program that provided funding for the dance workshop is made possible by individual contributions to the Chatham Arts Council's general operating fund — and by the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

## POLICE REPORTS



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Volunteers help distribute boxes of food in Pittsboro in July as a part of CORA's SNACK! Program. The program provides free and nutritious meals for school-aged children during the summer.

## **CORA** expands age group for **SNACK!** program

#### **BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN** News + Record Staff

Following the posting of a complaint in a popular Chatham Facebook group, CORA — Chatham Outreach Alliance - updated its SNACK! Program age requirements to include more school-aged children in its services.

The Facebook post, published May 19 by Chatham resident Veronica McPherson, raised concerns with the program's 5- to 17-year-old age requirement. This range left out older students. McPherson wrote, such as her 19-year-old daughter who is disabled and still in high school.

Later that evening, CORA's Executive Director Melissa Driver Beard responded, thanking McPherson for her post and explaining that the age parameters for SNACK — Summer Nutritional Assistance for Chatham Kids — were originally put in place to serve school-aged students when school "backpack" programs pause during the summer.

"Perhaps it is time we reconsider that," Beard wrote in the FaceI said in my response to Veronica, I don't believe in continuing to do things just because we've always done them that way. And I did believe that it was a little bit of a technicality that, if there are children that are older or younger, who were enrolled in school and need assistance, that we can bend that way."

Several community members thanked Beard for her reply.

"Great response Melissa," commented Jaime Detzi, who lives in Chatham and is the director of Chatham Education Foundation. "You are always willing to find ways to make things better."

"Wonderful response.... Helpful, informative and gracious!" County **Commissioner Karen** Howard posted from her personal Facebook page. "Thank you for what you are doing.

In Chatham County, 50% of public school children receive free or low-cost meals, CORA's website says, leaving more than 4,450 school children in Chatham without "adequate replacements for these meals during the summer in 2021."

Families can register

#### CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On May 19, James Ronnie Brooks, 70, of 31 Lewis Brown Road, Bennett, was arrested by Deputy Joshua Sammons for indecent liberties with a child. He was issued a \$100.000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 7.

On May 19, Andrew David Allison, 36, of 6464 Bonlee Bennett Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for obtaining property by false pretenses. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on June 7. Allison was returned to the custody of the Chatham County Detention Center on his previous bond.

On May 20, Lisa Renee Thomas, 35, of 149 Bonlee Bennett Road, Bonlee, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for misdemeanor probation violation. She was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 2

On May 22, Johnny Clifton Fogleman III, 36, of 1444 Henderson Tanyard Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Alberto Estrada for possession of a firearm by a felon. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 7. On May 22, Johnny Clifton Fogleman III, was arrested by Deputy Alex Lukasewycz for injury

to real property and injury to personal property. He was issued a \$2,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on June 2.

On May 21, Tony Brown, 62, of 1012 Long Avenue, Rocky Mount, was arrested by Deputy Alex Lukasewycz for three counts of failure to appear. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wilson County District Court in Wilson on June 1.

On May 23, Naim Amar Solomon, 23, 2238 Kirkwood Street, High Point, was arrested by Deputy John Beach for domestic violence protective order violation. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 9.

On May 23, Janet Lee Baldwin, 57, of 95 Ricky Road, Staley, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington. She was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 25.

On May 23, Jaquan Timothy Woodard, 26, of 4820 Mann's Chapel Road, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin on a warrant from another jurisdiction. He was assigned a 24-hour hold and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on May 25.

On May 24, William Howard Payne Jr., 65, of 100 Grady Apt. 103, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for stalking.

#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

or medical devices, paint, personal care products, TVs larger than 25 inches or electronics weighing more than 50 pounds, undergarments and weapons or ammunition.

The following are examples of items that are accepted at the Swap Shops (items should be gently used and in working condition): Art, films, music, etc, bicycles, books & magazines, clothes & shoes, furniture, (small) household items & decorations, small appliances. small electronics (residents should remove all personal information), sporting equipment, tools and toys.

Residents must have a 2021 Collection Center decal to use the Collection Centers, including the

He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 9.

On May 24, Jack Daniels Wyman, 41, of 3711 Mt. Gilead Church Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Alberto Estrada for forgery of instrument, uttering forged instruments, illegally accessing computers, exploiting disabled/elder trust, larceny, obtaining property by false pretenses identity theft, possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a \$3,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 7.

On May 24, Javier Montiel Dela Cruz, 37, of 13155 US Hwy 64, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Bran den Havens for failure to appear. He was issued a \$2,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Bladen County District Court in Elizabethtown on June 11.

On May 24, Kevin Lee Keeny, 38, of 92 Pine Hill, Carrboro, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for failure to appear. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 7.

On May 24, Courtney Lee Gauthier, 36, of 110 Carter Brooks Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Mackenzie Abbott for failure to appear. She was issued a \$100 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Guilford County District Court in Greensboro on June 14.

> in the Swap Shops are available on a first-come, first-served basis and items cannot be set aside for future pickup. Residents are limited to two 15-minute visits per day at the Collection Centers.

> Local donation stores, like Habitat for Humanity and the PTA Thrift Stores, can take some items that are not accepted in the Swap Shops. Please contact them directly for details.

> Learn more about Solid Waste & Recycling at www.chathamcountync. gov/recycle. Residents who have questions may contact the Main Office Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 919-542-5516 or at recycle@ chathamcountync.gov.

**County addresses** able, from bags of actual issues at trash to oversized items. We want to take this op-**Collection Center** portunity to remind res-Swap Shops idents about what items are and are not accepted in the Swap Shops, as it

has been overwhelming

for our attendants to try

The following items are

not Accepted at the Swap

Shops: Items too large to

fit in the Swap Shop or

to manage."

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Collection Centers' Swap Shops re-opened on April 19, but since re-opening, the Swap Shops have been overrun with items that are not acceptable.

for one person to carry, "The Swap Shops are a place for residents to (which would include leave and take gently used large pieces of furniture, construction materials, items, so someone else can use them and they do etc.) adult materials, not have to be disposed of chemicals or cleaners. in a landfill," said Kevin clothing that is dirty, torn Lindley, Chatham County or wet, (these can be put **Environmental Quality** into the green clothing Director. "Since re-openrecycling bin) food or ing, residents have been beverages, mattresses placing items in the Swap (bed, futon, sleeper sofa) Shops that are not acceptor box springs, medicine

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book "Caremongering Pittsboro" group less than three hours after McPherson's post. "It's possible the age restrictions should be changed. ...I'll admit in the absence of better information, we've continued to run the program as it is. Not being a fan of 'doing things the way we always have,' I'm happy to consider change and would be happy to delve further into the issue with you."

Since then, the SNACK program — which provides participating children with 21 nutritious meals each week from mid-June through mid-August — updated its age requirements. Now, students as young as 3 and as old as 19 can qualify, given they're enrolled in school, with students of any age eligible for registration.

"I want to thank Melissa Driver Beard and CORA Food Pantry for taking the time to listen to my concerns and work with me," McPherson posted May 25. "Adjusting the age requirement of the SNACK program will help to make some families' lives a little less stressful!"

The SNACK program has been operating for 12 years. During that time, CORA's offered as many as 21 pickup locations in the county; last year, there were five pickup spots and this year the organization plans to offer 11.

After Beard discovered the Facebook complaint, she said she "just immediately responded."

"That was just a very honest, transparent response," she said. "As for the SNACK program on a Google form on CORA's website (https:// tinyurl.com/p36wztnb), which is in English and Spanish. Registration runs through June 14, when food pick-ups start, but Beard said people can also enroll on-site.

CORA offers several programs besides SNACK, including its food pantry, celebration station, Commodity Supplemental Food Program and Emergency Food Assistance Program. Beard emphasized that people of all ages can get food if they need it, even if they don't qualify for SNACK.

"You don't have to rely on a summer program for help," she said.

While this language change in the SNACK requirements is a relatively minor one, it reflects myriad changes CORA implemented over the last year and a half during the pandemic.

CORA's new building in Pittsboro is nearly complete; the organization is exploring hybrid and online shopping models that might remove additional barriers for clients.

"We're really trying to think about how to better serve the community and better be a resource for those that we do serve," Beard said. "And so I think we've really embraced this year of change and are gonna roll with that."

Reporter Hannah Mc-Clellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr. com or on Twitter at @ HannerMcClellan

Swap Shops. Items placed

CN+R staff reports

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**Siler City** Laura M Clapp, CFP® 301 E Raleigh St 919-663-1051

**Governors Club** Sharon A Dickens, AAMS® 50101 Governors Dr Suite 118 919-967-9968

Pittsboro **Kevin C Maley** 984 Thompson St Suite E2 919-444-2961

Fearrington Kathy Brommage, CFP® 190 Chatham Downs Drive Suite 103 919-960-6119

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**Chapel Hill** Jessica L Villagrana 180 Providence Rd Suite 1c 984-219-6635

**Penguin Place** Paul A Shockley 114 Russet Run Suite 120 919-542-3020



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## Chatham 250 celebration announces five upcoming community events

PITTSBORO — As Chatham 250 continues its celebrations throughout 2021, the planning committee is thrilled to announce five upcoming community events. The events are part of the Chatham 250 Passport Experience, a self-guided tour meets scavenger hunt, which is designed to assist in the exploration of Chatham County in honor of its 250th anniversary. The events focus on the five key areas of Chatham 250 celebration — Creative Arts, Growth and Change, Community and Diversity, Agriculture and Natural Environment.

The Chatham 250 events are also the first activity featured on each of the corresponding passports. The events will occur virtually, in-person and in hybrid formats and will all be free and open to the public. Residents are encouraged to mark their calendars for the events over the next six months that will further help residents and visitors alike to engage with the unique places, people, cultures and experiences in Chatham County.

#### Growth and Change Event (Series): Chatham County History of Communities of Color

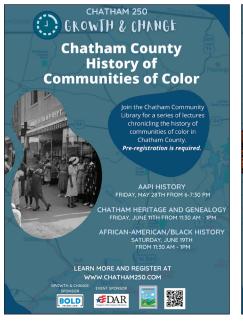
Dates: June 11 and June 19 Sponsors: Deep River Chapter Pittsboro, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR)

The public is invited to join the Chatham Community Library for a threepart virtual lecture series chronicling the history of communities of color in Chatham County. The first lecture, held May 28, was in honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

The second lecture titled "Chatham County — Discovering Our Heritage Through Genealogy" will focus on the genealogical and heritage resources available through the County's public libraries and other related resources and will occur from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Friday, June 11.

The series will conclude with a much-anticipated lecture titled "From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans in Chatham County" 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 19. This lecture, by Charles Johnson, Associate Professor and Director of Public History at North Carolina Central University, is also part of Juneteenth Celebrations in Chatham County.

All lectures will occur virtually, and pre-registration is required to access the login information. Interested participants



can learn more and RSVP by visiting the Chatham 250 event page: https://www.chatham250.com/event-details/chatham-county-history-of-communities-of-color, or by visiting the Chatham County Calendar: https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/county- calendar.

#### Natural Environment Event: Great Chatham County Camp Out

Date: Saturday, June 26 Sponsor: Central Electric

Chatham County families are invited to spend the night camping at a designated campsite, in their own backyard, or even in a homemade fort in their living room. Participants can follow along on their own time with many community organizations that will be releasing videos about camping tips and the natural environment of Chatham County.

"B. Everett Jordan Dam is looking forward to partnering with Chatham 250 on the Great Chatham County Camp Out by offering a one-night-only camping experience," said Blake Johnson, Natural Resource Specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at B. Everett Jordan Lake. "We're planning multiple cultural and nature programs for the in-person campout, including storytelling with a Bynum Front Porch storyteller, a campfire sing-a-long, guided hikes and ranger programs with the staff from B. Everett Jordan Dam. We hope to also live stream



these programs for our remote campers. It should be an unforgettable night!"

#### Agriculture Event: Agricultural Photo Contest

Submissions due Sunday, August 1. Winners announced in September. Sponsor: Chatham County Farm Bureau

Chathamites are invited to get out their cameras and set their sights on Agriculture. The Chatham 250 Agriculture Photo Contest is the perfect opportunity to learn about the amazing farms and farm history in Chatham County. Contestants will upload one photo of their choosing and give insight into why they chose this photo in 200 words or less. Coordinating this contest is Kaley Lawing, Community Resource Development/4-H Youth Development Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension — Chatham County Center.

"The Chatham 250 Agriculture Photo Contest gives both youth and adults the opportunity to share their photographs of Chatham County Agriculture with everyone," said Lawing. "Contest participants will upload their photo submission by going to the Chatham 250 event web page. Contest rules, submission form, and updates can be found there as well and will be available in the upcoming months. Submissions are due by August 1st, and winners will be announced in September."

#### Creative Arts Celebration Theme Event: Sidewalk Chalk Festival

Date: Saturday, September 11

Sponsor: Carolina Meadows

Residents are invited to express their creativity by joining Chatham 250 at the Sidewalk Chalk Festival from noon - 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 11. Community Members are welcome to participate on site at the Park at Briar Chapel or send in a photo of their masterpiece that they created at their own home. The competition will be split into age divisions and the winner will be selected by a panel of judges.

"Whether participating or spectating, people can look forward to celebrating Chatham 250 using sidewalk chalk as a creative outlet. I am excited to have people from across the county, and of all ages, show off their creativity and love for Chatham County," said Mallory Peterson, Program Supervisor with Chatham County Parks and Recreation and co-liaison for the Chatham 250 Events and Activities committee.

Learn more by visiting the Chatham 250 Sidewalk Chalk Festival event page: https://www.chatham250.com/event-details/sidewalk-chalk-festival

#### Community and Diversity Event: Chatham 250 Parade/Carvana

Date: 2 p.m., Saturday, October 23, in Siler City. (Rain Date: Sunday, October 24th) Sponsor: Town of Siler City

The Chatham 250 celebration will be coming to a cheerful close with the Parade/Carvana taking place in Siler City at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 23. Chatham 250 welcomes all community members, businesses and organizations to either participate in or watch the parade in celebration of Chatham County.

For more information on Chatham 250 events and activities, residents may visit www.chatham250.com, or follow Chatham County on Twitter and Facebook. People may RSVP on Facebook for the events. Facebook events can be found on the Chatham 250 website: www.chatham250.com/chatham250- events.

Another great way to stay up to date with Chatham 250 activities is to register for the Chatham 250 Passport Experience through the Chatham 250 website home page: www. chatham250.com or Passport page: www. Chatham250.com/passportoverview. Registered participants will receive monthly updates throughout the Passport Experience. Already more than 100 individuals have registered to participate in the Passport Experience, and more community members are encouraged to sign up for these fun, unique and memorable activities.





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## Some progress, some regress

Work on the \$2.48 million traffic circle project in Pittsboro continues. Officials had hoped the circle would be fully open for automobile traffic by June 1, but that wasn't quite the case. Pleasant Memorial Day weather brought out a smattering of Confederate protestors to the historic courthouse on Monday amid the work debris, making themselves most visible to passersby on the section of road which remains open. Construction — and reconstruction - will continue on the project. Downtown business owners hoping to emerge from a pandemic and construction-induced slump have expressed hope that the protestors would find a home elsewhere to wave flags and shout insults to those who attempt to engage them in conversation. One protestor told a News + Record photographer that by taking photos of the demonstration, he was 'professing faith to the communist regime.'





## r has a St 20

This tale is told all over the world! There are versions from Germany, Poland, Norway and from many of the Native American tribes in the United States. Read the story and look at the pictures. Can you number the pictures in the correct order?



nce upon a time, bears had beautiful long tails. One bear was very, very proud of his tail. Bear would brag about his magnificent tail to anyone who would listen. Fox got tired of listening to bear brag day after day. So, he came up with an idea to trick Bear.

Fox stole a big bunch of fish and waited for Bear to walk by.

Bear saw the fish and asked Fox, "How did you get so many tasty fish? Can you teach me how to get fish like that?



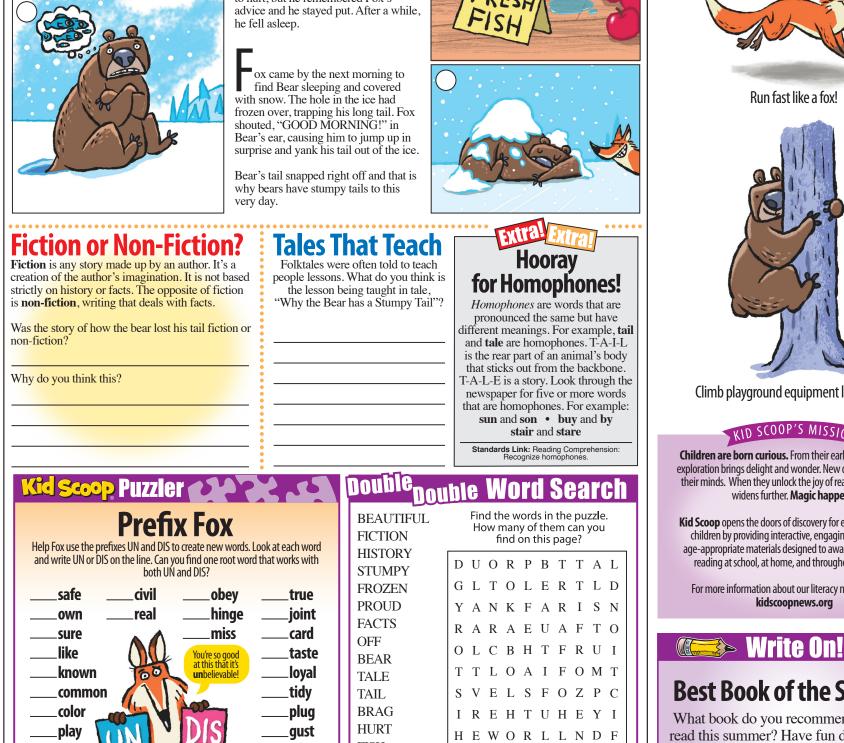


"Oh, it is so easy!" said Fox. "Start by going to the frozen pond, cut a hole in the ice and then drop your tail into the hole and wait as long as you can! The longer you wait, the more fish you'll catch. If your tail starts to hurt, don't worry about it," Fox explained. "It means that the fish are biting." Bear did just as Fox said.

Bear waited and waited. His tail started to hurt, but he remembered Fox's









Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



Fox and Bear Fitness Summertime is a great time to get some exercise while also having fun with family and friends. Try these animal exercises this summer.



Roll on your back like a happy fox.



Walk on all fours like a great big bear.





What book do you recommend other kids read this summer? Have fun describing the details but don't give away the ending!

the ryC4

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify and know the meaning of common prefixes

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## Get ready for fuel (read: everything) to cost a lot more money

Chaos erupted when the Colonial Pipeline shut down last month, tempo-



rarily suspending fuel supply on the east coast. But the drama we saw then was just a glimpse of something worse to come, though for unrelated

**D. LARS** DOLDER Enterprising Chatham

reasons. The U.S. has weathered fuel shortages before. In 1973 and again in 1979, tensions

with foreign nations and internal strife in the Middle East strangled supply chains and inflated gas prices to before-unseen levels. We saw something similar, though less severe, in the mid-2000s.

But the country's gas industry is facing a new systemic shortcoming, a different kind of shortage, that threatens to squeeze supply for years to come: there aren't enough drivers to deliver fuel.

"Fuel shortages have never been tied to drivers," said Brad Ball, president of Roadmaster Drivers School. "Fuel shortages were tied to foreign countries or some other types of supply-related issues. But it was never tied to drivers, and now it is.'

Roadmaster Drivers School is a national training organization for truckers based in St. Petersburg, Florida. More than 100,000 graduates have learned the trucking trade through the organization's 15 regional training facilities. One of the company's smaller operations in Dunn, in Harnett County about 52 miles northeast of Pittsboro,

After

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has graduated several Chathamites. Ball has been with Roadmaster from the start, more than 25 years ago. The industry has had its ups and downs in the past, he said, but never has the driver pool shrunk as dramatically as in the last year.

"The shortage of drivers is becoming pretty intense," Ball told me, "and I haven't had this many phone calls on a daily basis from shippers and trucking companies looking for drivers ever. Literally every single day I have several calls from people trying to figure out how to get more drivers."

In 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported an impending shortfall of 65,700 drivers for 2020 as the average trucker approached retirement age. Then COVID-19 hastened a mass exodus.

The average age of a truck driver is about 50 years old," Ball said, "so a lot of drivers are retiring. And the rate at which drivers are retiring is just basically exceeding the demand.'

Tightening restrictions from federal agencies have also pruned the driver pool. In 2020, new standards and enhanced record-keeping forced about 50,000 truckers out of the business. Using the Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse, an online database under the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, prospective employers could see when drivers failed drug and sobriety tests at previous companies.

"If they failed at one truck trucking company, they used to be able to just basically go to another trucking company and pass a drug test," Ball said. "They can't do that anymore because the results are sent to the database."

Of course, no one wants impaired drivers operating 18-wheelers and tanker trucks, but the problem remains: there just aren't enough qualified drivers to meet exploding demand, and the problem is only getting worse. Some national tank truck carriers estimate 25% of the industry's vehicles might sit idle through the summer, as first reported by ABC 13.

"When demand was increasing, supply was being severely pinched, and here we are with a more severe shortage than we've had in a long, long time," Ball said. "And basically, it's expected that the demand for drivers will outpace supply for the foreseeable future, maybe the next 10 years."

A fuel shortage may be the first and most radical result of a depleted national trucking industry, but it won't be the only commodity to suffer accelerated price inflation. Almost everything from retail goods to food supplies spend some time on a truck before reaching their destination.

"At the start of the pandemic, people weren't really spending money on travel and sporting events and everything else, so the effects were muted," Ball said. "Come May, June, though, they started buying goods, and e-commerce exploded. Everything in your house moves by truck. So all of a sudden, trucking exploded in the summer of 2020, and at the same time truck driving schools across the country were closed down.'

Under normal circumstances, Roadmaster schools might enroll about 15 students at a time for its four-week trucking courses, although capacity varies between locations. With pandemic restrictions, operations were briefly shuttered before reopening at limited capacity.

"We could only produce about 60% of the students that we have previously been able to produce," Ball said, "and that goes for all schools across the country.'

To combat the driver shortage, Roadmaster plans to open about five new facilities by end of year. Demand is "through the roof," Ball said, "so we can't grow fast enough right now to take advantage of it.'

But more schools won't fix the problem — not fast enough, anyway.

"I mean, you still won't have enough drivers to drive your trucks, so you have to pay people more," Ball said. "And that ends up meaning that you have to charge people more for your product, if you can even get it where it needs to go. And that's what's happening across the board is all the trucking companies in the country are increasing pay for drivers. So if it costs them more to move product, it's ultimately costing more to the consumer.'

To learn more about Roadmaster Drivers School, visit roadmaster.com. Tuition across all locations costs \$6,995 and sees most students through testing for their CDL license. Enrollment requires minimal education, but applicants must submit to a background check and interview process. Average starting pay for graduates is about \$50,000, according to Ball.

Have an idea for what Chatham business topics I should write about? Send me a note at dldolder@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @dldolder.

## Victory in the pastry wars

It took forever and at times seemed like a futile



DEBBIE MATTHEWS The Curious Cook biscuits that would make any little old Southern lady proud.

They were flaky. They were yummy. The insides were tender and soft as a cloud. The crust was crispy, buttery and a little bit chewy, with a dusting of toasted flour on top. They were gorgeous and golden.

It hasn't been an easy road. But as a food writer in the South, I felt like my street cred was at risk if I couldn't go into a kitchen and produce a pan of the

culinary calling card of any Southern cook; from random grandmothers to food virtuosos like Ashley Christenson and the late, great Mildred Council — or as the world knew her, Mama Dip. But every darn biscuit I

made had a fatal flaw. Flat was a very frequent defect. This was

solved in two ways. First, I found the correct amount of leavening. Enough for lift, but not so

much that tainted the taste. Secondly, I used a method I've never tried: Folding.

That's it. For rise and flakiness, roll or pat the dough into a rough rectangle, then fold it into thirds, flatten again and refold.

In pastry lingo, this is known as lamination. With laminated doughs like croissants, this is done hundreds of times (for large output, a machine called a sheeter is used). For biscuits, folding five or so times is good.

Another problem that comes with pastry is developing the gluten in the flour which results in a stretchy, elastic product. Which is great and extremely desirable in making a sourdough boule, it's murder for biscuits. It's handling which produces gluten. After adding the buttermilk you can only manipulate it so much before it becomes tough and rubbery — so take care. My biscuits were made with butter. Early in the day, I retrieved cold butter from the fridge, and grated it. That gave me very small bits. Then I put it into the freezer for a few hours. That gave me very cold bits. About 90 minutes before I baked

2 cups all-purpose

flour + more for

kneading and rolling



Triump biscuits, ready to eat!

off the biscuits, I sifted together the dry ingredients. I took the butter out of the freezer and rubbed it into the flour until it looked like coarse corn meal. Then I put it back in the fridge until I was ready to finish making the dough and bake. Intact fat produces lightness and flakiness when the water in the butter turns to

dough, but the biscuit dough gives them a singular flaky buttery-ness that yeasy dough just can't reproduce.

I won't lie to you. Not only does this take practice and patience, it is a singularly messy enterprise. My hands look like I'd dipped them in cement when I'm done, and I don't even want to talk about the state of my kitchen counter. Maybe I should wear latex gloves...and maybe a plastic poncho.

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## CONSTRUCTION



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steam in the oven.

I haven't been so proud of making something since The Kid was born.

Later, after seeing it on a cooking show, I decided to use the recipe and technique to make one of Petey's favorite sweets: cinnamon buns. They're usually made with a yeast Too much?

Nah, no sacrifice is too much for the perfect biscuit.

Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@ bullcity.mom.

#### **Triumph biscuits**

powder 1 teaspoon salt 1/4 teaspoon baking soda

Big pinch of sugar 7 tablespoons butter, grated and frozen 1 cup cold buttermilk

2 teaspoons baking Whisk flour, baking powder, salt, sugar, and baking soda together into bowl.

Cut frozen, grated butter into flour mixture until it resembles coarse meal. Refrigerate for 90 minutes.

When ready to bake, preheat oven to 425.

Pour buttermilk into butter and flour mixture. Mix in buttermilk just until there's no liquid in the bowl. It will still need to come together more, but you'll do this on the counter with very gentle kneading.

Turn onto a floured surface, and mix by hand until it becomes a roughish dough, using only as much flour you need. Shape into rectangle.

Fold the rectangle in thirds. Flatten back down and refold. Do this 3 or 4 more times.

Roll dough on a floured surface to about 1/2 inch thick. Cut out 12 biscuits using a 2 1/2-inch biscuit cutter.

Transfer biscuits to parchment-lined cookie sheet. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown, rotating pan 180 degrees midway through.

#### **Buttermilk Biscuit Cinnamon Rolls**

Make the Triumph biscuits to the point of having a half-inch thick rectangle, then fold in thirds once more and roll it into a 1/4 inch thick rectangle about 18X10 inches.

Preheat oven to 400°. Mix together filling:

1 cup toasted pecans, finely chopped 1/2 cup brown sugar 1/2 teaspoon Chinese five-spice powder Melt one stick (1/2 cup) butter, and let cool slightly Paint the 1/4 inch thick rectangle with the melted butter, then sprinkle an even layer

of filling, leaving 1/2 inch of one edge of the long end free of filling mixture. Starting at the end with filling, roll long end tightly without pulling or ripping. Once rolled, reposition so that seam is on the bottom.

Chill for thirty minutes, then cut into 11/2inch slices. Place on a cookie sheet and chill for 30 minutes. Bake for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown and puffed. Let rest for 10 minutes then glaze.

#### Glaze:

heyavy cream

1 cup powdered sugar 2 tablespoons butter, 1 teaspoon vanilla

melted extract 2 tablespoons he 1 pinch Chinese five-

Whisk together and spread onto warm biscuits.

spice powder 1/8 teaspoon salt

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#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS **NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**

HAVING QUALIFIED, as Administrator, CTA of the Estate of MABEL CRITE JONES, late of Chatham County, North Caroli-na, 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, Adminis-trator. 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

#### 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,Jn3,4tc

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA** CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, having qual-ified 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

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& Griffin, P.A.

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CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

day of May, 2021, as Executrix of the Estate of LESLIE S. WRUBLE, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Caroli-na, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the

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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,Jn3,4tc

#### **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 under-

signed 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,Jn3,4tc

#### **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 2731 My13,My20,My27,Jn3,4tc

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 21-E-139 **NORTH CAROLINA**

**CHATHAM COUNTY** The undersigned, Joette Newkirk, having qualified as Administrator of of THOMAS DAVID TOOMER. deceased. late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against saidestate 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 Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312

My13,My20,My27,Jn3,4tc

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. ABRAHA-MSON 102 Presque Isle Lane Chapel Hill, NC 27514 My20,My27,Jn3,Jn10,4tc

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 CUM-

MINGS f/k/a FLORENCE ELIZABETH

MONROE, et al NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PRO-**CESS 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 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,Jn3,3tc

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 PRO-CESS BY PUBLICATION TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS or DEVISEES of MARK CURTIS

(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,Jn3,3tc 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 DEVI-SEES of ERNEST N. LEE

Defendants. NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PRO-

**CESS 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,Jn3,3tc

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons, firms and corpo-rations 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,Jn3,Jn10,4tp

#### **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

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 per sons, 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. Vandeveer, 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. Vandeveer, Attorney of Record 50101 Governors Drive, Suite 150

Chapel Hill, NC, 27517 My20,My27,Jn3,Jn10,4tp

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORE-**CLOSURE SALE** 20 SP 87 Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust made

by Fred T. McKee (PRESENT RECORD OWNER(S): Fred T McKee, Heirs of Fred T. McKee: Wayne T. McKee, George McKee, David McKee) to PRLAP, Inc., Trustee(s), dated January 2, 2009, and recorded in Book No. 01442, at Page 0483 in Cha-tham County Registry, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the promissory note secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Substitute Trustee Services, Inc. having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust by an instrument duly recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds Chatham County, North Carolina and the holder of the note evidencing said indebtedness having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door in Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina, or the custom ary location designated for foreclosure sales, at 1:30 PM on June 10, 2021 and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following real estate situated in New Hill in the County of Chatham, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows: All that real property situated in the County of Chatham, State of North Carolina: Being the same property conveyed to the Grantor by deed recorded 10/10/1983 in Book 464, Page

444 Chatham County Regis-try, to which deed reference is hereby made for a more particular description of this property. Together with improvements located thereon; said property being located at 2311 New Elam Church Road, New Hill, North Carolina. Parcel ID: 0005779

Trustee may, in the Trustee's sole discretion, delay the sale for up to one hour as provided in N.C.G.S. §45-21.23. Should the property be purchased by a third party, that party must pay the excise tax. as well as the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (\$0.45) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a)

(1)The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS." Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the

note secured by the deed of

844-404-0601

power during utility comfortable. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Request a free

Fitness Center. Please visit our secular & specialty Christian faytechcc.peopleadmin.com/ Faith Publishing for your Resources Office FREE author submission kit.

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FTCC: Fayetteville Technical Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Community College is now Towing, All Paperwork Taken accepting following positions: 7055 the Certified Nurse Aide Instructor Curriculum (10 month), Networking, Microsoft, and Cloud Management Instructor, Records Clerk - Student ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND Services. Please visit our employment portal at: https:// FREE. \$200.00 OFF 2 FREE faytechcc.peopleadmin.com/ Months! 1-888-660-1252 Human Resources Office Phone: Internet: http://www.faytechcc. Employer.

190 Channels! Blazing Fast 877-354-3499 Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-877-920-7405

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WANTED: We \$\$\$ for cylinders injury in an auto accident, call and cans. R12 R500 R11 R114. Convenient. Professionals. compensation you deserve! Call 312-291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

My13,My20,My27,Jn3,4tc

#### 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

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.

LIEB and spouse, if any, or any

other person or entity claiming

thereunder, and LESLIE F. LIEB

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

**Prepare for** power outages with a Generac home standby generator

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!** 866-495-1123

7-Year Extended Warranty\* A \$695 Value!

Offer valid February 15 - June 6, 2021

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Subject to Credit Approval

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

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,Jn3,Jn10,4tp

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY** Jennifer Kara Hughes having qualified as the Executrix of the Estate of **CHARLES**

**RICHARD STATON**, Deceased,

GENERAC

GENERAC

trust/security agreement, or both, being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of either the Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition are expressly disclaimed. Also, this property is being sold subject to all taxes, special assess ments, and prior liens or prior encumbrances of record and any recorded releases. Said property is also being sold subject to applicable Federal and State laws. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is reguired and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any party, the trustee, in its sole discretion, if it believes the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy. Additional Notice for Residential Property with Less than 15 rental units, including Single-Family Residential Real Property: An order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 45-21.29 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. 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 foreclosure sale, ter-

minate 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 10 days but not more than 90 davs. after the sale date contained in this 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. SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SER-VICES, INC. SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE c/o Hutchens Law Firm P.O. Box 1028 4317 Ramsey Street Fayetteville, North Carolina

Phone No: (910) 864-3068 https://sales.hutchenslawfirm. com Firm Case No: 3595 - 10137 My27,Jn3,2tc

28311

MONCURE FIRE DEPT ANNUAL MEETING

The Moncure Fire Department will be holding its annual meeting on

Monday, June 14, 2021 at Moncure Fire Dept Station #8, located at 2389

Old US 1, Moncure NC 27559. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm and cover the state of the Fire Department, financial report, and Board of

Directors elections. If you reside in the Moncure Fire District and are a tax

payer, you are a member and invited to

My27,Jn3,2tc

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

attend.

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of FRANK N. BAINE AKA FRANK NORRIS BAINE, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 27th day of August, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.

This 27th day of May, 2021. JANET KOPITO, EXECUTRIX ESTATE OF FRANK N. BAINE AKA FRANK NORRIS BAINE Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC

501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 My27,Jn3,Jn10,Jn17,4tc

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons having claims against HELEN CATHERINE SILER AKA HELEN G. SILER aka Helen George Siler [hereinafter 'Helen G. Siler'] of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 22nd day of February, 2021, are notified to present them to Michael R. Siler, Executor of the Estate

of Helen G. Siler in c/o Dean P. Broz, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before September 2, 2021 Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Helen G. Siler. Those indebted to Helen G. Siler are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. Dean P. Broz Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road. Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont

Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 My27,Jn3,Jn10,Jn17,4tc

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**

The undersigned having qual-ified as Administratrix of the state of TONYA RACHELLE TAYLOR, Deceased, late of Chapel Hill, Chatham County North Carolina (Estate File 21 E-282, Chatham County Clerk), this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at her listed address on or before the 25th day of August, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment. This the 25th day of May, 2021. Taylor Freeman 917 Saratoga Drive Durham, NC 27704

My27,Jn3,Jn10,Jn17,4tp

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** All persons having claims

against VIRGINIA D. MARINO of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 5th day of May, 2021, are notified to present them to Martin G. Lutschaunig, Executor of the Estate of Virginia D. Marino in c/o David R. Frankstone, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before September 2, 2021 Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Virginia D. Marino. Those indebted to Virginia D. Marino are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. David R. Frankstone Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill. NC 27517-8834

My27,Jn3,Jn10,Jn17,4tp

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** 21 E 142

All persons having claims against GLADYS HACKNEY THOMAS. deceased. late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of September, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 3rd day of June, 2021. Janet T. Perry, Co-Executor 8156 Bethel South Fork Rd Snow Camp, NC 27349 Kathy J. Justice, Co-Executor 1728 Stonewood Drive Winterville, NC 28590

Jn3,Jn10,Jn17,Jn24,4tp

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC AUCTION** TO SELL CERTAIN PROPERTY OF

#### **CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMU-**NITY COLLEGE

CHATHAM COTTAGE AY2020 · 2021 The Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees moves the adoption of the following resolutions: WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Central Carolina **Community College owns** personal property known as "Chatham Cottage" which is a small, energy efficient home built by Building Construction and Sustainability Technologies students at the Central Carolina Community College campus in Pittsboro, North Carolina; and WHEREAS, located on the Pittsboro campus of Central Carolina Community College and known as the "Chatham Cottage AY2020-2021, a 560 gross sq ft, high performance, house with 448 st. ft. enclosed space and a 112 sq. ft front porch. The wood frame construction uses 2x4 for the exterior walls with ZIP R System insulated sheathing: 2x10s for the stick built, enclosed roof assembly, also clad in insulated ZIp R Sheathing. The siding is a fiber cement siding applied using a rain screen construction technique. The porch deck is clad with locally sourced and milled eastern red cedar. The roof is clad with an Energy Star metal roofing panel. Energy efficient casement windows by Marvin provide ventilation and plenty of natural light. The Cottage includes rough-in plumbing and electric and all interior framing, air-sealing and rough-in work. The interior, however, is in an unfinished state and the purchaser of the Cottage will be responsible for the completion of all remaining work. This may include the installation of insulation, drywall, painting, flooring, interior doors, cabinetry, fixtures, electrical trim out, plumbing trim out, and interior carpentry trim work. The exact extent of this work is determinate per the concluding semester of the Cottage build and the influencing variables of weather, etc. The house will require the addition of a heating and cooling system, appliances electric water heater, footing, and foundation upon placement at permanent site. The

house is now on temporary pillars and must be removed from the premises after sale is complete Upon sale, the Collage con-

struction permit will be closed out with the Chatham County Inspections Department and

the records and associated construction documents and engineering letters transferred to the new owner who will need to pull new permits in their municipality. To date, the transition of these permits has been a smooth transaction. WHEREAS, pursuant to the legal authority contained in North Carolina General Statutes 115D-15 and 160A. Article 12, the Board of Trustees of Central Carolina Community College proposes to sell said cottage at public auction. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Trustees of Central Carolina Community College:

1. That President Chapman or her designee is hereby authorized to proceed on behalf of and in the name of the Trustees with such action as is necessary and legally appropriate to sell and dispose of the above described "Chatham Cottage".

2. That the sale shall be by public auction conducted by online auction scheduled to open at 8:00 a.m. June 19 and to close at 5:00 p.m. June 26, 2021 at https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/ chatham-cottage-23814. The Cottage is located on the Pittsboro Campus, 764 West Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina, and is available for walk-throughs on June 19th and June 21st from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by appointment. Interested persons may contact Jeff Gannon at (919) 545-8032 or (919) 842-2304. Information on the Chatham Cottage and a picture of it are available at the link above.

That the successful bidder will be required to make a 10% deposit by either cash or certified check to be delivered by 5:00 p.m. June 28th with the balance due within ten (10) days after the confirmation of the sale by President Chapman or her designee. Legal transfer of the "Chatham Cottage" shall not take place until the sale is confirmed and the successful purchaser has complied with the terms of the sale. Any and all bids may be rejected if determined inadequate.

4. That the building must be removed from the col-lege premises within thirty (30) days from the date the successful bid is approved and accepted. After thirty (30) days the risk of loss shall be on the successful bidder. 5. That the property shall be sold "AS IS" with no warranties as to quality, condition, or value and can be inspected at its location by appointment or from 9:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m. on the day of the sale. Adopted this 28th day of April, 2021 at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Central Carolina Community College /s/ H. Julian Philpott, Jr.

Chairman, Board of Trustees Jn3,1tc

#### PROPOSED 2021-2022 BUDGET

TOWN OF SILER CITY The proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget for the Town of Siler City has been presented to the Town Board of Commissioners and is available for public inspection. To view the proposed budget, please visit

www.silercity.org or contact Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson at 919-742-4731 or jjohnson@ silercity.org.

A **public hearing** will be held on the budget ordinance for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina.

Citizens are invited to submit written comments to Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson at jjohnson@silercity.org. The following is a summary of the budget as presented: General Fund, \$8,481,375.00 Powell Bill Fund, \$569,340.00 Enterprise Fund (Water & Sewer, \$8,455,077.00 Enterprise Fund (License Plate Agency), \$160,636.00 TOTAL: \$17,666,428.00

Jn3,Jn10,2tc

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA** CHATHAM COUNTY

HAVING QUALIFIED, as Administratrix of the Estate of RON-NIE MARSH, 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 September 8, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 3rd day of JUNE, 2021. LYDE M. CHEEK. Administratrix

of the Estate of RONNIE MARSH 2631 Rives Chapel Church

Road Siler City, North Carolina 27344 (919) 663-2533 Jn3,Jn10,Jn17,Jn24,4tp

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS** Sealed proposals will be received until 3:00pm on Thursday, July 1, 2021 at Wilsonville ABC Store, 10525 US 64 Hwy E, Apex, NC 27523 for the construction of the: Chatham County ABC Board New ABC Moncure Retail Store at which time and place bids will be opened and read. Complete plans and specifications for this project can be obtained from: Accent Imaging's PlanScope Planroom System available at www.planscope.com/public.

php 8121 Brownleigh Drive, Raleigh, NC 27617 (919) 782-3332 after June 3, 2021 Plan Deposit Required: \$125. An open pre-bid meeting, mandatory for all General Contractors interested in bidding, will be held at 3:00pm on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at

Wilsonville ABC Store, 10525 US 64 HWY E., Apex, NC 27523. The meeting will address project specific questions, issues, bidding procedures and bid forms.

Each BID must be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to Chatham County ABC Board. Each sealed envelope containing a BID must be plainly marked on the outside as BID for ABC Moncure Retail Store and the envelope shall bear on the outside the BIDDER'S name, address, and license number, and the name of the project for which the

BID is submitted. If forwarded

by mail, the sealed envelope containing the BID must be enclosed in another envelope addressed to Matt Williams, General Manager, Wilsonville ABC Store, 10435 US 64 Hwy E,

Apex, NC 27523. All BIDS must be made on the required BID form. All blank spaces for BID prices must be filled in, in ink or typewritten, and the BID form must be fully completed and executed when submitted. Only one copy of the BID form is required. Bids must also include at the time of filing; a 5% bid bond, and the appropriate minority outreach Affidavit(s). Chatham County ABC Board's HUB/MBE participation goal is 15%. BIDDERS must satisfy themselves of the accuracy of the estimated quantities in the BID Schedule by examination of the site and a review of the drawings and specifications including ADDENDA. Questions regarding this RFB must be submitted in writing via e-mail to Chevon Moore, Hobbs Architects, at cmoore@ hobbsarchitects.com. All questions requiring additional information will be responded to in an addendum. The deadline for questions is June 22, 2021. The last addendum for this project will be issued June 24, 2021.

The owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities. Jn3,1tc

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS** STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 24th day of May. 2021. as Executor of the ESTATE of JAMES ECKHARDT KURZ, SR., Deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of September, 2021 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This, the 3rd day of June, 2021. JAMÉS ECKHARDT KURZ, JR. EXECUTOR, ESTATE OF JAMES ECKHARDT KURZ, SR. c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney

Walker Lambe. PLLC Post Office Box 51549 Durham, North Carolina 27717 Jn3,Jn10,Jn17,Jn24,4tc

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA **CHATHAM COUNTY** 21 E 279

All persons having claims against PATRICIA R. MER-WARTH, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of September, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

This the 3rd day of June, 2021. LEIGH ANN GALLUCCI, Executor

113 Lockinvar Ct.

Cary, NC 27511 Jn3,Jn10,Jn17,Jn24,4tp

## Pet of the Week: KODA



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

## Now open for business

The Eagles convenience store in Pittsboro is open on East Street near downtown



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Koda, a 2-year-old, male, husky mix. Like Ricky Bobby, Koda wants to go fast - really fast! Most of his time in the play yard is spent attempting to reach warp speed. He is a bit shy when first interacting with humans, but his trust is quickly gained, and then ... it's playtime! Koda loves to receive attention and praise. Running brings him joy more than anything else in the world (especially since he is still learning how to play with toys), so he would do best in an active home with older children where he can zoom about to his heart's content. For more information about how to meet or adopt Koda or another pet, please contact the Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center at 919-542-7203 to schedule an appointment for a visit at 725 Renaissance Dr., Pittsboro.

**Dentures** 

Physicians Mutual\*

